

GIFT International

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104617

Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-02-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 28 Lisbane Road
Comber
Newtownards
Bt23 6af
BT23 6AF

Phone 07887362364

Email giftinternational@gmail.com

Website www.giftinternational.org

Activities

Purposes: The Association is established to support any charitable project for the benefit of the inhabitants of Kenya and other areas of the developing world as the trustees may from time to time decide (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion who are in need of assistance as a result of their poverty or social and economic circumstances and in particular to: a) advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by the provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit; b) relieve poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to enable poor people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty; c) recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the committee may from time to time decide; d) promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment in the area of benefit.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Community development, Community enterprise, Economic development, Education/training, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Grant making, Medical/health/sickness, Overseas aid/famine relief, Relief of poverty, Research/evaluation, Rural

development, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Men, Overseas/developing countries, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Sensory disabilities, Specific areas of deprivation, Unemployed/low income, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£38,574	£17,045	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Graham Wilson		
Mrs Janet Wilson		
Ms Emma Carson		

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Accounts

GIFT International

Registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland NIC104617

HMRC Charity No. XT3477

REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st March 2025

Timothy C Reid FIB
Bank Manager, (Retired),
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 4DG

GIFT International

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

J A Wilson, (Chairperson / Trustee)
G Wilson, (Hon.Treasurer/Trustee)
E Carson, (Trustee)

BUSINESS ADDRESS

28 Lisbane Road,
Comber,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 6AF

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank,
PO Box 101,
1, Balloon Street,
Manchester,
M60 4EP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tim Reid FIB
Bank Manager, (Retired)
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 4DG

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT

Year ended 31st March 2025

The Committee members, (who are the Trustees for charity law purposes), have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS

The purposes of the charity are:

1. To advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.
2. Relief of poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to enable poor people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty.
3. To recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the Committee may from time to time decide.

GIFT International has considered the Commission's guidance and the criteria for public benefit and has ensured that our activities clearly support and flow from our purposes, are clearly demonstrated and have been beneficial and not harmful in any way.

GOVERNANCE

The charity is governed by the Management Committee through the rules of its constitution.

REVIEW

As a 'Grassroots Initiatives, Funding and Training' organisation, GIFT International provides finance and resources for economically challenged rural communities, mainly in Kenya. Project funding is raised through a variety of means including events run by GIFT International Trustees and/or supporters, e.g. coffee mornings and social gatherings, and illustrated talks and lectures that serve to raise awareness about the work of the organisation, for which donations are invited. A number of supporters have signed up to Easyfundraising (the UK's largest retail giving platform), and individual donations are very welcome.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT *(continued)*,

REVIEW, *(continued)*

GIFT International raises funds, mainly in Northern Ireland, for use in the area of benefit, for projects including the provision of teacher training workshops, bursaries for student education, provision of resources for schools and students, capacity-building workshops for local community representatives and the provision of small start-up funds for sustainable enterprises for the benefit of identified communities.

GIFT International does not seek to directly benefit from initiatives carried out in the area of benefit, but rather, agreed funding is allocated to the communities who undertake responsibility for managing the projects sustainably, in accordance with the terms agreed by GIFT International and the community. To ensure transparency, the communities appoint a representative committee and, together with GIFT, nominate a project manager, (an individual well known to GIFT International), who liaises directly with the GIFT International Committee. Having agreed terms of the project, established associated costs and a timescale for delivery, funds are transferred to the community project manager who in turn provides receipts and photographic evidence, and reports on progress. The project manager is advised to report on any anomalies or difficulties arising. A review visit is undertaken on the next GIFT International visit to check on progress of the project and to discuss any matters arising.

Local enterprises include tree nurseries, bee-keeping projects, a range of agricultural projects including posho (maize) mills and poultry projects, dressmaking and tailoring enterprises and provision of associated equipment.

Health benefits come from initiatives including adult education, mother and baby care, provision of mosquito nets, sustainable provision of milk through dairy cow projects, provision of water, training in basic hygiene, access to emergency medical aid and through provision of mobile phones for rapid communication in remote areas. During 2024/25, Cleft Palate surgery was added to the organisation's remit, working with a leading maxillofacial surgeon based in Nairobi whose remit reaches out into remote districts, providing care for financially disadvantaged children.

Education benefits come from initiatives including contributions to school development and educational equipment, teacher training, contributions to school fees, student bursaries, adult training course provision and knowledge and skills shared by volunteers in the areas of benefit.

Main Achievements 2024 - 2025:

The achievements of GIFT International during the financial year 2024 - 2025 addressed all purposes of the charity as set out under the constitution. Although a very small charitable organisation, GIFT International continues to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Kenya. Each year we engage in consultations with the communities to check that they are happy with the management and progress of projects, and to ascertain if we need to consider any modifications.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, (continued)

The Trustees remain heartened to receive messages from communities confirming that the measures we have implemented over the years continue to help to sustain them through current uncertain and economically challenging times.

The 2024-2025 Annual Report details the projects supported, which, in summary, were:

A. Sustainable Community Development e.g. agricultural projects, tree planting, beekeeping development, water harvesting, small business development.

B. Education and Training – education/training bursaries, whole school development, community training courses.

C. Community Health and Well-being. Mother and Baby Support, and community feeding programmes.

D. Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship and medical emergencies.

E. Cleft Palate Support for disadvantaged children in need of cleft surgery and aftercare

The activities listed above required significant funding, and the Trustees of GIFT International are very appreciative of community groups and individual supporters who have contributed donations, and those who provide support in kind both in Northern Ireland and in Kenya.

The Future

GIFT International will endeavour to continue funding existing projects, subject to available funds, under the categories set out above.

Every year we are approached by more communities seeking financial support.

However, given the small scale of the organisation, the Committee has agreed that we will focus on consolidating existing projects within current areas of benefit, working with known and trusted contacts, such that we will leave a lasting legacy within these communities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee is required to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, (continued)

In preparing the Financial Statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and consistently applied, reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made, and applicable accounting standards have been complied with, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements and the Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

J A Wilson, E. Carson and G Wilson all served throughout the year.

RESULTS

The net movement for the year to 31ST March 2025 was a surplus of £21,529 compared with a deficit of £164 for the previous year.

RESERVES

As the charity has minimal administrative costs all reserves are held to meet the needs of suitable projects as they arise, provided they meet the purposes of the charity.

On behalf of the Committee-:

J A Wilson

Chairperson



Signed-: _____

Date-: 05/11/2025

Approved by the Committee on-:

Date-: 05/11/2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT –
TO THE MEMBERS OF GIFT International**

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by the law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to: -

- Examine the financial statements
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)9b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined the charity's financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st March 2025 and no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:-

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met and
- 2) that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.



Signed: _____

Dated: 4th November 2025

**Tim Reid, FIB
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co. Down
BT23 4DG**

GIFT International

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025**

Income and expenditure account

		Unrestricted	
	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
INCOME FROM:			
General donations	2	38,574	7,888
Investment income	3	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		38,574	7,888
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Charitable activities:			
Grants made	4	17,045	8,052
Administrative costs	5	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		17,045	8,052
NET MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR		21,529	(164)
Reconciliation of funds:			
OPENING FUNDS		32,809	32,973
CLOSING FUNDS		54,338	32,809

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those stated in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

GIFT International

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	150	260
Bank balance		54,065	32,427
Cash on hand		123	122
		-----	-----
		54,338	32,809
		-----	-----
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		-	-
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		54,338	32,809
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund		54,338	32,809
		=====	=====

The Financial Statements set out on pages 7 to 10 were approved by the Committee of Management and authorised for issue its behalf by:

Signed-:



J A Wilson
Chairperson

Date-:

05/11/2025



G Wilson
Hon. Treasurer

05/11/2025

GIFT International

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015).

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

2. GENERAL DONATIONS

	2025	2024
	£	£
D Smith	5,000	NIL
Ulster Beekeepers' Association	750	700
Little Love Blankets	NIL	3,100
K Sheil	500	500
D Moore	504	504
RDJ White	500	NIL
Estate of G Mullan	25,600	NIL
I McFarland	2,500	NIL
A McNicholl	NIL	650
Drumachose Mothers Union	NIL	400
Various donations, (under £500 each)	3,070	1,774
Gift Aid	150	260
	-----	-----
	38,574	7,888
	=====	=====

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Other interest	NIL	NIL
	=====	=====

GIFT International

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS **YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
4. GRANTS MADE		
Community Development Laikipia	1,280	-
Coastal Bees Project	1,395	17
Cattle Project, (Mother & Baby)	1,920	-
Student support - fees, travel, expenses etc	1,664	1,232
Coastal Tree Project	1,160	-
Mara Mama & Baby Project	1,960	1,940
Gede Tailoring Project	2,022	2,243
Maxillofacial Surgery	2,526	-
Kajiado community support	300	220
Medical Support	1,255	660
Coast Community Support	NIL	1,260
Mara Student Driving Project	70	480
Mara Community Development	1,493	NIL
	-----	-----
	17,045	8,052
	=====	=====
5. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		
Bank charges	-	-
	=====	=====
6. DEBTORS		
Gift aid tax recoverable	150	260
	=====	=====

7. TAXATION

The organisation is recognised by H M Revenue & Customs as a charity, reference no XT3477 and no provision for taxation is therefore considered necessary.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS EMOLUMENTS

No committee members received any emoluments in the year.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the year which require to be reported.

4th November 2025

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Accounts

GIFT International

Registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland NIC104617

HMRC Charity No. XT3477

REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st March 2024

Timothy C Reid FIB
Bank Manager, (Retired),
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 4DG

GIFT International

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

J A Wilson, (Chairperson / Trustee)
G Wilson, (Vice-Chairperson)
C Gleave, (Hon.Treasurer / Trustee)

BUSINESS ADDRESS

28 Lisbane Road,
Comber,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 6AF

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank,
PO Box 101,
1, Balloon Street,
Manchester,
M60 4EP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tim Reid FIB
Bank Manager, (Retired)
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co Down,
BT23 4DG

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT

Year ended 31st March 2024

The Committee members, (who are the Trustees for charity law purposes), have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS

The purposes of the charity are:

1. To advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.
2. Relief of poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to enable poor people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty.
3. To recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the Committee may from time to time decide.

GIFT International has considered the Commission's guidance and the criteria for public benefit and has ensured that our activities clearly support and flow from our purposes, are clearly demonstrated and have been beneficial and not harmful in any way.

GOVERNANCE

The charity is governed by the Management Committee through the rules of its constitution.

REVIEW

GIFT International is a 'Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training' provider for economically challenged rural communities mainly in Kenya, but also in similar developing countries. By fundraising through for example: events, coffee mornings, donations, illustrated talks and lectures for which donations are invited, GIFT International raises funds in Northern Ireland for use in the areas of benefit for the provision of teacher training workshops, bursaries for student education, health and nutrition initiatives, building of schools, resourcing of classrooms and students, capacity-building training workshops for local community representatives and the provision of small start-up funds for sustainable enterprises in identified communities.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT *(continued)*,

REVIEW, *(continued)*

Local enterprises range from tree nurseries, bee-keeping projects, maize mill construction and equipment, poultry projects, dressmaking and tailoring businesses and provision of associated equipment.

Health benefits come from initiatives including: adult education, mother and baby care, provision of mosquito nets, sustainable provision of milk through dairy cow projects and training in basic hygiene and access to emergency medical aid through provision of mobile phones for rapid communication in remote areas.

Education benefits come from initiatives including: school construction and equipment, teacher training, contributions to school fees, tertiary student bursaries, adult training course provision and knowledge and skills shared by volunteers in the areas of benefit.

Main Achievements 2023 -2024:

The achievements of GIFT International during the year 2023 - 2024 addressed all purposes of the charity as set out under the constitution. Although a very small charitable organisation, Gift International continues to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Kenya. Bearing in mind that we had not had any representation on the ground since before the pandemic, (December 2019 was the last project visit until November 2023), the Committee agreed to proceed cautiously, focusing mainly on existing project communities with known and trusted contacts.

NOTE: Back before 2020, we had planned to progress a project to support children requiring cleft palate surgery, and, during covid, fundraising for this project was initiated, kick-started by a generous donation from a long-term GIFT well-wisher. However, despite considerable long-distance communications, since we were not able to meet face-to-face, it was not possible to get this underway with the required level of confidence, so while the project remains a goal, with the funds held in reserve, we were unable to carry out surgeries in the 2023/24 period. In November 2023 contact was made with a maxillofacial surgeon and positive discussions got underway. Subject to funding and logistics, we plan to progress this initiative in the future.

The Trustees remain greatly heartened to receive messages from communities to say that the measures we have implemented over the years continue to help to sustain them through current uncertain and economically challenging times.

The main achievements of the charity during the year April 2023 – March 24 are outlined in the separate 'Annual Trustees Report', and addressed all the above purposes of the charity.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, (continued)

The Annual Report details the projects supported, which, in summary, were:

A. Sustainable Community Development e.g., agricultural projects, tree planting, beekeeping development, water harvesting, small business development.

B. Education and Training – education/training bursaries, whole school development, community training courses.

C. Community Health and Well-being. Mother and Baby Support, Cleft Palate surgery and community medical support.

D. Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship – feed the children, and individual medical emergencies.

The activities listed above all required funding and the Trustees of GIFT International are very appreciative of supporters who have continued to send donations, and those who provide support in kind both in Northern Ireland and in Kenya.

The Future

GIFT International will endeavour to continue funding existing projects, subject to available funds, under the categories set out above. Following contact with a leading Maxillofacial Surgeon in Nairobi in late 2023, and subject to funding, the charity plans to initiate a partnership to support children in need of cleft lip and cleft palate surgery. The charity will continue to identify other suitable projects to seek support for from well-wishers, within the area of benefit.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee is required to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing the Financial Statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and consistently applied, reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made and applicable accounting standards have been complied with, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements and the Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

J A Wilson, C Gleave and G Wilson all served throughout the year.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, (continued)

RESULTS

The net movement for the year to 31ST March 2024 was a deficit of £164 compared with a surplus of £1,609 for the previous year.

RESERVES

As the charity has minimal administrative costs all reserves are held to meet the needs of suitable projects as they arise, provided they meet the purposes of the charity.

On behalf of the Committee-:

J A Wilson

Chairperson

Signed by:
Signed: Janet Wilson
ADC6A2419F75466...
Date-: 27/11/2024

Approved by the Committee on-:

Date-: 27/11/2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GIFT International

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by the law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the financial statements
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)9b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Independent Examiner's report

I have examined the charity's financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st March 2024 and no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:-

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met and
- 2) that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.



Signed: _____

Dated: 20th November 2024

**Tim Reid, FIB
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co. Down
BT23 4DG**

GIFT International**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**Income and expenditure account**

		Unrestricted	
	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
INCOME FROM:			
General donations	2	7,888	13,469
Investment income	3	-	11
TOTAL INCOME		7,888	13,480
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Charitable activities:			
Grants made	4	8,052	11,871
Administrative costs	5	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		8,052	11,871
NET MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR		(164)	1,609
Reconciliation of funds:			
OPENING FUNDS		32,973	31,364
CLOSING FUNDS		32,809	32,973

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those stated in the above Statement of Financial Activities.


GIFT International

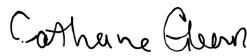
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	260	676
Bank balance		32,427	32,180
Cash on hand		122	117
		-----	-----
		32,809	32,973
		-----	-----
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		-	-
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		32,809	32,973
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund		32,809	32,973
		=====	=====

The Financial Statements set out on pages 7 to 10 were approved by the Committee of Management and authorised for issue its behalf by:

Signed-:

Signed by:

ADC6A2419F75466...
 J A Wilson
 Chairperson

Signed by:

51A1900D56184C8...
 C Gleave
 Hon. Treasurer

Date-:

27/11/2024

27/11/2024

GIFT International**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of accounting**

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015).

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

2. GENERAL DONATIONS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Anonymous	-	2,500
Ulster Bee Keepers' Association	700	-
Little Love Blankets	3,100	-
K Sheil	500	-
R & H Ditty	NIL	2,500
T B F & K L Thompson Trust	NIL	2,000
D Moore	504	504
A McNicholl	650	-
Drumachose Mothers Union	400	-
Various donations, (under £500 each)	1,774	5,289
Gift aid	260	676
	-----	-----
	7,888	13,469
	=====	=====

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Other interest	NIL	11
	=====	=====

GIFT International**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
4. GRANTS MADE		
Ngong Community	-	450
Posho Mill expansion	-	1,562
Kakuyuni School – beds, bed linen, etc	-	2,018
Coastal Bees Project	17	2,000
Poultry Project	-	1,167
Student support - fees, travel, expenses etc	1,232	2,309
Coastal Tree Project	-	200
Mara Mama & Baby Project	1,940	1,455
Gede Tailoring Project	2,243	-
Kadjiado community support	220	200
Medical Support	660	510
Coast Community Support	1,260	-
Mara Student Driving Project	480	-
	-----	-----
	8,052	11,871
	=====	=====
5. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		
Bank charges	-	-
	=====	=====
6. DEBTORS		
Gift aid tax recoverable	260	676
	=====	=====

7. TAXATION

The organisation is recognised by H M Revenue & Customs as a charity, reference no XT3477 and no provision for taxation is therefore considered necessary.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS EMOLUMENTS

No committee members received any emoluments in the year.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the year which require to be reported.

20th November 2024

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Annual report

GIFT

International

Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training

Registered Charity CCNI 104617

Gift International Trustees Annual Report

April 2023 – March 2024



Purposes of the Charity:

1. Advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by the provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.
2. Relieve poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to empower economically challenged people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty.
3. Recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the committee may from time to time decide.

Gift International has considered the Commission's guidance and the criteria for public benefit:

Benefit must:

- flow from the charity's purposes
- be capable of being demonstrated
- be beneficial, not harmful.

GIFT International activities endeavour to reflect The United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

The seventeen goals aim to focus on the following:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

GIFT International is currently served by three trustees who ensure that, through strategic planning, community consultation and beneficiary feedback, Gift International's activities support and flow from our purposes, are clearly demonstrated and have been beneficial and not harmful in any way.

Gift International is a 'Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training' provider for remote and economically challenged communities mainly in Kenya, but also retains the ability to support projects in similar developing countries. By fundraising through, for example, community events, coffee mornings, illustrated talks and lectures, and receiving general donations, Gift International raises funds in NI and beyond, for use in the areas of benefit. Funding facilitates a variety of needs including the provision of teacher training workshops, bursaries for student education, the building of schools, resourcing of classrooms and individual student support where there is demonstrable need, health and nutrition initiatives, capacity-building training workshops for local community representatives and the provision of small start-up funds for self-identified sustainable enterprises in identified communities.

Community consultations and the identification of self-managed projects have enabled development of local enterprises ranging from the planting of tree nurseries and expansion of existing woodlots to incorporate more native species, bee-keeping projects for the production of honey and wax products, a range of agricultural developments including maize mill construction and equipment,

training for and set-up of dairy cow and poultry projects, to facilitating driving qualifications, technical training, dressmaking and tailoring courses and the provision of sewing machines.

Health benefits come from initiatives such as adult education with a special focus on women's education, provision of mosquito nets, sustainable provision of milk through dairy cow projects and training in basic hygiene and access to emergency medical aid through provision of mobile phones for rapid communication in remote areas. A Mother and Baby project in the Masai Mara enables mothers-to-be in one area of GIFT International operation to avail of pre-natal support, attend a maternity clinic, if desired, for the birth of their baby and provides essential inoculations and a starter pack of requisites for the newborn babies and their mothers. Where urgent need is identified and subject to available funding, small amounts of funding can be made available to support emergency medical conditions.

Education benefits come from initiatives such as school construction and provision of equipment, teacher training, contributions to school fees, tertiary student bursaries, adult training course provision, and knowledge and skills shared by volunteers in the areas of benefit.

Impact of the Pandemic.

While the Coronavirus pandemic seems like a distant memory in some ways, the legacy of this difficult time remains and the set-back to Kenya's tourist industry (which provides a huge amount of employment), rising prices and general disruption are still being felt throughout the country.

As things normalised in Northern Ireland post-covid, the GIFT International programme of talks began to regain momentum, albeit that many of our former 'regulars' have ceased to operate. However, following talks to a number of community groups around N.Ireland, word-of-mouth had us up and running again in 2023 and invitations from new groups were most welcome. GIFT would like to acknowledge the support and friendship of all these groups, not only for the financial support they provide, but also the encouragement they give, and for their very genuine care for beneficiaries in Kenya.

On top of Kenya's difficulties with covid, continued drought, believed to be associated with climate change, has affected much of the country, with some areas reporting 4 consecutive years without significant rainfall. Access to clean drinking water, water for livestock and availability of food have been serious issues and we have on occasion stepped in to assist with food provision.

Then came unprecedented rainfall accompanied by serious, life-threatening flooding in many areas, killing vast numbers of livestock, washing away homes and taking the lives of many people. Prolonged drought leaves soil bare and exposed and, with nothing to hold back the water, rivers burst their banks, roads are washed away, and the potential benefit of much-needed rain is largely lost because there is insufficient infrastructure to manage or store it.

In the past GIFT has assisted communities with water harvesting projects, but while this is effective at a local level (and ideally should be a priority for every home, where possible) the issue of water conservation and management can only be fully addressed at government level. We have observed the installation of numerous community boreholes in the past 5 – 10 years. However, this is not without problems, especially where planning is not controlled, sometimes resulting in a fall in the local water table leading to salination and rendering more shallow boreholes useless. Informed hydrological analysis and regulated regional planning will be essential if continued installation of boreholes is to be effective into the future.

Budgeting for Projects

Once again, throughout 2023/24, we were greatly heartened to receive reports and individual messages from the communities to say that the measures we had implemented over the years were helping to sustain them through uncertain and economically challenging times.

The way in which we budget – one year in advance - means that we only take on new projects that we can comfortably budget for and have raised the funds to deliver. Some projects ideally roll on from year to year (e.g the Mother and Baby Project) but again we ensure that the funds are guaranteed before we undertake to deliver them in the communities. Despite financial concerns arising from the impact of the pandemic years, through the generous commitment of donors, we were able to maintain all existing ongoing projects, for which we are most grateful.

For budgeting purposes and for ease of reporting we manage projects under four headings:

- A) Sustainable Community Development - agricultural projects, beekeeping development, water harvesting.
- B) Education and Training – education/training bursaries for individuals, whole school development, community training courses.
- C) Community Health and Well-being - Mother and Baby Support, Cleft Palate surgery and community medical support.
- D) Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship – feed the children, care and support for vulnerable elderly people in communities, medical emergencies etc

Projects under A), B) and C) are planned and budgeted for a year in advance based on available funding. Ideally, some projects will deliver goals under more than one heading e.g. the Gede Beekeeping Project which supports the expansion of honey production across the area but also provides training for individuals and groups. Where communities can demonstrate a range of benefits, these strengthen their application for funding.

Projects under D) – Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals - are reactive and subject to availability of residual funds in that funding year. In most such cases relatively small amounts of funding will be made available and not exceed single payments of £500.

Main Achievements 2023 -2024:

The achievements of GIFT International during the year 2023 - 2024 addressed all purposes of the charity as set out under the constitution. Although a very small charitable organisation, Gift International continues to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Kenya. Bearing in mind that we had not had any representation on the ground since before the pandemic (December 2019 was the last project visit) we agreed to proceed cautiously, focusing mainly on existing project communities with known and trusted contacts.

NOTE: Back before 2020, we had planned to progress a project to support children requiring cleft palate surgery, and, during covid, fundraising for this project was initiated, kick-started by a generous donation from a long-term GIFT well-wisher. However, despite considerable long-distance communications, since we were not able to meet face-to-face, it was not possible to get this

underway with the required level of confidence, so while the project remains a goal, with the funds held in reserve, we were unable to carry out surgeries in the 2023/24 period.

A. Sustainable Community Development eg, agricultural projects, tree planting, beekeeping development, water harvesting, small business development.

Tree Planting in Kenya

Over the past two decades GIFT International has funded the planting and maintenance of several tree nurseries and supported training programmes for those engaged in developing tree nurseries.

Planting trees is a relatively simple task, yet the results can be hugely valuable to people and the environment. Once a tree is mature it can absorb 20kg of carbon every year from the atmosphere, thereby making a major contribution to mitigating climate change.

Planting trees in Kenya will provide shelter, food, timber products and an income. Trees enhance biodiversity, improve soil quality and provide the income that funds education and healthcare for some of the most challenged communities.

Building on earlier successes, GIFT International seeks to expand tree planting in selected areas.

In 2022/23 we had provided funding for further woodlot planting and maintenance at Gede in the coast region, including the maintenance of a variety of fruit and nut trees lots (cashew, coconut, neem and mango) that are not only a source of income and food, but also act a vital carbon store. We received positive reports from the project coordinator that the majority of trees had taken well, despite water shortages. Work on an indigenous tree nursery continues, and we agreed that we would visit the project as a priority on the next visit to Kenya.



Bee Keeping Enterprises

GIFT International has worked in association with Northern Ireland beekeepers who have for many years provided funding towards running beekeeping training courses, supplying bee-keeping equipment, starter hives, smokers, along with honey separators that are essential for production of quality honey.

Under the management of a former GIFT-funded university graduate, working with a fellow beekeeper from the coast area, a programme of funded training courses for 6 local bee-keeping groups with 'on the ground' coaching, mentoring and on-going support continues to operate. The

programme also includes restoration of the local environment, such as replanting depleted mangrove swamp, to ensure suitable foraging for bees. Considerable progress was made within the local communities, and honey production provided much needed revenue to group members. Comprehensive reports are submitted to GIFT in a timely manner, and we continue to be happy with the progress being made.



On arrival at the coast in November 2023, we were delighted to see how much the community has progressed, with a new honey centre almost at the point of completion, where honey will be available to purchase, training courses can be undertaken, and resources for beekeepers will be on hand. This has all come about as a result of various funders and supporters, but it demonstrates that the early training provided by GIFT volunteers, and subsequent funding support has undoubtedly fed into a very successful enterprise, and the project leaders were very quick to acknowledge the role of GIFT in their success.



Our grateful thanks go to our N.I. beekeeper supporters who initiate and host fundraising events and associated activities, in so doing spreading the word across the N.I. community.



Northern Ireland honey produced and sold in support of GIFT International enterprises in Kenya.

Plans to expand the beekeeping project in Laikipia continue to be delayed due to prolonged drought. Despite these issues, where the bees have been sustained, the existing project continues to bring in valued revenue to the community. The fundamental problem of water supply is critical to the well-being of people, livestock, and the environment in general. The provision of boreholes is currently outside the financial scale of GIFT International and, indeed, such consideration is a highly complex matter requiring rigorous technical knowledge. The recent proliferation of borehole schemes in some areas has brought additional problems with ground water, salinisation etc so must be approached with caution. It is our intention when we next visit the area, to discuss appropriate development opportunities and hope we can resume expansion of the beekeeping project in a way that meets local communities' needs.

The GIFT-funded posho mill at Gede continues to be of support to the local community. The addition of equipment enabling production of higher quality products has been a benefit.



Provision of support by GIFT International for a small duka (shop) equipped with solar powered refrigeration has been reported as a great asset to the community, providing a range of fresh foods for local people, and employment in the village.



Nashula Poultry Project, Laikipia.

GIFT International was approached by a long-standing contact from the Laikipia North district seeking support for development of a community poultry farming project.

The problem of water availability is escalating as drought and climate change impact deeply. Previously the community was able to draw water from the Nanyuki River, the source of which is Mt Kenya. In recent times, the permanent river has dried up and the community is having to bring in water in tankers. However, storage of large enough quantities of water to justify the cost of hiring tankers is inadequate and they requested funds for two new tanks. Stage one of this support, the provision of two tanks, and associated pipework, will help with forward planning to ensure they are not left without vital water supplies for the community and the poultry project.



Reports from the Nashula Project during the 2023/24 period have been encouraging and already the community is deriving benefits from the project, with those involved receiving small dividends from the sales of eggs, and a proportion of revenue being used to support the elders in the community with provision of foodstuffs and cooking oil.



Gede Tailoring Enterprise.



A major investment by GIFT in 2023/24 has been support for a small local tailoring business in support of school leavers from Kakuyuni School for the Deaf. Having supported the school for many years, and assisting individual students experiencing hardship, the big question remains ‘what next?’ for those students when they leave KSS. Working in conjunction with their teacher, we developed a project to set up a local tailoring business where deaf students who chose to take a course in tailoring could find employment in the business. A contract with local schools ensures that there will be a steady demand for school uniforms, besides which it was decided that the business would focus on high-quality clothing and accessories. Sewing machines and special equipment for making well-finished buttonholes, hemming garments etc were provided by GIFT and our first student, who will mentor others in time, began working for the newly opened Smart Gift Fashion Studio and Accessories. This is an important development in the community as employment for deaf people is rare, so not only is the new enterprise addressing this big issue, but it is also contributing to breaking down the barriers and building positive relationships in the community.



B. Education and Training – education/training bursaries, whole school development, community training courses.

Student Funding

During this reporting year, Gift International continued to fund education fees and school materials for students at all levels of education. Such support ensures continued attendance, tuition and boarding fees. GIFT believes that empowering young people is one of the most powerful things we can do to support individuals who in turn support their communities. Getting started is often the biggest hurdle and while our contribution is often relatively small, providing that initial funding, as in much of what we do, can be the beginning of a very different journey leading to a brighter future.

We were pleased to support the graduation of a student from one of our GIFT-supported Maasai communities in June '23.

We continue to support one young girl from the coast to pursue secondary education.

Support for a student who we funded through his Primary education at Kakuyuni School for the Deaf continues at a boarding school that has a special unit catering for the deaf. It is very pleasing to note that not only has this candidate continued to progress well academically, he is also performing well in sport. Our discussions with staff from Kakuyuni School to see how GIFT might continue to offer support for students once they leave Kakuyuni resulted in the Gede Tailoring enterprise outlined in section A, above.



We provided support for a student from the coast region to take up the offer of a place on a medical course at university. Known to us through another local project, this young man had achieved excellent grades and secured a place that, without financial support, he could not have commenced.

During this reporting period we provided further support for one of our previous candidates to enhance his driving qualifications. Upon meeting up with this young man in November 2023, we were very pleased to realise how much his job meant to him – not just financially in his ability to support his family, but that he had actively sought a driving job in support of the wider community and drives a tanker bringing fresh water to remote communities. He was keen to add a competency level to his driving skills which, in due course, we were pleased to support him in achieving.



Competition for secure jobs is so high that young people need to find ways to set themselves apart and get a foot on the ladder. To this end, we facilitated driving lessons for a student in the Maasai Mara who, having passed his driving test and acquired his licence, secured a voluntary role with a prestigious tourist camp where he is confident that, in time, he will be in a good position to become fully employed.

Similarly, in early 2024, we funded technical training for a student from the coast to attend a course in construction plant machinery operation, including Health and Safety at work. He will graduate later in the year and, if successful, should be placed in a good position to seek and gain employment in the construction industry within which demands for skills and competency are growing.

These initiatives once again demonstrate that through provision of initial training, GIFT is empowering young people, enabling better futures and helping to provide employment closer to home, thereby reducing the need to seek work elsewhere.

C. Community Health and Well-being. Mother and Baby Support, Cleft Palate surgery and community medical support.

Mother and Baby Support Project, Trans Mara district, Kenya.

Following a consultation facilitated by a local GIFT International associate in which the ladies of a Maasai village GIFT has worked with for many years in Transmara District, it was established that there are expected to be around 20 births in the village each year.

It is well documented that where a mother-to-be can attend a maternity facility, it is likely that the mother will have an opportunity to rest a little before the birth, potential complications can be detected quickly, and in the majority of cases the baby will be delivered well, with no spread of disease between mother and baby.

Of the mothers consulted, everyone opted for a clinic delivery, if possible, but the reality of the costs associated with attending a facility and the challenge of travelling to and from a clinic result in most mothers giving birth at home without professional medical intervention or support.

In partnership with GIFT International, a N.I. family of long-term supporters successfully piloted a programme of support for mothers-to-be during the calendar year 2020 where a percentage of sales of Little Love blankets, designed and marketed locally in Northern Ireland, supported mothers and new-born babies in the Masai Mara.

The project is managed and administered by a local GIFT associate who keeps records of the births. Assisted by members of the local Ladies Group, he purchases baby requisites and ensures they are delivered to the mothers prior to the birth of their babies. Additional support is provided by a GIFT representative in Nairobi and, where applicable, a generous volunteer from Northern Ireland assists with transportation of resources.

Transport to the clinic is provided either directly by the project coordinator or by organising taxis for mothers in labour/returning home. A supply of blankets and other baby items are issued to the new mothers.

Every new-born baby receives essential vaccinations throughout the first year and all return home with a new mosquito net.

In agreement with the main funding provider for the Mother and Baby project, it was agreed that where possible, funds could also be made available for emergency infant medical intervention. This has proved very helpful in several instances where we have been able to react quickly to relieve physical suffering and/or financial hardship that would have prevented intervention taking place.



At the end of 2023, the first GIFT visit to Kenya since Covid took place and with regard to the Mother and Baby project, two important consultations were arranged. The first was a visit to the local maternity clinic to discuss how GIFT support was impacting the mothers and new-born babies from 'our' village, and to establish if there is something else within our scope that we could contribute to the clinic that would support the wider community. Following wide-ranging discussions, it was concluded that provision of a modern delivery couch would benefit mothers and nursing staff alike. The clinic is undergoing considerable refurbishment, and it was hoped that the new delivery suite could be kitted out with a modern couch, replacing the locally-made traditional delivery bed, below.



A second consultation was held in the community when mothers/families who had benefitted from GIFT funding over the past 3 years were invited to attend a community gathering. In a remarkable day where over 70 men, women and children made the (often considerable) journey on foot to be there, we held an open discussion to hear what the community felt about the project, and how things might be improved in the future (subject to funding).

Without exception everyone (including the grandmothers) appreciated the access to maternal health care and recognised the benefits to the mothers and babies, with the positive knock-on benefits to family life. However, one point of note was clearly stated, that a big problem is having

money to buy nutritious food for the mother in the early days following delivery, which is essential to establish lactation and ensure the newborn children have sufficient nutritious breast milk.

Considering this vital information, it was agreed that we will adjust the package to enable more of the funds to be given directly to the mother for the purchase of food, or whatever is deemed most essential. For example, while it is a requisite of the clinic that mothers come prepared with a blanket (which GIFT was providing), the mothers felt they could use an existing blanket, or borrow one, in favour of having access to good food on return home with the child.

We are grateful for the ready participation of the community and the warmth and hospitality shown on the day of the community gathering which we will endeavour to make a regular event!



N.B. The recipient community is aware that funding is not guaranteed beyond any given year. We will, however, be in discussion with the project supporters at the end of 2024 to assess future funding opportunities, and with the recipient community to identify current needs and costs. With long-term goals in mind, we are particularly keen to establish if there are resources, or possibly training for staff and/or mothers we can fund that will benefit the entire community in addition to the mothers and babies in direct receipt of support.

Cleft Palate Support. During 2020 GIFT had initiated a project to raise funds in support of children in need of cleft lip and cleft palate surgery.

Although the condition is not fully understood, there are many factors believed to be the cause of cleft lip/palate deformity, resulting in 1 in 500 – 700 births in Kenya presenting with cleft lip and/or cleft palate. These include inherited genes, early or unhealthy pregnancy, lack of access to maternal health services, poor diet, exposure to toxic elements, including smoking and alcohol consumption in pregnancy.

Cleft lip or cleft palate need not be a disability, and yet, to be born with this condition in a community that lacks access to medical support, condemns many to a life of abandonment, bullying, and difficulties with eating or learning to speak, with negative consequences for education and life opportunities. It doesn't just affect the individual child, the whole family may be stigmatised, which can further exacerbate the tendency to hide children away.

Effective surgery to repair cleft lip and cleft palate can change all that and GIFT International, along with our Kenyan travel providers, FACT Safaris Ltd, who will assist with overseeing the project, seek to establish a project to support cleft palate surgery for children in need.

Problems encountered through the pandemic led us to put the project on hold until such times as we can meet with relevant medical teams to ensure that everything goes ahead as planned. One aspect we want to be very sure of is the aftercare of children receiving surgery as this is vital to their full recovery and wellbeing.

On return to Kenya in 2023, a meeting with a leading reconstructive surgeon at Nairobi Hospital was arranged and follow-up discussions will be held to scope out a project to ensure best use of funds in support of children in need of this surgery

Donations already raised towards cleft palate support have been reserved for this purpose and we continue to be open to funding support for this worthy cause.

D. Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship – feed the children, and individual medical emergencies.

Emergency Feeding Programmes. The Committee agreed that one remote Masai community near Ngong, Kajaiido County, with whom we have had a longstanding relationship, should continue to receive regular support from general funds for the provision of food and water (brought from Nairobi) for both the elderly and young children. This community is severely disadvantaged by drought and the support provided has been gratefully received.



Throughout the year we made several additional donations towards essential health and well-being in a range of communities, including funds towards critical medical operations and aftercare.

Conclusion. The activities outlined above clearly require significant funding. GIFT International has been the recipient of funds through community talks, activities and events run by the Committee and others, general donations, and the generosity of regular givers to facilitate these projects. Regrettably, the funding support we previously received through Amazon Smile has ceased due to their change of policy, but we continue to benefit from payments via Easyfundraising which brings additional and very welcome funding.

We are grateful to a broad denomination of churches and community groups who invite us to speak about the work of GIFT International, a number of whom ask us back year on year. We are also very grateful to all our individual supporters who have made substantial donations, and those who provide support in kind both in Northern Ireland and in Kenya.

GIFT International is a small, entirely voluntary, organisation and without the kind generosity of all our supporters we could not provide the range of support provided by GIFT in Kenya. The encouragement and support of all means everything to us.

Many messages of gratitude have been sent throughout the year by recipients, both individuals and community groups, and we wish to pass a general message of thanks from recipients in Kenya to each and every supporter here in Northern Ireland.

“Other than our bank account, we have no other assets or liabilities”.

Note. In keeping with our policy on project sensitivity, permissions to use photos included in the report have been granted.

Janet Wilson. Chairperson, GIFT International.

August 2024

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Annual return

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF GIFT International**

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by the law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the Financial Statements
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)9b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined the charity's Financial Statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st March 2024 and no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:-

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met and
- 2) that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.



Signed: _____

Dated: 20th November 2024

**Tim Reid, FIB
38, Manse Gate,
Newtownards,
Co. Down
BT23 4DG**

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Accounts

GIFT International

Registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland NIC104617

HMRC Charity No. XT3477

REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 March 2023

**A I McCullagh & Co
Drumsill House
6 Agars Road
Lisburn
Co Antrim
BT28 2TQ**

GIFT International

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

J A Wilson	(Chairperson/Trustee)
M Gleave	(Vice- Chairperson)
C Gleave	(Hon Treasurer/Trustee)

BUSINESS ADDRESS

12 Temple Road
Upper Ballinderry
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Co Antrim
BT28 2PD

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 101
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Manchester
M60 4EP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

A I McCullagh
Accountant
Drumsill House
6 Agars Road
Lisburn
Co Antrim
BT28 2TQ

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT

Year ended 31 March 2023

The committee members (who are the Trustees for charity law purposes) have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS

The purposes of the charity are:

1. To advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.
2. Relief of poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to enable poor people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty.
3. To recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the committee may from time to time decide.

GIFT International has considered the Commission's guidance and the criteria for public benefit and has ensured that our activities clearly support and flow from our purposes, are clearly demonstrated and have been beneficial and not harmful in any way.

GOVERNANCE

The charity is governed by the management committee through the rules of its constitution.

REVIEW

GIFT International is a 'Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training' provider for poor rural communities mainly in Kenya, but also in similar developing countries. By fundraising through for example: events, coffee mornings, donations, illustrated talks and lectures, GIFT International raises funds in NI for use in the areas of benefit for the funded provision of teacher training workshops, bursaries for student education, health and nutrition initiatives, building of schools, resourcing of classrooms and students, capacity-building training workshops for local community representatives and the provision of small start-up funds for sustainable enterprises in identified communities.

Local enterprises range from tree nurseries, bee-keeping projects, maize mill construction and equipment, poultry projects, dressmaking and tailoring courses and sewing machine provision. Health benefits come from examples such as: adult education, provision of mosquito nets, sustainable provision of milk through dairy cow projects and training in basic hygiene and access to emergency medical aid through provision of mobile phones for rapid communication in remote areas.

Education benefits come from for example: school construction and equipment, teacher training, school fees funds, tertiary student bursaries, adult training course provision and knowledge and skills shared by volunteers in the areas of benefit.

Main Achievements 2022-23:

The legacy of the Coronavirus pandemic has meant a slow return to our programme of talks and so our fundraising has been limited to regular givers and one-off donations, for which we are most grateful. On top of covid some areas of Kenya are reporting a fourth consecutive

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, *continued*

year without significant rainfall and so access to clean drinking water, water for livestock and availability of food have become additional serious issues.

We remain greatly heartened to receive messages from communities to say that the measures we have implemented over the years are helping to sustain them through this uncertain and economically challenging time.

The main achievements of the charity during the year 2022-23 are outlined in the separate 'Annual Trustees Report' and they addressed all of the above purposes of the charity. Although a very small charitable organisation, GIFT International continues to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Kenya.

The Annual Report details the projects supported, which, in summary, were:

- Sustainable Community Development:
 - Tree Planting in Kenya; Bee Keeping Enterprises; Posho Mill expansion; Poultry Project in Laikipia district.
- Education and Training:
 - Supply of beds, bedding etc for Kakayuni School for the Deaf; Student funding; Poultry farm training.
- Community Health & Well-being:
 - Mother & Baby Support Project, Transmara; Cleft Palate Support.
- Humanitarian Hardship Fund:
 - Emergency Feed Programme, Ngong Community

The activities listed above all required funding and GIFT International is very appreciative of our supporters who have continued to send us donations and those who provide support in kind both in Northern Ireland and in Kenya.

The Future

The charity will continue to seek out other suitable projects to support within the area of benefit. Projects in the first three categories above will be planned and budgeted for a year in advance based on available funding and projects under the fourth category will be reactive and subject to availability of residual funds in the funding year. Funds raised for future projects that require face to face meetings in order to set them up with confidence will be held in reserve until such times as the global air travel industry becomes more settled.

GIFT International

COMMITTEE REPORT, *continued*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The committee is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing the financial statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and consistently applied, reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made and applicable accounting standards have been complied with, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

J A Wilson, C Gleave and M Gleave all served throughout the year.

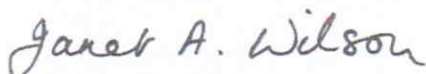
RESULTS

The surplus for the year was £1,609 compared with £11,162 for the previous year.

RESERVES

As the charity has minimal administrative costs all reserves are held to meet the needs of suitable projects as they arise, provided they meet the purposes of the charity.

On behalf of the committee



J A Wilson

Chairperson

Approved by the committee on 11th November 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF GIFT International

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by the law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the financial statements
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)9b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined the charity's financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st March 2023 and no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met and
- 2) that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: 

Dated: 11th November 2023

A I McCullagh
Accountant
6 Agars Road, Lisburn
Co Antrim BT28 2TQ

GIFT International

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Income and expenditure account

		Unrestricted	
	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
INCOME FROM:			
General donations	2	13,469	20,579
Investment income	3	11	3
TOTAL INCOME		13,480	20,582
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Charitable activities:			
Grants made	4	11,871	9,408
Administrative costs	5	-	12
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		11,871	9,420
NET MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR		1,609	11,162
Reconciliation of funds:			
OPENING FUNDS		31,364	20,202
CLOSING FUNDS		32,973	31,364

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those stated in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

GIFT International

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	676	825
Bank balance		32,180	30,420
Cash on hand		117	119
		-----	-----
		32,973	31,364
		-----	-----
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		-	-
		-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS		32,973	31,364
		=====	=====
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated Fund		32,973	31,364
		=====	=====

The financial statements set out on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Committee of Management and authorised for issue on 11th November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Jaret A. Wilson

J A Wilson
Chairperson

Catherine Gleave

C Gleave
Hon Treasurer

GIFT International

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015).

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

2. GENERAL DONATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Anonymous	2,500	10,000
Little Love Blankets	-	3,500
T Witherspoon	100	2,000
R & H Ditty	2,500	1,000
T B F & K L Thompson Trust	2,000	-
D Moore	504	504
Various donations, (under £500 each)	5,189	2,765
Gift aid	676	810
	-----	-----
	<u>13,469</u>	<u>20,579</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Other interest	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>
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GIFT International

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
4. GRANTS MADE		
Ngong Community	450	372
Posho Mill expansion	1,562	-
Kakuyuni School – beds, bed linen, etc	2,018	-
Coastal Bees Project	2,000	-
Poultry Project	1,167	-
Student support - fees, travel, expenses etc	2,309	2,145
Coastal Tree Project	200	415
Water harvesting programme	-	799
Bush Bells School – Electricity installation & equipment	-	672
Mara Mama & Baby Project	1,455	2,330
Gede – solar power installation & chiller	-	2,675
Kadjiado community support	200	-
Medical support	510	-
	-----	-----
	<u>11,871</u>	<u>9,408</u>
5. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		
Bank charges	-	12
	-----	-----
6. DEBTORS		
Gift aid tax recoverable	676	825
	-----	-----

7. TAXATION

The organisation is recognised by H M Revenue & Customs as a charity, reference no XT3477 and no provision for taxation is therefore considered necessary.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS EMOLUMENTS

No committee members received any emoluments in the year.

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in the year which require to be reported .

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Annual report

GIFT

International

Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training

CCNI 104617

Gift International Annual Trustees Report

April 2022 – March 2023



Purposes of the Charity:

1. Advance education and promote the preservation of health of the people in the area of benefit by the provision of resources, training and grants with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit.
2. Relieve poverty and hunger in the area of benefit by any charitable means and in particular the provision of grants and training to empower economically challenged people to establish and maintain projects which will enable them to relieve their own poverty.
3. Recruit, select and send out volunteers from the UK for service within the area of benefit and any other method the committee may from time to time decide.

Gift International has considered the Commission's guidance and the criteria for public benefit:

Benefit must:

- flow from the charity's purposes
- be capable of being demonstrated

- be beneficial, not harmful.

GIFT International activities endeavour to reflect The United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

The seventeen goals aim to focus on the following:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

Through strategic planning, community consultation and beneficiary feedback, Gift International has ensured that our activities clearly support and flow from our purposes, are clearly demonstrated and have been beneficial and not harmful in any way.

Gift International is a 'Grassroots Initiatives Funding and Training' provider for remote and economically challenged communities mainly in Kenya, but also retains the ability to support projects in similar developing countries. By fundraising through, for example, community events, coffee mornings, illustrated talks and lectures, and receiving general donations, Gift International raises funds in NI and beyond, for use in the areas of benefit. Funding facilitates a variety of needs including the provision of teacher training workshops, bursaries for student education, the building of schools, resourcing of classrooms and individual student support where there is demonstrable need, health and nutrition initiatives, capacity-building training workshops for local community representatives and the provision of small start-up funds for sustainable enterprises in identified communities.

Community consultations and the identification of self-managed projects have enabled development of local enterprises ranging from the planting of tree nurseries and expansion of existing woodlots to incorporate more native species, bee-keeping projects for the production of honey and wax products, a range of agricultural developments including maize mill construction and equipment, training for and set-up of dairy cow and poultry projects, to facilitating driving qualifications, dressmaking and tailoring courses and the provision of sewing machines.

Health benefits come from initiatives such as adult education with a special focus on women's education, provision of mosquito nets, sustainable provision of milk through dairy cow projects and training in basic hygiene and access to emergency medical aid through provision of mobile phones for rapid communication in remote areas. A Mother and Baby project in the Masai Mara enables

mothers-to-be in one area of GIFT International operation to attend a maternity clinic, if desired, for the birth of their baby and provides essential inoculations and a starter pack of requisites for the newborn babies and their mothers.

Education benefits come from initiatives such as school construction and provision of equipment, teacher training, school fees funds, tertiary student bursaries, adult training course provision and knowledge and skills shared by volunteers in the areas of benefit.

Impact of the Pandemic.

While the Coronavirus pandemic has become much less impactful on a day-to-day basis in both the UK and Kenya, the legacy of this difficult time remains: During 2022 the GIFT International programme of talks resumed but the momentum was reduced and, sadly, a number of groups we would have engaged with on a very regular basis prior to the pandemic have decided to cease operation, largely due to their age demographic. GIFT would like to acknowledge the long-term support and friendship of these groups, not only for the financial support they provided over many years but also the ongoing encouragement and their care for beneficiaries in Kenya.

With regard to events, we have not initiated any new public events since the pandemic, so, in this reporting period, fundraising has been limited to regular givers and one-off donations, for which we are most grateful. We attended one community fair at the end of 2022, raising £75.00 from sales.

On top of Kenya's difficulties with covid, continued drought, believed to be associated with climate change, has affected much of the country, with some areas reporting 4 consecutive years without significant rainfall. Access to clean drinking water, water for livestock and availability of food have been serious issues and we have on occasion stepped in to assist with food provision.

The way in which we budget – one year in advance - means that we only take on new projects that we can comfortably budget for and have raised the funds to deliver. Some projects ideally roll on from year to year (e.g the Mother and Baby Project) but again we ensure that the funds are guaranteed before we undertake to deliver them in the communities. Despite financial concerns arising from the impact of the pandemic years, through the generous commitment of donors, we have been able to maintain all existing ongoing projects, for which we are most grateful.

Once again, throughout 2022/23, we were greatly heartened to receive reports and individual messages from the communities to say that the measures we had implemented over the years were helping to sustain them through uncertain and economically challenging times.

For budgeting purposes and for ease of reporting we manage projects under four headings:

- A) Sustainable Community Development - agricultural projects, beekeeping development, water harvesting.
- B) Education and Training – education/training bursaries for individuals, whole school development, community training courses.
- C) Community Health and Well-being - Mother and Baby Support, Cleft Palate surgery and community medical support.
- D) Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship – feed the children, medical emergencies etc

Projects under A), B) and C) are planned and budgeted for a year in advance based on available funding. Ideally, some projects will deliver goals under more than one heading e.g. the Gede Beekeeping Project which supports the expansion of honey production across the area but also provides training for individuals and groups. Where communities can demonstrate a range of benefits, these strengthen their application for funding. Projects under D) are reactive and subject to availability of residual funds in that funding year. In most such cases relatively small amounts of funding will be made available and not exceed single payments of £500.

Main Achievements 2022 -2023:

The main achievements of the charity during the year 2022 - 2023 addressed all purposes of the charity. Although a very small charitable organisation, Gift International continues to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Kenya.

A. Sustainable Community Development eg, agricultural projects, beekeeping development, water harvesting.

Tree Planting in Kenya

Over the past two decades GIFT International has funded the planting and maintenance of several tree nurseries and supported training programmes for those engaged in developing tree nurseries.

Planting trees is a relatively simple task, yet the results can be hugely valuable to people and the environment. Once a tree is mature it can absorb 20kg of carbon every year from the atmosphere, thereby making a major contribution to mitigating climate change.

Planting trees in Kenya will provide shelter, food, timber products and an income. Trees enhance biodiversity, improve soil quality and provide the income that funds education and healthcare for some of the most challenged communities.

Building on earlier successes, GIFT International seeks to expand tree planting in selected areas.

In 2022/23 we provided funding for further woodlot planting and maintenance at Gede in the coast region, including the maintenance of a variety of fruit and nut trees lots (cashew, coconut, neem and mango) that are not only a source of income and food, but also act a vital carbon store.



Bee Keeping Enterprises

GIFT International has worked in association with Northern Ireland beekeepers who have for many years provided funding towards running beekeeping training courses, supplying bee-keeping equipment, starter hives, smokers, along with honey separators that are essential for production of quality honey.

Under the management of a former GIFT-funded university graduate, working with a fellow beekeeper from the coast area, a programme of funded training courses for 6 local bee-keeping groups with 'on the ground' coaching, mentoring and on-going support continues to operate. The programme also includes restoration of the local environment, such as replanting depleted mangrove swamp, to ensure suitable foraging for bees. Considerable progress was made within the local communities, and honey production provided much needed revenue to group members. Comprehensive reports are submitted to GIFT in a timely manner, and we continue to be happy with the progress being made.



Our grateful thanks go to our N.I. beekeeper supporters who initiate and host fundraising events and in so doing spread the word across the N.I. community.

We acknowledge with thanks once again, during 2022, the fundraising efforts of beekeepers Robert and Helen Ditty, who along with their friends provide generous support for GIFT International beekeeping enterprises in Kenya.



Plans to expand the beekeeping project in Laikipia continue to be delayed due to prolonged drought. Despite these issues, where the bees have been sustained, the existing project continues to bring in valued revenue to the community. The fundamental problem of water supply is critical to the well-being of people, livestock, and the environment in general. The provision of boreholes is currently outside the financial scale of GIFT International and, indeed, such consideration is a highly complex matter requiring rigorous technical knowledge. The recent proliferation of borehole schemes in some areas has brought additional problems with ground water, salinisation etc so must be approached with caution. When we are in a position to revisit the area, we will discuss appropriate development opportunities and hope we can resume expansion of the beekeeping project in a way that meets the local communities' needs.

Posho Mill Expansion

The GIFT-funded posho mill at Gede continues to be of support to the local community. Funding was made available for the addition of equipment enabling production of higher quality products to be achieved locally.



Nashula Poultry Project, Laikipia.

GIFT International was approached by a long-standing contact from the Laikipia North district seeking support for development of a community poultry farming project.

The problem of water availability is escalating as drought and climate change impact deeply. Previously the community was able to draw water from the Nanyuki River, the source of which is Mt Kenya. In recent times, the permanent river has dried up and the community is having to bring in water in tankers. However, storage of large enough quantities of water to justify the cost of hiring tankers is inadequate and they requested funds for two new tanks. Stage one of this support, the provision of two tanks, and associated pipework, will help with forward planning to ensure they are not left without vital water supplies for the community and the poultry project.



B. Education and Training – education/training bursaries, whole school development, community training courses.

Kakayuni School for the Deaf

Gift International continues to make significant contributions to Kakayuni Special School for the Deaf. This school caters specifically for deaf pupils from a very extensive geographical area. Pupils are all boarders and GIFT International has worked with the Principal, Staff and School Committee representatives to develop sustainable enterprises that bring immediate financial and material benefit to the school that will also help to enhance the skills of these very disadvantaged young people, helping to prepare them for life after school.

Our relationship with Kakayuni School for the deaf continued and although lockdown had made it impossible for our project representative to travel to Mombasa to purchase resources as planned, we were able, just at the end of the 2021-22 reporting period, to fund the purchase of a comprehensive assortment of toys and games for the children, providing them with a range of suitable activities for pupils aged 4 – 19, outside of formal lessons. In addition, we had provided much needed physiotherapy equipment for use by the school. We were therefore very pleased to receive a report from the school during 2023 that these additions had been well received by the children and staff alike.

During 2022 we became aware of a shortage of beds at the school due to high demand for places at Kakayuni, and were delighted to provide funding for the construction of 8 new bunk beds along with associated bedding and good quality, long-lasting mosquito nets.

A letter of appreciation was received from the school principal:

KAKUYUNI SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

P.O. BOX 115-80202, WATAMU

DATE:31/01/2023

MOTTO: Abled different

Email:kakuyunischoolfordeafchildren@gmail.com

TO,

GIFT INTERNATIONAL;

THRO' JANET;

APPRECIATION FOR GIFT OF BOARDING MATERIALS TOWARDS DEAF CHILDREN AT KAKUYUNI

We acknowledge receipt of donation from Gift International. To us this is a New Year Gift. The deaf children were over joyed for receiving such a gift that came at a time when it was really needed, our population has increased. Acknowledge our appreciation.

As a deaf community in Kakuyuni we were delighted to receive a gift in form of a donation thus:-

- 1) 8 Decker beds-4 beds for each gender
- 2) 16 Maasai sheets- 8 for each gender
- 3) 8 mosquito nets -4 for each gender

In this regard therefore we wish to ask you to deliver our profuse thanks and appreciation to Gift International for their continued support and love towards the deaf children in Kakuyuni school for the deaf.

We again wish to thank you for your Big Heart towards the needy and in particular, the deaf children in Kakuyuni School for the Deaf.

Thanking you once again



Naomi Sesi

Student Funding

During this reporting year, Gift International continued to fund education fees and school materials for students at all levels of education. Such support ensures continued attendance, tuition and boarding fees. We were pleased to support the final graduation of one of our GIFT-supported students in May 2022. We are currently supporting one young girl from the coast to pursue secondary education and have funded driving lessons for a project contact in Laikipia. Support for a student who we funded through his Primary education at Kakuyuni School for the Deaf has been extended to cover his secondary school fees and upkeep at a boarding school that caters for the deaf. It is very pleasing to note that not only has this candidate continued to progress well academically, he is also performing well in sports. We have been in discussion with staff from Kakuyuni School to see how GIFT might continue to offer support for students once they leave Kakuyuni and hope to implement a suitable project in 2023/24.

Training

Under Phase 2 of the Nashula Poultry Project, GIFT International provided funding for key members of the project team to attend a five day consortium on Poultry Farming Training with the aim of implementing key findings where possible and cascading the learning to the community and beyond. The report from the Training was very positive and the co-ordinator set up a further training day for the Nashula group within a month of attending the course.



The Nashula Project members meet quarterly and share dividends with the needy among the community. Their support includes a programme of outreach to families and the elderly in need of food and water.

C. Community Health and Well-being. Mother and Baby Support, Cleft Palate surgery and community medical support.

Mother and Baby Support Project, Trans Mara district, Kenya.

Following a consultation facilitated by a local GIFT International associate in which the ladies of a Maasai village GIFT has worked with for many years in Transmara District, it was established that there are expected to be around 20 births in the village each year.

It is well documented that where a mother-to-be can attend a maternity facility, it is likely that the mother will have an opportunity to rest a little before the birth, potential complications can be detected quickly, and in the majority of cases the baby will be delivered well, with no spread of disease between mother and baby.

Of the mothers consulted, everyone opted for a clinic delivery, if possible, but the reality of the costs associated with attending a facility and the challenge of travelling to and from a clinic result in most mothers giving birth at home without professional medical intervention or support.

In partnership with GIFT International, a family of long-term supporters successfully piloted a programme of support for mothers-to-be during the calendar year 2020 where a percentage of sales of Little Love blankets, designed and marketed locally in Northern Ireland, supported mothers and new-born babies in the Masai Mara.

The project is managed and administered by a local GIFT associate who keeps records of the births. Assisted by members of the local Ladies Group, he purchases baby requisites and ensures they are delivered to the mothers prior to the birth of their babies. Additional support is provided by a GIFT representative in Nairobi and, where applicable, a generous volunteer from Northern Ireland assists with transportation of resources.

Transport to the clinic is provided either directly by the project coordinator or by organising taxis for mothers in labour/returning home. A supply of blankets and other baby items are issued to the new mothers.

Every new-born baby receives essential vaccinations throughout the first year and all return home with a new mosquito net.

In agreement with the main funding provider for the Mother and Baby project, it was agreed that where possible, funds could also be made available for emergency infant medical intervention. This has proved very helpful in several instances where we have been able to react quickly to relieve physical suffering and/or financial hardship that would have prevented intervention taking place.



N.B. The recipient community is aware that funding is not guaranteed beyond any given year. We will, however, be in discussion with the project supporters at the end of 2023 to assess future funding opportunities, and with the recipient community to identify current needs and costs. We are particularly keen to establish if there is something we can fund in support of maternal health that will benefit the entire community in addition to the mothers and babies in direct receipt of support.

Cleft Palate Support. During 2020 GIFT had initiated a project to raise funds in support of children in need of cleft lip and cleft palate surgery.

Although the condition is not fully understood, there are many factors believed to be the cause of cleft lip/palate deformity, resulting in 1 in 500 – 700 births in Kenya presenting with cleft lip and/or cleft palate. These include inherited genes, early or unhealthy pregnancy, lack of access to maternal health services, poor diet, exposure to toxic elements, including smoking and alcohol consumption in pregnancy.

Cleft lip or cleft palate need not be a disability, and yet, to be born with this condition in a community that lacks access to medical support, condemns many to a life of abandonment, bullying, and difficulties with eating or learning to speak, with negative consequences for education and life opportunities. It doesn't just affect the individual child, the whole family may be stigmatised, which can further exacerbate the tendency to hide children away.

Effective surgery to repair cleft lip and cleft palate can change all that and GIFT International, along with our Kenyan travel providers, FACT Safaris Ltd, who will assist with overseeing the project, seek to establish a project to support cleft palate surgery for children in need.

Problems encountered through the pandemic led us to put the project on hold until such times as we can meet with relevant medical teams to ensure that everything goes ahead as planned. One aspect we want to be very sure of is the aftercare of children receiving surgery as this is vital to their full recovery and wellbeing.

Donations already raised towards cleft palate support have been reserved for this purpose and, post pandemic, and upon our return to Kenya when we will meet with potential partners, we will seek a new delivery partner. We will continue to raise funds for this worthy cause.

D. Humanitarian Fund for families and individuals experiencing hardship – feed the children, and individual medical emergencies.

During the past two years we supported intervention for twin baby girls displaying hip and leg problems soon after birth. It is pleasing to report that both little girls are doing well, with one now demonstrating good mobility and the other showing significant improvement. Support for continued physiotherapy is a big help in this case and we will keep the situation under review throughout the childrens' pre-school years.

This support demonstrates the importance of early intervention. Through our long association with schools for children with physical disabilities we have encountered many children who, through lack of early intervention, have suffered disabilities that could, at an early stage, have been greatly improved.

Emergency Feeding Programmes. The Committee agreed that one remote Masai community near Ngong, Kajiado County, with whom we have had a longstanding relationship, should continue to receive regular support from general funds for the provision of food and water (brought from Nairobi). This community is severely disadvantaged by drought and the support provided has been gratefully received.

Throughout the year we made several additional donations towards essential health and well-being including funds towards critical medical operations and aftercare.

Conclusion. The activities outlined above clearly require significant funding. GIFT International has been the recipient of funds through community talks, activities and events run by the Committee and others, general donations, and the generosity of regular givers to facilitate these projects. Amazon Smile provided valuable funds from supporters during 2022 but regrettably, due to a policy change, will cease to be a source of funds in 2023. We continue to benefit from payments via Easyfundraising which brings additional and very welcome funding. We are grateful to a Benevity supporter for yet another very generous donation during this financial year. We gratefully acknowledge our beekeeping friends, who once again made a generous donation to our beekeeping projects. We are grateful to a broad denomination of churches and community groups who invite us to speak about the work of GIFT International, a number of whom ask us back year on year. We are also very grateful to all our individual supporters who have made substantial donations, and those who provide support in kind both in Northern Ireland and in Kenya.

GIFT International is a small, entirely voluntary, organisation and without the kind generosity of all our supporters we could not provide the range of support provided by GIFT International in Kenya. The encouragement and support of all means everything to us.

Many messages of gratitude have been sent throughout the year by recipients, both individuals and community groups, and we wish to pass a general message of thanks from recipients in Kenya to each and every supporter here in Northern Ireland.

“Other than our bank account, we have no other assets or liabilities”.

Note. In keeping with our policy on project sensitivity, permissions to use photos included in the report have been granted.

Janet Wilson. Chairperson, GIFT International.

June 2023

GIFT International

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104617

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF GIFT International

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by the law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the financial statements
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined the charity's financial statements as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

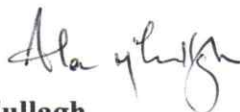
My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31st March 2023 and no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect

- 1) the requirements to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which accord with those accounting records have not been met and
- 2) that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:



Dated: 11th November 2023

A I McCullagh
Accountant
6 Agars Road, Lisburn
Co Antrim BT28 2TQ