

**CHILDREN  
ON THE EDGE**



**ASK ME ABOUT CHILD  
RIGHTS**

# SEEN AND HEARD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 2020

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STUDENTS ENJOY NEW DIGITAL LESSONS IN KUTUPALONG REFUGEE CAMP, BANGLADESH

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

BANGLADESH:

**8,900** REFUGEE  
& SLUM  
DWELLING  
CHILDREN  
RECEIVED  
EDUCATION

INDIA:

**71%** OF  
LEARNING  
CENTRE  
STUDENTS ARE  
GIRLS

UGANDA :

**140** SMALL  
BUSINESS  
LOANS FOR  
VULNERABLE  
HOUSEHOLDS

BANGLADESH:

**178** TEACHERS  
REPORTED  
FEELING  
EQUIPPED AND  
SUPPORTED

LEBANON:

**211** SYRIAN  
CHILDREN  
ATTENDING  
THE NEW  
ZAHLE SCHOOL

UGANDA, KYAKA II:

**8** PILOT EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTRES IN **8**  
REFUGEE  
COMMUNITIES

INDIA:

**200** CHILDREN'S  
PARLIAMENT  
MINISTERS

BANGLADESH:

**5** DIGITAL  
NEWSLETTERS  
PRODUCED &  
PUBLISHED

KACHIN STATE, BURMA:

**14** PRESCHOOLS  
IN **9** IDP CAMPS  
RUNNING WELL



LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD IN OUR CLASSROOMS IN INDIA



## SEEN AND HEARD

As we approach our 30th year working for children's rights, the UN has also marked 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This international treaty protects the rights of all children to be free from discrimination, violence and neglect. It has shaped our work from the start, and this year has been no exception.

Together our programmes ensure that over 15,000 children are safe, protected and provided with access to education. We are always seeking out and supporting the rights of those children who are most overlooked, which is why this year's focus was on the development of a new early years education project, working with refugee children in Uganda who have fled conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With this pilot completed successfully, we will be scaling up to work with 4,000 Congolese refugee children over the next year.

One of the CRC's guiding principles concerns the right of children to be heard. Whilst human rights apply to children as much as adults, children rarely have as much power:

they can't vote, they aren't always included in decisions that affect them and the outdated term 'children should be seen and not heard' is surprisingly prevalent. We not only exist for children who are most on the edge, but our work is underpinned by a focus on encouraging those children to express themselves, develop opinions, and for these opinions to be heard and taken seriously.

Through various innovations this year, we have been especially struck by what children are capable of when they are both seen and heard.

- In Bangladesh, children have been connecting beyond the confines of camps and slums using digital technology. Whilst half of the Rohingya children in Kutupalong refugee camp are cut off from education, those that can access learning are denied a curriculum in their own language. We listened to children expressing how they cannot recognise what is being taught, and introduced a digital learning system, projecting translated, child-friendly content in every class, every day.

- Students not only expressed joy and disbelief to finally be able to understand, but also used this technology to create their own video newsletters, exchanging their thoughts, talents and experiences across hundreds of classrooms in the camp and slum communities of Bangladesh. Complete with its own website and YouTube channel, they named this emerging digital platform 'Moja Kids'. In the coming year we aim to evolve Moja Kids as a global online community, connecting children with peers living in various challenging situations around the world.
- In India, 200 children were elected to form Children's Parliaments, trained about their rights, shown how to protect their friends and supported to campaign for change. These 'MPs' rapidly began to lead; rescuing friends from abduction, preventing child marriages, transforming sanitation in schools and taking responsibility with frontline flood-relief work. They modelled citizenship in the most inspiring ways and learned how to influence real change.
- Child Rights Clubs in Uganda have more than tripled their members this year, delivering a host of workshops for hundreds of their peers. They have grown in confidence, working hand-in-hand with local Child Protection Teams and showing they can be just as instrumental as adults in transforming their communities.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our partners, these communities were immediately seen, heard and responded to. We quickly adapted our work, providing preventative training and delivering vital supplies for many of the most vulnerable households.

Our incredible corporate supporters, individual fundraisers and grant making trusts have not only invested in the remarkable progress we have seen for children during this year, but have been critical to our crisis response in the final weeks. Those who faithfully give have enabled us to maintain a reliable presence throughout a time of global uncertainty, making it possible for us to be resolute in our support for those who are most on the edge.

Over the coming year, we will continually monitor the threat of COVID-19; adapting our work, ensuring the charity remains sustainable and that those we work with are provided for in the best way possible.

With our sincere gratitude,



Rachel Bentley  
CEO & Founder



Stuart Gallimore  
Chair of Trustees

## COVID-19 and the Edge

In the last month of this financial year, the rapid spread of COVID-19 had an immediate and devastating impact on the areas where we work. Lacking the opportunity of 'social distancing' and rarely considered in sweeping lockdown measures, marginalised groups were quickly cut off from food, income and protection.

# COVID-19

In the last month of the financial year, the rapid spread of COVID-19 had an immediate and devastating impact on the areas where we work as well as the fundraising environment.

In the immediate response, we sought to secure the safety of staff and beneficiaries both in the UK and abroad. The UK office remained fully operational whilst also moving to being home based prior to the UK lockdown.

Our reserves policy and current levels meant we did not face immediate financial danger and have been able to make a calm and considered response to the situation.

No UK staff were put on furlough and we have continued to pay all wages for programme staff in all locations.

Funders were contacted and in almost all situations offered flexibility in spending and reporting, ensuring we are able to adapt in the field and not tie up funds. In many cases funders offered increased help and resources enabling us to make an additional response to the situation.

Lockdowns in project locations meant that families that rely on day labour wages were unable to feed and provide themselves, so fear of starvation far more than COVID-19 was the immediate concern.

Our local partners responded by gaining permission, then procuring and delivering emergency food parcels to vulnerable families in locations around the world.

As we look to the rest of 2020-2021, our focus is to secure the sustainability of the organisation in the UK and its programme locations around the world whilst also ensuring we offer the best services to those in our care.

We expect new funding streams to be limited and increased competition for grants, especially in the second half of the year and into 2021. However, we are confident that we are financially sustainable based on our levels of reserves as well as current funder relationships. Income levels will be continually reviewed by staff and trustees.

We are equipped to run our office in a continued lockdown situation or with social distancing measures in place. We remain in regular online contact with all programme locations and are able to make and change plans quickly.

Should COVID-19 become prevalent in the camps and slums where we work, the impact would be devastating. We hope this will not be the case but remain primed to respond as best we can should the worst case become a reality.



## OUR PROGRAMMES

Children on the Edge exists to help marginalised children, who are living on the edge of their societies.

Working in partnership with local communities, we help create safe, child friendly environments and support children to realise their rights

"OUR EARLY YEARS SCHOOL WAS ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE BEFORE CHILDREN ON THE EDGE AFRICA GOT INVOLVED. THE CLASSROOMS WERE DILAPIDATED AND EVERYTHING WAS FALLING APART. NOW TWO OF OUR CLASSROOMS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND THEY ARE FILLED WITH PICTURES AND NUMBERS ON THE WALLS. THE TEACHERS ARE ALL REALLY GOOD AND VERY FRIENDLY. THE CHILDREN LOVE THEM SO MUCH."

MAURINE - PARENT IN KYAKA II REFUGEE CAMP, UGANDA



Cox's Bazar has been a place of refuge for hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people, fleeing violence in Myanmar since 1978. As a result of genocidal attacks in 2017, Kutupalong camp became host to one million refugees. Over half the children here remain unable to access education and those that can are denied a curriculum in their own language.

Further inland, many Rohingya have moved away from the crowded border area to 'enclave communities', where children are entirely cut off from basic services. Slum dwelling children in Cox's Bazar communities also face financial and practical barriers to attending school.

All three groups of children are in danger of growing up without education.

**PARTNERS:** Mukti - Cox's Bazar

## OBJECTIVES

8,900 Rohingya refugee and Bangladeshi slum dwelling children access relevant primary education, and gain vital knowledge and skills, improving their everyday lives and future opportunities. For these children this will include:

- The provision of 178 child friendly, colourful and creative classrooms with trained teachers.

- Access to genuine learning where understanding is enabled through breaking down language barriers.

- The opportunity to express themselves, grow in confidence, have their voices heard and connect beyond the confines of their challenging environments.

- Improved access to basic health knowledge and care.

- Participation in the running of the programme along with parents and communities.

## ACTIVITIES

- Quality lessons delivered to 8,900 students, five days a week, in classrooms decorated with children's artwork and maintained with learning equipment, first aid kit, play materials and garden spaces.

- Provided comprehensive training courses and monthly refresher sessions for 178 teachers.

- Tied down centres in April to mitigate seasonal weather conditions, repaired 40 classrooms and gardens following monsoon damage and provided 500 new desks, decorated with children's artwork.



- Fully developed digital education capabilities, installing projectors and android phones for each classroom. Digital content was created and dubbed into Rohingya language for 1.5 hours of digital lessons, twice a day.

- Evolved children's printed newsletters into digital format, producing six child-led video newsletters from a mix of community, camp and enclave schools. This was developed into an online platform, named 'Moja Kids' by the children.

- Classrooms provided nutritional supplements, hygiene education, 1,306 health interventions and 243 referrals.

- 1,778 community members attended monthly School Management Committees focussing on practical maintenance and community issues.

- Children's natural hesitancy was addressed through Child Councils by teaching about roles, child rights, communicating feelings and influencing decisions. They received training in first aid, how to support struggling classmates and encourage good hygiene.

- Our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) consultant processed data sets, providing recommendations to improve efficiency and clarity. This resulted in amendments to M&E design and additional training for Project Officers.

- From August, the government began closing our camp schools for the 'audit and review' of 42 organisations' projects. Until December the main focus of our work here was negotiating re-opening and maintaining community engagement.

- In March we distributed 10,000 flyers informing children and parents about COVID-19 and worked with the children to produce a series of videos about preventing the spread of the virus. We sought funding for the supply of food parcels after identifying 7,500 slum households in particular need.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

*Before the August Government closures, targets for the full length of the programme were already being exceeded. After re-opening, the schools were on course to resume their previous trajectory, but at the end of the year we faced the onset of COVID-19 lockdown. In spite of this, the following overall progress has been achieved:*

- The introduction of digital learning strengthened attendance and made an enormous difference to the children's learning as they could finally understand lessons. Interviews show the digital component increased confidence and inspiration regarding future job opportunities.

- School Management Committees reflected strengthened local ownership and leadership. Beyond practical maintenance, they built relationships between schools and communities, targeted child marriage and worked on the prevention of diseases. As a result, attendance improved and incidents of disease decreased.

- First Aid records show the number of health interventions and referrals steadily dropping each quarter in line with expected impact from health inputs.

- The Moja Kids platform has enabled children to have a 'voice' and be seen by children at other schools and the wider world. Kutupalong pupils can now interact with children outside the camp, connecting and learning about each other's lives. This has boosted confidence and generated a great deal of joy and excitement.

- Community and enclave students reflected brilliant academic progress, getting an average 99% pass rate in their Primary School Certificate Exams.

- An average of 98% of pupils reported using what they have learned outside of school, 86% feel what they are learning will help them to have a better life and 97% share what they've learned outside school.

- 6,428 parents attended parent-teacher forums, reflecting a greater willingness to participate in their children's education. They have improved understanding of the value of education, with all parents interviewed stating school has changed their children for the better and boosted future potential.

- 868 Child Council members began making suggestions and coming up with ideas. Their ownership was shown by them taking responsibility for cleaning, encouraging attendance, supporting weaker students, discussing how to balance school and Madrasa (Islamic school), decorating classrooms, caring for gardens and planting trees to provide shade and shelter.

- Classroom observations found that teachers are loving, nurturing and caring towards their pupils. 100% of pupils reported if anyone else in class is struggling with work, their teacher will help. 100% of teachers feel they are equipped with training and support to be a good teacher.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Food distribution programme in slum communities to support most vulnerable through COVID-19 lockdown.

- Fully re-establish programme after lockdown.

- Full implementation of digital education curriculum and the development of monitoring and evaluation to assess its impact.

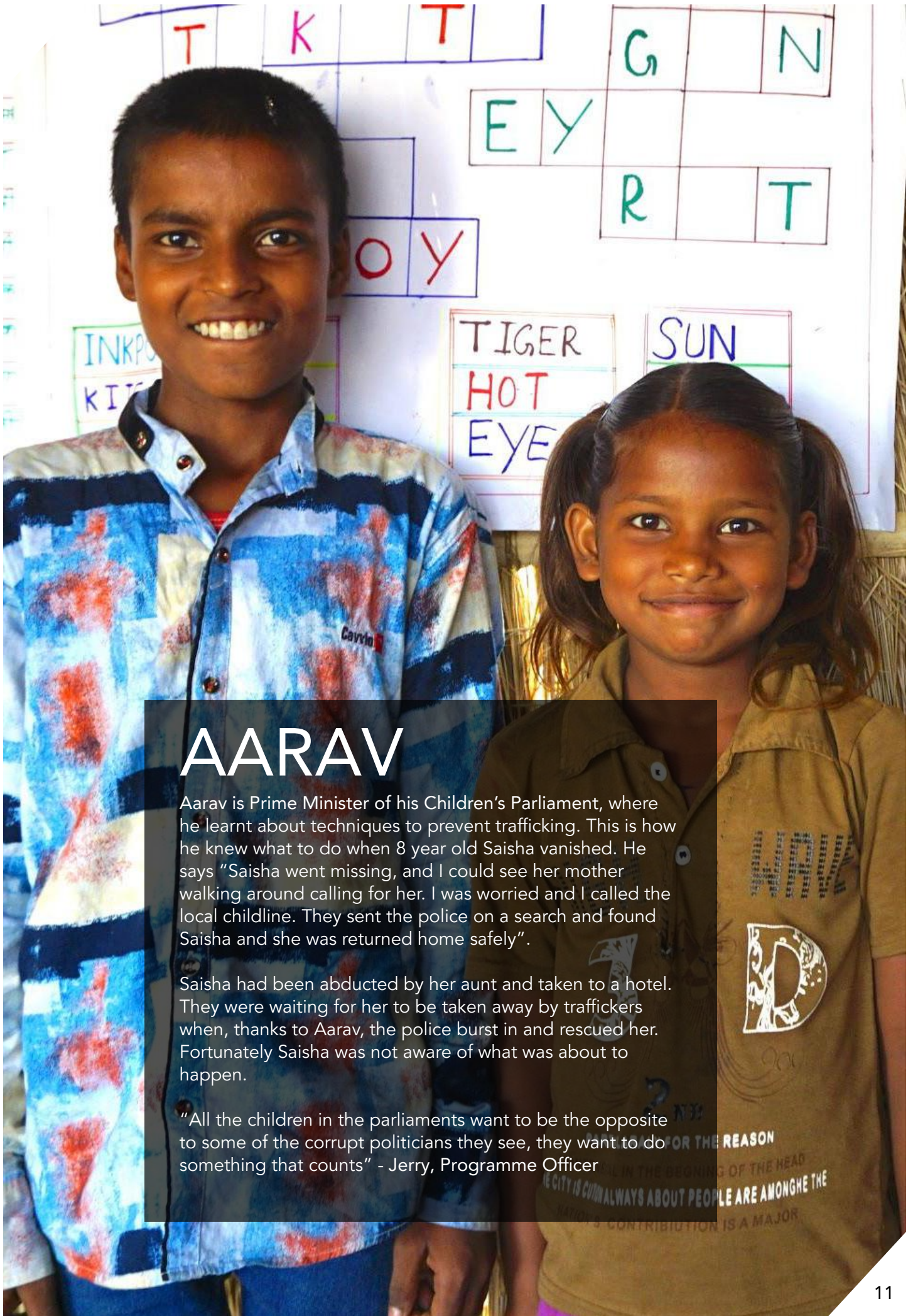
- Children living in challenging environments in other countries join the Moja Kids platform, exchanging their own digital content.

- Build on strong community ownership and develop further as the community sees the growing benefits of their involvement.

- Build four new classrooms in Cox's Bazar.



TENDING TO THE GARDEN IN ONE THE LEARNING CENTRES WE SUPPORT FOR SLUM DWELLING CHILDREN IN COX'S BAZAR.



# AARAV

Aarav is Prime Minister of his Children’s Parliament, where he learnt about techniques to prevent trafficking. This is how he knew what to do when 8 year old Saisha vanished. He says “Saisha went missing, and I could see her mother walking around calling for her. I was worried and I called the local childline. They sent the police on a search and found Saisha and she was returned home safely”.

Saisha had been abducted by her aunt and taken to a hotel. They were waiting for her to be taken away by traffickers when, thanks to Aarav, the police burst in and rescued her. Fortunately Saisha was not aware of what was about to happen.

“All the children in the parliaments want to be the opposite to some of the corrupt politicians they see, they want to do something that counts” - Jerry, Programme Officer



INDIA

In Bihar State, culturally ingrained caste discrimination against the 'untouchable' Dalit minority is causing children to be ostracised from education and denied their rights. Deep seated low self esteem has trapped slum communities in and around Patna in a cycle of poverty and rejection. This year they faced exclusion and violence in the Indian election process, major flooding, threats to their homes and the devastating effects of COVID-19 lockdown.

On the border of Nepal, Dalit children are trapped in brothel communities with no opportunity for education.

#### PARTNERS

Parivartan Kendra (PK) and Navjeevan Educational and Social Welfare Society Digha (NESWSD) in Patna. Tatvasi Samaj Nyas (TSN) on the Nepal border.

#### OBJECTIVES

- Counter caste discrimination and enable integration to mainstream school through the provision of supplementary education and support.

- Develop life skills, rights awareness, self expression and creativity, gender equality and confidence in Dalit children.

- Support Dalit communities to advocate for justice, equality and sustainable livelihoods through non-violent action.

- Pave the way for Dalit children on the border of Nepal to find a life beyond the confines of the red light district.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Supported 37 Learning Centres for over 1,170 children (increase of 270 from last year).

- Established seven additional centres and renovated a number of existing buildings.

- Increased 'exposure visits' for children and women's groups, with hundreds taking trips to official institutions and services to develop day-to-day life-skills.

- Held monthly meetings with senior staff of formal schools to encourage enrolment and retention of children.

- Conducted monthly teacher training for 37 staff and an additional 2-day monitoring course. Staff also ran regular parent-teacher meetings.

- Extended computer literacy learning with over 430 students (more than double last year's intake) attending courses and gaining certificates.

- Increased the number of Women's Groups to 66 (up 16 from last year) training over 725 women on a myriad of essential skills including saving, income generation, government schemes, literacy, child protection and legal aid.

- Facilitated extensive trafficking and child marriage prevention work through classroom training, local events, Child Parliaments and Women's Groups.

- Held over 100 celebrations and competitions to encourage attendance, promote social cohesion and encourage children to express themselves and grow in confidence.

- Introduced the concept of digital learning, providing a number of mobile projectors and piloting audio-visual classes at 10 centres.

- Undertook awareness interventions throughout the Indian election, supporting excluded communities to realise their right to vote.

- 600 flood hit families provided with food and water

- 3,000 families provided with food parcels during the COVID-19 lockdown.

- Supported two Education Centres for children on the Nepal border, in one of Bihar's most renowned red light areas. These provided tailoring lessons for 16 adolescent girls and basic preschool education for 63 school-aged children.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- 86 new admissions to government school, with 133 children fully transitioned and 125 attending 'English medium schools'. Re-integrated children are described as academically ahead of the higher caste children, presentable, well behaved and well adjusted to the classroom environment.

- Increase in parents' levels of interest in their children's education as a result of training, parent teacher meetings and local celebrations and competitions where parents see children's talents and progress.

- Hundreds of women have been supported to claim entitlements to land, identity cards, housing and health services.

- There have been regular reports of the prevention of child marriages and the rescue of abducted children thanks to the efforts of teachers, students and women's groups.

- Renovated classrooms have created functioning and safe learning spaces (including one school no longer having to learn on a rooftop), and have raised the pride and dignity of the children and teachers.

- As a result of Women's Group advocacy, 45 houses were built by the government in rural areas.

- Over 20 older students have secured jobs and university places as a result of developing IT skills.

- Members of the Children's Parliaments have become leaders within their communities, negotiating clean drinking water, gender segregated toilets, lights, fans and floor repairs in government schools. They stopped incidents of trafficking and child marriage, helped with flood relief work and set up 'mini agencies' to support children's access to local services.

- Reducing brothel work on the Nepal border. Nearly 80 families were engaged in commercial sex work at the time the project began. This has reduced to just two, with no children involved. Changes are attributed to increased community awareness and the availability of alternative income sources (eight graduates started working as tailors this year).

## FUTURE PLANS

- Expand community Learning Centres through Navjeevan, building three new centres in urban areas and one extra in a rural area.

- Continue to support the activism work of PK.

- Develop monitoring and evaluation processes using digital tools.

- Further develop digital education component.



In the slum communities surrounding Jinja, dwellers face poor sanitation, low employment and high crime rates. The majority of households struggle to access education for their children, often experiencing a disconnection from local services and a lack of awareness regarding effective child protection. In short, many children are at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**PARTNERS** - Children on the Edge Africa

### OBJECTIVES

At a local level - Support slum communities to create protective environments for their children, through voluntary Child Protection Teams who work to develop:

- Child protection training and the creation of a safe environment.
- Improved relationships between communities and service providers.
- Economic stability for vulnerable households.
- Access to education for children.

On a national level - Address gaps in legislation regarding child sacrifice.

### ACTIVITIES

- Supported five Child Protection Teams in five slum communities who took on 135 child protection cases and delivered 40 community and child protection workshops, with an average of 70 people attending each one.
- Introduced a loan scheme into Wandago and provided 140 micro-loans across five areas, with 93% of recipients attending Savings Groups.
- Operated two Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD) in Loco and Wandago for 147 children.
- Expanded the number of Child Rights Clubs to three - training over 100 members on a range of child rights issues through 21 meetings, whilst supporting them to teach their peers, campaign in their communities and work alongside Child Protection Teams.
- The Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Bill was reviewed and submitted for a judges meeting in July 2019, with a final review in January 2020.
- Made the next steps in developing digital monitoring with a two day course for the team.

- Employed a new Programmes Coordinator to support our Social Worker and accommodate extra work from scaling up into five communities.

- Responded to COVID-19 lockdown by supplying grandmother headed households with fortnightly supply parcels.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- Both ECD Centres have seen holistic development in children's education and wellbeing. Staff report better discipline, strengthened relationships, a development of a reading culture and notable improvement in health and protection.

- Reading and writing skills have improved with 100% of top class in Loco and 95% in Wandago meeting standards. 48 children have graduated to primary levels and 26 have transitioned to local primary schools.

- The achievements of the Child Protection Teams this year are too numerous to list, here are a few highlights:

- *Loco* were instrumental in the construction of new latrines, with the local government largely attributing improved sanitation and disease reduction to their workshops.

- *Masese I* reported improvement in parental care and reduction in teenage pregnancy through their family planning training.

- *Masese II* saw a reduction in domestic abuse cases, worked with the council on two court cases and supported 120 children to return to school.

- *Masese III* increased male workshop attendees, linked with many local organisations and built relationships with Karamojong leaders, which improved attitudes on the treatment of women and children.

- *Wandago* contributed to a reduction in child abuse, child labour and gender based violence. 70% of parents in two zones that were struggling with child protection issues are now taking better care of their children.

- This year's 'Most Significant Change' evaluation produced 83 inspiring stories, 92% reflecting positive change. The biggest changes were improved financial status, increased knowledge and skills, improved well-being and safety and better access to education.

- Small business loans led to a wealth of new ventures, whilst 71% were used to grow existing businesses. All Most Significant Change stories selected this year reflected the positive impact of business loans.

- Child Rights Club members more than tripled this year, using their training to deliver seven outreach events on child rights issues. They have grown in confidence, worked hand in hand with the Child Protection Teams and identified over 20 child abuse cases.

- The Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Bill was approved by Ugandan judges in January 2020 as a stand-alone law on human sacrifice and is on its way to first reading.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Continuing to consolidate our Child Protection Team model ready for replication across the Eastern region of Uganda.

- Perfecting work in the ECD centres of Jinja and Wandago, developing elements of digital learning.

- Continue to develop the three Child Rights Clubs in Loco, Masese I and Wandago, and if capacity allows, formulate plans to replicate in Masese II and Masese III.

- Maintain support for education loans and Savings Groups, and design a study on their long-term impact.

- Refresh our use of digital data management and monitoring, focussing on digital evaluation of ECD child progress with a view to replicating the system for our work in Kyaka II refugee settlement.

- Continue to work on the passing of The Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Bill, honing problematic clauses and establishing the best route to it becoming law.



## UGANDA - KYAKA II

### UGANDA - KYAKA II

Since late 2017 an escalation in guerrilla warfare, kidnappings and rapes in Eastern DR Congo has led to a continuous refugee influx into Uganda, which now hosts around 1.4 million displaced people. Around 700 Congolese refugees arrive in Kyaka II refugee settlement every week, 65% of which are children, many of whom have witnessed violence and lost family members.

Across 30 communities in Kyaka II, parents have put up basic centres for early learning, but most were dilapidated and many teachers untrained. Thousands of 3-6 year olds have nowhere safe to go during the day and are missing out on foundational development of key skills.

**PARTNERS** - Children on the Edge Africa, YIDA and LILE INAM ECD Consultancy

### OBJECTIVES

Over four years the project aims to:

- Ensure the healthy development and wellbeing of over 4,000 young Congolese refugee children, helping them to: improve their mental and physical wellbeing, express themselves, process trauma, play and enjoy being children.

- Provide them with child-friendly early learning using the national ECD Framework, imparting numeracy, literacy, social skills that will help them benefit from future education.

- Support current community structures to take ownership through the development of Centre Management Committees (CMCs).

- Renovate 30 venues into bright, colourful centres.

- Train 90 local refugees to teach, gain accredited qualifications and generate additional, sustainable income through small business loans.

- Ensure access for a number of vulnerable Ugandan children in Kyaka II areas.

### ACTIVITIES

From May - December 2019, the pilot was carried out in eight centres, in eight communities, working with 851 children, and included the following activities:

- Registered a COTE Africa teacher training centre in conjunction with Uganda's Makerere University.



- Trained 24 local refugees as teachers through 66 sessions. They cascaded learning to 15 of their peers, equipping them to deliver the national ECD framework.

- 24 teachers attended workshops on creating learning resources from low-cost, local materials, and create colourful learning environments, and 18 teachers sat for the Makerere University examinations.

- Researched potential for using microloans and recruited a microloans officer.

- Lobbied UNICEF for two large tents, renovated two centres where hygiene was substandard and mobilised the community to build pit latrines at each.

- Established eight Centre Management Committees (CMCs) and provided 40 committee members with intensive training, using Uganda Ministry of Education guidelines.

- Recruited and trained four Resource Officers.

- Designed Monitoring and Evaluation framework and introduced technology to facilitate data collection and collation.

- Commenced building of a resource centre to incorporate a training space and two ECD classrooms.

After completion of pilot phase: January - April 2020:

- Expanded to 30 centres, in 30 communities working with 4882 children, identifying and training 71 new teachers.

- Introduced 42 teachers to business management and savings training, after which they formed two saving groups.

- Centre Management Committees constructed a two-classroom block and built a pit latrine.

- In response to the COVID-19 lockdown and the World Food Programme halving funding for Ugandan refugees, we distributed nearly 400 supply parcels to elderly headed households.

## PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

- Teachers made excellent progress in their training and staff expect good results from their university exams.

- Parents and communities reported improvement in teacher productivity, noticing a change in teaching style and a positive impact on the behaviour of children at home.

- All pilot centres transformed into bright, colourful and creative spaces, packed with teacher-crafted learning materials. The government schools inspector praised the improvements and thanked us for supporting each class with high quality resources.

- Renovating venues reassured parents who were previously concerned about poor hygiene and crumbling walls.

- By the end of the pilot stage, 69 Centre Management Committee members were active in their communities, engaging parents, constructing latrines, and renovating classrooms.

- Resource Officers became effective programme ambassadors, aiding with translation and engaging the community on the importance of Early Childhood Development.

- The number of parents that place value on Early Childhood Development greatly increased due to community workshops, evidenced in January enrolment numbers.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to roll out programme to the next 22 communities.

- Further develop our microloan scheme.

- Provide key health interventions.

- Hone Monitoring and Evaluation systems.

- Start to provide additional classroom space at 22 locations.

- Further develop community ownership through Centre Management Committees and parent's involvement.



## KACHIN STATE, MYANMAR

Due to years of ongoing conflict across Kachin State in Myanmar, over 100,000 internally displaced people remain trapped in remote mountain camps, facing increasingly desperate conditions. Displaced children under the age of six have known little else but war and its resulting trauma. Whilst there is some primary education in these camps, there is no early years provision, at a pivotal time in their development.

This year, peace talks have stalled, no ceasefire has been in place since September 2019 and conflict is active. Many people fear forced returns and, despite patchy attempts to travel back home, provisions on arrival are poor and landmines are active in targeted areas.

The threat of COVID-19 began to have a significant impact by the end of February 2020. Problems associated with lockdown were magnified by near-total restrictions on aid in rebel-controlled areas, where clean water and proper sanitation is inadequate and there are little to no health services.

### OBJECTIVES

- Ensure stability for young children living in a conflict environment and recovery from trauma, enabling them to enjoy being children in a vibrant, safe place each day.

- Provide access to quality early learning, preparing children for transition to existing primary schools.

- Support parents and community members in their care of children and encourage them to contribute to management of the centres, ensuring long-term sustainability.

- Develop the strength, knowledge and agility of our partners in dealing with arising issues.

PARTNERS - Kachin Development Group (KDG) and Kachin Women's Association (KWA)

### ACTIVITIES

- Supported 14 safe spaces (one new this year) in nine camps, where 429 young Kachin children learned, played and received care from 60 teachers delivering a high quality ECD curriculum.

- 15 teachers trained to be teacher-trainers, 10 trained on parenting education and 30 attended an intensive refresher course covering topics including child development, socialisation, lesson planning, observation and monitoring.

- Nine teachers attended a three day workshop on how to use mobile phones to communicate with staff, mitigating problems caused by lack of access to the camps.

- Staff were trained in Mine Risk Education (MRE).
- Provided 14 new sets of indoor and outdoor play materials and parents continued to use training from last year to craft or renovate existing play materials.
- Conducted graduation ceremonies for 200 children in late February.
- Teachers wrote, designed, printed and distributed 1,500 storybooks for each centre.
- Established COVID-19 Emergency Response Team (ERT), working with the Joint Strategy Team (JST) and local health authorities to conduct training and install handwashing stations.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- Monitoring and Evaluation reflected significant improvement in management and teacher performance, and training evaluations showed improvement in lesson planning and education strategy.
- Increase in community ownership was shown by 104 Centre Management Committee members contributing to running the centres, with 211 parents giving programme feedback and fundraising.
- KDG and KWA have worked more closely together, conducting joint monitoring visits to all sites.
- Child participation and self expression has improved - Teacher's storybooks inspired children to read to each other and describe daily activities to parents. They also began to participate in planning and suggest ideas.
- Teachers frequently reported that new play materials improved the wellbeing and happiness of the children, allowing them to develop both physically and mentally.
- The 200 children who graduated in late February and are due to transition to primary school in June 2020.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Involve key group of 21 identified parents in designing training programmes and promoting them in the camps.
- Mine Risk Education integrated into early learning programmes and imparted through parents education activities.
- Replace indoor play materials for 2020 – 2021
- Create awareness and increase funding for the support of the Kachin people.
  - Provide remaining teachers with mobile phones and training.
  - Introduce moral support and recreation activities for ECD committee members.
  - Provide training for the project team on early literacy and creative writing.
  - Add Child Development Awareness training to the parents workshop plan.



## LEBANON

Lebanon not only hosts an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees, but from October 2019 has experienced widespread civil protests as a result of economic stagnation, unemployment and corruption. These protests have plunged the country into political crisis, violence and restrictions on transport and banking. Syrian refugees have been under increasing pressure to return home, but the vast majority are unwilling to go back to a shattered infrastructure, desperate economy and the risk of conscription and random arrests. The COVID-19 pandemic has put further pressure on an impoverished society that is less and less able to afford food and basic resources.

**PARTNERS - TRIUMPHANT MERCY**

### OBJECTIVES

- Bridge the education gap for Syrian refugee children and prepare them for the future by ensuring quality education, with trained teachers from their own community.
- Enable refugee children to feel safe and secure despite the volatile situation, and begin to recover from the trauma of war.
- Provide Syrian refugees with valuable teaching skills, ownership of education provision and an income for their families.

- Provide vocational training and IT skills to resource children for a potential return to Syria.

### ACTIVITIES

- Bussed in 211 students from refugee settlements for daily education and support in Zahle school.
- Supported 17 Syrian refugee teachers with weekly training, regular observations and supervisions.
- Conducted two sets of exams for 211 students and a graduation day.
- Arranged day trips to local beauty spots for 300 children and a summer camp for 100 children.
- Registered Grade Nine students to take exams within Syria.
- 70 students started vocational training classes.
- 70 students began IT lessons.
- 22 teachers and bus drivers were trained on how to respond to threats from the political upheaval and road blockages.

- During COVID-19 lockdown teachers provided training and advice in the community and supported children's learning by setting homework and keeping daily contact with children and their families.

- 211 students in the camps trained in sanitation and preventing the spread of the virus.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- Adjustment to the new school has gone well and interviews show that 97.5% of children like attending and 100% feel very safe.

- Exam pass rates were 99 % and graduation ceremonies were a huge encouragement for the children.

- Interviews in March reflected strong levels of confidence, trust and feelings of safety:

*- 95% of children said they regularly help family, neighbours, friends and teachers.*

*- 100% of parents interviewed believe their child is very safe at school and 100% asked, feel that their child trusts their teacher.*

*- 100% of teachers feel the children are very safe at the school.*

*- 95% of children think people in the community will say positive things about them when they grow up.*

*- 83% of children find it easy to ask to join other children playing a game and find it easy to help fighting friends to reconcile.*

- The safe atmosphere at school helped all children to find some stability throughout the political upheaval. Children appreciated having the opportunity to discuss their fears and to be reassured.

- Training in the political crisis was built on when the COVID-19 crisis emerged and lockdown closed the school. Consequently, teachers became leaders in the camps, giving advice on hygiene, prevention of viral spread and dealing with lockdown.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to support the centre in Zahle and increase focus on preparing children for transition to mainstream education or a return to Syria.

- Open two new classes, one for reception-age children and a second for children around 10 years old, who have completely missed out on an education.

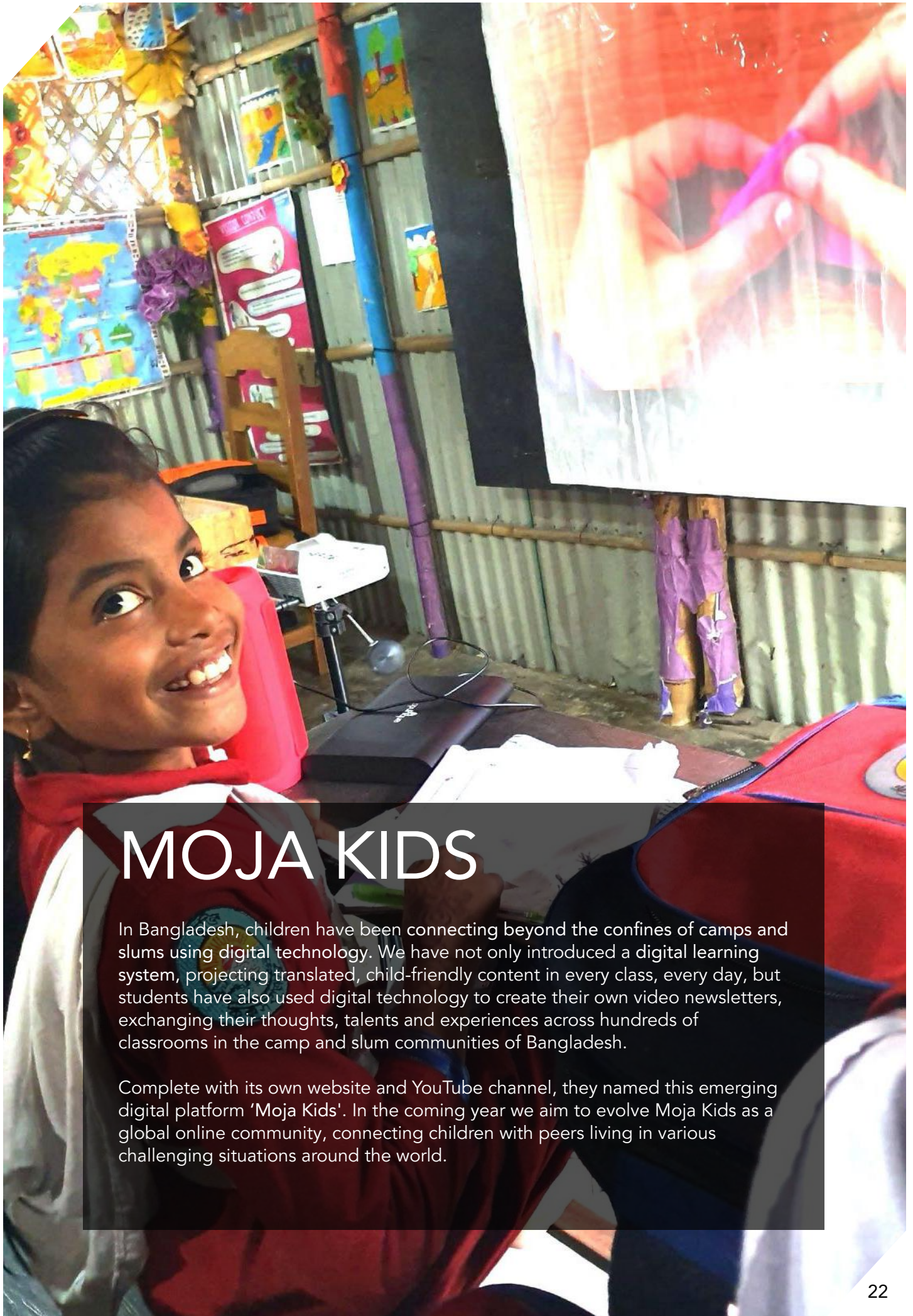
- Further develop vocational training for the older children at school, with evening classes for teenagers, adult Syrian refugees and local Lebanese people.

- Develop sports component for the programme with a sports ground and PE teacher.

- Fully establish school computer centres.

- Support ninth grade children to take exams in Syria.

- Further equip our partners with resources to expand and diversify their own fundraising, enabling them to sustain the programme.



# MOJA KIDS

In Bangladesh, children have been connecting beyond the confines of camps and slums using digital technology. We have not only introduced a digital learning system, projecting translated, child-friendly content in every class, every day, but students have also used digital technology to create their own video newsletters, exchanging their thoughts, talents and experiences across hundreds of classrooms in the camp and slum communities of Bangladesh.

Complete with its own website and YouTube channel, they named this emerging digital platform 'Moja Kids'. In the coming year we aim to evolve Moja Kids as a global online community, connecting children with peers living in various challenging situations around the world.

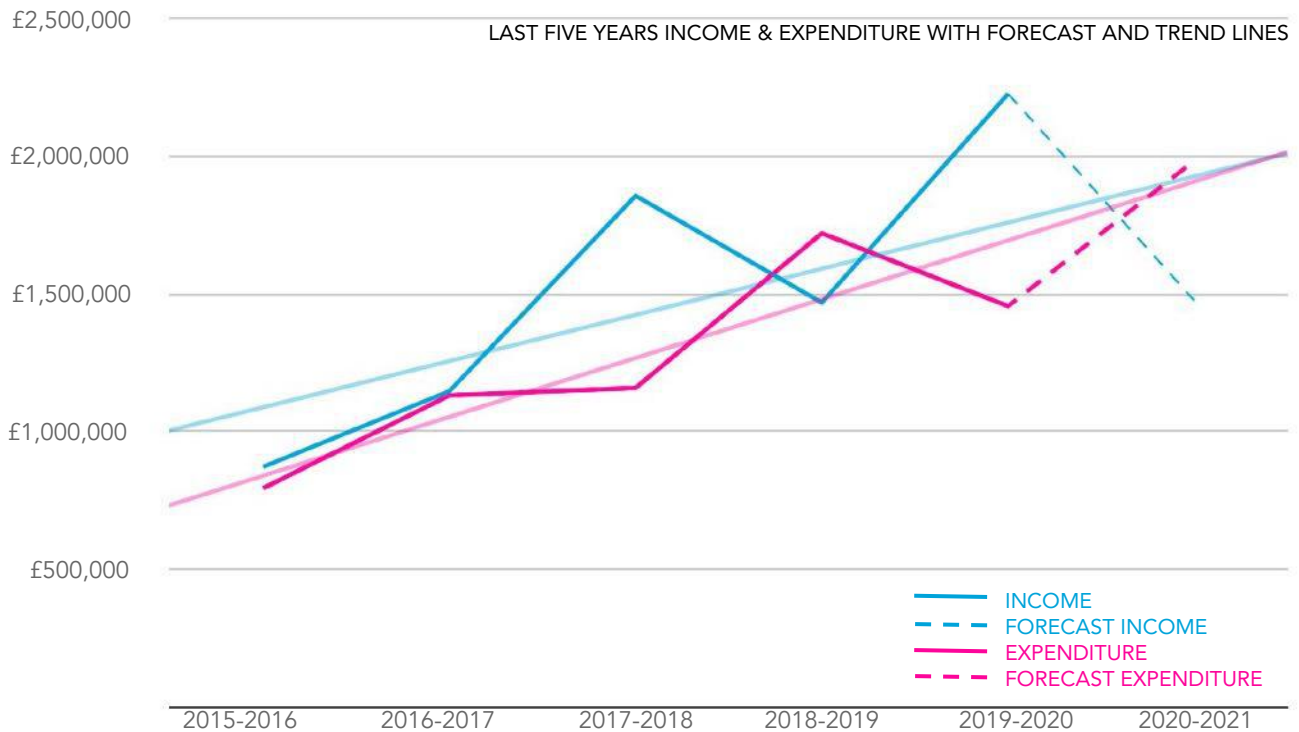


## FINANCE, FUNDRAISING & GOVERNANCE

Despite a volatile environment, we remain in a strong position to best serve the needs of marginalised and vulnerable children around the world.

PARENTS FORM SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND MEET TO DISCUSS THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN KUTUPALONG, BANGLADESH

# FINANCE



Children on the Edge is in a strong position to serve the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable children around the world.

Over the last five years as the need on the ground and our capacity to help has increased, the funding has been there.

The timing of our year end, some large donations and grants schedules contributed to fluctuations in both income and expenditure.

However, our funding base remains broad and with our eyes fixed solely on the job at hand we are well placed to weather the challenge of COVID-19 and what lies beyond.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported Children on the Edge throughout the year.

From one-off donors to those who give every month, from start up businesses and sole traders to the large multinationals, from family trusts to institutional funders and from those who give their time to help in the office to those who use it to take on challenges and organise events, we deeply appreciate every single one of you.

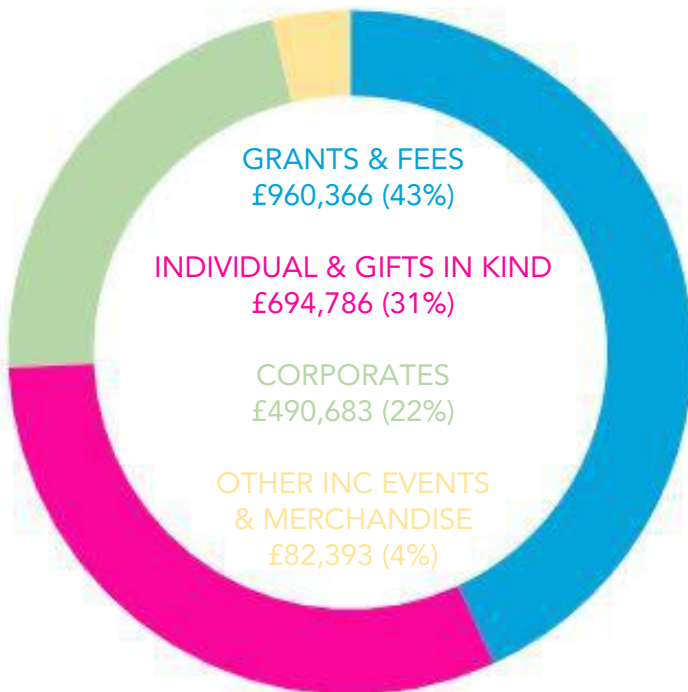
Your support has ensured the children we work with have been both seen and heard this year.

Ben Wilkes  
Chief Operating Officer



# FINANCE

## INCOME BREAKDOWN



TOTAL INCOME: £2,228,228

## EXPENDITURE SPLIT:



TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £1,454,572

## INCOME

Income for the year has been higher than expected at £2,228,228 resulting in a surplus of £773,656 at the year end. Whilst some increases in income were expected as we saw the effect of our planned investment in fundraising, the larger than expected surplus was mainly due to the following factors:

- Timing of the year end such that some large donations were received as income but not spent. Including a single grant for £250k for our work in Lebanon.
- A grant received for \$350k due to be spent over two financial years.
- An extraordinary year of fundraising from one corporate partner, exceeding their forecast total by over £200k

The impact of the above factors has resulted in an increase in restricted funds explained on the following pages.

## EXPENDITURE

Working 'on the edge' requires detailed expenditure forecasting as well as flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing situations on the ground.

In 2019-2020 we set a clear budget for expenditure and have adhered to it. Total expenditure of £1,454,572 and was 106% of our original budget and 98% of our revised overrun figure.

# FINANCE

## RESTRICTED FUNDS

As a result of the increase in income, especially some of the one off items listed above, the restricted funds balance has increased from £397,350 to £914,897.

We currently hold restricted balances for our work in Bangladesh, Lebanon and Kachin State, Burma. The largest of these restrictions applies to our work with the Rohingya in Bangladesh (balance of £653,912) which is also our largest programme.

During 2020-2021 we forecast a reduction in our restricted balances and do not foresee any problems in reducing these to zero over the coming years.

## RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are required to ensure the continued smooth operation of the charity, to cope with any unexpected eventualities and to enable any one off expenditure that is deemed appropriate for the charity.

The trustees have agreed that in addition to any designated funds the free reserve balance should ideally be no more than 25% of the coming year's forecast expenditure. The current level of free reserves is 18% of the 2020-2021 forecast expenditure and therefore at an acceptable level.

## FUND BALANCES AS OF 29/02/2020

Restricted Funds: £914,897  
Designated Funds: £559,539  
Free Reserves: £355,491  
Fixed Assets: £8,781  
Total Funds: £1,838,708

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

We continue to designate funds to programme locations and the UK office to maintain the sustainability of and commitment to programmes. The level of designation considers any restricted balance, the volatility of a situation and potential funding sources. Generally designations are between 3 and 9 months of the forecast annual expenditure.

The COVID-19 crisis has increased the volatility of all programme locations and funding sources therefore, before considering restricted balances, we have designated 9 months of forecast costs to each location to help ensure project sustainability.

## INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

In 2019-2020 the charity achieved an income of £2,102 from its deposit account interest.

In general, any fund balances are kept in instant access accounts so that they are always available to be utilised should the need arise.

When balances allow, or where funds are restricted to specific projects, it may be necessary to hold them for longer periods of time. In these cases, the management and trustees of Children on the Edge may decide to invest a portion of these funds.

When investing funds, risks will be considered and minimised in all circumstances. Typically funds are invested in fixed year bonds in banks protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

We will not invest in companies or funds that operate in the Tobacco, Armaments or Pornographic Industry and will always look to invest in socially responsible investments.

# FUNDRAISING

Our objective for 2019 / 2020 was to raise £1.4 million across a diverse base of funding.

## PRINCIPLE FUNDING SOURCES

- 43% from individuals
  - 22% from corporates
  - 34% from grant makers, trusts and foundations.
- 
- We exceeded our expected income.
  - We maintained a broad base of funding as planned.
  - We increased donations from individuals, in the areas of High Net Worth giving, regular giving and through The Big Give campaign.
  - We increased donations through corporate partnerships, due to an extraordinary year of giving from The Body Shop at Home™.
  - We increased giving from grant makers, trusts and foundations through new relationships, and renewing commitments with established donors.
  - Grant giving was also increased due to a two year commitment of funding given in one donation.

## OUR APPROACH TO FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising team works to raise funds in a number of different ways; engaging individual donors, soliciting gifts from foundations and trusts, a growing regular giving scheme, strategic corporate partnerships as well as community fundraising and challenge events.

We do not engage the services of 'professional fundraising' businesses; all our fundraising activity is delivered by our own fundraising team. We do work with commercial participators; when doing so conducting due diligence and reviewing agreements annually.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and comply with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising staff receive training relating to the Code of Practice during induction, and relevant implementation policies (eg Finance policy, Fundraising Complaints policy) are reviewed each year with the fundraising team. Any areas of concern regarding compliance are raised with the COO and the trustees.

In the year 2019/2020 we received one minor complaint; relating to a supporter who held a fundraising event in support of the charity within a corporate partnership. The complaint was responded to within 10 days. Each year we report the number of complaints received to the Fundraising Regulator. Any serious complaints are escalated to COO and trustees.

## HOW WE PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We are signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We do not produce mass mailings with donation asks, any fundraising campaigns are led through email newsletters where there is a clear process to opt out of future newsletters.

We are in the process of reviewing and publishing a vulnerable persons policy to guide our fundraising and communications teams conduct with potentially vulnerable supporters.

# FUNDRAISING

## FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

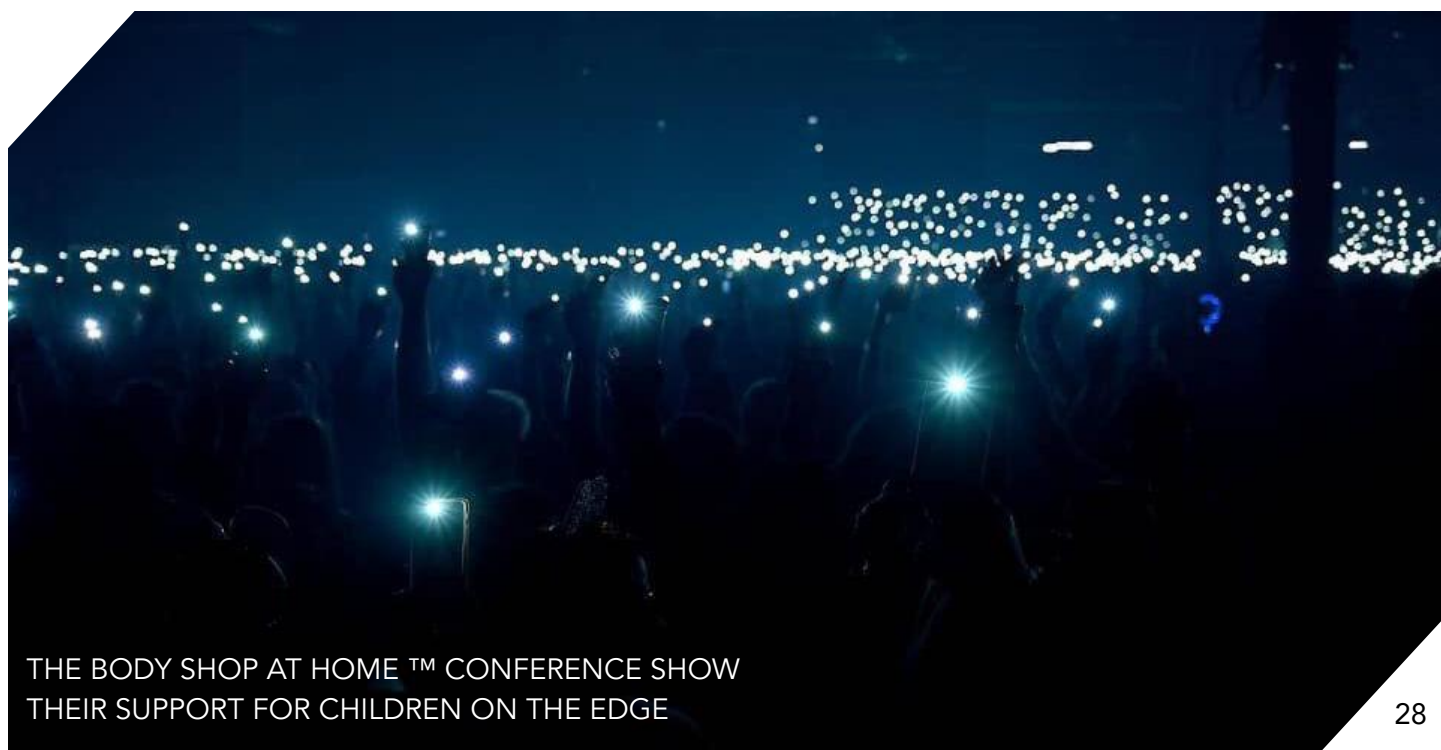
We are grateful to grant makers and individuals who committed to support our new pilot programme in Kyaka II, Uganda with Congolese refugees. To support this ECD programme further we also launched our first matched giving campaign with The Big Give in December. With thanks to matching funders; Alex and Will de Winton, Douglas and Gordon and The Coles-Medlock Foundation, we were able to connect with new donors, inspire more than 100 donations and raise an incredible £36,665 during the campaign.

2019/2020 marked a record breaking year of fundraising with The Body Shop at Home™ - who raised £401,753. With our partnership now in it's 26th year, the year's fundraising was boosted by the launch of a new "Ambassadors" programme within the business which championed Children on the Edge and helped to engage more consultants in fundraising.

We raised £73,000 through challenge events this year. Runners took on the Children on the Edge Chichester Half Marathon and Brighton Marathon. Two intrepid fundraisers took to the water; Dan sailing across the Atlantic and Graham around the Isle of Wight.

We are grateful to so many individuals who supported us with their own events this year. Creativity and generosity were in abundance in particular at the events and Art Shows organised by the Rural Refugee Network and at Libby Burke Wilde's SKIRR Photography Exhibition.

We were awarded our first grant from the Postcode Global Trust; a significant investment of £250,000 to provide education for Syrian refugees. Postcode Global Trust is funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery. Funds will support refugee education and care in Lebanon, including some exciting new programme areas focusing on computer and vocational training.



THE BODY SHOP AT HOME™ CONFERENCE SHOW  
THEIR SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

# SAFEGUARDING

As an organisation that works to advance children's rights, we recognise the need to ensure that safeguarding considerations are part of everything that we do and that we need an organisational culture which enables this to happen. We continue to work closely with all our partners to ensure compliance with global safeguarding standards and timely reporting of incidents to donors and the Charity Commission.

Our Code of Conduct sets out clear expectations for all employees, volunteers and partners, who understand that action will be taken if they do not uphold these standards.

Improvements to our safeguarding practices took priority in 2019, and continue to be of the highest priority in 2020. At the end of 2019, the Board of Trustees approved a new safeguarding policy suite, introducing new policies, such as an external reporting policy, and updating existing policies, such as on whistle-blowing, PSEA and complaints.

Since then we have taken steps to work with our global partners, reviewing their policies and procedures and ensuring their codes of conduct, procedures and confidential reporting mechanisms are fit for purpose, along with their commitment to establishing an organisation-wide culture of safeguarding for their staff and the children they support.

## SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTS

During the year we reported one serious incident to the Charity Commission.

This incident was in relation to a motor vehicle accident in a project location. All procedures were followed correctly with all authorities in the project location as well as the UK charity commission who were satisfied with our course of action.

There were no safeguarding incidents reported in the year.



OVER 860 REFUGEE AND SLUM DWELLING CHILDREN TAKE PART IN OUR CHILD COUNCILS IN BANGLADESH



“WE MAKE LEARNING  
MORE FUN BY DOING  
ACTING, SINGING,  
DANCING AND GAMES.”

KAMRUNNAHAR - TEACHER IN KUTUPALONG CAMP, BANGLADESH

# REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

## REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

4996130 (England and Wales)

## REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1101441

## REGISTERED OFFICE

5 The Victoria, 25 St Pancras, Chichester, WEst Sussex, PO19 7LT

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Rachel Bentley

## COMPANY SECRETARY

Ben Wilkes

## TRUSTEES

Mr Stuart Gallimore - Director of Children's Services

Mr Alan Finch - Director

Mrs Helen Pattinson - Director

Mr Paul Suter - Director

Mrs Sarah Wickens (Appointed 02/05/2019)

Mr Colin Buchanan (Retired 11/07/2019)

Mr William (Walter) Jones (Appointed 12/12/2019)

## AUDITORS

BD&M Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants

Skies, 20 St Martinsfield, Winterborne St Martin, Dorchester Dorset, DT2 9JU

## BANKERS

CAF Bank, PO Box 289, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Barclays Bank, 74/75 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1HR

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Children on the Edge is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 December 2003, company registration No. 4996130, Charity Registration No. 1101441. The company was established under the Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The trustees who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have prepared their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28th February 2019 to meet all statutory requirements, including the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

They have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

## RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow for no less than three trustees to be appointed. Trustees all serve for a period of three years at which point the Articles of Association require them to resign as a trustee and seek re-election if they wish to continue to act. New trustees are nominated by members of the board of trustees, interviewed and appointed where they are found to have the necessary skills to contribute to the charity's management and development. Induction and training of new trustees:

When new trustees are appointed they are given an introduction to the work of the charity and provided with an information pack. This includes information about the role of trustees and charity law.

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Each trustee takes responsibility for monitoring the charity's activities, and where appropriate the trustees form sub committees for specific operational areas. The main sub committee is the finance and governance committee, which meets at least twice a year.

This committee reports action points to Board meetings, which are also held at least twice a year. The charity's Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the charity and manages the staff of the charity on behalf of the trustees.



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

## WIDER NETWORK

The charity's head office is in Chichester, with an overseas office in Thailand. The charity has a number of principal partner organisations with whom it cooperates to deliver its programmes. These organisations are laid out in the section titled 'Our Projects'.

## PAY POLICY FOR SENIOR STAFF

The Board of directors, who are the Charities' trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other charities of a similar size. The remuneration bench-mark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions.

The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks that the charity faces and confirmed the establishment of systems to mitigate these, should they occur.

With international operations, travel and civil unrest in project locations present the most likely risk with policies and insurance, so we have regular checks to mitigate these.

The risk of the impact of the departure of key staff is mitigated through creating a strong working culture and environment as well as succession planning and engaging all staff in the vision, strategy and plans.

Our budget and regularly reviewed fundraising plans, as well as reserves ensure we have adequate funding. Strict policies and controls help reduce the risk of any financial fraud or mismanagement in project locations.

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

## STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware. Each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee, in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

## AUDITORS

The auditors, BD&M Ltd will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board:



Stuart Gallimore, Chair of Trustees  
Date: 25 June 2020



STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST  
CHILDREN

CHILDREN ON  
THE EDGE  
INDEPENDENT  
AUDITORS REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Children on the Edge for the year ended 29th February 2020 set out on pages 38 to 47. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 29th February 2020 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

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

## Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Annual Report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 34, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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

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

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*BD & M Limited*

BD&M Ltd  
Statutory Auditors  
Date: 11th July 2019

Skies, 20 St Martinsfield  
Winterborne St Martin  
Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9JU

**Children on the Edge**  
Statement of Financial Activities  
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 29 February 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	632,629	553,320	1,185,949	949,731
Charitable activities	3	37,500	922,866	960,366	443,887
Other trading activities	4	54,899	-	54,899	48,928
Investments: deposit account interest		2,102	-	2,102	1,745
Other income	5	24,912	-	24,912	24,463
<b>Total income</b>		<u>752,042</u>	<u>1,476,186</u>	<u>2,228,228</u>	<u>1,468,754</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Cost of generating voluntary income	6	193,009	-	193,009	152,489
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Provision of services to vulnerable children	7	301,958	959,605	1,261,563	1,568,337
Other expenditure - foreign currency losses		-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>494,967</u>	<u>959,605</u>	<u>1,454,572</u>	<u>1,720,826</u>
Net income		257,075	516,581	773,656	(252,072)
Gross transfers between funds	14	(966)	966	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds for the year</b>		256,109	517,547	773,656	(252,072)
Total funds:					
Brought forward		667,702	397,350	1,065,052	1,317,124
Carried forward		<u>923,811</u>	<u>914,897</u>	<u>1,838,708</u>	<u>1,065,052</u>

The notes on pages 41 to 47 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Company Registration No. 4996130

		2020		2019	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		8,781		15,234
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	36,199		22,081	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,818,853		1,046,136	
		<u>1,855,052</u>		<u>1,068,217</u>	
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(25,125)		(18,399)	
		<u>(25,125)</u>		<u>(18,399)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,829,927</u>		<u>1,049,818</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,838,708</u>		<u>1,065,052</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted funds	14		914,897		397,350
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>923,811</u>		<u>667,702</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>1,838,708</u>		<u>1,065,052</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

Whilst the company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the members have not required the company to obtain an audit under section 476 of the Act, the company is subject to audit under the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

*Stuart Gallimore*

.....  
Mr S Gallimore - Trustee

The notes on pages 41 to 47 form an integral part of these financial statements.

	Note	2019		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	0		770,615		(217,908)
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-		(14,578)	
Interest received		2,102		1,745	
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>			2,102		(12,833)
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			772,717		(230,741)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 March 2019</b>			1,046,136		1,276,877
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 29 February 2020</b>			<u>1,818,853</u>		<u>1,046,136</u>

The notes on pages 41 to 47 form an integral part of these financial statements.



## 1 General information

Children On The Edge is a company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The address of the registered office is provided in Reference and administrative details. Details of the charity's operations are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

### Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

#### Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

#### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donated assets and services are included at the value of essential expenditure that has been saved as a result of that gift.

#### Classification of expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual agreements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services as supplied. Other grant payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Assets costing less than £500 are written off in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Plant and machinery etc	- 33% on cost
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#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Foreign currencies

Profit and loss account transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the closing rates at the balance sheet date and the exchange differences are included in the profit and loss account.

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

#### Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**2 Donations and legacies**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gifts from individuals	694,786	592,719
Corporate fundraising activity	490,683	356,832
Gifts and services in kind	480	180
	<u>1,185,949</u>	<u>949,731</u>

Voluntary income includes monies raised through business activity from our corporate partners where a donation or an advertised amount from the sale of certain goods is donated to the charity.

Gifts and services in kind represent good and services donated by supporters.

**3 Income from charitable activities**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grants	959,866	437,393
Volunteer fees	500	6,494
	<u>960,366</u>	<u>443,887</u>

**4 Other trading activities**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising events	53,829	47,741
Sale of merchandise	1,070	1,187
	<u>54,899</u>	<u>48,928</u>

**5 Other income**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Employers relief	3,000	3,000
Sale of assets	8,421	-
Foreign currency gains	13,491	21,463
	<u>24,912</u>	<u>24,463</u>

**6 Costs of raising funds**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising costs	49,812	39,980
Staff costs	129,881	102,741
Support costs	13,316	9,768
	<u>193,009</u>	<u>152,489</u>

**7 Charitable activities costs**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Provision of services to vulnerable children		
Direct costs	203,648	100,318
Grant funded activities (see below)	653,884	1,130,948
Staff costs (including travel)	281,730	239,222
Support costs	107,911	85,512
Governance costs	14,390	12,337
	<u>1,261,563</u>	<u>1,568,337</u>

The functional split of support costs is as follows:

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Communications	3,765	2,791
Staff costs	54,156	44,343
Accommodation costs	17,527	17,486
Office costs	25,347	12,784
Insurance	2,472	2,203
Accountancy	12,985	13,013
Depreciation and profit on sale of tangible fixed assets	6,454	3,745
Apportioned to fundraising and governance costs	(14,795)	(10,853)
	<u>107,911</u>	<u>85,512</u>

The functional split of governance costs is as follows:

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	6,424	5,712
Support costs	1,480	1,085
Legal costs	726	176
Auditor's remuneration	5,760	5,364
	<u>14,390</u>	<u>12,337</u>

**8 Grants payable**

The grants payable to organisations working with vulnerable children during the year were as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Mutki (Bangladesh)	466,347	878,080
Rohingya Children's Education Programme (Bangladesh)	1,453	-
Kachin Development Group (Burma)	58,428	52,644
Parivartan Kendra (India)	13,519	31,010
Navjeevan Educational and Social Welfare Society (India)	48,138	21,697
Tatvasi Samaj Nyas (India)	10,246	10,641
Miscellaneous grants (Bangladesh)	60	18,692
Miscellaneous grants (Lebanon)	1,650	49,430
Miscellaneous grants (Thailand)	2,354	5,984
Foundation Notre Dame Du Perpetual Secours (Haiti)	968	646
Triumphant Mercy (Lebanon)	50,721	62,124
	<u>653,884</u>	<u>1,130,948</u>

**9 Resources expended**

Operating profit is stated after charging:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other operating leases	9,375	10,200
The audit of the company's annual accounts	5,760	5,364
Depreciation of owned assets	6,453	3,746
	<u>21,588</u>	<u>19,310</u>

**10 Staff costs**

No remuneration or expenses were paid to trustees during the year. The costs of the remaining staff were:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	264,760	234,173
Social security costs	25,260	22,851
Pension costs	27,502	19,141
Overseas staff costs	105,458	88,856
	<u>422,980</u>	<u>365,021</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

The average monthly number of staff employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Projects	2.44	2.82
Fundraising and publicity	3.09	2.68
Support	1.16	1.34
Governance	0.10	0.10
Overseas	11.80	8.90
	<u>18.59</u>	<u>15.84</u>

The average number of staff employed in UK (Headcount)	<u>8.75</u>	<u>7.17</u>
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**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Plant &amp; machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 1 March 2019	20,646	22,287	42,933
Disposals	-	(11,055)	(11,055)
As at 29 February 2020	<u>20,646</u>	<u>11,232</u>	<u>31,878</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 1 March 2019	15,409	12,290	27,699
Charge for the year	2,746	3,707	6,453
Eliminated on disposals	-	(11,055)	(11,055)
As at 29 February 2020	<u>18,155</u>	<u>4,942</u>	<u>23,097</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 29 February 2020	<u>2,491</u>	<u>6,290</u>	<u>8,781</u>
As at 28 February 2019	<u>5,237</u>	<u>9,997</u>	<u>15,234</u>

**12 Debtors**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	<u>36,199</u>	<u>22,081</u>

**13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,045	1,741
Social security and other taxes	6,776	6,366
Other creditors and accruals	14,304	10,292
	<u>25,125</u>	<u>18,399</u>

**14 Movement in funds**

	<b>At 01.03.19</b>	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>At 29.02.20</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
India	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	219,657	-	219,657
Uganda	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	354,647	299,265	-	653,912
Burma borders (including Kachin state)	42,703	(1,375)	-	41,328
Haiti	-	(966)	966	-
	<u>397,350</u>	<u>516,581</u>	<u>966</u>	<u>914,897</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Lebanon	52,554	-	(52,554)	-
Uganda	157,233	-	87,454	244,687
Bangladesh	7,968	-	3,395	11,363
Thailand	-	-	-	-
Burma	10,298	-	(10,298)	-
India	57,520	-	49,329	106,849
UK based costs	103,457	-	103,183	206,640
	<u>389,030</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180,509</u>	<u>569,539</u>
General fund	278,672	257,075	(181,475)	354,272
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>667,702</u>	<u>257,075</u>	<u>(966)</u>	<u>923,811</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>1,065,052</u>	<u>773,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,838,708</u>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
India	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-
Uganda	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	774,860	(420,213)	-	354,647
Burma borders (including Kachin state)	-	42,703	-	42,703
Haiti	-	(418)	418	-
	<u>774,860</u>	<u>(377,928)</u>	<u>418</u>	<u>397,350</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Lebanon	44,444	-	8,110	52,554
Uganda	38,570	-	118,663	157,233
Bangladesh	-	-	7,968	7,968
Thailand	50,664	-	(50,664)	-
Burma	20,000	-	(9,702)	10,298
India	31,000	-	26,520	57,520
UK based costs	199,972	-	(96,515)	103,457
	<u>384,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,380</u>	<u>389,030</u>
General fund	157,614	125,856	(4,798)	278,672
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>542,264</u>	<u>125,856</u>	<u>(418)</u>	<u>667,702</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>1,317,124</u>	<u>(252,072)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,065,052</u>

**14 Movement in funds (continued)**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
India	52,025	52,025	-
Lebanon	283,873	64,216	219,657
Uganda	158,930	158,930	-
Bangladesh	900,159	600,894	299,265
Burma borders (including Kachin state)	81,184	82,559	(1,375)
Haiti	15	981	(966)
	<u>1,476,186</u>	<u>959,605</u>	<u>516,581</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>			
General fund	743,621	486,546	257,075
	<u>2,219,807</u>	<u>1,446,151</u>	<u>773,656</u>
<b>2019</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
India	42,855	42,855	-
Lebanon	88,230	88,230	-
Uganda	42,304	42,304	-
Bangladesh	574,075	994,288	(420,213)
Burma borders (including Kachin state)	72,009	29,306	42,703
Haiti	182	600	(418)
	<u>819,655</u>	<u>1,197,583</u>	<u>(377,928)</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>			
General fund	649,099	523,243	125,856
	<u>1,468,754</u>	<u>1,720,826</u>	<u>(252,072)</u>

Where money is given for a specific geographic area or project, a separate fund is created and expenditure incurred in the area allocated against the income. An allocation of support costs is made where there are sufficient fund balances.

Funds are designated by the trustees in particular areas to maintain the sustainability and commitment to programmes as detailed in the Trustees' Report.

**15 Analysis of fund balances between net assets**

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	8,781	8,781
Current assets	914,897	569,539	370,616	1,855,052
Creditors	-	-	(25,125)	(25,125)
Total funds	<u>914,897</u>	<u>569,539</u>	<u>354,272</u>	<u>1,838,708</u>
<b>2019</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	-	-	15,234	15,234
Current assets	397,350	389,030	281,837	1,068,217
Creditors	-	-	(18,399)	(18,399)
Total funds	<u>397,350</u>	<u>389,030</u>	<u>278,672</u>	<u>1,065,052</u>

**16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income for the year	773,656	(252,072)
Interest receivable	(2,102)	(1,745)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	6,453	3,746
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(14,118)	30,030
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	6,726	2,133
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>770,615</u>	<u>(217,908)</u>

**17 Gross obligations under operating leasing agreements**

As at 29 February 2020 the charity had future minimum lease commitments as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Not later than 1 year	17,900	5,950
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	64,142	-
	<u>82,042</u>	<u>5,950</u>

**18 Related party transactions**

Donations totalling £4,600 were made to the charity by four trustees during the year.