

Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)
Year ended 31 May 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

Governing document

Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK (FOP UK), hereafter known as the charity, is a company Limited by Guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association, adopted by Special Resolution on 4th February 2021. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (England and Wales). Membership of the company is by approval of the trustees. In the event of winding up each member has agreed to contribute £1.

Objects

The aim of the charity is to make a difference, now and in the future, by generating hope and transformation in the lives of abandoned and/or orphaned babies and children in the Kyenjojo District of Western Uganda, in particular, a Babies' Home to benefit and serve these children has been built with a capacity of 42 infants. Currently the 8th and 9th family units are under construction, each unit accommodating a family of up to eight children, from three years of age onwards, along with a house mother and nanny.

The stated Objects of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian Faith;
- the relief of poverty and sickness and the distress caused thereby among children in Africa and such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit including, but not by way of limitation, through the provision of orphanages and homes for abandoned children and such other charitable activities as the Trustees shall determine from time to time;
- to advance education for the benefit of children disadvantaged or marginalised by reason of their economic or geographical circumstances in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit, including, but not by way of limitation, the provision of sponsorship programmes; and
- the provision of facilities for the benefit of such local communities in Africa and the world which facilities may without limitation include the provision of child care services and meetings, lectures and classes and other forms of education, recreation and leisure time occupation, without distinction of race, sex, political, religious or other opinion and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants as the Trustees may from time to time in their discretion determine.

Structure, governance and management

Related parties

A similarly-named charitable company Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UG (FOP UG) is incorporated in Uganda, number 92703, and is Limited by Guarantee. Funds raised in the UK are granted to the Ugandan charity, which in turn oversees the operational aspects of the development, as implementing partner. FOP UK and its related Ugandan partner have discrete Articles of Association though their business plans and strategy are broadly aligned. Likewise, a charitable company, registered with the New Zealand Charities Commission (CC number 48465), with whom FOP UK works closely, provides funds for the same purposes as FOP UK in making grants to FOP UG. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by all three parties, is in place.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets three times per annum. All aspects of the UK charity are considered, principally in line with the operational function of FOP UG, who issue quarterly management and financial reports, in line with their future planning policies.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board consists of voluntary trustees who are all practising Christians. Prospective new trustees are invited to join the Board by existing trustees through the recruitment process, which follows Charity Commission guidelines, in making sure there is an appropriate range of skills, knowledge and experience amongst its members. Board members have statutory responsibilities but they receive no remuneration. They also attend briefings and training courses as appropriate.

Existing members approach suitable candidates who are invited to attend a Trustee meeting, initially as an observer, before being formally invited to join the Board following references and other relevant checks including an enhanced child protection police check (DBS).

New trustees are given an induction pack which includes all relevant constitutional documents, a brief history of FOP UK, governance and any other information relevant to the work of the charity. All members receive a regular copy of the "Governance & Leadership" magazine in order to keep them up to date with their role and responsibilities and are also directed to read the Charity Commission's Governance code.

Audit

Three trustees visited Uganda in April 2023 to undertake an audit to ensure compliance with appropriate plans, policies and processes for the benefit of the children, staff and the community around FOP UG and implement controls to minimise risk of abuse. The audit covered the following areas:

- Operational: including review of strategy, significant events audits, policies in place, sustainability and maintenance of key assets
- Financial: including review of long term financial plan, annual budget, transparency and clarity on expenditure, robust and safe accounting procedures in place, and prevention of fraud and bribery

Safeguarding

As a charity whose primary objective is to fund the provision of care for the most vulnerable children overseas it is incumbent upon the UK trustees to ensure that they, as well as all those who work within or otherwise visit the project, are required to undergo regular safeguarding training. All volunteers who go to the project to assist are required to have an enhanced DBS check to accompany their application to travel. The charity is registered with an approved UK Safeguarding agency to advise on these matters, and also to give ongoing training to the Board.

Risk management

The charity's exposure to risk is constantly kept under review and 'Risk Management' remains a priority that is reflected in the organisation's attitude and practice towards good governance. A written policy for risk management is in place and is reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.

The risk register identifies risks likely to affect the charity's ability to meet its aims and objectives in areas of Governance and Management, Financial and Legal, Operational and any other external factors.

Systems and policies are in place to reduce or mitigate any risk and these are monitored regularly and appropriate actions taken if required.

Other Written Policies

In accord with the charity's approach to good governance there are also written policies in place (see below) which are reviewed on a regular basis as shown.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

List of policies:

The review dates for FOP UK policies are either annual or every three years. The review dates for the policies which are to be reviewed every three years have been staggered to ensure an even split of the number of policies to be reviewed each year.

Policy name	Implementation date	Last review date	Frequency of review
Anti-Fraud Policy	20/01/2020	06/11/2020	Every 3 years
Code of Conduct for Board Trustees	01/08/2017	11/11/2022	Every 3 years
Complaints policy	28/09/2017	06/11/2020	Every 3 years
Conflicts of Interest policy	28/09/2017	11/11/2022	Every 3 years
Finance Policy	06/11/2020	06/07/2021	Annual
Manual Handling policy	January 2019	06/11/2020	Every 3 years
Privacy policy	04/07/2018	11/11/2022	Every 3 years
Recruitment and Induction of new Trustees	01/08/2017	19/11/2021	Every 3 years
Risk Register	28/09/2017	06/07/2022	Annual
Safeguarding Children & Young People policy	11/10/2017	06/07/2022	Annual
Succession Policy	06/11/2020	19/11/2021	Every 3 years
Training Policy	06/11/2020	19/11/2021	Every 3 years
Volunteers policy	28/09/2017	06/07/2022	Annual

Achievements and performance

As per last year, we can report that we continue to operate from a solid financial base which, along with the loyalty of our donors, has allowed us to fulfil all our obligations without diminishing our ability to make additional funding available for capital expenditure projects etc. In addition, we can report that our regular donor base has increased by approximately 10% in the reporting year alongside a 39% increase in the overall number of donors.

The Directors are pleased to report that once again our administrative expenditure has been covered by gift aid payments, thus allowing all giving to directly fund the work of the charity in Uganda.

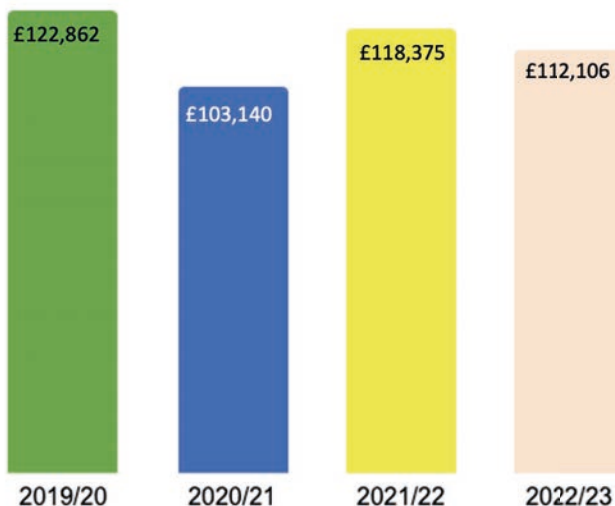
The Directors are particularly thankful for the increasing general interest in the work of the charity, both in a practical, financial and prayer support from alternative sources.

The Directors have jointly determined that, alongside the core purpose of the charity, both the development of our sustainability programme and the building up of the educational facility at the Rwenjaza Hillside School (which also serves the local community), should play a significant role in their planning over the next decade. A substantial amount of our Capex funding has therefore continued to focus on these aspects of the future of FOP Uganda.

The total funding grants made, for charitable activities, to support the work of FOP UG from June 2022 to May 2023 was £60,856. The breakdown of these funds includes the following:

- £15,254 was paid to advance the construction of a farmhouse.
- £9,851 was granted towards further school resources and teachers holiday pay.
- £27,924 was paid by way of our regular financial commitment to the FOP project in Kyenjojo.

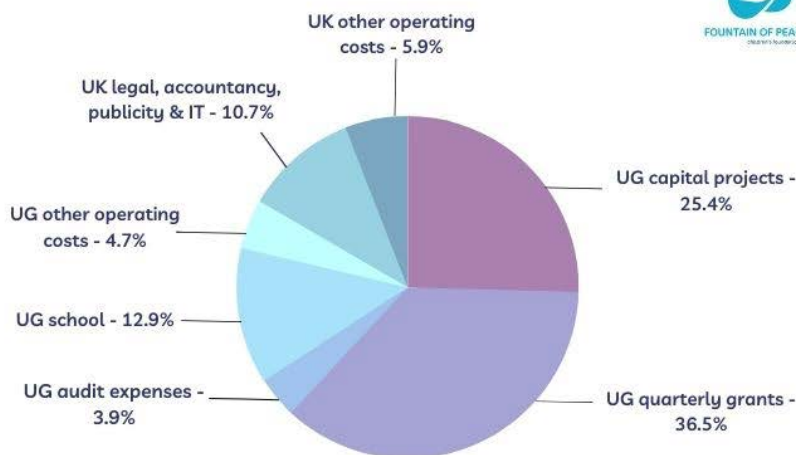
Income:



Expenditure

Expenditure 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023

UG capital projects	£19,488
UG quarterly grants	£27,924
UG audit expenses	£2,996
UG school	£9,851
UG other operating costs	£3,593
UK legal, accountancy, publicity & IT	£8,208
UK other operating costs	£4,527
TOTAL	£76,587



Rwenjaza Hillside Nursery and Primary School

In line with the purposes of Fountain of Peace the development of Rwenjaza Hillside School (RHS) is of paramount importance. Approximately 400 children are currently registered with the school providing education to FOP children and those of the local community. The longer term provision of secondary and vocational education is being actively pursued.

The charity continues to take responsibility for covering teachers holiday pay.

Sustainability

The trustees, along with our FOP partners, continue to actively develop a medium-long term sustainability strategy in line with our overall policy of self-sufficiency at the earliest date possible. The construction this year of a new farmhouse along with housing for a recently acquired tractor with associated machinery, as well as a storage facility for crops, is a vital asset in maintaining this policy. The appointment of a permanent farm manager has been made possible by the generosity of a long term supporter to whom we are most grateful.

Board of Trustees

Continuing education of all UK Trustees is considered mandatory through relevant training courses. Each trustee also receives regular bi-monthly copies of 'Governance & Leadership' magazine.

Volunteers and supporters

The trustees of the charity and our implementing partner FOP UG, owe a massive debt of gratitude to our volunteers and supporters. Their dedication and commitment provides both organisations with a solid foundation that enables our UK fundraising events and activities to be undertaken and the implementation of the projects to be achieved. To ensure that our volunteers are supported and recognised we will continue to refine our 'Volunteer Policy,' both in the United Kingdom and Uganda. Bi-annual volunteer trips to the project in Kyenjojo recommenced in July 2022 to build on the practice of volunteer support to the charity.

Reserves policy

The charity regularly reviews its 'Reserves policy' which currently guarantees a sum of £25,000 equating approximately to 6 months operating costs (including teachers holiday pay for Uganda). This sum may vary from time to time.

Performance and Future Plans

In planning for the future the trustees are actively seeking to add further new partnerships with Churches and Schools, in particular, in order to develop fresh funding opportunities. We are also exploring innovative ideas to broaden the horizons of our childcare and educational opportunities for the FOP children as they grow older.

A period of financial consolidation will be required in 2023/24 to review our requirements for further planned expenditure in the Fountain of Peace village in Kyenjojo.

We aim to ensure that our Christian beliefs are always fundamental in the decision-making of the Board. The appointment of a full time Chaplain at FOP represents a major step in this process.

We seek, at all times, to work closely with our Ugandan colleagues in planning and executing the development of new build structures in the FOP village, particularly in relation to the ongoing family units and the school buildings.

A major addition has been the construction of a large farmhouse with storage space and also accommodation for the farm manager. The final stage will be completed in the summer of 2023. Already a number of African style keyhole gardens have been developed and plans to extend this program within the RHS curriculum are in place.



Environmental factors remain of major importance in development of all new structures within the FOP village especially in view of scarcity of water supply in that area. We have supported the development of community wells within the neighbouring village, converting polluted water holes into clean water sources.



A significant decision was made in this reporting year to start a children's choir with professional staff being responsible for progressing this. A significant activity undertaken during a volunteer trip in this year has been the construction of a new home, containing four separate rooms, for a member of the community who also works as a laundry attendant at FOP. A separate kitchen for this home will be built in the summer of 2023.



Public Benefit statement

As a Board of Trustees we are cognizant of the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit and we confirm that we have given due regard to this guidance within our report. We have shown in this report that we continually seek to fulfil the core objectives of the charity in the Articles of Association, in addition to improving relationships between UK and Uganda in moving forward with care and education for severely disadvantaged Ugandan children. This has been facilitated by partnerships with a number of UK based schools in an educational role, as well as increasing involvement of church and other communities, so enhancing UK-based inter-society relationships.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- 1) there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- 2) the trustees have taken all steps incumbent upon them to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Financial review

Restricted funds £nil.

Restricted funds are funds received from grants, stakeholders or donors for future expenditure associated with specific projects or purposes.

Unrestricted Funds

The current level of unrestricted funds is £76,782.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 10 July 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

Miss S Dodd
Chair of Trustees

Mrs M. Shepherd
Charity Secretary