

# The Trust for Child Soldiers

## Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021

Charity Commission Number 1144484

### **Objectives:**

- (i) To relieve the sick and promote good health in particular but not exclusively by promoting the psychosocial wellbeing and social inclusion of children and youth experiencing psychological distress as a result of armed conflict in Africa.
- (ii) To relieve poverty and distress amongst children and youth affected by armed conflict in Africa, generally and individually, by provision of grants, items, services or facilities to those in need.
- (iii) To undertake research and publish the useful results on issues affecting the psychological welfare and security of children and youth affected by conflict in Africa and the rest of the world, in order to advance public education.

The Trust has pursued objectives (i) and (ii) in the financial year.

### **Activities and public benefits**

The Trust has made grants benefitting 120 households to the value of £8,565 during the financial year and provided medical assistance to 265 individuals to the value of £3,952. In addition, many hours of volunteer input has been directed at assisting beneficiaries in a number of ways.

### **Report on Activities**

We have focused during the year on trying to mitigate the effects of Ugandan Covid-19 restrictions on those who have been hardest hit. This has mainly involved making small business grants. We were assisted in this with a major donation of £5,000 in June 2020, which enabled us to make a large number of these, starting from when the first Ugandan lockdown was eased in August. Most of this expenditure was therefore concentrated in the second and third quarters. We attempted to calibrate grants to the needs, experience and abilities of recipients. We often gave very small grants to people attempting a business for the first time, inviting them to report back on progress so that we could respond if either the business had failed or alternatively was thriving and would benefit from increased capital.

Schools were closed for the period March 2020 to January 2021, when they restarted for 'candidate classes' - those taking the primary school leaving exams and O- and A-levels. However, they closed again in March 2021 due to the second Ugandan lockdown. As a result, we did not incur costs for many of the children we usually support with school fees, or where we did these were much reduced.

In October 2020 we entered into a MoU with St Phillip's Health Centre, a clinic run by Gulu Anglican Diocese about two kilometres from our Gulu base. It is better in many respects than most other local health centres, as well as being heavily subsidised. We now give most beneficiaries asking for medical help a voucher for treatment at St Phillip's, the costs of which are charged to our account with them, which we clear monthly. This has been very helpful in terms of our workload and avoids the complication of us having to guess how much people's treatment would cost.

## Financial review: financial position, relevant policies adopted and concerns or risks

For the second year running the Trust's annual turnover has exceeded £10,000. We were able to spend about £12,500 directly on beneficiaries.

Our only regular and predictable income continues to be thanks to trustees' standing orders. This year we were helped enormously by a major donation of £5,000, responding to the Covid-19 situation.

Our website which came on-line in May 2021 offers great hopes for future expansion. We went into 2021-22 with reserves of £563 and an expectation of being able to make a further Gift Aid claim of about £900.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Total
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020
	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
<i>Activities to further the charity's objects</i>			
Donations and legacies	9,124	9,124	10,721
Gift Aid	2,005	2,005	3,302
Total incoming resources	11,129	11,129	14,023
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>			
<i>Charitable expenditure</i>			
Grants disbursed to 120 households to relieve poverty	8,566	8,566	6,095
Medical assistance to 265 individuals	3,952	3,952	5,301
Stipend to Trust Secretary	-	-	383
Management and administration	120	120	220
Total resources expended	12,637	12,637	11,999
FUND BALANCES AT 1 April 2020	2,071	2,071	47
FUND BALANCES AT 31 March 2021	563	563	2,071

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Trust is governed by the trustees. A minimum of two trustee meetings take place each year.

During the course of the year one new trustee, Anna Phillips, was appointed. Diana Birkett continued as Chair.

Trustees who served during the year were:

1. Diana Birkett (Chair)
2. Julian Hopwood
3. Eliana Lafone
4. Anna Phillips (appointed 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021)
5. Kim Silburn

Trust Secretary

Charles Ogeno

## **Administration**

Joseph Okello has continued to make a major contribution to the Trust's work as our administrator and bookkeeper and is also heavily involved in our work with beneficiaries.

Jackie Aciro, Dick Kinyera, Gumokayi Denis and Apiyo Kevin have all made important contributions supporting particular beneficiaries in complex situations.

The Trust's registered office is Garden Flat, 6 Old Devonshire Road, London SW12 9RB.

Much work was done on creating a website for the Trust at <https://trustforchildsoldiers.co.uk>, particularly by trustees Eliana Lafone and Anna Phillips.