



AbleChildAfrica
Working with disabled children and young people in Africa



2014 Annual Review

For the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014



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Years of experience and expertise in working with disabled children in Africa

WELCOME from the Chair



2014 is a milestone year for AbleChildAfrica as we turn 30 this year! We have much to celebrate and shout about, even more so in these difficult times for small charities. Without our dedicated team, valued partners, committed Trustees and Patrons and **your unwavering support** we would not be here to celebrate this landmark or have been able to impact the lives of countless disabled children and their families over the years.

At any **milestone moment** in life one always takes a moment to pause and reflect on the journey travelled. In doing so, I am reminded of some of our achievements over the last 30 years. AbleChildAfrica was founded by Sir David Scott, a former British High Commissioner to Uganda, on **May 14th 1984**, as the Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC). USDC was set up to address the needs of children disabled in the Ugandan Civil War of the 1970s and 1980s and for the next 15 years USDC was managed from London as a UK NGO. As a **leader in the sector** and recognising the value of African

led development, we localised control of the organisation in 2000 and USDC was separated into two entities. USDC Uganda became an autonomous NGO and our first and longest running partnership. In 2004, the Trustees of USDC UK took a decision to **expand our work** beyond Uganda. USDC became AbleChildAfrica in 2007 and over the next few years we began supporting work with disabled children in other countries and with additional partners across Kenya and Tanzania.

Since then AbleChildAfrica has continued to go **from strength to strength** and remains the leading UK organisation focused solely on disabled children in Africa. As a leader in the sector we continue to **break new ground** with innovation and best practice. 2014 has been the first year of our new three year strategy (2014-2016) and we are well on our way to achieving the impact we aspired to. However, to ensure we could deliver to the plan, one of my biggest concerns as the Chair is **financial viability**, so we have focused on

further diversifying our funding and growing our unrestricted income. This year we have seen a steady growth in our 'Friends of AbleChildAfrica' regular giving programme and launched new challenge fundraising events such as the extreme obstacle course 'Tough Mudder' and 'Live Below the Line'. Over the coming year we have further aspirations to enter into another corporate partnership as this presents many **opportunities to expand our work** to new countries.

With the rise of social media I look back on how we have communicated our messages over the last 30 years and it would be remiss of me not to mention the great work the team have been doing in **raising the profile of our partners and projects** as well as educating and engaging our followers on disability rights and current events through platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

2014 also saw many changes on the Board of Trustees. I took over as Chair from Steve Broach and later in the year we bid a fond farewell to

the Vice Chair, Zia Choudhury, whom I would like to personally thank for his commitment to AbleChildAfrica and for being a great support to me. The Vice Chair post is now held by Francine Bates, CEO of the Lullaby Trust. I am delighted to **welcome new Trustees** onto the Board who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise from both the non-profit and private sectors and this has already yielded tangible benefits for AbleChildAfrica.

As we **celebrate our 30th year** there is still much work to be done. In developing countries, 98% of disabled children remain out of school yet less than 1% of aid funding targets the needs of disabled people. In the next 30 years can we make a difference? With your continued support, I believe we can. Now is the **time to look forward** and focus on delivering what we envisioned and have so boldly stated. To do this, my ask of you is twofold, to continue to support our work and to be our advocates in society to effect the change we want to see.

Nyari Muguti



Vision: A world in which all disabled children are fully included as equal members of society and are able to achieve their full potential.

Mission: To promote the realisation of equal rights for disabled children and their families in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life.

The Way We Work

AbleChildAfrica is unique in that we focus solely on improving the lives of disabled children in Africa.

We are working in a number of ways to make this happen:

- **Working alongside** African-led partner organisations to help disabled children and their families realise their full potential.
- **Influencing** policy, legislation and international law that impacts upon disabled children in Africa.
- **Sharing** our expertise and experience through training and consultancy services.



**Celebrating 30 years of life
changing work with disabled children
and their families in Africa**

Working in Partnership

AbleChildAfrica works alongside our partners to deliver direct services for disabled children and their families but we also play an additional key role; we build the capacity and support the organisational development of our partners to enable them, over time, to become independently sustainable high impact organisations. This is why we are based in the UK and do not have our own offices and staff on the ground; we are firmly committed to local ownership and to African led solutions to local challenges. We strive to empower local actors to take charge of and impact their own communities. We also know this approach offers value for money to our donors and believe it has the greatest potential for long term sustainability and impact.

In 2014, AbleChildAfrica worked with 5 partner organisations across three countries - Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. We support and resource these partners, working together to create sustainable change to improve the lives of disabled children and their families.

Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)

USDC impacts the lives of disabled children and families through an innovative model of working through a national network of Parents Support Groups (PSGs) and Child Rights Clubs (CRCs). Through these networks, USDC supports children and families, raises public awareness about disability and lobbies the Ugandan Government on inclusive policies, programmes and legislation. USDC estimate they reach over 6000 children annually across the country.

In 2014, AbleChildAfrica and USDC collaborated on two key projects. A health project, funded by the Medicor Foundation, provided essential health screening and outreach medical services in local villages where children are typically unable to

access medical care. We also launched a new DFID funded inclusive education project, which uses an innovative child-to-child approach to identify out of school disabled children and remove the barriers to attending and succeeding in local primary schools.

Little Rock Inclusive Early Childhood Development Centre

Little Rock is the only officially recognised Inclusive Early Childhood Development Centre in Kibera, Kenya, East Africa's largest slum. Little Rock currently supports over 600 children and their families; approximately 1/3 of these students are disabled. Little Rock is far more than just a school, providing an oasis of opportunity and supporting students far beyond their early years. Little Rock graduates go on to excel in their primary education, the vast majority of them are ranked at the top of their class.

2014 was a busy year for the AbleChildAfrica and Little Rock partnership! Students attended school in the brand new purpose built building, the construction and outfitting of which was made possible through a corporate partnership with Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC. With their continued support this year we have been able to fund the salaries of teachers as well implement new finances systems and procedures. We have also improved the facilities at Little Rock this year, with the provision of a large underground water tank, solar panels and classroom computers (funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission) and investment in the income generating tailoring workshop (funded by the SDL Foundation). And last but not least, Little Rock was visited by our Patron Dame Evelyn Glennie, who helped teachers to understand the impact music can have on all children, particularly those with hearing impairments.

Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)

ANDY is a youth led Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO), created and run by and for young disabled people. ANDY advocates for equal opportunities, signposts youth to information and services on HIV/AIDS, runs sports clubs, trains youth on key life and job skills and involves them in development and decision-making processes.

In 2014, AbleChildAfrica and ANDY worked in partnership to deliver the Comic Relief funded 'Sports for Health' programme, which combined sports clubs with opportunities for economic empowerment to improve young disabled people's self-esteem, confidence and health. We are looking forward to adapting and rolling out this project by launching it in schools in January 2015, with funding from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC).

Information Centre on Disability (ICD)

ICD is a Tanzanian NGO with the ultimate objective of researching, documenting, publishing and broadly disseminating information pertaining to disability and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities within Tanzania. AbleChildAfrica has been partners with the ICD since 2008 and we have worked together to deliver inclusive education projects around the country.

We are proud that in 2014, IDC have reached a stage where they are independently able to fund and deliver this inclusive education work and support to families. We are currently exploring options for collaborating on research projects and continue to join forces in disseminating accurate information about childhood disability in Africa and advocating for the rights and needs of disabled children.



Child Support Tanzania (CST)

CST provides inclusive Early Childhood Education for children living in extreme poverty and those with disabilities or complex health needs in rural Mbeya provides a holistic service to over 150 children and families, providing meaningful inclusive education in a fully accessible environment and targeting attitudinal barriers to inclusion by combating disabling myths, beliefs and attitudes through community advocacy and parent support group activities.

In 2014, AbleChildAfrica supported CST's educational services and teacher training with funding from the Marr Munning Trust as well as the school feeding programme with support from the Souter Foundation. In addition, AbleChildAfrica and CST proudly opened the CST Fun Village, the first inclusive playground in Mbeya, which offers a safe accessible place for disabled children to play alongside their siblings and peers. This playground, as well as the scale up of CST's workshop creating furniture and learning materials from recycled cardboard, were made possible with support from JOAC.

You can read more about all of these projects on the coming pages.

Education

Education is the foundation all children need to succeed in life and every child has a fundamental right to quality education. Yet in 2014, over 70 million children around the world remain out of school, approximately one third of whom are disabled. In fact, UNICEF estimate that up to 98% of disabled children in developing countries are **still not going to school** and 99% of disabled girls are illiterate. In some countries where AbleChildAfrica works research indicates that being disabled can double the probability that a child will never attend school. Poverty is both a cause and consequence of disability and education is a critical tool in **breaking the chronic poverty cycle** for disabled people.

Although access to primary education is improving, many disabled children are not exposed to early learning opportunities and therefore do not develop the basic foundation skills needed to succeed in this environment. Experience demonstrates that without early opportunities children are likely to have poor retention and high dropout rates at primary school level. AbleChildAfrica works with two partner organisations to **provide inclusive early childhood education** (ECE) to areas where children would otherwise have no

formal access to education. Little Rock Inclusive Centre is located in Kibera, Nairobi, the largest urban slum in East Africa. Child Support Tanzania (CST) in Mbeya, Tanzania, is the only inclusive ECE facility within 1000km. In both of these areas children and families are living in extreme poverty, often exacerbated by disability, HIV/AIDS and high mortality rates. Services for disabled children are lacking and poorly resourced. AbleChildAfrica and our partners continue to provide hope and opportunity for these children and families.

Even with these **foundation skills** disabled children can still struggle in Government Primary Schools when those schools or teachers are not well prepared to include them. AbleChildAfrica is proud to have started a new innovative inclusive education project this year with our partner the Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC). This project, funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) uses an **innovative child-to-child (CtC) approach** in which children themselves take charge and become powerful agents of change across pilot schools in the Northern and West Nile Regions of Uganda. Teacher training and working alongside the Ugandan Government are key to the long term success of this three year project.



Grace, a young girl with a learning disability, was admitted to Little Rock in January 2009. At the time her language had not yet developed well and it was very hard for the teachers and her classmates to understand and communicate with her. Grace was a very shy girl with a very low self-esteem. In 2014, Grace is a completely different child. At Little Rock her language and academic skills have developed, she has a higher self-esteem and she now socialises and makes new friends easily. Grace graduated last Little Rock in 2013, ready with the skills she needed to succeed in primary school. Unfortunately however, given her disability, no local primary school agreed to admit her. Grace is currently being educated in a class started as a temporary solution to provide the equivalent of Primary One to Little Rock graduates who have nowhere else to go. AbleChildAfrica and Little Rock are together advocating to the Government to uphold their stated commitments to Universal Primary Education and are seeking funding for a project to train and support primary schools local to Little Rock to offer inclusive education.

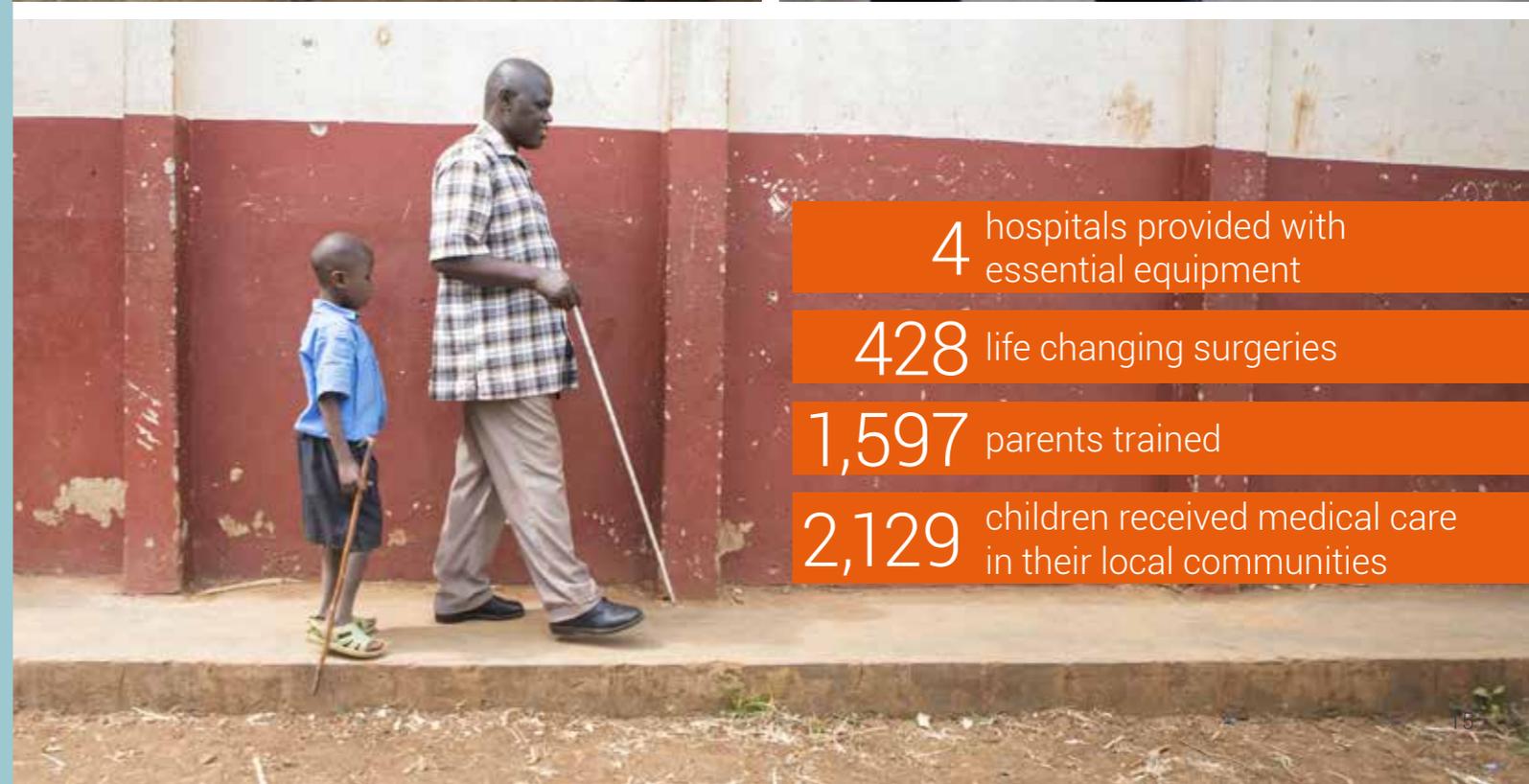
Still, it is a stark reminder that no matter how far we have come over the last 30 years there is much work yet to be done in the next 30.

Health & Sport

Health and well-being are intrinsically linked, when a disabled child has ongoing health challenges their opportunities to access school, take part in daily family life or even go outside to play with their friends are severely limited. AbleChildAfrica is working to ensure disabled children receive the **medical care and rehabilitation services** they need, whether this is linked to their disability or not. 2014 saw us conclude a three year project, delivered in partnership with USDC, entitled 'Bringing Health Services Closer to Children with Disabilities'. The final review of this project demonstrates the huge benefits it brought to local communities and to improving existing Government health services. Some of the key achievements can be seen opposite.

Ensuring the health of children often comes down to **educating parents and communities** about risks they face. For example, this year we discovered a surprising cause of physical impairment in Moyo, a district in Northern Uganda where we work. Here mango trees are plentiful and children often climb to the highest branches to source much needed food for their families. Unfortunately, many then fall out of these trees, breaking bones that when they heal improperly can result in long term physical impairment. In another district Yumbe, we discovered a high prevalence of Konzo, a sudden symmetrical paralysis of the legs, sometimes accompanied by brain damage, which appears to be caused by improper preparation of a bitter variety of Cassava. By working in partnership with local organisations we were better able to **identify needs and challenges specific to each community** and alongside USDC, we are now using a network of parents and health professionals to educate families and communities on these and other health issues.

This year we also drew to a close a three year Sports for Health project, funded by Comic Relief and delivered in Kenya in partnership with Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY). This project used sport to improve health, confidence and self-esteem and to provide social opportunities for young disabled people in Nairobi. We are proud to have had a profound impact to over 300 disabled youth as well as the families and employers they interact with. As one participant reflected "since I joined the Sports for Health project **I have become a changed person**, I have socialised a lot, met many people and my physical fitness has greatly improved. I feel ready to now meet the world." Future plans are in development to adapt this project and reach children at an even younger age by rolling it out to schools.



4 hospitals provided with essential equipment

428 life changing surgeries

1,597 parents trained

2,129 children received medical care in their local communities



Livelihoods

AbleChildAfrica supports young disabled people through their transition to adulthood and independence. This year, in partnership with ANDY, disabled youth were empowered to take their first steps towards **economic independence**. Youth were provided with job skills training and supported through one of two employment tracks, an internship route or a small business development and loan scheme. An innovative link saw ANDY use the sports project to build the confidence and social skills of these same youth, further aiding them in the workplace.

AbleChildAfrica aims to improve the life chances of disabled children; key to this is our **work with families**, providing them with knowledge and opportunities to be in the best possible position to support their children.

This year, AbleChildAfrica has supported the development of income generating activities at both Little Rock and CST, each of which offers **employment for parents** of disabled children, whilst simultaneously providing a regular income stream for the two schools. With a grant from the SDL Foundation, we were able to transform Little Rock's previously small scale income generating workshop. We brokered a relationship with one of

East Africa's largest textile producers, supported market research and business plan development, provided equipment and trained parents in tailoring and weaving. This workshop now provides uniforms and linen products for major hotels and schools across Nairobi. In 2013, we introduced CST to Paper Based Technology (PBT) and they learned to **recycle cardboard into specialised seating** for disabled children, durable classroom furniture and early learning toys. This year, with funding from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC) we took this to the next level, training additional parents and opening a workshop. CST now produce PBT furniture and learning materials for the local community and are inundated with orders!

Over in Uganda, we are working with USDC through a network of Parent Support Groups. We recognise the centrality of parents and family life to the long term support of disabled children. As part of our health project this year we provided **business training and seed capital** to 192 parents; small groups of parents choose an activity appropriate to their local community, examples include bee keeping, farming, goat rearing, bike taxis and in one district, parents used funds to set up an innovative revolving loans scheme.

69 disabled youth undertake professional internships

192 small business plans developed for seed capital loans

248 disabled youth develop CVs and participate in mock interviews

149 disabled youth are better able to afford basic living needs

1 database of employers offering opportunities to disabled youth

Impact for the Long Term

Emmanuel was 11 years old when he fell sick in 1993. After undergoing multiple investigations, it was suspected that Emmanuel had tuberculosis of the bone but his doctors were unable to offer him much support. Emmanuel was completely confined to his bed and was often left alone in the house since his mobility was so reduced. His uncle brought him a radio to keep him entertained on his long days at home and it was on this radio that Emmanuel first heard of **USDC**, when their Director was promoting an **outreach clinic** for children with physical impairments in Eastern Uganda. Immediately inspired, Emmanuel wrote a letter to USDC explaining his situation and how a mobility aid could help him to participate in normal daily tasks again, at home and in the community. Most importantly, he wanted to return to school.

USDC was so touched by his letter that they personally visited him in his village to meet with his mother and discuss how they could help Emmanuel. That same week, Emmanuel was fitted for and provided with a tricycle. He was thrilled! USDC also supported Emmanuel to attend physiotherapy to help rebuild his muscle strength. He re-enrolled in school and after continued physiotherapy, regained sensation in his legs and was able to walk again for the first time in more than 3 years. Emmanuel continued to excel in class and **completed his secondary education**, going on to gain a teaching qualification.

Now 32 years old, Emmanuel **teaches at one of AbleChildAfrica's partner schools** chosen for our new DFID funded Child-to-Child Inclusive Education Project in Northern Uganda. "I am teaching children who were my age when I left school due to my impairment. It is an inspiration to see children with disabilities excelling in the classroom and not being told they cannot go to school because they have a disability".

We were thrilled to meet Emmanuel 21 years later, to hear that he has thrived as a result of the early opportunities we were able to provide to him and excited that he continues to be part of the incredible work that AbleChildAfrica is doing all these years later. As we turn 30 this year Emmanuel is a great reminder of the children's lives we have changed, who now, as adults, can work alongside us to **reach the next generation of children** in the 30 years to come.

21 years in the life of Emmanuel



Advocacy & Influencing

The knowledge and experience AbleChildAfrica has gained over the last 30 years allows us to credibly advocate for **changes in policy and legislation** in order to improve the life chances of disabled children and their families in Africa.

AbleChildAfrica joins with like-minded organisations and consortia to advance the rights of disabled children and it is essential that we do so; we are **often the lone voice** raising issues and considerations specific to disabled children and their families, even in these forums. In particular, we actively engage with BOND for International Development and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), Beyond 2015, UNICEF's Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCwD) and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). Despite our size we have been asked to take on key roles within many of these groups and in 2014 AbleChildAfrica Co-Chaired IDDC's Inclusive Education Task Group and their Trainers' Forum and was a Steering Group Member for Bond's Disability and Development Group and the Inclusive Education Task Force of GPCwD.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of international goals agreed in 2000 by all UN Member States, have galvanized

unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. Unfortunately, the MDGs failed to reference disability in either the goals themselves or the materials generated to achieve them. The resulting impact is that while great progress has been made overall, the MDGs nonetheless **have served to increase disparities for disabled children**, as new policies and services are designed that fail to meet their needs. The realisation of these universal goals, which include primary education for all and halving extreme poverty by 2015, remains unobtainable without directed attention towards the unique needs of disabled people.

The next few years are crucial as the next set of international goals, priorities and strategies to follow the MDGs when they expire in 2015 are agreed. **AbleChildAfrica is calling for a new path**, one that is inclusive and focused on reducing inequalities. This year we continued to engage with and influence discussions on the post 2015 agenda, ensuring that issues affecting disabled children and their families are considered. It is simply a fact that international development ambitions will not be realised until the specific needs and rights of disabled children are widely recognised.



We know commitment by donors is proportionately very low; **less than 1% of all international aid funding** is directed to projects addressing disability. This is why AbleChildAfrica looks for strategic opportunities to **influence the UK government** to both fulfil their stated commitments to aid funding for international development and to promote and fund work that benefits disabled children and their families specifically. This year AbleChildAfrica met with key Ministers and provided evidence to the UK International Development **Select Committee Inquiry on Disability in Development**, both independently and as a lead contributor to a joint submission with other leading international NGOs.

We know **disability remains a specialist issue** with development agencies and donors alike. This is why AbleChildAfrica provides training and consultancy services to support mainstream organisations to include disabled children in their existing work streams. We believe this is relatively simple to do and has the potential to positively impact upon the lives of many more children than we can reach alone.

AbleChildAfrica currently works in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, all of whom have signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Yet despite progressive legislation, evidence points to a significant "implementation gap", characterised by poor governance structures, little coordination across sectors, budget constraints and a lack of disability statistics. This year we continued to **work alongside our African partners to advocate for national or regional policy change**. Plans for 2015 include training and capacity building of our partners to advocate for the issues that matter to them locally and hold their governments to account for their international obligations.

Finally, we believe that disabled **children and youth have a right to be heard** and speak out about issues that directly impact them and that AbleChildAfrica has an obligation to help facilitate them to do so. We participate in the Child and Youth Group within Beyond 2015 and will continue to encourage and support our partners in raising the voices of the children they serve in these forums and during key meetings or consultations.

Friends of AbleChildAfrica

Friends of AbleChildAfrica are individuals who contribute to the success of our work and to the work of our overseas partners, through regular financial contributions and engagement with our work. Each friend is vital to ensuring the **sustainability and growth** of our organisation and in allowing us to support our partners in flexible and tailored ways.

All donations we receive **make a huge difference** to the lives of disabled children and young people that we work with in Africa. But a regular gift can give us the security that we need to provide consistency to these children and enable us to plan for the future.

Friends of AbleChildAfrica is a tiered programme that allows individuals to choose how much they want to donate over the year, which can be given as a **one-off donation** or through **regular standing orders**. At each level, Friends receive a unique package of appreciation and increasing benefits in return for their generous support.

Your gift will help us to provide **life changing resources and services to disabled children**, such as education, healthcare and sports. You will be helping us achieve our mission to ensure that disabled children in Africa are able to achieve their full potential.



SUPPORTER
£120-£999



CHAMPION
£1,000-£4,999



AMBASSADOR
£5,000 +

GET INVOLVED

I would like to know more about AbleChildAfrica, please contact me.

I am interested in hearing more about getting involved with fundraising or volunteering

BECOME A FRIEND OF ABLECHILDAFRICA

I enclose a one off donation for the amount of I enclose a regular donation for the amount of and have completed the standing order declaration below

Title Forename(s) Surname

Address

Email Tel

I would like you to publish my name on the AbleChildAfrica website or in publicity material Please treat my donation as anonymous

Please treat all donations I make to AbleChildAfrica today and in the future as Gift Aid donations

Gift Aid your donations and we will receive an extra 25% from the Inland Revenue for every pound you donate. Note: to qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income or capital gains tax must equal the amount we will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

Signature Date

STANDING ORDER DECLARATION. Please complete using block capitals

To the Manager of

Bank Name Bank Branch Post code

Bank Address

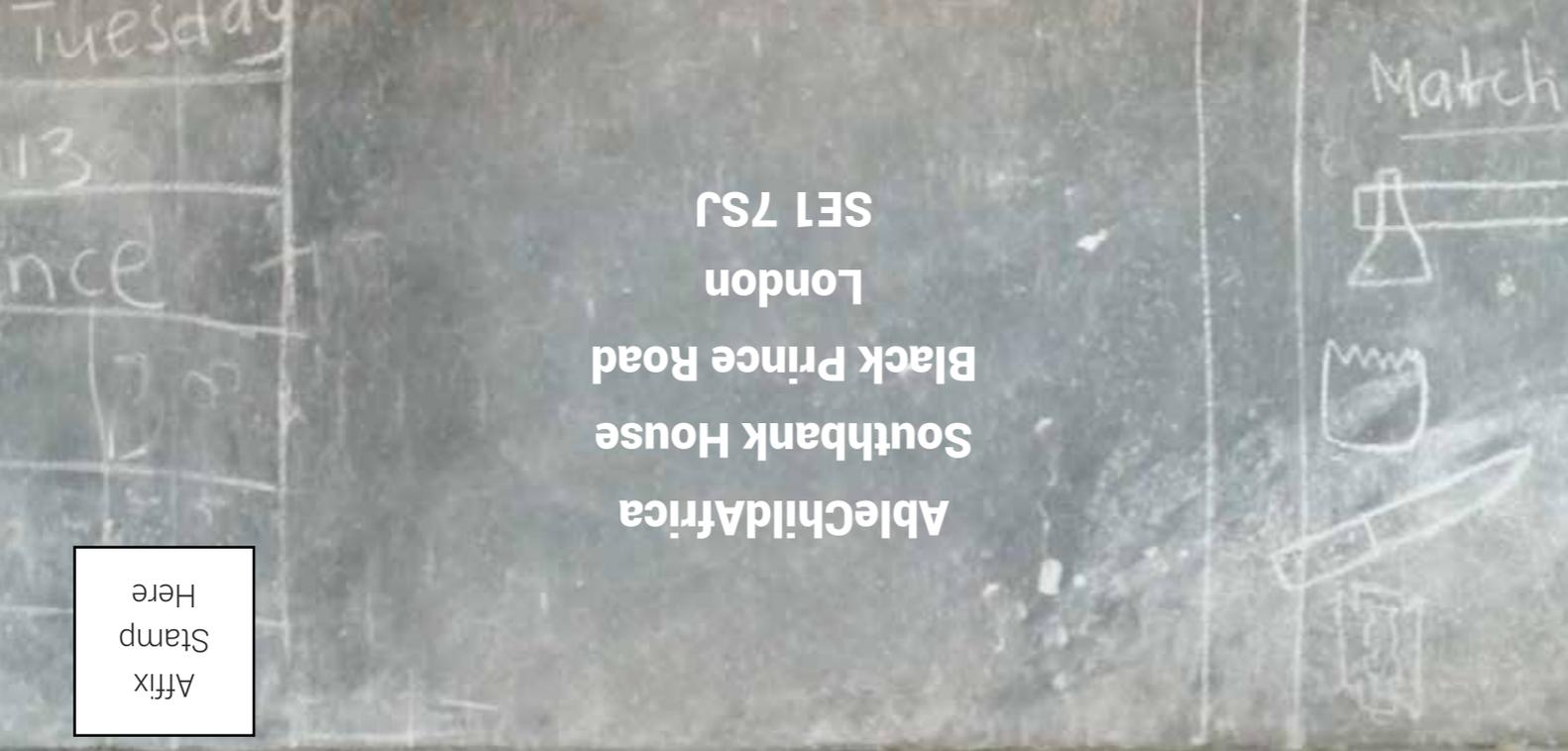
Please pay AbleChildAfrica the sum of each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) Starting on until further notice.

My account details are as follows

Name on account Account Number Sort Code

Signature Date

Thank you for choosing to support AbleChildAfrica!
For CAF bank use only: Please quote 'Friend of AbleChildAfrica' with all payments. AbleChildAfrica CAF bank details: AN 00085805 SC 40-52-40.
Registered Charity Number: 326859



AbleChildAfrica
Southbank House
Black Prince Road
London
SE1 7SJ

Affix
Stamp
Here

FOLD HERE



Get involved

You could help AbleChildAfrica by...

Joining our Friends of AbleChildAfrica regular giving programme

Volunteering with us

Participating in a challenge event such as the London Marathon, Live Below the Line, Ride 100, Tough Mudder or one of your own choosing

Following us on Facebook and Twitter

Signing up to our monthly e-newsletter

Fundraising to support our work

Helping us to develop innovative corporate partnerships

Leaving a legacy to support disabled children in Africa for generations to come

TEXT 'ABLE11 £5' TO 70070

Thank you!

This has been a fantastic year at AbleChildAfrica and we are very fortunate to have some **amazing fundraisers** who have raised vital funds to support our work. Alongside our existing challenge events, including the London Marathon, Ride 100 and London Triathlon, this year we expanded our events portfolio to allow our supporters to take part in a number of **exciting new challenges** including the extreme obstacle challenge course Tough Mudder and Live Below the Line. We thank all of our supporters for the sweat, love and tears they put in to fundraise for us!

Our Patrons have been very active this year as well and we wish to extend a heartfelt thank you Dame Evelyn Glennie, Anne Wafula Strike and **Keith Nethercot** for their continued support of AbleChildAfrica and championing the rights of disabled children in Africa. This year **Dame Evelyn Glennie** visited our projects in Kenya and was extremely moved by what she saw and experienced. You can read her blog entitled 'Don't Cry for Me' on our website. Also this year, **Anne Wafula Strike** joined AbleChildAfrica in our inaugural Tough Mudder challenge and became one of the first wheelchair users to complete this extreme course, which 1 in 3 participants typically fail to complete.

Unfortunately, this year also saw the passing of one of AbleChildAfrica's long-time supporters, **Arjan Vekaria**. Arjan was personally very committed to the work of AbleChildAfrica and the head of the Vascroft Foundation, who became the first Ambassador Level Friend of AbleChildAfrica when the programme was launched in 2011. We remember Arjan with fondness and are grateful for his dedication and support as well as that of the Vascroft Foundation and the entire Vekaria family, which continues today. It is in recognition of this that we are **proud to announce the appointment of AbleChildAfrica's latest Patron, Panna Vekaria** and welcome her to the AbleChildAfrica team!

AbleChildAfrica is extremely fortunate to have a skilled and **dedicated Board of Trustees** and we would like to thank each of them for their voluntary time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm this year.



Arjan Vekaria, the Vascroft Foundation and the AbleChildAfrica team at our Annual Gala Dinner 2013



Patron Dame Evelyn Glennie visits Little Rock Education Centre, Kenya



Parton Anne Wafula-Strike, Executive Director Jane Anthony and Team AbleChildAfrica complete Tough Mudder

My grandson Peter is 9 years old and has a physical impairment; his limbs did not develop fully when he was born. We believed Peter was different and many thought maybe our family had annoyed the gods. That is a common belief in our community. But as his grandmother, I was baffled when his father vanished into thin air on being told that his son has a disability and later his mother abandoned little Peter at his friend's home. I was left to care for him. I used to carry him all the way to school. After a while this proved difficult as my strength was failing due to age and I had to rely on elder boys to help me. I found CST and they not only welcomed him but also have a school bus to collect him every day so he never misses school anymore. CST accepted him and taught me to see him just like the other children. Now I am active in their Parent Support Group to help others understand these children... maybe I can help other mothers and fathers to avoid abandoning their children because they do not know any better.



Thank you!

From everyone at AbleChildAfrica, we send out a huge heartfelt Thank You to all of our supporters who enable us to continue to give the very best chance in life to disabled children and young people in Africa. We would like to particularly acknowledge the following donors:

- Vascroft Foundation ● Comic Relief ● Jersey Overseas Aid Commission ● Marr Munning
- Allen and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust ● Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC.
- Medicor Foundation ● UK Department for International Development (DFID) ● Adams Musical
- Souter Foundation ● Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission ● SDL Foundation

We are also grateful for the in-kind support we received this year including:

- Trustee meeting rooms, refreshments and video conferencing facilities from Cisco
- Computers from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC.
- Printing by Cards Made Easy
- Allen & Overy for pro-bono legal support in drafting policies
- The time, dedication and professionalism of all our volunteers and interns, including in particular Anthony Ford-Shubbrook, Sasha Giles, Sonia Hunter, Usman Mughal and Katie Dunne
- Pro-bono branding and design support from Jennifer Rose Design
- Photography and video editing services from Marshall Foster and Adam Bernet respectively
- Staff Training from The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI)

And a big **THANK YOU** to all of our **Friends of AbleChildAfrica**. Your invaluable regular gifts allow us to plan sustainably for future growth as well as the flexibility to respond to immediate needs as they arise.



Report of the Trustees

This is an excerpt of the Trustee Report and Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014. The full report is available online on our website or through the Charity Commission. We would be happy to provide a hard copy of the full accounts or larger print version of this report upon request.

Objectives and Activities

AbleChildAfrica is a registered UK Charity (326859) and a Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (company number 01861434) and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association. Since becoming AbleChildAfrica in 2007, our strategy has been to carry out our charitable object by working in partnership with African organisations who share our mission. During the year we worked with a total of 5 partner organisations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in order to achieve our mission; to promote the realisation of equal rights for disabled children and their families in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life. The Trustees wish to reaffirm here that while AbleChildAfrica seeks to grow and further develop our work, our primary mission, vision, values and commitment to working in partnership hold constant.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Our aims for the financial year 2013-14 fell under the under the three objectives of our current Strategic Plan (2013-2016):

1. Support African-led organisations to help disabled children and their families realise their full potential.

We continue to support our network of 5 partners across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. We support our partners in their delivery of direct services for disabled children and families as well as in their organisational development to become models of successful practice, with the potential for scaling up and replication. During our recent strategic review the Trustees of AbleChildAfrica have reaffirmed that our primary role is to provide assistance, mentoring and capacity building opportunities to our partners, not to act as an independent grant-maker or donor, instead acting as a catalyst to funding opportunities.

2. Increase understanding of childhood disability in Africa.

While increasing understanding of childhood disability has long been a component of our work, making it a specific objective will ensure the growth and centrality of this workstream for AbleChildAfrica going forward. We already have

much to be proud of. This year we facilitated the establishment of the first youth board within our partner Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY) in Kenya, with the aim to develop AbleChildAfrica's own disabled youth advisory panel over the coming year. We are also proud of our innovative inclusive education project in Uganda, which champions a new approach to supporting disabled children into and at school through the empowerment of children as agents of change in their schools and local communities.

3. Effect positive changes in international law and policy that impact upon disabled children in Africa.

As well as continuing to support the advocacy work carried out by our partners, we have also actively participated in relevant networks and consortia, allowing us to join forces with like-minded NGOs to leverage our shared commitment to the rights of disabled children. This year we have participated heavily in consultations on the post-2015 agenda; with the goal of influencing decision makers to recognise the essential need for an inequality framework in any set of international development goals that supersede the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when they expire in 2015.



Organisational Development

We take seriously the ongoing commitment to challenge ourselves, grow and reflect on best practice. This year we begun a review of our partnership model; this will allow us to learn from our work in partnership to date and improve it even further going forward. We have also reviewed our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, updated our framework and are currently in the process of developing new tools to allow us to monitor our impact in an increasingly systematic way across a range of projects and partners. We are also updated our fundraising strategy to ensure we will be able to meet both commitments and aspirations outlined in that plan.

Financial review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. 92% of total expenditure over this year was spent on charitable activities. Our 'fundraising and publicity costs' have decreased this year, as they did last year and our expenditure on 'project support in Africa' amounts to 92% of total expenditure whereas 'governance' costs only account for 3% and 'fundraising' costs for less than 5%. As a small bespoke charity we **recognise the value of every penny donated** and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to keeping support costs as low as possible and maximising expenditure on charitable activities.

The majority of income for the financial year was restricted through grants from institutional donors and a corporate partnership with Euromoney Institutional Investor, PLC. This year's restricted income totalled £355,043 and remains consistent with funds raised in previous years in amount but represents an **increasing diversity of donors** and additional statutory funding. Unrestricted income this year was £126,774, including £24,504 from Friends of AbleChildAfrica and £51,456 in sponsorship raised by runners in the Virgin London Marathon.



92p of every £1 donated spent on charitable activities



INCOME

Restricted £355,044 + Unrestricted £126,773	£481,817
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EXPENDITURE

Restricted £417,464 + Unrestricted £142,871	£560,335
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Restricted expenditure totalled £417,463, which was spent delivering projects to benefit disabled children in Africa; these are detailed in our full accounts.

The Trustees remain confident AbleChildAfrica is a **going concern**, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next financial year.

Reserves policy

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Our reserves policy was last reviewed in 2013, at which time Trustees concluded that a free reserves target of three months' committed expenditure is appropriate and would be sufficient

to allow the organisation to respond to emerging opportunities and address threats as they arise. In 2014, the Trustees reviewed all committed expenditure and remain confident the current reserves position will allow us to meet any obligations that exist even in the unlikely situation that income targets are not met. During the financial year 2013-2014, three months committed expenditure equated to a free reserves target of £30,000. We are pleased to report that we have again been able to **meet this target** and end the financial year holding our reserves in full.

Statement

Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £	
INCOMING RESOURCES	Incoming resources from generated funds				
	Donations and legacies	14,112	181	14,293	19,068
	Activities for generating funds	112,342	-	112,342	108,782
	Investment income	319	-	319	346
		126,773	181	126,954	128,196
	Incoming resources from charitable activities				
	-	354,863	354,863	368,600	
	126,773	355,044	481,817	496,856	

RESOURCES EXPENDED	Costs of generating funds				
	Fundraising and publicity costs	(28,235)	-	(28,235)	(31,632)
	Charitable activities				
	Project support in Africa	(91,699)	(417,464)	(509,163)	(658,428)
	Governance costs	(22,937)	-	(22,937)	(16,727)
	(142,871)	(417,464)	(560,335)	(706,787)	

Net movements in funds	(16,098)	(62,420)	(78,518)	209,931
Fund balances at 1 April 2013	50,120	310,006	360,126	570,057
Fund balances at 31 March 2014	34,022	247,586	281,608	360,126



AbleChildAfrica is grateful for the in-kind support which made production of this annual report possible including: Photography by Chris James, Marshall Foster and Collin Lyons and design by JenniferRoseDesign.co.uk

The names and corresponding pictures of all children in this document have been changed to protect their identity and ensure the safety of all children involved. All images are reproduced with permission.

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Registered UK Charity Number: 326859
Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 1861434