



# AbleChildAfrica

Working with disabled children and young people in Africa

## 2015 Annual Review

For the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015



# 2015 Annual Review

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# Welcome from the Chair

As we enter the final lap of this strategy, with the 'finish line' in sight, we remember why we do what we do and I am proud that the theme of this year's annual report is "Living our Values."

In our Strategic Plan 2013-2016 we set out a bold ambition to "live our values" at all times, setting an example with our actions and remaining transparent and accountable to the children, families, organisations and donors we work with."

This year has been a landmark one for us in which we focused on implementing an operating model to match our aspirations, all whilst continuing to **make a lasting impact** on our partners and the children and families we support. We recruited senior roles in both Programmatic and Fundraising areas. Additionally, advocacy has become markedly important such that we ended the year earmarking funds for a dedicated advocacy role to enable us to focus and scale up this particular area of our work. By doing so we aim to raise our profile as the 'go to' **experts on childhood disability** in Africa and position ourselves to advocate for disabled children on an international stage, such as in the ongoing negotiations surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a potential watershed

moment for disability, and we continue to focus on advocating for the rights and needs of disabled children to be central in the new goals when they supersede the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), from which disabled children were previously excluded.

This year we also reviewed our Partnership Model, with a view to launching a call for new partnerships next year. Current partners were actively engaged in this process, ensuring it was representative of our shared partnership values. Without staff in-country, we are developing an African Advisory Council with the purpose of providing support to our partners as well as acting in an advisory capacity to AbleChildAfrica to ensure our **ongoing relevance** in the African context. Two Trustees were also fortunate enough to spend time visiting each of our partners, leaving with a new found appreciation of the impact of our work through and with our partners.



AbleChildAfrica has engaged wider audiences in debates and discussions around childhood disability this year through increased social media presence. On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities we successfully held our first ever Twitter chat in which we asked the public, our partners and supporters to discuss the challenges disabled children in Africa face how we can work together to overcome them. Today, average daily use of social media in the UK is just over 2 hours per day which presents a **sizeable opportunity** to leverage such platforms to widen our reach beyond the UK and our current supporters.

As an organisation we choose not to be constrained by our size, evidenced by what you will read throughout this report. I wish to **thank everyone** who has supported us this year. Only with your ongoing support, our dedicated team and passionate partners can we keep the vision alive to see 'a world in which all disabled children are fully included as equal members of society and are able to achieve their full potential'.

**Nyari Muguti**  
Chair, AbleChildAfrica



## Vision

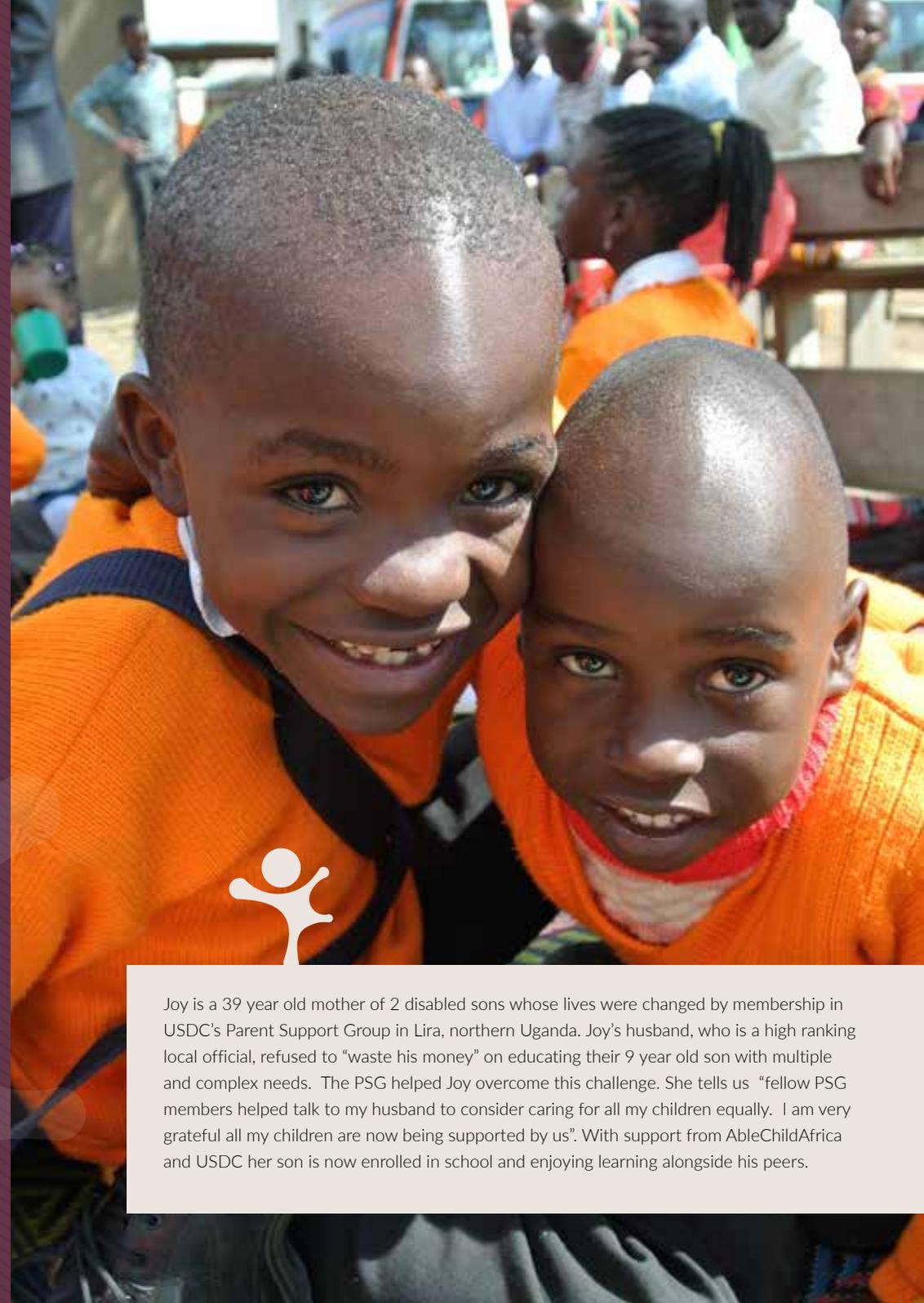
A world in which all disabled children are fully included as equal members of society and are able to achieve their full potential.

## 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.

## Our Values

- A rights based approach to development.
- The social model of disability.
- The empowerment of disabled children and their families.
- African led development.
- Collaboration with all those who share our vision.



Joy is a 39 year old mother of 2 disabled sons whose lives were changed by membership in USDC's Parent Support Group in Lira, northern Uganda. Joy's husband, who is a high ranking local official, refused to "waste his money" on educating their 9 year old son with multiple and complex needs. The PSG helped Joy overcome this challenge. She tells us "fellow PSG members helped talk to my husband to consider caring for all my children equally. I am very grateful all my children are now being supported by us". With support from AbleChildAfrica and USDC her son is now enrolled in school and enjoying learning alongside his peers.

# African Led Development

AbleChildAfrica believes in African led solutions to African challenges, which is why we always work in partnership with local organisations.

Together with these partners we deliver a wide range of projects to create sustainable change that improves the lives of disabled children and their families.

Importantly however, our partnerships go beyond project delivery. **Our unique approach** allows us to learn from our partners, create a network and support each other's organisational development. We recognise that our partners are best placed to impact children and families in their local communities and believe that building the capacity of these organisations leads to **sustainable and long term change**, whilst offering value for money to our donors. It is for this reason we are based in the UK and do not have our own offices and staff on the ground. We believe in long term-partnerships that transition and develop over time and that this flexibility enables us to be more reactive to need and consequently, more effective and impactful.

This year we worked with the following 4 partners across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

## 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, Tanzania. CST provides a holistic service to over 150 children and families, providing inclusive education and **targeting attitudinal barriers** to inclusion through community and parent support group activities. This year we have guided CST in diversifying income streams and will support the development of a fundraising strategy over the coming year. We have also provided guidance on financial and governance processes as the organisation continues to grow.

In 2015, AbleChildAfrica supported CST's educational programme as well as the school feeding programme. In addition, we have worked with CST to launch a new 'Take all my Friends to School' campaign, funded by the Open Society Fund. This campaign supports parents, teachers and children to put pressure on local government to enact policies and provide resources to ensure disabled children are able to attend mainstream schools.

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

Living our Values

## Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)

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

This year, we have been developing a pilot project, which uses inclusive sports as a route for **getting out of school disabled children into school**. The project provides teacher training on disability awareness and inclusive techniques and provides infrastructure modifications for local primary schools.

ANDY has also been working with AbleChildAfrica to help us improve and **develop our advocacy activities**. In turn, we have supported ANDY on the development of a new Child Protection Policy and procedures, allowing their strategic decision to increase their work with younger disabled children.

## Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)

USDC impacts the lives of disabled children and families through a national network of Parents Support Groups (PSGs) and Child Rights Clubs (CRCs). USDC estimate they reach over 6000 children annually. This year we have been supporting USDC to

diversify their funding streams, further improve financial management expertise and to build the monitoring, evaluation and learning of both organisations.

In 2015, AbleChildAfrica and USDC collaborated on two key projects. A 1 year health project provided **essential equipment and training to hospitals** in Northern Uganda. We are also in the third year of a pilot inclusive education project that uses a child-to-child approach to identify out of school disabled children and remove the barriers that hinder their attending and succeeding in local primary schools. Owing to its huge success to date, we are currently seeking funding to scale up this project.

## Little Rock Inclusive ECD Centre

Little Rock is the only officially recognised Inclusive Early Childhood Development Centre in Kibera, Kenya, East Africa's largest slum and currently supports **over 900 children and their families**. Approximately 1/3 of these students are disabled. In 2015, we focused on ensuring the sustainability of Little Rock's education activities and have been working to strengthen accountancy systems, supporting Trustee governance and developing new fundraising activities. With continued support from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC., we have been able to fund training and salaries for teachers as well as employ a skilled Finance Manager and a Fundraising Manager, an exciting new role within Little Rock.

# The Empowerment of Disabled Children and their Families

We believe, quite simply, that all children should take an active role in activities or decisions that affect their lives.

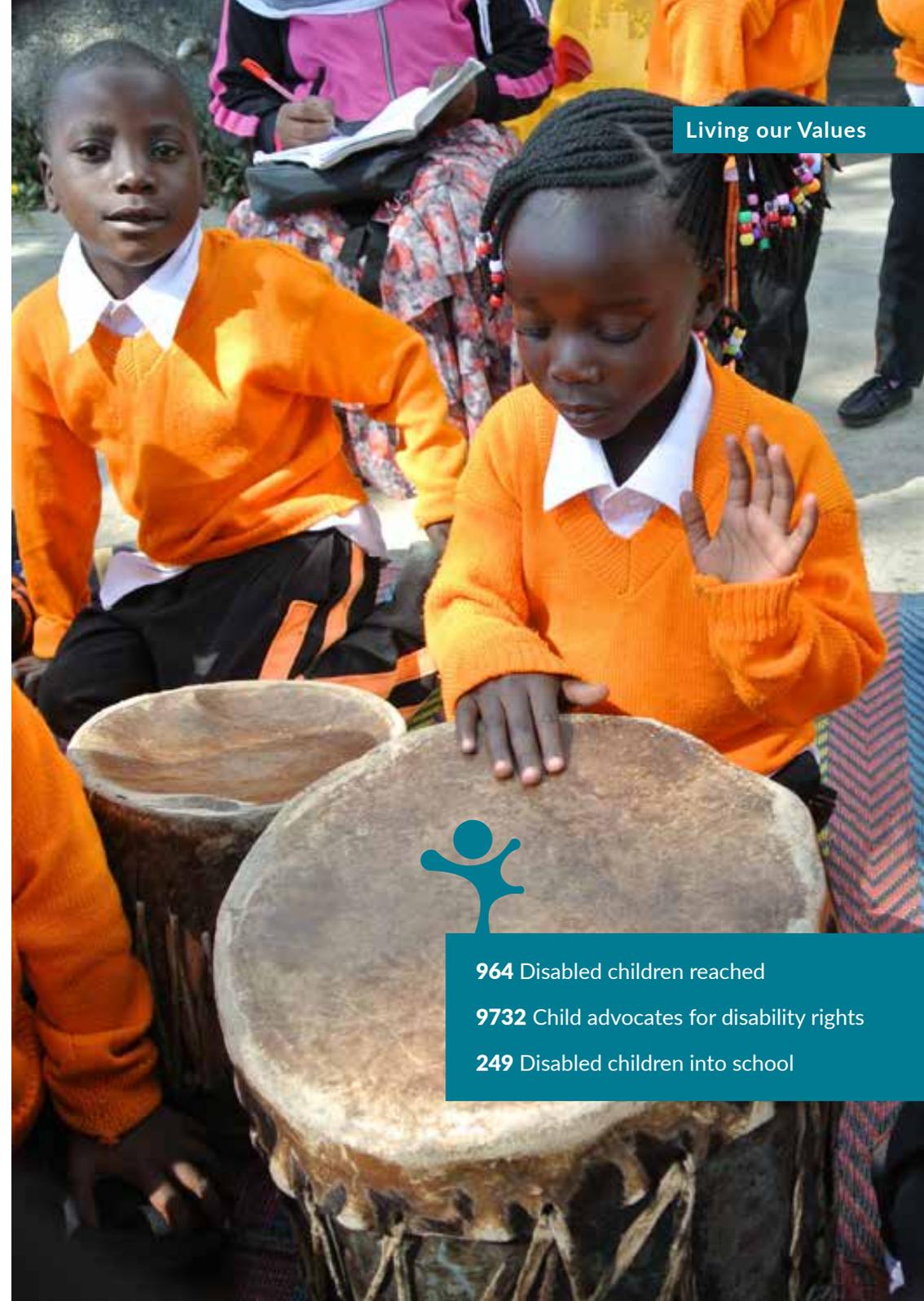
We also believe that by **listening to children** and families first hand we are better able to deliver the outcomes we seek and thereby improve the lives of disabled children through our work.

This year we have been working with USDC to deliver a DFID funded project in Northern Uganda that uses a 'Child to Child' approach to support access and quality learning for disabled children alongside their peers in Government primary schools. In this project, **children are empowered** to identify and engage with out of school disabled children in their communities, identify barriers to their inclusion and work with schools and communities to ensure they reach primary school. This year alone, over 240 disabled children were identified and supported into school by other children. Children are also part of the project steering committee, help us monitor and evaluate the project and particularly enjoyed designing changes to the school environment that would break down barriers to access for some disabled children.

Over in Kenya, we are working with ANDY to use sport and play as route into school for disabled children. **Children are the principal actors** in this project, identifying disabled children, organising and supporting each other during sporting activities, mentoring and guiding new students and providing guidance and project feedback. So far children have identified over 40 out of school disabled children and through sports, are building their confidence and encouraging enrolment.

Closer to home we have set up an **AbleChildAfrica Advisory Youth Council** and will shortly begin recruiting members. This inclusive council will be guided by our Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubbrook to foster and showcase a youth voice in AbleChildAfrica's programmatic and advocacy work. This initiative will enable us to **better live our values** whilst engaging with wider audiences and forging strong links with youth advocacy networks.

Living our Values



**964** Disabled children reached  
**9732** Child advocates for disability rights  
**249** Disabled children into school

# A Rights Based Approach to Development

Our belief that all children, regardless of their abilities, share the same basic human rights guides our approach and work.

This includes the right to education, to healthcare, to play, to family life and to be **equal members of society** alongside others. We strive to hold governments and international institutions to account for the commitments they have made and to help them understand how those commitments impact disabled children.

A rights based approach is embedded in our programmatic work and we continue to **tackle the causes and consequences of inequality** and discrimination and in doing so, foster long term change and sustainability. This year we stood side by side with our partner USDC as they advocated for inclusive educational provision at a national level. Through a DFID funded project, we formed a National Inclusive Education Working Group, which brings together representatives from government, teacher training universities, civil society as well as children and parents, all **working together** to transition inclusive education from policy to reality in Uganda.

We also support our partners to raise awareness of the rights and needs of disabled children at a grassroots level within local African communities. For example, over in Mbeya, Child Support Tanzania galvanised over 600 people with a march through town on the **Day of the African Child** and in doing so highlighted the right of disabled children to be included within this years' theme of 'a child-friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa'.

We also seek to train our partners and put them in the best position possible to influence attitudes and policy at a local level. For example, this year we facilitated the Director of ANDY to take part in a Trainers of Trainers Forum alongside other disabled **youth advocates** in London and later supported drafting of his presentation for the East African Community 2nd Annual Conference on Persons with Disabilities. We are proud to congratulate ANDY on winning the prestigious Youth Advocate of the Year Award at this year's Disability Advocacy Rights Awards- keep up the great work!

Living our Values



James was born on the outskirts of Nairobi and despite only having underdeveloped arms, we found him at a special needs school where he was isolated and did not interact with the other children. With our partner ANDY, we supported James to attend weekly sports games alongside other disabled and non-disabled children alike. Through sport, he quickly gained confidence and told us the sessions helped him accept his disability. This new found self-belief has enabled James to participate more in group activities, both in and out of school, and his teachers have also noticed an improvement academically. James has said his dreams for the future are to be self-reliant and able to support his single mother and siblings. **With AbleChildAfrica's sport, his dream is becoming reality.**

# The Social Model of Disability

We know the need is great. 15% of the world's population, 1 in 7 people, is disabled. Over 80% are living in poverty and 150 million are children.

We believe in the social model of disability. This means we believe disability is not simply a result of physical, sensory or learning challenges (we would call that an impairment) but that a person is disabled when they are unable to participate in the world around them on an **equal basis with others** as a result of socially created barriers.

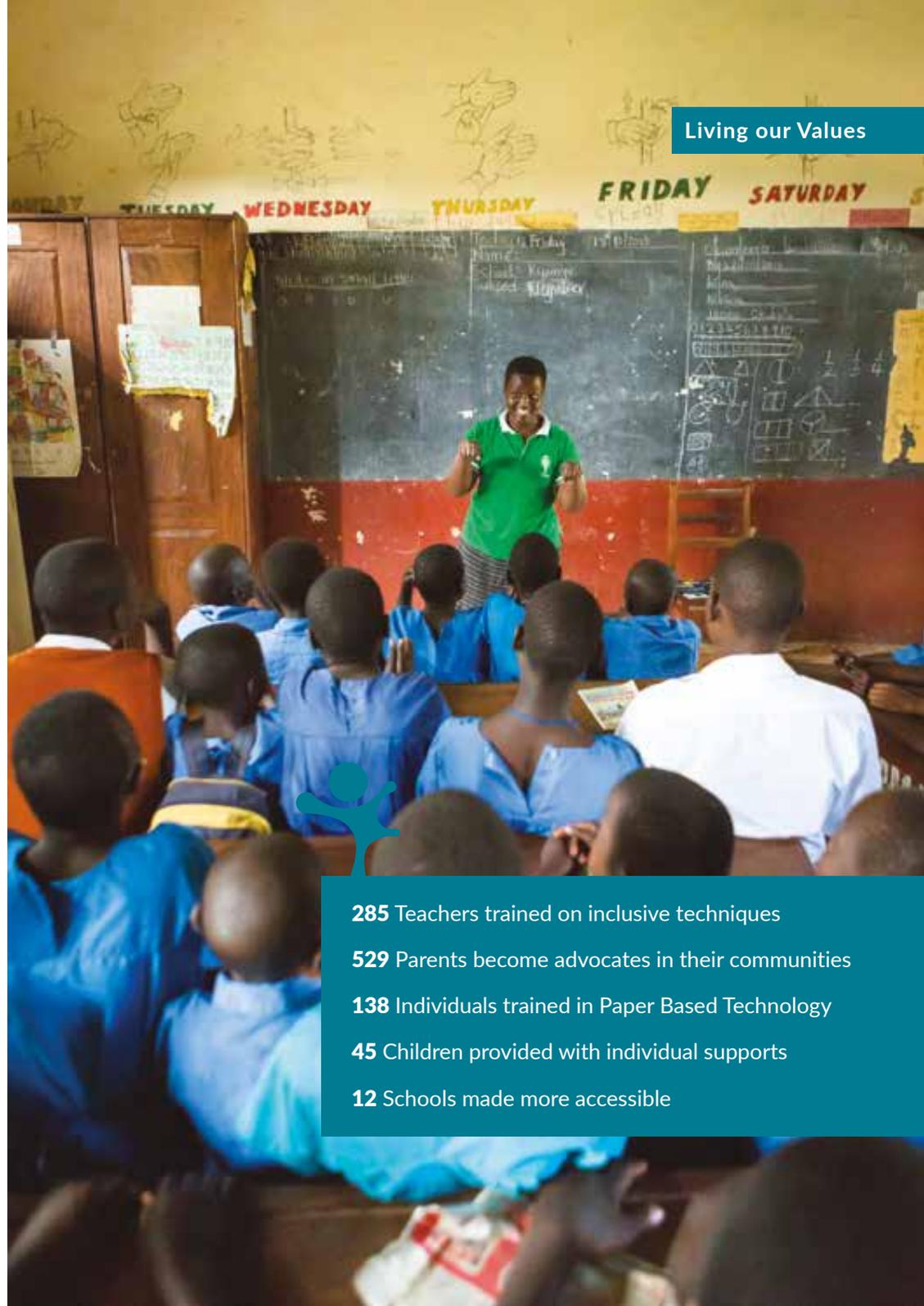
In practice, this means that AbleChildAfrica's programmes go beyond supporting individual children and simultaneously strive to change the world and expectations surrounding a child as well. This core value continues to drive our work in 2015.

Every child has the right to an education. Yet in Africa up to 98% of disabled children still do not attend school. A key reason for this continued disparity is the existence of **attitudinal barriers** such as social stigma, fear and discrimination alongside **environmental barriers** such as insufficient numbers of, or training for, teachers and inaccessible school buildings, all of which we have worked to dismantle this year. We have worked alongside both USDC and ANDY to provide teacher training on disability rights and inclusive techniques and through this

training we have increased teachers confidence and willingness to include disabled children in their classrooms and schools. We have provided school **infrastructure modifications** including ramps, handrails and accessible latrines as well as **individual supports** for children with physical impairments to help them travel to and move around school grounds.

In Uganda, we have worked with USDC to provide hospitals with much needed audiology, occupational and physiotherapy equipment whilst training parents, teachers and health workers in Paper Based Technology, an **innovative and cost effective** way to produce equipment for disabled children.

This year, we have also worked with all of our partners to set up and fund parent support groups (PSGS), through which parents of disabled children are given training on disability rights and given the opportunity and confidence to break down and challenge local stigma and **institutional barriers** to inclusion within local communities.



- 285 Teachers trained on inclusive techniques
- 529 Parents become advocates in their communities
- 138 Individuals trained in Paper Based Technology
- 45 Children provided with individual supports
- 12 Schools made more accessible

# Collaborating & Sharing Resources with those who Share our Vision

We collaborate with others and share our learning to ensure childhood disability is mainstreamed across the international development sector.

We **join with like-minded organisations** and consortia 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.

As members of UK-based and international policy and campaigning networks we have collaboratively advocated for disabled children to be included as part of the negotiating process to replace the Millennium Development Goals, this has included letters to UN Secretary General for **greater youth participation** and advocating that no target for future goals should be met unless done so for all social groups, including disabled people. We also joined with others to ensure the UK Government met funding obligations during key replenishment negotiations for the Global Partnership for Education and asked that funds pledged were **better targeted** towards inclusive education for all children.

AbleChildAfrica is a member of BOND and actively participates in the Disability & Development, Small Charities and Child Rights Working Groups. We are also a member of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC); this year we have acted as co-facilitators for the Inclusive Education and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Task Groups as well as the Facilitator's Forum and sit on the United Nations Task Group. In addition, our Director sits on the **Steering Committee** of the Inclusive Education Task Force of the UNICEF Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities, representing both AbleChildAfrica and IDDC.

This year we continued to **work alongside our African partners** to advocate for national or regional policy change and have continued to share our expertise and experience working internationally. For example, we have contributed towards training materials for the World Health Organization, a manual for National Human Rights Institutions and inputted to a research project at the University of Sheffield.

Living our Values



# A Rising Star Campaigning for Change

Melody is 14 years old and was born with Cerebral Palsy in Kibera, East Africa's largest slum, in Nairobi, Kenya. When she was 6 years old Melody's mother brought her to Little Rock Inclusive ECE Centre. Despite her parents doubts that she would ever learn to read and write, Melody excelled in her studies under the specialist teaching and occupational therapy provided at Little Rock. Melody graduated when she was 11, ready to enrol in mainstream primary school.

However, despite having the necessary academic abilities, Melody has been repeatedly refused entry to mainstream primary school. Wanting to continue her education Melody asked to attend a residential special needs school despite it being far from her home and requiring boarding. Upon arrival she described heart-breaking daily bullying, ridicule and isolation from staff and fellow students alike and quickly begged her parents to allow her to return to Little Rock. Today, Little Rock continue to educate Melody but have had to start a primary education class for her and others like her who have been denied the right to study alongside their peers in mainstream school.

This experience has inspired Melody to campaign for the rights of disabled children. She has joined the local Youth Parliament and met with officials to convince them to change policies and practices in Kenya.

But she has yet to be enrolled in a school appropriate for her age and skills. AbleChildAfrica is currently working alongside Melody and Little Rock to design a project that will prepare local primary schools to accept students like Melody, train teachers and advocate for inclusion of all students.

Long Term Impact



# Become a Friend of AbleChildAfrica

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.

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.

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 to reach additional children and more countries this year.



**Ambassador**  
£5,000 +

**Champion**  
£1,000-£4,999

**Supporter**  
£120-£999

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.

Your gift will help us to provide life changing resources and services to disabled children and help us achieve our mission to ensure that disabled children in Africa are able to achieve their full potential.

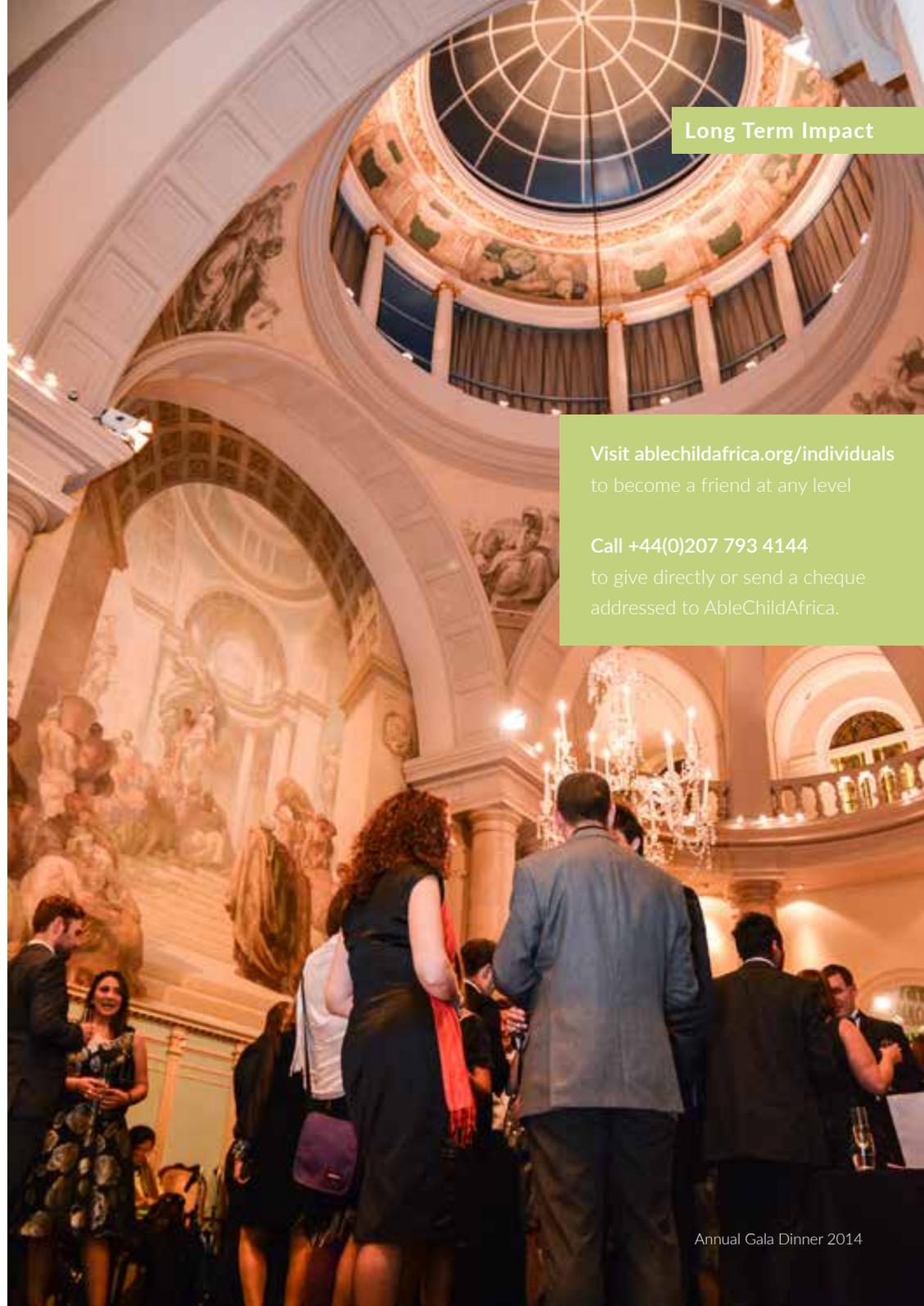
## Become a Junior Friend of AbleChildAfrica

Junior Friends of AbleChildAfrica are a special group of people aged 18 and under. Join today if you wish to organise an event at school or at home, or give through your pocket money. The rewards are getting creative, understanding the value of charity and being a champion for some of the world's most vulnerable children. See ideas and find out more at [ablechildafrica.org/child](http://ablechildafrica.org/child).

Long Term Impact

Visit [ablechildafrica.org/individuals](http://ablechildafrica.org/individuals) to become a friend at any level

Call +44(0)207 793 4144 to give directly or send a cheque addressed to AbleChildAfrica.



# Help us Today to Reach More Children Tomorrow

We have ambitious plans to work with more African countries and to double the number of children we work with next year. To do this, we are seeking your support today.

## Make a Donation

A regular or one-off donation from you makes a huge difference to a small charity like ours. To learn more, visit [ablechildafrica.org/donate](http://ablechildafrica.org/donate)

## Be a Workplace Ambassador

You could be the enthusiastic Workplace Ambassador we are looking for! Champion AbleChildAfrica in your workplace - large or small - and promote our successes to build wider support and help us grow. Learn about how to get involved today at [ablechildafrica.org/corporate](http://ablechildafrica.org/corporate)

## Walk, Swim, Climb... Achieve

Endurance, personal goals, conquering heights, or just breezing through... discover how you can sign up now for a challenge event and fundraise for us at [ablechildafrica.org/individual](http://ablechildafrica.org/individual)

## Give a portion of your Phone Bill

Don't have the time or desire to run a marathon? Is shopping more your style? You can donate a percentage of your online shopping at many of your favourite stores

with [easyfundraising.com](http://easyfundraising.com), through Ebay or even donate back 10% of your monthly phone bill to AbleChildAfrica. To find out how, visit [ablechildafrica.org/individuals](http://ablechildafrica.org/individuals)

## Join us in the fight for disabled children

To keep in touch and learn about opportunities to get involved with campaigns or activities please sign up to our monthly e-newsletter, follow our online blog and link with us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Together we can change the world for a disabled child in Africa. [ablechildafrica.org](http://ablechildafrica.org)

## Leave a Gift

Now you can leave a gift to AbleChildAfrica in your will - a high impact way to support our work for the long term. To learn more, visit [ablechildafrica.org/gift](http://ablechildafrica.org/gift)

Have an out of the box idea, want to get your school, church or community involved or just have a question about supporting us?

## Contact Hamdi today at

[hamdi@ablechildafrica.org.uk](mailto:hamdi@ablechildafrica.org.uk)  
or +44(0)207 793 4144.



Red Nose Day



Live Below the Line



New T-Shirts!



London South Tough Mudder October 2014

Long Term Impact



Annual Gala Dinner 2014



Fitness First Cyclethon

# Thank You

From everyone at AbleChildAfrica, we send out a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who enables to give the very best chance in life to disabled children and young people in Africa.

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. We thank all of our supporters for the sweat, love and tears they put in to fundraise for us! **Together you raised over £75,000** and helped us continue to change the lives of disabled children in Africa.

## We would like to particularly acknowledge the following donors:

- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- Comic Relief
- Jersey Overseas Aid Commission
- Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission
- Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC.
- Vascroft Foundation
- SDL Foundation
- Medicor Foundation
- Souter Foundation
- International Performers Aid Trust

## We are also hugely grateful for in-kind and voluntary support this year including:

- Trustee meeting rooms and refreshments from Cisco and Monckton Chambers
- Pro-bono branding and design support from Jennifer Rose Design
- Staff Training from The Foundation for Social Improvement (FSI)
- Marvin Sinclair for pro-bono photography services at our annual gala dinner

Thank you to all **our interns** for their time, dedication and professionalism, including in particular Katie Dunne, Matt Maclure, Fiona Bennin and Sarah Mageean and our Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubrook.

**Our Patrons** have been very active this year as well and we wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dame Evelyn Glennie, Anne Wafula Strike, Keith Nethercot and Panna Vekaria for their continued support championing the rights of disabled children in Africa.

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.



Thank You

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 2015. The full report is available online on our website or through the Charity Commission.

## 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 a 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 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 2014-15 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 partners across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. We support our partners in their organisational development and to become models of successful practice, with the potential for scaling up and replication. Information on our partnerships and the numerous projects we have delivered together can be found across the pages of this annual review and on our website.

During our recent partnership 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 are committed to making our values a reality, this means making sure that the young people we work with play a key role in the design and development of what we do. This year we facilitated activities of the first youth board within our partner Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY) in Kenya. We also developed a strategy and are currently seeking funding to engage AbleChildAfrica's own youth advisory council over the coming year. We are proud of our innovative inclusive education project in Uganda, which champions a new approach and empowers children as agents of change in their schools and local communities. This project is breaking new ground in Uganda and is being talked about as an innovative approach locally; we aim to build on this success and scale up the childrens' involvement in project planning going forward.

### 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 also participated heavily in conversations and consultations on the emerging Sustainable Development Goals; with the aim of influencing decision makers to recognise the essential need for disability and

an inequality framework to be central considerations in any set of international development goals that supersede the current Millennium Development Goals. We have provided responses to numerous consultations and commented on draft documents, as well as joining lobbying efforts to advocate for the centrality of disability in such negotiations. We have also sought to influence other organisations who are concerned for vulnerable children in Africa to more seriously consider the needs of disabled children in their work.

## Organisational Development

As part of our ongoing commitment to challenge ourselves, grow and reflect on best practice we undertook a number of organisational development activities over the year. We finalised a review and revision of our partnership model; we evaluated our work delivered in partnership to date and have set out our principles and ways of working going forward. In the coming year we aim to take on 1-2 new partnerships, funds allowing. We have also reviewed and updated our finance systems and procedures to stay current with the needs of the organisation as we grow. Following a review of our fundraising strategy and desire to increase our unrestricted flexible funding, our first Fundraising Development Manager was hired at the end of this financial year with the aim of scaling up corporate and philanthropic partnerships over the coming year.

# Financial Review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'project support in Africa' this year amounts to 88% of total expenditure, governance costs only account for 5% and fundraising 7%.

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. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow, including fundraising support and our advocacy work stream. Commitments to such effect have been made in the form of a dedicated fund this year, which amounts to £30,000 and is detailed within our Reserves Policy.

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 £189,353 and remains consistent with funds raised in previous years in amount but represents additional statutory funding. Unrestricted income this year was £180,937, including £31,341 from Friends of AbleChildAfrica, £98,207 raised through events such as our annual gala dinner and sponsorship raised by runners in the Virgin London Marathon and other challenge

events. Restricted expenditure totalled £289,031, which was spent delivering projects to benefit disabled children in Africa.

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. The balance sheet reflects an unrestricted funds balance of £70,909 which has increased from the previous year; we have set aside a dedicated fund to be utilised in 2015 to allow the organisation to increase capacity in fundraising, advocacy and programmes and hold only funds needed to meet our reserves policy.

It is our view that the enclosed accounts demonstrate a financially healthy organisation and evidence that AbleChildAfrica continues to garner significant support from the public for our mission.

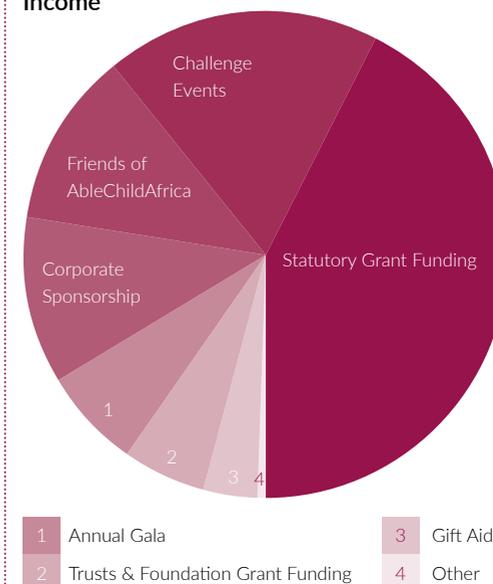
**Over the last 3 years, on average 91p of every £1 donated was spent on charitable activities.**

## Reserves policy

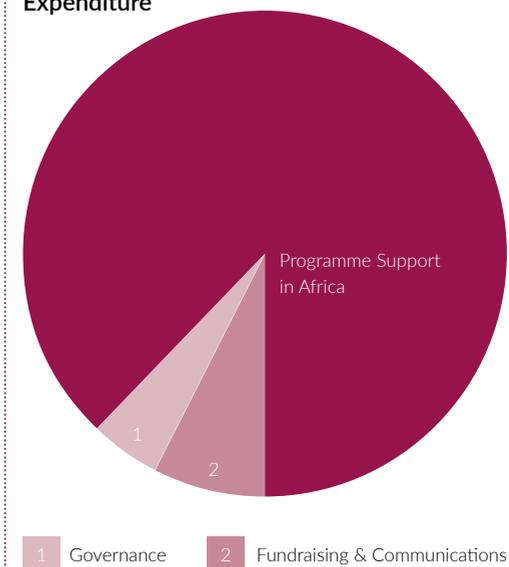
It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts. Our reserves policy was last reviewed in 2013 (and reaffirmed in 2014), at which time Trustees concluded 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. During the financial year 2014-2015, three months' committed expenditure equated to a free reserves target of £40,000. 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. The Trustees remain assured that the reserves we currently carry are sufficient to undertake all of their legal obligations and not only allow them to meet minimum financial obligations but also have sufficient funds available to respond to urgent or flexible funding requirements.

In addition to this, an amount of £30,000 was set aside by the Trustees at the end of March 2015 to enable AbleChildAfrica to develop in areas of Fundraising, Advocacy and Programmes. This will be utilised in 2015 to strengthen the capacity of the organisation, to support continued growth and maximise impact for disabled children in Africa.

## Income



## Expenditure



# Statement

## Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2015

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Donations and legacies	50,004	430	50,434	14,293
Activities for generating funds	130,675	-	130,675	112,342
Investment income	258	201	459	319
	180,937	631	181,568	126,954
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
	-	188,722	188,722	354,863
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	180,937	189,353	370,290	481,817
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>				
Fundraising and publicity costs	(31,930)	-	(31,930)	(28,235)
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Project support in Africa	(91,875)	(289,031)	(380,906)	(509,163)
Governance costs	(20,245)	-	(20,245)	(22,937)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	(144,050)	(289,031)	(433,081)	(560,335)
Net movements in funds	36,887	(99,678)	(62,791)	(78,518)
Fund balances at 1 April 2014	34,022	247,586	281,608	360,126
Fund balances at 31 March 2015	70,909	147,908	218,817	281,608

Finance



AbleChildAfrica is grateful for the in-kind support which made production of this annual report possible including:

Photography by Chris James, Marshall Foster and Jane Anthony and design by JenniferRoseDesign.co.uk

The names and corresponding pictures of some of the 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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