



2017 Annual Review

For the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017



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The names and corresponding pictures 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.

WELCOME



As our current Strategic Plan comes to an end this year, I am reminded of all we have accomplished to date and our plans for the future. We set ourselves **bold ambitions**, both to grow and strengthen ourselves as an organisation and to have an even greater impact on the lives of disabled children and families in Africa. It is safe to say we have surpassed even our own expectations as AbleChildAfrica continues to go from strength to strength.

This year, our work on the ground, delivered in partnership with African-led organisations, **reached over 17,000 children**, with 2475 children directly supported. But our impact goes much deeper than any number can portray and I encourage you to read the stories of just a few of those children in the coming pages.

2017 is a milestone year for us as we **celebrate 10 years of AbleChildAfrica!** We were originally founded in 1984 as the Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC). In 2007, USDC in the UK became AbleChildAfrica and we expanded our reach, initially to Kenya, followed by Tanzania and this year, to Rwanda.

At any milestone moment in life one always takes a moment to reflect on the journey travelled. I am particularly pleased to read within this review the quotes from the Directors of our partner organisations (including AbleChildAfrica), each reflecting on their **best memory** of working in partnership over the last 10 years.

AbleChildAfrica's current strategy takes us up to the end of this financial year. We plan to **publish a revised strategy** in 2017 but in advance of that I can confirm our commitment to continue working alongside partner organisations in Africa as well as to independently contribute to and influence inclusive development. The refreshed strategy will simply express what we do differently, rather than being a departure in practice. Our current strategy continues to guide our work in the interim.

In a time of **sector wide change**, I have agreed a set of organisational development priorities with the Board for the coming year. We plan to invest in unrestricted fundraising to ensure growth is able to both keep pace with, and meet the increased commitments inherent within, our rapid recent growth

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Over 17,000 children reached through teacher trainings

2,475 children directly supported

798 disabled children's lives changed

782 parents enrolled into 44 Parent Support Groups

480 teachers trained

108 children provided education packages or assistive devices

442 out of school disabled children enrolled into school

233 children involved in inclusive sports



in grant income. We will also invest the time and resources needed to ensure we are able to comply with the upcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the recently revised Code of Fundraising Practice.

I am also extremely excited to announce the upcoming publication of our **Partnership Impact Tool**. This tool will allow us to identify and agree key organisational development objectives with each of our partners and shift our capacity building work and its resourcing to be increasingly proactive.

And it is not just AbleChildAfrica looking forward, each of our partners has also highlighted their dreams for their organisations over the next 10 years of potential partnership, you will find these quotes across the pages of this annual review.

Despite limited resources, AbleChildAfrica continues to punch above our weight and we choose not to be constrained by our size. I wish to **thank everyone who has supported us this year**. I would also like to personally thank, on behalf of all Trustees, the extremely dedicated staff team, led by Dr. Jane Anthony, for their hard work over the year.

Finally, to close, a personal appeal from me. It is only with **your ongoing support**, that we can keep our vision alive. Please continue to support our work and be our advocates in society to effect the change we want to see. Together, we can make the next 10 years of AbleChildAfrica even more impactful than the last.

Claire Reichenbach, Chair

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.



CELEBRATING

AbleChildAfrica was originally founded in 1984 as the Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC). In 2007, USDC in the UK became AbleChildAfrica and working in partnership across East Africa to change the lives of disabled children and their families. 10 years on, the Directors' of each organisation reflect on some of their favourite memories.

AbleChildAfrica: Meeting the Youth Mentors of UWEZO for the first time and learning how they often go above and beyond in their support for disabled children. One of their stories really stuck in my memory, a harrowing yet inspirational tale of a mentor surviving the Rwandan genocide of 1994. They were left with a permanent impairment yet saw this as a source of their strength rather than a barrier in life.



UWEZO: As a result of our partnership with AbleChildAfrica, we piloted our first project for disabled children's education in the rural Musanze district in Northern Rwanda. Thanks to the project and its funding, we have established a strong and dynamic group of mentors and children in Musanze. The support means we have retained our current office and staff to continue to develop future programmes together.



10 YEARS OF ABLECHILDAFRICA! What is your best memory of working in partnership?



AbleChildAfrica: I remember meeting a scared young girl waiting to go into surgery in Northern Uganda at a medical 'camp' we were delivering with USDC. The girl needed to have surgery on her leg to try and save it with amputation remaining a possibility. She was worried about what would become of her afterwards. This drove home for me the critical nature of the holistic project, which also focused on parent support, school access, community attitudes to disability and follow up care. In that moment, I was really proud of our programme design and knew whatever the outcome the young girl would be well looked after by USDC.

USDC: My best memory working with AbleChildAfrica would be from 2011, when we had the opportunity to deliver a disability mainstreaming programme together for a development charity called BuildAfrica. The training was a great success and meant that BuildAfrica could now respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of disabled young people in Uganda.

AbleChildAfrica: Easy! That has got to be carrying the Torch together through the heart of London ahead of the 2012 Paralympic Games. AbleChildAfrica was selected based on our work with ANDY in Kenya, using sport to build the confidence and skills of disabled youth- work that continues today in our joint schools project with even younger disabled children.

ANDY: My favourite memory working with AbleChildAfrica was in the early years of our partnership developing ANDY's strategic plan. This has helped us to target the resources and strategic partnerships we needed to achieve our objectives and grow as an organisation.



AbleChildAfrica: Every time I visit CST, I am struck by their innovation and creativity in using locally available materials to create amazing games, toys and learning materials for the children. AbleChildAfrica supported and I was privileged to join a training on 'paper-based technology' where CST were making adaptive seats out of nothing more than recycled card and a flour paste.

CST: The best memory I have working in partnership with AbleChildAfrica is in the development of our first five year strategic plan (2013-2017), entitled 'Children First', which means CST's goals are now becoming a well-planned reality.



AbleChildAfrica: That has got to be the grand opening of the school we built together. It was a long year of hard work to see Little Rock's dream of a purpose built fully accessible inclusive school site come to life and the ribbon cutting was a very proud moment. We will always appreciate the funding from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC that made this possible.

Little Rock: My best memory is from 2012, when AbleChildAfrica and Little Rock worked in partnership to source funding and manage the construction of a brand new fully inclusive centre for Little Rock. Building an inclusive school wasn't easy, but AbleChildAfrica always supported and listened to Little Rock as friends as well as partners.

KENYA



Together with **Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)**, AbleChildAfrica completed the first of a three year Comic Relief funded project using sport as an access route into education for out-of-school disabled children. On a weekly basis, disabled children travel to one of the project schools to play with children with and without disabilities through sporting and Child Rights Club (CRC) activities such as sitting volleyball, goalball, drama, debate and singing.

Following the success of the previous pilot project, this scale up has enabled us to increase the number of schools we work with in and around Nairobi to ensure we reach more children. Many of the 53 children identified in the first year of the project have had little previous opportunity to interact with other children, parents and teachers. As such, activities have increased the children's **self-confidence** and ability to form **inclusive friendships**, in addition to them benefitting from the **health and fitness** aspects of the project.

122 teachers were trained on disability rights and inclusive education. The Director of our partner Little Rock delivered this participatory training, which is one of many examples of how AbleChildAfrica's **partnership network facilitates collaboration** to achieve shared goals. Parent Support Groups (PSGs) have been set up at each of the 6 schools to ensure parents have a platform to support each

other and gain access to formal income generating activities set up through the project, such as pig rearing.

This year, the project's annual community sports day was held at a large sports stadium, with over 450 children, parents, government officials, and community members taking part in **inclusive sporting activities**. The event had a wide impact and was televised by two broadcasters. 28 disabled children have been supported to enrol into schools this year and the project will continue to **reshape community attitudes** towards disability to facilitate even greater change over the next two years.

Looking forward, AbleChildAfrica and ANDY are exploring ways to further engage with civil society and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) to bring about greater change by facilitating joint interventions and strategies to improve the lives of disabled children in Kenya.

Where do you see ANDY in 10 years' time?

ANDY will be the 'go-to' organisation on issues concerning children and youth with disabilities in Kenya.



In Kenya, we also continued to work with **Little Rock**, an inclusive Early Childhood Development Centre situated in Kibera, Nairobi. Kibera is East Africa's largest slum, with over 1 million people living in extreme poverty. With continued backing from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, we support the key services at Little Rock including inclusive early years education to over 400 children, physical and occupational therapy, counselling and after school tutoring.

This year, we completed a project funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, which was designed to tackle **complex challenges** of educational access for disabled children, who are consistently denied enrolment in government primary schools. The project was developed as many of the disabled children who had graduated from Little Rock had been **turned away from local primary schools**, despite having the school readiness skills to attend.

In response to this challenge, we worked alongside Little Rock to train 70 teachers across 4 local Government primary schools on **inclusive education methodologies** and disability rights. Over 150 teachers were also supported through an intensive teacher mentoring and exchange programme to gain the **knowledge, skills and confidence** to develop an inclusive approach to teaching, designing of learning materials and safe handling of disabled children.

Monthly parent and community meetings were positive forums for addressing fears and raising awareness. Government Officials also received training and meetings were held at both local and national level to further advocate for inclusive education. All project activities contributed to the successful enrolment of 19 disabled children into four mainstream schools, surpassing the project's target of 12.

Where do you see Little Rock in 10 years' time?

Little Rock will be the model centre of inclusive early childhood development, whilst also acting as a vitally needed resource centre for teachers working in inclusive early childhood education.



UGANDA



Working together since 1984, AbleChildAfrica and our long-term partner **Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)** continue to drive change and improve access to education and health services for disabled children through our innovative model of working through a network of Parent Support Groups (PSGs) and Child Rights Clubs (CRCs).

This year saw us scale up our now completed DFID-funded three year inclusive education project across northern Uganda with additional funding from Comic Relief for the next five years. The project uses a child-to-child model where **children work together** to support each other's formal and informal learning and ensure disabled children are identified and enrolled into school.

Through intensive teacher training, parent support groups, medical assessments, provision of assistive devices and advocating for **long term change**, the project equips disabled children with the skills and support networks to facilitate their own change and advocate for inclusive education. In its first year, the project has already seen 239 disabled children, previously out of school, enrolled across 27 local primary schools, which exceeded expected outcomes at such an early stage.

We continue to stand side by side with USDC to **advocate at both local and national level** to harness and strengthen their influence with key players in the delivery of inclusive education in Uganda. Success to date has seen us drive **unprecedented commitment** to this scale up of project activities from the Ugandan Government and the learning from this approach has now been rolled out to Tanzania. AbleChildAfrica, USDC, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) are working closely to finalise the **national inclusive education teacher's guide**, which teachers will be trained on in the next coming year.

Where do you see USDC in 10 years' time?

USDC will be a hub for all different types of organisations and partners working to support children with disabilities.



239

out of school disabled children enrolled in primary school

27

teachers trained on inclusive child protection

378

teachers trained

13

schools meet nationally defined standards for disability accessible and inclusive schools

RWANDA



2017 was a landmark year for AbleChildAfrica as we began our work and partnership in Rwanda. Whilst Rwanda is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, disabled children remain 3 times less likely to access education in comparison to their non-disabled peers, with widespread cultural attitudes continuing to perpetuate the belief that disabled children have little value and are unable to learn.

Following a scoping visit in 2015, we excitedly ratified a **formal partnership with UWEZO** in October 2016. **UWEZO, which means 'ability'**, is a Rwandan youth-led Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) founded by a group of young disability rights advocates with a mission to enable children and youth with disabilities to actively participate in society through skills development and social integration.

Using an **unique mentoring approach**, our 2-year 'Raising Aspirations' project, funded by the British and Foreign Schools Society

(BFSS), has created a network of 30 disabled youth in Musanze, a rural district in the northern province of Rwanda. These mentors have been specially trained to **provide practical and emotional support** to some of the most vulnerable disabled children and their families in order to tackle poor educational outcomes. Through weekly **home and school visits**, mentors have acted as role models to 30 disabled children and their families, boosting their social confidence and improving both their attendance and performance at school.

Where do you see UWEZO in 10 years' time?

UWEZO will be Rwanda's leading multi-purpose empowerment and resource centre for children and youth with disabilities across Rwanda. We will be able to offer all types of support and guidance, becoming the best institution in Rwanda linking youth and children with disabilities to the opportunities they deserve.



In our first year of partnership we reached:

44 children

67 parents

22 schools

30 teachers

30 youth mentors

150 community members

Mentor-led advocacy activities, including **inclusive community events** with teachers and parents, as well as participation in national and regional political forums, have also been a driver for inclusion. Thanks to the mentors' efforts, children have received assistive devices provided for by the government, with district officials making open pledges **committing to do more** to promote the rights of disabled children across the district.

To stay true to our value of African-led development, we have also worked closely with UWEZO to identify both, of our organisations' development needs and areas for growth. To date, this has included four visits by our staff to Rwanda, where we have supported the development of UWEZO's

financial systems, provided training in **disability-focused child protection**, and assisted the set-up and roll-out of our first partnership project. Over the coming years, we will continue to work together to strengthen UWEZO's local capacity, diversify their income streams and expand their capability to deliver programmes.

We are extremely excited to be in partnership with such a **passionate and hard-working organisation** and are eager to work together on our ambitious plans for projects that make a lasting difference to disabled children and young people's lives in Rwanda.

TANZANIA



Our work in Tanzania continued to expand this year thanks to our strengthening partnership with **Child Support Tanzania (CST)**. CST is an inclusive early childhood education facility based in Mbeya, Tanzania and is the only recognised education facility of its kind for a 1000 mile radius. We continue to support CST’s vision to put children ‘first’. This past year alone, we have reached over 275 children, breaking down the social barriers and stigma that prevents the full inclusion of disabled children in society.

Our pilot project with Jersey Overseas Aid was a true highpoint of our partnership with CST in 2017. Through an innovative **child-to-child approach**, 63 previously out of school disabled children were successfully identified and ALL are now enrolled and accessing their right to education across 4 government schools. **Parent support groups** were set-up and specialist training was delivered to over 100 community members (including teachers, government officials and

parents) in the areas of inclusive education, disability and child rights and the safe handling of disabled children. Our work **lobbying the government** and conducting community-led advocacy activities has also been instrumental, with over 15,000 members of the public reached through media appearances and both regional and national government officials committing to financially support interventions **empowering disabled children**.



622
children served

296
parents become
advocates for
inclusion

117
disabled children
enrol in school

Where do you see CST in 10 years' time?

CST will have expanded its coverage to a national level, becoming a model organisation for inclusive education across the country. We will be playing a key and leading role in advocating for the use of a Child to Child approach at all levels, ensuring inclusive education is practiced in all schools and educational institutions in Tanzania.

Owing to the huge success of this pilot project and our increasing reputation for inclusive education within Tanzania, we have secured additional funding from Comic Relief to scale up these activities over the next 4 years. This will help us to **enrol a further 640 disabled children** across 8 schools, train over 320 teachers, and work side by side with the government to further embed their commitments to inclusive education on a national scale. We look forward to reporting on these future successes in the years to come.

ADVOCACY

AbleChildAfrica continues to work alongside our current partners to raise awareness of childhood disability locally and to combat stigma and disabling beliefs. For example, in Kenya and Tanzania we have been supporting our partners to challenge policies, procedures and prevailing attitudes that see disabled graduates of early childhood programmes excluded from Government primary schools. In Uganda, we are collaborating with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and UNICEF to roll out an inclusive education teacher training manual to a national level.

In the UK, we increase understanding of childhood disability through our **training services**. This year we supported another small UK based international child rights NGO to **mainstream disability** throughout their organisation. In addition, AbleChildAfrica provided a seminar on disability inclusive child protection to colleagues in the sector representing over 10 different NGOs.



Executive Director Jane Anthony and Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford Shubrook with the Rt Hon. Lord Bates

We are also extremely proud to announce that this year our Youth Ambassador, Anthony Ford-Shubrook, was selected from over 18,000 nominations as **one of the UN's 'Young Leaders** for the Sustainable Development Goals'. In this high profile role, Anthony will be playing a leading role in ensuring SDGs remain inclusive of disability, paving the way for a future in which disabled children are no longer left behind in the race for equality.

Anthony has already represented AbleChildAfrica in meeting key Members of the Houses of Parliament including the Rt Hon. Justine Greening, then Secretary of State for International Development, at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 and, along with our Director, Dr. Jane Anthony, the Rt Hon. Lord Bates, Minister of State, Department for International Development, to discuss the UK Government's plans for inclusive development.



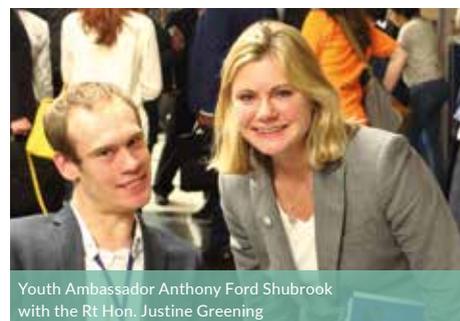
Youth Council

In his spare time, Anthony also leads AbleChildAfrica's Youth Council. The council is comprised of eight young people, who in the words of one of its members, are "**all connected by a common inner drive** to remove barriers that disabled people in the world face and share powerful ideas and **progressive plans**".

In 2017, the Youth Council has held several face-to-face meetings in order to establish its own **youth-led strategy**, driven by the principle that disabled children and youth have a right to be heard. Putting their ideas into action, the Youth Council has conducted training for its members on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and disability rights. They have also begun planning their first fundraising campaign on behalf of AbleChildAfrica. Taking these initial successes forward, the Youth Council has **exciting plans** in place to continue to raise awareness of disability and development by engaging with international youth networks and institutions, fundraising for new projects, and sharing their ideas with AbleChildAfrica in order to **guide our work from a youth perspective**.



Youth Council Members Sarah and Lonae advocating for SDGs



Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford Shubrook with the Rt Hon. Justine Greening

CHANGING LIVES

Ebo, an only child born to a small family in a rural district of Rwanda, has had a challenging relationship with school and education. Developing a physical disability affecting his ability to walk in his early years, Ebo and his parents were still determined that their son would get a formal education.

First going to school aged 6, Ebo was just like any other child accessing their right to education. Even as his ability to walk with crutches started to diminish, his father continued to carry him; until one day Ebo became too big, and his father too weak to hold him for more than a short distance at a time. With the school kilometres away across a difficult terrain, Ebo stopped going to school.



Eventually provided with a wheelchair by the government, Ebo headed back to class. Yet within a year, Ebo's education was again cut short - his wheelchair had broken and his family didn't have the means to replace it. Ebo now found himself with the daunting prospect of yet another year outside of education.

Today, at 15 years old, Ebo is back in school thanks to AbleChildAfrica's Raising Aspirations' project, delivered jointly with our partner UWEZO. This project provided Ebo with a mentor to support, encourage and create opportunities for Ebo and his family. Ebo's father explained how he now has someone nearby who can help not just Ebo, but also the wider family. "He now has more passion to go to school" his father tells us.

Ebo's mentor Africa, who also has a physical disability, has been working with Ebo over the past year thanks to our 'Raising Aspirations' project. Visiting at least two times a week at his school and home to provide practical and emotional support, Africa explained that he is trying everything to encourage Ebo to succeed at school after overcoming a lot of the same challenges in his own childhood. From assisting with revision and homework to discussing his behaviour with teachers, Africa's support as a role model is having a lasting impact. "Previously his reports were very bad, but now they are improving" Africa shared enthusiastically.



Utilising the influence of the whole mentor network and with a passion to change Ebo's situation, Africa took on the responsibility to team together with his fellow mentors to source the assistive device Ebo so desperately needed. Through their advocacy work, the mentors called upon the government to fulfil their commitments to disabled children, securing a new wheelchair for Ebo to overcome at least one of the barriers that prevented his access to education. The impact was immediate. Longer term, empowerment and support for both Ebo and his family will better enable them to handle challenges as they arise.

Ebo has already passed the first of this year's school exams, a sign that his educational attainment continues to go from strength to strength. He is now very happy and settled into his class with his peers, with his friends even assisting him around the more inaccessible parts of the school – an important reminder that our work to remove the barriers that prevent equal access to education for disabled children is never done.

With your support we can scale up this project, bringing life changing support to even more mentors and children like Africa and Ebo.



Reuben was very ill as a child, forcing him in and out of hospital for the majority of his life. Whilst making a full physical recovery, Reuben was diagnosed with autism and epilepsy as a result of brain damage, causing him to face a multitude of social barriers and cultural stigma. He was later involved in a road accident, which also left him with a number of physical disabilities. Through AbleChildAfrica's project, delivered in partnership with ANDY, Reuben was identified through a home visit and his mother was encouraged to bring him to the sporting and Child Rights Club activities at one of the project schools.

Reuben is now enrolled at this school, where teachers have received training on inclusive education methods and a school Parents Support Group has been set up with AbleChildAfrica's support. Reuben's mother, 'Mama Stella' is an active member and hugely benefits from the group's village saving and loans scheme to support with medical and education fees. Reuben has grown to be a very active boy, now setting his sights on becoming a rugby player. 'Mama Stella' also makes the most of the project's community sports days, appealing to other parents of disabled children so they too encourage their children to interact with other children and discover their children's talents.

CASE STUDY: Reuben, 13 years old

Impact for the Long Term

FRIENDS

Ambassador
£5,000 +

Champion
£1,000-£4,999

Supporter
£120-£999



Friends of AbleChildAfrica are individuals who contribute to the success of our work and to the work of our overseas partners, by donating regular financial contributions.

Friends of AbleChildAfrica

All donations we receive make a huge difference to the lives of disabled children and young people in Africa. A regular donation however, can give us the security we need to provide consistency to these children and enable us to reach additional children and more countries every year.

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 as you become part of our mission to ensure that disabled children in Africa are able to achieve their full potential. Join today at ablechildafrica.org/individual/friends-of-ablechildafrica

Junior Friends of AbleChildAfrica

Junior Friends of AbleChildAfrica are a special group of our supporters who are up to 18 years old. Junior friends organise events at their schools or homes or give through their pocket money. Join today to expand your creativity, learn more about the value of charity, and to be a champion for some of the world's most vulnerable children. Start your journey at ablechildafrica.org.uk/child

US Friends of AbleChildAfrica

We work closely with the US Friends of AbleChildAfrica, a registered 501c3 non-profit organisation in the United States. For a tax efficient way to give US dollars please contact the President of US Friends of AbleChildAfrica, Dr. Jane Anthony on jane@ablechildafrica.org.uk.

GET INVOLVED

Make a donation

Any direct contribution to our work, whether small or large, regular or one-off, really does make an impact on children's lives. Be a part of our journey, donate today to reach even more children and families next year.

ablechildafrica.org.uk/donate



Tackle a Challenge for us - from the Brighton Marathon to the 3 Peaks

Fancy doing a Tough Mudder? London Marathon on your bucket list? Or climbing Mount Kilimanjaro? In locations all around the world, we have the challenge for you! Any ability, any time frame, everyone can have the experience of a lifetime taking on a challenge for AbleChildAfrica.

ablechildafrica.org.uk/individual

Think lifetimes ahead

Leave a gift in your will to make a lasting impact on the lives of disabled children in Sub-Saharan Africa. A gift of any size will mean we can continue to grow and support more of the world's most vulnerable children.

ablechildafrica.org.uk/individual/legacy

Become a Corporate Partner

Promote AbleChildAfrica in your workplace and let us help you meet your corporate social responsibility objectives. Fundraising events, fitness challenges and skilled volunteering projects are just a few ways your employees can get involved!

ablechildafrica.org.uk/corporate



James Harvey, our most recent Programmes intern, is delighted to share his success in securing a 12-month posting in Madagascar with a sustainable development charity. "My internship has put me in a really good place to take on more responsibility" James shared with us, who is now in charge of large scale beekeeping livelihoods project and loving every second of working in the field. James spent 6 months working within our Programmes team, supporting the team in everything from writing funding proposals to helping with our Day of the African Child fundraising event at Barclays Bank. "Everything has followed on really nicely from what I was doing at AbleChildAfrica... I just wanted to say thanks for everything during my internship!"

AbleChildAfrica remains committed to offering a quality internship program providing genuine learning and development opportunities to those who so graciously volunteer their time with us.

RECOGNISING OUR INTERNS: James Harvey



Community - unite

Get your community - whether it's your school, church or university society - on board with our mission! Spread the word of AbleChildAfrica and organise a FUNdraising event with your favourite community group. You will receive support from us the whole way.

ablechildafrica.org.uk/individual

Go shopping

A percentage of your every-day online shopping will be donated to us when you shop online with Ebay or at your favourite stores through easyfundraising.org.uk or savoo.co.uk. Christmas shopping anyone?

Or, 10% of your monthly phone bill will be donated back to AbleChildAfrica if you join The People's Operator, and £1 will be donated by ChariTable Bookings for every diner who dines out, or guest who stays at a hotel, booked through them.

ablechildafrica.org.uk/individual



Thank You!

CELEBRATING YOU

From everyone at AbleChildAfrica, we send out a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who has done something to help us give the very best chance in life to more disabled children and young people in Africa this year.

Thank you to our interns, Carl Apeageyi, May Mak, James Harvey and Jingmei Huang for their time, dedication and professionalism. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers over the last year. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubrook for his continued energy, time and commitment.

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



Thank you to Azad Ayub Ltd. for being our Platinum Sponsor at our 6th Annual Gala Dinner. Thank you for helping us raise £40,000 and making it the best Gala yet!

We thank the following donors for their support this year:

- UK's Department for International Development (DFID)
- Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission
- Comic Relief
- Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
- The Marr-Munning Trust
- Open Society Foundations
- Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC
- The British & Foreign School Society
- The Network for Social Change
- Jersey Overseas Aid
- The Leggett Charitable Trust
- Toy Trust Children's Charity
- The Sterry Family Foundation
- The Cotton Trust
- Oakdale Trust
- North South Travel
- Cumber South Travel
- TXF Limited
- CAF America
- MFS Investment Management
- Fitbanker Limited
- JP Morgan
- PenCarrie Limited



On September 24th, Team-GB Paralympian – Dimitri Coutya – completed the world's toughest obstacle course with an AbleChildAfrica team of 18 incredible people. The Tough Mudder course was 10.5 miles long with 22 obstacles to negotiate, including crossing bales of hay, crawling in mud under barbed wire, going over walls, swinging on monkey bars over cold muddy water, crawling through tunnels and 'electroshock therapy'! What each and every one of you accomplished is incredible!

Thank you for proving that #WeAreAllAble.



Thank you to our dedicated patron Anne Wafula Strike for her continued support throughout the years. She provides a personal example of courage, commitment and determination that challenges misconceptions about disability. Here she is accepting the Play for Change Award in Monaco for her work with AbleChildAfrica.

Fundraisers have done all kinds of brave and inventive things for disabled children in Africa, especially our absolutely amazing inclusive Tough Mudder 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.

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

- Print design support from Jennifer Rose Design
- JPGphotography for pro-bono photography services
- FLUX London for the installation of our accessible toilet
- Brontide for providing and installing ethernet cable infrastructure
- Madison Rahhal for photography, videography and production of a promotional video

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Structure, Governance and Management

AbleChildAfrica is a company limited by guarantee registered in England (company number 01861434) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). AbleChildAfrica was previously known as the Uganda Society for Disabled Children.

Trustees who held office during the financial year are set out in our full accounts with bios available on our website. They represent diverse skill sets and experience with backgrounds in finance, law, business and the third sector, including programmes, fundraising and advocacy. The Trustees delegate the day to day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by Executive Director, Dr. Jane Anthony.

Activities, Achievements & Performance

Our aims for the financial year 2016-17 fell under the three strategic objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan.

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

Our work under this objective is twofold: (i) working in partnership to deliver direct

services to disabled children and their families; and (ii) supporting the organisational development of our partners to become models of successful practice, with the potential for scale up and replication. We are firmly committed to local ownership and to African led solutions to local challenges, which is why we are based in the UK and do not have our own offices and staff on the ground. We know this approach offers value for money to our donors and believe it has the greatest potential for long term sustainability and impact.

AbleChildAfrica currently works with five partner organisations across four countries in East Africa: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. We continue to support and resource all our partners, working together to create sustainable change to directly improve the lives of disabled children and their families. Details of our direct services work under this objective are contained throughout this report on the partner pages; please see the full annual accounts for more detail.

As part of this strategic objective, AbleChildAfrica also supports the organisational development of our partners such that they can become sustainable and high impact African-led organisations. We

This is an excerpt from the Trustee Report and Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017. The full report is available on our website at ablechildafrica.org/resources or through the Charity Commission. We would be happy to provide a hard copy of the full accounts or a larger print version of this report upon request.

create a network of partners, facilitating exchange visits and collaborative sharing of learning across local organisations.

AbleChildAfrica offers regular professional training to existing and new staff at all our partner organisations. We also offer mentoring to the senior management and trustee boards of our partners in key areas such as financial management, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, good governance and HR practices. We support our partners to empower parents through parent support groups and to listen to the voices of children in making key decisions.

Whilst we are confident of the impact we have on our partners, AbleChildAfrica's Trustees also acknowledge that over the last strategic period this capacity building has largely been reactive to partner's current needs. This makes it difficult for us to plan, resource and monitor our capacity building support. Over the last year, AbleChildAfrica has been developing and piloting a new Partnership Impact Tool that will be launched in 2017 (see future plans below).

Objective 2: Increase understanding of childhood disability in Africa

AbleChildAfrica continues to work alongside

our current partners to raise awareness of childhood disability locally and to combat stigma and disabling beliefs. For example, in Kenya and Tanzania we have been supporting our partners to challenge policies, procedures and prevailing attitudes that see disabled graduates of early childhood programmes excluded from Government primary schools. In Uganda, we are collaborating with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and UNICEF to roll out the teacher training manual developed during our child-to-child inclusive education project to a national level.

In the UK, we increase understanding of childhood disability through our training services. This year we worked with another small UK based international child rights NGO to support them in their efforts to mainstream disability throughout their organisation. In addition, AbleChildAfrica provided a seminar on disability inclusive child protection to colleagues in the sector.

This year has also seen us internally developing resources, including trainings and toolkits, on mainstreaming disability and child protection for disabled children. We plan to roll out these resources to support our partners as well as to help other international children's organisations

embrace the 2015 Global Goals 'leave no one behind' framework and mainstream disability into their future programmes.

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

We are committed to making our values a reality. In a concerted effort to 'collaborate with all those that share our values' we actively participate 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. AbleChildAfrica is a member of BOND (the UK membership body for international development charities) and actively participates in the Disability & Development, Small Charities and Child Rights Working Groups. We are also a member of and active contributor to the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). This year we have primarily contributed to the Inclusive Education and United Nations Task Groups. In addition, we are members of the UNICEF Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities and the Global Campaign for Education.

AbleChildAfrica is extremely proud to announce that our Youth Ambassador, Anthony Ford-Shubrook, was this year selected as one of the 17 UN 'Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals' from over 18,000 nominations. Representing AbleChildAfrica and himself, Anthony will be playing a leading role

in ensuring the SDGs remain inclusive of disability, paving the way for a future in which disabled children are no longer left behind in the race for equality.

In his spare time, Anthony also leads AbleChildAfrica's Youth Council. With a launch at its first official meeting on the 12th November 2016, activities will be scaled up over the coming year. The council is comprised of eight young people, who in the words of one of its members are "all connected by a common inner drive to remove barriers that disabled people in the world face and share powerful ideas and progressive plans".

Financial review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 82% of total expenditure. As a small bespoke charity we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs in order to ensure that we maximise expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments in order to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and securing our own financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

AbleChildAfrica's total income this year was £617,810 which represents a growth of 25% from the previous financial year. This is

AbleChildAfrica is delighted to be able to give an exciting update regarding Melody, who was featured in our 2015 Annual Review. Born with Cerebral Palsy in Kibera, East Africa's largest slum, Melody found safety and security at our partner school, Little Rock Inclusive ECE Centre. She excelled at Little Rock, providing her parents with huge relief as they never believed she would learn to read or write.

After graduating from Little Rock, Melody struggled to find a place in a mainstream primary school. Having been rejected by mainstream schools a number of times, Melody is finally happy and settled in to her new school. She tells us how happy she is there, which is clear to see as the other children interact with her as an equal. During the District Education Day, Melody delivered a speech about disability and told everyone listening how positive the opportunities she's been given through inclusive education have been. Barriers have been broken as she's provided with extra time for her exams, whilst Little Rock continue to support her at after-school club and by providing transport to and from her new school.

CASE STUDY UPDATE: Melody



comprised of £408,136 in restricted grant funding and £209,674 in unrestricted flexible funding.

The majority of income (66%) for the financial year was restricted through grants, which rose by 27% from the previous year. This comes alongside increased stability as we continue to diversify our grant funders and increasingly secure multi-year funding for ongoing projects. Unrestricted income amounted to 34% of total income and was primarily comprised of income raised from individual donors, including our Friends of AbleChildAfrica regular giving programme (£23,750), through unrestricted corporate support (£13,388), at our annual gala fundraising event (£41,821) and in sponsorship raised by runners in the Virgin London Marathon (£62,043).

Total expenditure this year was £611,220, representing an increase of 30% from the previous financial year, resulting from of planned investments in fundraising. Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to 82p for every pound raised, and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs. Our fundraising costs, 18p for every pound raised, are kept as low as possible whilst still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission.

The Trustees reaffirm that AbleChildAfrica is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next financial year. It is

our view that the enclosed accounts evidence that AbleChildAfrica continues to garner significant support for our mission.

Reserves

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. During the financial year 2015-2016, we had a free reserves target of £40,000. At the end of this year we are carrying forward unrestricted reserves of £14,354. In 2015, Trustees took a strategic decision to invest in unrestricted fundraising and hire a dedicated fundraising post. This investment did not generate the expected returns and Trustees have therefore taken time this year to take stock of lessons learned and internally review our unrestricted fundraising strategy, full cost recovery in restricted grants and our financial model going forward during this growth phase.

The Trustees remain assured that the reserves we currently carry are sufficient to meet our current obligations, carefully monitor cash flows and are assured the approved budget for the year ahead (2017-2018) includes realistic provisions to bring reserves back up to the target level of £40,000.

Risk Management Statement

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the organisation has appropriate systems of control, financial and otherwise. The Trustees remain satisfied that internal systems provide reasonable

assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The Trustees consider the most significant risks, both financial and reputational, to AbleChildAfrica are financial mismanagement, fraud or child safeguarding, internally and across partner organisations. The Trustees also consider unexpected shortfall in income that would prevent the organisation from delivering its existing commitments. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are detailed in our full accounts.

Plans for Future Periods

AbleChildAfrica's current Strategy 2013-2016 takes us up to the end the financial year (ending 31st March 2017) and is currently under review. We expect to publish a revised strategy in 2017 but in advance of that significant strategic thinking and consultation to date lead us to conclude that our refreshed strategy will be largely consistent with our current plan and no radical changes in the ways we operate are anticipated. Our current strategy continues to guide our work in the interim.

Our recent strategic review reaffirmed our commitment to continue working alongside partner organisations in Africa as well the aspiration to independently contribute to and influence inclusive development through advocacy and training. Whilst we undergo our strategic review mentioned above plans for the future period continued to take

shape, however the following have been agreed as priorities for the coming year.

Unrestricted Fundraising & Data Protection

Following extremely successful grant fundraising over the last two years we have a number of large multi-year grants secured for a period of 3-5 years. However, restricted grant income has grown at a significantly faster pace than our unrestricted income over this period such that in 2017 we plan to consolidate around our existing and secured projects to ensure sustainability. We plan to invest in unrestricted income, with a focus on high net worth and corporate fundraising, to ensure unrestricted growth is able to both keep pace with and able to meet the increased commitments inherent within, our restricted grant income growth. Upon a careful examination of our costs and charity funding models, trustees have set a target ratio of restricted to unrestricted income at 65% to 35%. In addition, we plan to interrogate our cost recovery within grants, ensuring we are building all necessary costs of delivering a project into funding applications.

We take seriously our responsibility to fundraise responsibly and to look after any personal data that we hold, particularly as pertains to disabled children and other vulnerable groups. Over the coming year we will examine our policies, procedures and systems to ensure we are able to protect data, minimise risks and comply with the both the upcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the recently revised Code of Fundraising Practice.

Child Protection and Participation

We aim to both increase the capacity of our partners, and insure projects sufficiently budget for, the safeguarding and active participation of children in across all our programmes. We plan to review our already robust child protection policies and procedures and conduct organisation wide safeguarding training for all staff regardless of role. We also aim to continue to scale up the work of our youth council, allowing us to live our values in empowering young people to play an active role in supporting our vision to create a world where all disabled children are able to fulfil their potential.

Learning

We will focus on further improving our monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to be better able to understand, learn from and communicate the impact of AbleChildAfrica's work. Whilst we are strong at understanding our outcomes with direct project work we aim to improve monitoring of our capacity building of partners and our advocacy and influencing work.

We plan to continually improve the organisational development support we provide our partners by launching our Partnership Impact Tool in 2017. This tool will allow us to identify and agree key organisational development objectives with each of our partners and shift our capacity building work and its resourcing to be increasingly proactive. Using this tool, AbleChildAfrica will be better able to measure, learn from and report on the impact we make to our partner organisations themselves.

With increasing profile and impact in our advocacy and influencing work we feel it is the opportune time to revise our Advocacy Strategy. This strategy will identify clear objectives and indicators that will better allow us to target and analyse the impact of our influencing work.

We aim to publish our Advocacy Strategy, as well as an Impact Review, within the 2017-2018 financial year.

Finance

STATEMENT

Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2017

Restricted
funds £

Unrestricted
funds £

Total
2017 £

Restated total
2016 £

INCOME				
Donations	930	201,868	202,798	169,454
Charitable activities	407,206	4,149	411,355	322,204
Other trading income	-	3,229	3,229	441
Investments	-	428	428	1,274
Total incoming resources	408,136	209,674	617,810	493,373

EXPENDITURE				
Raising funds	-	110,986	110,986	112,661
Charitable activities	394,803	105,431	500,234	356,438
Total expenditure	394,803	216,417	611,220	469,099

Net movements in funds	13,333	(6,743)	6,590	24,274
Total funds brought forward	221,994	21,097	243,091	218,817
Total funds carried forward	235,327	14,354	249,681	243,091

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

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