



Action against poverty  
**Signpost**  
International

Annual Review  
2017/18

# Dear supporter,

In 2017 we reached our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 2018 actually marks 15 years of being based in the city of Dundee, Scotland! If you have been with us for some time you will know that there have been many significant changes for us this year at Signpost International including our new logo and website. Turning a corner, opening a door, starting a new chapter... we could describe it in lots of ways, but we know that it has certainly been positive. And we are so thankful that you are continuing on this journey with us – without you it wouldn't be possible.

My hope is that you will join us in this celebration as we look back over the last financial year and read about the many people who are on this journey with us around the world.



Every Blessing

Jamie Morrison

Chief Executive Officer

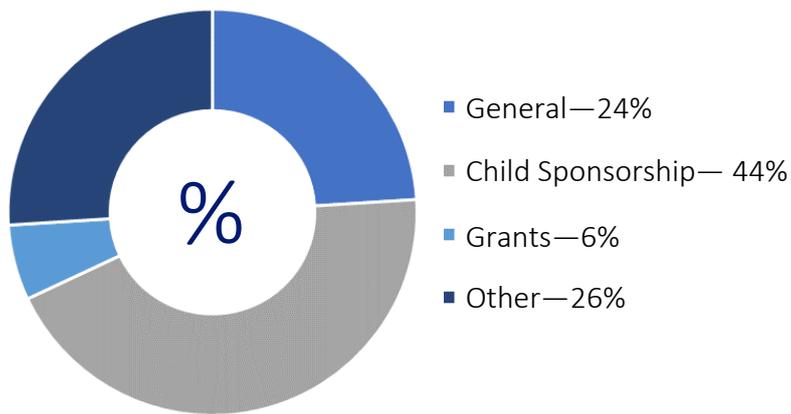


This year we are  
celebrating that

# 11,803

people benefited from our work  
across 3 countries!

## Income



Total Income - £270,724

## Expenditure

Of every £1 donated to us ...



### **Support and Running Costs (8p)**

Putting robust systems in place to enable and evaluate our work is vital so that we can continually learn, improve and ensure that your money is used more effectively as a result.

### **Communications and Fundraising (12p)**

As a supporter, you are vital to everything we do at Signpost International. Your prayers, financial gifts and encouraging and loyal support means that to us, you are an important part of the Signpost family. Our communications and fundraising is all about relationship, helping our supporters hear the voices and see the faces of the those that their generous gifts are helping. We also want to inspire people to share in our mission and join us on our journey.

In March, we finished off the financial year with a very successful afternoon tea and jazz fundraiser called the Blue Water Tea Party. The event was fully sponsored by a local business and we raised over £6,400 towards our clean water projects in Uganda!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the event and to those who did their own fundraising this year!

### **Global Citizenship (3p)**

We work with local schools to help pupils be outward thinking and actively engage in local and global community issues. We want to teach the next generation to be global citizens. With this improved understanding, pupils and the wider public can push for change in global development issues and be a voice for those who are vulnerable and without opportunity.



652

People gave to the work of Signpost this year



These donations raised

£202,574

to take action against poverty



# WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Our WASH projects (water, sanitation and hygiene) respond to critical needs in schools including the lack of safe water, toilets and sanitary supplies. These are significant education barriers for children, especially girls.

In 2017 we completed the 'WASHing away barriers' project in three schools in Uganda. The 2,155 pupils who attended these schools lacked safe drinking water and working toilet facilities. Children with disabilities simply couldn't attend school because there were no facilities that they could use. Six year old Emmanuel was in this situation, missing out on an education because he could not use the toilet facilities. His future was looking uncertain.

Now, after building new ventilated latrines and disabled toilets in the three school grounds the pupils are able to use the new facilities throughout the day. Infection and disease is much less likely and girl pupils don't need to leave school grounds to find a place to relieve themselves, often at risk of being attacked. Emmanuel says "I am so happy because I can access the toilet on my own and easily spend time in school without worry. Thank you so much!"



### Project outcomes after one year:

- The number of children to toilet ratio has been reduced from 220:1 to 65:1
- Incidence of diarrhoea has decreased by over 50% for pupils and teachers
- Girl's school absence due to menstruation has reduced from 60% to 16%
- Average pupil performance and enrolment has also increased significantly. We will continue to monitor this over the next three years.



38.2 million

litres of safe water  
accessed



1,030

reusable sanitary kits  
made by trained local  
entrepreneurs



7,327

children benefitted  
from school projects



12,209

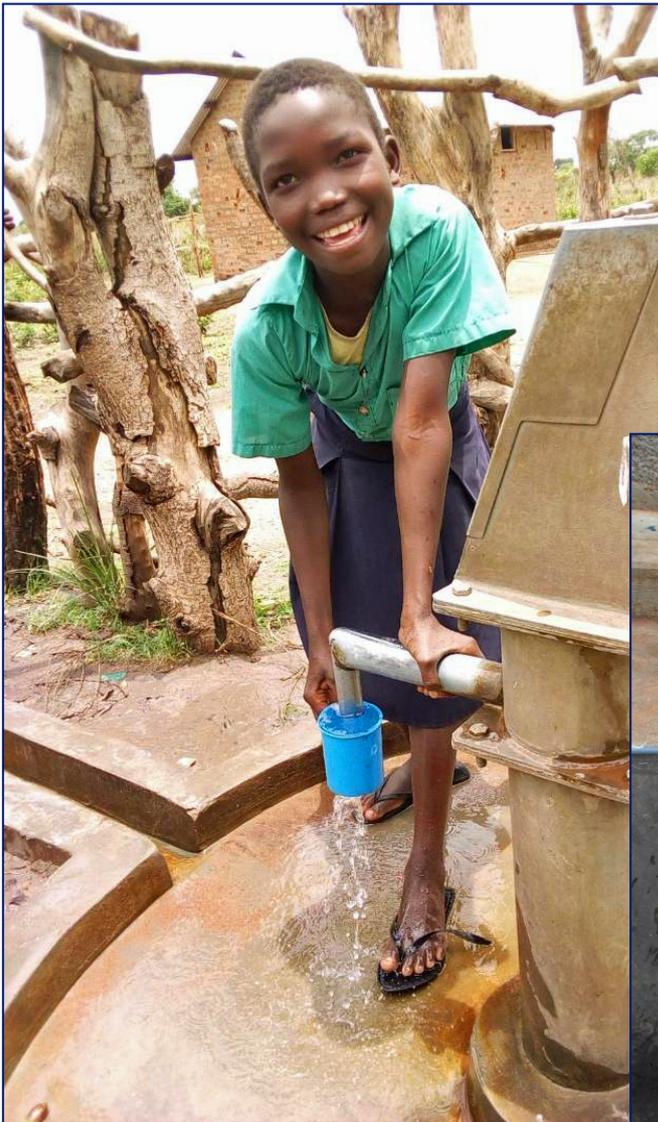
People with access to  
improved toilet  
facilities

## What we learned

We learned that the best way to ensure project success is to involve community members from the start. Continuing our dialogue between our project workers and the local residents helped us discover that young girls were lacking underwear and therefore couldn't use the reusable sanitary kits. We altered the kits to include sets of knickers which in turn helped these girls be able to attend school during their period.

## In 2018/19 we aim to

- Replicate this project in at least three more schools in Uganda
- Continue engaging with the local government to encourage adoption of best practice





# Hunger & Nutrition

“Who knew that bananas could pay for my children’s school fees?!” says Natasha, a farmer and mother of three living in Wakiso, Uganda. Natasha joined the Mukama development group to receive training to help improve her farming methods. She was struggling to grow enough food to feed her family, but now has more than enough to eat, and extra to sell at market.

“This new income has made it possible to send my kids to school, and we can even make some savings. There is so much joy and happiness at home when my kids tell us what they learned each day in school!” says Natasha.



## Project outcomes in 2017-18:

- 13 fully functioning farming development groups established with 15 farmers in each
- Farmers have diversified income by growing maize, beans, bananas and coffee
- Development groups empowered to lobby for services from the local government
- Farmers within development groups able to earn enough income to pay school fees and save

## What we learned

With the farmers organised into development groups, training and agricultural inputs can be shared; saving time and reducing costs. It also ensures that farmers are supported and are able to learn from their peers. This is crucial for the sustainability of the project’s impact.

## In 2018/19 we aim to

- Strengthen existing cooperatives with further training and new machinery to help establish their growth and sustainability
- Give training in climate sensitive agricultural practices, nutrition awareness and enhancement



9,360 kms  
cycled by Community  
Agricultural Trainers  
while providing peer  
training



120%  
increase in  
agricultural output



1.7 million  
bananas grown



# Sustainable Livelihoods

Jane, who lives in West Habog Habog in the Philippines with her husband and four children has her own business as a food vendor. Her income from her business was about 1,000 pesos a month (£15). Alongside her husband's small wage from his construction job, they were struggling to put enough food on the table for their family. Jane says "My life was changed when I was invited to join a Signpost Self-Help Group. During our weekly meetings we would discuss how to make small savings and loan repayments, make right choices for our family's finances and learn how to grow our businesses. I am grateful for the opportunity that has made me become strong in life's struggles, confident and fulfilled in life." Jane's business income has grown and she has now become a leader in the Self-Help Group, helping other women in the community.



## What we learned

Spending time in the communities is essential for developing good working relationships and understanding needs. Community members have an incredible capacity for growth and achievement and often only need a small hand up.

## In 2018/19 we aim to

- We aim to sustain the high increase in household income by continuing to train in best practice and business management, listening closely to community needs
- We will establish two new Self-Help Groups of around 30 people and give skills and business training to those in need of diversifying or growing their income.



733

People received skills/business training



44%

increase in Household income



Over

10,000

seedlings grown for sale through our first tree nursery enterprise

# Thank You!



Action against poverty  
**Signpost**  
International

Registered with  
**FR** FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR

The Signpost Centre, Lothian Crescent, Dundee, DD4 0HU

[enquiries@signpost-international.org](mailto:enquiries@signpost-international.org)

[www.signpost-international.org](http://www.signpost-international.org)

**Tel: +44 (0) 1382 504033**

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OSCR: SCO38850. Registered Office: Signpost International, 49 Station Road, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6EA