

Action against poverty

Signpost

International

Annual Review
2018-2019



This year we are celebrating that
16,244
people benefitted from
our work across three
different countries!

Dear supporter,

2018 marked my tenth year having the privilege of working at Signpost International, to be part of this amazing movement of people with a shared radical vision for an equitable world where poverty and injustice are eliminated, people thrive and communities flourish. Truly God's Kingdom manifest!

Remembering that behind each of these statistics is a person with hopes, dreams, and aspirations keeps us grounded in our motivation for doing what we do – to model Jesus' example of walking alongside people experiencing poverty and injustice; and to help them address their challenges, enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty. I hope that you find encouragement on these pages, inspiration in the statistics and stories of change, and excitement for the year ahead.

Thank you again for being with us on the journey; together we can achieve great things.

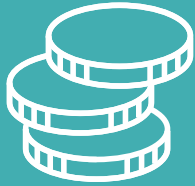


Jamie Morrison
Chief Executive Officer

Teaching the next generation...

Through our plans for establishing a Centre for Global Learning we aim to teach youngsters the complexities of poverty along with their rights and responsibilities as UK citizens. Global citizenship is needed because we live in an interconnected world. The actions we take here in Scotland can have a profound effect on our global neighbours. We want to foster a society that celebrates diversity whilst recognising our common humanity. You can read more about our plans overleaf.





609

people gave to the work of Signpost this year

These donations raised

£196,705

to take action against poverty

Expenditure

Support and Running Costs (12p)

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.

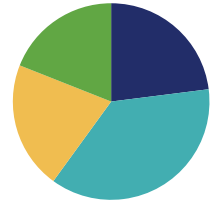
Communications and Fundraising (12p)

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

Income

- General - 23%
- Child Sponsorship - 37%
- Grants - 21%
- Other - 19%

Total Income - £291,544



Expenditure

Of every £1 donated to us...

- Developing Communities - 76p
- Communications and Fundraising - 12p
- Support and Running Costs - 12p



Developing Communities (76p)

To read more about developing communities, please lift up



Sustainable Livelihoods



We seek to avoid dependency by encouraging those we walk alongside to develop and grow sustainable businesses to provide for themselves and their families. Saving is a key part of this strategy and we have been greatly encouraged this year by the phenomenal levels of savings by some group members.

The Pastillas group, one of 14 Signpost has supported this year in the Philippines, has a balance of £1,450 available for loans to members for business growth, family needs, and home repair. Loans are offered at a low rate of interest; a service previously unavailable to many in the community which significantly impacted opportunities for growth and development. Group members are incredibly proud of their achievements and continue to encourage others to save.

What we learned:

Our research in NE Uganda has shown that three-quarters of the households surveyed earned less than £0.40 per day (7 times lower than national average), with most community members being subsistence farmers and food security being their most pressing need. Therefore, any programme to improve incomes will first focus on addressing food and nutritional needs.

In 2019/20 we aim to:

- Building on lessons from our research we shall begin a 3-year programme in NE Uganda focussing on inclusive livelihood strategies, ensuring that our projects are accessible to all and no one is left behind
- Strengthen existing enterprise groups through training and provision of seed capital for business growth



On average, individual group members in the Philippines have savings of

£50

(approximately 6 weeks' wages)



524

people received skills and business training

Hunger & Nutrition



By encouraging farming groups to diversify, not only in the variety of crops they plant but also into other sources of income, farmers have been able to ride out a difficult year. One group member, Milly, a 48-year old grandmother with five dependants at home used her savings, coupled with a loan from her group to invest in animal rearing. The profits from this venture were then invested in constructing a one-room house suitable for rental and increasing her monthly income by 2,000%! **“In addition to a greater income the skills and knowledge from trainings have increased my confidence and greatly changed our lives; we can now afford to smile, we are leading healthy lives, and most importantly my children attend school”** said Milly.

Project outcomes in 2018-19:

- 3,500 school meals provided daily for pupils through their own gardens planted at four schools this year
- Farmers mobilised to lobby local government for improved price controls of key crops
- 75% of farmers adopting improved and sustainable agricultural practices

What we learned:

Unpredictable weather and regional instability in neighbouring South Sudan affecting crop prices underlined the importance of crop diversification by farmers and a move away from market-sensitive crops. Although some crop yields increased from last year, generally cash-crop yields were down impacting on monthly household incomes.

In 2019/20 we aim to:

- Build the climate resilience of farmers and strengthen their farming groups
- Deliver training sessions on food nutrition to address under- and mal-nourishment in children



2.2 million

bananas grown
by our farmers



7:

the average number
of crop varieties
grown by farmers



Wash



Our WASH projects (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) have provided communities and schools with improved latrines, access to safe water, and sanitary kits for girls and women. We surpassed our aim of working in three schools by supporting new projects in five schools in Uganda.

By improving school facilities and removing barriers for girls to access education our projects have a far-reaching impact. For example, girls who complete primary and secondary education are likely to earn income (an additional 15% per extra year of schooling), have fewer unwanted pregnancies (each additional year reducing pregnancy rate by 5-10%) and break the cycle of poverty.

Project outcomes in 2018-19:

- Construction of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines at two primary schools in NE Uganda for 2,077 pupils
- Training of five Water User Committees to ensure sustainability of services
- 1,240 sanitary kits produced and distributed to girls in NE Uganda
- 7,821 pupils and community members trained in best WASH practices

What we learned:

Rehabilitating existing water sources and training user committees rather than installing new wells are a better use of funds and enable more people to be reached. We are now working more closely with local governments and communities to identify other possible sites and training local masons and engineers.

In 2019/20 we aim to:

- Roll out provision of reusable sanitary kits to all girls of school age within one district in Uganda coupled with broad community-focussed awareness raising campaign
- Pilot a project improving access to safe water for island communities on Lake Victoria, Tanzania
- Install or rehabilitate two water sources



74,000
additional days gained at
school for female pupils



3
water sources
rehabilitated providing
safe water to

5,850
people

Global Citizenship



Global citizenship is about gaining an understanding of ones' place in the world, taking an active role within your local community, and working with others for a more sustainable and just world for all. In our overseas programmes this may include strengthening local communities' ability to advocate for their rights, whilst in the UK we focus on educating local school pupils about international development and global inequalities.

This year we laid the groundwork for a unique approach to global citizenship through the development of the Centre for Global Learning at our offices in Dundee. It will be an education hub for youth and school groups to not only learn about local and global issues of poverty, but to experience what it is like to stand in the shoes of someone living in poverty and to help them see that other people's lives matter. It will be an interactive space where we will use exhibits, virtual reality headsets and outdoor learning to inspire young people to look beyond their own circumstances and become advocates for change.

On their return from a recent trip one pupil commented, "Uganda has really changed the way I look at life and the way I value things. The experience had a profound effect on my personality and I believe that I have changed for the better."

In 2019/20 we aim to:

- Have our fully refurbished Centre for Global Learning open and welcoming visitors
- Continue our workshop series with Monifieth High School students and begin work with two other local schools
- Continue strengthening communities' ability to advocate and lobby local government



613

people trained in communities overseas in child rights and broader human rights



6

petitions successfully submitted by local communities overseas, lobbying local governments for service provision



Thank You

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Signpost
International



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Registered Charity. OSCR: SC038850.

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