

Annual Review 2020-2021



Mrs Kazungu from Katuuso next to the new clean water source in the village



This year we are celebrating that

23,498

people benefitted from our work across three different countries!



Dear supporter,

In recent months I have been regularly asked the question, how have the past twelve months been for Signpost International? I always begin my answer to this question by acknowledging the challenges and difficulties of the past year. Our staff team have been separated and working from home. Our programmes throughout the world have not been able to operate as normal due to lockdown. But I am then always quick to highlight that despite the challenges this has been a year of transformation and growth for Signpost International. We have seen the old Signpost Centre transformed into the Roundhouse. Our first Scottish project based from this building, the Roundhouse Community Kitchen, tackling food insecurity and food waste in Dundee has evolved and is now up and running. We have added two new staff members to our team, and we also have eighteen new volunteers. When so much of life has stood still, so much has happened at Signpost and we are extremely thankful for God's guidance and provision in these past twelve months. As you read through this year's annual review I hope you will be greatly encouraged to see what your support has helped us achieve and the lives that have been changed as a result.

Jamie Morrison, Chief Executive Officer

St Paul's Lomokori Community School

In 2019 we were made aware of a great educational need in the Napak district of Uganda. St Paul's Community School had semi-permanent classrooms made of grass and timber, but these collapsed during the rainy season. This meant the only place to teach pupils was under the trees outside. In order to address this ourselves and our Ugandan partners were able to support the local community to build a structurally sound

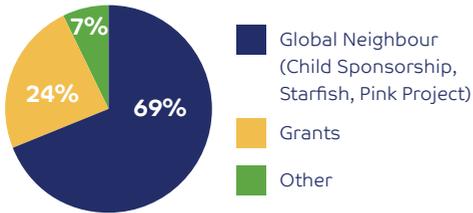
school building. Despite the constraints of the pandemic, St Paul's Lomokori Community School now has six new permanent classrooms with a Head Teacher's office and a library well equipped with textbooks. The constructed permanent classroom block is in line with government standards and has attracted parents to move their children to this school. As a result, pupils now have a safe environment to learn and study in.



The newly completed St Paul's Lomokori Community School

Income and expenditure

Total income:
£284,013



Total expenditure:
£254,403



Support, Running and Governance 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 (13p)

As a Global Neighbour 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 relationships, helping our Global Neighbours 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. In the past year there has been a significant increase in the number of talks that we have delivered, as groups have been meeting virtually. This has meant geography has not been a barrier and we have been able to share the work of Signpost with many different groups throughout the UK.

Programmes (79p)

To read more about our programmes, please unfold.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge the support from the following Trusts/Foundation: Al-Maktoum College, Baillie Gifford Community Awards, Bank of Scotland Foundation, British & Foreign School Society, Claremont Trust, Dundee Foodbank, Dundee Partnership Award, Dyer Trade of Dundee, Grace Trust, Lang Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, and Souter Foundation.



527
Individuals supported
our work as
Global Neighbours



£195,969
Raised from these
donations to take action
against poverty



Hunger & Nutrition

In March 2021 we launched our first food project in the UK, The Roundhouse Community Kitchen in Dundee. The mission of the Roundhouse Community Kitchen is to transform surplus food destined for landfill and turn it into nutritionally balanced meals which is distributed to foodbanks and larders across the city and given to those in need. This in partnership with food provision charities will play a vital part in tackling the issue of hunger that exists locally. The project will also challenge food waste in the city as it is estimated 26,000 tonnes of food goes to waste in Dundee every year. In partnership with food provision charities this project will play a vital part in tackling the issue of hunger that exists locally. In the first three months of the new project the Community Kitchen cooked up 2519 meals. In the short space of time that the Community Kitchen has been running we have received some wonderful feedback such as:

“My neighbour got the chilli and said it was amazing and I got the apple and cinnamon pudding which was brilliant.”

The Community Kitchen has been supported by Dundee Foodbank and their Stock Coordinator, Michael Calder, had this to say on the new project:

What we learned

Before the Community Kitchen could start cooking there were many protocols that needed to be implemented. Food supply needed established, food safety rules of a manufacturing unit needed to be navigated and volunteers needed to be recruited. This project could not go on without the help of our growing team of volunteers, who invest their time and ideas to help us help others.



Volunteer Ann preparing food at the Community Kitchen

“There is so much food in the system that nobody should be going hungry. The really good thing about this project is that it is extending the shelf life of these products by being able to chill or freeze them, taking the pressure off us. It is great how many meals have been cooked and distributed to those in need.”



3.8
tonnes of food saved from going to waste in the first three months of the Community Kitchen



18
volunteers regularly support the Community Kitchen



Global Citizenship

In the past twelve months schools in the UK and overseas have been closed at different periods due to national lockdowns, meaning we have not been able to deliver global citizenship programmes as we usually would. However, in Uganda at different stages in the past year pupils have returned to school and have received training in sexual and reproductive health and rights. These sessions created an opportunity for the children to ask about their rights and raise any questions or concerns that they have. Pupils expressed interest in knowing where to seek help when they feel at risk. As a result of the training the pupils acquired the skills to apply their rights in their daily life and learned how to receive support and report safeguarding issues. Teachers, school staff and local leaders were also educated about the sexual and reproductive rights of pupils in order that children are protected.

What we learned

In Uganda there is a lot of silence in many of the communities we work in about the violation of sexual and reproductive health and rights of female children. This has resulted in intensifying and deepening safeguarding awareness campaigns among parents, guardians, and communities as it is essential that children know their rights and how to report issues of safeguarding.



**Eric, Deputy Head Teacher
at Jupangira Primary school**

“The training has enlightened me on the best ways to allow children to express their opinions. As a school, we are going to designate a safe corner where we can listen to the challenges of the children and provide guidance and counselling to them, or other support. We are also going to ensure that we have emergency sanitary pads in case any girl needs them, in addition to making available extra school uniforms for girls who may need them during their menstruation period.”

Eric, Deputy Head Teacher at Jupangira Primary school



2,584
people trained in
child safeguarding



364
school pupils received
training in child
advocacy approaches



Wash

In Uganda 51% of the population lack access to safe water. Drinking dirty water can lead to diarrhoea which in early childhood can not only be deadly, but contributes to Uganda's high levels of stunting, which in turn affects children's cognitive development and performance at school. It is therefore essential that we work with our in-country partners to improve access to a safe and clean water source in the schools and communities that we work in. This year we have worked with our Ugandan partners ARUWE to start the process of installing a clean water borehole at Athele primary school in the Nebbi district of Uganda, where the entire community lacks access to safe and clean water. Pupils at Athele often miss valuable learning time in school as they are having to walk for many hours per day to collect water. This new project will install one deep borehole at the school in Athele to provide safe water for the children and the whole local community. The children will also be trained in safe water practices. This project will directly benefit 1,603 people once it is up and running and as the borehole has a life expectancy of 25 years it will benefit at least a further 6,275 pupils over the next 25 years.

No clean water source in Athele has meant children have had to collect dirty water

What we learned

In the past year as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic we have all become extremely familiar with wearing face masks and in the UK access to face masks has not been a problem. Whereas in Uganda there were thousands of individuals that could not access or afford a face mask. This led to a project that distributed face masks at a subsidised cost. This simple provision has allowed people to start working and operating their businesses again which they were unable to do without a face mask which they could not afford.



1,025
Individuals received
face masks to wear
during the Coronavirus
pandemic



20
Hand washing
facilities were set up
to ensure effective
hand washing



Sustainable Livelihoods

In line with government restrictions in Uganda the farming development groups that we facilitate have continued to operate. The development groups equip farmers in improved sustainable methods and train them in business management. The farmers have acquired knowledge and skills in diversified farming systems and now they have applied the skills on their farms. In addition to this they received training on how to save and effectively sell their produce. The training has been beneficial to group members, and they are now advising amongst themselves on the best farming practices and the proper ways to save. As a result of the training these farmers are now expecting to sell enough produce to enable them to start saving money for themselves and their families.

In the neighbourhood of West Habog Habog in the Philippines, the six self-help groups that operate have not been able to meet as they usually would due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Despite this the groups have done extremely well in the past year and have increased their incomes through diversification, benefitting members such as Lenny.

“The group encouraged having a livelihood, so I started to run a small

What we learned

One of the barriers preventing the farming development groups from increasing their production of diversified crops was not having the required tools to produce and harvest different crops. The farmers then received a variety of new tools including hand hoes and backpack crop-sprayers which have contributed to the increased production of different food crops in the farming groups, resulting in a greater income for the farmers.



Self-Help group meeting in West Habog Habog in the Philippines

vegetable store in my area. My store has prospered, and I extended help to my fellow mothers by giving to those who are in need. I am really happy and value my new income.”



125
women and young people are now trained in improved farming practices and meeting regularly in peer support groups



1,750kg
of groundnut (peanut) seed was distributed to farmers after they lost their harvest last year through drought

The local community in Lomokori working together
to build St Paul's Lomokori Community School



Thank you

Action against poverty
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