

CHILDREN FIRST UGANDA LIMITED

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS & ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Directors of Children First Uganda have continued to manage financial support and direction as well as practical help to the Team working at CALM Africa in spite of being unable to conduct personal visits to the Charity in Uganda. We have always attached great importance to this in order to ensure compliance with best practice and total transparency of expenditure of the donations received from Children First Uganda. That said, through regular communication and zoom meetings we are satisfied that procedures and practices remain in place and are being followed responsibly and that our sister Charity operates to optimum efficiency, in spite of difficult times, essentially, the cost of living in Uganda and the Pandemic. Both issues continue to place a considerable strain on their operation.

In addition, scrutiny and cross referencing of the annual audit carried out by the private company, employed by CALM Africa, was also made and this showed no irregularities.

Governmental charges, which continue to be levied on promotional events, although they have been much reduced during this year, have a huge impact on Charity funds. This is not a satisfactory situation but one which is beyond our control. Nonetheless, we are still able to report yet another successful, albeit modest year, in meeting the objectives and mission of both Charities.

INCOME GENERATED

In 2021 a total of £***** was made available to CALM Africa to fund ongoing projects, as defined in the Priority List, along with donations from UK Sponsors for the educational support of some 20 children. Restricted donations have continued to be received from a wide range of people and bodies. Other donations were received from UK donors and were assigned to a selected number of staff for the work they do in maintaining the schools and the Charity in general, this agreed by the CFU Trustees. It is our practice to ensure that income received is transferred at the earliest opportunity to CALM Africa's Bank in Kampala. In addition to this, through the efforts of Trustees and volunteers, a further £1200 was made available from local sources and initiatives undertaken in the local area. In accordance with our mandate, we operate with full transparency. Audit reports are made available to all interested and authorised parties.

A snapshot of how some of the monies transferred to CALM was spent, is shown below:

Staff allowances support: CFU Trustees continue to meet the allowances of key staff and in doing so maintain the morale of staff whilst delivering CALM projects and operation. This has ensured the continued success of critical projects and other initiatives.

Construction of teacher's quarters: Due to the completion of construction works at the teachers' quarters, we now have the capacity to house all teachers close to the school and improve not only the security of the children but also to extend learning time with children.

Classrooms and Dormitory facilities for kindergarten children (Early Childhood Development Centre): Again through private funding, the new complex is 85% complete. For child protection and security, this construction is sited close to the teachers quarters. This was necessary to comply with Governmental legislation, which required such pre-school facilities, to be located away from the main school, both Primary and Secondary.

CALM Africa Priority List:

General: Clearly, there is still much to do and demands for improvement in many areas rests heavily with Children First Uganda. Nevertheless, we continue to work hard to seek donations to meet the ever growing priority list

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ECDC): ROC is £1.7k

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN:

(Report from last year)

JMLC has an ecological and serene garden with special medicinal plants, flowers, domesticated birds and small animals. This is an ambient and peaceful resting place for children, teachers and visitors. There is a need create a seating area which will comprise 10 benches for people to sit and practice meditation, reflection and creative thinking. **We are delighted to report that through generous donations for a variety of sources this project is now completed and continues to be enjoyed by many.**

FURNITURE FOR JMLC

(Report from previous years)

Given the increasing number of children in JMLC, the school needs more desks, chairs and benches. This, we estimate at £1.1k. **There has been only a small improvement in this area.**

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOILETS AT THE JMLC:

(Report from last year)

Moderation is essential and has to be addressed soon for health and cleanliness reasons. It is hoped that this will be addressed in 2022. **This project is on going.**

SCHOOL CLOSURES

For most of 2020 and 2021 Schools in Uganda have been closed. It is evident that the vaccination uptake has been very slow compared with other countries and whilst the Charity made best effort to help families with home schooling there seemed little appetite from families to take up this option. This was not really a surprise as families struggled to find work and feed their families.

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Sponsorship support to children: The sponsorship of vulnerable children has continued with CFU working hard to find committed sponsors to support children through primary and secondary education. This has enabled CALM to realise its goal in ensuring quality education for many vulnerable children and, as a consequence, enabled children to realise not only their full potential but also their right to education (the main mission of CALM Africa). Demand for support has risen but to date, due to the Pandemic, both Charities have been unable improve the situation. Schools have now opened so we expect to see some further increase in demand

Networking with LUFBRA, London and York University: CFU, through maintaining solid links with these Universities, has allowed the Charity to receive volunteers on placement who have funded and executed a variety of projects to a successful conclusion, such as building facilities to improve learning and education in general. For the last two years planned placements have had to be cancelled due to Covid. We hope for a return to the norm in 2022.

The Moore water project: This project was set up to provide water to the Jolly Mercy Learning Centre so that both children and the local community have access to clean drinking water. Through financial support from CFU, the maintenance of this water source has been continually maintained and is now recognised as one of the best clean water outlets in the District. Also the team have been able to find funding to bring the stand pipe to the school itself, which is an outstanding development as children no longer have to walk some 600 m to where the old standpipe was located. Furthermore it now provides running water to the toilets at the teachers' accommodation. Further standpipes have been added and now serves some of the local village community.

A summary of other CALM Africa Updates are as follows:.

The CALM Africa school, JMLC continued to perform well at the National Examinations

CALM Africa continued to work with 'Free Lunch for Children International', a Chinese based Charity to improve children nutrition at JMLC and this has positively impacted on performance. This partnership has been essential during the Covid pandemic.

In 2021, CALM Africa trained Prospective Parents and Parents of Children at JMLC, (when Covid permitted) along with other community members. The focus of the training was Early Childhood Development.

CALM Africa carried out a third study on Commercial Exploitation of Children in Kampala and Wakiso Districts.

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PR - marketing CALM: With support from members of CFU and friends, CALM Africa's capacity to market itself has continued to develop.

SUMMARY

The Trustees of Children First Uganda remain committed to supporting the people of Uganda to improve the lives of vulnerable children. We remain impressed with the way CALM Africa conducts its business and interacts with CFU. This is a direct reflection on the influences and time afforded to CALM by the Trustees of CFU, through regular zoom calls and written communications. Whilst the Pandemic has affected all aspects of life we report a modest but productive year for the Children First Uganda Charity

Lt Colonel (Retd) A L Bateman MBE

Trustee

Children First Uganda