

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04607292
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1100045

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019
FOR
KIDS FOR KIDS**



KIDS FOR KIDS

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

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KIDS FOR KIDS

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

The leaders of the thirty five villages, asking to be adopted by Kids for Kids this year, all reported children dying in 2018 from starvation.

Kids for Kids is unique. We are the only charity created specifically to help the children of Darfur, Sudan. Our projects are all designed to be sustainable. They are integrated, so that combined they lift individual families out of abject poverty, and help whole communities on to the first rung of the ladder to a better future. All are projects the people themselves have identified as being key things they desperately need help with. We have shown over the years that this policy is the best long term answer to the extreme deprivation that exists in Darfur, but we could not allow families, and their animals, to suffer during what was predicted to be one of the worst years of drought for decades. We therefore determined to provide as much emergency aid as we could, to help people through what are called the 'hungry months', the months when the next harvest is still months away. Thanks to our wonderful supporters, and to all those who helped, and came to our events, we provided seed, fodder, and flour to over 2,000 families, and their animals, in the hardest hit villages. Many people donate 'to the greatest need' and that allows me to react swiftly when there is an emergency, or, as this week, when **Hassan Mehisi**, our indefatigable Project Officer, unexpectedly sourced fuel for the drilling machine so that the Water Environment Sanitation department (WES) was able to drill two new handpumps in Teiga and Geleidat.

You will be aware that Sudan is facing a political crisis. Shortages of basic essentials, even bread, lead to uprisings across the country. Fuel is hard to come by and that affects virtually everything. Our own field visits are curtailed; water, from anything but handpumps, is inaccessible; medicines are in short supply; and now the internet has been shut down across the country. This affects everyone, but conditions are always at their worst in Darfur where there is so little to start with. What is absolutely certain is that Kids for Kids is needed more than ever before. Journalists, who were allowed into the country for a few short weeks, are again being refused visas and, without internet, little news is reaching the rest of the world. People will not help, unless they know that children need them. I am making as many speeches as I possibly can to raise awareness. Please will you do what you can to ask for help? As I said to the children at **Bishop Thomas Grant School** this morning – no one is too young, or too old, to make a difference. My personal effort to contribute was to open my house and garden, as well as holding an art exhibition – something I have not done for many years – with the aim to help a further 100 families.



I am delighted to say, that with the help of our loyal **Surrey Committee** and the perfectly timed arrival of volunteers **Joanna and Jeremy Heal** - in time to save our tents from collapsing as the weather changed from drought like heat to sudden violent storms – it was a huge success and exceeded our expectations. The change in the weather revived my drooping garden and people came in droves. It was a little intimidating to find that nearly 400 people came to my house over that weekend, but the results were more than I dared hope. We raised sufficient to help nearly 250 families from that one event alone! It can be done!

Kids for Kids will never raise hopes, then let people in need down. Having made the decision to provide emergency aid to as many families as we could, we had to delay our plans for providing the much requested kindergartens, health units and

veterinary centres to our best older villages. I am delighted to confirm, however, that we are now starting the lengthy process for building Kindergartens in Hillat Kharif, Kindro, Lawabid, Majoub A and Kulkul. Additionally we are planning to provide health units in both Dor Fazy and Kamala Kira. This entails first and foremost, getting agreement from the communities that they will take over the ownership of each building, once built and equipped, and maintain them long term. We then go with the village leaders, to the individual State Ministries to get, for the kindergartens, agreement that they will provide teachers, and for all our buildings that they are in accord with Government policy. Without this agreement it would be impossible to proceed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

We have been able to plan our projects with confidence because of the loyal support of so many of you. You will see from our accounts that we managed to increase our income this year from £420,231 to £488,232. An astonishing achievement as we approach the uncertainties of Brexit, and Darfur continues to be below the radar of public awareness. I am grateful to supporters who choose specific projects to sponsor. It can take time, even, in the case of water, several years, to complete projects, yet I need to know the funds are available. I am particularly happy that we did so well in implementing the projects that were specifically donated during the year. You will see that under 'Restricted Funds' only £18,983 remains of the budget. In our planned projects for the coming twelve months, although we say that we plan to install five handpumps, if the drill, and team to work it, becomes available, we will fund as many more as we are able from unrestricted funds. **Water is such a key priority in a land which is parched for many months of the year.**



One of the most exciting projects for me in the coming year is the start of a new five year tree planting project. I will look forward to giving you updates during the year via our website and social media pages on FaceBook, Instagram and Twitter. To stabilise the desert, and to regreen the land, is a dream that I am beginning to believe could be a reality having seen what we have achieved already with the 14 different varieties of drought resistant trees we have been planting since 2007.

Will we be able to go back to Darfur at last? Once again, it was not possible to obtain visas to allow us to visit Darfur ourselves, although I am hoping that the change of government in Sudan will allow us to return once there is stability across the country. We were therefore very grateful indeed to the

British Council in Cairo for inviting us to hold our Programme Meetings with our Darfur team, at their teaching centre, and to everyone there for facilitating all our requests. Our Programme Meetings are essential, not least to improve the morale of us all, and, crucially, to enable me to check actual receipts and invoices which **Hassan** brings from El Fasher in Darfur. I photograph all documents as part of our policy to ensure that the reports we receive during the year are accurate and verifiable. Seeing our team from Darfur, instead of communicating through written reports and email, makes a real difference.



It was a great pleasure to see **Adam Sabil Adam Abbaker, Abdulla Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed** and, for the first time as part of these meetings, dear **Fowzia Abbas Abdelhamid**, Chairman of the **Women's Development Committee** and founder member of our **Kids for Kids Steering Committee** in Darfur, which implements our projects. Key member of our meetings is of course **Dr Salim Ahmed Salim**, our Programme Manager. It is he and Hassan who are our key team and with whom I am in touch on an almost daily basis. It was not possible for **Omer Shumeina**, our Honorary Treasurer, or **Hatim Abu Sineina**, our voluntary Chairman in Khartoum, to join us and, because of the instability in recent months across the entire country, Omer had to cancel his much longed for visit to London to meet our Patrons and Trustees. Omer and Hatim have been amazing supporters for our entire 18 years and it is their hard work that ensures that our funds go exactly where we want them to go – to help children and their families in remote villages in Darfur, so remote that people in Khartoum have little or no understanding of the ways in which the region is marginalised.

With soaring inflation and the collapse of the Sudanese pound it has been increasingly difficult budgeting for projects. No sooner do we agree a price than it changes. This has affected everything from the price of goats, to salaries. Our intention had been to adopt eight, not five, villages this year, but the difficulty – which is country wide – of withdrawing anything but a few pounds out of the banks, and the lack of fuel affecting all travel and deliveries, has meant that delays in our projects have caused us to postpone adoption until next year. My plan is to start training and selection of beneficiaries in the next few months so that they can purchase their goats at the optimum time to enable them to be a real benefit. It was very upsetting having to accept this delay, but we have of course continued working with, not just the villages we adopted in 2018, but also older villages.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED) for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

I am happy to report that the rotation figures from our older villages has been very successful. It is important to check that these continue as they are not only evidence of the sustainability of the programme, but are an indication of the success of other projects in the villages. Each year every Kids for Kids' village has an **Annual Review**. This is designed for all those involved with the projects, either beneficiaries in receipt of goats, donkeys, blankets, mosquito nets, farm tools etc, and all the trained volunteers – the midwives, first aid workers, paravets and the committees - to answer to the community as a whole. The most successful are able to apply for a Kindergarten, Health unit or Veterinary Unit, or indeed other help. Majoub A for example is applying for help with a water pipe.



To date two of these Kindergartens have been sponsored, one as a lasting memorial to a supporter's loved one. **If you would like to sponsor something like this, and choose its name, you will create a lasting memorial for something, or someone, special.**

Regular Donors are of immense importance in ensuring that we can fulfil our commitments in Darfur. It is crucial for me to be able to plan ahead. I cannot do this without knowing what funds we will receive during the year. I would never agree to adopt a village, provide a kindergarten or a handpump, without knowing that we had the funds. **When people are in the greatest need, to let them down is inconceivable.** Giving people hope transforms so much for them. Knowing that I have donations that I can rely on, is of indescribable benefit. Key donors are those who have become **Children's Champions**. These are supporters who have committed to a three-year adoption of specific projects. There are five levels, from Bronze £1,000 a year – a commitment to provide 36 goats and 6 donkeys – to Diamond, a three-year project to adopt an entire community for £30,000 each year. **Please do talk to me if you are interested in becoming a Regular Donor or Children's Champion. You will be helping us change the world.**

Administration continues to be challenge. It is surprising to think that we have been helping children and their families in Darfur for eighteen years. I sometimes say wistfully "All I wanted to do was to provide a handpump and some goats" when I am faced with yet more paperwork! I am hoping to be in a position to appoint a Deputy CEO in the not too distant future, who will have time to learn how we work, before I eventually pass on the mantle of CEO. So far this plan has not been successful! No sooner does someone master all our systems than they have moved on to another bigger charity. It has been so disappointing, not least as we have been very fortunate to have been helped by some wonderful people. The same has happened during this year. **Tracey Martin** moved on, and I wish her every success, but I miss her! My first attempts to find a replacement have not worked, so that I am now looking forward to **Jo Booth** joining us in August.



I am immensely grateful to **Sage Lancaster** who, despite giving me ample warning that she would be taking a year's sabbatical to travel, has continued to work at a distance. It is largely thanks to her that we had such wonderful prizes in this year's Auctions at our **Ambassadors' Ball** that helped make it the most successful yet, raising over £40,000. It was also thanks to Sage's persistence that I was nominated for the **Sternberg/Times Active Life Award**. I was honoured to be named runner up at a mere 71 to the winner who was 90! It gave me immense pleasure to be able to donate my prize of £1,000 to Kids for Kids. Just think how many goats that will be over the years as kids are passed on after each successive two years' loan. Perhaps getting older does have its advantages!

Pete Barclay continues to maintain our database keeping Kids for Kids up and running. Without his assistance and patience I do not believe we could function. We now have an even better system and more reliable database hosting service. I am also grateful to **Matt Deubert** for endlessly rescuing us as our computers, printers and other systems fail.

The loyalty of volunteers ensures our success: It has become even harder to raise funds because of the silence of the media on Darfur. I am immensely grateful to all the wonderful volunteers who continue to make Kids for Kids possible. **Mary Jane Kupsky** in Chicago manages our US Friends with enormous humanity. I love reading her thank you letters to supporters. She is a wonderful volunteer, providing a caring front for all our efforts in America. Thanks to Mary Jane and also to Sage, who is also American, we continue to have **Super Star Status** with Global Giving. My thanks too to **Mary Clark** for thanking so diligently UK donors who use this means to donate. We continue to receive 10% of our donations through Global Giving.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

There are many behind the scenes jobs that need to be done, from stuffing envelopes and providing food and drinks, to folding and delivering leaflets, and, not least standing in driving rain on the streets of Dorking during our Annual Street Collection. That this annual event continues is thanks to **Kathy Lady Orde** in particular, but also to loyal volunteers. My thanks go once again to the **Surrey Committee**, to all its members and to our supporters. The twice yearly mailing is key to our fundraising, but have you thought how long it takes to stick on labels and stamps, not to mention folding the leaflets? **Beverley Wheeler** is indefatigable behind the scenes getting it all ready for the rest of us – a very special thank you to her. **Please do let me know if you might consider helping in any way.** There are new members – **Ann and Richard Lienard** – who have joined our Surrey Committee this year, but we are in need of more. I am also launching a small **London Group** this year. Please get in touch if you are interested – I really need more help please.

Ensuring our finances are clearly and diligently recorded is crucial, and I am indebted to **Louise Bradshaw** who continues as our wonderful part time bookkeeper, and to **Robin Radclyffe** who, in addition to maintaining our Database, including ensuring we follow GDPR rules, helps analyse all the reports we receive from Darfur.

These are the small group who ensure that our administration runs smoothly and efficiently and I am enormously grateful to them. Of course, our Trustees are key. **Nadia Giske, Dante Campailla, Alan Jenkins** and my son **Alastair King-Smith** continue to be a resource behind the scenes with all the many exigencies of running a charity in one of the most challenging regions of the world.

Our Events not only raise funds, but remind people that children in Darfur need them. Our arguably most loved event is our Annual Candlelit Christmas Concert, which we held once again at the beautiful St Peter's Eaton Square. It was therefore with a heavy heart that I heard that our much loved Patron **Julie Etchingham** cannot be with us for our concert in 2019. Julie has become a fixture and I am going to miss her. Even more upsetting, was the news that our brilliant Music Director from Queen's Gate School, **Egon Liepa**, had a major stroke just before Christmas. Thankfully, with the wonderful support of his partner **Jeremy Pask**, he is well on the road to recovery but I do not think he will be well enough to take charge this year. However, Headmistress **Roz Kamaryc** assures me that her girls will be with us again and as **Joanna Lumley** has promised to host the evening I can invite you with confidence to what I know will be a perfect start to Christmas. Do please join us on Thursday 5th December 2019.



I repeat again what our Programme Manager, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim said last year *“The presence of water in any village is a principal factor of movement of people to or from a village, so most of Kids for Kids' villages received incoming families, not outgoing people”*. Unless we help people to stay in their own homes, which is where they want to be, there will be no end to the flood of refugees seeking help across the world. To help families in Darfur, is to help ourselves.

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Mrs P. M. Parker MBE - Trustee

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