

Charity registration number 1100045

Company registration number 04607292 (England and Wales)

KIDS FOR KIDS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



KIDS FOR KIDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr F D N Campailla
Mr P H Doyle
Mr A King-Smith
Mrs P M Parker OBE, Chairman
Mrs E A Sutton
Mr K M O Abulrahman
Mr L Traxon

(Appointed 14 November
2022)

Charity number

1100045

Company number

04607292

Independent examiner

Darren Harding ACA FCCA DChA
Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
1-7 Station Road
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West Sussex
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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Last year I wrote that “the children living in remote villages have the right, as do all our children, to the essentials of our modern day world – yet they lack even water. And this year they face starvation”. At the start of the current year I knew that, in addition to our determination to introduce our sustainable projects to as many families as possible, we would need funds to provide emergency relief to feed children who were already going hungry. I could not have imagined that as the new financial year started, appalling conflict would erupt across Sudan. That has turned into even worse violence and abuses in Darfur. Weapons of unbelievable power are being used against helpless civilians in the capital, Khartoum. In Darfur, every day there are yet more reports of atrocities, murders and unprovoked violence against men, women and their children. The total withdrawal of the UN from Darfur has left a vacuum. There are now no international forces to help enforce peace and there are no international observers. The world press is virtually silent and international pressure, even from our own Government, is minimal. There appears to be no one prepared to intervene to stop the massacre.

So far our villages have not suffered directly. It is easy to forget that Darfur is vast. In North Darfur there are signs that groups not affiliated to either of the fighting forces are helping to establish some security. But banks remain closed, so all form of normal economic activity or project implementation remains incredibly challenging. I am watching closely so that as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so we will provide as much emergency help as we can. **That is why I am appealing urgently for help to build an Emergency Fund.**

But our main aim of providing sustainable help to transform the lives of children in Darfur remains. I cannot underestimate the value of every one of our projects right now. They are the reason communities are able to withstand these challenges, economic shocks and terrible inflation. To me most emotive of all are our village midwives. We have 110 established Kids for Kids' villages but we have funded many more village midwives across Darfur. With hospitals barely functioning and travel dangerous, the impact these wonderful women is having on saving the lives of expectant mothers and their infants is incalculable. Goat's milk for our children, handpumps close to villages, mosquito nets, blankets, farm tools, our first aid workers and veterinary paravets – all are enabling life to continue and helping people to stay in their homes.

Now, more than ever before, we need support to enable us to act in this emergency, and, for the long term, to provide our unique package of support to ensure people's survival. The indirect impact of violence is catastrophic. Kids for Kids has never been needed more.

How to plan when Darfur is yet again inaccessible?

The coup by the military, deposing the civilian Prime Minister and his cabinet, has dashed the hopes for democracy in the foreseeable future. This meant that it would be too dangerous for the Trustees to visit Sudan during the past year. I was therefore more grateful than I can say that our Trustee **Khalid Mekki**, who is Sudanese and lives in Khartoum, visited our office in El Fasher with our Khartoum co-ordinator **Hatim Abu Sineina**. They held meetings with the Kids for Kids Steering Committee and with representatives of the North Darfur State Government, on my behalf, and formulated proposals for us for the future shape of Kids for Kids. This visit was long overdue and disappointingly a planned follow-up visit by Khalid in March 2023 had to be cancelled as fighting broke out in Khartoum itself. All plans are now on hold until the future is clearer. But we are well-placed to respond quickly once the situation permits: our team in Sudan are determined to provide whatever help they can, and we are blessed by the huge number of village leaders behind all we do. Their reports show yet again not only how much we are needed, but that we can rely on their help to implement our projects quickly. Our aim continues to empower the communities, especially the women, so that they can improve their own lives long term. I cannot stress how imperative this is, even more now that violence is tearing the country apart. Life must go on. Children deserve so much more.

“We have given up hope in the international community, but not in Kids for Kids” Darfuri village leader



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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Insecurity and the uncertain political situation in Sudan has meant it has at times been a challenge to implement all we have planned to do for communities during the year. Accounts can be misleading as figures do not explain the circumstances behind expenditure. This year our accounts show what appears to be a disappointingly low amount spent on projects – a decrease from £192,258 in 2022 to just £89,277 in the current financial year. However, a weak Sudanese pound and relatively strong sterling meant that our funds provided much more than anticipated. I am very proud that, as planned, we adopted a further five villages - Hillat Sabil, Hillat Um Gadeer, Katonta, Korla, Kudeil. 150 new beneficiary families received 800 goats – over 700 children are now benefitting from their milk. The farm tools and donkey ploughs we also include transform how much land they can cultivate, providing more food for the children. We also gave 553 families in 18 villages jerry cans. Without these, it is impossible for families to collect and store water – there are no standing pipes in villages and the nearest water source can be many miles away. Yet many families cannot even afford such an essential item. In addition to all the training and projects that are part of our commitment when we adopt a village, our tree planting campaign continues. We distributed 4000 seedling trees to 15 villages for schools, community buildings and village squares, and we at last planted 1000 Moringa trees in a dedicated plantation. In a year of catastrophic outbreak of malaria, we provided 1482 mosquito nets to 22 villages – five were Kids for Kids' villages and 17 villages that we have not been in a position to adopt as yet. We trained 36 paravets and all the new beneficiaries in animal care, thus ensuring there is veterinary care for the animals. We continued to support villages adopted in 2021, providing 130 donkeys and 287 blankets which we had not been able to source in the previous year.

Water – literally the source of life in the desert of Darfur – remains our top priority. When the Water Environment and Sanitation Department said they had drilling rigs available, we leapt at the chance – 14 handpump have now been drilled and installed successfully at Shawat Maki, Abu Sinit (A), Abu Sinit (B), Bargo, Derma, Um Ajaja, Turra, Um Isheira, Gawir, Tartoura Birkat Jaro, Jafaina, Maagla, Matway and Abu Sharback. One village had been waiting for a hand pump since 2016! Water has always been our hardest project to implement – so many obstacles unite to prevent successful installation. I rely on supporters to help me collate a water fund so that I can give the go ahead as soon as we know there is a drill and team available. It was possible to agree this number of pumps thanks to individuals who sponsor a pump, often named for someone they love. Every member of the **Neale family** now has a pump named for them, including their new baby! What a fantastic lasting memorial.

How to secure the future?

Kids for Kids has been helping children in Darfur for an amazing 23 years. If Kids for Kids is to continue, then it is essential we secure the future by appointing those who will take it forward for the future. I am delighted to tell you that we now have a superb Deputy CEO in place since May 2023, who is already having an impact: **Davina Patel**. Along with fundraiser **Charlotte Allum**, our team is almost complete, although we are still in need of an Administrator. Our PA left unexpectedly in October, just as the Christmas rush commenced. Despite this, I am pleased to say that we not only maintained our momentum but increased our income, thanks to a Doubling Campaign supported by our wonderful Patron Dame Joanna Lumley and two anonymous donors. Now with increased staff costs, it is essential we increase our fundraising to balance administrative costs. Thankfully during the current financial year I was able to decrease the cost of fundraising by £20,000. Thus our expendable income rose by £10,000. Far from stepping back, as I had intended, I have continued to do all I can to raise our profile and subsequent income. I cannot thank all our supporters enough. Life has been challenging for us all and I am proud to report that, despite depleted assistance, our overall income during the year rose from £373,750 in 2021/2022 to £409,019 during the current financial year, an increase of 9.4%.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of all charities: I am missing the camaraderie and support of our Surrey Committee. Sadly Covid led to us not being able to continue this wonderful group of volunteers. However I am enormously grateful to **Ann and Richard Lienard** who have been towers of strength during these difficult times, as I am to so many other wonderful friends. **Moirra Fenwick** took over the issuing of our Concert and Ball tickets from **Kathy Lady Orde** – a job that needs a great deal of tact, not to mention IT skills - and helped us ensure sell-out events. Miraculously, **Kate French** volunteered just as we were suffering the loss of our PA and saw us through the Christmas rush, despite personal problems. I cannot thank them both enough. In America, I continue to be enormously indebted to **Mary Jane Kupsky**. She has been extraordinary and a source of many new supporters in the US, especially by helping them to donate through Global Giving. We are looking urgently for support for her. Please will you alert your American friends? Another positive is the offer by **Lisa Chapman** to create a Friends of Kids for Kids in Australia. This outreach is what we need if we are to increase our help to families, so essential as their needs soar in the appalling conditions in Darfur. Meanwhile both our Trustee **Liz Sutton** and Charlotte Allum have made presentations about Kids for Kids to groups supporting us.

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I am very grateful to our Board of Trustees who continue to support me and to ensure the smooth running of Kids for Kids. During the year we have been joined by **Lee Traxon** and, post year end, **Karen Jankel**, daughter of the much missed Michael Bond, whose Oso Foundation and family continue to be so generous to Kids for Kids. We have a Risk Matrix which we review at every Board meeting, helping us maintain a watchful eye on every aspect of the charity, and we do everything possible to ensure compliance with the latest legislation and regulations, including Safeguarding and GDPR. From the start, I have done all I can to ensure that not only are we up to date, but ahead in leading the way on best practice. To me, transparency is essential. We are the recipients of donations, often from people who themselves understand what it is to struggle. I take very seriously the responsibility of ensuring all funds are spent wisely, with as little wastage as is humanly possible.

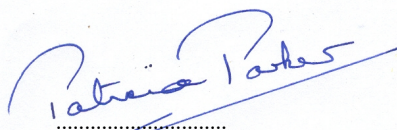
As notified in last year's accounts, we do now have outside financial advisors. Part of our reserve funds are invested with Rathbones and Tilneys investment firms. In the context of the worldwide financial challenges, these funds have recently been disappointing but the Board is confident that our funds are secure and we will be able to report increases in interest in the future. To cover losses due to the world recession, I am grateful to **Patrick Doyle** for providing us with generous interest rates on a separate investment for which he has given us 100% security. This has enabled our investment income to go up from £4,306 in the previous year, to £17,812 in the current year.

Regular Support enables us to plan

I am enormously grateful to those people who have recently become **Children's Champions**. Their generosity over three years means I can plan with certainty. In these volatile times their support is more valuable than ever. I have increased the levels of support to include a lower entry level at £1,000 a year for the Greatest Need. This unrestricted fund enables me to provide support quickly wherever it is identified. Just before the end of this financial year for example two villages suffered devastating fires. Thankfully no one lost their lives and the animals also survived, but families lost everything they owned. Our Greatest Need fund enables Kids for Kids to act promptly to such disasters.

Donating regularly, however small, creates certainty for families no one else remembers. Kids for Kids first started helping villages 23 years ago in 2001, yet in all the intervening years I have never heard of any other organisation providing even one sustainable project.

The future for so many families would be bleak without Kids for Kids. Our unique way of helping is needed now, more than ever.



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Mrs P. M. Parker OBE
Chairman

Date: 28 November 2023

