

# Action in Africa Annual Report

2019-20

## Our Mission Statement.

The objectives of Action in Africa are to provide relief from poverty and sickness and to deliver funding for education, in two areas of Tanzania – Nyaishozi and Mtandika. The beneficiaries are the people of the area, irrespective of race, religion or gender. We work through local committees representing all races and religions, men and women; helping them to develop a better future for themselves and for others.



## The Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present Action in Africa's Annual Report, which sets out for our supporters and the general public what we have achieved in the past twelve months and our future plans. As most of this report predates the Covid 19 global lockdown, the document will reflect the positive impact our work continues to have on Nyaishozi & Mtandika.

2019/20 has been a great year for the charity. It began with a trip to Nyaishozi by vice chair Tina Rayburn and veteran cameraman Timothy Forder. Although there had been volunteers visiting the region on behalf of the charity, the trustees had not been to Tanzania since 2015, so there was a lot to catch up with. The subsequent film proved of huge value being screened at Surrey schools and shown in the local community.

## Nyaishozi

A visit to Nyaishozi is always very exciting. Our sponsored children were present and it was great to have the opportunity to meet in person those whom we had only seen in photographs. Some of children had moved away, so there was a new intake of primary school children. Fadhira Omary, pictured below, is one of the latest pupils to join the Action in Africa family, she is just six years old.



During our visit, we were able to check on the various projects which had been completed during previous years. The Maize for School Lunch programme was initiated in 2018. Whilst we were thrilled with the results, Father Vitalis was disappointed. He felt that the yield of grain to feed 100 of the poorest school children for 6 – 8 months was a little low. He asked us to fund the project for another year and is hopeful that, with superior seed and fertiliser, the harvest could increase, to provide a yield that would feed the entire school (over 1000 children) for 12 months and deliver grain to be sold, allowing the initiative to be self-sustaining. Pictured below left is the harvested grain and below right the children are queuing for their maize gruel.



As feminine hygiene products are scarce and therefore very expensive in Nyaishozi, we hand carried 111 Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits, which were earmarked for the female students at Rugu Secondary School. Below left is a picture of the girls participating in the course which taught them how to care for the kits. This product can last up to five years if looked after properly. To celebrate the charity's visit and show appreciation for the course, the girls put on a great show of dancing and singing. We would like to thank the school for making us feel so welcome. Below right is a photograph of matron Regina, who took the course, dancing with the girls. As the course was very well received, we are continuing to source funds to support this ongoing project. We would like to thank Sandra and Jane at Days for Girls UK who worked tirelessly to fulfil our order in time for us to take it to Nyaishozi.





It was at the end of April that Jane Dunckley, Head of P.E. at St. Andrew's School Leatherhead completed the iconic London Marathon on behalf of Action in Africa. Jane, pictured above, says, 'It was the most amazing experience and one I will definitely treasure in my life. Overall, I raised nearly £2,000 for the charity, which is absolutely fantastic and I know will hugely benefit a number of people in the local community.' Congratulations Jane! We are so proud of you and so very grateful!



The Patilisi' have been part of the Action in Africa family since 2015, when we began sponsoring Bibiana's education at Nyaishozi Secondary School. As the family were living in desperate circumstances, we contributed to costs of the construction of a house, so that they may be protected from the elements. The house, (pictured above) is in a very remote location, therefore, we have since added guttering to the property and installed a rainwater harvest tank. The family will no longer have to walk several miles to the nearest well.



Electricity is always a problem for schools. Those that are on the grid do not use it as it is expensive, but most schools are too remote, so solar panelling providing the power for lighting is the preferred option. Rugu Secondary school accommodates boarders but had no lighting. Action in Africa funded the purchase of four solar panels, which will deliver enough power to light two classrooms. Up until that point, students had been using torches to complete their studies after dark. Pictured above is one of the classrooms.



Nyakasimbi Secondary School was fortunate enough to acquire a borehole in early 2019. It was in the unusual position of having access to water, but no way to pipe it out of the ground. Action in Africa has contributed to the cost of water pipes and a tank on a tower for gravitational distribution (pictured above).



Pictured below are female students from Rugu Secondary School and in the background is veteran film maker Timothy Forder. He accompanied Tina Rayburn on her trip to Nyaishozi, filming the work of the charity. The resulting short film was given its debut screening at St Michael's Church Hall as part of our 'Leave Your Wallets at Home' event. This evening was open to all our sponsors not only to show appreciation for all their support over the years, but to showcase the impact the charity was having on the local community of Nyaishozi. Cheese and wine were the fare of the night and a great time was had by all. The film was very well received and is now available on the Action in Africa website.



The delivery of our third motorbike for dispensaries caused quite a stir at the remote village of Rugu. Mobilising medical staff was an initiative launched by Father Vitalis during his visit to the U.K. in 2018. Pictured below, this bike is the last of three to be delivered to isolated dispensaries to help staff reach their patients. We would like to thank the Ashtead resident who made this possible.



At Ruhinda Secondary School, new entrants must provide their own desks and chairs. As four of our sponsored students (pictured below with Father Vitalis) joined the school this year, Action in Africa provided their classroom furniture.



Our 2019 Quiz Night was a huge success, with St Michael's Church Hall full to the rafters with teams keen to show off their intellect, while having a good time. The event was meticulously organized as usual by our lovely treasurer, Carolyn Higgs (pictured below addressing the eager competitors). We went high tech this year, with Julian Steed screening the quiz on the television screen. William Dyer provided a splendid supper of lasagne and a great time was had by all – while raising a staggering £1,575. Brilliant!





Every year Action in Africa holds a Christmas Appeal and sends the funds raised to Nyaishozi. The Christmas Appeal 2019 raised a whopping £710! These monies were used to buy emergency food and basic medical supplies, which were then handed out by trustees to the most needy and vulnerable in the community (pictured below). In addition to food supplies, this year, due to malaria causing huge suffering in Nyaishozi, we are sending funds for mosquito repellent impregnated nets. These will be distributed by Father Vitalis to the boarding students at the secondary schools.



Janella Kerr delivered a lovely Christmas present to us – a donation of £325. Janella is a great supporter of the charity and already sponsors one of our Nyaishozi Primary School children. When she ran her family Spirit Total Body Boot Camp at St Michael's Church hall, instead of holding a Secret Santa, she asked instead that all the monies be donated to Action in Africa. She loved holding the event, shown below, really enjoying having the children involved and says everybody had a great time. Thank you Janella!



Dean Macklin, (pictured below) has been confirmed as our Virgin Marathon runner for 2020. We are thrilled that Dean, 28 years old and teacher at St. Andrew's Catholic School, is representing Action in Africa in the iconic London race. A keen runner and already in training, Dean hopes to achieve a time under 3 hours 15! His wish is to raise lots of money for the charity and cannot wait until April 26<sup>th</sup> (now postponed until October 4<sup>th</sup> because of the Covid 19 lockdown)! Good luck Dean!



Lifesigns Group CEO Alistair Cole made a reconnoitre trip to Nyaishozi, in advance of an expedition of 40 schoolgirls who will be visiting Nyaishozi next summer. Alistair kindly hand carried 100 Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits to the area. Matron Regina, pictured below left, took the feminine hygiene course at Nyakasimbi Secondary School, ensuring that the girls would know how to look after their new gifts properly.





We are delighted that Nyakasimbi is the fourth school in Nyaishozi to participate in our feminine hygiene programme. Our aim is for every schoolgirl in the area to be able to access the sanitary protection she needs to attend school.

Mary Merrett (pictured below at St. Michael's Church Hall) is spearheading a local initiative whereby Ashtead ladies make up the Days for Girls kits which are being rolled out to all Nyaishozi female students. With the support of Action in Africa, this creative craft group, known unofficially as the 'Knickerpacking Glories' is passionate about our feminine hygiene programme. Working under the watchful eye of Days for Girls Waterloooville coordinator Sandra Sherwood, these ladies are helping us achieve our goal – every Nyaishozi secondary school girl to have a kit by 2022.



As at the time of completing the Nyaishozi contribution to this report, the world is in the grip of an invisible killer. Covid 19 has brought life as we know it to a standstill. The Kagera district, which includes Nyaishozi, is affected. As a result, we have sent a Covid 19 emergency fund to provide protective equipment and launch an educational local radio campaign. Looking to 2020/2021, we will endeavour to continue with our ongoing projects and support our friends in Nyaishozi through this pandemic as best we can.

## Mtandika

Following the tragic death of Sister Barberina Mhagala, shown in the left hand photo below, at the beginning of 2019, this year has seen St Agnes Vocational Training College, as the Mtandika Trade School is now registered with the Government's Vocational and Educational Training Authority [VETA], continue to develop as she would have wished under the management of Principal, Sister Damiana Kikoti and Bursar, Sister Restituta Msemwa, shown left and right in the right hand photo below.

However, in March 2020 the first cases of Covid 19 were found in Tanzania and the President closed all schools, colleges and universities. This obviously included St Agnes VTC and all students were sent home. At the time of writing the college remains closed.



The lay teachers are as last year, with Shabani Bilaly as Vice Principal and teacher of Electrical Engineering and Engineering Science, Yohana Mtagawa as teacher of Computer Studies and Mathematics, Okoa Mheni as teacher of English and Communications, Technical Drawing and Life Skills and Sylvia Mfalamagoha as teacher of Tailoring, Business Studies and Entrepreneurship. The photo below shows, from left to right, Sister Restituta, Sylvia, Shabani, Okoa, Yohana and Sister Damiana. They are standing in front of the Toyota pick-up purchased during the year to replace the vehicle written off in the accident in which Sister Barberina was killed.



This year has continued to be a period of consolidation for the college. The tailoring and electrical courses are now well established, with 35 students in total spread over two years. The 16 second [final] year students performed well in the VETA national exams at the end of 2019. Overall, three students received the highest marks, VC2, achieving an excellent performance and six students achieved VC1, a good performance. Seven unfortunately failed. In the Electrical Dept there were ten final year students. Three achieved VC2 and three VC1. Four students failed. In the Tailoring Dept there were six students, three achieving VC1 and three failing. The photo below shows all the staff and students



As reported in previous years, the College continues to be self-sufficient in terms of food, growing amongst other things their own maize, cassava, rice, beans, onions, tomatoes, bananas and papayas. Any surplus items, such as onions, are sold to provide a small income for the school. The photos below show the maize at different stages of development.



Chickens, ducks, pigs and rabbits continue to provide meat and eggs for the students. One of Sister Barberina's last projects was to build a large fishpond in which to breed fish for sale. This latter project has proved very beneficial. In addition, a small income continues to be derived from providing maize milling and photocopying services to the villagers. The photo below shows fish being prepared for sale.





It is now 15 years since Sister Barberina started building the Trade School and inevitably maintenance needs to be ongoing. At present some of the original doors and windows are being replaced. The photos below show an old window on the left and a new one on the right.



Whilst most of the College students pay tuition fees to provide an income to cover the running costs of the College, 10 of the 35 College students (shown in the photo below) who are orphans or from very poor families, are sponsored through the generous, regular donations from our sponsors. In addition to the older College students, half a dozen young orphans live at the College and are sponsored to go to the village Primary and Secondary Schools.



As well as paying for some of the running costs at the College and sponsorship of some of its students, we continue to educate eleven students, who are either orphans or from very poor families, away from Mtandika, six being at boarding Secondary Schools and five at Universities. Those who are at University include Maria Makongwa, Beatrice Mwinuka and Teresina Chavala who we mentioned in last year's report, Maria studying to teach science, Beatrice studying to teach nutrition and Teresia studying to teach secondary education. In addition, this year, we have started to support Carlos Mwinyi who is studying for a Diploma in Pharmacy and are about to support Azizi Msavange who is studying for Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering.

Fundraising is extremely important. The annual quiz in November, attended by nearly 120 sponsors, made nearly £2900.

### **Accounts**

The Accounts for the year 2019/2020 are appended to this report.

### **Thanks**

As Chairman, I would like to thank the Trustees who sat on the Action in Africa board this year, Tina Rayburn (Vice Chairwoman), Carolyn Higgs (Treasurer) and Michael Andrews, for all their hard work. I really feel that the Charity is making a marked difference to the lives of so many people living in the Nyaishozi and Mtandika areas of Tanzania.

Michael Agius

Chairman

## **ACTION IN AFRICA (Charity No. 1072661)**

### **Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 5 April 2020**

#### **Receipts**

Fundraising	£8,301
Donations received	£23,458
Gift Aid receipt	£4,235
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,994</b>

#### **Costs**

Administration (Tanzania)	£1,917
Administration (UK)	£145
Cash transfer costs	£169
Fundraising expenses	£661
Trustee Visit to Tanzania	£354
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,246</b>

**Net Income** **£32,748**

#### **Payments to beneficiaries**

Education	£15,778
Development	£13,915
Health	£3,610
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£33,303</u></b>

**Funds at 6 April 2019** **£11,970**

Excess of receipts over payments for the year (£555)

**Funds at 5 April 2020** **£11,415**



## **Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 5 April 2020**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>£11,415</b>
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<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>£0</b>
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### **Note to the accounts:**

#### **Net Fundraising proceeds**

Quizzes	£4,385
Marathon 2019	£1,883
Marathon 2020	£337
Church Collections	£710
Christmas Bootcamp	£325
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£7,640</u></b>

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Action in Africa**

I report on the accounts of Action in Africa for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, which are set out in pages 14 to 15.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts provide a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 ActHave not been met or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



**Mary-Anne Catto BA CA**

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12<sup>th</sup> May 2020