

# Action in Africa Annual Report

## 2017-18



### Our Mission Statement.

The objectives of Action in Africa are to provide relief from poverty and sickness and to provide funding for the advancement of education, in two particular areas of Tanzania – Nyaishozi and Mtandika. The beneficiaries are all 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 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.

This year has been a hugely successful year for the charity. We have been very busy trying to make sure that the money raised in and around Ashted is best serving the communities of Nyaishozi and Mtandika. As in previous years, besides sponsoring education and funding medical aid, we have focused on one off development projects.

### **Nyaishozi**

Action in Africa literally hit the ground running this year with Chris Webb becoming our Marathon Man 2017. Sixth form head and P.E. teacher at St Andrew's School Leatherhead Chris donned a superhero's outfit and the Action in Africa logo to run the gruelling twenty six mile iconic race. He came home in 4 hours 13 minutes, a time he is thrilled with. Lots of supporters were there on the day to cheer him on. He raised over £2,000 for the charity – we are so proud of him. Well done Chris and thank you!



This year saw the successful launching of the Action in Africa Volunteer Programme. Jiho Han was our first participant in the scheme. His two week stay was hosted by Father Vitalis, chairman of the Action in Africa Nyaishozi committee. Jiho had just completed his PhD in Engineering at Cambridge University and was keen to see first-hand the impact that the charity was having on the local community. He was provided with a detailed brief which he followed brilliantly and returned to the UK armed to the gills with thorough data and lots of lovely photographs.



Jiho with Father Vitalis at Kigali, Rwanda, awaiting his flight home



Jiho with the Patilisi Family

Cassi Henderson was our second volunteer who followed up on Jiho's findings. Also a Cambridge PhD student, she is studying the treatment of infectious diseases in rural areas. She also is an outreach worker promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths - STEM for young women.



Cassi with the Nyaishozi Action in Africa Committee



Nyaishozi Secondary Female Students with Matron Regina discussing feminine hygiene

While Cassi was in Nyaishozi she was able to research the facilities available to expectant mothers. She shadowed outreach mobile ante and post-natal medical units, visited local dispensaries and local schools. She then put together an invaluable report documenting shortfalls in the local health systems and where best to focus our funds. She also checked on the schools which had participated in our Days for Girls feminine hygiene project and charted its success.

Water and water storage has been another priority this year for Action in Africa. The earthquake and drought of 2016 caused damage to the water tank at Nyaishozi Primary School. Action in Africa sent the funds for the repair. Pictured below are headmaster Hosea Martin (front) and Father Vitalis.



Another of our water projects was the repair of a drinking water system that had broken in a UN village just outside Nyaishozi. The village was built to accommodate refugees flocking from Rwanda and Burundi during the genocide. Villagers (pictured below) are able to enjoy clean drinking water once again.



Father Vitalis came to us early in the year to ask if we could contribute to the construction of a fence around the kindergarten. The land outside the school is used as a playground for the children and, as it is next to a road, there had been reports of accidents. The kindergarten, which is supported by the charity, schools over 40 children a year and the children's safety is something we take very seriously. Pictured are the children, with the newly erected fence visible in the background.





Action in Africa held their second Annual Barn Dance. An amazing time was had by all. A big thank you to Carolyn Nicholls who allowed us to hold the event at her stunning tithe barn and to organisers Carolyn Higgs and Michael & Mary Agius. Thanks to all their hard work and our supporters' generosity, we raised a staggering £1,600!



In order to close what had been a very exciting milestone year, Action in Africa launched its Christmas appeal and was fortunate enough to be offered three pulpit addresses at St Michael's Church, Ashted at the beginning of Advent. Parishioners helped to distribute the Charity's Christmas newsletter in order to raise awareness of our work, while trustees Andy Dutton and Mike Andrews gave the addresses and treasurer Carolyn Higgs manned the presentation board. Overall, an amazing £1,025 was raised. This money was sent immediately to Father Vitalis who bought sugar, oil, tea, milk, sardines, meat, soap and rice.



These goods along with basic medical supplies were distributed by the local Action in Africa committee to the most vulnerable and needy of the community (pictured above). In addition, the charity created a school dinner programme for Nyaishozi Primary School for 2018. This ensured that 100 of the poorest pupils at the school will be provided with a maize gruel lunch, which is provided by cooks on site (pictured below). We would like to thank the parishioners of St Michael's for their generous donations.





January 2018 saw two new children join the Action in Africa family – Samson Charles was born in 2003 and lives with his mother and three brothers and sister, his father has passed away. Sam (pictured below, alone and with his family) is hard working boy. His mother struggles to support her family by farming her small plot of land. Life is very hard for the family. We are supporting Sam through our Basic Allowance programme. He is attending Rugu Secondary School and will be sponsored until he decides to leave fulltime education.



The second child to join the charity is Debora Elmerick. Debora (pictured with her mother, below left and in front of where she lives, below right) was born in 2003. She lives with her mother in the village of Rugu. Her father passed away when she was a baby. She has one older brother who has moved away from the local area. Her mother works part time as a cook's helper at Rugu Secondary School. They are very poor and don't have a house of their own. The local community have given them a derelict house for shelter. An Ashtead resident has underwritten the cost of Debora's sponsorship at Nyaishozi Secondary Boarding School for 2018. We are very grateful!



Action in Africa held their third Burns' Night to celebrate the Scottish Bard at the end of January at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club. Seasonal illness halved the numbers, but the evening was a huge success, creating a more intimate atmosphere and allowing more space for dancing. Ceilidh band Blackthorn had everybody up on their feet all night and we all had a great time. £600 was raised – not an inconsiderable sum, considering that there were only 45 attendees! We would like to thank all those who attended and a big thank you to Carolyn Higgs, our lovely treasurer, who organized the event.



We begin every year looking ahead with great expectation at what can be achieved over the coming months. 2018 sees the launch of several projects close to the heart of the charity – repairs to water facilities, upgrading maternity equipment, sourcing transport for Kibogoizi dispensary to serve the local community and running another feminine hygiene programme to name a few. To see these projects through to completion will require securing outside funding. Action in Africa will be spending the spring submitting applications to trusts and charitable foundations.



Besides applying for external funding for our larger, one off projects in 2018, we are also looking forward to hosting our Nyaishozi chairman Father Vitalis. It will be the first time that he has been on UK soil and that our supporters will have met this dedicated, hard-working man. As a result, we are already trying to cram as much into his schedule as humanly possible. It will be such a pleasure to introduce him to the parish and local schools who have been instrumental in providing the funds for him to carry out the much needed charity work. We are also hoping that having him present at a trustee meeting will very much focus our minds on the challenges his community faces and how best we can serve it – after all that is what Action in Africa is all about.

## **Mtandika**

This year has been a period of both consolidation and further development for the Trade School at Mtandika. The school is now fully registered with the Government's Vocational and Educational Training Authority [VETA] as the **St Agnes Vocational Training College**. The tailoring and electrical courses are now well established, with ten girls on the former course and eighteen boys and four girls on the latter. With the completion of the boy's dormitory last year, the eighteen boys on the Electrical course are all now living at the Trade School and are fully integrated into life there.



**The girls on the Tailoring Course**



**The girls and boys on the Electrical Course**

The practical work resulting from the courses is of a very high standard. An example of the product from the Tailoring course are the wedding dresses shown below. For their part the Electrical students have all been out on secondment to the state electrical company or private companies and received excellent reports. In some cases, they received job offers prior to graduating. One practical exercise on site was the re-wiring of the solar panels that activate the solar pump.





**Wedding dresses made in the Tailoring Course**

**Rewiring the solar panels at the solar pump**



To provide a further variety of courses, it was decided to start a new course in Hotel Management. This will start later in 2018 when the fitting out of a new block is fully complete. The building will double up as a classroom for the course, as well as a canteen. Kitchen equipment and cooking utensils were being purchased at the time of writing.



**New Hotel Management and Canteen block**

**Inside of the new block**



Discipline is a major part of life at the Trade School and the students are up soon after 6.00am to collect water, tidy up the main quadrangle and wash and get dressed in their school uniforms. This is followed by a parade at 7.30am where the students perform basic drill exercises and sing the National Anthem, prior to any announcements for the day being made. One or two students will then make a presentation in English on a particular subject of relevance, prior to dismissal and the start of the first class at 8.00am. Following two classes, breakfast is from 10.00am to 10.30am. Classes then continue until lunch at 1.30pm. In the afternoon the students will help with tasks around the college and grounds eg digging and irrigating the shambas [allotments], preparing and

cooking supper etc. Later in the afternoon there is an opportunity for sport, with the girls playing netball and the boys soccer. After supper at 7.00pm the students continue studying until late.



**Morning parade**

**Sister speaking to the students**



The Trade School continues to give the students a broad based two year education, which as well as teaching them tailoring and electrical skills now includes English, Maths, Computer Studies and general subjects such as Business Studies and Entrepreneurship. As well as the principal Tailoring and Electrical teachers, there are now English and Maths/Computer teachers at the school.

As reported in previous years, the Trade School continues to be fairly self-sufficient in terms of food, with a continuous supply of maize, vegetables and fruit. Sister also keeps chickens, pigs and rabbits to provide meat for the students. In addition a few cash crops are grown to provide a small income for the school. The solar pump continues to provide invaluable water for irrigation purposes, as well as to the main 70,000 litre water tank which has two header tanks to provide water distribution around the college. Sister also gets a small income from providing maize milling and photocopying services to the villagers.



**Irrigated maize crop**

**Surplus onions bagged up ready for sale**





Some 10 of the 30 Trade School students who are orphans or from very poor families, are sponsored through the generous, regular donations from our long term sponsors. In addition to the older Trade School students, ten orphans from about 13 years old down to 5 years, live at the Trade School and go to the village Primary School.



**Sponsored Trade School Students**

**Micky, one of the orphans**



The Trade School continues to be a very happy environment for the girls and boys to grow up in and obtain a practical and all round education that will serve them throughout their lives.

As well as the activities at the Trade School, some 30 students, who are either orphans or from very poor families, continue to be educated at Primary, Secondary and University/Technical College level through the generous, regular donations from our long term sponsors. With increasing costs over the years and the depreciation in the value of the Pound of over 20% in mid 2016, we need an increased amount of money to cover the overall educational costs. Some of those requiring help are shown below, Consalata and Clesensia who are at Secondary School and Maria who is starting at university.



**Maria Makomgue**





## **Consalata and Clesensia Mkembela**

Fundraising is extremely important and two such functions were the annual Mtandika Quiz in November, attended by nearly 120 sponsors and a garden party held in July, enjoyed by nearly 80 sponsors. Both events raised about £2000.



**Quiz**



**Garden Party**

The Accounts for the year 2017/2018 are appended to this report.

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), Michael Andrews and Andy Dutton.

Michael Agius

Chairman

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

### **Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 5 April 2018**

#### **Receipts**

Fundraising	£12,186
Donations received	£29,830
Gift Aid receipt	£2,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>£44,922</b>

#### **Costs**

Administration (Tanzania)	£2,033
Administration (UK)	£692
Cash transfer costs	£100
Fundraising expenses	£2,868
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,693</b>

**Net Income** **£39,229**

#### **Payments to beneficiaries**

Education	£17,789
Development	£24,210
Health	£1,235
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£43,234</u></b>

**Funds at 6 April 2017** **£19,666**

Excess of receipts over payments for the year (£4,005)

**Funds at 5 April 2018** **£15,661**

## **Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 5 April 2018**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>£15,661</b>
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<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>£0</b>
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### **Note to the accounts:**

#### **Net Fundraising proceeds**

Quizzes	£2,150
Marathon 2017	£1,547
Burns Night	£607
Barn Dance	£1,505
Christmas appeal	£1,989
Garden Party	£1,520
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£9,318</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 2018, which are set out in pages 13 to 14.

**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 Act

Have 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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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018