

SEDCU

**Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children
in Uganda**



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2018

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth SEDCU Annual Report covering the period from January 1st to December 31st 2018. This has been a year of consolidation and continued growth as the charity has broadened its supporter base, become more established and maintained its level of activity in Uganda.

SEDCU's mission is to broaden and strengthen support for disadvantaged children in Uganda so that they can benefit from good quality education and realise their full potential. We focus on schools we have in the extreme South West of Uganda and working with people whom we can trust to be aligned with this aim.

Despite continued growth in income this year, it is not our aim to build a large organisation but to focus on supporting modest numbers of individual children, as well as funding small projects at their schools which will make a difference. We recognise that the country faces huge challenges, and we are powerless to tackle them, but we do believe that our approach does have the potential to change lives and give individual children the start in life which they deserve. All those who choose to support SEDCU will have the opportunity to be kept informed of the progress of the sponsored children and the projects we fund at their schools.

As SEDCU continues to grow, the trustees believe it is important to provide full transparency to show how donated funds are being employed to achieve our overall aim. As a consequence, this year's report again includes a detailed breakdown of our expenditure.

THE SCHOOLS

SEDCU continues to focus on two schools in Kisoro District where the majority of sponsored children are either being educated or have been educated before moving on to other schools for their secondary education.

Kisoro Demonstration School (KDS) is a state funded school but one with a difference. It has established special arrangements for 98 children with a range of disabilities including deafness, blindness and visual impairment who can receive an education there which otherwise would be impossible. The range of disabilities catered for at KDS includes:

Deaf, Deaf/Blind, Blind/sight impaired, Physical handicap, Mental health issues, Trauma PTSD, Autism, Dyslexia, Multiple Disability.

These children have to board, and in many cases their parents (if they have them) are unable to pay the costs. A number of children are sponsored through SEDCU to attend KDS. The school also struggles to fund special equipment and facilities needed for these children.



Girls receiving counselling on health and sanitation

This year SEDCU has continued to fund an arts and crafts project, now in its 5th year. Children with hearing impairment have been trained in knitting using the machines donated by SEDCU, and some can produce school sweaters and crochet book bags.

Children with visual and hearing impairment have been actively involved in the maintenance of trees planted in the school compound, cleaning the school environment, and working on the newly created school farm, funded by another charity Sustain for Life. There has been a particular focus this year on improving the nutrition of the meals provided to the children, partly relying on the produce they grow.



Deaf children carrying stakes to support climbing beans on the school farm

SEDCU again facilitated the attendance of sponsored and other children at a Ugandan National Scouting Jamboree held at Kaazi Camping Ground in Kampala. They, again, won competitions for their class.



The Head of the Special Needs Unit at KDS, Joseph Mugabe, has been given a grant by SEDCU to enable him to pursue a two year course in his own time each school holiday which will lead to the award of a degree in Special Needs Education.

Mgahinga Community Nursery and Primary School , now renamed Mgahinga Community Junior School (MCJS) is on the boundary of a National Park very close to the borders with Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.



It is in a very rural environment where most people live off the land and poverty is rife. There is no mains electricity or water supply. The school is expanding steadily and a growing number of children are sponsored through SEDCU to attend.

This year we have also funded the continued salary and accommodation for a teacher recruited in 2016 to teach the then newly established top class (Primary 7).

The Mgahinga Community Development Organisation (MCDO) has managing the construction of a new classroom block for MCJS for which SEDCU has - over two years - provided the majority of funding for the roof.

The building structure and the roof were both completed in October 2107 and the tasks needed to make the classroom block fit for use were completed early in 2018. SEDCU was also able to fund the construction of a 20,000-litre water tank which will collect rainwater from the new roof, and this was completed, connected, and brought into use in early 2018.



The MCDO has now developed plans to construct a further building to house a kitchen and dining hall, replacing old structures no longer deemed fit for purpose. The dining hall is also intended to act as a community centre out of school hours.



Local women learning sewing skills outside school hours while they wait for the new building

SEDCU has committed to fund the foundations for this building as well as the kitchen structure. During 2018 we paid a first instalment so that the work could get underway in December after the end of the 2018 school year.



The new kitchen starting to take shape

Secondary Schools and Colleges

As the children sponsored by SEDCU progress through their education, they reach the point where they are ready to take their exams and move up to Secondary Schools. During 2018, 5 children sponsored by SEDCU were in secondary education. At the start of the 2019 school year 1 more was admitted to secondary school. Two others continued in higher education, one at Vocational College and another at University. During 2018, in addition to KDS and MCJS, SEDCU sponsored children and young people at seven other institutions: **Real Quality School, Kisoro; Kisoro Vision School; St Gertrude's School, Mutolere, Kisoro; Hornby High School, Kabale; Iganga High School xxxx, St Bruno Vocational Training Institute, Kyabirukwa and Chemequip Medical College Ishaka, Bushenyi.**

Reports

Where SEDCU sponsors children or funds projects it receives termly reports on the children's academic progress as well as regular project progress reports and photographs to show what has been achieved.

Collaboration

SEDCU is of course not the only charity operating in this part of Uganda, and we have sought to cooperate with other charities active in the same schools as ourselves. We have been particularly appreciative of collaboration with School Places and with Sustain for Life which are both funding building and other projects as well as sponsoring children at schools where we are involved.

THE CHILDREN

SEDCU's primary aim is to sponsor the education of disadvantaged children so that they can realise their potential. During this year, the number of children sponsored by SEDCU has risen to 28. Of these, 7 were at Kisoro Demonstration School, 13 were attending Mgahinga Community Junior School, and 8 were at other schools or colleges, mostly as the result of them having passed exams to progress to secondary schools or colleges where SEDCU continues to support them. We are delighted to have already obtained commitments to sponsor two more children from the start of 2019 academic year.

Sponsorship pays variously for school fees, scholastic materials, meals, boarding costs, uniforms, braille paper for blind children, mattresses, transport, school trips and a range of other necessities. For some children with no home to go to, SEDCU pays for holiday boarding costs. For the older children at secondary school the fees are higher and there are additional requirements for scholastic materials.



Taking school children to visit a national park

We receive regular termly or mid-year and end of year academic reports on each child, and often other news and photographs to keep us informed of progress of each child and results of any exams they must pass to rise through the system. All of this is shared with sponsors. Some of the children write

letters for their sponsors, and we ensure that each sponsor receives regular information about the progress of the child they are supporting.

FUNDRAISING AND ADMINISTRATION

During the course of the year a small number of additional sponsors have been found, entirely through word of mouth; this is very much in the spirit of how we wish the charity to operate, with each sponsor able to develop a personal relationship with SEDCU and with the child they have chosen to support. In order to fund projects which have been identified by the schools as desirable to enhance the children's education and/or out-of-school school activities and experiences, we have undertaken broader fundraising activities. These have included corporate events organised within specific organisations, fundraising at local events, information evenings, a sponsored jump from a tall building and many individual donations. We acknowledge with gratitude every donation. The total raised was £22,296 (including Gift Aid recovered from HMRC), which compares with £17,455 last year. Excluding Gift Aid, the total increase was 13%. We are profoundly grateful for the generosity of all our donors.

We have developed and regularly updated our website at www.sedcu.org.uk and this has received x visits from people in x countries over the 12 month period. Of these, x were new visitors to the website and x were returning visitors. The highest numbers of visitors were from UK, xxxxx and Uganda. We have published two editions of a half yearly Newsletter which we use to keep supporters informed of recent events.

SEDCU is registered with the Charity Commission and our 2018 Accounts will be filed in compliance with their requirements.

Every pound donated is transmitted from the SEDCU Bank Account to the schools for defined purposes, whether to fund sponsorship of specific children or selected projects. Receipts are obtained for the amounts received in local

currency. Gift Aid recovered is used to cover our minor administration costs (which we have again kept at about 2% of expenditure) and the balance goes to fund priority projects.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

We are pleased to report that, in the 2017 financial year, £18,118 was sent to Uganda, compared with £18,480 last year. A cash balance of £7,528 was held in the SEDCU bank account at the year end. Much of this sum is already committed for sponsorship expenditure in February 2018 at the start of the new school year, and for project funding instalments. We are also building up a bursary fund to pay for textbooks, computers, and other scholastic materials which will be required in the future for older children in secondary or tertiary education. We also retain a modest reserve to cover any unforeseen expenditure.

The table below sets out the approximate breakdown of 2018 expenditure

SEDCU – Approximate Breakdown of 2018 Expenditure

Purpose	School	Amount (UGX)	Amount (£)
Sponsorship			
Sponsorship – nursery and primary level	KDS, MCJS, Real Quality Kisoro	29,881,450	6019
Sponsorship – secondary level	Hornby High Kabale, Kisoro Vision, St Gertrude’s Kisoro, Iganga	13,689,850	2,751
Sponsorship – vocational college	St Bruno Training Institute	3,228,500	771
Sponsorship - University	ChemEquip Medical College, Ishaka	3,890,000	960
TOTAL		50,689,800	10,501 (56.5%)

Projects			
Arts and Crafts	KDS	4,300,000	856
Teacher special needs degree course	KDS	3,300,000	666
National scouting jamboree participation	KDS	5,520,200	1174
Head teacher training	MCJS	3,122,460	650
Salary for P7 teacher	MCJS	3,300,000	686
Solar power – new classroom block	MCJS	3,985,500	807
1 st payment for Kitchen/Dining Hall construction	MCJS	10,000,000	2,098
Electric sewing machine	St Bruno	1,600,000	325
Other		1,525,000	294
TOTAL		36,653,160	7,556 (40.7%)
UK Administration			
Print costs – two newsletters			289
Bank charges – funds transfer			225
TOTAL			514 (2.8%)
TOTAL		87,342,960	18,571

The SEDCU policy is to maintain a reserve of at least £1000 so that, should a sponsor drop out, we can maintain sponsorship payments for a year for the affected child while a new sponsor is located, as well as maintaining payment of committed project funding instalments and coping with currency fluctuations. There are no administrative costs to run the charity apart from bank charges for funds transfer and newsletter print and web hosting costs which are recovered from the Gift Aid refunds. SEDCU trustees aim to travel to Uganda every two years at their own expense to liaise with the schools, verify that SEDCU funds are being spent as intended and to establish future needs. They also aim to meet every sponsored child and to meet every one of their teachers. These visits help us to confirm that our donations are making a real difference to schools and children and enable us to reset priorities for future funding.

The following represents the financial outcome for the twelve month period ended 31 December 2018:

SEDCU Financial Outcome 2018

	2018 £	2017 £	
Cash at start of year	3,864	5,306	
Receipts			
Donations received	17,930	15,811	13% increase
Gift Aid refunded	4,366	1,644	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	22,296	17,455	
Payments			
Amount sent to schools in Uganda	(18,118)	(18,480)	1% decrease
Administration costs in UK	(514)	(417)	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(18,632)	(18,897)	
Increase/(decrease) in funds	3,664	(1,442)	
Cash balance at year end	7,528	3,864	

Future Outlook

We have been gratified by the level of donations received during the past year. Our first priority will be to continue to maintain sponsorship for the 30 children who will be sponsored through SEDCU as from the start of 2019, also as they progress through secondary and – eventually – tertiary education. We also plan to continue to fundraise by diverse means to deliver funding to the schools for projects that will contribute directly to improving education as well as giving the children new experiences and enhancing their lives outside school hours and – in some cases – during the holidays. As the sponsored children move up to other schools and colleges we will continue to maintain contact

with them through their teachers. Above all we will work tirelessly to achieve our mission and enable the growing number of children to realise their potential.

The SEDCU Trustees