



ANNUAL REVIEW 2016



**TOOLS FOR
SELF RELIANCE**
Practical help for practical people



WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR...

Welcome to our Annual Review for 2016. Once again, I am proud to share with you our activity over the last year, which has been one of looking to the future whilst continuing to deliver on our mission to reduce poverty in Africa.

In 2016, we enabled just over 3,700 people to build a sustainable income through the provision of training and tools. As well as being able to improve their day to day lives, and that of their families and communities, in very practical ways – more and better food, school fees, access to medical care – participants also tell us the difference it makes to them personally. Their confidence, self-esteem, sense of self worth all increase as a result of the training – which includes not only trade skills but business and financial management, life skills and health awareness, literacy and numeracy, and for some projects, microfinance.

You can read more about the experiences of participants, in their own words, in the review. These inspirational stories would not have come about without the dedicated support of over 750 volunteers in the UK, all of our supporters and the funders who recognise the value of our work, and invest in Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us in 2016 – it is so greatly appreciated.

This is the fourth year I have enjoyed the privilege of introducing our yearly report as Chairman, and it also marks my last full year in this role. At our AGM in 2017, I shall be stepping down as Chair, and Steve Hitchmough will be stepping into the role. I will be continuing as a Trustee and look forward to being a part of Tools for Self Reliance's ongoing development.

M. J. Just Bell

Michael Bell,
Chairman



...AND FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As I once again welcome our supporters and stakeholders to our Annual Review, I have been reflecting on how quickly time has passed and the work we have done together to achieve the targets we set ourselves in our 2012-2016 strategic plan.

A little later in this review you will be able to read for yourself what we were able to achieve through the commitment of our volunteers and supporters here in the UK, and by our partners who continue to work so hard to deliver much needed vocational training projects. You will also be able to read some of the amazing stories we have been told during our visits to various projects. They reflect a real sense of pride and achievement by those who have participated in projects and who are now building better lives for themselves and their families.

2016 marks the end of a period of strengthening our programmes and the ways in which we support projects; and we are now well placed to take the next steps to significantly increase the contributions we make to poverty reduction in Africa. Our plans are ambitious, but are built on a real belief that we can continue to grow and increase the support we are able to offer to people in Africa.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Working together, I have no doubt we can achieve even more.

Sarah Ingleby

Sarah Ingleby,
Chief Executive







OUR STRATEGY: AFRICA WORKS

As we came to the end of 2016, we looked back to the work we have done over the past five years, as set out in our Strategic Plan – Changing Lives and Building Better Futures.

We set ourselves the target of supporting 3,000-6,000 people per year, enabling them to learn practical, business and life skills and secure employment. We are proud to report that a total of 119 projects were delivered by 51 African partners; supporting almost 15,000 people and enabling them to increase their income and better support their families. Over the five years, 25 shipments, containing 168,450 tools and machines were sent to projects, to support the practical training and the small business groups formed by graduates.

Along the way, we listened to our partners and the people taking part in the projects, we took on board lessons learned about what works and doesn't work with our model and reflected on the ever changing world in which we are working in. Poverty remains

high across Africa and over 144 million people, especially women and youth, are unemployed or underemployed. For many, the acquisition of vocational skills is a key driver to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social development.

Looking forward, our new strategic plan, 'Africa Works' reflects our commitment to invest and support people in Africa to reach their full potential. This ambitious plan sets out our work for the next five years and includes a goal to raise £1million a year by the final year in order to invest more in our work and the number of people we are able to support. By working together, we are determined to meet the challenges ahead.



AFRICA PROGRAMME

Our aim is to reduce poverty by enabling people to proactively secure employment and an income which they can use to look after themselves and their families.

We work with African partner organisations to support training and provide the tools needed for their work. Our partners are mainly small non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations (CBOs) working at grass roots level with local knowledge of the area and the people.

We set ourselves the target of supporting 3,000 – 6,000 people a year through this activity. Across the year, we ran a total of 37 projects in Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Zambia and Malawi, supporting a total number of 3705 people.

In 2017 we intend to develop our model and increase the number of people that we work with.

AFRICA PROGRAMME



Steven and Jonathon trained as tailors with Eliashib Centre in Ndola, Zambia and on completion of their training joined with Doris, a graduate of a previous programme to form Twatasha Group.

Steven is 52, married with seven children, whose ages range from 7 to 31. Steven explained that prior to the training he had no form of income and had to heavily rely on his sister to afford to bring up his children. Jonathon is 25, one of six children and was still living with his mother and father. He hadn't done well in school, and after a year of not being able to attain any form of employment, his mother and father suggested he apply to the training provided by Eliashib. With little confidence Jonathon was hesitant to do so, but knew it was a good opportunity.

Both Steven and Jonathon believed the business skills training was a very important part of the project; teaching them how to keep records, the importance of saving and how to budget for orders, ensuring materials labour, profit but also additional capital for the business is accounted for. Steven explained how keeping records was so important, tracking income and expenditure.

Their families take garments made to the local market and also spread the word that they can make clothes to order, while Jonathon and Doris travel to Stevens's house daily at 8am to work. On a monthly basis they split any profits evenly. Steven has used income from the tailoring business to start up a second business: a chicken farm with over 50 chickens, and now the businesses can support each other.

By working together, they have been able to improve their lives, and that of their families, and are looking to the future - within 12 months, the group are hoping to have started a bank account and Jonathon would like to have his own house.

AFRICA PROGRAMME

In 2016, we worked in partnership with small community organisation Single Parents Association of Uganda (SPAU) to train 50 young people in carpentry and building. As well as supporting single parents, campaigning for rights of parents, and providing counselling to families, SPAU also deliver skills training as a way for people to better support themselves and their children.

As well as practical training, business and financial management, and life skills, participants also spent time as apprentices in local building firms, and found the experience invaluable – to be able to see first hand how a business is run, and to build a network of contacts. Many trainees have undertaken work on a contract basis for their placement business since graduating, and it has proved a valuable way for them to start building their own enterprises.

“Right now I feel I am somebody. To be called a builder - it means a lot to me. I can speak to customers; negotiate prices which was not the case before. I have a changed mindset; before I used to think that life is useless and meaningless, now I have learnt how to admire nice things like vehicles and well planned buildings with water and flush toilets inside. Really, I now have a meaningful life.”





UK PROGRAMME



Tools for Self Reliance Volunteers and Groups

Our UK Programme aims to provide a wide range of volunteering opportunities to people throughout the country; from tool collection and refurbishment to fundraising and awareness-raising.

These activities not only complement the African programme, but also provide opportunities for people to pass on skills learnt over a lifetime or to learn new ones in a social environment where they can make friends and, in some cases, find positive ways to deal with life-changing events.

Our volunteer network around the UK continues to flourish and provide us with the support that remains so important to the achievement of our objectives. In the last year, volunteer groups have become better organised and more efficient in the way they operate which has enhanced their long term sustainability.

UK: TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE VOLUNTEERS AND GROUPS

In the last five years, our volunteers have given over 400,000 hours of time, with an estimated value of a staggering £2.6 million.

In total, in 2016 we had 778 volunteers supporting our work across the UK. 116 of these are based at our Netley Marsh headquarters and the remaining 662 work independently or in organised groups across the UK from Hampshire in the south to Aberdeenshire in the north.

As well as tool collection and refurbishment, kit packing and shipping, events and sales and many other tasks which are essential to enable our training programmes to be delivered, volunteers also raised a record total of nearly £40,000 towards projects in Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda.

**40 volunteer long
service certificates
were awarded in 2016
representing 605
years of volunteering.**



“I LEARNT SO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF BY TAKING PART IN EVS, AND I ALSO LEARNT A GREAT DEAL ABOUT BRITISH CULTURE, THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO TOOK CARE OF ME AND INVITED ME TO EXPERIENCE LOCAL CUSTOMS. I REALLY BENEFITED FROM THEIR LIFE AND WORK EXPERIENCES, AND THEY WERE SO HAPPY TO PASS THEIR SKILLS ON TO ME.”



UK: YOUTH PROGRAMME / LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS



European Voluntary Service (EVS) supports young people to travel abroad to participate in volunteering projects.

The EVS volunteers in 2016 worked alongside our daily volunteers to learn skills such as tool refurbishing, kit packing, working as part of a team and task planning.

At the end of their project each of the volunteers reported that they felt that with these enhanced skills, their chances of securing a better job were higher than if they hadn't participated in the EVS project. For more information about EVS please go to **www.britishcouncil.org**

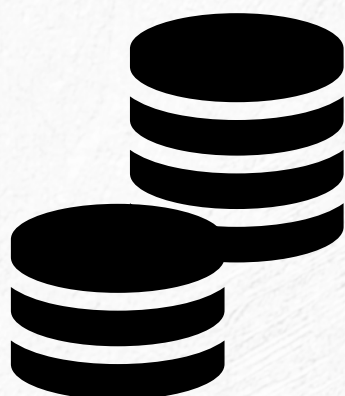
We continue to offer work experience and extended work placements for pupils from local schools at our workshop at Netley Marsh providing them with experience of a work environment and enabling them to learn new skills.



Erasmus+

FINANCES

At the end of the financial year, the audited accounts show that we had net current assets of £241,435 (2014 £199,713) including £138,206 (2014 £88,960) restricted funding.



Included in the figures are the value of tools shipped (donations in kind) of

£170,106
(2015 £173,819)



Income for the year from donations and grants was

£655,361

reflecting an increase of £44,583 from the 2015 income of £610,813. Funds from rents, investments, sales and events were slightly down from the previous year.

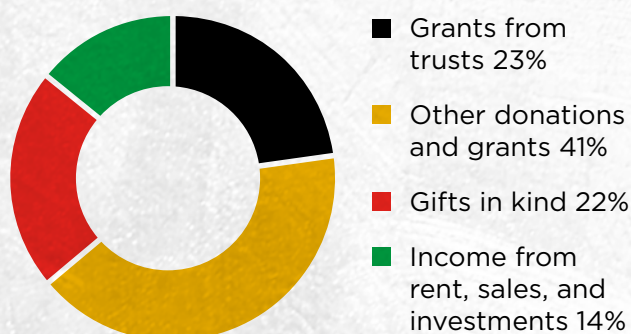


Expenditure was £728,740, which was £1,801 less than the 2015 figure of £730,541

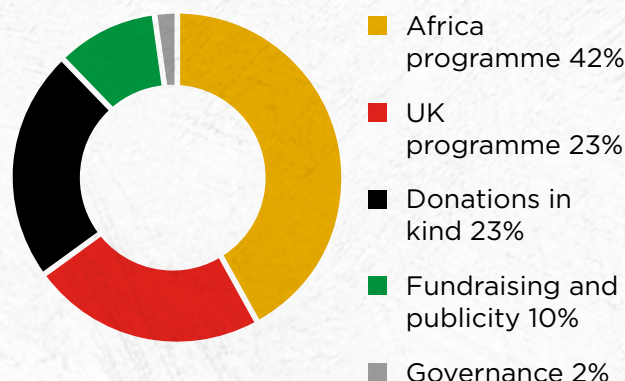


Total reserves amount to £692,034 including fixed assets of £472,321. The fixed assets of Tools for Self Reliance are the Netley Marsh workshop site, including that part used as investment property together with the value of workshop, warehouse and office equipment.

TOTAL INCOME FROM 2016 WAS £762,599



TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2016 WAS £728,740



RESOURCING OUR PROGRAMMES – FUNDING

The support of charitable trusts and foundations continues to be of critical importance to our work – both in Africa, and here in the UK.

Many of our funders have supported us for a number of years, and their investment has changed the lives of thousands of people in the countries in which we work. In 2016, we also secured the support of some new funders. One of these was The Turing Foundation – a private charity based in the Netherlands which focuses on four main areas, one of which is education in the developing world. They made a grant of £15,000 to a project in Sierra Leone, providing training 150 young people in partnership with local organisation Craftshare.

Individuals, companies and community groups have also provided generous support, giving both their time and money. We launched a new

fundraising initiative, “Tea for Tools,” asking supporters to hold a tea party to raise funds for our work. This was a great success, and will be repeated in October 2017.

In 2016 we launched an updated logo, new website, and updated publications such as our information leaflet. We were extremely grateful for the ongoing support of Draper Tools for their help in printing our materials, including the Annual Review, and our newsletter, Forging Links.



PATRONS:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Archbishop of York, John Sentamu

TRUSTEES:

Mr M J de H Bell

Mr S Hitchmough

Ms K Mallik

Ms S Erb

Mrs C A de H Bowell (Co-opted)

Mr J Payne

STAFF

Sarah Ingleby

Chief Executive

Clare Nolan

Head of Africa Programme

Jemma Chambers

Head of Fundraising

Jon Dunkley

Operations Manager

Alan Large

Partnership Development Officer

Jo Shannon

Programmes Facilitator

Nuisha Russo

Trusts and Community Fundraiser

Ben Riley

Volunteer Co-ordinator


Lydia Stallard

Finance Officer


Sam Northcott

Administration Officer

Tools for Self Reliance, Ringwood Road,
Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY

 023 80869697

 info@tfsr.org

 www.tfsr.org

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