

Annual Trustees' Report 2020/21

2020 has been a year of great challenges but also opportunities. Our plans to travel to a refugee camp in Uganda to run another business training workshop had to be cancelled due to Covid but other opportunities to serve our South Sudanese brothers and sisters presented themselves and we have been busily engaged in supporting them through the epidemic.

1. Covid-19 Prevention and Emergency Food.

We undertook to raise funds to help the South Sudanese fight the epidemic. We were only too aware of the consequences if the pandemic had taken hold on the refugee camp and so we raised a total of £10,000 to support the fight against Covid 19 and its effects with soap and sanitiser in the refugee camps. The fund was also used to provide emergency food to refugees who had suffered a 30% reduction in their UN food rations on the camp and had chosen to return to their homes in South Sudan where they can eventually grow crops, but in the meantime, had no support and were starving. A small proportion of the fund was used for emergency repairs to Bishop Emmanuel's 4x4 car which he relies upon to visit over 100 church communities on the refugee camp to bring them practical support, supplies, education and spiritual encouragement. He remarked:

"Dear Andrew and Adrian. On behalf of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji Task force committee, the Kajo-Keji people back in South Sudan, and on our own behalf, we would like to extend our gratitude to the contribution that our sisters and brothers in the United Kingdom have generously extended to the people of South Sudan particularly Kajo-Keji who have settled and yearning for this services. The support our brothers and sisters over there have given will be extended to support the church workers and the most vulnerable people in the community in Kajo-Keji. May the Almighty God bless you bountifully. Without you, we would have done



nothing and no practical example we could have shown to the community in the fight of COVID -19 pandemic. Please could you convey our gratitude to the trustees and those who have contributed to the fight of COVID- 19. Though you are far, but your heart is with us in Kajo-Keji."

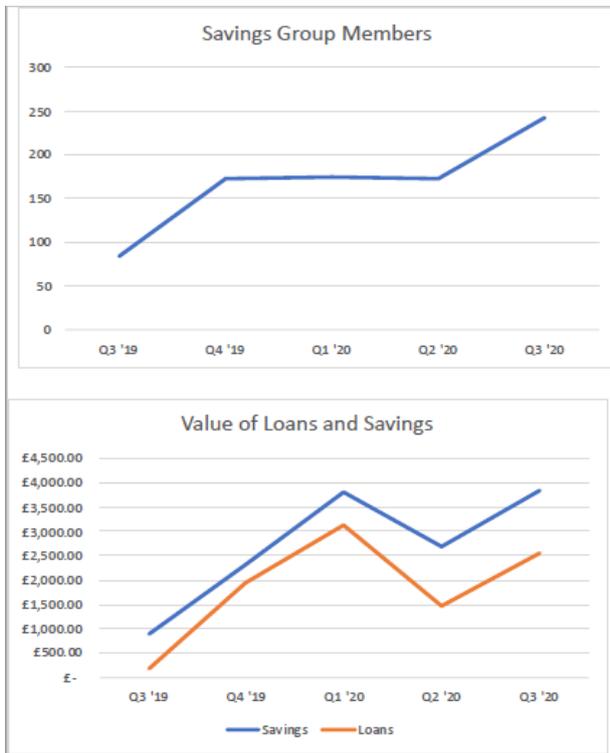
2. Charcoal Bread Ovens

The ten charcoal bread ovens for which we raised money in 2019 were manufactured locally in March 2020 and following lockdown, were recently distributed to ten Mothers' Union groups. These groups have now set up local community savings groups. They have received training in bread making and in managing the 'business' and are now able to support their families and local communities. We recently received an email from Mama Namadi Salivian who coordinates and oversees all 700 MU groups on the refugee camps which read:



'Hi Andrew! Observe the pictures in the attachment how the church of Bori task for income generating activities. 90 percent are women. Many demand for the saving services as they lack.' (The message basically means 'look how the women are keen to start generating income. Many others would like to be part of the saving groups'.)

3. Business Training and Savings Groups



Although it was sadly necessary to cancel the planned business training workshop this year, the ripple effect of the 4 day course we ran in 2019 continues and is seen especially in the activities of the community savings groups. A grant from PDH has enabled the diocese of Kajo Keji to employ a savings group facilitator (Lokose) for two years, and using a motorbike, also provided by PDH, he has regularly visited the groups, providing training and encouragement. During lockdown in Uganda, groups were banned from meeting, and Lokose was stranded in South Sudan where he had been working when the border suddenly closed in March. This meant a slight downturn in savings group activities, however they are now meeting again and we have recently received an encouraging report. There are currently 10 groups with 242 members which are all active again. 257 members equals 257 families which positively



impacts at least 1,000 people. The groups' activities and progress since their commencement in 2019 can be seen in the charts.

4. Tarpaulins

Last year's Christmas appeal was to raise money for tarpaulins to replace some of the torn and ragged ones provided as roof coverings by the UN at the beginning of 2017. After raising approximately £1,000 over the Christmas period, a total of 57 tarpaulins were bought and delivered to 57 church leaders. Many pastors were living under damaged shelters and therefore couldn't accommodate pastoral visitors. However, with the new tarpaulins delivered, the families now have the shelter to welcome visitors and be protected from the elements!

5. Seeds for Life.

With food rations being reduced on the refugee camps, a large number of refugees have begun to return to their homes. However, in their absence, their homes have been looted and their lands have become overgrown. There is no government or UN support for them as they rebuild their lives, and many are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Projects Delivering Hope raised £8,500 in order to provide seeds and hand tools to 500 of the most vulnerable families. These resources are being distributed as this report is being prepared. It is the hope and prayer of the trustees that there will be a good harvest from these seeds in 2021, and that the seeds will go on providing nourishment year on year for the foreseeable future.

6. Expansion and new partnership with Kajo Keji Christian College.

Last year we ran an appeal to help Kajo Keji College to rebuild its South Sudan campus in readiness for the college's return from refugee status in Uganda. In October, we received a request for advice and help from Mrs Cathie Rutter – a former KK college administrator with CMS in Uganda, now retired to the UK and living in Ripon. Since their retirement in 2018 Cathie and her husband John who is a priest and former college tutor, have been serving as UK advisers to the PDH board of Trustees. They set up Friends of Kajo Keji College (FOKK), a small, not for profit organisation with the aim of raising £500 per month to support college salaries, training and special projects. As this work has grown, John and Cathie have been considering succession planning and recognised the need to put FOKK on a more formal footing. Their request for advice has led to the trustees of PDH inviting FOKK to merge with us, and for Cathie to join the Board of Trustees with special responsibility for the college fund. This is a very exciting and strategic merger with benefits for both PDH and FOKK as well as the college. FOKK obviously brings with it both a list of supporters and a wealth of experience and expertise and we look forward to partnering with the college, especially during its planned relocation back to South Sudan. The College is Anglican and teaches theology courses up to ordination level. It also trains schoolteachers and business managers to degree level. There are over 100 students enrolled and student numbers have grown during their enforced exile to Moyo, Uganda.

7. New Trustees and administrative help.

We are delighted that Andy Ferguson from St Paul's, Salisbury joined us as a trustee at our AGM in May. Andy was a member of the UK team of businesspeople that we took to Uganda in 2019 to run the business training workshop. His input to the workshop was outstanding and we now benefit greatly



from his expertise in assessing potential business related projects. He has also been instrumental in obtaining grant aid from Barclays Bank.

As mentioned above, Cathie Rutter has also joined the Board of Trustees with special responsibility for our relationship with Kajo Keji Christian College. Her wealth of knowledge and experience from living in Kajo Keji for two years as College administrator is hugely valuable and she is a great asset to the Board.

We are also delighted that from January 2021, Charlotte Bell joined the team as our paid administrator for a small number of hours per week.

What were the challenges of the past year?

1. Communication.

One of our main challenges is communication. We regularly try various methods of communication such as emails, Zoom and WhatsApp. However, the challenges of poor connection speeds, coupled with the unpredictability of the South Sudanese's lives, does make communication very challenging and frustrating for all those involved. This situation has been made worse this year by not being able to visit and have face to face conversations.

2. Fund Raising

All charities' fund raising efforts have been affected by Covid during 2020 and PDH is no exception. We fish from a relatively small pool and were it not for some larger sums from individuals, church partnerships, one bequest and a sizeable grant from Barclays, we would have struggled to meet our commitments.

3. A mixed audience

We have always been conscious that our volunteers, supporters and funding partners come from a wide range of backgrounds, many Christian but many others with no faith or another faith. As many of our projects are 'humanitarian' in nature, we encourage this wide range of support. However, we also recognise that support comes from three churches and many individual Christians and we therefore want to unashamedly communicate the fact that we are a Christian charity. While our project information and fund raising materials do not mention our faith, we have now created a 'Faith Community' page on the website where we provide materials and suggestions for prayer.

Our longstanding calling from God to serve the people of South Sudan is unchanged. In order to be effective at this, we need to continue to grow the charity seeking new supporters and partners who will both pray for our work and support it financially.

Areas in which we are seeking support

- 1. Prayer Support.** We see our role as that of supporting the mission of the church in South Sudan in its ministry of caring for the poor, the homeless, the widow, the orphan and the hungry, and of reconciliation in a time of recovery from civil war. We also see our role as mobilising UK churches, individual Christians and grant making bodies to provide funding with which to relieve the poverty



under which these people, forgotten by the world, but dearly loved by God, live. We greatly value the prayer support that we already receive and ongoing prayer support for this work is vital.

2. **Communication.** We would like to see more people made aware of our work. GDPR prevents us from sending out information to cold contacts but our bi-monthly news update is produced in shareable form and perhaps a link to it via other communication channels could be enabled. This would increase readership and give those who haven't heard of us the opportunity to become subscribers. The most recent news update can be downloaded at <https://us18.campaign-archive.com/?u=2a6f9221dc0dd86219dae235b&id=a24473ce2d>.
3. **Financial Support.** We are so grateful for the support we receive from our supporters on a project by project basis but regular income in the form of monthly giving is the only way for us to deliver sustainable projects on an ongoing basis.

Conclusion.

We hope that this report has been helpful and informative. We have tried to convey the excitement we feel at the progress we have made and are continuing to make. We are still a small charity with just £24,400 income. However, our costs are very low, and we sent over £26,000 of this to our beneficiaries, including a small top up from our reserves.

Please do contact us if any further information is needed, and do take a look at our website, which has been recently updated. <http://projectsdeliveringhope.org.uk/>

Adrian Burholt – Trustee and Chair

Andrew Robertson – Trustee and CEO

Rachel Gardener-Poole – Trustee

Andy Fergusson - Trustee

Cathie Rutter - trustee

17th May 2021

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