

Annual Trustees' Report For year 1st April 2022 to March 31st 2023.



The year has been busy and productive with several completed projects and a long-awaited visit to our partner organisations in Uganda. We have three partners, and this report sets out our work with each of them over the past year.

1. Diocese of Kajo Keji.

Bishop Emmanuel. We were deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely and unexpected death of our dear friend and colleague Bishop Emmanuel Murye in December 2022. We are so pleased that he had been able to visit us here in the UK during August and that we were able to share an evening with him and Mama Cecelia. Our hearts go out to her and their children, and we were pleased to be able to send a financial gift to support them in the immediate aftermath of his death. It was good to spend some time with Mama Cecelia when we visited Moyo in February 2023. As this report is prepared, we are awaiting news of the appointment of Bishop Emmanuel's successor with whom we hope to forge strong links and friendship, as well as a robust working relationship.



20 Bread oven starter kits. In the autumn of 2022, we sent funding to provide starter packs of flour, yeast and charcoal to the 20 Mothers Union groups who had previously received a bread oven from us. This enabled them to restart their micro bakery businesses after the disruption of Covid. During our visit in February 2023, we were pleased to see bread production in progress and to hear wonderful stories of how the community savings group has not only funded the ongoing bread making business, but also used some of its profits to buy goats which provide milk, and to pay school fees for some of the children. This was a real encouragement as we were able to see our vision of sustainability becoming a reality in the lives of these people, some of the poorest on the earth.



Seeds. A grant of £3,500 was made to provide seeds for returning refugees. This was supported by St James' Church, Devizes and Salisbury Baptist Church with whom we have valuable growing links. Refugees returning to their homes in South Sudan were able to access this funding which enabled them to restart their gardens and farms after the ravages of the civil war. This was the second phase of this project which was commenced in 2021.



Emergency Food. In January 2023, cattle herders from the north drove their herds down through the agricultural areas in the south and destroyed the crops that the farmers of Kajo Keji County had been growing. Attempts to stop them resulted in 23 people being killed, and around 2,000 members of the local community ran for their lives to take shelter in other villages. This caused an immediate humanitarian crisis as there was insufficient food to feed them. Projects Delivering Hope therefore set up a fund raising page and was able to contribute around £2,000 to the fund that was set up in the wake of this massacre.

2. Smile Children's Charity Village and Academy.

Smile is our newest operating partner, and we have enjoyed getting to know and to work with Rev. Francis Candiga the Director. While the orphanage is in mid Uganda and some distance from South Sudan, we are content to work with them because the area comprises an earlier settlement of South Sudanese people and the population of the local town is around 75% South Sudanese. Indeed, Francis Candiga himself was born in the local town and is a 2nd generation settler. In the previous year we supported the setting up of the orphanage on land owned by Francis with fencing and water tanks, and during this year we have assisted with funding to set up a chicken farm, and also to provide skills



training for 32 young women who spent 9 months training as tailors and hairdressers. It was such a joy to attend their graduation ceremony in February 2023 and to present each of the girls with their certificate as well as a sewing machine or hairdressing kit. We are grateful to Salisbury charity, Advent Worldwide for the provision of funding for this equipment.

3. Friends of Kajo Keji Christian College.

We continue to provide the charitable vehicle through which a monthly grant is sent to the college, and this is co-ordinated by Cathie Rutter who is a trustee of Projects Delivering Hope. The money is donated by members of 'The Friends of KKCC' which was set up by John and Cathie. The funds are used for the running costs of the college. We have on past occasions given additional funds for capital projects and the college, and its Principal Rev. James Lule, remains one of our valued operating partners.



4. Visit to Uganda in February 2023.

By far the highlight of the past 3 years was our visit to Uganda in February 2023. This was undertaken by three Trustees, (Adrian Burholt, Rachel Gardner Poole and Andrew Robertson), and three supporters (Andrew and Karen Eustace and Richard Koch). The trip was partly funded by the Barnabas Trust (Salisbury) and by donations from several supporters as well as those who travelled. We are so grateful for all of this support.



The visit to Moyo provided us with an opportunity to meet with the DOKK team and to bring comfort and encouragement following their loss of Bishop Emmanuel. We were also able to visit two refugee camps and see the results of our previous projects as well as to deliver a business training workshop to around 30 young refugees. We took the opportunity of spare luggage capacity to deliver 60kg of Bible to Kajo Keji Christian College as theirs had been lost during the Civil War and subsequent looting of the college buildings.

We then visited the Smile Village near Kayunga and spent a wonderful day participating in the graduation celebrations and ceremony attended by around 250 guests and local dignitaries. On our second day, we travelled out to a rural area to deliver a business training workshop to around 40 young people, including those who had graduated the previous day. We enjoyed the shade of a tree as we ran the workshop outdoors for an enthusiastic and grateful group of young people. We look forward to hearing of their progress as they set up small businesses.



5. Conclusion

As we reach the end of another productive year, we offer our gratitude to all of our faithful supporters, volunteers and friends and to our South Sudanese brothers and sisters with whom it is a privilege to share our resources, time and energy. Above all, we thank God for calling us to this rewarding ministry and for giving us the energy and motivation to humbly serve Him even as we share His love as we serve the people of South Sudan.

Andrew Robertson - Trustee and CEO