

SEDCU

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



**ANNUAL REPORT AND
ACCOUNTS**
2017

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth SEDCU Annual Report covering the period from January 1st to December 31st 2017. This has been a year of consolidation and significant continued growth as the charity has broadened its supporter base, become more established and increased 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 visited in the extreme South West of Uganda and working with people whom we can trust to be aligned with this aim.

Despite continued growth this year, it is not our aim to build a large organisation but to focus on supporting small 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 each of the sponsored children and each project we fund at their schools.

As SEDCU continues to grow, the trustees believe it is important to provide greater transparency to show how donated funds are being employed to achieve our overall aim. This year's report consequently includes a more detailed breakdown of our expenditure than has been provided to date.

THE SCHOOLS

SEDCU continues to focus on two schools in Kisoro District where the vast 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 children with a range of disabilities including deafness, blindness and visual impairment who can receive an education there which otherwise would be impossible. The breakdown of disabilities at KDS in 2017 is as follows:

CATEGORY OF DISABILITY	2016 NUMBER	2017 NUMBER
BLIND	11	14
LOW-VISION	05	06
MR/AUTISM	06	02
PHYSICAL HANDICAPPED	12	12
DYSLEXIA	01	01
DEAF	37	27
DEAF-BLIND	01	01
INTELLECTUAL DISAB	02	05
MULTIPLE DISABILITY	01	02
TOTAL	77	77

Deaf	33
Deaf/Blind	2
Blind/sight impaired	19
Physical handicap	13
Mental health issues	7
Trauma PTSD	4

This wall chart also lists Autism (2), Dyslexia (1), Multiple Disability (2)

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. This year SEDCU has primarily funded an arts and crafts project, now in its 4th year.



Deaf children learning to use a knitting machine to make school jumpers which are for sale.

SEDCU again facilitated the attendance of sponsored and other children at a Ugandan National Scouting Jamboree, an East African International Scouting Jamboree and a National Disabled Sports Gala.



KDS special needs children and their interpreter attend morning parade at the East African International Scouting Jamboree

The Head Teacher of KDS has gained promotion and his successor was appointed at the start of the 2017 school year. We are delighted to welcome him to his position and have gained assurance that this change will not have any adverse impact on the continuing strong SEDCU/KDS collaboration.



Habiyaemye Stephen at his desk.

Mgahinga Community Nursery and Primary School (MCNPS) 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.



In addition, SEDCU has this year been able to fund the purchase of text books (for the second year running).

We have also funded the continuation of a three year training course for the acting head teacher to become fully qualified, and 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 is managing the construction of a new classroom block for MCNPS for which SEDCU has - over last year and this year - provided the majority of funding for the roof.



The building structure and the roof were both completed in October 2107 and completion of the tasks needed to make the classroom block fit for use are underway.

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 as well in October and has since been connected and brought into use.

Other 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. Two children have progressed further, one to Vocational College and another to University. During 2017, In addition to KDS and MCNPS, SEDCU sponsored children and young people at six other institutions: **Real Quality School, Kisoro; Kisoro Vision School; St Gertrude's School, Mutolere, Kisoro; Hornby High School, Kabale; St Bruno Vocational Training Institute, Kyabirukwa and Chemequip Medical College Ishaka, Bushenyi.**

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. SEDCU trustees make regular visits to Uganda and have, in November this year, visited every one of the schools and met all the children sponsored by SEDCU as well as their teachers.

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 twenty five. Of these, seven were at Kisoro Demonstration School, eleven were attending Mgahinga Community Nursery and Primary School, and seven 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 2018 academic year.

Sponsorship pays variously for school fees, scholastic materials, meals, boarding costs, uniforms, braille paper for blind children, mattresses, transport 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. 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 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 and many individual donations. We acknowledge with gratitude every donation. The total raised was £17,455 (including Gift Aid recovered from HMRC), which compares with £15,097 last year, an increase of 29%. 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 351 visits from people in 29 countries over the 12 month period. Of these, 343 were new visitors to the website and 38 were returning visitors. The highest numbers of visitors were from UK, USA, Brazil 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 2017 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 only 2% of expenditure) and the balance goes to fund priority projects.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

We are delighted to report that, in the 2017 financial year, £18,480 was sent to Uganda, compared with £14,135 last year, an increase of 31%. A cash balance of £3864 was held in the SEDCU bank account at the year end. Much of this sum is already committed for sponsorship expenditure in January 2018 at the start of the new school year and for project funding instalments, and we will retain a modest reserve to cover any unforeseen expenditure.

The table below sets out the approximate breakdown of 2017 expenditure:

PURPOSE	SCHOOL	AMOUNT (UGX)	AMOUNT (£)
Sponsorship			
Sponsorship – Nursery and Primary level	KDS, MCNPS, Real Quality, Kisoro	25,933,600	5,870
Sponsorship- Secondary level	Hornby High, Kisoro Vision, St Gertrude’s Kisoro	9,575,600	2,139

Sponsorship – Vocational College	St Bruno Training Institute	3,433,500	771
Sponsorship - University	ChemEquip Medical College, Ishaka	4,401,000	960
TOTAL		43,343,100	9,740
Projects			
Arts and Crafts	KDS	3,730,000	846
Participation in National Disabled Sports event	KDS	3,500,000	764
Participation in National Scouting Jamboree	KDS	3,500,000	764
Participation in East African International Scouting Jamboree	KDS	3,800,000	792
Purchase of Textbooks (Yr 2)	MCNPS	1,040,000	239
Construction 20,000 litre water tank	MCNPS	8,312,000	1,820
Salary for P7 teacher (2 nd yr) and Head Teacher Training (2 nd year)	MCNPS	6,038,600	1,369
New Classroom Block Roof (2 nd / 3 rd instalments)	MCNPS	9,711,800	2,140
TOTAL		30,632,400	8,734

Administration			
Bank charges			350
Print costs			50
Web hosting			17
TOTAL			417
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			18,897

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 – a continuing problem this year following the BREXIT decision. 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 founders 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. Our visit in November 2017 was highly successful and enabled us to confirm that our donations were making a real difference to schools and children. It also enabled us to reset priorities for sponsorship and project funding.

The following represents the financial outcome for the twelve month period ended 31 December 2016:

	2017	2016	
Cash at start of year	5306	4655	
Receipts			
Donations received	15811	12220	
Gift aid refunded	1644	2897	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	17455	15097	29% increase

Payments			
Amount sent to Schools in Uganda	(18480)	(14135)	31% increase
	-		
Administration costs in UK	(417)	(305)	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(18897)	(14440)	
Net increase/(decrease)in funds	(1442)	657	
Cash Fund at Year End	3864	5306	

Future Outlook

We have been gratified by the level of donations received during the past year. Our aim will be to continue to maintain sponsorship for the 27 children who are sponsored through SEDCU as from the start of 2018, also as they progress through secondary and – eventually – tertiary education. We may seek additional sponsors for further children identified by the schools as exceptionally needy and with the potential to benefit from education through SEDCU sponsorship. 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



MCNPS Governors



KDS Staff

