



## **Congo Children Trust Annual Report 2019-20**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

During the year 2019-20 the trustees continued to focus on supporting fundraising activities by groups and individuals including schools, churches, concerts, sponsored events, talks and festivals. Office volunteers have continued to work hard to secure a number of grants and to increase online giving.

Congo Children Trust made both monthly maintenance grants and occasional one-off grants to the Kimbilio Project for street children in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo and to related projects in Lubumbashi.

We were disappointed that Jean Bosco's application for a UK visa to visit supporting Churches in the UK was once again turned down, despite numerous letters of support from UK Bishops, CMS and UK Churches.

### **Income**

In 2019-20 both income and expenditure rose significantly. In both cases the difference is largely due to fundraising and grants focussed on phase one of the new school building on the Maison Kimbilio site, to be run by the Anglican Church of Congo and which will provide education for the street children in the project and their integration with children in the wider community. Grant funding, general donations and church donations both rose significantly in 2019-20 and a great deal of hard work by volunteers and Ian Harvey, the founding Director went into maintaining personal contact with group and individual supporters.

The trustees are deeply grateful to the following trusts and companies for their generous support:

- The Strathspey Charitable Trust, The Hilden Trust, Chester Twin, Oakwood, Wolverhampton Rotary Club, the Rozelle Trust, The Morel Trust, Tudor Investment Corporation, Karnetic Ltd, Pepperdine and Sons., Chris Stead, Flow Control Systems.

A substantial body of regular donors continue to support the charity via standing orders ensures that funds are available for grants for costs of food and utilities and the numbers of those donating also increased in the course of the financial year as opportunities for giving were promoted at a range of events. In addition, the trustees owe particular thanks to the following churches and organisations:

- The congregations and church councils of St Andrew, Hadfield; St Michael and All Angels, Cosby; Horwich Evangelical Church; Wesley Methodist Church, Chester; Central Exeter Parish; St Michael Helston; St Helen, Wheathampstead; Nursling and Rownams Parish; The Church of the Good Shepherd, Romford; St Margaret, Lowestoft; St Andrew, Lowestoft; St Francis, Heartsease, Norwich; St Michael, Kingsteignton; St James, Woodley; Etherley Methodist Church; St Margaret, Whalley Range; St Margaret's, Brotton; St Paul, Compstall;

Christ Church Harpurhey; Christ Church, West Didsbury, All Saints, Siddington; St Columba by the Castle, Edinburgh; St Bartholemew, Marsden; Edgewell Christian Fellowship; St Helen, Etwell; Hillheads Community Church; St Michael, Mytholmroyd; Wheathampstead Churches Together.

- St Elphin's School, Warrington

Funds were once also raised directly through the sale of Christmas cards and bags and other artefacts made from Congolese fabric at Greenbelt Festival, the Africa Oyé Festival and a range of church and community fairs and events. Jan McCarthy continued to crochet dozens of small turtles that proved an instant best seller at churches and festivals. The trustees continue to owe especial thanks to Elizabeth Allen, Flinty McGuire, Ruth Allen, Eileen Knibb and Gill Venton for their ongoing and tireless volunteer work on this aspect of fundraising activities which has focussed on money for the girls' sewing project in Lubumbashi.

Global Giving continued to be a particularly helpful online fundraising tool in the course of the year with significant match funding provided.

## **Expenditure**

The bulk of Congo Children Trust's financial support continues to be provided for the day to day running of the Centre Kimbilio and Maison Kimbilio, a day centre for street children and accommodation and support provision for former street children.

- Very substantial grants from Saidiana (Formerly First Steps Initiative) via CCT funded the Sewing Project and the Young Mums' Hair Salon.
- We are grateful to Christine Sayell who completed a sponsored 3 peaks walk in Wales with friends and work colleagues raising more than £3250.00 towards the drilling of water wells at the Maison Kimbilio site.
- We were delighted that a number of our supporters were able to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kimbilio in Lubumbashi with the Kimbilio team. A team of 13 dedicated and adventurous supporters mainly from UK supporting Churches visited Kimbilio spending time with the children and the Kimbilio staff team, having raised their own funding. Some of these had visited before and others came for the first time. Rev Steve Johnson visited on behalf of the Congo Children Trust Trustees. Bishop Bertin of Katanga led a well-attended celebration service on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and laid the foundation stone for the Kimbilio Primary School. An open day event was also held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 for Kimbilio supporters in Lubumbashi whilst the UK supporters were present. This was well attended and the children showcased the work they'd been involved in learning to making including art and carpentry.
- We are grateful to St Helen's, Wheathampstead who raised £9000 at their Harvest Festival in October 2019 towards the school construction and for a very generous legacy of £20,000 given in memory of Marg Hughes of Liverpool. As a result of these two gifts and individual donations via Global Giving we were able to complete the foundations and walls by March 2020 and funds were then sought to complete the roof in 2020-21 prior to opening in 2021-22.

Through most of the year 2019-20 the Trust continued to have very low UK running costs and we are extremely grateful to the late Rev Robert Boulter and the St Margaret's Centre, Whalley Range, Manchester for giving use of office space free of charge.

The Kimbilio Project UK director Ian Harvey worked two days a week on a mainly voluntary basis with some support donated to restricted funds specifically for that purpose. His activities involved communicating with supporters and volunteers in the UK, including emails, newsletters, visits and talks to supporter churches and groups. He also maintained regular contact with the volunteers and staff at the Kimbilio Project. Eva Walters moved away from Manchester and is no longer able to provide support in the Kimbilio office. She is still available to support Kimbilio with trust fund applications. We are thankful for her all the time and energy she has given on a voluntary basis in recent years.







# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
CONGO CHILDREN TRUST

On accounts for the  
year ended

31 March 2020

Charity  
no (if  
any)

1121048

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 13 January 2021

Name: Euan Menzies

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

ACA

**Address:**

24 Balcombe Road, Haywards Heath

West Sussex, RH16 1PF

## Section B

## Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**