

# IMPACT REPORT

2015-2016





# CONTENTS

03.	FOREWORD	16.	TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE
04.	AT A GLANCE	18.	FUNDRAISING
06.	GENDER EQUALITY	19.	ACCOUNTING FOR EVERY PENNY
08.	WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE	20.	FUTURE PLANS
10.	WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	21.	MEET THE TEAM
12.	EDUCATION	22.	THANK YOU
14.	HEALTH	23.	GET INVOLVED

# FOREWORD



*Martin Smedley*

Looking back over the past 12 months it is sometimes easy to focus on the challenges we have faced as a charity which are always many and varied in sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless, in many ways this year has possibly been one of our most successful to date. Gender equality, empowerment of girls and women and poverty reduction through micro-savings and loans are now fully integrated and central to our project delivery.

This year saw the successful completion of our 4-year, Big Lottery funded, project delivering Gender Equality and Health in Kasese, Western Uganda (GEHKU), which saw us exceed all our targets, reach nearly 300k beneficiaries and receive very positive affirmation from our funders' project manager.

Act4Africa has also been recognised by Uganda District Officials as "one of the best NGOs in Kasese."

Our UKaid funded HEAL programme, developing Health, Empowerment And Livelihoods amongst women and girls in the Mayuge district of South East Uganda, goes from strength to strength. The programme was highlighted by STOPAIDS and Oxfam Policy and Practice for its success in tackling the spread of HIV through the economic empowerment of women.

In March 2016, I was especially proud to visit the land we have purchased for the construction of Kathy's Centre - Act4Africa's first community health and education centre. It was the dream of my late wife Kathy to provide a centre for women together with high quality early years' education for their children. We have been working all year with the Engineers for Overseas Development, North West (EFOD-NW) on the project proposal and building design. We are enormously grateful to EFOD-NW for funding and overseeing the construction of Kathy's Centre, which is due for completion in December 2016.

Once again all this has been made possible thanks to the efforts of our dedicated supporters, volunteers, staff and trustees. We could not do any of this without their amazing support.

**Martin Smedley, Chief Executive**



# AT A GLANCE

## OUR IMPACT

- 90p of every £1 we spent this year went directly to delivering our projects.
- Our Big Lottery funded project, Gender Equality and Health in Kasese, Uganda (GEHKU) reached over 297k beneficiaries, leaving a legacy to help reduce the spread and effects of HIV/AIDS.
- 251 business enterprises have been set up by women and girls as part of the UKaid funded HEAL project – developing Health, Empowerment and Livelihoods in Mayuge, Uganda.
- We successfully completed a HEAL pilot project in Malawi and are grateful to Soroptimist International of Manchester for their funding to continue this vital work.
- Act4Africa has been recognised by Ugandan District Officials as “one of the best NGOs in Kasese.”
- A total of 71k people have been tested for HIV and sexually transmitted infections to date.
- 1.4 million people have received HIV/AIDS and sexual health awareness training since we began.
- We purchased the land for Kathy's Centre, bringing us closer to delivering the dream of our late co-founder, Kathy Smedley.

## WHERE



## WHAT



### STEPS TO HELP OVERCOME POVERTY

- GENDER EQUALITY
- WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE
- WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH





# GENDER EQUALITY

Gender inequality is the most fundamental obstacle to eradicating poverty and achieving economic and social development.

In rural Africa gender inequality is generally entrenched, rooted in cultural beliefs and traditions. As a result, many women and girls live in a degenerative cycle of ill health, poor education and poverty. Culturally, women are expected to be submissive and not to offer their opinion. They are not expected to refuse sex or insist on protection, either within or outside of marriage. Household decisions and income are usually controlled by men.

Tackling gender inequality is central to our work, and our Theatre for Development workshops have proven to be particularly effective in challenging views that uphold these inequalities and misconceptions. We tackle the issue head on by actively engaging local communities to promote the rights of women. This awareness supports the work we do to empower women through economic independence, education and sexual and reproductive health.

## OUR IMPACT

**Culminating in April 2016, our Big Lottery Funded project, Gender Equality and Health in Kasese, Uganda (GEHKU), has raised awareness of the rights of women and challenged gender inequality by targeting vulnerable groups. Over 279k beneficiaries were reached with this project.**

- Over 300 teachers, health workers and traditional herbalists have been equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote the sexual and human rights of women and challenge gender inequality with all members of their communities.
- 300 school-based peer educators have been trained to deliver age-appropriate gender equality workshops through after-school clubs.

- There has been a 32% increase in the number of women and girls who freely express confidence to refuse sexual advances.
- 59% more women and girls now show an ability to negotiate safe sex.
- 37% more boys and men now show an increased respect for girls' and women's sexual rights.
- 88% of the project's beneficiaries now freely discuss HIV/AIDS prevention with their spouses.

**Men have also been actively involved in bringing about change for women through our Health, Empowerment and Livelihoods (HEAL) project. 'Pro-husbandry' work encourages family members to recognise women's abilities and support their involvement in savings groups.**



## MEET PAUL

Paul took part in community sessions on gender equality, stigma and domestic violence as part of the GEHKU project. He was immensely touched by the content expressed by the team through role play and story-telling.

*"I realise now the mistake that I commit as a male in my home."*

Polygamy is commonplace in Uganda and Paul had come close to selling the land that he owned with his wife, in order to pay the dowry on a second wife. As is the norm, Paul's wife was unemployed and responsible for all food production. She looked after the land, home and children, yet he considered her "useless and a beggar".

*"I had forgotten that the work she does in the home and garden is a big contribution and support to the family."*

*"From the sessions with Act4Africa I have learnt that all people are equal and play distinct roles in family life. I will openly tell my wife about this and also apologise for treating her badly. I now understand her situation and can negotiate our love freshly."*



We train female community trainers in gender equality.



They teach thousands more about the rights of women and girls.



Awareness spreads and women and girls claim their place in society.



# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

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**One of the key factors affecting gender equality is women's economic independence.**

Women's economic participation speeds up development, helps overcome poverty, reduces inequalities and improves children's nutrition, health, and school attendance. Women typically invest a higher proportion of their earnings in their families and communities than men.\*

In rural Uganda, the overriding issues affecting women's economic independence are gender relations within the home and lack of capital to expand production beyond subsistence.

Funded by UKaid, our Health, Empowerment and Livelihoods (HEAL) programme in Mayuge District, Uganda, equips young women (aged 15-30) with the skills and training they need to become financially independent. Through business training and the establishment of women's savings groups with access to loans, they develop their own enterprise and livelihood opportunities.

\*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## OUR IMPACT



- Training sessions in business, basic finance and book-keeping skills have been delivered to 512 young women.
- Women's access to savings and loans has increased through the 27 savings groups established. A total of £19,306 has been saved, 233 loans have been taken and 167 repaid to date.
- Economic participation by young women has increased and 251 business enterprises have been set up, including food production/trading, retail, catering and hairdressing.
- Some initial resistance was encountered towards the women's groups by men in the community. To counter this, we have involved the men in agri-husbandry groups in 2016. The purpose and benefits of the women's groups are shared with them, addressing issues of accountability, equality, empowerment, sustainable jobs and livelihoods, income generation and micro-enterprise. Most men now endorse the groups and support the women, often saving with them.
- Based on the HEAL project in Uganda, we have established a small-scale replica project in Malawi. By March 2016 four women's enterprise groups have already opened bank accounts successfully.



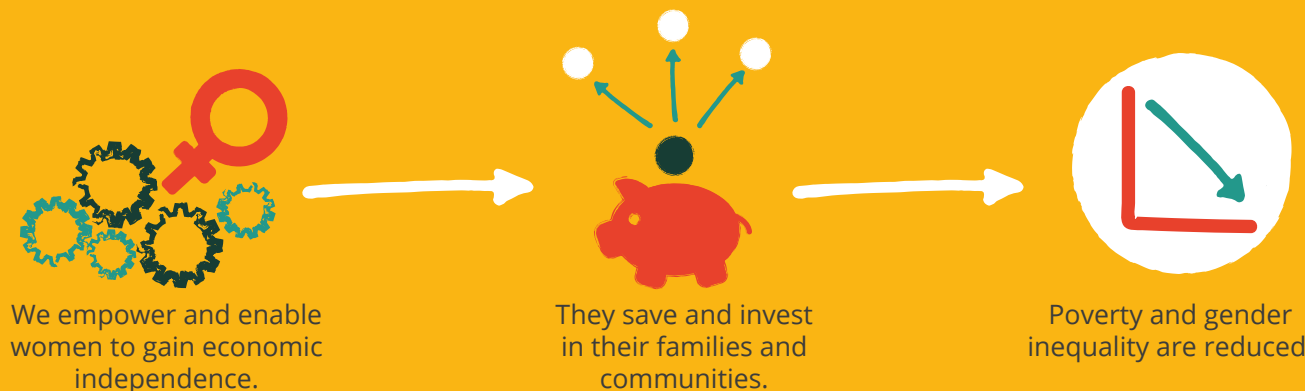
## MEET IRENE

**Irene (24) is married with 2 children. She is secretary of the Tukolele Walala HEAL group in Uganda. Through her training she has developed a business selling second hand clothes and now she saves regularly from the income.**

*"I started with an objective and, with the help of Act4Africa, I developed a business plan. My whole family has learnt the importance of saving. Thanks to Act4Africa, my siblings and children have a better and brighter future."*

A positive role model, Irene encourages other women to save and educate their children. As group secretary, she also enjoys encouraging others to develop good business ideas that will help them get out of poverty.

*"Being part of a HEAL group has given me confidence and hope. Now I am empowered to set my own priorities and values as a woman."*





# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



## OUR IMPACT

Women are agents of change in their families, communities and countries. Increasing their voice and their socioeconomic and political participation is essential for sustainable development.

It is widely acknowledged that providing women with the confidence to make informed decisions about their lives leads to empowerment in other areas, including household decisions and community activities. Enabling women to take control of their sexual and reproductive health, and equipping them with vital life-skills and self-esteem, are crucial components of their empowerment delivered through our programmes.

Act4Africa provides empowerment to women and girls through education and economic independence, but the success of this is based on the social and psychological empowerment they also gain. Our programmes have a positive impact on participants' confidence and self-esteem as they feel empowered not only through training and knowledge, but also through social support and encouragement from working together.



**As part of our HEAL programme in South Eastern Uganda, 57 Female Community Mentors have so far been recruited and trained. They lead regular group meetings to build self-confidence and entrepreneurship amongst members.**

- We have delivered sessions to more than 1000 young women and girls (aged 15-30) about life skills, empowerment, household management and community involvement.
- All-female training, meetings and feedback sessions have enabled uninhibited freedom of expression and encouraged mutual support between beneficiaries.
- Young women and girls have been supported to overcome self-stigma and other negative attitudes that would otherwise hinder demonstration of their full potential and productivity.

- 81% of beneficiaries have gained new skills needed to contribute to community decisions. These may include, for example, holding the position of chair, secretary or treasurer in a HEAL group or simply feeling confident to approach local chiefs about community matters.

- 93% of beneficiaries now manage household resources and/or are involved in household decision making.

**Through our GEHKU project in Western Uganda, over 600 school girls, teachers, health workers and traditional herbalists have been trained as trainers to deliver key health and gender equality messages. With consequent motivation and confidence, they have all gone on to provide effective leadership roles within their communities.**

- The GEHKU project delivered a 49% increase in the overall number of women and girls holding a community leadership position, which was well above target.

## MEET REBECCA

Rebecca is 21 years old and does not remember a single time when her parents consulted her about any decisions related to either herself or her family. She has grown up used to the notion that others make decisions for her. Consequently, she had no confidence to make decisions for herself prior to participation in an Act4Africa training session.

*"Act4Africa have empowered me to make informed and independent decisions and helped me develop personal goals which I aim to achieve."*

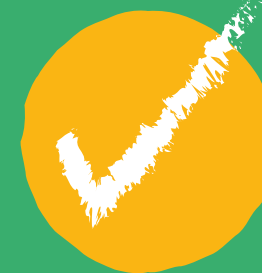
*"I have now started to value myself and I am going to reach out to my fellow girls to encourage them. It is high time we took full control of our lives and proved to the world that we have what it takes to participate in all decisions and activities."*



We give women self-esteem and confidence to make informed decisions.



Their voice grows in the home, the community and the country.



Women become empowered to affect positive socio-economic and political change.





# EDUCATION

With even a few years of education, women have better economic prospects; fewer, healthier and longer-living children; and better chances of sending their own children to school.

Our programmes are delivered in communities where 60% of girls never attend primary school, and 85% of those attending secondary school leave before the age of 18.\*

Encouraging and enabling girls to stay in school is a vital step in our process of empowering women, but is not always easy in the deprived, rural areas in which we operate. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS, gender inequality and poverty all impact on the education of girls.

It is not only encouraging girls to remain in education that constitutes a vital part of Act4Africa's work, but also enabling them to do so through essential support and financial assistance.

Education is a process, not an outcome, and the ongoing support and training of girls and women enables real progress to be made.

\* Uganda Bureau of Statistics

## OUR IMPACT

To date we have trained 300 female teenage peer educators, in Ugandan schools, to circulate vital gender equality and sexual and reproductive health information amongst their communities.

Peer educators are a core part of our **Grow A Girl** programme. 10 of them are now sponsored by individual supporters who donate monthly to help the girls complete their secondary education. These are a few of the girls' achievements this year:

- Daphine (13) has worked hard to pass her exams.
- Roseline (12) became a health prefect.
- Mary (15) was promoted to Senior 3 and became known as 'small teacher' to her peers. She is proud to encourage others to work hard and stay in school.
- Sharon (18) counsels young HIV+ mothers at a local ante-natal clinic.

- Talent (14) set up a club at her school to teach her peers about the problems of early pregnancy and the dangers of HIV.

Educating out-of-school adolescents and young women is equally important to us. As part of the HEAL project, over 1000 have been engaged in our community education and group sessions to access business and financial literacy training.

- Over 70% of these are now able to undertake basic record-keeping and develop simple business plans.

Health education has, of course, been at the heart of our programmes in Africa for 15 years during which time we have used our innovative Theatre for Development techniques to train over 1.4m people in HIV prevention.



## MEET BRIDGET

Bridget (20) joined our Grow A Girl programme towards the end of her schooling when she showed great potential in her chosen career as a nurse. However, as one of 7 children, her family could not afford to continue her education. Thanks to sponsorship from a small but growing number of supporters, Bridget is now in her second year at nursing school.

As a peer educator, she has achieved so much for her community. She advises her elders against gender inequality and domestic violence and models respect of others.

*"In my community, I have set up groups of children who teach each other to become role models. They grow vegetables and sell them in the market to save money for books and pens."*

*"At school I teach my peers not to stigmatise those living with HIV/AIDS, but to befriend and counsel them to appreciate their role as valuable community members."*



Where we operate, 60% of girls never attend school. They are susceptible to early pregnancy, ill health and poverty.



You can sponsor a girl to stay in school for just £15 a month.



She will use her education to earn a living, avoid HIV, have healthier children and send *them* to school.





# HEALTH

Health education and provision of services have been the cornerstone of Act4Africa's work for over 15 years. They underpin all our programmes.

East and Southern Africa have the highest number of people living with HIV (19 million\*) and the highest prevalence of new HIV infections in the world. Gender inequality results in most of those living with HIV being women. They lack the knowledge and ability to control their own sexual and reproductive health and often suffer from gender-based violence. Poverty and lack of opportunity often lead to high risk sexual behaviour. Access to prevention information and health services are biased towards men.

Encouraging and providing testing for the whole community, and educating them about sexual and reproductive health rights, is imperative to reducing the spread of HIV. Knowledge and understanding of sexually transmitted infections and HIV prevention, risks, transmission and treatment is vital to this process.

As well as delivering health services and counselling we also deliver large scale community events. These involve interactive theatre, dance, group exercises, workshops and Q&A sessions, all designed to impart and test understanding of key messages about HIV/AIDS and dispel myths and stigma.

\* UNAIDS 2015 data

## OUR IMPACT

Act4Africa has so far provided 1.4 million people with HIV/AIDS and sexual health awareness training and tested 71,000 for HIV and other STIs.

To date we have distributed 274k condoms to communities in Uganda.

- Our GEHCU project in Western Uganda has delivered a 20% increase in awareness and knowledge of condom use and a 20% increase in men and women (aged 15-54) reporting condom use during their last sexual intercourse with a casual partner.
- The number of girls (aged 10-14) and women (aged 15-54) who feel able to negotiate safe sex has increased by 59%, well above target.

- GEHCU has delivered a 41% increase in people showing care, acceptance and positive attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS and disabilities. However, many of those living with HIV/AIDS still show a reluctance to disclose their status, demonstrating the strength of stigma still attached to the virus.
- The number of people living with HIV/AIDS now receiving access to antiretroviral treatment has increased by 44%.
- **We also deliver HIV awareness training, testing and counselling as part of our HEAL programme in South East Uganda.** We are delighted that 79% of both male and female beneficiaries now demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of HIV/AIDS and 80% of those testing positive are taking up referrals for treatment.

## MEET BRENDA

Meet Brenda (18 years). She is one of just 15% of girls who remain in school at this age in Uganda. During the week she stays away from home with relatives and walks long distances to school each day. Her parents are poor subsistence farmers; they struggle to pay her school fees and provide her with no additional money. At times, she has been forced to sell her body "to afford nice things". She had never thought of HIV/AIDS as one of the risks of having sex.

Brenda attended an Act4Africa HIV awareness raising event in her village. She met with Act4Africa Field Officer, Daisy Nankumbi, who spoke to her about HIV/AIDS and highlighted the many risks involved in engaging in early sex.

*"I now want to start up a new chapter in my life. I will be tested for HIV and take full control of my sexual life by making informed decisions. My message to all young girls is that engagement in early sex stands to make girls more vulnerable through HIV/AIDS or early pregnancy. They should abstain and prioritise their education. There are good things in the future and a time for everything."*



1.4 million people trained in HIV prevention.



71,000 people tested for HIV.



44% increase in people with access to treatment.



# TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE

Since Act4Africa began in 2000, we have been arranging life-changing volunteer trips to Africa. From 2009, we have specialised in bespoke medical elective trips for student and qualified doctors, nurses and midwives to experience a clinical placement at an African hospital.

As an experienced deliverer of health education in Africa for over 15 years, we are uniquely placed to understand students' requirements. Placements are tailor-made to suit skills and interests and participants gain hands-on experience at a choice of four hospitals in Uganda, Tanzania or Malawi as well as at grass-roots level in the community. With local staff on hand to provide support and advice, peace-of-mind is guaranteed.

In recent years we have expanded our activity to include practical aid trips to all corners of the globe, incorporating the skills and experience of Shaun and Kathy Murphy of **Soapbox Trips**. Over the past 20 years, Shaun and Kathy have developed strong and lasting relationships with the indigenous people in the areas where they work. They arrange custom-made trips for 16-75 year olds for periods of 1 week to 12 months, offering the opportunity to help in some of the world's poorest communities and experience a very different way of life.



## MEET JENNIFER



Jennifer is a medical student from the University of Sheffield and she carried out a four week elective at the Jinja Regional Referral Hospital in 2015.

*"The placement was a fantastic experience and I learnt a huge amount. It was very different to medicine in the UK and I saw many diseases that I am unlikely to come across in the UK."*

*"One of the best things about the trip was the flexibility. Act4Africa were very helpful in allocating us as much time as we wished in the specialities we wanted – for me, this was paediatrics, obstetrics and general medicine. We also spent time at a local orphanage, rural village clinics and a charity for street children."*

*"Staying with one of the local doctors and his housekeeper (who was a fantastic cook!) really allowed us to integrate with the community and we became good friends with them. I made a lot of friends in Jinja and was overwhelmed by how welcoming and friendly everybody was."*

## MEET JOHN



John has travelled eight times with Soapbox Trips and this year joined the team travelling to Tanzania.

The first project that the team visited was a local primary school.

*"We didn't waste a single minute. We taught a class about the wonders of the solar system, entertained them at lunchtime with football and rounders and, during free periods, we marked exam papers and engaged in social chitchat. Building relationships is important. For me, overseas work is about taking hope and encouragement as well as engaging in practical tasks."*

Other projects that John was involved in included medical outreach at a Maasai clinic, painting the walls of a church and teaching children to sew at a women's refuge.

*"One day we were fortunate to see a Maasai bride in traditional costume – something tourists rarely see. Soapbox Trips offered me new experiences and I was grateful for the challenges we encountered. My life was enriched and now I identify with those suffering at the bottom of the economic ladder."*





# FUNDRAISING

THIS YEAR OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE RAISED OVER £11,500 THROUGH A VARIETY OF EVENTS, CHALLENGES AND EFFORTS. ENORMOUS THANKS GO TO EVERY ONE OF THEM.

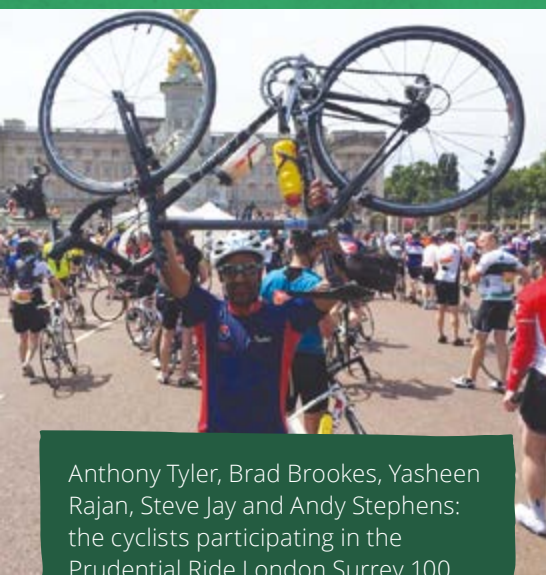
## THANK YOU



Lily Newman and her 'Wingnuts', Steph, Paula, Alison, Gill, Kathryn and Ruth, for undertaking their crazy Wing Walking adventure. This involved strapping themselves to the wings of a bi-plane and going for a fly - not for the faint hearted!

*"I was honoured to help my incredible friends, Kathy and Martin Smedley, to set up Act4Africa 15 years ago and since then, the charity has delivered comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention education to 1.4 million young Africans. As the 'Magnificent 7 Wing-walking Team', we chose to raise money for Kathy's Centre, an amazing legacy project in memory of a very special woman."*

Lily Newman



Anthony Tyler, Brad Brookes, Yasheen Rajan, Steve Jay and Andy Stephens: the cyclists participating in the Prudential Ride London Surrey 100, a gruelling 100-mile road cycling event based on the London Olympic route.



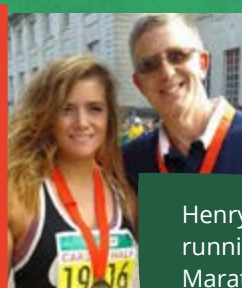
Maddie Rock and a team of geotechnical engineers from Mouchel Consulting: James, Avril, Amy and Peter, who took part in Trekfest 2015 and completed the challenging 27-mile Peak District walk in under 12 hours.



Students from Leeds Beckett University for organising a film night.



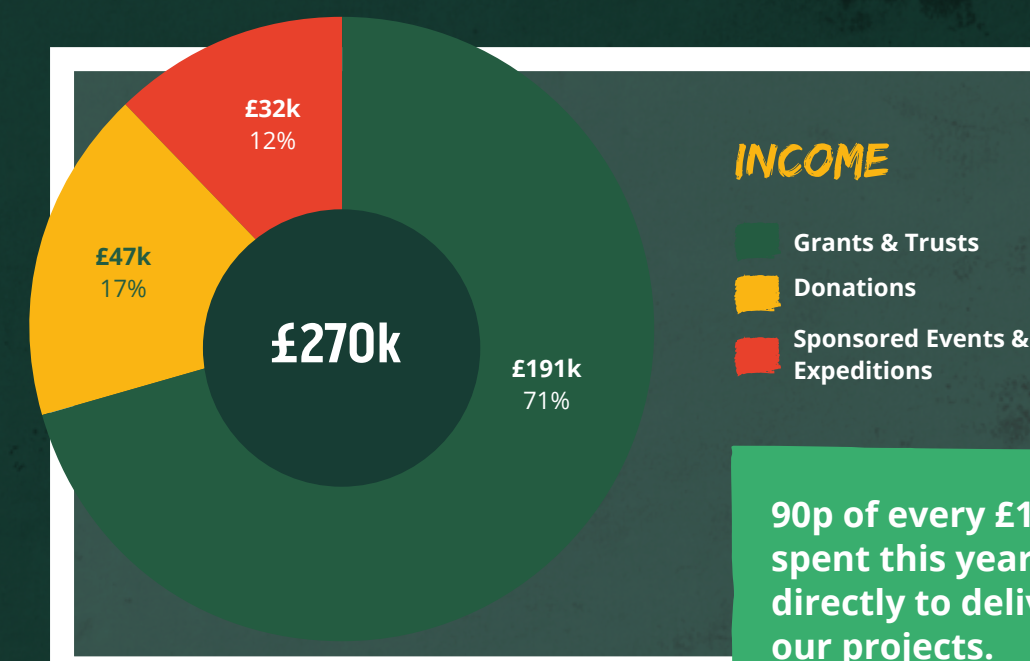
Henry Marshall for running the London Marathon and Rhian Cheyne, the Cardiff Half Marathon.



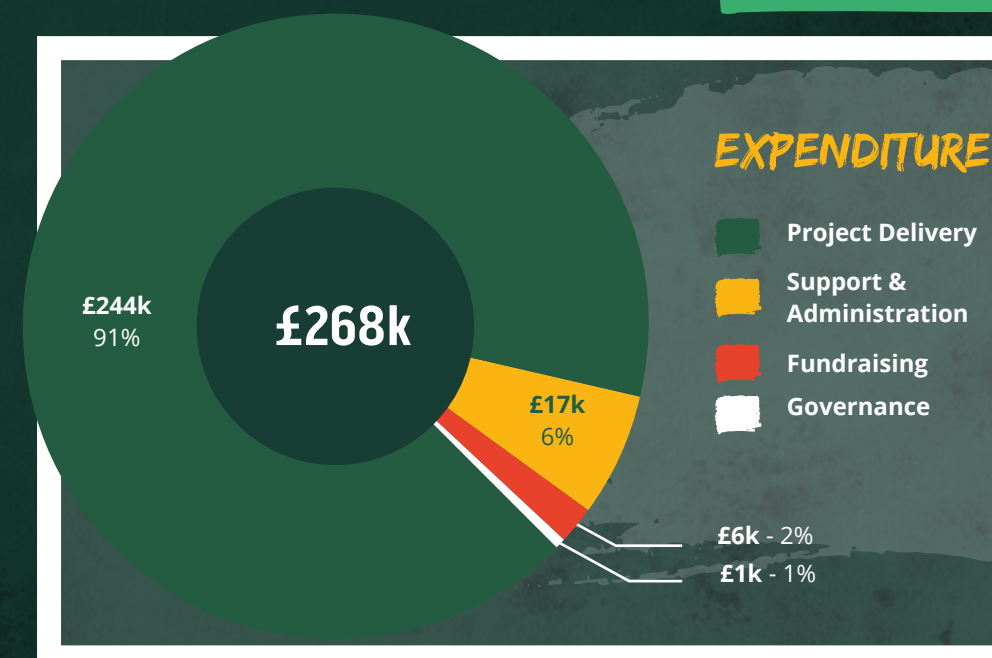
Meigan Lyons, a stalwart Act4Africa fundraiser, for her continued efforts this year and every year since 2009.

# ACCOUNTING FOR EVERY PENNY

We are proud of our record for squeezing the maximum impact out of every penny. Part of this comes down to our structure: we fund Act4Africa Non-Government Organisations who employ local staff to do our work in Africa.



90p of every £1 we spent this year went directly to delivering our projects.





# FUTURE PLANS



We are very optimistic about the future as Act4Africa enters into a new phase of development, fulfilling the dream of our late co-founder, Kathy Smedley, with a fitting tribute to her work.

## KATHY'S CENTRE

On the outskirts of Mayuge, in Eastern Uganda, Kathy's Centre will be Act4Africa's first community health and education centre. **Kathy's Centre** will provide health testing and counselling services, community education programmes and a kindergarten. In memory of Kathy, the centre is due to open formally in September 2017.

Our first early years education facility for 3-5 year olds, **Kathy's Centre** will provide free places to some of Mayuge's most disadvantaged children, including AIDS orphans and children of teenage mothers, ostracised by their communities. Kathy, an early years teacher herself, was passionate about providing opportunities to young children through a varied and balanced curriculum. We will deliver a quality early childhood development programme at Kathy's Centre to give Ugandan children the best start in life.

## NEW BEGINNINGS IN KASESE

Although we were sad to see the end of our Big Lottery funded Gender Equality and Health project in Kasese, Uganda this year, the project leaves a fantastic legacy. Part of this legacy will be the refurbishment of the Act4Africa building in Kasese to become a community resource centre with an in-house hostel facility for 12 young women. The hostel will provide safe, secure and affordable accommodation for girls who stay away from their homes and families to further their education.

## HEAL IN MALAWI

Finally, we are delighted to see the roll out of our HEAL (Health, Empowerment and Livelihoods) project in Malawi in 2016/17. In partnership with our funder, Soroptimist International of Manchester, Act4Africa will train 20 local women to be trainers in sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and gender equality. Each will set up a local women's savings group and, altogether, train 500 members in the importance of savings and investment, basic business planning and record keeping. Members will be able to submit requests for loans to support individual and group enterprises. Access to their own income is key to achieving a better life for these women who subsist on less than £1 a day.



# MEET THE TEAM EXIIXE

We often say, our greatest asset is our team.

Our staff are regularly supported by dedicated volunteers who help us achieve our goals. This year we would particularly like to thank Nathan Parton, Tom Jeffrey, Adedayo Ajayi, Lily Newman and Clare Crowther for volunteering their time in the UK.

Act4Africa has a small UK team based in Altrincham, Cheshire supporting and mentoring our Act4Africa Non-Government Organisation partners in Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania.



### ACT4AFRICA SOUTH EASTERN UGANDA TEAM

Based in Jinja, in March 2016 the team comprised (left to right):

Patrick Kigongo, Uganda General Manager; Jude Tusubira, Enterprise Officer; Sanon Mukose, Enterprise Officer; Nicholas Torach, Field Officer; Martha Bonny, Financial Controller; Daisy Nankumbi, Field Officer; Simon Peter Otim, Enterprise Officer; Harriet Nakiirya, Field Officer; Seated: Moses Waiswa, Programme Co-ordinator



### ACT4AFRICA WESTERN UGANDA TEAM

Based in Kasese, the GEHKU project team comprised (left to right):

Gidion Thembo, Project Accountant; Deborah Mbambu, Project Monitoring Assistant; Moris Kabuuzugwire, Team Manager; Harriet Bukundika, Team Leader; Alice Peace Biira, Project Monitoring Assistant; Jovia Kizza, Trainer; Henry Baluku, Trainer; Ruth Kabugho, Team Leader and Senior Trainer; Enos Baluku, Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator; Geoffrey Kambasu, Data Clerk



### ACT4AFRICA MALAWI

In Malawi our programmes are led by Team Manager, Bernard Makupete. This year the HEAL project continues with the help of one Field Officer and a volunteer.



### ACT4AFRICA TANZANIA

Our work in Tanzania this year has mainly comprised the placement of medical and nursing students in Amana Hospital in Dar es Salaam for their elective placements. This has been co-ordinated by Tumaini Orgenes, our Senior Trainer.



### ACT4AFRICA UK

Based in Altrincham, Cheshire, the staff team currently comprises (left to right): Martin Smedley, Chief Executive; Sarah Istephan, Marketing Executive; Barbara Blaber, Finance Administrator; and Hilary Yeates, Project Manager.

**Leadership Team:** Chris Grieves, Kathy Murphy, Shaun Murphy, Martin Smedley, Dora Witcomb

**Trustees:** Charis Baker, Chris Grieves (chair), Simona Labor and Alexan Westlake.



# THANK YOU



Without our friends, funders, supporters and advocates, our fight to create a brighter future for women and girls in some of Africa's poorest communities would be impossible.

This year we have received £78k from voluntary donors and supporters of individual fundraising/ sponsored events, and our deepest thanks go to every single person and organisation who gave so generously.

There isn't enough space to list everyone who has kindly supported us this year so we would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all those who have contributed – you know who you are and we hope that this report has given you some insight into the difference you have made.

We would like to give our particular thanks to the following funders, organisations and trusts who have supported us this year: UKAid (DfID), Big Lottery Fund, Souter Trust, Soroptimist International of Manchester, Altrincham Baptist Church and Parker Design.

And the following individuals: Jill Baker, Meigan Lyons, Henry Marshall, William Naylor, Lily Newman, Maddie Rock and Jason Tunnicliffe.



# GET INVOLVED



## DONATE

Even the smallest gifts help save lives. It costs just £1.50 to deliver our life changing messages to each person. Your donation will change attitudes, transform communities and save lives – donate today at [www.act4africa.org](http://www.act4africa.org). Or if you shop on-line, sign up to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) and donate, at no extra cost to you, when you shop with a wide range of popular retailers.

## FUNDRAISE

From cake sales to marathons, the support of fundraisers makes our key programmes possible. However you want to take part, the money you raise will have a huge impact. Contact us for a Fundraising Pack today.

## SPONSOR

For £15 a month, you can join our Grow A Girl programme and help a vulnerable girl complete her education, avoid early pregnancy and/or HIV, and learn valuable life skills.

## ETHICAL GIFTS

Make a difference with the gifts you give. Donate towards a girl's school fees, uniform or a choice of other items and receive a print-at-home gift card to send to your friend, family, colleague, teacher or carer.

## TRAVEL ABROAD

Join our medical elective programme, teach abroad or talk to us about planning the trip of a lifetime where you can provide hands-on support to a community in need.

## VOLUNTEER

We offer flexible internships in our UK office in areas such as, fundraising, PR and marketing. Contact us to find out more or simply fly the flag for us by raising awareness and funds in your community.

## LEGACY GIVING

We would be both humbled and honoured if you think of our work when considering your legacy and writing your will.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

We would love to hear from you if your organisation would like to partner with us. We would be happy to build a unique, tailored partnership to deliver your objectives through mutually beneficial programmes from payroll giving to sponsorship.

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