

## **Quaker Congo Partnership UK, Charity number 1159781**

### **Annual Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

#### **Reference and administrative information**

Trustees:

H. Margaret Gregory, Catherine Putz: *co-clerks*

Andrew H. Gregory: *treasurer*

*Trustees:* Hannah Morrow, Nigel Watt, Paul Simon, Nick Tischler, Alick Munro, Lynn Norbury

Registered Address: Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, 70/72 Cross Street, Manchester, M2 4JG

Number of meetings: Trustees met three times during 2019. In addition to trustees we were joined by new associates.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Quaker Congo Partnership UK was registered as an independent Charity in January 2015, having previously been supervised by Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meeting.

Manchester & Warrington and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. Additional trustees are appointed through advertisements, and through Quaker circles. They should be Quakers or people in sympathy with Quakerism and supportive of the work we are doing.

Trustees are asked to complete a fit and proper person declaration, and to declare any possible conflicts of interest. In 2019 Trustees met three times and maintained regular contact through phone and email. Trustees do not receive any remuneration apart from the refund of expenses

#### **Charitable purposes, Activities for the public benefit**

These are to support the community work of CEEACO (Community of Evangelical Churches of Friends in the Congo) in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is an unstable area with periodic incursions by militias. Unrest has continued during 2019. Our core projects are the community hospital at Abeka; counselling for victims of violence and rape, support and education for vulnerable young people. This peace building work, including assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, has become increasingly important due to the unrest in nearby communities. There is also increasing work in developing agriculture, other economic activities. Clean water, which was provided for the village and hospital of Abeka in 2017, has proved most valuable in reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases, and plans are being developed to extend the water supply to nearby villages. We work by raising money which is then managed by our partners for the agreed purposes. Most money transfers are through bank transfer.

## **Fund raising**

Money is raised through donations from individuals, from Quaker Meetings and through applications to charitable trusts. Trust donations this year include Quaker Peace and Social Witness, James Reckitt Charity, Education Services Trust, Southall Trust, Just Trust and the CB & HH Taylor Trust. In addition we have received a legacy and donations from an orienteering fundraising event and a garden party.

## **Risk Management**

The projects in DRC are managed by CEEACO, who are conscious of the risks involved in this unstable region. Risks in DRC include: insecurity and violence and the risk of epidemic disease including cholera and Ebola.

For the past year the hospital has not had an ambulance so there have been delays in transferring patients when more specialised treatment was required. This has probably resulted in some deaths.

The trustees are conscious of the need to manage funds so that they are able to maintain the basic committed support.

Trustees have attended training on risk management coordinated by the Charity Commission, including data protection and have shared these with the trustee body.

Data protection: A record is kept of donors who have asked to receive the Newsletter.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults has been discussed with our partners who appreciate the importance of this and have promised to tell the trustees should any incidents occur.

## **Reporting**

The trustees receive quarterly reports and accounts, including receipts, from our partner CEACCO, through their local management group. These demonstrate how the money has been spent and what has been achieved, including details of hospital activity. Following the visit by three trustees in November 2017, we did not visit in 2018 & 2019 but maintained regular electronic communication. The trustees report to individual donors, Quaker Meetings and donating trusts through a newsletter published about 3 times a year, and meet with groups when this is possible. We have taken part in the work of the Quaker Africa Interest Group, had an information stall at Britain Yearly Meeting and been in regular contact with the London office of Friends World Committee for Consultation.

There have not been any serious incidents which needed to be reported to the Charity Commission.

## **Achievements and Performance in 2019**

Trustees held a 'Visioning Day' to help us clarify our priorities and future plans. We were clear that we had a commitment to longer term work.

Our progress in publicity included a stall at Britain Yearly Meeting, producing Newsletters and revision of the Website.

Trustees have undertaken training in finance, governance and cyber security. We have also developed our knowledge of types of community and peace building work being used by other Quaker linked groups in Africa.

The hospital has received a grant from Quaker Peace and Social Witness which has been used to buy a new obstetric bed, a wheelchair, a microscope, laboratory equipment, and for staff training in psychiatry, surgery and public health.

CEPAP, Centre for Education Peace and Psychological Support, has established and trained a youth committee and held a conference in an area on the plateau where there has been considerable tension. They were pleased to note that when violence did break out the villages where they had been working were not involved. This violence led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons who have received counselling and practical support.

An additional grant from the Southall Trust made it possible to purchase a motorbike so the counsellors could better reach the outlying villages. They have also rented a new office after the previous one was damaged in an earthquake.

They have undertaken work with women who have suffered rape and domestic violence and extended their counselling to others who have suffered trauma.

We continue to pay the school fees of vulnerable children and young people and also to support them in playing a greater part in community life.

Water, Clean water continues to be supplied to the hospital and village of Abeka with the resultant reduction in water borne disease. A local management group has been established which is collecting subscriptions from those receiving clean water and coordinating repairs.

Microcredit: Thanks to grants received from World Day of Prayer. It has been possible to extend the assistance and training available to women. Land has been rented and horticultural training provided, also literacy and numeracy classes, training in animal husbandry and craftwork.

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019		2018	
	General £	Reserved £	General £	Reserved £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	32,302		19,080	
Fund-raising	1,868		933	
Grants - general	12,500		7,300	
Peace and trauma counselling		1,800		
Hospital equipment		5,000		5,700
Training		2,000		5,000
Gift Aid	2,490		2,568	1,550
Total income	49,160	8,800	29,881	12,250
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>57,960</b>		<b>42,131</b>	
<b>Payments</b>				
CEEACO - Projects	27,910		27,592	
Peace & trauma counselling		2,641		5,852
Hospital equipment		5,235		6,318
Training		1,990		2,620
e-Ambulance	7,549			
Moto bike (CEPAP)	1,745			
2020 visit	791			
Other epenses	347			
Consultants	266		1,345	
Fund-raising costs (pens)			172	
Printing & Newsletter	252		225	
Advertising	255		495	
Meetings	67			
Travel expenses	356			
Total payments	39,538	9,866	29,829	14,790
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>49,404</b>		<b>44,619</b>	
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>8,556</b>		<b>-2,488</b>	
Balance at 1 January	1,276		3,764	
Balance at 31 December	<b>9,833</b>		<b>1,276</b>	
Balance sheet as at 31 December	£		£	
Cash in bank	9,833		1,276	

I have examined the paperwork that supports these figures for the income and expenditure of Quaker Congo Partnership UK, and am satisfied that they are a correct record of the income and expenditure on each line of the spreadsheet.

*R. Hersman, 4 March 2020,*

Quaker Congo Partnership UK

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