



**Self Help
Africa**



ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION IS AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING AND RESILIENT RURAL AFRICA

Self Help Africa is the trading name of Gorta.
The Gorta Group is comprised of Self Help Africa,
TruTrade and Partner Africa.

ONLINE REPORT

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CONTENTS

Group CEO's introduction	4
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IMPACT REPORT

Projects snapshot	8
2020 in numbers	11
Looking back at our impact 2010 - 2020	12
List of our commodities	18
AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund - impact snapshot	24
Responding to the pandemic	26
BETTER farming and diets in Malawi	28
Market access for Ethiopia's smallholder farmers	30
Kenya's changing cassava landscape	32
A brighter future for refugees	34
Stories: From farm to market	36
Case studies	42
Signing up to the UN Global Compact	46
Challenging ourselves on racial equality	47
Development Education programme	48
WorldWide Global Schools	50

Partner Africa: The pandemic hits African businesses	52
TruTrade's resilience and relevance in the digital age	54
One Million Trees campaign success	56
Communications: Doubling down on digital in 2020	58
Letter from the Chairman	60
Board of Directors	62

REPORTS AND FIGURES

Directors and Other Information	64
Report of the Directors	66
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	92
Independent Auditors' Report	94

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	97
Consolidated Balance Sheet	98
Company Balance Sheet	99
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	100
Company Statement of Cash Flows	101
Notes to the Financial Statements	102

Cover photo: Margaret Akeyo, member of Cassava Aggregation Centre, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Kenya, 2020.
Left: Akello Shaming, Atiira Youth Farmers' Group, Atiira Parish, Uganda, 2020.

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

The past year will be remembered as one like no other. 2020 saw a once-in-a-century pandemic that caused unprecedented loss of life and forced families and communities to isolate and commercial life to shut down.



by Raymond Jordan
Group CEO

FOR organisations like ours, concern turned quickly to Africa, and the potential vulnerability of its people to a viral onslaught that caused devastation in economies with very developed health systems.

We are grateful that the pandemic has not gained momentum in Africa at the pace it has elsewhere. We recognise that there is no place for complacency in how we deal with Covid-19 in the months and years ahead, with more contagious variants a new threat in 2021.

The pandemic had a serious impact on the operations of Self Help Africa in the West. Our ability to raise funds, meet face to face with donors and supporters, monitor and oversee projects, or engage directly with our country teams were all affected. For a large part of the year, our network of shops across the island of Ireland was closed.

I am extremely grateful to our African country colleagues for keeping our programmes functioning with minimal disruption. The production of food remained an essential activity throughout the pandemic, and while some restrictions on travel in our projects required greater reliance on locally-based staff and partners, as the year

progressed we saw that up to 80% of our programme work continued.

The impact of Covid-19 forced us to scale back expenditure in Ireland and the UK. We reduced staff working hours and payroll costs for a period of months, and in the autumn implemented a largely voluntary redundancy programme that resulted in additional savings.

On a positive note, 2020 marked the commencement of a number of important new development projects in Ethiopia, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya.

Our relationship with the European Union strengthened with the commencement of a new multi-year climate resilience project in northern Kenya, while in Zambia we began work on the largest project in the organisation's long history – an agri-investment challenge fund, ENTERPRISE Zambia. We also established a presence in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo during 2020, and from here will manage a series of trade development projects in the Great Lakes Region between DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

In Ireland, Self Help Africa was proud to be amongst the founders of the new Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA), which

launched its first appeal in the autumn and raised funds to support Covid-19 responses amongst vulnerable populations in the developing world.

Another notable highlight of the year was One Million Trees, a campaign and partnership with yogurt company Glenisk that captured the public imagination, and raised more than €300,000 to support tree planting activities in our projects in Africa.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks and best wishes to our outgoing Chair, Tom Kitt, who retired from the Board of Directors at our AGM in the autumn. Tom was succeeded as Chair by Carmel Fox, who has extensive experience of rural and community development, and I am confident will continue to provide strong and decisive guidance in the years to come.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Jordan".

Raymond Jordan,
CEO, The Gorta Group



Semi-nomadic pastoralists produce Gum Arabic from Acacia trees in Samburu, Kenya

OUR MISSION
IS TO SUPPORT
SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS
FOR AFRICA'S
SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS

WHAT WE DO



AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION

Over 70% of Africa's poorest people live on small farms. We help these farming families achieve their potential to grow much more and earn more from their land.



COOPERATIVES

We bring communities together - working as a cooperative means farmers can access new markets and earn a better income from their produce.



GENDER

We're working to level the gender field in sub-Saharan Africa. When women receive the same support as men, yields increase 20–30%.



MICROFINANCE

We invest in people – providing access to small loans through microfinance gives impoverished rural families the means to improve their farms, so they can grow, eat and sell more.



CLIMATE SMART

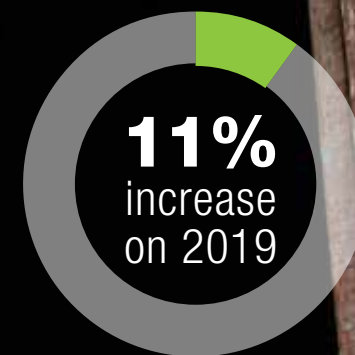
Those least responsible for climate change are the most affected by global warming. We support vulnerable communities to adapt to changing climate, through climate smart agricultural techniques.



ENTERPRISE

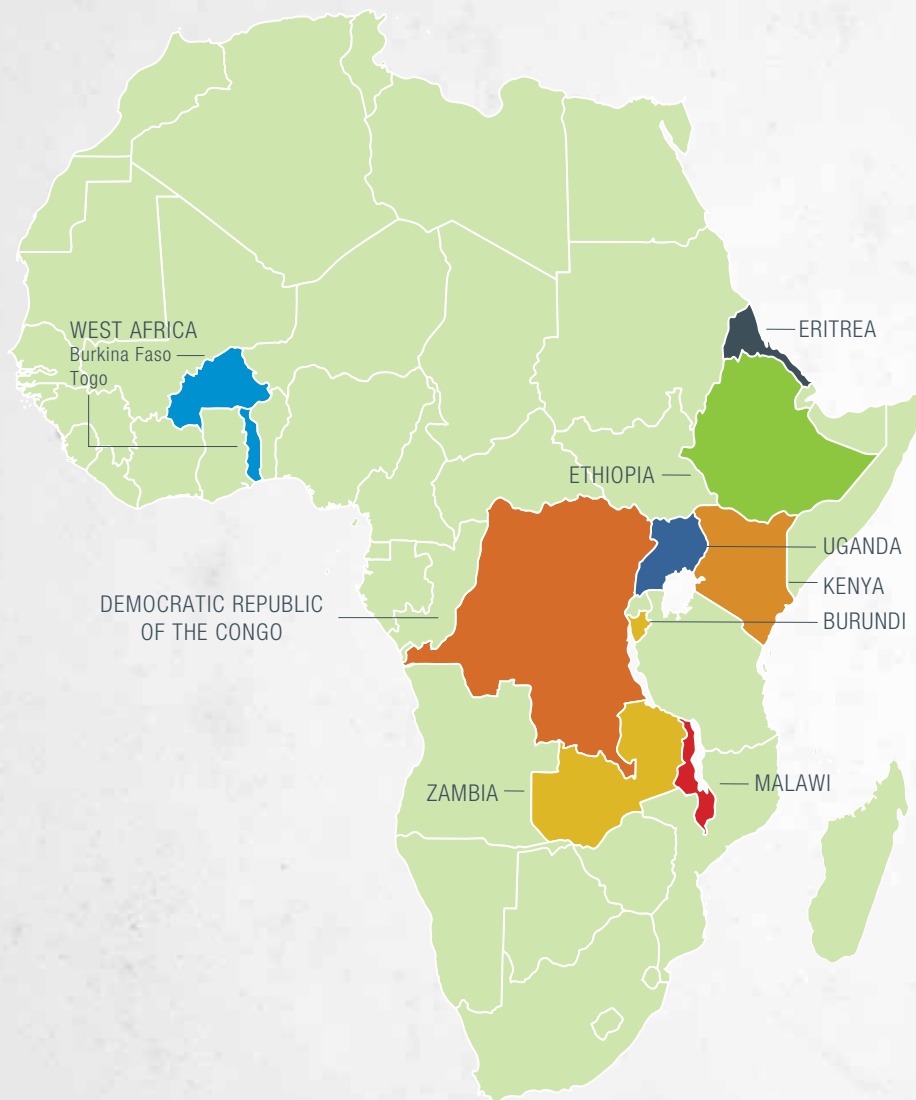
We nurture small businesses and encourage enterprise, enabling households to earn a vital alternative source of income.

2.7
MILLION
LIVES IMPACTED
IN 2020



Jemberua Alemu (left) and Mulugeta Huruta (right), from Butajira, Ethiopia

PROJECTS SNAPSHOT 2020



40 PROJECTS

across Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.



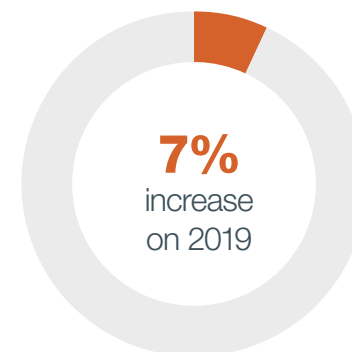
187,497

Households with
increased production



229,742

Diversified farming
systems



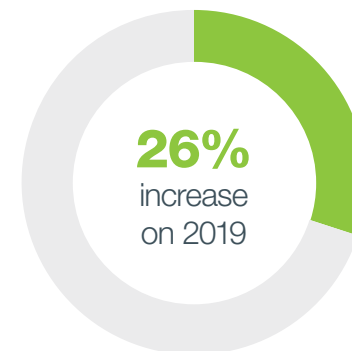
65,596

Households with
increased resilience



224,996

Households practising
Climate Smart Agriculture





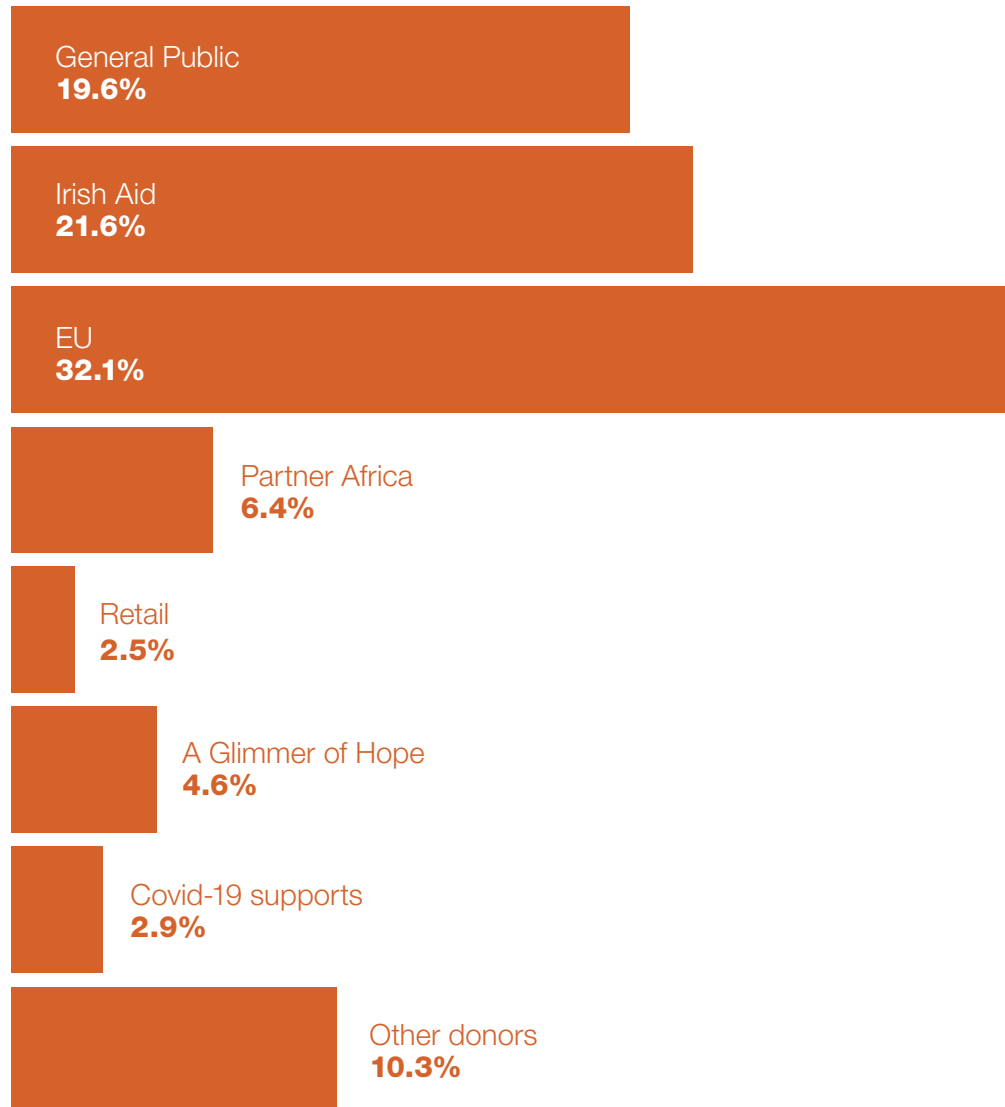
212%
increase
on 2019

SUPPORTING
17,924
FARMING & SAVINGS
GROUPS

Alupo Norah, Emorikikis Akanin Women Farmers' Group,
Amaseniko Parish, Uganda

2020 IN FIGURES

Our donors in 2020



WHERE THE MONEY GOES*

*Excluding retail



LOOKING BACK AT **OUR IMPACT** 2010-2020

1.4

MILLION

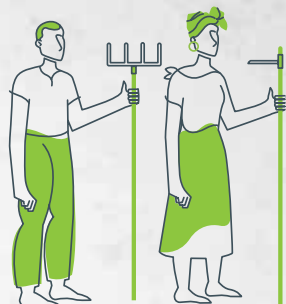
HOUSEHOLDS IN A DECADE

GLOBAL GOALS



187

PROJECTS IN 11 YEARS



In the last decade, Self Help Africa has supported more than **1.4 million households** in programmes across **11 countries**.

From 2010-2020, SHA carried out **187 separate development projects** that directly and indirectly reached more than nine million people. Projects over that time were delivered through a broad range of activities, including:

- increasing agricultural productivity,
- livestock development,
- crop diversity,
- improving food and nutrition security,
- access to credit and finance,
- access for farming households to markets,
- and promoting adaptation strategies that supported small-scale farmers to be more resilient to climate shocks.

In recent years, SHA has helped communities to adapt to sudden onset emergencies, supported women and rural youth to develop small businesses and access markets, and supported the growth of agri-business, aiming to create both jobs and new markets for small-scale farmers.

SHA worked with its largest number of people in southern Africa (Zambia and Malawi), where our projects reached **564,451 households**. In East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Burundi) work reached **349,713 households**; in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Eritrea) **350,759**; and in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Ghana) work reached **171,161 households**.

In 2020, Self Help Africa worked with a total of **435,818 households** – and carried out projects that reached a total of **2,726,400 people**.



57%

OF PEOPLE WE
WORK WITH ARE
WOMEN



14%
INCREASE
IN 10 YEARS

OVER the past decade, there has been a steady, year on year, increase in the number of women farmers with whom Self Help Africa works. In 2020, over **57%** of all farmers with whom we worked were women, an increase of **2.4%** over the previous year.

11 years ago, just **43%** of all people we worked with were women. By 2014, parity in representation between men and women had been reached, and in the years since, the number of projects that are supporting women farmers has continued to grow.

In 2020, Self Help Africa's work reached **225,792 women** and **210,026 men**.

The country with the highest representation of women engaged in projects was Malawi, where a total of **57.8%** of clients were female, while the lowest figure was in Ethiopia, where women accounted for **40.5%**.

Etagegn Mekoya, from
Wolenchiti Village, Boset
District, Ethiopia



**83,000**CLIMATE-SMART
HOUSEHOLDS**49.1% of all households
in 2013**

FOR more than 20 years, Self Help Africa has been implementing projects that support small-scale farming households to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. In regions where food production systems are extremely vulnerable to the effects of global warming, we have been working to support sustainable intensification of farming since before many of the methods were defined as 'climate smart.'

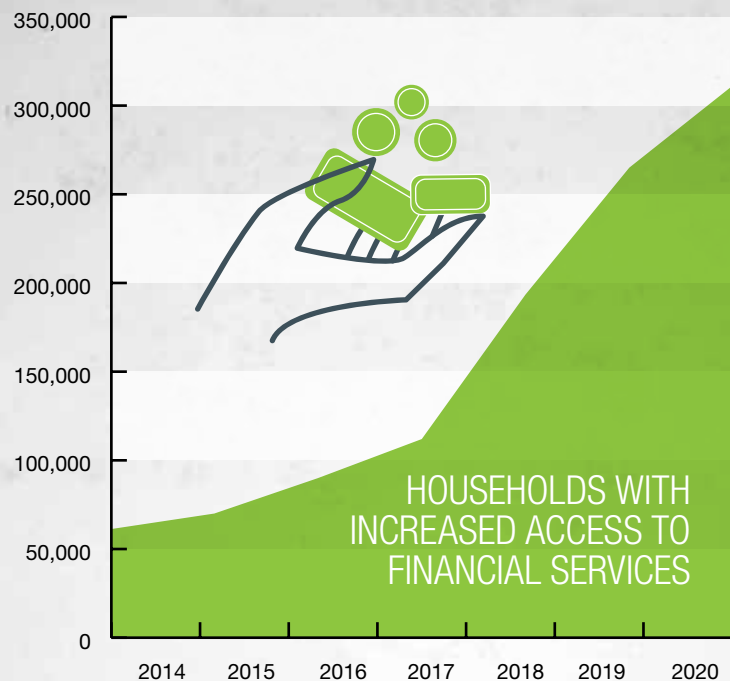
The adoption of CSA practices, which seek to both increase food security and resilience while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, has grown significantly in the past decade. **83,000 households** reported to be adopting certain climate smart farming practices in 2013, compared to **341,000 households** in 2020. This latter figure represents **62.2%** of households using at least some climate smart farming practices on their land.

**246,549**CLIMATE-SMART
HOUSEHOLDS**56.6% of all households
in 2020**

Since Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) as an approach was first developed, and launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation at the Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food and Climate Change in 2010, Self Help Africa has been adopting key elements of the strategy in its programmes.

Baba Wedrago, Sika Village, Burkina Faso





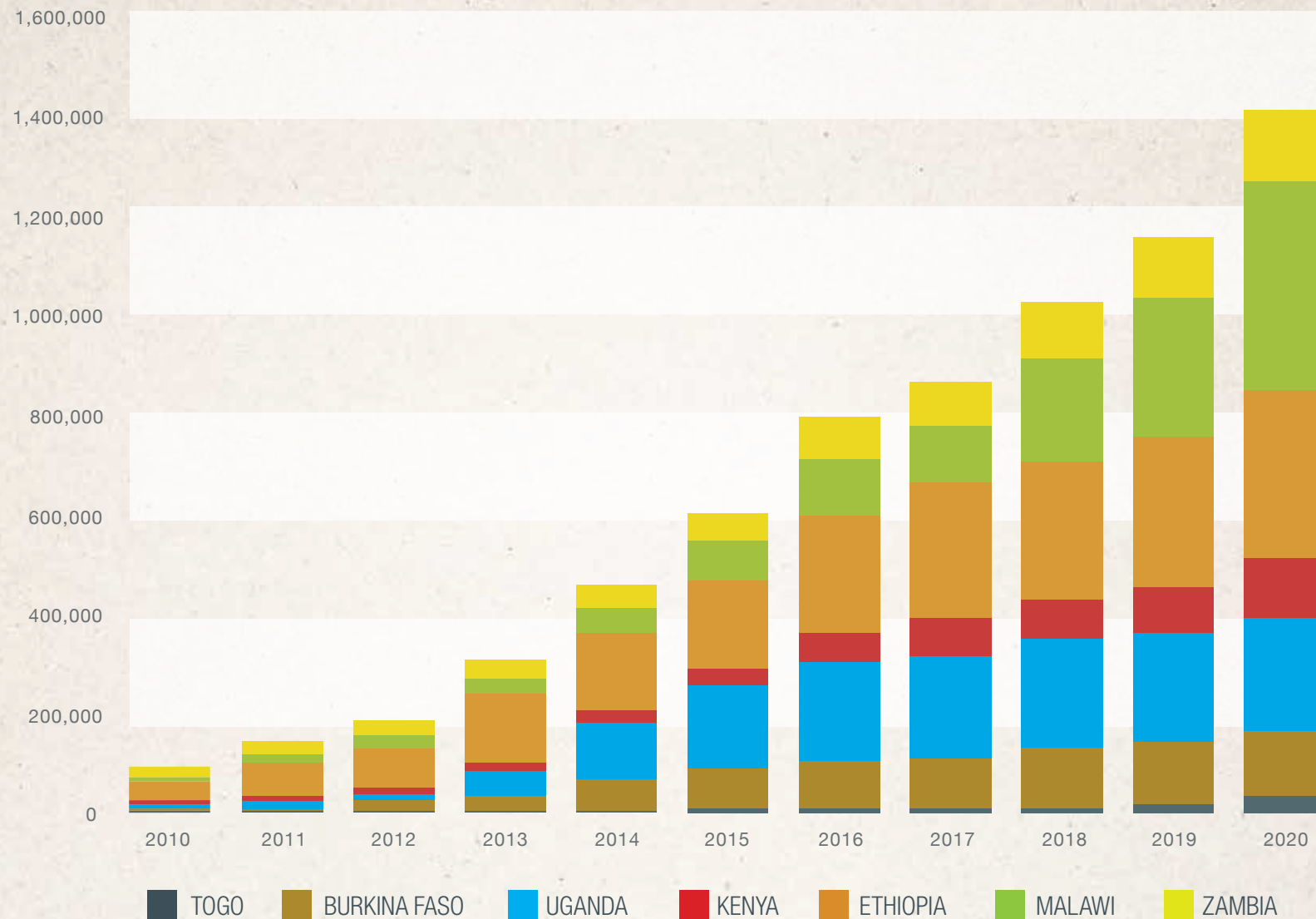
Clients of Self Help Africa who had access to financial services increased from just **20.3% of households** in 2014, to **62.1%** in 2020.

In 2014 just **61,200 people** working with the organisation reported that they had access to services where they could save, or could borrow money, if required. By 2020, that number had increased to **270,469 households**, as more households are involved in VSLAs (village savings and loans associations), SACCOs (savings and credit cooperatives) or could access loans from other micro-finance institutions.



Asele Mary, Asianut Youth Farmers' Group, Amaseniko Parish, Uganda

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE WORK WITH, SINCE 2010



COMMODITIES

Farmland across Africa is rich and varied, and so too are the commodities that households produce on small farms, to both provide food and an income to support their families.


While maize, cassava, soyabean, sorghum and small livestock remain the most common commodities on smallholder farms, the products that farmers grow are as diverse and varied as the communities themselves.


As farmers seek to adapt to the changing climate, as access to seed and inputs improves, and as farm to market links are strengthened, so too has the array of commodities being grown on African farms begun to expand.

On the following pages we provide a comprehensive list of the crops and other commodities that the farming families that we work with are currently producing in their fields.

COMMODITY

STAPLES/GRAINS/TUBERS

Commodity	Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda	Zambia
Cassava				 		  	 
Maize						  	 
Millet/Pearl Millet					 		
Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato				 		  	 
Irish Potato				 		 	
Rice							 
Sorghum							 
Sweet Potato (White)							 
Wheat							
Barley			 				

Current 
Recent 
Planned 

COMMODITY

LEGUMES/NUTS/SEEDS

Commodity	Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda	Zambia
Bean			 		  	
Cashew	  					
Cowpea						 
Green gram			 			
Groundnut				 	  	 
Haricot bean						
Mungbean						
Soybean						
Pulses						
Pea						
Sesame						
Bambara nut						

Current



Recent

































Planned



COMMODITY






















































FRUIT

Commodity	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda	Zambia
Apple				 
Citrus			  	 
Mango	 		  	 
Passion Fruit			  	
Pineapple				
Banana				
Guava				 
Pawpaw			 	
Avocado				 

Current  Recent  Planned 

COMMODITY

VEGETABLES

Commodity	Burkina Faso	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda	Zambia
Amaranth	 				
Cabbage	 			  	  
Carrot	 			 	  
Kale (Abyssinian)					
Market vegetables	 				  
Onion	 			  	  
Ginger					
Baby Corn				 	
Courgette					
Sunflower					
Indigenous vegetables				 	  
Garlic Bulb					
Green Pepper					
Egg Plant					
Okra					

Current



Recent



Planned



COMMODITY

LIVESTOCK/FISH

Commodity	Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda	Zambia
Beef				●			
Dairy		●	●●●	●●		●	
Fish				●●	●		
Goats			●	●	●	●●●	●●
Sheep				●			
Pigs					●	●●●	
Poultry	●●		●	●	●	●●●	●●●
Shoats			●				
Honey				●●	●		

Current



Recent









Planned



COMMODITY

LIVESTOCK FEED

Commodity	Ethiopia	Kenya	Malawi	Uganda
Desmodium				
Napier grass				 
Fodder trees				  
Rhodes grass				
Fodder sorghum				
Sweet potato vine				
Oats				
Maize				
Vetiver				 
Pigeon Pea				
Desho				

Current  Recent  Planned 

INVESTMENT & JOBS

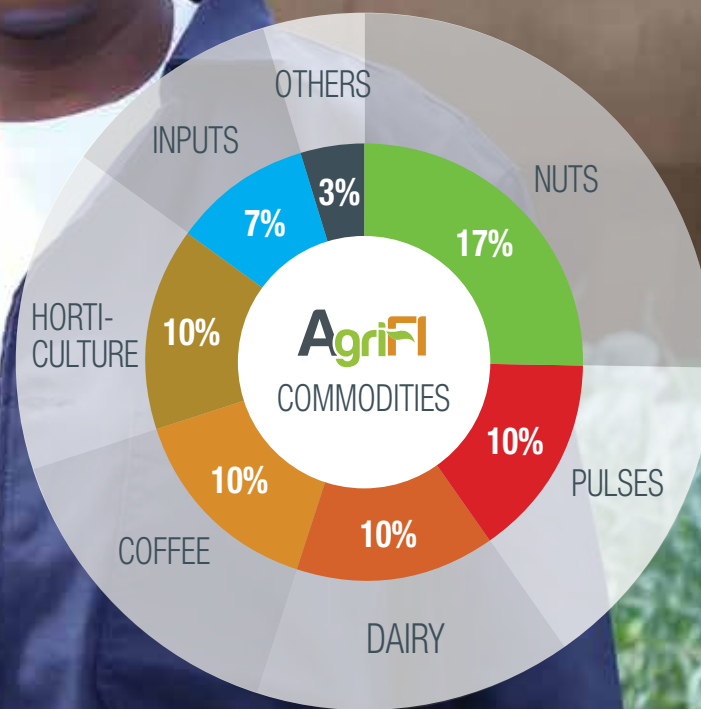


- **18 companies** awarded funding totalling **€8,000,000**
- A total of **€12,000,000** has now been awarded to **26 businesses**
- **2 companies** responding to Covid-19 pandemic awarded a total of **€600,000**
- **236** new full-time jobs have been created
- **3,178** part-time and seasonal jobs have been created

IMPACT FOR FARMERS



- **20,201 farmers** have accessed markets
- **30,285 farmers** contracted and trained on good agricultural practices
- **22,974 farmers** trained on Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) technologies



ReallPM employee, producing bio-fertilisers, in Kirinyaga, Kenya



COTTON

Decimated by cheaper Asian imports and by second hand clothing coming to Africa from the West, Kenya's cotton industry is now making a comeback. AgriFI's support for a cotton company has to date seen:

- **6,389 farmers** receive training
- **14 collection centres** established
- **112 demonstration plots** created



DAIRY

Dairy is a valued commodity and dairy production an important economic and cultural activity for small-scale farmers in particular regions of Kenya. To date, AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund has provided grant support to two businesses, to improve the quality and quantity of milk and other dairy products.

- **1,027 farmers** trained on dairy production best practice
- **2 co-operatives** have new processing and other equipment installed
- **1 ESL** (extended shelf life) processing factory constructed
- **103 new jobs** created



COFFEE

Coffee is grown on almost 250,000 acres of farmland in Kenya, and 65% of this is produced by 700,000 smallholder farming households producing less than a single acre of coffee.

- **2,469 farmers** were trained in production to secure Rainforest Alliance certification
- **60 demonstration plots** established
- **3 ecological washing stations** established



GUM ARABIC

A naturally occurring compound used in many foods and beverages, Gum Arabic is harvested from an acacia tree species that grows wild in Africa's plains. 'Tapping' gum is providing a valuable income for thousands of rural poor women in Kenya, while also promoting the protection and conservation of the acacia tree.

- **6,700 collectors** 'tapping' and selling gum
- **2,000 acres** of land conserved for acacia trees



FRUIT AND NUTS

Financing has been provided by AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund to a number of businesses in this sector, including companies processing fresh and dried mango, coconut products, avocado and macadamia nuts. To date these businesses have seen:

- **6,139** receive training
- **1,404 jobs** created
- **4,828** secure a new market for produce



AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Financing provided in this area has supported agri-businesses producing and supplying solar powered irrigation, establishing veterinary and animal health services in remote areas, and to businesses producing bio-fertiliser and pyrethrum, a natural plant insecticide once grown by over 200,000 Kenyans, but which was affected for many years by the emergence of cheap chemical alternatives.

- **12,361 farmers** received training
- **8 clinics, depots and support centres** established
- **5,132** received equipment

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

Mary Achieng Orianga, Homa Bay, Kenya

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact, costing millions of lives and causing unprecedented economic and social disruption across the world.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



**Irish
Emergency
Alliance**

€300,000

RAISED IN THE FIRST
APPEAL OF THE
**IRISH EMERGENCY
ALLIANCE**



VEN the most advanced healthcare systems in the world were pushed to the brink by the pandemic, and for much of 2020, there was real concern that Africa's weak medical services could be overwhelmed. Fortunately, case numbers in sub-Saharan Africa remained at the lower level on the scale during 2020, although most countries have experienced significant disruption.

Covid-19 in Africa

Covid-19 caused major disruption to Africa's smallholder farmers, as lockdowns interfered with the ability of farmers to transport produce to market,

hindered cross-border trading, and had an effect on the production and processing of food.

Impacts on market access, on access by farmers to advisory services, and on the ability of farming families to purchase inputs including seed and fertiliser all had an impact, while school closures caused further disruption at household level.

Together with other shocks including drought, flooding and desert locust invasions, the pandemic has placed considerable strain on both governments and civil society organisations.



Evelesi Mwale from Kasungu District, Malawi



Lucy John from Kasungu District, Malawi

Our Response

Working with our local teams, partners, government ministries and UN agencies, Self Help Africa supported efforts to disseminate information and promote safety measures to curb the pandemic in the countries where we work.

Covid-19-related awareness-raising was embedded into our programme activities, while handwashing, sanitising facilities and masks were distributed to our staff, partners and smallholders. Mobile phone services were also used to disseminate information on Covid-19 prevention measures.

In Kenya and Uganda, we supported farmers and agricultural cooperatives to overcome market disruptions by securing new markets for their crops during lockdown. While in Malawi, Self Help Africa distributed information leaflets, soap, jerry cans and other vital equipment.

“ Self Help Africa supported efforts to disseminate information and promote safety measures to curb the pandemic ”



The Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA)

Self Help Africa is a founder member of the Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA) – which in September launched its inaugural appeal in response to the pandemic amongst vulnerable populations. More than €300,000 was raised by the IEA's first appeal, with SHA using funds to purchase and distribute masks, soap and information, together with food and other assistance to affected communities in northern Kenya.

BETTER FARMING AND DIETS IN MALAWI

Better farming practices and improved diets are two of the main results from one of Self Help Africa's largest development projects, a mid-term review has concluded.



IMPROVED dietary diversity and high levels of adoption of climate smart agricultural approaches were among the standout achievements captured in the third-party review of the Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns (BETTER) project in Malawi.

The report also found that the decision-making power of women involved in the project had increased by 140%, while there was a 113% increase in the number of women saying that they were more financially independent than in the past.

Funded by the European Union, BETTER operates in ten districts across Malawi and uses a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to training farming households to improve food, nutrition and income security and resilience. Started in 2018 and running until 2022, BETTER aims to reach a total of 402,000 smallholder families.

The review found that 56% of the targets had been achieved by the mid-

“*56% of the targets set had been achieved by the mid-point of the project*”

point of the project, 78% of the planned Farmer Field Schools were functioning, and 73% of farmers were participating in small-scale income generating activities at that point.

The project, which specifically targeted support to women farmers, exceeded its goals in this area.

Using Climate Smart Agriculture technology adoption rate indicators, the report found that Farmer Field Schools had a positive impact on increasing uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies. Most farmers demonstrated a good understanding of technologies they learned from FFSs, including the adoption of improved agriculture practices such as agro-forestry,

inter-cropping, pest and disease management, soil and water conservation.

Women farmers trailed men however in adopting certain climate smart technologies, in many instances because the approaches were regarded as more labour intensive, and thus harder to adopt.

The review found however that the FFSs, using master trainers and community-based facilitators, reached people more efficiently than the traditional training model, which required an extension worker to visit every farming family. Local trainers and organised demonstrations and field days ensured that farmers learned and adopted new technologies easily.

The FFS model had improved agricultural extension services in Malawi that had been at the point of collapse, the report concluded.



'BETTER' AIMS TO REACH
402,000
SMALLHOLDER
FAMILIES



Self Help
Africa
Food and a future

KULIMA BETTER

KULIMA
regionaid



EVANGELI



KULIMA BETTER

KULIMA



Richard Simkonda from Tutulane Farmer Field School in Chitipa, Malawi

AMAIZEING MARKET ACCESS FOR ETHIOPIA'S SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Thousands of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia have been supported with improved access to markets for their crop, as part of a Self Help Africa programme working to develop the maize value chain.



Feed the Future Ethiopia Value Chain Activity was an 18 month project that concluded in July 2020, and was implemented by SHA under FINTRAC's contract with the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project worked with two cooperatives, Bore Bako and Gibe Dedessa Farmer Cooperative Unions, with a total potential reach of 13,000 individual smallholder farmers.

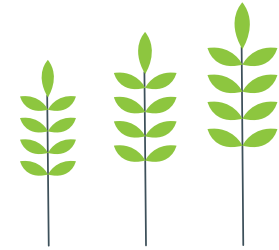
The goals of Feed the Future were to improve the maize value chain as follows:

- Optimise/make the most of the farmers' limited working capital.
- Build the capacity of smallholder farmers and cooperatives in Bore Bako and Gibe Dedessa to improve maize quality, marketing, and access to finance.
- Promote the importance of food diversity.
- Improve knowledge and skills on post-harvest handling and nutrition.
- Increase participation amongst women.

By the end of the project, through the cooperative – average sales of maize increased by 36.17% - exceeding the project goal of 20%. Across the two primary cooperatives and their respective unions, a total of 26 partnerships were created.

The participation of women was another important measure of success for Feed the Future, with numbers in the Bore Bako and Gibe Dedessa cooperatives low at the start – just 11.7% of members were women. In the 18 month life cycle of the project, this had increased to 22.4%.

Despite ongoing efforts, post-harvest losses remain a big challenge in Ethiopia. A survey conducted in three major grain producing areas of the country – Hetosa, Ada and Bako – showed that more than 93% of farmers are using traditional grain storage containers, exposing stored grains to be attacked by pests. As part of the Feed the Future interventions, SHA worked to address this, by providing post-harvest management training to farmers. Already, there has been some improvement here, with only 55% still using a traditional storage structure.



“ By the end of the project sales of maize increased by 36%, exceeding the project goal of 20%. **”**

In the areas of food security and diversity, and nutrition, the post-programme survey showed impressive results, with almost 95% of households reporting that they were food secure.

Significantly, 78% had an acceptable Food Consumption Score – taking into account a household's dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups.

The Feed the Future project demonstrated that by working together, and unlocking the potential of farmer groups and cooperatives, a-maize-ing results can be achieved.



Mebet Mekonen from
Wagagn Seed Coop,
Butajira, Ethiopia



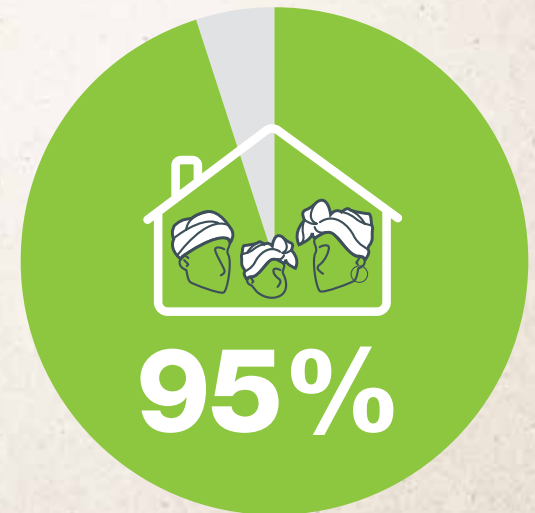
11.7%

2019

INCREASE
IN WOMEN
MEMBERS

22.4%

2020



HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING THAT
THEY WERE FOOD SECURE

STRENGTHENING THE
COMPETITIVENESS OF THE
CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN
MID-TERM REVIEW

80%

of farmers have
improved access to
cassava cuttings



KENYA'S CHANGING CASSAVA LANDSCAPE PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Almost three-quarters of women working on a cassava promotion project in Kenya are now earning above the minimum standard of living, a study has found.



A MID-TERM review of the project, which works with 20,000 households in western Kenya, found that it had surpassed its target of 60% women reaching above the minimum standard of living, while in the same period there had been an increase in women cassava farmers saying that they now had a bigger voice in decision making.

The study, which was carried out in 2020, also found that 77% of farmers involved in the project had taken part in training programmes, while 63% said that the management and governance of their producer groups had improved.

For a long time considered a 'poor man's crop', the project promotes cassava as an important part of smallholder farm production, with women farmers being provided with new opportunities to farm the crop, which is tolerant to drought and can be used for both household food consumption and as a feed for livestock.

A root vegetable, cassava can also be kept in reserve to harvest when alternate food sources become scarce.

“63% said that the management and governance of their producer groups had improved”

The mid-term review of the project acknowledged that there were challenges with cassava farming, as it was a labour intensive crop to grow, was vulnerable to post-harvest losses, and was a relatively low-value food crop.

Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Cassava Value Chain in Kenya is a five-year programme funded by the European Union. It is being jointly implemented by Self Help Africa and a number of national partner organisations.

Nearly 80% of households involved in producing cassava noted that access to cassava cuttings for planting had improved, while close to 20% said that they were benefitting from higher yields.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR REFUGEES

The African continent is home to nearly 30% of the world's refugees. Self Help Africa projects in Zambia and Uganda are working with refugee families towards a more self-sufficient, independent and brighter future.



EVERY year, tens of millions of people are displaced by poverty, flooding, drought and conflict. These people are amongst the poorest and most marginalised – living life in limbo - often with little prospect of ever being able to return home.

Two recent Self Help Africa pilot projects sought to pave a way to a more self-reliant future for refugees. In both instances, agriculture was used as the driver to help refugee families on a path to a brighter, independent future.

Meheba and Mayukwayukwa camps in the north and north-west of Zambia are amongst the oldest refugee settlements in sub-Saharan Africa. Established in the mid-1970s, they provide a semi-permanent home to approximately 30,000 people, some who are second and third generation families living in the camps.

A recently published assessment of Zambia's Graduation Project found that there had been a significant uptake of new farming practices and engagement in livestock rearing by households who had worked on the project.

The project had also encouraged a number of graduates to set up small trading businesses, selling groceries, meat, fabric and fruit in the two camps.

94% of target families had at least two income sources, a savings culture amongst camp residents had emerged, while 89% of respondents said that their living conditions had improved.

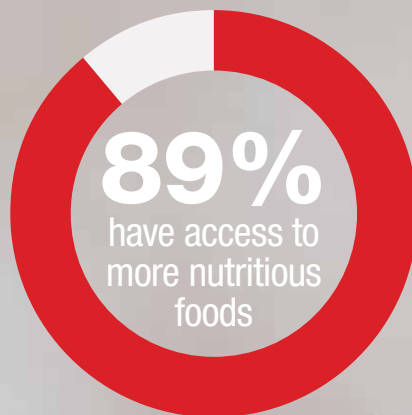
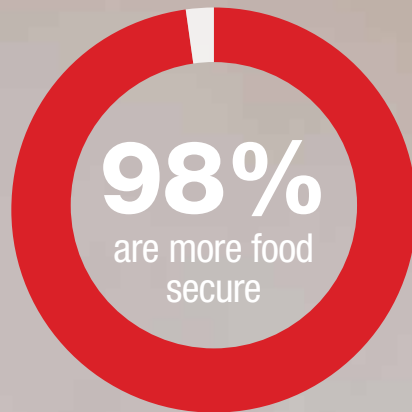
At Adjumani, Uganda, Self Help Africa worked with the World Food Programme (WFP) on a pilot 3.5 year project that ultimately saw refugee families selling produce back to the WFP as part of their procurement of food supplies for Uganda's 1.3 million refugees in their care.

Refugee households with access to land, together with local farmers, were supported to grow crops including maize, beans and sorghum, as well as iron-rich beans and orange fleshed sweet potato.

98% of the 300 participants who responded to a project survey said that they were more food secure, while 89% said that they had access to more nutritious foods.

“
89% of respondents said that their living conditions had improved
”

GRADUATION PROJECT MID-TERM SURVEY OF REFUGEES



Janet Singilangabo, refugee
from Burundi, in Meheba
camp, Zambia



FROM FARM TO MARKET

Sub-Saharan Africa has a quarter of the world's arable land but produces just 10% of the world's agricultural output.

NDEED, Africa remains a net importer of food, spending upwards of €30 billion a year importing food that could be grown locally.

Self Help Africa is committed to supporting Africa's smallholder farming families to increase the quantity and the quality of food that they produce on their small farms. In a region with an estimated 33 million farms of average size of just two acres, we support small-scale farmers to increase their yields and diversify what they grow.

Africa's agricultural transformation needs much more than that, however. A multi-track approach must support the creation of profitable markets and removes obstacles to trade. This will enable Africa's small-scale farmers to earn more from their work and is vital

if agriculture is to be a driver of economic growth and a key instrument to end extreme poverty.

Self Help Africa and our social enterprise subsidiaries – TruTrade and Partner Africa - are focused on developing opportunities and breaking down the barriers to progress faced by millions of farming families.

In the feature that follows, you will read about steps being taken by projects such as the AgriFI Kenya and Enterprise Zambia Challenge Funds to not just create and strengthen markets for farm produce, but also how value can be added locally to farm production. You will discover how African-based agri-businesses are not only supplanting international imports, but are also become valu-

able exports; how once-declining industries are being revived, new markets are being created for new crops and commodities, and businesses are being established not only in the capitals and big cities, but also in more remote areas where markets are scarce, and employment opportunities are few.

We will feature just some examples of the efforts of farming cooperatives to bulk produce and bring economies of scale to the work of small-scale farmers, how market and trade opportunities are being opened up at the push of a mobile phone button, and how obstacles to trade at local, regional and international levels are being overcome, all to the benefit of small-scale farming families.

GLOBAL GOALS



Masauso Mbewe with a granary of ground nuts,
Kasankha village, Zambia.

FARMER
FIELD
SCHOOLS



Jonas Mwakyelu, from Mwangabala village in Karonga, Malawi

A NEW training project in Malawi is harnessing Farmer Field School (FFS) networks to strengthen the business skills of farmers and forge links between farmer organisations and markets.

The Capacity Development of Market Oriented Rural Enterprises (CADMORE) project is establishing a network of Farm Business Schools and Cooperative Business Schools in 2020, with 5,400 farmers recruited to a training programme that covers a range of topics, including market oriented

production, bookkeeping and agri-finance training. The scheme is focusing specifically on supporting farming households to produce, market and sell three crops – soybean, cassava and groundnut.

Close to 100 local small and medium sized enterprises have been linked to the project, while 60 agro-dealers and 36 traders are participating in tailored training programmes that are designed to strengthen links between the marketplace and farmers who are producing the three crops.

HELPING
AGRI-
BUSINESS
TO GROW



Semi-nomadic pastoralists produce Gum Arabic from Acacia trees in Samburu, Kenya

SUPPORTING agri-business to create jobs, markets and bring services to communities in remote areas are some of the goals of Self Help Africa's Challenge Funds in Zambia and Kenya.

The inability of farmers to get their crops to markets where produce can be processed and value can be added is an economic obstacle for households in remote areas. Extensive data shows that the closer farmers are to large urban markets, the more they are likely to earn.

This applies not just to the capacity of farmers to sell their produce, but also to their ability to access inputs like seeds and fertilizer, and the services that will help them to farm more effectively.

The EU and SlovakAid funded AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund has already

backed a number of businesses in remote areas with investment finance, including Paves Vetagro Ltd, which is establishing distribution routes for veterinary supplies and training farmers as para-vets in the remote far northern counties of West Pokot and Turkana. The fund is also supporting Acacia EPZ to source Gum Arabic from semi-nomadic tribespeople in the arid and semi-arid regions around Samburu, Turkana and Marsabit.

Enterprise Zambia, also funded by the EU, is providing support to a cotton business that will purchase raw cotton from small-scale farmers in the country's far west and far northern regions. The Challenge Fund is also providing support to CHC Commodities Ltd to invest in its agricultural warehousing, brokerage and agri-inputs in the country's west and south west regions.

HONEY

A NETWORK of local trainers, learning sites and 'honey hubs' where produce can be collected, processed and bulked for sale, are being established by the MORE-HONEY project, as it promotes beekeeping amongst small-holder farmers in Uganda's north-west.

Recruitment of 2,000 farming households to the programme got underway in 2020, with the initial intake including 194 participants selected in collaboration with UNHCR from amongst Uganda's large refugee community.

Although activities were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, MORE-HONEY's efforts to develop the profitability for small-scale farmers of apiculture progressed throughout the year.

18 learning sites are being established, craftspeople are receiving artisan training to manufacture modern hives, while sites are being identified for five 'honey hubs' where beekeepers can bring their honey for aggregation, processing and collective marketing and sale. A honey traceability system is also being developed by the project.



Manufacturing beehives in Kitgum, Uganda

MORE-HONEY is promoting best practice beekeeping in the region. It is working in collaboration with Uganda-based Golden Bees Ltd, Danish honey and wax brokers Swienty Commodities' and German natural wax specialists Kahlwax, to improve the quantity, quality and traceability of honey and wax sourced from Uganda.

HOME GROWN SCHOOL MEALS

Milliam Lemba, Home Grown School Meals, Mpambeni village, Zambia



CREATING markets where farmers can sell their produce to generate an income can be a complex process involving multiple steps. But there are times when the best solutions are the simple, local ones.

Self Help Africa's pilot Home Grown School Meals project in Zambia illustrates that occasionally it's just a matter of creating natural linkages between producers who have goods to sell, and buyers who are seeking the same commodities.

For two years, Self Help Africa piloted a project with the World Food Programme (WFP) that, amongst other things, forged a link between farmers and schools in their district.

With the objective of improving school nutrition and providing one good meal each day for school kids, the project worked with 60 schools, and linked them with farmers who had vegetables, pulses, cereals and other food crops to sell.

While a number of the schools also established 'kitchen gardens' at the school sites to also grow food crops and expose their students to horticultural production, in the main the project linked schools with farmers who had goods to sell. A new phase of this project, with 143 schools, was started by Self Help Africa in early 2021.

REVIVING AFRICAN COTTON

INVESTMENTS by Self Help Africa in indigenous cotton production will create jobs and markets for thousands in a once booming sector that has experienced decades of decline.

In African markets, the Kenyan traditional women's kikoi and Zambian chitengi have long been replaced by second-hand clothing from the West, and by cheap linen, cotton and synthetic alternatives from the East. Kenya alone imports close to 100 million pieces of second-hand clothing a year, its cotton ginneries virtually obsolete.

In recent times, that has started to change, with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta becoming something of a 'brand ambassador' for both indigenous cotton, and the bold African prints that adorn his colourful shirts.

Our Kenyan-based AgriFI Challenge Fund, backed by the EU and SlovakAid, awarded close to €750,000 to cotton processors Rift Valley Products Ltd, investing in the company's plans to revive Kenya's cotton sector by increas-

Cotton production,
Uyoma, Kenya



ing its production from 5,500 tonnes to 50,000 tonnes of cotton lint annually. The Nakuru-based company aims to create 210 jobs directly and support more than 6,000 jobs in mills it will work with. The company will work with 18,000 small-scale farmers in cotton production, to meet the demands of its operations.

Meanwhile, another SHA project - Enterprise Zambia - launched its Challenge Fund in late 2020 and announced funding of more than €620,000, to Alliance Ginneries Ltd for Zambia's first large-scale organic cotton programme.

By obtaining Organic and Cotton Made in Africa (CMiA) certificates, Alliance



Samuel Gizaw, Mandida Village,
Oromia Region, Ethiopia

can verify and showcase its work to the international cotton market while responding to the worldwide demand for organic certified cotton.

20,000 farmers will benefit from a guaranteed market, quality inputs and credit for growing cotton and cowpeas. The company, which also has operations in Zimbabwe and Tanzania, aims to create 65 full-time jobs and 130 part-time jobs at its plant in Kafue.

The vast majority of Kenya and Zambia's cotton producers live on farms that are smaller than three acres, and grow small amounts of cotton for sale alongside traditional food crops.

DAIRY DAYS

INCREASED production, consumption and income from dairy is the focus for a project in Ethiopia that also involves promotion work in schools and local communities.

The information campaign in schools and communities was part of Dairy for Development, a five-year project that supported the creation of one dairy coop and the rehabilitation of plant and equipment with two other cooperatives, together with an ongoing programme to improve feed, animal care and husbandry.

An ongoing AI programme to improve dairy breeds in Abichu Gna'a District of Oromia resulted in 342 new high yielding dairy calves being born in the programme in 2020. The project, which is backed by Jersey Overseas Aid, is supporting a total of 600 households to increase their income from dairy production.

Awareness raising at agricultural field days, 'school milk days' and the creation of an information centre on dairy in a town market were all undertaken in 2020 to promote milk consumption and raise awareness of the benefits of dairy in family diets.

FINDING THE REFUGEE MARKET



Refugee farmers, Kitgum, Uganda 2020

UGANDA hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa.

Self Help Africa is collaborating with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Uganda to support refugee families to produce food crops that are in turn sold back to the WFP, who currently provide food and cash assistance to one million refugees across the country.

Producers of maize, beans and sorghum also receive training in post-harvest handling, grain hoppers and

sealable sacks from the WFP, allowing them to store their crops in a manner that protects them from pests and contamination, and ensures that they meet the standards required for procurement by the WFP.

A total of 1,900 refugee and 3,100 other households are involved in the project, which is part of a pathway to self-reliance programme supported by the WFP. Alongside cereal crops, participants are encouraged to produce nutrition-rich orange sweet potato and iron-rich beans, for which there are also local markets.

REMOVING obstacles to trade in agricultural produce along one of Africa's longest land borders is the focus of a new programme of activity in East Africa.

Doing business across land borders can be challenging and tortuous, with traders the victims of petty bureaucracy, extortion, endless delay and corruption. For women, the obstacles can be even greater.

A project along the border between Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi has worked with close to 2,000 women traders and border officials, in an effort to reduce incidents of harassment, discrimination and corruption for traders on the border.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

The work is now being extended, with the newly established Export Capability Programme addressing some of the obstacles to DRC, the region's largest country, becoming a significant contributor to regional trade.

The scheme is backed by TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), and is focussing on women-led and owned businesses with particular attention in the recruitment and retention process. Women are being organised into groups and cooperatives, provided with business skills training, and educated on their rights.



Trader on the DRC/Burundi border

Training on transplanting of agroforestry and fruit trees,
Hamukaka, Lake Bunyoni, Uganda



CASE STUDY Ethiopia

SEEING FOR HIMSELF TEKELE

Neither the soil nor the climate where he lived in Gabisaa village in Ethiopia were conducive to growing traditional crops, Tekleye Gebre lamented. “Our land just wasn’t suited,” he said.

That changed when Tekleye went on field visits to learn from other farmers, and see for himself what they were doing with Self Help Africa on demonstration farms, where alternate crops and new farming approaches had been introduced and were being promoted.

Tekleye trained in horticulture production, received vegetable seed, and joined a group of villagers to access a modern community irrigation scheme that was introduced to provide a reliable source of water for their vegetables.

“Having access to water immediately made us less vulnerable to the climate. Our lives have changed. I’m proud that all five of our children are able to attend school,” he said.



CASE STUDY Kenya

CUTTING HER CLOTH CONSOLATA

Planting cotton using traditional methods and local seed was always hard work for Consolata Anyango, and the money that she earned was poor.

“I wasn’t able to afford to send my children to school” she says.

Consolata got the chance to turn things around when she was linked up to Kenyan cotton processor, Rift Valley Products (RVP), and joined an outgrower programme that provided her with training in cotton production, as well as better quality seed.

Not only is Consolata Anyango, the mother of a young family, now producing more bales of cotton and earning more than previously, she is also spending less time transporting her crop, thanks to the establishment by RVP of a buying centre nearby.

The facility is amongst a network of new collection points established by the company, as it expands its operations, increases its network of outgrower farmers, and stands at the forefront of Kenya’s efforts to revive a once booming industry in indigenous cotton production and processing. (See story Reviving African Cotton, p39)



CASE STUDY Uganda

GINGER'S HEALTHY ECONOMIC BENEFITS

JOYCE

Joyce Akelo is a member of a young farmers' group that's growing ginger commercially to earn a living in north-eastern Uganda.

One of 25 young people in the Atiira Farmers Group in her village, Joyce says that the venture has helped her to generate an income for herself, since she joined the group.

Atiira is one of nine youth groups in the locality who are growing ginger. They have secured a contract to sell their crop to one of Uganda's leading ginger processors.

Joyce's group earned €4,800 from selling ginger crop, and each member was paid between €150-220.

"We sold approximately 70% of what was harvested, and kept the remainder to plant for the new season," she said. Uganda produces 170 metric tonnes of ginger each year, and is a major exporter to markets across East Africa and into Europe.



CASE STUDY Zambia

GRADUATING AT MEHEBA 'MAMA' CHABU

The happiest day of her life for 'Mama' Chabu Kalanga (54) was when she finally heard that the two young children she had been forced to abandon, as a refugee, more than 20 years earlier, were safe and well.

A long-time resident of Meheba Refugee Camp in north-western Zambia, Mama says that just two years ago she received a letter to say that her children – now adults – had themselves fled their home in Democratic Republic of Congo, and were living as refugees in neighbouring Angola.

"We ran for our lives. My husband was killed and I left with my younger sister. I had to leave my children behind. For many years I didn't know if they were alive or dead. And then their letter came."

'Mama' Chabu says that one day they will all be reunited, but in the meantime she is making the most of her life at Meheba. Enrolled on a Self Help Africa graduation programme that provided agricultural training and business skills, and helped refugees to access small loans to set up their own small enterprises, she now grows beans, soya beans and groundnuts (peanuts), and supplements her income by selling fritters that she makes at a stall in the camp.

"I'm hopeful for the future. One day I'd like to be reunited with my children again. Maybe I will go to them or perhaps they will come to visit me," she says.



SIGNING UP TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT

Self Help Africa is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, a UN pact that encourages businesses, labour groups, UN agencies and civil society to support the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

THE world's largest corporate social responsibility initiative, over 13,000 participants and stakeholders across 170 countries have signed up to the UN Global Compact, which provides an ethical framework for businesses, and specifies ten principles in human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption that signatories should support.

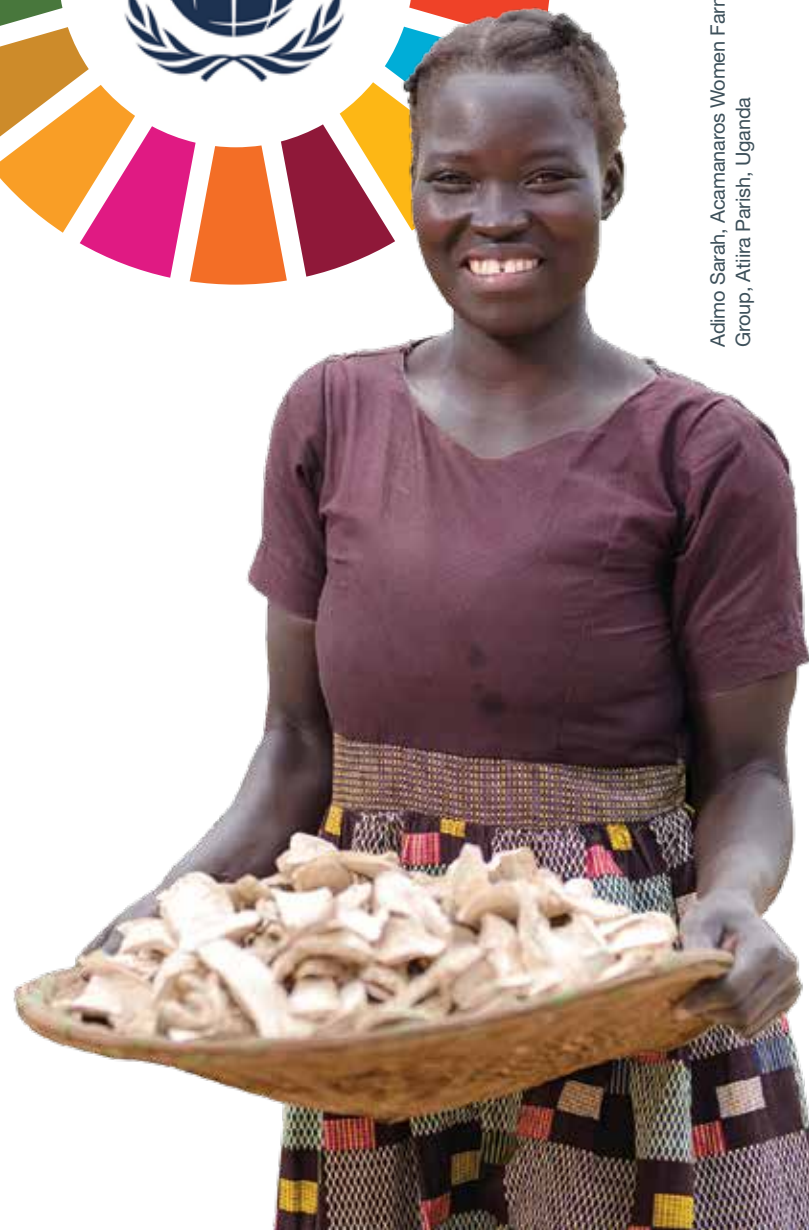
The ten core principles of the UN Global Compact are that businesses respect the protection of human rights and not be complicit in human rights abuses. Businesses should uphold freedom of association, support the elimination all forms of forced and compulsory labour, child labour and employment discrimination.

The Global Compact specifies that companies should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and encourage the development and dissemination of environmentally-friendly technologies.

Signatories should also work against corruption in all forms.

As signatories to the UN Global Compact, Self Help Africa and its social enterprise subsidiaries are required to submit examples of compliance with the core principles. This has included filing information relating to organisational safeguarding and other policies, examples of programme activities that illustrate how the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being pursued, and illustrations of where codes of good practice and professional conduct relating to the principles, are rolled out across the organisation and its subsidiaries, Partner Africa and TruTrade.

While the UN Global Compact is non-binding, it is a public statement on behalf of the organisation that is made by the CEO with approval from the Board, to meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.



Adimo Sarah, Acamanaros Women Farmers' Group, Atiira Parish, Uganda

CHALLENGING OURSELVES ON RACIAL EQUALITY

If 2020 was the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was also the year when racial inequality and discrimination took centre-stage in the public consciousness around the world.



THE murder of George Floyd at the hands of US police in May sparked a global wave of protest against racial injustices around the world – marked by large demonstrations in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in the US and beyond.

The moment provided an opportunity for our organisation to look inwards – to appreciate the importance of addressing the systemic causes of inequality, and explore how racism shows in our work, in order to strengthen our collective practices, and create safe spaces to unlearn racism. This came with a recognition that diversity and inclusion



must be embedded into the DNA of our organisation. As a result, a staff-led committee, ARISE, was created to progress this aim in a compassionate, rigorous and imaginative way.

ARISE stands for Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Solidarity & Equality, with committee representatives from management and staff across Self Help Africa, Partner Africa and TruTrade. Four working groups were established, focused on Commitment, Identification, Prevention and Mitigation, and Monitoring and Reporting.

Terms of Reference for the ARISE committee were agreed and approved by the Board. A self-assessment was also undertaken amongst employees, to assess attitudes and behaviours at all levels within the Gorta Group.

Building on this, objectives for ARISE include:

- Identify and examine structures of power and privilege within the wider Gorta Group – listening to our black colleagues and colleagues of colour, and address issues of racial inequality.
- Create champions that advocate for incorporating diverse perspectives, and social justice rights and practices into the Gorta Group.
- Establish an accountability mechanism for responding, counselling and managing racism in the Gorta Group, including at Board level.
- Recognise racial biases at individual and organisational level, and recommend processes to address them.
- Draft a clear policy framework, and have this included in the staff handbook, to be adapted and amended as necessary.

In 2021, ARISE will host webinars with external contributors, meet regularly with senior management and ensure that the principles of the initiative are adopted across the Group.



Online Exhibition: 'Leveling the Field: working with Africa's women farmers'



Development Education Transition Year online resources

60
SCHOOLS
JOIN ONLINE
AUTUMN
WORKSHOPS



BTYSE 'Science for Development Showcase' event

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Covid-19 pandemic pushed content, conversation and classrooms online, as Self Help Africa's Global Citizenship Education programme engaged with students, teachers and community groups in virtual settings for most of 2020.

THE programme adapted its approaches to the new learning environment, and developed new online workshops, interactive classes, exhibitions and other resources for digital, as Zoom became the principal platform for engagement during the year. These remote events provided the programme with an opportunity to reach new schools and audiences, as Zoom proved to be a quick, cost-effective and time-efficient way to engage.

As teachers, students and communities became more familiar with online working, so too did the number of classes, students and other groups participating in workshops with Self Help Africa.

In the autumn, 60 second-level students took part in new online hosted school workshops, many involving multi-class and multiple workshop sessions with each school group. The Self Help Africa team also participated in several school network learning events, and delivered educational workshops and learning modules in third level and in community settings. A series of workshops was also started in 2020 with young people participating in the Youthreach early school-leavers programme.



Laura and student Venessa,
Mwavi primary school, Zambia,
February 2020

The presentation of digital content required innovation to engage successfully, and devices like 'Thing Link' presentations, 'Kahoot' Quizzes, and the use of video content and digital exhibitions ensured that the programme remained dynamic and engaging during what was a hugely disrupted year for schools.

Self Help Africa's long-standing collaboration with Irish Aid on the BT Science for Development Award was the first and only in-person event staged by the programme in 2020, and a roster of agricultural and environmental scientists who work

with the organisation augmented SHA's presence at the annual BTYSE Exhibition, which attracted hundreds of visitors to its stand in January.

The subsequent Science for Development Showcase event that invites school projects to a separate showpiece was cancelled in the spring because of the pandemic, but was subsequently hosted digitally by Minister of State for Overseas Development and the Diaspora, Colm Brophy, with students and teachers from schools across the country attending.



WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) awarded a record number of grants last year to schools integrating Global Citizenship Education (GCE) into post-primary classes.

REACHING MORE IN A REMOTE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Irish Aid-backed schools programme, run by a Self Help Africa-led consortium, also reached the highest number of new post-primaries, despite significant disruption to schools from a global pandemic that caused months of closures and months more of remote learning.

In the eight years since the WWGS consortium was established, the post-primary programme of integrating Global Citizenship Education (GCE) has reached 70% of all secondary schools in Ireland.

WorldWide Global Schools delivers grant funding for GCE activities, awards Global Passport Awards in recognition of outstanding achievements by teachers and students in the field, and organises professional development opportunities designed to enable teachers to better integrate issues core to the GCE programme, including knowledge, skills and values to enable school goers to act ethically and sustainably in an interconnected world.

In 2020, the WWGS team ran more centralised continuing professional development (CPD) events for teachers than in any previous year.

WWGS continues to seek to influence the integration of GCE beyond the post-primary curriculum too, by increasing engagement and collaboration with a range of strategic stakeholders in the formal and development education sector.

A WWGS National Teacher CPD event took place in Killashee House Hotel, Kildare in January, 2020, delivering a full-day of GCE content to teachers, with a thematic focus on Migration and Global Citizenship Education. Teachers from across Ireland, including many who were new to GCE, attended the event.

Remote training necessitated by the pandemic provided new opportunities for the WWGS programme and participating schools to access new teachers.

112 principals and deputy principals attended the fourth annual WWGS Symposium, which was attended by Minister State for Overseas Development and the Diaspora, Colm Brophy. The event focussed on Global Citizenship Education, School Culture and Ethos. Each year, the event aims to encourage post-primary schools to engage with the GCE programme at management level and to increase the awareness and understanding of principals and deputy principals of the value and relevance of the programme in all parts of the school curriculum.

WWGS also continued to engage with the consultation processes around curriculum reform, including a written submission to the draft Primary Curriculum Framework (NCCA) in December 2020. A joint submission was also carried out with the IDEA Formal Education Working Group. The NCCA will re-engage with teachers, school leaders, parents, children and other stakeholders on the draft framework in the 2021/2022 academic year.



Sorting and cleaning process of
Gum Arabic, Athi River, Kenya



THE PANDEMIC HITS AFRICAN BUSINESSES

The Covid-19 pandemic had a profound and disrupting effect on business across the globe, and the African continent was no exception.



In response to the pandemic, Self Help Africa's social enterprise subsidiary Partner Africa, in collaboration with digital insight agency &Wider, conducted an extensive study of the real impact of the pandemic for companies and their workers. In collaboration with retail and industry partners, and working with six multinational brands, suppliers in agriculture, floriculture, textiles and waste management were surveyed to produce a detailed analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on business operations and employees.

Using &Wider's automated mobile calls service and other data sources, the report 'The Impact of Covid-19 on Suppliers and their Workers in Africa' sourced information from nearly 7,500 workers and close to 300 managers at businesses from Morocco, Egypt and Ethiopia to Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and South Africa between June and December 2020.

The survey found that the pandemic had put new strains on business practices and cash flows. Suppliers suffered price hikes for raw materials,

experienced late payments, reduced purchases and cancelled orders. Transport and air freight costs increased and costs rose from a host of new activities and requirements including additional transportation and social distancing - both for employees travelling to work and in the workplace.

New pressures impacted on workers too, with a large proportion of respondents reporting that their terms of employment, salaries and holiday entitlements had changed, while late payment of wages and lay-offs also occurred across different sectors during the pandemic. Many workers said that they were working harder while household income had declined. The pandemic had created significant strain on workers both in terms of financial and food security, and in workplace pressures and workload, the report noted.

Half of all businesses reported lower production levels, both as a result of increasing costs, shortages of stock, job losses, logistical delays and inflated prices.

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Many workers said that they were working harder while household income had declined

Most suppliers had adapted well to new hygiene requirements, however, and businesses reported relative ease in affording and securing personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers. Most of those surveyed were not forced to close their businesses due to outbreaks of Covid-19. Neither had they suffered extensive absenteeism during the pandemic.

The report noted that Covid-19 brought about rapid change in business operations, and in some instances accelerated pre-pandemic trend forecasts, including the importance of embedding human rights due diligence frameworks within new ways of working.

Businesses should ensure that their Covid-19 responses link up to existing due diligence policies and processes; including grievance mechanisms, whistle blowing channels and worker representative structures the report concluded.



TRUTRADE'S RESILIENCE AND RELEVANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

TruTrade's embrace of digital platforms to pay farmers using mobile credit transfers meant it was well positioned when the Covid-19 pandemic restricted more conventional farmer-to-market interactions.



While the pandemic caused widespread disruption to agri-business in both Uganda and Kenya, TruTrade's two primary markets, its mobile trading and payment platforms still supported thousands of smallholder farmers to access new markets and earn an income from their produce during the year.

Nonetheless, it was still an extremely challenging year. Interruptions to supply chains and changing consumer spending habits, hit TruTrade's business model, growth targets and profitability.

Talking to TruTrade's farmers

To learn more and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by farmers, an insight into impact survey was carried out late in 2020 amongst over 250 TruTrade client farmers in Kenya.

It found that while most respondents remained deeply concerned by coronavirus, farmers were still hopeful and optimistic for the immediate future. 62% of those surveyed reported being 'very confident' and a further 34% 'slightly confident' that they would fare well over the coming months.

The survey also highlighted the value of TruTrade for farmers, in providing a unique service in an under-served market. Indeed, 85% of farmers who were surveyed said that they were accessing markets through TruTrade's digital platforms for the very first time.

40% of farmers reported that their lives had 'very much improved' as a result of selling with TruTrade, 45% said that

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40% of farmers reported that their lives had 'very much improved' as a result of selling with TruTrade
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there had been substantial increases to their incomes, while a further 43% said that there had been a moderate increase in what they had earned.

In the midst of the pandemic, the survey also highlighted opportunities for TruTrade to help, with farmers identifying how the service could assist in providing access to inputs, cash and access to markets, as well as information on crop buyers and prices.

In 2021, TruTrade aims to scale-up its sourcing capacity, deepen community reach, improve impact at the farm gate, and strengthen its operation to ensure its long-term commercial viability.

TALKING TO FARMERS

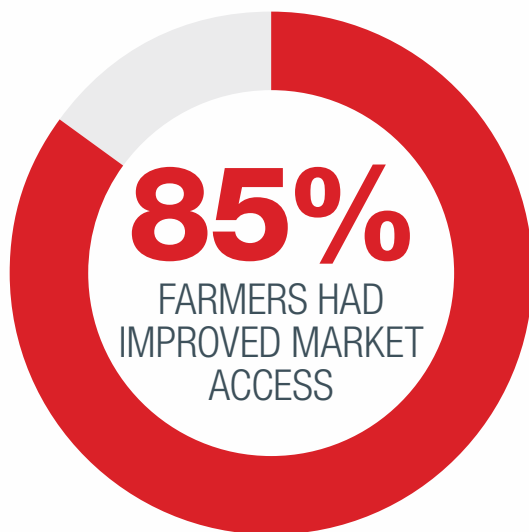


Photo: Shutterstock



ONE MILLION TREES CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

One Million Trees has featured on millions of Glenisk yogurt pots and milk cartons over the past year.



Tree planting, Abossa village, Lake Ziway, Ethiopia



On a small hill overlooking Lake Ziway in Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley, a group of schoolkids gathered to plant trees.

The event in spring 2021 marked the formal culmination of a year-long campaign to plant one million new trees in Africa.

The 30 small saplings that were planted by the children and their parents outside Abossa village brought to 480,000 the number of tree seedlings planted at Lake Ziway, and to one million the trees to have been planted by the campaign.

Launched in February 2020, One Million Trees set out to plant a million trees in Africa, as well as 100,000 native trees in Ireland and the UK. Sponsored by Ireland's premium yogurt producers, Glenisk, and featured on millions of pots of organic bio pot yogurt, the campaign captured the public imagination. Thousands of people donated, while a number of corporate backers also came



on board and lent their support.

While Self Help Africa and our local partners in Africa planted trees in projects from Uganda and Kenya to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, a partnership with environmental NGO Trees on the Land helped plant native trees in Ireland.

Supporters who signed up to support the campaign – in some instances contributing just €5 to plant 10 trees in Africa and one native tree in Ireland or the UK – received reports of where their trees had been planted, including GPS coordinates of each tree planting location in Africa.

“Close to 5,000 individuals sent in donations, while a number of corporate backers came on board and lent their support

The campaign message was simple and effective - 'you can plant trees, offset your carbon footprint and make an environmental difference, while also contributing to the lives and the welfare of rural poor communities in Africa - where trees are a source of food, income, shade, shelter and much more.'

In March 2021 a new collaboration, Another One Million Trees was launched with Glenisk, with a similar goal to plant trees in Africa and Ireland, while an additional dimension was added as Irish companies were invited to plant trees to offset the carbon footprint of their businesses.

480,000

TREE SEEDLINGS
PLANTED AT LAKE
ZIWAY, ETHIOPIA



Tree planting, Abossa village, Lake Ziway, Ethiopia

DOUBLING DOWN ON DIGITAL IN 2020

We will forever look back on 2020 as the year of masks, elbow bumps, social distancing, support bubbles, Zoom conferences and Skype socials.

VIRTUALLY every engagement became virtual as the pandemic caused cancellations and lockdowns, shuttered businesses, schools, sports organisations, and forced us to migrate many of our engagements and interactions with friends, family, work colleagues and others to a largely online environment.

Self Help Africa's programme of public events and engagements with our friends, supporters and the wider public was no exception, as gala dinners, sports events, charity walks, public meetings and much more were replaced by digital alternatives.

“

We grew our social media following to more than 80,000 people

”

Our commitment to engaging with the wider public to highlight the issues, challenges and responses to global poverty remained a vital aspect of our work however. Once it became evident that the pandemic would be with us for some time, we developed new digital resources, including exhibitions, video series, online quizzes and other materi-

als to highlight the issues and speak to students, communities and friends and supporters across the UK, Ireland, USA and in the main African countries where we work.

Self Help Africa continued to grow and extend its online reach, delivering more content and attracting increased online engagement and response from our digital audiences in 2020. We grew our social media following across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram to more than 80,000 people, and expanded our reach to a younger audience on TikTok.

Our website remained central to how we reached the wider public too, with almost 200,000 unique visitors reading our web stories during 2020, and over 2,000 people signing up to receive new email information, in large part thanks to the One Million Trees campaign.

In total, we sent more than 100 digital newsletters and supporter emails in 2020, amounting to almost 500,000 messages to our supporter base.

We utilised our website to host two online exhibitions, featuring stories and images on the roles played by women in rural life in Africa. 'Women on

the Frontline of Climate Change' and 'Levelling the Field' received more than 1,000 online visits within a number of months, last autumn, while a series of short videos, #InspiringStories, were viewed more than 600 times in the same period.

Facebook groups were created to host a series of activities and events for supporters too, including a Secret Supper online group that attracted close to 500 friends and supporters in the UK, and a Trees Challenge group in Ireland that had 170 members. A virtual gala event in the US was enjoyed by more than 250 supporters.

Our traditional attendance at the annual National Ploughing Championships in Ireland was cancelled along with the September event, although we took part in an online agri-showcase alternative, presenting videos and images relating to our programme work in Africa.

More than 350 friends and supporters responded to a public engagement survey that was circulated during 2020, with 95% of respondents endorsing Self Help Africa and the Irish government's commitment to 'reaching the furthest behind, first.'



Change-Makers Virtual Ball



Online Exhibition: 'Women on the Frontline of Climate Change'



500,000

MESSAGES TO OUR
SUPPORTER BASE
IN 2020

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic showed us how interconnected our world is, but also how fragile and vulnerable our systems are.



WHILE the Covid-19 virus kept us physically apart – from family, friends and work colleagues – it also demonstrated how a disease that originated thousands of miles away could, in a matter of months, fill hospitals and morgues, and shut down economies.

In our work at Self Help Africa, we often speak about how the people we work with in sub-Saharan Africa are vulnerable: to climate shocks, market fluctuations, pests and disease, and much more. We are acutely aware that people living in extreme poverty face so many risks and have fewer coping mechanisms when disaster strikes.

Today, countries across sub-Saharan Africa remain vulnerable to Covid-19. When the virus first emerged, we worried that Africa's under-resourced

hospitals and health services could quickly become overwhelmed by the pandemic. We worried too about access to vaccines for these developing nations.

Today, as vaccine roll-outs gather pace, the world's most developed nations are beginning to see their economies grow again as restrictions are lifted. But the pandemic is global, not national, and the developing world remains at the end of the queue for vaccines. Widespread provision of vaccines to the world's poorest communities is critical.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Self Help Africa, I am grateful to our CEO Ray Jordan, to all our staff and funders, for ensuring that we were able to continue our important work throughout the 2020 lockdown.

It is heartening to read within these pages that despite the pandemic, upwards of 80% of our work and targets were met.

Our ability to adapt and change how we worked was a notable feature of the past year, as the technology systems and procedures we have put in place over more than a decade allowed the organisation to embrace cloud-based computer systems and online working in an efficient and effective manner.

The pandemic inevitably did impact on the organisation, however, with the challenging economic conditions resulting in job losses, office downsizing, retail shop closures and other cuts. I am grateful to all of our staff – in Ireland, the UK, the US and across Africa for their support and understanding as we instituted these extraordinary measures.



Mbalose Mbewe, Kasankha Village, Zambia

“

Despite the pandemic, upwards of 80% of our work and targets were met

It was a great privilege for me to assume the position of Chair of Self Help Africa at our AGM last year. I am grateful to my predecessor, Tom Kitt, for his stewardship as Chairman, and to all who serve with me on the Board and on our advisory committees, for the contributions and the oversight that they provide.

The work that we do is more important than ever. The economies of Africa have been hit hard by Covid-19, with the World Bank estimating that up to 150 million additional people may be pushed into extreme poverty in 2021 as a result.

Our agricultural production systems are also challenged by climate change, while the pressures to produce food for a rapidly growing world population make our work more important than ever.

I am grateful to all our supporters – institutional, corporate and individual – for their continuing support and belief in the work that we do.

In 2020 we undertook a mid-term review of our five year strategy - ‘Embracing Change’ - that reaffirmed our goals and targets for the coming years.

We will use this to guide us, and will look to the future with optimism and confidence that we can continue to play an important role in combatting extreme hunger and poverty in Africa in the years ahead.

Carmel Fox
Chair, The Gorta Group

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carmel Fox

Chair

Carmel Fox has served as a member of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas and with the Teagasc Authority. She is a former CEO of Ballyhoura Development, and has long experience in rural development, local development, and social inclusion issues.



David Governey:

Finance & Audit

David Governey is an internationally experienced financial and operations professional and a Chartered Accountant. He was Director of Finance and Administration at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) from 2001-2014.



Martin Ryan

Business in Africa

Martin Ryan founded the ATS Group, providing facilities management and catering services to the mining industry in Africa for 20 years. He also worked with the Ministry for Rural Development in Zambia, and in the hospitality, timber and furniture sectors across Africa.



Kalongo Chitengi

Business Development

Kalongo Chitengi is general manager at agri-equipment supplier AGCO Zambia, and has worked for over 25 years in private, state enterprise and non-governmental organisations at senior management level. Kalongo was previously Country Director for Self Help Africa in Zambia.



Jim Kinsella

Rural Development

Jim Kinsella is Professor of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development and the Head of the Agribusiness and Rural Development Section at the School of Agriculture and Food Science, at University College, Dublin.



Sheila Walsh

Human Resources

Sheila Walsh is Chief People Officer and a member of the senior leadership team at leading travel technology company CarTrawler. She is the former head of Human Resources at Self Help Africa and holds an MBS in Business Practice from University College Cork.



Jim Galvin

Agricultural Advisor

Jim Galvin is CEO and Director of Lakeview Energy, and holds a number of directorships in companies. He is a member of the US Grains Council Ethanol Advisory Team, and a board member of the Marine Renewables Energy Association.



Joe Healy

Independent Consultant

Joe Healy is former President of the Irish Farmers' Association (2016-2020). A dairy farmer from Athenry, he was Vice-President of COPA, the European Farmers Association, from 2017-2020, and has also served on the boards of Bord Bia, FBD Insurance and the Agricultural Trust.



Catherine Fitzgibbon

Independent Consultant

Catherine Fitzgibbon is an independent consultant, now based in the UK after 15 years in the Horn of Africa region. Catherine currently provides technical assistance to Kenya's National Safety Net Programme, and the National Drought Management Authority.



Pat Murphy

Agricultural Development

Pat Murphy is Head of Environment Knowledge Transfer at Teagasc (The Agriculture and Food Development Authority). He has recently been involved in supporting Irish Aid initiatives to support agricultural knowledge systems in Tanzania.

Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements

for the financial year ended
31 December 2020

Directors and Other Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Ms. Carmel Fox (Chair)	
	Mr. David Governey	
	Mr. Pat Murphy	
	Mr. James Galvin	
	Ms. Sheila Walsh	
	Ms. Catherine Fitzgibbon	
	Mr. Martin Ryan	
	Mr. James Kinsella	(appointed 7 October 2020)
	Mr. Joe Healy	(appointed 7 October 2020)
	Ms. Kalongo Chitengi	(appointed 18 November 2020)
	Mr. Tom Kitt	(resigned 1 October 2020)
	Ms. Rowena Dwyer	(resigned 1 October 2020)
	Mr. Robert Breen	(resigned 1 October 2020)
	Ms. Olivia Buckley	(resigned 26 February 2020)

COMPANY SECRETARY	Mr. Malachy Cardiff (<i>resigned 10 April 2020</i>)	
	Mr. Peter McDevitt (<i>appointed 10 April 2020</i>)	
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE	Mr. Ray Jordan	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Mr. David Dalton	
REGISTERED OFFICE	Kingsbridge House 17-22 Parkgate Street Dublin 8	
COMPANY NUMBER	28228	
CHARITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY NUMBER	20008895	
CHARITY NUMBER	CHY 5678	
SOLICITORS	Paul Foley Law 22 Northumberland Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4	Withers LLP. 16 Old Bailey London EC4M 7EG England
PRINCIPAL BANKERS	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2	Bank of Ireland 65 St Vincent Street Glasgow G25HT Scotland
	Barclays Bank Plc, P.O. Box 89 Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1QU England	Permanent TSB 2-4 Upper Baggot Street Dublin 4 AIB 1-4 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
AUDITORS	Deloitte Ireland LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Firm Deloitte & Touche House Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2	

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

The directors present
herewith the reports and
audited consolidated
financial statements of the
charity for the financial
year ended 31 December
2020.

Objectives and Activities

Gorta is the legal company name of 'The Gorta Group' which is a holding company for a group of organisations that cover a wide spectrum of activities in the international development sector. The organisation trades as Self Help Africa. We are a non-governmental organisation whose main purpose is set out in our constitution as the assistance and advancement of people in need in less developed areas of the world. We have expertise in small-scale farming and growing family-farm businesses. We work with farmers and agricultural businesses in Africa to help them grow and sell more food, diversify their income and their diets, and make their livelihoods more sustainable and resistant to external shocks. We also respond to emergencies in support of communities that we work with..

Vision, mission and values

Our vision is an economically thriving rural Africa.

Our mission is to support sustainable livelihoods for Africa's smallholder farmers.

Our core values are:

- Equality – people are equal in rights and must be treated with respect and dignity.
- Innovation – we are conscious that finding effective solutions requires innovative thinking combined with a pragmatic approach.

- Learning – we strive for the highest quality standards in our work and encourage a culture of constant learning and improvement.
- Accountability – accountability and transparency are central to all our actions and use of resources.

Strategic Objectives

Our primary strategic objectives are to:

- Improve **food, nutrition and income security** for smallholder farmers.
- Support the establishment and growth of inclusive, profitable and sustainable **agri-business**.
- Support the improvement of the **policy environment** for smallholder farmers.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to a worldwide slowdown in economic activity, had a significant impact on the organisation's operations with effect from mid-March 2020. Management set to work immediately to assess the various operational and financial scenarios that could arise and drew up plans to mitigate the potential negative impact on the organisation. Hard work on the part of our staff and partners enabled us to maintain operations and continue supporting the communities we work with. Revised budgets and cash flow projections were prepared with a view to reducing costs to a minimum and investigating potential

alternative income streams. Management engaged with institutional donors to discuss deferral of expenditure and extension of programme contracts where temporary suspension of work was necessary. At Head Office level, costs were reduced by agreeing a combination of pay decreases, reduced working hours and implementing a redundancy programme towards the end of the year. The Board are deeply appreciative of the sacrifices made by staff at this difficult time. Discussions with suppliers, service providers and landlords also led to cost savings – the Board thanks those whose support for our work in this area has helped us maintain our ability to sustain our work in Africa.

This impact was also mitigated to some extent by government supports, cost saving measures adopted, and the fact that there was minimal increase in attrition in income from our regular givers. We are confident that the organisation will come through the crisis intact and in a position to continue our valuable work.

Activities

Our primary client targets are poor and vulnerable rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Togo and Zambia.

We support both small projects and large programmes. We use the evi-

dence generated from our projects to inform scalable programmes with more substantial impact. We are respectful of the culture, needs and wishes of the communities we work with and proactively seek out their views on, and participation in, programme development and implementation.

We are committed to the principle of empowering communities and helping them to help themselves and we do not provide funds; rather all inputs are provided on a loan or pass-back basis. We work with local governments and the business communities to create sustainable links that last beyond the life cycle of projects.

Self Help Africa employs professional development staff in all its countries of operation. We have an excellent track record of building capacity and facilitating mutually beneficial relationships between farmers, government structures, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Achievements and Performance

Self Help Africa implemented a significant programme of work in sub-Saharan Africa in 2020. The context and operational highlights of these programmes are summarised below.

Overseas Programmes

In 2020, Self Help Africa implemented a portfolio of 44 projects of a total value of €95m across Burkina Faso,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Uganda and Zambia, working with smallholder farmers, farmer associations, cooperatives and agribusinesses to help farmers grow and sell more food, improve diets, diversify incomes and make their livelihoods more sustainable and resilient to external shocks. In 2020, we supported 435,818 households and had a turnover of €20.4m.

The global emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic during the year had profound consequences on our operations. The caseload across our countries of operation remained relatively low for most of the year with tight restrictions put in place by national governments to reduce the spread of the virus, but some countries, like Zambia and Malawi experienced a second wave at the end of the year. The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted access to agricultural inputs, extension and advisory services, and output markets and value chains have been severely affected at local, national and international levels. Poor farmers were strongly impacted by the pandemic, particularly women, as access to inputs and markets became more difficult. In Malawi, SHA distributed 1.7 million bars of soap to 144,816 farmers (60% women) covered by the Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns (BETTER) project, and in Zambia, 1,000 farmers from the Preserve Kafue project received emergency seed packs, soap, hand sanitizers, buckets, and reusable face masks. We also adapted our programming by pilot-

ing two urban cash response projects, with Women in Self Employment (WISE) in Ethiopia and in Kenya. In Uganda, SHA worked with local community radio stations to deliver awareness and prevention information on Covid-19 as well as hygiene messages on agricultural production, post-harvest handling and marketing of produce. We partnered with Viamo to develop tailor-made messaging in Kenya. Covid-19 training was provided to all Group staff.

2020 was particularly difficult for sub-Saharan Africa and smallholder farmers who not only faced Covid-19, but also locusts and natural disasters. Locusts across the Horn and East Africa decimated crops, and a cycle of droughts and flooding impacted crops and harvests in east and southern Africa. We responded through an adaptive management approach by engaging in preventive measures in training, crop surveillance and spraying in the case of desert locusts and in rearranging activities, developing mobile extension services, emergency distribution of soap and widespread sensitisation on Covid-19 prevention across all our programmes. Our efforts to grow our work responding to crises and emergencies affecting rural communities, was given a boost as SHA was successful in our application to be a Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) certified partner for funding.

In spite of the many challenges faced and a reduction in some key outcome

areas such as dietary diversity, overall resilience of the communities we support remained on track, demonstrating the impact of our programme delivery.

Evidence from Malawi and Uganda demonstrated the impact of the Functional Landscape Approach which is core to our climate change adaptation programming. The impact of extreme flooding around the lake area of Uganda and the incidence of landslides was significantly reduced in the project area through our programme. In Zambia, the Functional Landscape Approach used to promote the sustainable use of natural resources for increased incomes, whilst protecting and restoring essential eco-systems within the Kafue Sub-basin, is starting to show results: crop production increased by 100% in the 2019/20 farming season in comparison to 2018/19 and 3,125 households trained in natural resource management are able to participate in village natural resources management committees, develop 'Participatory Land Use Maps', and formulate rules and regulations to protect their environment.

SHA is committed to supporting a green economy approach, for low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive growth. To achieve this objective, SHA manages two Challenge Funds in Zambia and Kenya. Challenge Funds are competitive financing facilities to disburse donor funding for development projects. In Zambia, our EU-funded Enterprise Zambia Challenge Fund is supporting the EU and Government of

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

the Republic of Zambia's green economy agenda. We do this by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities and making the transition just and inclusive for all. Small and medium sized enterprises apply to Enterprise Zambia with proposals that positively impact the triple-bottom line of people, planet and profit. We select the best proposals that demonstrate potential positive impact on the income and livelihoods of smallholder farmers; promote land management practices that improve soils and reduce the use of harmful chemicals; encourage the uptake of new technologies like drought-tolerant seeds or solar irrigation, that also make commercial sense for the companies and the farmers. Five companies have been recommended for funding by ENTERPRISE Zambia's Independent Investment Committee. The first cohort of five companies forecast that they will reach over 100,000 smallholders and support over 1,000 full-time equivalent jobs. The awards total €4.3m and the companies plan to invest €8.1m to co-finance the projects. The grant award recipients operate in a broad range of agricultural value chains, including cotton processing, timber, cereal oils, legume production, seed production and agri-exports. The funding will be used to support the establishment of Zambia's first-ever organic cotton supply chain, to provide warehousing, support commodity brokerage, process and distribute industrial and domestic wood products, and market and sell a range of products including oils and legume crops.



Democratic Republic of Congo

SHA started operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2020, with a grant from TradeMark East Africa in North and South Kivu in Eastern DRC. The objective of this new project, which started in November 2020, is to increase the export capacity of Eastern DRC firms by identifying and successfully exploiting opportunities to grow their exports to regional and international markets. SHA DRC was also awarded a contract by Enabel, the Belgium Development Agency, for a market feasibility study for export opportunities from Rwanda, of poultry and pig products to the DRC in Bukavu, Goma and Kinshasa.

DRC is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, and is endowed with exceptional natural resources, including minerals such as cobalt and copper, hydropower potential, significant arable land, immense biodiversity, and the

world's second largest rainforest. It also has the third largest population of poor globally. Poverty in DRC is high, remains widespread and pervasive, and is increasing due to the impact of Covid-19. In 2020, DRC experienced its first GDP contraction in 18 years as a result of the pandemic.

DRC experienced other significant challenges, such as resurgent Ebola epidemics, notably in the province of North Kivu, and ongoing violence and insecurity, including in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, where regular attacks are reported to have displaced tens of thousands of people. In total, more than five million people have been uprooted by conflict within the DRC's borders, the single-largest internally displaced population in Africa. The country also hosts over half a million refugees, fleeing unrest and persecution in neighbouring countries.

Eritrea

As with other countries across the Horn of Africa, Eritrea was affected by a locust invasion and the Covid-19 pandemic, which reduced economic activity in 2020. While Covid-19 numbers reported were relatively low per head of population, figures are likely to have been much higher due to limited testing and availability of information. The economic outlook is positive for 2021. However, the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Ethiopia in the Tigray region and the role played by Eritrea is likely to have a destabilising effect.

SHA in collaboration with Vita and the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has been implementing the Seed Enterprise for Equitable Distribution (SEED) project in Eritrea since 2016. The project objective is to organise farmer-managed seed system development that produces quality seed and increases production and productivity per unit area, thereby improving the livelihood of the farming communities. The final project goal is to establish a local, community-led, sustainable source of improved seeds that are high yielding and pest and disease tolerant. In 2020, the SEED project reached 500 local seed growers (400 cereals and 100 potato) in Debub, Maekel, and Anseba zobas. Ten thousand subsistence farmers (8,000 cereals, 2,000 potato) in these zobas accessed quality declared seed from the MoA. Through the inputs distributed via the project, there has been a marked yield improvement of about two



to three-fold compared against baseline indicators.

With Teagasc leading, we are working on a second project in Eritrea under the EU Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DESIRA) Programme. The specific project, titled Climate Smart Agriculture Research and Innovation Support for Dairy Value Chains in Eritrea (CSARIDE) is in the start-up phase with some delays experienced in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The project has started well following the signing of the grant contract with the EU Delegation to the State of Eritrea (EUDE) in February 2020 and work commenced with the convening of an inception workshop in Asmara on 25th February. The project includes a rich international consortium of partners including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Government, the National Agricultural Research Institute, Hamelmalo Agricultural College, the National Union of Eritrean Women as well as University College Dublin, University College Cork, Vita and the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

Ethiopia

Despite impressive economic growth over the past number of years, Ethiopia continues to see high rates of poverty in both urban and rural areas. The agricultural sector is a big contributor towards GDP, but it remains underdeveloped with a heavy reliance on smallholder farmers who lack the inputs and training to maximise their production. This year, we managed nine projects across the country which collectively sought to strengthen smallholder farmers and improve theirs and their communities' lives through a combination of training and improved access to agricultural inputs and credit. These projects reached nearly 45,000 people in 2020 across a variety of value chains including dairy, beekeeping, pig-rearing, and maize production.

2020 was a difficult year in Ethiopia with high levels of inflation due to Covid-19, unemployment, instability, and large-scale crop loss due to the locust invasions which swept across the country from March onwards. Towards the end of the year, regional governments began to request assistance from NGOs to respond to growing hunger due to the infestation. We initiated two new projects in December 2020 which saw food and cash distributed to the worst-affected families in Oromia and West Hararghe regions in early-2021.

As in Kenya, heavy rainfall from June led to flooding across many regions which impacted an estimated 1.1 million

people. Displacements from homes also heightened the risk of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases and led to food insecurity for many families unable to return to their land. In urban areas, lockdown measures forced many informal workers, including women traders, out of work. This had an impact on their livelihoods and their safety as cases of domestic violence against women have been seen to rise across the world because of the pandemic. Although Self Help Africa traditionally focuses on rural communities, in response to this growing pressure on urban families we partnered with Women in Self-Employment (WISE), to implement an emergency cash distribution project to support urban women during the lockdown.

Aside from Covid-19 and the locust infestation, some of our projects have also been negatively impacted by a growing number of local conflicts which have brought instability to several regions. One project in Lake Ziway, which sought to boost ecotourism opportunities for local communities, had to be adjusted after violence erupted in the area and many hotels and businesses were burnt down. An AGRA-funded project, which sought to improve soil management and boost productivity, was unable to complete some of the activities planned in the Tigray region in Northern Ethiopia, after conflict erupted over an election in October. The rest of our projects were not directly affected, but the indirect effects did present a challenge in terms of internet black-outs, inflation, and heightened security

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020



Tintina Gebre, Gabisaa village, Oromia Region, Ethiopia

presence which can disrupt agricultural activities, with road closures making some areas inaccessible. Border disputes and ethnic conflict in other areas has also led to the displacement of many families, meaning they are unable to access their land and are placing greater pressure on government and NGO resources for food aid.

Despite these challenges, the Ethiopia programme was able to use flexible approaches to respond to changing contexts and ensure the smooth implementation of all our projects. One project which was completed this year was the USAID-funded Feed the Future maize value chain development project. This project sought to strengthen two cooperative unions with a combined membership of 16,000 smallholder maize farmers. Through training and improved access to credit and available markets to sell their produce, there have

been some very promising results. Production and sales rose in both unions, providing farmers and their families with more food as well as higher returns on the grain they sold. In Bako Tibe, a union with over 13,000 members, sales rose by 73%. Self Help Africa works with farmers across all our programmes to encourage membership in Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs) which can help rural communities to save money safely and access credit in situations where they may not qualify for a bank loan.

Through consistent saving from their increased sales, farmers have been able to invest in their maize businesses, further boosting their production capabilities. The increased production also offers a cushion for families who may face difficulties purchasing food during the lean season between harvests. Due to project interventions, 95% of the maize farmers now have access to food throughout the year, even as they continue to sell over 60% of their crops. One of the lasting impacts of this project will be the training in harvesting and correctly storing grain to maximise output. A lot of grain can be lost to insects and rot which can easily be avoided through investment in modern storage solutions. As a result of this project, farmers are better informed and better equipped to maximise their production and, through example, it is likely these practices will spread far beyond our initial intervention.

Kenya

The Covid-19 virus was confirmed in Kenya in March 2020, and nationwide restrictions on movement, gatherings and non-essential business were enforced. Due to the disruption to non-essential industry and supply chains, prices rose, and the economy contracted. In response to rising costs, the government reduced VAT rates but many still struggled to afford essential commodities. The unemployment rate doubled this year and the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics estimated that as many as 1.7 million Kenyans had lost their jobs across the country. The impact on smallholder farmers and rural communities we work with is harder to quantify but challenges in accessing agricultural advisory services, inputs and markets has placed additional pressure on their livelihoods. Despite these challenges, the SHA Kenya programme implemented a total of five projects and reached over 60,000 people throughout 2020, of which over 54% were women.

In 2020, two new projects commenced in Baringo County, western Kenya. This area experienced flooding, locusts, and insecurity during the year. However, start-up activities for our EU-funded Baringo Resilience Initiative project were implemented successfully and preparations are underway for the coming planting season. Floods and Covid-19 travel restrictions made some roads impassable, and many communities were displaced from their homes. This placed more pressure on

local resources. It is estimated that 18,000 households were impacted by the floods and the effects are still being felt. Our resilience project works with pastoralist farmers who are particularly vulnerable to drought and floods, which can lead to food insecurity as well as tension between neighbouring communities over limited communal resources such as water and grazing land. A major focus for this project will be improving nutritional outcomes for these farmers and their families, especially children, as well as diversifying their income opportunities to make them less vulnerable to shocks. The past year has highlighted the importance of investing in resilience and preparing farmers so that they might adequately adapt to unexpected disasters.

A private donation also allowed us to respond directly to the locust invasion in Baringo and we worked with the local government and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to provide training, track swarms, and direct control operations. We also donated motorised chemical sprayers and personal protective equipment (PPE) to government staff to enable targeted control operations in areas where aerial spraying would not be safe for the communities living there. Towards the end of the year, Self Help Africa also received funding from the newly-created Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA) to enable us to respond to the needs of communities badly impacted by the pandemic and displacement. This project responded to



needs in Baringo and Kilifi through cash and food distributions, hand sanitisers and face masks. These activities formally commenced in 2021.

Another EU-funded project is our Cassava Aggregation programme which covers six counties: Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, Busia, and Kilifi. Having begun in 2017, a mid-term review of this project was recently commissioned to measure progress against the target of increased food security, employment, and income for 20,000 smallholder households. This large-scale project involves supporting farmers and other actors at various stages of the cassava value chain, from production, to processing, to bringing the final product to market. The project has faced some challenges related to Covid-19 but there have also been some notable successes to date. Nearly 80% of farmers interviewed reported improved access

to quality planting materials as a benefit of the project, and over half of farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers also have greater access to financial services which will help them to invest in their businesses over time. In total, 141 jobs have also been created across aggregation centres, processing facilities and at farm-level. It is hoped that with greater investment by farmers, additional staff will be hired where currently all activities are being undertaken by family members.

During the year, the AgriFI Challenge Fund programme successfully contracted 18 agri-enterprises to bring the total portfolio of companies to 26. Total awards in the three calls that were concluded during the year amounted to €8m in commitments, leading to approximately €12.1m in total funds committed to the agri-enterprises. Total disbursements to agri-enterprises

equalled €4.5m. The contracted agri-enterprises have reached over 30,000 smallholder farmers/pastoralists which represents 30% of the target of 100,000 smallholder farmers across the various agricultural value chains. 30,285 farmers have been mobilised, contracted, and trained on good agricultural practices and currently accessing inputs. 22,974 farmers have been trained on Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) technologies including agricultural methods, water and waste management - the programme is progressing well. The total area under CSA is 5,822Ha compared with a target 10,000Ha, due primarily to delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions. Despite this, contracted companies have promoted CSA through farmer activities such as use of climate resilient/drought tolerant seed varieties (e.g. hybrid and Bt hybrid cotton 3, pyrethrum, sorghum), resilient livestock breeds, safe use and disposal of chemical products, integrated pest management, soil corrections based on soil testing and fertiliser recommendation, access to micro-irrigation equipment, promotion of conservation agriculture, minimum tillage, use of bio-fertilisers and training on good agricultural practices.

Contract farming has provided the linkage of smallholder farmers to markets. Across the value chains, 20,201 smallholder farmers have been reported to have improved access to market. Also, companies have introduced provision of inputs (quality seeds) on credit, weather

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

alerts through SMS platforms, facilitated acquisition of solar powered irrigation equipment through Pay As You Grow financing schemes; and constructed agri-clinic advisory services, agro-input distribution and training centres to enable smallholder farmers to have improved access to inputs and technical advisory services.

Contracted agri-enterprises have cumulatively created 236 direct full-time jobs (Adult: 61 male, 54 female, Youth: 70 male, 51 female) along the value chain. Most of the jobs created were at the farm-level with jobs related to supply outsourcing, extension work and training featuring in almost all the contracted companies. Additionally, 1,178 part-time jobs and over 2,000 seasonal jobs were created during the same period.

Malawi

In Malawi, the political situation remained peaceful, despite the annulment of the general election and subsequent election of the opposition candidate, Lazarus Chakwera. With a successful handover of power in June 2020, all street demonstrations ceased.

The socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on Malawi was significant, especially in urban areas, where the industry and services sectors were particularly impacted. The situation for rural households remained stable, thanks to a bumper harvest of maize in the November 19 - March 2020 growing season. As a result, the food security situation remained adequate during the first wave of the pandemic. Malawi suffered a strong resurgence of Covid-19 during the second half of the year, overwhelming its fragile health system. Malawi's growth has been slow, estimated at 1% for 2020, instead of the earlier projec-

tions of 4.8%, before the pandemic.

Despite the situation, SHA Malawi's flagship project, the BETTER programme, progressed to reach 144,816 smallholder farmers across ten districts, with 60% female participants, thanks to deliberate efforts to target women and promote gender inclusiveness. Since the beginning of the project, there has been a 140% increase in decision-making power of women and a 113% increase in financial independence of women.

During the year, a mid-term evaluation of the BETTER project was undertaken, and the donor, the European Union, conducted a result-oriented monitoring mission. Both evaluations showed positive results for the project. Results demonstrated that among Farmer Field School (FFS) members, the majority (60%) reported production of enough food to last them to the next crop harvest (12 months); more FFS members (85%) compared to control group (22%) kept livestock - this is attributed to the pass-on of the livestock received by FFS; and farmers' increased incomes as a result of participating in the FFS, which has enabled these participating farmers to buy assets such as livestock and agricultural equipment.

The start of the GIZ-funded FFS+ farm enterprise project in the year has the potential to strengthen business skills among FFS members as it focuses on the 'farmer business school' model.



Edward Tchuwa, Kasungu District, Malawi

The investment in early warning systems paid off as the mid-term evaluation highlighted that the early warning information given to participant farmers through radio (56.6%) helped them to plan properly on how to handle the expected changes in rainfall patterns. Most households made informed decisions on what crops and seed varieties to plant, and when and where to plant once they received the information.

Goats are commonly owned livestock in Malawi as they are highly resilient and adaptable, able to survive and produce in most ecosystems and under highly variable climates. Maintaining the health and productivity of goats is very important for the farmers we work with. This year, SHA Malawi started a partnership with Queens University Belfast to pioneer a participatory approach for the sustainable management of internal parasites and goat health through targeted selective treatment and plant-based treatment.

A new project started, in partnership with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to identify, genotype and phenotype neglected and underutilised crop species (NUS) in Malawi to protect crop and variety diversity. The goal of the project is to build capacity of smallholder farmers to produce and distribute quality seeds of selected food crop varieties of NUS such as finger millet, bambara nut, sorghum, indigenous vegetables, with preferred traits in their farming communities.

Uganda

Unlike many of its neighbours, Uganda managed to keep Covid-19 cases very low for much of the year, though in the final months of 2020, the country began to see an upsurge in cases. Being import-dependent, the economy still experienced a slowdown as global supply chain disruptions led to shortages in inputs for manufacturing, transportation, and construction sectors which led to lower production and higher prices. Tourism and other businesses were also badly hit by the restrictions. In the last four months of 2020, a nationwide lockdown was introduced to curb the spread of the virus which further stalled the economy and had a direct impact on SHA's project implementation.

The presidential election which took place in January 2021 was mired with widespread pre-election controversy as the incumbent president ran for a sixth consecutive term. The campaign activities as well as the protests led to large gatherings which increased the risk of Covid-19, especially in urban areas. SHA staff based in the capital were encouraged to stay home as protestors and opposition leaders were confronted by police. These clashes became violent in places, with dozens of peaceful protestors killed by police in November. Despite these challenges, the Uganda programme successfully implemented nine projects across the country, reaching over 15,700 people including over 9,000 women.



Aluko Stella; Atiira Youth Farmers' Group, Atiira Parish, Uganda

One of the key focus areas for our Uganda programme is improving nutrition, especially among vulnerable populations, women, and children. Stunting and other indications of poor childhood nutrition are particularly prevalent around the northern regions of Karamoja, Acholi and West Nile. In 2020 SHA implemented three projects in these regions, one of which focused specifically on refugees and host communities. The Irish Aid-funded Sustain project was designed to improve income and food security outcomes for 1,000 men and women living in refugee settlements in Adjumani District, West Nile. Agricultural training combined with nutrition training has encouraged participants to grow nutritionally dense crops such as orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP) and iron-rich beans (IRB), neither of which are traditionally grown in the area. The wider community outside of the project have also begun

to adopt the production and consumption of these vegetables which widens the impact and ensures sustainability after the project ends. Improvement in nutrition has reportedly contributed to a reduction in the need for supplementary feeding for children by the Ministry of Health (MOH), something that is attributed to consumption of IRB and OFSP, as well as other vegetables.

As a result of the project, participants have also reported significant increases in income security with women in particular benefitting from the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) which have helped them to start small businesses selling products such as cooking oil, soup, onions, sugar, and fish. Through increased knowledge of nutrition, it is hoped that more families will invest in businesses which ensure greater access to food for themselves and their communities.

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Another key achievement in Uganda this year has been the progress made in promoting the Functional Landscape Approach to encourage a safe and sustainable way of managing natural resources which balances ecological and economic priorities. Our project in Lake Bunyonyi district sought to preserve the wetlands, and to ensure crops and property would be better protected from floods, landslides, and other environmental degradation. Through working with 12 Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), activities such as tree planting and trench digging to control soil erosion, were undertaken and land which was formerly too degraded to plant was revitalised. With the flooding which occurred during the spring of 2020, communities were able to see for themselves the value of these measures, as land which would have been destroyed from landslides was largely protected. The Lake Bunyonyi sub-catchment management plan was formally adopted in August. This plan enshrines the principles of environmental protection, soil erosion control, wetland and lake shore protection, tree planting and other priorities for the agriculture and tourism sector. The framework aims to attract more investment to the area as well as greater tourism. In addition, 507 green enterprises have been supported throughout the project, ranging from growing mushrooms, passion fruit and sweet potatoes, to rearing sheep and beekeeping. These activities provide income-generating opportunities for individuals, especially women, and they

also make nutritious food more accessible to the community.

The first phase of the Lake Bunyonyi project was completed at the end of 2020 and is now being followed by the second phase which builds on the work from the past four years by strengthening the capacity of the VNRMCs, promoting the implementation of the sub-catchment plan, and continuing to support the green enterprises. This phase will run until the end of 2022 and will continue to target women, youth, and ethnic minority groups to maximise impact.

West Africa

Violence and instability have been gripping Burkina Faso since 2015, however the security situation significantly deteriorated during 2019-2020 with the Sahel now undergoing a complex humanitarian emergency. In the worst affected zones of Burkina Faso, such as Nord, Centre-Nord and Sahel regions, hardly a day goes by without violence. In addition to the fighting between opposing armed groups and the national army and their allies, the civilian population was subjected to a violent catalogue of lootings, targeted assassinations and massacres.

By August 2020, Burkina Faso had recorded over one million internally displaced persons (IDPs), a 100% increase compared to the beginning of the year where the country counted 450,000

IDPs. The main provinces of origin for displaced persons are Sanmatenga, Soum, Bam, Seno and Namentenga.

In 2020 SHA completed a two-year project, the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Support Project for Youth and Women (PAEJF) which was delivered in Yatenga Province with funding from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa via Expertise France. The project was delivered with the aim of contributing to the socio-economic stability of the northern region by creating 240 jobs for women and young people who invest in the conservation of onions and potatoes, and poultry production.

The project had some notable successes, namely overachieving its target in job creation and training. By the end of the project, 293 young people and women were trained, had acquired new skills and set up their own businesses, instead of the 240 initially planned. All the project participants received a certificate from the National Certification Committee (CNC) of the Ministry in charge of vocational training.

An additional project success of note was that women and youths supported in the border area between Burkina Faso and Mali registered an increase in income and savings through the sale of onions, potatoes and poultry, and the creation of new savings and loans associations despite the deteriorating security situation, through adapting of methodologies to deal with the insecurity.



Yongre Fati, Randaogo Village, Yargo, Kourittenga, Burkina Faso.

In 2020, SHA joined a consortium of 16 partners, led by Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE), to launch the SustInAfrica project with funding from the European Union (Horizon 2020). SustInAfrica is a research project empowering West and North African smallholder farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to facilitate sustainable intensification of African farming systems, by using innovative approaches and technologies. The project connects smallholder farmers, small and medium enterprises with academic institutions and comprises large-scale research across five countries (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Niger, Tunisia) with the aim to successfully intensify food production in a self-sufficient, sustainable and resilient manner.

SHA has been working in the cashew value chain since 2012 and has an excellent reputation in this sector in West Africa. In late 2019, SHA received

funding from the Austrian Development Agency to launch the Women's Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship in the cashew value chain intervention. This new project will contribute to improving the living conditions of women in the cashew production areas in the Cascades and Hauts Bassins regions, by strengthening the economic empowerment of 2,790 households active in the cashew sector. SHA and the National Union of Cashew Producers, the implementing partner, are targeting 2,790 women, in particular cashew producers and processors from Comoé, Houet and Kénédougou provinces, who are organised into five cooperatives of cashew producers. The project also targets formal and informal groups of artisanal processors, as well as women who do not own orchards but are working alongside their husbands in the targeted communities. The economic capacities of the women targeted by the project will be strength-

ened through theoretical and practical trainings on entrepreneurship, on the cooperative management of processing units, the development of business plans and on investment and funding scoping.

By June, the EU-funded Improving Access to Water and Sanitation in Savannah Region intervention in Togo was completed. The project aimed to provide equitable, affordable and sustainable access to drinking water for 8,000 people, provide access to sanitation, and training on good hygiene and sanitation practices to target communities, while strengthening the capacity of local and district authorities to manage water and sanitation services. By the project's end, over 7,750 people enjoyed improved access to drinking water and sanitation services, 27 boreholes were either drilled or repaired to increase water supply, and 150 ECOSAN latrines and 1,719 SANPLAT latrines were built at village level and adapted for people with reduced mobility. The project has also established and built the capacity of Water and Sanitation Commissions at District Level, and Water and Sanitation User Associations to ensure sustainable accountability of water and sanitation services to communities, alongside raising the public awareness of hygiene and sanitation practices including handwashing, conservation of drinking water, and use of latrines, through public information sessions and radio broadcasts.

Zambia

During 2020, the political situation remained peaceful in Zambia with the exception of some minor tensions erupting as part of the build-up to the 2021 election campaign. Overall, however, the country remained stable, creating a conducive atmosphere for project implementation.

2020 was a challenging year as Zambian inflation accelerated for a 12th straight month in December 2020 to its highest rate in almost four years, as its currency continued to plummet. The inflation rate in December 2020 was 19.2% compared to 9% in December 2019. The local currency (the kwacha) lost value by 45% against major international currencies since early 2020. As a result, the 2020 economic growth performance for Zambia was reduced from 3% target to negative 4.2%.

The advent of Covid-19 has had a devastating effect on the already fragile Zambian economy. As the country was forced to implement a partial lockdown, production activities in most sectors of the economy almost ground to a halt, while imported goods were merely trickling in as borders were closed. In terms of implementation, the onset of Covid-19 made engaging with the farming communities challenging. After a pause in activities, SHA put in place preventive measures to ensure the protection of both our staff and the communities we work with.

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

On a more positive note, an SHA project that supported communities in Zambia to adapt to the growing threat of global warming, was the recipient of a prestigious new award for climate change adaptation in Africa. The project, in the Kafue region of western Zambia, worked with local communities and government agencies to reduce local vulnerability to the worst effects of climate change. The project was named winner in the 'Climate Resilience' for Water Change Makers, at the annual Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS 2021). Implemented between 2016 and 2018, the work carried out by SHA was focussed on raising awareness and training that would provide communities with the ability to protect themselves from, and adapt to, extreme weather events caused by global warming. A new iteration of the project funded by the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission and co-funded by Irish Aid, known as Preserve Kafue, builds on the award-winning intervention, and incorporates a Functional Landscape Approach which enables communities to use natural resources and increase production in a sustainable manner, balancing economic and ecological considerations.

During 2020, SHA Zambia also implemented an emergency Covid-19 mitigation project to support 1,000 smallholder farming households in the Kafue, Chirundu, Siavonga and Chongwe districts of Zambia. The four month emergency intervention was funded



Esther Munga, Nkhunda Village, Zambia

by AGCO Agriculture Foundation. The participant smallholder farmers were provided with emergency seed packs for vegetables such as cabbage, rape, okra and tomatoes and early maturing varieties of beans to help them revamp food production and build resilience against future agriculture shocks. The project facilitated awareness and sensitisation sessions on Covid-19 guidelines with 50 lead farmers from the vulnerable groups, providing training on hand washing and general hygiene in addition to the provision of soap, hand sanitisers, buckets, 4,180 reusable face masks and Covid-19 poster guides. Furthermore, through this project, SHA secured a partnership with local community radio stations in the target districts to deliver awareness and prevention information on Covid-19 as well as hygiene messages on agricultural production, post-harvest handling

and marketing of produce.

2020 saw the completion of a successful SHA school feeding project called Home Grown School Meals funded by the World Food Programme (WFP). The project established vegetable gardens within target schools and delivered lunches to students in 60 schools across six districts (Mumbwa and Shibuyunji in Central Province; Nyimba, Petauke and Sindain in Eastern Province; Luangwa in Lusaka Province). SHA also delivered awareness-raising sessions on nutrition to school staff and students, including cooking demonstrations, to promote dietary diversity and improved nutrition. Following the successful delivery of the Home Grown School Meals Project, WFP invited SHA to expand its intervention to two new districts (Gwembe and Shangombo) as part of the Emergency

School Feeding and Early Recovery of Drought Affected Households in Zambia project which targets 143 schools. The project will target five drought affected districts (Gwembe, Kalomo, Monze, Sioma, Shangombo) and support farmers in preparing for the next agricultural season while linking them to schools.

The Enhanced Local Capacity for Sustainable Poultry Production project is yet another project whose implementation commenced in 2020. The commencement of the project was delayed due to Covid-19 but it was finally launched at the beginning of November 2020 after necessary measures were put in place to ensure the health and safety of project participants. The ten month intervention is funded by AGCO Agriculture Foundation and targets 150 households in Chongwe District to increase sustainable and market-oriented poultry production and contribute to improved food, nutrition and income security in the target communities.

Agri-enterprise

In addition to the two challenge funds SHA is managing, we support MSMEs through our other programming as a way of driving rural economic growth. Notwithstanding the challenges faced by companies during the year, we witnessed promising trends in the enterprises we engage with.

Agri-enterprises with a domestic market outperformed those with a heavy reliance on export markets due

to the impacts of local and international lockdowns, which made market access difficult and resulted in market demand dropping dramatically. For that reason, the Ethiopian agri-enterprises we are supporting, who cater only to domestic markets, all saw an increase in their turnover. In Kenya, two of the companies we support graduated from a micro to a small enterprise, namely Mhogo Foods and Lentera Limited. The threshold for a micro-enterprise is less than US\$100,000 in total annual sales, a small enterprise has total annual sales between US\$100,000 - US\$3,000,000. Catering to the domestic market, both Mhogo Foods and Lentera increased their turnover in 2020 despite the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite increases in turnover, many agri-enterprises did not register any profits in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic was an obvious cause for increased costs due to temporary shutdowns, the cost of PPE and setting up SOP protocols, for example bi-weekly spraying regime of facilities and reduced numbers of workers allowed on-site. Focus for the coming years will be on increasing efficiencies to improve profitability of agri-enterprises and looking to different markets to hedge against over-reliance on more volatile international markets.

Accessing commercial finance

In Uganda, a local beekeeping enterprise is currently in talks with financial institutions to access working capital of up to €20k through an agricultural credit

facility. The liquidity will enable them to off-take a minimum of ten tonnes of comb honey per major season i.e., March-April and September-November for Acholi and Karamoja sub-regions respectively. SHA is supporting this business in the development of a bankable business plan which will improve access to capital and investment. Loans secured for the cooperatives in Ethiopia range from €150k for Edget Union to €1m for Meki Batu from the Cooperative Bank.

Our impact

While 2020 was a difficult year across the world, it was particularly so for sub-Saharan Africa and smallholder farmers, with the impact of Covid-19, locusts and flooding/droughts. The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted access to agricultural inputs, extension and advisory services. Output markets and value chains were also severely affected at local, national and international levels. We responded through an adaptive management approach by engaging in preventive measures in training, crop surveillance and spraying (in the case of desert locusts) and in reorganising activities, developing mobile extension services, emergency distribution of soap and widespread sensitisation on Covid-19 prevention across all of our programmes.

Despite the many challenges faced and a reduction in some key outcome areas such as dietary diversity, overall

resilience of the communities we support remained on track, demonstrating the impact of our programme delivery. As estimated in the early stages of the pandemic in April 2020, 82% of our impact metrics are showing as on-track in terms of targets reached for the year.

Evidence from Malawi and Uganda demonstrated the impact of the Functional Landscape Approach which is core to our climate change adaptation programming. The impact of extreme flooding around the lake area of Uganda and the incidence of landslides was significantly reduced in the project area through our programme. SHA's bottom-up approach to climate change adaptation planning in the African Development Bank (AfDB) funded Kafue Basin Climate Resilience project, Zambia, won the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Swedish-based Global Water Partnership Water Changemakers prize at the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS2021).

The work of TruTrade, our value chain development subsidiary, became more challenging in 2020. With increased logistics costs and buyer uncertainty, the critical service and the value of digitisation, reduced risk through mobile payment and enabling assurance of prevention measures along the supply chain. As a result, trade volumes, values and numbers of farmers sourced from, all increased year on year.

Our efforts to grow our work respond-

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

ing to crises and emergencies affecting rural communities, was given a boost as following a thorough systems audit process, SHA was successful in our application to become a DG ECHO (European Union) certified partner for humanitarian funding.

Seeds and breeds – improve access and evidence based approaches to policy influencing

Focussing on agriculture and agribusiness as the engine of growth in Africa, access to improved varieties of seed and breeds is a key driver of our support to smallholder farmers, their associations, cooperatives and agribusinesses.

Seed production is essential for crop and variety diversification and is a core part of SHA's work. In Zambia seed enterprise groups have been a long-term investment for SHA and now have reached a stage when direct support is no longer needed. SHA will move to a challenge fund type approach, with the seed enterprise groups competing for funding for specific investments. SHA is a partner in a project to identify, genotype and phenotype neglected and underutilised crops (NUS) in Malawi to protect crop and variety diversity. So far, 108 samples from 20 crop species have been collected and deposited in the Malawi gene bank. Some of the crop varieties were difficult to locate in the field, suggesting that they are under threat of extinction. In West Africa, SHA is expanding female smallholder cashew

nut production through the provision of improved germplasm for new plantations and improved management of existing plantations.

We continued to deepen and broaden our knowledge leadership and smallholder inclusion, building on our extensive experience in participatory varietal selection for seed and crop production. SHA's Jersey Overseas Aid and Irish Aid-supported dairy project in Ethiopia is applying a novel participatory breed selection approach, which is an alternative take on the participatory varietal selection. The project is working with three dairy cooperatives to improve the genetic quality of the animals through artificial insemination (AI) (including hormone treatment and sexed semen); the quality and availability of fodder, especially in the dry season; and the quality of the milk collection centres. The Ethiopian National Dairy Policy is to cross local animals with Holstein Friesians using AI and American HF semen which are highly productive but also high maintenance. The dairy value chain is run by women, so it is critical to ask women what traits they are looking for in their dairy animals. As women carry the fodder and water to the animals, as well as milking the animals, we would expect women to look for docility, low fodder and water requirements in their animals. SHA surveyed farmers, disaggregated by gender, to understand their trait preferences. As a result of the feedback to farmers on the survey results, there has been an increase in demand

for Jersey semen. Based on this data, the government of Ethiopia has included Jerseys in the National Dairy Development Strategy. We are also advocating for changes in the breeding policy of the National Dairy Development Strategy to address the multiple breeding objectives of dairy farmers, and the use of sexed semen in AI services.

Continuously reviewing how we measure our impact

SHA has core indicators for measuring changes in output, outcome and impact level, that are captured in a Results Based Framework (RBF) against which all programmes and projects collect data seasonally or annually for several indicators that apply to their activities. As the contexts in which we operate vary, and building resilient livelihoods and thriving economies are not linear processes, we continuously review and adapt how we measure the impact of our work and the appropriateness of our tools and measures. As an example of this, in 2020, SHA piloted a new monitoring and evaluation approach to assessing the impact of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in Kenya, which will be rolled-out more broadly in 2021. The new approach, developed through discussions with other NGOs, acknowledges that CSA is highly context specific and needs to be assessed based on specific risks, as what is appropriate for a drought may not be appropriate for a flood. The new approach assesses farmers' responses to their farming

practices based on the early warnings they receive and how this affects their production.

In 2020, SHA started investigating the potential for generating income from carbon credits for communities involved in Natural Resource Management (NRM). A pilot economic study was conducted by CO2balance, a carbon accreditation company, and SHA collected field data in Malawi and Ethiopia to test the use of an Artificial Intelligence Remote Sensing app (Forest HQ) from Treemetrics, in remotely tracking the growth of trees.

SHA joined the Global Evergreening Alliance, and the trees planted by SHA's NRM projects can be tracked on the Global Restoration Monitor.

Examples of key metrics from our programmes are shown below. These results demonstrate good progress despite the many challenges that were faced by rural communities across sub-Saharan Africa, and show the effectiveness of our programmes in building resilience to external shocks. Notwithstanding this, we did see drops in Food Consumption Scores as market access proved difficult for sourcing varied foods due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Overall in 2020, we achieved:

- Households with increased production: 187,497 (a 10% increase compared to 2019).
- Households diversifying farming systems: 229,742 have diversified their farming systems (a 7% increase compared to 2019).
- Households with increased resilience: 65,596 (a 10% increase compared to 2019).
- Households who are applying good hygiene and sanitation practices increased by 145,970 HHs (+451% since 2019).
- 181,105 households (-7% since 2019) have improved their knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices.
- 72% of households had an acceptable dietary diversity score, which is down by 13% on 2019.
- Percentage of households that are food secure over the 12 month period across our programmes varied from 41-95% depending on the location, level of shock and the duration of the project. For example, in Baringo county, Kenya, in addition to Covid-19 and desert locusts, they were also affected by floods and political insecurity, resulting in 59% of households reporting food insecurity.
- Number of enterprises with increased turnover over 2019: 505.
- Total number of groups with whom

we worked: 18,754 (micro and small enterprises, savings groups and farm groups).

- Households with increased access to financial services: 256,761 (a 21% increase compared to 2019).
- Hectares of land under Natural Resource Management (NRM) practices has increased substantially in 2020 due to a number of projects working on upper catchments which benefit downstream areas. In Malawi for example, up to 256,000ha stand to be protected by our soil and water conservation measures.

Some country-specific metrics further show:

- In **Ethiopia**, despite a very difficult year with the Covid-19 pandemic the cooperatives we support increased their turnover and profits. For example:
 - o Meki Batu Union increased their profits by 4%
 - o Ediget Union by 7%
 - o Galema Union by 11%
 - o Biftu Berga by 27%
- In **Kenya**, the mid-term review of the MORE: Cassava project showed that 75% of respondents reported that their cassava yields had increased because of our project interventions.
- In **Malawi**, of the smallholders supported under the BETTER Farmer Field School, 88% of households

surveyed for the mid-term review demonstrated having “acceptable” and “acceptable plus” dietary diversity. This is very positive given the challenges of 2020.

- In **Uganda**, smallholder households supported under the Climate Change: Striking a Balance Lake Bunyonyi Project showed a 71% increase in average household disposable income per adult equivalent (HHDI/AE) in the project area. Breaking this down by income quintile showed that the poorer households from quintiles 1 and 2 increased their disposable income by 274% and 200% respectively.
- In **West Africa**, there has been a marked improvement in the drinking water supply rate in the two cantons covered by our EU-funded WASH programme in Togo. There was an average increase in access to drinking water from 35% to 51% at the end of the project. The most remarkable improvement is that of the canton of Ogara where the service rate went from 39.5% at the baseline study to 87.5% at the final evaluation.
- In **Zambia**, due to favourable weather conditions leading to good harvests, the seed grower associations (SGA) under the MORE: Seed project saw increased turnover with a nearly 100% increase year on year from 2019 to 2020. For example, Mthilakubili SGA's turnover increased from ZMW 154,000 (€6,000) to ZMW 288,600 (€11,200).

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Descriptions of country policy processes engaged with to influence policy

During the year we contributed to several processes and consultations, some targeting specific policy engagements, and others aimed at influencing a broader development agenda.

In **Zambia**, we led several consultations relating to the finalisation of the draft Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSME) Policy and related implementation plan. We made key contributions in terms of integrating the areas of gender and inclusion in the document, which is now finalised and awaiting formal adoption.

In **Ethiopia**, we participated in a number of consultations related to the implementation of the newly adopted Directives on Seed Producers and Buyers Contractual Agreement. The Directives establish enforceable contracts with districts for seed marketing and overcome the challenges presented by the quota system. Our contribution to their dissemination and implementation focused on the promotion of smallholder farmers' access to quality seed of improved varieties and the improvement of their selling power.

In **Kenya**, we engaged in several sector consultations related to the finalisation of the new Nutrition Action Plan at national level, as well as the formulation of related county-level plans, starting with Kilifi County.

In **Ireland**, as a member of the National Task Team on Rural Africa we contributed to formulating Ireland's response to the recommendations of the EU Task Force on Rural Africa. In May, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) published its latest peer review of Ireland's international development programme. The report found Irish international development to be strong, with many areas of excellence, including its prioritisation of the 'furthest behind' and its leadership in advocating for multilateralism. As SHA, we had contributed to consultations preceding the release of the report and participated in subsequent exchanges with Irish Aid and the sector.

As member and secretariat of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD), we co-led on a Covid-19 Response Task Group and organised a webinar, 'How to Address Key Information Gaps in Food Systems Research under Covid-19 Restrictions' with the participation of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Food Programme (WFP) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The webinar is available at: <https://bit.ly/IFIAD-webinar>

In October, we also coordinated IFIAD's traditional annual conference (this time as a webinar) on the theme of 'Covid-19 and Sustainable Food Systems - Transforming Food Systems in Times of Crises'.

Adapting to context changes in our programmes

As the year progressed, we felt the wider impact of the pandemic on our country programmes as the realisation grew that this was not going to be a short term event. To adapt to the situation and address the new challenges, SHA responded in multiple ways. We shared lesson learning between the country teams through weekly meetings and a Covid-19 Signposts Update to all staff, set up a dedicated section on our website and we also undertook specific studies such as the impact of Covid-19 on agri-enterprises within the MORE: Cassava project in Kenya. We implemented awareness-raising sessions and prevention measures (mask, hand washing, social distancing etc.) and raised additional or re-allocated funds towards Covid-19 interventions. Through investing in additional resources for digital communications and virtual working across teams we were able to strengthen our hygiene and sanitation trainings, as well as organising the distribution of soap and hygiene items. With travel and group sizes restricted, we increased the number and reduced the size of groups for training, and the sequencing of training had to be changed. By the end of 2020 many of the delays in activities because of lockdown or the need to implement activities in smaller farmers' groups were lessening, as countries opened up and teams were integrating adaptations, such as use of ICT in programme delivery. The hygiene and nutrition compo-

nent of our projects were strengthened to enable communities to cope with Covid-19. Most projects performed well, achieving approximately 80% of our objectives despite the challenges. We responded to the desert locust invasions in Kenya and Ethiopia, and we joined the Regional Desert Locust Alliance in East/Horn of Africa to coordinate and lobby for additional support to the region.

Partnerships and alliances

SHA continues to use its organisational policies and its Partnership Policy in particular to select and guide partner selection and ensure we conduct rigorous due diligence. All partners are required to sign the SHA Code of Conduct and related policies. We prioritise partners that serve the local community and support them with organisational capacity-building as well as knowledge and skills improvement. Through our membership of the Agribusiness Market Ecosystem Alliance (AMEA), we are supporting cooperative and farm associations to professionalise their operations and meet international standards in country programmes such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

The Irish Emergency Alliance (IEA) is a group of international NGOs who have joined forces to fundraise together efficiently, to save and rebuild lives more quickly in humanitarian disasters. Self Help Africa was one of six founding members. Trócaire has since joined the

Alliance. In 2020 the IEA held its first joint appeal in response to the Covid-19 pandemic with the support of RTE and other media partners. Over €300,000 was raised. The funds were used to fund responses in Africa and Asia and SHA's allocation was deployed to enable our emergency response in Kenya.

During 2020, SHA worked to deepen the relationship with partners, through continued consultations and engagements with them, to fully integrate them to the management and implementation of our projects. These engagements not only make the partnership more participatory but also allow SHA to assess the partners' capacities and provide support to them, for example by providing them with specific and tailored training when a gap is diagnosed. In Zambia, under the Climate Change - Preserve Kafue project, it was observed that farmer organisations had difficulty organising their enterprises, thus the training on business skills and engaging with private sector was reinforced. A multi-sectoral approach is favoured in community meetings and trainings. For example, in the same project, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the local authorities co-facilitated the trainings.

Partnership is also fostered by facilitating peer learning. SHA facilitated learning exchanges between Seed Grower Associations (SGAs) under the MORE SEED Community-based

seed enterprises and participatory crop improvement' project. It is encouraging to observe that the SGAs are now directly communicating with each other, for example on the exchange of market information. Similarly in Uganda, we are supporting the Kizezi Tourism Cluster Platform which is bringing stakeholders together and building on the first phase of the project to roll out the eco-agri tourism plan for the area.

The AgriFI programme has initiated two partnerships which are at initial stages. They include work with the Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) on the strategic development of an agriculture sector network and initial mapping work with the Women Farmers Association of Kenya (WoFaAK). Value chain-specific partnerships have also started with mapping in sectors like camel milk, nuts and oils, and pyrethrum.

Carbon Footprint

SHA and the wider Gorta Group are committed to a carbon neutral future for our organisation. We have undertaken a detailed audit to assess the carbon footprint of SHA and our subsidiaries and have committed to both reducing the amount of greenhouse gases we generate, and to offsetting the carbon that we do create.

While our carbon consumption reduced significantly because of the various lockdowns and travel restrictions in 2020, we recognise that there are still areas for improvement. We estimate that

while our carbon consumption reduced by approximately 600 MT in 2020, at a level of 812 MT it is still too high and we will seek to make further reductions in the years to come. We will also plant trees and effect other steps to mitigate the effects of the carbon that we are responsible for generating.



Partner Africa

In spite of the challenges caused by Covid-19, Partner Africa had a positive year and managed to deliver on most of its annual objectives including:

1. STRATEGY AND PLANNING

In 2020 Partner Africa developed a new strategy paper and a five year business plan that outlined its future vision and client services. Partner Africa has reframed its programme around the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights. Future work will focus on improving the working conditions and livelihoods of vulnerable workers and producers in Africa engaged in international supply chains, through supporting clients and their suppliers to adopt the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights.

Through this refocusing, Partner Africa believes that its services are aligned with best practice models of responsible

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

business and is better attuned to meeting the needs of its clients.

2. CLIENT SERVICES

Ethical audits

During 2020, 680 audits were conducted throughout Africa, and Partner Africa can count several internationally renowned corporations among its clients.

The number of audits was less than anticipated as the arrival of Covid-19 meant that Partner Africa could not visit farms and factories. To continue to be able to monitor working conditions, Partner Africa developed a virtual assessment tool that was internationally approved and provided an opportunity to continue audits and ensuring we monitor risks of our customer suppliers.

The salient issues identified during our social audits and assessments included:

- low wage rates, poor health and safety, lack of contracts.

Responsible Business Advisory Services

In 2020 Partner Africa experienced a rapid increase in the demand for its advisory services and won a total of 21 new projects, which included winning two new grants from UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Trade Development

Over the last 12 months Partner Africa continued to work on trade development in close coordination with other members of the Gorta Group and local

partners. A total of three contracts in East Africa were managed on behalf of TradeMark East Africa.

3. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Despite the impact of Covid-19 in 2020, Partner Africa generated income of £1,178k. This consisted of £717k from audits, £216k from advisory services, £215k from trade development projects and £30k from other income sources. Overheads were consolidated and monthly overhead costs reduced by 40% from June 2020.



TruTrade

In 2020, TruTrade facilitated 3,387 farmers to access markets across 14 value chains and sourced 1,776MT (approx. 1.8m Kgs) from smallholders across Kenya and Uganda. TruTrade transacted US\$680K in cashless payments directly to farmers during 2020. TruTrade's top five volume traded commodities in 2020 were soyabean, white sorghum, simsim (sesame), cassava and avocado.

Trading revenue in 2020 increased to US\$790k from US\$659k in 2019. The volume of commodities sold to buyers also increased from 947MT in 2019 to 1,490MT in 2020. This is a significant achievement given Covid-19 market disruptions.

The key drivers in growth in volumes traded are grains and soyabean. Fresh produce, in particular avocado and mango, were negatively impacted by Covid-19 mitigation measures, including significant increased cost of airfreight due to airspace closures, closure of the hospitality industry and the increased availability of avocados from Peru onto the European market as result of lower demand in the USA.

However, the growing trading volume is not translating to increased profit margins. Improving efficiency in sourcing and higher volumes are required to benefit from economies of scale. This will be actively pursued in 2021.

In total there were 19,875 farmers registered on the TruTrade platform (WeSource) at the end of December 2020, (12,853 in 2019) and we have cumulatively traded with 9,374 farmers.

TruTrade has continued to develop its agri-advisory support service, providing tailored messages to farmers depending on the value chain they are interested in, and their location. In 2020, over 90,000 agri and market related SMS messages were sent to farmers. Improving the functionality of the TruTrade messaging to farmers is ongoing with the roll out of two-way text messaging, integrated voice and WhatsApp messaging.

At the end of 2020, TruTrade was actively engaging with 73 independent sourcing agents, earning US\$21,633 in commission income.

Grant and consultancy income from external sources for 2020 increased significantly. The increase in grant funding in 2020 was driven largely by the onboarding of the TradeMark East Africa grants.

Development Education (DE) / Global Citizenship Education (GCE)

Developments in the Higher Education sector in Ireland included the delivery of the Social Justice optional module in Maynooth University which successfully pivoted to online delivery in March 2020. Additional Digital Citizenship workshops were added to address the students' needs to adapt to online delivery for their work placements and ensure the safety of students' online learning. Maynooth University also confirmed the SHA Social Justice certificate programme would take place for its third year, in spring of 2021, which proved to be the most popular choice for students. Further expansion of university engagement with teachers in training commenced in Trinity College Dublin through delivery of a ten-week DE module. Permission has been granted to do a long-term impact study over a five-year period with this group of students. This work was highly commended at a recent Assembly of University DE programme presentations held by the Ubuntu Network.

A revision of the Teacher Tool Kit was devised to respond to the need for digital learning delivery. The new

DE online workshop resource series, devised in response to school closures, was used to deliver our programme to students and educators across all sectors ranging from Primary to Adult and Community education. Blended learning resources were developed to creatively engage through visual on-screen and off-screen activities including virtual visit experiences to promote learning across familiar issues such as gender equality, ethical trade and climate change. An additional Digital Citizenship workshop was also created to increase student awareness relating to internet safety and fact source checking whilst online, this proved to be very popular with teachers as an offering in the autumn term. Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) teachers collaborated with SHA to create a complete set of primary school resources which are based on our ongoing trees and climate change focus. Exhibitions were hosted online, and quiz resources were used as an interactive way to engage. Introductory videos were created for post-primary, Youthreach and Professional Master of Education (PME) student engagements.

Team training to use various online learning platforms was necessary for effective delivery to be achieved in our DE/GCE programme. It is foreseen that when schools and society are less limited by current restrictions that all the learning acquired will inform a future proofing of delivery methods and enable greater reach and inclusion of people within the countries where we work.

The team facilitated an online meeting of our Cork-based GCE group of practitioners to share information and support to the sector. Work commenced on the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) Code of Good Practice for DE through fruitful group discussions within the team. SHA remains active across a host of DE strategic partnerships/networks and currently holds the Chair of the Dóchas DE Group.

Public fundraising

2020 was a mixed year for SHA's fundraising activities. The cancellation of all events and community activities from March onwards, due to the pandemic, resulted in a significant loss in revenue with events and community activities negatively affected. However, apart from events and church gate collections, all other revenue streams exceeded target.

SHA launched our One Million Trees campaign - a high profile public campaign which highlights climate injustice and provides people in Ireland with a simple and cost-effective way to both act against climate change, and help those worst affected by it. The premium dairy company, Glenisk, were the key partners in this campaign and highlighted this on their Bio Yogurt range. This gave SHA a great deal of prominence in the Irish market. The campaign reached its target within 12 months of its launch date, attracting over 4,000 new donors to the organisation. SHA and Glenisk launched the Another Mil-

lion Trees campaign in 2021.

Despite the cancellation of events, our donors remained generous and supportive. Regular Giving performed particularly well, with all appeals exceeding target. We are grateful to all our donors for their continued support. We look forward to a return to events at the end of 2021 and anticipate a return to 2018 and 2019 levels of revenue from these events.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in enabling us to achieve our goals in a manner that allows us to be cost effective and to deliver the greatest impact for the African communities with whom we work. We are grateful to the boards of directors of all group companies and advisory sub-committee representatives, who work tirelessly on a voluntary basis to ensure that our programmes, systems and governance are of the highest standard.

We are grateful also to the accountants, consultants, evaluators and others who provide services to us on a pro-bono basis each year and to the network of volunteers and members across our retail, and community and events fundraising infrastructure, who have been a source of great strength and resilience over the years.

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Retail

Covid-19 had a serious impact on our retail activities in 2020 as income dropped by 59%, from €1.27m to €522k. We recorded a net loss of €343k – a better outcome than expected – as we negotiated cost reductions with our landlords, had temporary layoffs of staff and accessed government supports across our shops. The impact of continued lockdowns will make it very difficult to return a surplus in 2021, although every effort is being made to curtail costs and boost stock levels as normality eventually returns to the sector.

Financial review

The financial results are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. The Board are happy that despite the challenges posed in 2020, the organisation remains in a strong financial position.

Unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2020 stand at €6.1m and comply with the policy of maintaining unrestricted reserves of at least the equivalent of 12 months recurring unrestricted expenditure. This is a relatively conservative policy and the Audit Finance and Risk Committee review the appropriateness of the policy on an annual basis.

Key financial indicators for the year are:

- Total unrestricted income received during the year ended 31 December 2020 amounted to €7.1m (2019: €7.8m).

- Total voluntary funds raised in Ireland during 2020 amounted to €4.1m and represents 19.6% of total consolidated income (2019: €4.5m and 13.5%).
- €3.68 was raised for every €1 spent on fundraising (2019: €2.92). This increase is primarily driven by lower fundraising costs in the year.

Overall income levels for the year totalled €20.8m, compared to €33.4m in 2019, a decrease of 28%. The decrease is attributable to the timing of receipt of funds on our large EU programmes which must be recognised in the accounting period of receipt. Funds received on such grants in late 2019 are recognised in 2019 financial statements, even though the funds were largely spent in 2020.

Expenditure in 2020 amounted to €25.1m compared to €21.9m in 2019, an increase of €3.2m (15%). The net outcome for the year after all charges was a reduction in unrestricted funds of €306k. In the circumstances, this is seen as a relatively positive result given the multitude of challenges faced.

Strategy and Performance

SHA initiated a mid-term strategy review in mid-2020, and this culminated in a series of recommendations on priorities from the management consultant employed to lead the process.

The key priorities emanating from the process are:

- Our response to climate change
- Working more closely and coherently within the Gorta Group
- Integrating research and learning into our work
- Diversification of donor funding
- Building humanitarian response capacity
- Devolving more responsibility to the regions where we work.

The core of our work continued in the two areas of strategic programmatic focus: (1) food and nutrition and income security and (2) agri-enterprise development. We made most progress on the latter with the continued growth in agribusiness work through the roll-out of our two large challenge funds, AgriFI in Kenya and ENTERPRISE in Zambia.

Another strategic objective, influence and awareness, garnered much success due to the environmentally driven tree planting campaign, One Million Trees. Partnering with Glenisk, it has been an extremely successful collaboration.

Most noteworthy on our strategic objective on cross-cutting themes, was the work carried out on equality and inclusion driven by the Black Lives Matter campaign. A committee, ARISE (Anti-racist, Inclusion, Solidarity and Equality), was set up internally to deliver on our values and commitment

to human rights and help promote these values across the organisation. An early strategic outcome of this work in 2020 has been an articulation of a commitment to move more of our decision making and staffing to Africa.

‘Enabling the Organisation’, another key objective, the central tenet of which is investment in our people, was challenged due to Covid-19. Despite the complex challenges presented, the organisation adapted, and our systems and processes, in which we have invested significantly throughout this strategic plan period, showed themselves to be sufficiently strong to enable the majority of our work in Africa and Europe to continue.

The pandemic posed several unforeseen financial challenges to the organisation. These financial constraints were successfully addressed. We had to significantly reduce our cost base, including payroll. We still managed to retain the vast majority of our staff. ‘Financing the Plan’, the objective designed to support the organisation’s ambitious plans, was understandably impacted by Covid-19. Income fell and budgetary objectives were not met, however unrestricted reserves held up relatively well in the face of economic challenges.

Goals and KPIs had to be amended in the face of the pandemic. Pragmatic considerations prevailed and an estimated 80% of work continued. Revised objectives focused on the wellbeing of staff, the continuity of programmes and

financial sustainability. These revised objectives were met.

A review of our programmes that was undertaken as part of donor reporting found that overall resilience of the communities we supported remained on track, demonstrating the impact of our programme delivery. From the early stages of the pandemic, 82% of our impact metrics were showing as ‘on-track’ in terms of targets reached for the year.

Overall, in 2020, despite considerable challenges the organisation was, in the main, able to deliver on its strategic plan. Progress was somewhat obstructed by Covid-19 but the strategic direction of travel was re-focused, we remain on track to deliver on the 2017-21 strategic plan and revised KPIs and objectives were met.

Going concern

The Gorta Group’s forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, including the impact of Covid-19, show that the group will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these consolidated financial statements. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual consolidated financial

statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis is included in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Structure, governance and management

Structure: Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa) is the parent company of the Group. Self Help Africa has been a dormant company since the merger of Gorta and Self Help Africa in 2014 and is a subsidiary of Gorta. Both Gorta and Self Help Africa are companies limited by guarantee and registered in Ireland. Gorta is the sole member of Self Help Africa UK, Gorta UK and Partner Africa. Self Help Africa UK, Gorta UK and Partner Africa are independent charities and companies limited by guarantee, registered in the United Kingdom. Each of the Group companies is a registered charity in its own jurisdiction.

- Self Help Africa UK is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under registration number 298830.
- Partner Africa is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under registration number 1144815.
- War on Want NI is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC 102154.
- TruTrade is a company limited by shares, registered in Kenya (registration number CPR/2012/74219)

- Gorta UK is a registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator under registration number SC 272970 (it was struck off as a company in 2020, having merged with SHA UK).
- War on Want NI Trading Limited was a dormant company limited by shares (registration number NI026973). It was a subsidiary of War on Want NI and was dissolved on 24th November 2020.

Self Help Africa’s charitable activities in the developing world are carried out in association with each of the Group companies. Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa) was established as a legal charitable entity in the Republic of Ireland in 1965 and its governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association (most recently amended in July 2016).

Governance: The Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and are happy to report that Self Help Africa is compliant with the Charities Regulatory Authority Governance Code. Over the last number of years, the organisation has put in place the systems and structures to ensure that we are fully compliant with this Code. As part of the pursuit of the highest standards in governance, an effective Board and a competent executive management team led by the Group CEO (a role appointed by the Board to the executive management team), head the organisation. There is a clear dis-

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

tion between the roles of the Board and the management team to which day-to-day management is delegated. The management team prepares matters for consideration and approval by the Board e.g., annual budgets, policy papers. The Board then monitors their implementation. In this way, the Board creates a responsive, professional and

sustainable Group. The Board has reviewed our governance structures and has determined that we are fully compliant with the Code.

On areas such as strategic planning, there is Board involvement at all stages of preparation and ultimate approval is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board met on nine occasions in 2020 (six in 2019). Details of attendance at the Board meetings are set out below:

Name	Attendance at Board Meetings	Appointed to Board	Resigned from Board	Latest Date for retirement
Carmel Fox (Chair)	9/9	05/06/2013		05/06/2022
David Governey	9/9	15/10/2015		15/10/2024
Martin Ryan	9/9	28/06/2019		28/06/2028
Pat Murphy	8/9	20/06/2013		20/06/2022
Jim Galvin	8/9	28/06/2019		28/06/2028
Catherine Fitzgibbon	8/9	28/06/2019		28/06/2028
Sheila Walsh	6/9	28/06/2019		28/06/2028
Jim Kinsella	4/4	7/10/2020		25/09/2029
Joe Healy	4/4	7/10/2020		25/09/2029
Kalongo Chitengi	0/2	18/11/2020		18/11/2029
Tom Kitt	5/5	26/07/2014	1/10/2020	
Rowena Dwyer	3/5	25/02/2016	1/10/2020	
Olivia Buckley	0/1	28/06/2019	26/02/2020	
Robert Breen	2/4	28/11/2019	1/10/2020	

Board Recruitment

Directors are elected from the membership of the organisation, with interested members putting themselves forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. As the Board is required to have a broad range of skills and experience, the Nominations Committee monitors succession planning for Board membership. It makes recommendations to the Board and membership regarding the recruitment of new directors who join the Board either via co-option (in the event of a vacancy arising and being filled between AGMs) or by being elected at the AGM proper. Directors co-opted between AGMs are required to put themselves forward for election at the following AGM.

Training & Induction

New directors receive background and explanatory materials covering the nature and purpose of Self Help Africa to enable them to familiarise themselves with their duties and responsibilities, the Self Help Africa governance framework and its work overseas. Any relevant training requirements of directors are facilitated by the organisation.

Commitment to high standards of Corporate Governance

SHA has been awarded Triple Lock status by the Charities Institute Ireland (CII). Triple Lock status is awarded to charities that uphold the highest standards in transparent reporting, ethical fundraising and strong governance structures. This recognition is the gold standard for Irish charities to offer assurances to donors, members, supporters and the general public.

To achieve the Triple Lock, we:

- Adopted and maintain compliance with the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public,
- Prepared our annual financial statements in compliance with the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice under FRS102) accounting standard AND
- Adopted the Charities Governance Code as devised by the Charities Regulator.

We are committed to keeping our compliance under ongoing review.

As a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, we reaffirm our commitment to best practice in the communication of images and messages in all our public-facing collateral and policy statements.

Board sub-committees

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

The function of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee is to review internal financial controls, treasury and risk management processes. It liaises with external auditors and reports directly to the Board. It meets on a regular basis to monitor and review the financial performance of the organisation, internal and external audit findings, management information systems and internal control systems. It provides independent oversight of the annual budgets, management and statutory accounts and makes recommendations to the Board where relevant.

The committee met seven times in 2020 (four times in 2019).

Name	Number attended/eligible to attend
David Governey (chair)	7/7
Colm Dennehy	7/7
Martin Ryan	5/7
Theresa Morrissey	5/7
Chris McDonald	2/7
Jenny Fisher	2/7
Dervla Owens	1/7
James Wyse	3/3

Committee members provided support to the Board and management in a range of areas outside of committee meetings and their inputs are of great value in financial oversight of the organisation.

Programmes Committee

This committee oversees the quality and depth of programme performance in the food, nutrition and livelihoods element of the programmes function on behalf of the Board and provides advisory support for management on the development and delivery of such programmes.

In particular, it has the following delegated responsibilities:

- Ensure that all programming is delivered in line with organisational strategy, policy and governance standards.
- Ensure that an effective programmes approval process is in place and applied.
- Ensure that an effective results-based management system is in place and applied.
- Support the development of country strategy papers, programme policies and programme approaches.

The committee met four times in 2020 (four times in 2019).

Name	Number attended/eligible to attend
Pat Murphy (Chair)	4/4
Carmel Fox	4/4
Jim Campbell	4/4
Catherine Fitzgibbon	1/4
Eithne Leahy	1/3
Nicholas Holden	2/4
Christine Holding	1/2

Remuneration Committee

The function of the Remuneration Committee is to devise and recommend remuneration policy to the Board for all Self Help Africa staff. The committee met twice in 2020 (once in 2019).

Name	Number attended/eligible to attend
Pat Murphy (Chair)	2/2
Eimear Kenny	1/2
Valerie Sullivan	2/2

Nominations Committee

The function of the Nominations Committee is to facilitate the ongoing process of Board renewal, making recommendations to the Board and membership having identified skills gaps, and identifying members who would have the potential to fill such gaps. The Board actively encourages diversity in our governance structures and the committee facilitates this. All new directors co-opted to the Board must go before the membership for election at the following AGM. The committee met four times in 2020 (five times in 2019).

Name	Number attended/eligible to attend
Sheila Walsh (Chair)	4/4
Tom Kitt	4/4
John Carroll	4/4
Tom Kirley (RIP)	0/1

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2020

Risk management and internal controls

The directors have responsibility for and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of the Group. Risks are regularly discussed and reviewed at different levels of the Group, ensuring they are identified, managed and mitigated in line with the group policies and risk framework. The Board are confident that adequate systems of internal control are in place and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks. Management prepares a risk register which is a consolidation of head office and country level risk reviews and is updated regularly and subject to detailed half-yearly reviews by the Board. The impact of Covid-19 permeated almost all areas of risk considered by the Board during the year. These risk areas included:

Funding: The risk that we have insufficient income and reserves to achieve our strategic objectives and maintain our operations.

The risk to institutional funding increased, with donors such as UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) signalling significant cuts due to the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit. This combined with the restrictions on holding fundraising events, has seen the Board accelerate its strategy of diversifying public fundraising activities. On institutional funding, we implement a rigorous proposal development process (proposal schedules outlining roles and responsibilities, technical calls, drafting

and review stages, sign-off). Financial targets and budgets are set for each country office and subsidiary. Specific risks related to institutional income were identified through a revised analysis of the funding environment and this has been incorporated into the mid-term strategy reviews and articulated at country office and subsidiary level. New funding avenues are constantly being explored including social enterprises, digital and social media use, and understanding impact investment funding sources.

Staff safety and security: The risk to the health and wellbeing of our staff as they carry out their work.

As we work in a number of politically volatile environments at country level, we have developed security protocols in which staff are constantly trained in order to mitigate risks to their health and safety as a result of security incident. As a result of Covid-19, the Group has experienced the challenges of managing various working from home models and looks to the future risks in the transitioning of our teams back to offices, as economies, as well as access, in our areas of operation reopen. All staff received training on Covid-19 safety protocols. Our objective is to ensure appropriate risk assessments are performed, adequate control measures are in place and any weaknesses identified are remedied. Training and consultation with our staff are key in managing these risks. The wellbeing of our staff is central to our ability to carry out our work and mitigation of risk in this area

will remain a key focus of the Board and management into the future.

Safeguarding: The risk we fail to safeguard the communities with whom we work.

We consider this risk area from both a strategic viewpoint such as new regulations, and at an operational level where the potential for harm or abuse may arise through our programme delivery. We mitigate this risk through continuous review and development of our policies and processes, through our recruitment practices and trainings, and through ongoing guidance training and conversations at different levels such as staff meetings, Community of Practice meetings, management meetings and Board meetings. This issue is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Fraud and corruption: The risk that fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing could negatively impact on the Group's ability conduct its work.

Acts of fraud, corruption or abuse of the charity's assets are a constant threat, and the risk is heightened at a time when the Group is managing different ways of working to continue to deliver on its programmes. The Group continues to effectively manage this risk, focusing on the areas of prevention, detection, and response. We promote whistleblowing in our recruitments, procurements and engagements with our communities and our bases of operation through adverts, posters, contractual provision, and the promotion of our external whistleblower service Ethicspoint.

System sustainability: The risk of a cybersecurity incident executed by external or internal actors that negatively impacts the Group.

As the Group pursues agile adoption of technology to remain connected with our teams and deliver for our communities, we are focused on cybersecurity and the resilience of our ICT systems and infrastructure. We adopt cloud-based platforms, implement two-factor authentication in administrative processes and invest in insurance cover to safeguard our information and data and to ensure business continuity. We monitor any outsourced providers, ensure contracts are fit for purpose and the policies of the Group are adhered to.

The directors regularly review and adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with best practice and monitor the implementation of these policies through the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. We always strive to utilise technology as part of our risk mitigation, most recently by integrating restricted party screening software on our Sales-force platform.

Fraud & other irregularities

The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of Self Help Africa's resources, safeguard Self Help Africa's assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Although we have strong financial controls in place

throughout the organisation, there is always a risk of controls being breached through collusion. As part of our whistleblowing procedures, we have contracted an external service provider to whom reports can be made in confidence to enable issues reported to be investigated at the appropriate level.

Board and management are conscious of the scope for incidents of fraud and other irregularities in all areas of Self Help Africa's work. In 2020, a number of incidents came to light via our whistleblowing procedures in our Kenya and Uganda programmes. Wrongdoing cases such as these are managed in a structured way and documented in three stages:

- An initial report documenting the facts of the case is prepared by the most relevant staff member.
- An investigation plan is written up to set out a course of action with the objective of determining how the case can be resolved.
- Following investigation, a final report is prepared for submission to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee in order to bring the matter to conclusion.

A log of wrongdoing cases is reviewed at each Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meeting and all relevant donors are briefed in accordance with the provisions of our contracts with them. The log is also reviewed by the Group Board.

Safeguarding

We continue to implement our Safeguarding, and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policies which are aligned with international best practice. Safeguarding is seen as a key governance priority and is a standing item on our Board meeting agenda. Often there can be unequal power dynamics or relations across an organisation and in relation to communities we work with. We face a risk that some staff (or others connected to SHA) may exploit their position of power for personal gain. Safeguarding is addressed throughout the organisation through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response. Our policies are applied to SHA Boards, staff and subsidiaries, partners and affiliates, consultants, and contractors that supply services or support to SHA. We strive to ensure compliance through training, terms and conditions for suppliers, a robust complaints response mechanism, whistleblowing channels and disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal and incorporation of the policy into partner agreements.

The key element of this is in training, with workshops conducted at Head Office and all programme locations across Africa. Compliance in this area is monitored by our Compliance and Finance Manager and ultimately overseen by the Board.

Internal Audit Function

The establishment of a formal internal audit (IA) function in 2018 brought about the adoption of an SHA Internal Audit Charter which sets out the objectives of the function and the extent of its responsibility and authority. We have also adopted an SHA Internal Audit Framework with a standardised approach to audit, along with standard reporting tools and programmes. The ability of our internal audit team to travel in 2020 was hampered due to the impact of Covid-19 and required adjustment of our internal audit plan. However, desk-based work continued, in conjunction with work carried out by country office-based team members. The audits focus on SHA's internal control environment and incorporate a risk-based approach to internal audit planning.

Financial information is subject to detailed review at director level allowing for continuous monitoring of Self Help Africa's operations and financial status. Each of our field offices is subject to an annual audit by independent external auditors, in addition to periodic internal audit review.

Conflicts of Interest

In late 2018 the Board approved an updated Conflict of Interest Policy designed to ensure all potential or actual conflicts of interest are identified and addressed. The policy requires all employees including Board, consultants, contractors, interns, secondees

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2020

and volunteers that provide supplies, services or support to disclose potential or actual conflicts. The policy includes examples and scenarios to aid staff and stakeholders in understanding the standards applied. All employees are required to declare conflicts in recruitments, procurements or as and when a conflict or potential conflict arises. In 2020 all staff redeclared that they had/had not any conflicts and are required to do so annually thereafter. All Board meetings and Committee meetings have Conflict of Interest as a standing agenda item with any conflicts declared.

Management and staff

We appreciate and acknowledge the role played by Self Help Africa's staff, based in Ireland, the UK and in Africa. The ongoing growth of the organisation's work is due to their dedication and commitment. We are committed to the development of our staff and will continue to allocate resources annually towards a comprehensive training and development programme. Self Help Africa is an equal opportunities employer, and we recognise the need to ensure we have high calibre staff and volunteers to achieve our vision and objectives. SHA strives to create a supportive environment in which all employees can flourish and reach their full potential, regardless of differences, experience or education. Harnessing the wide range of perspectives this diversity brings promotes innovation and helps make us more creative and enables us

to better fulfil our organisation's mission of supporting sustainable livelihoods and food and nutrition security for Africa's smallholder farmers.

Staff wellbeing, safety and security

Self Help Africa is committed to managing and conducting its work activities in such a way as to ensure - so far as is reasonably practicable - the safety, health and welfare at work of its employees and volunteers. The Safety Statement, in accordance with Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 in Ireland, outlines the policy of Self Help Africa in relation to the management of health, safety and welfare. Self Help Africa's management continuously monitors compliance in line with legislative requirements. Our work on managing the impact of Covid-19 on our staff - following government guidance in all of the jurisdictions in which we operate, keeping our staff fully briefed on best practice safety protocols, facilitating working from home for staff, granting flexible working time, holding meetings online, facilitating employee assistance programmes to support staff on wellbeing and mental health issues as well as a range of other measures - is evidence of our commitment to, and the value we place, on our staff.

Future Plans

A significant part of our activity relates to our EU-financed challenge fund work in Kenya (also supported by SlovakAid) and Zambia. Our objective is to ensure our performance in managing these programmes continues to be of the highest standard and we are eager to make this a specialist area for the Group into the future.

From a financial point of view, we are eager to ensure that we retain our financial stability for the medium to long term. The impact of Covid-19 made 2020 a very challenging year for us financially as evidenced by the unrestricted deficit recorded. Following restructuring and cost saving measures implemented towards the end of 2020, we are looking to return an unrestricted surplus in 2021, to continue our progress to achievement of the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan.

Events since the financial year end

There were no events subsequent to the financial year-end that required any adjustment to the financial statements.

There has been a period of discussion between the Boards and management teams of the Gorta Group and United Purpose (a UK-based international development organisation - united-purpose.org) with a view to carrying out a merger of the two entities. These discussions are ongoing at the time of completion of this report.

Political contributions and Lobbying

The Group did not make any political contributions in the financial year (2019 - €nil) and as a result made no disclosures as required under the Electoral Act, 1997. The Group is required under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 to record any lobbying activity or communications with Designated Public Officials (DPOs). It has made any returns and submissions as required under the Act.

Accounting Records

The measures that the directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's registered office at Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

Directors and Secretary

The directors and secretary, who served at any time during the financial year, were as follows:

Directors:

Carmel Fox (Chair)
David Governey
Martin Ryan
Pat Murphy
Jim Galvin
Catherine Fitzgibbon
Sheila Walsh
Jim Kinsella (*Appointed 7/10/2020*)
Joe Healy (*Appointed 7/10/2020*)
Kalongo Chitengi (*Appointed 18/11/2020*)
Tom Kitt (*Resigned 1/10/2020*)
Rowena Dwyer (*Resigned 1/10/2020*)
Robert Breen (*Resigned 7/10/2020*)
Olivia Buckley (*Resigned 26/02/2020*)

Company Secretary:

Mr. Malachy Cardiff
(resigned 10th April 2020)

Mr. Peter McDevitt
(appointed 10th April 2020)

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- (i) so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and

- (ii) the director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

Directors' compliance statement

Directors acknowledge that the directors are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations; and

Directors confirm that the directors commenced the following three procedures in order to comply with the directors' obligations during the financial year.

- (a) the drawing up of a "compliance policy statement" setting out the company's policies that, in the directors' opinion, are appropriate to the company, and respecting compliance by the company with its relevant obligations;
- (b) the putting in place of appropriate arrangements or structures that are, in the directors' opinion, designed to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations; and
- (c) the conducting of a review, during the financial period of any arrangements or structures that have been put in place.

Auditors

The auditors, Deloitte Ireland LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Carmel Fox
Director



.....
Mr. David Governey
Director

Date: 29th July 2021

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

Under company law, the directors must not approve the consolidated financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group and company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the Group and company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those consolidated financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the parent company and the Group financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group and company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the Group and company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly

explain and record the transactions of the group and company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the group and company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the consolidated financial statements and report of the directors comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the group and company's website.

Everline Atieno Odhiambo, member of Cassava Aggregation Centre,
Kisumu, Homa Bay, Kenya, 2020



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gorta (Trading as Self Help Africa)

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa)

In our opinion the group and parent company financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the group and parent company as at 31 December 2020 and of the outgoing resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

the group financial statements:

- the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account);
- the Consolidated Balance Sheet;
- the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows; and
- the related notes 1 to 33, including

a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

the parent company financial statements:

- the Company Balance Sheet;
- the Company Cash Flow Statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 33, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the group and parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant

to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the reports and consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the group and parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audi-

tor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order

to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group and parent company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity (or where relevant, the group) to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. The group auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. The group auditor remains solely responsible for the audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gorta (Trading as Self Help Africa)

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the parent company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- In our opinion, information and returns adequate for our audit have been received from branches of the company not visited by us.
- The parent company balance sheet and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Margarita Martin

For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory
Audit Firm

Deloitte & Touche House,
Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

DATE: 30 July 2021

Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities

(Including income and expenditure account) for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 Restricted Funds €'000	2020 Unrestricted Funds €'000	2020 Total €'000	2019 Restricted Funds €'000	2019 Unrestricted Funds €'000	2019 Total €'000
INCOME FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	374	3,520	3,894	339	3,530	3,869
Charitable activities	4	13,203	827	14,030	25,113	753	25,866
Retail income	5	-	522	522	-	1,267	1,267
Other trading activities	6	160	1,607	1,767	131	2,259	2,390
Other	7	-	600	600	-	16	16
Total		13,737	7,076	20,813	25,583	7,825	33,408
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	8	17,813	5,306	23,119	13,312	5,913	19,225
Raising funds - Retail	5	-	865	865	-	1,149	1,149
Raising funds - Other	9	-	1,108	1,108	-	1,544	1,544
Total		17,813	7,279	25,092	13,312	8,606	21,918
Net income / (expense)	11	(4,076)	(203)	(4,279)	12,271	(781)	11,490
Other recognised income / (losses)	12	(151)	(102)	(253)	123	87	210
Taxation	13	-	(1)	(1)	-	(42)	(42)
Net movement in funds	30	(4,227)	(306)	(4,533)	12,394	(736)	11,658
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward	30	19,752	6,672	26,424	7,358	7,408	14,766
Total funds carried forward	30	15,525	6,366	21,891	19,752	6,672	26,424

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net movement in funds for the financial year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	17	399	438
Intangible assets	17	24	24
		423	462
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term investments	18	184	188
Cash at bank and in hand	19	23,118	24,911
Debtors	20	3,575	2,437
Stocks		1	3
		26,878	27,539
Creditors: Amounts due within one financial year	21	(5,406)	(1,552)
Net current assets		21,472	25,987
Total assets less current liabilities		21,895	26,449
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one financial year	22	(4)	(25)
NET ASSETS		21,891	26,424
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds – restricted	30	15,525	19,752
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	30	6,366	6,672
		21,891	26,424

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 29th July 2021, and signed on its behalf by:



Carmel Fox
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Company Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	17	140	173
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term investments	18	184	188
Cash at bank and in hand	19	21,948	23,034
Debtors	20	2,976	1,650
		25,108	24,872
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one financial year	21	(6,222)	(3,351)
Net current assets		18,886	21,521
Total assets less current liabilities		19,026	21,694
Creditors: Amount falling due after one financial year	22	(7)	(7)
NET ASSETS		19,019	21,687
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds – restricted	30	13,624	16,596
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	30	5,395	5,091
TOTAL FUNDS		19,019	21,687
Net (expenditure) / income after other recognised gains/(losses)		(2,668)	9,004

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 29th July 2021, and signed on its behalf by:



Carmel Fox
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash provided by charitable activities	28	(1,640)	11,353
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	7	1	6
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(143)	(212)
Purchase of intangible assets	17	(11)	(7)
Net cash used in investing activities		(153)	(213)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		(1,793)	11,140
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		24,911	13,771
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		23,118	24,911
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		23,118	24,911

Company Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash provided by charitable activities	28	(1,001)	10,179
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1	5
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(86)	(158)
Net cash used in investing activities		(85)	(153)
(Decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		(1,086)	10,026
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		23,034	13,008
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		21,948	23,034
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		21,948	23,034

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding financial year.

General Information and Basis of Preparation

Gorta (t/a Self Help Africa) is a group and company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. The address of the registered office of the group and company is First Floor, Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. The company number of Gorta with the Companies Registration Office is 28228. The nature of the group and company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the report of the directors. In accordance with Section 1180(8) of the Companies Act, 2014, the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance

with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

The functional currency of the group and company is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

As permitted by section 291(3)(4) of the Companies Act 2014, the Group has varied the standard formats specified in that Act for the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with Sections 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of the Charities SORP. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption available to it under section 304 of the Companies Act 2014, which permits a company that publishes its company and group financial statements together not to present its own statement of financial activities and related notes.

The Company meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS102. As a registered charity, the Company is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP. There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Company under section 329, Companies Act 2014.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK), Partner Africa, Gorta UK, TruTrade and War on Want NI. The activities of all six companies are mutually interdependent.

The work of the Group in Africa, which is not carried out by one of the six subsidiary undertakings noted above, is carried out through branches located in the countries of operation. The branches are the local representatives of the Group. They do not have a separate legal personality and have been set up specifically to carry out the work of the Group.

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in these consolidated financial statements from the date on which control commences until the date on which control ceases.

Going concern

The group's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, including the impact of Covid-19, show that the group will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these consolidated financial statements. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual consolidated financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis is included in Note 2b.

Income

- i Income from voluntary donations is recognised when received. As with many similar charitable organisations, independent groups from time to time organise fundraising activities and may operate bank accounts in the name of Gorta or Self Help Africa. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the group and company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the group.
- ii Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- iii Grants from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects and accounted for on a receivable basis.
- iv Income from legacies is recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable, the group is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- v Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.
- vi Revenue refunds in respect of tax relief on voluntary donations are recognised on a receivable basis in so far as the receivable can be estab-

lished with a reasonable amount of accuracy.

- vii Other income reflects income earned by Partner Africa in respect of ethical trade related assignments and is recognised on a receivable basis. Such income is deferred until such time as the assignment occurs and the related expenditure is incurred.

Expenditure

- i Charitable activities comprise expenditure incurred by the programme countries for the costs of the development programmes as well as costs incurred at headquarters that are directly related to the implementation of programmes. Expenditure is recognised in the period to which it relates. Expenditure incurred but unpaid at the balance sheet date is included in accruals and other creditors.
- ii Expenditure on raising funds comprises all expenditure incurred by Self Help Africa on raising funds for the organisation's charitable activities.

Gifts in kind

Items donated for resale are included in shop income when sold and no value is placed on stock at the year end. Any other gifts in kind which are deemed non-material are not included in the financial statements. Gifts in kind that can be valued with reasonable confi-

dence will be included in the financial statements.

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

- i *Unrestricted funds* - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the directors.
- ii *Designated funds* - these are funds which have been set aside for particular purposes by the Company itself, in furtherance of the Company's charitable objects.
- iii *Restricted funds* - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis at rates estimated to write off the cost over the years of their expected useful lives (taking account of residual value). The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Shop fittings

20% Straight line

Furniture and computer equipment

33.3% Straight line

Motor vehicles

33.3% Straight line

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible fixed assets represent purchased computer software applications and are capitalised when there is a clearly defined project, the related expenditure is separately identifiable and the outcome of the project has been assessed with reasonable certainty as to its technical, surplus generating and financial feasibility. In the absence of such criteria, these costs are expensed. Intangible fixed assets are amortised over their expected useful lives.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the group and company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is mea-

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

sured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the group and company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the group and company, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. Balances that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

Investment Policy

All cash balances for planned develop-

ment work are held in demand deposit accounts or short term investment accounts at the highest interest rates available at the time of investment. Long term investments acquired by donation or through merger will not be held in the long term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

Pension Scheme

The Group operates defined contribution schemes for employees. The assets of the schemes are held and managed separately from those of the charity by independently administered funds. The annual contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Operating Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Reserves Policy

In order to secure the long term viability of the Group and to maintain the smooth operation of the organisation, it is critical to ensure that the organisation has adequate reserves. The level of reserves is required to cover the following activities of the organisation:

- Provide funding for sustainable programmes.
- Meet contractual liabilities such as lease agreements, statutory staff payments and payments to creditors.
- Maintain a required level of funding available for overseas programmes during times of financial difficulty where fundraising income is diminished.
- To facilitate programme/project continuation especially where a partner submits a new or additional phase proposal in advance of the current activity being completed, in order to meet seasonal requirements (i.e. farming season) and prevent development gaps.
- Meet unanticipated expenses such as repairs and maintenance, currency variances and legal costs.
- Cover day to day expenditure of the Group.
- Ensure there is adequate funding should any winding up costs ever arise.
- Provide for any other unanticipated expenditure of significance.

The Board may designate unrestricted reserves for specific future expenditure

such as Long Term Programmes, sinking funds to cover repairs to Fixed Assets (or as required under the terms of any lease relating to premises etc.) and any other potential future requirement(s). The Board has adopted a reserves policy based on foreseeable expenditure and in particular, long-term commitments to projects.

Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). The balance sheet for the subsidiaries are translated at the prevailing year end rates and included in the consolidated balance sheet. The statements of financial activities for the subsidiaries are translated at an average rate for the year and included in the consolidated statement of financial activities. Any exchange gains or losses arising on consolidation are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Taxation

No charge to tax arises due to the

exempt status of the Company and its subsidiaries, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK) and Gorta UK. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies. Partner Africa is registered as a charity and benefits from corporation tax exemptions available to charitable bodies. It is however registered for VAT in the UK and Kenya and is subject to Kenyan corporation tax.

Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received or paid, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and accrued interest as well as being adjusted if necessary for any impairment.

Onerous contracts

Provision is made in respect of onerous contracts where the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it and a reliable estimate can be made of such obligations and benefits.

2a. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the company's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying

amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements.

The directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

2b. GOING CONCERN

The directors have given careful consideration to the potential impact of Covid-19 on the organisation. Several measures have been implemented to give the directors a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Among the measures taken to mitigate impact on

unrestricted reserves are:

- Revision of budgets and cash flow projections to identify potential economies.
- Negotiations with suppliers, service providers and landlords, combined with general cost cutting measures across the organisation, to minimise depletion of unrestricted reserves.
- Reduction of staff working hours and salary reductions at Head Office level.
- Review of fundraising activities to ensure that events that have been cancelled are rescheduled as soon as possible where appropriate.
- Availing of government supports where possible.
- Deferral of discretionary expenditure where possible.

In addition to these measures, the directors have reviewed the restricted elements of its income and expenditure, in order to understand the impact of the pandemic on its operations on the ground in Africa with the least possible disruption to or suspension of programmes. In this area, work was carried out in:

- Engaging with institutional donors at Head Office and country office level to agree deferral of expenditure and extension of project timeframes as appropriate.
- Reconfiguring trainings to be held

in smaller groups in order to facilitate social distancing.

- Developing guidance notes for our teams and partners on the incorporation of Covid-19 response in our programmes, use of face-masks in the community and the importance of safeguarding during the pandemic.
- A public appeal was launched online and proposals submitted (successfully) to a number of Trusts and Foundations for the provision of PPE, handwashing and sanitation facilities across our programmes.

Beyond the measures outlined above, the organisation's conservative reserves policy of retaining a minimum of 12 months of recurring budgeted unrestricted expenditure has now proven to be valuable. At year end, the unrestricted reserves figure of €6.366m gives the directors additional comfort in continuing to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

3. Donations and Legacies

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Committed giving (regular giving)	2,978	2,970
General donations	727	456
Legacies	65	162
Church gate collections and committee income	42	132
Grow Fund	23	81
Gift Aid	59	68
TOTAL	3,894	3,869

In 2020 €374k (2019: €339k) of income from donations and legacies was restricted.

Included in general donations for 2020 are amounts from Electric Aid, Abbey Capital, IMPACT Trade Union, Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and Dublin City Council.



4. Charitable Activities

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
European Commission	6,672	16,891
Irish Aid Programme Grant	3,263	3,263
Irish Aid (WWGS)	1,100	1,050
A Glimmer of Hope	956	-
Jersey Overseas Aid	354	538
TradeMark East Africa	271	-
GLZ	265	-
World Food Programme (WFP)	173	417
Teagasc	166	-
IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative	121	69
AGCO	116	-
International Potato Centre	95	25
Natural Resources Institute Finland	85	-
Expertise France	59	-
Irish Aid (Ethiopia)	55	234
Irish Aid (IFIAD)	55	80
FCDO UK	43	248
FINTRAC Inc	37	127
SHA US (Dowling)	34	-
World Bank	27	14
Irish Embassy	25	-
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	23	158
McGill University	19	39
Mercy Corps	10	10
Enabel	5	-
Harvest Plus	2	9
Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency	(1)	228
Slovak Aid	-	1,252
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	-	437
Tullow Oil	-	176
Danish International Development Agency	-	168
Irish Aid (Civil Society Fund)	-	141
Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity	-	90
Rafiki Microfinance	-	89
Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation	-	66
Foundation for Food and Agri Research	-	30
Agricultural Development Program (ADP)	-	13
World Fish	-	4
TOTAL	14,030	25,866

In 2020 €13,203,000 (2019: €25,113,000) of incoming resources from charitable activities was restricted.

5. Retail income and expenditure

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Turnover from donated goods	522	1,267
Less costs:		
Operating expenses	(703)	(863)
Management expenses	(51)	(201)
Support costs	(111)	(85)
	(865)	(1,149)
Trading (deficit)/surplus	(343)	118

6. Other trading activities

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Ethical audits	1,331	1,713
Campaigns, events and treks	189	593
Product Value Chain	247	84
TOTAL	1,767	2,390

7. Other income

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Income from investments	1	6
Government Covid-19 supports	599	10
TOTAL	600	16

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

8. Charitable activities

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following **thematic areas**

	2020 Direct Costs €'000	2020 Support Costs €'000	2020 Total Costs €'000	2019 Direct Costs €'000	2019 Support Costs €'000	2019 Total Costs €'000
Agriculture production	7,873	739	8,612	6,573	583	7,156
Agri-business development	7,922	824	8,746	6,615	668	7,283
Nutrition	546	48	594	456	40	496
Gender/inclusion	120	10	130	100	9	109
Advocacy/policy	1,720	162	1,882	1,436	127	1,563
Water, sanitation & health	529	47	576	441	39	480
Renewable energy	43	4	47	36	3	39
Humanitarian	338	30	368	282	25	307
Partner capacity building	617	55	672	515	46	561
Development Education	1,355	137	1,492	1,131	100	1,231
TOTAL	21,063	2,056	23,119	17,585	1,640	19,225

8. Charitable activities (Continued)

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following **geographic areas**

	2020 Direct Costs €'000	2020 Support Costs €'000	2020 Total Costs €'000	2019 Direct Costs €'000	2019 Support Costs €'000	2019 Total Costs €'000
Zambia	1,894	178	2,072	1,581	140	1,721
Uganda	2,255	307	2,562	1,883	248	2,131
Ethiopia	1,620	154	1,774	1,353	120	1,473
Humanitarian	338	30	368	282	25	307
Kenya	4,182	391	4,573	3,492	309	3,801
Malawi	4,926	447	5,373	4,113	365	4,478
West Africa	1,258	122	1,380	1,051	93	1,144
Ethical trade services/ enterprise development*	3,184	286	3,470	2,657	236	2,893
Eritrea	51	4	55	42	4	46
Development Education	1,355	137	1,492	1,131	100	1,231
TOTAL	21,063	2,056	23,119	17,585	1,640	19,225

* This work is carried on in over forty countries throughout Africa. It incorporates the expenditure of Partner Africa and TruTrade which relates to the group.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

9. Raising funds - other

Expenditure on raising funds represents fundraising costs to raise both restricted and unrestricted income. This is analysed as follows:

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Staff costs	723	732
Fundraising and promotional expenses	321	551
Support costs	64	261
TOTAL	1,108	1,544

10. Support costs

Support costs which are allocated to activities have been incurred against the following thematic areas:

	2020 Charitable Activities €'000	2020 Fundraising €'000	2020 Retail €'000	2020 Total €'000	2019 Charitable Activities €'000	2019 Fundraising €'000	2019 Retail €'000	2019 Total Costs €'000
Direct salaries	796	25	65	886	648	108	48	804
Foreign exchange	80	3	-	83	69	-	-	69
Human resources	71	3	4	78	65	4	3	72
IT/computer	56	2	7	65	44	7	5	56
Postage, stationery & communications	35	1	3	39	22	10	3	35
Premises	253	5	3	261	131	42	2	175
Professional fees	6	-	4	10	2	1	3	6
Other support costs	254	8	9	271	206	45	7	258
Governance costs	337	12	9	358	310	24	7	341
Research/advocacy costs	168	5	7	180	143	20	7	170
TOTAL	2,056	64	111	2,231	1,640	261	85	1,986

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is a mixture of the percentage of time spend on each activity and the pro rata cost of each direct cost when compared to the support cost.

11. Net income/(expense)

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
The net income/(expense) for the financial year is stated after charging /(crediting):		
(a) Group		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	69	69
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	11	7
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses - Audit of the group financial statements (a)	103	79
(b) Company		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	23	26
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses - Audit of company only financial statements (a)	64	40

(a) This includes VAT. No amounts were paid to the group auditors in relation to advisory, tax advisory or other assurance services.

12. Other recognised gains/(losses)

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Exchange (loss)/gain	(249)	161
(Loss)/gain on investment assets	(4)	49
TOTAL	(253)	210

13. Taxation

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Tax has been provided for in the Kenyan branch of Partner Africa as follows:		
Deferred tax charge	(1)	(42)

No charge to tax arises due to the exempt status of the Company and its subsidiaries, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK), War on Want NI and TruTrade. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies. Partner Africa is registered as a charity and benefits from corporation tax exemptions available to charitable bodies. It is however registered for VAT in the UK and Kenya and is subject to Kenyan corporation tax.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

14. Staff costs

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Staff costs are comprised as follows:		
Ireland and United Kingdom		
Wages and salaries	4,179	4,299
Social welfare costs	360	383
Pension costs	206	232
Sub-total	4,745	4,914
Program Staff in Countries of Operation		
Wages and salaries	2,460	2,461
Social welfare costs	30	35
Pension costs	197	229
Sub-total	2,687	2,725
Total staff costs	7,432	7,639

	2020 Number	2019 Number
The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:		
Ireland and United Kingdom	145	136
Program staff in countries of operation	184	203
	329	339

No employee of the group acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Group Chief Executive comprised salary of €107,338 (2019: €115,005) plus 6.5% employer pension contribution. The number of employees whose salaries (excluding employer pension contributions and employer PRSI) were greater than €60,000 were as follows:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
€60,001 - €70,000	5	4
€70,001 - €80,000	4	5
€80,001 - €90,000	2	3
€90,001 - €100,000	1	1
€100,001 - €110,000	1	-
€110,001 - €120,000	-	1

15. Director remuneration and expenses

Directors are not remunerated but are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their duties. Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board and subsidiary Boards that were either borne by the Group or reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €110 in 2020 (2019: €2,177).

In addition, Board members may periodically visit one of the Group's countries of operation in order to ensure that they are familiar with Self Help Africa's work or attend events overseas on behalf of the Group. The cost of these visits (which comprise medicals, visas, flights and accommodation) are generally borne by the Group and amounted to €190 in 2020 (2019: €1,754).

16. Key management compensation

The total remuneration for the group key management personnel (which includes gross pay, employer insurance contributions, employer pension contributions and any other remuneration including benefits in kind) for the financial year amounted to €501,573 (2019: €525,528) and this relates to five personnel (2019: five personnel).

The remuneration of each individual subsidiary entity's key management team is disclosed in the respective subsidiary entity individual financial statements.

17. Fixed assets

Fixed Assets - Group	Land & Buildings	Shop Fittings	Motor vehicles	Furniture, fittings and equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	188	249	384	419	1,240
Additions	-	-	122	21	143
Disposals	-	-	-	(3)	(3)
Exchange gain on consolidation	(10)	-	(3)	(17)	(30)
At 31 December 2020	178	249	503	420	1,350
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 January 2020	21	245	218	318	802
Charge for the year	4	4	118	41	167
Disposals	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
Exchange gain on consolidation	(1)	-	(4)	(12)	(17)
At 31 December 2020	24	249	332	346	951
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2020	154	-	171	74	399
At 31 December 2019	167	4	166	101	438

17. Fixed assets (continued)

Fixed Assets - Company	Shop Fittings €'000	Office Furniture and Equipment €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2020	249	182	325	756
Additions	-	10	76	86
At 31 December 2020	249	192	401	842
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	245	156	182	583
Charge for the year	9	13	4	26
Disposals	4	15	100	119
At 31 December 2020	249	171	282	702
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020	-	21	119	140
At 31 December 2019	4	26	143	173
Intangible assets - Group		Computer Application €'000		Total €'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2020		39		39
Additions		11		11
At 31 December 2020		50		50
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020		15		15
Charge for the year		11		11
At 31 December 2020		26		26
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020		24		24
At 31 December 2019		24		24

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

18. Short term investments

Group and Company:

Investments relate to a bequest of shares, the market value of which at 31 December 2020 was €183,808 (2019: €188,221).

19. Cash at bank and in hand

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
(a) Group:		
By fund designation:		
Restricted	15,525	18,309
Unrestricted	7,593	6,602
	23,118	24,911
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	10,578	7,312
Current accounts	12,539	17,590
County committee accounts	1	1
Cash on hand	-	8
TOTAL	23,118	24,911
(b) Company:		
By fund designation:		
Restricted	13,625	16,518
Unrestricted	8,323	6,516
	21,948	23,034
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	10,447	7,211
Current accounts	11,500	15,818
County committee accounts	1	1
Cash on hand	-	4
TOTAL	21,948	23,034

20. Debtors

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
(a) Group:		
Tax refunds on donations receivable	7	10
Deferred tax	67	74
Other debtors	3,073	1,720
Prepayments	134	158
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 32)	5	102
VAT Recoverable	-	1
Accrued income	289	372
TOTAL	3,575	2,437
(b) Company:		
Amount due from subsidiaries	157	83
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	5	92
Concessionary loan (Note 27)	-	-
Other debtors	2,511	1,130
Prepayments	89	104
Accrued income	214	241
TOTAL	2,976	1,650

21. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one financial year	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
(a) Group:		
Trade creditors	4,372	972
Accruals	620	300
Trade finance fund	135	-
Deferred revenue	178	112
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	10	43
Pension liability	-	5
VAT Payable	6	12
PAYE/PRSI liability	85	108
TOTAL	5,406	1,552
(b) Company:		
Trade creditors	4,450	888
Accruals	216	45
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	3	43
PAYE/PRSI liability	66	85
Group companies	1,487	2,290
TOTAL	6,222	3,351

22. Creditors

Amounts falling due after more than one financial year	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
(a) Group:		
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	4	25
(b) Company:		
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	7	7

Notes to the consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

23. Financial instruments

The carrying value of the Group's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

Financial Assets	2020	2019
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	€'000	€'000
(a) Group		
Other debtors	3,073	1,720
(b) Company		
Amount due from subsidiaries	157	83
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	5	92
Other debtors	2,512	1,131
Financial Liabilities		
Measured at undiscounted amount payable		
(a) Group		
Trade creditors	4,372	972
Trade finance fund	135	-
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	10	43
(b) Company		
Trade creditors	4,450	888
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	3	43
Amounts due to Group companies	1,487	2,290

24. Commitments

At 31 December 2020 the company had total future minimum commitments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

Expiring in:	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Within 1 year	397	392
Between 1 and 5 years	109	269
Over 5 years	35	35
	541	696

25. Pension scheme

The company operates employer sponsored defined contribution pension schemes which are available to all staff. During the year, the charity made contributions in respect of its employees who elected to contribute. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, in externally managed funds. The pension expense for the financial year amounted to €192,289 (2019: €215,878). Balance outstanding at financial year end €5,734 (2019: €5,266).

26. Other amounts payable

A provision of €80,000 has been made in the 2020 financial statements in respect of dilapidations to an office premises rented by the Gorta Group in respect of a thirty five year lease that expired in February 2020. Negotiations are ongoing to reduce the amount payable.

An additional provision, relating only to the group, has been recognised which represents terminal grants which are contractual amounts due to employees in regional offices when they leave employment with War on Want (N.I.) Limited. At 31 December 2020 the amount payable was €4,229 (2019: €12,183).

Provision was made in respect of a property lease where the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the lease exceeded the economic benefits expected to be received under it. This excess of costs over benefits was calculated to be €10,335 (2019: €49,915).

27. Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans have been advanced by Self Help Africa. In 2019, Self Help Africa advanced a concessionary loan of €136,302 to TruTrade. The carrying amount of the concessionary loan from Self Help Africa to TruTrade was €576,756 at 31 December 2020. As this loan is unlikely to be repaid in the short to medium term, a provision for non-repayment has been made in the Gorta company financial statements.

28. Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by charitable activities

Group	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Net (expenditure) / income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(4,533)	11,658
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	177	77
Loss on fixed asset disposal	2	32
Decrease/(Increase) in short term investments	4	(49)
Exchange loss/(gain) on deferred tax asset	(7)	7
Exchange (gain)/loss on consolidated fixed assets	29	(16)
Decrease in stock	1	1
Increase in debtors	(1,145)	(141)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors- amounts due within one year	3,854	(177)
Decrease in creditors- amounts due over one year	(21)	(33)
Interest received	(1)	(6)
Net cash provided by charitable activities	(1,640)	11,353

Company

Net (expenditure) / income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(2,668)	9,004
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	119	26
Adjustment for capital grants	-	(1)
Decrease/(increase) in short term investments	4	(49)
Increase in debtors	(1,326)	(415)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors- amounts due within one year	2,871	1,658
Decrease in creditors- amounts due over one year	-	(40)
Interest received	(1)	(5)
Net cash provided by charitable activities	(1,001)	10,179

29. Legal status of the Company

Gorta's consolidated financial statements combine the activities of Gorta in Ireland and Self Help Africa (UK), Partner Africa, War on Want NI, and TruTrade. The net expenditure for the year, and the funds of the charity of each of the group companies at the financial year-end are detailed below.

	Net expenditure for the year 31/12/2020 €'000	Funds of the charity at the year end 31/12/2020 €'000
Gorta	(2,664)	19,932
Self Help Africa (UK)	(1,299)	1,745
Partner Africa	(48)	82
WOW NI	(229)	29
TruTrade	(39)	103
Group total	(4,279)	21,891

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

30. Funds of the charity

Group		Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Total Funds €'000
(i) Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at 1 January 2020		19,752	6,672	26,424
Net expenditure for the year		(4,227)	(306)	(4,533)
Fund balances at 31 December 2019		15,525	6,366	21,891
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:				
		Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Balance 31/12/2020 €'000
Tangible Fixed Assets		-	423	423
Current Assets		15,525	11,353	26,878
Liabilities		-	(5,410)	(5,410)
Total Funds		15,525	6,366	21,891
(iii) Movements in funds:				
	Balance as at 01/01/2020 €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Balance 31/12/2020 €'000
Restricted Funds	19,752	13,737	(17,964)	15,525
Unrestricted Funds	6,672	7,076	(7,382)	6,366
Total Funds	26,424	20,813	(25,346)	21,891

30. Funds of the charity (continued)

Company only		Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Total Funds €'000	
(i) Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balance at 1 January 2020		16,596	5,091	21,687	
Net (expenditure) / income for the year		(2,972)	304	(2,668)	
Fund balances at 31 December 2020		13,624	5,395	19,019	
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:		Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Balance 31/12/2020 €'000	
Tangible Fixed Assets		-	140	140	
Current Assets		13,624	11,484	25,108	
Liabilities		-	(6,229)	(6,229)	
Total Funds		13,624	5,395	19,019	
(iii) Movements in funds:		Balance as at 01/01/2020 €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Balance 31/12/2020 €'000
Restricted Funds		16,596	12,808	(15,780)	13,624
Unrestricted Funds		5,091	4,232	(3,928)	5,395
Total Funds		21,687	17,040	(19,708)	19,019

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

32. Financial risk management

Currency risk

Much of the organisation's costs, particularly overseas costs, are denominated in euro and local currency while most income is received in euro. A strengthening of the local currency against the euro could have an adverse effect on Gorta's ability to deliver its planned programme of work. These currency risks are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Cash flow risk

Gorta hold a number of bank accounts deposited in a number of different financial institutions ensuring the security of our funds and also endeavouring to maximise the return available. The organisation's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in interest rates. Interest bearing assets are held at fixed rates to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The organisation's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and current asset investments. The credit risk on cash at bank and current asset investments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The organisation has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a number of counterparties and customers.

33. Self Help Africa Inc.

Self Help Africa Inc. is a not for profit organisation registered in the United States of America. Self Help Africa Inc. is governed by an independent board of directors which retains full control over the financial and operating policies of the company. During the financial year Self Help Africa Inc. on-granted €65,000 of restricted income received (2019: €90,431) and €Nil of voluntary income raised (2019: €nil) to Gorta t/a Self Help Africa projects. Total amounts granted by SHA Inc. to Gorta t/a Self Help Africa of €65,000 (2019: €90,431) have been included in the accounts of Gorta t/a Self Help Africa under income and endowments and expenditure.

At the end of 2020 Self Help Africa Inc owed €119,654 to Self Help Africa UK in relation to funds received in the US that were due to be forwarded to Self Help Africa UK in relation to programmes implemented in West Africa. Self Help Africa UK used its own funds to implement these programmes. Due to an adverse fundraising environment in the US currently, this debt is unlikely to be repaid in the short to medium term. A provision for non-repayment of this amount has been made in the Gorta accounts. In 2020 Self Help Africa Inc charged Self Help Africa for costs incurred in the US on behalf of Self Help Africa in 2019 and 2020. This charge amounted to €157,996. At 31 December 2020, Self Help Africa Inc owed Self Help Africa €4,735 (2019: €101,965).

34. Subsequent Events

No events have occurred since the balance sheet date that require adjustment or disclosure.

There has been a period of discussion between the Boards and management teams of the Gorta Group and United Purpose (a UK based international development organisation - united-purpose.org) with a view to carrying out a merger of the two entities. These discussions are ongoing at the time of completion of these financial statements.



Self Help Africa is a signatory to the Dochas NGO code of conduct on the responsible use of images and messages.

Zenebech Girma, a shepherd from the Abichu District, Ethiopia





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