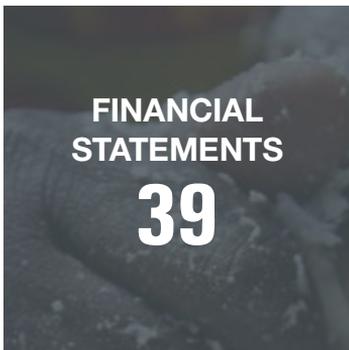


A photograph of two African women standing outdoors in a lush green setting. The woman on the left is smiling and wearing a colorful patterned headscarf and a red, white, and black striped tank top. She holds a wooden staff. The woman on the right is wearing a grey and black striped beanie with a logo and a dark t-shirt with a white star. She also holds a wooden staff. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

gorta
Self Help Africa

2016
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
selfhelpafrica.org

OUR VISION IS AN
ECONOMICALLY
THRIVING AND
RESILIENT RURAL
AFRICA.

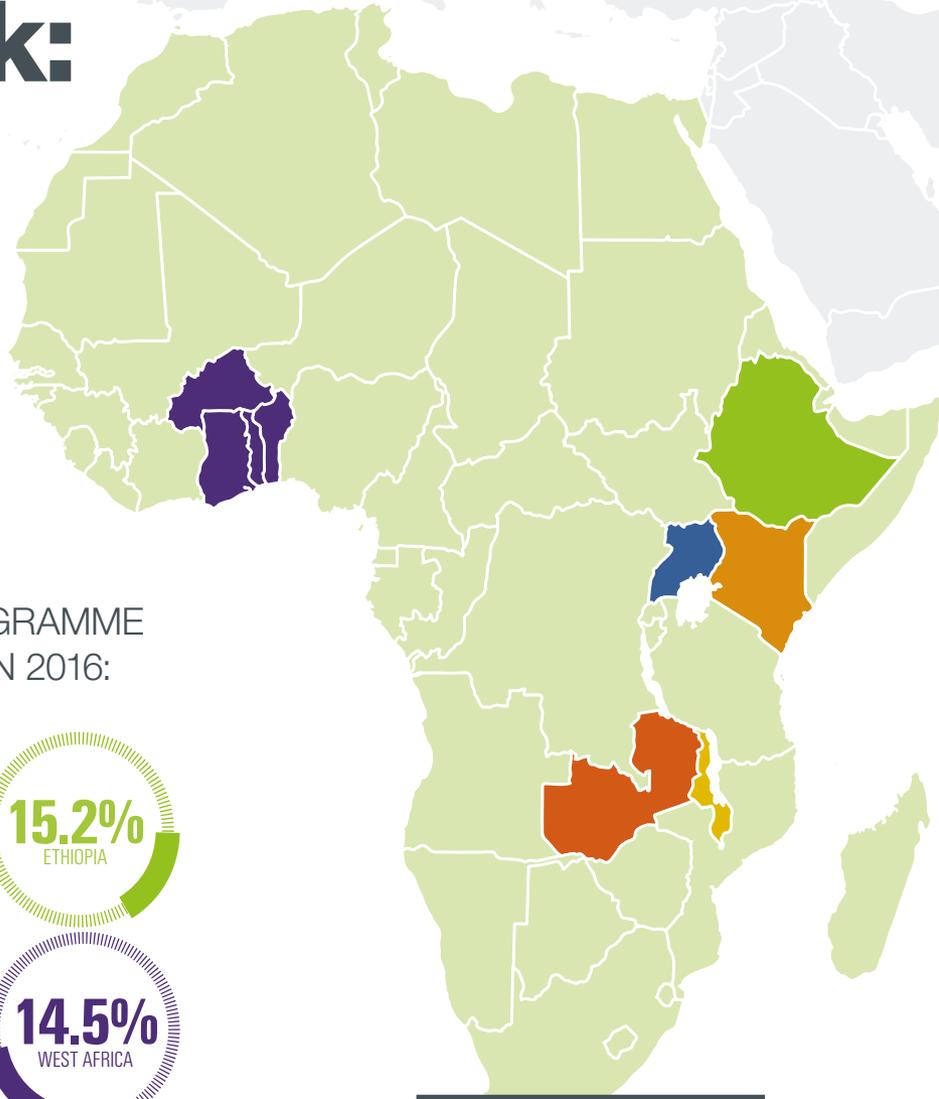


WHAT'S INSIDE

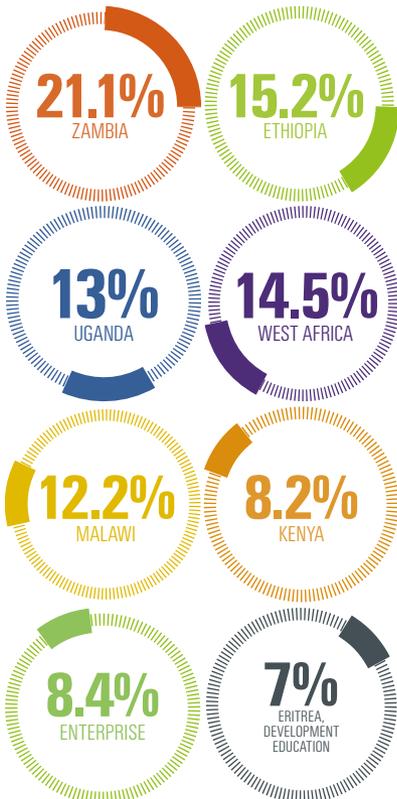
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Where we work:



OUR PROGRAMME
SPEND IN 2016:



OUR WORK
ACROSS AFRICA
IS ENDING
POVERTY AND
IMPROVING THE
LIVES OF LOCAL
COMMUNITIES

ZAMBIA: Gorta-Self Help Africa implemented seven projects in Zambia in 2016, with a total lifetime value of approximately €11.5million.

The main focus of our projects was in food and nutrition, enterprise, livestock, climate resilience and seed enterprise development. 43,000 households are benefitting from current project work in Zambia. One new project was started in Zambia in 2016, working with 23,000 households in the Central, Southern and Lusaka regions, supporting vulnerable farming families to combat the effects of changing climate.

Number of households reached: 62,095

WEST AFRICA: Gorta-Self Help Africa worked in four countries - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Projects, which are implemented through local partners, will reach 66,000 households directly and provide almost 666,000 others with support through an early weather warning system. The focus of activities is on climate change adaptation, agriculture and nutrition, enterprise, water and sanitation and production by women of cashew crops. A total of close to €5million will be invested during the lifetime of existing projects.

Number of households reached: 66,494

ETHIOPIA: Increasing farm production, supporting cooperatives and new enterprise and developing market opportunities for farmers is at the core of our work in Ethiopia.

Current projects in the country also focus on strengthening community-based seed production, improving the resilience of communities to a changing climate, and improving productivity and livestock value chains.

Number of households reached: 169,920

MALAWI: Gorta-Self Help Africa is working on a combination of directly implemented and partner-led projects in Malawi. The programme goal, to support smallholder farming communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods, is in line with the government's current Growth and Development Strategy II.

The largest single project is DISCOVER, a five-year collaborative venture with a number of international partners that seeks to support households in adapting to climate change. DISCOVER is at its mid-point, with our work

taking place in the far north, in Karonga district.

Number of households reached: 100,275

UGANDA: Gorta-Self Help Africa was the lead agricultural adviser in a USAID-funded development project in Uganda which ended in September 2016. The nutrition-focused scheme is underway in 15 districts across the country and is one of Gorta-Self Help Africa's largest projects.

Elsewhere, work is underway to develop community-based seed enterprises, to promote agri-based enterprises and to tackle the impact of climate change on rural farming households.

Number of households reached: 172,895

KENYA: Supporting smallholder farmers to move from subsistence to prosperity is central to our programme work in Kenya.

Our largest scheme in Kenya is benefitting 20,000 people to increase farm production and establish enterprises in the Keringet region of the drought-prone Rift Valley Province. The project focusses primarily on dairy and potato production.

Number of households reached: 47,812



MALAWI: Patricia Twibe farms a one-acre plot in Balaka district in Malawi. She found it tough to support her family on such a landholding, but the money she now earns from a small business buying and selling fish in her village helps her to supplement her income.

WEST AFRICA: For the children of Habibou Tiendrebeogo, the route to school is through her fields. Habibou has been the main bread-winner in her home since her husband lost his sight some years ago. She grows maize, beans and sesame seed for commercial sale, and is able to send all of her children to school, including her 24 year old daughter, who had previously dropped out.



ETHIOPIA: Long gone are the days when mother-of-two Aster Ayele earned a meagre income as a labourer on her neighbour's farm. With a loan provided by her local Savings and Credit Cooperative, she set up a micro-brewing business, and started rearing animals. Today, her eldest daughter is studying at university.

UGANDA: Evelyne Safari embarked on a beekeeping business with her husband three years ago, and hasn't looked back. They now have six hives on their small farm in rural Uganda, and are earning enough to be able to send all four of their daughters to school. "My daughters are going to get the education that I didn't have myself," she says.



ZAMBIA: Foster Simeo is a model of resilience in Malela, Northern Province. Farmer, mother of five and grandmother to 19 children, she has to provide for her husband, who is deaf and mute, and her youngest child as well as two of her grandchildren. She recently received goats from Irish Aid's Local Development Project, which she hopes to breed and make an income from.

KENYA: Julie Gitari admits that sometimes she struggles to find the energy to work her small farm. Julie lives with HIV. She has adapted her farm to cope with her health condition, rearing poultry and small livestock as well as growing vegetables and other high-nutrition crops in a polytunnel.





Farming for Africa's Future

In 2016, Gorta-Self Help Africa invested more resources and supported more households in sub-Saharan Africa than ever before in the organisation's long history.

The focus of that work remained on hundreds of thousands of small family farms, which are the main source of food, employment and income for the continent.

We have been greatly encouraged in our work by the increasing recognition and support for African smallholder agriculture. In recent years, African governments have re-committed to investing strongly in agriculture, aiming to double productivity levels and halve post-harvest losses on the path to eradicating hunger by 2025.

Private companies, including many from Ireland and the UK, have also invested in Africa's agriculture value chains, paving the way for an awakening of Africa's agri-food systems that multiplies the options for farmers - in the seeds they plant, the farming methods they apply, and the markets they can now access.

Gorta-Self Help Africa (GSHA) has been encouraged by the way we have been able to apply information technology to increase the scale and reach of what we can achieve,

at home and abroad. Stronger ICT systems are allowing us to deliver greater impact, efficiency and levels of accountability in the work that we do. One particular example of this increased 'reach' can be found in Malawi, where one million mobile phone calls were logged last year from rural poor farmers who were seeking our advice on their farm work.

As we embark on a new five-year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) we are, without doubt, entering a period of considerable uncertainty, in Africa and globally. The outcome of the 2016 US Presidential Election and the decision by the UK to leave the European Union will both have implications for the continent, while the continuing threats posed to the continent's ability to feed its growing population by climate change and other factors, underline the scale of the challenges that face organisations like GSHA.

We are confident however that our mission – to support sustainable livelihoods for Africa's smallholder farmers – is the right one. We will continue to play a key role in agricultural and economic development, by supporting hundreds of thousands of rural poor families to grow more, and access new and better markets, in the years to come.

Raymond Jordan

Raymond Jordan,
Group CEO, Gorta-Self Help Africa

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

Small loans in 2016:

Ethiopian Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs)

SAVINGS AND CREDIT COOPERATIVES:

54,600
members



TOTAL SAVINGS
OF SACCO UNIONS

€3.15M

(81M ETHIOPIAN BIRR)



611% ↑

increase in
disposable
income
among
households



80% ↑

of households
have sufficient
access to
food throughout
the year



47% ↑

of **capital**
provided as
loans came
from **member**
savings

50% of SACCO members have an annual average
disposable income of **€800** (20,000 Ethiopian Birr)



54%

of RuSACCO
members are
women



87.5% ↓

Drop in
households
considered
below the
standard of
living threshold



30% ↑

Income
for SACCO
members is
30% more than
for non-SACCO
members*

*within the same community

Tirngo Girma, member of Urjji Berissa
RuSACCO, Sire, Oromia, Ethiopia.

Microfinance

Access to affordable microfinance is vital if smallholders are to invest in developing their farming businesses.

Evidence shows that women in Africa re-invest about 90 percent of their income back into their households, compared to between 30–40 percent where men earn the money.

Giving women the skills to run successful farms and businesses is an efficient way to strengthen poor families.

But skills are just a part of the equation, as simple seed funding can be an insurmountable obstacle to African women wishing to improve their farms, or establish viable on and off-farm businesses.

For close to 15 years, Gorta-Self Help Africa has been engaged in creating community-based institutions to promote saving and provide small loans, in the main to women. In Ethiopia, these institutions are called Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs). Elsewhere, they are Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups, or Local Enterprise Groups (LEGs).

Our work in this area has enabled us to provide support to tens of thousands of African women, so that they can add value and profitability to their farms, diversify their production, and create new small-scale enterprises to provide income, and in many instances to create employment within rural poor communities.

Small businesses play an important role in the economic growth of developing countries, and also make a valuable contribution to redressing gender inequality that remains prevalent in much of sub-Saharan Africa.





Kibie Haile, L'hitossa, Oromia, Ethiopia.



Tsige Getu, Lume, Oromia, Ethiopia.



“In Ethiopia, over 54% of the 54,600 members of village savings groups are women.”

Although women carry out most of the work on small farms, and do most of the household work, they remain economically vulnerable, and are financially poorer than their male counterparts. Rates of malnourishment of women are higher, while education and training accessible to women and girls is proportionally far lower than to men.

Small loans provided to rural poor women who participate in Gorta-Self Help Africa’s community-run small loans groups have assisted borrowers to set up a broad range of small farm-based enterprises, including poultry-rearing, livestock fattening, beekeeping and agri-processing of food crops. This has helped thousands more to trade commodities, manufacture and sell goods, open service-based businesses including bars, tea-rooms, restaurants and transport services.

In Ethiopia, a review into the past 10 years of our SACCO programme showed that upwards of 54% of the 54,600 members of village savings groups were women.



Alem Abebe and Tafese Getachew

Alem and Tafese rear their four children in this small house in Sire, Oromia, in rural Ethiopia. When Alem was a young mother, she wasn't able to give them a nutritious diet, nor even a bed to sleep on. "We slept on the floor," she says.

Since joining a local savings and credit cooperative, her circumstances have improved. She has bought and planted improved seeds, has started rearing livestock, and has even set up a micro-brewery business at home. With the extra money, Alem and Tafese have built a new house and are sending their children to school.



Jessy Sade

Jessy regrets that the income that she earns today wasn't available when her children were younger. "We were very poor, and often hungry," she says.

Only her youngest boy, Umani (10) still lives at home. Her other four children have grown up and moved out of home.

Jessy uses improved farming techniques to increase production on her small farm in Chilato village, Malawi, and has also established a commercial tree nursery where she rears and grafts mango trees for sale.



Tamara Kaonga

is 41 and a mother of four. She is part of a village savings and loans group in Mambero village in northern Malawi. Tamara attended an enterprise conference organised by the project, and upon her return home set up a small business, manufacturing herbal tonics that she bottles and sells locally. "It is a good business," she says. "It supplements my farming income."

Tamara is pictured here with her daughter Yvonne and granddaughter Lupacasio.

Bezina Abinet

Bezina is a young mother and a business owner in Oromia, Ethiopia. Since joining her local SACCO, Bezina went from selling bread from her home to opening three grocery stores.

With her first loan she bought a juicer and began expanding her ambition with each subsequent loan. Today, at just 27 years of age, she is a pillar of the community and an inspiration to men and women alike.





Agnes Katushabe

53-year-old Agnes Katushabe leads by example. She has a demonstration plot at her farm in western Uganda, and uses it to show others the best methods for cultivating fruit and vegetables. “I use learning that I have received and I share it with others. I am growing cabbage, carrots and passion fruit. Next year, other families who see my work can do the same,” she says. Agnes is pictured with her husband Odomaro.

“I use learning that I have received, and share it with others.”

Tadesse Lema and Mamitu Alemu

Tadesse Lema is a father, farmer and priest in Lume, Oromia, Ethiopia. Before joining his local SACCO, he struggled to buy enough food to feed his family throughout the year, and often had to borrow money at high interest rates.

Since Tadesse and his wife Mamitu joined the SACCO and began saving and borrowing, they have noticed significant improvements in their lives. They are now able to feed their children a balanced and varied diet throughout the year and have bought beds for their home.







“I am trying to save for a business. I want to support my family properly.”

Pascalina is pictured above with her youngest child Ephamia Mulenga.

Pascalina Mulenga

hopes that a local enterprise group in Malela village in northern Zambia will enable her to start her own small business. Aged 25, and a mother of three, she currently supplements the food that she produces on her small farm by working as a contract labourer for others, in return for food. “I am trying to save for a business. I want to support my family properly,” she says.

OUR WORK

ACROSS AFRICA
IS ENDING
POVERTY AND
IMPROVING THE
LIVES OF LOCAL
COMMUNITIES.

Molly Nyasulu, Wazikaza village,
Karonga, Malawi.



INEQUALITY COSTS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA OVER \$100BN A YEAR

According to the Africa Human Development Report 2016: *Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa*, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), labour market gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average six percent of the region's GDP, jeopardising the continent's efforts for inclusive human development and economic growth.

OUR IMPACT IN 2016:

3.4 MILLION

Total beneficiaries

538,000

Farming families assisted

52:48

Ratio of female:male beneficiaries

Suzanna Omwango, Kamkuyu village,
Migori County, Kenya.



Back women: educate girls

The differing educational opportunities available to girls compared to boys in sub-Saharan Africa remains a telling barometer of gender inequality in the region.

For generations, African girls have been denied the opportunities that education can provide. While sometimes this is for cultural reasons, there is a significant economic dimension as to why daughters aren't enrolled or are taken out of school earlier than their brothers.

Put simply, if rural poor parents must choose between their sons and their daughters, evidence shows that sons are more often favoured when it comes to paying the costs of education. The role that girls play within the home – preparing meals, gathering water and fuel, and assisting with many of the menial farm tasks - is often

used to explain why girls often attend school for less time than their brothers.

Although the past generation has seen huge progress in school enrolment of girls across Africa, a major disparity still remains. However, we can change this - by creating opportunities for women across Africa to earn their own income.

African women with discretionary income are more likely to invest their money in the welfare of the household, which often includes providing an education for their daughters.

Take Vanessa, Habibou or Aster. Their stories may be different, but their message is the same. "I was still at primary level when I left school. I was 17 and pregnant," Vanessa Brown, from southern Malawi, recalls. "It defined my life." Vanessa wants things to be better for her 18-year-old daughter Linda, and says that she will do all that she can to ensure that her daughter completes school, and gets a good qualification.

In Burkina Faso, West Africa, 41-year-old Habibou Tiendrebeogo echoes this sentiment when speaking about her eldest daughter Fatimata, who left school a few years ago to have a child, but has since re-enrolled, and, at 24, is working her way through high school. Aster Ayele in Ethiopia says that it was one of the proudest moments of her life when her elder daughter enrolled at university. "No-one in my family had ever gone this far before," she says. Aged 39 and the mother of two girls, Aster says that she wants her 13-year-old daughter to follow in the footsteps of her older sister. "With an education, anything is possible" she says.



Vanessa Brown and her daughter
Linda Kampira in Balaka, Malawi.



Kiconco Amina - Village savings group, Uganda.

Youth work

Agriculture has never been particularly exciting or glamorous – and in Africa, where most farms are small, and work is done with hand tools, it isn't hard to understand why many young people shy away from a life on the land.

For girls and young women, the arguments against a life in farming can be even more persuasive. Younger people are struggling to even access land on which they might farm, making the problem even more pronounced. Having seen parents and grandparents struggle to wrest a living from the baked earth, ambitious young Africans with big dreams often see their future elsewhere.

These are just some of the factors fuelling the emigration crisis that blights much of sub-Saharan Africa, with economic and social consequences across the globe.

It also explains why the average age of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa now stands at nearly 60. The African Union, the World Bank and other international organisations view agriculture as a key driver of social and economic transformation in Africa, with the World Bank predicting that agriculture and agribusiness could be worth US\$1 trillion by 2030.

However, major economic investment and revised policies are required, if worthwhile work is to be found for the millions of African young people, whose labour and commitment will be required to reach these economic goals. “The requirements

for energy, innovation and physical strength make it (farming) ideally suited for those in the 15-34 age range,” the World Bank said in a recent report.

In our new five year Strategic Plan (2017-2021), Gorta-Self Help Africa has committed to implement projects to help overcome existing challenges and create agri-enterprise opportunities, providing jobs for Africa's youth including rural women and youth. “We will seek to ensure young smallholders are targeted and engaged in programme activity. Our agri-enterprise objective will include goals for rural youth,” the new Plan pledges. One example of this commitment is in Nebbi, a frontier town in Uganda close to the border with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Here, work commenced in spring 2016 on a three-year development project that will support 3,000 rural young people, half of whom are women.

The project aims to improve access to employment and support enterprise development by providing short-course agricultural training and other skills. The result is that project participants, all aged between 17 and 27, can create viable and sustainable livelihoods for themselves in Uganda's West Nile region.

Supported by grant funding from the European Union, the scheme has so far provided training and agricultural support to more than 1,000 young men and women, including the introduction of nursery beds for market-oriented horticultural production, and the creation of community-based village savings and loans groups to provide seed funding to young people.

Letter from the Chairperson

2016 was a landmark year for Gorta-Self Help Africa – a year in which we set and achieved high targets - in our contribution to the global effort to end hunger and poverty in Africa.

Thanks to the backing and generosity of institutions, organisations, and individual donors, we invested more than €19m in our work – and spent €17m of this sum supporting close to 300,000 rural poor households in Africa to work their way out of poverty.

The end of 2016 brought to an end two important rounds of funding, with both our multi-annual funding programme with Irish Aid drawing to a close, and a similar scheme backed by UK Aid also concluding at year-end.

Happily, in early 2017 we received notification from Irish Aid of renewed multi-annual support. Worth €3.14m a year, this new grant from the Irish Government represents an increase of more than €675,000 in annual grant support from the state.

To date, no appropriate multi-annual funding scheme has been announced by UK Aid, but we continue to have confidence that the UK will be strongly supportive of our work in years to come.

In 2016, we also began work on a new organisational strategic plan – which was launched in early spring of this year. This document, Embracing Change, provides us with a road map for the direction that the organisation will take in the years ahead.

At Gorta-Self Help Africa, we believe that improved productivity and incomes from farming are vital to lifting millions of rural African families out of poverty.

At Gorta-Self Help Africa, we believe that improved productivity and incomes from farming are vital to lifting millions of rural African families out of poverty.

As the chairman of Gorta-Self Help Africa, I am enormously proud of our achievements, and grateful to our staff, partners, funders, collaborators, volunteers and our Board of Directors and advisory committee members for the contributions that they have made to ensuring that we achieve our goals.

A number of our directors completed their voluntary terms as directors during 2016, while we also welcomed a number of new board members.

On behalf of the organisation, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to former chairman Sean Gaule and director Jeremy Woolwich for the contributions that they made to the organisation during their time on the board.

The new board members who joined us during 2016 included Mairéad Carey, Claire Fourel, Rowena Dwyer, Marion Byrne and Eimear Kenny.

I would like to welcome our new Executive Director, David Dalton, who joined us in November 2016, to take over the day-to-day operations at our headquarters in Dublin. By appointing David to this role, we have greater capacity to continue to deliver on our ambitious strategic plan by attracting new support for this work.



Potato harvest,
Kenya

Enormous credit is due to our GCEO, Ray Jordan, for the manner in which he has led Gorta-Self Help Africa. My thanks also go to his management team, to our African country directors, and to all of the organisation's staff for the dedication and commitment and that they show in pursuit of our goals.

There are many others to be acknowledged for the contributions they make to our work in Africa. Included amongst these are the many individuals and institutions who support us each year, the local NGOs and community-based organisation partners in Africa who assist us in implementing our programmes, and the network of international partners with whom we collaborate.

For all of the achievements that have been made during 2016, enormous challenges remain.

We witnessed the harsh reality of extreme poverty in early 2017 when news reports emerged of more than 20 million facing a famine threat in East Africa.

This situation is ongoing, and is a devastating blow to families who, in the main, rely on small farms for their survival.

Although the number of hungry people in the world has fallen by more than 200 million in the past quarter century, the continued vulnerability of many millions – as evidenced by the current crisis in East Africa – underlines that our work is far from done.

We can continue to make an impact in pursuing our goals, and achieving real and lasting results in our efforts to end hunger and poverty in the years to come.

For now, allow me to express my gratitude for your continuing support for Gorta-Self Help Africa in this important journey.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chairman

Francois Tarpaga pictured in his rice field in Ratenga Village, Yargo, Centre-East, Burkina Faso.



Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements

Directors and Other Information



Directors

Tom Kitt (Chairman)
Carmel Fox
Tom Kirley
Pat Murphy
Michael Hoevel
Paul Adams
David Governey
Rowena Dwyer (appointed 25th March 2016)
Claire Fourle (appointed 4th July 2016)
Marion Byrne (appointed 4th July 2016)
Mairead Carey (appointed 4th July 2016)
Eimear Kenny (appointed 4th July 2016)
Jeremy Woolwich (resigned 4th July 2016)
Seán Gaule (resigned 4th July 2016)

Company Secretary

Malachy Cardiff

Directors and Other Information (contd.)

Group Chief Executive	Ray Jordan	
Executive Director	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	Gallagher Shatter & Co. 4 Upper Ely Place, Dublin 2.	McKeever Solicitors, 5 Harbourmaster Place, IFSC, Dublin 1.
	Withers LLP. 16 Old Bailey, London.	
Principal Bankers	Bank of Ireland, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.	Bank of Ireland, 65 St Vincent Street, Glasgow.
	Barclays Bank Plc, P.O. Box 89, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.	Permanent TSB, 2-4 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 4.
	AIB 1-4 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.	
Auditors	Deloitte, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, Deloitte & Touche House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.	

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016

The directors present herewith the reports and audited consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2016.

Objectives and activities

Gorta-Self Help Africa is an international development, non-governmental organisation. The main purpose of the organisation as set out in our constitution is 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.

Vision, mission and values

Our vision is an economically thriving and resilient 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

Activities

Our primary client targets are poor and vulnerable rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa, with particular focus on Benin, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Togo and Zambia.

We support both small projects and large programmes. We seek to leverage small projects into larger programmes to maximise the extent of their positive 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, rather than simply providing funds. We work with local government and the business community to

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

create sustainable links that last beyond the lifecycle of projects.

Gorta-Self Help Africa employs professional development staff in all its countries of operation. We believe that indigenous staff best understand the context, culture and languages of people, and are best placed to lead country programmes. We work with and through local partners from civil society, the public sector and business community and provide training and support to help them develop.

Achievements and performance

In 2016, Gorta-Self Help Africa implemented a significant programme of work in sub-Saharan Africa. The context and operational highlights of these programmes are summarised below.

Overseas programmes

The backdrop to Gorta-Self Help Africa's work in 2016 was the impact of El Niño, which led to parched land and ruined harvests across the continent. In Ethiopia, it was

the worst drought in 50 years. Severe droughts brought hardship to tens of millions of Africans. This in turn led to rising food prices and the mobilisation of a significant humanitarian response.

Despite the challenging conditions, GSHA programmes continued to perform well in 2016.

ETHIOPIA

The unrest in Oromia and Amhara in Ethiopia which started in 2015 increased in intensity, resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency. This made support to our projects difficult for a few months as there were travel restrictions in place. In addition, the failure of the 2016 October-December rains across parts of the Horn of Africa has led to a devastating drought in south-eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and northern and eastern Kenya. More than 15 million people in these three countries are facing food and water shortages. This has affected some of our project areas and the food insecurity situation will be felt strongly into 2017.

In 2016, SHA Ethiopia implemented a total of 13 projects. These have made significant contributions

to increasing agricultural production and productivity and accordingly increased the incomes of smallholder farmers. SHA Ethiopia worked with 19 farmer cooperative unions and 1,167 primary cooperatives in 91 woredas in Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations Nationalities and People (SNNP) regions and reached 86,224 new beneficiaries (54% female). Most beneficiaries were reached through Rural Savings and Credit Cooperative work - 75,843 (56% female). A total of 10,491 (40% female) were reached through agricultural and agri-enterprise projects.

Across several projects, we have seen significant increases in productivity. Yield increases for the newly introduced *Traveller* variety of malt barley in the Amhara region are enormous, with an average yield increase of 94%. Farmers produced on average 3,500 kg/hectare of *Traveller* variety compared to 2015 when the average production for the *Holker* variety was 1,800kg/hectare. Total yield of 700 tonnes is expected. An MoU was signed between three farmer cooperatives, Dashen brewery and woreda cooperative promotion office, and a floor price was set at

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

11,000 Ethiopian birr (€440) per tonne. This will mean an income of €300,000 for the cooperative members.

Seed sector development continues to be a major focus of our work in Ethiopia due to the importance of increasing access to quality seed for food and nutrition security. Our Climate Smart Agriculture project supported the Edget Seed Production and Marketing Union to pilot hybrid maize seed production using an irrigation scheme. This is a first for the Union and will be another landmark for Edget in playing a crucial role in addressing the critical seed shortages in Ethiopia. The pilot produced 120 tonnes of hybrid maize seed, which is sufficient to cover 240 hectares of land and produce 1,680 tonnes of grain. Maize seed production will increase diversification of the crop seeds produced by Edget, thereby increasing the profitability and sustainability of their seed business.

KENYA

The Kenya programme operates on the fringes of arid and semi-arid lands where the effects of climate change are acutely experienced by

smallholder farmers and their families. Unreliable rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells are common and 2016 was no exception, resulting in low yields in some of the areas in which we operate. Security risks remain a serious challenge for Kenya, with the main threat being posed by a Somalia-based Islamist group, al-Shabab. Economic growth will be one of the strongest in the region, averaging 5.9% annually.

Kilifi County, where we have the Walmart Foundation-funded Empowering Women Within the Cashew Value Chain project, has experienced three consecutive below average rainfall seasons. To mitigate this, the programme continues to focus on climate smart agriculture, drought-tolerant crops and diversified agriculture to ensure smallholder farmers become increasingly resilient to shocks, improving knowledge and skills on nutrition and gender equality. In the Kilifi project, 74% of women within the project have increased their decision-making power within the household and community, rising from 2.5 to 2.96 on the Voice, Choice and Control scale.

Our value chain work in the dairy sector means that 4,000 milk suppliers in Keringet County are now able to access

monthly price information through the bulk-SMS INFOBIP platform. Total turnover for the farmer owned company that GSHA supported to set up, Keringet Foods Limited, exceeded €1.27 million. Throughout 2016, SHA Kenya has continued to work on the cassava value chain. There are emerging opportunities for cassava as not only a food security crop, but also as a key commodity, with (through value addition), SHA playing a leading role with other stakeholders in the private and public sector in coordinated efforts to commercialise cassava. Ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture have led to SHA being invited to participate in the review of the national cassava strategy and the roots and tubers policy.

MALAWI

In 2016, for the second consecutive year, smallholder farmers in Malawi suffered the effects of a prolonged El Niño-induced drought. This greatly reduced the national harvest, leading to the second consecutive year of deficit maize production. Meanwhile, economic conditions remained precarious with high inflation, high food prices and limited opportunity for income-generating work. The food

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security of smallholder farmers in the country was further undermined by the appearance in late 2016 of the fall armyworm (spodoptera frugiperda), a moth species native to America. So far it seems that maize is the main crop attacked by it, and significant shortfalls in the harvest are expected.

To reduce the impact of El Niño and address poor crop performance, we have increased the number of activities targeting affected communities to further diversify their production and income base. In Balaka, we distributed poultry and goats on a pass-on scheme, to address communities' nutrition needs and also create an income safety net. We also promoted early maturing and drought resistant maize. In Karonga, SHA Malawi has been working in partnership with the International Potato Centre (CIP) in the promotion of orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP). The initiative is aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change through the provision of early maturing and high yielding OFSP vines.

Our flagship programme, DISCOVER, in Karonga district, built the resilience of

communities and households to climate-related disasters and was able to reach 14,612 households: 77% of them were involved in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) activities such as conservation agriculture, post-harvest management, crop diversification and irrigation; while 90% engaged in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) transformative interventions such as village savings and loans, livestock, natural resource based enterprises and natural resource management. Access to multiple livelihood options was a key element in the enhancement of household resilience.

SHA Malawi continued to facilitate the development of appropriate agriculture-related content for dissemination through mobile phone technology. These mobiles platforms, developed by three related ICT programmes, offer smallholder farmers on-demand access to best agricultural production techniques and nutrition advice on crops including maize, groundnuts, soybeans, dairy, pigeon peas, common bean, cassava, chicken, cowpeas, tomato, pumpkin leaves, and mushrooms. Support was also provided for the improvement of husbandry techniques on goats and poultry. The IT

service provided information on crops and livestock market prices and tailor-made information for government extension officers. Since October 2014, 1,164,782 callers (unique users) have accessed the messages on the 321 Platform and this number continues to increase.

Finally, as a result of the work under GSHA's Farm Enterprise Development for Food and Economic Security (FEDFES) project - which focuses on improving access to seed and establishing and strengthening farmer cooperatives - food security for targeted farmers has improved, with 77% of them now reporting 9 to 12 months food security. Smallholder farmers in Chitipa and Lilongwe increased their incomes by 10% and 18% respectively as a result of increased sales of soya and other legumes through a collective marketing and cooperative approach. The productivity of soya bean and other legumes increased by 34% and 26% in Chitipa and Lilongwe respectively, due to use of improved seed and better agronomic practices.

UGANDA

Uganda experienced two consecutive seasons of poor



Stephen Linga, Malela Village,
Northern Province, Zambia.

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rainfall leading to below average production and increases in staple food prices. The fall in production means many poor rural households eat just one meal a day. There were reports of hunger related deaths in the south west, north east and parts of northern Uganda. Government and development actors provided food aid in the affected districts.

While the areas where SHA Uganda intervenes have been affected by the drought, smallholders supported through our projects have successfully diversified their income from the production of honey and other products giving them an additional revenue stream.

An example of how beneficiaries of our programmes have outperformed others, an assessment of our work in Purongo in western Uganda on the Seed Enterprise Development project showed a 4% increase in beneficiary households' ability to meet their annual household minimum food energy requirement in 2016. Non-beneficiary households in the same district experienced an 8% decline in ability to meet minimum energy food requirement in 2016.

Likewise, in our innovative MANZO project focused on creating opportunities in agriculture for youth, we saw employment increase with 1,351 youths with jobs in promoted value chains during 2016 and production increases. Youths farming onion experienced an average increase in production of 33%, while those growing cabbages saw a 56% increase over the baseline. These improvements occurred, even though the weather was not favourable, due to timely planting and weeding coupled with climate smart agriculture practices like mulching.

While the five-year, USAID funded, Community Connector project on which SHA Uganda was the lead partner on agriculture and enterprise has ended, we are disseminating the learning and impact from our work both within Uganda and across our other country programmes. Our paper on the "Nutritionalisation of the Potato" that we produced in conjunction with Makerere University has been accepted by the Canadian based Journal of Sustainable Development for publication.

WEST AFRICA

In contrast to east and southern Africa, during 2016, Burkina

Faso, Ghana, Togo and Benin experienced very good rains – and only pockets of drought in a few areas – which allowed for good harvests and recovery.

In January 2016, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso was at the centre of a terrorist attack by Al Qaeda. The attacks resulted in the deaths of thirty people. Since then the security situation at the border with Niger and Mali has been tense and travel in those areas is highly discouraged by the UK Foreign Office.

The 2015 Presidential elections led to the establishment of a new Government in Burkina in 2016, while at the end of the same year the opposition won the elections in Ghana.

In **Burkina Faso**, more than 25,448 smallholder farmers received seed together with training and support particularly in relation to good agricultural practices to sustainably restore soil fertility. 19,200 producers - of which more than 18,500 were women - applied agricultural intensification techniques to improve production. These included: water and soil conservation, the use of improved agricultural inputs, and partial control of water. The application of these

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techniques led to improved cereal yields especially under the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project (focusing on sorghum and millet). Compared to the North Central region and the control groups, an increase of up to 35% was recorded for sorghum production and 37% for millet production.

2016 also saw the completion of a five-year EU-funded WASH programme. The initiative provided 36,900 people with access to safe drinking water through the drilling of 56 new boreholes and the repair of 67 existing ones. The project also provided 25,820 people with access to sanitation through improved latrines, of which 231 were ECOSAN latrines - allowing for the use of human waste as organic fertiliser to improve agricultural productivity. The project also informed 73,261 people on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

In **Benin**, despite poor yields this year throughout the country, production of raw cashew nuts per hectare was above 550 kg/ha for producers who had followed and applied the recommended practices. In the new project area, yields increased from 200 kg to 450 kg - an increase of more

than 125%. 145 producers organised themselves to sell their cashew nut harvest in bulk. During the year, crude cashew nuts experienced a surge in prices: from between 250 and 300 FCFA/kg at the beginning of the harvest season to between 650 and 800 FCFA/kg for the rest of the season. The good quality of cashew nut and the high quantity available through bulking allowed the farmers to sell their product to the highest bidder with prices up to 800F/kg.

In **Togo**, a Jersey Overseas Aid Commission funded project on increasing agricultural production and income for 3,332 smallholder farmers and their families came to an end in 2016 with all cooperative members having increased their yields for millet, sorghum, maize, soybean and rice. In 2016, overall seed production was estimated at 167.6 tonnes compared to 102.7 tonnes in 2015 representing an increase of approximately 63%. Regarding cereal production, it is estimated that a quantity of 2,661 tonnes will be harvested this year compared to 2,012 tonnes last year, resulting in an increase of 32%. In December, we signed a contract with the EU for a three-year water and sanitation project that will provide potable

water and sanitation to 20,000 people in the Savannah region in northern Togo.

In Ghana, we are working with 25,000 smallholder farmers on a project funded by the Walmart Foundation, to increase production of quality cashew nuts and empower producers within the value chain, linking them to private sector processes. The initiative, which has a particular focus on women, aims at empowering them through their involvement in the intercropping of vegetables with cashew and beekeeping.

ZAMBIA

The Zambian economy continued to struggle during 2016. In February, inflation reached 22.9% and between July 2015 and October 2016, the Consumer Price Index increased by 17%. The government introduced various adjustments such as reducing subsidies on fuel as part of negotiations to secure an IMF bailout but has yet to reach a final agreement. The general elections (presidential, parliamentary and local government) in August affected some activities, particularly in the Strengthening of Climate Resilience in Kafue Sub Basin (SCRiKA project) and the Irish Aid Local Development Programme (IALDP), especially

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in Luwingu where activities had to be postponed, to avoid any allegations of political association and reputational risk.

GSHA's largest programme, the Irish Aid Local Development Programme (IALDP) has continued to gain momentum and has exceeded the target of supporting 16,000 households. Evidence presented in a national dissemination workshop in October indicated that the programme interventions have started to yield the intended positive impacts. For example, members of saving and loan groups are showing that having access to finance enables them to invest in small business and agricultural ventures.

Many farmer members of the Livelihood Enhancement Groups (LEGs) have started making improvements to their houses and sending their children to school, while assessments indicate that 75% of mothers in the programme now feed and care for their infants and young children according to good practice, compared to less than 50% at baseline. Despite the high cost of a nutritious diet in the programme area, the Food Consumption Score survey conducted in June

2016 indicated that 86% of programme households have an acceptable dietary diversity compared to the baseline (2013) value of 57%. Assessments conducted in July and August 2016 showed that households engaged in cultivation of beans, groundnuts and soy beans recorded a 25% increase in average production levels above baseline values. There was a 40% increase in the number of chickens per household (from 8 chickens per household in 2015 to 15 - 20 chickens per household in 2016). The percentage of households reporting improved access to safe and clean drinking water within a 30-minute round trip (WHO standard measure) has increased from 23% in 2015 to 46% in 2016.

In Eastern Province, the country programme contributed to revitalising the goat value chain in three districts. The small livestock abattoir constructed in Chipata has had an almost immediate impact, with goat farmers indicating their plans to increase productivity and develop business plans around the goat meat trade. A total of 3,202 goats were sold in the year by 1,032 families at an

average price of 350 Zambian kwacha (€33), earning each family an average income of 1,085 Zambian kwacha (€102). The project also worked with Livestock Development Associations, and this work will contribute to developing strengthened structures to govern goat trading in the province, and in particular Chipata district.

ERITREA

GSHA has continued a small programme in Eritrea in partnership with the National Agricultural Research Institute of Eritrea (NARI), Agricultural Extension Department (AED), Vita and Teagasc to implement a community based potato seed development programme. The programme enabled NARI to produce five tonnes of disease free primary potato seed. A 370 tonne potato seed store was constructed. Access to improved seed has seen the average yield of 36 tonnes/ha from 380 hectares planted, resulting in 325 potato farmers accessing improved seed.

In November, Group CEO Ray Jordan attended a meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels hosted by MEP Brian Hayes and attended by Eritrean Foreign Minister Yemane Gebremeskel and Christine

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N. Umutoni UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative for Eritrea. The work of the consortium was commended by Brian Hayes during the meeting.

Our impact

Learning is one of our key values. We strive for the highest possible standards in our work and encourage a culture of constant learning and improvement.

In recent years, we have invested in improving our monitoring and evaluation systems, helping us to measure the impact of our work and communicate our results. We produced our “2012-2016 Impact Report” in early 2017 to communicate how our programmes were improving the lives of those communities with which we and our partners work. A key finding of the report was that in the period from 2012 to 2016, the percentage of households that had enough to eat throughout the year increased from 47% in 2012 to 78% in 2016. In addition, based on a sample of households, we identified an increase in disposable income of 248% and an increase in crop production of 25%.

These statistics are reflective of the quality of our programmes in each of our countries of operation.

Examples of other important metrics from our programmes during the period are:

- 89% increase in number of farmers diversifying their activities on our DISCOVER programme in northern Malawi.
- 22% increase in the number of 6 to 23-month-old children having three meals a day on our UCC programme in Uganda.
- 30% increase in the amount of improved wheat seed supplied by our partner Edget Seed Union to the SNNPR market in Ethiopia.
- 10,000 local dairy farmers positively affected by our work with KCSEED, our local partner in Keringet, Kenya.
- 28.5% increase in cashew production with our partner farmers on our cashew programme in Benin.

Advocacy

In 2016, Gorta-Self Help Africa engaged in several policy and advocacy

initiatives in Ireland, Africa and globally.

Key highlights include:

IN IRELAND:

Gorta-Self Help Africa played a leading role in the formation of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD), a consortium-based agricultural development initiative whose members include Irish Aid, the Department of Agriculture, Teagasc, NGOs and representatives from Irish academia. The Forum was formally launched on 13th October officiated by Mr Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for Diaspora and Overseas Development Aid, and saw the participation of senior representatives from Ireland and abroad. The Forum brings together actors from the agri-food sector to share knowledge and good practices for the benefit of agricultural development programming and policy in support of Ireland's development objectives.

IN AFRICA:

Several processes to which we had been contributing over the past years, came to a successful conclusion, among them the adoption of the new National Agriculture Policy

Foster Simeo, Malela Village,
Northern Province, Zambia.



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in Malawi and the National Extension Policy in Uganda. An example of our continued investment in the scaling up of best practice approaches was the adoption of the Edget Union model of Community-Based Seed Production throughout the Amhara region in Ethiopia.

AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

We participated in several fora which gave us the opportunity to bring the voice and interests of smallholder farmers to the attention of key players on relevant policy platforms. These fora included: the EU Development Days in Brussels; the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week in Addis Ababa; the Committee on World Food Security, in Rome (at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations / FAO) and the Partnership for Value meeting, also in Rome (at the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations/ IFAD).

Partnerships and funding sources

We recognise that we cannot achieve our vision on our own. It can only be

achieved through developing and working in long term partnership with local and national governments, local communities, other organisations, businesses and individuals who have complementary skills to our own. Meaningful partnership is central to our approach.

We collaborated with approximately 50 like-minded organisations in order to implement our work with a greater number of communities. We added complementary interventions to partners' ongoing programmes and, as a result, increased opportunities, and brought improved food and nutrition security to the areas in which we work. In 2016, we worked with a range of Irish organisations such as Concern Worldwide, GOAL, Vita and Teagasc among others, both in Ireland and in Africa.

Our partnership with Farm Africa in our DFID funded Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA) had another successful year up to its conclusion in December 2016, with the work of the consortium achieving a high A+ grading on final evaluation. Having established a strong relationship with Farm Africa

over the course of the PPA, we anticipate collaboration between the organisations to continue into the future.

We raise funds through a wide range of sources. We are indebted to Irish Aid, the UK Department for International Development, the European Union, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Walmart Foundation, the Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation, the Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust, a range of other trusts and foundations and the public for their generosity in supporting our work. The Big Lottery Fund and Jersey Overseas Aid Commission are major funders of the work of Self Help Africa UK and their support over the years has been invaluable.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in enabling us to achieve our goals in a manner that enables 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,

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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, 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 fundraising infrastructure, who have been a source of great strength and resilience over the years.

Development Education

Gorta-Self Help Africa's Development Education Unit delivered close to 400 workshops to approximately 8,000 students across Ireland in 2016. The team, comprising two staff and four contracted outreach facilitators, worked with teachers in secondary schools to deliver Development Education to transition year students in 90 schools.

Workshop topics focused on four areas central to GSHA's work: sustainable agriculture, coping with climate change/ climate justice, gender

equality, and the role of ethical trade in ending poverty. Resources were created, including infographics, short videos, interactive exhibitions, presentations and questionnaires. Our current 'Levelling the Field' exhibition illustrates the direct link between our work in Africa and in DE in Ireland.

A Climate Change Exhibition was presented in several schools during 2016. Minister for Overseas Development Joe McHugh launched the final book in our award-winning MDG series 'Twenty-Fifteen,' produced in collaboration with community groups in Donegal, concluding a six-year project that involved more than 25 schools, and the contributions of several hundred students, teachers and public figures.

The Development Education Unit coordinated a number of public engagement activities during 2016. These included exhibitions and activities at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition (BTYS), the Electric Picnic music festival, and at the National Ploughing Championships.

Nine short-listed projects from the BTYS expo in 2016 presented their projects at a mini-exhibition in GSHA's

offices. The winners of the BTYS award in 2016 joined close to a dozen teachers and students from four secondary schools on our annual Development Education schools study visit to Malawi in October. The winning students, from Salesian College, Celbridge, gave a presentation during this trip to science students at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, while the schools group were hosted by the Irish Ambassador to Malawi.

In August, the unit joined other Irish NGOs at a 1916 Centenary public open day hosted by Irish Aid at Baldonnel Aerodrome in Dublin, to commemorate the humanitarian work and legacy of 1916 martyr Roger Casement. The event was attended by tens of thousands of people.

We continued our pilot adult and community education partnership with Donegal Changemakers in 2016. This involved collaboration with Inshowen Development Partnership, Donegal Education Training Board, Donegal County Council, Age Action, Foróige and other local community groups. The Changemakers Annual Conference took place in May

Kalkidan Kiflu, Lume,
Woreda District, Ethiopia.



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where over 75 people from across Donegal participated, and a broad range of global development topics were discussed, from food waste and food security to the new Sustainable Development Goals. The Irish Aid-funded WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) programme, which Gorta-Self Help Africa manages as part of a consortium with Concern Worldwide and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board Curriculum Development Unit, had another successful year in 2016/17.

The WWGS Grants Committee has, to date, approved 462 grant awards (to schools, school networks and development education NGOs) to a cumulative value of €2,290,702. A further cycle of grant disbursements is scheduled for the summer of 2017, following the most recent heavily subscribed grant call, under which WWGS has maintained a consistent level of DE demand within the post-primary sector.

WWGS event highlights in 2016/17 included the (third) WWGS Annual Conference, which was held in Thomond Park, Limerick, in April. This was a learning, capacity-building and showcase event

for the work that has been achieved by schools, school networks and NGOs engaging with WWGS over the course of the school year. The event brought together over 330 students, 115 teachers and 70 professionals from 30 DE related organisations to explore the conference theme of ‘The Global Goals – Taking Action.’

In addition, the annual national teacher training event run by WWGS took place in Athlone in October, attracting 125 teachers from 113 post-primary schools all over Ireland. Throughout this training day, participants built a common best practice understanding of what DE is and how it can be incorporated into teaching and learning in schools.

The growth of the WWGS Global Passport Award in terms of popularity and use continued in 2016. 97 schools nationwide are now in receipt of a Global Passport, in recognition of their DE work and achievements. Alongside this, the WWGS Doing DE series of curricular resources was also expanded this year. The series, which supports the teaching of mainstream subjects utilising DE themes and approaches, now includes resources for junior cycle

English, Science, Business Studies and Digital Media Literacy, and preliminary work is underway for the next in the series, Visual Art.

Partner Africa

The Gorta-Self Help Africa subsidiary, Partner Africa (www.partnerafrica.org), is an international not-for-profit social enterprise and a pioneer in the field of ethical and socially responsible business practice that delivers high quality and innovative ethical trade services and trade development projects across Africa and the near east.

The key focus for Partner Africa in 2016 was to continue developing and improving structures and systems to drive its growth, deliver its social mission and attain financial sustainability based on the foundations that have been developing since 2012. This resulted in a net surplus of over €18,000 being generated in the year and a pipeline of work that looks set to ensure continued surpluses into the future.

Ethical auditing: The Audits and Assessment team completed 416 assignments in 2016,

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across 27 different African countries. This represents a 13% growth in social compliance audits. Partner Africa expanded services into 8 new countries in 2016 including Mali and Djibouti. Partner Africa's participatory ethical audits covered sites employing around 66,500 workers. Ethical audits were delivered on behalf of global brands in a range of sectors and industries including primary agriculture (sugar, horticulture, coffee, fruit), processing and manufacturing (beverage bottling, packaging, food and pet food manufacturing, textile) and service provision (transport, labour).

Training: During 2016 Partner Africa carried out three large training programmes. In Egypt, Partner Africa delivered training over a two-month period with chamomile producers on Rainforest Alliance standards. All producers gained Rainforest Alliance certification following the training.

In southern Africa, Partner Africa worked with a major international group to deliver training across nine bottling operations. This training equipped the facilities with the tools needed to implement the group's Human Rights Policy.

The Human Rights Policy is guided by international human rights principles encompassed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the United Nations Global Compact as well as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Consultancy and local research: In 2016, Partner Africa undertook a procurement consultancy with a major manufacturer. This resulted in increased understanding of responsible sourcing and ensured that audits are carried out; non-compliances are closed and provide the business with the capacity to offer after-audit support to ensure continuous improvement.

Other consultancies included topics such as worker safety and labour rights and a monitoring programme to ensure decent accommodation for 7,000 workers at a sugar mill. Research projects were undertaken on behalf of two multinational beverages companies on issues such as forced labour, child labour, land rights violations and the responsibilities of businesses in respecting land rights in their

supply chain under the UN Global Compact.

TruTrade

In 2016, Gorta-Self Help Africa continued to support Kenya based social enterprise TruTrade (www.trutrade.net). Its aim is to unlock the potential of African agribusiness to give smallholder farmers across Kenya and Uganda, a fairer share of the value of their produce.

It provides a secure trading and payment service that relies on innovative technology, for managing the aggregation of produce. This service links small-scale farmers to buyers with controls that enforce quality and transparency and embeds trust along the value chain. The result is efficient and reliable sourcing for buyers, business opportunities in rural communities and a better deal for farmers. TruTrade works in a range of commodities including sorghum, cassava, sesame seed, soya bean, sunflower seed, avocado and cotton, with farmers accessing local, regional and international markets. A clear example of TruTrade's impact on smallholder incomes is the fourfold increase

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for avocado farmers, whose produce made its way to the fair-trade market in Europe via Dutch distributor Eosta.

During 2016, TruTrade more than doubled its trading compared to 2015, sourcing produce worth just under \$500,000. So far, TruTrade has provided a market for over 6,000 farmer transactions; farmers together received over \$564,000, earning on average 34% more than they would have with traditional farm-gate traders. Business has taken place in 21 different commodities over 2015-2016. Total commissions generated across the network (i.e. franchisees, agents and TruTrade) have reached \$44,280. TruTrade earned \$11,200 in commissions during this period, in addition to \$14,285 in trading finance fees.

In 2016, GSHA, together with its US based affiliate SHA Inc has taken an equity stake of 51% in TruTrade as it builds on its initial success.

Public fundraising

2016 was a good year for our fundraising activities with the general public across Ireland and the UK, with

an increase of 4% to €4.4 million in income for the year. €3.3 million was raised from our regular givers who continue to be the bedrock of our support, providing the essential financial platform to leverage major institutional funding and enabling us to deliver quality programmes on the ground.

High points of the year include “The Race” (www.therace.ie), which has now become established as Ireland’s toughest endurance race. In only its second year, it built on the success of 2015 to attract a field of over 100 competitors to Donegal in March, with several thousand spectators lining the route in support.

Our “Strictly for Africa” dance competition in Dublin in May raised over €25,000 with over 500 guests in attendance. Several events run from our Shrewsbury office also raised significant funds, including the Secret Supper and the Ludlow Food Festival.

Our church-gate collections continued to be a valuable source of income with over €200,000 raised again in 2016. The performance of our Grow Fund income improved to over €164,000 thanks to our

supporters in the Irish farming community. We are grateful to our dedicated teams of collectors and for the continued generosity of our donors.

We are also indebted to a range of community trusts and foundations who supported our work including The Bishops Appeal, TOMAR Trust, Electric Aid, the Forum for Renewable Energy Charity, Thomas J. Horne Memorial Trust and the Greenwood Christian Trust among others.

Financial review

The financial results are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on page 69. The board are happy that the organisation is in a strong financial position.

Unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2016 stand at €7.9 million and are in accordance with the policy of maintaining unrestricted reserves of at least the equivalent of 12 months recurring unrestricted expenditure. A relatively conservative policy has been adopted in light of the current economic climate, however the Audit Finance and Risk

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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 31st December 2016 amounted to €8.1 million.
- Total voluntary funds raised in Ireland during 2016 amounted to €4.41 million and represents 23.6% of total consolidated income.
- €3.56 was raised for every €1 spent on fundraising.

Overall income levels for the year totalled €18.6 million, compared to €18.2m in 2015, an increase of 2.5%. Expenditure in 2016 amounted to €19.3m compared to €20.3m in 2015, a decrease of €1m, or 5%. The net outcome for the year after all charges was a reduction in unrestricted funds to €7.9m at 31 December 2016. This level of reserves is in line with the board approved reserves guidelines.

Going concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the

foreseeable future. Thus they continue 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.

Structure, governance and management

STRUCTURE

Gorta (trading as Gorta-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 Gorta UK and Self Help Africa UK and Self Help Africa is the sole member of Partner Africa. Gorta UK, Self Help Africa 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. Gorta UK is a

registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator under registration number SC 272970. 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. Gorta-Self Help Africa's charitable activities in the developing world are carried out in association with each of the group companies. Gorta-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 has determined that Gorta-Self Help Africa must comply with the basic principles outlined in the "Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance" (as produced by the Corporate Governance Association of Ireland; partnered with Dóchas). Over the course of the last number of years, the organisation has put in place the systems and structures to

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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 head the organisation. There is a clear distinction 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. The board has reviewed our governance structures and has determined that we are fully compliant with the Dochas Code.

The nomination of our 2015 Annual Report in the main category of the Good Governance Awards (www.goodgovernanceawards.ie) was a high point of 2016. This was the first year of these awards, and our nomination is an endorsement by the Irish not-for-profit sector of the effort that has gone into ensuring the quality of our reporting is of a very high standard and that this is backed up with robust systems of governance and financial control.

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 eight occasions in 2016 (12 in 2015). Details of attendance at the board meetings are set out below:

Tom Kitt	8/8
David Governey	8/8
Carmel Fox	8/8
Tom Kirley	7/8
Pat Murphy	7/8
Michael Hoevel	6/8
Paul Adams	5/8
Rowena Dwyer	3/5
Mairéad Carey	4/4
Marion Byrne	4/4
Claire Fourel	3/4
Eimear Kenny	2/4
Sean Gaule	4/4
Jeremy Woolwich	2/4

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 skills and experience, the Nominations Committee monitors succession planning for board membership. It makes recommendations to the board and membership with regard to 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.

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

As a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, Gorta-Self Help Africa reaffirms its commitment to best practice in the communication of images and messages in all our public policy statements.

As a signatory to the ICTRG Guiding Principles for Fundraising, Gorta-Self Help Africa confirms its commitment to its code of practice for fundraising in all forms.

Gorta-Self Help Africa is grateful for the work of many people in making the achievements of the past year possible. Our volunteers, partners, donors, boards of directors, trustees,

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

subcommittees and members have all played valuable and important roles, and we are grateful to each for their support and commitment. The public have been very generous in providing gifts in kind, particularly donations of items for resale through our network of charity shops in Ireland.

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 four times in 2016 (three times in 2015). The members of the committee in

2016 were David Governey (chairman, 4/4 meetings attended), Michael Butler (4/4), James Wyse (3/4), Colm Dennehy (3/4), Chris McDonald (3/4) and Paula Murray (2/4). Paula Murray stepped down from the committee at the end of 2016 having given nine years of valuable service and was replaced by Mairéad Carey.

PROGRAMME REVIEW COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the quality and depth of programme performance on behalf of the board and provides advisory support for management on the development and delivery of 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 once in 2016 (four times in 2015).

The members of the committee

are Pat Murphy (chairman) (1/1 meetings attended), Joe Phelan (1/1), Martin Flatley (1/1), Prof Adrian Wood (1/1), Prof Michael Mortimore (1/1), Val Ponder (1/1), Dr James Copestake (0/1), Bob Sherriff (0/1) and Anne Fitzgerald (0/1). The programme oversight function of the board is being restructured in 2017 with the Programme Review Committee split into two committees – the Food, Nutrition and Income Security Committee and the Agri-Enterprise Committee. The purpose of this change is to cater appropriately for the wide range of programme activities in our portfolio.

FUNDRAISING, COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

This committee has responsibility for reviewing and advising the board on the three key functions of fundraising, communications and advocacy. Its responsibilities are to ensure these functions are carried out in accordance with board approved policies and that they are consistent with the agreed strategic direction of the organisation as set out in the strategic plan.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The function of the Remuneration Committee is to devise and recommend

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

remuneration policy to the board for all Gorta-Self Help Africa staff.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The function of the recently-established Nominations Committee is to facilitate the ongoing process of board renewal, making recommendations to the board and membership, having identified skills gaps and appropriate and willing members who would have the potential to fill such gaps. All new directors co-opted to the board must go before the membership for election at the following AGM.

Risk management and internal controls

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of, the risks associated with the operating activities of Gorta-Self Help Africa. They 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 updated regularly and subject to detailed half-yearly reviews by the board. 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. During the year, new policies on transparency and conflict of interest were reviewed by the committee and approved by the board.

The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of Gorta-Self Help Africa's resources, safeguard Gorta-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. We have enhanced our policies relating to how we deal with fraud and corruption and how we create an environment where confidential reporting (whistle-blowing) of wrongdoing is normal. To this end, we have contracted an external service provider (ExpoLink) to whom reports can be made in confidence to enable issues reported to be investigated at the appropriate level.

Financial information is subject

to detailed review at director level allowing for continuous monitoring of Gorta-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.

Management and staff

We appreciate and acknowledge the role played by Gorta-Self Help Africa's staff, based in Ireland, the UK and in Africa. The ongoing growth of 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. Gorta-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.

Gorta-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

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

- 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, outlines the policy of Gorta-Self Help Africa in relation to the management of health, safety and welfare. Gorta-Self Help Africa management continuously monitors compliance in line with legislative requirements.

Future plans

As 2016 was a year of transition, with the organisation seeing through one-year funding extensions from Irish Aid and UK Aid (DFID), the board decided to move our new Strategic Plan time frame to 2017 – 2021. This Plan sets out an ambitious target: we want to support one million smallholder households by 2021.

We have three key aims for 2017-2021:

1. Improved food, nutrition and income security for smallholder farmers.
2. The development of inclusive, sustainable and profitable agri-business.
3. An improved policy environment for smallholder farmers.

In working towards our goals, we have developed a two-pronged approach that will see us expand our food, nutrition and income security work into more fragile areas (within existing countries of operation and in new countries), while in developing economies we will take a market-based approach working to build farmer enterprise and agribusinesses.

Building on our success in Ethiopia as part of the emergency seed committee set up in response to the El Niño crisis, we will respond to emergencies where appropriate – bridging the

gap between emergency and development work.

On the policy environment, we will advocate with and on behalf of farmers, using our position as experts in agricultural development to raise awareness of the needs of farmers and challenges they face.

This work is all underpinned by four cross cutting themes:

- **Gender and inclusion:** working to address inequalities in the communities where we work.
- **Youth:** specifically targeting and engaging young people in our programmes.
- **Climate Smart Agriculture:** increasing productivity sustainably and increasing resilience to climate change.
- **Innovation and technology:** using technological advances to the benefit of farmers.

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

Although 2017 will be a year focussing on new initiatives, from a financial point of view we are eager to ensure that we retain our financial stability for the medium to long term. Having had unrestricted deficits in 2015 and 2016 (years of investing in the organisation), we are aiming to breakeven on unrestricted income and expenditure in 2017. This should give us a solid platform to grow the organisation in order to achieve the objectives set out in our strategic plan.

We are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and are confident in our ability to deliver on the targets we have set.

Events since the financial year end

There have been no significant events affecting the group since the financial year end.

Political contributions

The group did not make any political contributions in the financial year (2015 - €nil).

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.

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31st December 2016 (contd.)

Directors and Secretary

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

Directors:

Tom Kitt (Chairman)
Carmel Fox
Tom Kirley
Pat Murphy
Michael Hoevel
Paul Adams
David Governey
Rowena Dwyer (appointed 25th March 2016)
Claire Fourel (appointed 4th July 2016)
Marion Byrne (appointed 4th July 2016)
Mairead Carey (appointed 4th July 2016)
Eimear Kenny (appointed 4th July 2016)
Jeremy Woolwich (resigned 4th July 2016)
Seán Gaule (resigned 4th July 2016)

Secretary: Malachy Cardiff

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.
- 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.

Auditors

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

Approved by the directors and signed on their behalf by:



Tom Kitt
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Date: 26th May 2017

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the 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 ("relevant financial reporting framework"). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those 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.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept, adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or net expenditure of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report 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. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Independent Auditors' Report

to the members of Gorta t/a Gorta-Self Help Africa

We have audited the financial statements of Gorta for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, the Company Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes 1 to 33. 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 ("relevant financial reporting framework").

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 auditors' 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.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

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. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2016 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Independent Auditors' Report

to the members of Gorta t/a Gorta-Self Help Africa (contd.)

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2016 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the financial year then ended.
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014 exception

- 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 company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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.



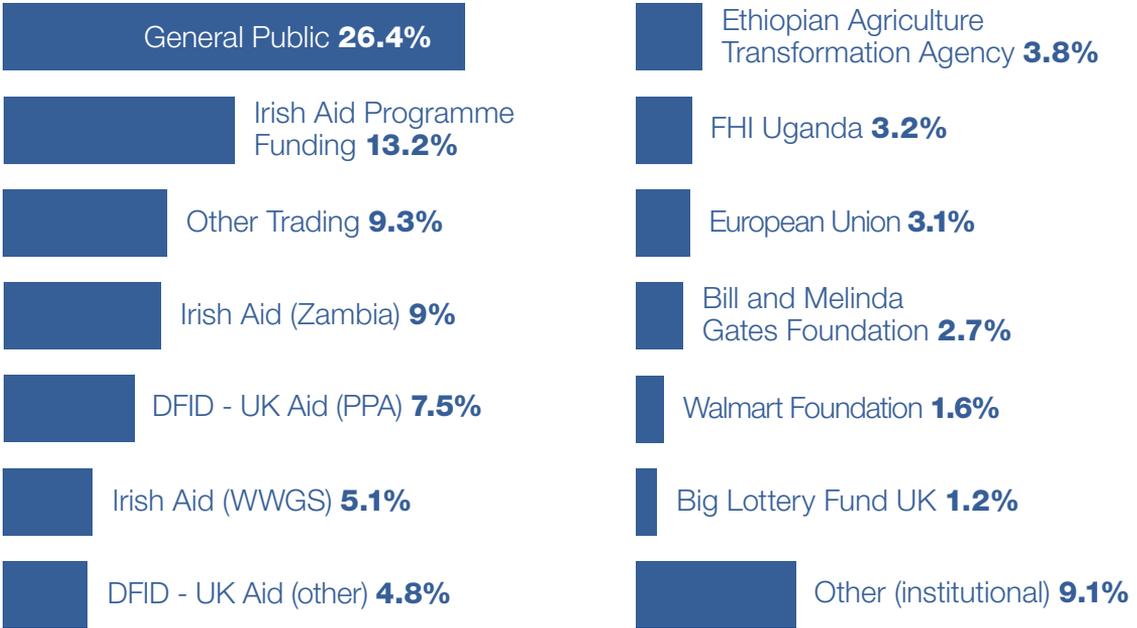
Margarita Martin

For and on behalf of Deloitte Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Dublin

Date: 7th June 2017

2016 in Figures

Our donors in 2016



Our charitable expenditure in 2016



Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st December 2016

		2016 Restricted Funds	2016 Unrestricted Funds	2016 Total	2015 Restricted Funds	2015 Unrestricted Funds	2015 Total
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€	€
INCOME FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	273,362	4,138,343	4,411,705	132,548	4,257,318	4,389,866
Charitable activities	4	10,108,868	1,877,145	11,986,013	8,893,029	2,796,268	11,689,297
Retail income	9	-	951,806	951,806	-	910,957	910,957
Other trading activities	5	117,684	1,092,342	1,210,026	116,295	1,007,675	1,123,970
Other	6	-	87,458	87,458	-	80,939	80,939
Total		10,499,914	8,147,094	18,647,008	9,141,872	9,053,157	18,195,029
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	7	10,226,352	6,785,840	17,012,192	9,950,762	7,646,092	17,596,854
Raising funds - Retail	9	-	946,466	946,466	-	964,190	964,190
Raising funds - Other	8	-	1,384,468	1,384,468	-	1,751,615	1,751,615
Total		10,226,352	9,116,774	19,343,126	9,950,762	10,361,897	20,312,659
Net income / (expenditure)	11	273,562	(969,680)	(696,118)	(808,890)	(1,308,740)	(2,117,630)
Other recognised gains / (losses)	12	(55,240)	(116,827)	(172,067)	23,318	62,023	85,341
Taxation	13	-	(3,902)	(3,902)	-	11,741	11,741
Net movement in funds	30	218,322	(1,090,409)	(872,087)	(785,572)	(1,234,976)	(2,020,548)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward	30	633,334	9,027,772	9,661,106	1,418,906	10,262,748	11,681,654
Total funds carried forward	30	851,656	7,937,363	8,789,019	633,334	9,027,772	9,661,106

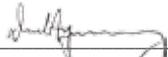
There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2016

	Notes	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	127,589	152,395
Current assets			
Short term investments	18	151,236	147,997
Cash at bank and in hand	19	8,068,793	9,203,186
Debtors	20	1,867,420	1,435,913
Stocks		3,519	3,518
		10,090,968	10,790,614
Creditors: Amounts due within one financial year	21	(1,301,566)	(1,111,248)
Net current assets		8,789,402	9,679,366
Total assets less current liabilities		8,916,991	9,831,761
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one financial year	22	(125,536)	(164,913)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		8,791,455	9,666,848
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds – restricted	30	851,656	633,334
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	30	7,937,363	9,027,772
Deferred capital grants	31	2,436	5,742
TOTAL FUNDS		8,791,455	9,666,848

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 26th May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:


Tom Kitt
 DIRECTOR


David Governey
 DIRECTOR

Company Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2016

	Notes	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	106,552	120,968
Current assets			
Short term investments	18	151,236	147,997
Cash in bank and at hand	19	6,913,503	8,320,925
Debtors	20	1,471,788	933,852
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one financial year	21	(1,099,684)	(860,463)
Net current assets		7,436,843	8,542,311
Total assets less current liabilities		7,543,395	8,663,279
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	22	(125,536)	(164,913)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		7,417,859	8,498,366
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds - restricted	30	220,360	355,342
Accumulated funds - unrestricted	30	7,195,063	8,137,282
Deferred capital grants	31	2,436	5,742
TOTAL FUNDS		7,417,859	8,498,366

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 26th May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



Tom Kitt
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31st December 2016

	Notes	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash used in charitable activities	28	(1,105,874)	(2,400,754)
Cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			
Interest received	6	22,676	80,939
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(51,195)	(56,183)
Proceeds on disposal of financial investments		-	46,952
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(28,519)	71,708
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		(1,134,393)	(2,329,046)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		9,203,186	11,532,232
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		8,068,793	9,203,186
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		8,068,793	9,203,186

Company Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31st December 2016

	Notes	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash used in charitable activities	28	(1,378,968)	(1,985,383)
Cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			
Interest received		22,461	60,272
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(50,915)	(37,759)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(28,454)	22,513
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		(1,407,422)	(1,962,870)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		8,320,925	10,283,795
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		6,913,503	8,320,925
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		6,913,503	8,320,925

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st December 2016

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

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

Gorta (t/a Gorta Self Help Africa) is a company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. The address of the registered office is First Floor, Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the report of the directors on pages 4 to 18.

- i. 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.
- ii. In prior financial years, companies not trading for gain for the members were not within the scope of company law requirements with regard to formats and content of financial

statements which applied to not-for-profit companies, thus permitting the adoption of a format appropriate to a charity. Accordingly, the organisation adopted and reported its performance in accordance with the format provided for in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" as published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. In particular, Gorta reports its performance for the financial year in the format of the SORP's Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

The Charity Commission for England and Wales, is recognised by the UK Accounting Standards Board (ASB) as the appropriate body to issue SORPs for the charity sector in the UK, and the SORP has heretofore been recognised as best practice for financial reporting by charities in Ireland.

The Companies Act 2014 became effective in law on 1 June 2015 and from that date applies the format and content of financial statements requirements

appropriate for a company trading for the profit of its members to a company that is a not-for-profit organisation such as Gorta. This would require Gorta for example, to present a profit and loss account and report on items such as turnover, cost of sales, profit or loss on ordinary activities before taxation, along with related notes. In the view of the directors this is neither an appropriate presentation nor terminology for a not-for-profit organisation.

In order to provide information relevant to understanding the stewardship of the directors and the performance and financial position of the charity, Gorta has prepared its financial statements in accordance with the formats provided for in the SORP consistent with the prior financial year.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015) "Accounting

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (contd.)

and Reporting by Charities”, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated for use in Ireland by the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland, effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2014.

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

Principles 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 and Gorta UK. The activities of all five companies are mutually interdependent.

Going concern

The organisation’s forecasts and projections, taking account

of reasonable possible changes in performance, show that the organisation 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 the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

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-Self Help Africa. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by Gorta-Self Help Africa.
- 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 are recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable 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 established with a reasonable amount of accuracy.
- vii. Other income reflects income earned by Partner Africa in respect of ethical trade related assignments

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (contd.)

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

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.

Expenditure on raising funds comprises all expenditure incurred by Gorta-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 confidence will be included in the financial statements.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation of fixed assets is provided on cost in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Shop fittings: 20%

Office furniture and computer equipment: 33.3%

Motor vehicles: 33.3%

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the directors.

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.

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.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charitable

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (contd.)

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:

i. Financial assets & liabilities

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 finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured 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 charitable company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charitable 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.

Capital Grants

Capital grants are transferred to a capital account in the year of receipt and amortised to the statement of financial activities at the same rates as the depreciation of the assets to which they apply.

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 Gorta-Self Help Africa 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/

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (contd.)

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 Gorta-Self Help Africa.
- 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.

In addition, a general reserve of €7million is specifically set aside to ensure the operation of the organisation for 12 months, based on historical running costs and programme expenditure.

Investment Policy

All cash balances for planned development 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.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible fixed assets including Goodwill are stated at cost less amortisation. The asset is amortised over a period of five years which is management's best estimate of the asset's useful economic life.

Acquisition Funding Reserve

The Acquisition Funding Reserve relates to a grant received for the purchase of the Ethical Business Services division of Africa Now. The reserve is released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the relevant assets purchased by five equal annual instalments.

Pension Scheme

The charity 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).

Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies (contd.)

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 balances 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.

Comparative Amounts

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified, where necessary, to ensure comparability with current financial year disclosure and to ensure compliance with SORP 2015.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

2. 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.

3. Donations and Legacies

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Committed giving	3,322,924	3,227,768
General donations	506,421	539,055
Legacies	170,499	223,708
Church gate collections and committee income	204,946	214,707
Grow Fund	164,487	148,977
Gift Aid refunds	42,428	35,651
TOTAL	4,411,705	4,389,866

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Charitable Activities

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Irish Aid	2,469,510	2,469,510
Irish Aid (Zambia Northern Province)	1,670,153	1,607,310
Irish Aid (WorldWise Global Schools)	945,630	975,625
Irish Aid (Ethiopia)	195,100	247,044
Department for International Development (UK) – PPA	1,396,048	2,331,286
Department for International Development (UK) – Other	895,977	705,142
Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency	707,403	124,655
FHI Uganda	588,243	853,515
European Union	582,226	133,406
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	501,766	-
Walmart Foundation	306,774	-
Big Lottery Fund (UK)	230,071	364,393
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	202,002	475,374
Millennium Challenge Account Malawi	189,207	62,363
African Agriculture Fund - Technical Assistance Facility	150,737	126,661
African Cashew Alliance	137,479	137,288
FHI Kenya	109,197	58,764
Irish League of Credit Unions	100,000	90,500
CRS Malawi	99,802	75,572
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (Zambia)	91,567	52,833
Vitol Foundation	81,142	81,628
Intersnack	66,147	60,951
McGill University	47,821	-
African Cashew Initiative	44,921	52,665
Eddie Roche	41,245	-
Food and Agriculture Organisation	32,549	124,939
CNFA Ethiopia	25,349	245,401
GSMA MAgrri Challenge Fund/Airtel Malawi	18,014	112,255
Oxfam Malawi	17,055	16,468
ICCO Terrafina Microfinance	15,000	35,000
International Potato Centre	11,559	7,466
Crop Innovations	9,865	-
International Seed Sector Development	6,454	7,004
Tullow Uganda/Traidlinks	-	25,301
Energy and Environment Partnership Kenya	-	20,876
Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International	-	8,102
TOTAL	11,986,013	11,689,297

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

5. Other Trading Activities

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Ethical audits	695,271	586,739
Campaigns, events and treks	514,755	537,231
TOTAL	1,210,026	1,123,970

6. Other

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Income from investments	22,676	80,939
Other income	64,782	-
TOTAL	87,458	80,939

7. Charitable Activities

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

	2016 Direct Costs €	2016 Support Costs €	2016 Total Costs €	2015 Direct Costs €	2015 Support Costs €	2015 Total Costs €
Agriculture production	4,684,543	508,764	5,193,307	4,775,924	628,797	5,404,721
Agribusiness development	5,516,627	598,796	6,115,423	5,511,470	725,638	6,237,108
Nutrition	146,596	15,911	162,507	146,879	19,338	166,217
Gender/Inclusion	93,941	10,196	104,137	94,813	12,483	107,296
Advocacy/Policy	581,268	63,089	644,357	525,219	69,150	594,369
Water, sanitation & health	1,540,118	167,159	1,707,277	1,510,815	198,913	1,709,728
Renewable energy	41,717	4,528	46,245	36,300	4,779	41,079
Partner capacity building	1,713,962	186,028	1,899,990	1,768,964	232,901	2,001,865
Development education	1,027,434	111,515	1,138,949	1,179,214	155,257	1,334,471
TOTAL	15,346,206	1,665,986	17,012,192	15,549,598	2,047,256	17,596,854

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

7. Charitable Activities (contd.)

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

	2016 Direct Costs €	2016 Support Costs €	2016 Total Costs €	2015 Direct Costs €	2015 Support Costs €	2015 Total Costs €
Zambia	3,240,568	352,039	3,592,607	3,434,107	452,313	3,886,420
Uganda	2,008,022	217,944	2,225,966	2,103,362	276,928	2,380,290
Ethiopia	2,340,777	254,060	2,594,837	2,243,790	295,417	2,539,207
Kenya	1,264,395	137,233	1,401,628	1,351,893	177,990	1,529,883
Malawi	1,880,600	204,114	2,084,714	1,623,698	213,776	1,837,474
West Africa	2,233,692	242,438	2,476,130	2,009,207	264,352	2,273,559
Ethical trade services/ enterprise development *	1,295,930	140,696	1,436,626	1,301,904	171,408	1,473,312
Tanzania	-	-	-	96,418	12,694	109,112
Rwanda	-	-	-	118,295	15,575	133,870
Eritrea	54,788	5,947	60,735	87,710	11,548	99,258
Development education Ireland	1,027,434	111,515	1,138,949	1,179,214	155,255	1,334,469
TOTAL	15,346,206	1,665,986	17,012,192	15,549,598	2,047,256	17,596,854

* This work is carried on in over forty countries throughout Africa.

8. Raising Funds - Other

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

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Staff costs	721,689	722,727
Fundraising & promotional expenses	523,635	845,307
Support costs	139,144	183,581
TOTAL	1,384,468	1,751,615

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

9. Retail Income and Expenditure

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Turnover from donated goods	951,806	910,957
Less costs:		
Operating expenses	(777,644)	(789,550)
Management expenses	(105,548)	(106,464)
Support costs	(63,274)	(68,176)
	(946,466)	(964,190)
Total net trading income / (expenditure)	5,340	(53,233)

Trading income represents income from the sale of donated goods through the charity's shops.

10. Support Costs

	2016 Charitable Activities €	2016 Fundraising /Retail €	2016 Total Costs €	2015 Charitable Activities €	2015 Fundraising /Retail €	2015 Total Costs €
Direct salaries	668,025	74,635	742,660	634,255	83,785	718,040
Foreign exchange (gain)/loss	(858)	-	(858)	128,840	-	128,840
Human resources	64,614	7,756	72,370	148,894	7,369	156,263
IT/computer	29,870	9,572	39,442	30,867	9,572	40,439
Postage, stationary & communications	35,168	14,501	49,669	54,540	17,922	72,462
Premises	94,058	38,302	132,360	161,727	36,269	197,996
Professional fees	158,770	2,864	161,634	118,127	3,608	121,735
Other support costs	193,690	12,313	206,003	157,895	21,808	179,703
Governance costs	247,187	24,841	272,028	276,719	32,289	309,008
Research/advocacy costs	175,462	17,634	193,096	335,392	39,135	374,527
TOTAL	1,665,986	202,418	1,868,404	2,047,256	251,757	2,299,013

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

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

11. Net Expenditure / Income

	Total 2016	Total 2015
	€	€
The net (expenditure) / income for the financial year is stated after charging /(crediting):		
Auditors' remuneration*	52,890	67,363
Depreciation	74,122	113,169
Amortisation of capital grants	(3,306)	(16,649)
Loss on fixed asset disposal	1,879	15,462
Amortisation of intangible asset	-	47,262
Acquisition reserve amortisation	-	(60,583)

*The auditors' remuneration fee is in respect of audit only and includes VAT. No amounts were paid to the auditors in relation to advisory, tax advisory or other assurance services.

12. Other Recognised Gains

	Total 2016	Total 2015
	€	€
Exchange (loss)/gain on consolidation	(175,306)	59,225
Gain on investment assets	3,239	26,116
TOTAL	(172,067)	85,341

13. Taxation

	Total 2016	Total 2015
	€	€
Tax has been provided for in the Kenyan branch of Partner Africa as follows:		
Deferred tax credit	(3,902)	11,741

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.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

14. Staff Costs

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Ireland and United Kingdom		
Wages and salaries	3,645,990	3,822,158
Social welfare costs	359,093	369,832
Pension costs	184,472	214,541
Sub total	4,189,555	4,406,531
Programme staff in countries of operation		
Wages and salaries	2,262,208	2,250,442
Social welfare costs	49,026	40,266
Pension costs	199,777	180,623
Sub total	2,511,011	2,471,331
Total staff costs	6,700,566	6,877,862

The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:

	2016 Number	2015 Number
Ireland and United Kingdom	101	99
Programme staff in countries of operation	180	162
	281	261

No employee of the group acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Group Chief Executive comprised salary of €112,750 (2015: €112,750) plus 6.5% employer pension contribution.

The number of employees whose salaries (excluding employer pension contributions) were greater than €60,000 were as follows:

	2016 Number	2015 Number
€60,001 - €70,000	7	5
€70,001 - €80,000	5	5
€80,001 - €90,000	-	2
€90,001 - €100,000	1	-
€100,001 - €110,000	-	-
€110,001 - €120,000	1	1

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

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 group board and subsidiary boards that were either borne by the board or reimbursed to the relevant board members amounted to €10,321 in 2016 (2015: €12,472).

In addition board members may periodically visit one of the group's countries of operation in order to ensure that they are familiar with Gorta-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 €7,197 in 2016 (2015: €4,193).

16. Key Management Compensation

The total remuneration for the group key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €347,089 (2015: €442,393). 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	Shop Fittings €	Furniture and equipment €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 st January 2016	222,689	234,828	257,793	715,310
Additions	26,494	17,401	7,300	51,195
Disposals	-	(3,500)	-	(3,500)
Exchange gain on consolidation	-	(9,111)	856	(8,255)
At 31st December 2016	249,183	239,618	265,949	754,750
Depreciation				
At 1 st January 2016	145,990	168,587	248,338	562,915
Charge for financial year	31,194	38,470	4,458	74,122
On disposal	-	(2,041)	-	(2,041)
Exchange loss on consolidation	-	(8,549)	714	(7,835)
At 31st December 2016	177,184	196,467	253,510	627,161
Carrying Amount				
At 31st December 2016	71,999	43,151	12,439	127,589

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

17. Fixed Assets (contd.)

In respect of prior financial year:

Fixed Assets - Group	Shop Fittings €	Furniture and equipment €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 st January 2015	270,296	505,707	252,289	1,028,292
Additions	-	46,543	9,640	56,183
Disposals	(47,607)	(320,958)	(3,749)	(372,314)
Exchange gain on consolidation	-	3,536	(387)	3,149
At 31st December 2015	222,689	234,828	257,793	715,310
Depreciation				
At 1 st January 2015	156,417	428,935	218,437	803,789
Charge for the financial year	28,316	50,906	33,947	113,169
On disposal	(38,743)	(314,437)	(3,672)	(356,852)
Exchange loss on consolidation	-	3,183	(374)	2,809
At 31st December 2015	145,990	168,587	248,338	562,915
Carrying Amount at 31st December 2015	76,699	66,241	9,455	152,395

Fixed Assets - Company	Shop Fittings €	Furniture and equipment €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 st January 2016	222,689	121,783	226,762	571,234
Additions	26,494	17,121	7,300	50,915
Disposals	-	-	(3,500)	(3,500)
At 31st December 2016	249,183	138,904	230,562	618,649
Depreciation				
At 1 st January 2016	145,990	77,811	226,465	450,266
Charge for financial year	31,195	29,915	1,013	62,123
On disposal	-	-	(292)	(292)
At 31st December 2016	177,185	107,726	227,186	512,097
Carrying Amount at 31st December 2016	71,998	31,178	3,376	106,552



Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

17. Fixed Assets (contd.)

In respect of prior financial year:

Fixed Assets - Company	Shop Fittings €	Furniture and equipment €	Motor Vehicles €	Total 2015 €
Cost				
At 1 st January 2015	270,296	402,554	226,762	899,612
Additions	-	37,759	-	37,759
Disposals	(47,607)	(318,530)	-	(366,137)
At 31st December 2015	222,689	121,783	226,762	571,234
Depreciation				
At 1 st January 2015	156,417	350,465	198,751	705,633
Charge for financial year	28,316	39,940	27,714	95,970
On disposal	(38,743)	(312,594)	-	(351,337)
At 31st December 2015	145,990	77,811	226,465	450,266
Carrying Amount				
At 31st December 2015	76,699	43,972	297	120,968

18. Short Term Investments

Group and company:

Investments relate to a bequest of shares, the market value of which at 31st December 2016 was €151,236 (2015: €147,997).

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

19. Cash at Bank and in Hand

a) Group	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
By fund designation:		
Restricted	98,645	355,342
Unrestricted	7,970,148	8,847,844
	8,068,793	9,203,186
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	1,102,408	1,485,147
Current accounts	6,935,762	7,603,206
County committee accounts	19,396	106,182
Petty cash	11,227	8,651
	8,068,793	9,203,186
b) Company		
	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
By fund designation:		
Restricted	98,645	355,342
Unrestricted	6,814,858	7,965,583
	6,913,503	8,320,925
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	536,815	1,325,450
Current accounts	6,349,170	6,882,836
County committee accounts	19,396	106,182
Petty cash	8,122	6,457
	6,913,503	8,320,925

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

20. Debtors

a) Group	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Due from Self Help Africa Inc (Note 33)	76,202	71,601
Tax refunds on donations receivable	80,513	297,217
Prepayments and other debtors	603,022	632,622
Concessionary loan (Note 27)	76,648	88,731
Accrued income	1,031,035	345,742
	1,867,420	1,435,913

b) Company	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Amount due from subsidiaries	895,558	349,398
Due from Self Help Africa Inc (Note 33)	76,202	71,601
Tax refunds on donations receivable	36,701	84,323
Prepayments and other debtors	429,268	412,499
Accrued income	34,059	16,031
	1,471,788	933,852

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

21. Creditors (Amounts falling due within one financial year)

a) Group	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Trade creditors and accruals	1,058,259	894,352
Deferred revenue	84,154	42,199
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43,117	48,487
VAT liability	663	6,896
Pension liability	22,792	14,466
PAYE/PRSI liability	92,581	104,848
	1,301,566	1,111,248

b) Company	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Trade creditors and accruals	958,468	710,696
Pension liability	15,890	10,837
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43,117	48,487
PAYE/PRSI liability	82,209	90,443
	1,099,684	860,463

22. Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one financial year)

a) Group and Company	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	125,536	164,913

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

23. Financial Instruments

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

Financial Assets

Measured at undiscounted amount receivable

a) Group (Note 20)	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	76,202	71,601
Concessionary loan (Note 27)	76,648	88,731
Accrued income	1,031,035	345,742

b) Company (Note 20)	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Amount due from subsidiaries	895,558	349,398
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	76,202	71,601
Accrued income	34,059	16,031

Financial Liabilities

Measured at undiscounted amount payable

a) Group (Note 21 and 22)	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Trade creditors and accruals	1,058,259	894,352
Deferred revenue	84,154	42,199
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43,117	48,487

b) Company (Note 21 and 22)	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Trade creditors and accruals	958,468	710,696
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43,117	48,487

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

24. Commitments

At 31st December 2016 the company had total future minimum commitments under non cancellable operating leases as follows::

	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Expiry date:		
1 year	232,387	93,000
Between 2 and 5 years	190,002	180,157
Over 5 years	52,650	154,229
Group total	475,039	427,386

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 €184,472 (2015: €214,541).

Balance outstanding at financial year end €22,792 (2015: €14,466)

26. Onerous Contract

Provision has been made in the financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2016 in respect of a property lease where the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the lease exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it. This excess of costs over benefits has been calculated at €168,653 (2015: €213,400) of which €43,117 (2015: €48,487) is expected to arise within one year and €125,536 (2015: €164,913) after one year.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

27. Concessionary Loan

A concessionary loan was advanced by Self Help Africa (UK) to TruTrade in 2015. The carrying amount of the concessionary loan was £65,387 at 31st December 2016. The loan was advanced exclusively for the purposes of liquidity support for trading transactions and not, for the avoidance of doubt, for any operational support. At the close of each calendar year, the charitable company shall consider whether to continue with this investment. In the event that the charitable company decides not to liquidate its investment, it shall continue to be used by TruTrade for the same trading finance purposes, and under the same terms. In the event that the charitable company decides to liquidate this investment, the full investment minus any incurred trading losses shall be returned to the charitable company within 90 days of communicating that decision to TruTrade's company secretary. There is no interest charged on the loan and no security provided.

Self Help Africa (UK) has not committed to any further concessionary loans as at 31st December 2016.

28. Reconciliation of Net (Expenditure) to Net Cash Outflow from Charitable Activities

GROUP	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Net (Expenditure)/Income for the Reporting Year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(696,118)	(2,117,630)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	74,122	113,169
Amortisation of capital grants	(3,306)	(8,592)
Amortisation of purchased goodwill	-	47,262
Amortisation of acquisition funding reserve	-	(60,583)
Loss on fixed asset disposal	1,879	15,462
Exchange gain on consolidation	(175,674)	59,225
Exchange gain on deferred tax asset	(715)	(2,680)
Exchange loss/(gain) on consolidated fixed assets	420	569
(Increase)/decrease in financial assets	(3,239)	12,493
(Increase) in stock	(1)	(707)
(Increase) in debtors	(431,507)	(203,872)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors- amounts due within one year	190,318	(134,352)
Decrease in creditors- amounts due over one year	(39,377)	(39,579)
Interest received	(22,676)	(80,939)
Net Cash used in Charitable Activities	(1,105,874)	(2,400,754)

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

28. Reconciliation of Net (Expenditure) to Net Cash Outflow from Charitable Activities (contd.)

COMPANY	Total 2016 €	Total 2015 €
Net Expenditure for the Reporting Year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,077,201)	(2,205,292)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	62,123	95,970
Adjustment for capital grants	(3,306)	5,742
Loss on fixed asset disposal	3,208	14,800
(Increase) in short term investments	(3,239)	(30,362)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(537,936)	325,771
Increase/(decrease) in creditors- amounts due within one year	239,221	(92,161)
Decrease in creditors- amounts due over one year	(39,377)	(39,579)
Interest received	(22,461)	(60,272)
Net Cash used in Charitable Activities	(1,378,968)	(1,985,383)

Sambiani Telate,
Tigba Kidi womens corporation, Togo.



Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

29. Legal Status of the Company

Gorta's consolidated financial statements combine the activities of Gorta in Ireland, Self Help Africa (UK), Gorta UK and Partner Africa. 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 income (expenditure) for the year €	Funds of the charity at the year end €
Gorta	(1,252,508)	7,417,859
Self Help Africa (UK)	352,805	990,956
Partner Africa	19,228	191,451
Gorta UK	8,388	191,189
Group total	(872,087)	8,791,455

30. Funds of the Charity

Group

(i) Reconciliation of funds <i>(excluding deferred capital grants)</i>	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
Fund balance at 1 st January 2016	633,334	9,027,772	9,661,106
Net expenditure for the year	218,322	(1,090,409)	(872,087)
Fund balances at 31st December 2016	851,656	7,937,363	8,789,019

(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds <i>(including deferred capital grants)</i>	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Balance 31/12/2016 €
Tangible Fixed Assets	98,645	28,944	127,589
Current Assets	753,011	9,337,957	10,090,968
Liabilities	-	(1,427,102)	(1,427,102)
Total funds	851,656	7,939,799	8,791,455

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

30. Funds of the Charity (contd.)

Group

(iii) Movements in funds: <i>(including deferred capital grants)</i>	Balance as at 01/01/2016 €	Income & Endowments €	Expenditure €	Balance 31/12/2016 €
Restricted funds	633,334	10,499,914	(10,281,592)	851,656
Unrestricted funds	9,027,772	8,147,094	(9,237,503)	7,937,363
Deferred capital grants	5,742	-	(3,306)	2,436
Total funds	9,666,848	18,647,008	19,522,401	8,791,455

Company Only

(i) Reconciliation of funds: <i>(excluding deferred capital grants)</i>	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
Fund balance at 1 st January 2016	355,342	8,137,282	8,492,624
Net expenditure for the year	(134,982)	(942,219)	(1,077,201)
Fund balances at 31st December 2016	220,360	7,195,063	7,415,423

(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds: <i>(including deferred capital grants)</i>	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Balance 31/12/2016 €
Tangible Fixed Assets	98,645	7,907	106,552
Current Assets	121,715	8,414,812	8,536,527
Liabilities	-	(1,225,220)	(1,225,220)
Total funds	220,360	7,197,499	7,417,859

(iii) Movements in funds: <i>(including deferred capital grants)</i>	Balance as at 01/01/2016 €	Income & Endowments €	Expenditure €	Balance 31/12/2016 €
Restricted funds	355,342	7,568,055	(7,703,037)	220,360
Unrestricted funds	8,137,282	5,511,183	(6,453,402)	7,195,063
Deferred capital grants	5,742	-	(3,306)	2,436
Total funds	8,498,366	13,079,238	(14,159,745)	7,417,859

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

31. Deferred Capital Grants

	Total 2016 €
Cost	
At 1 st January 2016	37,522
Exchange loss on consolidation	(3,230)
At 31st December 2016	34,292
Amortisation	
At 1 st January 2016	31,780
Amortised for the year	3,306
Exchange gain on consolidation	(3,230)
At 31st December 2016	31,856
Net book value	
At 31st December 2016	2,436
At 31 st December 2015	5,742

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. Gorta earned investment income of €3,239 in 2016 (2015: €80,939). 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.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

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 €621,615 of restricted income received (2015: € Nil) and €117,684 of voluntary income raised (2015: €90,519) to Gorta-Self Help Africa projects. Total amounts granted by SHA Inc. to Gorta t/a Gorta Self Help Africa of €739,299 (2015: €90,519) have been included in the accounts of Gorta t/a Gorta Self Help Africa under income and endowments and expenditure. A balance of €76,202 remained outstanding at 31st December 2016 (2015: €71,601) represented by a loan repayable by Self Help Africa Inc. to Gorta t/a Gorta Self Help Africa.

Donald Kalipo, Nambazo village,
Balaka District, Malawi.





Ethel Khundi and her daughter Memory,
Whunachu village, Malawi.

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

