

EducAid Sierra Leone

**Trustees Report and Accounts for the
Year Ended 31st August 2008**

Charity Number 1048012

Trustees Report for the year ended 31st August 2008

Significant Information

The Trust was established under a constitution dated 12th February 1995.

The Trustees are:

Title	Name	Occupation	Home
Chairman	James Boardman	Paediatrician	London
Secretary	Swithun Mason	Accountant	Jersey
	Mark Wallace	Vicar	Guildford

Country director

Mrs Miriam Mason-Sesay is the country director and an employee of the Trust. She has overall responsibility to the Trustees for curriculum design and quality, teacher training, project management and administration in Sierra Leone.

Volunteer fundraisers and administrative assistants

Mrs Janet Langlois, Mrs Janet Broadhurst, Ms Anne Hewlett

Advisors

Bankers	Barclays PLC, Bloomsbury and Tottenham Ct Rd Branch
Accountant	Simon Burrow, ACA
Principal Office	89 West Street, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex, HA1 3EL

Trustees responsibility for the accounts

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year. In addition the trustees are responsible for keeping proper records, which are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose the financial position of the trust with reasonable accuracy at any point in time.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Aims of EducAid Sierra Leone

1. To provide Christian education for Sierra Leoneans through permanent Christian establishments wholly funded by the charity.
2. To make education available to people who cannot afford it themselves.
3. To encourage personal and societal responsibility for development.
4. To recruit, train and employ Sierra Leonean staff
5. To be financially efficient, transparent and accountable to donors and beneficiaries for all resources.
6. To spread awareness of poverty issues in West Africa among its donors and contacts.

Progress, Achievements, Financial Activities and Affairs

Year Ending August 31st 2008

EducAid provides free education, and shelter if required, to under-privileged young people in Sierra Leone. The demands for our services are vast because there is no free provision of education by the State, and large numbers of ex-combatants and dispossessed persons have sought to resume learning as a means of escaping poverty.

EducAid runs four schools in Sierra Leone, under the direction of Mrs Miriam Mason-Sesay. Three schools teach the secondary level curriculum and one is an infant school. The flagship school in Lumley, Freetown teaches to junior secondary level (Basic Education Certificate Examination, BECE) and senior secondary level (West African Senior Secondary Certificate Exam, WASSCE); and there are junior secondary schools in Magbeni and Rolal.

During the year EducAid took on the funding of an established infant school in Maronka. This was founded, funded and run by Mrs Mason-Sesay. However the ethos of the school and the aims of the educational programme are consistent with those of EducAid, so the Trustees gave unanimous support to adding it to the EducAid portfolio.

We employ thirty-two teachers across four sites. Eight are women, whose role is to promote the recruitment and retention of female students, and nine are talented ex-EducAid graduates who earn a salary while seeking sponsorship to tertiary level. The remainder are Sierra Leonean qualified teachers. EducAid is unique in offering a structured programme of professional development to all staff.

We began to teach the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Exam (WASSCE) to our BECE (Basic Education Certificate Examination) graduates during 2006, and our students have achieved among the best results nationally for the third year

running. Five students gained entry to university in Sierra Leone this year. Our students continue to achieve pass rates in BECE that far exceed the national average.

A broad extra-mural programme was implemented during the year designed to widen the educational experience: an enquirers club (philosophy and critical thinking); an enrichment programme; a peer mediation programme; and community service. These are popular activities.

We recognize that one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty in deprived communities is to educate women, and yet there are significant challenges in recruiting and retaining female students. We began to address these issues through a 'Women's Project', established in February 2007. Currently eight female teachers are employed to work with girls who have dropped out of education or failed the entrance exam. The teachers explore the reasons behind education failure and offer support when needed; they run extra sessions for female students and reach out into the community to promote education and recruitment of women.

The EducAid School in Freetown accommodates approximately 120 students who have no homes in Freetown.

We are grateful to a number of British and American volunteers who have worked with Miriam and the team over the year, and to the Governors who have provided valuable advice over several matters.

EducAid has gained media publicity in the following ways:

1. BBC's Outlook from the World Service (<http://cidfdb6698fe5b17397.skydrive.live.com/browse.aspx/Outlook/>);
2. Shattered Magazine Mar-Apr 2007 ([http://www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/375/403/2233/2/68/0/Sierra Leone Story](http://www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/375/403/2233/2/68/0/Sierra%20Leone%20Story)).
3. Live radio interview with Miriam Mason Sesay on Radio 4's Midweek (24th December 2008)
4. Feature in Mail on Sunday colour supplement, 21st September 2008

Plans: September 2007 - August 2008

1. To increase the number of students sitting BECE and WASSCE at the school in Lumley, and to increase the numbers sitting BECE at the schools in Rolal and Magbeni in June 2009.
2. To seek funding for a resource centre up country so that BECE graduates from Magbeni and Rolal would not all need to relocate to Freetown to continue education.
3. To deepen the quality of education by extra investment in staff development.
4. To seek sponsorship for talented WASSCE graduates to attend university.
5. To develop partnerships with UK schools.

6. To continue to improve recruitment and retention of female staff and students in all EducAid schools.
7. To offer courses of instruction in Christianity and facilitate baptism for those pupils who request it.

The above report was approved by the Trustees on:

And was signed on their behalf by:

*Dr James Boardman
Chairman*

Independent Examiners Report

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st August 2008, which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Simon Burrow

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

Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

47 Leslie Road

East Finchley

London, N2

Receipts and Payments Account

(Currency - £ Sterling)

	Year ended 31.08.08	Year ended 31.08.07
RECEIPTS		
Donations and grants		
Gift Aid (inc. Income Tax Recoverable)	63,962	57,052
Other donations	85,584	98,119
	149,545	155,172
Investment income		
Bank interest received	18	8
	149,563	155,180
PAYMENTS		
Direct charitable expenditure		
On work in West Africa	137,289	116,144
Other expenditure		
Fund raising	211	59
	137,500	116,203
NET RECEIPTS/(EXPENDITURE)	12,063	38,977

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Currency - £ Sterling)

	As at 31.08.08	As at 31.08.07
Fixed Assets	10,786	15,187
Bank Accounts	67,413	64,381
Debtors		
Income tax recoverable	35,812	22,380
NET ASSETS	<u>114,011</u>	<u>101,948</u>
Trust fund movements		
Balance brought forward	101,948	62,972
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	12,063	38,977
Balance carried forward	<u>114,011</u>	<u>101,948</u>

10 Year Summary: Key Indicators

Currency - £ Sterling)	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Revenue</i>	12,704	25,525	28,321	32,827	49,401	88,219*	74,818*	106,898	155,180	149,563
<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	5,424	6,831	2,449	- 11,639	13,813	26,361	-17,104	34,117	38,977	12,063
<i>Net Assets</i>	8,111	14,942	17,391	5,752	19,565	45,926	28,822	62,972	101,948	114,011

*2005 including £11,701 (2004: £35,049) of exceptional restricted contract revenue.
2005 unrestricted revenue is £63,117 (2004: £53,170)

Accounting policies

The accounts are prepared on the historic cost basis of accounting.

Revenue is recognised in the accounts when it is received, with the exception of Income Tax recoverable on covenanted income, which is recognised when the covenanted receipts are received.

Gifts in kind, which consist of second hand books, teaching materials and second hand computers, are not ascribed a financial value in these accounts as value is negligible.

Vehicles purchased are capitalised as fixed assets to be straight-line depreciated over 3 years to a prudently estimated residual value.