

Semiliki Trust
Trustee's Annual Report: 2016/17

Charity Name: Semiliki Trust

Registration Number: 1138989

Address:

The Courtyard, Higher Lovelynch, Milverton, Somerset, TA4 1NP

Trustees:

Jonathan Saunders (Chair), Peter Pearson (Treasurer), Katherine Goodacre, Robert Wendover

Structure, Governance and Management:

Semiliki Trust was established in 2010. A copy of its constitution is available on request.

The Trustees of the Semiliki Trust are responsible for maintaining the direction, Integrity, probity and prudence of the Trust. The Trustees meet twice a year as a minimum and these meetings are Chaired by Jonathan Saunders who has overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trustees fulfil their functions and the Trust runs smoothly.

The Trustees have responsibility for management, administration and governance as well as ensuring that activities are consistent with the overall objectives of the Trust.

The Trustees ensure there is financial accountability and that accounts are audited to required standards.

The Trustees ensure compliance with charity law.

The Trustees are supported by an **Advisory Board** who provide professional expertise and advice to the Trustees. Principle members of this board are Dr Nigel Pearson, Dr Tim Goodacre, and Simon Cockerill. Whilst members of the advisory board are welcome to attend meetings their contribution can also be through informal communication with Trustees and other board members, generating ideas and following through activities that benefit the growth of the Trust

Financial Review

A copy of the financial report for 2016/17 is attached to this annual report. Semiliki Trust continues to hold all projects to account for all funds received as this is a principle of the Trust that money is targeted directly to those who need it most. Where accounts are not provided following the making of a grant, then the next tranche of the grant is held back until this is received. This practice is encouraging good practice in keeping accounts by those running

projects in the parts of Democratic Republic of Congo that are supported by Semiliki Trust.

All Trustees and members of the advisory board are volunteers and all travel and administrative costs are met by the advisors or Trustees enabling every pound donated to go where it is most needed.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees of Semiliki Trust continue to have due regard for public benefit at all times in the exercise of their duties.

Objectives and Activities:

Semiliki Trust remains a small charity. It has been established to:

Relieve sickness and human suffering and to promote health.

Prevent and relieve poverty.

Advance religion and promote reconciliation.

It achieves these aims through its support for entrepreneurial projects, primarily in The Democratic Republic of Congo, with whom its members have a personal contact. The projects include a network of 50 health Centres and hospitals, an orphanage and a graduate nursing institute

The Trust provides resources to local leaders and social entrepreneurs who have initiated projects that will build the capabilities of local people and allow them to transform their lives. The Trust channels resources to the people in the most efficient and cost effective way.

Achievements and Performance:

Dr Nigel Pearson was able to visit a number of the Semiliki Trust projects again this year. His regular visits provide personal support for those in DRC working hard to improve the lives of the people there and have been invaluable in terms of reviewing the work of Semiliki Trust in DRC and the forthcoming priorities for the Trust's work.

Here is a brief overview of some of the projects supported by The Trust this year and developments achieved through this support:

The Compassion orphanage: Semiliki Trust has continued to support the compassion orphanage in Butembo this year. The work of building a new centre has progressed well with one block now completed and all the children have now moved out of the old building. Demand for places at the orphanage continues to rise and work is progressing on further blocks. Semiliki Trust continues to work closely with CMS Ireland and CongoAid in Australia who also support this project to co-ordinate support. Work has progressed on ensuring transparency around how the Orphanage is supported and an effective channelling of resources.

Semiliki Trust has continued to support **5 medical coordination Teams** and the supervision for the medical coordinators. This covers financial supervision and audit and also technical support. The support for the medical coordinators is seen as a key investment by Semiliki Trust as it contributes to improving medical standards in maternal care, child care, vaccination programmes, and improving financial accountability.

Semiliki Trust has also continued to provide regular grants to health centres at Bukuringi and Cirunga, the Nursing Institute at Aru and a Women and Children's Centre in Goma, supporting excellent and effective Congolese partners.

St Matthieu Operating Theatre. Semiliki Trust is delighted to be able to support the building of a new Operating Theatre in Bukavu. This is a very significant project, the largest single project that Semiliki Trust has undertaken. It will greatly improve levels of care in the area, particularly of maternal health through the provision of safe caesarean section operations. Our supporters have overwhelmed us with their generosity in giving specifically for this project and this year has seen the operating theatre building completed, equipped and now running effectively. A particularly important contribution to the project was made by Arup, providing technical guidance and the local engineer under their self funded Community Engagement programme. This has been hugely appreciated.

Children's Bibles: Semiliki Trust was able to purchase 1500 children's bibles for distribution amongst the diocese of Eastern DRC that are supported by Semiliki Trust. This was the result of some dedicated fundraising by a church in Somerset. The bibles have been printed, shipped to Kampala and are awaiting collection and distribution now into Eastern DRC

Communication

The Trust has continued to improve its communication with the general public by developments in its **website** including the regular blogs and Newsletters where further details of the activity of Semiliki Trust and its achievements can be found. Discussions are taking place to consider how the charity can increase the number of visitors to the website and its interaction with its supporters

The Trust is as always extremely grateful to its supporters who have been very active in their **fundraising** this year in addition to regular giving.

Next Steps.

To appoint a volunteer administrator to support the fundraising and coordination of the running of the Trust.

To keep building on the investment that Semiliki Trust has made into St Mathieu Hospital and look to capacity building.

To continue with the current ongoing regular financial commitments , however the current income is not enough to cover this. The priority needs to be to get more regular giving from supporters in order to expand the regular giving to projects in DRC.

Focus on capacity building by understanding what other charities and NGOs are doing in the area and looking to expand relevant training opportunities particularly in building co-ordination, health care and business management.

June 2017.