



The Uphill Trust

Supporting Uphill Junior School in western Uganda

Scottish Charity: SC045385

Annual Report and Financial Statement

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021



Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the year 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name	The Uphill Trust
Charity Number	SC045385
Charity Status Awarded	29 January 2015
Charitable Purpose	The advancement of education
Registered Address	21 Strachan Crescent, Dollar, FK14 7HL
Trustees	N R L Macdonald (<i>Chairman</i>) B L Macdonald H E S Laird S A Macdonald C J Macdonald
Committee Member	A I Smith (<i>elected 6 March 2015</i>)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Uphill Trust is a Scottish Charitable Trust and all current trustees were named in the Trust Deed at the outset. Committee members can be elected to serve alongside the trustees, subject to a vote at any formal trust meeting. There is only one formal management role, that of Chairman. The trustees take responsibility for administration and governance according to their areas of expertise: Website, newsletters & social media; preparing promotional videos; minutes & record keeping; accounting & finance; legal advice; health & hygiene; networking & fundraising. The Uphill Trust does not have any employees and the running costs of the charity are paid by the trustees - 100% of trust income is used to support projects in Uganda.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To advance education by securing the establishment and development of Uphill Junior School (UJS) in western Uganda. By providing financial support we are helping the School Management Committee develop a well-respected primary school with kindergarten, for children aged 3-15 years, in Iruhuura - a small trading centre in the rural district of Kabarole.

Uphill Junior School

The school is located in an impoverished rural area and the collected fee income is very low. Many of the families are subsistence farmers with little or no money. Prior to The Uphill Trust's involvement, staff were paid intermittently and school facilities were very poor. At the end of 2014, UJS was teaching 196 children, across 3 kindergarten and 4 primary year groups, in a wooden building with earth floors on rented land. In 2017 the school moved to a permanent, secure site and, since the end of 2019, all the primary pupils have been taught in purpose-built brick classrooms with good quality latrines. The Uphill Kindergarten also has its own site, with playground and latrine. The classrooms wooden but have stone floors and wooden shutters and doors. The school roll at the start of 2020 was around 330 pupils, aged 3 to 15 years.

The role of The Uphill Trust is to support UJS - Trustees do not have a role in the management of the school.

Throughout 2021 UJS remained closed to the majority of pupils, due to Uganda-wide COVID 19 restrictions. The Primary 7 children returned to school - living on site in a 'bubble' - in the run up to the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). After PLE, Primary 5 and 6 were allowed to return to school for 2 months, until a second full lockdown closed all schools again when the Delta variant arrived in Uganda.

The Uphill Trust: Annual Report 2021

The Uphill teachers returned to homeschooling 200+ pupils - a challenging task without computers, TV or even radios in rural homes. Following a successful appeal in late summer, we were able to raise money to buy a multifunction photocopier for the school, making the teachers' lives easier now and in the future.

All Ugandan educational establishments are due to reopen in January 2022 after a 22 month lockdown - the longest COVID school closure in the world.

Activities

The main focus of the charity is to raise money through a variety of fundraising activities. We work closely with the school director to support the development of the school and maintain regular contact via email and digital messaging.

The Trust supports the day-to-day running of the school and also provides funds for capital projects. The Uphill Trust Pupil Support Fund helps severely disadvantaged children attend school. From time to time, when funding is available, additional support is provided to protect health and enhance the quality of life for pupils, staff and/or the wider community.

As in 2020, we funded lockdown food aid and soap for Uphill families and for elderly and disabled households in the wider community. We also helped by paying for the teachers' rent and food, enabling them to remain in Iruhuura and run the homeschooling programme whilst the school was closed.



Teachers distribute food aid in the community in July 2021

Achievements and Performance

2021 - Capital Projects

- New latrine with sewage tank for primary school boys (funded by a grant from the charity Meeting Needs).
- Teachers' latrine plastered and painted
- Kindergarten latrine tiled and painted
- Kindergarten site secured - main entrance gate plus access gate to primary school site
- Shelving in store room and classrooms - for library books and general storage
- TV and satellite dish for administration block
- 7 fire extinguishers installed and staff trained in their use (required by school inspectors)
- Lightning conductor for administration block
- Multifunction photocopier
- Equipment for school - 6 chalkboards, 43 desk units, 6 water filters, 4 flagpoles



Boys Latrine funded by a grant from Meeting Needs

2021- Development & Maintenance Activities

- Staff salaries (13 full-time teachers, 1 director, 1 school nurse) - paid monthly
- COVID support for UJS - rent and food for teachers, salary for security guard and cook, stationary and boda boda fuel for homeschooling programme.
- 3 months food supply for Uphill Piggery Project
- COVID food aid for 231 school families and 107 needy families in the wider community

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2021 - Fundraising & Governance

- Annual Report prepared, submitted to OSCR and uploaded to the Uphill website
- Manual Gift aid claim
- Online giving vehicles used for regular and one-off donations, and for online appeals: Total Giving, Virgin Money Giving, Facebook Donate, PayPal Giving Fund, Don't Send Me a Card
- 'Donate for Free' online shopping: Give as you Live, Amazon Smile, e-Bay for Charity
- Fundraising activities severely limited by COVID-19 restrictions but we had success with online appeals and virtual events, returning to in person fundraising in the autumn
- Teams of walkers took part in the Virtual Kiltwalk Weekend and Glasgow Kiltwak, raising almost £22,000
- Other sponsored events raised almost £9,000
- Online appeals for specific projects raised over £6,000
- Uphill Ambassadors continued to assist with fundraising activities
- One of the trustees joined Business Networking International to broaden the supporter base for the trust
- 4 digital newsletters plus regular social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn
- 13 blogs on the Uphill Trust website
- Uphill Trust policies reviewed and revised as necessary: Financial Support for UJS (revised), Anti-Bribery Policy, Trustee Expenses Policy, Communications Policy, Financial Reserves Policy (revised), Privacy Policy, Notifiable Events Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy, Fundraising Standards Policy, Cookie Policy
- 4 successful grant applications: Souter Charitable Trust (£3,000 for school nurse), Arnold Clark Community Fund (£1,000 for homeschooling), Ashworth Charitable Trust (£2,380 for homeschooling), St James Place

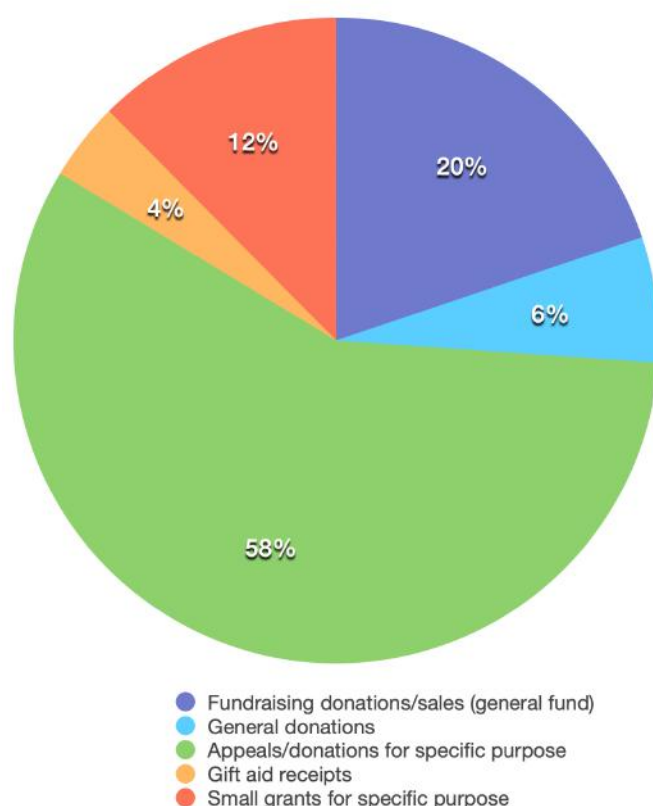


Foundation (£2,500 for curriculum resources)

Glasgow Kiltwalk, September 2021

Financial Review

Where our funds came from in 2021

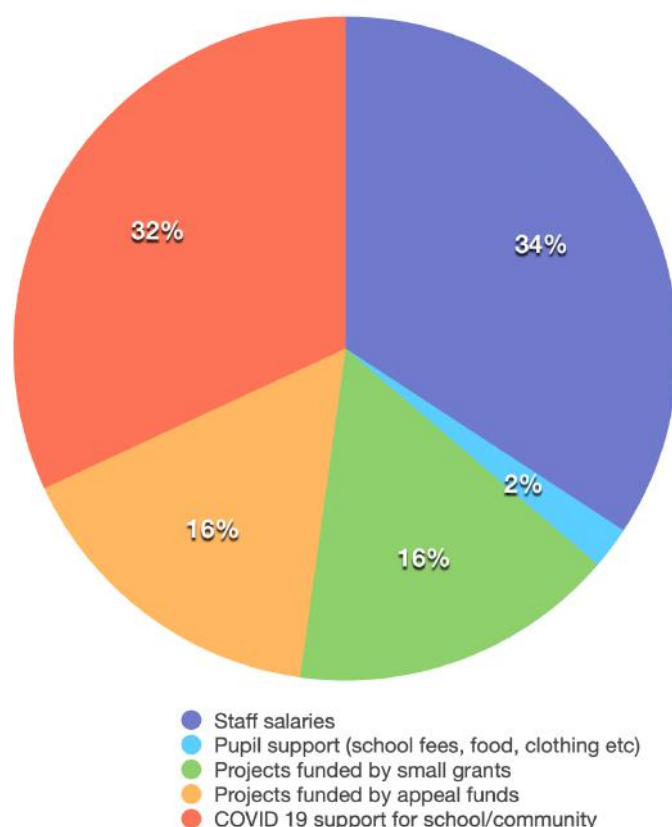


In 2021, COVID 19 continued to affect in person fundraising but we had good success with virtual fundraising events and online appeals. These generated 58% of our income, and a further 20% was raised from general fundraising and sales of fabric masks and crafts. General donations accounted for 6% of our income.

We were awarded 4 small grants for specific projects which generated 12% of our income, and the remaining 4% came from Gift Aid claims.

This year we received sufficient funds to cover the agreed running costs for UJS (staff salaries, purchase of soap & disinfectant, and support funds for pupils) from regular and one-off appeal donations. We will continue to seek additional regular donors in 2022, as teacher salaries continue to rise year on year.

How funds were spent in 2021



The school was closed to the majority of pupils in 2021 and no fee income was collected from parents.

Staff salaries accounted for 34% of trust expenditure this year and 32% was used to provide additional COVID support for the school. This included funding the homeschooling programme and providing food and soap for 231 school families and 107 elderly/disabled households in the wider Uphill community.

Small grants funded 16% of trust expenditure and 16% of appeal funds were spent on dedicated projects. Pupil support accounted for just 2% of expenditure this year, as the school was closed to most pupils. The majority of money raised in 2021 is being held for projects planned for 2022 and beyond.

The Uphill Trust is a zero overheads charity. Costs incurred for administration, marketing and travel to Uganda are paid for by the trustees.

Expenditure in Uganda is supported by receipts and all capital projects have agreed budgets, giving The Uphill Trust a high level of accountability.

Reserves Policy

The financial reserve at the end of 2021 was £9,189 (based on the *Financial Reserves Policy: The Uphill Trust 2021*). £7,189 - covering specific elements of trust expenditure - was held as restricted funds and £2,000 was set aside from general funds to cover any unexpected expenditure.

Plans for 2022

The Trustees will continue to pay staff salaries and *ad hoc* running costs for the school that cannot be met by school fee income (agreed on a case-by-case basis with the UJS director).

Three Trustees plan to travel to Uganda at the beginning of February - the first visit since March 2020 - to review ongoing projects and discuss future developments for 2022 and beyond.

A large capital project will begin early in 2022: Construction of a safe, hygienic school kitchen and multipurpose school hall, using funds raised in 2020/21. We anticipate that further fundraising will be required to install kitchen equipment and buy tables and chairs for the hall.

The school vegetable garden, started in 2019, will continue in 2022. This important co-curricular project provides valuable life skills for UJS pupils, many of whom will rely on home-grown produce to feed themselves and their own families in future. The Uphill Piggery, developed during lockdown in 2020, struggled to make a profit in 2021. Pigs raised by the school were sold and the proceeds reinvested in better quality breeding stock, along with a boar. Sadly, African Swine Fever (ASF) swept through Uganda in the second half of 2021 and all the pigs eventually succumbed. ASF is spread by flies and there is no vaccination available. The future of the piggery project will be discussed as the disease clears the country.

Two projects introduced in 2020 - a toothbrushing programme and making washable sanitary pads - have not progressed due to COVID-19. The materials are being held at the school and the projects will be relaunched during the Trustee visit in February.

The Pupil Support Fund will continue to help some of the children in greatest need. This includes providing uniform, shoes, casual clothing, school supplies and other personal needs, two meals a day at school, and school fees. We have funds available to support 25 children when the school re-opens in 2022.

Fundraising in 2022 will continue to target capital projects, along with increasing the number of regular donors for core funding, especially for teacher salaries. The UJS staff receive a smaller stipend than recommended for teachers at government and private schools, however this is mitigated by several factors: Provision of housing and meals (paid for by the school using fee income); inclusive management structure involving the staff in decision making; equal pay policy and regular salary payment dates (it is not uncommon for teachers in Uganda to receive no pay for months on end). All the teaching staff will receive a pay rise of 50,000UGX in January 2022 and we plan to implement regular annual pay rises of at least 10,000UGX per person from 2023 onwards.

The school development programme will continue to reflect the needs of the school and the recommendations of the school inspectors. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the first school inspection of the 2022 academic year before planning in detail.

As in past years, the Trust remains flexible to new projects and opportunities that may arise at UJS during 2022.

Gallery: Some of The Uphill Trust's Achievements at Uphill Junior School in 2021

Under the leadership of school director, Muhimbise Elius, and with the support of The Uphill Trust, UJS continues to be a very well regarded school in Kabarole District. The whole school community regularly express their gratitude to the Uphill donors who have helped to make this possible.



Primary 7 live in school in run up to PLE
(January 2021)

Primary 7 vocational training opportunities
(February 2021)



One of the first pupils to be supported by the Trust finishes primary education
(March 2021)



Uphill teachers remain at school to run the homeschooling programme
(2021)



Maintenance & upgrades to school estate
(2021)

Fire extinguishers & training
(May 2021)



Primary 5 & 6 return to school for 3 months
(March-May 2021)



Donated library books & shelving
(May 2021)



Home schooling programme continues during second lockdown
(June-December 2021)



Uphill piggery, before African Swine Fever infected the stock
(January-November 2021)



Desks, water filters & satellite television
(April -July 2021)



Photocopier & staff training
(October 2021)

Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 December 2021

Statement of Balances on 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds current period
Receipts			
Donations	3,983	14,276	18,259
Fundraising activities	12,564	22,216	34,780
Legacies/in memoriam	0	0	0
Grants	0	7,880	7880
Bank interest	56	0	56
Trustee expenses (<i>Donated with Gift Aid</i>)	0	0	0
Gift aid receipts	2,478	0	2,478
Total receipts	19,081	44,372	63,453
Payments			
Money sent to Uphill Junior School	10,268	14,407	24,675
Trustee expenses	0	0	0
Bank charges	147	0	147
Total payments	10,415	14,407	24,822
Surplus/deficit for the year	8,666	29,965	38,631
Opening balance in bank accounts (<i>1 January 2021</i>)			34,906
Closing balance in bank accounts (<i>31 December 2021</i>)			73,537
Surplus/deficit			<u>38,631</u>

Notes to the accounts - for the year ending 31 December 2021

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the *Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005* and the *Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006*.

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees to further the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain an unrestricted general fund to assist with the day-to-day running of UJS and other agreed school projects.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a specific purpose. Restricted and unrestricted fund monies are held together within the common bank accounts but logged separately in the Trust accounts.

During the accounting period 1 January to 31 December 2021 restricted funds included money from various fundraising appeals: School Build Appeal, Uphill Farm Appeal, Teacher Appeal and Kitchen/Hall Appeal, Pupil Support Fund plus the balance of funds raised to provide play/sport facilities.

Funds and grant money raised this year will be used to finance planned projects in 2022 and beyond.

3. Expenses

In line with the *Trustees Expenses Policy: The Uphill Trust (2015)*, trustees do not claim expenses for day-to-day administrative activities or for attending trust meetings/training courses. The trustees may claim expenses for return air fares to Uganda and for Ugandan entry visa fees. Due to the COVID pandemic there were no trips to Uganda in 2021.

4. How money is held

All Trust money is held in Trust bank accounts - there is no cash-in-hand balance.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



N R L Macdonald
Chairman

Date: 27 January 2021



B L Macdonald
Trustee

Date: 27 January 2021