



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-18
IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA

www.lcdinternational.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2017-18 has been a significant year of growth for Link. With a generous grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, we undertook a major study of the Ugandan education and development sector which will be extremely helpful in guiding our future work there. With funds from UKAid we launched a new partnership with the government of Rwanda, delivering our core School Performance Review and community engagement work in the Nyaruguru district. Of particular importance to Link is our continued focus on girls' education evidenced by the commencement of the second phase of our girls' education project in Ethiopia. In Malawi and Ghana we have consolidated our robust position, strengthening our school improvement work and delivering a brighter future for vulnerable children.

I would like to thank all the staff and trustees for their dedication and hard work over the last year. Along with all of our partners, stakeholders and supporters, the Link family will continue to work together to support, through education, a better future for young children in Africa.

Alasdair Beaton
Chair of Trustees

OUR COMMITMENTS TO CHILDREN

Working safely

We believe that a child, vulnerable adult or person at risk should never experience abuse of any kind. Through rigorous policies, procedures and processes we do all that we can to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected from abuse and exploitation. You can read our full safeguarding policy on our website.

For all

Our work is underpinned by the strong belief that **every child** deserves a quality education. This includes children who face additional barriers to education because of cultural attitudes around gender or ability, or physical barriers, such as disability, poverty, or children with no family support. We take a twin-track approach, working to improve education systems for all at the same time as making sure that these marginalised children receive the extra support they need.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Planning, leadership, supervision
and data management

Strengthening
school
management



Accountability, advocacy,
participation and governance

Promoting
community
engagement



Capacity building, sustainable material
development, mentoring and support

Building
teaching
quality



Support for the vulnerable

Challenging
inequalities



Safer, child-friendly spaces

Improved learning
environments



IMPROVED
LEARNING

ABOUT LINK



Link Community Development is a grassroots charity working to transform education across some of the poorest rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa. We focus on improving teaching and learning as well as building up life skills and inclusion for the most marginalised. By working with governments and schools we create systemic change, empowering communities to escape the cycle of poverty.



LEARNING CRISIS

Sub-Saharan Africa is facing a learning crisis. **Over one fifth** of primary school aged children are not in school.¹ Poor quality education means that **37 million children** will leave primary school unable to read a sentence.² Urgent action is required to provide these children with access to good quality education, giving them hope and a strong foundation to **build a brighter tomorrow.**

1 <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/education-africa>

2 <https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/africa-learning-barometer/>

OUR IMPACT



MALAWI

- A total of **144,800 community members attended** school improvement planning meetings, **over 12,000** of whom represented marginalised groups (those living with albinism, a disability, in extreme poverty, or young people).
- We helped produce school report cards for **446 schools** enabling communities to make informed school improvement plans. **97%** of schools achieved at least half of their targets in 2017.

 **OVER 162,200** 
**(COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVOLVED
IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS)**



UGANDA

- We undertook a major study on school improvement processes in Uganda allowing us to scope out where our future work, in partnership with other NGOs and government, could have the most impact. Watch this space!
- We delivered our unique School Management Simulation training, based around a board game, to **7 schools**.



"WE ARE THANKFUL FOR
OPENING OUR EYES TO
THINGS THAT REALLY
MATTER FOR OUR
CHILDREN TO LEARN."

- Parent leader in Malawi



ETHIOPIA

We embarked on our most ambitious girls' education project **supporting over 43,000 at-risk girls**. This year:

- **14,000 girls** received reusable sanitary pads and soap to prevent menstruation disrupting their studies.
- We trained **737 tutors** who delivered extra tutorial classes for **over 9,000** girls with additional support needs to ensure they do not fall behind.



GHANA

- We aired radio jingles in local languages to help remote communities **understand and tackle education-based challenges**.

OVER 337,300
(CHILDREN REACHED)





RWANDA

- We launched our innovative School Performance Review process in **10 initial schools**, establishing Rwanda as our newest partner country and giving schools and communities the tools to **improve learning**.
- **75** volunteer Community Study Group mentors were trained, and **1,500 children** will be **enrolled** to participate in these study groups over the next year.

THANK YOU

We can't deliver our life-changing programmes without the continued generosity of our supporters. Thank you to every person who supported Link this year and made these results possible. We would particularly like to thank the following major donors.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

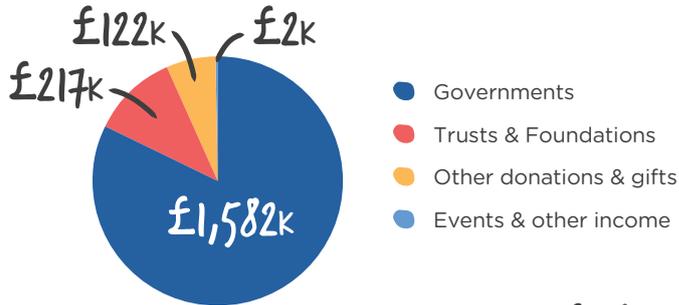


TRUSTAFRICA



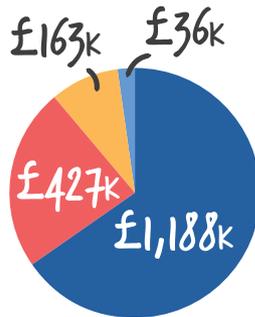
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income 2017-2018



Expenditure 2017-2018

- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Other programmes
- Administration, governance & fundraising



98P OF EVERY £1
IS SPENT DIRECTLY ON OUR
LIFE-(HANGING PROGRAMMES)

CONTACT US

Link Community Development International
Dolphin House, 4 Hunter Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1QW

Tel: +44 (0) 131 225 3076

Email: link@lcd.org.uk

[/linkcommdev](https://www.facebook.com/linkcommdev)

[@LinkCommDev](https://twitter.com/LinkCommDev)

[/link-community-development-international](https://www.linkedin.com/company/link-community-development-international)
www.lcdinternational.org

 **ETHIOPIA:** lcd@lcdethiopia.org

 **UGANDA:** lcduganda@lcduganda.org

 **MALAWI:** link@lcdmalawi.org

 **RWANDA:** link@lcdrwanda.org

 **GHANA:** link@lcdghana.org

DONATE NOW

Support our work. Donate now at
www.lcdinternational.org/donate

Registered Charity Numbers: 1048007 (England & Wales) and SC037959 (Scotland).

Company Registration Number: 03069329