



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-19

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA

www.lcdinternational.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2018-19 has been another important year for Link. I am particularly pleased to see the continuation of our work focusing on inclusion and equality for all in education. We launched a major new programme in Malawi supporting the most vulnerable girls to transition into education, training or employment and continued to enhance our girls' education projects in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Ghana and Uganda. We have invested in training and support for our team to champion inclusion across all of our work, ensuring children with disabilities and complex needs can also access the education they deserve.

I would like to thank the staff and Board for their hard work and dedication along with all of our partners, stakeholders and supporters who are helping us to transform lives through learning.

Alasdair Beaton
Chair of Trustees

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.



HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Strengthening
school
management



Promoting
community
engagement



Building
teaching
quality



Challenging
inequalities



Improved
learning
environments

IMPROVED LEARNING

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:





OUR IMPACT

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **27,366 parents and community leaders** attended school meetings where they learned about their schools' strengths and weaknesses and helped to create effective school improvement plans.
- **8,000 community members** in Malawi helped us to shape our new girls' education project, **TEAM Girl**.
- We've been **on the airwaves of local radio** and **painting murals** in communities to raise awareness of citizens' education rights and to increase accountability in Malawi.

REFLECTIONS FROM MALAWI

In March we released a detailed report of how we've been making a difference in Malawi for the past few years.

Uncover the full story at
www.lcdinternational.org

 
**OVER 35,500
COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVOLVED
IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT**

"THE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT HELPS US TO IDENTIFY THE GENERAL PROBLEM IN OUR SCHOOLS SO THAT WE KNOW WHERE TO FOCUS AND HOW WE CAN ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE."

- District Education Officer, Rwanda



"THE RADIO AWARENESS
PROGRAMME ON A NATIONAL
RADIO STATION IS A GREAT
HELP TO THE MINISTRY"

- Principal Inspector
of Schools, Malawi



OVER 477,300
(CHILDREN REACHED)

CHALLENGING INEQUALITIES

- We launched a new project for out-of-school girls in Malawi with a particular focus on girls who face multiple barriers to education: **20% of girls** are pregnant or already mothers, **32% have lost one or both parents** and **10% have an impairment**.
- Efforts to include more marginalised people in the management of Malawian schools saw an **88% increase in participation** of people living with a disability, albinism, in extreme poverty or otherwise vulnerable youth.
- **Over 2,600 children** have been enrolled in community-based learning centres. These help children who have dropped out and fallen

behind in school to catch-up and reintegrate into mainstream schools. **486 children** graduated and re-entered school in Ghana alone last year.

- In our Ethiopian project, **STAGES**, to ensure low confidence doesn't hold girls back we've trained **162 teachers** to provide counselling to **972 girls**. These girls also received extra tutorials to ensure they don't fall behind in class and **195 received bursaries** to keep them in school.

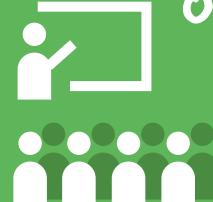
BUILDING TEACHING QUALITY

- In Ethiopia we provided extra support in English language instruction to over **900 teachers** – it's the language grades 5-8 are taught in despite many teachers not being fluent themselves. For extra encouragement to all teachers in the region, we handed out **348 outstanding achievement in teaching awards**.
- We trained **2,800 teachers** on child-centred and equal opportunities learning, and **698 teachers** in Ethiopia were trained as extra-curricular tutorial leaders to help struggling girls.
- We trained **175 facilitators** for our community-based learning centres to support out-of-school children with reading and writing as well as sexual health, vocational training and resilience.



IMPROVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- We began construction on the **first of four new schools** in Ethiopia, helping children in deep-rural, deprived areas to access secondary school.
- We distributed **1,350 books** to community learning centres in Rwanda to be used as '**mini-libraries**'. In communities where resources are scarce, we trained the learning centre facilitators to create their own teaching resources, such as letter wheels, out of locally-available materials like rice sacks and charcoal.
- To reinforce school safety we trained stakeholders across **140 schools** in Ethiopia to identify and tackle gender based violence. We also installed reporting boxes in each school and embedded systems to ensure safe informing and corrective action.



**OVER 3,900 TEACHERS
& FACILITATORS
TRAINED**

STRENGTHENING SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

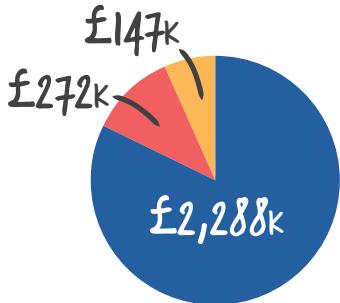
- **614 schools participated** in our school review process, supported by district staff trained to assess schools against national benchmarks and use the data to improve school performance.
- In Malawi, we created a **new database to analyse school performance** and trained **over 100 government staff** to use it, enabling them to better target their work for maximum impact.
- We delivered our unique '**board game**' school management simulation training to **889 people** across **114 schools** in Uganda to improve school leadership.



"IT'S LIKE YOU KNEW WHAT MY CHILD NEEDED. WE TRIED OUR BEST TO KEEP THIS CHILD IN SCHOOL BUT IT'S SO DIFFICULT. THE TEACHERS SAID THEY COULD NOT DO ANYTHING FOR A CHILD LIKE MINE. THAT WAS DEVASTATING BECAUSE MY CHILD LOVES SCHOOL, HE LOVES TO BE AMONG PEERS AND TO PLAY DESPITE HIS DISABILITIES. SO, IT WAS VERY PAINFUL TO BE DENIED THAT OPPORTUNITY. WE ARE HAPPY THAT HE WILL GET THE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THIS PROJECT."

- Mother, Malawi

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

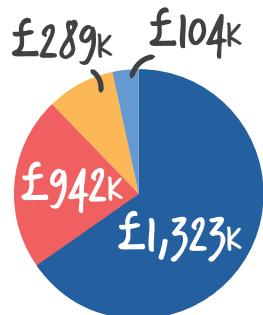


Income 2018-2019

- Governments
- Trusts & foundations
- Other donations & gifts

Expenditure 2018-2019

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



96P OF EVERY £1
IS SPENT DIRECTLY ON OUR
LIFE-CHANGING 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://linkcommdev.com)

@LinkCommDev

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



ETHIOPIA: lcd@lcdethiopia.org



GHANA: link@lcdghana.org



MALAWI: link@lcdmalawi.org



RWANDA: link@lcdrwanda.org



UGANDA: lcduganda@lcduganda.org

DONATE NOW

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

Registered Charity Numbers: 1048007 (England & Wales)
and SC045011 (Scotland)

Company limited by guarantee 3069329, registered office: c/o HW Associates
Chartered Accountants, Portmill House, Portmill Lane, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1DJ