



Uganda Society for
Disabled Children UK

Annual Review 2005

Registered Charity No. 326859
A company limited by guarantee no. 1861434

About USDC UK

The Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC) is a Registered Charity founded in 1985. Its aim is to help children with disabilities in Uganda to achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling lives. In 2000 the Uganda Office of USDC became an independent local NGO in Uganda with its own Management Committee. USDC UK now runs a small office in the UK which supports the work of USDC Uganda. We endeavour to keep our UK costs to a minimum and transfer the maximum possible resources to Uganda each year.

UK News

This year four new Trustees have joined the Board. We welcome Vimal Shah as our new Treasurer, Francis Tusubira the Chair of USDC Uganda, Wendy Ford, and Peter Oliver. We have also said good bye to Bob Vass and Aloysius Bakkidde. We thank them for the many years of support which they both gave to USDC.

Visits to Uganda

One of the UK Trustees, Ting Plaskett visited Uganda in February. She spent time with staff and visited our projects in Masaka, Luwero, Nakasongola, Apac and Lira. Mary Ann Mhina (née Coates), the UK Representative, also visited Uganda three times during the year to provide support and carry out monitoring and evaluation of the work being carried out by USDC Uganda.

Indian Summer Soiree

In September 2004 we held an evening's entertainment entitled an 'Indian Summer Soiree'. The event included delicious Indian food, belly dancing and soothing piano music. The event raised almost £8,000 for our work in Uganda and we are very grateful to everyone who took part.

Next year we look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary with an event in London in the summer of 2006.



Listening to the Voices of Children with Disabilities

USDC has come a long way since we started field work in Uganda almost 20 years ago. In recent years we have sought to involve the communities we work with at every level, from planning and implementation, to review and evaluation. We think that the voices of children with disabilities and their parents should be heard because they are the ones who understand their problems and more often than not have the best ideas for solving them. We have also tried to encourage our other partner organisations; local health workers, teachers and other members of communities to hear their voices as well. In the future we also plan to involve children with disabilities in the management of USDC itself so that we really become an organisation representing and supporting children with disabilities and their families in the best possible way.

Child Participation

We are grateful that the increased involvement of children in the planning and review of our work as well as our work with Child Rights Clubs has been supported by Comic Relief and the Jersey Overseas Aid Committee. Earlier this year, with the help of Comic Relief we undertook a review of the

A Poem On Children's Rights

Oh, oh, oh its time to wake up
And begin fighting for rights
Yet on our own, we can't manage
Enough is enough

Why are we children with disabilities
Being seen as a burden in the society
Parents, guardians, where does our right come
from?

Time has come for us to say no to child abuse
We have been running here and there
Where is our right?

Carrying heavy jerricans, baby sitting and
hawking
Is our best job.
Please parents, teachers and stake holders
Give us a chance to express our
disappointments

Remember a child can beat a drum
And an adult can dance to the tune
Children with disabilities have been ignored
For long in our community
Yet disability is not inability
Please elders give us the platform
To freely express our selves

By Epel Jonathan , 14 years
Oswina boarding primary school,
Lira district



Emmanuel Eburu is second year pupil at Acan-pii primary school in Loro, Apac District in North-Western Uganda. His parents brought him to school at the age of ten simply to come and play with other children because since birth he had not spoken at all. But Tali Samuel (the special needs education teacher) started training him to talk and the Head of the school encouraged all the pupils to begin talking with Emmanuel so that he could learn to talk more quickly. When a Child Rights Club was formed in the school, Eburu joined the club and is now able to take part in drama, play drums and to read poetry with the other children who joined. His confidence has increased greatly and he is now even able to take part in presentations at school functions.

Participation of Children in our work and learnt a lot about what works. We realised that confidence building is critical if children with disabilities are to feel able to participate fully and to stand up for their rights. We learnt that the most important thing for us to do was to listen to and involve children right from the start so that they are part of the planning and evaluation of our projects rather than just being on the 'receiving end' of help.

Child Rights Clubs

Since 2001, we have been supporting the formation of Child Rights Clubs in schools. Under the Universal Primary Education Policy (UPE) in Uganda, all children, including those with disabilities, have the right to a free primary school education. With more disabled children in mainstream schools we have sought to support schools not only in the training of teachers and the provision of facilities but also to ensure the integration of children of different abilities in to all aspects of school life. Through the Child Rights Clubs children are encouraged to come together whatever their abilities and learn about disability awareness and their rights as well as taking part in play and artistic activities. These clubs build confidence in children and help them to appreciate one another whatever their



abilities. In Luwero a child from each club has been elected as a representative to take part in the planning and strengthening of the clubs district-wide. This kind of involvement means that children are really involved in finding solutions to their own problems.

Involving Parents

Parent Support Groups (PSGs) are groups of parents of children with disabilities who come together to share their common experience and problems. Parents Support Groups also help us to identify the rehabilitation needs of particular children and to keep track of and continue to support children after their first contact with USDC. During the past year USDC has been working to strengthen the capacity of existing PSGs and to form them where they do not exist. We are building group capacity by training parents so that they have the necessary knowledge and skills about disability to help their peers and to be able to lobby collectively for improved and more local services which meet the needs of their children.

This year we have also provided Parents Supports Groups with opportunities for parents to learn sign language so that they can learn to communicate effectively with their children. We have also trained parents in and HIV/Aids awareness so that they can communicate sexual health messages to their children.

The definition of parentage is broad and many disabled children have lost parents

In Lira USDC is supporting APDIC (the Association of Parents of Disabled Children) which began as a small group of individual parents who came together to provide mutual support to one another in order to cope with their children. With support from USDC the group now has 50 members with 30 more interested in joining. APDIC engages in a number of activities which seek to fulfil their vision of 'children with disabilities achieving their needs and opportunities within the community'. These include:

- Lobbying district and municipal officials to seek adequate allocation of resources for the children with disabilities within the municipality.
- Mobilising children with disabilities locally for assessment and referrals. They have been much more successful mobilisers than the health centres themselves.
- Sensitisation of the wider community about disability related issues
- Carrying out home visits and the counselling of children with disabilities in Lira municipality
- Supporting the formation of other Parents Support Groups in the surrounding areas
- Promoting positive attitudes in other parents through providing counselling and advice. An example would be in cases where fathers have left their wives believing a disabled child to be a curse.

and are cared for by grand-parents or other members of their extended family. Mr. Kisule whose grand-daughter has a hearing impairment, was one of the 'parents' who benefited from the training USDC facilitated for parents of children of hearing impairment, he also learnt to communicate sexual health messages using sign language: *"am the chair person of parents having children with hearing impairment in Kikamulo Sub County and I'm happy that in this group, I can ably speak on behalf of my grand daughter."*

He is encouraging other parents to come up, join the group so that their voices for children with disabilities can become stronger.

"My child is now a human being I want him to grow and get good education so that he can also become an important person in Lira district and Uganda as a whole"

Santina Akullo, Kirombe



Financial Summary for USDC UK 2004/5

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended March 2004

Income

Donations and legacies	84,900
Grants received for specific activities	485,299
Investment income	9,213

Total Income 579,412

Expenditure

Project support in Uganda	430,842
Fundraising and publicity	32,108
Management and administration	27,725

Total Expenditure 490,675

Balance Sheet as at March 2005

Fixed assets 2,168

Current assets

Debtors	31,304
Cash at bank and in hand	368,444
Less Creditors	(29,702)

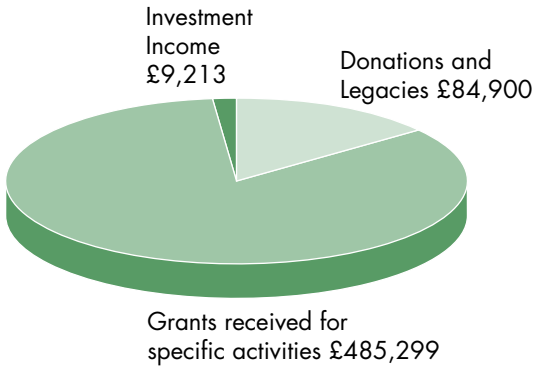
Total assets less current liabilities 372,214

Represented by

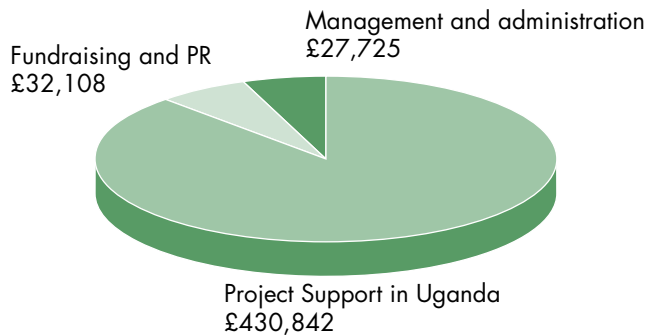
Restricted funds	275,388
Designated funds	25,000
Unrestricted funds	71,826

372,214

Income



Expenditure



The Financial Year 2004/5 in Review

This year has seen the charities income, both in restricted and unrestricted funds, rise slightly. Restricted grants are up almost £47,000 as a result of income received from Comic Relief relating to the Investment Grant which we were due to receive. Unrestricted income from donations and fundraising activities has also increased by almost £10,000 and this rise is almost entirely attributable to a most generous donation from the Pearl of Africa Lodge who raised £10,380 on our behalf in May 2004.

Fundraising and public relations costs increased slightly in this year by just over £1,000 as a result of the development of new fundraising and publicity literature for the organisation in the UK. Management and administration overheads also increased a little (£2,749) a result of the necessity to relocate when a new employee, Mary Ann Mhina took over the position as UK Representative.

This year USDC was indebted to a number of grant-making trusts and similar bodies, particularly Comic Relief and the Health Foundation.

Three further instalments of the Investment Grant; a five year programme of support from Comic Relief were received this financial year. The purpose of this grant is to help the organisation build up its systems and support for disabled children so that by the end of the five year period there will be a greater degree of self-sufficiency and organisational capacity (particularly within USDC Uganda). During the year these funds have enabled us to re-structure the organisation in Uganda in order to promote more participatory learning and management, to work to build the capacity of children and their parents, to develop a monitoring and evaluation system and to begin to develop new systems for information and finance.



During the year we evaluated the Comic Relief funded programme to support the integration of disabled children in mainstream schools. Further funds have been awarded by Comic Relief to continue this work in the coming financial year. We continue to work with Comic Relief to implement another programme which supports services for children with Hearing Impairments in a number of districts in Uganda.

The pilot Mental Health project supported by the Health Foundation in Masaka and Sembabule ended this year and we began an expansion of the work, again supported by the Health Foundation in to a further five districts.

Other grants and donations received during the year have meant, among other things, that an 'outreach' programme taking orthopaedic surgeons to several outlying areas to perform corrective surgery on children with mobility problems could be continued for a third successive year. The charity was pleased to be able to provide additional funding to USDC Uganda from its unrestricted funds amounting to over £18,000, for various purposes.

We would like to thank...

Comic Relief, The Health Foundation, Jersey Overseas Aid Committee, The States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee, the Pearl of Africa Lodge and all of our friends and supporters in particular 27 brave volunteers who ran the London Marathon for USDC in April 2005! Together they raised almost £35,000.

Trustees of USDC UK

Leana Arain
Wendy Ford
Keith Nethercot (Chair)
Dr Hugh WL Oliver
Peter Oliver
Ting Plaskett
Vimal Shah
Sally Turnbull
Francis Tusubira

Contributors

Omollo Geoffrey (USDC Field Co-Ordinator, Apac)
Epel Jonathan, Oswina Primary School, Lira
USDC Lira Staff Team,
Cliff Richard Oneka, USDC Luwero,
Samalie Kizito, Field Co-Ordinator, Luwero
Ting Plaskett, UK Trustee,

UK Representative

Mary Ann Mhina

Today is Monday 16 February 2005

cup

pot

cat

chair

table





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There are a number of ways in which you can support the work of USDC.
Donations can be accepted by cheque or credit card via post, telephone
or at www.usdc.or.ug.