

Annual Review 2019-2020



This year we are celebrating that

**36,427**

people benefitted from our work across four different countries!



## Dear supporter,

The start of 2020 has been an extremely challenging time for everyone as we have seen life as we know it put on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As a charity we were fearful of what the pandemic would mean for us, our work, and most importantly the communities and people we walk alongside.

But we have been so encouraged as we have seen you, our Global Neighbours, stand beside us and continue to support us even in the midst of a pandemic and such uncertainty. Your unwavering support means that we have been able to continue our mission, to model Jesus' example of walking alongside people experiencing poverty and injustice and for this we are extremely grateful. As you read through this year's annual review I hope you will be encouraged to see what your support has helped us achieve and the lives that have been changed as a result.

Thank you for being a Global Neighbour.

**Jamie Morrison**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Signpost's COVID-19 response

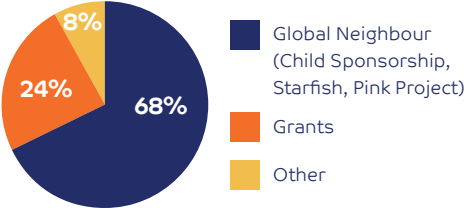
In 2020 Coronavirus turned our world upside down, infecting millions and killing thousands. We have all been affected by COVID-19 but for those living in poverty it has made hard lives even harder. With water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) being one of our main areas of focus it was crucial that we supported the communities we work with overseas to help stem the spread of COVID-19, as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure is often poor in these countries. Within the constraints of lockdown alongside our in-country partners we were able to provide communities with hand washing stations, health information relating to the virus and training on thorough handwashing and personal hygiene.



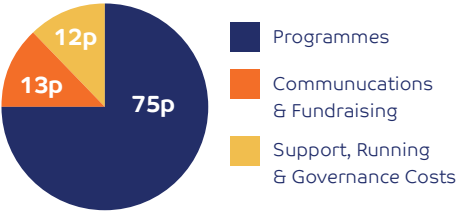
We were also able to equip partner staff with PPE and provide short-term food relief to the most disadvantaged. Thanks to your generous support we have been able to protect more communities against COVID-19 and future health challenges. At the time of writing approximately 22,000 people have benefitted from our COVID-19 response.

# Income and expenditure

**Total income:**  
**£278,779**



**Total expenditure:**  
**£285,609**



## Support, Running and Governance Costs (12p)

Putting robust systems in place to enable and evaluate our work is vital so that we can continually learn, improve, and ensure that your money is used more effectively as a result.

## Communications and Fundraising (13p)

As a Global Neighbour you are vital to everything we do at Signpost International. Your prayers, financial gifts and encouraging and loyal support means that to us you are an important part of the Signpost family. Our communications and fundraising is all about relationship, helping our Global Neighbours hear the voices and see the faces of those that their generous gifts are helping. We also want to inspire people to share in our mission and join us on our journey.

## Programmes (75p)

To read more about our programmes, please unfold.



**547**  
Individuals supported our work as Global Neighbours



**£136,741**  
Raised from these donations to take action against poverty



# Wash



New water sources were installed in communities and filters provided to vulnerable households giving access to clean water. In schools, pupils received training

on menstrual hygiene and have learnt how to make sanitary kits which have been distributed to girls within the schools. The training took place in the Wakiso district of Uganda with the objective of empowering adolescent girls and boys with knowledge and life skills on how to manage menstruation and puberty. We aim to remove all barriers to children's education, and in Uganda menstruation is a significant barrier to millions of girls. As one parent told us, **“In our culture, a girl is kept indoors and isolated from public places when they are in their menstruation period.”**

In an attempt to remove this barrier, the training helped and encouraged girls to manage their menstruation period with dignity, so they do not have to miss classes. The training was also designed to help boys understand that menstruation is normal thus creating an enabling environment for girls while at school.

## Project outcomes in 2019-20

- Provision of water filters to 65 households have significantly reduced incidences of water borne illnesses.
- 975 additional households have improved access to safe water sources.
- 97% of community members now regularly follow good handwashing practices within our projects in the Philippines.

## What we learned

In many rural communities in the developing world misconceptions and myths about menstruation make it a taboo subject for discussion allowing these to perpetuate and create barriers for girls and women to fully participate in life during menstruation. To be successful, projects must look to tackle these issues at the community level as well as seeking to challenge individual beliefs.



1,235

Female pupils better able to manage their menstruation



27

Hand washing stations installed to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases



# Hunger & Nutrition



We have been greatly encouraged as we continue to see farming groups in Wakiso district, Uganda grow and develop. At the start of 2020, a representative from

each group was elected to attend an agricultural event entitled, "Harvest Money". The best farmers in the group were selected based on their records, production, and adoption of improved farming practices. The event exposed farmers to new approaches to enable them to diversify what they grow and add value where possible. Attending farmers received enhanced training which they in turn would share with the rest of their group. Ann-Maria from the St. Mbagu Tuziinde farming group attended the event.

**"I was so excited when I heard I had been chosen to go to Harvest Money. I learnt a lot from the training, I was so interested in the piggery, mushroom growing and goat keeping. I am going to change the way I have been feeding my goats so that I get milk from them. I also got information from a financial institution so I can now get a loan to boost my agriculture. I am so grateful that I was able to attend."**

## Project outcomes in 2019-20

- 15 farmer groups strengthened, each with a Community Agricultural Trainer (CAT) providing peer training to local farmers within their farm-school.
- Alongside farmers from across the country our project beneficiaries made their voice heard through successful lobbying of the Ugandan government for increased support.
- In our communities, 88% of farming households have now adopted improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

## What we learned

Climate change is impacting the way food is produced and farmers must adopt a climate-smart approach to agriculture and embrace innovation in order to survive and thrive. All of our agricultural projects now include climate change adaptation and provide farmers with the skills to utilise low-cost technology to improve yields. These benefits were felt most recently when during lockdown farmers were able to sustain themselves and their neighbours with their own food, even remaining with enough to sell in local markets.



## 255km

Enough bananas grown through our agricultural projects to stretch from Inverness to Edinburgh



## 9,600

The average number of bowls of maize porridge produced per season by each trained farmer



# Sustainable Livelihoods



In the neighbourhood of West Habog Habog in the Philippines the six self-help groups that have been established continued to strengthen with all groups seeing an increase in new members. These groups offer training and support to individuals looking to establish a viable business in order to bring in a consistent income. Members meet regularly with group leaders to discuss their business, review their figures and to receive advice on the best steps going forward. Group leaders continue to encourage members to increase their savings where possible in order to sustain the business and to protect themselves and their families. Members with families have highlighted the challenges of saving as they have to pay for many school activities for their children. The group leaders are active members of their groups who have been voted into this role, this means they have faced many of the same issues and are able to provide helpful responses to such challenges. Rose, one of the group leaders and member says,

**“I learnt many skills which now I’m able to share with others.”**

## Project outcomes in 2019-20

- 21 enterprise groups actively supporting their members to save regularly, grow their businesses, and access credit.
- Supported partner to improve their sustainability through developing a local social enterprise as part of a five-year organisational capacity grant.
- Worked with enterprise groups to improve their return on investment.

## What we learned

Our experience shows that strong groups provide a sustainable source of support and skills-sharing within communities long after our projects have stopped. We therefore invest considerable resources into improving group dynamics and building the capacity of leaders to inspire and equip other members. Individuals and groups with strong savings cultures have been much better equipped to manage the impacts of the recent government enforced lockdowns as a result of COVID-19.



## 500%

On average, the amount members of our enterprise groups in Uganda have increased their income by



## 600

People received skills and business training



# Global Citizenship



Our global citizenship programmes take place both in the communities we work in internationally and here in the UK. Overseas they often take the form of

training children in their rights and responsibilities in order to educate and empower them. This year pupils at schools across Uganda received such training and learnt how to protect themselves from different forms of abuse. They also helped establish reporting mechanisms at the local and district level. Felix, a teacher at one of the schools in Wakiso district says,

**“We started holding debates every month on child rights as a way of creating a safe learning environment for the children and this has been helpful in promoting children’s rights.”**

In the UK we focus on educating school pupils on international development and global inequalities and we have been greatly encouraged as we have built up more

## What we learned

Since beginning to promote the concept of the Centre for Global Learning over the past twelve months there has been great interest from groups wishing to visit and we anticipate that this will increase significantly as the centre opens its doors later in 2020. Our Virtual Reality headsets are a powerful tool for helping people, especially children, to step into the shoes of those we work alongside globally, particularly timely as we are seeing many overseas school trips cancelled as a result of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

relationships with schools and youth groups throughout Scotland. We continue to move closer to the opening of the Centre for Global Learning, which will be the first of its kind in Scotland. The central idea behind the centre is to educate the next generation about approaches to sustainable development and to explore our own impact on the world, ultimately leading to an expanded understanding of the world, and a reduced environmental footprint.



**3,115**  
people trained in child rights and broader human rights



**4**  
petitions successfully submitted by local communities, lobbying local governments for service provision



# Thank you

Action against poverty  
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