



2019

THE GORTA GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION IS AN
ECONOMICALLY THRIVING AND
RESILIENT RURAL AFRICA



The Gorta Group is comprised of Self Help Africa,
TruTrade, Partner Africa and Traidlinks.

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Cover photo: Zenebech Girma, a shepherd from the Abichu District, Ethiopia, 2019. Photo by Nick Spollin.
Left: Esther Kipesile, Silogha Farmer Field School, Malawi, 2019.

WHAT WE DO



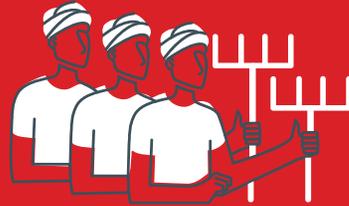
AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION

Over 70% of Africa's poorest people live on small farms. We help these farming families achieve their potential to grow much more and earn more from their land.



MICROFINANCE

We invest in people – providing access to small loans through microfinance gives impoverished rural families the means to improve their farms, so they can grow, eat and sell more.



COOPERATIVES

We bring communities together - working as a cooperative means farmers can access new markets and earn a better income from their produce.



CLIMATE SMART

Those least responsible for climate change are the most affected by global warming. We support vulnerable communities to adapt to changing climate, through climate smart agricultural techniques.



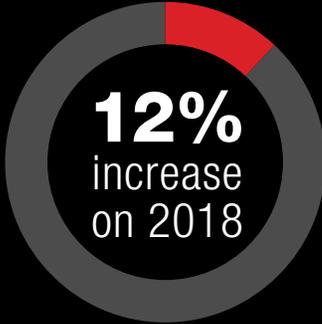
GENDER

We're working to level the gender field in sub-Saharan Africa. When women receive the same support as men, yields increase 20–30%.



ENTERPRISE

We nurture small businesses and encourage enterprise, enabling households to earn a vital alternative source of income.



2.5
MILLION
LIVES IMPACTED

Ambiya Seitu (9) from Fenta village, Ethiopia

GROUP CEO'S INTRODUCTION

Earning a secure income from farming anywhere in the world can be tough at the best of times.



by Raymond Jordan
Group CEO

IN AFRICA, where farming is a way of life for hundreds of millions of people, it can be harder still.

Farm plots are small, land ownership uncertain, and markets for farm produce are often difficult to access.

An ever-changing climate presents further challenges, and already vulnerable communities are being forced to adapt. In a region where the climate is getting hotter and drier, droughts are commonplace, and rainfall unpredictable. As the world is racked by the COVID-19 pandemic, it still remains unclear how devastating this virus might be in Africa.

In addition, 2019 also saw unprecedented devastation caused by infestations of Fall Armyworm, which destroyed tens of thousands of acres of maize crop. As the year drew to a close, countries in the north and east of the continent also fought to control swarms of desert locusts from the Saudi peninsula. Early reports from the region recorded swarms that were eating as much food as 35,000 people in a single day.

It's little wonder that Africa's small-scale farming families are amongst the most vulnerable people in the world.

The farmers that Self Help Africa works with need support to combat the uncertainties that come with farming in difficult weather conditions, and also to meet the challenge they often face, which is to find a fair price for their crops, even when yields are good.

In our current five-year strategy, 'Embracing Change,' we identify that it is not good enough to simply help vulnerable poor communities to grow enough food. We must also support these households to access markets, so that they can earn the money that they need to afford regular expenses, such as school fees and healthcare, and to help them cope during times of crisis.

It was therefore heartening to secure the single biggest contract in our history in 2019, when the European Union awarded Self Help Africa close to €26m to support businesses that can help to grow and develop the agri-business and aquaculture sectors in Zambia. The goal is to provide over 100,000 small-scale

farming families with new markets and supply chains into which they can sell their produce.

A similar agri-business investment project is underway in Kenya, where match funding grants are being provided to up to 50 small and medium enterprises, to create jobs and markets for up to 150,000 rural poor households in the agriculture sector. This project is being co-funded by the EU and Slovak Aid.

In tandem, our social enterprise subsidiaries Partner Africa, Traidlinks and TruTrade are helping businesses in Africa to grow and develop, providing new markets where rural poor farming households can sell their crops and provide a better living for their families.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Jordan".

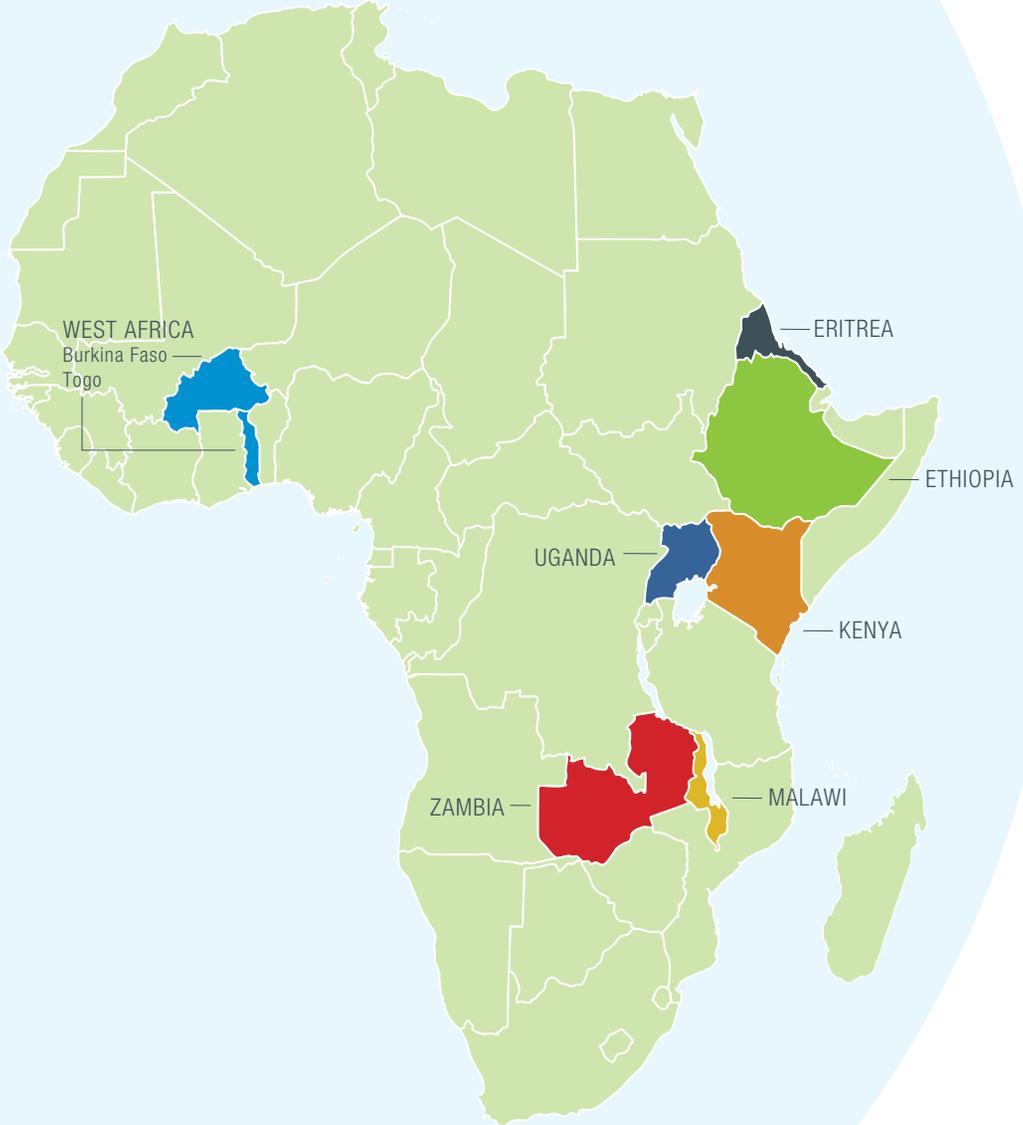
Ray Jordan
CEO, The Gorta Group

OUR MISSION IS TO SUPPORT
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
FOR AFRICA'S SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS

Beatrice Abukayot at her farm in Teso South, Busia, Kenya



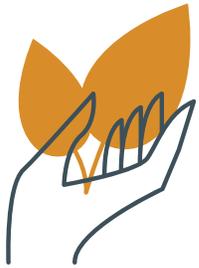
PROJECTS SNAPSHOT



32 PROJECTS

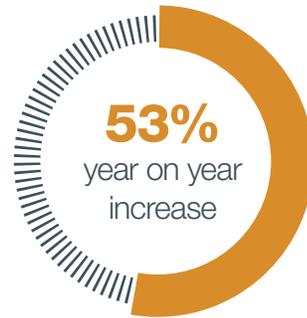
across Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Uganda and Zambia





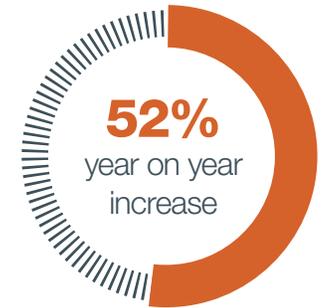
275,741

Households with increased production



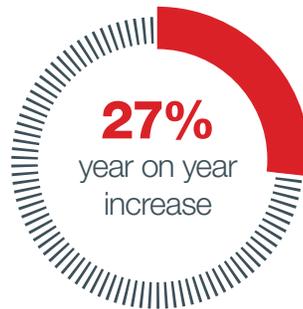
352,044

Diversified farming systems



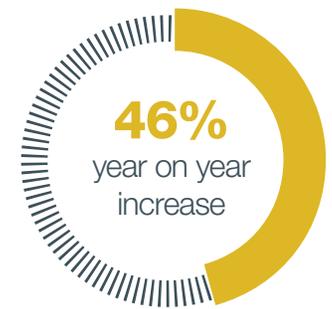
214,626

Families with increased resilience



265,018

Increased access to financial services



ETHIOPIA



107,383
Households supported



Households with access to sufficient food



86% have an acceptable dietary diversity

We have worked with:



63 Small Enterprises



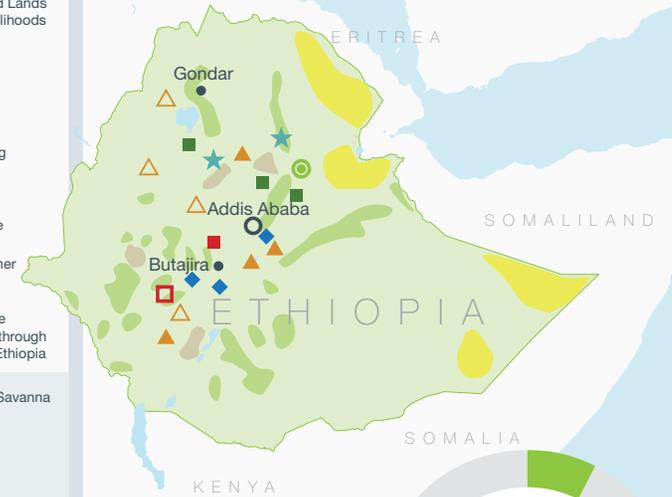
8 Medium Enterprises



419 Savings Groups

PROJECT KEY

- ◆ Scaling up RuSACCOs
- ▲ Strengthening & Scaling up of Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands and Enhancement of Livelihoods in Lake Ziway Catchment
- Feed the Future
- Dairy for Development
- ★ Stronger Together: Linking Primary Seed and Sheep Cooperative Union
- Climate-Smart Agriculture
- ▲ Capacity Building of Farmer Training Centers
- Unleashing the Productive Capacity of Poor People through Graduation Approach in Ethiopia



Sosina (13), Tintina (5), Gabisea village, Abichu District, Ethiopia



Smallholder farmers, Eritrea.



ERITREA



1,000
Households supported



500 local seed growers
access good quality seed



450 households receive
Climate Smart Agriculture
support

PROJECT KEY

- ◆ Seed Enterprises for Equitable Distribution
- Climate Smart Agricultural Research and Innovation Support for Dairy Value Chains
- Extensive Agriculture and Savanna
- Forest, Rainforest, Swamp
- Barren
- Desert



KENYA



41,985
Households supported



Households with access to sufficient food



64% of our beneficiaries are women



78% of households in cassava project now have bank accounts

We have worked with:



27 Small and Micro Enterprises

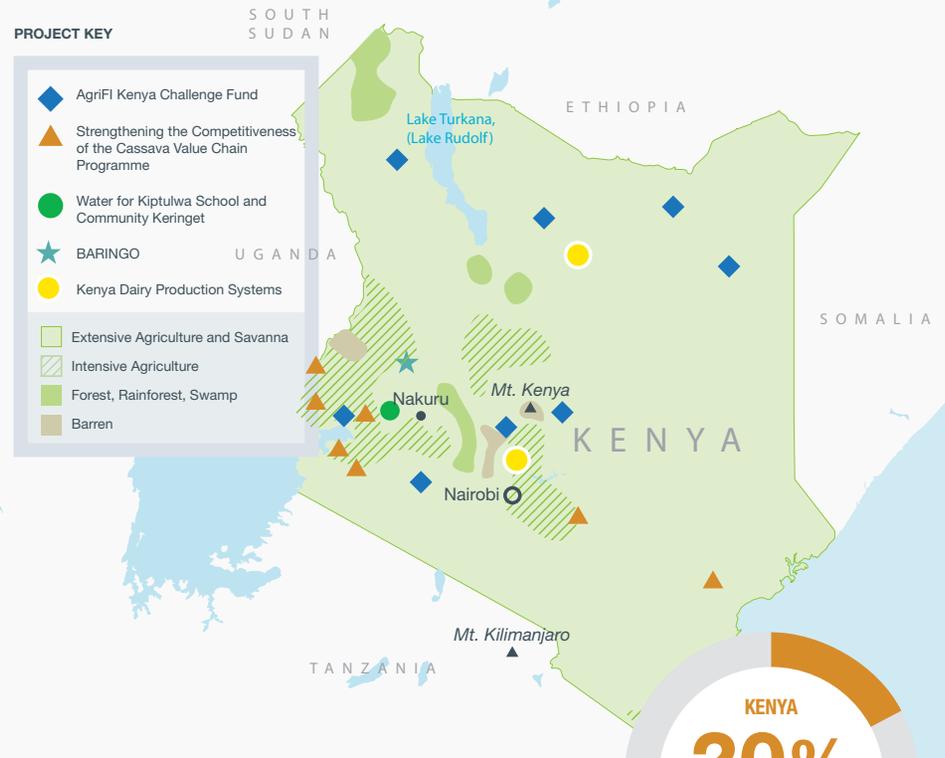


655 Cassava Farm Groups

179 Small businesses for youth in Kisumu County



Smallholder Farmer in Nanyuki, Kenya



MALAWI



142,589
Households supported



Households with access to sufficient food



55% of our beneficiaries are women



89% have an acceptable dietary diversity

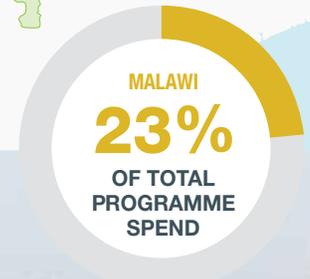
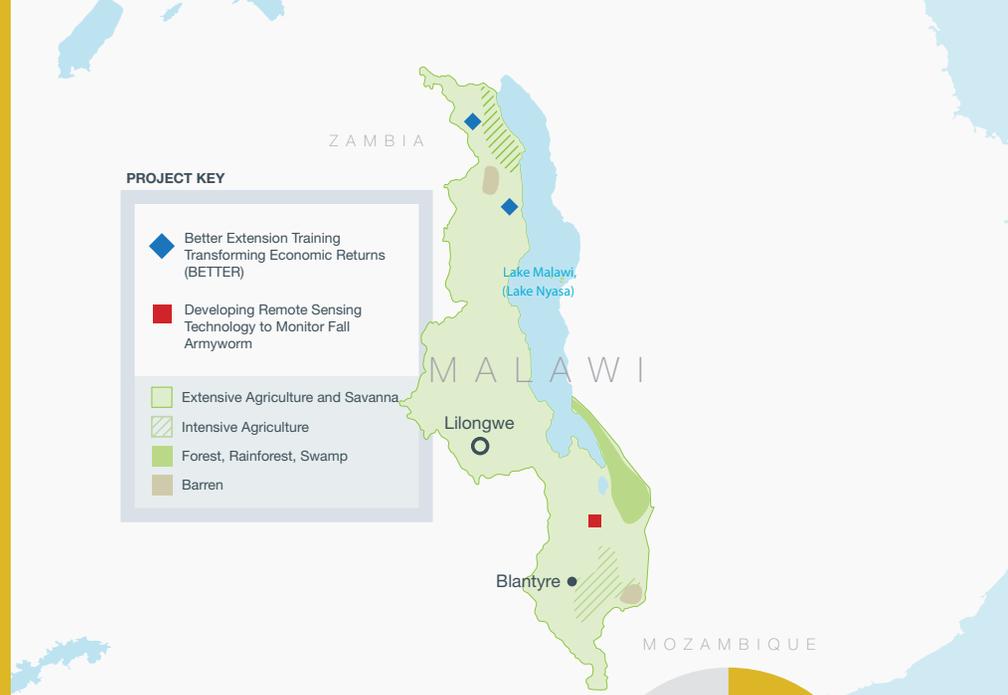
We have worked with:



2,255
Saving Groups



300
Farmer Field Schools



Eddah Mpanja winnowing rice, Siyogha, Malawi

UGANDA



8,958

Households supported



Households with access to sufficient food



58% of our beneficiaries are women



Support for **2,000** smallholders in Northern Uganda through the honey value chain

We have worked with:



177 Micro Enterprises



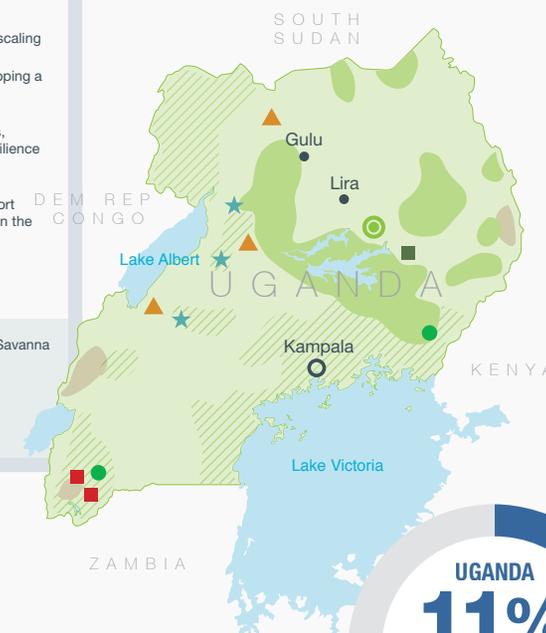
470 Farm Groups



76 Saving Groups

PROJECT KEY

- ▲ Agriculture and Market Support for North West Uganda
 - Local Seed Business Outscaling
 - Striking a Balance: Developing a Green Economy
 - Strengthening Livelihoods, Nutrition and Climate Resilience of Smallholder Farmers
 - ★ Pilot Programme to Support Agriculture Development in the Albertine Region
 - Teso Youth and Women's Livelihoods Programme
- Extensive Agriculture and Savanna
 - Intensive Agriculture
 - Forest, Rainforest, Swamp
 - Barren



Mary Asele (24) from Kepelebyong, Teso, Uganda

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO & TOGO



49,453
Households supported



39,463 Households
in Burkina Faso

10,080 Households
in Togo



10,080 people were
provided with access
to safe drinking water

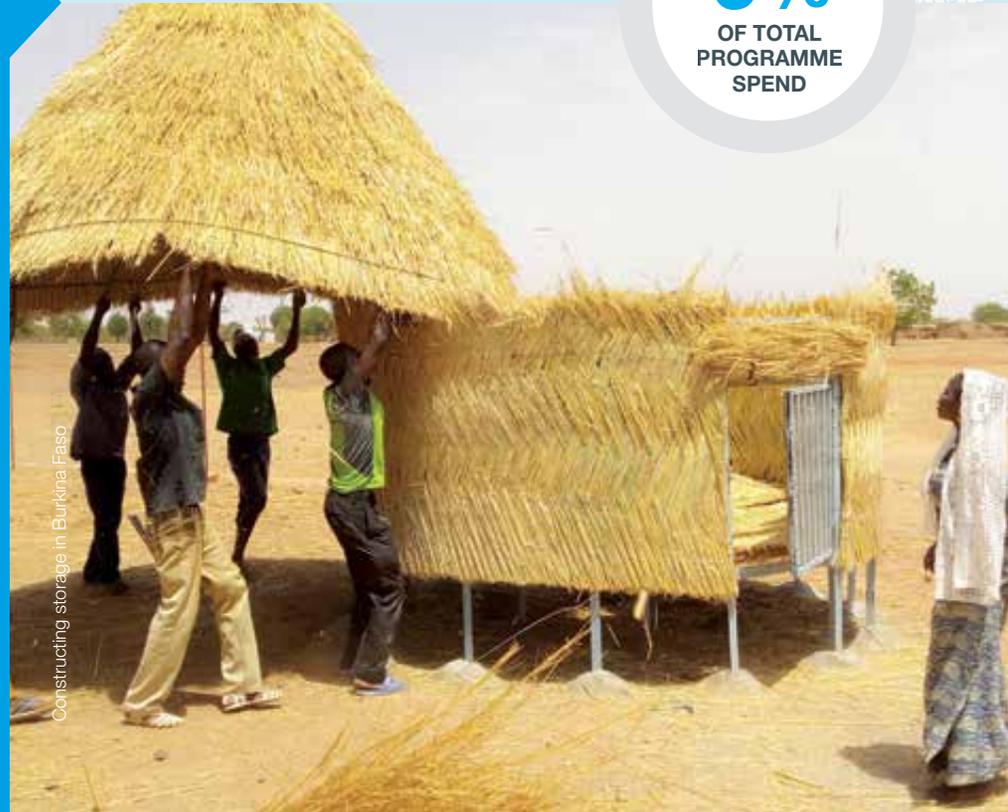
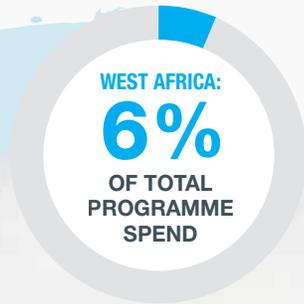
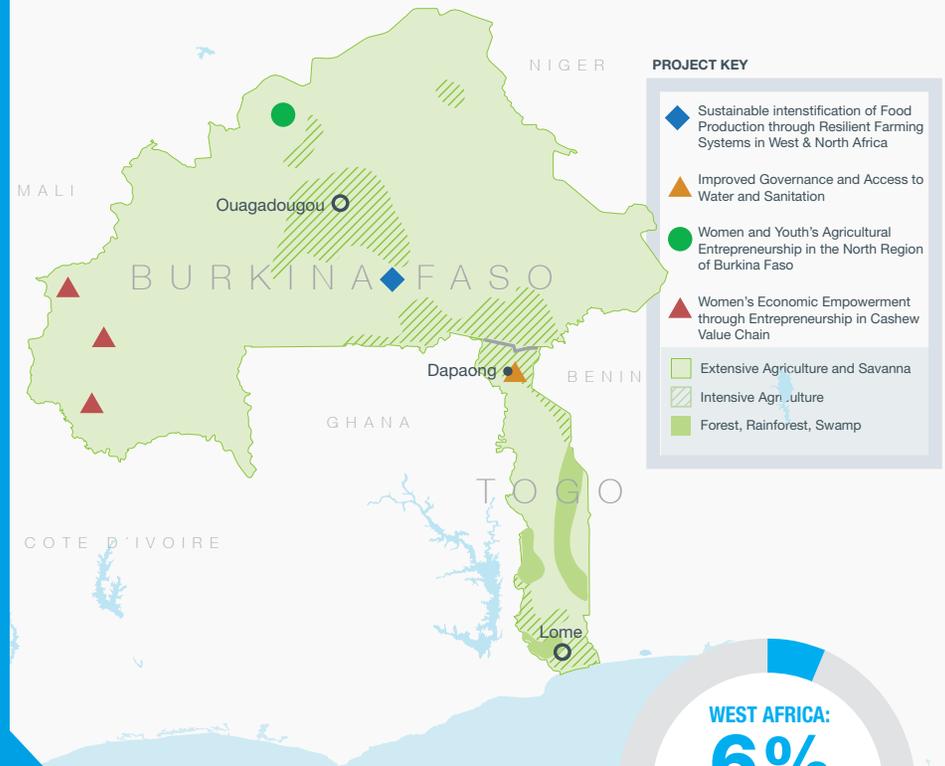
*We have
worked with:*



19 Micro
Enterprises



48 Farm
Groups



ZAMBIA



15,094

Households supported



45%

Households with access to sufficient food, despite severe drought in parts of the country



63% of beneficiaries working with Self Help Africa are women



40,839 pupils received meals; related to nutritional training delivered to trainers, staff in the schools and the related communities

We have worked with:



13 Micro Enterprises



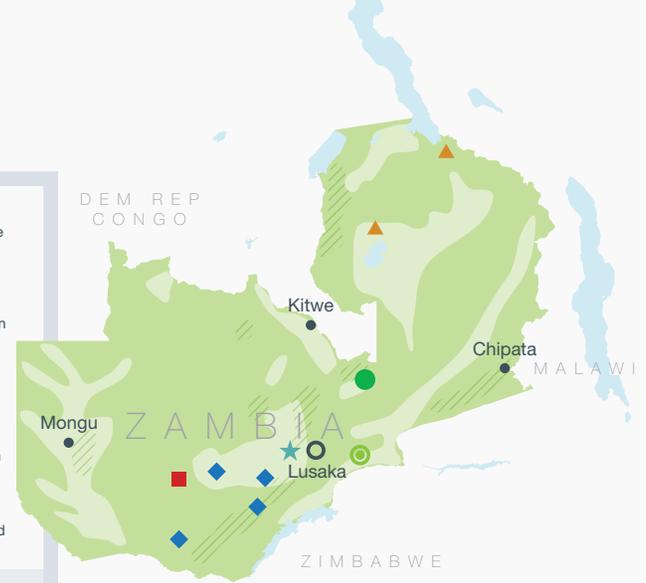
100 Farm Groups



30 Saving Groups

PROJECT KEY

- ◆ Protecting and Restoring the Environment and Supporting the Emergence of a Resilient and Vibrant Economy in Kafue (PRESERVE)
- ▲ Sustaining Enterprise Growth in Financial Associations Project (SEGIFA)
- Community-based Seed Enterprises
- South Appeal for Humanitarian Action
- ★ Economic, Nutrition and technical Support for Increased Economic Returns (ASBO)
- Extensive Agriculture and Savanna
- ▨ Intensive Agriculture
- Forest, Rainforest, Swamp



ZAMBIA
9%
OF TOTAL PROGRAMME SPEND

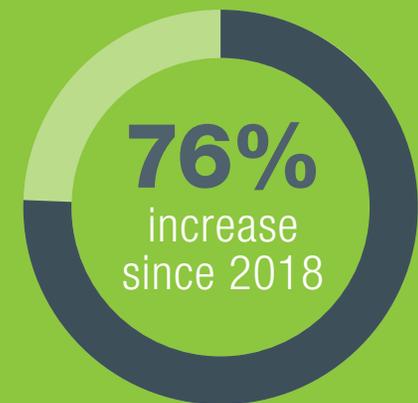


Felister Namukwe, Nsangu village, Zambia



9,156

HOUSEHOLDS HAVE IMPROVED
THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF
NUTRITION AND HYGIENE
PRACTICES



Hikrem Edilu (5) and Tiringo Tsessa (9), Arekete Nutrition Training Centre, Ethiopia

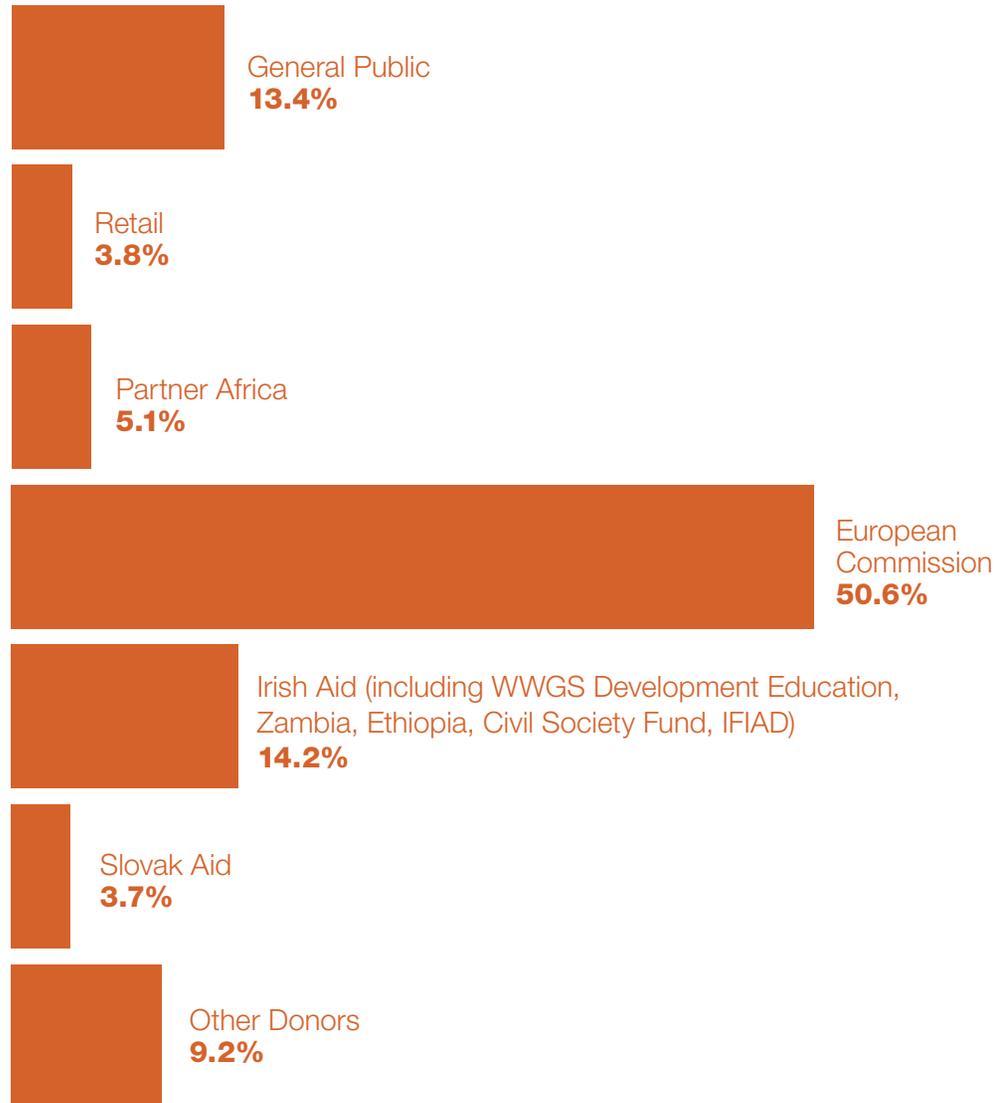
Mary Banda, Mango Tree farmer, Karonga, Northern Malawi

378,782
HOUSEHOLDS
SUPPORTED



2019 IN FIGURES

Our donors in 2019



Where the money goes*

*Excluding retail



PARTNERSHIPS BRING SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Partnerships have always been central to Self Help Africa's approach – going right back to our earliest years.

WE'VE ALWAYS worked with a broad range of community-based, national and international partners. Collaborations with local government agencies and community-based groups has been a bedrock of our programme successes in Africa. Farmers associations, agri-cooperatives, microfinance institutions and community-based organisations remain vital to the delivery of our programmes.

Self Help Africa also collaborates with national and international NGOs, with research, training and academic institutions, and with a broad range of professional associations and networks.

In the past decade Self Help Africa's links to the private sector have grown too, as we support private investors and businesses to create jobs and develop markets that can benefit rural poor farm producers.

In Kenya and Zambia, two large-scale European Union-backed projects are currently underway in collaboration with a private economic and development consultancy firm, Imani Development.

“
We've always worked with a broad range of community-based, national and international partners
”

Combined, they aim to provide grant aid and technical support to close to 100 private companies that are involved in establishing and expanding new agri-businesses in the two countries.

In Malawi, two of the biggest projects Self Help Africa has ever undertaken in southern Africa have been delivered in partnerships that are both local and international.

The current five-year European Union-backed agri-training programme BETTER is being implemented by Self Help Africa in collaboration with local NGO Evangelical Association of Malawi and with international partners ActionAid, Plan International (UK) and The Adventist Development and Relief

Association. The previous DISCOVER climate resilience project, which concluded in Malawi in 2017, was undertaken in partnership with Concern Universal, Farm Africa, GOAL, and Italian NGO COOPI.

At a grassroots level, Self Help Africa is committed to developing the skills and capabilities of our local partners. We use a range of training and monitoring tools designed to build the capacity of these local organisations and partners.

In Ethiopia, capacity assessments of farmer associations and cooperatives resulted in coaching and mentoring being provided to four seed producer primary cooperatives and to eight other cooperatives that are seeking to develop their business, marketing and financial analysis capabilities.

Elsewhere in this year's annual report you can read about Self Help Africa's work with research, training and academic institutions to tap into knowledge, technology, and improve our ability to deliver our programme activities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Fulina Kisulu and Dolisi Kabana showing the rice they have harvested, Silogha, Malawi



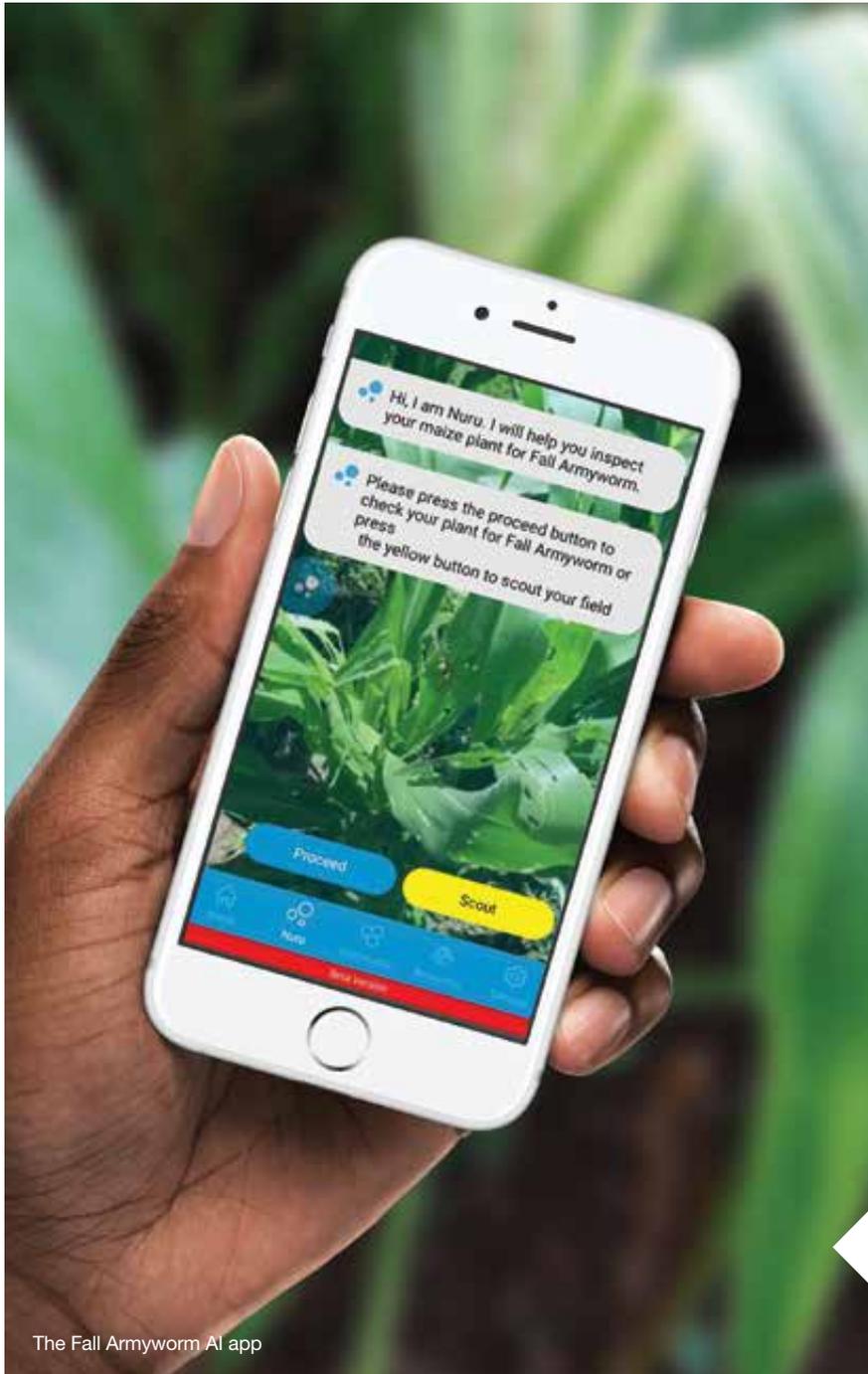
TAKING TECHNOLOGY TO THE FIELD

Self Help Africa is working closely with a wide range of institutions to ensure that rural poor farmers can benefit from science and technology. We believe that the benefits of agricultural technology and research should be available to even the poorest farmers, and have been working in varying ways to ensure that we can deliver on that goal.

BY COMBINING agricultural knowledge with new technologies, Self Help Africa has been able to innovate in the field, as has been evidenced with the use by agricultural extension workers of smartphone apps that assist farmers in diagnosing crop diseases. Such a project is currently underway with cassava in Kenya, where an app developed at Penn State University in the US, in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), is being used to detect infected cassava plants using artificial intelligence that can detect viral diseases and pest infestations in the crop.

“

The app has been able to detect the presence or absence of Fall Armyworm damage with up to 87% accuracy, and the level of damage suffered by the crop with 75% accuracy.



The Fall Armyworm AI app

This collaboration to the benefit of smallholder farmers went further in 2019, when Penn State linked its app to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) remote sensing software that monitors vegetation growth, so that farmers and project managers can now monitor growth rates of their cassava fields remotely.



The Cassava AI app

In Malawi, Self Help Africa has partnered with University College Dublin-based Orbas Ltd, Plant Labs, and with the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture to test machine learning algorithms to 'learn' to identify and detect Fall Armyworm (FAW) hotspots in satellite images. FAW has caused devastation to maize crops since the destructive moth species first crossed the Atlantic to Africa in late 2016. Since this machine learning has

been put into place, it has been able to detect the presence or absence of Fall Armyworm damage with up to 87% accuracy, and the level of damage suffered by the crop with 75% accuracy.

In Uganda, SHA is working with the International Potato Centre (CIP) to scale-up the production of virus free cuttings that can be grown more quickly and cost effectively than other potato varieties.

Work to pilot the genetic fingerprinting of registered local bean varieties in partnership with Bath University and the Zambia Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) has been successfully completed.

In 2019, a partnership with Queens University in Belfast, in collaboration with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi, began to develop a low cost approach to worm control in goats that will reduce costs for farmers and slow the spread of resistance to commercial dewormers.

The approach is based on a simple five point visual scoring tool that will help community animal health workers to estimate the level of worm infestation in each goat, and thus determine whether to treat the animal with purchased dewormers and plants known to have anthelmintic properties; with anthelmintic plants only; or that no treatment is required. The project is cataloguing and testing plants that farmers already



Cassava AI users in one of the KF1 project areas: Bungoma County, Kenya

use as natural dewormers and testing other plants that may expel or kill worms. A related project is using remote sensing and rainfall data to determine when the risks of goats picking up worms from pastures is at its highest.

SHA has deployed 184 weather stations and seven river-line gauges in Malawi and Zambia to detect and predict rainfall patterns and allow farmers to adjust planting dates during the most sensitive periods in a crop's growth cycle, using an approach that was developed by UN FAO in collaboration with Michigan State University in the US.

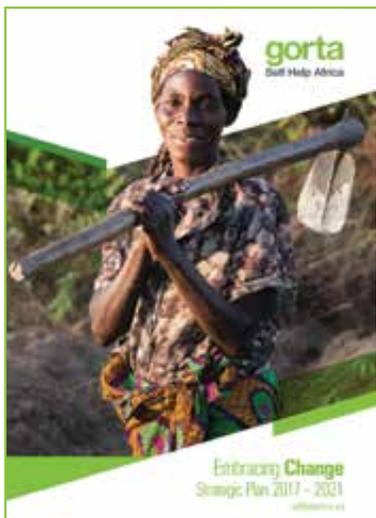
A research fellow from UCD School of Earth Sciences is working with SHA to analyse isotopes in cave deposits from Madagascar to understand how rainfall patterns in Southern Africa have varied over 38,000 years. The objective of this work is to determine whether current rainfall levels are outside the prehistoric ranges of rainfall variability, or we are entering uncharted waters.



SHA is also currently working with a technology company, Viamo, on a user-friendly SMS and voice-based messaging system that allows farmers to call a number to receive up-to-date information on rainfall, crop pest and diseases and markets in their area, together with other farm advice. As the system is voice-activated, illiterate farmers can receive recorded instructions in their local language.

EMBRACING CHANGE, STAYING RELEVANT

A mid-term assessment of Self Help Africa's five-year strategy concluded that its core objectives remain highly relevant both to the needs of rural poor communities, and to the institutional donor community.



THE FIRST 30 months of the strategy, 'Embracing Change', has been a period of growth and positive results towards the delivery of the plan's three core objectives: Food, Nutrition and Income Security, Agri-Enterprise Development, and Influence and Awareness.

Published in 2017, 'Embracing Change' was the most ambitious strategy produced in the long history of Self Help Africa, and set a target of reaching one million households by the end of the strategy, in 2021.

The plan also aimed to further expand Self Help Africa's role as a supporter of public-private partnerships that provide access for rural poor farmers to new markets, while also setting the organisation on a course that would simultaneously allow it to work in more fragile locations, and with the most vulnerable communities.

In late 2019, a comprehensive mid-term evaluation was undertaken into 'Embracing Change.' It set out to assess the organisation's achievements against the plan, examine what changes

had occurred to the external environment in which Self Help Africa was operating, and make recommendations that would ensure the organisation was fit for purpose to face the challenges for the future.

Carried out by SHA's policy unit in collaboration with an external consultant, the evaluation found that core objectives remained 'highly relevant', but that adjustments should be made to the plan in response to changes to the external environment and that there should be heightened focus on broader rural economic development, driven by private sector engagement. It also recommended climate change action, along with work in more fragile locations and protracted crises.

The evaluation also advised that Self Help Africa's capacity to achieve its goals in enterprise development and humanitarian development work should be strengthened, that the organisation's donor base and funding streams should be diversified, and that further investment should be made in digital technologies.

“

'Embracing Change' was the most ambitious strategy produced in the long history of Self Help Africa



Munira Kadir (10) from Dire Lafto,
Amhara Region Ethiopia, 2019.

NEW INVESTMENT IN ENTERPRISE

Self Help Africa secured a major new contract in 2019 that will support the investment of close to €26m in the development of agriculture and fish farming sectors in Zambia over the coming five years.

THE EU-backed project will provide new and established businesses with the opportunity to apply for Challenge Fund backing to support both the creation and the expansion of ventures that will enhance Zambia's agriculture and aquaculture sectors.

ENTERPRISE Zambia aims to support up to 40 businesses with the potential to create thousands of new jobs, and also establish profitable markets for hundreds of thousands of the country's smallholder farmers and fisherfolk.

The initiative is Self Help Africa's second Challenge Fund project, and follows the creation of AgriFI Kenya, a similar EU-backed venture, in 2018.

ENTERPRISE Zambia will be managed by Self Help Africa in collaboration with business consultants Imani Development, with whom the organisation also currently collaborates on the AgriFI Kenya project.

The new Challenge Fund will seek to increase investment in agriculture and aquaculture by providing grants to support businesses with the greatest

potential to support smallholder farmers across the southern African country. Financial support will be targeted at proposals with the greatest potential to support producers, improve infrastructure and services, and facilitate the creation and strengthening of smallholder farmers and agri-business associations in Zambia. Mentoring and support will also be provided to businesses, who will also be encouraged to address climate-smart agricultural approaches.

Visit www.enterprisezambia.org

Meanwhile, in Kenya the **AgriFI Challenge Fund** disbursed more than €4m in 2019 to eight agri-businesses involved in a broad range of farm related activities.

Amongst the grant recipients in Kenya to receive match-funding from the scheme included businesses involved in producing juices and jams, in manufacturing coconut milk, yogurt and dairy, avocado oil, solar powered irrigation, bio-fertiliser, and transport services. More than 200 applications were received in a second round grant call organised by AgriFI Kenya.

Visit www.agrifichallengefund.org



“

The new fund will seek to increase investment in agriculture and aquaculture by providing grants to support small businesses

Simon Unditi, farmer using Real IPM products

Nabaloum Habilou, market gardening in the village of Laogo, Kourweogo Province, West Africa.



BUILDING RESILIENCE IN WEST AFRICA

The BRACED project has worked with nearly half a million farmers in Burkina Faso.



THE RESILIENCE of households to climate extremes increased from just 24% up to 83% as a result of work during a major climate adaptation project in West Africa, according to a new report.

The BRACED project, which Self Help Africa implemented in collaboration with German development agency Welthungerhilfe and four local partners over a four and a half year period to June 2019, supported close to half a million farmers in agricultural production, and increased the number of households who had year-round food security from 31% up to 56% in the same period.

The information is contained in a post-project evaluation of BRACED, which received €8m funding from UK AID to work with 1.3 million people in regions of Burkina Faso experiencing rising poverty and hunger as a result of global warming.

The BRACED project promoted a range of activities to support households to diversify their farm production to cope with climate changes. These included

the introduction and promotion of wetland rice cultivation, cassava production, market gardening and poultry rearing.

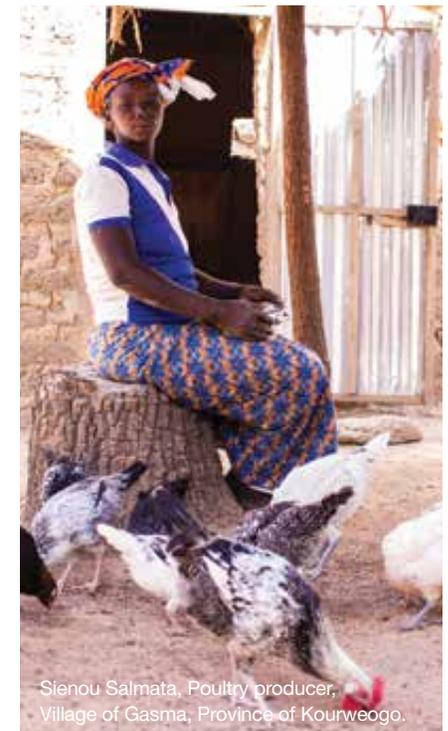
It also promoted and introduced a variety of climate smart agricultural practices and new resilient seed varieties to almost 54,000 farmers, and supported close to 200 lead farmers within specific communities to develop their own local rainwater monitoring systems.

The project reached a total of 632,534 individual farmers with climate information services, and helped 437,745 farmers to increase their farm production.

BRACED placed a strong emphasis on working with women farmers and women-headed households. Statistics from the report showed that 61% of all those who engaged in wetland rice cultivation were women.

78% of market garden vegetable producers were women, and 52% of those who introduced cassava to their farmers were women.

“ Household resilience increased from just 24% to 83% as a result of adaptation project ”



Sienou Salmata, Poultry producer, Village of Gasma, Province of Kourweogo.



IN 2019 WE WORKED WITH
206,759
WOMEN



Alemnesh Tereda, 28, and Marsenesh Lenina, 29,
Injaffo Multi barley Coop, Gumer, Ethiopia





Meet Anna...

Anna Otieno says that her cassava yields and small seed business are making it possible to send all of her children to school.

Aged 35 and a mum of seven, Anna became a seed entrepreneur and cassava producer with Self Help Africa in Homa Bay County in Kenya, in 2016.

Anna grows maize, sweet potato and has fruit trees on a portion of her two acre plot. But it's the income that she earns from selling cassava flour, cassava cuttings, and improved quality maize seed that she produces commercially on a small portion of ground that helps her to pay school fees, and provide clothing and other goods for her family.

She says that her older children help her with the time-consuming job of cleaning and bagging her maize seed, which she sells through the local farmers cooperative to other farmers in the county.

"I look around the district and I see people growing maize from the seed I have produced, and I look elsewhere and there is cassava growing that has come from cuttings that I have produced," she says. "It makes me proud."

Meet Hajat...

37-year-old Hajat Ahmed says that she knew very little about commercially rearing poultry before attending a training course with Self Help Africa. Now, it's her main source of income.

She received a small loan from a SHA-backed village savings and credit cooperative that she joined, and says that it gave her the chance to invest in her own birds, and begin small-scale poultry management.

Her investment in young hens was successful and soon she began to earn a regular income through the sale of eggs and meat. "After two months, I was able to earn 240 Ethiopian Birr from the eggs and the chicks that were produced by a bird that cost me 60 Birr," she says.

Hajat is now able to plan for her family's future: "I have a chance to improve our farm and to offer my children a good education".



CASE STUDY Uganda

Meet Gladys...

Gladys Otuku is 20 years old and funding her own education, thanks to a pig rearing enterprise that she started in northern Uganda.

Gladys is a member of a 15 strong pig rearing youth group in Por village. She started her business when she was 17, when she received a breeding sow and two young piglets that she reared, after completing a Self Help Africa training course.

Since then, she has reared and sold more than 30 pigs, and currently has 10 of her own animals.

Gladys is studying for a diploma in agriculture four days every week, and is paying her fees and the costs of college from the income that she earns from her small business. She also hires two labourers who work for her when she is studying.



CASE STUDY Malawi

Meet Merinda...

Merinda is 25 and a mother of two. She attends a 'field school', a community-based farm-training centre that's part of Self Help Africa's EU-backed BETTER project in Malawi.

A total of 13,000 schools are being run by Self Help Africa and its project partners across the southern African country, promoting new crop varieties, farm practices, and supporting rural poor farming families to grow enough food in the face of a changing climate.

In a region that has endured erratic rainfall patterns for many years, Merinda says that even in the short number of years that she has been farming, she has witnessed drought, floods and rains that are almost impossible to predict.

She is optimistic that the techniques that she learned at her field school will give her better yields in the future. This year she expects to harvest over 130 kilograms of maize from her small farm.

"I used to harvest 40 kilograms of maize. It only lasted us for four months. After that I used to work for other farmers to get the food that I needed to feed my family. I needed that, or I needed hand-outs," she said.



Our women leaders **ON THE FRONTLINE**

African women are the engine that drives much of the smallholder agricultural production across the continent.

But it's not always common for women to occupy the critical farm advisory roles, supporting small-scale farmers, helping them to access training, resources and markets, and giving them the best chance to achieve more from their land.

Indeed, it is estimated that Africa's women farmers have a 33% lower chance of being able to access advisory services, farm inputs and credits than their male counterparts. A part of this could be the result of discrimination; another part the result of a reluctance by women to deal with male advisors.

Self Help Africa recognises that women have a vital role to play in smallholder agriculture, and that by having a team of talented, capable women supporting them, we can play an important part not just in helping women farmers, but that gender need not be an obstacle to agricultural production.

Over the following pages, we'd like to introduce you to Maggie, Esther, Veneless, Aggie, Jane and Karen – a handful of the women who are on the frontline with Self Help Africa, ensuring that farming families can access information, inputs and the help that they need to increase the production, and the profitability, of millions of smallholder farms across Africa.





ESTHER

Uganda

Villagers have named children in her honour and she's even been invited to local weddings!

These have been just some of the signs of the esteem in which Esther Ainyo is held by the farming communities with whom she works.

A programme manager with Self Help Africa in north-eastern Uganda for the past 13 years, Esther says that she's always loved being able to help people. *"Even as a child I wanted to help people who needed it"*, she recalls.

Esther experienced at first hand the ravages of civil war in her locality. She recalls vividly the tyranny of Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, and says that many people in Teso, where she lives and works, still bear the scars.

“

I'm filled with admiration for the amazing women, who have very little, yet are able to provide a secure life for their families

"Many people lost everything and there is still a huge amount of poverty. One of the big challenges that we still face is trying to break the cycle of dependence amongst people who have been receiving aid ever since the conflict, more than a decade ago", she says.

A mum of five children aged 17 down to three years, Esther says that she empathises with the women that she supports. *"Women do most of the farm work and juggle that with their other responsibilities. I know what that is like, so I'm filled with admiration for many of the amazing women, who have very little, yet are able to provide a safe and secure life for their families"*.

AGGIE

Zambia

Growing up in a poor family in rural Zambia, Aggie Chama says that she saw from an early age how the natural resources that surrounded her were disappearing steadily.

“Nature was giving us everything but we were taking – the trees, the fish”, she says.

“I learned in school that over 70% of people in the country relied on our natural resources for a living, so I chose quite early in life that I wanted to do something about it”, she explains.

As Self Help Africa’s Project Manager on the climate adaptation project PRESERVE Kafue (supported by Jersey Overseas Aid), Aggie’s main role is to educate smallholder farmers about how they must use their resources in a way that is sustainable.

Away from work, Aggie says that she loves to learn new things and spend time in her garden, growing vegetables organically that she can use to feed her family.

She admits that probably the toughest part of her role isn’t the job itself, but rather how she can strike a balance between her career, and her role as mum to her beloved daughter, Mwaba. *“I know this to be a common challenge for women everywhere”, she says.*

Aggie Chama says that one of her career goals is to inspire young women to get involved in agriculture. *“It provides most people in Zambia with a source of income, and it is important for women to get a chance, and also for young women to recognise that, with the right support, it can be a worthwhile way to earn a living to support their families”.*

“

It is important for women to recognise that, with the right support, agriculture is a worthwhile way to support their families





JANE

Uganda

Visiting the spectacular landscape that is one of Uganda's most famous natural resources – Lake Bunyonyi – allows Jane Amumpaire to fulfill her passion every day.

A wife and mum of three who manages Self Help Africa's EU-funded environmental project in Uganda's far south, she says that her work in Bunyonyi allows her to indulge her passions – for both agriculture and protection of the natural environment.

"I sometimes find it hard to be away from my young family for extended periods, but there are many positives. Working with the people that I do, including the indigenous Batwa forest people, is hugely rewarding", she says.

Jane has some advice for young women who might be interested in a career in agriculture, and it's simple: *"Follow your passion as a scientist, and share that knowledge with as many people as you can. Your academic learning is a gift that you should share with others".*

A graduate of Uganda's prestigious Makerere University, where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Land Use and a Masters in Integrated Watershed Management, Jane says that she's an avid consumer of environmental journals and publications, and sees her future in natural resources. *"At some point I'd like to be advocating for better natural resource governance and to improve Uganda's agricultural policies", she says.*

“

Your academic learning is a gift that you should share with others

MAGGIE

Kenya

Measures that support and help women who become involved in agri-business activities has been a highlight of Maggie Ngetha's work with Self Help Africa.

A Regional Enterprise Advisor with the organisation in Kenya, Maggie says that she's never happier than when she's encouraging young people, and particularly women, to realise the potential of the agriculture sector.

"I say don't think about any other sector or career. This is the place to be. This is where smallholder farmers and enterprising young women can carve a niche for themselves".

Maggie recognises that she's a role model. She identifies too with women everywhere who have to balance their careers with roles as mum and home-maker. *"I've got three young kids and my family is my inspiration",* she says. *"They cheer me on as well as challenge me",* she adds.

She believes that within Self Help Africa, she is doing her best work when she's encouraging farmers to look at their farms as a business, and are prepared to look for opportunities to add value and focus on the commercial potential of what they're doing.

"The energy, passion and drive that I see from people who really want to make a difference for their families is why I love coming to work", Maggie says.

Creating an assessment tool for the organisation to guide gender inclusiveness, and steer them in the direction that makes sure that the voice of women is heard in agri-business, is one of her important recent achievements.

“

The energy, passion and drive that I see from people is why I love coming to work





“

People here know that the rains are erratic. But they need encouragement

KAREN

Kenya

For thousands of households in Kenya’s coastal area, Karen Sidi is the public face of a drive to promote and support smallholder farmers to grow cassava on their small farms.

Part of a network of specialist advisors working on an EU-backed project that is supporting both smallholder production of cassava, as well as the processing and marketing of cassava flour and other products, Karen says that her day-to-day work involves training, demonstrating and making the case for cassava to farming families in the low-lying, dry, coastal districts around Kilifi.

“People here know that the rains are erratic. They experience frequent drought spells, and are willing to look at alternatives. But they need encouragement”, she says.

“In our work we don’t just demonstrate that cassava, which can cope with the hotter drier climate, is an option, but also that farmers can access the cuttings to plant, will achieve decent yields, and can be satisfied that they will earn an income if they do produce it”.

Karen says that in the early stages of the project Self Help Africa trained over 70 local seed entrepreneurs to supply the cassava for farmers to plant, and then created demonstration sites where people could be shown the crop, and how it should be planted to achieve the greatest yields.

She identifies the culture in the Kilifi area, where men are commonly the voices that are heard, as a challenge. *“Sometimes you have to go through a male leader to pass on a message and convince people. Even though you may have organised the meeting, the messages will often be more readily accepted by men if it is a male who is leading the presentation”.*

VENELESS

Malawi

Veneless Chimpesa sees herself as a woman in a man's world, but also a role model for others.

An agricultural extension advisor with Self Help Africa in Malawi, she says that she's often asked by children - boys and girls - how she managed to get to where she is. *"They see me arriving on my motorbike and I can see their eyes light up. I can see that it's motivation for them. For poor kids in the village, it says anything is possible"*.

Veneless says that just by occupying her position she believes that she is contributing in a small way to changing the attitude towards women who work in farming.

The seventh born in a family of eight, Veneless lost her parents when she was young. *"As a girl I had to work hard in the household. From an early age I made up my mind that I wanted to work with poor rural families like my own, and I wanted to focus on farming"*.

Although she's single, Veneless says that she has a busy household, caring for a number of her school-going nieces and nephews. *"I get up at 4.30am in the morning and prepare the kids for school before taking my bike and heading to work"*.

In 13 years with Self Help Africa, she has worked across the length and breadth of the country, and as a result can speak six different languages. *"I love the work and I love interacting with the communities. I particularly enjoy going back to a place where we've worked before, and seeing that the activities still continue. I recently went to Balaka, which we left three years ago, and I saw that the goat breeding programme and the pass-on scheme we established was still going strong"*.

Veneless says that she's inspired by some of the great women community leaders that she has encountered in her role. *"Sometimes they can't read or write, but they don't accept this as an obstacle. They learn the skills, grow confident, and are role models that others in the village will follow"*.



“
*They see me arriving
on my motorbike and
I can see their eyes
light up*”



+237%

**THE INCREASE - IN HECTARES -
OF FARMLAND APPLYING
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES, SINCE 2018**



Over 7,000 students participated in educational events and activities delivered by Self Help Africa's Development Education team

Winner of the BTYS Science for Development Award 2019,
Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College, with Minister
Helen McEntee

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SELF HELP AFRICA'S Development Education (DE) team created and made available a series of new resources to support teachers who wished to bring Global Citizenship subjects into their classrooms, in 2019.

The DE team directly delivered almost 300 workshops in post-primary classrooms, worked with eight Irish universities and in 16 adult and community learning settings during the year.

The main focus of the programmes schools work was on Junior Cert and Transition Year groups, with the focus of workshops including sustainable food systems, ethical trade, climate justice, gender equality and the UN Global Goals.

The Development Education programme introduced these subjects to a broad range of class groups in secondary schools, including in curriculum areas for Sciences, Business, Home Economics, CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education), as well as English, Geography and Art.



Education resources for teachers ▲

Self Help Africa exhibitions relating to gender equality, women and climate change, and an interactive digital exhibition exhibited at six different schools and universities, festivals and public libraries during 2019.

A new teacher training Social Justice module was also developed and piloted over an eight week period with Professional Masters in Education students in Maynooth University.

In 2019, the DE team presented its 17th annual Irish Aid-sponsored Science for Development Award at the annual BT Young Scientist and Technology

Exhibition, and again hosted its annual student 'Science for Development Showcase' event, in collaboration with Irish Aid, at Iveagh House, which was attended by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney.

“*The focus of workshops included sustainable food systems, ethical trade, climate justice and gender equality*”

A new website design for the Development Education programme was devised to facilitate both teachers and students, hosting downloadable SHA Dev Ed resource materials. Resources linked to the science curriculum were shared on the Scoilnet web resource portal.

The Development Education programme also participated in the annual Sustainability Ireland Conference at Croke Park, in the annual Worldwide Global Schools Conference, the Global Green at Electric Picnic and in the inaugural Elements of Change Festival at Cloughjordan Eco-Village in Tipperary.



Volunteers at the Global Green, Electric Picnic

CONNECTING TO MARKETS WITH TRUTRADE

Self Help Africa's social enterprise subsidiary TruTrade traded close to 1,000 metric tonnes of farm produce on behalf of smallholder farmers in Kenya and Uganda, in 2019.

THE BUSINESS, which links farmers to buyers of their produce prior to harvest, traded a wide range of commodities including soyabean, cassava, rice, chia, avocado, mango and Irish potato, and paid farmers using mobile money transfers.

A total of 3,760 farmers used the TruTrade 'market connect' service to sell their goods, and generated earnings totalling \$US627,000 for their produce. The figure represented an average 15% increase in sale price.

TruTrade extended its network of sourcing agents to new regions in both Kenya and Uganda, and at year end had 76 active agents linking smallholder farmers to their buyers. The business worked with 27 separate buyers during the year.

In recognition of its innovative trading

solution, TruTrade received a grant-award of \$100,000 from the Mohammad Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity, in 2019.

TruTrade also received a mentorship award from the World Bank Disruptive Agricultural Technology Challenge award in Kenya, coming first in the market linkages category.

Established to link smallholder farmers in rural Africa to viable and profitable markets, TruTrade seeks to cut out the middlemen by sourcing end buyers for the commodities that are being grown in farmers' fields, and by arranging with farmers to produce crops for which they have sourced markets.

The company widely uses online digital application services and mobile money transfer to pay farmers in a timely fashion, once they have delivered their crops to the depot or collection point.



TruTrade agent weighs produce



Avocado production in Kenya

“

*3,760 farmers used the TruTrade
'market connect' service to
sell their goods, and generated
earnings totalling \$US627,000*



Photo courtesy of Partner Africa



“

Partner Africa's consultancy service is estimated to have improved work conditions for close to 30,000 employees



Partner Africa

IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR MORE THAN 30,000 WORKERS

Self Help Africa's ethical auditing subsidiary Partner Africa delivered a total of 768 audits for clients in 2019.

PARTNER AFRICA (PA) increased its annual turnover during 2019 to €1.36m, working in that time with a broad range of clients including well-known global brands Coca Cola, Tesco, Diageo, Anglo-American and Unilever.

In 2019, PA also provided advisory services to more than 20 clients, to support these businesses to improve working conditions in their supply chains, which included training in labour standards and in-depth research into key social issues.

In addition, Partner Africa's consultancy service is estimated to have improved work conditions for close to 30,000 employees in the agri-business, apparel, manufacturing and mining sectors.

Established as a social enterprise subsidiary to improve working conditions across African business, PA also assists

international companies and brands who are seeking to trade and invest on the African continent.

PA's work is framed around the United Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights. The organisation work with clients to identify, address and report on the social, environmental and governance risks in an organisation, and assists clients to adopt responsible business practices in response.

In 2019, ethical audits conducted by the PA team identified the employment of children and young workers, wage standards, health, hygiene and safety standards, and security of employment amongst the main issues to emerge.

Partner Africa's work seeks to address these issues, and others – supporting companies in Africa and the Middle East to adopt international labour standards including those of the Ethical



Social audit preparation training session for suppliers in Durban, KZN, South Africa

Trade Initiative (ETI), which includes: rejection of child labour, freedom of association, and removal of discrimination from the workplace, together with agreements around established working conditions, wage conditions and hours of work. With a team of national and international experts, Partner Africa works with companies to address these areas by providing management training and advice on remediation strategies.

NEW CONTRACT FOR IRISH EDUCATION

WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS), the Irish Aid global education programme run through a Self Help Africa-led consortium, supported more than 200 schools, school clusters, networks and NGOs with a broad range of activities, in 2019.

“
Young people are now more aware than ever that we live in a highly interdependent, complex and unequal world

..... Aishling McGrath
Director of WorldWise Global Schools

In 2019, WWGS was awarded a new contract from Irish Aid following a successful delivery of a first phase programme that began in 2014.

WWGS worked with 226 schools, three school clusters, three schools networks and 18 NGOs, providing grant support, workshops, teacher training, resources and other support to groups engaged in delivering Global Citizenship Education (GCE).

Highlights of the year included a Regional and National Teacher Training event, the Annual Student Conference, a Symposium for School Management, and the publication of new resources to assist the Junior Cycle Geography and History to incorporate GCE in their classes.

The WWGS Annual Conference provides an opportunity to showcase the work and commitment of schools and to present the WWGS Global Passports Awards. Schools receive a Global Passport Award following a rigorous self-assessment of their whole-school approach to Global Citizenship Education. 56 schools received Global Passport Awards in 2019.

Tackling gender inequality, injustice, climate change and ensuring a more sustainable world for all were some of the headline issues addressed at the conference. The event ‘Connect for Change’ provided a platform for post-primary students to speak out and take action on critical global issues.

“Young people are now more aware than ever that we live in a highly interdependent, complex and unequal world. A critical understanding of these issues is essential if we are serious about responding effectively to the root causes of global injustice, and safeguarding our planet and its people for future generations,” says WorldWise Global Schools Director, Aishling McGrath

42 principals and deputy principals attended the Annual WWGS Symposium for School Management in November 2019 in Iveagh House (picture, top). This successful event focusing on School Ethos and Culture brought together principals and deputy principals to share experiences and learn from each other with the aim of strengthening their commitment to GCE in their school.



Aishling McGrath, director of WWGS, speaks at the Symposium for School Management



Students at the WWGS Annual Conference in Croke Park



From left, Noreen McGlynn, Teacher, Maedhbh Roarty, Student, Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny, and Mary Browne, Irish Aid

ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC

Self Help Africa hosts and participates in a range of public and supporter events in Ireland, the UK and the United States, each year.

THESE EVENTS inform the public about the work that we do and the issues that our activities seek to address. They inform and engage people – as supporters, donors, voters, campaigners and students – of the vital role that they can play in creating a fairer world. They also raise awareness about the work of Self Help Africa, our partners and the wider Non-Governmental Agency sector, and how Irish Aid’s overseas aid programme is contributing to eradicating hunger and extreme poverty.

Public Events

In 2019, upwards of 5,000 people attended events hosted by Self Help Africa. These included gala functions, meetings, sectoral conferences and public festival events at which we had a presence. More than 500 attendees visited our tent as part of Global Green at the 2019 Electric Picnic music festival, while close to 1,000 visited our tent at the National Ploughing Championships, where we showcased both our own work, and the broader work of Irish businesses, including Moyee Coffee, Healy Chia, and Devenish Nutrition, to source produce and support agricultural markets in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, over 7,000 students participated in educational events and activities delivered by Self Help Africa’s Development Education team in Ireland. Thousands more viewed exhibitions staged in schools, university campuses and public spaces during the year.

Self Help Africa also had a presence at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, where we collaborated with Irish Aid to present the popular and successful Science for Development Award, which is presented annually to a student project that addresses a challenge facing communities in the Global South.

Gala fundraising events were staged in New York, Boston, Dublin, Galway and Shrewsbury, with more than 2,000 attendees hearing Self Help Africa presentations while lending their support to our work.

Representation

Self Help Africa representatives attended a wide range of sectoral events, and campaigned on a broad number of policy issues across Africa and in the West, as we continued our efforts to champion the agricultural and development policies necessary to our work, to improve the lives of people across sub-Saharan Africa.

“

In 2019, upwards of 5,000 people attended events hosted by Self Help Africa

In October, Self Help Africa hosted the sixth annual conference of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD), which took place at Iveagh House in Dublin, the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Communications

We continued to build and increase our online presence, with supporter numbers on social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram growing in 2019 to approximately 70,000 people.

At the same time the numbers accessing information about Self Help Africa on our website, www.selfhelpafrica.org, increased to more than 380,000 people, with audience engagement also improving – as the average duration of site visitors extended to more than two minutes per visit.



Gilbert F. Houngbo (centre), IFIAD president, with delegates from Irish Aid at the annual IFIAD conference in Dublin.



Jacques Hill (left) and Sam Lynas, co-founders of Haru, with Gerard Magee, Head of Retail, Self Help Africa, beginning a trial which could revolutionise book sales for the charity.



From left, Emer Fogarty, Dervla Owens, Jamie Hartnett, Ray Jordan, Antonia Dominguez, Ciara Tallon at the Dublin Ball in the Shelbourne, October 2019.



Ann McKnight and Evaline Mitchell from our charity shop in Dunmurry joined Denny Elliott, Head of NI, Self Help Africa, in celebrating at the milestone ceremony recognising 725 years of volunteering by 40 of the charity's 200 plus volunteers.



From left, Dorothy Jacob SHA, Mary Sweeney SHA, Minister for European Affairs Helen McEntee, Jack O'Connor UN Youth Delegate 2019 and Arran Towers SHA at Science for the Development Award, BT Young Scientist 2019.



Melvin Benn, Managing Director of Electric Picnic organisers Festival Republic, 'hugs a tree to plant three' with Self Help Africa at the Self Help Africa stand at the event last September.

Our Community



Emmanuel Omara Ayen (SHA Uganda staff), Katheen Naughton (Galway supporter), Samuel Aikomo (SHA Uganda staff) and Steph Smith (SHA UK staff), taking part in the Uganda Marathon, June 2019.



Phil Brown, Laura Brain and Chris Hughes, get ready to run in the Great North Run, Newcastle upon Tyne, September 2019.



Irish international rugby player Rob Herring visits Uganda with Self Help Africa, 2019.



Well known Shropshire chef and restaurateur Chris Burt joined Self Help Africa supporters on a fundraising field trip to Uganda in Summer 2019.



Students from Dublin, Kerry, Cork and Wicklow take part in the annual Development Education schools' study visit to Uganda in Spring 2019.



Guests at our Change-Makers Ball in Boston, 2019.



Stuart and Kate Richards climbed Kilimanjaro in September 2019 raising close to £10,000.



Participants get ready for the Race 2019, Donegal.



Volunteer trip to Uganda, 2019.



Margaret Ngetha and Kathryn Thomas at the Dublin Ball in the Shelbourne, October 2019.



Lizzie Hulton-Harrop and Harry Vernon, volunteering at Shrewsbury Food Festival, June 2019.



Letter from the Chairman

2019 was a significant year for The Gorta Group, as the organisation reached a record 380,000 households across our programmes, and implemented a total of 32 projects across nine core countries in the region. In total, our turnover for the year was €33.4m.

OUR SUBSIDIARIES extended our organisational reach even further, with Partner Africa's ethical consultancy working with companies in over 40 countries, TruTrade sourcing from thousands of smallholders in East Africa for national and regional markets, and Traidlinks facilitating unique trade partnerships in the Great Lakes Region.

Our core work remains focused on smallholder farmers, farmer associations, and African agri-business. In the agri-enterprise sector we received the largest ever grant in the organisation's long history – an award from the European Union of €26m to establish and deliver an agri-business Challenge Fund to support the growth and development of that sector in Zambia.

Over a five-year period, ENTERPRISE Zambia will provide investment funding to upwards of 40 businesses in the agri-business and aquaculture sectors in the southern African country, with the goal of creating thousands of new jobs in processing and production, and new markets for up to 150,000 smallholder farmers in Zambia.

As I write this introduction to our annual report, we are in the midst of the worst global health crisis in a century.

COVID-19 has claimed lives, damaged health and caused economic devastation across the globe, and it continues to pose a grave threat to the fabric of our societies.

Our governments, health authorities, and so many others are helping us to navigate the challenges that have resulted from this pandemic. As we look to the future, much of the discourse has been around how we must adapt to a 'new normal'. Our resilience and ability to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19 will ultimately determine how and when we recover from this crisis.

That is the case both in the western world, and in the countries where we are delivering programmes and supporting communities, in sub-Saharan Africa.

Like many other organisations in the non-profit sector, Self Help Africa is counting the economic costs of coronavirus. Many of our planned fundraising events and activities for 2020 – in Ireland, the UK and USA - have been cancelled, our network of charity shops closed for four months, as did most of our offices.

As the chairman of the Board of Directors, I am extremely grateful to all of our staff across the world for the manner in which they managed these challenges. Our workforce has adapted to working remotely, while they have also shown enormous goodwill and cooperation in accepting wage cuts and shortened working hours, during the pandemic. For this, and for the support from suppliers, from donors, and from other quarters, we are extremely grateful.



I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution Tom Kirley made to the organisation and extend our deepest sympathies to his family on his passing in May 2020. Tom played a pivotal role in Gorta over many years as a sub committee and Board member and also as interim CEO. He was part of the team that brought Gorta and Self Help Africa together and the organisation has gone from strength to strength as a result. His commitment to supporting the eradication of poverty in Africa and doing the right thing, no matter how challenging, has been a huge part of our collective success. We will miss him dearly.

We watched the spread of COVID-19 with trepidation, and were acutely aware too of the potential that this deadly virus had to cause devastation in sub-Saharan Africa, should it take hold.

We are fortunate that Self Help Africa emerged from 2019 in a strong position, both programmatically and financially. In this, my last year as Chairman, I want to say how grateful I am to my colleagues on our Board for the support they have provided to me, and for the important oversight that they have given to the organisation and its work, over the last number of years.

A mid-term evaluation of our current five-year strategic plan, 'Embracing Change' that was carried out in 2019 has allowed us to focus anew on our mission.

It will give us new confidence and determination that we can meet the challenges and achieve our targets in the years ahead.

Tom Kitt,
Chairman, The Gorta Group

Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements

for the financial year ended
31 December 2019

Directors and Other Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Mr. Tom Kitt (Chairman)	
	Ms. Carmel Fox	
	Mr. David Governey	
	Ms. Rowena Dwyer	
	Mr. Pat Murphy	
	Mr. James Galvin	
	Ms. Sheila Walsh	<i>(appointed 28 June 2019)</i>
	Ms. Catherine Fitzgibbon	<i>(appointed 28 June 2019)</i>
	Mr. Martin Ryan	<i>(appointed 28 June 2019)</i>
	Mr. Robert Breen	<i>(appointed 26 November 2019)</i>
	Ms. Olivia Buckley	<i>(appointed 28 June 2019)</i>
		<i>(resigned 26th February 2020)</i>
	Mr. Michael Maguire	<i>(resigned 10 April 2019)</i>
	Ms. Claire-Marie Fourel	<i>(resigned 28 June 2019)</i>
	Mr. Michael Hoevel	<i>(resigned 28 June 2019)</i>
	Ms. Mairead Carey	<i>(resigned 28 June 2019)</i>
	Ms. Marion Byrne	<i>(resigned 28 June 2019)</i>

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2019

The directors present herewith the reports and audited consolidated financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.

Objectives and Activities

Gorta is the legal company name of 'The Gorta Group' which is a holding company for a group of organisations that cover a wide spectrum of activities in the international development sector. The organisation trades as Self Help Africa. We are a non-governmental organisation whose main purpose is set out in our constitution as the assistance and advancement of people in need in less developed areas of the world. We have expertise in small-scale farming and growing family-farm businesses. We work with farmers and agricultural businesses in Africa to help them grow and sell more food, diversify their income and their diets, and make their livelihoods more sustainable and resistant to external shocks. We also respond to emergencies in support of communities that we work with.

Vision, mission and values

Our mission is to support sustainable livelihoods for Africa's smallholder farmers.

Our core values are:

- Equality – people are equal in rights and must be treated with respect and dignity.
- Innovation – we are conscious that finding effective solutions requires innovative thinking combined with a pragmatic approach.
- Learning – we strive for the highest

quality standards in our work and encourage a culture of constant learning and improvement.

- Accountability – accountability and transparency are central to all our actions and use of resources.

Strategic Objectives

Our primary strategic objectives are to:

- Improve **food, nutrition and income security** for smallholder farmers.
- Support the establishment and growth of inclusive, profitable and sustainable **agri-business**.
- Support the improvement of the **policy environment** for smallholder farmers.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a worldwide slowdown in economic activity, had a significant impact on the organisation's operations with effect from mid-March 2020. Management set to work immediately to assess the various operational and financial scenarios that could arise and drew up plans to mitigate the potential negative impact. Revised budgets and cash flow projections were prepared with a view to reducing costs to the minimum and investigating potential alternative income streams. Management engaged with institutional donors to discuss deferral of expenditure and

extension of programme contracts where temporary suspension of work was necessary. At Head Office level, costs were reduced by agreeing a combination of pay decreases and reduced working hours with staff. The Board are deeply appreciative of the sacrifices made by staff at this difficult time. Discussions with suppliers, service providers and landlords also led to cost savings – the Board thanks those whose support for our work in this area has helped us maintain our ability to sustain our work in Africa.

This impact was also mitigated to some extent by government supports, cost saving measures adopted, and the fact that there was minimal increase in attrition in income from our regular givers. We are confident that the organisation will come through the crisis intact and in a position to continue its valuable work.

Activities

Our primary client targets are poor and vulnerable rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Togo and Zambia.

We support both small projects and large programmes. We use the evidence generated from our projects to inform scalable programmes with more substantial impact. We are respectful of the culture, needs and wishes of the communities we work with and

proactively seek out their views on, and participation in, programme development and implementation.

We are committed to the principle of empowering communities and helping them to help themselves and we do not provide funds; rather all inputs are provided on a loan or pass-back basis. We work with local government and the business community to create sustainable links that last beyond the life cycle of projects.

Self Help Africa employs professional development staff in all its countries of operation. We have an excellent track record of building capacity and facilitating mutually beneficial relationships between farmers, government structures, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Achievements and Performance

Self Help Africa implemented a significant programme of work in sub-Saharan Africa in 2019. The context and operational highlights of these programmes are summarised below.

Overseas Programmes

In 2019, Self Help Africa implemented a portfolio of 32 projects across Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Uganda and Zambia, working with smallholder farmers, farmer associations, cooperatives and agri-businesses to help farmers grow and sell more food, improve diets, diversify incomes

and make their livelihoods more sustainable and resilient to external shocks. In 2019, we supported approximately 380,000 households and had a turnover of €33.4M.

As 2019 marked the mid-point in our strategy, Self Help Africa carried out a mid-term review using a combination of internal review and external facilitation to ensure objectivity. External benchmarking suggests that the core strategic objectives outlined in our strategic plan “Embracing Change”, remain highly relevant, both to the needs of the communities we work with and to the institutional donor community.

2019 was a difficult year for sub-Saharan Africa. Several El Niño and Indian Ocean dipole events destroyed crops, creating food insecurity across many countries. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event was one of the strongest in the last 20 years and impacted the east and Horn of Africa region with record temperature changes and severe flooding. Cyclone Idai created massive flooding in the lower Shire Valley in Malawi and reduced the amount of rainfall that reached East Africa. Southern Zambia experienced one of the worst droughts in recent years, raising food insecurity to Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3. SHA responded to the events in Malawi and Zambia through cash and food assistance schemes, demonstrating our capacity to respond to emergencies. The recruitment of a Humanitarian Director in 2019

will further drive our work in both slow and rapid onset crises. Despite the food security challenges, overall resilience of the communities we support remained high, demonstrating the impact of our programme delivery.

Burkina Faso represents a good example of how the context required a shift in our implementation plans. While food production in 2019 was 12% higher than the five-year average, it was 3% down on 2018. The benefits of the reasonably good crop production were negated by increasing political insecurity, forcing government staff to abandon their posts, farmers to abandon their fields and traders to avoid insecure areas. SHA Burkina Faso had to relocate staff and adapt operational procedures to work in insecure areas. One example is the training of volunteer community poultry vaccinators to deliver poultry vaccines in areas where NGO and government staff cannot operate. To improve vegetable production, SHA Burkina Faso deepened the wells at 24 market garden sites to provide year-round water and installed 51 portable solar water pumps. The portable pumps are cheap and can be moved or hidden during periods of insecurity, but the operational lifespan will be less than for submersible pumps.

Early Warning Systems: As sub-Saharan Africa experiences substantial losses in the agriculture sector because of climate changes, the development and integration of Early Warning Systems

(EWS) using traditional and new technologies is a key focus of SHA's work. SHA is using artificial intelligence in Integrated Pest Management in Malawi, developing software that will have wide applicability in the detection of pests and diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. The Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda* - FAW) continued to be a major pest for farmers across Africa, though attributing losses due to FAW in 2019 was difficult, due to the confounding effects of climatic conditions. Remote sensing AI software developed by Orbas Limited and funded by the World Bank's Development Data Group and the Irish Aid-supported Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, reached 80-90% accuracy in detecting the presence/absence of FAW damage to maize fields, and 65% accuracy in determining the level of damage. As the accuracy of the software improves, its usage will be extended to other pests and diseases.

The big success story for SHA's Natural Resource Management (NRM) work in 2019 was the ex-poste assessment by Professor Adrian Wood and Dr Donovan Kotze of four cultivated dambos (shallow wetlands) in Mpika District, Zambia and Kasungu District, Malawi, where SHA had run Functional Landscape Approach (FLA) projects from 2006 - 2008. The assessment used the WET-Sustainable Use method to assess the ecosystem health of the wetlands and found that there was little decline in ecosystem health since the projects ended up to ten years ago. This

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suggests that dambo cultivation based on FLA is both environmentally sustainable and that the agronomic and NRM approaches promoted by the projects have been adopted by the communities using the dambos. The FLA also has a significant role to play in the prevention of landslides and flooding and is a methodology being implemented across many of our country programmes.

Our work on supporting and developing the agri-enterprise sector continued in 2019 with the securing of a second grant worth €26m, to manage a Challenge Fund on behalf of the EU through the ENTERPRISE programme in Zambia. In Kenya, we supported Keringet Foods Limited in their work with GAIN to secure a grant from GAIN to produce probiotic yoghurt, a highly nutritious product that will be affordable by bottom of the pyramid smallholders. Funds have been earmarked for the acquisition of equipment, technical support in production line setup, cold room infrastructure and detailed market research.

Eritrea

Slower economic growth and the residual effects of the 30 year war have perpetuated the vulnerability of approximately two thirds of the population (UNDP, 2014). The prolonged conflict and severe drought have adversely

affected Eritrea's agricultural economy and it remains one of the poorest countries in Africa. The country experiences high unemployment, and sparse income-generating opportunities. Located in one of the driest corners of the continent, it is also at the epicentre of climate change impact. However, 2019 was a relatively wet season. The 'Kiremti' rainy season which normally extends from late June to September, arrived early in June. This greatly benefitted land preparation and planting conditions, with rains continuing at an above average level for the rest of the year (UNFAO, 2019).

Despite the 2018 rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and the November lifting of sanctions by the UN that had been in place for nine years, the country continues to be a difficult place to work, and with a heavily militarised society, substantial hurdles remain. The disputed border was demarcated when the Peace Agreement was signed but Ethiopia had not withdrawn from Badme, the village that triggered the 1998 war. The border subsequently reclosed after just four months, which was still enough time for market prices to plummet for food supplies such as vegetables, seeds and eggs. By the start of 2019, 507,300 Eritreans had fled the country, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This is about 10% of the population.



In the donor landscape, the European Union initiated a dual track approach to Eritrea, with its development arm focusing on job creation activities, and its political arm reportedly raising human rights issues.

The SHA-EU consortium project EU DeSIRA was signed in late 2019. The project is research-led (by Teagasc), with partners such as Vita, UCC, UCD and LUKE (Finnish Natural Resources Institute) and focuses on climate smart dairy research and innovation, ultimately aiming to transform the Eritrean dairy value chain to enhance food and nutrition security, reduce poverty, and create job opportunities for young people. The project commences in 2020.

In terms of agricultural development, Eritrea has 26% arable land, but only 4% is under cultivation (IFAD). In good rainfall years, the country is only 60% food-secure, and this figure falls to 25% when rainfall is low.

The informal seed sector is a proven effective entry point to supporting livelihood development and food security. The EU SEED project was designed with this in mind. The project, a collaboration with Vita and the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture, continued to progress and expand; 520 farmers increased production of pearl millet seed from 1.1 tonnes/ha from a baseline of just 0.69 tonnes/ha and wheat from 0.77 to 2.4 tonnes/ha. A key indicator of success was that wheat seed multiplication was so successful, the Ministry of Agriculture no longer needs to import wheat seed in 2020, due to the quantities of quality seed multiplied by farmers.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the political environment became increasingly inclusive and open as political parties and politicians were permitted to speak out on national and regional issues. However, several armed clashes occurred in Amhara and Oromia regions. On 22 June, a high level mutiny occurred with the killing of three top officials of the ANRS government (President of the region and two high ranking officials) and the Chief of Staff of the FDRE armed forces. The Government of Ethiopia declared a coup d'état. Ethnic based tensions were high and at times religious differences were used to create tensions, with several churches and

mosques burnt down and universities became conduits for demonstrations by political factions. The unrest in different parts of the country created new waves of displaced people, however the government succeeded in resettling most internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their former localities.

Ethiopia, and indeed the entire region of Horn and East of Africa, was hit by a devastating invasion of the desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* in the last quarter of the year. Originally alerted in Somalia in July by FAO, Ethiopia was impacted mainly in the Somali, Afar and Oromia regions and up to northern Tigray and into Eritrea. The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, and the FAO took immediate action to control the infestation. SHA launched a scoping mission and responded by providing technical advice in project areas. Monitoring and response is ongoing into 2020 to ensure food insecurity and impact on our programmes is minimised.

Annual inflation was at an extraordinarily high rate of 20.8% by November (highest since 2012). On a monthly basis, consumer prices went up by 0.6% and the food price inflation at end of year was 22.7%. The displacement of hundreds of thousands of people required the government and international community to allocate resources



From left, Amiriya Hassen, Tsedu Behutiyo, Ama Mohammed from Ambelta village, Ethiopia

for food and non-food items. As a result, the cost of living worsened for people. The government, in a measure to counter the high inflation, rationed basic food items.

In 2019, SHA Ethiopia implemented nine projects aimed at improving livelihoods for target smallholder farmers by enhancing their food and nutrition security, increasing agricultural productivity, as well as strengthening resilience. The Ethiopia programme reached 65 woredas/districts and 26 zones across four regions: Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray. The prolonged good rainy season benefitted vegetative and pasture conditions, and water availability in the country. However, the unseasonal rainfall in November and December during the time of harvest and post-harvest, as well as the ongoing desert locust infestation resulted in significant losses in crop production and jeopardised the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Stronger Together: Creating Linkages Between Primary Seed Cooperatives and Seed Cooperative Unions

The Stronger Together project, funded by Irish Aid and Electric Aid, helped to establish linkages between primary cooperatives (that are producing wheat, maize, barley and potato seed) and their respective local cooperative unions. This provided the unions with a larger and more regular supply and the cooperatives with access to a wider market and increased bargaining power with buyers. SHA provided cooperatives with threshing equipment to improve the quality of seed and reduce the workload of farmers. It also constructed storage units to retain the quality of seed. In this one year project, a total of 3,473 individuals were reached.

Dairy for Development

This unique project was designed to build the skills and knowledge of farmers and local government on commercial dairy production, improve the genetics

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of local dairy herds, and facilitate access to market for dairy products. With funding from Jersey Overseas Aid, this project reached the 600 intended individuals (of which 50% are women) and provided them with training on improved breeding management practices, as well as herd health management. The government's district nursery has also been supported to produce improved fodder and to increase access for producers. The government's Artificial Insemination (AI) service is being strengthened through the training of AI technicians and the provision of equipment, meaning 600 producers can now access AI to improve the genetics of their herd.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

In 2019, the Climate Smart Agriculture project, a consortium project under the Irish Embassy, reached 4,952 individuals, of which 2,163 were women. The project builds the resilience of individuals, households and communities to climate extremes by improving and diversifying livelihoods; developing community-based management systems of resources such as water, farmlands, communal land and forests; and embedding location-specific climate change adaptation and mitigation into its development initiative.

Gender

Improving transformation by encouraging rural women's participation in farmers' organisations and cooperatives in Ethiopia has helped to both increase their access to markets while building

confidence, leadership and well-being. The MORE:Maize project has increased women's membership in cooperatives from 13% to 24% in 2019 with a target to reach 30% before the end of the project period. To facilitate this social behaviour change, posters were prepared and distributed to beneficiaries in the project areas. In the MORE:Dairy project, women's decision making power has increased from 2.57 at household and 2.08 at community level to 2.64 and 2.27 respectively, increasing their agency and ability to voice opinions.

Kenya

In Kenya, generally security was calm, despite some minor terrorism threats at coastal regions and a number of arrests. In January, five heavily armed Al-Shabaab terrorists attacked the DusitD2 Hotel in central Nairobi killing 21 people, including some international citizens. Also in January, a small device exploded in Nairobi's central business district, injuring two civilians. Towards the end of the year, the launch of Building Bridges Initiatives report brought some excitement in the political arena, as major political players debated the possibility of amending the Constitution of Kenya 2010 to expand the Executive and increase inclusivity in government in order to avert chaotic post-election situations. This was, however, marred with undercurrents of presidential succession politics, which were potentially signif-

icant but were contained during the reporting period.

The economy grew at 5.6% in the first quarter of 2019, slowing from a 6.5% rise during the same period of the previous year, as dry weather conditions weighed in on the agricultural sector. According to Kenya's Statistical Institute, year-on-year growth slowed to 5.1% in the third quarter of 2019 and marked the lowest reading since 2017.

In April, flash floods impacted 25 counties, with 48 deaths reported and 144,000 people displaced, especially in Wajir and Marsabit counties. However, despite some livestock loss in Kenya, the above-average rainfall was largely beneficial for rangeland and cropping conditions. The rains facilitated regeneration of pasture and water resources and supporting crop development in areas that suffered drought and crop failure in early 2019 in the eastern Horn. The unusual weather and climate conditions, including widespread and heavy rains since October, contributed to a serious and widespread desert locust infestation (similar to Ethiopia). This continues to threaten rural food security and livelihoods and is also threatening the cropping season across east Africa. By December, the pest had ravaged vegetation in the northern frontier counties of Kenya, sparking fears of famine. The government, with support from other development partners especially FAO and a consortium of NGOs, has continued to respond to the crisis by con-

ducting surveillance and aerial spraying, among other control measures.

For Kenya generally, food security declined more than previously anticipated, driven by below-average long rains (March-May). Even though poor households in marginal agricultural areas still had some household food stocks, they faced a decline in agricultural labour income due to the impact of delayed and below-average rainfall. Staple food prices remained below the five-year average in most urban and rural reference markets, facilitating average to above-average household food access. The above normal rainfall during the short season (October-December) increased production of short seasoned crops, mainly vegetables and tubers, but also contributed to post harvest losses of staple crops, especially maize, in the grain basket region of North Rift. Due to poor drying conditions of maize, there was fear of increased levels of aflatoxins, which may adversely affect national food security for 2020 by compromising the quality of food stock in the national food reserve.

In 2019, SHA Kenya implemented two large scale projects aimed at improving livelihoods for target smallholder farmers by enhancing their food and nutrition security, increasing agricultural productivity, as well as strengthening resilience. The Kenya programme reached a total of 15,339 beneficiaries (8,472 female, 6,867 male) across Kenya.



Nancy Wanjiku (38) YMCA Centre Bondeni, Kenya

AgriFi Kenya Challenge Fund (AgriFi)

AgriFi Kenya Challenge Fund is a €24 million, five-year agri-business support programme that is part of the European Union's Agriculture Financing Initiative programme and is co-funded by SlovakAid. The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of 100,000 smallholder farmers/pastoralists to practice environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture as a business in inclusive value chains, through the coordination of a Challenge Fund awarded to 50 successful companies.

Three calls for proposals for agri-enterprises were launched in 2019 with different thematic focuses for each window. Following round one, eight agri-enterprises were contracted and made financial awards worth €4,098,754, with an initial 30% disbursement of €1,217,125 in financial support to the companies.

This will leverage €10,139,092 in match funding and reach 56,088 smallholder farmers. The companies have so far contracted 7,002 smallholder farmers across various agricultural value chains and created 48 new full-time equivalent jobs. Together they are aiming to integrate 59,088 smallholder farmers into the dairy, sorghum, soya, mango and potato value chains.

The second and third calls for proposals were rolled out in July and October 2019 respectively. 203 applications were received in the second round of calls, 29 companies submitted their full business plan applications to the Independent Investment Committee (IIC) and 15 companies proposing to reach 274,600 farmers, have gone forward to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for final approval. The third call for proposals closed at the end of 2019.

As part of sustainable environmental practices training to smallholders supplying into the AgriFi-supported companies, 9,922 (4,460 women) smallholder farmers were trained on how to diversify their farming and production approaches, including aspects on integrated crop-livestock systems, agroforestry, organic soils restoration, soil erosion prevention, energy efficiency and use of biomass fuels, integrated pest management, as well as ways of enhancing irrigation and water resources management.

Cassava Aggregation - Supporting Smallholder Agriculture and Value Addition (CASSAVA)

SHA continues to work on improving the supply of disease-free cassava germplasm. The 'basic' germplasm is sourced from KALRO Centres (Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture) but due to lack of capacity and poor planning within these centres, most did not have cassava cuttings at the beginning of 2019 planting season. To address this, SHA introduced private large-scale seed producers to complement the role of KALRO in providing quality planting materials. 26 hectares of seed farms were approved for distribution across Migori, Homa Bay, Busia, Siaya and Kisumu counties. A total of 2,745,900 clean cuttings were planted by 674 farmers, with 269 hectares of cassava established during 2019. Demand for clean cassava cuttings by follower farmers increased from 516 in 2018 to 2,779. Penn State University researchers noted that cassava germplasm producers using the Plant Village Nuru AI app to detect infected cassava had very low infection rates. In 2019, 4,989 farmers were reached as part of this project, of which over 60% were women. At least 95% of households interviewed have diversified their farming approaches by adopting one or more farming practices either as a result of the programme intervention or through their own initiative.

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Malawi

The usual political stability of Malawi was disturbed in May 2019 following the contested presidential election held that month. The incumbent, Peter Mutharika was narrowly re-elected in a campaign marred by suspicions of fraud that triggered widespread but mostly peaceful demonstrations, paralysing the country. Malawi's constitutional court annulled the presidential election in February 2020. In March 2019, Cyclone Idai caused heavy rains and flooding in Malawi, affecting 870,000 people. The government subsequently declared a State of National Disaster.

Despite the political instability and the effects of Cyclone Idai in Malawi, the economy remained relatively stable as inflation was limited to 9%, real GDP grew an estimated 5.0% in 2019, up from 4.0% in 2018. Growth was supported by continued macroeconomic stability and a good harvest, as maize output increased 25.7% in 2018/19. Growth in 2019 was buoyed by good rainfall and a plentiful harvest. While the country experienced a small Fall Armyworm (FAW) outbreak, the pest was adequately managed.

Cyclone Idai floods caused significant devastation, particularly in the south of the country. Small pockets in the country experienced drought, including in the Karonga district. In response to the crisis, SHA supported the recovery of the

affected population, through the Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns (BETTER) project, with provision of maize and bean seeds. SHA also launched a self-funded emergency relief intervention, called Project Idai, in which SHA identified internally displaced people (IDP) in Machinga district, in need of emergency assistance after floods destroyed their houses. The response comprised the provision of social cash transfers, shelter and hygiene kits and food items to 300 IDP households.

As part of SHA Malawi's flagship project, the BETTER programme, a total of 143,330 smallholder farmers with 59% female participants were reached across 10 districts. Participants in the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were given technical support and farming inputs such as seeds, seedlings, and livestock. Through these FFS, not only did the farmers learn new agricultural technologies and practices, they also acquired the capacity to function as a group, conduct their own analysis, make their own decisions and develop social skills.

Crop diversification is at the heart of the Farmer Field Schools in Malawi, with each FFS researching a primary crop, a secondary crop and vegetable and fruit production. Through the FFS, SHA supported 21,544 farmers in diversifying their production in 2019. Data collected from the field indicates that participating farmers have started producing and consuming more nutritious foods and have



Joyce Chakwana, member of Tigwirizane FFS
Muhowa village, Thuchila EPA, TA Nkalo in Mulanje

increased household income to invest in other diversified livelihood options.

SHA's research project, 'Developing Remote Sensing Technology to Monitor Fall Armyworm in Malawi/ Detection Technology for Evaluating Crop Threats', secured additional funding of \$97,399 (€89,070) from US Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). This research project uses advanced machine learning algorithms, in conjunction with multi-temporal satellite imagery, to detect FAW outbreaks in Malawi. The algorithm accuracy is around 85% for detecting FAW in a field through satellite images. Many of the Farmer Field Schools in Malawi ran field trials of FAW control options, testing a range of chemical, mechanical and botanical treatments and carefully documenting the results. SHA have been sharing FAW control-related lessons learned with the Ministry of Agriculture through the National FAW Task Force. Trials conducted by the FFS have been shared with Government, other FFS and NGOs, leading to the adoption of our approach at scale.

Uganda

In Uganda, the curtailment of opposition activities in the country led to some disturbances. These occurred mainly in urban areas and had no bearing on SHA's work nor any impact on the communities that we support. The country was generally peaceful and there were no significant security incidents during the year. The main security threat in the early months of the year was an Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo, where one confirmed case was that of a Ugandan-Congolese child. Measures put in place to control the virus were effective and no other cases were reported.

The Ugandan economy reported strong growth, estimated at 6.3%, in 2019. This was largely driven by the expansion of services, where growth averaged 7.6%, and industrial growth of 6.2%, driven by construction and mining. However, these economic rates have not been accompanied by high growth in jobs nor have they impacted on poverty reduction. For example, although the economy grew by an average of 4.5% year on year between FY15/16 and FY17/18, the number of people living in poverty increased in the same period from 19.7% to 21.4%. While about 700,000 young people reach working age every year in Uganda, only 75,000 jobs are created per year. This leaves more than 70% of Ugandans employed in agri-



Mary Asale (24) from Kepelebyong, Teso, Uganda

culture, mainly on a subsistence basis. An average of one million young people per year are expected to reach working age between 2030-2040, while regional instability, pandemic preparedness (Ebola and Coronavirus) and broader global trade uncertainty could undermine exports and affect growth and have implications for debt sustainability into the future.

The Uganda programme implemented seven different projects in 2019 across four regions of the country, and 65% of the people supported were women. The main donors included: European Union, World Food Programme, Tullow Oil, Irish Aid, Danida and International Potato Centre (CIP).

As a result of these interventions, smallholder farmers have adopted at least one diversified farming system. The key practices embraced by the farmers include intercropping, diversification to more than two crops, crop rotation and land fallowing. Farmers have also started new enterprises such

as bee keeping, agro forestry, live-stock, and fish farming. This is bringing about diversity in food varieties across pulses, cereals, fruits and vegetables. Smallholders have also adopted climate smart agriculture practices such as proper land preparation, the use of climate smart seeds varieties, timely weeding, crop rotation, correct crop spacing, and the use of organic fertilisers.

Overall, 10,555 (6,034 female) smallholder farmers were found to have adopted business practices including record keeping (i.e. cost of production, sales record, expenses, financial, market information) and prepared business plans. 4,944 (38% women-headed) households have accessed credit from either the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) or formal financial institutions. This achievement is attributed to the integration of the VSLA in all the farmers groups and linkage of the groups to financial institutions like PostBank and Centenary Bank.

Striking a Balance: Developing a Green Economy Around Lake Bunyonyi Basin

The project is a flagship for SHA, using the Functional Landscape Approach within communities bordering the UNESCO site, Lake Bunyonyi in western Uganda. 983 people were reached last year alone and the Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMC) made great strides in soil and

water conservation work, improving the landscape surrounding the lake, an area which has been degrading over recent years owing to human pressure and land use. These VNRMCs were trained in community-led formation and implementation of bylaws, some of which were approved at sub-county and district level, an encouraging indication of local buy-in and sustainable management of natural resources at all levels.

Sustainable Livelihood and Inclusive Markets for Refugees (SUSTAIN) and Agriculture Market Support (AMS) supported by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Both projects saw SHA work with refugee populations. For the Sustain project, aiming to improve food, nutrition and income security of refugees and host communities in Adjumani, creating a pathway to self-sufficiency through the development of resilient livelihoods, 970 refugees benefitted nutritionally and economically from intensified and diversified agricultural production, mainly through fortified beans and orange flesh sweet potato production. The WFP-funded project aimed to increase production and sales of maize, beans and sorghum for 8,500 smallholder farmer households in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Masindi and Omoro districts. In 2019, 1,000 new farmers were reached and over 6,000 farmers are now applying business skills as a result. Further, SHA facilitated linkages between buyers such as SEMAT Company Limited, WFP,

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Arise and Shine, to off-take produce from the farmers. SEMAT company trained 430 farmers on good agronomic practices relating to chia in Omoro district. In Adjumani, TruTrade, through the established networks of agents bought five tonnes of simsim (sesame) from the project farmers.

Pilot Programme to Support Agriculture Development in the Albertine Region

A model project designed to pilot incorporation of agricultural nutrition-based research in displaced communities in the region was funded by Tullow Oil. The project is built on partnership and a core partner, Devenish Nutrition, supported SHA to work with 159 farmers (85 women) on pig husbandry. The topics covered bio security, health management in pigs, feeding, breeds of pigs and record keeping. Under a second partnership with Hoima District Production Department and Hoima District Farmers Federation, 214 farmers from 11 groups were trained on commercial horticulture production. In total, almost 600 farmers have participated in the pilot project.

West Africa

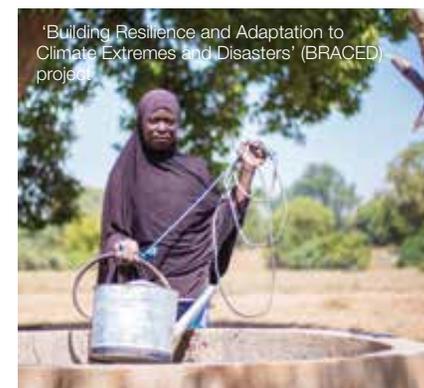
West Africa continued to experience high levels of instability across the Sahel. A humanitarian and economic crisis sparked by violence between jihadi groups, ethnic militias and security forces coming on top of a growing food crisis led to a weakening of political

stability in Burkina Faso, in 2019. The country's GDP growth in 2019 remained at 2.3%. Togo, particularly in the north where it shares a border with Niger and Burkina Faso, has also experienced increased insecurity.

A complex humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Burkina Faso with 838,548, as of 2020, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) being displaced as a result of a combination of extremist attacks and intercommunity violence. The country is also receiving a considerable influx of refugees (20,948 as of 2020) from Mali. IDPs and poor host households in Soum, Loroum, Oudalan, Sanmatenga and Bam provinces are exposed to food insecurity.

While most of the extremist attacks are attributed to Islamist groups such as ISGS, Ansarul Islam, and JNIM, self-defence militias have started to proliferate. Closure of health facilities and schools have resulted in reduced access to health care and education respectively for 626,000 people and more than 268,000 children. SHA's 'Women and Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project' which is being implemented in the north of Burkina Faso, is particularly exposed given its proximity to the border with Mali and has experienced disruptions.

The 'Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters' (BRACED) project was completed in June 2019. BRACED was a four-year project which aimed to improve the



resilience of 620,000 smallholder farmers in two provinces of Burkina Faso's North-Central region. Smallholder farmers were sensitised to climate-smart agriculture, and encouraged to adopt the techniques of zai, mechanised zai and demi-lune, and to produce and use organic manure and improved seeds, including sorghum, maize and cowpeas. Plant Clinics were established to treat plant diseases on their farms. By project end, about 96% of the households surveyed indicated that they were meeting their minimum food requirements, with 80.4% having a satisfactory level of dietary diversity, and about 70% of all households had a disposable income above the minimum standard of living threshold. In addition, as of March 2019, 83% of beneficiaries were resilient to climate extremes, up from 24% in 2015.

At the end of 2019, SHA was awarded a grant of €845,000 by the Austrian Development Agency to deliver the 'Women's Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship in the cashew value chain (DEFI)' project in the Cascades

and Hauts Bassins regions over a three year period. Building on SHA's excellent reputation in the cashew value chain which it has been working in since 2012, the DEFI project contributes to improving the living conditions of women in the cashew production areas by strengthening the economic empowerment of 2,790 households active in the cashew sector. SHA and the National Union of Cashew Producers (the implementing partner) are targeting 2,790 women, in particular cashew producers and processors from Comoé, Houet and Kéné Dougou provinces, who are organised into five cooperatives. The project will also target formal and informal groups of artisanal processors, as well as women who do not own orchards but are working alongside their husbands in the targeted communities. The economic capacity of the women targeted by the project will be strengthened through theoretical and practical trainings on entrepreneurship, the cooperative management of processing units, the development of business plans and on investment and funding scoping.

Zambia

The political situation in Zambia remained relatively peaceful and stable, attracting a large influx of refugees. The number of Congolese refugees seeking asylum in Zambia doubled in the last three months of 2019. As of December 2019, Zambia was hosting over 84,000

refugees. While the political landscape in the country remained stable during 2019, the year was challenging on the economic front.

The Zambian economy was hit by drought in the south and west that lowered 2018/19 agricultural production and hydropower electricity generation considerably, slowing real GDP growth from 4% in 2018 to 2% in 2019 and the Zambian Kwacha depreciated by 28.5% against the US dollar. The net effect of this depreciation has been an increase in inflation to 11.7% as at end of December 2019. As a corollary to these unfavourable macro-economic indicators, there was an increase in the prices of most goods and services during the year.

Spurred by El Niño and a strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole event, 2019 was particularly hot in Southern Africa. Zambia was hit hard with prolonged and severe drought in Southern, Western, Central and Lusaka provinces. The difficult situation was compounded by pest infestations and livestock diseases outbreaks, including foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Fall Armyworm and African armyworm. More than 2.3 million people experienced severe food insecurity during the lean season (October - March), with at least 430,000 of them at emergency levels (IPC 4).

From the socio-economic perspective,

the country is still reeling from the devastating effects of drought which came about due to reduced rainfall during the 2018/19 rainy season, especially in the southern region of the country. For instance, the food security situation of most households in the drought-affected regions was negatively affected as only 35% of households in selected districts of Southern province were reported to be food secure during the second quarter of 2019. On the nutrition front, the 2019 Zambia Vulnerability Assessment revealed an increase in severe acute malnutrition levels largely attributed to the effects of drought.

In 2019, Self Help Africa was awarded a grant by Jersey Overseas Aid for £600,000 to implement the 'Protecting and Restoring the Environment and Supporting the Emergence of a Resilient and Vibrant Economy in Kafue (PRESERVE)'. PRESERVE Kafue is a three-year project (March 2019 - Feb-

ruary 2022) to improve the resilience, food, income and nutrition security of 3,000 households in the Monze, Namwala and Mazabuka districts of Zambia. The project uses the Functional Landscape Approach (FLA) to promote the sustainable use of natural resources for diversified livelihoods and increased incomes, whilst protecting and restoring essential eco-systems within the Kafue Sub-basin.

Due to the catastrophic drought in Zambia, the PRESERVE Kafue project delivery was disrupted, as its 3,000 beneficiaries were requiring emergency needs assistance and could have potentially engaged in damaging coping strategies (such as selling productive assets) that would have serious adverse long-term consequences and could jeopardise their resilience. Having identified the need for in-kind and cash transfers, SHA responded by implementing several rounds of emergency distributions to beneficiaries at the end of 2019.



Foster Simeo, Malela village, Zambia

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In addition, the SHA Zambia programme won a €26 million grant from the European Union for smallholder commercialisation: Economic, Nutrition and Technical support for increased Economic Returns and Profit In Sustainable agri-business (ENTERPRISE) Zambia. ENTERPRISE Zambia aims to increase the income and nutrition security for 150,000 smallholder farmers' households in rural Zambia, ultimately reaching a total of 649,850 members of smallholder, fish farmers and worker households. The project will establish a Challenge Fund to increase smallholder farmers' opportunities in agriculture and aquaculture value chains in Zambia.

Enterprise Support

Our work on supporting and developing the agri-enterprise sector continued in 2019 with the securing of a second grant to manage a Challenge Fund on behalf of the EU as referred to above. In Kenya, we supported Keringet Foods Limited in their work with GAIN to secure an €83,000 grant to produce probiotic yoghurt, a highly nutritious product that will be affordable to bottom of the pyramid smallholders. Funds have been earmarked for the acquisition of equipment, technical support in production line setup, cold room infrastructure and detailed market research.

Export companies were adversely impacted by Brexit speculations, and export restrictions, especially for hot

pepper and Habanero plant to Europe (a major market for Ugandan companies), due to the presence of a pest known as false codling moth. Companies also incurred losses due to high operational costs, including high cost of raw materials as a result of poor harvests due to the challenging climate conditions. Nonetheless, four agri-enterprises were directly supported to raise €171,500. These comprise two microenterprises (Mhogo Foods and Lentera Limited) and two small enterprises (GBL in Uganda and Keringet Dairies in Kenya).

Development Education

In 2019, SHA rolled out a new Teacher Toolkit series of resources that are designed to provide assistance to teachers wishing to deliver workshops on social justice issues in their classrooms. We initially piloted the use of these through our own Development Education (DE) workshops team, and during 2019 we delivered a total of 295 workshops in 43 secondary schools, eight universities and in 16 adult learning settings across the country. We also successfully piloted a new eight-week Social Justice module with Professional Master of Education students at NUI Maynooth in spring 2019 and signed up with NUIM to repeat this module with their students during 2019-2020.

SHA is active in a number of partnerships and DE networks in Ireland. We currently hold the chair of the Dóchas

Development Education Group, co-chair IDEA's Formal Education Working Group, and continue a long-standing relationship with Changemakers Donegal, contributing to their A + C Sector QQI course delivery. In 2019, SHA was also instrumental in the formation of a new working group for Development Education practitioners in Cork.

We staged our 17th annual Science for Development Award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (sponsored by Irish Aid), and for the second year hosted a Science for Development Exhibition Showcase event, in collaboration with Irish Aid, at Iveagh House. The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, attended. We also participated in the annual Sustainability Ireland Conference at Croke Park, in the annual WorldWise Global Schools Conference and in the inaugural Elements of Change Festival at Cloughjordan Eco-Village in Tipperary.

SHA uses impact measurement tools developed by WorldWise Global Schools to gather feedback in the classroom and receive testimony from teachers and administrators on our programme. We are constantly evolving our approaches in how we can engage with students, and deepen their understanding of Ireland's overseas aid programme, and of the important role that students can play in effecting change.

Our impact

At the mid-point of our strategic plan, SHA carried out a review of progress and relevance of the plan from a position of organisational strength, but with an eye to arising and future challenges and opportunities. Over the last three years, the operating environment within which we work has seen a number of changes, both in terms of development narrative and funding priorities, with greater resources being allocated on the one hand towards fragile/humanitarian responses and on the other hand towards private sector partnerships.

The review showed that our strategic objectives are still very much in line with the core focus of the needs of the communities we serve and debates within the international arena. This is particularly the case as progress against the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 2 ('Zero Hunger') has gone into retreat in the last two years. Both development experts and the institutional donor community recognise the fact that the development of agri-enterprise and the engagement with the private sector will be a key pillar of global efforts to try and get progress on SDG2 back on track.

A key success for SHA has been our adaptation to the emerging needs of the communities we support. Examples include strengthened investment in technical skills reaching greater

depths in agriculture and combatting the effects of climate change; preliminary approaches undertaken in the humanitarian space and strengthened engagement with the private sector. The review showed that out of 44 technical indicators measured in each country, 37 are on track or exceeding their target.

In 2019, we supported 378,782 households, (a 12% increase compared to 2018) reaching nearly 2.5 million people in rural communities across sub-Saharan Africa.

As previously stated, 2019 was a difficult year for sub-Saharan Africa, yet despite the food security challenges, the overall resilience of the communities we support remained high, demonstrating the impact of our programme delivery. We supported communities by developing technological means of pest and disease protection through software development and simple to use apps for the early detection of pests and diseases. We integrated early warning systems in our approaches and programmes to enable communities to better anticipate shocks and by adapting programme delivery as the context changed due to security constraints in some instances, and due to devastating floods and droughts in others. The focus on resilience and adaptation will continue to grow in relevance as global food systems are faced with severe constraints relating to a rapidly increasing world population, rapid urbanisation,

changing diets, climate change and protracted crises in many parts of the world.

SHA has a proven track record in delivering private-sector led rural development and in scaling up agri-enterprises and in the last two years, SHA has increased its capabilities in agri-enterprise through the recruitment of two lead technical advisers based in Nairobi.

Results at organisation level across our countries are positive despite the food security challenges faced in some areas. This demonstrates the need to have a range of interventions designed to boost the various capacities of communities and households to better cope with difficult years.

Our three main areas of support to smallholder farmers and rural communities remain in:

1 Knowledge transfer: Key to mention under knowledge transfer is the training of smallholder farmers and their organisations and the strengthening of capacity of our government partners in our countries of operation and joint delivery of activities, be it at local or national level. For example, plant clinics which are run in the majority of our country programmes, are conducted through government extension services and in our nutrition interventions, all training is carried out in conjunction with the

Ministry of Health through a training of trainers for community health workers.

2 Investment: We are increasingly employing a co-investment approach through smart subsidies and cost-sharing with the communities we support as an alternative to pass-on schemes, depending on the context. This is key to ensuring ownership and sustainability of our interventions beyond the lifetime of the donor-funded component of our work.

3 Markets: The importance of linking smallholders to markets is matched by that of our work to develop those markets and the private sector in our countries of operation to ensure thriving local and national economies. We work with smallholders to better engage in supply chains and support the development of those supply chains by working with the off-takers and agri-enterprises to increase their market share and sourcing capacity from smallholders.

Through our private sector engagement and development, we are recognised by our donors as playing a key role in the agri-enterprise space, an area we will continue to focus on particularly through the management of Challenge Funds.

Examples of key metrics from our programmes are set out below. These statistics clearly speak to our renewed

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emphasis on investment in agriculture transformation; increased resilience as a mechanism to support smallholder families in the face of challenges such as climate change; improved nutrition as a key contributor to health and wellbeing; and investment in scalable and sustainable businesses as a driver of growth and development.

Overall, we achieved:

- Households with increased production: 275,741 (53% year-on-year increase) +97,463 since 2018
- Households diversifying farming systems: 352,044 have diversified their farming systems (52% year on year increase) +78,662 since 2018
- Households with increased resilience: 214,626 (18% increase compared to 2018)
- Households who are applying good hygiene and sanitation practices increased by 3,255 (+49% since 2018)
- 9,156 households have improved their knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices (+76% since 2018)
- Dietary diversity measured in 14 of our projects has reached 85% of households having an acceptable diet - a similar level as 2018. However 44% of them have reached an acceptable+ diet which is an increase of 26% on 2018
- Number of enterprises with increased turnover: 384

- Total number of groups we worked with: 3,269 (micro and small enterprises, savings groups and farm groups)
- Households with increased access to financial services: 231,585 (a 98% increase compared to 2018)
- Hectares of land under Natural Resource Management (NRM) practices is up, with an additional 337 hectares (+237% since 2018) and the number of communities using sustainable NRM practices has increased by 43 (+19% since 2018)

Some country-specific metrics further show:

- In **Ethiopia**, SHA developed a participatory rural appraisal-based approach to better understand farmers' preferred traits in dairy cattle. Though a standard approach to plant breeding, surprisingly little work has been carried out on farmers' preferred traits in livestock. Local breeds, not surprisingly, scored highly in trait preferences at the start of the project. The Ethiopian Government's dairy policy is heavily focused on crossing local breeds with Holstein Friesians (HF). As a result of the trait ranking exercise, 25% of the farmers opted for Jersey semen instead of HF semen in the first season. This increased to 50% in 2019 and is generating significant interest amongst the dairy breeding sector.

- Also in **Ethiopia**, the seed work carried out by the Edget Union was selected as one of the agricultural innovations in Ethiopia by the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS) Project implemented by FAO together with AGRINATURA-EEIG (a consortium of European Universities and research institutes). As part of this award, the Union will be granted financial support for training and capacity building.
- In **Burkina Faso**, women and youths supported on the border area between Burkina Faso and Mali registered an increase in income and savings through the sale of onions, potatoes and poultry, and creation of new savings and loans associations, despite the deteriorating security situation, through adapting of methodologies to deal with the insecurity.
- In **Kenya**, we worked with 27 micro & small enterprises to build their capacity in governance, financial management and accessing funding (+59% since 2018), we also supported 179 small businesses for youths in Kisumu county.
- In **Uganda**, over 70% of programme beneficiaries supported in business skills development were found to have adopted the promoted practices, up from just 15% in 2018. Business practices adopted by farmers include record keeping (i.e. cost of production, sale record, expenses,

financial and market information among others) and written business plans. As a result of this, out of 45 business plans developed by producer organisations, seven received funding valued at €12,157 from Government of Uganda programmes.

- In **Malawi**, we contributed to the development of the National Resilience Strategy 2018-2030 which was finalised during the year. The document marked a policy shift in the identification of new approaches to reorient and expand existing programmes to strengthen household resilience to shocks, accelerate access by households to economic opportunities and benefits from agricultural growth.
- 76% of our beneficiary households had access to sufficient food for 12 months of the year and 89% had an acceptable dietary diversity
- In **Zambia** SHA was the implementing partner for a pilot WFP Home Grown School Meal programme in six districts targeting 60 schools with a total of 40,997 students. Through the pilot we also developed national guidelines for HGSM programming and procurement.
- At **international level**, we continued our collaboration with FAO through our participation in the 47th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at which we held a side event on the theme: “Closing

the hunger gap through improved seed access - Latest developments in policy and practice”. The event was organised in collaboration with Irish Aid, IFPRI, ISSD and Vita. It was attended by senior UN and Government officials and provided a good positioning opportunity for SHA’s seed work with key stakeholders, including the FAO Team Lead on Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources.

Partnership

SHA has an organisational Partnership Policy, which outlines the appropriate selection process, criteria and tools, and due diligence guidance for selecting partners. The Policy was reviewed in 2019, with a view to mainstreaming the partnership processes across SHA’s operational countries and to minimise any challenges with partnership selection at project level. All of SHA’s programmes have a focus on knowledge and skills improvement and partnership. We strengthen the capacity of smallholders, organisations and associations as well as key actors in the local area. This is key to sustainability, ensuring that projects not only achieve their intended impact within their lifetime, but also lay the foundations for future development. A key element of many activities is training and mentoring, combining theoretical and practical elements. Our knowledge-building approach also includes building the capacity of country governments and their staff, whose

role it is to provide technical support to smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

In **Ethiopia**, for our MORE:Maize and MORE:Milk dairy enterprise projects, cooperative unions were facilitated in using the CPAT tool by the Agri-business Advisor, to perform their own self assessments. Three dairy cooperatives identified the need for and prepared three-year business plans. For maize cooperatives, training in market systems and linkages resulted in a forward marketing system being adopted and subsequent contracts being devised between stakeholders along the chain, from farmers to primary coops, unions and buyers. The CPAT results pointed in several instances to poor leadership, governance and inefficient cooperative management systems among the cooperatives. Hence, leadership and cooperative management training was conducted for 26 leaders to enhance their skills and knowledge to manage their institutions in efficient and effective ways and better serve their members.

A further prime example of successful partnership assessment and capacity building in **Uganda**, is the Lake Bunyonyi project. A capacity assessment was conducted for two local authorities’ technical staff in Rubanda and Kabale in June. According to the results obtained, it was established that both local authorities had personnel with knowledge and skills in governance and finance but required strengthening

in resource mobilisation capacity. As a result, a resource mobilisation coaching workshop for project partners was delivered by SHA fundraising specialists. It is anticipated that these partner local authorities will be able to mobilise their own resources as a result of the capacity building, and positively contribute to the project. Institutional capacity for monitoring and surveillance of the lake catchment area was enhanced by training of Kabale and Rubanda district local government, Kachwekano Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Kabale University, and SHA project staff. At the end of the training, participants were able to prepare and analyse the land use maps for Lake Bunyonyi Sub Catchment in 2010 and 2019.

In **Kenya**, through an MOU framework, SHA trained 42 county staff (Ward Agricultural Officers; Sub County Agricultural and Crops Officers) from Homa Bay, Busia and Kilifi Counties as plant doctors. The training led to the establishment of seven plant clinics which have provided advisory services to 286 farmers. The support provided related to the management of the cassava mosaic virus; cassava brown streak disease; bacterial wilt in tomatoes; citrus fruit flies; diamondback moth in cabbage; Fall Armyworm in maize; late blight in tomatoes; aphids on kales; banana weevils; striga weed effects and water melon pests. The Kenyan programme also supported three farmer-owned

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aggregation centres through a due diligence process and the subsequent provision of business development services. The training included financial management, governance, and food safety aspects of the businesses. Support so far provided to the aggregation centres has seen a significant increase in the volumes of cassava sold.

In **Malawi**, gaps in integrating gender were identified within one of our partners through regular field monitoring and review of progress reports. Their 11 development facilitators and gender officer underwent a gender training delivered by our gender advisor, followed by a post-training assessment that showed that further support was needed. Follow up coaching and monitoring was provided. Six months after the first gender training, the partners' staff retook an assessment that showed a better understanding and integration of gender. The extension workers of the same district were also oriented on how to integrate gender in trainings for community-based facilitators and integrate it in Farmer Field School activities.

Policy and advocacy

Positive changes in the enabling environment effectively contributed to improving the scale and sustainability of our programmes and to achieving lasting change. For this reason, combining institutional reform with programme interventions is at the core of our work.

In **Africa**, 2019 saw the conclusion of

several processes to which we had provided significant contributions.

In Ethiopia we saw the adoption by the SNNPR Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development of the Directives on Seed Producers and Buyers Contractual Agreement – a document to which SHA had heavily contributed with a particular focus on issues related to the promotion of smallholder farmers' access to quality seed of improved varieties.

In Kenya the National Roots and Tuber Crops Development Strategy 2018-2020 was finalised and launched by the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation. This strategy marks an important step in setting the direction of the development of the roots and tuber crops in terms of access to seeds, increased productivity, access to market and credit.

In Malawi, we contributed to the development of the National Resilience Strategy 2018-2030 which was finalised during the year. The document marked a policy shift in the identification of new approaches to reorient and expand existing programmes to strengthen household resilience to shocks, accelerate access by households to economic opportunities and benefits from agricultural growth.

During the year we continued our active engagement in sector dialogues both in Ireland and overseas, renewing our

membership in some key networks and joining new ones. Among them are the Climate Smart Agriculture Consortium in Ethiopia, the Maize Platform in Uganda, the Sustainable Agriculture Intensification Forum in Zambia, the Resilient and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Task Force in Kenya and the National Fall Armyworm Task Force in Malawi. Through these platforms, we have been able to share technical approaches and methodologies, jointly reflect on current challenges, and devise relevant opportunities for intervention at both programme and policy levels.

In Ireland: Self Help Africa actively contributed to several sector policy engagements, including:

- Contribution to the OECD DAC Peer Review of Ireland process, including civil society 'shadow memo'
- Consultations relating to the implementation of the new government policy on overseas development, A Better World, launched in February
- Contribution to sector pre-budget submissions
- Contribution to a technical consultation led by Irish Aid on Climate Change and Climate Action
- Contribution to the Eurodad consultancy report on the Privatisation of Aid

We continued to lead in the coordination of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD), a con-

sortium-based agricultural development initiative whose members include Irish Aid, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, NGOs, representatives from Irish academia and the private sector. The Forum held its 2019 conference on the theme of ‘Sustainable Diets and Equitable Food Systems in a Changing Climate’. The event saw the participation of senior representatives from different sectors and was very well received by all.

We also contributed to several sector discussions through our membership of Dóchas (Board and Working Groups: Livelihood, Food and Nutrition Security; Policy; Humanitarian; Results; Development Education; and Finance), Coalition 2030, the Gender Based Violence Consortium, and the Irish Emergency Alliance.

With regard to **international processes**, key highlights included our participation in:

- the First East African Regional Dairy Workshop hosted by Jersey Cattle Bureau held in Kigali which led to the creation of an African Jersey Forum to share technical information
- Irish Aid’s workshop on Innovation and International Development and Climate Change in Nairobi, and
- the 47th session of the Committee on World Food Security (FAO/Rome) at which we held a side event on the theme Closing The Hunger Gap

through Improved Seed Access - Latest Developments in Policy and Practice.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an important role in enabling us to achieve our goals in a manner that allows us to be cost effective and to deliver the greatest impact for the African communities with whom we work. We are grateful to the boards of directors of all group companies and advisory sub-committee representatives, who work tirelessly on a voluntary basis to ensure that our programmes, systems and governance are of the highest standard.

We are grateful also to the accountants, consultants, evaluators and others who provide services to us on a pro-bono basis each year and to the network of volunteers and members across our retail, and community and events fundraising infrastructure, who have been a source of great strength and resilience over the years.



Partner Africa

Our subsidiary company Partner Africa is an international not-for-profit social enterprise. It is a pioneer in the field of ethical and socially responsible business practice that delivers high quality

and innovative ethical trade services and trade development projects across Africa and the near east.

The key focus in 2019 for Partner Africa was to continue with the implementation of Partner Africa’s five-year strategic plan developed at the end of 2016. During 2019 progress was made in all of Partner Africa’s areas of strategic focus with varying degrees of success:

Finance:

The financial sustainability of Partner Africa continued to improve in 2019. Positive results were seen in the organisation’s overall revenue cash reserves. In 2019, Partner Africa generated an income of £1,502,672 largely from private sector clients. 65% of Partner Africa’s income came from ethical audits while 20% came from advisory services.

Clients and services:

During 2019 Partner Africa retained all of its top clients and continued to deliver assignments for a range of global brands and retailers. The key activities in this area were:

1. Supporting clients identify the salient labour issues in their supply chains
In 2019 Partner Africa delivered ethical audits and assessments on behalf of a number of global brands in a range of sectors including manufacturing; agri-business; services; mining and extractives. The Audits and Assessment team completed 768 ethical audits in 2019. The main

areas of growth were in South, East, Central and West Africa.

2. Addressing the root causes through providing training and advisory services to clients.

In 2019 Partner Africa provided advisory services to 20 clients. It was also awarded a grant of \$90,000 from TradeMark East Africa to promote cross-border trade for women in Burundi. Partner Africa also carried out several training programmes which included continuing to partner with an extractives company in South Africa to deliver management systems training to small, medium and micro enterprise suppliers of the mine.

3. Impact assessments and reporting

In 2019, Partner Africa developed a responsible business reporting self-assessment guide to help companies prepare reports framed around the UN Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights. In 2020 it intends to use this framework to attract new clients.

People:

2019 was a year of change for Partner Africa, with the departure of the established Executive Director in June 2019, followed by the appointment of an Interim Executive Director for six months and the arrival of a new Executive Director in December 2019. Partner Africa invested in strengthening its advisory services through seconding a senior

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member of staff from its sister organisation Self Help Africa to champion its advisory work.

Systems, Tools and Industry:

In 2019 Partner Africa continued its membership with the Association for Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA). The organisation also made progress in automating services and systems to improve efficiency and quality.



TruTrade

Throughout 2019, Self Help Africa continued to support its social enterprise subsidiary, TruTrade. In 2019 TruTrade continued on a strong growth trajectory, again doubling the volume of produce sourced from smallholder farmers as reach was expanded and impact increased.

In 2019, TruTrade sourced just over 1,500MT of produce worth more than US\$725k. This continues the positive trend from 428MT in 2017 and 880MT in 2018. A marketing service was provided to 3,760 farmers, through over 5,500 transactions as farmer income rose to \$627k. Again this continues the scale up from 840 farmers in 2017 and 2,500

farmers in 2018. On average farmers received 14% more than they would have with traditional farm-gate traders as business opportunities for 89 agents were provided over the year.

TruTrade now has a robust client base and is providing a sourcing service to 27 businesses on a regular basis as well as additional spot market retailers. Buyers include exporters such as East African Growers, Kawacom and Olam; retailers such as Java and Zucchini greengrocers and processors for flour, juice, brewing and animal feed including East African Basic Foods, Kirinyaga Flour Mills and Devenish Nutrition. Trading took place in 14 commodities whilst the organisation has continued to build competence and market share in core value chains.

The business has grown in both Uganda and Kenya. In Uganda trade was facilitated in 985MT produce, with 2,538 farmers earning over \$540k. In Uganda, the top three value chains by volume were soybean (380MT), rice (263MT) and simsim (173MT). Simsim generated the most farmer revenue with mobile payments direct to farmers equivalent to over \$166k. Despite challenges with the chia market, which led to an overall drop in trade volume and value, this still benefitted the most farmers with over 1,000 selling their crop to TruTrade. Trading volume increased in Uganda by 160% from 2018. This represents 65% of the volume sourced and 86% of trade value for TruTrade.

In Kenya, trade volume doubled from 2018. 523MT of produce was sourced, with 1,222 farmers earning over \$86k. The top three value chains by volume sourced were cassava (300MT), avocados (83MT) and mango (75MT). Avocados generated the most farmer revenue with nearly 500 farmers earning close to \$25k. Trade volume in Kenya doubled from 2018 and now accounts for 35% of TruTrade overall volume sourced. It only accounts for 14% of trade value due to the relatively large volumes of cassava tubers sourced which is a low value crop.

These results have been driven by ongoing focus on our strategic objectives of building the supply base, market growth, increasing efficiency of trading operations and new service development. TruTrade's overall investment grew in 2019, with a three-fold increase in local grant revenue generation. Trading revenue also increased and combined revenue is now covering 30% of operating cost. TruTrade is well positioned to continue this upward trend in 2020 despite the challenges of COVID-19.

Public fundraising

2019 was a challenging year for Self Help Africa's fundraising activities with a decline of almost €1M in donations and legacies. Our regular givers continue to be the bedrock of our support, providing the essential financial platform to leverage major institutional funding

and enabling us to deliver quality programmes on the ground. Maintaining this income stream continues to be a challenge as it is very difficult to replace lapsed donors with new ones.

From an events standpoint, we had our third successful Dublin Gala Ball which performed well, as did two fundraising balls in Galway and our Camino de Santiago walk. Events and general community fundraising realised an increase in net income from our Shrewsbury fundraising team.

Retail

2019 saw a 4% decline in retail income, going from €1.32M to €1.27M. However, net profit remained constant at €119k as costs were kept under control. This is seen as a very positive result in the context of a challenging retail environment.

While positive moves to boost profitability of shops had been made in early 2020, the impact of COVID-19 which resulted in the suspension of all charity retail activity means it will be a challenge to return a surplus in 2020 as the retail sector in general tries to recover.

Financial Review

The financial results are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. The Board are happy that the organisation is in a strong financial position.

Unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2019 stand at €6.7M and comply with the policy of maintaining unrestricted reserves of at least the equivalent of 12 months recurring unrestricted expenditure.

A relatively conservative policy has been adopted and the Audit Finance and Risk Committee review the appropriateness of the policy on an annual basis.

Key financial indicators for the year are:

- Total unrestricted income received during the year ended 31 December 2019 amounted to €7.8M (2018: €7.9M).
- Total voluntary funds raised in Ireland during 2019 amounted to €4.5M and represents 13.5% of total consolidated income (2018: €5.7M and 27%).
- €2.92 was raised for every €1 spent on fundraising (2018: €3.31).

Overall income levels for the year totalled €33.4M, compared to €21.2M in 2018, an increase of 58%. Income levels are higher than we would have expected because of an advance of €11M received from the EU for our Kenya programme just prior to year-end.

Expenditure in 2019 amounted to €21.9M compared to €20.3M in 2018, an increase of €1.6M, or approximately 8%. The net outcome for the year after all charges was a reduction in unrestricted funds to €6.7M at 31 December 2019.

Going Concern

The Group's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, including the impact of COVID-19, show that the Group will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these consolidated financial statements. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual consolidated financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis is included in Note 2.

Structure, governance and management

Structure: Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa) is the parent company of the Group. Self Help Africa has been a dormant company since the merger of Gorta and Self Help Africa in 2014 and is a subsidiary of Gorta. Both Gorta and Self Help Africa are companies limited by guarantee and registered in Ireland. Gorta is the sole member of Self Help Africa UK, Gorta UK and Partner Africa. Self Help Africa UK, Gorta UK and Partner Africa are independent charities and companies limited by guarantee, registered in the United Kingdom.

Each of the Group companies is a registered charity in its own jurisdiction.

- Self Help Africa UK is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under registration number 298830.
- Partner Africa is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under registration number 1144815.
- War on Want NI is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC 102154.
- TruTrade is a company limited by shares, registered in Kenya (registration number CPR/2012/74219)
- Gorta UK is a registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulatory under registration number SC 272970 (it is scheduled to be struck off as a company in 2020, having merged with SHA UK).
- War on Want NI Trading Limited is a dormant company limited by shares (registration number NI026973). It is a subsidiary of War on Want NI and is scheduled to be struck off as a company in 2020.

Self Help Africa's charitable activities in the developing world are carried out in association with each of the Group companies. Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa) was established as a legal charitable entity in the Republic of Ireland in 1965 and its governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association (most recently amended in July 2016).

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Governance: The Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and has determined that Self Help Africa must comply with the basic principles outlined in the 'Irish Development NGOs' Code of Corporate Governance' (as produced by the Corporate Governance Association of Ireland; partnered with Dóchas). Over the last number of years, the organisation has put in place the systems and structures to ensure that we are fully compliant with this Code. As part of the pursuit of the highest standards in governance, an effective Board and a competent executive management team head the organisation. There is a clear distinction between the roles of the Board and the management team to which day-to-day management is delegated. The management team prepares matters for consideration and approval by the Board e.g. annual budgets, policy papers. The Board then monitors their implementation. The Board has reviewed our governance structures and has determined that we are fully compliant with the Dóchas Code.

On areas such as strategic planning, there is Board involvement at all stages of preparation and ultimate approval is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board met on six occasions in 2019 (six in 2018). Details of attendance at the Board meetings are set out below:

Tom Kitt (chair)	6/6
Carmel Fox	6/6
David Governey	5/6
Pat Murphy	5/6
Jim Galvin	4/6
Rowena Dwyer	6/6
Catherine Fitzgibbon	2/3
Martin Ryan	2/3
Sheila Walsh	2/3
Olivia Buckley	2/3
Mairead Carey	3/5
Marion Byrne	4/4
Michael Hoevel	2/3
Claire Fourel	1/3
Michael Maguire	0/1

Directors are elected from the membership of the organisation, with interested members putting themselves forward for election at the Annual General Meeting. As the Board is required to have a broad range of skills and experience, the Nominations Committee monitors succession planning for Board membership. It makes recommendations to the Board and membership regarding the recruitment of new directors who join the Board either via co-option (in the event of a vacancy arising and being filled between AGMs) or by being elected at the AGM proper. Directors co-opted between AGMs are required to put themselves forward for election at the following AGM.

New directors receive background and explanatory materials covering the nature and purpose of Self Help Africa to enable them to familiarise themselves with their duties and responsibilities, the Self Help Africa governance framework and its work overseas. Any relevant training requirements of directors are facilitated by the organisation.

As a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, Self Help Africa reaffirms its commitment to best practice in the communication of images and messages in all our public-facing collateral and policy statements. As a signatory to the Charities Institute of Ireland Guiding Principles for Fundraising, Self Help Africa confirms its commitment to its code of practice for fundraising in all forms.

Board sub-committees

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

The function of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee is to review internal financial controls, treasury and risk management processes. It liaises with external auditors and reports directly to the Board. It meets on a regular basis to monitor and review the financial performance of the organisation, internal and external audit findings, management information systems and internal control systems. It provides independent oversight of the annual budgets, management and statutory accounts and makes recommendations to the Board where relevant.

The committee met four times in 2019 (four times in 2018). The members of the committee in 2019 were David Governey (chair, 3/4 meetings attended) Colm Dennehy (4/4), Chris McDonald (3/4), Dervla Owens (2/4), James Wyse (2/4), Theresa Morrissey (1/4), Michael Butler (2/2), Jenny Fisher (1/1) and Martin Ryan (0/1). Committee members provided support to the Board and management in a range of areas outside of committee meetings and their inputs are of great value in financial oversight of the organisation.

Food, Nutrition and Income Security Committee (Renamed Programmes Committee in 2020)

This committee oversees the quality and depth of programme performance in the food, nutrition and livelihoods element of the programmes function on behalf of the Board and provides advisory support for management on the development and delivery of such programmes.

In particular, it has the following delegated responsibilities:

- Ensure that all programming is delivered in line with organisational strategy, policy and governance standards.
- Ensure that an effective programmes approval process is in place and applied.
- Ensure that an effective results-based management system is in place and applied.

- Support the development of country strategy papers, programme policies and programme approaches.

The committee met four times in 2019 (four times in 2018). The members of the committee are Pat Murphy (chair, 4/4 meetings attended), Carmel Fox (4/4), Jim Campbell (3/4). Prof Adrian Wood (1/2), Marion Byrne (1/2) and Dr James Copestake (0/1).

Group Enterprise Committee

The Group Enterprise Committee was established to strengthen the organisation’s ability to work with private sector partners to create scalable and sustainable agri-business companies throughout Africa. This desire to work with such companies was set out in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, ‘Embracing Change’. Under the direction of chairman, Tom Corcoran, the committee helped the Board, management and country management teams improve their understanding of the key issues involved in working with the private sector.

As a result of this support, the organisation has had considerable success in attracting funding from the EU and Slovak Governments to work with private sector companies in Kenya and Zambia. This support is in excess of €50 million and will enable hundreds of thousands of farmers access markets in an improved manner with companies who can operate at scale.

The continued work of Partner Africa, TruTrade and our work in Ireland supporting IFIAD were also noted as evidence of the organisation embracing its role as being a link to the private sector throughout Africa and also in Ireland.

The work around enterprise has been completely embedded in the Africa operations of the Group and as such the Board decided that the Group Enterprise Committee had fulfilled its mandate. Into the future, work in this area will fall into the remit of the Programmes Committee. The Directors thank Tom Corcoran and his fellow members for their contribution.

Remuneration Committee

The function of the Remuneration Committee is to devise and recommend remuneration policy to the Board for all Self Help Africa staff. The committee met once in 2019 (twice in 2018). The members of the committee are Pat Murphy (chair, 1/1 meetings attended), Eimear Kenny (1/1) and Valerie Sullivan (1/1).

Nominations Committee

The function of the Nominations Committee is to facilitate the ongoing process of Board renewal, making recommendations to the Board and membership having identified skills gaps and appropriate and willing members who would have the potential to fill such gaps. All new directors co-opted to the Board must go before the membership

for election at the following AGM. The committee met five times in 2019 (five times in 2018). The members of the committee were Tom Kirley (RIP) (chair, 4/5 meetings attended), Tom Kitt (5/5), John Carroll (4/5), Marion Byrne (3/3) and Sheila Walsh (1/1).

Risk Management and Internal Controls

The directors have responsibility for and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of SHA. They are confident that adequate systems of internal control are in place and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks. Management prepares a risk register which is a consolidation of HQ and country-level risk reviews and is updated regularly and subject to detailed half-yearly reviews by the Board. The directors regularly review and adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with best practice and monitor the implementation of these policies through the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee.

The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of Self Help Africa’s resources, safeguard Self Help Africa’s assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Although we have strong financial controls in place throughout the organisation, there is always a risk of controls being breached

Report of the Directors

For the financial year ended 31 December 2019

through collusion. As part of our whistle-blowing procedures, we have contracted an external service provider to whom reports can be made in confidence to enable issues reported to be investigated at the appropriate level.

Board and management are conscious of the scope for incidents of fraud and other irregularities in all areas of Self Help Africa's work. In 2019, a number of low level incidents came to light via our whistleblowing procedures in our Kenya, Malawi and Uganda programmes. Wrongdoing cases such as these are managed in a structured way and documented in three stages:

- An initial report documenting the facts of the case is prepared by the most relevant staff member.
- An investigation plan is written up to set out a course of action with the objective of determining how the case can be resolved.
- Following investigation, a final report is prepared for submission to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee in order to bring the matter to conclusion.

A log of wrongdoing cases is reviewed at each Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meeting and all relevant donors are briefed in accordance with the provisions of our contracts with them. The log is also reviewed by the Group Board.

Another key element of our newly-established compliance function has been the formal adoption of new Safeguarding, and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policies which are aligned with international best practice. Safeguarding is seen as a key governance priority and is a standing item on our Board meeting agenda. Often there can be unequal power dynamics or relations across an organisation and in relation to beneficiaries and communities we work with. We face a risk that some staff (or others connected to SHA) may exploit their position of power for personal gain. Safeguarding is addressed throughout the organisation through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response. Our policies are applied to SHA Boards, staff and subsidiaries, partners and affiliates, consultants, and contractors that supply services or support to SHA. We strive to ensure compliance through training, terms and conditions for suppliers, a robust complaints response mechanism, whistleblowing channels and disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal and incorporation of the policy into partner agreements.

The key element of this is in training, with workshops conducted at Head Office and all programme locations across Africa. Compliance in this area is monitored by our Compliance and Finance Manager and ultimately overseen by the Board.

The establishment of a formal internal audit (IA) function in 2018 brought about the adoption of a SHA Internal Audit Charter which sets out the objectives of the function and the extent of its responsibility and authority. We have also adopted a SHA Internal Audit Framework with a standardised approach to audit, along with standard reporting tools and programmes. Due to the departure of our Head of Internal Audit in 2019, the AFRC decided to outsource the function to two independent internal audit professionals in 2020. They will carry out the IA function, performing operational and systems audits and reports the outcomes to the AFRC every quarter in line with the IA Plan. The audits focus on SHA's internal control environment and incorporate a risk based approach to internal audit planning.

Financial information is subject to detailed review at director level allowing for continuous monitoring of Self Help Africa's operations and financial status. Each of our field offices is subject to an annual audit by independent external auditors, in addition to periodic internal audit review.

Management and staff

We appreciate and acknowledge the role played by Self Help Africa's staff, based in Ireland, the UK and in Africa. The ongoing growth of the organisation's work is due to their dedication

and commitment. We are committed to the development of our staff and will continue to allocate resources annually towards a comprehensive training and development programme. Self Help Africa is an equal opportunities employer and we recognise the need to ensure we have high calibre staff and volunteers to achieve our vision and objectives.

Self Help Africa is committed to managing and conducting its work activities in such a way as to ensure - so far as is reasonably practicable - the safety, health and welfare at work of its employees and volunteers. The Safety Statement, in accordance with Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 in Ireland, outlines the policy of Self Help Africa in relation to the management of health, safety and welfare. Self Help Africa's management continuously monitors compliance in line with legislative requirements.

Future Plans

Towards the end of 2019 we were successful in securing the contract to manage the ENTERPRISE Challenge Fund in Zambia. Following our success in 2017 in securing a similar programme in Kenya, a major portion of our general programming is driven by this activity. Our objective is to ensure our performance in managing these programme

is of the highest standard and we are eager to make this a specialist area for the Group into the future.

From a financial point of view, we are eager to ensure that we retain our financial stability for the medium to long term. The impact of COVID-19 will make 2020 a very challenging year to return an unrestricted surplus, however with a rationalisation of costs and in-depth review of our structures, we believe that we can minimise the adverse financial effects of the pandemic, move into 2021 on a positive footing and achieve the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan.

Events since the financial year end

Subsequent to the financial year end, Ireland and many of the countries Self Help Africa operates in were impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the financial year end 31 December 2019 there were no impacts on the recognition and measurements of assets and liabilities as this pandemic impact was considered to be a non-adjusting event. The COVID-19 pandemic is a significant economic event and its effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible effects and outcomes currently unknown. It is not possible to reliably estimate the impact of COVID-19 on the financial position and results of Self Help Africa for future periods.

There were no other subsequent events since the financial year end.

Political contributions

The Group did not make any political contributions in the financial year (2018 - €nil).

Accounting Records

The measures that the directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's registered office at Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

Directors and Secretary

The directors and secretary, who served at any time during the financial year, were as follows:

Directors:

Mr. Tom Kitt (Chairman)
Mr. David Governey
Mr. Pat Murphy
Ms. Olivia Buckley
Ms. Catherine Fitzgibbon
Mr. Robert Breen
Mr. Michael Hoevel

Ms. Marion Byrne
Ms. Carmel Fox
Ms. Rowena Dwyer
Mr. James Galvin
Ms. Sheila Walsh
Mr. Martin Ryan
Ms. Claire-Marie Fourel
Ms. Mairead Carey
Mr. Michael Maguire

Company Secretary:

Mr. Malachy Cardiff
(resigned 10th April 2020)

Mr. Peter McDevitt
(appointed 10th April 2020)

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- (i) so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- (ii) the director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Report of the Directors

For the financial year
ended 31 December
2019

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

Directors' compliance statement

Directors acknowledge that the directors are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations; and

Directors confirm that the directors commenced the following three procedures in order to comply with the directors' obligations during the financial year.

- (a) the drawing up of a "compliance policy statement" setting out the company's policies that, in the directors' opinion, are appropriate to the company, and respecting compliance by the company with its relevant obligations;
- (b) the putting in place of appropriate arrangements or structures that are, in the directors' opinion, designed to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations; and

- (c) the conducting of a review, during the financial period of any arrangements or structures that have been put in place.

Auditors

The auditors, Deloitte Ireland LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Mr. Tom Kitt
Director



Mr. David Governey
Director

Date: 23rd July 2020

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 (“the Charities SORP”) (“relevant financial reporting framework”).

Under company law, the directors must not approve the consolidated financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group and company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the group and company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those consolidated financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the parent company and the Group financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the group and company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly

explain and record the transactions of the group and company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the group and company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the consolidated financial statements and report of the directors comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the group and company’s website.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gorta (Trading as Self Help Africa)

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of Gorta (trading as Self Help Africa)

In our opinion the group and parent company financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the group and parent company as at 31 December 2019 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

the group financial statements:

- the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account);
- the Consolidated Balance Sheet;
- the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows; and
- the related notes 1 to 34, including

a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

the parent company financial statements:

- the Company Balance Sheet;
- the Company Cash Flow Statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 34, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the group and parent company in accordance with the

ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group or parent company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the reports and consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2019, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the group and parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a

material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group and parent company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates

and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity (or where relevant, the group) to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the business activities within the group to express an opinion on the (consolidated) financial statements. The group auditor is responsible for the direction, super-

vision and performance of the group audit. The group auditor remains solely responsible for the audit opinion.

- In our opinion, information and returns adequate for our audit have been received from branches of the company not visited by us.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gorta (Trading as Self Help Africa)

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the parent company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The parent company balance sheet and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the report of the directors is consistent with the financial statements and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Margarita Martin

For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP,
Chartered Accountants and Statutory
Audit Firm

Deloitte & Touche House,
Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

DATE: 24 July 2020

Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities

(Including income and expenditure account) for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 Restricted Funds €'000	2019 Unrestricted Funds €'000	2019 Total €'000	2018 Restricted Funds €'000	2018 Unrestricted Funds €'000	2018 Total €'000
INCOME FROM							
Donations and legacies	3	339	3,530	3,869	837	4,029	4,866
Charitable activities	4	25,113	753	25,866	12,272	495	12,767
Retail income	5	-	1,267	1,267	-	1,317	1,317
Other trading activities	6	131	2,259	2,390	149	2,059	2,208
Other	7	-	16	16	-	29	29
Total		25,583	7,825	33,408	13,258	7,928	21,186
EXPENDITURE ON							
Charitable activities	8	13,312	5,913	19,225	12,305	5,121	17,426
Raising funds - Retail	5	-	1,149	1,149	-	1,198	1,198
Raising funds - Other	9	-	1,544	1,544	-	1,728	1,728
Total		13,313	8,605	21,918	12,305	8,046	20,352
Net income / (expense)	11	12,271	(781)	11,490	953	(118)	835
Other recognised income / (losses)	12	123	87	210	(13)	(26)	(38)
Taxation	13	-	(42)	(42)	-	(7)	(7)
Net movement in funds	30	12,394	(736)	11,658	940	(151)	789
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward	30	7,358	7,408	14,766	6,418	7,559	13,977
Total funds carried forward	30	19,752	6,672	26,424	7,358	7,408	14,766

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net movement in funds for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	17	438	311
Intangible assets	17	24	24
		462	335
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term investments	18	188	139
Cash at bank and in hand	19	24,911	13,771
Debtors	20	2,437	2,304
Stocks		3	4
		27,539	16,218
Creditors: Amounts due within one financial year	21	(1,552)	(1,729)
Net current assets		25,987	14,489
Total assets less current liabilities		26,449	14,824
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one financial year	22	(25)	(58)
NET ASSETS		26,424	14,766
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds – restricted	30	19,752	7,358
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	30	6,672	7,408
Deferred Capital Grants	30	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS		26,424	14,766

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 23rd July 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Tom Kitt
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Company Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	17	173	41
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term investments	18	188	139
Cash at bank and in hand	19	23,034	13,008
Debtors	20	1,650	1,234
		24,872	14,381
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one financial year	21	(3,351)	(1,693)
Net current assets		21,521	12,688
Total assets less current liabilities		21,694	12,729
Creditors: Amount falling due after one financial year	22	(7)	(46)
NET ASSETS		21,687	12,683
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Accumulated funds – restricted	30	16,596	6,206
Accumulated funds – unrestricted	30	5,091	6,477
Deferred capital grants	31	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS		21,687	12,683
Net income after other recognised gains/(losses)		9,004	1,251

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 23rd July 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Tom Kitt
DIRECTOR



David Governey
DIRECTOR

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash provided by charitable activities	28	11,353	452
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	7	6	16
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(212)	(138)
Purchase of intangible assets	17	(7)	(3)
Net assets acquired through charity combinations	12	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(213)	(125)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		11,140	328
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		13,771	13,443
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		24,911	13,771
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		24,911	13,771

Company Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Cash flows from charitable activities			
Net cash provided by charitable activities	28	10,179	948
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		5	14
Purchase of tangible assets	17	(158)	(27)
Net cash used in investing activities		(153)	(12)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year		10,026	936
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		13,008	12,072
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		23,034	13,008
Reconciliation to cash at bank and in hand:			
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		23,034	13,008

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding financial year.

General Information and Basis of Preparation

Gorta (t/a Self Help Africa) is a group and company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. The address of the registered office of the group and company is First Floor, Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. The company number of Gorta with the Companies Registration Office is 28228. The nature of the group and company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the report of the directors on pages 4 to 23. In accordance with Section 1180(8) of the Companies Act, 2014, the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Report-

ing Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

The functional currency of the group and company is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

As permitted by section 291(3)(4) of the Companies Act 2014, the Group has varied the standard formats specified in that Act for the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with Sections 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of the Charities SORP. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption available to it under section 304 of the Companies Act 2014, which permits a company that publishes its company and group financial statements together not to present its own statement of

financial activities and related notes.

The Company meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS102. As a registered charity, the Company is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP. There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Company under section 329, Companies Act 2014.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK), Partner Africa, Gorta UK, Traidlinks, TruTrade Limited and War on Want NI. The activities of all seven companies are mutually interdependent.

The work of the Group in Africa, which is not carried out by one of the seven subsidiary undertakings noted above, is carried out through branches located in the countries of operation. The branches are the local representatives of the Group. They do not have a separate legal personality and have been set up specifi-

cally to carry out the work of the Group.

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in these consolidated financial statements from the date on which control commences until the date on which control ceases.

Going concern

The group's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, including the impact of COVID-19, show that the group will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these consolidated financial statements. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual consolidated financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis is included in Note 2b.

Income

- i Income from voluntary donations is recognised when received. As with many similar charitable organisations, independent groups from time to time organise fundraising activities and may operate bank accounts in the name of Gorta or Self Help Africa. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the group and company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the group.
- ii Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- iii Grants from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects and accounted for on a receivable basis.
- iv Income from legacies are recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable, the group is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- v Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.
- vi Revenue refunds in respect of tax relief on voluntary donations are recognised on a receivable basis in so far as the receivable can be estab-

lished with a reasonable amount of accuracy.

- vii Other income reflects income earned by Partner Africa in respect of ethical trade related assignments and is recognised on a receivable basis. Such income is deferred until such time as the assignment occurs and the related expenditure is incurred.

Expenditure

- i Charitable activities comprise expenditure incurred by the programme countries for the costs of the development programmes as well as costs incurred at headquarters that are directly related to the implementation of programmes. Expenditure is recognised in the period to which it relates. Expenditure incurred but unpaid at the balance sheet date is included in accruals and other creditors.
- ii Expenditure on raising funds comprises all expenditure incurred by Self Help Africa on raising funds for the organisation's charitable activities.

Gifts in kind

Items donated for resale are included in shop income when sold and no value is placed on stock at the year end. Any other gifts in kind which are deemed non-material are not included in the financial statements. Gifts in kind that can be valued with reasonable confi-

dence will be included in the financial statements.

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

- i *Unrestricted funds* - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the directors.
- ii *Designated funds* - these are funds which have been set aside for particular purposes by the Company itself, in furtherance of the Company's charitable objects.
- iii *Restricted funds* - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis at rates estimated to write off the cost over the year of their expected useful lives (taking account of residual value). The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Shop fittings

20% Straight line

Furniture and computer equipment

33.3% Straight line

Motor vehicles

33.3% Straight line

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible fixed assets represent purchased computer software applications and are capitalised when there is a clearly defined project, the related expenditure is separately identifiable and the outcome of the project has been assessed with reasonable certainty as to its technical, surplus generating and financial feasibility. In the absence of such criteria, these costs are expensed. Intangible fixed assets are amortised over their expected useful lives.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the group and company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is mea-

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

sured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the group and company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the group and company, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. Balances that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

Investment Policy

All cash balances for planned develop-

ment work are held in demand deposit accounts or short term investment accounts at the highest interest rates available at the time of investment. Long term investments acquired by donation or through merger will not be held in the long term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

Pension Scheme

The Group operates defined contribution schemes for employees. The assets of the schemes are held and managed separately from those of the charity by independently administered funds. The annual contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Operating Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Reserves Policy

In order to secure the long term viability of the Group and to maintain the smooth operation of the organisation, it is critical to ensure that the organisation has adequate reserves. The level of reserves is required to cover the following activities of the organisation:

- Provide funding for sustainable programmes.
- Meet contractual liabilities such as lease agreements, statutory staff payments and payments to creditors.
- Maintain a required level of funding available for overseas programmes during times of financial difficulty where fundraising income is diminished.
- To facilitate programme/project continuation especially where a partner submits a new or additional phase proposal in advance of the current activity being completed, in order to meet seasonal requirements (i.e. farming season) and prevent development gaps.
- Meet unanticipated expenses such as repairs and maintenance, currency variances and legal costs.
- Cover day to day expenditure of the Group.
- Ensure there is adequate funding should any winding up costs ever arise.
- Provide for any other unanticipated expenditure of significance.

The Board may designate unrestricted reserves for specific future expenditure

such as Long Term Programmes, sinking funds to cover repairs to Fixed Assets (or as required under the terms of any lease relating to premises etc.) and any other potential future requirement(s). The Board has adopted a reserves policy based on foreseeable expenditure and in particular, long-term commitments to projects.

Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). The balance sheet for the subsidiaries are translated at the prevailing year end rates and included in the consolidated balance sheet. The statements of financial activities for the subsidiaries are translated at an average rate for the year and included in the consolidated statement of financial activities. Any exchange gains or losses arising on consolidation are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Taxation

No charge to tax arises due to the

exempt status of the Company and its subsidiaries, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK) and Gorta UK. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies. Partner Africa is registered as a charity and benefits from corporation tax exemptions available to charitable bodies. It is however registered for VAT in the UK and Kenya and is subject to Kenyan corporation tax.

Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received or paid, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and accrued interest as well as being adjusted if necessary for any impairment.

Onerous contracts

Provision is made in respect of onerous contracts where the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it and a reliable estimate can be made of such obligations and benefits.

2a. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the company's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying

amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the accounting policies and notes to the financial statements.

The directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

2b. GOING CONCERN

The directors have given careful consideration to the potential impact of COVID-19 on the organisation. Several measures have been implemented to give the directors a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Among the measures taken to mitigate impact on

unrestricted reserves are:

- Revision of budgets and cash flow projections to identify potential economies.
- Negotiations with suppliers, service providers and landlords, combined with general cost cutting measures across the organisation, to minimise depletion of unrestricted reserves.
- Reduction of staff working hours and salary reductions at Head Office level.
- Review of fundraising activities to ensure that events that have been cancelled are rescheduled as soon as possible where appropriate.
- Availing of government supports where possible.
- Deferral of discretionary expenditure where possible.

In addition to these measures, the directors have reviewed the restricted elements of its income and expenditure, in order to understand the impact of the pandemic on its operations on the ground in Africa with the least possible disruption to or suspension of programmes. In this area, work was carried out in:

- Engaging with institutional donors at Head Office and country office level to agree deferral of expenditure and extension of project timeframes as appropriate.
- Reconfiguring trainings to be held

in smaller groups in order to facilitate social distancing.

- Developing guidance notes for our teams and partners on the incorporation of Covid-19 response in our programmes, use of face-masks in the community and the importance of safeguarding during the pandemic.
- A public appeal was launched online and proposals submitted (successfully) to a number of Trusts and Foundations for the provision of PPE, handwashing and sanitation facilities across our programmes.

Beyond the measures outlined above, the organisation's conservative reserves policy of retaining a minimum of 12 months of recurring budgeted unrestricted expenditure has now proven to be valuable. At year end, the unrestricted reserves figure of €6.7 million gives the directors additional comfort in continuing to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

3. Donations and Legacies

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Committed giving (regular giving)	2,970	3,227
General donations	456	785
Legacies	162	578
Church gate collections and committee income	132	111
Grow Fund	81	99
Gift Aid	68	66
TOTAL	3,869	4,866

Included in general donations for 2019 are amounts from Designer Group, Church of Ireland Bishops Appeal, Dublin City Council World Development Fund and Electric Aid.

4. Charitable Activities

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000		2019 €'000	2018 €'000
European Commission	16,891	4,566	World Bank	14	8
Irish Aid Programme Grant	3,263	3,145	Agricultural Development Program (ADP)	13	10
Slovak Aid	1,252	-	Mercy Corps	10	-
Irish Aid (WWGS)	1,050	1,060	Harvest Plus	9	11
Jersey Overseas Aid	538	169	World Fish	4	-
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	437	-	GOAL (UNHCR Humanitarian Donated Goods) (note (a) below)	-	611
World Food Programme (WFP)	417	892	Irish Aid (Zambia, Northern Province)	-	514
DFID UK	248	393	Ministry of Finance (Zambia)	-	397
Irish Aid (Ethiopia)	234	188	Big Lottery Fund (UK)	-	104
Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency	228	-	Millennium Challenge Account	-	90
Tullow Oil	176	-	UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	-	75
Danish International Development Agency	168	-	Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission	-	37
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	158	-	TradeMark East Africa	-	37
Irish Aid (Civil Society Fund)	141	145	Rotary Club Kenya	-	27
FINTRAC Inc	127	-	African Agriculture Fund - Technical Assistance Facility	-	22
Mohammed Bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity	90	-	International Seed Sector Development	-	21
Rafiki Microfinance	89	-	CNFA Ethiopia	-	15
Irish Aid (IFIAD)	80	-	Crop Innovations	-	2
IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative	69	-	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	-	(1)
Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation	66	85	TOTAL	25,866	12,767
McGill University	39	144			
Foundation for Food and Agri Research	30	-			
International Potato Centre	25	-			

(a) Represents the value of donated goods received and distributed in country.



Lonasi Sikwese and 4 years old son Blessings, Malawi

5. Retail income and expenditure

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Turnover from donated goods	1,267	1,317
Less costs:		
Operating expenses	(863)	(863)
Management expenses	(201)	(230)
Support costs	(85)	(105)
	(1,149)	(1,198)
Trading surplus	118	119

6. Other trading activities

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Ethical audits	1,713	1,319
Campaigns, events and treks	593	841
Product Value Chain	84	48
TOTAL	2,390	2,208

7. Other

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Income from investments	6	16
Other income	10	13
TOTAL	16	29

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

8. Charitable activities

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following thematic areas

	2019 Direct Costs €'000	2019 Support Costs €'000	2019 Total Costs €'000	2018 Direct Costs €'000	2018 Support Costs €'000	2018 Total Costs €'000
Agriculture production	6,573	583	7,156	4,254	420	4,674
Agri-business development	6,615	668	7,283	6,472	731	7,203
Nutrition	456	40	496	420	41	461
Gender/inclusion	100	9	109	17	2	19
Advocacy/policy	1,436	127	1,563	1,162	115	1,277
Water, sanitation & health	441	39	480	747	74	821
Renewable energy	36	3	39	4	-	4
Humanitarian	282	25	307	644	-	644
Partner capacity building	515	46	561	858	85	943
Development Education	1,131	100	1,231	1,256	124	1,380
TOTAL	17,585	1,640	19,225	15,834	1,592	17,426

8. Charitable activities (Continued)

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following **geographic areas**

	2019 Direct Costs €'000	2019 Support Costs €'000	2019 Total Costs €'000	2018 Direct Costs €'000	2018 Support Costs €'000	2018 Total Costs €'000
Zambia	1,581	140	1,721	2,392	236	2,628
Uganda	1,883	248	2,131	1,236	215	1,451
Ethiopia	1,353	120	1,473	1,399	138	1,537
Humanitarian	282	25	307	644	-	644
Kenya	3,492	309	3,801	2,335	230	2,565
Malawi	4,113	365	4,478	3,533	349	3,882
West Africa	1,051	93	1,144	1,144	113	1,257
Ethical trade services/ enterprise development*	2,657	236	2,893	1,804	178	1,982
Eritrea	42	44	46	91	9	100
Development Education	1,131	100	1,232	1,256	124	1,380
TOTAL	17,585	1,640	19,225	15,834	1,592	17,426

* This work is carried on in over forty countries throughout Africa. It incorporates the expenditure of Partner Africa and TruTrade which relates to the group.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

9. Raising funds - other

Expenditure on raising funds represents fundraising costs to raise both restricted and unrestricted income. This is analysed as follows:

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Staff costs	732	701
Fundraising and promotional expenses	551	772
Support costs	261	255
TOTAL	1,544	1,728

10. Support costs

Support costs which are allocated to activities have been incurred against the following thematic areas:

	2019 Charitable Activities €'000	2019 Fundraising €'000	2019 Retail €'000	2019 Total €'000	2018 Charitable Activities €'000	2018 Fundraising €'000	2018 Retail €'000	2018 Total Costs €'000
Direct salaries	648	108	48	804	734	104	42	880
Foreign exchange	69	-	-	69	(99)	-	-	(99)
Human resources	65	4	3	72	55	6	3	64
IT/computer	44	7	5	56	27	2	3	32
Postage, stationery & communications	22	10	3	35	32	17	8	57
Premises	131	42	2	175	134	40	9	183
Professional fees	2	1	3	6	24	2	1	27
Other support costs	206	45	7	258	207	27	6	240
Governance costs	310	24	7	341	312	27	9	348
Research/advocacy costs	143	20	7	170	166	30	23	219
TOTAL	1,640	261	85	1,986	1,592	255	104	1,951

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is a mixture of the percentage of time spend on each activity and the pro rata cost of each direct cost when compared to the support cost.

11. Net income/(expense)

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
The net income/(expense) for the financial year is stated after charging /(crediting):		
(a) Group		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	69	88
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	7	7
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses		
- Audit of the Group financial statements*	79	35
- Other assurance services*	-	45
Amortisation of capital grants	-	(1)
(b) Company		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	26	43
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses		
- Audit of the Company financial statements*	40	25
- Other assurance services*	-	10
Amortisation of capital grants	-	(1)

(a) This includes VAT. No amounts were paid to the group auditors in relation to advisory, tax advisory or other assurance services.

12. Other recognised gains/(losses)

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Exchange gain/(loss) on consolidation	161	(12)
Gain/(loss) on investment assets	49	(27)
TOTAL	210	(39)

13. Taxation

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Tax has been provided for in the Kenyan branch of Partner Africa as follows:		
Deferred tax charge	(42)	(7)

No charge to tax arises due to the exempt status of the Company and its subsidiaries, Self Help Africa, Self Help Africa (UK), War on Want NI and TruTrade. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies. Partner Africa is registered as a charity and benefits from corporation tax exemptions available to charitable bodies. It is however registered for VAT in the UK and Kenya and is subject to Kenyan corporation tax.

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14. Staff costs

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Staff costs are comprised as follows:		
Ireland and United Kingdom		
Wages and salaries	4,299	3,846
Social welfare costs	383	368
Pension costs	232	213
Sub-total	4,914	4,427
Program Staff in Countries of Operation		
Wages and salaries	2,461	2,274
Social welfare costs	35	31
Pension costs	229	182
Sub-total	2,725	2,487
Total staff costs	7,639	6,914

	2019 Number	2018 Number
The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:		
Ireland and United Kingdom	136	112
Program staff in countries of operation	203	192
	339	304

No employee of the group acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Group Chief Executive comprised salary of €115,005 (2018: €112,750) plus 6.5% employer pension contribution. The number of employees whose salaries (excluding employer pension contributions and employer PRSI) were greater than €60,000 were as follows:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
€60,001 - €70,000	4	3
€70,001 - €80,000	5	5
€80,001 - €90,000	3	2
€90,001 - €100,000	1	1
€100,001 - €110,000	-	-
€110,001 - €120,000	1	1

15. Director remuneration and expenses

Directors are not remunerated but are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their duties. Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board and subsidiary Boards that were either borne by the Group or reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €2,177 in 2019 (2018: €1,098). In addition, Board members may periodically visit one of the Group's countries of operation in order to ensure that they are familiar with Self Help Africa's work or attend events overseas on behalf of the Group. The cost of these visits (which comprise medicals, visas, flights and accommodation) are generally borne by the Group and amounted to €1,754 in 2019 (2018: €11,984).

16. Key management compensation

The total remuneration for the group key management personnel (which includes gross pay, employer insurance contributions, employer pension contributions and any other remuneration including benefits in kind) for the financial year amounted to €525,528 (2018: €531,716) and this relates to five personnel (2018: five personnel).

The remuneration of each individual subsidiary entity's key management team is disclosed in the respective subsidiary entity individual financial statements.

17. Fixed assets

Fixed Assets - Group	Land & Buildings	Shop Fittings	Motor vehicles	Furniture, fittings and equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cost					
At 1 January 2019	178	249	154	364	945
Additions	-	-	274	52	326
Disposals	-	-	(46)	(6)	(52)
Exchange gain on consolidation	10	-	2	9	21
At 31 December 2019	188	249	384	419	1,240
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2019	17	236	105	276	634
Accumulated Depreciation on assets acquired	-	-	111	3	114
Charge for the year	3	9	20	37	69
Disposals	-	-	(19)	(1)	(20)
Exchange gain on consolidation	1	-	1	3	5
At 31 December 2019	21	245	218	318	802
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2019	167	4	166	101	438
At 31 December 2018	161	13	49	88	311

17. Fixed assets (continued)

Fixed Assets - Company	Shop Fittings €'000	Office Furniture and Equipment €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Total €'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2019	249	164	73	486
Additions	-	19	252	271
Disposals	-	(1)	-	(1)
At 31 December 2019	249	182	325	756
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2019	236	142	67	445
Accumulated depreciation on assets acquired	-	2	111	113
Charge for the year	9	13	4	26
Disposals	-	(1)	-	(1)
At 31 December 2019	245	156	182	583
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2019	4	26	143	173
At 31 December 2018	13	22	6	41
Intangible assets - Group				
		Computer Application €'000		Total €'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2019		32		32
Additions		6		6
Exchange gain on consolidation		1		1
At 31 December 2019		39		39
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2019		7		7
Charge for the year		7		7
Exchange gain on consolidation		1		1
At 31 December 2019		15		15
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2019		24		24
At 31 December 2018		24		24

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18. Short term investments

Group and Company:

Investments relate to a bequest of shares, the market value of which at 31 December 2019 was €188,221 (2018: €139,260).

19. Cash at bank and in hand

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
(a) Group:		
By fund designation:		
Restricted	18,309	6,640
Unrestricted	6,602	7,131
	24,911	13,771
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	7,312	9,400
Current accounts	17,590	4,359
County committee accounts	1	1
Cash on hand	8	11
TOTAL	24,911	13,771
(b) Company:		
By fund designation:		
Restricted	16,518	6,137
Unrestricted	6,516	6,871
	23,034	13,008
By account type:		
Deposit accounts	7,211	9,312
Current accounts	15,818	3,687
County committee accounts	1	1
Cash on hand	4	8
TOTAL	23,034	13,008

20. Debtors

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Cash at bank and in hand		
(a) Group:		
Tax refunds on donations receivable	10	8
Deferred tax	74	40
Other debtors	1,720	1,205
Prepayments	158	154
Due to Self Help Inc. (Note 33)	102	-
VAT Recoverable	1	2
Accrued income	372	895
TOTAL	2,437	2,304
(b) Company:		
Amount due from subsidiaries	83	83
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	92	87
Concessionary loan (Note 27)	-	308
Other debtors	1,130	425
Prepayments	104	91
Accrued income	241	240
TOTAL	1,650	1,234

21. Creditors

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Amounts falling due within one financial year		
(a) Group:		
Trade creditors	972	704
Accruals	300	302
Trade finance fund	-	234
Due to SHA Inc. (Note 33)	-	35
Deferred revenue	112	294
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43	43
Pension liability	5	21
PAYE/PRSI liability	108	96
TOTAL	1,552	1,729
(b) Company:		
Trade creditors	888	623
Accruals	45	117
Pension liability	-	16
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43	43
PAYE/PRSI liability	85	76
Group companies	2,290	818
TOTAL	3,351	1,693

22. Creditors

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Amounts falling due after more than one financial year		
(a) Group:		
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	25	58
(b) Company:		
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	7	46

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

23. Financial instruments

The carrying value of the Group's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

Financial Assets	2019	2018
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	€'000	€'000
(a) Group		
Other debtors	1,720	1,205
(b) Company		
Amount due from subsidiaries	83	83
Due from Self Help Africa Inc. (Note 33)	92	87
Concessionary loan (Note 27)	-	309
Other debtors	1,131	425
Financial Liabilities		
Measured at undiscounted amount payable		
(a) Group		
Trade creditors	972	703
Trade finance fund	0	234
Due to SHA Inc. (Note 33)	0	35
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43	43
(b) Company		
Trade creditors	888	623
Other amounts payable (Note 26)	43	43
Amounts due to Group companies	2,290	818

24. Commitments

At 31 December 2019 the company had total future minimum commitments under non cancellable operating leases as follows:

Expiring in:	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000
Within 1 year	392	412
Between 1 and 5 years	269	387
Over 5 years	35	154
	696	953

25. Pension scheme

The company operates employer sponsored defined contribution pension schemes which are available to all staff. During the year, the charity made contributions in respect of its employees who elected to contribute. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, in externally managed funds. The pension expense for the financial year amounted to €215,878 (2018: €196,599). Balance outstanding at financial year end €5,266 (2018: €20,924).

26. Other amounts payable

Provision has been made in the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2019 in respect of a property lease where the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the lease exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it. This excess of costs over benefits has been calculated at €49,915 (2018: €89,494) of which €43,117 (2018: €43,117) is expected to arise within one year and €6,798 (2018: €46,377) after one year.

An additional provision, relating only to the group, has been recognised which represents terminal grants which are contractual amounts due to employees in regional offices when they leave employment with War on Want (N.I.) Limited. At 31 December 2019 the amount payable was €12,183 (2018: €12,183).

27. Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans have been advanced by Self Help Africa. In 2019, Self Help Africa advanced a concessionary loan of €136,302 to TruTrade. The carrying amount of the concessionary loan from Self Help Africa to TruTrade was €576,756 at 31 December 2019. As this loan is unlikely to be repaid in the short to medium term, a provision for non-repayment has been made in the Gorta company accounts.

28. Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by charitable activities

Group	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Net income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	11,658	789
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	77	95
Amortisation of capital grants	-	(1)
Loss on fixed asset disposal	32	7
(Increase)/decrease in short term investments	(49)	27
Exchange loss on deferred tax asset	7	5
Exchange gain on consolidated fixed assets	(16)	-
Decrease in stock	1	-
Increase in debtors	(141)	(226)
Decrease in creditors - amounts due within one year	(177)	(200)
Decrease in creditors - amounts due over one year	(33)	(28)
Interest received	(6)	(16)
Net cash provided by charitable activities	11,353	452

Company

Net income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	9,004	1,251
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	26	43
Adjustment for capital grants	-	(1)
(Increase)/decrease in short term investments	(49)	27
Increase in debtors	(415)	(277)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors- amounts due within one year	1,658	(41)
Decrease in creditors- amounts due over one year	(40)	(40)
Interest received	(5)	(14)
Net cash provided by charitable activities	10,179	948

29. Legal status of the Company

Gorta's consolidated financial statements combine the activities of Gorta in Ireland and Self Help Africa (UK), Gorta UK, Partner Africa, War on Want NI, and TruTrade. The net income for the year, and the funds of the charity of each of the group companies at the financial year-end are detailed below.

	Net income for the year 31/12/2019 €'000	Funds of the charity at the year end 31/12/2019 €'000
Gorta	9,531	22,256
Self Help Africa (UK)	1,745	3,382
Partner Africa	82	503
WOW NI	29	317
TruTrade	103	(34)
Group total	11,490	26,424

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

30. Funds of the charity

Group	Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Total Funds €'000	
(i) Reconciliation of funds: (excluding deferred capital grants)				
Funds at 1st January 2019	7,358	7,408	14,766	
Net income for the year	12,394	(736)	11,658	
Fund balances at 31 December 2019	19,752	6,672	26,424	
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds: (including deferred capital grants)				
	Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Balance 31/12/2019 €'000	
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	462	462	
Current Assets	19,752	7,787	27,539	
Liabilities	-	(1,577)	(1,577)	
Total Funds	19,752	6,672	26,424	
(iii) Movements in funds: (including deferred capital grants)				
	Balance as at 01/01/2019 €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Balance 31/12/2019 €'000
Restricted Funds	7,358	25,583	(13,189)	19,752
Unrestricted Funds	7,408	7,825	(8,561)	6,672
Total Funds	14,766	33,408	(21,750)	26,424

30. Funds of the charity (continued)

Company only	Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Total Funds €'000	
(i) Reconciliation of funds:				
(excluding deferred capital grants)				
Fund balance at 1 January 2019	6,206	6,477	12,683	
Net income for the year	10,390	(1,386)	9,004	
Fund balances at 31 December 2019	16,596	5,091	21,687	
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:				
(including deferred capital grants)				
	Restricted Funds €'000	Unrestricted Funds €'000	Balance 31/12/2019 €'000	
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	173	173	
Current Assets	16,596	8,276	24,872	
Liabilities	-	(3,358)	(3,358)	
Total Funds	16,596	5,091	21,687	
(iii) Movements in funds:				
(including deferred capital grants)				
	Balance as at 01/01/2019 €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Balance 31/12/2019 €'000
Restricted Funds	6,206	21,369	(10,979)	16,596
Unrestricted Funds	6,477	3,897	(5,283)	5,091
Total Funds	12,683	25,266	(16,262)	21,687

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2019

31. Deferred capital grants

Cost	€'000
At 1 January 2019	32
Received during the year	-
Exchange loss on consolidation	-
At 31 December 2019	32
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2019	32
Amortised for the financial year	-
Exchange loss on consolidation	-
At 31 December 2019	32
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2019	-
At 31 December 2018	-

32. Financial risk management

Currency risk

Much of the organisation's costs, particularly overseas costs, are denominated in euro and local currency while most income is received in euro. A strengthening of the local currency against the euro could have an adverse effect on Gorta's ability to deliver its planned programme of work. These currency risks are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Cash flow risk

Gorta hold a number of bank accounts deposited in a number of different financial institutions ensuring the security of our funds and also endeavouring to maximise the return available. The organisation's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in interest rates. Interest bearing assets are held at fixed rates to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The organisation's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and current asset investments. The credit risk on cash at bank and current asset investments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The organisation has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a number of counterparties and customers.

33. Self Help Africa Inc.

Self Help Africa Inc. is a not for profit organisation registered in the United States of America. Self Help Africa Inc. is governed by an independent board of directors which retains full control over the financial and operating policies of the company. During the financial year Self Help Africa Inc. on-granted €90,431 of restricted income received (2018: €759,343) and €Nil of voluntary income raised (2018: €114,165) to Gorta t/a Self Help Africa projects. Total amounts granted by SHA Inc. to Gorta t/a Self Help Africa of €90,431 (2018: €873,508) have been included in the accounts of Gorta t/a Self Help Africa under income and endowments and expenditure. A balance of €91,886 remained outstanding at 31 December 2019 (2018: €87,273) represented by a loan repayable by Self Help Africa Inc. to Gorta t/a Self Help Africa. In addition grant income received by SHA Inc. on behalf of SHA UK amounting to €134,733 remains outstanding. Long term loans repayable by TruTrade to Self Help Africa Inc. of €124,644 (2018: €122,535) leave a consolidated net amount owing from Self Help Africa Inc. of €101,965 (2018: owed to SHA Inc. €35,263). On 30th June 2017, James Galvin, a director of Self Help Africa Inc. was appointed to the Board of Gorta t/a Self Help Africa.

34. Subsequent Events

Subsequent to the financial year end, Ireland and many of the countries Self Help Africa operates in were impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the financial year end 31 December 2019 there were no impacts on the recognition and measurements of assets and liabilities as this pandemic impact was considered to be a non-adjusting event. The COVID-19 pandemic is a significant economic event and its effects are subject to unprecedented levels of uncertainty, with the full range of possible effects and outcomes currently unknown. It is not possible to reliably estimate the impact of COVID-19 on the financial position and results of Self Help Africa for future periods.

No events have occurred since the balance sheet date that require adjustment or disclosure.



Self Help Africa is a signatory to the Dochas NGO code of conduct on the responsible use of images and messages.



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