



Annual Report 2018-2019

www.nickwebbertrust.org.uk

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The Trust was set up in 2004 in memory of Nick Webber, who died tragically in a car accident at the age of 28 while working in Malawi as a volunteer Legal Aid solicitor. Had Nick lived longer, we know that he would have done much more good in the world. Our aim is to do some of that good in his name. Following the spirit of the work he was doing, our aim is to support some of Malawi's poorest and most marginalised people by funding projects in education, healthcare and community support, and access to justice.

The Trust became recognised as a charity in England and Wales on 30 May 2005, which would have been Nick's 29th birthday.

This document contains the Trustees' financial report for the financial year 2018-2019.

Achievements this year

School support

We continued with our project to support homeless children who could not be re-integrated into their families to go to boarding school, through the **Tikondane Centre for the Care of Street Children** in Lilongwe. We supported twenty-six children who were placed in state boarding schools: 15 in primary, and 11 in secondary schools. We pay for school fees and other expenses such as uniforms, bedding, transport, daily



necessities, classroom equipment, and a small amount of pocket money. We are delighted that once again over 90% of these children successfully completed their school years. This year, we also continued our support of one young man, who we supported through secondary school, for his second year at Mzuzu University, with an above average performance in Hospitality Management. We also funded the technical college fees and boarding fees of two young men and one young woman, previously supported through school, on the first year of vocational training courses.

We continued our school scholarship scheme in Usisya district in partnership with the UK-based charity **Temwa**, whose team in Usisya manage the project. The project pays secondary school fees for students from the most vulnerable households who have strong results from their primary education. In this school year, we funded 19 students at Community Day Secondary Schools, and 6 in boarding schools. Of the 25 students supported, 16 are female.

Of the 28 supported in the previous year, 6 completed their studies, 5 dropped out, and 17 continued in the scheme. In this financial year we paid school fees for two years, due to an administrative problem in the Temwa office during the previous year.

We also continued our support of some female secondary school students in the **Kochilira** area, who had had their funding abruptly terminated by another charity which had decided to transfer its support elsewhere. Knowing the difficulties young women have in obtaining and retaining secondary school places (and how important educating women is for Malawi's development) we undertook to allow the students to complete their education. The three who we had allowed to repeat their final year because of the disruption they had suffered, delighted us with greatly improved results in the MSCE, good enough for two of them to be entitled to compete for university education. A fourth student also passed her MSCE but with results lower than expected due to being hospitalised during the exams; we have agreed to her to repeat the year.

School building projects

At Kochilira Primary School, where we had previously constructed four classrooms, we agreed to build a further block of two classrooms, for which the local community had once again moulded the bricks. With the completion of these two classrooms, Kochilira Primary became, from September 2018, a Full Primary School, which pupils can attend for the full eight years of primary education. This is of especial benefit to the girl pupils as they will not have to face the difficulties and dangers of a six-kilometre walk in both directions to the nearest Full Primary for the last two years of their primary education.



As a result of our successful "Buy a Desk for Christmas" fundraising, we were able to fund desks for the top class and hope in future to be able to fund desks for Standard Seven as well. There is plenty of evidence that providing desks for classes where the girl pupils have reached puberty encourages them to stay on to complete primary school and thus have a chance of secondary education.

We retained close links with nearby **Kainsa and Kasakanya Primary schools**, both of which we had previously completed to Full Primary status. In both of these schools we had been able to provide desks for the top two classes, and are pleased to see that the retention rate of girl students has risen to equal that of the boys.

We continue to maintain regular contact with **Kochilira Community Day Secondary School**, in Mchinji District, where our hostel for female students makes a significant contribution to the retention of female students. We are delighted that in this school female students now outnumber male students in the final two years, a reversal of the national trend, which senior staff attribute to the safer atmosphere our buildings have created for young women, and that results in national exams continue to improve. We have funded several projects at this school in a relationship that began in 2010, and has included the construction of a science and a computer laboratory, the construction of two more classrooms, and the construction of a teacher's house, to aid staff recruitment and retention at this much improved school. This year we were able to continue to link the school with a charity promoting female hygiene and sanitary protection, thus further enabling young women to remain in the classroom.

Community and Health

This year a second training course in tailoring was completed at **Tidzuke Orphan Care** in Kochilira village, where we had previously funded courses in carpentry and tailoring. A condition of our support is that the recruitment of trainees should pro-actively target young women. Nineteen students successfully completed the tailoring course, 13 of whom are female. This project is part of our ongoing relationship with this fantastic community organisation. In 2011 we funded the building of a children's centre for the project, from which they run a feeding programme for orphans and vulnerable children, a nursery school, a library, to which we are able to donate more books every year, and which is extensively used by local teachers and secondary school students, and provide other facilities for use



by the wider community. In 2013 we funded the construction of indoor and outdoor toilets at the centre, and in 2014 we funded the construction of a kitchen to assist with the feeding programme. In 2016, we funded the construction of the Vocational Skills Training Block in which the courses took place. We are delighted to see the growing contribution that this centre is making to the local community and several villages around, and especially in the support for girls and young women through its "Girls Club" which in many practical ways is involved in raising esteem and widening horizons for the female population. We hope to extend our support of **Tidzuke Orphan Care** when funds allow, as it is making a difference to the local community in so many ways.

We continued our support of the Malawian health care charity **Ndi Moyo** by continuing to make the house known as "Nick's Place" available rent-free for use by the Ndi Moyo clinic. It continues to be used extensively to house volunteers and trainees at the clinic, and our land is used for a model vegetable garden and to grow medicinal herbs. A training centre has also been built on our land, for use by the clinic staff.

Challenges

Last year we reported an ongoing court case to recover some £3000 stolen from a project to build classrooms at **Chadabwe Community Day Secondary School**, started in the previous financial year, which had prevented the completion of the classrooms. A total of £400 had been repaid to us before the man responsible sadly died while court proceedings were ongoing. We felt that we would still like to complete the classrooms and have been in frequent touch with the relevant local authorities to expedite this, but so far to no avail.

We are still unable to continue our **Bursary scheme for law undergraduates** at the University of Malawi due to complications involving the reorganisation of both Legal Aid provision and the training of lawyers in Malawi. We continue to maintain contact with the new Legal Aid Bureau and remain hopeful of supporting the provision of Legal Aid services when this becomes practical and is requested.

This year we have experienced delays in receiving reports from two of our school support schemes, at Tikondane and in Usisya, which limits our ability to report students' progress. In both cases further funding has not been requested, or sent, pending receipt of the correct documents in accordance with our agreements. We do understand that our partners in Malawi, currently experiencing an unusual period of turmoil, have to work in challenging circumstances, and we are confident of receiving the relevant communications soon.

How we work

The Trust makes no expenditure for travel, communication, staffing, office overheads, or other running costs. The costs incurred are met by the Trustees personally. This enables us to ensure that every penny donated is spent directly on our projects in Malawi.

Structure, Governance, and Management

This year, one of our founding Trustees, Jon Webber, stepped down due to pressure of work. We will miss his thoughtful contributions to our decision-making, and thank him for many years of service.

Six Trustees remained in post: Pauline Webber (chair), Jane Abood, Timothy Ingle, Mary Marvel, Judith Scott, and Timothy Webber.

Trustees are appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees of which there cannot be fewer than three. There is a Board of Advisers, to which appointments are made by the Trustees. There are currently three active members of the Board of Advisers.

Decisions are made by a majority of Trustees, with the Chair of Trustees having the casting vote in the case of an even split. Decisions are usually made at meetings, which may also be attended by members of our Board of Advisers. There were two meetings in this financial year. Minutes of all meetings are circulated to all Trustees and Advisers.

No project is adopted without first being thoroughly researched by Trustees and Advisers.

The operation of the Trust is governed by the Trust deed, (to which two Supplementals have been made), an Ethos document, a policy on the selection of partner organisations, and a policy governing the adoption of education projects. These can all be downloaded from the Trust website, along with our annual reports.

Fundraising

Most of the funds were raised through personal donations and proceeds of events organised in support of the Trust but not by the Trust itself. However, the Trust did organise a Garden Party in Sussex to thank our supporters, at which we ran a raffle, a tombola and a bring-and-buy sale, with the costs met by a Trustee.

We sold our own Christmas cards again, with the initial outlay covered and recouped from sales by one of the Trustees, and all profits going to the Trust.

This year for the first time we organised fund-raising for a specific project, a "Buy a Desk for Christmas" scheme, which enabled us to furnish desks for one classroom.

We made a Gift Aid claim for two tax years.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation of all who have supported it by making donations or by using their time and talents to help us.

Risk Management

The Nick Webber Trust is aware that aid and development projects can have inadvertent negative side effects. To minimise this risk in the area of our education projects, we have adopted a policy on sourcing and assessing such projects, which must derive from the democratic structure of Malawi or have beneficiaries within the government of Malawi's stated priority groups, and will be assessed along our general project selection guidelines of democratic accountability, community contribution, demonstrable impact, and long-term sustainability. This policy operates alongside our existing policy on the selection of partner organisations.

Our strategy of retaining sufficient reserves to ensure that projects can be completed means that we are able to absorb cost increases resulting from currency fluctuation. To protect against any future such alterations in the financial landscape, we cost all of our projects, both new and existing, directly in Malawi Kwacha and make all agreements in that currency. We also ensure that our reserves can cover all of our commitments for three years into the future before making any new commitments, taking account of our basic income from standing orders on the assumption that this will not decrease by more than 10% per year, and that our other income will not decrease by more than 25% per year.

Representatives of the Trust regularly visit NdiMoyo clinic, the Tikondane centre, as well as our many educational projects in and around Kochilira, Kainsa and Kasakanya villages. Similarly, we keep in regular contact with UK officials of Temwa. A representative of the Trust paid several visits before, during, and after all construction projects, and monitored all payments and receipts. The Chair of the Trustees also regularly meets with the two Malawian members of the Board of Advisers.

Financial Review

The Trust started the year with £4867 in hand.

Total income for the year was:	£42,794
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Of which:

Raised by supporters and regular donations:	£30,421
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Garden Party:	£2575
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Sale of Christmas Cards:	£339
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Gift Aid:	£8058
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"Buy a Desk for Christmas":	£1400
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Bank Interest:	£1
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Total expenditure for the year was:	£ 38,233
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Of which:

Kochilira Primary School Classrooms	£13,346
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Desks for Kochilira Primary	£1,400
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Tidzuke Orphan Care School fees	£766
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Tikondane Care of Street Children	£14,042
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Temwa School Fees	£8281
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Nick's Place Town Rates	£89
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Congoma Subscription	£309
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We ended the year with £9,428 in hand, including £400 cash in sterling and £126 cash equivalent in Malawi Kwacha

The currency fluctuations of the Malawi Kwacha make it difficult to know for sure the future cost of our commitments for the next three years, but we currently estimate them to be in the region of £60,000. Assuming a decline year on year of 10% on our regular Standing Order donations and a decline year on year of 25% on our other income, we expect to receive a further £80,000 in the next three years. This is a conservative assessment, as our annual income has actually never experienced such a decline.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report set out above.

Signed on their behalf

Pauline Webber (Chair of Trustees)