



AbleChildAfrica

Working with disabled children and young people in Africa



2016 Annual Review

For the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

2016 Annual Review



AbleChildAfrica

Welcome from the Director	4
Vision, Mission & Values	6

OUR WORK IN AFRICA

Kenya	8
Uganda	10
Tanzania	12
Changing Lives: A Case Study	14

IMPACT FOR THE LONG TERM

Working in Partnership	16
Global Influencing & Advocacy	18
Get Involved	20
Become a Friend of AbleChildAfrica	22
US Friends of AbleChildAfrica	23

THANK YOU

Celebrating You	24
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FINANCE

Report of the Trustees	26
Statement of Financial Activities	30

WELCOME from the Director



In our Strategic Plan 2013-2016 we set out **bold ambitions**, both to **grow** and **strengthen** ourselves as an organisation and to have an even **greater impact** on the lives of disabled children and families in Africa. As we enter into the final year of this strategy we reflect on what we have **accomplished** to date and our plans for the future.

This year has been a landmark one for us and for disabled people around the world as we saw our **advocacy efforts rewarded** with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) putting disabled people at the forefront of international development priorities for the first time in history. This watershed moment paves the way for **greater inclusion of the disabled children** we support but also highlights the increasing need for AbleChildAfrica to provide technical support to organisations beginning to mainstream disability into their work for the first time.

Our direct work on the ground, delivered in partnership with African-led organisations, continues to go from **strength to strength**. Our work reached an incredible **8,580 children** this year but our impact goes much deeper than any number can

convey. I encourage you to read the stories of just a few of the children whose lives you have helped us change in the coming pages.

Despite limited resources, AbleChildAfrica continues to **punch above our weight** and this year has seen us engage **wider audiences** through increased media recognition, social media presence and visibility of our work through advocacy campaigns both on the ground and in the UK. We were also honoured to be featured on **Radio 4** with an appeal from our Patron Dame Evelyn Glennie and to see our work in Kenya featured on **Comic Relief's Sport Relief Bake Off** this year.

As an organisation we choose not to be constrained by our size, evidenced by what you will read throughout this report. I wish to **thank everyone who has supported us** this year. Only with your ongoing support, our dedicated team and passionate partners can we keep the vision alive to see 'a world in which all disabled children are fully included as equal members of society and are able to achieve their full potential'.

Jane Anthony
Executive Director

We set out bold ambitions, both to grow and strengthen ourselves as an organisation and to have an even greater impact on the lives of disabled children and families in Africa.



8580 children reached

463 disabled children enrolled in primary school

1096 children receive healthy school meals

405 teachers trained across 25 schools



Vision

A world in which all disabled children are fully included as equal members of society and are able to achieve their full potential.



Mission

To promote the realisation of equal rights for disabled children and their families in Africa and to facilitate their meaningful inclusion in all aspects of life.



Our Values

A rights based approach to development.

The social model of disability.

The empowerment of disabled children and their families.

African led development.

Collaboration with all those who share our vision.

KENYA



AbleChildAfrica believes in African led solutions to African challenges, which is why we always work in partnership with local organisations.

ACTION NETWORK FOR DISABLED YOUTH (ANDY)

Working in partnership with ANDY, we developed and piloted an innovative project that uses **sports as an access route into education** for out-of-school disabled children. Sporting sessions provide child-friendly interactions, often a first for out-of-school disabled children who have had little previous opportunity for interaction with their non-disabled peers. Inclusive games break down fears and stigma surrounding disability. In time, disabled children demonstrate increased health and fitness but more importantly, **increased confidence** and a self-belief that allows them to actively **claim their right** to education.

Using this approach, an incredible 65 out of school disabled children were enrolled into mainstream primary schools across Nairobi this year alone. We also provided specialised **inclusive education teacher training** for 125 teachers across 4 primary schools as well as for ANDY staff, building their skills and capacity in this area.

As with all projects we deliver, a series of concurrent interventions are needed in order

to tackle the **complex barriers** disabled children in Kenya face. As such, our work with ANDY in Kenya has also included school modifications to ensure accessibility (new latrines, ramps, etc.), **provisions of individual supports** for children (such as wheelchairs, white canes, etc.), community engagement and local government advocacy work.

Another highpoint was a visit to this project from UK Parliamentarians involved in Global Education to learn first-hand about how sports and education can be a game-changer for disabled children. Owing to the huge success of this initial pilot project we successfully received funding from Comic Relief for a **3-year scale up** of project activities and look forward to reporting future successes.

This year we also facilitated a knowledge **exchange visit** between ANDY and another one of our partners, the Ugandan Society for Disabled Children (USDC). This gave partners a unique opportunity to share experiences of inclusive-sports, national advocacy and child-centred interventions for disabled children in East Africa and highlights the value of collaborative approaches to our work.

LITTLE ROCK INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

In Kenya, we also continued to work with Little Rock, an inclusive Early Childhood Development centre situated in Kibera, Nairobi. Kibera is East Africa's largest slum, with over 1 million people living in extreme poverty. With continued backing from Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, we support the key services at Little Rock including **inclusive early years education** to over 400 children, physical and occupational therapy, counselling and after school tutoring.

This year we also broadened the scope of our work with Little Rock to **tackle complex challenges of educational access** for disabled children, who are consistently denied enrolment in government primary schools. Indeed, ALL of the disabled children who graduated Little Rock ECD programme have been turned away from local primary schools and sent home. This is an outright denial of their basic human right to education, enshrined in the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by Kenya as well as in Kenya law.

In response to this challenge, we are working alongside Little Rock to facilitate the inclusion of disabled children in 3 primary schools in their catchment area through an intensive mentoring programme of mainstream schools. Inclusive education teacher training, 1:1 mentoring sessions, a school exchange programme, provision of individual supports for children and targeted advocacy with the local Government all aim to **break down the barriers to inclusion**.

This year, we have also worked closely with Little Rock management and governance structures to further improve financial systems and have supported a fundraising post to boost Little Rock's sustainability. This **organisational development support** is a crucial part of the work we do with our partners as it strengthens local capacity and allows us to live our value of African-led development.

Little Rock has become a **model example** for inclusive education in Nairobi and we will continue working next year to ensure their examples of disability rights best practice are **shared more widely across Kenya**.



UGANDA

We believe, quite simply, that all children should take an active role in activities or decisions that affect their lives.

The last year has been a **momentous one** for our work in Uganda. With long-term partners Ugandan Society for Disabled Children (USDC) we have continued to work to support disabled children and their families across the Northern Region.

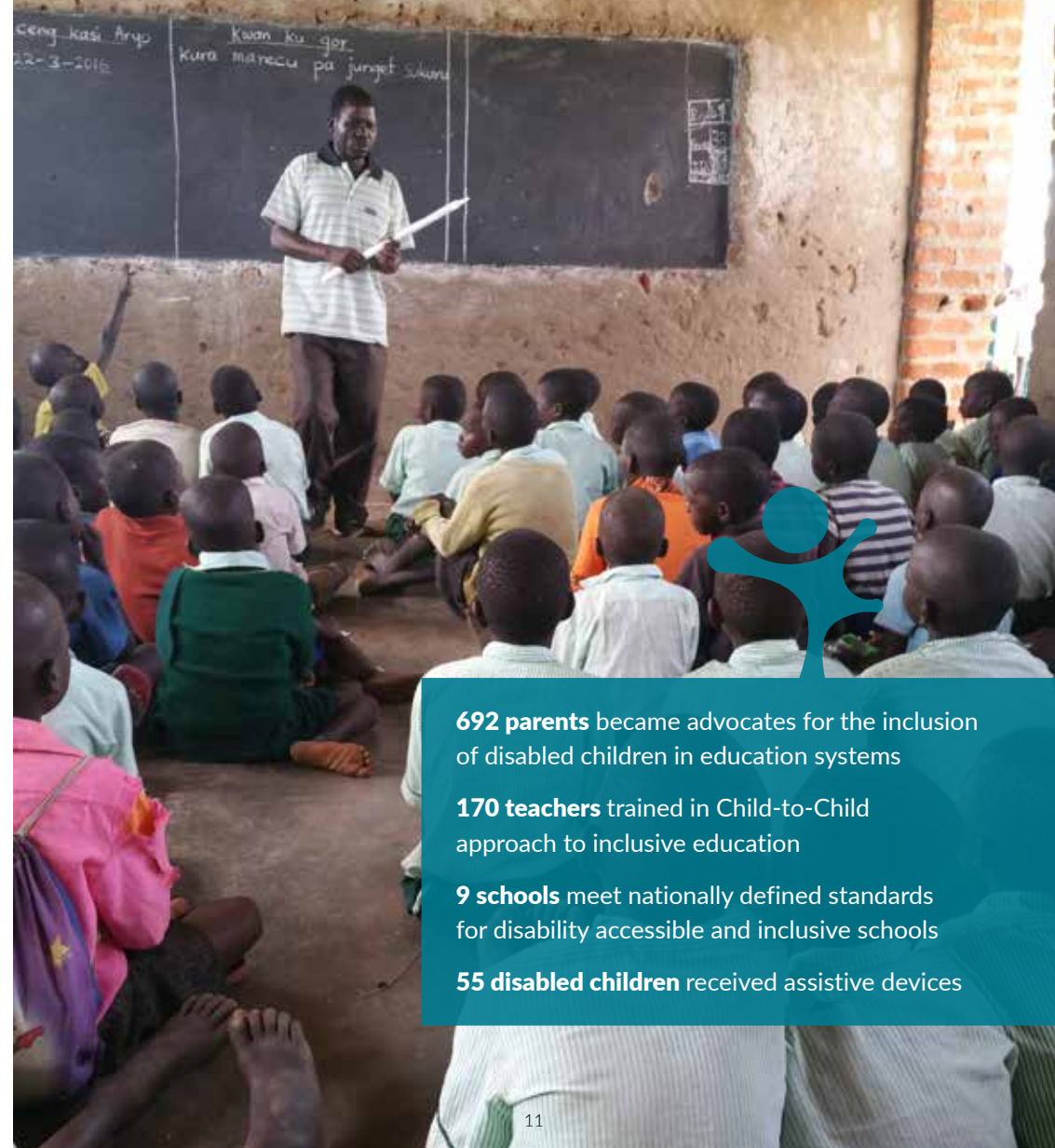
This year we have **improved access to health services** for disabled children, in a project supported by Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission. In partnership with Cerebral Palsy Africa, we trained 12 occupational and physical therapists alongside 20 parents to make locally resourced physical supports from recycled cardboard, which aid children's physical health and enable them to be included in community life. The project also **provided essential equipment** to Ministry of Health run hospitals to enables them to better meet the basic health and diagnostic needs of disabled children, particularly in the areas of hearing, vision and physical disabilities.

We completed a 3 year DFID funded Inclusive Education project, which used a **child participatory approach** "child-to-child" to identify and enrol disabled children who are out of school. Through intensive teacher training, parent support, medical

assessments, assistive devices and advocating for long term change at local and national levels, we removed the barriers for disabled children to enrol and study at 9 local primary schools. Over 3 years, we **supported 469 disabled children**, with an equal balance of girls and boys, to attend school. This was an increase of 107% and far exceeded expected outcomes of this project. We received an **A++ rating from DFID**.

We have stood side by side with USDC to advocate at the national level and made waves with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and teacher training colleges to mainstream inclusive education. For example, the MoE and UNICEF are **rolling out a teacher's guide** from our project nationwide, alongside a 2-year strategy to implement the new National Inclusive Education Policy.

On the success of our work in Uganda, we have received a grant from Comic Relief to **scale up these activities over the next 5 years**, which will help us enrol a further 1,980 disabled children into school, improve retention and focus on quality of education.



692 parents became advocates for the inclusion of disabled children in education systems

170 teachers trained in Child-to-Child approach to inclusive education

9 schools meet nationally defined standards for disability accessible and inclusive schools

55 disabled children received assistive devices

TANZANIA



Our belief that all children, regardless of their abilities, share the same basic human rights guides our approach and work.

“My favourite subject at school is the keyboard and guitar. I like music. When I’m older I want to be... me!”



Our work in Tanzania this year has been delivered in partnership with Child Support Tanzania (CST). CST provides **inclusive early childhood education** for children living in poverty and those with disabilities or complex health needs in rural Mbeya, Tanzania. This year we supported CST to educate over 150 children, including 75 disabled children, as well as provide a school feeding programme and support and training for parents. We have also helped CST set up **child rights clubs** in their own centre and across four local primary schools to better engage disabled children in decisions that impact their lives and provide opportunities for them to fight for their rights.

A highlight of this year has been the campaign “**Take All My Friends to School**” funded by the Open Society Foundation and run by CST and AbleChildAfrica. This campaign saw hundreds of children, parents and members of the **public march across Mbeya** to fight for inclusive education and culminated in the presentation of a petition for inclusive education to the Ministry of Education, bearing over 1,000 signatures.

Following on from the success of this campaign, we have received additional funding from Jersey Overseas Aid for a pilot project that takes learning from our child-to-child project in Uganda and seeks to equip teachers to **include disabled children in primary schools**. The project includes local media activities that build on the ‘Take All My Friends to School’ campaign and engages local and national level policy makers on the issue of disability rights. The project also involves taster days in CST for out-of-school disabled children alongside the **provision of individualised supports** for disabled children using innovative paper based technology.

This year, AbleChildAfrica has also teamed up with CST and Article 25, a leading architectural aid charity, to design a model of an affordable, context-appropriate and **disability friendly school**. This design will be shared with local and national governments and includes spacious classrooms, improved sanitation facilities, accessible latrines, tactile boundaries, ramps, handrails and well-lit buildings.

Changing Lives: A Case Study

The youngest of six children, Edith was five years old when suddenly, overnight, she lost her sight:

"I remember... It was in the night. I was seeing, I was not seeing. I was seeing, I was not seeing. I was annoyed. I was in bed by myself. Nobody came. Everybody was sleeping. I didn't want to disturb them so I waited until the morning when I called my mother for help. She took me to the hospital."

Her mother told us

"Her eyes, I can't explain much, but she was complaining 'headache, headache, headache' then one day she woke up not seeing. At that time she was walking, aged 5. And after a year she started getting convulsions, high fever, and so on. She had to be taken to the hospital and stayed in the hospital for some time - for 2 days - and she had a stroke. Then she was paralysed. It hit Edith hard. She got shocked and couldn't cope. It took her 6 months to speak again."

Edith remembers this time too...

"I was sick and my mother took me to hospital. I had to stay there. I just remember being sick and I remember my doctors. I had injections and I was just lying down. I had seizures. At that time I was very young, I wasn't seeing. And I came out of the hospital not walking. When I understood I wasn't walking, I got so shocked. Things are difficult. I can't walk, I'm not even seeing. I feel bad."

Now ten years old and a student at our partner school, Child Support Tanzania, Edith comes home from school and excitedly fills her parents in on her day. She is provided with transport to and from her physiotherapy appointments and, whilst Edith's at school, her mother has time to work and earn money for the family. Her mother tells us...

"Edith is now heavy, because of her age and weight. So going to physiotherapy at the hospital was hard. But we thank God CST now come and pick her up in a vehicle and

Please dig deep and support children like Edith by supporting AbleChildAfrica today.

the teachers are helping.... when Edith comes back (from CST) she tells us about what has been happening at school, the English she has been learning 'door, window'...to tell you the truth my daughter is wise....I dream that she studies and is successful.... when she's at school I'm in a position to sell vegetables at the market, it gives me the time to fend for the family.... without CST, I think Edith would just stay at home because I see nowhere else to take her."

When Edith first started at CST, she was scared by the sound of other children's voices and took some time to settle in. Edith told us:

"I felt bad that I couldn't go back to school... because I was not the same."

Now, Edith loves playing with other children. When we asked how she feels at CST, she was delighted to tell us:

"I feel good. I want to be a teacher."

With AbleChildAfrica and CST's mentoring, Edith's mother is now a strong advocate for her daughter and other families in similar positions. "We call upon the government to support, and even to expand, schools like CST whereby more and more children will be able to attend and...to increase the physiotherapy equipment...because going to the hospital as well is so hard, so to have the physiotherapy there would help".

Edith's story is a reminder of both the difference AbleChildAfrica makes to children's lives... "we appreciate AbleChildAfrica, there is not much apart from saying thank you to them...my prayer is to continue supporting them so the children can be helped...our appreciation goes to them" **and a reminder that our work is never done,** "we would like a wheelchair for Edith. The one provided is not the right one, it is for someone who can steer. We are not in a position to carry her for long."

Working in Partnership

We have been working hard over the last year to refine and develop our partnership approach. As an organisation who works fundamentally with and through long-term **partnerships with local organisations**, this process has been extremely important to us.

In May, we finalised a revision of our Partnership Model, which was developed in consultation with existing partners, our Board of Trustees and other UK based NGO's. The **new Partnership Model** outlines AbleChildAfrica's core principles to partnership including a commitment to learning, shared values, reciprocity and organisational development. The model also outlines how we can approach new partnerships and offers a **roadmap for potential growth** in this area. Our Partnership Model is available on our website ablechildafrica.org/our-partners/become-a-partner.

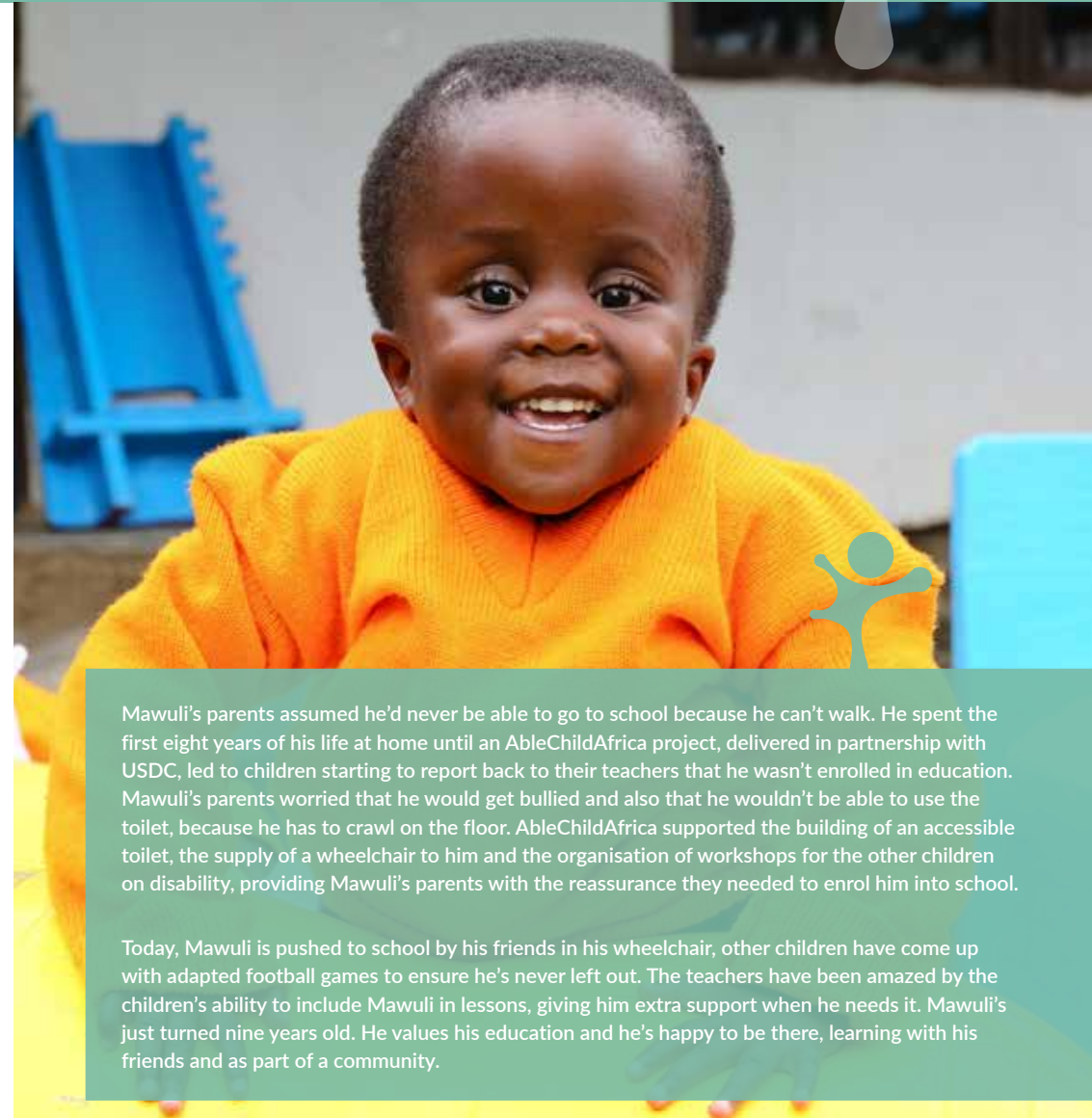
“the project is not an NGO coming in and doing something for us. It is a partnership, working with us.”

Government Official, Uganda

Alongside this we have been working hard to develop a user friendly and visual partnership **capacity assessment tool** that will simultaneously enable us to be increasingly strategic with the organisational development support we provide to partners and allow us to **monitor our impact** in this crucial area. The tool not only looks at key areas necessary to support a well-run organisation such as finance, fundraising, governance and programme delivery but also puts specific emphasis on examining the strength of our partnerships overall. This is fundamental in ensuring our work is **African-led**, one of our key organisational values.

We have **ambitious plans over the next period to reach more African countries** and new partner organisations who share our vision of a world where disabled children are fully included as equal members of society. In October, our Director carried out a scoping visit to Rwanda and met some exciting organisations. We have agreed to pilot a youth mentoring project with a **new organisation called UWEZO**, a youth led DPO in Rwanda. Stay tuned for exciting developments over the coming year with this potential new partner.

We collaborate with others and share our learning to ensure childhood disability is mainstreamed across the international development sector.



Mawuli's parents assumed he'd never be able to go to school because he can't walk. He spent the first eight years of his life at home until an AbleChildAfrica project, delivered in partnership with USDC, led to children starting to report back to their teachers that he wasn't enrolled in education. Mawuli's parents worried that he would get bullied and also that he wouldn't be able to use the toilet, because he has to crawl on the floor. AbleChildAfrica supported the building of an accessible toilet, the supply of a wheelchair to him and the organisation of workshops for the other children on disability, providing Mawuli's parents with the reassurance they needed to enrol him into school.

Today, Mawuli is pushed to school by his friends in his wheelchair, other children have come up with adapted football games to ensure he's never left out. The teachers have been amazed by the children's ability to include Mawuli in lessons, giving him extra support when he needs it. Mawuli's just turned nine years old. He values his education and he's happy to be there, learning with his friends and as part of a community.

Global Influence & Advocacy

This year we invested in greater advocacy capacity in the team, resourcing a dedicated staff post for the first time and increased our activity in this area, which has enabled us to have a **wider impact**. Here are a few highlights from a very busy year.

This year saw the **launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. We worked as part of a global disability movement, alongside the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and International Disability Alliance (IDA), to ensure people with disabilities are included for the first time in history. This landmark success has seen the SDGs, unlike their predecessor the Millennium Development Goals, include commitments to inclusive education for disabled children in the goals themselves. With a theme of **“leave no one behind”**, the SDGs have placed disability and inclusion at the forefront of the global development agenda.

We have also continued to work with the BOND Disability and Development Group to engage with UK decision makers. We **worked alongside civil society** colleagues to support the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to develop a Disability



Director Jane Anthony with Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubrook and Baroness Verma

Framework, a tool to mainstream disability across the organisation and its funded projects around the world. Joining DFID and civil society at the House of Lords, we celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities, an incredible 10 years since launch of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

As well as advocating to decision makers, this year we have also **educated the UK public** on the rights of disabled children in Africa and the challenges children often face. For the Day of the African Child we hosted a twitter chat to discuss the impact of the African Children Charter on its 25th Anniversary.

AbleChildAfrica is committed to developing our influencing work, so that we can ensure governments and institutions deliver on their commitments and uphold the rights of disabled children.

At the first ever DFID Youth Summit our Youth Ambassador, Anthony Ford-Shubrook, spoke to a room packed with young people passionate about international development as a panellist on a discussion entitled “leave no young person behind”. Through **showcasing AbleChildAfrica’s work**, we were able to educate a new generation on the importance of including disabled children and young people in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We were also **honoured to welcome DFID Minister Baroness Verma** to our Annual Gala Dinner, where she applauded the work of AbleChildAfrica and our partners, especially the success of our DFID funded project in Uganda.

Building on this success working with young people, AbleChildAfrica has put plans in motion for a **Youth Council**. We have identified a huge gap in knowledge and understanding of disability and development in the UK and believe a youth voice that is **representative of disabled people and diaspora communities** will be a huge asset. Led by Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubrook, this initiative will enable us to engage with wider audiences and forge

strong links with international youth networks. This year we hosted a Youth Focus Group to test the concept and share ideas, as well as **consulting with youth** and development agencies across the UK. We look forward to updating you next year on the progress of the Youth Council.



Get Involved

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL GALA DINNER



Make a donation

ablechildafrica.org.uk/donate

A direct contribution to our work, whether a regular or one-off donation and whatever the size, really does make an impact on the work we're able to do!

HELP US REACH EVEN MORE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THIS YEAR.



Tackle a Challenge for us

ablechildafrica.org.uk/individual

From the Uganda Marathon to Ride 100! Fancy running a marathon for us? From London to Uganda, we've got a spot for you! Running not your thing? Hop on your bike and get pedalling at next year's Ride 100 race or join one of our Tough Mudder teams throughout the year.

TOUGH MUDDER TEAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!



Become a Corporate Partner

ablechildafrica.org.uk/corporate

Want to unite your staff for a worthy cause? Promote AbleChildAfrica in your workplace and let us help you meet your Corporate Social Responsibility objectives. Volunteering opportunities, marathon places and fundraising events are just a few ways your employees can get involved!

Think lifetimes ahead!

ablechildafrica.org/individual/legacy

Leave a gift in your will to make a lasting impact on the lives of disabled children in Sub-Saharan Africa. A gift of any size will mean we can continue to grow and support more of the world's most vulnerable children.

Community - unite!

ablechildafrica.org/individuals

Get your community - whether it's your school, church or university society - on board with our agenda! Spread the word of AbleChildAfrica and organise a FUNdraising event with your favourite community group.

Shopping more your style?

ablechildafrica.org/individuals

You can donate a percentage of your online shopping at many of your favourite stores with easypfundraising.com or Ebay, donate back 10% of your monthly phone bill to AbleChildAfrica through **The People's Operator** or donate £1 for every dinner just by booking your favourite restaurant through **Charitable Bookings**.

Become a Friend of AbleChildAfrica

Friends of AbleChildAfrica are individuals who contribute to the success of our work and to the work of our overseas partners, through regular financial contributions and engagement with our work.

All donations we receive make a huge difference to the lives of disabled children and young people that we work with in Africa. But a regular gift can give us the security that we need to provide consistency to these children and enable us to plan to reach additional children and more countries this year.

Become a Junior Friend of AbleChildAfrica

Junior Friends of AbleChildAfrica are a special group of people aged 18 and under. Join today if you wish to organise an event at school or at home, or give through your pocket money. The rewards are getting creative, understanding the value of charity and being a champion for some of the world's most vulnerable children. See ideas and find out more at ablechildafrica.org/child.

Call +44(0)207 793 4144 to give directly or send a cheque addressed to AbleChildAfrica.

Visit ablechildafrica.org/individuals to become a friend at any level

US Friends of AbleChildAfrica

In December 2015, we celebrated the much anticipated launch of US Friends of AbleChildAfrica. Working together we will now be able to expand our fundraising efforts into the USA, both availing ourselves of new grant based donors and providing a tax efficient way for Americans to donate to our mission as a 501c3 registered non-profit.

The launch was hosted by journalist and award winning television newscaster Dwayne Ballen, who gave a touching account of his personal experience raising a son with autism and the importance of supporting

organisations who improve the lives of children and families living with disability.

At the reception, President Dr. Jane Anthony announced the launch of the US Friends of AbleChildAfrica Founders Circle, an open call for leadership gifts. These primary gifts will boost the work with children in Africa, and educate more of the US public about this exciting new organisation!

If you know someone or a workplace that would be interested in supporting in the USA, hosting an event for us or as a one off or regular donation, please contact us.

Friends of AbleChildAfrica is a tiered programme that allows individuals to choose how much they want to donate over the year, which can be given as a one-off donation or through regular standing orders.

Your gift will help us to provide life changing resources and services to disabled children and help us achieve our mission to ensure that disabled children in Africa are able to achieve their full potential.



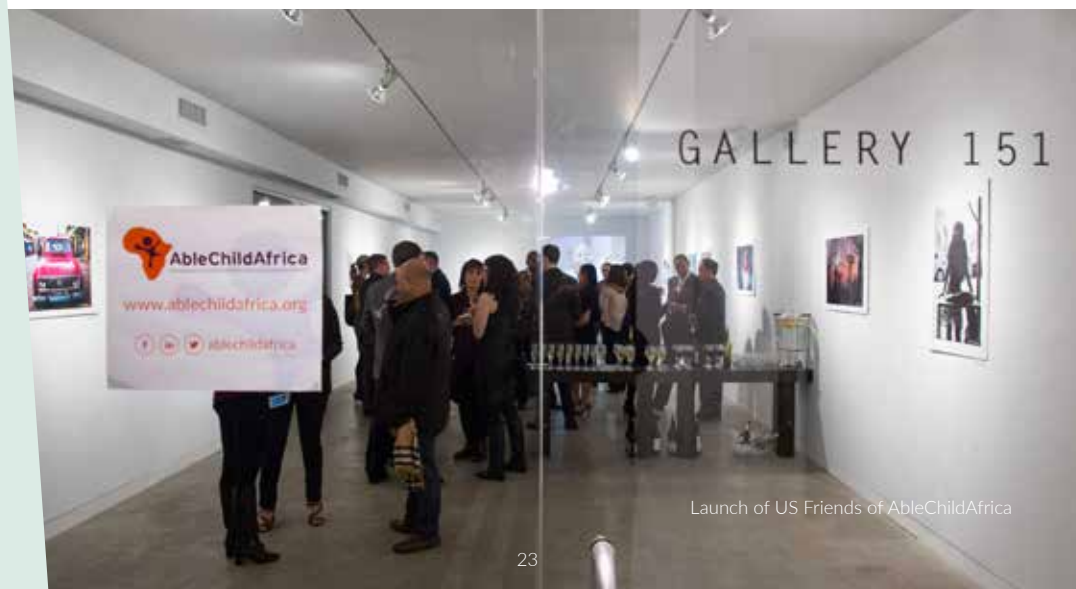
Ambassador
£5,000 +



Champion
£1,000-£4,999



Supporter
£120-£999



Launch of US Friends of AbleChildAfrica

THANK YOU

Fundraisers did all kinds of brave and inventive things for disabled children in Africa.

From all of us at AbleChildAfrica, we send out a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who enables us to give the very best chance in life to disabled children and young people in Africa.



Joshua, a year 13 student at St Lawrence College, Kent, hosted a fun and fashionable Dashiki day to raise £725 for vulnerable children. We loved his originality and celebration of African style!

Our Patrons have been very active this year as well and we wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dame Evelyn Glennie, Anne Wafula Strike, Keith Nethercot and Panna Vekaria for their continued support championing the rights of disabled children in Africa.



Thank you to the 295 donors who heard our BBC Radio 4 Appeal, narrated by Patron Dame Evelyn Glennie DBE, and gave a whopping total of £13,436. The generosity overwhelmed us!

Thank you to all our interns for their time, dedication and professionalism, including Matt Maclure, Sarah Mageean, Geunhye Kim and Ruth Wanjiku and to all of our amazing volunteers throughout the year. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our Youth Ambassador Anthony Ford-Shubrook for his energy, time and commitment.

We thank all the following donors for their support this year, including:

- UK's Department for International Development (DFID)
- Comic Relief
- Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC
- Jersey Overseas Aid Commission
- British & Foreign School Society
- Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission
- Open Society Fund
- Photographers without Borders
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Leggatt Trust
- Sterry Family Foundation
- Toy Trust Children's Charity
- Cotton Trust
- TXF Media
- PenCarrie
- Vascroft Foundation
- Fitbanker



Thank you to Love Afro Cosmetics for becoming our inaugural sponsor at this year's 5th Annual Gala Dinner. Special guests Kezia Obama and Patron Anne Wafula Strike had loads of fun on the night too!

We are also hugely grateful for in-kind and voluntary support this year including:

- Gallery 151, New York for donating reception space in Manhattan
- Creative Chimps for pro-bono Gala Video Production
- Super Being Labs for a pro-bono website makeover
- Third Sector PR
- Pro-bono design support from Jennifer Rose Design
- Stefano Bonku-Ephraim for pro-bono photography services

AbleChildAfrica is extremely fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated Board of Trustees and we would like to thank each of them for their voluntary time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm this year.

Report of the Trustees

This is an excerpt of the Trustee Report and Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016.

Objectives and Activities

AbleChildAfrica is a registered UK Charity (326859) and a Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (company number 01861434) and is governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association. Since becoming AbleChildAfrica in 2007, our strategy has been to carry out our charitable object by working in partnership with African organisations who share our mission.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Our aims for the financial year 2015-16 fell under the three objectives of our current Strategic Plan (2013-2016)

1. Support African-led organisations to help disabled children and their families realise their full potential.

We continue to support our network of partners across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Our work under this objective is twofold; 1) working in partnership to deliver direct services to disabled children and their families and 2) supporting the organisational development of our partners to become models of successful practice, with the potential for scaling up and replication. This year saw us complete a three year child-to-child inclusive education project

in Northern Uganda, delivered in partnership with USDC. This project has met with huge success and commitment from the local Ugandan Government, saw us seek and secure funding to scale up this project for a further 5 years (2016-2020). Working with our partner ANDY, this year saw us complete and scale up a successful pilot project that uses sport and play as an entry point for disabled children to access schools in Kenya. Also in Kenya, we proudly continue to support our partner Little Rock, bringing inclusive early years and primary education to children living in extreme poverty in the Kibera urban slum. Over in Tanzania, we worked with our partner CST to provide the only inclusive early childhood programme within the Southern Highlands region and undertook an advocacy campaign entitled 'Take all My Friends to School'. More information on the numerous other programmes we support can be found in this annual review and on our website.

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'project support in Africa' amounts to 86% of total expenditure.

The full report is available online on our website or through the Charity Commission. We would be happy to provide a hard copy of the full accounts or larger print version of this report upon request.

2. Increase understanding of childhood disability in Africa

We are committed to making our values a reality, this means making sure that the young people we work with play a key role in the design and development of what we do. This year we piloted our first Youth Council, giving a greater voice to youth in the UK (ages 18-25) both internally and in our advocacy work. We are particularly proud of our innovative inclusive education project in Uganda, which champions a new child-to-child approach to supporting disabled children into and at school. This project is breaking new ground in Uganda by involving children in the monitoring and evaluation of the project. We aim to build on this success and scale up the children's involvement in future project planning going forward. This year also saw us hold participatory planning workshops with the children at CST on the design of a new inclusive school site and we are looking forward to incorporating their ideas into future projects. We are also working to support our partners to scale up the participation of children in project design, on project committees and through sharing of their experiences at trainings and awareness raising events.

3. Effect positive changes in international law and policy that impact upon disabled children in Africa.

As well as continuing to support the advocacy work carried out by our partners, we have also actively participated in relevant networks and consortia, allowing us to join forces with like-minded NGOs to leverage our shared commitment to the rights of disabled children.

This year we witnessed the landmark launch of Sustainable Development Goals; which, through the efforts of AbleChildAfrica and other likeminded organisations, put disability at the forefront of an inequality framework for the first time. We are committed to supporting the transition of these goals from words to reality in the coming years. We provided responses to numerous consultations and commented on draft documents. We have also sought to influence other organisations who are concerned for vulnerable children in Africa to more seriously consider the needs of disabled children in their work. We are in the process of developing our specialist technical support to agencies interested in ensuring that their work is more inclusive of the needs of disabled children.

Organisational Development

AbleChildAfrica is establishing itself as a specialist agency providing high quality support to disabled children and their families in Africa. As part of our ongoing commitment to challenge ourselves, grow and reflect on best practice we undertook a number of organisational development activities over the year. We launched our revised Partnership Model and opened a call for new partnerships. We continued to strengthen our finance systems, data protection and communication preference procedures to stay current with sector trends, emerging legislation and the needs of the organisation as we grow. Following a review of our fundraising strategy and desire to increase our unrestricted flexible funding, our first Fundraising Development Manager was hired with the aim of scaling up corporate and philanthropic partnerships over the coming year.

Finance Review

As a small bespoke charity we recognise the value of every penny donated and reaffirm here our continuing commitment to keeping support costs as low as possible and maximising expenditure on charitable activities. However, we also recognise the need to invest in new activities as we grow and have made increased investments in fundraising support and our advocacy work stream over the current year. Investing in our sustainability has resulted in a small increase in our support costs of .05p for every pound

raised over the current year. This investment has resulted in a dip in our reserves but is expected to result in increased ability to both secure the rights of disabled children through scaling up our influencing work and securing our own sustainability in an increasingly difficult and uncertain external environment.

The majority of income for the financial year was restricted through grants from institutional donors and a corporate partnership with Euromoney Institutional Investor, PLC. This year saw us increase restricted income by over 70%, totaling £323,002; this comes alongside increased stability as we continue to move away from 1 year trust and foundation grants to secured funding from statutory bodies in the form of multi-year grants. Unrestricted income this year was £170,371 including £25,025 from Friends of AbleChildAfrica, £26,369 raised at our annual gala dinner and £36,754 in sponsorship raised by runners in the Virgin London Marathon (totals excluding gift aid). Restricted expenditure totalled £250,647, which was spent delivering projects to benefit disabled children in Africa; these are detailed in our full accounts.

The Trustees remain confident AbleChildAfrica is a going concern, indicated both by the financial review contained here as well as forecasting for the next financial year. Despite the current economic climate and on-going difficulties in securing funds throughout the sector, our restricted income stems from an increasingly diverse donor

base. In an effort to proactively secure sustainable unrestricted income we will concentrate on growing our regular giving programme Friends of AbleChildAfrica, holding our Annual Gala event and expanding our links with corporations and major donors over the coming year. It is our view that the enclosed accounts demonstrate a strong organisation and evidence that AbleChildAfrica continues to garner significant support from the public for our mission.

Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. At the end of this year we are carrying forward unrestricted reserves of £21,097, reflecting our strategic decision to invest in advocacy and fundraising activities. Our specific investment in fundraising is anticipated to yield results but we recognize there are necessary lead times to see a return on this investment, which will allow us to bring reserves back to target levels. We have a clear fundraising strategy, which is monitored by the Resources Sub-Committee of the Board. The Trustees remain assured that the reserves we currently carry are sufficient to undertake their legal obligations and only allow them to meet minimum financial obligations.



“Identifying and nurturing a talent from a child is my joy. I never had opportunities, that’s why I want children to have more than I had.”

Sports Coach, Kenya

Statement

Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2016

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
INCOME				
Incoming resources				
Donations and legacies	34,984	35,774	70,758	50,434
Project support in Africa	134,137	287,204	421,341	319,397
Investment income	1,250	24	1,274	459
Total incoming resources	170,371	323,002	493,373	370,290

EXPENDITURE				
Costs of raising funds				
Fundraising and publicity costs	(66,110)	-	(66,110)	(31,930)
Charitable activities				
Project support in Africa	(152,342)	(250,647)	(402,989)	(401,151)
Total resources expended	(218,452)	(250,647)	(469,099)	(433,081)

Net movements in funds	(48,081)	72,355	24,274	(62,791)
Total funds brought forward	70,909	147,908	218,817	281,608
Total funds carried forward	21,097	221,994	243,091	218,817

AbleChildAfrica is grateful for the in-kind support which made production of this annual report possible including:

Photography by Photographers Without Borders and design by JenniferRoseDesign.co.uk

The names and corresponding pictures of the children in this document have been changed to protect their identity and ensure the safety of all children involved. All images are reproduced with permission.



Xavier has been attending Little Rock, our partner school in Kenya, for the past four years. He was born healthy but developed debilitating epilepsy when he was just two years old and suffered up to five major seizures in a day. For the next six years, Xavier struggled at school, where his choice was to either play alone or be bullied and ridiculed by the other children. At the end of the day he returned home to neighbours who would threaten and beat him. His mother told us that sometimes she preferred Xavier to just be alone so he could feel safe. Things rapidly improved for Xavier when his mother learned about our partner Little Rock. Today, 12 years old, Xavier's condition is more stable due to the medication he's on. He feels welcome and safe at Little Rock, where both disabled and non-disabled children learn and play together.

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