



# Annual Report

## 2015/16



**Trustees:** Nicola Coldman, James Pargeter and Sarah Wallace



## Our mission

Our aim is to improve the quality of education in primary schools in rural Kenya by ensuring that schools are equipped to deliver an education worth having.



## What we do

We upgrade schools and then build long-term relationships that provide on-going support wherever it is needed.



## Where we work

We partner with a cluster of schools in the isolated and rural Kasigau region of south-east Kenya.

**“I’ve never been prouder of the charity, of our teams on the ground, and of our partner schools.”**

This October marks a decade that I’ve been supporting schools in Kasigau, going back to October 2006 when, having only recently graduated, I spent six months managing a £20,000 project to upgrade and extend Jora Primary School.

The 10 years since have been an incredible journey both personally and for African Promise, which was born out of this experience in Jora in early 2008. There have been exhilarating highs and challenging lows, mistakes made and lessons learned, and many lifelong friendships formed. However I have never been prouder of the charity, of our dedicated and talented teams, and of our partner schools than I am now. When I started that project at Jora I never imagined that it would lead to this point; a

charity supporting seven schools and more than 2,500 pupils. It is a true privilege to serve the Kasigau community and the wonderful people that call it home (such as Hilder, with whom I am pictured below.)

Of course, all that has been achieved over the last 10 years has only been possible due to the support of a great number of people: my parents, Trustees past-and-present, our small team in Kenya, and the many people and organisations that have raised or donated funds or contributed in other ways.

I am very excited about what the next year holds in store for the charity and what this could mean for our work going forward. I hope you will continue to support us on

our journey as we seek to have an even greater impact on the education and lives of even more children in Kasigau. Enjoy the report!



Charles Coldman  
Founder & Director





# We upgrade schools and then provide on-going support...



we upgrade the fabric  
of schools to create safe  
and conducive learning  
environments



we provide resources such as  
textbooks and furniture, and  
fund extra teacher posts and  
educational activities



we fuel children's minds  
and bodies for learning by  
providing water supplies and  
delivering meal programmes





# We help schools to deliver an education worth having...

Primary education was made free in Kenya in 2003. This set the country on the path to achieving the Millenium Development Goal of universal primary education. However the reality of a government funded education for over 6 million pupils in more than 25,000 schools is that limited financial resources are spread very thinly when faced with the demands of employing sufficient teachers, providing adequate resources and investing in facilities and infrastructure.

In schools, particularly those in rural areas, this manifests itself in high class numbers, dilapidated classrooms, a lack of sufficient teachers, and an acute shortage of even the most basic learning resources.

Since 2008 African Promise has been working in the Kasigau community of south-east Kenya, removing barriers to learning for children and equipping schools to deliver an education worth having.

This work is translating to steady improvements in a number of key measurements: increased enrolment, reduced absenteeism, more teachers & classrooms, lower class sizes, and, ultimately, improved performance and attainment levels too.



## Did you know?

In 2015/16, public primary schools were allocated a budget of just £10 per pupil. This included £1.40 for textbooks, 70p for infrastructure development, and 10p for computers and IT equipment!

# In 2015/16 we had a record breaking year...

## Highlights of the year included:

- The launch of major project to redevelop a seventh partner school.
- The expansion of our lunch programme to reach all 2,400 pupils across existing six partner schools.
- The completion of our 58th classroom build/upgrade project.
- Cumulative fundraising income since we were founded in 2008 passed £1million.
- Record annual expenditure of £186,247, of which 97% was on charitable activities.

**“African Promise is doing a wonderful and commendable job!”**

*Emily Kituri, local education official*



# Our year in numbers...



**132**

locals employed directly as  
builders and labourers



**8**

teaching positions being  
funded by the year-end



**2**

educational trips funded  
for 88 pupils



**478,575**

meals provided as part of  
our lunch programme



**£182,509**

funds raised, our second  
highest annual income



**2,400+**

children benefited from our  
projects and programmes



**1**

additional full-time  
employee in Kenya



**£170,348**

spent on our projects &  
programmes, a record high



## In 2015/16 we launched a major new school upgrade...

Ngambenyi Primary became our seventh partner school in June 2015 with the launch of a £100,000 project to expand and upgrade the school. We are redeveloping the entire school to create a high-quality facility which we hope will be a model for future school developments. Although not the largest single project we have ever

undertaken, we are confident that it will be the best. At the time of writing (September 2016), the project was in its final stages and on course for completion in a few weeks. We are very much looking forward to showing off the results of over a year of hard work by our project management and building team in our next Annual Report.

This project has been funded by *Hazel's Footprints Trust*. If your organisation is also looking for an experienced and trusted school-building charity to partner with then please get in touch with us - we would love to hear from you!



**“I visited Ngambenyi this week and it looked amazing. I love it! None of us ever thought the school would be built to this standard. I love the work that African Promise is doing.”**

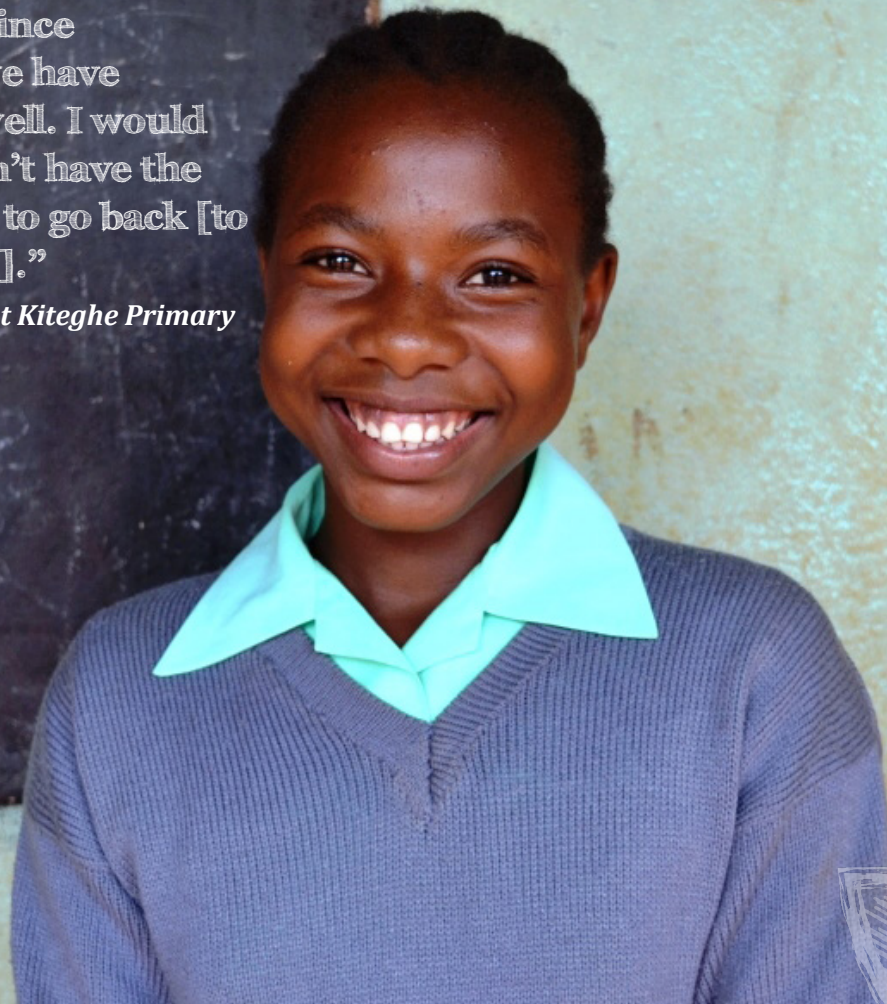
*Mercy Marigo, former teacher at Ngambenyi*





“It has really helped having lunch at school. Since the lunch came we have performed very well. I would feel bad if we didn’t have the lunch. We’d have to go back [to how it was before].”

*Cecilia, pupil President at Kiteghe Primary*





# In 2015/16 we doubled the size of our meal programme...

## Background

Our meal programme provides children in our partner schools with a daily lunch, keeping their minds and bodies fuelled for learning. Without this meal these children would go through the school day without any food, severely impacting on both their well-being and their education. By providing a daily lunch to children in school we remove hunger as a barrier to learning.

## Achievements & plans

In May 2015 we doubled the scope of the programme to reach all of the pupils across our current partner schools. This year will be the first full school year in which we have provided a daily meal to every pupil; this equates to nearly half a million meals. From September, once our redevelopment of Ngambenyi is complete, we will further extend the programme to its 125 pupils.



478,575  
  
meals

2,400  
  
children

£36,900  
  
expenditure

# In 2015/16 we gave pupils once in a lifetime experiences...

## Background

A quality education is not just about providing sufficient classrooms, teachers and books; it is also about providing opportunities and experiences for children to discover and develop talents and to be inspired. That is why, as well as upgrading buildings and supplying resources, we also fund extra-curricular activities and educational tours for pupils in our partner schools.

## Achievements & plans

This year we provided funding for the Kiteghe Primary School drama club to produce a professionally shot short film as their submission to the annual school's drama festival. After agonisingly missing out on qualification for the regional level of the competition in 2015,

this year they went all the way to the national final where they finished an incredible third out of 22 schools from across the country!

In August 2015 we also funded a three-day trip for 50 pupils from Kiteghe to visit Kenya's famous Rift Valley and Great Lakes region - a 500km, 12-hour bus ride from Kasigau. The children had the opportunity to see geographic and geological sites and features that they would otherwise only read about in textbooks.

Both of these experiences are ones that the pupils could previously only dream of and we are delighted to support such activities across our partner schools.



**“I thank all those who made these children’s dreams of seeing such amazing sites come true.”**

*Elias Mzugula, head teacher at Kiteghe*



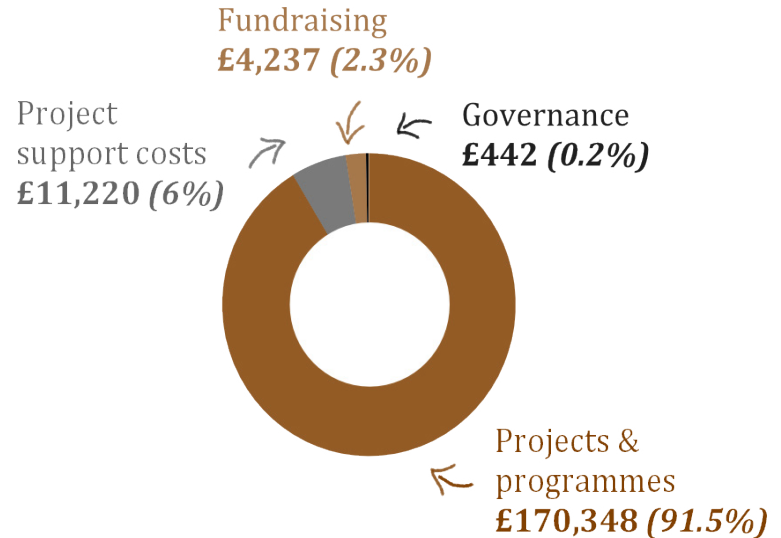




# In 2015/16 97% of expenditure was on charitable activities...

## Record annual expenditure...

In 2015/16 our expenditure reached a record high of £186,247 with spending on projects and programmes accounting for £170,348 of this. Next year the proportion of expenditure on project management, fundraising and governance will increase, as the size of the charity now demands investment in these areas in the form of employee salaries, organisational infrastructure and other associated costs.



*A full copy of our independently examined accounts for 2015/16 and previous years are available via our website or upon request.*



## Organisational plans for 2016/17 & beyond

- The incorporation of the charity from a charitable trust to a charitable company including re-registration with the Charity Commission
- Our Director will become a paid, full-time member of staff having been running the charity voluntarily for a number of years, whilst we also plan to employ an additional part-time fundraiser

**“Aspect Capital has supported African Promise for many years. We have consistently been impressed by the ability of the charity to maximise the impact of every donation.”**

**aspect capital** 

# In 2015/16 you helped us raise an incredible £182,509..!

£13,422



fundraisers

£11,766



donations

£155,376



philanthropy

## Cumulative income passes £1m...

In January we reached a significant milestone as our aggregate historic income passed £1million. As a small charity, with limited fundraising resources, this is an achievement we are incredibly proud of. But this has only happened because we've been trusted with this money by you, our donors, and we are incredibly grateful for your support. We have just £940,000 to go to reach the next million!!



## Thank you for your support...

### Major donors

Aspect Capital Ltd  
Thomas Cook Children's Charity  
Hazel's Footprints Trust  
Meeting Needs  
Molitor Charitable Trust  
Moshi Foundation  
Suzanne Payne (Baskets4Bread)  
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity  
Souter Charitable Trust

### Pro-bono support

BluebirdPR  
Eltaria Design  
Gary Kendall  
Southworth & Co



## Fundraiser of the year...

Our star fundraiser this year, and youngest ever fundraiser in fact, is 8-year-old Agnes Dexter. Agnes organised a day of Halloween-themed activities, games and treats at home for friends and family. She tells us here why she chose to support African Promise.

*"I decided I wanted to raise some money for a charity but wasn't sure which one to support. My mum suggested I do some research on the Internet and that's when I found African Promise. It looks like it does really good work in Africa with children my own age so that's why I chose it. We had such a fun day with everyone and my whole family helped - my dad handed out the pumpkin soup and my best friend Amelia helped too. I can't believe we raised £250. I am so happy."*

Agnes' mother, Hazel, told us that her daughter had chosen us because she wanted to support a charity that helps give other children what she has already: a good primary education. We were amazed that somebody so young was aware of others less fortunate and could be so motivated to actually do something to help.

**"I hope this money will help children in Kenya get a good education."**



# In 2016/17 our fundraising will be better than ever...

## Our plans for next year include:

- The launch of a brand new website, which will be responsive on all digital devices, offer a vastly improved user experience, and be easier for us to keep up-to-date.
- A two-week trip to the USA for some speaking and fundraising engagements arranged by two supporters including our ambassador Suzanne Payne.
- The growth of our UK team to increase our fundraising capacity and enable us to generate income from new revenue streams.
- To offer places for the first time in a range of challenge events including the London Marathon & RideLondon-Surrey.
- Host our inaugural Carol Service in central London (*see adjacent box for further information.*)



Join us for a festive evening of carols, musical performances and celebrity readings\*, followed by wine and mince pies, in the heart of London's West End at our inaugural Christmas Carol Service.

**St Giles-in-the-Field, London, WC2H 8LG**  
**Thursday 15th December 2016, 6:30pm**

For further details and to buy tickets please visit  
[www.africanpromise.org.uk/support-us/events](http://www.africanpromise.org.uk/support-us/events)

*\*to be confirmed*



**With your support we can improve school life for thousands of children...**



### **Donate**

You can make a one-off gift by card or cheque, or set up a regular donation by direct debit via our website.



### **Fundraise for us**

Raise vital funds for us and help spread the word about our work. We can provide you with all the support you will need to make your fundraising a success.



### **Take on a challenge**

Apply for one of our challenge event places, or use your own place, to raise money. As a member of team AP we can provide you with branded kit and great support!



### **Partner with us**

We are always looking for new philanthropic partnerships. If you represent a Trust, school, company or other group and would like to find out more about partnering with us we would be delighted to hear from you.





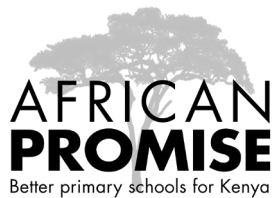
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