Front page photo – Children pictured on sustainable trekking route (November 2015)
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2015 was a significant year for all global citizens. On September 25th 2015, world leaders from 193 nations adopted an ambitious new set of Global Goals to combat poverty, inequality and climate change.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan for action for people, planet and prosperity. It recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge that we face, and key is to sustainable development. It commits to “leaving no one behind” in the efforts to eliminate poverty in all its kinds worldwide. Imagine being part of the generation that completely eliminates poverty. Imagine being part of the generation that ensures sustainable development for all. Imagine being part of the generation that combats climate change across this planet.

We live in a world where huge gaps exist between us in terms of wealth, health and opportunity. We know that a small percentage of the world’s population own most of its wealth and resources. We see inequality and instability every day.

The Global Goals give us the opportunity to be the first generation to eradicate poverty, to bring justice and equality to all and to address climate change and ensure a sustainable planet for future generations.

Friends of Londiani is committed to the achievement of the Global Goals. We are working to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Our programmes are based on the needs of the community – they focus on improving health, education, clean water and economic empowerment. Through our comprehensive community health programme and our health systems strengthening programme we are working to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

Friends of Londiani believes that education is the key to changing the world. Our formal and non-formal education programmes are working to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Friends of Londiani strives to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This goal underpins all of our programmes. It is about ending discrimination, ending all forms of violence and harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, ending early and forced marriages, providing equal opportunity for leadership, providing access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and information. We firmly believe that if you invest in girls, you can strengthen communities.

Water is life! We are working to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Water is a basic human right and we are working hard to bring water to areas that need it. We are also working to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Our smokeless stove programme is contributing to this goal, and
its impact is being felt across communities. It’s a small change in a household that leads to a huge impact!

Friends of Londiani promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Our programmes lead to stronger levels of confidence, self-esteem and productivity which support people in achieving this goal in their communities. The sustainable trekking route which we are developing will contribute to ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

We have all witnessed worldwide the impact climate change is having on our planet. The impact is far greater when communities are vulnerable. There is a need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. We all have a responsibility to educate and raise awareness so that we can lobby for effective planning and management across the world.

We believe that partnership is key to sustainable development. Since our inception Friends of Londiani has worked in partnership across all our programmes. Partnership brings sustainable results, and wider impact.

In the words of Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General “Looking ahead to the next 15 years, there is no question that we can deliver on our shared responsibility to put an end to poverty, leave no one behind, and create a world of dignity for all.”

We have the opportunity to be part of history; to be part of the generation that ends poverty worldwide. Let’s continue to work together to ensure the Global Goals become a reality for all.

We will continue to strive to work with communities to create better futures. We invite you to join us on this journey, and be part of the generation that creates a world of dignity for all.

I would like to thank Friends of Londiani’s volunteers, supporters, family and friends for your continued support during the year. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors in Ireland, the Board of Management in Kenya, the Executive Committee, the Chief Executive Officer, and the staff for your passion, support and hard work during 2015.

Looking forward to the journey ahead in 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Kidney
Chairperson

Maria with staff members John and Reuben along with Community Health Volunteers taken on the Mountain Challenge in Kenya in August 2015.
Mission

The mission of Friends of Londiani is to work with the people of Londiani and its surrounding villages to develop and complete sustainable community projects, which enable and empower the people to achieve an improved quality of life based on their values and become the authors of their own development.

Vision

Our vision is for the communities with whom we work with to have an improved quality of life based on Kenyan values. This development will occur through participation in community projects. The projects will be implemented through partnerships based on the local communities’ self-identified needs in the areas of health, education, water provision and sanitation.

Friends of Londiani Ireland works in partnership with Friends of Londiani Kenya, a registered non-governmental organisation in Kenya.

Londiani

Friends of Londiani is based in the town of Londiani which is 220km northwest of Nairobi, in Londiani sub-county, Kericho County. We work across the sub-counties of Kipkelion and Londiani with a total population of approximately 228,000 people of which 50% are women and 58% are under 25 years of age.

Creating Better Futures

2015 was the second year of our current operational plan ‘Creating Better Futures’, which focuses on the following key areas:

- Better education
- Improved healthcare
- Clean water
- Thriving economy

Our programmes are committed to helping to achieve the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development launched in September 2015, and were based on the Millennium Development Goals prior to that. They are also in line with the Government of Kenya Kipkelion District Plan and the Kenyan Ministry of Health Community Health Strategy.
Friends of Londiani aims to integrate gender equality measures across all programmes, and strives to ensure that equal numbers of men and women are represented.

The role of women is key in providing safe and secure homes in the community and the good health of a family is dependent on the mother’s role. 50% of the population in the area we work with are women and 58% are under 25 years of age.

Our programmes focus on supporting girls and women in particular as traditionally their role is based in the home looking after many of the household tasks. We believe that stronger women will make for stronger communities and we focus on supporting girls to stay in school and complete their education.

If a girl can stay in education for longer, she stays healthy and HIV negative, she marries when she chooses, she raises a healthy family and therefore she has the opportunity to raise the standard of living for her and her family into the future.
**Better Education**

**Better education** – the goal is to improve access to strengthened formal and informal educational opportunities for community members, and provide support for the Kenyan education system as well as community education.

**Lifeskills Programme**

Lifeskills programmes have been running with Friends of Londiani in local communities since 2002. The field officer for this programme is Richard Kiriu. During 2015 Richard organised 19 trainings in the Lifeskills programme with approximately 40 participants at each one. The programme is based on 10 modules which cover topics such as Relationships, HIV and AIDS, Maternal Health, Drugs and Addiction, Nutrition and Sexuality.

The course is very popular and has a huge impact on the community. In many cases community action groups form via relationships created during the week-long training. In 2015 a group of women formed the Exodus Women’s Group, and during the year managed to collect revolving funds for their members of 50,000ksh. The Millennium Group in Fort Ternan managed to source funds in LEVEMP for environmental conservation of river banks. Participants in the Lifeskills trainings become aware of opportunities in micro-finance and organisations that support HIV/AIDS e.g. CACC (Constituency AIDS Control Council) and they learn about the benefits of partnerships. Topics like communication increase knowledge in creating personal space and using statements which are non-blaming. Talking openly about sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS, sexuality, family planning and improving maternal healthcare creates better understanding of these issues.

**Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP)**

Richard also looks after the Alternative Rite of Passage programme which was developed and led by the women and men in the communities to create more awareness and understanding of the risk and consequences of FGM/C for girls. This programme has reduced the number of early marriages, pregnancies, exposure to preventable diseases, early school drop-out and female circumcision. Topics include how to choose career goals and set targets that allow girls to have a choice in their own futures. Values relating to famous women known to the girls nationally, in Africa and globally show them how decisions they make can impact their future. The Alternative Rite of Passage is reducing maternal health risks associated with early pregnancy and is positively shaping the lives of girls and how they build on self-esteem, sexual rights and having equal opportunities in pursuing education up to university level.
During 2015 men and women who volunteer from the community to facilitate the ARP courses held five events including learning seminars, feedback and planning sessions to plan and promote ARP courses for the month of December. A record number of 2,137 girls graduated from ARP courses in Londiani and Kipkelion – the highest number yet since the programme began in 2009.

Healthy Schools Programme (HECA)

Friends of Londiani’s Healthy Schools Programme enables a clean environment in schools and the community and reduces the risks which might affect children’s health where they live and learn. Chelangat Caroline is the field officer who looks after this programme. During 2015 30 new schools with a population of 9,530 students were added to the programme bringing the total number of schools involved to 168. 180 teachers were trained in the programme and each of the 30 new schools set up a HECA committee involving parents, school management and teachers and a HECA club involving the students and teachers.

In March and April 2015 a survey of the HECA schools was conducted to capture the impact of the programme on the students and teachers. In total 148 teachers and 835 students completed the HECA survey. The results show that teachers believe the key benefits of HECA for the school are improved cleanliness of the compound and increased attendance of students. It is contributing to the better health of students through improved sanitation and better hygiene knowledge. Students say that their behaviour around healthy practices has changed at school and at home e.g. they have introduced ‘tippy-tappies’ for handwashing, understand the importance of correct use of malaria nets and are keeping their compound clean.

Results show that the HECA programme is contributing to improved health in the wider community as people have knowledge on the importance of handwashing and health issues have been minimised.

Improvement of school hygiene, sanitation and access to water are key components to making schools a healthier place to be. During 2015, five latrines/washroom structures were constructed in five schools, four water tanks (30,000 litres) were constructed in four schools and eight smokeless stoves were installed in four schools. All these infrastructure projects were implemented using cost sharing of up to 50% with the schools.

Girls for Girls Programme (G4G)

Friends of Londiani’s Girls for Girls programme believes that no girl should ever miss school because of lack of affordable hygienic sanitary products. This is a problem that is very common in Kenya where lack of access to affordable sanitary products, poor quality sanitation in schools and absence of information and knowledge about menstrual health management leads to girls missing days of school each month and dropping out of school before they graduate.

Chelangat Caroline is the field officer for this programme which runs in schools that are part of the Healthy Schools Programmes.
During 2015, 10 new schools joined Girls for Girls bringing the total number of schools involved to 32 with 1707 girls benefiting from the programme. The main challenge of the programme is its sustainability which is addressed through income generating activities in the school.

Early in 2015 an economic empowerment workshop to look at sustainability of the programme was attended by teachers and principals from three of the schools already in Girls for Girls as well as representatives from the Public Health Office and District Education office. A number of decisions were made at the workshop to help address sustainability issues.

In May, teachers from the 10 new schools attended a two-day workshop on menstrual health and hygiene in Londiani. The workshop aim was to develop a team of skilled trainers who would support the girls in the programme as they learn about menstrual health hygiene.

To mark the Global Menstrual Hygiene Management Day in 2015, events were held in 10 of the schools with girls taking part in discussions on the issues and challenges facing them. The activities gave the girls the opportunity to talk about menstruation – some of them for the first time given the taboo in the communities about the topic.

The impact of the programme is seen in the results of a survey carried out during 2015 of 192 students from 22 of the schools. 98.6% agreed that with the introduction of Girls for Girls more girls attend class than before. 36% of the girls interviewed said that before the programme they missed between three and five days per month during their periods. 82.6% of girls said that they did not miss any days of school since they were given the sanitary kits. 77.1% of girls said they have seen a change in attitude and understanding towards menstruation among their family and community since they got involved in the Girls for Girls programme.

**Development Education**

Development Education is about many issues including challenging opinions and ideas, raising awareness of poverty, human rights, inequality between people and countries and inspiring people to take action to make change happen.

Friends of Londiani sees development education opportunity throughout the work that we do both in Ireland and in Kenya so that people may be encouraged to be active, responsible and compassionate in how they view the world we live in. Our strategic plan is about creating real and lasting change for people by making connections that will support communities, transfer knowledge and be creative and innovative in responding to the needs of the community.

Our current operational plan ‘Creating Better Futures’ is focusing on better education, improved healthcare, clean water and creating a thriving economy. Throughout delivery of this plan we challenge issues of gender, re-inforce issues of justice and human rights, inspire solidarity and understanding between people.
Early in 2015 we engaged with IDEA on the Irish Aid Development Education strategy review and took part in a review group on Formal Education.

We trained our 2015 Harambee volunteers in preparation for volunteering in Kenya and throughout the training programme a development education focus included various participatory and exploratory methods in putting across information. Opportunities for volunteers outside of the Harambee programme included training events such as Creativity and Change workshop in May and Comhlámh Volunteering and Dev Ed working group throughout the year.

2015 was the European Year of Development and Dóchas was appointed as the National Co-ordinator for EYD programme of action in Ireland. The theme of the year challenged people in Ireland to take action and consider themselves to be change makers. It was an opportunity to raise awareness of development across Europe and to highlight the work being done in development both in Ireland and overseas.

Friends of Londiani used its social media channels, blog and e-shots to challenge ordinary people to make a real difference starting with promoting the New Year’s resolution campaign to help build a better world #NewYearNewWorld. The challenges continued during the year with promotion of our volunteer opportunities in Ireland and in Kenya, suggestions for ways to take action around various Global days throughout the year and news of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development as they were finalised and agreed in September.

In September we mounted a social media campaign leading up to the launching of the Goals and highlighting each of the 17 new Goals and how the work that we are doing aims to achieve them.
**Improved Healthcare**

**Improved Healthcare** – the goal is that the people in the communities in which Friends of Londiani works will have access to a more effective healthcare system and lead healthier lives. The health programme includes **Water and Sanitation** as well as public and clinical health. We work closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure consistency between our programmes and theirs.

**Londiani Sub-County Hospital**

Friends of Londiani has established a link between Londiani Sub-County Hospital and Mayo University Hospital in Castlebar, Co Mayo. The link focuses on supporting maternal health in the area and supporting the hospital and hospital staff with training and skills sharing.

The ESTHER Alliance is a European initiative that involves twinning hospitals in the European Union with hospitals in developing countries to foster partnerships that can build capacity of both the workforce and the institutions. In 2015 Friends of Londiani was accredited with ESTHER Alliance Ireland and plans were made to develop a more defined communications link between the two partner hospitals.

One of the greatest threats to health is in the area of maternal health and the hospital partnership supports a community maternal survival programme. This includes the provision of Essential Obstetric and New Born Care (EONC) trainings as well as training in lifesaving skills for assisted delivery and new-born resuscitation; a peer education project to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission as well as commissioning and building an operating theatre for Londiani Sub-County Hospital. In total three EONC courses were run during 2015, training 87 health professionals.

**Maternal Health**

Every year a number of lives are lost during or after delivery. This is as a result of distance to walk to facilities and the nature of the roads to these facilities. Caroline Chepngetich and Reuben Koske are the Field Officers responsible for Health with Friends of Londiani in Kenya.

As part of their role, they focus on reducing the number of new-born and maternal deaths. During 2015 8 Maternal Health courses were completed with a total of 252 participants trained. These trainings were part of the Community Health Strategy roll out.

During 2014, Friends of Londiani and Londiani sub-county hospital constructed a maternal health shelter in the grounds of the hospital with the
support of Irish Aid. This shelter is to accommodate mothers from hard to reach areas who need medical attention around their delivery time. They are encouraged to come and stay at the shelter a few weeks or days prior to or after delivery. During 2015 work on a kitchen attached to the shelter continued. The shelter is due for commissioning and once commissioned it will help save lives for women in those hard to reach areas and they can come and stay in case of an emergency.

Community Health

The Community Health Strategy is a community-led holistic approach to healthcare. Community volunteers train as health workers and committee members and they form Community Units which include a committee of volunteers who oversee the programme of work being carried out. Each Community Unit contains approximately 1,000 households. During 2015 four Community Units were rolled out across the region. This involved training volunteers on how to work as a committee and as health workers; collection of baseline data and prioritising the needs of the community through dialogue and action days.

The Community Unit structure brings health closer to individuals giving them access to health information and healthcare. A greater understanding of health issues develops which leads to prevention of illness and referral to health facilities where necessary. The focus is on improving the health of individual homes and a healthy homestead has several key elements which include – space and ventilation; smoke free cooking; safe water supply; clean compound; good sanitation; incoming generating activities; a nutritious kitchen garden; rubbish disposal and access to improved mother and newborn healthcare.

The training for the Community Health workers includes Rescue and Emergency Care courses to equip them with the skills necessary to respond to emergency cases they come across. During 2015 two of these two-day courses were held, training 55 Community Health Workers.

Smokeless Stoves

The Smokeless Stoves programme is part of the Community Health Strategy to make each home a healthy place to live in. Reuben Koskei is the field officer for this programme. Each smokeless stove takes just hours to build using locally available materials and one manufactured piece which is a metal chimney. When the stove has been made it has a multitude of health benefits to all members of the household.

The health benefits include: fewer accidents, less coughing, less blockage and less respiratory disease. The stoves also contribute to better household income because they use two thirds less firewood and so households pay less for firewood. Girls and women in each household spend less time going to the forest to collect firewood and many use this additional time to engage in economic activity. In 2015, 357 smokeless stoves were installed across the region and 92 community health workers were trained as Stove Installers creating an income opportunity for them as well as the households.
The community units also help with organising **Field Days** which continue to be an effective method of reaching large numbers of people. A Field Day is an event where information is available at various stations set up around the venue. Stations include de-worming, Vitamin A, Maternal and Child Health, Hygiene/Water/Sanitation, Alternative Rite of Passage, HIV/AIDS including voluntary counselling and testing and malaria prevention. From time to time if there was a disease outbreak there may be other stations for example polio, measles or cholera.

In 2015 Field Days were rolled out in 17 locations across the region and this enabled 7,659 people to access key health information in preventable diseases and water treatment as well as access to HIV/AIDS testing and mother and child clinics.

To bring community healthcare to people living in areas that are difficult to access by road and are far from existing health facilities, **Outreach Clinics** are organised to enable communities to access health services. The services include immunisation, Vitamin A distribution, mother and child health (MCH) clinics, Reproductive Health Clinics, Malaria Treatment and Prevention. If required, patients are referred to the nearest health facility. The results show that Outreach Clinics have contributed positively to maternal health indicators around ANC and immunisation.

During 2015, 81 Outreach Clinics were supported by Friends of Londiani. These are held monthly in 10 remote areas across the region. The results show that 8,878 people attended including 2,120 children under five and the majority of the adults attending were women.
Clean Water continues to be identified as a priority need from the community partnership seminars in an area where only 15% of the population have access to an improved water source. There are several different types of water projects that Friends of Londiani is working on, including community and school water schemes. Reuben Kirui is the construction supervisor for Friends of Londiani and he oversees the water projects.

**Nduro Water Project** – this community water project began in 2011 in Kunyak division with a population of approximately 17,000 people. The project is a gravity water-fed scheme on a huge scale and one which is being developed as funding is available. Friends of Londiani, supported by Friends of Kipkelion, is working closely with the Nduro committee and the District Water Office to advance the project.

During 2015, funding was approved by the County Government to bring water to the Kapwen Trading Centre – Phase 5 of the project to bring water from the source storage tank to Ngorimori centre was started in August 2015 with works continuing into 2016. This involved 900 2" pipes laid by hand over a distance of 6km dug 2' below ground level to bring water to the Ngorimori Centre with the aim of reaching a further 10,000 people with access to clean water.

**School Water Tanks** – during 2015, five 32,000 litre ferrous-cement rain water harvesting tanks were installed in schools. Twelve 2,000 litre rainwater harvesting tanks were installed in five schools throughout the district. Without these tanks, the students of Tuyowei Secondary School previously fetched water from a stream next to the school. Since the rain water harvesting tank was installed in August, school attendance has increased as there are fewer children absent from school due to water borne diseases. Class at school is less disrupted also as children in Murgut Primary school found they had to leave the school one class at a time to collect water from a nearby river and bring it back to the school. In 2015, the Ndubusat Water Committee extended their gravity fed water scheme project to Mtaragon village.
Thriving Economy – the goal is to increase household income among the households so that the community can become independent in the long run and their livelihoods will be sustainable.

The Economic Empowerment Programme looks at the sourcing of funding for Community Groups, capacity building in terms of accessing this funding and business and income generation training.

Business training

During 2015, four business courses were facilitated by Friends of Londiani, taking participants through the steps required to set up and manage a small business/income generating project. Ninety communities were represented at these trainings. Several funding organisations also presented as part of the training including Kenya Women’s Trust Fund (KWFT), Ndege Chai Saving and Credit co-operation Society Ltd (SACCO) and Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Table Banking. These organisations have opened offices in Londiani town over the past year.

Friends of Londiani continues to support community members after the course by helping with the development of their business plans and informing them of potential funding and training opportunities.

Sustainable Tourism Project

Friends of Londiani began working on a sustainable tourism project in 2010 in response to requests from one specific community in Ndubusat which could see the potential for a community-led tourism model. There is a clear link between the healthy village model that Friends of Londiani operates through the community health strategy and villages developing a tourism model that would bring visitors to their homes.

The model the community is working on is a trekking route through a very beautiful area that varies from 1,600 to 3,300 metres above sea level and has dramatic views as well as being dotted with villages and homesteads. The aim of the project is to provide employment and financial benefit to the local communities and to increase the number of healthy homesteads in the process.
So far a campsite has been developed along the route in partnership with the Irish Foundation for Cooperative Development. During 2015 several pilot treks were held in the area and the campsite welcomed its first guests in November. The purpose of the pilot treks is to enable participating villages to be familiar with the entire trekking route and learn about the features of each community. They also encourage interaction between villages and within villages to gain an insight into what visitors like and want so these preferences can be included in the plans.

**Education Bursary Programme**

During 2015, Friends of Londiani supported 63 students on its bursary programme.

The programme supports students to stay at school by providing help with school fees and meeting with the students during the year to assess their needs and check if there is anything else that would prevent them from going to school. These students are from homes where there is only one or no parents. Without the bursary programme they would be in danger of not having the necessary school fees to finish and therefore risk being unable to graduate from school.

In 2015, 39 of the students were in the primary and secondary sector and the remainder were in third level.

Friends of Londiani believes that everyone has a right to access quality education and ultimately have a better long term future.
Partnerships

Partnership and Capacity Development

Friends of Londiani held several partner meetings in 2015. The purpose of these is to keep updated with all partner activities and enable partners to feedback on the various programmes they are involved with.

During 2015 Friends of Londiani organised a number of partnership seminars where representatives from 85 communities across the region participated. The seminars were an opportunity for communities to give feedback to Friends of Londiani on the impacts its programmes were having in the region as well as outline the needs and challenges facing communities across the region. The seminars also provided opportunity for Friends of Londiani to update community members on the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

Friends of Kipkelion visit

Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charitable trust whose aim is to support basic healthcare and education projects in Kipkelion, Londiani’s neighbouring county. They work in collaboration with Friends of Londiani and we are very grateful for their partnership and endless support. In 2015 Michael Deriaz, Chairman of Friends of Kipkelion and Nick Kyre-Smith, Trustee of Friends of Kipkelion, travelled to Kenya to review the programmes they are supporting. They visited several schools including Chepseon Secondary, Siret Secondary, Lesirwo Secondary, Ngendalel Primary, Taita Towett Secondary, Kipsirichet Primary, Urafiki primary, Kunyak Secondary, Furaha Primary and Kunyak. The programmes they support are focussed on providing access to clean water and better sanitation through improved pit latrine blocks.

Visit by the Embassy of Ireland, Nairobi

In August 2015, Mr Garvin McCann, Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of Ireland, Nairobi visited Friends of Londiani, in Londiani. He met with the staff and board team, and visited Friends of Londiani projects at the Londiani Sub County Hospital, and Township Secondary School.
The Friends of Londiani Schools Network is made up of schools in Ireland linked with schools in Kenya. The network is part-funded by the Irish Aid WorldWise Global Schools, which provides a range of support for development education initiatives at secondary school level.

Links between the schools began in 2009 and at the beginning of 2015 there were five Irish and five Kenyan schools in the network. The theme for the first half of 2015 was Human Rights, Human Responsibilities and from September, for the new school year, the focus was on Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the Post 2015 Agenda.

Students in Ireland and Kenya focused on the Human Rights theme with books and DVDs of Ben Carson’s story ‘Gifted Hands’ and Wangari Maathai’s story ‘Unbowed’. They wrote reviews on both stories and swapped them between Ireland and Kenya, sharing their views and opinions. Kenya days were organised in the schools to promote the link between Ireland and Kenya and to inform the rest of the students in the school.

The highlight for the students was a student workshop in May. This took place on the same day in Ireland and Kenya. In total nine schools were involved in the day which focused on the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and included a workshop to introduce the new goals and the process involved in finalising what they would be. Each student had the opportunity to add their input and vote on MyWorld.org for what they believed were priorities. Drumming and gymnastic sessions were also involved encouraging communication skills and team work among the students.

Each school had the opportunity during the day to Skype with their partner school and talk about how the workshops were going in both countries. That part of the day was a big hit on both sides of the network.
The Global Goals theme continued into the new school terms in late 2015. Three of the Irish schools in the network completed their partnerships and new schools are invited to join for the next academic year.

The Global Goals provide the opportunity for students to explore their shared hopes and expectations for the future as they will live in a world shaped by them.

Volunteers in 2015

In 2015 Friends of Londiani had several volunteers who spent time in Kenya working with the communities and staff there.

A student from UCC International Development and Food Policy degree course divided her work placement between Ireland and Kenya. She volunteered schools engagement, office administration and fundraising in Ireland and monitoring, evaluation and report writing in Kenya.

The Rescue and Emergency Care course benefited from two volunteers who spent time in Kenya, during 2015, adding extra capacity to further the development of the course and the training of local facilitators.

In November a team of six took part in a Harambee project made up of Irish, Australian, Portuguese and Kenyan volunteers. They supported the Rescue and Emergency Care courses; the Smokeless Stove Building; the Business Training courses, Lifeskills Peer Education and the Sustainable Tourism Trekking Route. The Kenyan volunteer stayed on after the project to volunteer at the Friends of Londiani office for the rest of the year.

The Irish office had several volunteers throughout the year who helped with administration, fundraising, volunteer training and more.

The Friends of Londiani Ambassador Programme is about continuous engagement of regular volunteers who support Friends of Londiani. These volunteers and supporters share their experiences and help to inspire other people to volunteer in Kenya, fundraise and raise awareness of our work.

During 2015 ambassadors helped with fundraising events such as the Mountain Challenge in August and the Christmas Craft Fairs in November and December. One specific volunteer committed to working on engaging with the corporate sector throughout 2015. We had several ambassadors on our stand at this year’s Irish Aid Comhlámh Volunteer Fair in Dublin in October.
Two Ambassador evenings were hosted by Friends of Londiani in October, to tie in with the launch of the Global Goals, and provide latest updates on our strategic plan and the progress of the community development programmes in Kenya.

As well as overseas volunteers, there were many from the local communities who volunteered their time and shared their skills throughout 2015. The Community Health Strategy works through volunteer community health workers who undergo at least 10 days training, and look after 20 to 30 households, visiting each one twice a year. Each Community Unit has 10 to 15 members elected from their community to form a village health committee, who also undergo training, and work with the Ministry and Friends of Londiani to roll out the strategy. Local volunteers assisted in facilitating courses such as Lifeskills, Rescue and Emergency Care and the Alternative Rite of Passage. Parents and teachers volunteered to support the Healthy Schools and Girls for Girls programmes.

### Schools and Community Engagement

Friends of Londiani works with local schools and community groups who want to know more about the work that we do and to support the programmes in Kenya. This takes the form of talks and workshops and uses Development Education methods where appropriate.

During 2015 Friends of Londiani engaged with the following groups:

**Trans-Atlantic, Girls Scouts from Troop 88 Carmel, Indiana USA** engaged with Friends of Londiani around World Water Day in March when they created a ‘river of change’ by collecting loose coins. Their Girl Scout meeting focused on the issues around lack of access to clean water, and our Healthy Schools Programme and how it benefits children in Londiani and Kipkelion.

We worked with Comhláth to support **Tell it on a Tuesday** – a story telling event that gathers returned volunteers from different organisations to an evening of telling their stories in a relaxed and informal setting.

We took part in a **Walk for Water** with Gael Scoil Mainistir na Corann in Midleton, for World Water Day when they organised a 6km walk. Each of the 5th and 6th class students carried 3ltrs of water in their backpacks in solidarity with children all over the world who walk miles each day to collect water for their families.

Friends of Londiani supported **An Taisce Green Schools officers** from the Environmental Education Unit with their Walk for Water event in Gougane Barra. We added information and pictures along their walk about the issues and solutions to accessing clean water in Kenya. We
demonstrated the Tippy-Tappies that children in the Healthy Schools programme use as a means to provide handwashing facilities, and the children had the opportunity to use them, too.

In March, we ran a workshop for the Irish Girl Guides training for Guides, in the South West Region. The workshop took the theme ‘About the Girl’ and the Guides explored through activities, role play and creating a mural, what life is like as a girl in the developing world and what kind of action they might take to help change things.

In April we visited the 4th classes at Gael Scoil Mainistir na Corann in Midleton to do a presentation with them about the Healthy Schools programme in Kenya. The students were fascinated with the model of a pit latrine and the Tippy Tapp, and had lots of questions to be answered.

We set up an information stand in the foyer of Mayo University Hospital in April to provide information about Friends of Londiani and the link with the Londiani District Hospital.

In May we took a stand at the Young Social Innovators Award to showcase the Girls for Girls programme and challenge students to get involved in supporting it. Students had the opportunity to lend their support to the social media campaign running with the 2015 Global Menstrual Hygiene Day by completing the statement “#menstruation matters because …”

We worked with 5th year girls in Colaiste Mhuire Secondary School in Cobh with a series of workshops and talks about gender equality, the Girls for Girls programme and advocating for the rights of the girl.

We gave talks to TY and CSPE students at St. Al’s Girls Secondary in Carrigtwohill, St. Colman’s Community School in Midleton and St. Mary’s Secondary School in Charleville.

We spoke to Guiders from Ulster Girl Guiding in Lurgan, Co Down in the Autumn, several of whom were volunteers in the first volunteer team that went to Kenya in 2002.

We had stands at the Irish Aid Comhlámh Volunteer Fair in Dublin and at the NUIG Student Fair in Galway.
Fundraising in Ireland

Various fundraising events took place during 2015 with the help, support and generosity of volunteers, donors and members of the public. Fundraising is hugely important to Friends of Londiani to support the changes to peoples' lives in Kenya.

2015 fundraising events included:

**Mountain Challenge** – four groups of participants took to the hills in each of the four provinces of Ireland in August 2015. They climbed for Kenya tackling four of the highest mountains in Ireland: Carrauntoohil, Croagh Patrick, Slieve Donard and Lugnaquilla. On the same day local volunteers in Kenya took to the sustainable trekking route under development by the community in Ndubusat.

**Coffee mornings** – supporters and volunteers invited friends, family and community for coffee at various locations throughout the year.

**Christmas crafts** – Friends of Londiani has established contacts with local producers of Kenyan crafts over the past number of years and these beautifully made items were very popular in 2015. With the help of volunteers, they sold at craft fairs and stalls and through places of work as well as through our website and from our office.

**Christmas wreaths** – a door wreath or a tribute for a grave are a popular item at Christmas and with the help of local secondary school students, Friends of Londiani produced and sold over 180 pieces locally around Midleton and East Cork.

**Girls for Girls** – this programme was supported through several fundraising events during the year organised by the Soroptimist International groups in Cork and Bangor and the Ulster Girl Guides.

**Harambee Volunteer Project** – a team of volunteers took part in Harambee in November 2015. As well as providing extra capacity to the people working on our community development programmes in Kenya, these projects raise much needed funds as each volunteer fundraises with different events such as table quizzes, coffee mornings, marathons.

**Starfish Jewellery** – these handcrafted sterling silver pieces continued to sell via our website and office. They are available as bracelets or pendants and are inspired by the Starfish Story which celebrates the idea that we can all make a difference with our actions.

**Wedding favours** – these are name place cards based on the theme of the big six safari animals in Kenya – elephant, lion, giraffe, buffalo, rhinoceros and leopard. They are available...
through Friends of Londiani’s office, and provide an opportunity for couples to make a donation on behalf of their guests, to support the programmes in Kenya.

**Coin collections** – Friends of Londiani has coin boxes in various locations such as shops and post offices and also held their annual bucket collection at Douglas court shopping centre, where the public generously supported the work we do.

**Key ring sales** – beaded keyrings made in Kenya sold at various locations with the help of volunteers.

**Schools** – Friends of Londiani received support from local and national schools who undertook cake sales and marathons to support the children in the Healthy Schools programme in Kenya.

**Corporates** – Friends of Londiani’s connections with the corporate sector were supportive in donations made during 2015.

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**Compliance and Transparency**

Friends of Londiani is a signatory to the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP) for Volunteer Sending Agencies. This is a set of standards for organisations involved in facilitating international volunteer placements in developing countries. The focus is to ensure overseas volunteering has a positive impact for the three main stakeholders: the volunteer, the sending agency and the local project and community.

Additionally, it reflects a number of core values. These are: partnership, quality, security, encouraging appropriate volunteer attitudes, valuing volunteering, sustainability, development education, solidarity, and the importance of contributing to development.

As signatory to the CoGP, Friends of Londiani undertakes an annual self-audit of our volunteer programme to check that we are adhering to the standards and to outline areas where we can strengthen and improve within the coming year.

Friends of Londiani achieved the **Core Indicators Award** in 2015 for our adherence to the Code. This means that we are deemed to have all the core indicators in place and have attained comprehensive compliance.

If you feel we are not adhering to the Code please contact us info@friendsoflondiani.com or info@comlamh.org.
During 2015, we took part in many events organised by Comhlámh such as peer support meetings; the Volunteer and Dev Ed group; training links programmes; creativity and change training workshop and trainings on Monitoring and Evaluation and Debriefing. We were delighted to join Comhlámh at their 40th Anniversary celebrations with President Michael D. Higgins, at the Aras in September, and we appreciate the support and networking opportunities that keep us informed and help us to maintain our high standards of volunteer care.

Friends of Londiani is a member of Dóchas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations and subscribes to the principles contained in the Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance. This Code aims to strengthen the impact and quality of Development NGO work and enhances confidence in Friends of Londiani and in the Development NGO sector.

We confirm that our organisation complies with The Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland. We confirm that a review of our organisation's compliance with the principles in the Code was conducted in June 2015. This review was based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. The review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies need to be addressed.

Friends of Londiani is a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages ("the Code") and commits to applying the Code's principles for all their communications. Friends of Londiani strives to support the Code's implementation and to promote it across all members of staff, as well as partners, contractors and the wider NGO sector.

By signing the Code, Friends of Londiani commits to a set of principles, ensuring that it will avoid stereotypical or sensational images, respect the dignity and equality of all people portrayed and promote fairness, solidarity and justice through all its communications. Friends of Londiani also agrees a number of commitments to ensure the Code's principles are implemented throughout all activities of the organisation.

In June 2015, Friends of Londiani was notified by Dóchas that it has fulfilled all nine minimum criteria for the Code.

All feedback and comments on Friends of Londiani's compliance with the Code can be sent to Friends of Londiani's Code Champion Rose Hennessy: rosehennessy@friendsoflondiani.com.

Friends of Londiani remains committed to complying with the principles outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising supplied by ICTR, the organisation representing the interests of Irish charities. The statement aims to improve the way charities in Ireland raise their funds; promote accountability and transparency among charities; and provide clarity and assurances to donors about the organisations they support. We commit to doing this by maintaining good fundraising practice; providing high levels of accountability and transparency to our donors and prospective donors from the public, and providing clarity and assurances to you about how we spend your money. Our accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard in general and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines.
on financial reporting. We publish our Annual Accounts on line every year and these can be downloaded from our website.

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) replaced the People in Aid Code of Good Practice at the end of 2014. The CHS sets out nine commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. It also facilitates greater accountability to communities and people affected by crisis: knowing what humanitarian organisations have committed to will enable them to hold those organisations to account. Friends of Londiani supports the CHS and is striving to implement the Code throughout the organisation.

Friends of Londiani is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority and has complied with all reporting obligations.

Friends of Londiani has an Audit Committee in place and its terms of reference can be downloaded from our website (http://www.friendsoflondiani.com/en/files/FOL_Roles_and_Responsibilities_of_the_Audit_Committee.pdf)

Advocacy

During 2015 Friends of Londiani made use of its social media platforms on Facebook, Google+ and Twitter, on its blog and in eshots to our support base, to highlight and bring attention to various development issues.

Friends of Londiani also facilitated a number of Health Information Days in 2015 – in March we supported International Women’s Day. In April, Friends of Londiani supported World Malaria Day and worked in partnership with the MOH on a malaria net distribution programme. In May, Friends of Londiani participated in Menstrual Hygiene Day. The aim of this day is to increase awareness of the challenges and taboos surrounding menstrual hygiene across the world. Twenty five Kenyan schools in the region participated through awareness-raising events, and activities, while in Ireland we highlighted the issue at the Young Social Innovators event, in April.

Friends of Londiani supported Global Hand-washing Day in October and in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Kenya, organised awareness events and hand washing demonstrations across multiple schools in the region.

From 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10th December, Human Rights Day, Friends of Londiani participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. Awareness-raising events were held across the
region. Also in November we marked World Toilet Day with schools in the region, promoting all these events on our social media.

In December Friends of Londiani supported the World Aids Day Event in Kericho County.

To focus on the lead-in to the announcement of the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development we mounted a social media campaign which ran through the month and focused on each of the 17 Goals and what they aim to achieve.

In 2015, Friends of Londiani Kenya became a member of the Girl Child Network (GCN) (www.girlchildnetwork.org) in Kenya. GCN is a not-for-profit organisation registered in Kenya with regional operation. The organisation has a strong membership of 312 organisations and its vision is a society that upholds and respects the rights of children, especially girls as Human Rights. GCN advocates at a national and regional level for the rights of boys and girls.

**Better Together Video**

We entered the Better Together Video Competition in 2015. Our entry focused on Beyond 2015 and how the work that we do will help to achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Members of the public were encouraged to get involved by voting for their favourite causes’ videos. Thank you to all who voted for our entry in the competition. Your support is hugely appreciated. You can watch the video on our YouTube channel accessible through the website.

**Funding**

Friends of Londiani depends on national fundraising events, private donations, local fundraising by volunteers, business donations and grants. We are grateful to all those who have fundraised on Friends of Londiani’s behalf and on behalf of the communities in Kenya.

All of our programmes are cost-shared in Kenya with the communities providing 50% of the costs by way of labour, materials donated, or finance.
Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland’s programme of assistance to developing countries. Friends of Londiani received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs through Irish Aid in 2015. We gratefully acknowledge their support.

The Friends of Londiani School Network was funded by Irish Aid through the WorldWise Global Schools programme.

Soroptimists International

Friends of Londiani would like to thank the Soroptimists International, Cork and Bangor, for its support of the Girls for Girls programme in Kenya in 2015.

Irish Foundation for Co-operative Development

Friends of Londiani would like to thank the Irish Foundation for Co-operative Development for their support of its sustainable tourism project in 2015.

2015 Summary

Income

Expenditure

Ongoing Projects 83%

Harambee Team Costs 4%

Fundraising Costs 8%

General Admin Costs 5%

Expenditure

Donations 49%

Harambee Income 3%

Fundraising Events 9%

Irish Aid Funding 39%

Bank Interest 0.2%
Financial Report 2015

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

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<tr>
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<th>2015 Restricted</th>
<th>2015 Unrestricted</th>
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Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2015

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<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>209,473</td>
<td>178,859</td>
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</table>
**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Legal status**

Friends of Londiani Ireland is a registered charity in Ireland (CHY16505), and a company limited by guarantee (398094).

Friends of Londiani Kenya is an International Non-Governmental Organisation registered in Kenya (OP/218/051/2005/0295/3731)

**Organisation**

Friends of Londiani is governed by the Board of Directors in Ireland and the Board of Management in Kenya. The Boards are composed of 10 Directors plus the Chief Executive.

The boards each meet five-six times a year and have ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of Friends of Londiani, ensuring it is solvent, well-run and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up. The boards are responsible for the strategic direction, safeguarding the ethos and are responsible for the audit and finance of Friends of Londiani including money, insurance and legalities.

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of Friends of Londiani.

Adequate systems of internal control are in place which aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of resources, safeguard assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed review at board level.

The executive committee deals with any urgent matters in between board meetings, and ensures board decisions are implemented.

The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the CEO and staff in Ireland and in Kenya.

**Board Committees**

The Board has a number of sub-committees including Audit, HR and Executive. Friends of Londiani Board members are responsible for specific portfolios. These include Fit for Future/Strategic Planning 2017-2020, Governance (Organisational Strategic Planning), Governance (Compliance), Communications, Development Education, Programmes, Funding, HR, Audit and Continuous Quality Management.

**Staff and Operations**

Day-to-day operations are undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and the Office Manager. From time to time third party services are provided to Friends of Londiani and these are coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors.
Governing Document

The Company was incorporated on 23 February 2005 and is a Company Limited by Guarantee not having a share capital. As of 31 December 2014, there were 10 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases.

The Board

The Board has a transparent Board Renewal process in place to ensure that the board has the desired blend of skills and experience at any given time. New Board members are elected by the members of Friends of Londiani at the Annual General Meeting of the charity.

Appointment of Directors

The Board of Friends of Londiani is comprised of 10 Directors and one Chief Executive Officer.

Directors’ Induction and Training

New directors and staff have an induction programme to ensure that collectively they have the necessary knowledge required for proper governance of the charity. Continuous support is provided to Board members throughout their term.

Governance Codes

Friends of Londiani has implemented the Dóchas Code on NGO Corporate Governance and complies with all its principles. Friends of Londiani reviews its compliance on an annual basis.

Friends of Londiani complies with the Governance Code Type B for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. We confirm that a review of our organisation’s compliance with the principles of the Code was conducted on the 7th June 2015. This review was based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. The review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies need to be addressed.

Friends of Londiani has a Conflict of Interest policy in place and all potential conflicts of interest are dealt with by the Executive Committee.

Friends of Londiani has a Conflict of Loyalty policy in place and all potential conflicts of interest are dealt with by the Executive Committee.

Friends of Londiani has a Code of Conduct for Directors in place, and all Directors are obliged to comply with this code.

Charities Regulatory Authority

Friends of Londiani is compliant with the requirements of the CRA and submitted its first annual report before the deadline of 31st October 2015.

Board Performance

Friends of Londiani has a self-evaluation process in place using the Dóchas Checklist for Board Self Evaluation. This self-evaluation is undertaken once a year by the Board.
Finance and Fundraising

Friends of Londiani is committed to achieving the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising supplied by ICTR, the organisation representing the interests of Irish charities.

Friends of Londiani’s accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard in general and with the Dóchas/Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting.

Friends of Londiani publishes its annual accounts online every year and these are available on our website http://www.friendsoflondiani.com/en/resources/financial_accounts.php

Directors Expenses and Pensions

All Friends of Londiani Board members are voluntary and do not receive payments to attend Board meetings. All expenses incurred by Board members in fulfilling their duties as Board members are paid according to Friends of Londiani’s Expense Policy.

Friends of Londiani does not pay any pension allowances for its employees but has a PRSA scheme in place should any employee wish to avail of this.

Risk Management

The Directors are aware of the risks to which Friends of Londiani is exposed, in particular, to the financial and operational risks and are satisfied that appropriate systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the risks.

Friends of Londiani has a Risk Management matrix which is reviewed, updated and discussed at every board meeting with any necessary mitigations put in place. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Board Member holding the Continuous Quality Improvement portfolio review this matrix in advance of all Board meetings.

Legal Status

Friends of Londiani was founded in 2002 by a group of Irish volunteers who worked in partnership with the people of Londiani on community development projects. A Board of Directors was established in 2005 and the group was officially registered as an Irish Charity. Friends of Londiani is recognised by the Revenue Commissioners as having registered charity status and the charity number is CHY16505. Friends of Londiani is a Limited Company registered with the Companies Office since February 2005 and the registered company number is 398094. Friends of Londiani is registered with the Charity Regulatory Authority CRA number 20059583.

Volunteers

The Board of Directors wishes to gratefully acknowledge the work of Friends of Londiani volunteers around the world. We rely on our volunteers to participate in our development education programme and fundraising activities. Communities in Kenya depend on the spirit of volunteerism to achieve their desired project aims. We regularly run Harambee volunteer projects which enable volunteers to experience the community development projects in Kenya. We have ongoing commitment from volunteers in Ireland and around the world who support events locally and provide input into programmes and events in Kenya.
Organisation

Board of Directors
Ms Maria Kidney, Chairperson
Ms Sally O’Neill, Vice Chairperson
Ms Anita Layden, Company Secretary
Ms Hazel Murphy
Ms Helen Concannon
Ms. Eva Creely
Mr. Charlie Daly
Ms. Siobhan Cully
Mr. Kieran Curtis
Ms. Audry Deane

Executive Committee
Ms. Maria Kidney
Ms Sally O Neill
Ms Anita Layden
Mr. Martin Ballantyne

Contact Details

Ireland
Address: 4 The Crescent, Mill Road, Midleton, Co. Cork, Ireland
Email: info@friendsoflondiani.com
Telephone: +353 21 4621748
Website: www.friendsoflondiani.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/londiani
Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/#!/londianicharity

Kenya
Address: P.O. Box 335, Londiani, Kenya.
Email: kenya@friendsoflondiani.com
Telephone: +254 723472809

Chief Executive Officer
Mr Martin Ballantyne