



Friends of Londiani Annual Report 2010





FRIENDS OF LONDIANI IRELAND
MARAFIKI WA LONDIANI

Annual Report 2010

Front Page photo – Children from Ndubusat Primary School in November 2010



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The Millennium Development Goals





Message from the Chairperson

2010 has been a wonderful year for FOL – both here in Ireland and in Kenya. In 2010 the Board of Management of FOL Kenya expanded and 3 new members joined the Board. Each of them live in Kenya and come to FOLK with a variety of experiences. The Boards of FOL in Ireland and in Kenya are working very well together driving the strategic direction of the organisation forward.

In 2010 our volunteer ethos continued and over 50 people volunteered for our Harambee projects. Unfortunately the summer Harambee had to be cancelled due to a security alert but we are delighted that most of the group postponed their trip to join the Autumn group or Summer 2011 group. 26 volunteers travelled to Kenya on the Harambee volunteer project in the Autumn. The volunteers worked alongside the local communities to implement many projects including maternal health courses, public health field days, life skills courses, health surveys, school visits, business trainings and water projects.

I would like to thank all our volunteers in Ireland and in Kenya for continuously showing their commitment to FOL. FOL prides itself in its volunteerism and without the commitment of the volunteers the achievement of our mission would not be possible.

There were many achievements for FOL in 2010 under each of its programme areas. Under the Health Programme we continued our exciting partnership with Mayo General Hospital which is linked with Londiani District Hospital. Through this partnership and the support of Irish Aid we have completed the building of the first operating theatre for Londiani District Hospital. This operating theatre will serve the 220,000 people of Kipkelion District.

Water is a human right, and under our Water Programme we continue to work on implementing community water systems and rainwater collection tanks.

The third area of our programmes is education and FOL believes that investment in education is an investment in the future of a community. In 2010, FOL supported 270 students in Primary, Secondary and Third Level Education. Our education programme also involves schools here in Ireland through our development education activities. In 2010 FOL became a School Network and is happy to facilitate links between 3 schools in Ireland and 3 schools in Londiani under the WorldWise programme. WorldWise is the Irish Aid Schools Linking and Immersion Scheme. Through its funding, students in Ireland have been communicating with students in Londiani, have completed joint projects, studied the same topics and shared many cultural experiences. Each



school also received funding from Irish Aid which enabled teacher exchange visits which provided excellent learning opportunities.

Women are the bedrock of communities in Kenya. The role of women in the communities of Kipkelion District is vital to the provision of food and water. FOL's poverty-reduction intervention is a multi-sector approach which addresses the interconnected issues of the role of women at village level. The interventions include strengthening the health, knowledge and skills of communities through capacity building projects aimed at supporting women in their varying roles of mother, care-giver, farmer, water-harvester, and community leader.

FOL is working with local communities to implement an alternative rites programme to end Female Genital Cutting (FGC). FOL has worked with local communities, government ministries, and community leaders to develop a programme for the alternative rite of passage. The feedback from communities is very positive, and FOL will continue this programme to support communities throughout 2011.

In November FOL launched the "Girls for Girls campaign" in Londiani. This initiative is a partner project with the international organisation, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, with the aim that "no girl should miss school because of lack of access to affordable sanitary products".

This programme has many elements including education, infrastructure and income generation.

In October 2010, Irish Aid granted FOL three year's funding to implement our poverty intervention strategy in the Kipkelion District. Our plan is recognised by Irish Aid as the way forward; as a valuable way of helping communities to develop. As an organisation we look forward to working with our partners in Kipkelion in implementing this poverty intervention strategy.

FOL supported the "We Don't Care Less" campaign in 2010, and will continue this support in 2011. FOL believes that Overseas Development Aid works – it saves lives, it provides healthcare, it supports education, human rights and the fight against poverty worldwide.

FOL is built on fantastic people doing extraordinary things, all with a belief in a common good. These people are our volunteers, our supporters, the FOL Board of Directors, the Management Team and the Executive Director. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their passion, support and hard work during the last year.

Maria Kidney
Chairperson



FOL Programme of Activities

Programme Objectives

Friends of Londiani's overall strategy aims to enhance the community's ability to improve their basic education and healthcare in order to improve productivity and thus reduce poverty, hunger, child and maternal deaths as well as improve education performance across all stages of the health service. A key part is when the communities assess their needs and decide on what projects to undertake.



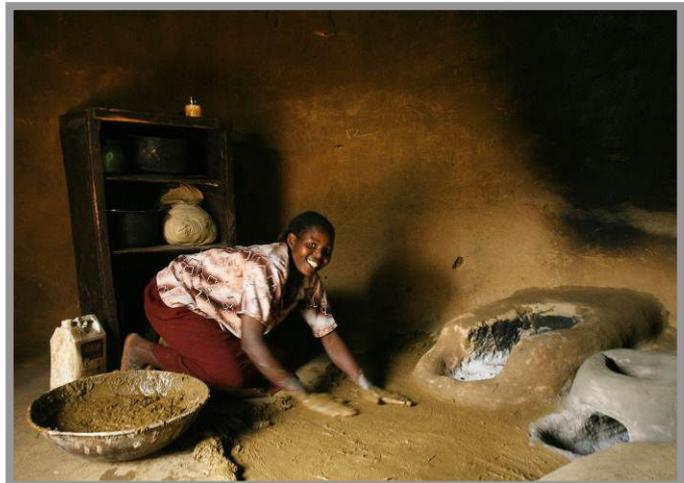
Achievements and Performance

In partnership with community groups and government ministries in the Kipkelion District of North West Kenya, FOL has supported Health, Water and Education projects in 2010.

Health Programme

Health Programme Objective:

To consolidate the existing district & community level health services so that they best meet community needs; to consolidate the "Healthy Village" model in those villages where it has been introduced; to roll-out the "Healthy Village" model to the remaining villages as part of a coordinated approach to community healthcare in Londiani.



- Provision of resources to **increase capacity** of District Health Management Team (DHMT)
- EOC & Neonatal **Courses for healthcare professionals** run jointly by Irish and Kenyans



- **Maternal & Child Health Courses** for Community Health Workers (CHW) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA)
- Organisation of **Public Health Field Days** in partnership with local Ministry to highlight issues pertaining to daily life and health risks
- Provision of **Ventilated Pit Latrines** in communities who lack clean running water or adequate sanitation



- Distribution of **Malaria Nets** to homes and schools
- **Lifeskills Peer Education Courses** for community groups of men, women and young adults

- The completion of an **operating theatre** in Londiani District Hospital – part-funded by Irish Aid, FOL and Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar. This project was coordinated by a local project team including members of LDH Staff, representatives of the Ministry of Health, community representatives and FOL Kenya. This team has worked hard and the operating theatre will serve the entire Kipkelion District



- **Hospital Link Project** with Londiani District Hospital and Mayo General Hospital – both of these hospitals continue to work on their 'Baby Friendly' programmes and share their learning
- **"Girls for Girls"** campaign was launched in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts with the aim of providing sanitary resources to girls in Kipkelion to enable them to go to school. The essence of it is that some girls cannot go to school for 1 week a month once they reach puberty as they cannot afford basic sanitary towels. Additionally, the conditions of some of the toilets in schools are very basic and unhygienic with no water provided. The idea of this campaign is to raise enough money over 12 months to contribute to a sustainable project which will provide cheaper sanitary towels in the community, which in turn will enable more girls to go to school. All proceeds from the project will be invested through FOL's Health programmes in schools to provide latrines and facilities for girls. It will also be coupled with education on health & hygiene. Women in the community will be trained in the skills needed to make the towels. A management team has been set up which includes a fundraising team, programme, PR and education. Visits also took place to other towns in Kenya to learn how they have addressed this universal issue.





Water Programme



Water Programme Objective:

To provide potable water to villages from secure sources with well-managed distribution systems consistent with the "Healthy Village" development plan.

- Community **Rainwater Collection Tanks** Projects continued
- **Hand Pumps** in Benditai Village to capture the good quality groundwater in the area

- Extension of the **Ndubusat Gravity Water System** including storage tanks along the route
- **Protection of water sources** & springs
- Water **Maintenance Courses**



Education Programme

Education Programme Objective:

To work at each level of Education in Kipkelion so as to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to receive at minimum a basic education to help the overall development of the communities.

- Support of 270 **Education Bursaries** to children in need and orphans with no alternative source of funding for their education
- **Teacher Seminars** are part of the District Education plans and involve both professional development and capacity building trainings. In October, one seminar was held bringing Irish and Kenyan teachers together to share their experiences. It was an excellent event and in honour of the occasion the District Education Officer planted a tree to symbolise the growth of the partnership between FOL and the Education Office
- Interview Skills and Business **Training courses** delivered to communities
- **Healthy Schools Programme** – a joint programme between FOL, the Education Office and Public Health Office. Training is provided for teachers and resources given to each school for students to set up Health Clubs. Each school carries out an audit of their facilities and needs and creates an action plan to address their most pressing issue – be it latrines, hand-washing, water, rubbish, etc.





- **Development Education programme in Ireland** which included a radio documentary to celebrate Africa Day and a photo exhibition.



The Road to Londiani Radio Documentary – 25th May

Africa Day is the official day of the African Union and marks African unity. It is an opportunity to celebrate African diversity and success, and join Africans around the world in highlighting the cultural and social energy of the continent.

The "Road to Londiani" is a 28 minute radio documentary by Stuart Bobbett that explores how an Irish charity effectively works to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and how monies donated are efficiently managed, bringing sustainable development through water, health and education projects. In July 2009, Stuart traveled to meet



the communities who have worked with the Irish volunteers since 2002. Focusing on the peoples day-to-day lives, Stuart interviewed both Kenyans and Irish about the water, health and education projects they were undertaking together. This documentary captured the essence of the partnership approach of Friends of Londiani whilst providing volunteers with an amazing opportunity to feel the warm welcome in Londiani whilst seeing the Great Rift Valley. The documentary was played on 16 radio stations around Ireland on May 25th and May 26th and can be downloaded from Near FM www.nearpodcast.org. This project was funded by the Simon Cumbers Media Fund, Irish Aid.



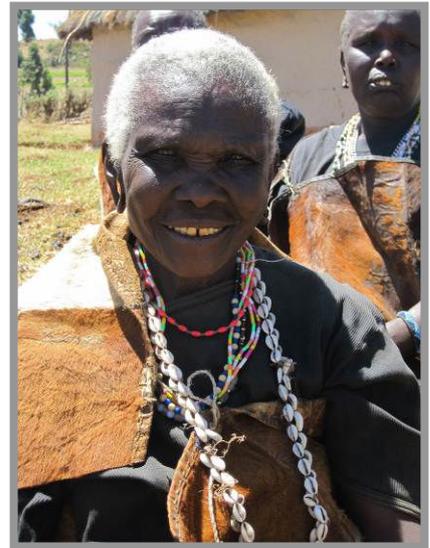
FOL photographer part of Visions of Africa 2010 Exhibition

Liam Kidney, a professional photographer and volunteer with FOL is one of 30 photographers whose photography was part of the KADE Visions of Africa 2010 Exhibition. The annual exhibition features striking images which portray a positive image of Africa, and Liam's photo of a woman from Ndubusat was one of the photos on display. Liam has traveled with FOL since 2007 and has photographed much of the Kipkelion District, its people, landscapes and FOL's projects.



- **Community Education Programme** on Female Circumcision abandonment and the **Alternative Rite of Passage** Programme delivered to 6 communities

At the request of local communities, FOL ran a pilot project in the community of Benditai and Sachangwan in 2009. This year, this was expanded and six villages in total undertook to educate their community about the issue and run a five-day lifeskills and cultural training for 50 girls who were at risk. This is called an Alternative Rite of Passage and is providing an option for families to choose instead of female genital cutting. Local women and men prepared the course, the materials and gave the trainings. The programme is a great start for the eradication of this activity and community education programmes will be a key part of it in the years to come. Female circumcision is a high risk activity and is an abuse of human rights.



- Support for the 3 Irish and 3 Londiani schools linked through the **WorldWide Schools Linking programme and FOL Network**.

Following the success of the 2009 Link, FOL decided to develop a Schools Network, linking Irish secondary schools with schools in Londiani. In the 2010-2011 school year, the following schools formed the FOL Network.

Killinarden Community School & Kapcheplanga Secondary School
Mountrath Community School & Londiani Girls Academy
Moate Community School & Moi Sorget Secondary School.

16 Irish teachers from all three schools travelled to their partner schools in Londiani during their October mid-term break. A reciprocal visit to Ireland is planned for 2011. During the week, each school worked on their shared goals and vision for the link developing a partnership agreement and finalising plans for cooperation throughout the school year. They shared cultural performances, learned each other languages and discussed issues pertaining to the education system in each country. Final year students – Form 4's – were doing their final state exams and the system of accountability and transparency was similar to that of the Leaving Certificate in Ireland. The dedication of these students to their studies was admirable and their work ethic was inspiring. As the week progressed, students could be heard singing Irish songs and speaking Gaelige while Irish teachers were reciprocating with words and songs in Swahili. Teachers had brought letters with them from the Irish students and Kenyan students wrote back to their counterparts. The 'clash of the ash' was heard in one school amid beautiful



singing from the school choir. St. Pauls High School from Bessbook in Newry were also in Londiani on a cultural exchange and a wonderful night of singing and dancing was shared by all ending with Fr. Martin in full Cork regalia! As the week came to a close, teachers commented on how much they had learned. Armed with bundles of letters for their students, photos of their trip and long-lasting memories, the teachers left Kenya to return to their schools after the mid-term break. Throughout the year, the schools each worked in partnership on activities such as the school choirs learning each others songs, CSPE action projects, skyping & letter-writing.

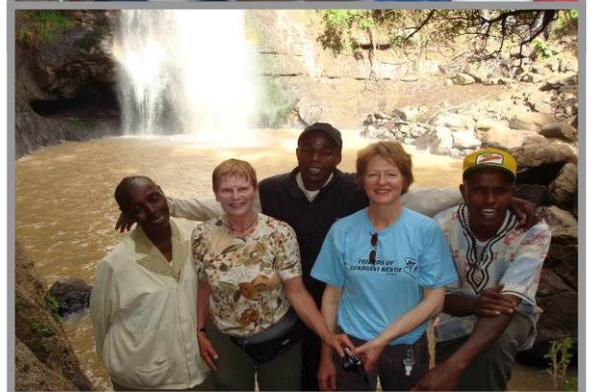


Volunteer Projects 2010

Autumn Harambee 2010

26 volunteers spent 3 weeks working in partnership with various communities in Londiani, Muhoroni and the Monastery area. Activities included maternal health teaching courses, health surveys, mapping, water project, lifeskills peer education courses, public health field days, healthy school programmes and sports days. The team included local FOL Kenya staff as well as many volunteers from the communities in which FOL operates. The group ranged in age from people in their 20's to their 70's and the atmosphere was fantastic. Learning from the local communities was a particularly special part and this following list gives an indication of the memories they took home with them:

- The smiling faces
- The welcomes
- The children playing
- Survival skills
- The beauty of the mountains
- The joy of clean water
- 1½ bags of maize per person per year
- Present of pumpkins from a bursary student to say thank you
- The face of a newborn child
- The importance of maternal health
- Porridge
- The newly painted children's ward in Londiani District Hospital
- The openness and willingness to learn from the maternal health attendees
- Meeting people in their own homes during the surveys
- The excitement of new community groups
- The breathtaking view of the Rift Valley....simply no other place
- Full moon on the Lake!
- Meeting the FOL Kenyan Board
- First harvest of Bethel Honey – sampled by all!
- The blessing of the new FOL office in Londiani
- The donkey who acted like an alarm clock every day
- And the lasting friendships.....and amazing times shared. Thank you to all those who supported Harambee 2010 in Kenya - the volunteers, their friends and families and those who made this project the success it was. Asante sana.





FOL Volunteer Recognised

Laura Clarke, Dispatch Team Leader for UPC Ireland, was named the IN Heroes Awards winner for her volunteer work with Friends of Londiani. Throughout the year, Laura organises and participates in fundraising efforts for the Londiani community. She also travels to Kenya to support the FOL projects hands-on, working side-by-side with the Londiani community to help with everything from the building of rainwater collection tanks to the upkeep of local schools. Laura and her family are long-time volunteers with FOL and Laura relishes in the opportunity to be involved.



“I love working with the fundraising team here in Ireland, and the local community in Kenya,” says Laura. “Seeing a project we’ve all worked on come to completion gives me a great feeling of joy and achievement.”

As the winner of IN Heroes, FOL received €5,000 donation from Liberty Global. The money was used to support Harambee project work in 2010.

Laura says that volunteering has made her a better person. *“I have learned so much about Kenya and its people, and the importance of teamwork,” she says, “but most of all, I’ve learned that there is so much more to life than people realise. The people in Londiani, by our standards, have few material things and they are still the happiest people I’ve ever met.”*

Friends of Londiani is grateful to Liberty Global for their contribution to Harambee.

Advocacy & Volunteering Issues

Friends of Londiani has a strong ethos of volunteering and values the involvement of volunteers throughout the organisation. FOL has adopted the Comhlámh Code of Conduct for volunteer organisations and completes the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice Self Audit on an annual basis.



FOL is a member of Dochas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations and adheres to the Irish Development NGO Code of Corporate Governance.



Friends of Londiani is a signatory of the Code of Conduct on Images and Messages and provides all volunteers with a training on the Code.



FOL took part in the We Don't Care Less campaign in 2009/2010 which was coordinated by Dochas. It was aimed at both the Irish government and the Irish public and aimed to highlight the importance of honouring commitments to aid promises, in bad times as well as in good.





Commitment to Standards in Fundraising Practice

Irish Charities Tax Reform Group (ICTRG) is a membership organisation of charities, focused on creating a policy climate in which philanthropy can thrive - through a combination of taxation and regulatory reform. A Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising was developed in 2010.

The Statement exists to:

- Improve fundraising practice
- Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public
- Provide clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.

Friends of Londiani is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement.

Act Now
on 2015
Deliver Ireland's Aid Promise

The **Act Now on 2015** Campaign was launched at the Dóchas AGM on 23 April, with the support of 65 Irish anti-poverty organisations. It represents the continuation and rebranding of the We Don't Care Less Campaign which had been launched a year earlier in response to a series of deep cuts to Ireland's overseas aid budget. The primary aims of the campaign were –

- Binding annual targets for spending on ODA to deliver a minimum of 0.7% by 2015
- Pressure by Ireland at EU level to agree a further set of ambitious collective and individual targets between now and 2015 to monitor progress towards achievement of the 0.7% target by all EU Member States. In calculating these new targets, the current 2010 EU interim target was used as a baseline
- Legislation that ensures more predictable allocations in ODA spending, in place by the earliest date possible in order to guarantee Ireland's aid commitment.



Activities included political Lobbying, Coordination of Communications and Member activities.

The campaign worked to develop and disseminate clear, shared messages that were repeated and advanced at many levels. From the outset the campaign decided on the following core messages –

1. **“0.7% by 2015 at the latest” – starting now!**
2. **2010 is the year of the MDGs, we need an action plan!**

The name ‘Act Now on 2015’ was chosen to convey the importance of the 2015 target, and the need for action to be taken immediately to ensure that this target is reached.

These were supported by four secondary messages –

1. Aid works – Aid from Ireland helps fight global poverty.
2. Aid is affordable – It is only 70 cent in every 100 Euro.
3. Ireland's role in the world – We need the world, and we need to engage with the world.
4. Aid is in Ireland's interest.

The strategy was to convey these messages through a wide range of media with the ultimate intention of reaching and influencing key decision-makers.



Events in Ireland in 2010

The Sixth Annual Kenya Ball

The 6th Annual Kenya Ball was held in the Maryborough Hotel, Cork on Saturday 17th April. Of the 230 guests, 104 had been to Kenya with FOL. The energy and excitement in the room led to a fantastic atmosphere which contributed to the success of the night.

The VIP Guests included the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork Councillor Emmet O Halloran and his partner Carol Petite; Minister Michael Martin, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Her Excellency Ms Catherine Mwangi, Kenyan Ambassador to Kenya; and Mr Willie Lyons, Business Development Director, Musgrave Retail Partners Ireland. 230 guests attended this magnificent event hosted by FOL and the theme of the ball was Water.



The Deputy Lord Mayor opened the evening by recalling how he has known FOL since 2005 when he began supporting them through several fundraisers. He compared the need for water in Kenya to the need experienced in Cork city in November last year. Minister Michael Martin congratulated FOL for their work in Kenya, and added that FOL were making a positive contribution to development there. He spoke of the water, health and education projects FOL undertakes in Kenya.

After dinner, the Kenyan Ambassador thanked FOL for supporting her country. She said that she felt humbled by the work taking place there, and said this help was really needed. She has known FOL since coming to Ireland 3 years ago, and believes that they are making a difference to people's lives in Londiani.

Maria Kidney, Chairperson of FOL gave the keynote address where she looked back on the past 12 months of FOL's work making a special reference to FOL's volunteer support base. She outlined how FOL's projects were sustainable through partnership with Government Ministries in Kenya, other larger NGOs and local community groups on the ground in Londiani. She spoke about "Positive Development" and gave the example of the Ndubusat Water project where the introduction of clean water has resulted in 117 girls attending a newly built Girls' Secondary School. But, some of the projects would not be possible without the support of the Irish

Government. She thanked Irish Aid for their support to date, but urged the government to continue their overseas aid programme and not to cut aid further. She explained that Overseas Aid works, it saves lives, it is value for money (70 cents in €100), and it is what Irish people are good at. Irish people have made positive differences all over the world.



FOL Golf Classic

On the 27th August Charleville Golf Club played host to a group of loyal FOL supporters and golfers who fundraise through the annual golf classic. The course is beautifully laid out and provides both a challenge and an enjoyable experience for the golfer. FOL is grateful to all who participated and to the local people of Charleville for their continued support.



FOL Mountain Challenge 2010

Mountain Challenge 2010 - footprints to Kenya!

The weekend of the 6th June will remain in some people's minds for a long time. This was the weekend when people from all over Ireland challenged themselves in the Mourne Mountains to raise funds for FOL's projects in Kenya. The team arrived on Friday night for a team briefing, and introduction to the weekend. Saturday morning dawned bright and early as the team headed for the Silent Valley. There began an 11 hour journey amongst some of the most amazing peaks in Ireland – with spectacular views of the Valley and beyond. The team worked as a team and conquered over 8 peaks in the day before returning to the hostel in the Silent Valley. Saturday night, the support team prepared a first class excellent meal! Sunday morning dawned bright and early as the team headed for Sliabh Donard, the highest mountain in the Mourne Range. The views from Sliabh Donard were stunning – a just reward for the effort put in for all.



Thank you to all the participants and the support team for your participating, determination and contribution towards FOL's water, health and education projects in Kenya.

Social Media

FOL launched its own online blog which is maintained by volunteers, a twitter account and made use of YouTube throughout 2010. The charity's Facebook page is very popular and enables volunteers, supporters and their families to remain in touch after their experiences in Londiani.



School & Community Group Visits

Friends of Londiani continued to join students in their classrooms to explore global issues and learn about Kenya. FOL also joined with many youth groups such as Girl Guides units to work on activities relating to global justice. Community groups such as the Irish Countrywomen's Association and Faith and Justice Groups have also invited FOL to local events. FOL is delighted to work with groups on development education topics.



Funding

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

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 2010. This grant was specifically for Water, HIV/AIDS and Health projects and will be used to part-fund these projects. FOL gratefully acknowledges their support.



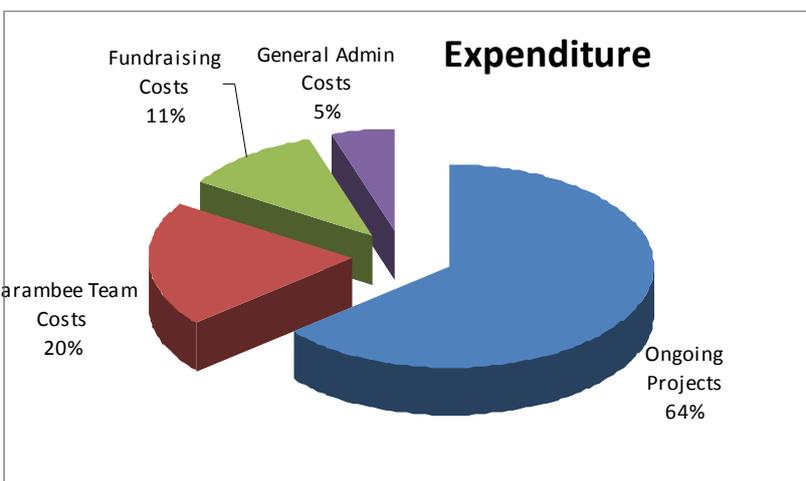
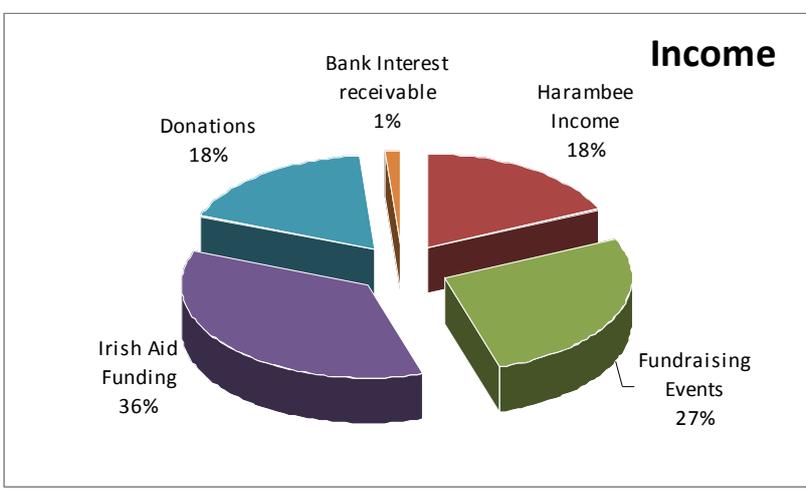
The FOL School Network was funded by Irish Aid through the WorldWide programme and was managed by Leargas.



Friends of Londiani would like to thank Musgrave Retail Partners Ireland for their support of Education Bursaries in Kenya in 2010. Their support gave children the opportunity to attend school. The bursaries form an integral part of FOL's work towards the Millennium Development Goals.



2010 Summary





Financial Report 2010

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	€	€
INCOME		
Harambee Income	76,796	169,074
Fundraising Events	112,268	99,947
Irish Aid Funding	147,524	103,972
Donations	74,395	232,150
Emergency Appeal	-	58,266
	<u>410,983</u>	<u>663,409</u>
INTEREST RECEIVABLE		
Bank Interest receivable	6,114	4,611
	<u>417,097</u>	<u>668,020</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Ongoing Projects	279,030	321,495
Harambee Team Costs	88,080	124,640
Fundraising Costs	48,649	51,568
General Admin Costs	21,723	22,175
Organisational Dev Costs		11,891
Emergency Funds		58,266
Foreign Exchange Losses		(2,114)
	<u>437,482</u>	<u>587,921</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(20,385)	80,099
Transfer to Restricted Funds	(10,000)	
	<u>(30,385)</u>	<u>80,099</u>

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	2,844	5,047
Debtors and prepayments	9,167	5,280
Cash at bank and in hand	383,090	327,783
Designated Bank Funds	10,073	16,174
	<u>405,174</u>	<u>354,284</u>
	(206,496)	(135,221)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>198,678</u>	<u>219,063</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	178,678	169,063
Restricted Funds	20,000	50,000
	<u>198,678</u>	<u>219,063</u>

These Financial Statements were prepared by Deloitte & Touche on 13th May 2011.



Structure & Management of Friends of Londiani

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 to enable and empower the people to achieve an improved quality of life based on their values and become the authors of their own development. The Friends of Londiani will endeavour to achieve these goals in a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect with one another and with the people of the area. This partnership will enable members of Friends of Londiani to further develop skills and a deeper cultural understanding.

Vision

The vision of Friends of Londiani is for the people of the Kipkelion District of Kenya 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 provisions and sanitation.

The importance of cooperation will be evident in the work of the charity and its sustainability will be apparent through the involvement of the communities and their ownership of the projects.

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. FOL 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 Ireland works in partnership with Friends of Londiani Kenya, a registered Non-Governmental Organisation in Kenya.

Organisation

Board of Directors and Management Team

FOL is governed by the Board of Directors. The Board is composed of 9 Non-Executive Directors plus the Executive Director. The Board meet 3 times a year and has 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 Board is responsible for the strategic direction of FOL, safeguards the ethos of FOL and is 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 FOL. 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.

In between Board meetings, the day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the Management Team. This team consists of the Executive Director and three members of the Board. They meet on a monthly basis and ensure the actions from Board meetings are carried out, organise national events and coordinate the organisation of volunteer projects.

Focus Groups

Friends of Londiani has Focus Groups that are run by individuals who volunteer their expertise and time to FOL across a number of key areas – both programme and organisation. They report directly to the Executive Director.

Staff & Operations

Day to day operations are undertaken by the Executive Director. From time to time 3rd party services are provided to FOL and these are coordinated by the Executive Director. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors.

Volunteers

The Board of Directors wishes to gratefully acknowledge the work of Friends of Londiani volunteers here in Ireland and in Kenya. FOL relies on its volunteers to participate in its development education programme and fundraising activities. Communities in Kenya depend on the spirit of volunteerism to achieve their desired project aims. FOL regularly runs Harambee volunteer projects which enable Irish volunteers to experience the community development projects in Kenya.

Programme Areas

The three programme areas are Health, Education and Water and are based on helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, implementing the Kenyan Ministry of Health Community Health Strategy and are in line with the Government of Kenya Kipkelion District Plan. The Development Education Programme is to deepen peoples understanding of global issues and encourage people to act to create a more just and equal world.

Future Developments

FOL has a three-year strategic plan in place. This plan commits FOL to continue its work in the programme areas explained above through a community development methodology. FOL's ethos of volunteerism will continue to be an integral part of FOL's work and the key partnership with Friends of Londiani Kenya will continue to develop to ensure sustainability of the organisation.



Organisation of Friends of Londiani

Board of Directors

Ms. Maria Kidney, Chairperson

Ms. Helen Concannon, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Hazel Murphy, Secretary

Mr. Joe Willis, Treasurer

Mr. Gerard Murphy

Mrs. Deirdre Henley

Dr. Meabh Ní Bhuinneáin

Mr. Shea Fahy

Mr. John Spillane

Executive Director

Mr. Martin Ballantyne

Focus Group Chairpersons

Education: Jenny Gannon

Health: Laura Ahern

Water: Anita Layden

Fundraising: vacant

Marketing: Liam Kidney

Management Team

Ms. Maria Kidney

Ms. Helen Concannon

Mrs. Hazel Murphy

Mr. Martin Ballantyne

Friends of Londiani Contact Details

IRELAND

Address:

9 Cois Cuain, Mosestown,
Whitegate, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Email:

info@friendsoflondiani.com

Telephone:

+353 21 4662730

KENYA

Address:

P.O. Box 335,
Londiani, Kenya.

Email:

kenya@friendsoflondiani.com

Telephone:

+254 203547243

Website: www.friendsoflondiani.com



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