



Annual Review

2015-2016



North Darfur Market © DDRA, 2016

Our Mission

SOS Sahel International UK (SOS Sahel UK) exists to find meaningful solutions to the poverty and vulnerability experienced by millions of people across the drylands of the African Sahel. We want to see the people of the Sahel influence the policy decisions that affect them, and have control over the natural and economic resources they need for a secure and fulfilling life.

What we do

We focus on promoting sustainable natural resource management; promoting diversified livelihoods; strengthening food security; developing the capacity of local organisations; and, developing pastoralism. We are committed to African-led development. All projects are designed and implemented by the local staff of our national NGO partners in close consultation with local communities and stakeholders. We respond to the needs and requests of our partners, offering support, advice and capacity-building when needed, be it programmatic, financial or organisational.

Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present SOS Sahel UK's latest annual review for the period 2015-2016.

This year we have supported our partners on seven fantastic projects in Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia. However, the road has not been easy and we have faced many challenges. El Niño has had disastrous and continuing effects across the region. Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought in decades. Two failed rainy seasons have devastated livelihoods and left more than ten million people in need of food aid. Whilst the government has taken a strong role in protecting the most vulnerable, due to the severity of the drought, the humanitarian need is still high.

In Sudan also, El Niño has significantly impacted the rains and caused reduced cultivation areas, delayed planting, poor pastures and limited water for people and livestock. The scale and impact of these agricultural and livestock production threats are likely to be long-lasting. The ongoing conflicts in some

regions (Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile) exacerbate the issues and leave populations ever more vulnerable.

Despite the Peace agreement signed in August 2015, South Sudan is still suffering from civil conflict. Violence, access constraints and food insecurity are drivers of major displacement, with more than two million people having fled their homes since the conflict began, many of whom remain internally displaced. Humanitarian needs therefore continue to be immense, and are likely to grow as the conflict continues to force people from their homes, to deplete resources and to constrain humanitarian access. El Nino has worsened this situation, with a further deterioration in the already very high food insecurity levels.

In the midst of this turbulence, we have been working with our local partners, who use their local knowledge and experience to make a positive impact on the lives of thousands of people. In Ethiopia, we are working with communities to rehabilitate land and build resilience to shocks. In Sudan, we are working to support farming and

fishing livelihoods, and ensure that rural communities have access to clean water year-round. In South Sudan, we are supporting SOS Sahel South Sudan as much as we can to help them survive as an organisation amidst the humanitarian crisis. We would not be able to do this without your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Linda Horgan to the team as SOS Sahel UK's new Director. Linda brings with her over twenty years' experience in the development sector, having previously worked for Concern Worldwide and Oxfam. She joined SOS Sahel UK in December 2015 and has settled in very well. We are excited for the future of SOS Sahel UK and our partners; a future that we would not have without you, our donors. Thank you so much for your generosity and support, which has kept us going through many ups and downs! We hope you will continue to support us this year.

Ian Barry

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Project Highlights

PROJECT FOCUS: Improving land and livelihoods in Ethiopia

This year saw the completion of our three-year project in Ethiopia, which has worked with communities to rehabilitate degraded land, diversify livelihoods, and improve food security. The community engagement in the project has been phenomenal and so have the results!

Over the last few decades, the Lake Boyo Catchment in SNNPR has been suffering from extreme land degradation, caused in part by over population and increased levels of farming and grazing, along with climatic changes caused by global warming. The large scale deforestation and soil erosion in the catchment has caused a significant increase of flooding, with an expansion of the lake, which has severely affected crops, grazing lands, settlements and properties, leaving much of the population increasingly vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity. We have been working closely with our partner, SOS Sahel Ethiopia, to address these issues through rehabilitating severely degraded land and improving livelihoods and resilience of communities in the area.

Hundreds of local men, women and youths have been volunteering their time for soil and water conservation work across communal land, including planting trees, grass strips and seedlings, and constructing gabion structures, ditches and soil bunds. This land is then closed off from human and grazing use until it begins to regenerate. Landless groups are mobilised



SOME RESULTS

The number of food insecure households has reduced by 59%



Average annual income of the targeted households has increased by 93%



The area of deforested and degraded land has decreased by 35%

to engage in income generating activities that will make use of the land in a sustainable way, such as through beekeeping.

Private farmland has also been targeted with conservation work, and farmers have received training and farm tools (partially subsidised by the project) in order to increase fertility and productivity of their land. With these measures, the area of land at risk of flooding across the project area decreased by an incredible 74%.

Establishing central nurseries has also been a key activity under this project. Un-utilised government-owned central nurseries have been revitalised, with landless men and women selected by the community to work on the land, growing the grasses and seedlings needed for the conservation work. At the beginning of the project, workers received daily wages and planting materials from the project. As the nurseries developed and became independent groups of organised farmers, they transformed into cooperatives and were given rights to the land. They now share the income gained from sales of seedlings at market price between them.

A central aim of the project has been to improve livelihood diversification opportunities for women. More than 6,000 women have been engaged in various initiatives to increase their livelihood opportunities, increase household incomes, and adapt their traditional roles so that they have more life opportunities and control of their future. Women have been engaged in activities such as beekeeping, *desho* grass propagation, chicken, sheep and goat rearing, and sheep and goat fattening. These activities provide women with a greater income, and empower them to grow their enterprises and reinvest for the future.

We are very impressed with the incredible impact this project has had and are looking forward to continuing our work with communities in rural Ethiopia.

The project's success led to the Band Aid Charitable Trust awarding a further grant for SOS Sahel to conduct a small follow-on phase of this project. We hope to replicate the great success seen here in other areas in Southern Ethiopia soon.

SOS Sahel UK's Current Projects 2015-2016



Sand Dam Programme

South Kordofan, Sudan

October 2013—June 2015

Budget for Rashad sand dam: £27,755 funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission

Budget for Kadugli sand dam: £18,160 funded by St Mary's Church, Iffley and Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

- Sand dam construction in rural areas
- Water security
- Conflict reduction
- Community-led development

Peace and Prosperity Promotion Programme

Central Equatoria, Lakes, and Warrap States, South Sudan

October 2012—June 2015

Budget: €290,960 funded by the Dutch Government

- Conflict research and analysis
- Conflict reduction and management

Reduction of Resource Based Conflicts, Phase 4

Terekeka and Juba West, Central Equatoria State, South Sudan

March 2015—April 2016

Budget for phase 4: €100,000 funded by Oxfam Novib

- Promoting peace building and conflict reduction between farmers and pastoralists
- Natural resource management
- Strengthening civil society
- Building capacity of SOS Sahel South Sudan



A map of Ethiopia and Sudan is shown. In the north of Ethiopia, there is a circular icon with a green plant. A dotted arrow points from this icon to the 'Agricultural & Fishery Production' section. In the south of Ethiopia, there is another circular icon with a green plant. A dotted arrow points from this icon to the 'Sustainable Environmental Rehabilitation Project' section. In the west of Ethiopia, there is a circular icon with a green plant. A dotted arrow points from this icon to the 'Market Monitoring and Trade Analysis' section.

Agricultural & Fishery Production by Smallholders in Red Sea State

Gunub and Awlieb, and Suakin localities, Red Sea State, Sudan

December 2013—February 2017

Budget: €5,000,000 funded by the European Commission

- Improve livelihoods for horticulturalists and fishermen
- Improve practices and techniques and increase productivity
- Link farmers and fishermen to local suppliers and improve availability of inputs
- Increase incomes and reduce poverty
- Reduce food insecurity and reliance on food aid

Market Monitoring and Trade Analysis, Phase 3

Darfur, Sudan

November 2014 —October 2016

Budget for phase 3: €1,111,729 funded by European Commission

- Monitor markets and analyse shifting patterns of trade
- Gather information on key commodities (cereals, livestock, fruits and vegetables, etc.)
- Capacity building of local organisations in research methods
- Recommendations for livelihoods, economic recovery and peace building interventions
- Early warning signs for humanitarian planning and food assistance

ETHIOPIA

Sustainable Environmental Rehabilitation Project, Phase 1 & 2

Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region, Ethiopia

April 2012—September 2015 (Phase 1), March 2016—November 2016 (Phase 2)

Budget for phase 1: £775,696 funded by the Department for International Development and Band Aid Charitable Trust

Budget for phase 2: £127,772 funded by Band Aid Charitable Trust, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, Souter Foundation, an individual donor, SOS Sahel International UK

- Soil and water conservation through farmer-led integrated watershed management
- Improved and diversified livelihoods through improved farming techniques and new income generation activities

PROJECT FOCUS: Improving access to water in rural Sudan

With our partner, SOS Sahel Sudan, we have been working in South Kordofan State to improve access to water for some of the most vulnerable communities. South Kordofan is characterised by mountains and plains, with seasonal flowing valleys. There is a high availability of water in the rainy season, but severe water scarcity in the dry season. A large majority of the population of South Kordofan lives off the land, relying on water sources, agricultural land, and pasture for grazing: for pastoralists, seasonal mobility is critical to support their herds. South Kordofan State has been embroiled in conflict for many years; since the end of the two-decade-long civil war in 2005, the state has been an area of constitutional uncertainty in Sudan and, with the secession of South Sudan in 2011, the fragile state was plunged into yet more conflict between government and rebel forces battling for control over territories.

This ongoing conflict has had a detrimental effect on already scarce water access in the area. As a direct result of conflict, infrastructural investment has been extremely limited; many existing water structures such as reservoirs and water yards have fallen into disrepair; and, added population pressures (for example, caused by displaced populations and changing nomadic migration routes) have exacerbated the problem in recent years. With such severe dry-season water shortages, there is strain over access to natural resources and in most rural villages people use essential efforts and time waiting for water or travelling far distances to find it. Therefore, since 2009 SOS Sahel has been working to address this problem by constructing sand dams. Sand dam technology is a great solution to rural water scarcity and is well suited to South Kordofan. Sand dams are simple, low-cost and low-maintenance water harvesting structures. They provide a clean, local water supply throughout the year. Water from heavy downpours is no longer lost, but stored in sand for year round use. It is then abstracted from the sand by using traditional scoop holes or pipes leading to taps or wells.

Sand dams have many community benefits. Firstly, they provide communities with water that has been filtered clean by sand; the sand also protects it from evaporation and prevents breeding of insects and parasites, thereby reducing the likelihood of malarial infection and diarrhoea. Furthermore, sand dams reduce the competition for water between different livelihood groups, such as farmers and pastoralists, leading to reduced conflict. Those that usually shoulder the responsibility for household water provision (commonly women and children) no longer need to gather water from distant and often contaminated water sources. The community has more water and more time to productively farm, reducing food security and raising household incomes. Importantly, sand dams conserve water in a way that replenishes the ground water and encourages the long-term sustainability of ecosystems and water supplies; vegetation grows and land is more fertile, reversing the effects of desertification. This year we have built two sand dams in rural villages in South Kordofan, and we hope to build two more in the coming dry season.

Women collect stones in preparation for the dam.



© SOS Sahel Sudan, 2016

A constructed dam awaiting the first rain of the season.



© SOS Sahel Sudan, 2016

PROJECT FOCUS: Organisational support to SOS Sahel South Sudan

Community members gathered to attend Youth and Cultural Peace event, organised by SOS Sahel South Sudan.



© SOS Sahel South Sudan

Throughout the year, we have continued to support SOS Sahel South Sudan build its capacity as an organisation and successfully manage its peace building projects in the world's newest country. SOS Sahel South Sudan work in Central Equatoria and Warrap States to develop peaceful access to natural resources and reduce tension that can lead to conflict amongst different resource users.

The progress that the organisation has made since its establishment has been incredible. However, the civil conflict that began in December 2013 has devastated the country, and violence still continues despite the peace agreement signed last year. The effect that this has had on local NGOs in the region has been dire;

the need for humanitarian relief is huge and donors have naturally turned away from long-term development projects. Compounding this is a changing global environment, with donor funding priorities and structures changing. For SOS Sahel South Sudan, as such a young organisation, this has brought massive challenges. With projects coming to an end, and funding opportunities sparse, their future is uncertain. We in SOS Sahel UK are supporting our sister organisation as much as we can, and know that our supporters join us in wishing for a better future for this young organisation and country.

Financial Summary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2016

INCOME	£UK
Governmental organisations	239,707
Charitable agencies and trusts	182,669
Private donations and legacies	107,537
Consultancy	11,278
Interest	1,202
Other	3,966
TOTAL INCOME	546,358

EXPENDITURE

Sudan	1,020,040
Ethiopia	118,490
South Sudan	11,894
Cost of generating funds	11,547
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,161,971

DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR (615,613)

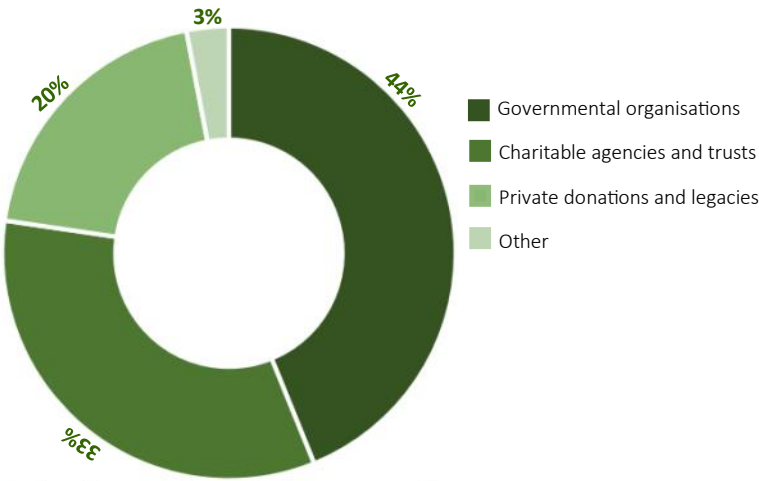
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST YEAR 1,010,270

FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 394,657

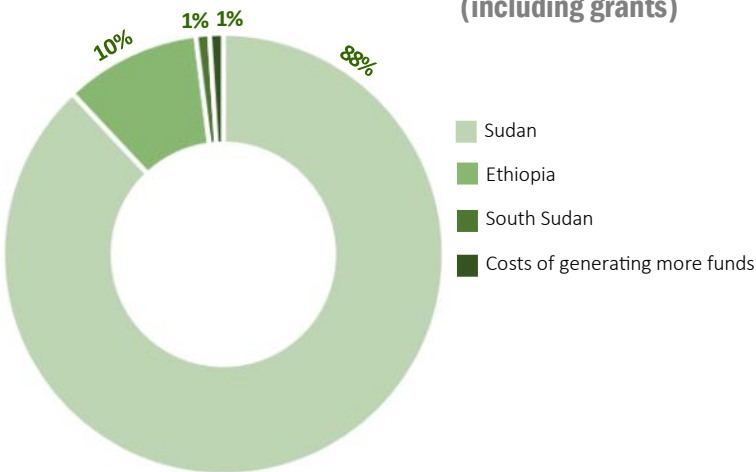
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

	£UK
Cash and amounts receivable	1,122,028
Less: amounts payable	727,371
	394,657
Restricted funds	120,935
Unrestricted funds	273,722
TOTAL RESERVES	394,657

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR 2015/16



EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES 2015/16 (including grants)



Trustees' statement

The figures for this financial summary are taken from the organisation's audited statutory accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016. These accounts have been filed with the Registrar of Companies House and the Charity Commission: a copy can be obtained from the Charity Commission website or from the charity's own website or registered offices .

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees


Ian Barry

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Thank you

We would like to thank all individuals, trusts, foundations and institutional donors who have generously donated to us this year. This valuable support has enabled us to continue our work with the people of the Sahel.

Although it is not possible to mention everyone, we would particularly like to thank the following for their support in 2015/16:

The European Commission

UK Department for International
Development (DFID)

Oxfam Novib

Band Aid Charitable Trust

Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission

St Mary's Church, Iffley

All Saints Church, Kirkby Overblow

Charities Advisories Trust

Cheltenham Tree Group

The Dingwall Trust

Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

Fulmer Charitable Trust

Miss W.H.S. Wallace's Charitable Trust

Northwick Trust

Oliver Morland Trust

The Rest Harrow Trust

The Rhododendron Trust

The Souter Foundation

St Mary's Charity

Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable
Settlement

We would also like to thank all of our individual supporters for their generosity and loyalty. Thank you!



Front cover photo: Farmer in Ethiopia © SOS Sahel UK, 2016

Back cover photo: Fishing boat in Sudan © SOS Sahel UK, 2016

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