

# Annual Review: 2015/16



# Message from our Chair

**Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the latest edition of Village Aid's Annual Review.**

It has been an exciting and eventful year for Village Aid. We kicked off our 25th birthday celebrations with our Hidden Gems of Bakewell walk, raising a fantastic £500. These celebrations culminate on 18th November at Chatsworth with a festive fundraising dinner. Please join us to celebrate 25 years of quality, community-led development. Details are on our website.

Your support for our work in Cameroon has had fantastic results this year. We have wonderful stories coming back to us from the communities in Cameroon - over 45,000 people will have access to clean water. Conflict has reduced in the area and residents talk of lasting change, peace and happiness. You can read more on page six.

Village Aid is part of Concern Universal, who are currently rebranding as United Purpose, or UP. This is an exciting opportunity for Village Aid. We have a refreshed logo which better represents the forward-thinking

and intelligent approach we take to development in Africa. UP will be tackling new innovations in the development sector which will feed in to our work, and ultimately better support the communities we work with.

Kemal Shaheen, our CEO, left Village Aid earlier this year for pastures new. He has our heartfelt thanks for all his energy, wisdom and creativity during his five years with us. I would also like to pay tribute to two long-serving trustees for all their tireless work on behalf of Village Aid: Peter Dent, who very sadly passed away this year, and James Kellie who has retired with his wife Angela to Sussex. Both will be sorely missed.

The future for Village Aid lies in the Peak District with the amazing support we have had over the years. We continue to fund exciting programmes across Africa, which is thanks to your support. We could not do it without you, so thank you.

Warmest regards,



Alan Davies  
Chair of Village Aid  
August 2016

# Village Aid

**Village Aid is the Peak District's international development charity. From rural England to rural Africa, Village Aid believes in people working together in partnership.**

We want to live in a world where people in Africa enjoy a peaceful society, a prosperous economy and a healthy environment.

We work with people in Africa to secure long term positive change in their lives. We achieve this by developing strong working relationships with local community based partners, supporting them to build their own capacity and to deliver grassroots programmes focusing on: Education and Learning, Securing Livelihoods and Advocacy and Justice.

# 2015/16

## IN NUMBERS



**45,929 people**  
gaining access to safe  
water in Cameroon



**345 villages**  
in Nigeria practising safer  
hygiene by using toilets  
and eradicating 'open  
defecation'



**31 valued  
volunteers**  
giving immeasurable  
support to our fundraising,  
campaigns and  
programmes



**364 people**  
learning about legal and  
human rights issues that  
affect them in Cameroon



**33 tonnes**  
of shea butter produced  
and sold by women in  
Northern Ghana



**14 partnerships**  
with Peak District  
businesses and groups  
with a global outlook



## Education and Learning

### **Focus on: water, sanitation and hygiene in Nigeria.**

By adopting basic hygiene practises, families can reduce diarrhoeal diseases in children by half. We educate families on good basic hygiene. We encourage villages to become 'Open Defecation Free' and introduce simple, low-cost technology like tippy-taps (simple taps made from sticks, string and plastic bottles). By encouraging the community to lead this change, we ensure that it is sustainable and replicable.

Lucie Obiokang lives in Ukware Bayanu village. Thanks to our work in her community, Lucie was

motivated to build a toilet. Our team saw her enthusiasm and encouraged her to speak about what she was doing and the difference it had made. She attended meetings with local government that lead to an organised clean up which improved the entire village.

She explains: "The children are now strong. I don't go to the clinic or the chemists to buy medicine because of sickness. Their health has improved and they [the community] can sustain it because they know that what is happening here is good for them. Always they keep their place clean. I am healthy, I am happy."



# Securing Livelihoods

## Focus on: enterprise development in Guinea.

We are helping over 15,000 women in Guinea to grow their income. These women traditionally gather and process products from the forest they live in (nuts, honey, fruit etc). We are helping them to protect the forest, increase production and scale up this enterprise into small businesses.

We also connect supply chains and develop the market for producers. Through business training, networking and market access, we help traders make a decent income. To ensure this is a sustainable and lasting change, we

work with the community to replenish depleting resources and develop policies and strategies to protect their interests.

Madame Moussoké Sangaré lives in Kotèro village. She explains: "Working together makes us strong, alone we can't achieve anything. Before all our work consisted of processing without adequate technology. The majority of what we produced was destined for our own consumption and we sold the rest without having the idea to undertake market surveys about prices. We are now starting to understand new things about entrepreneurship.

"No one can know what to produce or sell without first finding customers, products and whether it is abundant in our forest or whether we start a plantation.

"Knowledge of local culture, traditions and the laws is very important. Processing of these products is very difficult, tiring and our groups need to be better structured to manage this.

"The activities are helping all the community through increasing incomes."

# Advocacy and Justice

**Focus on: reducing conflict in Cameroon.**

In North West Cameroon we are working to reduce the conflicts between ethnic groups over natural resources, like water, which are central to the livelihoods of farmers and grazers.

A part of our solution is to set up Dialogue Platforms. Dialogue Platforms are a forum in which crop farmers, cattle herders and a trained facilitator meet to discuss disputes. When a conflict arises, they send representatives to intervene and mediate. The role of the Dialogue Platform is to support the farmer and grazer to reach an amicable solution, for example reparations or alliance farming.

Haruna Umaru lives with his family in Wum Central, Cameroon. He is the trained Paralegal Extension Officer who facilitates the meetings. Haruna explained that since the creation of the Wum Central Dialogue Platform and his training in conflict mediation, relationships between farmers and grazers have improved.



“I feel happy because the Dialogue Platform is improving relations, there is peace and it is known all over Wum. Now when I sleep, I sleep well.”

Our film ‘In Search of Common Ground’ follows the stories of the Mbororo tribe (the grazer community) and the crop farmers, capturing conflict in action. The film illustrates the enormous impact our Cameroon programme is having. Watch it on our website and hear directly from the people affected by this conflict.



# Fundraising

**Thank you to everyone who helped to raise money this year.**

Pictured above are some of our keen walkers who raised over £500 on our Hidden Gems of Bakewell walk, led by Sally Mosley.

The Village Aid Society at The University of Sheffield has been busy baking and selling cakes. The first bake sale raised just under £100, with more since then!

Fantastic Village Aid volunteers Pat, Sue, Stephanie and Lynn hosted a fundraiser at Bakewell Methodist Church in May 2015. They sold tea, coffee, plants and other goodies, raising a tremendous £245!

Thank you to Village Aid supporter Peter Machan, who hosted a fundraising stall as part of the Nether Edge Open Gardens.

Our long term supporter and volunteer Stephanie Adams is working hard getting Village Aid collection pots out to shops across the Peak District, raising over £100 this year.

Michelle, our trusty office volunteer, worked hard to help Village Aid get out and about to events over the year.

Lastly, a special thank you to all of our EQM supporters, including the Dove Valley Centre who donate £1 per booking to Village Aid. Thank you Dove Valley Centre.

# Join our community

Village Aid is the Peak District's international development charity. We bring together like-minded and passionate people who want to make a lasting change to the lives of people in rural Africa. You can be a part of our community in many different ways:

## Donate

Donate to support our work in Africa. Our work is community-led to ensure lasting change and we would not be able to do this without your support. You can donate via our website or send a cheque.

## Volunteer

There are many ways to volunteer with Village Aid, from helping children to learn about global issues to fundraising and events. Please keep an eye on our website for the latest volunteering opportunities or get in touch for a chat about how you could be involved.

## Sign up

Sign up for our bi-monthly e-newsletter via our website. You can also like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/villageaid](http://www.facebook.com/villageaid)) and follow us on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/villageaid](http://www.twitter.com/villageaid)).

## Local business?

Do you want to support a local charity with a global outlook? Please call us on 01629 814 434 to discuss opportunities.



# Finance

## Income

Voluntary income	£ 135,665
Legacy income	£ 31,407
Investment income	£ 92
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£ 167,164</b>

## Expenditure

Fundraising and publicity	£ 2,008
Charitable activities	£ 219,497
Governance and support costs	£ 5,974
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£ 227,479</b>

You can see a complete, audited account of our financial information in our Directors' and Trustees' Report and Financial Statements. Read it online at [www.villageaid.org](http://www.villageaid.org).

# Acknowledgements

**Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers. You are too numerous to all be mentioned but we truly appreciate your generosity to help Village Aid continue its life changing work.**

Thank you to our 2015/16 Village Aid Trustees: Alan Davies (Chair), Dave Philips, James Kellie and Peter Dent.

An additional thank you to the following people and organisations:

All Saints Church, Breadsall  
All Saints Parish Church,  
Bakewell  
Alpha Data LLC  
Beccles Quaker Meeting  
Cafeology  
Café Village Green  
Chris and Liz Shepley  
Dave Drew  
David Winder  
Dove Valley Centre  
Faith Johnson, EQM  
Hoe Grange Holidays  
Michelle Young  
Nancy Ball

Over Haddon Well Dressing  
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Sheffield University SIDshare  
St John the Baptist Church,  
Chelmorton  
The Bakewell Soap Company  
The Big Lottery Fund  
The Servants' Quarters, Buxton  
Tim Cooper  
Veronica Wigley  
Village Aid Soc, Sheffield  
University  
Youlgreave-Bangbutt Village Link

Thank you too, to the Peak District National Park Authority. We look forward to working together in the future. Pictured right are Sarah Fowler, CEO of the authority, and our chair Alan Davies - taken when we moved to their offices in June.



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**This report is available online at [villageaid.org](http://villageaid.org)**



An initiative of United Purpose