



**Green Olive Trust UK**  
FUNDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN KENYA

# **Review of Finances**

## **2013 – Present**

Especially 5 years to 2023

This document aims to provide a broad financial overview of our operations. It is intended primarily as information for donors and other supporters, and is based on a slightly longer version for trustees. It sets out the overall pattern of what our monies are used for, and the balance between the income sources, with an emphasis on the last 5 years.

## Introduction

Our link with Kenya developed from an initial approach in 2005 from Geoffrey Segero, a Kenyan Quaker from the Kakamega area (then resident in Nairobi), to Bronwyn Harwood when she was acting as the Executive Secretary of the Europe and Middle East Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). He was seeking support for a student from the Kakamega district. This led to a recognition of the need and opportunity for support of this student and for others in the Kakamega community. In 2013 Bronwyn and Bob Harwood visited Kenya to meet Geoffrey Segero and Churchill Malimo (a pastor in the Friends Church in Kenya who was at the time the secretary of the African Section of FWCC). They also visited the Kakamega district to assess the practicalities of what could be offered, the priorities of need, and the means of delivery.

Previously Geoffrey had set up the Green Olive Foundation (GOF) in Kenya to support students from the Kakamega area, and through GOF had managed to find several sources of funding, which had subsequently dried up. On returning to the UK, the Harwoods enlisted Christine Habgood-Coote and Tessa Brown from Lewes Quaker Meeting together with Ken Bartlett a friend with experience of working with charities, and together they formed, in 2014, the Green Olive Trust UK (GOT). 2014 was thus our first year with financial activity as a trust. We were recognised as a charity by HMRC in 2014 and by the Charity Commission in 2016. Since then the Trust has gained two new trustees, Fiona Roberts and Gina Hutchins and Christine Habgood-Coote has resigned. It continues to work with the GOF, which has now been reconstituted with new new board members. For several years GOT has been the sole source of funding for GOF, but recently, the Foundation has found new sponsors within Kenya who are now funding several high school students.

## Nature of the Support Offered

Initially our support was entirely to **school and university students** for fees and some subsistence costs. This support was channelled through GOF, mostly directly to named students, though in the first couple of years a small portion was also channelled via two widows support groups, who used it as they thought most appropriate amongst their dependents. The selection process for the students is based not on academic achievement alone but also on the student's potential, on need, and on likely benefit to the community.

We have more recently been involved in two projects of a different nature. Firstly, in 2019 we were asked by GOF whether we could help with emergency refurbishment costs for a primary school founded as a local initiative by a retired teacher, Mary, to cater for children whose parents or carers

could not afford the existing schools. The school was locally known simply as “Mary’s School”, but has since been renamed **The Musingu Quaker Education Centre**. The school had received official recognition, but was faced with the possibility of closure as a result of a sudden nationwide tightening of official building standards, imposed in response to accidents in other schools. In particular help was needed to raise the standards of the classrooms, kitchens and latrines. The second project was in response to a request from GOF to help them apply for funds from UK Quakers for their “**greenhouse project**”. This aims to raise local agricultural standards away from subsistence farming by introducing greenhouses (actually more like suitably constructed polytunnels), and training farmers in their use.

More details of all these activities are given below, beginning with support for students.

## Numbers of Students supported and Grants Given

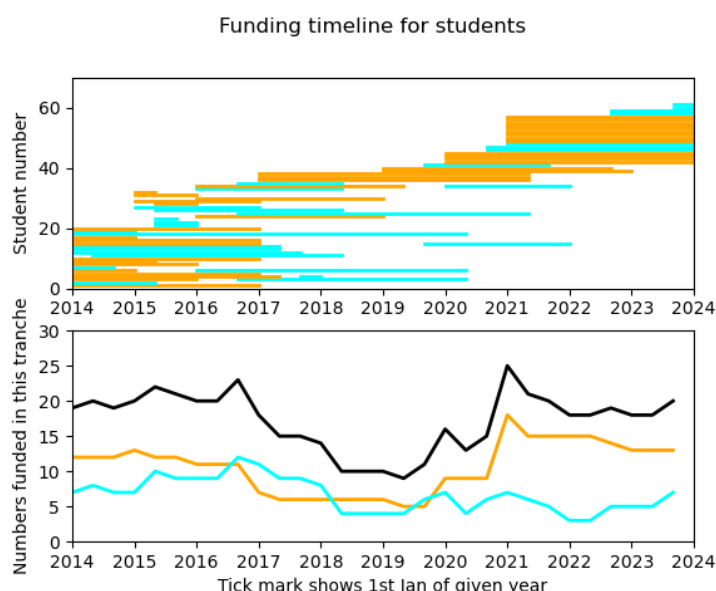
The top part of this figure shows the period of time for which each student has received some funding from us. As they came to our attention each student was given a number. The list numbers 61 students, most of whom have now completed their course.

The student’s number determines where in the vertical that student’s timeline appears in the figure. The horizontal line shows the time they were supported.

The lower part of the figure shows the number of students being supported at any one time.

Again orange denotes a high school student, and cyan a university or college student. The black line is the total number of students of any type, i.e. it is the sum of the other two.

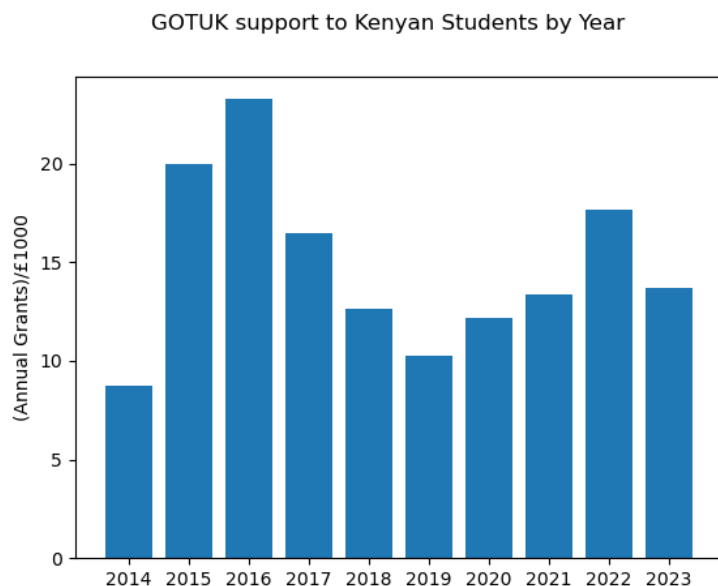
Actually not all students whom we have supported appear in this figure, because in the early years we gave some more general support to a widows group which used part of that to give partial support to several school students. Four new high school students began their course in January 2024, but this is not in the time-frame of this report.



*Students supported each year. Cyan denotes university students, orange denotes high school students, and black the total of those two categories*

## Amounts sent in Support of Students

The figure below shows the amount of money sent in each calendar year to provide fees and maintenance for students.



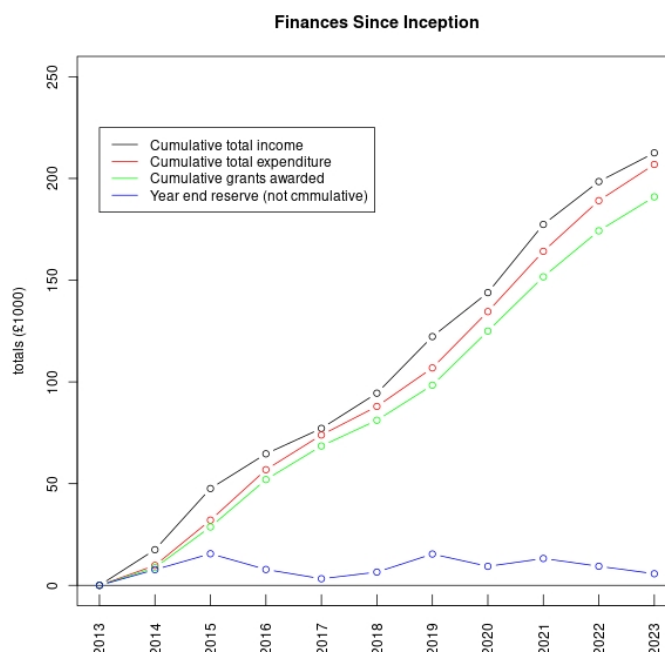
You will note that this hit a peak in 2016. We were able to send this higher amount at that stage because we received a large donation in 2015, given in memory of one of our supporters. This allowed us to commit to a couple of extra students. The utilisation of a lump sum of funding needs to be spread over several years, as taking on new students increases the fee burden, which will then exceed the regular income until such time as some students finish their courses. There

is also a need to retain some cushion against fluctuations in fees set by the institutes and in the exchange rate. This is the reason that student grants sent in the years after 2016 fell until 2020 when we were again able to take on new students.

## Funds raised and disbursed

This section displays the growth of the total amount of money we have raised, and the corresponding total sent in grants since our operations began. This is shown in the figure to the right. (Note that the tick marks against the date axis show the end of the year – in contrast to the previous figures). The figures in this display cover all our activities, so they include monies raised and disbursed not just for student grants but also for special projects.

The black line shows the total money we have raised. It is cumulative, so that the value shown in 2015 for instance is the amount raised in 2013<sup>1</sup> plus that raised in 2014 plus that raised in 2015. By the end of 2022 over £212,500 had been raised in total.



<sup>1</sup> The value for 2013 is zero as we were only just forming then.

The red line shows how much had been spent in total since inception. The difference between the black and red lines corresponds, of course, to the bank balance at the end of the year, and forms our reserve.

The green line shows the cumulative expenditure on student grants and various projects. It comprises the cost of student fees, funding for the greenhouse project and our contribution to the Musingu Quaker Educational Centre. It also contains some educational contingency funds. This green line lies close to the red line, showing that the fraction of our income which has been utilised in core pursuit of our main objectives is high. (More details on that later).

Our target reserves are a larger fraction of our annual income than for many organisations, who typically plan to have enough reserves to be able to continue to operate for 6 months in the event of a sudden cessation of income. Our stance, in contrast, through most of these years has been to commit to continuing to support each of our current students for 1 year in the event of a sudden total loss of income. This stance was relaxed slightly in mid-2021 from 1 year to 8 months, partly in recognition that any complete loss of income is unlikely to be instantaneous.

## Income sources

Our income is of several types. Major subdivisions are (1) personal donations, (2) collections, (3) GiftAid reclaims, (4) proceeds of fund-raising events, and (5) grants from trusts etc. While the income in some of these categories stays relatively constant from year to year, others might vary strongly. For example we have funded a couple of specific projects by applying to other trusts and bodies for funds, so the income under category 5 can swing markedly between years. Consequently it is helpful to consider the total income over a number of years. Here we consider the total income in each category for the 5 years 2019-2023 incl.

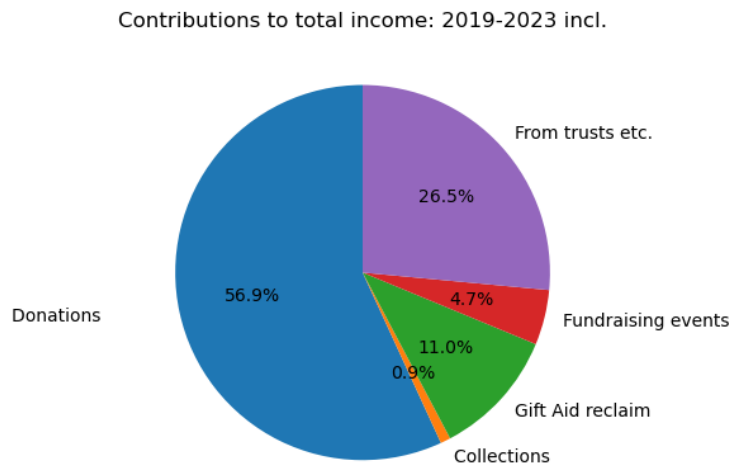
	£	%
Donations	71,088	56.9
Collections	1,088	0.9
Gift Aid reclaim	13,789	11.0
Fundraising events	5,933	4.7
From trusts etc.	33,116	26.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,014</b>	<b>100</b>

Donations in the table are stated before any gift aid is claimed. Only some of them are eligible for GiftAid. (GiftAid can be claimed on roughly three quarters of the total.) There can be some uncertainty as to which category an item coming into our account belongs. By and large the items under collections arose after a special appeal, for instance after a collection has been held at a Quaker meeting. The fundraising events have included special musical occasions which have been organised specifically in aid of the Green Olive Trust. Any money coming in separately after the event which we believe is a belated response to the event has been included as part of the fundraiser. However, if the response may be so delayed that we have treated it as a donation. Similar

considerations apply to collections. Note that the years in this table were severely affected by the Covid pandemic, which partly affected the possibility of some fundraising events.

Money from trusts has been raised in connection with specific projects which we funded in Kenya. Trusts which contributed during this time period have been the Kitchen Table Charities Trust, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, and the Jo Holden Trust. We are grateful for their contributions.

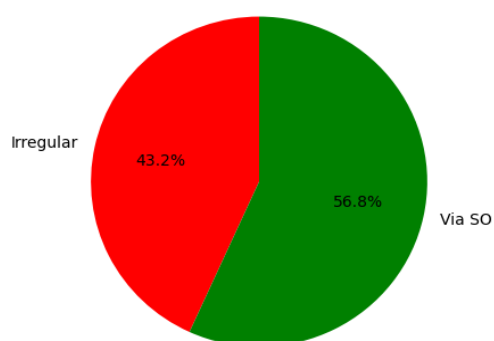
The data in the previous table are visualised in the figure to the right. This clearly reveals our dependence during these years on the donations, so these are discussed in a little more detail later on. It is noticeable that collections have made a rather small contribution, with fundraising events being the next small. We held no special collections in 2 of these 5 years. If collections had been held in those years, and they had been at the level of our most successful year, then the collection slice of the pie would have been around 2% rather than the 0.9%



## Regular and Irregular Donations

Because donations comprised well over half our income in the last 5 years, it is worth looking into them in a little more detail. In particular for planning ahead we would like to know more about how steady the income from donations is. The most reliable portion of our donated income comes from individuals giving by standing order. We will call such income “via SO”, and the remaining income as “irregular”. We find that these sources are split 56.8% to 43.2% respectively. Again these are based on donations before GiftAid is added, and are for the period 2019-2023 incl.

Contribution from SOs and irregular donations to total



As donations account for 56.9% of our total income for that period and that part via SO accounts for 56.8% of the donations, we find that **32% of our total income came from those giving regularly by standing order**, underlining the importance of such donors to our efforts.

Moreover our dependence on those donors may be even larger, because some of the irregular donations are made by people who are already giving by standing order. In addition some of the other irregular donations are actually made fairly regularly, usually annually, but not by standing order, so it is clear that our overall “routine” income is heavily dependent on a small number of active donors.

## Breakdown of expenditure by category

The money that we send out can be split into several categories. The main part historically has been for payment of fees and some maintenance for students at secondary school, college, or university. More recently we have also raised and distributed funds for special projects. To date there have been two of these as already stated, one being the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities at the Musingu Quaker Education Centre, and the other the Greenhouse Project.

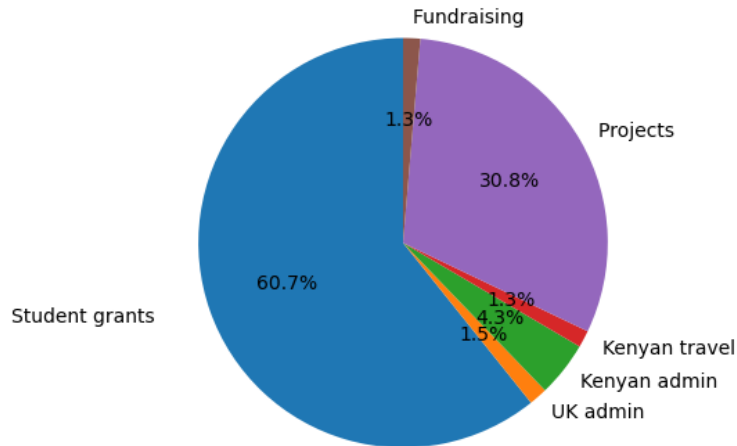
The expenditure can vary sharply from year to year. The number of students we are funding may change considerably as new students are taken on, or as some complete their course. Other variations may occur because the trustee visits to Kenya are sporadic, or because a special project peaks. Hence as in the section on income, we list totals over the block of five years from 2019 to 2023 inclusive.

The following table shows the 5-year total of the various categories, and the fraction of the total for the full five years that each category represents.

	5-year expenditure (£)	Fraction (%)
Student grants	72,014	60.7
UK admin costs	1,726	1.5
Support for Kenyan admin	5,155	4.3
Travel by trustees to Kenya	1,592	1.3
Special Projects	36,464	30.8
Fundraising costs	1,597	1.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118,548</b>	<b>100</b>

This can be represented diagrammatically as in the pie chart on page 8. The contribution to *special projects* on that chart is made up of £22,169 for the *Musingu Quaker Education Centre* and £14,276 for the *Greenhouse Project*. It is our experience that there are some logistical difficulties for the Trust in managing these special projects, leading the trustees to decide not to embark on any new projects in 2024, choosing instead to focus attention and funding on the existing bursary scheme.

Contributions to total Expenditure: 2019-2023 incl.



Over this period our total administration costs (regarded as the sum of our UK admin. costs and fundraising, our support for the Kenyan administration, and travel costs) has been around 8.4 %. This is a modest fraction by many standards. It has been growing slightly as our activities have become more complex. There is a trade-off which needs to be considered as to what extent a carefully planned increase in administration costs would more than pay for itself by increasing income through increased fundraising, or allowing a widening in the type of activity undertaken in the UK and Kenya.

## Closing comments

The trust has operated steadily over a number of years, and has been able to help several support tens of students through their education, which they would have been otherwise unable to obtain. In addition we have made a significant contribution to obtaining funding to enhance the physical fabric of a local primary school, and to help to obtain funding for a project to introduce greenhouses in the area, and to train local farmers in their use.

Our finances are currently stable, but would benefit from an increase in our income from both fundraising events and an extended base of regular donors.

R S Harwood 5 June 2024