



Malaika Kids UK

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Malaika Kids UK Chair's Report

Many charities do a great job, but why should anyone select Malaika Kids over the others?

My own logic starts by prioritising humans over animals; children over adults; children in places where nobody else is going to help them – in an impoverished African country. Then I am happiest with a charity where every small effort really matters (Malaika Kids is not a large charity and receives no government funding), so each individual contribution matters greatly to the children that we support.

The people involved in the charity are highly committed and work well together; that includes the staff in Tanzania who do a terrific job, and also those trustees and volunteers in the UK, the Netherlands and the USA, who really do pull together.

And this collegiate effort produces great results. As one recent visitor declared:

“Seeing first-hand the tireless and selfless work carried out by Najma, Shezan, James, the mothers, Emanuel, Julius and everyone at Malaika Kids all for the greater good of the children, is something that I will forever be in awe of. An outstanding memory of Malaika which I will always carry with me is how happy the children were, a true testament to the loving care they receive.”



In 2023 we were able to help more than 250 children, a significant increase over the past five years (see page 14). This report is mainly a shortened version of the newsletters we have sent out during 2023, giving a snapshot of all the work that has gone on.

Unfortunately, this is the third year in a row when our income has reduced, from £172,000 down to £153,000 (see pages 16 and 17). We would like to retain sufficient reserves to maintain our operation for three years if our income were to dry up (bearing in mind that many of our children can remain with us for around eighteen years); however, the key UK-held reserves can cover only two forward years and they are beginning to dip downwards.

Your contribution therefore means a great deal to us – thank you very much!

Alan Edwards

Malaika Kids UK Chair

January

In our Children's Village in Mkuranga we have ten devoted mothers who care for 78 children, ranging in age from nine months to 20 years. Eight of these mothers maintain a family unit with a maximum of ten children each, while two mothers act as relief for sickness and holiday cover.



It is hard to put into words what a fantastic job the mothers do for their children. These mothers are on call 24 hours a day. They get up each weekday at 5:30 am to prepare their children for school; they go to bed around 10 pm having spent the day cleaning, washing and cooking, and also caring for younger children – we have 14 children under six years of age.

When the older children return from primary school, the mothers help them with their homework and organise sports activities with them from 5 to 6 pm most evenings. And of course if a child is unwell during the night they look after them.

Children are often traumatised when they come to us, and the mamas spend many hours helping them feel loved and wanted in the small family unit.



February

As of the beginning of this year, we are supporting a total of 208 children and young adolescents on an ongoing basis. However, sometimes it's not realised that this is far from all we do.

During 2022 we helped an additional 21 children on a short-term basis. These children were brought to us by the local Social Welfare officer after suffering significant trauma in their short lives. We acted as a refuge, a place of comfort and safety while legal proceedings sometimes took place, criminal charges were occasionally brought, counselling of guardians was carried out and then finally the search for an appropriate loving home was undertaken.

A young girl of 10 and her baby sister were brought into our Reception Home. The young girl had left primary school after only four years of education to look after her baby sister full-time while her mother scraped a living selling foodstuffs at the market. The older girl was sexually abused by a neighbour and told her mother about this. Once her mother eventually believed her, she reacted by locking the door of their shack all day; another neighbour reported this. These children stayed with us for two months while the mother received counselling and Social Welfare determined that they should be reunited with their mother. We can but hope that the young girl is back at school while her mother has found childcare for her baby.



An 11-year-old child was sent 800 miles by her parents to work as a housemaid for a family in Dar es Salaam. She was mistreated and unpaid. This was reported to Social Welfare and she was brought to our Reception Home. We expect her to be reunited with her family soon.

A young teenager left her home in the west of the country, searching for a better life in the big city. There, friendless, homeless and penniless she was approached by a man who offered to pay her for sex with him. She became pregnant and gave birth in a Dar es Salaam hospital. She stayed with us for one month until the authorities reunited her and her baby with her family.

Two siblings, one nine years old and the other eighteen months, were brought to us because of mistreatment by their violent and alcoholic mother. The older boy stopped going to school to take care of his little sister; Social Welfare became involved and the children were brought to us until the case was dealt with. After ten days their aunt agreed to take both children; the boy was very sad to leave us as he was anxious that he might be returned to his mother.

March

When Emanuel was interviewed for the job of Deputy Village Manager seven years ago, his CV was impressive. He had taught at three different primary schools and in his last post had been Head of School. Although we saw equally impressive CVs from other candidates, what made Emanuel stand out was his obvious concern for, and empathy with the children. As he was shown around the Village for the first time, he chatted easily with the boys and girls and asked about their daily lives.



Emanuel walks from his house in Mkuranga town that he shares with his partner and child. At 7:30 am he joins Julius, our Maintenance Manager, and James, the Village Manager, for breakfast and they discuss the jobs for the day ahead.

The school day begins at 8 am, and Emanuel teaches the oldest children in our nursery class. Our aim is that by the time these children start primary school, usually at the age of six, the following year, they can recognise letters and numbers and read and write simple sentences in both Kiswahili and English. Sometimes an older child may join this session if they have missed years of school, which frequently happens if a family breaks up or is simply too poor to afford the mandatory school uniform.

In the evening, he holds lessons with our less academic children to prepare them for the government exams and to help those who have missed years of schooling before coming to us.

Emanuel's main focus is on the children's education and health. He is the one who generally drives the van to take a sick child to the local hospital, who organises regular computer lessons for the older children, and who sets up the Friday night sessions showing English language films. He is in charge of the library, which is open several nights each week to encourage reading in both Kiswahili and English. He is also a dab hand at cutting hair for all the kids!

April

In hot, dry Tanzania with unpredictable rains, we built a sustainable water supply into the original design of the Children's Village. We try to have two boreholes from which we pump water to the water tower and then it is gravity-fed to where it is needed.



Ton Willemsen and Aad van Vliet, from the Netherlands, visited the Village in March. They found that our second borehole was no longer working, and a new borehole needed to be drilled. Surveys had been done by a local company, and a promising location about 100 metres from the water tower was being checked out. Boreholes generally have a life span of 8-10 years. The cost of a new borehole plus a new water pump is around £7,000.

The electricity supply has also been a big problem. We try to use the national supplier, Tanesco, but it has frequent outages. We have two old, refurbished generators which continue to be carefully looked after by James, the Village Manager. They are frequently needed to power the water pumps, as well as to light the Children's Village at night. We also use some solar power provided by panels fitted on the roofs.



This year some maintenance items included: wood treatment against carpenter bees; painting many of the buildings and the floor of the main halls; and commissioning a fire extinguisher service.

Meanwhile, at the Reception Home in Dar es Salaam, the problem was an over-used septic tank. The solution was to separate clean wastewater and divert it away from the sewage.

May

For more than 15 years the story of Malaika Kids has been one of steady progress. In Tanzania, we have slowly and consistently been helping more and more desperate disadvantaged children every year. The Tanzanian management team has been stable and become more expert in what they do.

We have been learning the best places to school our children, and where to send them on college or apprenticeship courses. The Don Bosco College trains some of our children in technical skills.



However, we have to continue to recognise that we have multi-year commitments. Every child we take on represents years of support on our part. Boys and girls often come to us when they are very young and may stay until they finish a course aged 18, 19 or 20. This long-term commitment is very different from other charities that, for example, dig wells or build schools where they can slow down their projects and nobody dies.



We need to expand our efforts in the UK, bringing more and younger supporters into the Malaika Kids family so that the organisation stays as vibrant as possible.

June

At present we have eighteen children living in our cramped Reception Home in three big bedrooms, all furnished with bunk beds. In addition, nine young adults live in rented accommodation nearby, most of whom are near to completion of apprenticeship and college courses. They all go to eat in the Reception Home in the evenings.



On weekdays the day starts at 5 am for the older children. After breakfast, they make their way to their colleges. Currently, we have six younger children who are staying with us. Social Welfare has sent them to us while their cases are considered, sometimes in the courts, sometimes by Welfare themselves who will be looking for permanent accommodation with suitable relatives. If no safe family option is found, we then transfer the child to the Children's Village in Mkuranga.

We run the Relative Support Programme (RSP) from the Reception Home base. Two mamas, Amina and Hadija, visit the 100 RSP children we support on a rotating basis to check on their progress both at home and school. Twice a month, food and educational packages are prepared and distributed from the Reception Home to the RSP families.

Members of the management team meet with schools and colleges to better understand where the older children can thrive best and discuss the progress of those who are currently attending. Good career advice is a key priority for us.



July

In Tanzania, the school year coincides with the calendar year and is divided into two terms. In June our children were on holiday and James, the Village Manager, decided to take the older students on a trip to the Village Museum in Dar es Salaam.

The Village Museum is an attempt to recreate the distinct housing and other customs that the 37 tribes of Tanzania possessed before the arrival of colonial powers. Many of these customs survived well into the twentieth century and even now it is easy to forget that in Tanzania the first language spoken at home is generally a tribal dialect. Kiswahili initially developed as a coastal trading language but is now used in much of East Africa, including Tanzania. English has become very important commercially but is usually the third language.



One girl wrote, “We meet with Madam Zakia (the tour guide), a very beautiful woman was dressed properly. In short, she was very smart. She started to ask us, “What is a museum? We answered correct exactly. We are very clever girls and boys. After that, she started to explain to us that in Tanzania we have got seven museums. In my life, I know that we have only one museum, so I was very surprised to hear that.”

The children explored the different dwellings and were particularly impressed by the tribe that always placed snail shells on the top of their huts. They were surprised to learn that monogamous marriages were not always the case and that the chief often had several wives.

Another girl was excited by the journey to and from the museum. The van went over a new bridge and then on a ferry – for many this was the first time they had been on a ferry and they were anxious to learn whether we have ferries too in our country.

August

The total cost of the operation in Tanzania is £320,000 a year. Of this total, £280,000, about £2,600 per child per year, is spent supporting the children living with us, while a further £40,000, about £400 per child per year, is spent on the Relatives Support Programme (RSP).

RSP is much cheaper because our support is mainly food packages, educational needs, such as books and uniforms, and medical insurance.

The first major expense is food. The standard dish comprises ugali, which looks like mashed potato and is made from maize and served with kidney beans, and green vegetables.



The second big item is education. The biggest 'lump' is at the Children's Village, where our 80 children are spread across pre-primary, primary, where we send children to a school on our doorstep that teaches in English, and secondary, which is boarding.

The third substantial cost is staff. We employ a total of 25 people across all our activities. 10 of these are mamas, and the others are mainly managers and RSP/Reception Home staff.



Taken together, food, education and staff costs represent nearly three-quarters of our total spending, and it is difficult to see how we could easily cut these costs unless we plan to support fewer children.

September

At present, we help 105 children to live with a family member; in most cases, this is their maternal grandmother. Our Relatives Support Programme provides them with a twice-monthly food package, annual health insurance and necessities for school, including the all-important and mandatory school uniform.



For example, we were told of three young children living with their ailing grandmother. Their parents are drug users and have totally neglected their son and two daughters. Due to our support, all three children are now back at school.

Another family consists of two young cousins, again looked after by their grandmother. They were abandoned by their parents and were not attending school, until we intervened.

A third family consists of a young boy, his mother and grandmother. The mother became pregnant at 14 and was forced to drop out of school. The boy's mother failed to enrol him at school and a government official brought the issue to our attention.



We are also supporting a family of three children cared for by their grandmother. The fathers of the children abandoned their mother, and she in turn asked her mother to bring up her children. The grandmother supports her family by brewing alcohol that she sells from her home and on the street. We take special care to check on these children as we are concerned that drunken customers could abuse them.

October

Every year the Tanzanian government hosts a three-day forum in the capital, Dodoma, for non-governmental organisations (NGOs). There are over 9,000 NGOs in the country, and 3,000 people attended the conference. James Kalinga, our Village Manager, and Shezan Manji, our Office Manager, attended as representatives of Malaika Kids Tanzania.

We were honoured to be one of 21 NGOs featured in the report that accompanied the conference. We were even more delighted to discover that, as the delegates entered the hall, a five-minute video was played featuring the Children's Village with an emphasis on the buildings, the Village Manager, and some of the children.



We very much hope that being selected by the Government as a key and successful NGO will encourage donors, both within and outside Tanzania. USAID and EU aid organisations, who have generally focussed on large charities, were present at the forum. It would be great if Malaika Kids were now considered a worthy recipient of their funds.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, I am happy to say that our 18 runners who completed the Royal Parks Half Marathon had a great time. The weather was unusually dry and warm for October, which made for a good running experience.



November

A recent volunteer, Abigail, who works with children with special needs, provided a snapshot in her trip report.

“My weekday schedule consisted of teaching two boys from the pre-primary class. In maths, we focused on distinguishing between the subtraction and the addition signs. Then it was porridge time for the children where I helped spoon-feed some of the younger children.



In English class, we focused on writing and speaking basic sentences. I made mental notes of what the boys were struggling with in their English outside of the classroom and then focused on that in the classes. In the baby class, we played with toys, danced to English songs which were played on the TV and had story time.



When the older children returned from the local schools, I would teach English for an hour. Seeing first-hand the tireless and selfless work carried out by everyone at Malaika Kids all for the greater good of the children is something that I will forever be in awe of. An outstanding memory of Malaika which I will always carry with me is how happy all of the children were, a true testament to the loving care they receive.”

December

December 9, which falls this Saturday, is a public holiday celebrating Tanzania's independence. Our Children's Village observes this with a major sporting event, designed to involve every child and encourage everyone to enjoy the day. There are straightforward sprints, sack races, egg and spoon, three-legged, wheelbarrow – you name it, they try it!



The last event of the morning is a massive tug of war. Julius captains one team and Emanuel the other. All the bigger boys and girls, and even some mamas, participate.



There is a long pause for lunch while everyone cools down, then the fun begins again. In the shade of the central hall, the children play musical chairs and many other party games.



Children cared for by Malaika Kids Tanzania

	Reception Home	Relatives Support Programme	Children's Village	Total
Start of 2023	23	103	82	208
Incoming – External	+ 19	+ 19	+ 6	+ 44
Moved from Children's Village	+ 6		- 6	
Placed with family	- 10	- 1	- 4	- 15
Moved to Children's Village	- 7		+ 7	
Left Malaika Kids	- 3	- 6		- 9
Total - end of 2023	28	115	85	228

At the end of 2023, Malaika Kids Tanzania cared for 228 children. The numbers are split nearly equally between 113 cared for in residence in the Children's Village (CVM) and Reception Home (RH), and 115 cared for through the Relatives Support Programme (RSP).

The numbers have been edging up over the last year, with an overall increase of 20, mainly in the Relatives Support Programme. In addition to these totals, a further 24 children were either placed with a family or left Malaika Kids. That means we cared for 252 children in total throughout the year.

Year by year, the numbers grow slowly, but over a longer time frame it is clear that we have grown significantly. Over five years, we have increased from 188 to 252 – an increase of 64 children (36%) children helped during each year. This increase has predominantly come in RSP numbers (37) but there has also been an increase of 28 in the combined CVM and RH numbers.

The increased number of children has put great pressure especially on the CVM and RH facilities, staffing and budget. Social Welfare brings distressed children to us, often genuinely hoping that their stay will be short and that an appropriate family solution can be found. If a family is not found, then Malaika Kids can end up being responsible for looking after the child for many years. Ideally, the child leaves us when they are educated and have a skill that can lead to self-sufficiency. For some of our most damaged children, self-sufficiency will never be feasible. We currently look after seven children who fall into this category.

The short-term safety valve for RH capacity is to rent rooms close to RH for sharing between older children, who are typically doing courses. They continue to eat and otherwise be helped at the RH. RSP children require fewer staff and less infrastructure. They are less costly and leave us once they reach 17 years of age.

We regularly update our safeguarding policy: you can read it on our website under Governance.

Malaika Kids UK Trustees and Volunteers

	Trustee	Last Elected
Chair	Alan Edwards	2022
Treasurer	Emile Farhi	2022
Secretary	Phil Cooke	2022
Honorary President	Nigel Fawkes	2023
	Francesca Edwards	2023
	Helen Marriage	2023
	Sophie Florentin-Siu	2023
	Martin Stoll	2021
	Alison Clewlow	2022
	John Whitworth	2022
	Dr Simon Cooper	2021
	Dr Alan Lamont	2023

Thanks go to all our trustees and volunteers. In addition to raising funds and holding office for three-year terms, many also undertake specific tasks.

For example, Emile Farhi does a tremendous job as Treasurer keeping track of incoming and outgoing funds and balancing our accounts to make certain they stay below the thresholds necessary to ensure government guarantees. John Whitworth assists with the accounting and claiming the important Gift Aid.

Phil Cooke administers our committee meetings and AGMs (with excellent minutes); he also coordinates our appeals for funds to grant-making bodies.

Kevin Cusack and Francesca Edwards do a sterling job in producing the monthly newsletters and the Annual Report, with Helen Marriage now also assisting. Simon Cooper visits Tanzania to monitor health issues, and Alison Clewlow heads the HR committee and advises on safeguarding.

Martin Stoll masterminds our Royal Parks Half Marathon and other fundraising events. Nigel Fawkes is our most proactive fundraiser and has added more names to our mailing list than anyone else. Sophie Florentin-Siu continues to provide a vital corporate link to ensure well-equipped facilities and great internet connectivity for meetings.

Alan Lamont and Rob Heap have been helpful on several web and other technical issues. Cyril Barratt has continued to be our invaluable Independent Examiner ('auditor'), while Ed Cade has provided essential legal advice.

And a huge thanks to our many external supporters who continue to make everything possible.

Malaika Kids UK Annual Accounts 2023

Income and Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2023

		2021	2022	2023
	Notes	£	£	£
	1			
Income				
Donations		145,009	138,874	125,248
Gift Aid	2	11,706	15,167	8,914
Event Income		12,748	6,448	8,081
Bank interest		2,976	3,430	11,581
Total Income		172,439	163,919	153,824
Expenditure				
Funds transferred to Tanzania		107,190	119,625	156,900
Event costs		2,364	2,444	3,344
Fundraising costs	3	170	411	2,733
Website: Development, annual fees		4,540	468	450
Annual Report printing		374	443	400
Bank charges		489	317	314
Total Expenditure		115,127	123,708	164,141
Net Income (Deficit) for the year		57,312	40,211	(10,317)

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 December 2023

		2021	2022	2023
	Notes	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		610,161	650,372	640,055
Total current assets		610,161	650,372	640,055
Current liabilities		0	0	0
Net assets		610,161	650,372	640,055
Funds	4			
Balance at start of year		552,849	610,161	650,372
Surplus (Deficit) in year		57,312	40,211	(10,317)
Funds at end of year		610,161	650,372	640,055

Notes to the Accounts

- Note 1: Accounting basis
These accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.
- Note 2: Gift Aid receipts
These relate to donations received in the year. Timing differences in the claiming for and receipt of Gift Aid from HMRC led to lower Gift Aid receipts in 2023, which will now be received in early 2024.
- Note 3: Fundraising costs
In 2023 we enlisted a professional fundraiser; this gave rise to commissions paid out (fundraising costs) on the substantial level of funds raised through this service.
- Note 4: Charity's funds
We aim to maintain sufficient funds (jointly with Malaika Kids Netherlands) to cover three years of operating expenses in Tanzania, as future donations are never certain.



We are Malaika Kids UK

Registered Office

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Sort: 40-52-40

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Email: info-uk@malaika-kids.org

