Malaika Kids UK

Annual Report and Accounts 2025

Malaika Kids Chair's Report

This year, the most significant change in Tanzania has been moving our children from a nearby but underperforming primary school (Lifewaylight) to a much better-run one a few miles away (Ujenzi). We've already seen marked improvements, especially in their maths results, and we're optimistic that this investment will continue to benefit them.

There continues to be a lot of stability at the Children's Village in Mkuranga. However, the Reception Home in Dar es Salaam is now almost bursting at the seams with older children who have graduated from school and transferred from the Children's Village and are attending vocational courses in the capital.

The unique Relatives Support Programme, which supports vulnerable children in the community, has grown and grown to reach 126 children today. Numerically, this is now bigger than our in-house programmes and is a highly cost-effective use of our funds.

One highlight of the year was the fundraising London Bridges walk by the UK trustees. We were honoured to be accompanied by our patron, His Excellency Mbelwa Kairuki, High Commissioner of Tanzania in the UK, and some of his staff.

Our commitment is to the children we support and to the futures they deserve. With no guaranteed funding from trusts or government sources, we rely on the generosity of our supporters. Many children may depend on us for 18 years or more, so long-term stability is essential.

To protect this care, the international trustees have set a resilience reserve equal to roughly four years of the next year's approved budget for Malaika Kids Tanzania. Malaika Kids UK holds 55% of the £1.2 million reserve (£660,000), reflecting the sustained generosity of our UK supporters. MK Netherlands, MK Tanzania, and MK USA hold the remaining 45%. The reserve will be reviewed annually to ensure we continue to safeguard the children entrusted to us and honour every supporter's commitment.

I am grateful to all our supporters who enthusiastically enable us to provide for the children.

Alan

Alan Edwards
Malaika Kids UK Chair

January

All the children had a happy lead-up to Christmas. The day trip to the Indian Ocean has become an annual event. The mamas were up before dawn, preparing a picnic for 81 very excited children and 10 adults.

Two coaches made the 90-minute drive to the seaside, where the water is clear and like a warm bath to swim in. For those who could swim, piggy in the middle was very popular, while on the beach, sandcastles were built and football was played.

And on Boxing Day, the 5-star Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam invited one hundred (yes, you read that right!) of our children to lunch and celebrations, including dancing, Father Christmas, and hand and face painting. All of the Reception Home children attended, along with 20 from the Children's Village and many from the Relatives Support Programme—all had a great time!

February

Malaika Kids strives to keep children with a family member whenever possible; this may be a single parent or, often, a grandmother. At the same time, it is important that every child we support is healthy, well-fed and attending school. The Relatives Support Programme aims to achieve all these objectives, providing a twice-monthly food package, medical insurance, and help with educational costs.

Today we are supporting 114 children, with more due to enter the programme during the year. The children are mostly of primary school age, between 6 and 12 years old, where educational support is particularly crucial.

Government schools are crowded, with a typical class sizes well over 100, and teaching is necessarily a matter of crowd control as well as imparting knowledge and skills. Nevertheless, the children do learn to read and write and do basic arithmetic, as we have seen on our annual visits to Tanzania. Sometimes counting is done on both fingers and toes—an impressive skill! The children play with balloons while they wait for a quick chat and a written test.

March

We are keen for supporters to understand how we operate in a truly transparent and accountable fashion—particularly in contrast with the recently publicised debacle of the African charity Sentebale.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, hosted from PIMCO offices in central London. Ton Willemsen and Maarten Steemers from MK Netherlands and Nigel Andrews from MK USA attend by Zoom, as do some UK trustees and volunteers. This enables the main fundraisers to remain connected and informed.

Shezan Manji in Tanzania initially prepares the budget for Malaika Kids Tanzania, which is then reviewed with Maarten Steemers before formal approval. While Malaika Kids Tanzania operates independently, its primary funding comes from Europe, transferred monthly according to the approved budget and with adjustments made as needed throughout the year.

Looking forward, the founder of Malaika Kids, Najma Manji, has the excellent support of younger managers in James Kalinga, who works in Mkuranga at the Children's Village and Shezan Manji, based in Dar es Salaam. Operationally, Malaika Kids Tanzania is structured to ensure the long-term financial viability and the continued provision of nurturing care for its beneficiaries.

April

Once children are four years old, they move from baby class to our pre-primary class, run by Madam Tumaini with support from Emanuel, the Child Support Manager. At the moment, this class gets additional help from one of the older girls who, having attained 6 O levels, is waiting for her college to open where she will train as a social worker. There are eight in this class, and most of the time, Tumaini ensures that English is spoken. This is vital as the primary school they will attend is English-speaking—with a little Chinese thrown in!

Arithmetic seems more challenging for the children, even though they are adept at using their fingers and toes to count! Despite our best efforts in early education, a shortage of maths teachers in the country means maths proficiency tends to decline as children progress through primary and secondary school.

“Generally, the kids are progressing well. Many can now identify letters and some have even started reading and writing. Although there are a few slow learners who need a lot of attention and follow-up. Emanuel and I have developed a special programme to assist them. And we are confident that, with time, they will catch up,” said Madam Tumaini.

May

Ramadhan is based at the Reception Home in Dar es Salaam, where he liaises closely with the management team at the Children's Village in Mkuranga. This coordination is essential, as children typically leave the Village after completing their O levels, making it crucial for them to select courses that align with their abilities. With a BA in Sociology and a qualification in social work, Ramadhan brings valuable experience from his previous roles at a charitable hospital and a children's home. He joined Malaika Kids in 2021, continuing his dedication to child welfare.

"Starting at 8:30 am, I meet with all the staff to get an update on any incidents that occurred overnight; to discuss any new arrivals or departures of kids; to discuss and hopefully resolve any concerns the staff may have.

Every day I assess the children in our care, their academic performance, but also their emotional well-being. Sometimes this involves talking to their teachers directly, and often I need to encourage the children to focus more on their studies and particularly support them when they have to resit exams. One-on-one sessions are key here.

Acquiring the right paperwork is both time-consuming and essential. Without it, no child can find a permanent job. Many children do not have a national identity card or birth certificate, and I help to procure these.

One of my most important tasks is to support the recently graduated children. I help them to compose their CVs, coach them on interview techniques, and agree with them which jobs would be most suitable for them.

Usually, I can leave the Reception Home around 6 pm, but frequently it is later as sometimes children returning from college have urgent issues they need to discuss. Luckily, I live nearby so that I can spend some time with my partner and newborn son.

What I enjoy the most is seeing the children progressing well in terms of education and also economically so that they can live independently. I love to see how they grow emotionally and socially, especially when they trust again, smile more and see a future filled with hope. It's incredibly rewarding to know I play a part in that transformation."

June

The metal stoves that once served more than 90 people at a time during the school holidays have now been rebuilt in sturdy brick, with tiled surfaces that make thorough cleaning much easier. The mamas are delighted with the upgrade and have even invited friends from Mkuranga town to come and admire the transformation.

Malaika Road is a 1.3-mile side road leading off the main Dar es Salaam–Mozambique route. The Children's Village is approximately halfway along it. Over time, heavy rains and occasional trucks have degraded the surface significantly. We paid for new tarmac to be laid in the worst areas and for the verges to be cleared of vegetation. This has been a significant upgrade—not too perfect as we do not want to encourage joyriders! The few households along the road are just as pleased with the upgrade.

Reduce the cost of your legacy
If you decide to leave some money to Malaika Kids in your will, you should consider using the taxman to help. Not only will your taxable estate be reduced by the amount donated, but if you leave 10% or more, your inheritance tax rate may be reduced from 40% to 36%.

Assume a net estate is valued at £1m after any relevant thresholds. If you leave nothing to charity, the inheritance tax will be £400,000, leaving £600,000 for the rest of the estate.

If you leave £100,000 (10% of your estate) to Malaika Kids, the inheritance tax rate on the remaining £900,000 drops to 36% and the tax paid reduces from £400,000 to £324,000. The revised tax plus the £100,000 gift together add to £424,000 and the amount left to the family becomes £576,000—only £24,000 less than if no money had been given to charity.

In other words, a gift of £100,000 to Malaika Kids would cost your estate only £24,000.

July

Dr Simon Cooper, a retired doctor and dedicated UK Trustee, has just completed his tenth visit to Malaika Kids in Tanzania. During his recent trip, he saw 140 children: 77 at the Children's Village; 48 in the Relatives Support Programme and 15 at the Reception Home in Dar es Salaam.

"The children in the Village are mostly happy and healthy, with steady gains in height and weight. A few require minor treatments, including dental extractions."

He noted a small number of children living with chronic conditions. These include two with brain damage from birth and one with congenital health issues—all of whom are well cared for and fully integrated into Village life.

There are currently three children who are HIV positive. Though they do not have AIDS, they are being carefully monitored and thrive on regular antiretroviral treatment.

Encouragingly, despite the withdrawal of USAID support from the country, supplies of these essential medications remain stable, thanks to ongoing government provision. As Simon remarked, "It's likely we have the Gates Foundation to thank for that."

At the Reception Home, the children and young adults are generally in good health. However, one young girl continues to face significant challenges with severely impaired sight and hearing. Despite consultations with multiple specialists, there are no straightforward solutions. Plans are now in place for her to live with her older sister—a former Malaika Kid and now a social worker—who will offer her care and stability in a family setting.

Simon is delighted to report, "The team in Tanzania are very good at responding to health problems for those in their care. The systems in place seem robust." He credits the leadership of James, the Village Manager, whose strong relationship with the local hospital ensures swift medical support. In addition, one of our devoted mamas is a trained nurse, and she has provided first aid training to all the staff, strengthening care across all our programmes.

August

On a cold and blustery Sunday morning last month, eight intrepid trustees gathered at Tower Bridge to begin an 8.5-mile walk across eleven Thames bridges, concluding at Chelsea Bridge. The walk was part of a fundraising initiative, and it drew an unexpected but deeply welcome show of support.

Joining the group was His Excellency Mbelwa Kairuki, Tanzania's High Commissioner to the UK, who had volunteered to accompany the trustees as soon as he heard about the event. To our great pleasure and slight surprise, he was joined by Ambassador Thobias Makoba, Director of Global Strategies and Geopolitics in the administrative capital, Dodoma. Until last year, he was the chief spokesperson for the President of Tanzania.

While trustees braved London's wind and drizzle, the children were enjoying a much sunnier adventure. After the mid-year school break, all 81 children from the Children's Village returned to school, but not before a special day out at the Indian Ocean.

September

The Malaika Kids Reception Home in Dar es Salaam is a cornerstone of our care network, offering safety, opportunity and support to children and young adults through three interconnected services. Firstly, the Reception Home provides a safe refuge for children in distress brought to us by social welfare.

Currently, there are four young children in this category. We hope that three will be reunited with a parent or another family member in the coming weeks. Despite our efforts to trace a family member, we can't guarantee this. If no family option can be found, we usually transfer the child to the Children's Village, where they stay until they reach adulthood.

Secondly, it accommodates young adults undertaking apprenticeships or college courses. All these children spent their early years at the Children's Village in Mkuranga but need to move to Dar es Salaam to attend suitable training courses.

Thirdly, the Reception Home serves as the central collection point for the twice-monthly food packages we distribute to the 120 children enrolled in the Relatives Support Programme.

October

From pre-primary our children transition to Ujenzi Primary, an English-speaking, fee-paying school located just over two miles away. We made the move to Ujenzi a year ago, and the results have been inspiring. Under the dedicated leadership of Mr Ngasoma, the Head Teacher, the school has become a nurturing and academically strong environment for our children.

Students in Years 4 and 7, who are preparing for national exams, receive additional tuition and follow an extended schedule from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. After their long day, our van brings them back to the Village just in time for the daily sports hour—a welcome and energising break from their academic routine.

Unfortunately, not all children can attend Ujenzi. Sometimes we take in older children who have never been to school; they arrive at the Children's Village both illiterate and innumerate. These children attend Mkuranga Primary, a state-run school which despite large class sizes has a strong special education programme. Here, they receive tailored support to catch up before joining mainstream classes. Currently, 10 of our children are enrolled at Mkuranga Primary, making steady progress toward literacy and numeracy.

November

As a regular newsletter reader, you may remember that we support 230 children in Tanzania: 80 in the Children's Village in Mkuranga, 20 in the Dar es Salaam Reception Home and 130 through the Relatives Support Programme. The total costs, including food, staff, education and everything else, amount to £280,000 per annum. On average, we very efficiently spend just under £1,300 per child. Current funding comes from the activities of Malaika Kids in the UK, the Netherlands and the USA; additional funds are also raised in Tanzania.

As I write this, I had hoped that Francesca and I would be packing our bags, preparing for our self-funded trip to fly out to Tanzania on 26 November. Unfortunately, the presidential elections on 29 October resulted in considerable unrest within the country, and we have very reluctantly and sadly decided to postpone our visit until March next year.

December

9 December marks Tanzania's Independence Day. Normally, the streets of Dar es Salaam would be alive with parades and celebrations. This year, however, following post-election violence, the government ordered everyone to remain at home. Public transport stopped, and Dar es Salaam was a deserted ghost town.

Yet in the Children's Village, our traditions continued unchanged. Independence Day remains a highlight for the children—a joyful blend of outdoor sports, indoor games, including jumping for biscuits, and a special lunch.

The sandy playground is rolled flat and running lanes are marked out with soluble paint. The competitions are organised by age and gender. From sack races to egg-and-spoon challenges, tug of war to sprints, the air echoed with laughter, cheering, and the spirit of friendly rivalry. Even some of the mamas joined in!

Children cared for by Malaika Kids Tanzania

	Reception Home	Relatives Support Programme	Children's Village	**Total**
Start of 2025	19	120	81	220
Incoming - External	20	33	6	59
Moved from Children's Village	4		-4	0
Moved to Children's Village	-5		5	0
Moved to families	-12		-8	-20
Leavers	-7	-27	-1	-35
Total: end of 2025	19	126	79	224

Capacity at the Reception Home is not a worry at present, but it will become one over the next few years. Children arrive there from social welfare. Some stay for a short time while social welfare tries to secure a home for the child. Older children from the Children's Village move and live here when they are studying for vocational training programmes.

The number of children coming through our system is increasing; we could exceed the capacity of 24 in two years. Overall, we anticipate more older children moving to the Reception Home than arriving. To mitigate this, we are investigating alternatives.

The Children's Village is less of a worry. It is configured to have eight houses of ten children and one mama, and if necessary, we could staff up to add an additional house.

The Relatives Support Programme continues to grow; it is limited mainly by funding and staffing. We support vulnerable children with food, medical insurance, and education as long as a reliable carer is in place until the child reaches the age of seventeen.

Our Patron

Our patron is H.E. Mbelwa Brighton Kairuki, High Commissioner of Tanzania in the UK.

In August, he and some of his staff joined us for the London Bridges walk fundraiser. He said: "I am very impressed with the work that Malaika Kids does... I would have no hesitation in recommending friends of Tanzania to support Malaika Kids if they can."

Trustees and MK Workings

	Trustee	Last Elected
Chair	Alan Edwards	2025
Treasurer	Emile Farhi	2025
Secretary	Phil Cooke	2025
Honorary President	Nigel Fawkes	2023
	Francesca Edwards	2023
	Helen Marriage	2023
	Sophie Florentin-Siu	2023
	Martin Stoll	2024
	John Whitworth	2025
	Dr Simon Cooper	2024

My thanks go to all the trustees and volunteers for their outstanding work during 2025. In particular, we are tremendously grateful for the work that Kevin Cusack puts into the monthly newsletters and the Annual Report and Accounts. Without him, you would not be reading this! My thanks also go to former trustee Dr Alan Lamont, and long-time volunteer and supporter Rob Heap, who both elected to stand down in 2025.

We are now actively seeking a younger cohort of trustees who will continue with this good work into the indefinite future...

As a geographically diverse organisation, we stay in touch in various ways. In the UK, monthly trustee meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, hosted from the PIMCO offices in central London. Attendees from MK NL and MK USA attend by Zoom, as do some UK trustees and volunteers. This enables us to remain connected and informed. My thanks go to Ed Cade, who is our sponsor at PIMCO.

Weekly Zoom discussions are held between Europe and the management team in Tanzania; key points are then shared in the monthly trustee meetings. Key trustees regularly visit Tanzania to review the operation and, importantly, talk to the children.

In Tanzania, Shezan Manji initially prepares the budget for Malaika Kids TZ, which is then reviewed with Maarten Steemers (from MK NL) before formal approval. While Malaika Kids Tanzania operates independently, its primary funding comes from Europe, which is transferred monthly, according to the approved budget and with adjustments made as needed throughout the year.

This system works very well and creates a genuinely collaborative way of managing the international organisation.

Looking forward, I can see that the original founder of Malaika Kids, Najma Manji, has the excellent support of younger managers in James Kalinga, who works in Mkuranga at the Children's Village and Shezan Manji, who is based at the Reception Home in Dar es Salaam. Operationally, Malaika Kids Tanzania is structured to ensure the long-term financial viability and the continued provision of nurturing care for its beneficiaries.

Income and Expenditure

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2023	2024	2025
	1	£	£	£
Income				
Donations		126,470	142,724	98,767
Gift Aid		7,692	11,339	8,623
Event Income		8,081	16,771	17,534
Bank interest		11,581	20,408	24,371
Total Income		**153,824**	**191,242**	**149,295**
Expenditure				
Funds transferred to Tanzania		156,900	127,510	130,162
Event costs		3,344	5,420	711
Fundraising costs		2,733	3,529	1,002
Website hosting		450	240	330
Annual Report printing		400	400	400
Bank charges		314	305	287
Total Expenditure		**164,141**	**137,404**	**132,892**
Net Income (Deficit) for the year		**(10,317)**	**53,838**	**16,403**

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2023	2024	2025
		£	£	£
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		640,055	693,893	710,296
Total current assets		**640,055**	**693,893**	**710,296**
Current liabilities		0	0	0
Net assets		**640,055**	**693,893**	**710,296**
Funds				
Balance at start of year		650,372	640,055	693,893
Surplus (Deficit) in year		(10,317)	53,838	16,403
Funds at end of year		**640,055**	**693,893**	**710,296**
Of which:				
Restricted Funds	2			10,000
Four-year Resilience Fund	3			660,000
Free Reserves				40,296

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1:
Accounting basis

These accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.

Note 2:
Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are subject to donor-imposed restrictions as to their use. As of 31 December 2025, Malaika Kids UK held restricted funds for use in education of £10,000. During 2025, restricted funds of £10,000 were spent on education and a similar £10,000 donation was made by year end.

Note 3:
Four-year Resilience Fund

The Malaika Kids foundations do not have committed ongoing sources of funds. Because children can be dependent upon us for 18 years or more, the trustees of Malaika Kids internationally have decided to hold a minimum resilience reserve equivalent to approximately 4 years of the next year's approved budget of Malaika Orphanage Foundation. The Malaika Kids UK share of this fund is set at 55% of the total (55% of £1.2 million = £660,000), in line with historical donation patterns. The balance (45%) is held in the reserves of MK Netherlands, MK Tanzania, and MK USA. The required level will be reviewed each year.

We are Malaika Kids UK

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Registered Charity No. 1118149

Bank Details

Bank: CAF Bank
Name: Malaika Kids UK
Account: 00016798
Sort: 40-52-40

Malaika kids