2017-18 has been a significant year of growth for Link. With a generous grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, we undertook a major study of the Ugandan education and development sector which will be extremely helpful in guiding our future work there. With funds from UKAid we launched a new partnership with the government of Rwanda, delivering our core School Performance Review and community engagement work in the Nyaruguru district. Of particular importance to Link is our continued focus on girls’ education evidenced by the commencement of the second phase of our girls’ education project in Ethiopia. In Malawi and Ghana we have consolidated our robust position, strengthening our school improvement work and delivering a brighter future for vulnerable children.

I would like to thank all the staff and trustees for their dedication and hard work over the last year. Along with all of our partners, stakeholders and supporters, the Link family will continue to work together to support, through education, a better future for young children in Africa.

Alasdair Beaton
Chair of Trustees

Our Commitments to Children

Working safely
We believe that a child, vulnerable adult or person at risk should never experience abuse of any kind. Through rigorous policies, procedures and processes we do all that we can to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected from abuse and exploitation. You can read our full safeguarding policy on our website.

For all
Our work is underpinned by the strong belief that every child deserves a quality education. This includes children who face additional barriers to education because of cultural attitudes around gender or ability, or physical barriers, such as disability, poverty, or children with no family support. We take a twin-track approach, working to improve education systems for all at the same time as making sure that these marginalised children receive the extra support they need.
HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Improved learning

Planning, leadership, supervision and data management

Strengthening school management

Accountability, advocacy, participation and governance

Promoting community engagement

Capacity building, sustainable material development, mentoring and support

Building teaching quality

Support for the vulnerable

Challenging inequalities

Safer, child-friendly spaces

Improved learning environments

IMPROVED LEARNING
ABOUT LINK

Link Community Development is a grassroots charity working to transform education across some of the poorest rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa. We focus on improving teaching and learning as well as building up life skills and inclusion for the most marginalised. By working with governments and schools we create systemic change, empowering communities to escape the cycle of poverty.

LEARNING CRISIS

Sub-Saharan Africa is facing a learning crisis. Over one fifth of primary school aged children are not in school. Poor quality education means that 37 million children will leave primary school unable to read a sentence. Urgent action is required to provide these children with access to good quality education, giving them hope and a strong foundation to build a brighter tomorrow.

2 https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/africa-learning-barometer/
OUR IMPACT

MALAWI

- A total of **144,800 community members attended** school improvement planning meetings, **over 12,000** of whom represented marginalised groups (those living with albinism, a disability, in extreme poverty, or young people).

- We helped produce school report cards for **446 schools** enabling communities to make informed school improvement plans. **97%** of schools achieved at least half of their targets in 2017.

UGANDA

- We undertook a major study on school improvement processes in Uganda allowing us to scope out where our future work, in partnership with other NGOs and government, could have the most impact. Watch this space!

- We delivered our unique School Management Simulation training, based around a board game, to **7 schools**.
ETHIOPIA

We embarked on our most ambitious girls’ education project supporting over 43,000 at-risk girls. This year:

- **14,000 girls** received reusable sanitary pads and soap to prevent menstruation disrupting their studies.

- We trained **737 tutors** who delivered extra tutorial classes for over 9,000 girls with additional support needs to ensure they do not fall behind.

GHANA

- We aired radio jingles in local languages to help remote communities understand and tackle education-based challenges.

“WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OPENING OUR EYES TO THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER FOR OUR CHILDREN TO LEARN.”

- Parent leader in Malawi

**OVER 337,300 CHILDREN REACHED**
We launched our innovative School Performance Review process in 10 initial schools, establishing Rwanda as our newest partner country and giving schools and communities the tools to improve learning.

• 75 volunteer Community Study Group mentors were trained, and 1,500 children will be enrolled to participate in these study groups over the next year.

THANK YOU

We can’t deliver our life-changing programmes without the continued generosity of our supporters. Thank you to every person who supported Link this year and made these results possible. We would particularly like to thank the following major donors.
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income 2017-2018
- £1,582k
- £122k
- £2k
- £217k

Governments
Trusts & Foundations
Other donations & gifts
Events & other income

Expenditure 2017-2018
- £1,188k
- £427k
- £36k
- £163k
- £217k

Ethiopia
Malawi
Other programmes
Administration, governance & fundraising

98p of every £1 is spent directly on our life-changing programmes

DONATE NOW
Support our work. Donate now at www.lcdinternational.org/donate

Registered Charity Numbers: 1048007 (England & Wales) and SC037959 (Scotland).
Company Registration Number: 03069329

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