

THE RUFJI LEPROSY TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010



For further details please refer to the Charities' Website:
www.charitycommission.gov.uk
Rufiji Leprosy Trust no 286242

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2010. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 7 and comply with the charity's governing schemes and applicable law, statutory regulations and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting for Charities", SORP 2005 (Revised 2008).

Structure, governance and management

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust (RLT) was founded on 10 October 1982 to continue the work with leprosy patients that was started in 1961 by the late Canon Robin Lamburn in Kindwitwi Village and the Rufiji District of Tanzania.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust aims to pay or apply the capital and income of the trust fund as and when received to or for such charitable purpose or purposes (including without prejudice to the generality of this clause the purpose of the prevention treatment and cure of leprosy in Tanzania or elsewhere in the world) or to or for any other charitable institution or institutions or other charitable objects anywhere in the world as the trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust operates exclusively for the benefit of Kindwitwi Leprosy care centre in the Rufiji state of Tanzania. Its main activities involve the provision of human resources, services and facilities to the people of Kindwitwi, and in particular those with Leprosy.

Achievements and performance

Overview of the year ended 30 September 2010

The financial picture

RLT and the programme in Rufiji have not been immune to the ongoing impact of the global financial crisis. The rising cost of fuel and basic commodities has put pressure on the core budgets in the leprosy programme, while almost zero interest on our bank account and the constraints placed on us by a steady but relatively static income challenged the capacity of the Trust to meet this demand.

We have managed to steer our way through this by a combination of the steadfast commitment of our very faithful supporter base, an ongoing search for new sources of income and a radical re-prioritising of needs at the Tanzania end of the programme (the UK end of the programme continues to be delivered on a voluntary basis with administrative costs kept to an absolute minimum). For Kindwitwi, this has meant focusing down on the core work of leprosy care and eradication and the support of the most vulnerable of those who have had leprosy, at the expense of some of the longer-term development activities.

Our current financial situation is stable once more and we hope that the coming year will see a recovery of our ability to support more of the development activities that are essential to building the locally sustainable capacity that is essential to the future security of the community in Kindwitwi.

Trustees' meetings

In response to the pressure of time and the diverse geographical locations of the Trustees, we successfully introduced conference calls for two of our four quarterly meetings. An immediate benefit of this change was that we were able to include overseas Trustees in these meetings, as well as making the meetings easier to attend for those based in the UK.

Appointment of new Trustee

We were delighted to appoint Jenny Cosgrave as a new Trustee. Jenny had carried out some voluntary work in Kindwitwi over a year ago while working on her Masters' Degree in Development Studies. Jenny's area of focus for the Trust is on the role that new media (such as Facebook and other forms of social networking) can play in our communication strategy and their potential in terms of fundraising.

Geoff O'Donoghue

Chairman, Rufiji Leprosy Trust