



War on Want

NORTHERN IRELAND



Our Vision is a world where everyone has access to the resources they need to achieve their full potential.

Annual Report
2014 –2015

Chairperson's report 2014-2015

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report and Financial Statement for War on Want NI for 2014/15. Thanks to the generosity of the general public in supporting our work and our retail outlets and with funding from both the Irish and British governments we have been able to expand our overseas work to support almost 150,000 of the poorest people in Uganda and Malawi.

This support has made a real and lasting difference to the lives of conflict affected people in Teso, north east Uganda. Parents are now able to grow enough food for both consumption and sale and to feed and clothe their children and send them to school. In the south of Malawi where unprecedented storms and flooding wiped out 89,100 hectares of cropped land and resulted in the loss of over 195,000 animals, farmers we supported were able to replant and harvest enough food to last them through the hunger months.

In partnership with local poverty alleviation groups we supported farmers to mitigate against the effects of climate change by introducing fuel efficient technologies and organic and irrigation farming. To ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of our partners we supported them both to successfully implement their projects and to develop robust governance and management systems. This has helped to ensure their effectiveness and build their capacity, and enabled them to access additional financial support from various sources. We worked with the partners to campaign and lobby government to bring about change in policies to benefit the poor.

At home we worked to promote a greater understanding of global poverty issues; of injustices and the widening gaps between the rich and the poor in the world. War on Want NI continued to deliver global education presentations on poverty and development issues particularly to young people. We have encouraged participants to understand how they can play an important part to bring about change. Our membership of CADA NI, Dóchas and BOND, which are aid and development umbrella organisations in the UK and Ireland, ensures that we are represented in advocacy and lobbying forums working to bring about institutional change.

You will read of the achievements and impact of our work, including some personal stories from those who have benefitted from our support. .

We are only able to continue our work due to the commitment and generosity of our supporters: the volunteers that help run our shops and the individuals, companies and organisations that not only make donations and join our fundraising events, but volunteer their skills, support our campaigns and publicise our work.

Despite the continued economic difficulties during 2014-2015, fundraising income increased by £37,000. Our supporters were quick to respond to our emergency appeal for the devastating floods in southern Malawi where we have been working for many years. This support helped us to fund the recovery activities for families who had lost up to 85% of their food crops. We continue to be humbled and honored to receive support from individuals who have remembered our work with a gift in their wills and from family and friends making a donation in tribute to a loved one.

While we have experienced a decrease in our retail shop income, it is still a key source of support for our work. Due to the outstanding commitment of our teams of capable and dedicated volunteers, our major source of unrestricted funding continued to be the sale of second hand goods in our shops. We very much appreciate this level of local support.

As a charity we are acutely aware of the need for transparency and accountability in all our work. This year we registered with the new Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. In terms of our organisational accounting and reporting practices we adhere to the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 for reporting by charities. We also adhere to the Dochas Codes of Conduct on both Governance and the use of Images and Messages.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to acknowledge and thank our two government funders for their generous and significant support for our overseas development work. The Department for International Development (UK AID), through its Global Poverty Action Fund, and Irish Aid, through its Civil Society Fund, enabled us to strengthen our support for local development in Uganda. I would like to thank our Director, and our staff, at home and overseas, for their hard work, commitment and dedication. The continued support and sustained commitment of our volunteers is recognised as a strength of the organisation and I want to thank them for their fantastic work. Finally I would like to thank my colleagues on the voluntary Committees and Board of Trustees for giving freely of their time to support and promote the work of this organisation.

Marie Abbott

Marie Abbott, Chair of the Board of Trustees



Josephine Emiru and her grandchildren pictured outside Josephine's home in Ojama village, Teso, north east Uganda. Josephine and her family are among the many families in the region who have returned home after years spent at internally displaced people's camps to escape violence. War on Want NI's Livelihood and Food Security activities are helping them rebuild their lives.

Along with training in sustainable agriculture to increase food production, Josephine and the other project participants are receiving: training on how to market their produce to secure the best price; support to set up Village Savings and Loans Schemes and; ongoing training for the local committee on monitoring and evaluation methods to measure the progress of the project and capture learning for future activities.

(Photo by War on Want NI, Ojama village, Teso, Uganda. November 2014)

Overseas Programme Country Updates

War on Want NI works in two countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In Malawi we work in the poorest regions in the south of the country, Machinga, Balaka and Zomba and in Uganda in Teso in the north east of the country.

We work with the poorest and most vulnerable people in Uganda and Malawi. In most cases we are the only organisation offering support to these people. This year War on Want NI projects have benefited over 150,000 people. We work in partnership with local poverty alleviation groups representing the most vulnerable people in rural areas. We provide financial, organisational and capacity building support to bring about sustainable livelihood security, increased household income and support people to access available resources. Gender, environment and HIV are cross cutting themes in all our areas of work.

Working in partnership for secure livelihoods in Uganda.

War on want NI has been working in Teso district, north east Uganda since 2003. Our projects target communities that rely solely on their land for all of their food and to generate a little money by selling surplus produce to pay for education, medication, and other household needs.

Our work in Teso helps people devastated by civil unrest and a changing climatic environment gain the skills, knowledge and resources they need to achieve their full potential, rebuild their communities and ensure their sustainability. People from Teso district in north east Uganda suffered decades of armed cattle rustling and Lord's Resistance Army insurgencies resulting in significant personal trauma, loss of life, child abductions and 80,000 people fleeing to live for decades in Internally Displaced People's camps. Prolonged stays in the camps eroded their self-worth, promoted dependency, and increased HIV infection rates due to women engaging in commercial sex as a means to feed the family. Peace was restored and people returned home with nothing and to nothing. The environment has been under stress with increased periods of drought and flooding, and deforestation due in part to the influx of returnee people and the consequent timber harvesting for fuel and house building.

According to the Uganda National Household Survey 2014, people in Teso are four times more likely than the national average to be poor, with 74.2% classified as poor and an additional 16.4% economically insecure. 86% of our target beneficiaries struggle to meet their basic needs earning less than \$1 per day and lacking adequate food for seven months of the year.

War on Want NI has increased the numbers of partner organisations we work with on the ground from six in the previous year to nine in the reporting year. We work with local non government partners with vast experience in successfully implementing livelihood security projects benefiting the most vulnerable members of society, and with small Community Based Organisations to build their capacity to deliver benefits to their communities.



Our support of the local Enterprise Based Rural Training Centre (DARWODA) allows farmers to gain practical organic farming skills, which help conserve their environment and simple climate change mitigation techniques.

Building resilience in Malawi

In Malawi, War on Want NI continued to work with partners in rural areas of the southern Machinga, Zomba and Balaka districts, which have the highest concentration of poverty. Our projects support the most marginalised farming families implement environmentally sustainable livelihood security projects.

Malawi is a largely agricultural country, and is making efforts to overcome decades of underdevelopment and the more recent impact of a growing HIV-Aids problem. It's single major natural resource, agricultural land, is under severe pressure from rapid population growth. Most Malawians rely on subsistence farming, but the food supply situation is precarious and the country is prone to natural disasters of both extremes - from drought to heavy rainfall.



In January 2015, the worst floods for over 40 years devastated vast areas of the country. One after the other, violent storms dumped unprecedented amounts of rain on southern areas of Malawi, including Zomba, Balaka and Machinga where we work. The resulting floods covered most of southern Malawi which the government declared a disaster zone. 85% of the maize crop planted War on Want NI support farmers was destroyed. We worked with 3 partners supporting 1,500 of the poorest and most vulnerable families in the flood affected area with management support provided by Emmanuel International Malawi.

A survey undertaken in April 2014, at the start of the current project, highlighted that for the majority of the year our targeted families existed on 2 low nutrition meals per day while for 3 months of the year they survived on just 1 meal per day. 94% of the targeted population owned no livestock at all and none of the farmers had access to oxen and ploughs but relied on hand hoes for agricultural cultivation. To overcome some of these problems War on Want NI provided families with goats for breeding and sale, seeds, tools and agriculture training.

By January 2015 they were just a few short weeks from harvest when the floods hit. Due to the scale of the devastation and total loss of crops in some areas, our plans were adapted to address the new and urgent needs of the families. Our recovery project re-supplied seeds and tools allowing families to replant on unflooded land and land where the water had receded before the end of the growing season. The efforts were successful and the beneficiaries were able to harvest good yields.

War on Want NI continues to work in southern Malawi focusing on food security - including training and support in crop selection, production, climate change mitigation and simple irrigation for year round food production to combat the effects of increasingly erratic rainfall, flooding and periods of drought and helping farmers to manage their projects effectively and efficiently.

Our work in action - Realising the potential of communities in Uganda



Charles Okello is an inspirational man who is supported by War on Want NI's project in Uganda with our local partner organisation Soruda. His story demonstrates clearly the incredible potential of people to transform their lives with the right support.

Charles, a 43 year old father of 7, fled with his family twice to escape violence. Spending a total of 2 years in Internally Displaced People's camps, he and his family came home in 2004 to try and rebuild their life. Starting over with nothing, Charles and his family were totally dependent on what they could produce on their 2 acres of land for everything they needed. Life was incredibly tough and one failed crop could mean the difference between having just enough to eat for the coming months or rationing their food to one small meal a day. In 2012, after years struggling like his neighbours to survive, Charles formed the Ariet Akukuranut Farmers Group and was elected chairperson by the other 30 members. War on Want NI through our local partner, Soruda, support this group with agricultural and 'Farming as a Business' training which helps farmers choose the best crops to grow, use sustainable methods to produce them and the most effective way to sell their produce.

Charles has taken full advantage of the support and is truly transforming his life. He diversified his crops to include cassava, oranges and groundnuts. He produces tomatoes and other vegetables all year round using simple and affordable drip feed irrigation. By producing vegetables year round he can get almost double the price during the dry season when he is one of only a few farmers supplying vegetables.

From the sale of tomatoes alone he has constructed a brick built house with a corrugated iron roof replacing his clay and grass round house. The new house provides cleaner and more weather proof accommodation for his family. Unlike traditional houses it is permanent and doesn't get infested with termites.

As a result of training on value addition Charles has developed a honey business. Value addition training show farmers how they can take their raw product through one or more stages of production to increase the price they will get when they sell it.



Charles saw how this could increase the amount of money he earned from his bees. With a little extra preparation Charles has been able to package the honey and sell it directly to a supermarket in the nearest big town. All these activities mean that Charles is now able to pay the children's secondary school fees which is hugely important to his eldest son who wants to become a doctor and his daughter who is planning to become a teacher. He believes he will be able to pay university and college fees for his children with the proceeds from the sale of oranges from his expanding orange grove.



Charles outside his new brick house paid for from the profits of his tomato sales.

Charles is full of hope and has big plans for his family's future. He has worked out that in three years' time he should be earning £880 per season from the sale of oranges alone. He has plans to expand his already flourishing vegetable business and has hopes in the near future to set up a small clothes selling business to supplement his farming income.

War on Want NI and our partners were able to give Charles and his community the support and training they needed to break the cycle of poverty and hunger and lay the foundations for a thriving community full of hardworking people creating a future full of potential for themselves and the generations to follow.

Our work in action - Recovering from the floods in Malawi



Clockwise: Eunice Banda and two of her children stand outside the remains of their home; Eunice stands in her destroyed maize field; flooding in the nearby town cuts the community off for days.

In January 2015, after a successful growing session and just weeks from harvest time, the worst floods in 40 years devastated southern Malawi. With vast areas underwater and people, homes, crops and livestock washed away Malawi's President declared half the country a disaster zone.

The southern districts of Zomba, Machinga and Balaka, where War on Want NI's projects are based, were among the hardest hit. An estimated 85% of the maize crop planted by families supported by War on Want NI was destroyed by flash floods. An impact assessment revealed that almost 1,500 people benefiting from War on Want NI's livelihood security projects in the areas were going to need urgent help to replant before the growing season ended.

Our livelihood security project in Malawi had been running for 6 months when the heavy rains arrived. Up until then, the families had received training to develop their skills to grow crops in a hostile environment. Training was delivered on how to use simple and effective irrigation techniques and how to nurture a crop to harvest. This helped produce the healthy crops that were growing in the fields at the time of the floods.

Eunice Banda (pictured), a 35 year old mother supported by War on Want NI, lost everything in the floods. At the time she said, *"My crop had grown well. I had finished the first round of weeding, applied fertilizer and knew that the harvest was going to be good. One night it started raining and didn't stop. All my hope is lost"*.

The scale of the disaster was so large that we suspended our project to respond to the emergency. War on Want NI worked with our partner on the ground, Emmanuel International, to distribute supplies to families. The beneficiaries received starter packs of potato vines, tomato seeds and maize seeds to replace the crops they lost to the floods. Using the knowledge they'd gained from the agricultural training they were able to replant in time and bring in a modest harvest that saw them through.

We have adapted our original project to the new post-flood conditions and are working with the families to make sure they have the resources and knowledge they need to produce enough food to feed themselves and find additional ways to earn an income – working their way out of the poverty trap and building their resilience to future crises.

Advocacy, Lobbying and Campaigning

Bringing about lasting change

War on Want NI continued to strengthen and expand its activities to promote pro-poor policies in the UK, Ireland, Malawi and Uganda. Our membership of lobbying networks and strong links with other Civil Society Organisations provided opportunities for mutual learning and exchange of knowledge resulting in the following achievements.

Sustainability of our partners

Our support of overseas partners to strengthen their organisations ensured their growth and sustainability to further develop and empower their communities. This approach represents a particular added value of our organisation. In the reporting year, due to the support from War on Want NI and consequent improved capacity and project management skills, six of our partners accessed funding and support from other International Non Government Organisations and Government of Uganda and Malawi funding schemes.

Advocacy and Campaigning

The advocacy component of our overseas projects empowered local people to engage with decision makers in planning and allocation of resources to increase assets and benefit poor farmers.

We advocate at 2 levels:

At local level we supported farmers to develop individual advocacy committees to engage with local government on pro poor issues. This successful approach led to:

- the preservation of local wetlands and forests;
- equitable terms for farm gate sale prices;
- input to the local annual agricultural budget allocation.

At National level through War on Want NI's membership of national and regional networks the following has been achieved:

- Increased Uganda national government funding to agriculture in 14/15;
- Proposed taxes on agricultural inputs has been dropped;
- A National Climate Change Policy in Uganda has been put in place and is operational;
- Engagement with the Uganda national parliament led to the postponement of the passing of the Biotechnology and Biosafety bill.

Our continued membership of these advocacy networks and umbrella organisations in Uganda and Malawi, will help ensure the values, experience and expertise of War on Want NI and her partners and other member organisations feed into local and national policy formulation.

Through our membership of the Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies (CADA NI), Dochas, and the UK Alliance of Networks we share effective practises and lobby governments and decision makers for change to benefit poor people. At home we raise awareness of the causes and effects of poverty and how we in this part of the world can bring about positive change, by delivering global education activities to community groups and schools. In Northern Ireland we engaged with the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministry to progress the inclusion of International Development in the International Relations Strategy. We supported the Dochas submission to the Review of Ireland's Foreign Policy to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We continued to support and adhere to the sector's codes of best practice in relation to finance, reporting and the use of images and messaging.

Our Volunteers and Fundraising

Volunteering is at the heart of War on Want NI's activities in Northern Ireland. Without the ongoing support we receive from people of all ages and life experience we would not be able to raise the funds necessary to support our projects in Uganda and Malawi.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to our network of over 200 volunteers who helped run our charity shops throughout the year and the general public who donated their unwanted clothing, accessories and knick-knacks. In addition, dedicated volunteers continued to deliver the two vintage fashion shows to community groups across the country.

We continued to be humbled by the support received from people through gifts left to us in Wills and as tribute donations (gifts in lieu of flowers). These donations contributed significantly to the delivery of our programmes and are leaving a lasting legacy. The gifts we receive range from small personal belongings to larger cash donations. Those who remembered our work in their Will are honoured through our projects which help the poorest people create a fair and sustainable future.

War on Want NI receives funding from the UK and Irish governments. This funding allows us to make a significant improvement in more people's lives than we could otherwise do. We are only able to access this funding because of the funds raised locally by our volunteers and others. A big thank you to all the individuals, faith groups, schools, companies and organisations who raised significant funds over the year, we are so grateful for your continued support.



Photos of just a few of the wonderful volunteers and fundraisers who work together to make our work possible.

Many thanks to our funders and partners in the UK and Ireland:



Financial Summary for the year ended 30th April 2015

Income	2015 Total £	2014 Total £
Restricted Grants		
Irish Aid -Uganda	117,465	166,400
Department for International Development	112,371	
Disability Action		5,732
Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI		6,640
	<u>229,836</u>	<u>178,772</u>
Net Unrestricted Income	197,142	194,483
Investment Income	2,054	2,078
Total	429,032	375,333

Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	412,769	335,955
Governance Costs	46,753	48,004
Total	459,522	383,959

Unrealised Gain/(losses) on investments	2,861	3,323
---	-------	-------

Net funds movement for the year

Restricted Funds	(39,587)	(4,549)
Unrestricted Funds	<u>11,958</u>	<u>(754)</u>
	(27,629)	(5,303)

Analysis of Restricted funds			
At 1 May 2014	102,894	At 1 May 2013	107,443
Net movement for the year	<u>(39,587)</u>		<u>(4,549)</u>
At 30 April 2015*	<u>63,307</u>	At 30 April 2014*	<u>102,894</u>

*Restricted funds are carried forward for ongoing Charitable Activities after 30th April 2015

Council of Management: Marie Abbott (Chairperson)

Valerie Sullivan (Vice Chairperson); Dannielle Mills (Hon. Secretary); Theresa Morrissey (Hon. Treasurer); Eileen Connor; Deirdre O'Brien; Samuel Campbell

Resignation: Carole Stewart





1 Rugby Road, Belfast, BT7 1RD, Northern Ireland | **T** 0044(0)28 9023 2064 |
E information@waronwantni.org | **W** www.waronwantni.org
War on Want NI is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.
Registered Charity Number: NIC102154