



## *'Affordable, sustainable energy for all'*

### Trustee's annual report for the period:

01/04/2018	31/03/2019
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### Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Number: 1172051

Charity's principle address: 49 High Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, UK, DY122DJ

### Names of trustees who manage the charity

Ben Ballin	Secretary
Kevin Bailey	Chair
John Rhymer	
Malcolm Garner	
Nigel Rayment	
Judith Ford	
Jackie Hopkins	Treasurer

### Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustees selection methods	Trustees are normally selected by recommendation and appointed by existing trustees

### **Additional governance issues**

Trustees form a close group that meet at least 3 times a year and in addition communicate electronically.

The trustees contain members with a wide spread of experiences and expertise relevant to the aims of the charity.

Trustees take on formal roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer but also advise on issues relevant to their field of expertise. An example of this would be technical advice on solar energy relevant to solar lights or project management in relation to the charities work.

### **Partnerships**

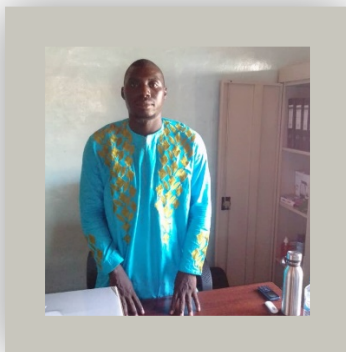
Switched On - Gambia also works with other charities when appropriate such as Book Aid International (<https://bookaid.org/>) who work closely as partners providing books and expertise to our project in The Gambia. We are also developing close relationships with other organisations including: Steve Sinnott Foundation (<http://www.stevesinnottfoundation.org.uk/>), Riders for Health (<https://ridersintl.org/the-gambia/>) and Project Gambia (<https://www.projectgambia.org.uk/>).

### **Objects and activities**

To relieve poverty in The Gambia and West Africa through facilitating the provision of solar energy to those in need.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the year**

- The organisation has embarked upon numerous programmes which were introduced into our project and successfully coordinated in all the schools and communities we've been recommended to work with by the regional Education Department in Central River Region, The Gambia. The main focus of Switched On-Gambia is to relieve poverty through the facilitation of solar energy. This has mainly been by supporting schools in off grid communities with donations of high quality solar lamps which are rented to pupils each week for the price of a candle. At each participating school 'Solar Committees' have been established to ensure efficient management of the programme.



*Michael Mendy - coordinator*

- The organisation's activities this year have expanded, thus necessitating increased managerial responsibilities for the Project Coordinator, Michael Mendy



*Students eager to read books from the latest Book Aid International delivery to their school*

- The project was visited twice during the year by Kevin Bailey (chair) and outcomes reported back to trustees.
- Intouch Global Foundation have helped fund a Ford Ranger truck that will shortly be delivered to Michael Mendy. Riders for Health have continued their valuable support by offering free driver training and vehicle servicing support.

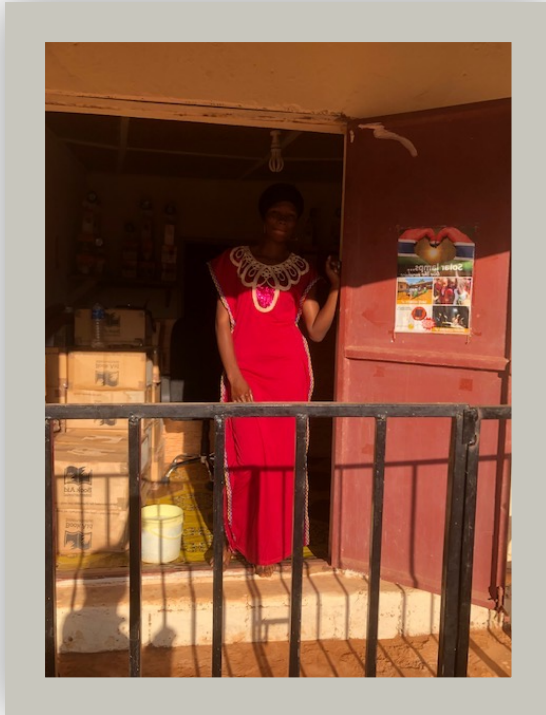


*The vehicle planned to be put into service in the 2019/20 year*



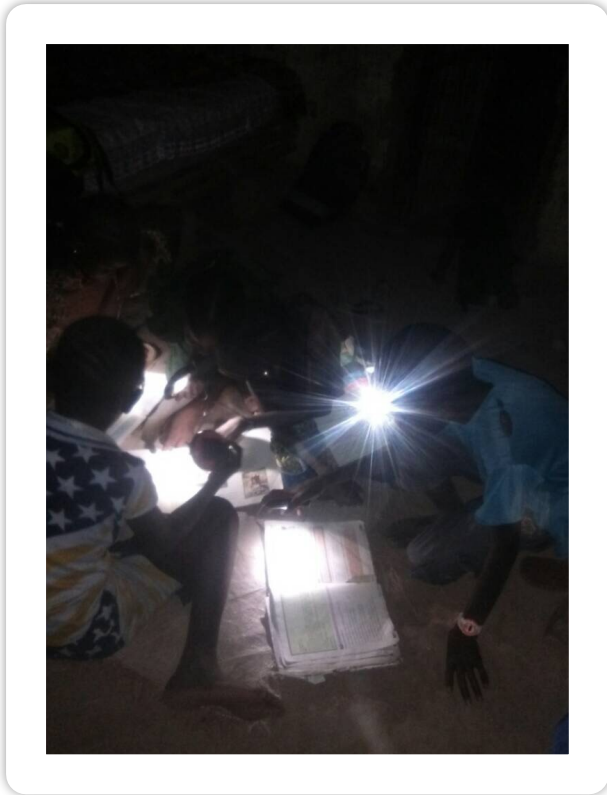
*Books being unpacked*

- An important issue this year was consideration of the future status of the Gambia based organisation currently coordinated by Michael Mendy. Michael has liaised with his contacts in The Gambia in order to consider the options for creating an independent organisation supported by 'Switched On - Gambia'. It has been pleasing to see Michael, with the support of SOG trustees, form a group of experienced and talented board members. The new organisation was officially recognised during the year and is formally titled 'Intouch Gambia'. Switched On Gambia now take on the role of support and advice while also monitoring that the financial contributions made are helping to achieve the targets planned. Other achievements connected with this include:
  - ✓ Creation of an Intouch Gambia constitution
  - ✓ Opening an organisation bank account
  - ✓ Creation of a web site (<https://www.intouchgambia.org/>)
  - ✓ Country registration
  - ✓ Registration of logo
  - ✓ Memorandum of Understanding agreed with education ministry



*Jambai ready to sell high quality solar lights to residents of Jan Jan Burreh*

- Book Aid International, based in London, have been an invaluable support allowing us to create a joint solar light/ book box approach. This has been very popular initiative and has allowed for some innovative use of solar lights including: homework clubs and extra evening lessons; examination preparation; community reading groups and enabling children to take home a book when they rent a lamp. Book Aid have also invited Michael to take part in their 'Pioneer Book Box' project. Book Aid International have delivered another donation of 8000 new and relevant books. We are very pleased that the success of this innovative approach to supporting access to sustainable energy and by doing that relieving poverty has been a catalyst for Book Aid to adopt the same approach in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and discussions of expanding a similar approach in The Rhino Refugee Camp in Uganda. Our relationship has also been instrumental in a substantial donation of a second delivery of 25000 new books to The National Library Association of The Gambia and a medical library in Janakpur, Nepal. Book Aid International have shown a clear aim to use our model as future strategy.



*Children sharing solar lights at an evening reading group*

### **Funding**

- This year, 2018/19, Intouch Games have donated £15,000 to Switched On-Gambia. Small amounts of funding have also been received from schools in the UK. Funding for 2019/20 has been agreed at £15000 rate although there may be the possibility of further increase depending on project developments in The Gambia.

### **Looking ahead**

- As the year draws to an end a number of exciting initiatives are almost complete. These include: expansion into a second shop to be used as store and office space, delivery of truck to assist with transportation of solar lights and books expansion of schools in the programme and appointment of a field officer and administrative officer to support Michael Mendy.

### **Policy on reserves**

The question of establishing a reserves policy was tabled for the first Trustees' meeting of 2019-20.

### **Signatures**