



The Geno Project

Scottish Charity No - SC045720

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name

The Geno Project

Other names the charity is known by

Geno

Charity number

SC045720

Charity's principal address

103 Hutcheson Street, Flat 42, G1 1SN Glasgow

Current Trustees

Paul Macdonald	Chair
Seonaid Macdonald	Secretary
Iona Macdonald	Treasurer
Murray Mathieson	
Leonard O'Brien	

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 17/06/2015.

Appointment of trustees

The trustees were elected on the day the charity was registered. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting which is held in August. There must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 15. A person will not be eligible for election or appointment to the board unless he/she is an individual member of the organisation, or a Nominee acting for a Corporate Member.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are:

1. the prevention or relief of poverty,
2. the advancement of education, and
3. the advancement of health.

The Geno Project (Geno) aims to provide educational support to students from the Homa Bay District in Kenya. The charity's main focus is on providing scholarships to students to attend secondary school, state university and college.

Activities

The charity provides scholarships to students from the Homa Bay District to attend secondary school, state university and college.

The primary activity for the Geno Project is to offer scholarships to initially the top two girls and top two boys from Osika primary school to attend secondary school. The scholarships for the top two girls and top two boys are awarded based on merit and any further scholarships are awarded based on the discretion of the Trustees. The aim is to offer 15 to 25 new scholarships each year.

A second key activity of the Geno Project is to provide scholarships to candidates who have been accepted to state university or college. Being accepted to state university is a great accomplishment in Kenya. The university fees are paid by the government and the standard of education is high; the scholarship therefore relate to living expenses. If the students do not achieve the required grade for University, then a scholarship to attend college may be considered. We estimate that every year up to 10 new scholars will be admitted to university.

Scholarships are paid from a Kenyan based charity called Geno Osika Education Development Trust CBO (Geno Osika) which is funded from grants from the Geno Project.

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Achievement and Performance

In 2020 a total of 47 scholarships were awarded to 45 students. From these, only one student was awarded a scholarship to support their secondary school education and 44 Students were awarded a scholarship as part of their further education at university or college. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the start of secondary Schools in Kenya was postponed to later in 2021. Therefore only one scholarship towards secondary school education was awarded. Solomon Ariko managed the awarding and payment of the scholarships in Kenya and the trustees volunteered their time and commitment.

Solomon organised regular seminars for the students to guide them through their education and provide additional support where needed. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no seminar was held during 2020, however he maintained regular contact with the students.

Financial review

Our main source of funding is donations from a select pool of donors. The total amount raised during the year to 31 December 2020 was £1,679. The cost of scholarships for the year amounts to £24,330, significantly lower compared to previous years due to the deferral of the start of secondary schools. At the year end, the charity had a bank balance of £42,955.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' policy is to retain 12 months worth of budgeted running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure. 12 months expenditure stands at £50,215. Although reserves are below this threshold at £42,955, the trustees believe that this is an acceptable range and will continue to monitor the position.

Plans for future period

In addition to the 45 students who were awarded scholarships in 2020, the charity has committed to support 102 students throughout their secondary school education. In addition the charity aims to continue their scholarship program for the foreseeable future accepting 10 to 15 new students to the secondary school scholarship program every year.

The trustees aim to raise additional funding through continued appeals to the charity's select pool of donors.

Coronavirus

At the date on which the financial statements were approved, the financial implications arising from the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, which has affected the UK and Kenya, are uncertain. The trustees are reviewing forecasts for an anticipated change in the charity's operational activities in the short term. Education in Kenya has been disrupted with schools and Universities pausing lessons. Consequently some courses have been extended and some students may have to repeat a year which may result in additional costs to the charity. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity remains a going concern.

Tribute to Solomon Ben Ariko Opere, 1951 to 2021

My dear friend, died from the Coronavirus on the 16th April. All of us are deeply saddened with the loss of our brother.

I met Solomon in November 2005. Little did I know that this was the start of a truly remarkable safari. I was on my first visit to Kenya with some friends and Solomon had volunteered to accompany and guide us on our visit. Near the end of the journey, we visited Osika, Solomon's village. It was a very pleasant experience. Over the next 15 years Solomon achieved some great successes. There were two reasons why people supported Solomon and his dreams. Firstly, he was an open, honest and trustworthy man who cared deeply for his friends and family and who was prepared to give his time and effort to help others. The second reason was that they knew their full contribution went directly to the specific area that they had decided to support.

In the village, Solomon organised many projects. He helped develop the primary school. He organised wells and tanks to supply clean water. He supplied many farmers with certified seeds and fertilisers and organised many training sessions on better farming methods. One area that always brought a tear to my eye was the support for the widows and widowers. Twice a year he distributes Maize to the most vulnerable people. Over the years he has built a few houses and this allowed the ladies to have a bit of comfort and dignity. There are many other areas of activity that Solomon supported over the years.

Back in 2007, we began a new venture to support students who had performed remarkably well at primary school but did not have the means to go to secondary school. In the first year of this program, it was agreed that a scholarship would go to the best two girls, both girls are now University graduates. Initially, the program was only for secondary school but Solomon convinced us to support the kids through university if they achieved a certain level of success at secondary school.

In 2015 Geno was registered as a charity in Scotland and Solomon organised an equivalent organisation in Kenya. To date and through Solomon's support, organisational ability and kindness we have 27 university or college graduates. There are another 150 students being supported at secondary school, college or University. This year a further 33 pupils will join the scholarship program. He has supported over 200 kids in developing their education, what a truly remarkable endeavour for one man. Solomon is responsible for these outstanding achievements and the students will carry his message for generations to come.

All the great success attributed to Solomon could not be achieved without the support of his wonderful wife Rebecca. Solomon and Rebecca, like many couples had to struggle with the trials and tribulations of daily life. Not only did they share a great life together but they opened their heart to many others. They had a truly formidable partnership. They nurtured their own children and they supported the village of Osika and took on the responsibility of educating another 200 children.

Solomon was a natural leader. Sometimes people are reluctant to step into a leadership role but it came easy to Solomon. Without this ability to lead it would not have been possible for Solomon to accomplish his goals.

Solomon was a mentor. Many of the students found him open, honest, approachable and intelligent. As our students went to secondary school and University, they did not always have

the support mechanisms that are required. Solomon had already guided his own children through school and higher education and was able to relate to them. The Geno Project offered funds to pay for the fees but our students needed more than this. They needed a guardian, a mentor, a person willing to listen. Solomon provided this support.

Each year Solomon opened up his house and ran a two-day seminar for the students at tertiary education. I was lucky to attend the last of these summer camps and it was marvellous to see so many confident and energetic students all of whom wanted to be part of an exciting adventure.

Solomon was my hero. I suspect he was a hero to many people. A hero is a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities, a person who is greatly admired. A hero is the main character in a story. Solomon has to be admired for his accomplishments and the way he achieved them with humility, honesty and openness. He had the best qualities a person can desire. He was the main character in the Geno story.

Fortunately, Rebecca has stepped into Solomon's shoes and we will ensure Solomon's work will continue.

Though I am still reeling from the sudden death of my dear friend, Solomon, I am humbled and touched by his time here with us. I'll never forget how quick he welcomed me into his family and his life. Solomon was a kind and caring friend. His positivity was an inspiration for everyone he met.

Thank you for everything, Solomon.

Paul Macdonald

Chairman to the Geno Project



Paul Macdonald on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Chairman and Trustee to the Geno Project

Approved 25th August 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Geno Project

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charities trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations for the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2009 Accounts Regulations;have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Neil P Reid FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant

25th August 2021

William Duncan + Co Ltd.
44 Bank Street
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
KA1 1HA

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year to 31/12/2020 £	Year to 31/12/2019 £
Receipts					
Donations	[3]	1,679	-	1,679	49,107
Total receipts		<u>1,679</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>49,107</u>
Payments					
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	[4]	24,330	-	24,330	51,951
Provision/(Repayment) of Loan		705	-	705	-3,956
Total payments		<u>25,035</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,035</u>	<u>47,995</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		<u>-23,356</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-23,356</u>	<u>1,112</u>

Statement of Balances – As at 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/12/2020 £	Total 31/12/2019 £
Cash and bank balances at start of year	66,311	-	66,311	65,199
Surplus/(deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	-23,356	-	-23,356	1,112
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>42,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,955</u>	<u>66,311</u>
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank deposit account	<u>42,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,955</u>	<u>66,311</u>
	<u>42,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,955</u>	<u>66,311</u>
Other assets - unrestricted fund				
Loan with Geno Osika Education Development Trust CBO			<u>1,669</u>	<u>965</u>



Paul Macdonald on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Chairman and Trustee to the Geno Project

Approved 25th August 2021

Notes to the accounts – for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. No restricted donation were received during the financial year. All other donations were unrestricted and used at the discretion of the trustees.

3 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 31/12/2020	Total 31/12/2019
	£	£	£	£
Direct contributions	1,679	-	1,679	49,107
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
	1,679	-	1,679	49,107

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 31/12/2020	Total 31/12/2019
	£	£	£	£
Grants awarded for Scholarship awards	23,788	-	23,788	48,894
Bank charges	-	-	-	-
Other charges	10	-	10	5
Independent Examiner fee	636	-	636	636
Exchange rate movement	-104	-	-104	2,416
Cost of Charitable Activities	24,330	-	24,330	51,951

5 Related Party Transitions

In 2016 the Geno Osika Education Development Trust CBO (Geno Osika), a Kenyan based charity, was set up to facilitate the scholarship payments to the numerous students. Geno Osika is an independent charity that works closely with the Geno Project. Geno Osika identifies potential students and collates the applications and supporting documentation. This is then reviewed by the trustees of the Geno Project. Once approved a deed of gift is made out to Geno Osika, which includes the total amount awarded as well as a list of students and the individual amounts awarded to each student. After payment of the scholarships, Geno Osika provides a copy of each cheque, which is then traced to the bank statement. The Geno Project ensures Geno Osika has sufficient funds in their bank account to cover any bank charges or emergency scholarships which explains the loan balance at the yearend between the Geno Project and Geno Osika. All employees at Geno Osika are volunteers and do not receive remuneration for their services. The Geno Project is the sole donor to Geno Osika. During the year total grants of £24,330 was paid to Geno Osika of which £704 is still outstanding.

There has been no trustees' remuneration and no trustee expenses for the year to 31 December 2020.