



Charity No. 281776

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.

Annual Report 2024–2025

International Relief Friendship Foundation UK

April 2024 – March 2025

Contents

01 Chair's message

02 Our Mission & Values

03 Impact at a Glance

04 DR Congo

05 Ghana

06 South Africa - SHINE Walmer

07 South Africa - Slovo Study Group

08 South Africa - Period Poverty

09 South Africa - Soup Kitchen

10 Uganda - Destiny Junior School

11 Period Poverty Projects

12 Our Organisation

13 Financial Review

14 Plans for 2025-2026

15 Thank You

A Year of Resilience and Impact

The financial year from April 2024 to March 2025 has been one of both challenge and remarkable achievement for IRFF UK. Across five countries in Africa — the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, and Senegal — our dedicated teams have continued to deliver life-changing programmes to thousands of beneficiaries.

This year, we supported approximately 3,800 people across our active projects: from schoolchildren gaining access to quality education, to young women receiving menstrual health support that keeps them in school, to families in crisis receiving emergency food and care.

Perhaps most poignant was the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the M23 rebel advance into Goma in January 2025 placed our partner teams and the children in their care in grave danger. Thanks to the swift response of IRFF UK and our partners, lives were saved and 60 vulnerable children and their foster families are now on a path to self-sufficiency.

We are proud of what has been achieved, and deeply grateful to every donor, volunteer, and partner who makes this work possible.

Edward Hartley

Chair of the Working Board & General Manager, IRFF UK

3,800

People supported across Africa

5

Countries active

45

Years of service since 1980

"We are proud of what has been achieved, and deeply grateful to every donor, volunteer, and partner who makes this work possible"

Our Mission & Values

IRFF UK was established in 1980 with the vision of providing education, relief, and improved health support to disadvantaged people, and enabling sustainable development wherever possible.

OUR MISSION

We provide financial support for ongoing programmes run by local teams in the countries where IRFF UK chooses to work. We support the launch of new initiatives, helping field teams to achieve self-sufficiency. We also provide management skills training so that local teams can communicate more effectively and improve their capacity to become self-sustaining.



Empowerment Over Dependency

We equip people with the skills needed for self-sustainability, fostering independence rather than reliance on Western donations.



Empowerment Over Dependency

All funds sent to Africa go directly to the people who spend them charitably — and account for every penny. Donations are not channelled through any extractive system.



Local Partnership

We work with highly motivated local volunteers and teams who are deeply committed to their communities and understand their needs.



Dignity & Respect

Every beneficiary is treated with respect, and our programmes are designed to restore dignity and open up opportunity.

OUR IMPACT

2024–2025 at a Glance

3,800

People supported
across Africa

5

Countries active

1,400+

Girls reached through
period poverty projects

206

Pupils at Destiny Junior
School, Uganda

73

Children in SHINE literacy
programme

~500

People fed daily at
Walmer soup kitchen

£54,491

Total income

£16,969

Year-end reserves

Primary & Secondary Education

Vocational Training (TVET)

Period Poverty & Menstrual Health

Emergency Relief

Community Nutrition

HFC Street Children & Foster Families

The year began with the completion of a major milestone: by May 2024, the handover of 60 street children to a local charity, TAD, was successfully completed, bringing IRFF UK's intensive involvement in that phase to a close.

However, the situation changed dramatically in late January 2025, when M23 rebels entered Goma. Male volunteers at TAD were forced to flee, leaving the children without care or funds. IRFF UK and our partner WCA (Women's Care Association) acted swiftly — providing food costs and the \$400 needed for six of the seven HFC male volunteers to reach safety.

Ben, the HFC coordinator, made the courageous decision to remain in Goma to protect the 20 foster families, each of whom had taken in three orphaned children. He remained in grave danger throughout this period, finally leaving Goma in mid-March 2025.

"He believes he owes his life to the small support IRFF UK and WCA could give to pay for his travel costs"

The next challenge was to ensure the long-term welfare of the 20 foster families now caring for 60 children. IRFF UK and WCA agreed that \$3,000 would be sufficient to train and equip the 20 foster mothers to run their own market sales businesses, making them self-sufficient in providing for the children in their care. These funds were raised and delivered by mid-June 2025.



BEN, THE HFC COORDINATOR



GHANA

WAIT Ghana — Period Poverty & TVET

WAIT Ghana made significant strides during the year, running a period poverty project in which reusable sanitary pads were made and distributed, together with menstrual health education across multiple villages. The WAIT Coordinator, Mrs Vivian Nkasia, made numerous trips to the communities of Wute, Logote, and Lawui, near the city of Akatsi in the Volta Region.

A key advantage of reusable pads is that they can be passed to new girls each time, meaning that WAIT Ghana is estimated to have reached approximately 700 girls by the end of March 2025.

In addition to the period poverty work, WAIT Ghana continued its TVET activities, offering training to young women in pastry making, cake decoration, bread making, and sewing/dressmaking.

"The great advantage of issuing reusable pads is that they reach new girls every time."

~700

Girls reached

4+

Villages served





SOUTH AFRICA

SHINE Walmer

South Africa faces profound educational challenges. Among 50 countries surveyed, South Africa ranks worst for literacy, with 8 out of 10 Grade 4 learners (aged 9–10) unable to read for meaning. Children who cannot read are effectively cut off from one of the greatest sources of knowledge — books — and their life opportunities are severely limited as a result.

IRFF UK continued to fund the SHINE literacy programme at a school in Walmer, Port Elizabeth, during the year. The programme supported 73 pupils, providing stationery, quality teaching aids, a colourful library environment, and coded library books with learner library cards.

"Your generous IRFF sponsorship has enabled our Centre to run smoothly with sufficient stationary, quality teaching aids, coffee and tea refreshments for the double-shift volunteers, a colourful library environment, tape-strengthened and coded library books, and learner library cards. Each element is subtle but important for the enthusiastic and energetic environment that our volunteers and learners flourish in."

— Pat Hippert, SHINE Coordinator, November 2024

73

Pupils supported

8/10

Grade 4 learners in SA cannot read for meaning

Slovo Study Group, Port Elizabeth

The Slovo Study Group supports young people in Port Elizabeth in upgrading their school qualifications to access tertiary education. IRFF UK provided funding for the required subject upgrades and continues to finance travel costs and books for five members of the group.

Iminathi Kose

Business Studies & History

Plans to study a Bachelor of Education, aspiring to become a teacher who delivers the quality of education that they were denied.

Thoko Madikane

English HL, Business Studies & History

Plans to study BA (Law), with an aspiration to pursue her degree while developing additional income streams.

Ibanathi Buqa

Business & History (Fully Paid)

Plans to study Human Resource Management or Education, motivated by a desire to be a role model for her siblings.

Iphelele Baxana

Geography, Mathematics & Physical Science

Plans to study Physiotherapy, driven by a love of helping others and an interest in sport and the natural world.

Ayabonga Mkuhlu

Mathematical Literacy, English FAL, IsiXhosa HL, Business Studies, Economics & History

Plans to study Human Resource Management, with ambitions in writing, theatre, and film.

"I want to be an example for my siblings and show them that education is key to success. I want financial freedom and stability for me and my family"

— Ibanathi Buqa, Slovo Study Group

SOUTH AFRICA

Walmer Angels Period Poverty Project

At least 3 out of 10 girls in South Africa miss school every month due to period-related challenges. The Walmer Angels project, led by Glenda Brunette, addresses this directly by providing disposable sanitary pads to girls at Walmer Lower Primary School, along with menstrual health education delivered by a trained nurse to both girls and boys.

IRFF UK funded the project from January 2024, providing disposable pads at a cost of £0.90 per girl per month. Disposable pads were chosen over reusable ones due to the severe shortage of water in the area.

"None were shy - they said they really appreciate the help, as most families cannot afford to purchase personal hygiene products. The Headmistress and Deputy Headmistress said I must convey their appreciation."

— Glenda Brunette, Walmer Angels, March 2025





SOUTH AFRICA

Walmer Angels Soup kitchen

The Walmer Angels soup kitchen in the Walmer Township, Port Elizabeth, continued to receive IRFFUK funding throughout the year. The kitchen provides approximately 500 children and elderly people with their one hot meal of the day.

The need is acute. As journalist Estelle Ellis reported in November 2023: "Children are dying of hunger in the Eastern Cape - declare a disaster, urges Human Rights Commission." IRFF UK is committed to ensuring that this vital lifeline continues.

~500

People fed every day

1

Hot meal per day for many families





UGANDA

Destiny Junior School, Kibiri, Kampala

Destiny Junior School was established by IRFF UK in 2008 in Kibiri, just south of Kampala. During the 2024–2025 year, the school's average pupil count increased to 206 students, with capacity for 400.

Investment in 2024–2025

IRFF UK sent **£13,800** to run the school and **£12,500** to fund infrastructure projects, including:

- ▶ Biodigester toilets (installed 1 November 2024)
- ▶ A water well at the nearby Busabala School (funded 25 February 2025, £4,500)

About Head Teacher Jesca

Jesca has dedicated her life to the children of Kibiri. She is passionate about delivering the best possible primary education (Classes P1 to P7) and is particularly focused on protecting the young girls in her school through the GirlChild project.

Highlights from the Year

- ▶ School Academic Day showcased pupils' vocational skills including tailoring, cooking, art and craft, farming, and poultry.
- ▶ End-of-term examinations completed successfully.
- ▶ Visitors from the Ministry of Education and the Buganda Kingdom expressed great satisfaction with the school's administration and teaching quality.
- ▶ Primary Seven candidates sat their Primary Leaving Examinations on 6 November 2024.
- ▶ The school feeds pupils a balanced diet, including produce grown on site.

"She is passionate to impact the education of poor community children and give them all the best possible primary level education."

Period Poverty Projects

The World Bank estimates that at least **500 million** women and girls globally lack access to the facilities they need to manage their periods. In South Africa alone, up to **7 million schoolgirls** cannot afford sanitary products.



Ghana

WAIT Ghana distributed reusable pads with menstrual health education across multiple villages in the Volta Region.

~700 girls reached



South Africa

South Africa
Walmer Angels provided disposable pads and nurse-led menstrual health education at Walmer Lower Primary School.

£0.90 per girl/month



Uganda

GirlChild/WAIT Uganda served girls at Destiny School, Busabala Primary School, and Jjungo Church of Uganda Primary School.

~380 girls reached

"The girl children are studying better, are not losing days off school, and are particularly feeling cared for and loved."

— Jesca, Head Teacher, Destiny Junior School, Uganda



Our Organisation

Trustees

The current trustees of IRFF UK (in alphabetical order) are:



Charles Cachia

General support and donor



Edward Hartley

Accountant/Treasurer, General Manager of IRFF UK, and Chair of the Working Board. Country Coordinator for DR Congo, Ghana, and Uganda



Tessa Thonett

Director and manager of the Tricycle Shop, Alton. Country Coordinator for South Africa

Working Board Members

These three trustees are very ably supported by seven people, most of whom are modestly remunerated:

Grahame Bennett — Advisor and newsletter writer

Chantal Bezuidenhout — Social media coordinator

Nathaniel German — Search engine optimisation and website improvement

Patrick German — Social media facilitator

Natania Kobayashi — Content writer for newsletters and leaflets; Tricycle Shop Gift Aid claim preparation; Slack coordinator; Instagram marketing

Terry Sweeney — Analyst and business advisor; fundraiser

Toby Suda — Brand Designer and Website Manager

These ten individuals make up the UK Working Board, which manages all UK operations and liaises with the executive teams acting in each recipient country.

Financial Review 2024–2025

This report covers the period April 2024 – March 2025.



Key Changes — Income

- ▶ Overall income in 2024–2025 was £28,111 greater than in the previous year, partly due to the inclusion of Senegal funding (£21,609).
- ▶ Core funding for other IRFF projects rose by £8,655.
- ▶ General donations — primarily from the Tricycle Shop and Gift Aid — remained healthy.
- ▶ Destiny School sponsorship income was slightly higher, and the Destiny School infrastructure project income increased by £3,926.
- ▶ Income for period poverty projects rose significantly.

Key Changes — Expenditure

- ▶ Overall costs in 2024–2025 rose by £28,472, partly due to the passing on of Senegal donations.
- ▶ Increased costs were seen in fundraising, DR Congo operations, and Destiny School infrastructure projects.
- ▶ A few projects experienced a decrease in costs.

Year-End Reserves Breakdown

Fund	Amount
General Funds	£13,183
Destiny School Fund	£942
DR Congo Project Fund	£103
Ghana TVET Fund	£130
Period Poverty Projects Fund	£1,796
Senegal Fund	£796
SHINE Fund	£19
Total Reserves	£16,969

The overall figure was £346 more than the previous year's total.

Plans for April 2025 – March 2026

Education

Continuing and expanding primary and secondary education programmes.
Expanding vocational training opportunities for young women.

Period Poverty

Expanding menstrual hygiene management and sanitary product provision to 4 or even 5 countries by the end of March 2026.

Growth

Raising the number of people supported in Africa from 3,800 to 5,000+. Potentially funding the construction of additional water wells.

Fundraising

Securing at least £18,000 more in General Funds.
Expanding through grants, online fundraising, corporate fundraising, direct mail, and individual giving.

Governance

Recruiting at least two more people ready to serve as trustees or join the Senior Management Team.

Social Media

A substantial social media marketing team was established in mid-June 2025 to grow awareness and supporter engagement.



GRATITUDE

Thank You

We welcome all offers of support to serve our current and future beneficiaries, and we thank you in advance for any intentions in that direction.

IRFF UK could not do what it does without the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the commitment of our local partner teams across Africa. Every pound donated goes directly to the people who need it most.

HOW TO SUPPORT IRFF UK



Donate Online

Support our cause at
www.irff-uk.org



Sponsor a Child

Support Destiny Junior
School for £10/month



Shop with Us

Visit the Tricycle Shop in
Alton, Hampshire



Spread the Word

Share our work on
social media



International Relief Friendship Foundation UK

Charity Number: 281776

98 Dyke Drive, Orpington, BR5 4LZ

www.irff-uk.org