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Our Operations

A World free from poverty

Mission

To eradicate poverty through providing opportunities and partnerships to support the poor to cross the poverty line through building strong societies, inclusive quality education for all and creating improved livelihoods & job opportunities.

Values _____ Dignity: We b

Dignity: We believe in the inherent, inalienable rights of every person. To SF, this is the most important human right from which all other fundamental human rights derive.

Justice: We have a drive to fulfil not only legal, but also social rights of communities and individuals, in creating a more just distribution of society's resources and power.

Solidarity: We empathically identify ourselves with the plight of marginalised and discriminated groups. Strømme Foundation (SF) is a non-profit organisation which, since 1976, has been involved in development programmes. It is based in Kristiansand Norway with regional offices in East Africa. West Africa and Asia.

The East African regional office officially began operations in 1994 with the regional office based in Kampala, Uganda. We have been implementing education and livelihoods programs in some of the remotest, hard to reach areas in Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Kenya where we will continue to operate in this new Strategic Period 2019 to 2023.

Our support for the poor and vulnerable remains inspired by Christian values that our Founder, Pastor Olav Kristian Strømme, always held dear. While at the Kristiansand Cathedral, he organised a fundraising system to help disadvantaged people around the world.



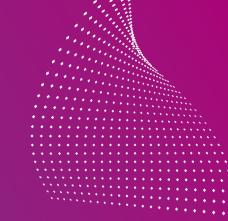
2014 - 2018 Overall Strategic Goal Improved quality of life for the poor people in poor and hard to reach communities of East Africa through promoting strong societies, right to quality education and improved livelihoods and job opportunities.



Our ambition is to help the poorest and most marginalised in a non-discriminatory way, so they can take charge of their own lives and be uplifted out of poverty.

Celebrating milestones, gearing up for the future

01



Remarks from the Regional Director

On behalf of team at Strømme Foundation East Africa (SFEA), I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Impact Report. As an organization, we strive to put our best foot forward every day to empower the vulnerable and marginalised to get out of poverty. In this year's report, we are highlighting many, though certainly not all, of SFEA's accomplishments in advancing social justice and economic empowerment.

2018, proved to be another eventful year for SFEA. Besides being the final implementation year of the 2014 – 2018 strategic plan, we also put in work in the preparation for the new strategic plan 2019 - 2023. We worked closely with our partners to ensure that all planned activities for the ending strategic period were executed as set out. A series of exit meetings with partners, local community leaders and community members in various communities where our programs were being implemented were conducted. This enabled us to experience first-hand impact of our work. Members who were once poor, had grown from a state of helplessness to being champions of development in their

Patrick Wajero Oloo, Regional Director Strømme Foundation, East Africa

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own communities. In one community in Singida, Tanzania, a group of youth who had gone through our Community Based Vocational Skills Training (CBVST) program had mobilised themselves further to solve a common problem when they invented a local irrigation method to address the shortage of water for farmers in the area. While we thought we were solving the youth unemployment problem with this particular program, we learned that, like in other programs, our approach further empowers individuals to be creative in solving their community problems.

We conducted organisation reviews and assessments which informed our recruitment of new partners that we will be working with in the new strategic period. Internally a new operations structure was decided on at the end of 2018 and currently we are making the changes to upgrade our capability, resource mobilisation efforts to foster improved program delivery and influencing.

There were a number of challenges from which we drew several lessons. One of our biggest was the recurring effects of fraud cases among our implementing partners. Although mostly a spill over from the previous years, these had adverse effects on our results. We are glad to have our Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) in place to not only detect fraud early but to ensure that we, together with all our partners have the minimum control measures

in place to guard against it. Our staff are our greatest resource, and I'm proud to say we have a team, both in the region and Kristiansand, committed to working together for the success of Strømme Foundation. I would like to take a moment to thank Priscilla M. Serukka (SFEA regional Director 2003 – 2018) for her incredible contribution towards the organization's work. I thank her for the service and tenacity that is also evidenced through the dedicated team she handed over to me. I would like to thank all of our partners for their dedication and commitment to SFEA's work.

I greatly appreciate our donors for their continued support that enabled us complete yet another impactful five-year period in which over 3,863 people in East Africa were empowered to cross the poverty line.

I hope this report gives you deeper insight of the work that we do and the progress we have made as an organization in partnership with others during 2018.

In 2019, we are rolling out our new Strategic Plan focusing on three thematic goals; building strong civil societies and Public Sector, ensuring inclusive and quality education and creating livelihoods and job opportunities.

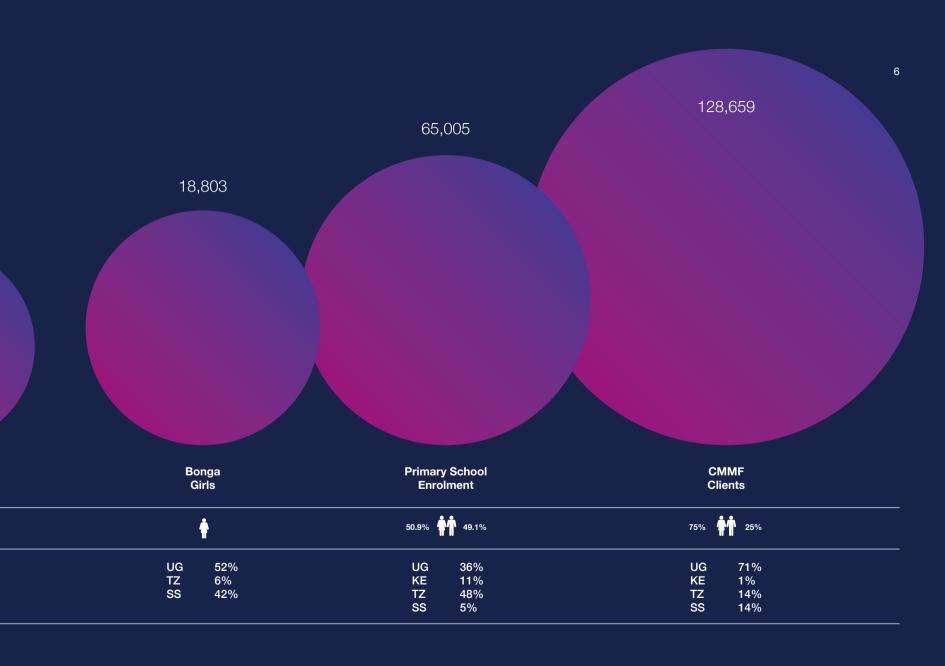






Key results 2014 - 2018 strategic period **2**





Milestones achieved through our programs

03



Building strong societies free from poverty starts with investing in the human capital especially through quality education for both girls and boys.



Supporting Early Childhood and primary Education

BIGGEST WIN IN 2018

Improving early grade learning of pupils in primary schools and early childhood care and education centres



We have two programs that focus on improving the quality of learning at the lower grades; the Early Childhood Care and Education program, and support to primary education. Our approach involves massive community awareness and advocacy, strengthening school governance structures like Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs), improving the school learning environment, and integrating parents/guardians into saving and lending groups (CMMF groups). This has contributed towards increased access and quality of education of children in the marginalised communities.

In 2018, our efforts focused on improving early grade learning of pupils in primary schools and early childhood care and education centres. 45 care givers received training in Early Grade Reading (ERG) and 'Equip to Teach'. As a result, this has contributed to improved quality of teaching in the schools we supported. An assessment conducted by Aga Khan Foundation, showed that on average all the skills and competencies acquired by care givers have greatly improved on their classroom presentation and delivery.

Average score (%) of Trained caregivers on selected indicators



66

The quality of teachers greatly determines the quality of education passed on to the students. It's therefore a great investment you are making in the teachers and students.

Early Grade Learning outcomes in Uganda and Tanzania 2018







Teacher training

BIGGEST WIN IN 2018

Maridi, Maper and Rombur National Teacher Training Institutes (NTTIs) for pre-service teacher training in South Sudan continued running smoothly. Two hundred fifty-four teachers were trained in these institutes in 2018.



In South Sudan, due to the prolonged civil war, the number of trained teachers has reduced. In other countries like Uganda and Tanzania, teachers in preschool and lower primary school, lack the required pedagogical skills. In this strategic period, we set out to address this teacher gap in partnership with the government and NORAD. Through this partnership, Maridi, Maper and Rombur National Teacher Training Institutes (NTTIs) for pre-service teacher training in South Sudan continued running smoothly. Two hundred fifty-four teachers were trained in these institutes in 2018.

The refugee crisis in northern Uganda meant that there was an influx of pupils who fled their country and needed to access education. Due to the increased demand for teachers, we realised there were many teachers who lacked the qualifications. Therefore, SFEA supported in-service teacher training for forty six teachers at Erepi primary teachers' college in Uganda. The training is a three-year program which will lead to trainees getting awarded with a Grade III primary school teaching.

The program is conducted only during school holidays for two weeks. The trainees continue to teach during the school time. Out of the 46 students, 30% of the beneficiaries are from the host community as per the Uganda refugee policy.

Bonga Girls

Stromme Foundation is not only focusing on formal Education, but on the informal learning structures too.

Bonga is designed initially to equip girls who have dropped out of school (or have not had a chance to attend school due to various reasons) with basic literacy, numeracy, life, entrepreneurship and vocational skills. It has given many girls a chance to regain their dignity and self-esteem and be considered as significant citizens in their communities.

The girls are young adolescents who drop out or have never been to school for various reasons like being orphaned at a young age, negative cultural practices that deprive the girl child of her rights like early marriages, Female Genital Mutilation, war and poverty. These leave the girl child illiterate, with low esteem and without opportunities to a better future.



↑ 1,532

1532 out of school adolescent girls were enrolled in 51 Bonga centers in Uganda (19), Tanzania (12) and South Sudan (20). Of the girls who completed the program, 86% are participating in Community Managed Micro-Finance (CMMF) groups and have used their savings to supplement their start up kits.

From the girls who graduated in 2017 and those who graduated in early 2018, a total of 41 Bonga forums have been established by 1,054 girls who remained within the communities after graduation.

↑ 264

264 girls who were previously not in Bonga were enrolled and trained by members of Bonga forums in life-skills and different vocational trades of their choice

6,888

86%

Bonga forums reached 6,888 people through community outreaches and sensitizations on issues affecting the girl child such as forced marriages, girl child education, genderbased violence and negative cultural practices т 31

31 girls from South Sudan returned to school after completion of the Bonga program

Girl's education in South Sudan



Despite the political unrest and war, Girls Education in South Sudan interventions were a principal driver of enrolment and retention of pupils in school in South Sudan. In 2018, a record of 1.75 million learners were enrolled in school and 46.05% of them were girls.

The effective partnership that GESS has built with MoGEI has leveraged over £13m of MoGEI investment in Capitation Grants. This has trippled the education budget of the South Sudan government to 8.9%.

Strømme Foundation was overseeing the program in two states, Jubek and Terekeka.

Community Managed Microfinance groups (CMMF), Beyond Saving and Borrowing







7,767 new members were reached in 297 groups

\$5,182,695 worth of savings





USD 193,264 worth of property owned by the groups.

36,441 new income generating activities were established The Community Managed Microfinance (CMMF) aims at improving financial literacy among the rural and urban poor in the communities we work in. This is to enable them make informed decisions regarding their saving, investment and spending patterns.

The CMMF model is a suitable community-based system of improving people's livelihoods by organising them in saving and investment groups where part of the profits made are reinvested to ensure continuous growth of their savings and lending capacity.

The loans and savings have been used for a range of activities such as starting up and expanding income generating activities, paying school fees, purchasing assets, livestock, building houses, improving food quality and security. We remain committed to positively impacting more lives using this method which empowers communities in the fight against poverty.



Community based Vocational Skills Training





557 youths enrolled in different trades

165 youths joined CMMF





59% immediately engaged in an income generating project upon graduation

119 youth joined skill-net groups formed in the different communities in Singida, Tanzania

Using a mentorship model, young people are attached to competent local artisans and equipped with technical skills with an aim of increasing job opportunities and directly address the unemployment rates among youth in rural areas. Young people acquire skills in areas like carpentry, metal fabrication and welding, bricklaying and concrete practice, tailoring, catering, baking, motor vehicle mechanics, soap making, knitting and weaving as well as agro-based value addition skills.

CMMF was integrated in the program to enable the youth to learn to save and grow income as well as provide access to start-up capital (through loans) after their training. In addition, Skill-Nets were introduced in SEMA, Singida as a sustainable strategy for community based vocational skills

training. Graduated youths with a variety of skills are organised in groups to network, identify market opportunities, create value chains, for resource mobilisation and attain better bargaining among others for their products and services.

So far, the skill-net groups have trained over 90 youths to date. in three different groups in nursery bed management and bee keeping as corporate social responsibility. In Kuron, South Sudan, where we support Vocational Training in a formal setting, 23 youth were trained in different trades, such as bricklaying and concrete practice, carpentry and joinery, and welding.

Impact Stories

04



My businesses are doing well. I am now popular in Bushenyi, as one of the regular suppliers of eggs and chicken. I am also approached for consultations on Poultry keeping and paid for it.





Mrs. Nabasa Joan aged 43 years is a determined widower of three (3) children. She owns chickens and feeds business, tea farm and a plot of land. Her dream is to see her children complete University and develop her plot of land. Joan's story is one of hope that shows that if people are given an opportunity, they can achieve their dreams.

Joan lost her husband in 2003 when her children were still young, the first born was in P.3. Life changed, she had to find a way of meeting all the needs of the family by herself. She had a business of selling bananas then, but it was on small scale and could not raise enough money. When SF in partnership with COVOID rolled out the Community Managed Microfinance program in Kyamuhunga in 2011, Joan was among the first people to join a group.

"Together with a few friends, we mobilised people and formed our CMMMF group called Kyabungimbi Twekambe (Meaning Kyabungimbi collective effort) which was the second in the whole of Kyamuhunga to be created. We started saving at a share value of One thousand Uganda shillings and in a week, I used to save Ten Thousand Uganda shillings. I was also secretary of the group." She narrated.

Her first loan was UGX 300,000 which she used to pay for school fees for her child who was then in Senior Four. They received training in Selection Planning Management of an income generating project which was so helpful in deciding what to invest in. Joan has since taken and serviced several loans that have enabled her to attain her current success. Through the discipline of saving and investing, she started and grew her poultry business to 400 chickens. She has also invested in other businesses like life tea farming, selling chicken feeds. Her children are now in good schools, with the older one at University with no worries and stress of school fees.



Creating an opportunity for less privileged children to access quality education



William Wol a graduate from Rombur National Teacher Training Institute (RNTTI) opened a nursery and primary school in 2017 shortly before completion of the program. Global Nursery and Primary School is located in Juba in a community with high levels of poverty and low levels of school enrolment.

His vision is to provide an opportunity for quality education to the less privileged children. William Wol believes that education breeds confidence, confidence breeds hope and hope breeds Peace.

As a founder, he calls upon parents to give enough time to their children. Currently the school has provided an opportunity to 848 children to access education (389 female, 459 male).

He has motivated parents, despite their poverty levels to contribute little money and materials because they have seen their children performing well. In 2018, one of his candidates got the highest marks in mathematics and general science mid-year assessment exams for primary eight in the whole of Jubek State. He has created jobs for 9 of his colleagues from Rombur national teacher training institute and is proud because out of the 14 teachers 10 are trained teachers from RNTTI unlike most schools in Jubek State.

Innovations in our programming

05

Innovation is a key strategy to highly embrace if we are to solve the 21st century issues surrounding poverty.



To be effective in eradicating poverty for sustainable growth, we have learnt to keep up with trends evolving in technology to create innovative solutions to handle issues in poverty.



Commercial Villages for Market Access and Financial Services

and financial inclusion.



1,000 smallholder farmer households mobilised





5 commercial villages formed and reached out to







In July 2017, we started a 15-months pilot project geared towards improving market and trade efficiency for smallholder farmers and wholesale buyers trading in beans, maize and banana value chains.

The farmers were organized into commercial villages and undertook value

chain analysis, baseline survey and village resource profiling for identification

of existing opportunities and gaps for commercialization, market development

40% women and 30% youth



10% increase in productivity by prices and

thus profitability





13% increase in the productivity of bananas





The model has the potential to systematically evolve and graduate smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists, farmer organizations and agro-enterprises into viable, competitive, profitable and sustainable value chain players.

10% increase in the productivity of beans.



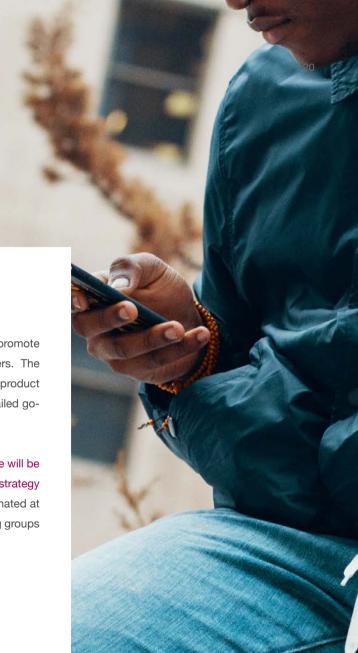


Digital Finance



We undertook a pilot study on a digitalisation project which sought to promote sustainable access to financial services by saving groups members. The project was phased in 5 components i.e. partner selection & set up, product development & prototyping (dry testing), pilot phase & evaluation, detailed goto-market plan and Full launch and go to market.

By the end of 2018, the first two phases were complete and next phase will be to fully develop the platform before piloting, developing a go-to-market strategy and eventually rolling it out to a larger set of groups within SFEA (estimated at 1,000 groups/25,000 members) and beyond, working with other saving groups facilitating agencies.



Cross Cutting Interventions

06

These are interventions that are critical to the success and sustainability of our work. As an organisation, we have decided to mainstream these across all our core programs.

Anti-corruption

We strengthened our anti-corruption fight through disseminating and communicating policies on corruption and procedures inside and outside the organisation. In collaboration with implementing partners OCODE and CBS, Strømme engaged in anti-corruption campaigns by conducting community sensitisations on the vices of corruption at the grassroot level and other networks that SFEA and its partners are apart of.

Training was done in collaboration with Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau and Transparency International in Tanzania and Uganda respectively. Local government leaders were also engaged because they stand at the centre in the war against corruption.



561 Local leaders trained to understand budgetary processes at local and national levels and how to mitigate corruption



15 anti-corruption whistle blowers were selected in Msongola, Tanzania. They were trained as anti-corruption champions who will monitor and sensitize communities on dangers of corruption.



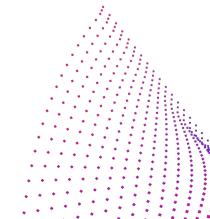
Inclusion (including persons with disabilities)



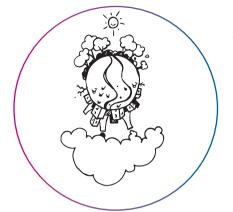
Disability inclusion is mainstreamed into all aspects of problem identification, planning, implementation, and participatory monitoring and evaluation. Three capacity building trainings on disability have been conducted to broaden staff understanding of disability inclusion approaches, programs and advocacy.

Through sensitisation in the communities, parents/guardians appreciate children with disabilities and ensure they have equal access to education. Some disability cases that partners have encountered are referred and attached to special needs institutions.

School administrators also improved the school environment to make provision for disability inclusive infrastructures and toilet facilities. Partners ensured that M&E tools on reporting, monitoring and evaluation have been revised to capture disability disaggregated data.

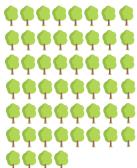


Environmental sustainability



Research shows that it's the poorest people who are most affected by environmental degradation yet majority lack the information on how to mitigate it. This explains why the major activities have been on awareness creation on climate change and adaptation measures.

Through the Nordic Climate Fund, we implemented a climate resilience and diversification of livelihoods model in three districts in the semi-arid Karamoja region in north-eastern Uganda. The project promoted forest-based enterprises like apiculture that provides an incentive for farmers to protect, regenerate and plant trees in addition to planting multipurpose trees. Communities were trained in Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) practices that allow fast recovery of trees that are cut but whose root system is still intact. Saving Groups were integrated to promote access to credit for members to diversify their investment in non-farm enterprises for alternative income sources. We recognize the need to act urgently to address environmental issues and we are up to the challenge.



272, 688 trees planted in communities where SF implemented programs in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan.



Gender equality





Early marriages reduced from 48% in 2014 to 23.5% in 2018 in the communities we worked in. Gender inequality continues to be a global issue and one of the factors hindering sustainable development especially in rural areas where women and girls are denied access to services such as education and economic opportunities. We are dedicated to narrowing the gender gap and pledge to continue to stand in solidarity with women and girls who are silenced and oppressed both at household and community levels.

We encouraged partners to identify a gender champion who ensures that gender considerations are taken care of in all aspects of our interventions. All SFEA partners have implemented the 70% female and 30% male in the Community Managed Microfinance intervention without any deviation. This has empowered more women in the community to fight for their rights and a dignified life. We facilitated trainings among community-based civil society organizations that have engaged in sensitization campaigns

about women and girls' rights. There was advocacy for strong representation by women on Bonga support teams, school management committees and saving groups committees.

We enacted guidelines to ensure more female teachers got recruited in the teacher training program. We have put to task our participants to challenge stereotypes which discriminate against women.

Working together with community-led advocacy initiatives, we have promoted gender equality in decision-making, leadership and peacebuilding, and strengthened dialogue between communities and governments in the fight against early marriages. More than 60% of the Bonga girls who are married have indicated improved relationship with their husbands at home.

The Civil Societies we want to see

07

The role of civil society in advocating for the rights of the poor and marginalized groups is very important to us as an organization. Building capacities of our partners is key in ensuring sustainable impact in the communities we work. Through capacity building programs, workshops, monitoring visits, we continued to add value among our partner staff for improved service delivery.

FK exchange programs, tools of capacity building



We partnered with FK Norway to foster exchanges between selected SFEA partners. The South to South professional exchange was utilised to improve our Community Based Vocational Skills Training program.

The second round of exchange was conducted between Functional Vocational Training Research Society (FVTRS) in India, SFEA, SEMA in Singida, Tanzania and COVOID in Rubirizi Uganda. Altogether six participants were engaged in the exchange where they have transferred different skills to the hosting organisations and taken a number of lessons back to their home organisations. For SFEA, the exchange enabled us to consolidate our Vocational Skills manual with input from the participants from India.

The Act Now Youth Exchange Program had twelve youth participate in the exchange between Norway and East Africa. Six of these were Norwegians who were placed in the local communities with partners in Uganda and Tanzania. They were involved in community development programs that SF implements with these partners. The other six are East African youth who returned home in June and are currently doing volunteer work with their home organisations.

Networking with Governments and other INGOs



SFEA believes that greater achievement can only be got through a network of people or organisations that share common goals. Networking with the government and other development bodies will always be a core component in our programming.

In Uganda, we are members of different forums that link us with other likeminded organisations. At the Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU), we are part of the Early child education, Gender parity and Lifelong learning working groups where key solutions are suggested to counteract issues faced in the implementation of our programs. Under the NGO-forum, we have continued to work together by doing a lot of knowledge sharing to finding sustainable solutions to developmental issues.

For sustainability of the projects, we make efforts to work alongside government initiatives in alignment with our areas of focus. We participate in working groups in various ministries such as Early Childhood Care and Development. This enables our plans and programmes to be anchored in national priorities, policies, strategies and development plans to guarantee continuity after the project completion.

We seek collaborations with other development organisations as we consult each other on different issues, seek joint fundraising and advocacy initiatives. We have encouraged all our partners to network and strongly make their voice heard in matters concerning the marginalised.

Our Operations

08

We are privileged to have a dedicated team of staff passionate about empowering people to get out of poverty. We are constantly reviewing our team capacities internally to ensure that we have the right people in the right place towards the achievement of our goals. We closed off 2018 with an agreed new operational model to propel us into the new strategic period.

To supplement our accountability champions, we recruited an Internal Auditor, Nicholas Nsubuga who joined us in October 2018. We also welcomed a new Regional Director, Patrick Oloo Wajero, taking on the responsibility of the region's leadership from our previous Regional Director.

Our overall expenditure was USD 5.217M for the region. This was funded by the income received during the period as well as the opening balances from 2017. The funding sources for the year are presented in the table below:





Ms. Priscilla and Ms.

2018/19 Act Now South to North participants before the exchange



Partners' Orientation workshop in preparation for partners for the New strategic period.



SFEA staff during a team building activity.



A parent making a presentation of their contribution to the education exit strategy in Basecamp.



Bonga girls coming up ideas for an exit strategy for Bonga program in Basecamp, Kenya



SFEA end of year review.



Partners in an education breakout session during the Partners' orientation workshop.



Beneficiaries brainstorming on ideas for a program exit strategy in SEMA, Tanzania



2018/19 Act Now South to North participants at an appreciation lunch after the exchange.



General Secretary, Tina Sødal giving an appreciation Speech at Ms. Priscilla Serukka's farewell dinner at Skyz hotel.



Basecamp CFO making a presentation on an exit strategy for the organization.

2018 financial statement

		Notes	2018 Ushs'000	2017 Ushs'000
1	OPENING BALANCE			
1.1	Bank balances	6	2,114,943	2,231,430
1.2	Cash in hand		982	775
1.3		7	884,925	622,828
1.4	Creditors and accruals	8	(947,289)	(1,196,270)
	Total opening balance	_	2,053,561	1,658,763
2	INCOME			
2.1	Grants from Stromme Foundation - Norway	3	12,421,751	12,956,079
2.2	Grants from Fredskorpset	3	685,334	429,785
2.3	Grants from Lakarmissionen	3	1,185,937	1,303,259
2.4	Grants from DFID	3	196,224	261,524
2.5	Grants from Eriks Foundation	3	1,010,724	827,895
2.7	Other Income	4	97,607	134,303
	Total Receipts	_	15,597,577	15,912,845
	Total Fund (1+2)	_	17,651,138	17,571,608
3	EXPENDITURE			
3.1	Project expenditure (Specification in note)	5 _	17,334,607	15,518,047
4	CLOSING BALANCE			
4.1	Bank balances	6	1,076,668	2,114,943
4.2		_	509	982
4.3	Advances and prepayments	7	1,136,938	884,925
4.4	Creditors and accruals	8	(1,897,584)	(947,289)
	Total Closing Balance	_	316,531	2,053,561
	Total Fund (3+4)	_	17,651,138	17,571,608

The financial surfamary statement and related notes were approved by the Regional Office Management on 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

Regional Director

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