



30 years
of helping
children thrive



Annual Report 2024

message from the Chair of Trustees

Dear friends and supporters,

I am delighted to again have the pleasure of introducing you to the achievements of Hands Around the World during this last year, through our partnership with projects in Africa and India.

It is so encouraging to see the diversity of projects and the breadth of the impact which has been made possible by our generous donors, supporters and volunteers. So many individual lives have been influenced – whether by enabling access to educational opportunities or providing much-needed practical support by way of wheelchairs or promoting environmental initiatives.

For me, the 30th anniversary celebration in November was such a moving tribute to all that has been achieved. It was a delight to meet both old and new volunteers, whose own lives have been transformed as they have reached out to make new friends and support project partners. We recognise that our volunteers are our strength, and I would encourage you to take the opportunity to share your own skills and experience – we value your contribution both locally and within our partner projects.

Our Jersey colleagues have been innovative with new volunteering initiatives for teachers again this year. Sharing expertise has had two-way benefits. The Rwandan teachers have reported increased skills and confidence and a positive impact on learners. The Jersey teachers have been challenged and positively affected by their volunteering experiences. We hope these links will continue with on-line learning opportunities.

There is no shortage of need, sadly, but we aim to continue to work creatively in both new and existing partnerships to make a difference in individual lives, maximising opportunities and building new friendships. I hope you too will be inspired by the stories and pictures in this year's report!

Heidi Sydor
Chair of Trustees



About Us



Children at Maluba Kasensa Community Centre, Zambia

Mission Statement

To help children and young people disadvantaged through poverty or disability, or otherwise vulnerable, in partnership with locally-managed centres in Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, Benin, Uganda and India. We also support well-prepared volunteers to offer practical help, skill sharing, and friendship.

Vision

We want to see happy, healthy children in our partner projects, enabled to reach their full potential, with opportunities to have productive and fulfilled lives.

How We Work

We work in partnership with in-country managers to realise their vision of supporting vulnerable children and alleviating poverty within their communities. This means ownership remains within the local community and we are committed to supporting our partner projects to move towards sustainability.

Hands Around the World Jersey

We work in close collaboration with an independent branch of Hands Around the World, based in Jersey. You can read about their projects on pages 9 and 10.

Our Impact in 2024

Together with our partners in Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Benin and India:

5930	children, young people and adults supported
2730	pupils and community members benefitted from climate-smart agriculture
1679	children supported through our Lunch Box Programme
769	children with disabilities helped to access education
278	girls provided with a hygiene room at school
235	students benefitted from classroom construction
57	students sponsored in secondary and tertiary education
43	women trained in tailoring and embroidery skills
40	volunteers supported our work in the UK
5	volunteers supported our partner projects overseas
1	new project initiated to help victims of gender-based violence

Finances 2024

We are extremely grateful for all the generous contributions and donations we have received throughout the year from organisations and individuals, legacy gifts, trusts and foundations, and sponsorships. In 2024, Hands Around the World had an income of £244,914 and expenditure of £245,654. We have been able to continue our much-needed work, helping children thrive, and we would like to thank everyone who has donated to our work.

We sadly had to say goodbye to a number of our Hands Around the World supporters and good friends who have died, but their legacies continue to positively impact our work. In 2024, we received significant legacy donations, for which we are incredibly grateful, allowing us to expand our work and increase our impact.

Our full accounts for 2024 are available on request from info@hatw.org.uk

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals are a global plan to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity through 17 integrated goals balancing social, economic, and environmental priorities.

Hands Around the World's key focus areas are Education, Health and the Environment. In 2024 our projects have contributed towards the following SDGs:





Waiting for her wheelchair check-up

Pamodji Ndi Ana (PNA), Chipata, Eastern Province

In partnership with PNA, Hands Around the World contributed to a range of initiatives:

Emergency Food Relief

During a severe drought, 747 vulnerable families were supported with bags of maize.

Education Access

12 children with disabilities were sponsored to attend school, and the special unit at Kasenga was refurbished after storm damage made it unusable.

Mobility Support

18 children received new wheelchairs, with follow-up checks for 43 others to ensure proper function and positioning. Wheelchairs were modified with steel supports that can be adjusted as the child grows. Transport was also provided for a child to travel to hospital in Lusaka for a prosthetic leg, enabling him to walk again.

School Construction

Work continued on a 3-classroom block at Madzi-a-Tuwa Secondary School, expanding access to education for 235 rural students, particularly girls at risk of early marriage and pregnancy.

Access to Services

163 children were registered with the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities and issued ID cards, giving them access to national social support.



Students at Kasenga School



Queueing up for food at Maluba Kasensa

Maluba Kasensa Centre Monze, Southern Province

Hands Around the World continued its support to Maluba Kasensa, a volunteered community centre providing vital educational, nutritional, and social care to 101 vulnerable children. In response to the ongoing drought in 2024, food support was expanded. Children shared monthly meals at the centre and took home maize and beans to support their families – reaching over 500 people in total. Supporters also helped provide reusable metal plates and resources to start a vegetable garden, which is now cared for by community members (pictured below).



Rebecca's Story

Rebecca (pictured above right) is 10 years old and is one of the children attending the centre. Rebecca receives educational support from the centre, as well as food relief for her and her family.

"Before getting food from Maluba Kasensa, we could only eat once a day, but since receiving the maize, we are now able to have three meals a day. I can now go to school on a full stomach, making it easy for me to concentrate in class."



Mwandi Mission Hospital, Mwandi, Western Province

In 2024, Hands Around the World began a new partnership with Mwandi Mission Hospital, supporting victims of gender-based violence (GBV). Hands Around the World is supporting the construction of a One Stop Centre in the hospital grounds to provide a free 24-hour integrated response to victims 'under one-roof' (pictured above).

Services will include a permanent police post, medical care, social and psychological support. Working together with hospital staff, the local community and police, the centre will also provide training and awareness raising on the impacts of GBV, and encourage more peaceful relationships. The project is making great progress, and the centre is due to open in 2025.

Twambo and Paul

Twambo and Paul (pictured right and back cover) are qualified nurses who have been volunteering at Mwandi Mission Hospital. They are being sponsored to complete a one-year specialist course in critical care nursing. It is hoped that they can be recruited by Mwandi Hospital, where these specialist skills are desperately needed. Both will finish training in July 2025.





School children at the NLC



New Life Centre (NLC), Sarberia, West Bengal

The NLC is a school and Vocational Training Centre (VTC) supporting children and young people to achieve the necessary qualifications to access opportunities for further education and employment. It is a community hub, as well as a beacon of hope to many in this corner of India, which is largely forgotten because of its rural location. We have been working in partnership with the NLC for 17 years and in 2024, supported the following activities:

- Provision of pre-primary through to secondary education for 400 children.
- Assistance to 14 students to continue their senior secondary and university education.



- Delivery of a tailoring and embroidery course for 43 women.
- Provision of counselling for parents and children attending the school, to ensure motivation, attendance and academic attainment.
- Delivery of weekend art classes for 30 children.
- Establishment of a Youth Motivation Group that undertakes community service and supports families in difficult circumstances.

Chumpa's Story

Chumpa has been teaching the tailoring course at the VTC for almost 20 years. She has trained hundreds of local women, providing them with tailoring and embroidery skills, so they can make clothes for their family members and, in some cases, sell items through local shops. One lady even set up her own business selling clothes after she had completed the course.





Disability Community Centre (DCC) and Special Schools, Meru County

In 2024, we expanded our projects in Kenya through a range of activities:

Provision of classroom furniture

In partnership with the DCC, classroom furniture was provided to 140 children with disabilities who attend Irindiro Special School. The new school furniture has helped create an appropriate learning environment for the pupils, boosting academic performance.

Distribution of wheelchairs

54 wheelchairs from Motivation Africa were distributed by the DCC (pictured above) enhancing mobility, independence, and quality of life for children and adults.



A water connectivity project

Irindiro Special School now has access to clean drinking water (pictured above) as well as water available in the kitchens, school dormitories, bathrooms and toilets – improving the hygiene and sanitation conditions of 140 students. The water is also being used on the school farm, where crops are now being grown for food.

Frankline's Story

Frankline (pictured right) is 18 years old and has muscular dystrophy. He has muscle degeneration and weakness. With no access to a wheelchair, he was unable to attend school. Frankline was overjoyed to receive a wheelchair from the DCC, and is now attending school. The provision of a wheelchair has had a profound impact on his education and independence.



Rwanda — Hands Around the World Jersey

We have worked closely with our Jersey branch since it was established in 2007. Hands Around the World Jersey (HATWJ) developed its own projects in Rwanda, through on-going volunteer visits and with funding support from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission. In 2024, HATWJ had an income of £307,478 and an expenditure of £324,752. For more information visit: www.hatwj.org.uk

HATWJ Impact in 2024

3190	children benefitted from HATWJ projects
1100	dignity bags were provided to girls of menstrual age
1050	students benefitted from improved school infrastructure
600	girls provided with a hygiene room at school
427	street children were supported with access to education
24	volunteers from Jersey supported the projects
13	students were supported in secondary education, university or tertiary education
12	teachers participated in a Google classroom exchange with Jersey teachers
8	schools were provided with grants to implement a sustainable livestock project
5	teachers were supported to gain improved teaching qualifications
3	headteachers from Rwanda visited Jersey to learn about education there

The Virtual Great North Coast Charity Challenge

For several years, HATWJ has organised a sponsored walk along the beautiful and rugged north coast of the island, a distance of about 18 miles. In 2024, 200 people undertook the challenge and they were joined virtually by over 2,000 young people and teachers from our partner schools in Bugarama, Rwanda, who wanted to show their collaboration and appreciation (pictured below).



Rwanda — Hands Around the World Jersey



Girls' Hygiene Rooms

In 2024, Hands Around the World supported HATWJ with the construction of a girls' hygiene room (pictured right) at Nyakagoma School (pictured above). Many girls from disadvantaged families miss school and fail to make good

progress due to period poverty. To address this issue, HATWJ supports nine partner schools in Bugarama. The schools lack appropriate facilities, and menstrual health education has been inadequate. In a baseline study of the HATWJ partner schools, only 18% of schoolgirls reported having access to appropriate hygiene facilities and sanitary materials at school. The project aims to provide first-rate hygiene rooms, which include a counselling room, beds, toilets and shower, as well as facilities for female teachers, including breast-feeding facilities. To date, HATWJ and their Rwandan partners have constructed five girls' hygiene rooms.



Dignity Bags

In 2024, HATWJ also provided 1,100 locally-made 'dignity bags' containing sanitary products to all girls of menstrual age at the schools and organised training for the school matrons to provide counselling and advice. These facilities will not only improve attendance and retention rates in schools but will also improve academic results and vocational training opportunities for girls, as well as reducing teenage pregnancies.



Lunch Box Programme



Children waiting for lunch, Bugarama, Rwanda



Sylvan's Story

Sylvan, pictured above, was living on the streets of Bugarama before receiving lunches from GS Saint Paul Muko School. Life was difficult, and he could only survive by scavenging and turning to petty theft. With the support of Hands Around the World and the school, Sylvan now receives two nutritious meals a day, enabling him to learn and concentrate without being hungry. Recently, two of the street children from the school, including Sylvan, were selected from among 80 brilliant students in the country to continue their studies in the USA after secondary school. The food programme has transformed their lives.

Sylvan said,

"I aspire to be the best leader for my country, to support others in the way I have been supported."

Through our Lunch Box Programme, we have continued to support the 'Street Children's Lives Matter' campaign at GS Saint Paul Muko School, Bugarama, Rwanda. In 2024, this initiative provided two meals a day, seven days a week, to 427 street children, enabling these vulnerable children not only to be fed, but also to gain an education. The provision of meals, whilst supporting their nutritional health, removes the impetus to revert to petty theft, scavenging and begging to feed themselves. Hands Around the World has also supported the development of the school garden at GS Saint Paul Muko School, where a thriving vegetable garden supplements the meals.

The Lunch Box Programme also funds several other Hands Around the World projects, including food distributions to children at Maluba Kasensa and the PNA Centre in Zambia.

It's hard to learn when you're hungry

Could you help provide school lunches for children and emergency food parcels to those in need? You can set up a regular donation on our website.

Sponsorships



Janes from Zambia (pictured above) is studying on a three-year nursing course in Lusaka. She will complete her final year in 2025. She has greatly enjoyed the practical experiences and was delighted to assist a woman in delivering her baby – this was the first time Janes had done this unsupervised, and she reported back that it was the best feeling!

Teddy in Uganda successfully completed her secondary education and decided to join a technical school, where she is training for a certificate in electrical installation.

Daizy in Uganda repeated her school leaving exams to improve her grades. Having achieved better results this time, she secured a place at Kuluva School of Nursing and Midwifery and has completed her first semester of a three-year midwifery course.

Sponsor a nurse

Could you sponsor a student who is passionate about a career in health-care, but lacks the financial resources to train? You can set up a regular donation on our website.

Norris in Zambia is studying on a three-year optometry course. We have supported him by paying 50% of his course fees.

Bebeto from Zambia (pictured below) has been studying to become a doctor for the last five years, with our support. He has worked hard to pass all the exams and is excited about the prospect of qualifying in 2025.



Environmental Initiatives



Marshal Papworth students learning in the UK

Marshal Papworth Course

In collaboration with the Marshal Papworth Fund, Hands Around the World supports community leaders nominated by our project partners to participate in a 10-week course in sustainable agriculture at Harper Adams University in the UK. We also encourage participants to apply the knowledge gained to improve food security and resilience at home.

Environment Fund

Hands Around the World works in communities highly vulnerable to climate change. To support a more sustainable future, we launched an Environment Fund. The first theme, School Gardens, led to two projects in Zambia and Uganda (see next page).

In 2024, the theme changed to Waste Management. The new initiatives include a menstrual health and sustainability project in Uganda, a food preservation project in Zambia, and a youth-led recycling campaign in Benin.



Jean Damascene's story

"Through the Marshal Papworth Scholarship, I received invaluable training. I am eager to apply these skills at GS Saint Paul Muko School in Bugarama, Rwanda, and to share this knowledge with other schools and street children. This will greatly improve food security and foster sustainable farming practices, benefitting our community and future generations. I am profoundly grateful to Hands Around the World and the Marshal Papworth Scholarship for their crucial role in this transformative journey."

Environmental Initiatives



Hamangaba School Garden, Zambia

We supported Zambia Women and Girls Foundation (ZaWGF) to create a sustainable garden at Hamangaba School in Monze. Previously barren, the land was transformed, enabling the school to grow food and raise funds for essentials like seeds, books, and uniforms for vulnerable children. The garden also supports maths and science lessons, and over 1,000 pupils and community members have been trained in sustainable farming, composting, and biodiversity.

Tororo Girls' School Garden, Uganda

Annet, an enthusiastic teacher of Agriculture at the school and Marshal Papworth student alumnus, proposed a project that aims to improve the diets of 2,000 pupils, teach climate-smart agriculture and mitigate climate change through soil carbon sequestration. Students have gained awareness of sustainable farming practices and have begun applying these concepts at home.

One student said, *"I now make sure to compost at home. It feels good to know I'm helping the environment,"*

Deputy Headteacher Mr Moshen said,

"Hamangaba is now a model school. Before establishing the school garden, the ground was bare, and nothing would grow due to inadequate water and stray animals. Now the school can grow a variety of vegetables and raise money to buy seeds, books and even uniforms for the most vulnerable children."



The project also addresses gender inequality, recognising that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls. It is a powerful example of how educating and empowering young people can create lasting community impact.



Learning on the laptop, St Lucy's School, Kenya

Brigid Cooling Technology Fund

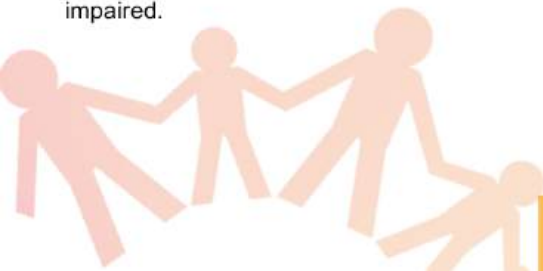
Hands Around the World's Finance Officer, Brigid Cooling, sadly passed away in June 2024 after a short illness. Brigid had worked with us for just over three years and was passionate about technology and systems. Her expertise was in databases, and she supported Hands Around the World in becoming more resilient by future-proofing our IT systems.

Setting up the Brigid Cooling Technology Fund felt like an appropriate way to remember her. The fund aims to support young people with IT assistance and training. For 2025, funds have been allocated to provide refurbished laptops to St Lucy's Primary and Secondary Schools in Kenya for children who are visually impaired.

Chris Halsey Tribute Fund

This fund was set up in memory of Chris Halsey, an A&E Charge Nurse and Hands Around the World Jersey trustee. The fund supports children around the world who need medical help and enables life-changing medical interventions.

For example, in 2024, we helped Jaelly in Zambia. Jaelly was admitted to hospital having become paralysed from the waist down, leaving her unable to walk. Following hospital treatment and tests, she was discharged but still struggled with her mobility. Through the Chris Halsey Fund, Hands Around the World supported her with necessary further hospital tests for a better diagnosis and assistance with a wheelchair and hoist to enable her to return home. Her treatment is ongoing as she recovers at home.



Volunteering



Volunteers are at the heart of Hands Around the World, bringing energy, skills, and compassion to all we do.

In 2024, we were supported by 40 dedicated individuals who volunteered remotely and in Monmouth, contributing in a wide range of ways – from creating a film for our 30th anniversary to running coffee mornings, helping in the office, and supporting decision making in meetings.



Pictured above: Volunteers helping at our 30th Anniversary celebration event.

In addition to our UK volunteers, five overseas volunteers visited projects in Zambia and Rwanda to support our partners, and 24 volunteers contributed to Hands Around the World Jersey projects in Rwanda. Emyr (pictured above) said this about his recent trip to Rwanda in 2024:

"I loved the generous welcoming nature involving celebrations of elaborate speeches and traditional dance; the unique gifts including live chickens. Above all I felt embraced into the routines of their lives making me rapidly feel a part of their community and an established friend."

Volunteering with us is a meaningful way to make a difference. Whether you'd like to help locally or explore an overseas opportunity, we'd love to hear from you. To find out how you could get involved, please contact: jane@hatw.org.uk

Looking Ahead to 2025



In 2025, Hands Around the World will continue working towards the goals set out in our 2022-27 Strategy, and we remain on track to achieve our objectives. Our work will remain focused on four key areas: Education, Health, Volunteering and Relationships, and Independence and Sustainability.

Our plans for 2025 include:

- Enhancing partnerships in Zambia, continuing our work with our current partners to promote equitable access to education and healthcare for disadvantaged children. We will also explore new opportunities to work with additional partners in Zambia in collaboration with our in-country coordinator.
- Expanding our programme in Kenya, supporting four special schools in Meru County alongside our in-country coordinator, bringing positive change to children with disabilities.
- Ongoing collaboration with our partner in India, supporting vocational training at the New Life Centre through tailoring and computer courses.
- Continuing support for Hands Around the World Jersey, helping to deliver their Rwanda Ubumwe 'Unity' Strategy.
- Launching our 2025 Environment Programme, with this year's theme focused on 'Water', addressing climate resilience and sustainable resource use.
- Celebrating the contribution of our volunteers and developing volunteering opportunities, both overseas and locally in Monmouth and in Jersey.

Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers. Your ongoing commitment has enabled us to achieve so much, positively impacting the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the communities we serve.

How You Can Help

Donate

Your donation enables us to make a huge difference to individual lives. Please consider supporting our work by making a one-off gift or regular donation.

www.hatw.org.uk/donate



Leave a legacy

A gift in your Will can help change children's lives. It doesn't have to be large – every legacy supports our vital work and makes a lasting difference.

www.hatw.org.uk/legacy



Fundraise

Please help us fundraise! If you would like to help us raise money towards our charitable work, please visit our website for ideas.

www.hatw.org.uk/fundraise



Volunteer

Join our Monmouth team, support us remotely, or apply for an overseas placement with one of our partners. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

www.hatw.org.uk/volunteer





Hands Around the World
5 Church Street
Monmouth
NP25 3BX

info@hatw.org.uk
07514 787 842



**Hands
Around
the World**

Helping Children Thrive

www.hatw.org.uk

Registered charity in
England and Wales
Charity Number
1097626

