

# Annual Report & Accounts 2018 - 2019





Sowing seeds of hope in Nicaragua

### Foreword by SIFT's Patron

### **Andrew Selous MP**



Andrew Selous MP

I am, once again, thankful to God for everything He has brought about within the Charity, despite all of the many issues that have beset Nicaragua over the last twelve months of operation. I am, of course, also thankful to everyone on the front line and those behind the scenes – in the engine room – for doing what they do, relentlessly and with the uttermost grace, serving God and serving the people of the extraordinary country of Nicaragua. I, as your Patron, am most grateful. The dedication of SIFT's employees, volunteers, trustees and supporters for another successful year's work, undertaken in the aftermath of the unrest of 2018, has been nothing short of astonishing.

Whilst the unrest in Nicaragua I remarked on last year has, to all intents and purposes, died down, there is still an underlying uncertainty in the country, both economically and socially. Please pray earnestly for our volunteer, Margaret Storey, out in Bluefields and Dr Sandra Villagra and her team of nurses who work tirelessly in very difficult circumstances. Pleas also pray for Jacobo Sanchez, our Administrator and Legal Representative who is most

adept at working with authorities out there. I pay tribute to all of our workers in Nicaragua.

The Charity has gone through a rough ride financially, as have most organisations in the charitable sector, and I am extremely grateful to regular supporters and other organisations for continuing to fund the valuable work of the Charity. SIFT has had to say goodbye to Ali Wilson, SIFT's Fundraising Manager, as she has gone to work for the Church Army in a similar role. Ali has been a real motivational fundraiser and the Charity will miss her most markedly: I wish her well in her new role. She is still in close contact with SIFT and we look forward to working more closely with her again in the future. SIFT's loss will be the Church Army's gain, I have absolutely no doubt.

Mark, the Chairman of Trustees and I e-mail very regularly and Graham, who has been made Executive Officer of the Charity, is in regular contact with me and my office at Westminster on a number of matters. Thank you Graham for taking on this new role, I wish you well in this new responsibility. I am grateful to Colin Weaver, SIFT's former UK Director, who has stepped down this year. He has been on staff in a number of roles for 16 years. I am grateful to you, Colin, for everything you have done and wish you well in your other charitable work.

The medical work on Ometepe has continued to develop and I am most appreciative of Dr Sandra and her team for doing what they do in an increasingly difficult cultural and financial climate.

The work of Valeria Lopez and her team at Casa Rahab in Granada continues apace. As you are aware this ministry is of particular interest to me and I am extremely thankful for the financial support SIFT makes in this enormously crucial area, encouraging young women and girls out of the sex trade.

Again I'd like to highlight the work of two of SIFT's volunteers, Ruth Ward and Margaret Storey; Ruth in her linking up with sponsors and sending out Margaret's reports on sponsored students in Bluefields, and Margaret for her tireless work amongst the students and their families on the Caribbean coast. Thank you both for your faithful service.

Yours in Christ's name

Andrew

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### **About Nicaragua**

Nicaragua is the third poorest country in the Americas after Haiti and Honduras. A survey of Nicaraguan households carried out in 2017 found 41% of the population living below the poverty line¹, with 8.4% living in extreme poverty. The survey found a higher incidence of poverty in rural areas, where 56% of the population live below the poverty line and 14.5% live in extreme poverty. A number of different factors contribute towards extreme poverty, with the most significant being economic dependence, overcrowded homes and a lack of access to basic services.²

The political unrest of 2018 has had a significant negative impact on the country's economy. This is reflected in figures from the Nicaraguan Central Bank which show that Nicaragua's economy shrank by 3.8% in 2018.<sup>3</sup> The tourist industry was particularly affected by the unrest, with tourism revenue being \$296 million lower than in 2017. In addition, direct foreign investment into Nicaragua was only \$359 million, as opposed to \$772 million in 2017.

In Nicaragua there are only nine physicians for every 10,000 people, compared to 28 physicians for every 10,000 people in the UK.<sup>4</sup> Almost half of all health centres do not have a water supply, and 35% of rural health centres do not have a reliable electricity source.<sup>5</sup> People living in rural areas are more at risk of certain health issues than their urban counterparts: 87% of rural families cook on open wood fires<sup>2</sup> (which can lead to respiratory diseases), 37% of children from these communities are undernourished, and 70% of maternal deaths occur in rural areas.<sup>5</sup> Maternal deaths include women who die whilst pregnant or within 6 weeks of being pregnant.

The latest UNDP statistical update for Nicaragua recognises that Nicaraguan children have far better access to education than their parents' generation did. A child beginning school this year is anticipated to spend 12.1 years in education, whereas the average Nicaraguan aged 25 years or

older only spent 6.7 years in education.<sup>4</sup> Whilst primary school is compulsory, UNICEF figures indicate that attendance rates are 70%, with only 56% of children reaching the final year of primary school. Secondary school attendance rates drop to 47% for girls and 35% for boys<sup>6</sup> caused, in part, by young people needing to find work in order to financially support their families.

SIFT is working to bring hope and security to the poor of Nicaragua through projects in the areas of health, education, housing and freedom from sexual exploitation. Our projects are based on the island of Ometepe, in the town of Bluefields, and in the localities of Managua and Granada.

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- (1) People living below the poverty line live on less than \$2.50 per day and those in extreme poverty live on less than \$1.20 per day.
- (2) FIDEG. 2018. Encuesta de hogares para medir la pobreza en Nicaragua [Online]. Managua: FIDEG. Available at: http://fideg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/INFORME-DE-RESULTADOS-2017.pdf [Accessed: 08 August 2019]
- (3) BCN. 2018. Macroeconomic statistics yearbook 2018 [Online]. Managua: BCN. Available at: http://www.bcn.gob.ni/publicaciones/periodicidad/anual/anual\_estadistico/anuario\_estadistico\_2018.pdf [Accessed: 08 August 2019]
- (4) UNDP. 2018. Human Development Indices and Indicators 2018 Statistical Update [Online]. New York: UNDP. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018\_human\_development\_statistical\_update.pdf [Accessed: 08 August 2019]
- (5) Sequeira M, Espinoza H, Amador JJ, Domingo G, Quintanilla M, and de los Santos T. 2011. *The Nicaraguan Health System* [Online]. Seattle, Washington: PATH. Available at: https://path.azureedge.net/media/documents/TS-nicaragua-health-system-rpt.pdf [Accessed: 12 August 2019]
- (6) UNICEF. 2013. At a glance: Nicaragua [Online]. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nicaragua\_statistics.html [Accessed: 12 August 2019]

### Mission, Objectives, Strategy and Activities

#### Mission

SIFT's mission is to transform the lives of the poor in Nicaragua by focussed activity in specific areas and communities of need.

### **Objectives**

The Trustees hold the trust fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objectives:

- 1. To relieve poverty.
- 2. To advance the Christian religion.
- To facilitate the protection and preservation of good health.
- 4. To facilitate education.



### Strategy

SIFT's overall strategy to satisfy these charitable objectives is:

To use SIFT funds and resources to help to draw Nicaraguans out of material and spiritual poverty, by supporting indigenous individuals, groups or Churches in projects to benefit the poor.

#### **Activities**

Throughout the year SIFT has worked with potential beneficiaries and indigenous organisations, including local government and other NGOs, to determine needs and to ensure solutions are developed which will be of sustainable public benefit. Our main activities for this year to fulfil the objectives were:

- Providing primary healthcare facilities on the island of Ometepe.
- Progressing options to re-house poor and displaced islander families on the Asese Peninsula.
- Supporting an orphanage near Managua.
- Sponsoring the education of children and young people in Bluefields.
- Supporting Christians and churches in various areas of the country and providing funding for their ministries; in particular a child feeding programme on Ometepe and a project supporting victims of sexual exploitation in Granada.

Details of these activities and achievements this year appear in the following pages.

### **Activities, Achievements and Performance**

#### Health

The island of Ometepe, in Lake Nicaragua, is home to around 35,000 people, most of whom live in rural farming communities. The tourist industry on the island was heavily affected by last year's political unrest, which caused many people to lose their jobs, and is only slowly recovering.

State-funded health facilities on the island are limited and tend to be based in the main towns. In addition, whilst consultations are free at these health centres, patients have to pay for their medicines which tends to put treatment out of the reach of those from poorer backgrounds.

SIFT provides primary healthcare to the people of Ometepe at our clinics in the communities of Las Pilas, San José del Sur and El Corozal. Patients attending a SIFT clinic only have to pay an affordable consultation fee, but all medicines are prescribed to them free of charge. If a patient cannot afford the consultation fee then it is waived, as we do not want a lack of money to prevent someone from getting the treatment that they need. During 2018-19, our medical team attended 5,684 patients, of which 40% were children. Over this past year there was an increase in the number of patients who could not afford the consultation fee, caused to a large extent by the poor employment situation on the island.



Dr Sandra treating a young patient at Las Pilas clinic

Our medical team consists of Dr Sandra Villagra and seven local nurses, three of whom have a professional nursing qualification which enables

them to hold consultations and dispense medicines when Dr Sandra is not in attendance. Dr Sandra attends each clinic for one day a week, with consultations being provided by the professional nurses for a further two days each week.

We would like to express our gratitude to Christian Aid Ministries (CAM), who donate supplies of adult medicines to our clinic pharmacies. This enables more of our pharmaceutical budget to be used to purchase children's medicines (which are more expensive than general purpose medicines) and medicines for specific, topical, conditions. In addition, we would like to thank CAM for their generous donation of hygiene kits and quilts for members of our senior's luncheon club.

SIFT has a good reputation with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSA) and works in partnership with them on Ometepe. This year our team participated in the Easter beach initiative, which saw healthcare professionals provide medical assistance on Nicaragua's beaches during the busy Easter week holiday. In addition, we were able to support MINSA by providing them with some of our excess donated medicines, including those that were for hospital, rather than clinic, use.

This year our nursing staff were joined by three teams of medical students and their lecturers from Carthage College, Wisconsin. During these visits Nicaraguan doctors worked alongside our medical team, which allowed our patients to receive a wider variety of specialised care, including in gynaecology, paediatrics, chiropody and orthopaedics. The medical brigades also brought valuable supplies of medicines for our clinic pharmacies and clothes, shoes and toys for the patients, which were very well received.

We would like to thank Carthage College for their ongoing concern for Nicaragua and their involvement with our health work on Ometepe. In particular we are grateful for their construction of an extension at our El Corozal clinic which will, among other things, provide an improved meeting space for our Expectant Mothers' Club.

Our nurses give short talks to patients whilst they are waiting for their appointments in order to teach them practical ways to live healthy lives. When there is an outbreak of a specific disease on Ometepe, such as hepatitis or dengue fever, the talks focus on ways to avoid contracting it and how

to recognise its symptoms. The talks also cover general health topics, such as good personal hygiene and nutrition.

Our nurses also play a valuable role in providing pastoral care to their patients. Often they find that a patient needs to talk through a situation that they are facing in their personal life, in addition to the medical condition that they are presenting. Dr Sandra and our nurses take the time to listen to these concerns, offer their advice and, where requested, pray with the patient.



Nurse Narcisa dispensing medicines at Las Pilas clinic

In addition to treating their patient's diseases, our nurses also seek to tackle some of the social needs that they see in their communities. At our clinic in the village of Las Pilas they run a fortnightly luncheon club for the elderly, who often experience loneliness as a result of being excluded from village life. The elderly people who attend the luncheon club receive a hot meal and have the chance to build friendships with their contemporaries and our nurses. Before the meal is served, Dr Sandra gives a short talk about a relevant health topic and shares a thought from the Bible. Each of the elderly people also receive a free consultation and advice to help them manage health conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes. We are very grateful to the George Muller Charitable Trust who provided funds to enable us to continue running the luncheon club.

A second social care group is run by our nurses at El Corozal clinic. This clinic is located in the south of Ometepe, far from the main maternity facilities, and so it is particularly important that expectant mothers in this area have good antenatal support. Our nurses run a fortnightly club for expectant mothers to provide them with antenatal education and teach them how to recognise signs of potential complications. At the sessions each woman receives a hot meal and also a free consultation to monitor their pregnancy. In addition, the sessions enable our nurses to give emotional support to these women, including prayer if it is requested. Dr Sandra conducts ultrasound scans using SIFT's portable ultrasound monitor for those women approaching their due date. The women really appreciate the care that they receive from our team, in particular being able to see their unborn child on the ultrasound monitor.

Around 49% of the income for our health clinics comes from regular donations from our supporters. Many of the people who give to SIFT in this way do so through one of our medical sponsorship schemes. Sponsors pay a suggested monthly donation of £15 to support either Dr Sandra or one of our nurses. Each year we send them a medical update, which includes personal reflections from their sponsored team member on the work of our health clinics.

We also seek funding for the medical work from grant-making trusts in the UK. A total of 157 applications were submitted during the year, resulting in grants totalling £7,550, which represents 18% of our total medical income. We are extremely grateful to the Alexis Trust, the Anchor Foundation, the George Muller Charitable Trust, the James Tudor Foundation, the Rainford Trust, and the Crossroads Shop, Meltham, for partnering with us to provide healthcare to the people of Ometepe.

### Finca El Rayo - Asese Peninsula

Lake Nicaragua is the largest freshwater lake in Central America and the colonial city of Granada is situated on its north-western shore. Just to the south of Granada lies an archipelago of 365 small islands surrounding the Asese peninsula. In recent years this beautiful area of Nicaragua has been discovered by tourists and investors, and some of the islands have been bought and developed into holiday homes, restaurants or eco-tourist resorts.

Sadly, whilst many of the islands around the Asese peninsula are inhabited, the families that live there do not, for the most part, have legal ownership of the land that they have lived on for generations. As a result many of them face the prospect of being evicted from their island homes at short notice, with only minimal compensation being awarded to them. Some of the new owners of the islands have allowed resident families to remain on their islands as caretakers, but this is only a temporary arrangement and offers the families little long-term security.

SIFT owns a plot of land on the Asese peninsula, called Finca El Rayo, which we are intending to use to provide up to 50 islander families who are facing eviction from their islands with new homes. Since many families in this area rely on fishing to feed their families and to bring in a small income, having a plot of land with lake access is essential to enable them to continue with their traditional way of life. We will be giving the families legal ownership of their plots of land so that they can have security for the future.

A full environmental impact assessment has been carried out for the project and flood defences have been constructed to prevent flooding of the housing area even when water levels in Lake Nicaragua are exceptionally high.

A planning committee, consisting of representatives from the beneficiary families, has been established to deal with the practical and social issues that may occur in the formation of this new community. During this year our Nicaraguan representative, Jacobo Sanchez, has met with the committee on a number of occasions to update them on the status of the project and seek their continued input on our plans.

The next stage of the project will see legal ownership of the individual plots of land being transferred to the beneficiary families. Unfortunately the legal steps involved in this process have taken much longer than we expected or would have wanted, but we hope that all the necessary paperwork will be in place by the end of 2019. Following the conclusion of this important stage in the project, and as funding allows, the construction of the houses can commence.

### Hogar de Fe Orphanage

In the town of Los Brasiles, near Managua, the Hogar de Fe (Home of Faith) Orphanage provides a loving Christian home to 50 children and young people. The work was established 28 years ago by Pastor Ramiro Blandon and his wife Conchita after a baby was abandoned on their doorstep. The couple have grown the work into what it is today, building a team of Christian workers around them, and have recently handed the management of the Orphanage to their son, Isaac.

The children who live at Hogar de Fe come from a variety of troubled backgrounds. Whilst a few of the children are full orphans, the majority come from families who are not able to support them. Many of the children are referred to the Orphanage by the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Family, who recognise and regularly monitor the work of the team at Hogar de Fe.

Next door to the Orphanage is the Josue 1:8 school, which is also administered by members of Ramiro Blandon's family. The school provides a high standard of preschool, primary and secondary education to children from the local community, as well as to those living at the Orphanage. It is well resourced and has both a computer room and a dedicated class for children with special educational needs.

When the children return to the Orphanage after school, they spend time doing their homework. Some of the team members at Hogar de Fe are educational assistants, who help the children to understand their studies. This focus on education has had a positive impact on the children's attainment at school; in 2017 they received an average mark of 82% and this increased to 85% by the end of 2018.



Computer lessons for children at the Hogar de Fe Orphanage

In order to prepare the children for life beyond the Orphanage, they are given the opportunity to learn a variety of life skills. Each week the children receive four hours of English lessons and three and a half hours of computer lessons. The English classes are grouped by ability, from the youngest children who learn basic vocabulary such as colours and shapes, up to the older teenagers who learn conversational English and more advanced grammar. The children also have music classes at the weekends where they can learn to play a variety of musical instruments including keyboard, guitar and drums.

The children have regular check-ups at the health clinic in Los Brasiles in order to monitor their health and so that they can receive their vaccinations. In addition all of the children have dental appointments and

are taught about good dental hygiene and how to properly brush their teeth.

As the children have come from broken family situations, it is especially important that they receive psychological and emotional care. One of the team members at Hogar de Fe is a trained child psychologist and she has regular sessions with the children to help them deal with any issues that they are facing.

The teenagers at Hogar de Fe are given responsibilities within the Orphanage, and are encouraged to help care for the younger children. This helps to reinforce the loving family environment which is characteristic of the Orphanage. A number of the teenagers are continuing their studies at universities in Managua. During this time of change in their lives they live in apartments called "transition houses", within walking distance of the Orphanage. Here they have to take responsibility for their own cooking, washing and cleaning, but they still remain within the care and supervision of the staff at Hogar de Fe. In this way they are gently prepared for independent adult life.

The team are keen to ensure that the children are aware of God's love for them and have the opportunity to get to know Jesus personally. There is a devotional session each day for the children and staff, and the children attend Sunday School at Pastor Ramiro's church. In addition, one of the ladies from the church runs a discipleship group on Thursday evenings for some of the teenagers.

SIFT is one of a number of international organisations that support the ministry of the Hogar de Fe Orphanage. Through SIFT's orphanage sponsorship scheme, 30 individuals and one church support Hogar de Fe on a regular basis, with all funds raised from this scheme going towards the general running costs of the Orphanage. Each year the sponsors receive an update about the work of Hogar de Fe and a new photograph of their sponsored child. We are also grateful to the George Muller Charitable Trust who provide us with regular funds to support this very deserving cause.

#### **Education Sponsorship**

The current government of Nicaragua made state-provided education free in 2007. This was a very welcome decision and has improved access to education across the country. However, state schools in Nicaragua tend not to be fully resourced and can also have large class sizes. In order to give their children a better quality of education, parents can choose to send them to a fee-paying school instead. The costs involved in this, though, prohibit children from poor backgrounds from taking advantage of this opportunity.

For children living in the city of Bluefields, on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, receiving a good education is particularly important. Bluefields is home to around 40,000 people but suffers from high levels of unemployment and underemployment. Many poorer families rely on finding occasional temporary labour to meet their financial needs, but this is not a stable source of income.

In a situation such as this having a good education and being able to find a well-paid job – possibly in another part of the country or abroad – can transform a family's future.

Through SIFT's education sponsorship scheme, 127 children from deprived areas of Bluefields are able to attend fee-paying schools where they will receive a good standard of education. We pay their school fees, removing this financial burden from their parents, so that they are able to complete their primary and secondary education. If a child wishes to continue their studies at one of

the two universities in Bluefields then we will also fund the costs of their course and university supplies. We hope that this good educational foundation will be a blessing both to the children and their families.

SIFT's voluntary field worker, Margaret Storey, lives in Bluefields for eight months of each year, from March to November. Margaret makes monthly visits to the schools to check on the progress of our sponsored children and she also stays in contact with our university students, providing them with funds for their studies as needed during the year. If Margaret discovers that a child has left school or is experiencing difficulties then she relays this information to the UK office. We are extremely thankful for Margaret's continued faithful service to the children of Bluefields and their families.

We are also very grateful to the 114 sponsors who donate on a regular basis to the education sponsorship scheme. Each sponsor receives an annual update about their sponsored child, which includes a new photograph and news about their child's progress. Margaret Storey writes these annual updates whilst she is back in the UK and they are sent out to the sponsors with the assistance of Ruth Ward. Ruth also contacts sponsors during the year if there are any significant changes to their sponsor child's situation.



Two of SIFT's sponsored students on a school march

### **Supporting Nicaraguan Christians and churches**

SIFT seeks to support Nicaraguan Christians and churches as they practically demonstrate the love of Jesus to their fellow Nicaraguans. We recognise the value of working through local Nicaraguans, as they are aware of the needs that exist in their communities and are able to respond to those needs in culturally appropriate ways.

This year we supported two such ministries:

#### 1. Casa Rahab, Granada

The city of Granada was founded by the Spanish in 1524 and is the oldest colonial town in Nicaragua. As a result it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Nicaragua and many people rely on tourism to support their families. Granada was significantly affected by the political unrest in 2018 which saw tourism to Nicaragua almost come to a standstill. Although tourists are starting to return to Nicaragua now it will take time for the tourist industry, and those who rely upon it, to recover fully.

Sadly Granada is also a centre for the sex trade and many girls and young women find themselves forced into a life of prostitution in order to financially support their families. After becoming aware of these tragic situations, Valeria Lopez established a Christian day centre called Casa Rahab to provide support to girls who have been, or are at risk of being, involved in the sex trade. The vision of Valeria and her team is to enable these girls to rebuild their lives and find hope for the future within a loving Christian environment.

The girls who attend Casa Rahab are referred there by the police and local authorities. Each girl receives a customised programme of therapy to help them recover from the trauma they have experienced and to deal with any underlying psychological issues. This therapy occurs both in one-

to-one sessions with the centre's psychologist, Roxana, and through group sessions with the other girls. The team also meet with the families once a month and provide psychological support to them as appropriate.

The team are keen to ensure that the girls are equipped for the rest of their lives. They teach them life skills and support the girls as they complete their primary and secondary education, helping them to understand their school work. In addition the handicrafts teacher Yessica teaches them how to make a variety of craft items which could provide them with a source of income.

One of the frustrations that Valeria faces is having to occasionally turn girls away due to a lack of capacity at Casa Rahab. In spite of this, the team are committed to providing the highest quality support to those girls under their care. Valeria has been particularly encouraged by one girl who not only wants to go to university next year, but who also wants to volunteer at Casa Rahab. The team were also encouraged to see the joy on the girls' faces as they took them on a boat trip to the nearby Little Islands of Granada.

SIFT is pleased to be able to continue supporting the ministry of Casa Rahab by funding the salary of the sewing teacher and psychologist. We are grateful in particular to World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales and Northern Island who provided us with funds to support this valuable project.

#### 2. Feeding Programme, Urbaite

Over 20 years ago Julita Alemán established a feeding programme for children from the villages of Urbaite and Las Pilas on the island of Ometepe. Families living in rural areas of Nicaragua such as these can often struggle to provide their children with all of the nutrients that are needed for their healthy development. The typical diet for such a family would consist of rice, beans and maize, supplemented by small amounts of meat, fish and vegetables.



Children drinking their milk at the Feeding Programme

Around 45 children attend the twice-weekly sessions of the feeding programme, which are held on the large veranda of Julita's house and run by a team of Christians from the local church. Each session begins with fun activities for the children, which include singing some Christian songs and listening to a story from the Bible. The children enjoy choosing their favourite songs and joining in with the actions. This year the children have been split into a younger and older group, so that their activities can be more age appropriate. Following their activities the children are given a glass of high-vitamin milk and, on Fridays, a hot meal consisting of soyafortified rice, chicken, vegetables and bread.

At the start and end of each year the team organise a special party for the children. These sessions are particularly well attended, attracting around 70 children.

The team are also keen to care the mothers and give them the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus, and so they organise a short Bible study for them at the same time as the children's activities are taking place.

SIFT is pleased to be able to continue providing the funds needed to run the feeding programme and enable the children of Ometepe to develop both physically and spiritually.

### **Financial Review**

SIFT relies upon the generosity of our supporters in the UK to be able to continue serving the poor of Nicaragua. We would like to thank the many individuals, churches and trusts in the UK who have donated to SIFT over the past year. We would also like to express our gratitude to those individuals who have carried out sponsored events to raise funds for the medical work on the island of Ometepe.

Our overall income for the year was 13% lower than last year. This was mainly due to a reduction in the number of grants secured from UK trusts for the medical work.

Regular giving to SIFT formed 50% of our income this year. Most people who support SIFT on a regular basis give towards a particular project, such as supporting our medical work or sponsoring a child's education, but we do also have some regular unrestricted income. We are seeking to increase the overall proportion of our income that comes from regular donations in order to give financial security to our ongoing projects.

The majority of our remaining income comes from one-off gifts from individuals and churches, grants from UK trusts, and sponsored events carried out by our supporters. We encourage donations to be Gift Aided wherever this is possible, and use money received from Gift Aid claims for administrative costs and staff salaries. This year money received from Gift Aid claims formed 9% of our total income.

Support costs decreased by 11% this year compared to last year, caused mainly by a reduction in payroll costs and needing to spend less money this year in Nicaragua on vehicle maintenance. We aim to keep our administrative and support costs as low as possible, both in the UK and Nicaragua, to maximise the amount of funds that are available for our charitable work in Nicaragua.

Our expenditure continues to be negatively affected by the low value of sterling with respect to the dollar, as all of our expenditure in Nicaragua is in dollars. We have focused our fundraising activities this year on the medical work and our support of Casa Rahab, to ensure that we are able to continue supporting these vital projects. We have highlighted the need for both general and medical funds in our communications with our supporters.

We operate restricted funds for projects such as our medical work and our education and orphanage sponsorship schemes. All of the money in these funds is used for project expenditure in Nicaragua; none of it is spent on administration or other support costs. Our general fund holds enough short term reserves to last for three months, and we also hold reserves in the medical fund to enable us to pay severance payments to our medical team.

This year we have visited supporting churches around the UK to provide them with updates on the work of SIFT. We are grateful for the efforts of our "Voices for SIFT" who promote SIFT in their areas using presentations and other resources produced by the SIFT office. In order to stay in contact with our supporter base we send out the SIFT Insight newsletter three times a year and, for those who want more regular updates, a monthly news and prayer sheet. Most of those on our mailing list have opted to receive these publications by email, which reduces postage costs.

We encouraged our supporter churches to hold a special "SIFT Sunday" service on or around 28th April 2019. This was an opportunity for their congregations to learn about, pray and raise funds for SIFT's work in Nicaragua. Resources for the service were made available on the SIFT website. As the theme of this year's SIFT Sunday was "Voices from Nicaragua", the main presentation included videos focusing on people in Nicaragua who are being supported by SIFT. Other resources included a board game to help people appreciate the difficulties of living in the developing world, a prayer sheet, and recipes for traditional Nicaraguan dishes. Special events organised by churches on SIFT Sunday helped to raise £1,417.

One of our main fundraising tools is the SIFT Gifts catalogue, which we send out to our supporters prior to Christmas. The catalogue contains specific gifts that can be bought for the poor in

Nicaragua, such as a week of milk for the Feeding Programme. Supporters buying a SIFT Gift can opt to receive a corresponding gift card which can be given to a friend or family member. The SIFT website also has an online version of the catalogue, enabling people to purchase SIFT Gifts at any time during the year. The catalogue raised a total of £2,258, of which £1,606 was for medical gifts.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Structure

SIFT is a Christian development charity which is non-governmental and apolitical. It is constituted under a trust deed dated 10th October 2002 and is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1094193). The Trust Deed requires that there are a minimum of three Trustees but there is no maximum.

New Trustees are chosen by the existing Board on the basis of the qualifications and experience that they can bring to the charity. The Chair of Trustees is responsible for the induction of new Trustees, giving them a firm grounding in the responsibilities of the role and an introduction to the history and ethos of SIFT. The names of the Trustees appear on the last page of this report.

#### **Staff and Volunteers**

Graham Knight is employed for four days a week as SIFT's UK Office Manager and he has responsibility for the day-to-day accounting and administration of the charity. He maintains SIFT's website and assists Ali Wilson in the production of promotional materials. He also liaises with SIFT's team members in Nicaragua on a regular basis and administers SIFT's sponsorship schemes.

Sadly Ali Wilson, SIFT's Fundraising Manager, left the charity in June 2019 after seven years in the role. Her responsibilities included seeking funding from individuals, churches and trusts, producing publicity materials, and giving feedback to donors on the use of donated funds. We are very grateful to Ali for her hard work for the charity, which has significantly developed the fundraising and stewardship activities of SIFT, and wish her well as she moves on to a fundraising job with the Church Army.

Colin Weaver retired in June 2019 after 16 years of involvement with the charity. Colin has been a Trustee and Chair of Trustees for SIFT and for the last seven years has been SIFT's UK Director, overseeing the work of the UK office. We are very grateful to Colin for his years of service to SIFT and the people of Nicaragua and will miss his wise counsel and careful direction.

Dr Sandra Villagra is SIFT's full-time, salaried, doctor. She is responsible for the management of SIFT's health work on Ometepe and leads a team of seven nurses who serve alongside her in our three clinics. Dr Sandra commutes from her home in Managua to the island of Ometepe each week. When she is in Managua she purchases medicines for our clinic pharmacies. Her work also involves liaising with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health at a local and regional level, and organising the visits of medical brigades from the USA to Ometepe.

Jacobo Sanchez works for SIFT two days a week as our Nicaraguan representative. His role includes the administration of SIFT's finances in Nicaragua and overseeing most of our projects, liaising with Graham Knight and Mark Catley on operational matters.

SIFT is very appreciative of the continued involvement of Margaret Storey and Ruth Ward in the education sponsorship scheme. Margaret is SIFT's field worker in Bluefields for eight months each year, liaising with schools and students in order to administer the sponsorship scheme, and providing pastoral support to the children and their families. Ruth communicates with sponsors during the

year when there are changes to their child's situation, and assists the office in the production of the annual education updates.

### Management

The Trustees are responsible for setting the strategy and direction for the charity, in the form of a regularly reviewed Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan documents SIFT's mission, strategy, values, and for each major project details the objectives and resources. This document underpins the annual budgetary process. In setting the Strategic Plan and in planning all of the charity's activities, the Trustees and SIFT staff have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees are also responsible for assessing the risks associated with SIFT's current activities, both in Nicaragua and in the UK. These risks and their mitigating actions are recorded in a Risk Assessment document which is kept under review by the Trustees. The main risks are considered to be the potential for fraud, both within the UK and in Nicaragua, and the risk of accident or injury to staff and volunteers, especially when working in Nicaragua.

SIFT also has a Data Protection policy, Reserves policy and Fundraising Complaints policy, as well as a comprehensive Safeguarding policy for our work with children and vulnerable adults. All of these documents are kept under regular review by the Trustees. In addition, SIFT's mailing list is maintained and used in line with current GDPR legislation.

Finally the Trustees are responsible for the financial well-being of the charity, for the appropriate use of its funds to fulfil the charity's objects, and for protecting its assets and safeguarding the credibility of SIFT such that it can continue serving the poor of Nicaragua for many years to come. We continue to do all this to the honour and glory of God.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Catley

Chair of SIFT Board of Trustees Date: 18th January 2020

## **Charity Information**

### **Trustees**

Mark Catley FRICS FAAV
David Joseph Langmead BA
Matthew James Farrer BA (Hons) DipArch ARB

### **Registered Office**

1 Harepath Road SEATON Devon EX12 2RP

### **Charity Number**

1094193

### **Independent Examiners**

Hammett Associates 8-10 Queen Street SEATON Devon EX12 2NY

### **Bank**

Lloyds Bank The Square SEATON Devon EX12 2QH

## **Independent Accountant's Report**

Seed International Fund Trust For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from 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 accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; **or**

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ann Horton FCA

HAMMETT ASSOCIATES

8-10 Queen Street

Seaton

Devon

EX12 2NY

Date: 17 June 2020

## **Statement of Financial Affairs**

For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	48,768	79,192	127,960	147,907
Charitable activities	3	1,420	3,347	4,767	4,675
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments	4	31	-	31	18
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		50,219	82,539	132,758	152,600
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	13,000	5,750	18,750	24,037
Charitable activities	6	42,303	87,421	129,724	135,595
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		55,303	93,171	148,474	159,632
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Gains / (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure)		(5,084)	(10,632)	(15,716)	(7,032)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,084)	(10,632)	(15,716)	(7,032)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		130,718	107,537	238,255	245,287
Total funds carried forward		125,634	96,905	222,539	238,255

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

## **Balance Sheet**

### At 31 August 2019

Fixed Assets:         Tangible Assets         7         135,859         137,624           Current Assets:         7,965         8,316         8,316         94,344           Cash at Bank and in hand         79,322         94,344         94,344           Creditors:         Amounts falling due within one year         9         (607)         (2,029)           Net Current Assets         86,680         100,631           Creditors:         Amounts falling due after more than one year         -         -           Net Assets         222,539         238,255           Funds         10         96,905         107,537           Unrestricted Funds         10         96,905         107,537           Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves         134,482         150,198           Revaluation Reserve         11         88,057         88,057           88,057         338,255			31-A	ug-19	31-Au	ıg-18
Current Assets:       7       135,859       137,624         Current Assets:       8       7,965       8,316       79,322       94,344       96,931       96,931       96,931       96,931       96,931       96,935       96,935       96,935       96,935       96,935       97,537       94,661       96,935       97,537       94,661       96,935       97,537       94,661       96,935       96,935       97,537 </th <th></th> <th>Notes</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th> <th>£</th>		Notes	£	£	£	£
Current Assets:       8       7,965       8,316         Cash at Bank and in hand       79,322       94,344         87,287       102,660         Creditors:         Amounts falling due within one year       9       (607)       (2,029)         Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors:       Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -         Net Assets       2222,539       238,255         Funds       Restricted Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057						
Debtors       8       7,965       8,316         Cash at Bank and in hand       79,322       94,344         87,287       102,660         Creditors:         Amounts falling due within one year       9       (607)       (2,029)         Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors:       -       -       -         Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Restricted Funds       10       96,905       107,537         42,661       134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Tangible Assets	7		135,859		137,624
Cash at Bank and in hand       79,322       94,344         87,287       102,660         Creditors:       20,029         Amounts falling due within one year       9 (607)       (2,029)         Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors:       -       -         Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds       10       96,905       107,537         More tricked Funds       10       96,905       107,537         May 1,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Current Assets:					
Solution   Solution	Debtors	8	7,965		8,316	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year       9       (607)       (2,029)         Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds Restricted Funds Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       10       96,905 37,577       107,537 42,661         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577 134,482       42,661         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Cash at Bank and in hand		79,322		94,344	
Amounts falling due within one year       9       (607)       (2,029)         Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors:       -       -         Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057			87,287		102,660	
Net Current Assets       86,680       100,631         Creditors:       -         Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Creditors:					
Creditors:         Amounts falling due after more than one year       -       -       -         Net Assets       222,539       238,255         Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Amounts falling due within one year	9	(607)		(2,029)	
Amounts falling due after more than one year	Net Current Assets			86,680		100,631
Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Creditors:					
Funds Restricted Funds 10 96,905 107,537 Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves 37,577 42,661  Revaluation Reserve 11 88,057 88,057	Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Restricted Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057	Net Assets			222,539		238,255
Restricted Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057						
Restricted Funds       10       96,905       107,537         Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057						
Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves       37,577       42,661         134,482       150,198         Revaluation Reserve       11       88,057       88,057						
Revaluation Reserve 11 88,057 88,057		10				
Revaluation Reserve 11 88,057 88,057	Unrestricted Funds: General Reserves			37,577		42,661
				134,482		150,198
222,539 238,255	Revaluation Reserve	11		88,057		88,057
				222,539		238,255

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

Mark Catley

Date: 18th January 2020

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
Net income/(expenditure) for the period		
(as per the statement of financial activities)	(15,716)	(7,032)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,765	1,768
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
Interest income	3	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	348	(640)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1,422)	(78)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(15,022)	(5,982)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		-
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	(15,022)	(5,982)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	94,344	100,326
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	79,322	94,344
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents:		
Cash in hand	79,322	94,344
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	79,322	94,344

The notes at pages 5 to 10 form part of these accounts.

For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

### 1. Principal Accounting Policies

### (a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. In preparing the financial statements the charity follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" SORP (FRS102) issued in September 2015.

### (b) Incoming Resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

### (c) Resources Expended and Basis of Allocation of Costs

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. The majority of costs are directly attributable to specific activities.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating travel costs and repairs, renewals and maintenance by location in the UK or in Nicaragua, payroll and administration costs by the time spent on different activities and publicity costs solely by income generation activities.

A significant proportion of the charity's support costs, as disclosed in note 15, relate to and directly affect charitable activities undertaken in Nicaragua.

### (d) Publicity Costs

Publicity costs consist of expenditure relating to printing and reproduction and related photography expenditure.

### (e) Administration and Office Expenditure

Administration expenditure consists of all office costs and related small equipment expenditure.

#### (f) Repairs, renewals and maintenance

Use of a suitable office for the charity has been obtained at a peppercorn monthly rental of £1. Repairs and renewals expenditure relates to the costs involved in refurbishing the office to enable administrative use for the charity. In addition this category includes maintenance costs for a motor vehicle in Nicaragua.

### (g) Capitalisation and Depreciation of Tangible Fixed Assets

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. Motor vehicles are recorded at cost and are depreciated at a rate of 50% per annum on the reducing balance. No depreciation is provided on land costs and buildings are depreciated over 50 years when completely built; no depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition / addition, and a full year's depreciation in the year of disposal.

### (h) Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.
- Restricted funds these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes
  within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when
  funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

### (i) Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

### 2. Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	۳ 2019	۳ Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	£ 2018
Committed giving	9,216	57,064	66,280	10,595	56,093	66,688
One-off gifts	23,762	14,028	37,790	29,401	12,530	41,931
Grants from organisations	3,409	8,100	11,509	5,000	21,326	26,326
Legacies	750	-	750	-	500	500
Gift Aid recoverable tax income	11,631	-	11,631	12,462	-	12,462
	48,768	79,192	127,960	57,458	90,449	147,907

### 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	۳ 2019	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	F 2018
Fundraising events	1,420	3,347	4,767	1,565	3,110	4,675
=	1,420	3,347	4,767	1,565	3,110	4,675

### 4. Investment income and interest

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	۳ 2019	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	7 2018
Bank interest received	31	-	31	18	-	18

### 5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	٣ 2019	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	F 2018
Donations, legacies and similar incoming resources:						
Support costs allocated	13,000	5,750	18,750	18,237	5,800	24,037

6. Details of charitable activities

The amount spent on charitable activities, including support costs, is analysed by project area as follows:

	Unr	Unrestricted funds	spu	Re	Restricted funds	spı				
	Operational	Support	Total	Operational	Support	Total	2019		2018	
	projects	costs	unrestricted	projects	costs	restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	¥	ч	4	ч	ч	Ŧ.	ч	¥.	£	щ
Orphanage	1		,	10,000		10,000	10,000	,	11,925	11,925
Sponsored children's education	1	•	1	19,361	•	19,361	19,361	1	19,950	19,950
Other education projects	1		•	•				1	,	1
Christian Vocational Centre	1		1	1		,		•		1
Islands community development	1		•	99		99	99	1	168	168
Children's feeding programme	827	1,201	2,028		•	•	2,028	921	1	921
SIFT Gifts expenditure	1	1	,	652	1	652	652	1	1,255	1,255
Supporting churches	1	1	1	1	,	1	•	565	•	565
Medical and clinic expenditure	2,041	2,964	5,005	57,342	1	57,342	62,347	6,875	57,208	64,083
Cookers project	1	1	1		1	1	•	1,673	ı	1,673
Other building projects	1	1	1		1	1	•	3,324	ı	3,324
Casa Rahab	5,733	8,325	14,058	1	1		14,058	14,933	1	14,933
Project administration in Nicaragua	4,947	15,428	20,375	•		•	20,375	16,710	ı	16,710
	13,548	27,918	41,466	87,421		87,421	128,887	45,001	90,506	135,507
Discretionary gifts in Nicaragua	959	181	837	•	•		837	88	1	88

For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

### 7. Tangible fixed assets

	Land	Buildings	Motor vehicles	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2018	57,653	88,057	9,571	155,281
Additions - Revaluation	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2019	57,653	88,057	9,571	155,281
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 September 2018	-	8,093	9,564	17,657
Charge for year	-	1,761	4	1,765
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2019	-	9,854	9,568	19,422
Net book value				
At 31 August 2019	57,653	78,203	3	135,859
At 31 August 2018	57,653	79,964	7	137,624

£28,508 of the tangible fixed assets relate to restricted funds (Islands) and £107,351 relate to unrestricted funds.

### 8. Debtors

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Gift Aid debtor - HMRC	7,839	-	7,839	8,187
Bank interest receivable	-	-	-	3
Prepayments	126	-	126	126
	7,965	-	7,965	8,316

### 9. Creditors falling due within one year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2019 £	2018 £
Education accrual Accruals	- 607	-	- 607	1,040 989
	607	-	607	2,029

#### 10. Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 Sept 2018	Incoming resources	Transfer from unrestricted funds	Programme expenditure	Balance at 31 Aug 19
	£	£	£	£	£
Islands	47,913	575	-	(66)	48,422
Orphanage	2,068	9,495	-	(10,000)	1,563
Child Sponsorship	20,126	24,389	-	(19,361)	25,154
Team Support	149	5,760	-	(5,750)	159
SIFT Gifts	-	652	-	(652)	-
Medical	37,281	41,668	-	(57,342)	21,607
	107,537	82,539	-	(93,171)	96,905

Most restricted funds are for specific humanitarian, education or health projects in Nicaragua. These projects include development programmes to provide long-term sustainable benefits for a community, including health and nutrition, education projects and miscellaneous SIFT Gifts for smaller specific purposes.

#### 11. Revaluation reserve

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Buildings	88,057	-	88,057	88,057

Legal ownership of the Ometepe clinic buildings by SIFT was established during 2012-13 and updated valuations were obtained during 2014-15.

#### 12. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and wages Social security costs Pension costs	31,841	5,750	37,591	38,591
	-	-	-	-
	351	-	351	366
Tension costs	32,192	5,750	37,942	38,957

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2018: £ nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Trust in the period (2018: £ nil). During the year no Trustees were reimbursed for travel and admin expenses (2018: one Trustee was reimbursed £80.00 for travel and admin expenses). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2018: £ nil).

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the trustees and the UK Director. There are no further staff benefits than those included in the table above, and these relate to the office staff only.

### For the Year Ended 31 August 2019

#### 13. Trustees' donations

Aggregate donations from the Trustees to the charity for the period were £617.90, including Gift Aid of £123.58 (2018: £1,490.00, including Gift Aid of £223.00).

#### 14. Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 3 staff (2018: 3 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year were as follows:

	2019	2018
Fundraising	1	1
Office administration and charitable activities (UK)	1	1
Office administration and charitable activities (Nicaragua)	1	1
	3	3

### 15. Support costs

The support costs of the charity consisted of five main elements: travel, payroll, administration and office, publicity, and repairs, renewals and maintenance. The costs have been apportioned across the work of the charity on the basis disclosed in note 1(c) and allocated to each of the charity's activities as set out in the table below.

	Travel	Payroll	Administration and office expenditure	Publicity	Repairs, renewals and maintenance	2019 Total	2018 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Basis of apportionment	(Activity type)	(Activity type)	(Activity type)	(All income generation)	(Location)		
Charitable activities							
Operational projects in Nicaragua	2,421	22,992	1,442	-	1,063	27,918	28,924
Discretionary gifts in Nicaragua	16	149	9	-	7	181	19
	2,437	23,141	1,451	-	1,070	28,099	28,943
Income generation							
Donations and legacies	169	14,061	2,756	827	-	17,813	22,835
Gift Aid recoverable tax income	9	740	145	43	-	937	1,202
	178	14,801	2,901	870	-	18,750	24,037
Total costs allocated	2,615	37,942	4,352	870	1,070	46,849	52,980



1 Harepath Road, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2RP

info@seed-trust.com • (01297) 22484 • www.seed-trust.com

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