



# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY ANNUAL REPORT 2011





## Tools for Solidarity

### Principles / Ethics

Underlying all the activities of Tools for Solidarity are the principles and values of self-help and empowerment, individual and global equality, environmental awareness, inclusiveness, voluntarism, and the right to challenge/oppose activities/actions that contradict these values.

### Mission Statement

TFS supports self reliance by providing high quality refurbished tools to working people overseas, promoting international solidarity, and challenging global inequalities through critical examination of development issues, environmental sustainability, and ethical working practices.

### TFS Aims to:

Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycled hand tools and sewing machines.

Involve individuals, organisations and the public in development and environmental issues.

Utilise working methods that develop and support a sense of international solidarity and promote volunteering and ethical working practices.

TFS will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation.



Ester Muganga, woman standing, is a tailor from Geita district in Mwanza Region. She purchased a Brother zigzag machine from MSTC. She has been doing her own embroidery work since getting the machine and has increased the amount of embroidery work that she does.

### **Chairperson's Address**

This year has been a successful one at many levels for TFS. The hard work and efforts of people within the organisation has witnessed the successful development of TFS's joint project in the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre, with SIDO in Tanzania. It has been a long journey so congratulations to all those within TFS as well as the invaluable support from other people.

As the project at MSTC moves into a new phase of development the organisation has held discussions on what work TFS should be undertaking in the future. This is discussed further within the report but will entail TFS utilising all its resources if this is to be achieved.

The numbers of volunteers working in the organisation has increased again hitting an all time high of 14. This has not only made it possible to increase the output from the workshop, it has also enabled other events to happen. Given the increase in the number of both full and part-time volunteers the organisation will need to consider the pressures on existing core volunteers and look to increase this number.

The year also saw the organisation's finances improve, reversing the losses of previous years. The funds for a move to a more permanent and appropriate workshop have increased but are still a long way short to achieve this goal. Space and facilitating the increased number of volunteers within the workshop, remains a challenging task but with some reorganisation we have managed to give ourselves some additional capacity.

Looking into the future, next year will be a year of both change and opportunities. TFS's commitment to MSTC, for another 3 years, the development of other overseas projects, the organising and collecting of resources to enable these projects to work and the challenges of increased volunteer numbers will ensure that next year will be as busy as this one.

John Wood



## Volunteer Report

This year once again we had four categories of volunteers: Core, Local, Supported and International. Each group brings something special to TFS and without them it would be really difficult to achieve our aims.

Our Core Volunteers have given a long-term commitment to the organization and they provide stability and continuity to the work. Their experience is vital for training new volunteers.

Local volunteers bring their own expertise and knowledge. For instance, the experience of Peter, our retired engineer, is important to our work and training.

Supported volunteers are volunteers with learning difficulties and physical or mental disabilities. They join TFS through different local organisations and we enjoy the opportunity to work together and learn from each other.

International volunteers come to us through the European Voluntary Service (EVS) a project in the framework of the Youth in Action Programme. Their placements last between six months or less to one year. This year we had volunteers from Turkey, Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden, Italy and Germany. We also keep working with Eirene in Germany by hosting one volunteer each year.

These volunteers do most of the hard work in the workshop - preparing our shipments for our center in Mwanza and sorting out and refurbishing tools coming into the workshop. They also work at different levels within the organisation.

TFS would like to thank all our volunteers for their time, energy and commitment to the workshop.



Volunteers in TFS

## **TFS Downpatrick**

The last year has been one of great change in Downpatrick but also of great achievements.

In June Stephen, who has been the coordinator in the workshop moved to Belfast to work with TFS there. His place has been taken by Chris, who has shown real commitment and energy to the project.

Chris has is very good with all of the volunteers and is able to support them in their work and to train them in their tasks.

The previous winter was extremely cold in the workshop and as many of our volunteers are 40+ it was a difficult environment to work in. The committee decided that steps needed to be taken to prepare the workshop for the coming winter. Funding was sought and received from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI to make improvements in the workshop and to be in central heating. Many thanks to them for the support and to the volunteers for their work, especially Hugh, Chris and John.

Due to their efforts the workshop is now a pleasant and warm place to be all year round.

The number of volunteers has fluctuated throughout the new and recruitment has been hit by the closure of the Down District Volunteer Centre, a real loss to the community. However we still have a good team of regulars (more than 30) and new recruits are still coming in.

We welcomed our first ever visitor from Africa in October. John Alibankoha from Uganda visited our workshops and informed our volunteers of the importance of their work in supporting artisans and Vocational Training Colleges (VTCs) as well as describing what ordinary life is like in rural Uganda.

In November 10 kits of tools and sewing machines left Belfast bound for in Uganda. The volunteers in Downpatrick completed most of this work and are very proud of their achievement. This work was support by the Third World Fund of the Combined Services. Many thanks to them for their help with this.

Apart from the Uganda programme the volunteers continue to support the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre in Tanzania through the provision of refurbished sewing machines, treadles and kits of tools for the trained sewing mechanics.

One of the most difficult areas facing TFS Downpatrick is the lack of funding. In April the CVS core funding ended leaving a real shortfall in funding for the organisation. It is fortunate that there are sufficient funds for the coming year but steps will need to be taken to secure other sources of funding for the future.

On behalf of all the volunteers I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the last year.

Stephen Wood



## TFS Activities – 2010

- Art Exhibition

In February we held our first ever Art exhibition with the aim of generating funds for the organisation and opening up the workshop to a the artist community. More than 20 local artists gave their time, energy, work and materials free to put on an amazing show. More than 200 people attended the event despite miserable weather and more than £500 was raised. Particular thanks to Ell'o, Helen and Charlie who all put in a vast amount of time to make the evening one to remember.

- Benefit Gigs

In the same month as the exhibition TFS also promoted two benefit gigs - one in Derry and one in Belfast. These starred the Parisian punk band Paranoid who very kindly paid for free at both venues. They were joined by local bands - Running Riot and A-Political. These gigs were great fun and raised over £500 towards our work. None of this could have happened without Ell'o who was responsible for organising the events. Many thanks to all those contributed to these events.

- Tool Collecting

We have seen a steady flow of tools and sewing machines into the organisation. This has put additional strains onto existing space within the workshop and has meant that we are still not in a position to promote actively a tool collecting campaign. Many thanks to the Belfast City Council, Down District Council War on Want and Bryson House - all of whom continue to collect on our behalf. A special thanks to Marie Crean from Fethard, Co. Tipperary who single handedly has collected over 200 sewing machines from all over Munster for us.

- Development Education

An important part of our work that unfortunately has not been given the time that it requires. While we have given over 10 presentations during the year and worked closely with some schools, we lack the personnel to develop a larger programme.

- Networking

The last year has seen TFS continue its work with co-operation with Garvald in Edinburgh working on sewing machines. We sent them 50 sewing machines for their projects in Malawi and have visited their workshop on a number of occasions to deliver training.

- Mourne Grange

Our group there has been growing in activity and continues to refurbish a large number of tools to a very high standard. They have been extremely supportive of all our activities including filling the containers. Many thanks to Geoff and all the members of the group.

Stephen Wood



## Shipping and Requests

The year has again been very busy with getting materials and resources for the MSTC project in Tanzania. During the year we also sent a consignment of tools to support training colleges in the Western part of Uganda.

TFS carried out one visit during the year to assess, with our partner and the staff at MSTC, how the project was progressing. The project has seen significant improvements in three key areas:

1. The increased allocation of sewing machines
2. The distribution of sewing machines to other regions
3. The stabilisation in the supply of treadles and the improvement in quality.



Treadles being produced in Mwanza City by Joshua. They are both robust and well designed using jigs and formwork. Over 300 treadles a year are needed for the project, a valuable income to local metal fabricators like Joshua.

The demand for the services, from MSTC, is extremely high and the project financial situation is very good with the centre generating the income it needs to cover its costs. The purchasing of locally produced treadles is a significant cost to the project, costing £9,000 each year. This is however a real bonus to the local economy as the expenditure made is on local skills and produce rather than imported treadles.

Training is of key importance within the project and it continues to make steady progress. More, however, needs to be done from the centre to overcome obstacles of artisans to participate in the training programme. Transport and accommodation costs are still areas of concern to the tailors wishing to attend training.

The feedback from tailors themselves was very positive in relation to both the quality of the machines and the training they had received. Indeed most people were asking for more training and more machines.

There were also discussions with our partner about carrying out a formal evaluation of the project. It was agreed that both TFS and SIDO would appoint independent people to do the evaluation. Discussions were also held about continuation of the project after the initial 3 year funded project. After discussions within TFS it was decided that we would agree to continue to support the project and a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) be drawn up.





Christine and Athuman (senior mechanic) show us some of the sewing machines they have refurbished. They not only refurbish hundreds of machines each year but also train up mechanics on how to maintain and repair the machines

The field trip also gave TFS personnel the chance to meet Christine, the new junior mechanic, for the first time. The table below gives the list of materials sent to MSTC during the year

Container Filled: November 2010

| Quantity                      | Description                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 28                            | Treadle sewing machines                  |
| 47                            | Electric sewing machines                 |
| 255                           | Hand sewing machines                     |
| 10                            | Industrial sewing machines               |
| 16                            | Sewing machines for parts                |
| 20 rolls                      | Material in rolls                        |
| 50 boxes                      | Material                                 |
| 34 boxes                      | Spools of thread, zips, ribbon           |
| 30                            | Box of wool                              |
| 1                             | Box of scissors                          |
| 1                             | Box of screddrivers                      |
| 4                             | Knitting machines                        |
| 1                             | Metal turning lathe                      |
| 1                             | Box of parts for turning lathe and tools |
| 1                             | Pillar drill                             |
| 10                            | tools for mechanics kits                 |
|                               |                                          |
| Total number of items:<br>511 |                                          |

- **Shipment to Uganda**

At the beginning of 2009 TFS agreed to send a small consignment of tools to Uganda. The kits were for use in VTC's (vocational training colleges) which were visited by a member of TFS along with a contact person in Uganda, John Alibankoa. Although the kits were finished and ready to go, there was a long delay in shipping them out to Uganda as we struggled to find reasonable shipping costs.

The list of tools sent out are presented in the table below. The project was funded by the 'Combined Services Third World Fund' and included costs to provide maintenance training to each of the colleges.



|   | Name of Group                                     | Location            | Tool Kit Supplied                                    | Kit Number/<br>No. of Tools                                    |
|---|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kibaale Rural Development Found                   | Kisalizi , Kibaale  | Carpentry kit<br>Sewing machine kit                  | UC 14 - 34<br>US 25 - 21                                       |
| 2 | Kigorobyia Progressive VC                         | Kigorobyia Town     | Carpentry kit<br>Sewing machine kit<br>Mechanics kit | UC 13 -<br>28<br>US 26 - 21<br>UM 02 -<br>67                   |
| 3 | Hoima VTC                                         | Kabwoya, Hoima      | Sewing machine kit                                   | US27 - 20                                                      |
| 4 | Kibaale District Prisons                          | Kibaale             | Carpentry kit<br>Sewing machine kit                  | UC 15 -<br>87<br>US 28 - 25                                    |
| 5 | Rural People In Action For<br>Development         | Nyamarunda, Kibaale | Carpentry kit - 6<br>Sewing machine kit -<br>4       | UC 16/17/18 - 39<br>UC 19/20/21 - 39<br>US 29/30/31/32 -<br>32 |
| 6 | St.James Kibuuse Foundational VC                  | Nyamarwa, Kibaale   | Sewing machine kit                                   | US33 - 16                                                      |
| 7 | Millinium Business Development<br>Training Centre | Hoima Town          | Sewing machine kit                                   | US34 - 16                                                      |
| 8 | AEC-community college                             | Njeru Town, Jinja   | Carpentry kit                                        | UC 22 -<br>35                                                  |
| 9 | Rural People In Action For<br>Development         | Nyamarunda, Kibaale | Machine Tools                                        | UMT 1 -<br>4                                                   |

John Wood

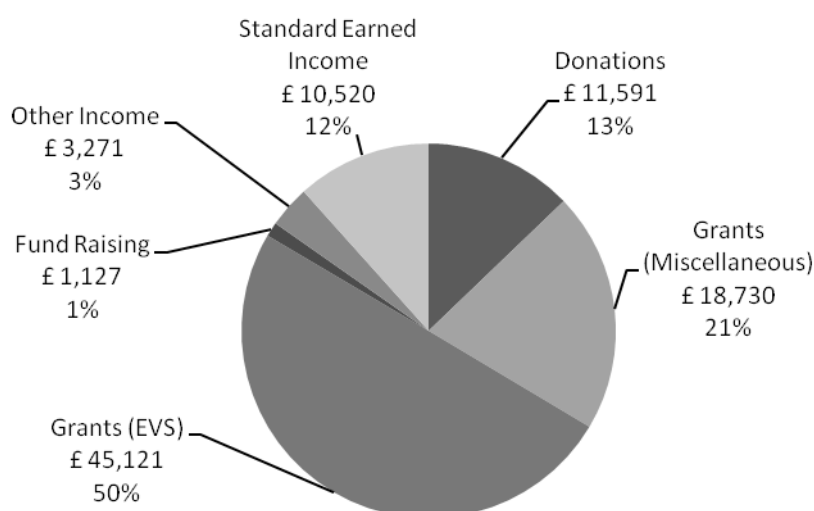


## Tools for Solidarity

### Annual Accounts - 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011

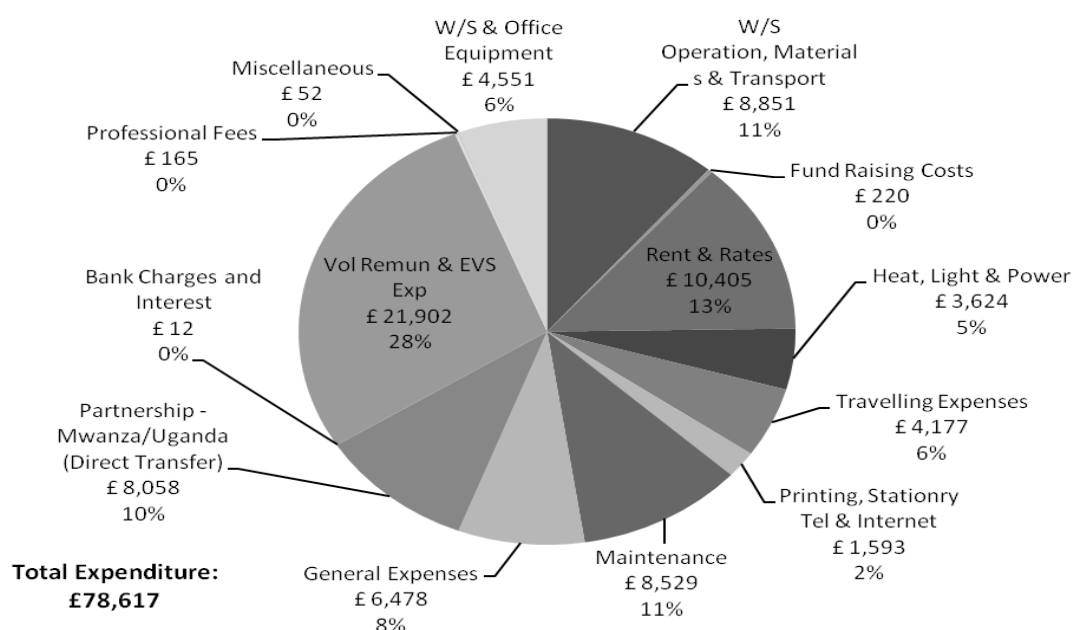
For the year 2010-11 TFS had a higher than usual income of £90k. EVS grants made up 50% of this income with other grants contributing 21%. Fund raising events and standard earned income contributed 13% (with the bulk of this coming from rent income), donations 13% and miscellaneous other income such as Gift Aid made up 3%.

#### TFS Income - 2010-11



As can be seen in the pie chart below TFS expenditure for 2010-11 was £79k; with volunteer remuneration and EVS expenses making up 28% of this, rent and rates amounted to 13% of expenditure, workshop operation, materials and transport 11%, direct transfer of funds to partners in Uganda and Tanzania 10%. Maintenance costs (mostly relating to refurbishment work at the Brookvale volunteer house) consisted of 11% of the total, general expenses including health & safety and insurance made up 8%.

#### TFS Expenditure 2010-11



There was an improvement on the previous year's profit/loss figure, with a profit of £2,744 being achieved after

outstanding year-end liabilities were accounted for – up from a significant loss of £11,640 in 2009-10. The building reserve has not increased this financial year and considerable funding challenges will continue to be faced in forthcoming years.

TFS has integrated a new computer accounting system for processing this year's accounts. While the initial transfer from the previous system involved some inevitable teething problems overall the transfer has been a success. Recording of transactions has been simplified, the layout of the main financial reports has changed somewhat and internal management accounting capacity has been enhanced.

### PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

| 2009-10                | INCOME                                        | 2010-11         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| £ 7,834                | Donations                                     | £ 11,591        |
| £ 24,376               | Grants (Miscellaneous)                        | £ 18,730        |
| £ 11,215               | Grants (EVS)                                  | £ 45,121        |
| £ 54                   | Fund Raising                                  | £ 1,127         |
| £ 3,042                | Other Income                                  | £ 3,271         |
| £ 6,339                | Standard Earned Income                        | £ 10,520        |
| <b>£ 52,860</b>        | <b>Total Income</b>                           | <b>£ 90,361</b> |
| 2009-10                | EXPENDITURE                                   | 2010-11         |
| <b>Direct Expenses</b> |                                               |                 |
| £ 8,748                | Workshop Operation, Materials & Transport     | £ 8,851         |
| £ 0                    | Cost of Fund Raising                          | £ 220           |
| <u>£ 8,748</u>         | <u>Total Direct Expenses</u>                  | <u>£ 9,070</u>  |
| <b>Overheads</b>       |                                               |                 |
| £ 8,566                | Rent and Rates                                | £ 10,405        |
| £ 2,706                | Heat, Light and Power                         | £ 3,624         |
| £ 1,732                | Travelling Expenses                           | £ 4,177         |
| £ 901                  | Printing, Stationery Tel & Internet           | £ 1,593         |
| £ 4,627                | Maintenance                                   | £ 8,529         |
| £ 2,252                | General Expenses                              | £ 6,478         |
| £ 7,719                | Partnership - Mwanza/Uganda (Direct Transfer) | £ 8,058         |
| £ 0                    | Bank Charges and Interest                     | £ 12            |
| £ 15,961               | Volunteer Remuneration & EVS Exp              | £ 21,902        |
| £ 0                    | Professional Fees                             | £ 165           |
| £ 2,935                | Miscellaneous                                 | £ 52            |
| £ 130                  | Workshop & Office Equipment                   | £ 4,551         |
| <u>£ 47,530</u>        | <u>Total Overhead Expenses</u>                | <u>£ 69,547</u> |
| <b>£ 56,278</b>        | <b>Total Expenditure</b>                      | <b>£ 78,617</b> |
| <br>                   |                                               |                 |
| -£ 3,419               | Profit/Loss                                   | £ 11,744        |
| <b>Liabilities</b>     |                                               |                 |
| £ 8,222                | MSTC                                          | £ 5,000         |
| £ 0                    | EVS                                           | £ 4,000         |
| <b>£ 8,222</b>         | <b>Total Liabilities</b>                      | <b>£ 9,000</b>  |
| <br>                   |                                               |                 |
| <b>-£ 11,640</b>       | <b>Profit/Loss (Less Liabilities)</b>         | <b>£ 2,744</b>  |



### **BALANCE SHEET**

| <b>2009-10</b>   | <b>ASSETS</b>                         | <b>2010-11</b>   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| £ 135,000        | FIXED ASSETS (PREMISES)               | £ 135,000        |
| £ 3,000          | CURRENT ASSETS (VAN, EQUIPMENT, ETC.) | £ 3,000          |
| £ 7,985          | CURRENT ACCOUNT                       | £ 6,632          |
| £ 58,000         | BUILDING RESERVE                      | £ 58,000         |
| £ 33,755         | OTHER BUILDING SOCIETY                | £ 37,005         |
| £ 209            | PETTY CASH                            | £ 46             |
| £ 0              | VAT ON VATABLE PURCHASES              | £ 2,107          |
| <b>£ 237,949</b> | <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b>£ 241,790</b> |
| <hr/>            |                                       |                  |
| <b>2009-10</b>   | <b>LIABILITIES</b>                    | <b>2010-11</b>   |
| £ 8,222          | DEBT TO MWANZA SMTC                   | £ 5,000          |
|                  | EVS                                   | £ 4,000          |
| <b>£ 8,222</b>   | <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>              | <b>£ 9,000</b>   |
| <hr/>            |                                       |                  |
| <b>£ 229,727</b> | <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>  | <b>£ 232,790</b> |

Jim O'Neill



**Special thanks**

