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# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY



Annual Report 2013



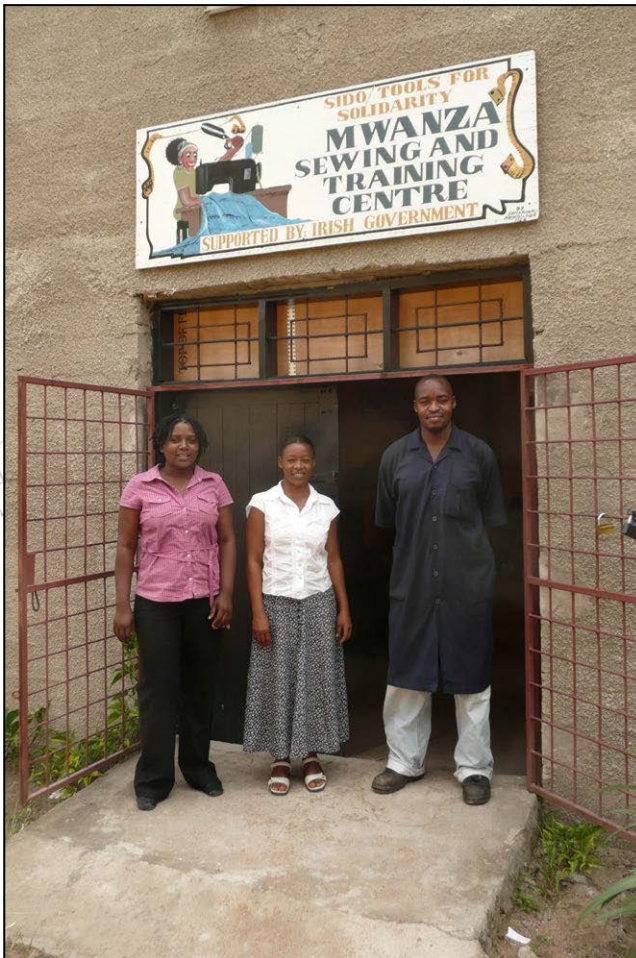
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# BACKGROUND



## 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:

- 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.



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

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Practical solidarity is at the heart of TFS's work. You can contribute in a very practical way - by donating hand tools or sewing machines, by making a donation towards essential shipping and running costs, by providing materials, or by volunteering.

Please, contact us at:

**Tools For Solidarity**  
**Unit 1B1**  
**Edenderry Industrial Estate**  
**326 Crumlin Road**  
**Belfast BT14 7EE**

**Tel: 028 90747473**





# CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

The last year has been a very busy and challenging one for TFS, with volunteers coming and going and three shipments being dispatched. We had visits from key personnel from the MSTC and also sent members of TFS to Tanzania. Commitments to new projects and a work-camp have stretched the organisation yet we managed to cope despite the challenges that have arisen.

In July 2012 a container left for Uganda to the Women Rights Initiative with whom we had conducted a pilot project. Based upon the success of this pilot we hope to establish a new three year in the year ahead.

In November 2012 TFS welcomed to Belfast the manager of MSTC, Jane Madete, for her maiden visit since the partnership was established in 2007. A series of events such as a gig, pub quiz, talks and an Open day were organised to raise awareness of TFS' work with MSTC and on the activities of the centre in itself. The visit of Jane was also an important moment for all the volunteers working in Belfast and Downpatrick to hear first hand from the manager of the project how crucial their work is for the ongoing viability of the MSTC in Mwanza.

The success of the MSTC project didn't stop the organisation in its willingness to do further development work and to start new projects and partnerships. After the shipment to Mwanza in December 2012, the TFS Secretary, Stephen Wood, travelled to Tanzania and Uganda to evaluate new partnerships. The focus this time is to establish a centre based on the model of MSTC but focused on tools. At the same time, we have been very active in Belfast with a renewed education program "Education for Sustainable Development" and a three week work-camp with students with learning disabilities from Germany.

The spirit of volunteering and solidarity together with the enthusiasm of the volunteers in Belfast and Downpatrick are keeping the organisation running at maximum capacity managing all of these activities. TFS is now looking to start a project in Uganda with Wori (Woman Rights Initiative) to establish a sewing and tools centre to support artisans tailors and trades-people in the Eastern Region of Uganda. As previously mentioned, the organisation has only been able to support such developments overseas with the help of international volunteers who continue to carry out the majority of the work within our workshop. Over the last year TFS has had its highest ever number of international volunteers working for the organisation. The number of requests from people to come and work for the organisation has also increased.

The finance for the year went down slightly as funding is getting more difficult in the current economic climate and more time is needed for this in the year ahead. The purchase of a container of sewing machines spare parts in October 2012 was a major investment but has given the organisation a stockpile of spares parts to keep fixing sewing machines for many years to come.

We face various challenges for the future and need to keep adding to our network of organisations to develop joint programmes to be able to continue to execute quality programs and implement development support. The requests of support we continue to receive are a clear sign that the work and projects we carry on are needed and valued.

The next months are going to be full of new challenges but these represent a further motivation to work with renewed enthusiasm and to put even more energy into our current, as well as new, projects.

# VOLUNTEER REPORT

The spirit of volunteering is fundamental to Tools For Solidarity. Without the work of our volunteers TFS could not achieve its objectives and would be unable to impact the lives of as many people both locally and internationally. The ethos of TFS is, at its core, about the development of people and TFS strives to support people in their personal and economic development in the spirit of solidarity.

Our volunteers usually gain an awareness of environmental issues, support for people who are marginalised or who have limited opportunities in their lives. In working for TFS as volunteers we develop empathy for people in need and learn renewed respect for them and the environment that we share. This helps to reinforce and improve our spirit of volunteering.

The volunteers work on different tasks for the TFS from collecting and sorting tools to checking sewing machines for shipment abroad. We also have the opportunity to work on publicity, fundraising and evaluating new projects of the future. We work with supported volunteers as well and will roll out a development education program to schools and collages in the year ahead.

During the past year we had more than thirty international and local volunteers working with TFS for differing periods of time as well as volunteers with special support needs – each of which has made an important contribution to the organisation.

The international volunteers have played an increasingly important role in our organization since the first international workcamp was organised 1984. Today our international volunteers mainly come to us from the European Voluntary Service (EVS), a EU program under Youth in action. Their placements last from one month to one year and this past year we have had volunteers from France, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Columbia, Germany, Somalia and Switzerland. We still host one volunteer each year from Eirene, a German organisation committed to international peace work.

There are hundreds of people who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to help TFS achieve our objectives. It is an inspirational experience as many visitors to our workshops will testify. We are also thankful those organisations and institutions that help us in finding and funding our volunteers especially the British Council for their role in the Youth in Action Programme and Volunteer Now for local volunteer recruitment.









# TFS DOWNPATRICK



This year saw the continued success of our volunteer programme to offer and support as wide a range of people as possible. We have now more than 30 volunteers each week who give their time, energy and commitment to supporting local artisan communities in East Africa.

The highlight of the year was the visit to the workshop of Jane Madete - the manager of the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre. She gave a brilliant presentation on the work of the MSTC to a packed workshop explaining to the volunteers how their work is helping to improve the lives of tailors living all around the Tanzanian shore of Lake Victoria. This was the first time that our volunteers have been able to hear first hand about what impact their work has in Tanzania. It was a very positive experience and volunteers were inspired by Jane's words and passion.

Throughout the year improvements have been made to the working environment and now the workshop is a warm and welcoming place even in the heart of winter. Chris manages the workshop extremely efficiently as can be seen by how well ordered the place is.

In May Chris and myself travelled to Tanzania to visit the MSTC and then journeyed around the shores of Lake Victoria to visit Vocational Training Centres, schools and artisan groups in Western and Central Uganda. This was the first time that Chris had been to Africa and at first he found it very challenging but soon he was able to amerce himself in the life there and was able to see both the



beauty and the hardship of people's lives and understand the difficulties of trying to make development sustainable. These experiences will help Chris get across to volunteers what ordinary life is like for working people and describe what impact our work has on those whom we support.

Managing the workshop is a demanding prospect but Chris is an excellent co-ordinator and he is able to manage and support the volunteers in an empathetic manner. He is supported by Hugh, Tatiana, John and David all of whom assist Chris to run the workshop and support the other volunteers. Downpatrick is also supported by the tools team in Belfast, one of whose volunteers travels down each week to help in the workshop. Many thanks to them and all the volunteers for their work throughout the year.

Downpatrick now has a small committed team of two - John and Christine - working on sewing machines with occasional training and support provided by the Belfast sewing group.

TFS Downpatrick works with a number of different organisations to provide supported volunteering opportunities – these include Action Mental Health, the Autism Centre, Mencap, Mindwise, Volunteer Now and Ardmore School. We thank these organisations for their continued support and co-operation.



Funding the workshop in Downpatrick has not been easy despite the fact that the entire operation costs less than a part-time salary position. So it is with special thanks to Unicorn Food Coop in Manchester. This worker's food co-operative is funding half our costs through a fund set up by the workers themselves. We plan in the year ahead to diversify our funding sources and put the organisation on a more secure financial basis.



# PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

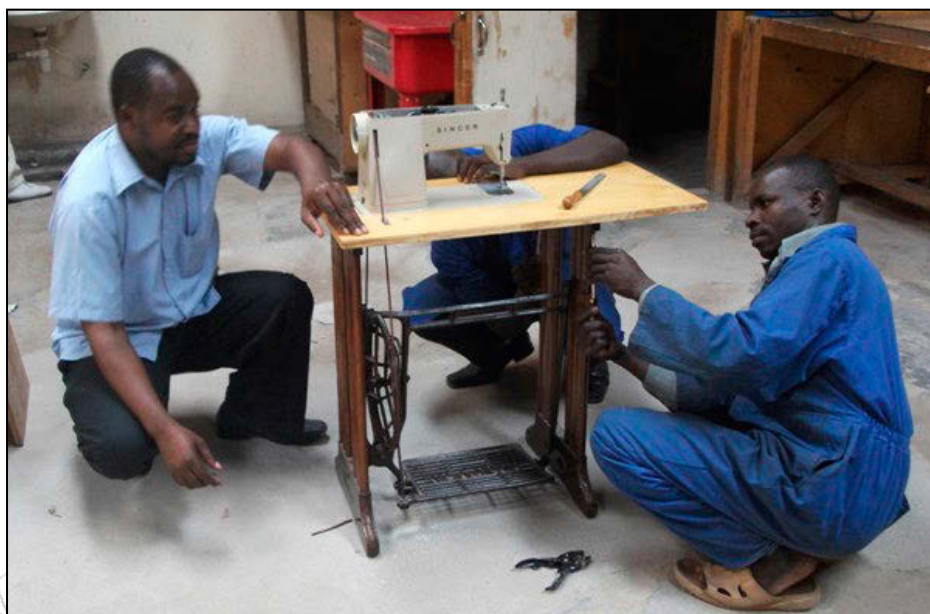
This year has been a very busy time for the workshop and for the supply of tools and sewing machines to our partners and project within East Africa. We continued our support of MSTC and the incredible work that the people in the centre continue to deliver. This year they

- supplied 356 sewing machines,
- trained 329 tailors in a week long intensive course in advanced tailoring skills
- trained 6 mechanics in repair and maintenance of sewing machines

A container was sent by TFS to MSTC in Dec 2012 the list of materials sent is presented in this table

Quantity	Description
42	Treadle sewing machine
7	Treadle parts (Tops, legs)
102	Electric sewing machines
229	Hand sewing machines
12	Industrial sewing machines
4	Box of spar parts for sewing machine + oil + belt+screwdrivers
22	Box of scrap material
3	Roll of scrap material
38	Box of thread, zips, accessories (needles, buttons...)
50	Bags of wool
1	Pillar drill + vice+drill bits
1	Trolley
4	Beds + mattresses
3	Clutch motors
12	Knitting machine + tables
8	Tools kits for mechanics
1	Suitcase MSTC Manager
1	Bike seat
1	Small blackboard
1	Metal filing cabinet
27	Hoes
8	Bike
6	Chairs
Total number of item 583	





Athuman, the senior mechanic at MSTC, works with a trainee mechanic to show how to assemble treadles for the special fabrication of sewing machines to allow them to be used without a motor

Earlier in the year a container was sent to Uganda to support 12 VTC's/Organisations in Uganda as well as the tailoring project with WORI. Full details of both shipments are in Table 2 and 3 below. The container sent to Uganda was fitted out as a workshop for the WORI project and was used by the partner to store and carry out the work. It was a pilot project with WORI and a full report of the project can be obtained from our website. The implementation and delivery of the sewing machines and training was successfully delivered by WORI. There were however some concerns over the capacity of WORI to undertake a more extensive project. This will mean that extra support will be required by TFS if a larger programme is to be undertaken. This will underline the need for more capacity support for the organisation if a more extensive project is to be undertaken.

Date: Container Filled: 6th July 2012

Destination: WORI (Women Rights Initiative)

Quantity	Description
20	Treadle sewing machine
10	Electric sewing machines
5	Hand sewing machines
3	Industrial sewing machines
1	Tool box
15	Tool kits - for training colleges
3	Lights
1	Bench grinder
20	Boxes of pieces of cotton and fabric for training tailors
2	Boxes of threads



1	Filing Cabinet
1	Box of spares for sewing machines - oil, screw-drives, pins, needles
1	Electric box - wiring 10m and fittings
1	Office material;s
1	Used Generator, 2.5KVA
2	Typewriters
21	Boxes second hand clothes
3	Electric drill
15	Hospital beds (including mattresses)
1	Mattress
2	Bedside units (hospital)
2	Microscopes - for Hospital
3	Knitting machines
2	Box of knitting machine books/ parts
1	Box of knitting machine wool
1	Box baby items - clothes, cot mobiles
2	Pair of crutches
6	Boxes of hospital maintenance tools
2	Bags of toys
3	Splints
Total number of items 151	



The workshop at WORI - Jinja, Eastern Uganda. It was fitted out so that after it was emptied it could be used to refurbish and store sewing machines used in the pilot project.

## Profile of Organisations/VTC's in Uganda supported by TFS

NAME OF VTC/ ORGANISATION	LOCATION / VILLAGE/ DISTRICT	TFS Proposed Support t/h - treadle/hand sewing machine
Kiima Foods	KINYAMASEKE KASESE	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t, 1h
Glory Integrated Vocational Training Institute.	KINYAMASEKE KASESE	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t,1h
Kaseese Youth Development Foundation	KASEESE TOWN COUNCIL	Tailoring kit - 2t
Karushandara Seed Secondary School	KARUSANDARA KASESE	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t,1h
Muhamudu Guma Bicycle Repair Garage	KARUSANDARA KASESE	Bicycle Kit
Bunyangabu Bee Keeping Community	RUBONA TRADING CENTRE KABAROLE	Carpentry kit - small Industrial or leather working Sewing Machine
Rwenzori Mountains Baghuma Integrated association (RAMBIA)	KYAMUKUBE KABAROLE	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t Building kit - small
Rural Youth In Development	NYANKWANZI KYENJOJO	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t
Kinaba Vocational Institute	MABAALE KIBAALE	Metal working kit - small
<b>VTC and schools in east Uganda</b>		
Twekembe Association Centre For Rural Systems & Development (T.A Crusade -Uganda)	MUKONO TOWN COUNCIL MUKONO	Carpentry Kit Tailoring Kit - 2t,1h
Action for Development In Under Served Areas (ADUA)	BUVUMA ISLAND MUKONO	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit - 2t,1h
Neighborhood And Good Governance Watch Organization (NEGOWA)	NAWANYAGOKAMULI	Carpentry kit - small Tailoring kit 2t,1h Type writers

Tailoring kits 10    Carpentry kits 9    Building kit 1  
Bicycle 1    Metal working kit 1

As well as sending 2 containers TFS also helped to send 13 hospital beds and other medical equipment to Uganda. It was a very busy and one that had the largest number of tools and machines ever sent by TFS. However, the work still continues to try and develop a tool project where we can send the tools that have in the workshop.



# EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Development Education Group, which had gone underground for 5 years, has recently been re-established with new core challenges. The group has changed its name into Education for Sustainable Development as we think it fits better with the philosophy of the organisation and coincides with the actual terminology of UNESCO.



The first step has been the creation of a report called “Education for Sustainable Development in TFS” which justified the creation and implementation of the group, including new objectives and challenges.

One of the new aspects of the group is the creation of a Didactic programme which could be implemented inside the classroom with primary schools and youth associations in Belfast and the elaboration and design of this programme has been the key work of the group during the last months.

In particular we are looking to focus our work in the areas “The world around us” and “Personal Development and Mutual Understanding” in the Key Stage 2 age range from 9 to 11 years old thus matching some of the general objectives of the second stages of the primary curriculum.

The methodology that we use to develop the programme is to visit the schools over three sessions of 60 minutes and set out in three consecutive weeks, in which we will explore the following aspects of the sustainable development:

1. Poverty and Inequality
2. Exploitation of natural resources
3. Critical thinking and the impact of our lifestyle on a global scale.

The methodology inside the classroom is dynamic and participatory in order to help students to build critical learning step by step, starting with a general understanding of sustainable development and building up to more concrete knowledge and understanding about our actions and their impact on the world.

The first implementation of the programme was in March 2013 with a youth group from Berlin. The group were doing a 3 week project in our workshop. The three sessions that we ran with them included activities such as 'The giant steps' to look at poverty, 'The practical trading game' version of the trading game adjusted to the group to explore the exploitation of natural resources and a presentation of pictures from Tanzania to develop Critical thinking. The development of the sessions and the feedback was very useful to test the activities and adjust the design and plan of the programme.

Towards the end of the work year the ESD group put emphasis on communication with the community and in May 2013 the Youth Council for Northern Ireland invited the ESD to give a presentation to the youth club leaders in Belfast with the aim to make people know about the programme and invited them to take part on it.

Looking ahead ESD expect to work with youth associations in Belfast. Our first approach to schools in February 2012 was not successful due to the fact that the schools had already fixed their curricular programme for the year. We plan to contact the schools again over the summer to try to develop the programme in the new academic year 2013-2014.

In conclusion ESD is very proud of its work throughout the year and is looking forward to having the chance to work with youth associations and primary schools in Belfast and beyond.

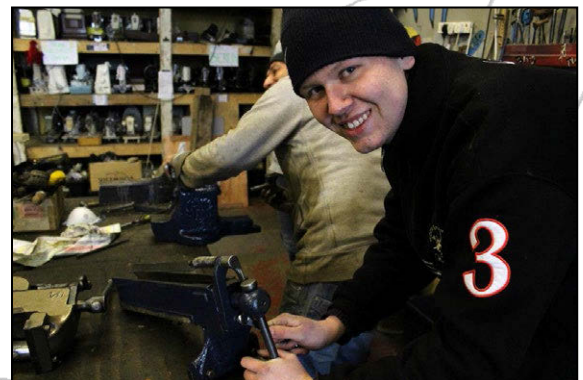


# OTHER ACTIVITIES

At the end of October, Tools For Solidarity received an offer to buy a container full of sewing machine spare parts from a sewing machine supplier who's business was closing. Three people from the organization went to Leicester to collect the container full of enthusiasm. Thanks to that, we now have plenty of spare parts sufficient to last for many years.



Also 10 german youths with learning disabilities visited TFS in March. They came to do a work camp for 3 weeks and it was a very rewarding experience for both parties. The volunteers from TFS showed them the work they do in the workshop and they showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for the work. During the period of the work camp the workshop was crowded and full of positive energy.

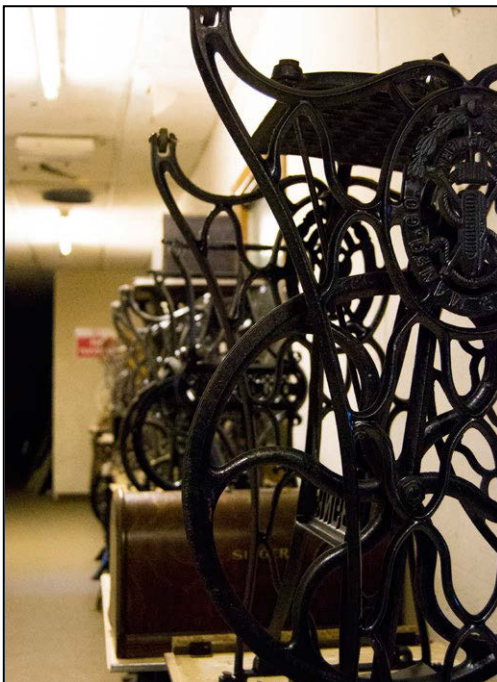
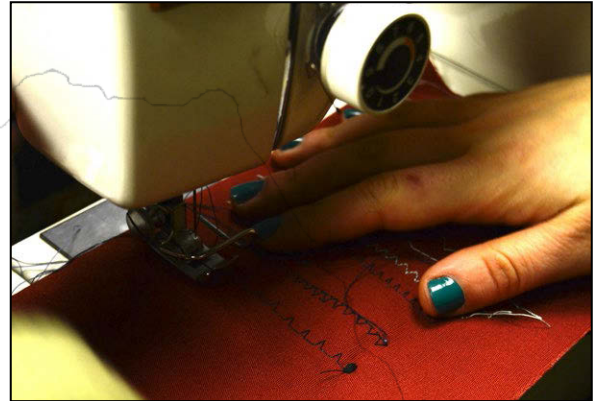


# FINANCES

The financial period 2012-13 was another very busy and successful year for TFS. Yet again costs have been kept to a minimum, with the enormous workload being carried out by volunteers and the majority of the materials, tools, equipment and sewing machines being donated and collected from recycling centres.

Still, there are many unavoidable financial costs and TFS, with the vital support of all our donors and funders, has worked hard in this year to meet these costs. Expenditure for 2012-13 was £92,973 (up by 22% over the previous year) and income was £80,556 (down by 8%). Expenditure was in excess of income by £12,416.

Much of the increased costs were due to a one-off bulk purchase of materials in October 2012 costing £10,000 excluding shipping. This purchase came following a generous offer from a long standing supplier of sewing machine parts who is closing down their business. The materials were purchased at a significant discount, helping TFS to reduce costs in the longer term. Travelling expenses also increased in 2012-13 due to unexpected travel to Tanzania for an emergency meeting with the MSTC following a serious fire at their building. All other expenditure for 2012-13 was generally cognate with the previous year.



Overall income was down in 2012-13 relative to the previous year. This was largely due to lower EVS income as influenced by the number of EVS volunteers recruited and the timing of EVS projects. There are a number of EVS projects pending for early 2013-14. An improvement was made in relation to donations, which were up by 28% and non-EVS grants which increased by 128%. 'Other Income' was also up in 2012-13 largely due to interest received on funds held at the building society (which are reserved for the purchase of new workshop premises when adequate funds have been raised) and income received in contribution for sharing shipping container space to Tanzania.

A big thank you is due to all the volunteers who assisted with maintaining the accounts, for retaining invoices and receipts, and ensuring meticulous record keeping.



# TFS Annual Accounts: 1st April to 31st March 13

## Profit & Loss Report

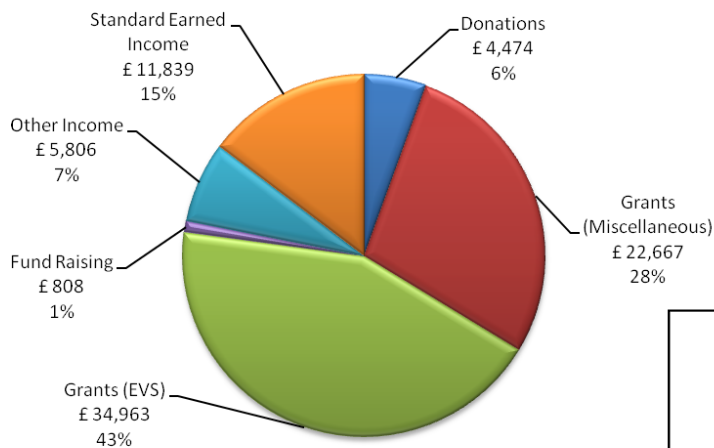
2011-12	INCOME	2012-13
£ 3,486	Donations	£ 4,474
£ 9,945	Grants (Miscellaneous)	£ 22,667
£ 58,582	Grants (EVS)	£ 34,963
£ 1,495	Fund Raising	£ 808
£ 822	Other Income	£ 5,806
£ 12,767	Standard Earned Income	£ 11,839
£ 87,097	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 80,556</b>
2011-12	EXPENDITURE	2012-13
	<i>Direct Expenses</i>	
£ 10,453	Workshop Operation, Materials & Transport	£ 26,106
£ 203	Cost of Fund Raising	£ 359
£ 10,656	<u>Total Direct Expenses</u>	<u>£ 26,465</u>
	<i>Overheads</i>	
£ 8,535	Rent and Rates	£ 9,958
£ 2,593	Heat, Light and Power	£ 3,077
£ 790	Travelling Expenses	£ 3,461
£ 1,427	Printing, Stationery Tel & Internet	£ 875
£ 542	Maintenance	£ 580
£ 6,949	General Expenses	£ 5,208
£ 9,000	Partnership - Mwanza/Uganda (Direct Transfer)	£ 8,366
	<i>Bank Charges and Interest</i>	£ 64
£ 29,715	Volunteer Remuneration & EVS Exp	£ 27,001
£ 5,515	Volunteer Accommodation	£ 7,313
£ 351	Professional Fees	£ 164
£ 31	Miscellaneous	£ 427
£ 77	Workshop & Office Equipment	£ 14
£ 65,523	<u>Total Overhead Expenses</u>	<u>£ 66,508</u>
£ 76,179	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 92,973</b>
£ 10,918	<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>-£ 12,416</b>

# Balance Sheet

2011-12	ASSETS	2012-13
£ 135,000	FIXED ASSETS (PREMISES)	£ 135,000
£ 3,000	CURRENT ASSETS (VAN, EQUIPMENT, ETC.)	£ 3,000
£ 6,709	CURRENT ACCOUNT	£ 9,775
£ 78,000	BUILDING RESERVE	£ 78,000
£ 31,005	OTHER BUILDING SOCIETY	£ 17,064
£ 115	PETTY CASH	£ 29
	PAYPAL ACCOUNT	£ 424
£ 1,434	VAT ON VATABLE PURCHASES	£ 707
<b>£ 255,263</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£ 243,998</b>
2011-12	LIABILITIES	2012-13
£ 0	Liabilities	£ 0
<b>£ 0</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£ 0</b>
<b>£ 255,263</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£ 243,998</b>

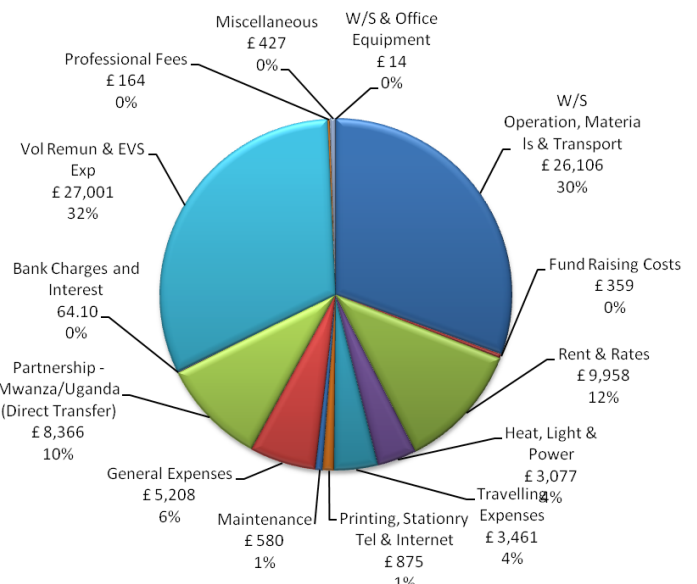
## TFS Income - 2012-13

Total: £80,556



## TFS Expenditure 2012-13

Total: £92,973





# SPECIAL THANKS

Tools For Solidarity takes this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of different individuals and organizations to this undertaking:

- 
- Action Mental Health
  - All-Route Shipping
  - Autism Initiatives
  - Ardmore House Special School, Downpatrick
  - Ashfield Boys' High School
  - Belfast City Council recycling centres
  - Cedar Foundation
  - Combined Services Third World Fund
  - Damian Ch'anga, Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) Regional Manager, Mwanza
  - David Vidilini and Korbono
  - Disability Aid Abroad
  - Geoff and Tina Claxton
  - John Alibankoha, Rural People in Action for Development
  - Jim Watson
  - Headway
  - Lindsay Alexander, Youth in Action, British Council
  - Mary Hegarty, Bryson Charitable Group
  - Mourne Grange Camphill Community
  - Nancy Graham
  - Pam and Tara, Patchwork Goose
  - Pat and Heather, Kilkeel
  - Patricia Stevenson
  - South Belfast Quakers
  - NICRAS
  - NICVA
  - Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA)
  - Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
  - Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO)
  - St Malachy's College Old Boys Association
  - The Co-operative Society
  - The Orchardville Society
  - Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR), Garvald Edinburgh
  - Tony and Brid Weeks
  - Ulster Garden Villages
  - Unicorn Food Co-operative
  - Volunteer Now
  - Women Rights Initiative (WORI) Uganda

To all the Tools For Solidarity volunteers at Belfast, Downpatrick and the Isle of Man, and to all those who have collected / donated tools, money or time over the last 12 months, thank you very much.



TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY