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# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

## ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

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## Tools For Solidarity

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## **Background Information**

### **Principles**

- 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.

### **The Aims of TFS**

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



## How Can I Help?

Solidarity in practice is 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

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Belfast BT7 3EX

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**Webpage: [toolsforsolidarity.com](http://toolsforsolidarity.com)**

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**Charitable company number: NI052306**



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[twitter.com/2ls4s](https://twitter.com/2ls4s)



[instagram.com/tfs\\_belfast](https://instagram.com/tfs_belfast)



## **Chairperson's Address**

The organisation has been able to consolidate and move forward on many aspects of its work over the last year. There have been many challenges and many success but the organisation could face serious problems with the consequences of the UK leaving the EU- as most of our volunteers come through an EU programme.

The key developments have been the addition of 2 core volunteers within the organisation. Jessica, working in the sewing section has helped maintain both quality and numbers of sewing machines flowing through the organisation. Angeline is TFS's new partnerships worker who has not only helped to maintain TFS current partners but has been spearheading a new group looking for new partners. The role of both volunteers has significantly helped solidify the function of the organisation in meeting its stated goals.

This year witnessed the start of a new project in Ruvuma, sewing and tools refurbishment and training centre, as the first container arrived in July. Progress has been positive with full details inside the report. Other smaller projects are ongoing with TFS agreeing to support: a small project in Northern Uganda with our volunteers working on the tools and sewing machines needed, and Malawi is still an area where TFS provides its support to a Scottish project working with people with disabilities.

This was the first year of a new programme at TFS to support both asylum seekers and refugees in Northern Ireland. Three successful training programmes of support were run in tailoring, tools refurbishment and learning new skills. The organisation had very positive feedback and will look to run these programmes next year. A great thanks to the volunteers who organised these and to Tara for helping with the tailoring training.



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TFS supported volunteers (SV) programme has also seen positive developments with more volunteers and many more requests for placements. The number of tools refurbished by the SV has increased significantly this year and the type and range of work undertaken has also benefitted both TFS and the SV.

The organisation has also started preparations for a field visit in June of next year as well as preparations for TFS' 35th birthday celebrations since TFS started a long time ago.

The organisation's finances are in a healthy position which has enabled TFS to take on both a new partnership worker and a sewing machines coordinator. Most of the fundraising work is carried out by Ken to whom the organisation is thankful for its latest possession: an extractor system for the grit blaster. The supported volunteers enjoy the fast and easier way in which they can get the tools cleaned.

There was one area where TFS has been incredibly successful and that is through the ESD (Education For Sustainable Development) programme run by Laura for the last 6 years. This will be her last year with TFS as next summer she will leave for a new post. We would like to thank her for all her hard work over this period and know that she will still be involved in TFS in some way.

The organisation has a long list of people that it relies on and without whom it would not be able to provide many of its activities. Their contribution is fantastic and I would like to thank them for their support and hope it continues.

Boglarka Benke



# Partnership Development and Support

## 1. TANZANIA

The past year saw the continuation of our support to Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre (MSTC) and the launch of our two year pilot in the Southern Highlands, Ruvuma Artisan Sewing and Training Centre (RASTC). The aim for the both centers is to be self-financing, TFS covering the shipping/transport costs thank to the generosity of our funders.

### A. MSTC

This year, MSTC continued to allocate sewing machines to small tailors in a very wide area across several regions of the Lake Zone. These tailors received one weeks long training on Embroidery or Dress design, Operation and Maintenance, and Business skills. MSTC implements training every month except in December and January. At the beginning of 2019, MSTC welcomed a third member of staff: Emmanuel. He joined the workshop as Junior Mechanic and is currently on training for six months.

Throughout the years, MSTC staff have gained very high technical skills. They gathered a lot of useful information as well as a more detailed knowledge of their target groups. Their work with the artisans is of high quality. The tailors recognise it and value it.

The skills training they received helps them improve the quality of their products. Thanks to the maintenance skills they have learnt, they check their machines regularly. They have less problems with their machines, a better businesses and a higher incomes.

The project makes a difference in many lives, enabling some people to get better food or clothes, pay for children's school fees, or even build their own house.



However, MSTC faces some difficulties regarding the management of the project and this year saw some issues related to the late arrival of the container from our partner Dutch partner organisation BWW.

During the Autumn 2018, we hoped to bring MSTC staff to Belfast in order to discuss these issues and share some technical knowledge. Unfortunately, this could not happen. We are now planning a field trip in the summer of 2019. It will help us draw up a future plan for the MSTC.



*Some of the trainees posing with their certificates and the products they have made after completing their training at MSTC.*

### **B. RASTC**

The first year of our pilot project based in Songea has been successful. Many activities have been carried out.

A technician/manager, Matogolo Luzalia, was employed in May 2018. He has spent three months in MSTC being trained in skills and procedures to run RASTC. It aims to provide tools, sewing machines and training to Ruvuma and Njombe Regions.

Our shipment of 208 sewing machines (including eight industrial & 30 treadles), 34 tools kits, other 800 additional hand tools and 8 pieces of machinery arrived at the end of July. The container we sent has been converted into a storage area for the tools and some work has been done to the small workshop where Mr Luzalia works on the refurbishment of the sewing machines.





The reception of the project by the beneficiaries has been very positive. Indeed, the first sewing machine operation, skills and maintenance training conducted in November 2018 has been a great success for the 20 tailors who participated. They value the high quality of their machine and they now apply the new skills they have learnt in their daily activities. Day after day the reputation of the centre is growing, reaching more and more tailors in need of good quality machines and training.



*Matogolo promoting the project to a group of tailors in Peramiho, Ruvuma Region in October 2018.*

## **2. MALAWI**

We continue our partnership with Global Concerns Trust and the Scottish tools organisations to support their programme ‘Tools and training for Livelihoods in Malawi’.

This programme has a real and deep impact on the lives of people with disabilities in rural Malawi. Participants in the programme receive skills training in carpentry, tailoring and/or cane furniture making as well as training in business skills, gender and HIV awareness and how to manufacture green manure. At the end of their training they each receive a solar panel and a tool kit or a sewing machine and materials to help them start their own businesses.



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Each year an evaluation is carried out that shows how the programme transforms the lives of the trainees and their families. 96% of graduates have established successful businesses, increased their income and improved the quality of their standard of living. The programme also helps transform the negative image some local people have of people with disabilities.

In January we shipped our second shipment of tool kits and treadles to Malawi –7 cane furniture making kits, 3 carpentry kits and 8 treadle bases.



*Dorothy Kabambiezy with her machine. She was trained in 2016 and is now running a successful business. She has been able to buy a goat, household items, better quality food and seed for growing.*

### 3. UGANDA

The legal process in Uganda is slow. We are still waiting to hear what action will be taken following the theft of some of the resources we sent to WORI in 2014.



#### **4. ZIMBABWE**

In December we shipped a crate of 11 sewing machines, tools and materials to the DAM Cancer Foundation in Zimbabwe. DAM is a charity organisation aimed at raising awareness of cancer and its effects on women and their families. It assists with the testing and treatment of girls and women in marginalised rural areas of Masvingo South Constituency, Nyajena Rural District Council and helps to improve the lives of survivors and orphans through reaching out, coordinating and facilitating self help projects.

The machines arrived in Zimbabwe in March.



*Allen Mshangi, coordinator with members of DAM*



## **5. NEW PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPMENT**

TFS have many thousands of high quality basic hand tools that are not easily available within many developing countries. Last autumn, we held a strategic meeting to create a picture of our current projects, understand our strengths and limits, and define our directions for future partnerships. We analysed what vulnerable groups to target, set up a criteria for selecting partners and drew up an initial action plan for developing new partnerships through a Tool Centre project, a concept being developed over the last 10 years at TFS .

The idea is to set up a Tool Centre which will refurbish a high quantity of tools and sewing machines in country, allocate them for vocational training purposes and/or for income generating activities and provide technical training. Given the large number of tools we have, the project needs to be implemented at a big scale -regional or national level to provide to a significant numbers of centres. TFS will need a dynamic partner with whom it can establish a sustainable project.



At present, the main projects we support are located in Tanzania and implemented by the same partner organisation. With shipping costs rising dramatically in the last few years, the start of new national regulations for foreign support to Tanzania, and large areas covered by the two centres we support, it seems necessary to look at new countries to develop a Tool Centre project. During the next months we will start our research of suitable organisations and areas where to work.





## **Volunteer Report**

Volunteering is central to all that TFS is and does. For more than thirty years people have come to Tools from around the world and across the street; all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They bring their energy, passion, interest, curiosity, humanity and humour. They come to learn, to share, to build a better world and it works because we share values: empathy, compassion and a desire to create sustainable development.

This year, as for many years now, the backbone of the organisation has been the core volunteers. These volunteers have given and continue to give a long term commitment to manage and develop our work. Two of our international volunteers have agreed to stay with us for another year to help with training new volunteers and to help manage our existing partnerships in Africa and to look for partners to set up a major refurbishment and training programme overseas.

We now have a dedicated finance officer and a fundraising officer – both part time. Their involvement has transformed the organisation and eased pressure on other core volunteers. This is an extremely healthy development, broadening level of experience and our ability to maintain and develop our work.

We continue to host international volunteers through the Erasmus Plus European Voluntary Service (EVS). Volunteers come to us for twelve months from across Europe and beyond. This year we hosted six volunteers. Without them we would be unable to deliver many of our programmes. EVS is coming to an end – 2018 is its final year. It is to be replaced by the European Solidarity Corps – a similar programme to EVS. It remains to be seen how this will affect us but we hope that we will be able to apply for volunteers through this scheme. We again welcomed a volunteer from Germany through our partnership with Eirene.

Many thanks to all our volunteers – local, core, international and supported – for their dedication and hard work.



*Volunteers enjoying an extra special Christmas lunch thanks to the support of the Vegetarian Society*

## **Supported Volunteers Programme**

Our programme gives an opportunity to people in Northern Ireland who may require extra help in terms of individual and social needs to participate in worthwhile and valuable work within our workshop.

We adapt the tasks to what works best for the people who are with us. The work varies from refurbishing tools or machinery for our overseas projects by dismantling, sanding wood or metal pieces, oiling, varnishing or painting, to sorting out some tools and sewing machines parts.

Here, people who often suffer from marginalisation are involved in contributing to make a difference in other people's lives across the world.



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This year, in addition to Michael, Roger, Larry A, Larry M and Trevor, 7 new people joined us: Tapi, Glenn, Sean, David, Ross, Joe and Aidan. We had great Tuesdays and Thursdays with a lot of conversation and laugh.

*Roger sanding the blade of a tenon saw*

In December 2018, we had a beautiful Christmas dinner with all our volunteers (supported, international, local and core volunteers) thank to the generous funding of the Vegetarian Society. We had a great meal and certainly a lot of fun!



*Glenn working with Manon on treadle bases.*





*Some of our volunteers during our 2018 Christmas dinner.*

## **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Report**

The ESD programme has been raising awareness about sustainable development issues throughout Northern Ireland for the last six years. 2018-2019 was beneficial in terms of pushing forward new projects.

During 2018-19, we worked with 18 institutions, of which 15 were Primary Schools, two post-primary schools and two youth groups. Participants from Primary Schools remained stayed steady, leaving us with very little time to approach other groups. There were 815 participants, of whom 782 were from primary level and 33 were from youth groups.

It is important to mention that we were inclusive of all the communities in Belfast, working with Maintained schools (39%), Controlled schools (31%), Irish medium language schools (16%) and Integrated schools (14%).





The new follow up project for groups who had previously participated in the four-week workshops was very well received in schools. This programme enables us to develop the participants' level of understanding about relative and extreme poverty and run new activities, following requests from the previous year's feedback.

We also worked with two post-primary schools:

- We were invited to speak at the Belfast Royal Academy assembly where we talked about the work we do at TFS and we discussed some aspects of Global Wealth Inequality. We reach around 800 students.
- We trained students from Dromore High School on how to develop and deliver a Sustainable Development lesson aimed at targeting Primary School groups.



*Laura Rio Fernandez during the class*



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Furthermore, we have worked for a second year with Friends Forever International. This is a group of young adults with whom we explored international trade, global wealth inequality and bias against women. Like the previous year, the experience was very well received and enjoyable.

The contribution from volunteers who helped during the year was also important. Manon, Yaprak, Maria and Jessica gave excellent support and without their help, it wouldn't have been possible to achieve such great results.

The feedback from the participants was very positive and the performance of the educators was rated at 4.4 out of 5. The total number of participants with whom we have worked with since the programme started is now over 3400.

As all of you probably know, I am now moving into a new chapter of my professional life. It is not a goodbye, as I will continue to be involved with the work of TFS and support all of its activities as much as I can.

When I started the programme, I never imagined that it would have received such a great welcome in schools and youth centres. It has been a pleasure to work with every teacher and young child, and be able to see their reactions and insights into social justice issues, how they developed critical thinking and to remind them the power they have to make the world a better place.

Working for TFS has changed my vision of the world in many ways. TFS is about giving opportunities to people, about questioning our lifestyle and living accordingly with those beliefs. It is also about creating the skills to be able to do so, breaking stereotypes and helping people to achieve what they never thought they could have done.

I hope the new TFS education officer will enjoy the programme as much as I did and get as many benefits from TFS as I gained.

Laura Rio Fernandez



## **Refugees and Asylum Seekers Training Programme**

In 2018 TFS developed a programme to support refugees and asylum seekers. The aim is to develop transferable skills for people adjusting to completely new circumstances as they build a life in Belfast. We drew a programme of 3 training courses: The Sewing Machine Maintenance course in September 2018, The Tools Maintenance Course in November and The Skills Training course in December.

Each course was developed to run for 4 full days, and is open to 5 people. The participants included men and women; different ages, from 23 to 49 years-old; different countries of origin: Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Iran, Albania, and with different manual skills.

The first training course ran in September was the sewing machine training course. It enabled participants to learn to diagnose common problems and dismantle and repair a sewing machine. The machines they were working on were for the projects of TFS in East Africa.

At the end of the course a tailoring course was provided for one day and a sewing machine to take with them for their own use.

The second course was The Tools Maintenance Course. The trainees learnt to clean, repair, sharpen and paint/varnish hand tools like hammers, planes, chisels, brace or hand drills. These tools were for artisan carpenters in Malawi. At the end of the course a set of tools was given to the participants.







*Some of our volunteers and trainees.*

The third course was the Skills Training Course. The participants learnt basic skills in carpentry, plumbing and electrics during construction of shelves, replacing a sink and fitting a new washing machine. They also received a basic set of tools to bring home with them.

All the participants were provided lunches and transports, and these cost were provided thanks to the Souter Charitable Trust.

The feedback from participants was very positive: they had been out of their houses, they had traveled across the city to find the workshop, they had met with some local and international volunteers, practised their English. All this had contributed to improving other people's lives in Africa through the tools and machines they fixed. It was very positive for new arrivals who often face difficulties to be part of the community, and/or are not allowed to work during their claim for asylum.



## **Financial Report**

Company Number: NI52306 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity Number: NIC100614

The Financial Year 2018-19 was expected to make a loss due to the addition of two Core Volunteers plus the cost of Project and Shipping to Tanzania. However in the end a small profit was made (£8,901) thanks to an increase from non EVS streams (up from £12,250 to £17,052). In addition an unexpected payment of £10,000 was received from Seedbed. Also benefits started to accrue from the installation of Solar Panels. EVS Grants remain central to our income, totaling £29,397 in the year (this is a drop from last year but only because a payment for the year was received outside the Financial year). This will continue in 2018-19 but there is doubt about what will happen long term. Changes due to Brexit and EU governance have still not been set in place so funding for organisations like ourselves is not guaranteed. An anonymous donor remains our sole income with respect to the ESD programme.

Expenditure was considerably higher in 2018-19 than the previous year. This is due to a number of reasons. The purchase of an extractor (£7,560) plus Shipping and Project costs (together totalling £14,842). In addition the two Core volunteers mentioned above. We also increase the rate of remuneration for volunteers.

This has had a net result of an increase in our Financial Assets from £87,819 to £91,296. This means we are in a good position to absorb any additional expenditure that may arise in the coming year ahead.



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|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Current Account               | £7,175         |
| Building Society              | £81,596        |
| Petty Cash                    | £203           |
| Paypal                        | £2,322         |
| Net Financial Assets          | £91,296        |
| <b>INCOME</b>                 | <b>2018-19</b> |
| Buiding Society/Bank Interest | £771           |
| Donations                     | £29,083        |
| Grants (EVS)                  | £29,397        |
| Grants Other                  | £17,052        |
| Other Income                  | £100           |
| Other Sales                   | £238           |
| Rent Income                   | £10,137        |
| Scrap Metal Sales             | £629           |
| VAT Refunds                   | £4,656         |
| Sewing Machine/Tools sales    | £606           |
| Gift Aid                      | £612           |
| Fund Raising                  | £3,250         |
| Energy Savings                | £2,298         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>           | <b>£98,829</b> |

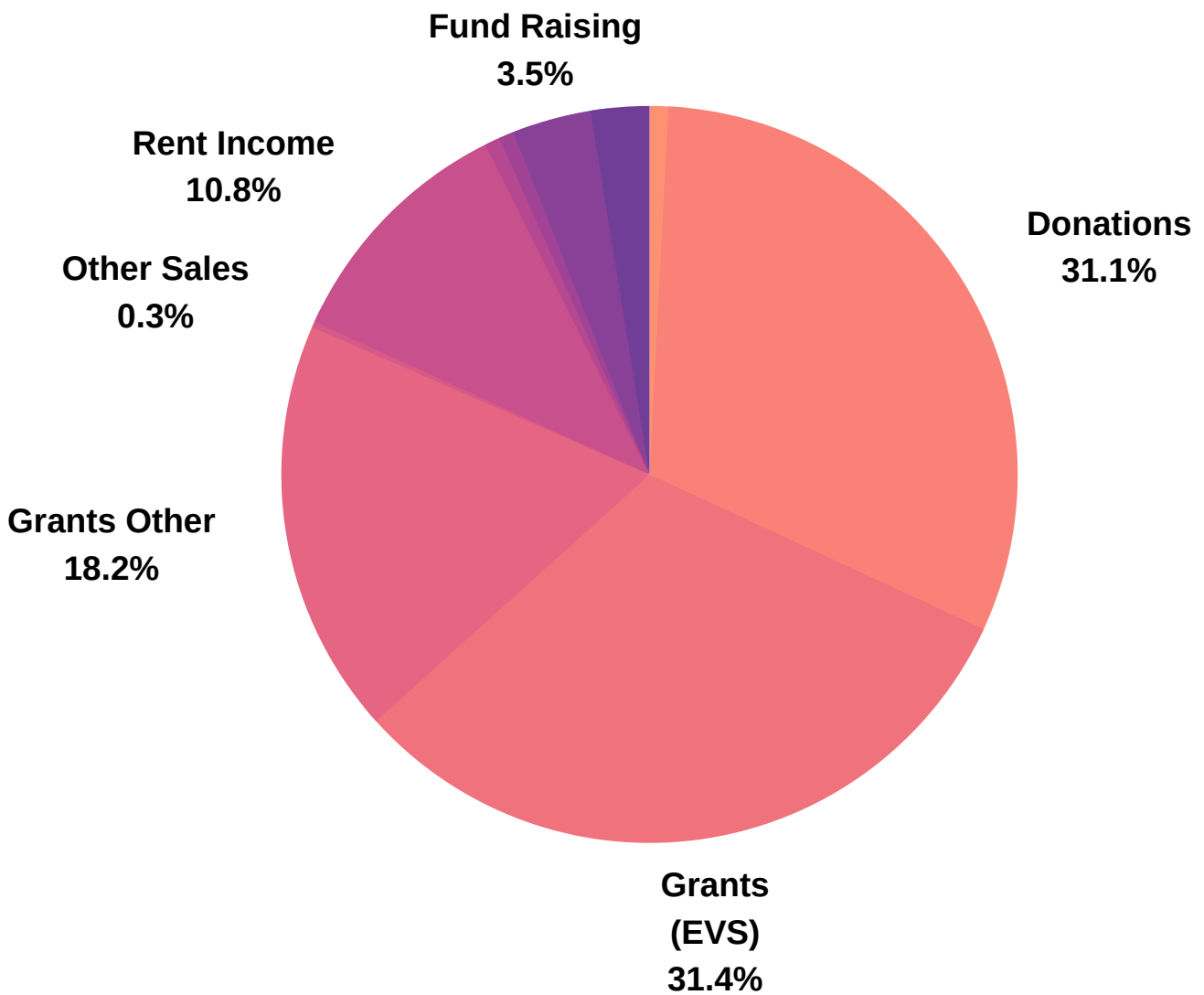


**EXPENDITURE**

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Direct Expenses             |                |
| Purchase, Parts, Material   | £7,036         |
| Fixed Assets                | £7,560         |
| Repairs                     | £54            |
| Total Direct Expenses       | £14,650        |
| <b><i>Overheads</i></b>     |                |
| Financial Fees              | £176           |
| Field Trip Costs            | £836           |
| Insurance                   | £1,651         |
| Fund Raising Expenses       | £380           |
| Legal & Professional Costs  | £2,055         |
| Lighting & Heating          | £3,713         |
| Overseas Payments           | £2,242         |
| Rent, Rates & Water Charges | £2,674         |
| Salary                      | £11,520        |
| Shipping                    | £3,046         |
| Project Costs               | £11,796        |
| Stationary & Postage        | £204           |
| Sundry                      | £50            |
| Telephone                   | £1,023         |
| Travel & Subsistence        | £6,220         |
| Vehicle Fuel/Motor Expenses | £3,253         |
| Volunteer Expenses          | £24,441        |
| Total Overhead Expenses     | £75,278        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>    | <b>£89,928</b> |
| <b>Profit/Loss</b>          | <b>£8,901</b>  |



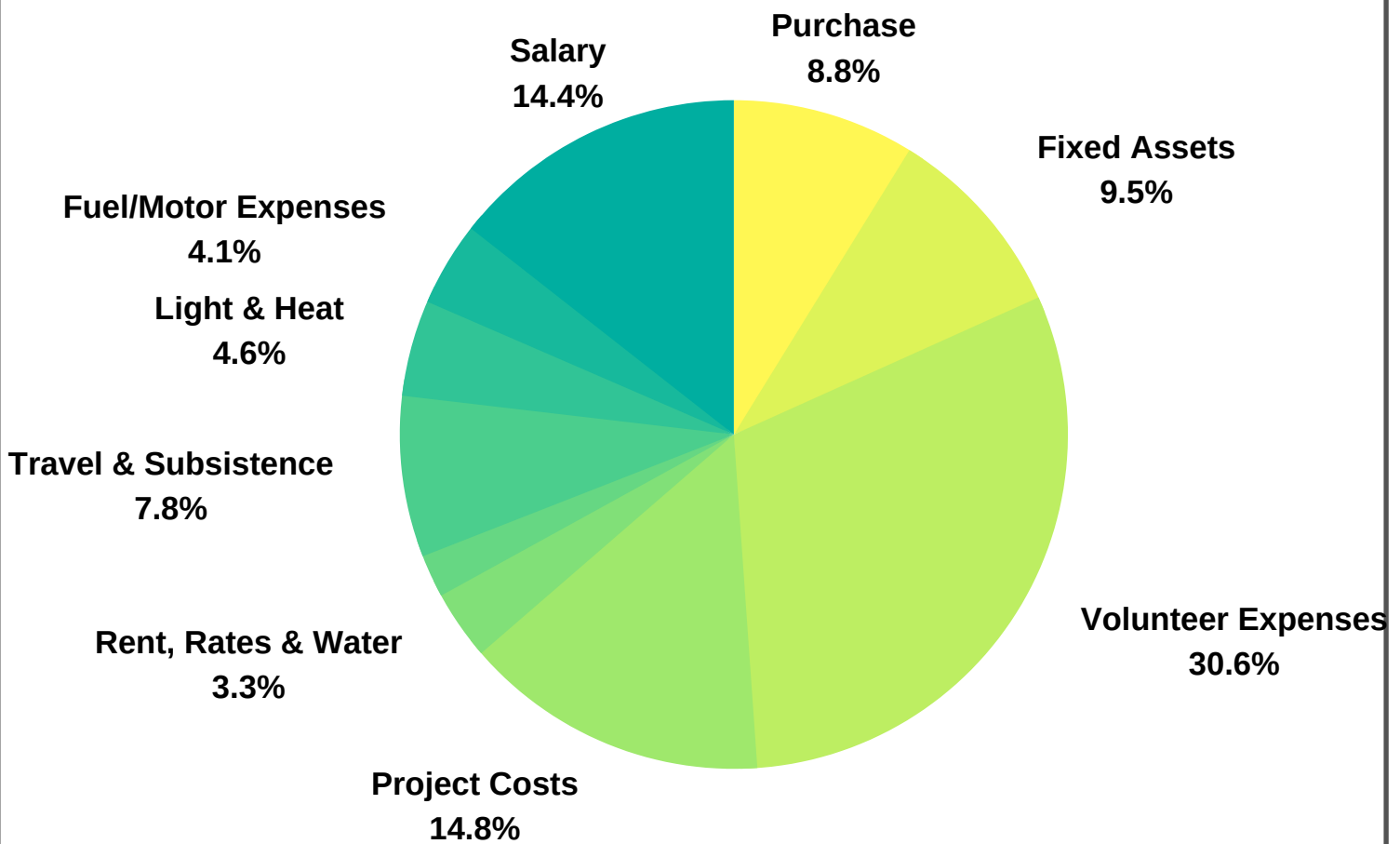
# **TFS Income 2018-19**







# **TFS Expenditure 2018-19**





## **Fundraising Report**

The Fundraising Group continued to meet regularly to review the plans for Tools for Solidarity and to ensure that funds are always available for new and continuing projects. Despite a difficult economic environment, 2018-19 has been a successful year for the group with some new grant awarding bodies contacted and some well-supported events.

During the financial year, we received funding from the following organisations:

Funding for....

- NIPSA Shipping costs
- Unicorn Coop MSTC Mwanza, Tanzania
- Halifax Foundation Training Coordinator
- Prince of Wales Charitable Supported Volunteer Programme Foundation
- Anonymous donor Education for Sustainable Development programme
- The Irish Society Extraction system
- Souter Charitable Trust Refugee and Asylum Seeker programme (RASP)
- Archer Trust Supported Volunteer Programme
- Homebase Materials for Volunteer house redecoration
- Sainsbury's Refreshments for Movie night
- Dunnes Stores Refreshments for Movie night

Three further applications were still outstanding at the end of the financial year.

A new venture this year was a Movie night, held in the Strand Arts Centre. A full house enjoyed watching 'Queen of Katwe' while raising much needed funds for our Tanzania projects. We are grateful to Sainsbury's and Dunnes Stores for donations of refreshments before the show.



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Tools for Solidarity continues to face a number of challenges on the financial front, not least with the uncertainties of Brexit. Too much of our funding relies on one year grants, and the Fundraising Group is considering how we can tap into more long term, multi-year arrangements to give increased security.

The Fundraising Group would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations listed above, and the many individuals and donors who have so generously supported the work of Tools for Solidarity during 2018-19. We couldn't do the work without you!



## Special Thanks

- Action Mental Health
- All Schools and Colleges in the ESD Programme
- Phillip Allen
- Terry Hooley
- Suki Tea
- Unicorn Food Co-Op
- Global Concerns Trust
- North Down Recycling Centres
- Autism Initiatives
- NIPSA
- Holy Family Parish
- Pam and Tara Patchwork Goose
- Belfast City Council
- Recycling Centres
- Tim McGarry
- The Irish Society
- North Belfast Quakers
- South Belfast Quakers
- Cedar Foundation
- Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
- SIDO
- Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre
- Julian Sanders
- St Malachy's Old Boys Association
- The Orchardville Society
- Department for Communities
- Friends of Mourne Grange
- Geoff and Tina Claxton
- Jenny Groves
- Erasmus Plus Team
- British Council
- Ecorys
- Mr R. Waters
- Volunteer Now
- Tools for Self Reliance Garvald
- Halifax Foundation for NI
- Grace Canham
- PJH Wills Charitable Trust
- Jaap Prins
- John Ling
- Sile Heneghan
- Anne Patterson
- Heather Larmour
- McCracken Memorial Church
- Attracta Walsh
- Felicity McCartney
- Mrs I Mckee
- Dr L Agnew
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Mrs C Fullerton
- Mr C Gallagher
- Ulster Garden Villages
- K Loughran
- Archer Trust
- Strand Pensioners Club
- Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation