

# **Irise International trustee Report 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015**



This report has been prepared by the Executive Director and Director of Operations of Irise International on behalf of the board of trustees



## Introduction:

Irise International works to support the education and empowerment of marginalized women and girls in East Africa specifically through developing a replicable and sustainable solution to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). MHM is an issue identified by disadvantaged women and girls as a driver of gender inequality and disempowerment through an insidious impact on their ability to engage in education and make good decisions about their reproductive health. We believe that menstrual hygiene is a girls' rights issue because of its impact on multiple human rights of women and girls including the right to sanitation, health, education, employment and dignity. It can also be transformed into a driver of change through enabling women to achieve more and by starting conversations that challenge traditional gender roles. Our vision is a world where no girl is held back by her period and a society that enables all girls to reach their full potential.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Irise International was founded as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It had previously been decided that Irise International could best serve its beneficiaries and best meet its charitable objectives by becoming a CIO and so all funds and operations were transferred to the new Irise International (CIO) by mutual agreement of the trustees of both organisations and the old charitable trust was closed.

The charitable objectives of Irise International remain unchanged, they are:

“The advancement of education, the preservation and protection of good health, and the prevention or relief of poverty among women and girls by working to improve sanitation and health education in their communities and schools, with a focus on Sub Saharan Africa.”

## Aims and objectives:

### Our aims

1. To develop and deliver high quality menstrual health education in East Africa
2. To deliver an affordable menstrual hygiene product in East Africa
3. To generate an evidence base to inform the development of MHM programmes in East Africa
4. To Raise awareness about MHM nationally and internationally in the broader context of women and girls' education and empowerment (and fundraising to support the implementation of our programmes).

We aim to deliver a comprehensive solution to the problem of inadequate menstrual hygiene, which allows our beneficiaries to be un-hindered by menstruation whilst pursuing the lives they have reason to value.



## **Ensuring our work delivers our aims**

Progress towards our aims is comprehensively reviewed annually at the trustee AGM. Reports on all activities are also submitted and reviewed by the board of trustees at trustee meetings held every 3 months. Each activity's success is judged on the basis of its contribution towards these aims.

The board of trustees also maintains and approves a log frame linked to a theory of change. The log frame details measurable outcomes and targets for each of our activities and the theory of change provides a detailed justification for why these outcomes will contribute towards our aims and how we will measure this.

## **Focus of our work**

Our work focuses on the issue of menstrual hygiene management in East Africa and the impact it has on women and girls' ability to engage in education, employment and public life.

Our research suggests that up to half of girls in East Africa miss school during their periods, with anecdotal evidence suggesting inadequate menstrual hygiene provision contributes to girls dropping out of school. In the absence of affordable sanitary materials, many girls report using improvised alternatives such as old rags, bits of mattress, and organic material such as maize husks and in some cases cow dung. Despite East African school girls commonly reporting difficulties in managing menstruation leading to school absenteeism, the issue still receives comparatively little attention. We strive to deliver a comprehensive solution to this problem with 3 main strands:

- Education – so that women and girls have the knowledge they deserve about how their own bodies work
- Support for enterprise – as the best means for sustainably delivering affordable sanitary products to those who do not currently have access
- Research - to better understand how menstruation impacts on the lives of women and girls and what interventions are best able to improve things

Additionally, we also believe that interventions to help women and girls are too often justified by their impact on wider society, instead of their impact on women and girls themselves. Menstruation is an issue that largely affects women as women (as opposed to as mothers). By focusing on menstruation, we are able to challenge this paradigm and encourage communities to invest in and support women and girls in their own right.



## How our activities deliver public benefit:

### Who benefits from our services?

The beneficiaries of our services are the women and girls living in the communities in which we work in East Africa. Below is an outline of how our activities have benefited our beneficiaries.

### Education

During this period we established a Menstrual Health Education Programme in Jinja, Uganda to pilot combining Theatre for A Change's (Tfac) participatory teaching techniques with our existing content. Two trustees visited Theatre for a Change in Malawi to receive training on their participatory teaching and delivered training about menstrual health education. Through Tfac the trustees trained 42 staff and 60 teachers who went on to use the training in their work reaching a further 3700 teachers and 5000 girls. The trustees then spent 3 months in Uganda training representatives of our local partner, Revelation Children's Ministries International (RCMI) and establishing a pilot programme. They also delivered a training course in Ishaka, Uganda for research assistants who later delivered education as part of Irise's research programme in Western Uganda. During this time period they trained 18 educators who went on to reach 68 community members and 2410 girls who demonstrated improvement in key knowledge indicators compared to our baseline, immediately after the session. Summary of output measures 4<sup>th</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> January 2015

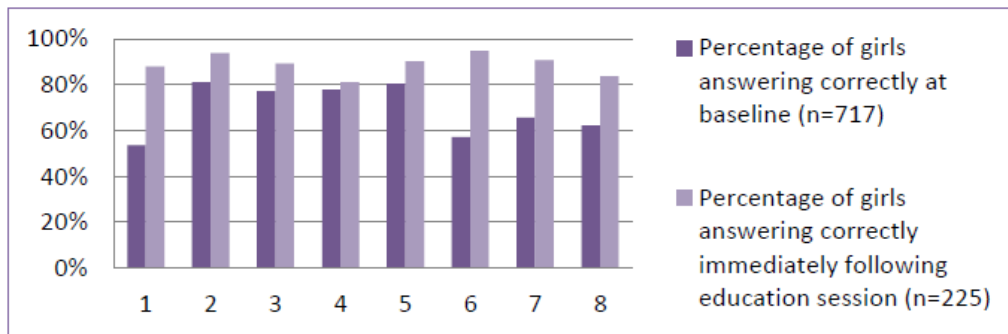
#### Training with Tfac in Malawi:

Numbers trained	Directly	Indirectly
Teachers	60	3700
Girls	0	5000
TFAC staff	42	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>8700</b>

#### Training in Uganda:

	Jinja	Ishaka	Total
Number of Girls Reached	1733	677	2410
Number of Registered Irise Educators	11	7	18
Number of Community Members Reached	68	0	68
Number of Medical Students Reached	0	12	12

Summary of preliminary outcome data:



Statement 1	Women stop menstruating when they grow very old
Statement 2	Menstruation is a disease
Statement 3	Pregnant women menstruate
Statement 4	Menstrual blood comes from the stomach where food is digested
Statement 5	Menstrual blood comes from the womb
Statement 6	Menstrual blood contains dangerous substances
Statement 7	Pain during menstruation means that someone is sick
Statement 8	It is harmful for a woman to run or dance during her period

*“The course has built a lot of confidence in me that I can stand anywhere, anytime and talk about menstruation.”*

Irise educator following training.

### Enterprise

During this period we ran a pilot enterprise manufacturing reusable pads with our partner RCMI in Jinja, Uganda. During this period we underwent successful product testing with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards, engaged 20 women in part time employment and had delivered or confirmed orders to supply 5,900 girls with pads.

Summary of output measures 4<sup>th</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> January:

Number of pads already sold or ordered	30,400
Number of women engaged in social enterprise	20
Number of girls receiving sanitary products through delivered or confirmed orders	5,900

*“I like the project because it is teaching me how to get school fees for the children,”*  
Joyce Akumu, part-time worker at Irise Easy Pad.

*“Reusable sanitary pads keep us clean and neat and keep us with others in school and at home,”*

Florence, schoolgirl.

### Research

During this period we obtained ethical approval from Makerere University for our Randomised Control Trial in Western Uganda investigating the impact of a menstrual hygiene programme on girls absenteeism and other outcome. We



successfully registered the Trial with the Uganda Council of Science and Technology, training our research team and collected baseline data. The study will finish in December 2016.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The research study commenced in Western Uganda will provide important data on the effectiveness of our programmes. We also finalised plans to conduct an Evaluation of the programme in Jinja in early 2015 during this period.

### **Financial review:**

Irise International has continued to grow its funding base and expand its activities accordingly since becoming a CIO. Initial funding came from a transfer of assets from Irise International Charitable Trust when the old trust was closed. All donors of restricted funds have been contacted to inform them of the switch from a charitable trust to a CIO. At the time, Irise International held restricted funds from The Waterloo Foundation and the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust.

### **Principal funding sources**

Asides from the money received from Irise International Charitable Trust, the main funding source for the period reported has been in the form of unrestricted donations made by individuals and one other grant for £5,500 received from Funderbirds towards our education program. Most donations from individuals are received via our online MyDonate program, with a small amount donated in cash.

### **Reserves policy**

Irise International's reserves policy is to keep in unrestricted funds at any one time 1 years non-discretionary running costs and sufficient funds to meet our minimum program commitments for 2 months (the minimum notice necessary to scale-back or close programs whilst giving partners sufficient notice to adjust their activities).

This amount is reviewed at each trustee meeting. For the period covered by this report, it was calculated as £1,814. Due to the charity's small size, no upper limit has been set on the amount of reserves to be held.

### **Funds in material deficit**

At the end of the reporting period, restricted funds have been reported as negative. This is because the conditions of one grant require money to be spent in advance and paid back at a later date. Irise international held sufficient funds in unrestricted reserves to cover this deficit and funds have subsequently been given in full, in accordance with the conditions of the grant in question.



## **Reporting and independent inspection**

The trustees have chosen that due to the small income of the charity for the report in question, it is best for the charity to file accounts for this period on a receipts and payments basis. They have additionally decided that an independent examination of accounts is sufficient for the reporting period stated.

Derek Tyler (ICAEW No. 7409928), was appointed by the board of trustees to independently inspect Irise International's accounts for the period reported. His report is included in this document alongside the financial statements of the organization.

## **Future plans:**

The charity plans to continue the activities mentioned above subject to sufficient funding being secured. The charity also plans to offer training to similar organisations to replicate our teaching in their own programs and to make sanitary products manufactured by Irise Uganda LTD. more widely available. At the time of writing, Irise International is developing a more comprehensive teaching program for schools and communities, which includes specific teaching for men and boys on menstruation and is trialing the use of a sales team to make affordable sanitary products available directly to the women and girls who need them. Such activities fall outside the reporting period for this document and are not reported here.

## **Structure, management and governance:**

### **Governing document**

Irise International is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It was registered with the charity commission on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014. It's governing document is the Irise International CIO constitution.

### **Recruitment and appointment of trustees**

Trustees are recruited for however long they are willing and able to serve in the best interests of the organization. The trustees regularly review the skills they have and seek additional skills as required. New trustees are appointed by majority vote and old trustees are removed by either voluntary resignation or a majority vote of the rest of the board of trustees.

Trustees are responsible for running of the charity and the board decides on how best to use the charities resources. Trustees offer their services free of charge.



### **Organisational structure**

For the time reported, the board of trustees consisted of 3 trustees who met regularly to review policy and spending decisions as well as to review progress towards our charitable objectives. Projects were run on the ground by volunteers who had been given permission to use the charities resources with pre-agreed restrictions towards achieving the charities aims. This was mostly in the form of approving project plans and budgets.

The board of trustees briefly employed 1 person for a period of 6 weeks to assist in program planning. They operated under the close supervision of the board of trustees.

### **Related Parties**

Irise Uganda LTD is a Ugandan registered business. It was established with funds from Irise International Charitable trust. For the reporting period mentioned, 100% of shares in the business were held by the chair of the board of trustees on behalf on Irise International. The business continues to receive support in the form of grants from Irise International. The business manufactures affordable re-usable sanitary pads in Uganda. Irise International believes that this is the most sustainable way of supporting the provision of affordable sanitary products in East Africa.





## Financial statement:

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IRISE INTERNATIONAL CIO**

I report on the accounts of the Irise International CIO for the period 4 July 2014 until 4 January 2015, which are set out on page 10 under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met or:

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

Derek R. Tyler

Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. Membership Number 7409928

Anglo Secretaries, The Great House, 1 St Peter Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6NY  
2 November 2015



## Irise International Receipts and Payments Financial Statement 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015:

	Unrestricted funds To the nearest £	Restricted funds To the nearest £	Total funds To the nearest £	Last Year To the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Received from Irise International Charitable trust	5,616	9,173	<b>14,789</b>	
Donations	3,756	-	<b>3,756</b>	-
Grants	-	5,500	<b>5,500</b>	-
Interest	9	-	<b>9</b>	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>9,381</b>	<b>14,673</b>	<b>24,054</b>	-
<b>Payments</b>				
Organisational overheads				
<i>IT</i>	169	-	169	-
<i>Insurance</i>	321	-	321	-
<i>Bank fees</i>	12	-	12	-
<i>Legal/registration fees</i>	194	-	194	-
<i>Consultancy</i>	450	-	450	-
<i>Rent</i>	199	-	199	-
Total organisational overheads	<b>1,345</b>	-	<b>1,345</b>	-
Fundraising activities	<b>496</b>	-	<b>496</b>	-
Project spending				
<i>Grants</i>	63	-	63	-
<i>Training</i>	-	858	858	-
<i>Staff</i>	-	1,902	1,902	-
<i>Research</i>	-	4,019	4,019	-
<i>Education</i>	-	1,038	1,038	-
<i>Pad provision</i>	2	4,403	4,405	-
Total project spending	<b>65</b>	<b>12,220</b>	<b>12,285</b>	-
Advocacy & awareness raising	-	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>17,126</b>	-
<b>Net of receipts</b>	<b>7,475</b>	<b>-547</b>	<b>6,928</b>	-
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>7,475</b>	<b>-547</b>	<b>6,928</b>	-

### Notes:

- Other Assets and liabilities:** The trustees have established a social enterprise called Irise Uganda Limited for the manufacture of re-usable sanitary pads. The shares in the company which have a nominal value of GBP £1,590 are held by Emily Wilson on behalf of Irise International CIO."
- At 4 January Irise International CIO had given no guarantees to either third parties or trustees of the former Irise International Charitable Trust
- The negative cash balance for Restricted Funds arises from the fact one of the donor agreements requires Irise CIO to incur expenditure and then obtain reimbursement afterwards