



Investing for Social Impact

IN AFRICA



18
annual report

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Dermot Byrne
Chairman

Chairman's Address

2018 was an exceptional year for us in Vita and for so many others, as we welcomed the dawning peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, after decades of conflict. Vita works with communities who are profoundly affected by the impacts of climate change, as well as by lack of access to the basic building blocks of sustainable livelihoods such as food, water and household energy. The developing peace process therefore is helping to unlock Vita's full potential to better assist such communities and to scale up our innovative models of development across borders. This includes climate mitigation projects such as improved cookstoves, clean water and tree planting, as well as climate adaptation projects such as improved seed potato, grains and livestock.

My role as Chair of Vita has given me exceptional insight into how professional and expert our teams in Dublin, Asmara and Addis Ababa are. As a direct result of the peace process, our programme teams are now able to work more closely together and to learn from each other, so they can deliver better services to the communities we partner with. Our teams on the ground have developed respectful, equitable and extremely productive relationships with these partner communities. In particular, our relationship with our major partners - the Embassy of Ireland in Ethiopia, Irish Aid and the EU - continues to thrive as we continue to exceed targets.

Our integrity and reputation are essential to our continued development, and in that regard we have taken measures to ensure the compliance of board and management processes with the new Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations and the Dóchas Governance Code. The introduction of legislation around the protection of Data (GDPR) gave us an opportunity to review and upgrade our data-gathering infrastructures and IT systems and we are now GDPR compliant. We publish our accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), which ensures high levels of transparency.

Vita is, of course, very grateful for the ongoing support of our partners. As mentioned, Irish Aid, the Embassy of Ireland in Ethiopia and the EU have been steadfast in their support down through the years. Teagasc has also been and continues to be so supportive with their expertise and knowledge and in

serving as mentors to our country teams. The Sisters of Mercy Western Province have walked with us for over ten years, supporting not just our programmes but also, right from the onset, the Vita Green Impact Fund. With shared values and deeply-felt concerns for people and planet, this friendship has deepened and evolved to encompass Mercy in the UK, The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland, Mercy International Investments and Mercy Northern Ireland who have welcomed us into their circle.

2018 was a year of new friends too. The Franciscan Sisters of Mary in St Louis took a particular interest in and supported the Vita Green Impact Fund, and this partnership is flourishing. We are learning so much from their years of experience pioneering social impact investing in the USA. The Fund itself continues to attract interest, and our CEO John Weakliam presented the model to a conference of social impact investment luminaries in Chicago last October at the invitation of Loyola University.

I am grateful to our Board as always for their commitment and professionalism and would like to welcome Deirdre Clifford and Edele Sheehan who both joined the Board towards the end of 2018. I am delighted to chair a board composed of such talented and experienced men and women. I would also like to add a big thank you to all the management and staff in Dublin, Ethiopia and Eritrea, whose dedication and commitment is changing the lives of rural communities in our programme countries for the better. Finally, Vita is privileged with wonderful friends and supporters across Ireland, who contribute their generosity of spirit, know-how and resources in support of our work in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

On behalf of the Board

Dermot Byrne, Chairman





John Weakliam
CEO

Message from Vita CEO

2018 saw momentous change in Vita's programme countries of Eritrea and Ethiopia, with peace breaking through after 20 years of bitter war and conflict. The new unfolding peace can open up wonderful opportunities for social, economic and political development. In Eritrea where Vita has struggled for many years as the sole international development agency with a programme and operational presence in Eritrea, the new peace offers potential new space for development and civil society and for collaboration and learning with our Ethiopia programme. In Ethiopia, a new political leadership also opened new political space and development opportunities, but also new challenges as the country transitions after many years of stringent political control.

Vita as an organization continues to strengthen in terms of human resources, core competence and strategic relevance and impact. The Green Impact Fund established in 2016 is flourishing and Vita is preparing to scale up this fund to support up to three million people with sustainable energy and water. The Irish Potato Coalition, established for greater learning and collaboration amongst potato sector actors across seven countries, started to gain serious traction with appointment of Irish and Kenya-based coordinators and a new website (irishpotatoalliance.ie). In Ireland, new staff members in the finance, programme and communications functions made their mark.

Vita is blessed with exceptional supporters and volunteers in Ireland. Vita's board comprises people of the highest capability, reputation and commitment. Across Ireland, Vita has been supported by the best of Irish agri-business and investment sectors as well as philanthropy. Partnerships are also flourishing and in particular, the role of Teagasc and Self Help Africa in Eritrea has enabled world-class agriculture programming to emerge which is demonstrating impact across the country. In Ethiopia, CLTS Foundation are providing knowledge to drive a new initiative called Community Led Total Cook Stoves, with great scaling

potential on a "leave no one behind" model. Co2Balance and Natural Capital Partners are providing Vita with exceptional learning around carbon finance, while Mercy Western Province have completed a wonderful nine-year partnership based on common values and also provided access to the wider Mercy Community in Ireland, UK and US. Vita is especially delighted with the support from Irish Aid for the Irish Potato Coalition, Green Impact Fund and of course for the programme partnership. The close partnership established with Irish Aid has enabled Vita to advance the innovation and scaling potential of our programmes.

John Weakliam
CEO



About Vita

OUR VISION AND VALUES



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

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CLEAN WATER

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FINANCIAL REPORT



Delivering Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Action in Africa

Vita is a smart, successful next-generation Irish development partner working in Ethiopia and Eritrea to create sustainable livelihoods and deliver climate action. Vita works with rural families in these countries to achieve thriving economies via integrated water, food and household energy projects that seamlessly integrate with our climate-smart agriculture programmes.

Our programmes impact on the lives of thousands of families through our innovative food, water and energy security work. We improve the capacity of our local partner communities and develop community-led solutions that are replicable beyond the boundaries of our projects.

Vita is funded by the Irish Government through Irish Aid, the European Union, philanthropic organisations, religious communities, the Irish agri-food sector, public donations and private individuals.

Vita strives to transcend the restrictions of the traditional charitable model towards one which embraces genuine and viable partnerships with the communities in which we work, in a role more akin to development investment partner and facilitator.





Vita has a vision!

We want to see thriving rural economies in Africa with access to services, markets and livelihoods for all.

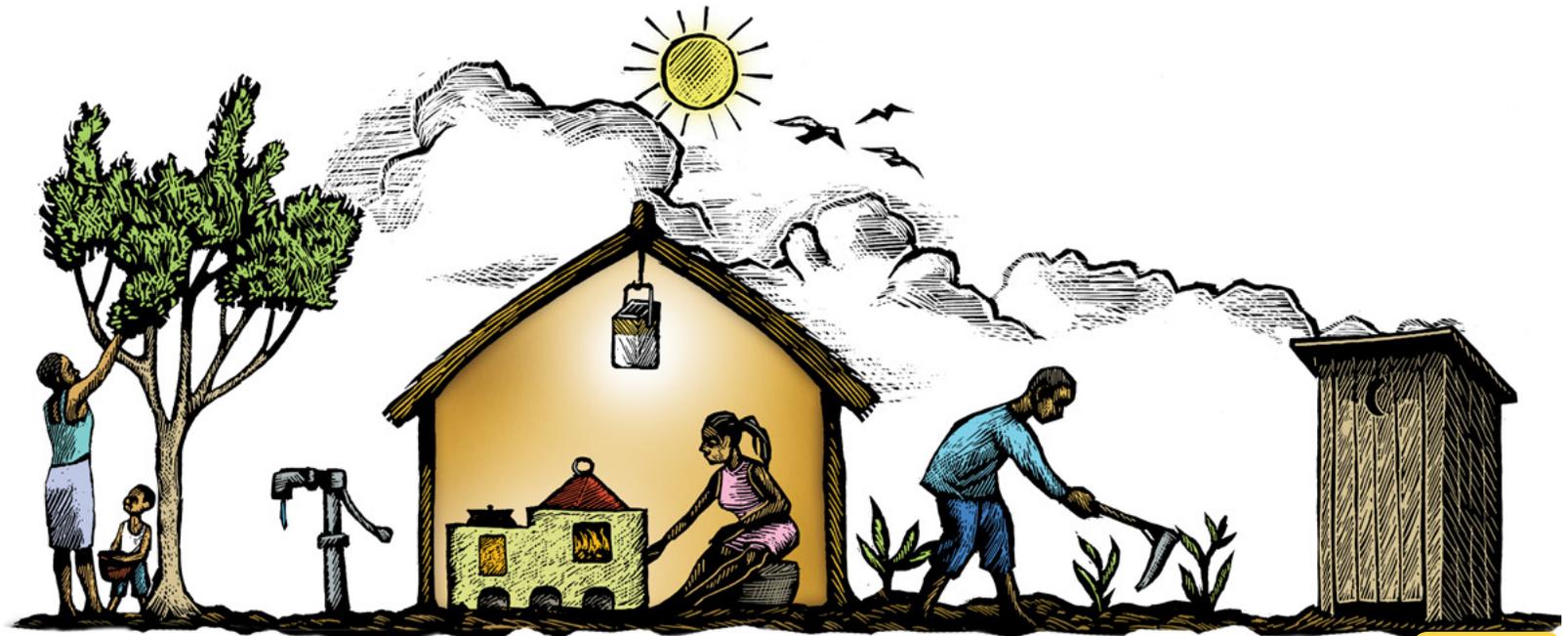
We want to see rural communities become independent of traditional charity models and instead engage with investors and partners in innovative ways to build sustainable livelihoods.

We recognise that to combat hunger, you have to combat the impacts of climate change at the same time, and this integrated approach is the key to delivering sustainable livelihoods to families in East Africa.

What is our mission?

We feel strongly that our mission is to use innovative models, knowledge-backed climate action, and partnerships that centre on a community-led approach to reduce poverty, hunger and inequality amongst rural households and build sustainable livelihoods.

We don't do this on our own! Vita can only achieve this by partnering with people and organisations of exceptional skill, talent and experience who bring tremendous energy and value to our programmes.





Our Values!

Inclusion

We take a whole community approach and strive for all households in the communities where we work to have access to services, technologies and skills through our programmes.

Enablement

We work together with local communities to ensure that our support builds on existing local knowledge and community expertise, thus enabling people to have more control over their livelihoods.

Sustainability

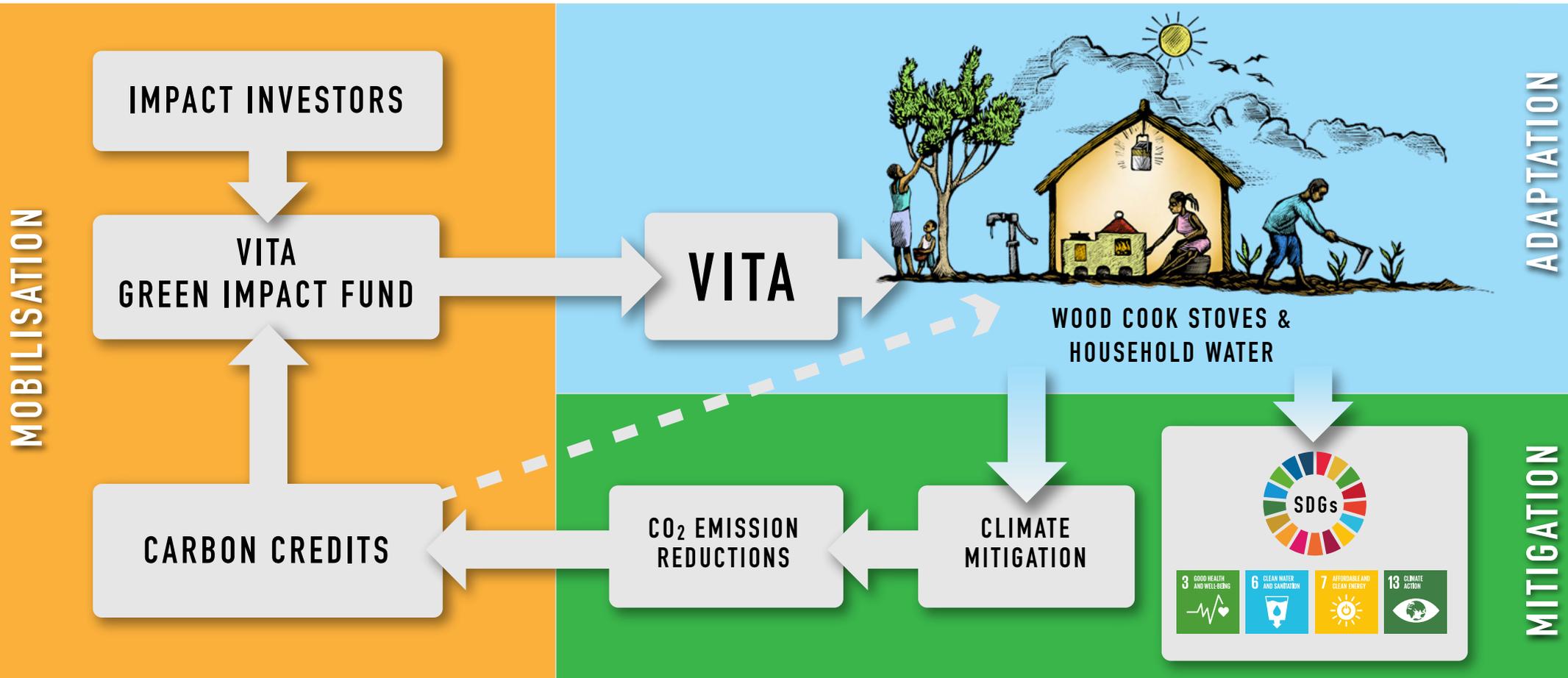
We seek to ensure that tangible benefits accrue, which endure beyond the phase of direct support from Vita, without subsidy or dependency and without draining natural resources.

Accountability

We are committed to ensuring that we are fully accountable to our intended beneficiaries and to all other stakeholders for our agreed commitments, for the quality of our programmes and for the results achieved.



A CLIMATE FINANCE PLATFORM





ETHIOPIAN highlights of 2018



ERITREAN highlights of 2018



5,249 fuel-efficient cook-stoves in use



150,000 kg of potato seed stored



Access to clean water for 24,418 people

€1,612,862



258 women established poultry and veg production



7,000 people with improved sanitation (latrines)



Maize and potato seed distributed to 2,449 farmers



4,702 tonnes of potatoes produced



285 cereal crop farmers trained



300% increase in wheat yields

€456,954



Quality potato seed distributed to 855 farmers



32,424 litres of milk from improved heifers



Continued access to clean water for 86,659 people





Ayelech

Clean Water gives Yenenesh and Ayelech a New Lease of Life

Access to safe drinking water is critical to a community's health and livelihoods. However, in the Gamo Zone of Ethiopia, many communities lack such access and are forced to travel several hours on foot each day to reach any water source. Access to water is often also shared with livestock, resulting in water that is not only inaccessible but unclean water too. This contamination increases the risk of waterborne diseases, particularly among young children.

As Ayelech Geta, a 34-year-old woman living in the small village cluster of Dokolesha explains, *"For the past year since our water pump broke, I have been walking two hours to fetch water carrying a 20 litre jerry can of water for my family."*

Ayelech has seven family members to provide for, making life without easy access to water difficult, time-consuming and physically demanding.

The same is true of Yenenesh Tsige, another woman living in Dokolesha in the Chencha district. A mother of three boys, Yenenesh's quality of life was dramatically altered when the village pump broke, thus severing her only source of clean water.

"I would have to walk two hours to fetch water," she says. "I would have to carry and fill a jerry can of about 25 litres every morning and afternoon. This was my daily routine. No one could help me because all of my children are boys. I don't have a girl and as it is known, it is a woman's duty to collect water in our community."



Yenenesh





Yenenesh

Clean Water gives Yenenesh and Ayelech a New Lease of Life contd/.

On top of the long and arduous journey, Yenenesh, Ayelech and many other village women and children like them were making on a daily basis, the water they were collecting was unclean, exposing the community, and children in particular, to the threat of waterborne diseases.

Vita, with the support of its partners, has worked with the Dokolesha community to fix the village's broken water pump and provide families once more with easy access to safe drinking water. Vita supported local cooperation to ensure the whole village was involved in the repair process and provided training to ensure the long-term maintenance and responsible use of the pump to prevent the contamination of the water with livestock overuse.

Now Yenenesh has permanent access to clean water only a short walk from her home. *"Thanks to our friends in Vita I can now live better as I am getting clean water nearby. Moreover, I get time to do other household activities."*

This new water pump serves 105 households in Dokolesha. It is the first time that the community has had access to a regular supply of clean, safe water. This brings many health benefits including reduced risk of disease due to safe drinking water as well as better personal hygiene. A local water committee has been set up, of which Yenenesh is a member, and the committee collects three birr per month (€0.10) for future maintenance. Vita has also provided the committee with training and repair kits, ensuring that Yenenesh and her family can continue to enjoy clean water.

As clean water does not need to be boiled, the fixed community water pumps also saves a lot of trees from being cut down and burnt as fuel. This in turn holds huge benefits for both the climate and the local environment, as it saves carbon emissions being released and allows local forests to replenish.

For Ayelech, the repaired pump has given her the gift of time and a healthier, happier family. *"The repaired hand pump saves me a lot of time and will improve the health of my family and for this I would like to say thank you to Vita."*



The Board

Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018

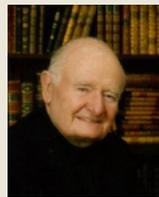
VITA (RTI) Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Registration Number 152968

Charity Number CHY 9670

Charity Regulator Number 20024192



Fr. Norman
Fitzgerald
(President)

Deceased 7 Oct 2018



Dermot Byrne
(Chairman)



John Weakliam
(Chief Executive)



Jean Marie Duffy

Resigned 12 Feb 2018



Kevin Farrell



Deirdre Hannigan



Barry Charles
Magee



Roughan
MacNamara



Pdraig O'Ruairc



Lance O'Brien



Edele Sheehan



Deirdre Clifford

Appointed 4 Oct 2018

Appointed 13 Dec 2018



Company Information

TRUSTEES **Fr. Norman Fitzgerald** (President) (Deceased 7th October 2018)

Dermot Byrne (Chairman)

Kevin Farrell

Deirdre Hannigan

Barry Charles Magee

Roughan Mc Namara

Padraig O'Ruairc

Lancelot O'Brien

Jean Marie Duffy (Resigned 12th February 2018)

Edele Sheehan (Appointed 4th October 2018)

Deirdre Clifford (Appointed 13th December 2018)

SECRETARY

John Wallace

COMPANY NUMBER

152968

REVENUE CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 9670

CHARITY REGULATOR NUMBER

20024192

REGISTERED OFFICE

Equity House
Ormond Quay Upper Dublin 7

AUDITORS

Anne Brady McQuillans DFK
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors Iveagh Court
Harcourt Road Dublin 2

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Equity House Ormond Quay Upper,
Dublin 7

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
Kill O' The Grange Co. Dublin

Bank of Ireland Drumcondra Dublin 9
Bank of Ireland O'Connell Street
Co. Dublin

SOLICITORS

Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors
70 Sir John Rogerson's Quay Dublin 2



Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2018

INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Total
	2018 €	2018 €	2018 €	2017 €
Income and endowments from:				
Voluntary income Charitable activities	-	407,645	407,645	433,948
Grants from governments and other co-funders	2,450,752	25,833	2,476,585	2,523,052
Activities for general funds	270,00	462,430	732,430	94,241
Total income	2,720,752	895,908	3,616,660	3,051,241
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	265,826	265,826	302,508
Charitable activities	2,720,752	385,957	3,106,709	2,723,656
Total Resources Expended	2,720,752	651,783	3,372,535	3,026,164
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources for the year:				
Total funds brought forward	-	244,125	244,125	25,077
Total funds carried forward	-	725,636	725,636	481,511

The financial statements includes all gains and losses reconised in the year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 12/9/2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Dermot Byrne
Trustee



Deirdre Hannigan
Trustee



Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018

	2018		2017	
	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		3,920		4,244
Current Assets				
Debtors	2,115,175		1,701,822	
Cash at bank and in hand	2,408,657		1,532,475	
	4,523,832		3,234,297	
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	(2,758,116)		(1,191,030)	
Net Current Assets	1,765,716		2,043,267	
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,769,636		2,047,511	
Creditors: amount falling due after more than one year	(1,044,000)		(1,566,000)	
Net assets	725,636		481,511	
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	725,636		481,511	
Total funds carried forward	725,636		481,511	

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 12/9/2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Dermot Byrne
Chairman



Deirdre Hannigan
Trustee



Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	€	€
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	244,125	25,078
Adjustments for: Depreciation	824	761
	244,949	25,839
Movements in working capital		
Movements in debtors	(413,353)	(754,504)
Movements in creditors	1,045,086	(969,884)
Cash generated from operations	876,682	(1,698,549)
Cash flow from investing activities		
<i>Payments to acquire tangible assets</i>	(500)	-
Cash flow from financing activities		
New long term loan	-	(566,000)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	876,182	(1,132,549)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January 2018	1,532,475	2,665,024
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January 2018	2,408,657	1,532,475



Sources of Income

2018

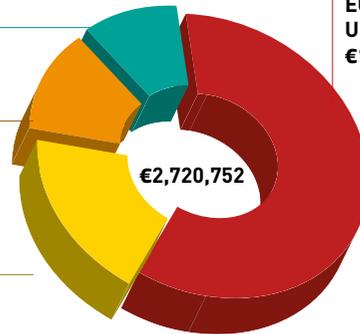
2017

RESTRICTED

CLIMATE PROJECT
INCOME €296,000

OTHER PARTNERS
€335,366

IRISH AID €502,525

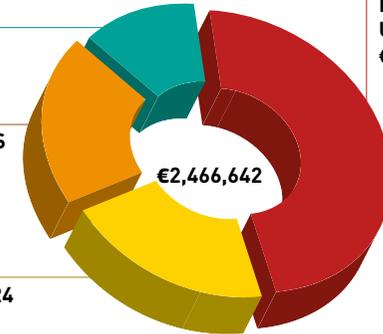


EUROPEAN
UNION
€1,612,861

VGIF €296,000

OTHER PARTNERS
€493,494

IRISH AID €502,524



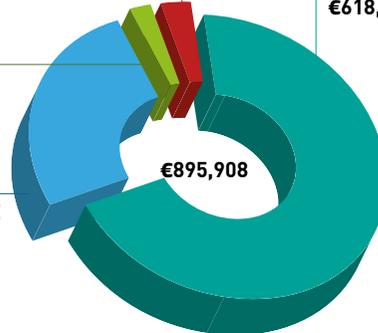
EUROPEAN
UNION
€1,174,624

UNRESTRICTED

TRADING INCOME - CHARITY
SHOPS €25,833

LEGACY DONATIONS
€20,019

OTHER GRANT INCOME
€231,355



FUNDRAISING
€618,701

TRADING INCOME - CHARITY
SHOPS €56,410

LEGACY DONATIONS
€4,000

OTHER GRANT
INCOME €248,823



FUNDRAISING
€275,366

TOTAL INCOME

€3,616,660

€3,051,241



Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	€	€	€
Costs			
At 1st January 2018	25,169	7,954	33,123
Additions	500	-	500
Disposals	(19,085)	(7,954)	(27,039)
At 31st December 2018	6,584	-	6,584
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2018	22,925	7,954	28,879
Charge for the year	824	-	824
Disposals	(19,085)	(7,954)	(27,039)
At 31st December 2018	2,664	-	2,664
Net book values			
At 1st January 2018	3,920	-	3,920
At 31st December 2017	4,244	-	4,244

Tangible fixed assets Prior Period

Costs			
At 1st January 2017	7,954	25,169	33,123
At 31st December 2017	7,954	25,169	33,123
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2017	7,954	20,164	28,118
Charge for the year	-	761	761
At 31st December 2017	7,954	20,925	28,118
Net book values			
At 1st January 2017	-	4,244	4,244
At 31st December 2016	-	5,005	5,005





16 -17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. D07H7DE

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