



Innovating for a Climate Smart Future



2020 annual report



Céline Reilly
Chairperson

Chairperson's Address

I was proud and excited to assume the Chair of Vita in May 2021, following the retirement of Dermot Byrne after nearly six years at the helm and this report reflects the very significant contribution made by Dermot. Vita has been most fortunate with the calibre of board members and the retirement of Dermot, alongside Deirdre Hannigan, Kevin Farrell, Barry Magee, and Pdraig O'Ruairc will leave a sizeable gap. Much of 2020 was focused on maintaining solid governance and oversight of programmes and operations in the light of the Covid 19 pandemic. As most engagement was remote, this put a strain on board, staff, and partners but thankfully, the strong culture of productivity and teamwork helped the organisation to maintain its cohesion and focus on supporting communities in Ethiopia and Eritrea. While Covid 19 constraints limited community access and engagement and reduced overall activity, our country teams were quick to adapt and keep core funds, products and services flowing.

I have had the pleasure of visiting both Ethiopia and Eritrea and witnessed the communities and country partners with whom Vita works and I can personally attest to the very high standing Vita enjoys across both countries. The innovative work around the Green Impact Fund and Community Led Total Cookstoves carry great potential and in 2020, there was a strong organisational focus on ensuring such innovation is backed up by resources across the organisation, from community level to country level and internationally.

We remain optimistic that the peace agreement of 2018 between Ethiopia and Eritrea will bear fruit in terms of sustainable peace and open borders. The current conflict in Northern Ethiopia puts great strain on communities. Vita remains nimble and ready to adapt our programming to support affected communities as soon as possible.

Vita expects that the strong carbon sales generated by the Green Impact Fund in 2020 will not only ensure full repayment to loan investors, but also generate new resources to allow Vita to expand our programme work in East Africa.

The 2020 accounts record a small surplus for 2020, indicating that Vita is coming out of the worst of the Covid 19 pandemic in solid financial shape. While core fundraising in Ireland continues to be challenging and especially in the light of

Covid 19, we are looking both to overseas – UK and US - and to new funding models – Green Impact Fund – to diversify funding sources and reduce risk. In 2020 we also continued to strengthen the strategy and policy base as well as the governance and oversight which can provide our donors and stakeholders with confidence in Vita's impact, accountability, and integrity.

Vita is always especially grateful to our programme partners Irish Aid and the Embassy of Ireland in Ethiopia. The European Union has been a stalwart donor partner in both Ethiopia and Eritrea and indeed have increased their funding in 2020, including our partner for Eritrean Teagasc for their new flagship dairy project. Vita is delighted that the German government's international development agency GIZ has become a new donor partner of Vita in Ethiopia and we are always appreciative of the close partnership of Action On Poverty Australia. We are so thankful for the enduring partnership of religious congregations, especially of course the Sisters of Mercy Western Province, the Sisters of Mercy Congregation (Ireland) and Northern Ireland, and the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, in the USA. There are so many people who give money, time, and expert guidance so generously, particularly our patron members. Finally, a great thanks to our wonderful staff in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Ireland who ensured that Vita continues to live our values through our work.

On behalf of the Board

Céline Reilly
Chairperson





John Weakliam
CEO

Message from Vita CEO

2020 was a difficult year in Eritrea and Ethiopia, with complex challenges posed to rural communities by Covid 19, locust swarms, conflicts, and political and economic uncertainty. Vita's nimble and well-adapted field operations and close partnership with local partners and government alleviated some such difficulties. Indeed, an Irish Aid Monitoring Visit Report in February 2020 provided validation of Vita's modus operandi and impact in Eritrea. In Ethiopia on the other hand, the massive conflict which broke out in Northern Ethiopia in November 2020, while not immediately impacting programmes, may be expected to cause socio-economic disruption and acute new development needs in 2021.

In 2020, the Impact Report for the innovative €2m pilot Green Impact Fund showed how 311,000 people accessed safe water and clean cookstoves and in the process saved two million tons of carbon emission. Carbon finance brings innovative new financing and climate mitigation to programmes and having proven the concept, Vita will look to significantly scale up the Fund in 2021. In 2020, Vita also initiated community led total cookstoves as an innovative service delivery mechanism to enable whole-of-community participation. Total income as well as total expenditure in 2020 was €1.2m down on the high of €4.8 million level of 2019. This mostly reflected lower programme activity in Ethiopia as large EU funded projects ended and a new one began slowly, impacted by Covid 19. Fortunately, the fundraising team was able to respond with new fundraising initiatives as well as new business development overseas, and thus maintain healthy finances. The economic success of the Green Impact Fund will enhance financing of new innovations and programmes. On the HR front, we welcomed new hires to cover key areas such as governance and finance, gender equality, and PR.

Vita's invitation from the OECD to present the Green Impact Fund in Paris in January 2020 indicated that Vita is highly regarded internationally Vita will continue to build on new knowledge partnerships to digitalise, document, and disseminate learning

from innovative programming and will strengthen alliances with scaling partners, particularly government. Partnerships with Teagasc in Eritrea and GIZ and CLTS Foundation in Ethiopia progressed in 2020 while core funding partnerships with Irish Aid and EU continued to deliver results

2020 showed just how unpredictable the programming landscape is in the Horn of Africa, but we were aided by our flexibility, and the fact that all our staff are local. This enabled us to continuously deliver high impact programmes which reflected Covid-19 messaging. During 2020, Vita devised a new 2021-25 Strategy which aims to harness innovation, deliver scale, and manage risks by widening programmes, funding, and knowledge partnerships. To reflect this new direction, we changed our tagline from "Fighting Hunger & Climate Change" to "For Climate Smart Communities" which we feel more accurately reflects our strategic vision.

I would like to reiterate our Chairperson's thanks to our many friends, supporters, and partners – they know who they are. The list is long, but the age-old values are enduring, and our thanks is heartfelt.

John Weakliam
CEO



About Vita





Vita has a vision!

Inspired by the principle of Climate Justice, **Vita's Vision** is Climate Smart Communities with access to services and sustainable livelihoods for all. Rural communities in Eritrea and Ethiopia continue to suffer the effects of an accelerating climate breakdown not of their making. A fragile natural resource base and limited access to services, climate-smart technologies and economic opportunities results in livelihoods being highly vulnerable to shocks and stresses. Vita stands in solidarity and support with these communities.

What is our mission?

Our Mission is to deliver innovative, scalable models of community-led rural development in Africa. To fulfil this mission, this strategy has been informed by a comprehensive appraisal of performance over the previous strategy period (2016-2020), thorough context analyses and an evolved understanding of our distinct role and relevance as an organisation that can deliver transformational change.

Innovation will be a binding theme across the organisation's work in the years ahead; innovative service delivery approaches at community level, developed and scaled up through innovative partnerships, supported by innovative models for financing international development. The scaling of innovative models will be supported by effective organisational systems for research and learning, deepening knowledge and producing evidence of impact that influences decision makers.





Our Values and Guiding Principles

Realising Africa's enormous potential:

Africa has enormous socio-economic potential and our ambition is to make a meaningful contribution.

Community-Centred Development:

The communities we partner with must drive their own development.

Respect:

We are sensitive to and respect the culture and traditions of our partner communities and staff.

Innovation:

Our focus on innovation requires courage and sometimes disruption.

Impact:

The impact of our programme is measurable, tangible and sustainable.

Accountability:

Honesty and transparency are reflected in all our programmes and fundraising. It is a privilege to play a role in development and we cherish it.





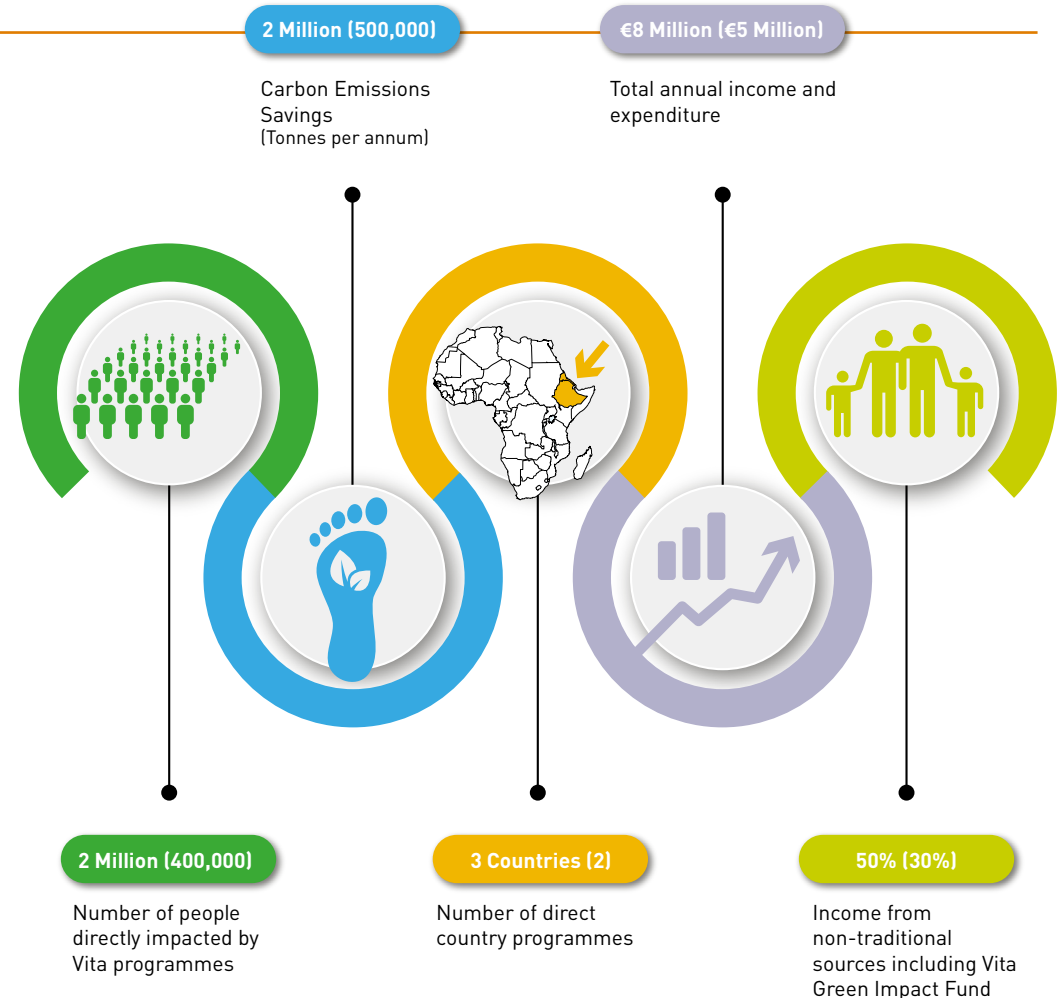
Vita Strategy 2021 - 2025

Our **Mission** is to **deliver innovative, scalable models of community-led rural development in Africa**. To fulfil this mission, our strategy has been informed by a comprehensive appraisal of performance over the previous strategy period (2016-2020). There has been a thorough context analyses and an evolved understanding of our distinct role and relevance as an organisation capable of delivering transformational change.

Our four **strategic objectives**, aligning to each critical function of the organisation, will provide an overarching framework to guide and monitor operations from 2021-2025. The delivery of each strategic objective will be tracked with SMART indicators in the rolling business plans of each unit of the organisation, cascading down into individual staff work plans.

1. **Vita's programmes strengthen innovation, impact and learning**
2. **Vita's international presence is developed, further expanding scale and influence**
3. **A strengthened Vita brand supports sustainable, diversified funding stream**
4. **Effective, organisation-wide systems enable delivery of Vita's Strategic Objectives**

Our organisation-wide strategic targets for 2025 reflect the organisation's ambition and represent **shared goals for all of Vita** in this strategy period. Baseline values (2020) are included in brackets after each target.



Vita Green Impact Fund

€2m invested - 2 million carbon offsets generated - 311,000 people - 15m trees saved (approx.)

The Vita Green Impact Fund's overall objective is to provide rural households with high impact energy and water solutions that mitigate climate change and generate funds for reinvestment in communities, while providing investors with sustainable social, environmental and financial returns.

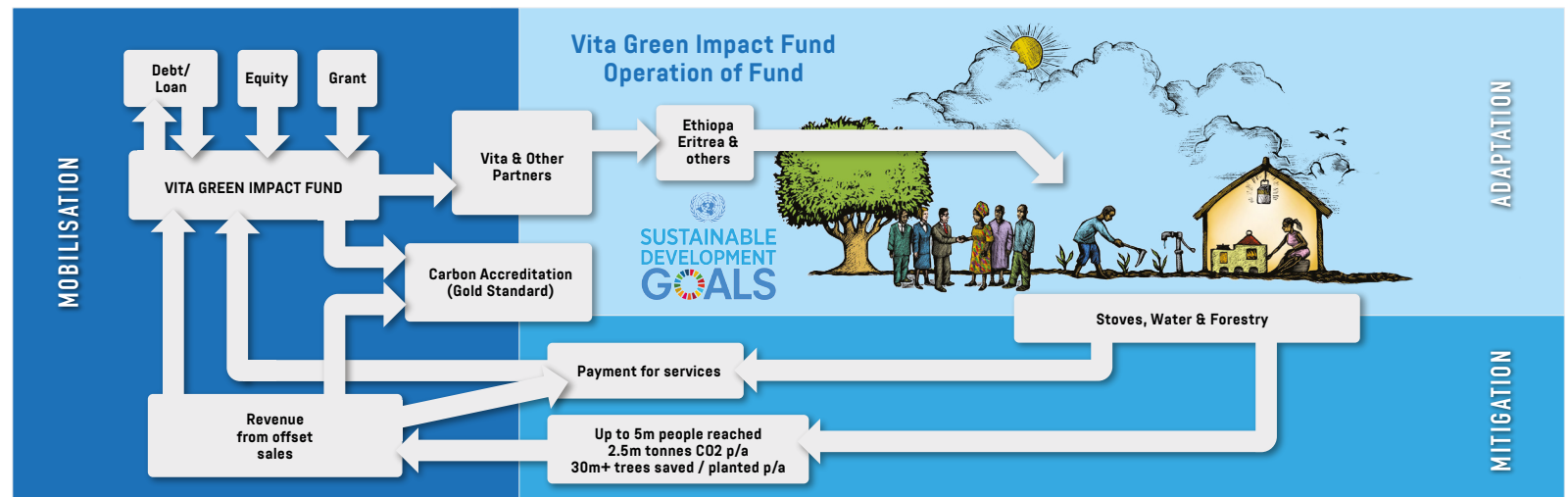
Green: The Fund supported sustainable livelihoods in participating communities, while reducing CO2 emissions by 2 million tonnes and saving approximately 15 million trees.

Impact: The Fund delivered energy efficient stoves and water solutions to 311,000 people. These life-transforming benefits are particularly felt by women.

Fund: This was a closed-end fund of €2 million – 75% capital as low-interest loans and 25% as grants. Loans are currently being repaid over a five year term plus interest through the sale of carbon offsets. Surplus funds are being reinvested in the communities, enabling affordability, scalability and universal access in a uniquely circular model.

In July 2020, Vita published the VGIF Impact Report. You can read it [here](#).

Our strategic targets for 2025 reflect the organisation's ambition regarding the next phase of the fund. You can read more [here](#).

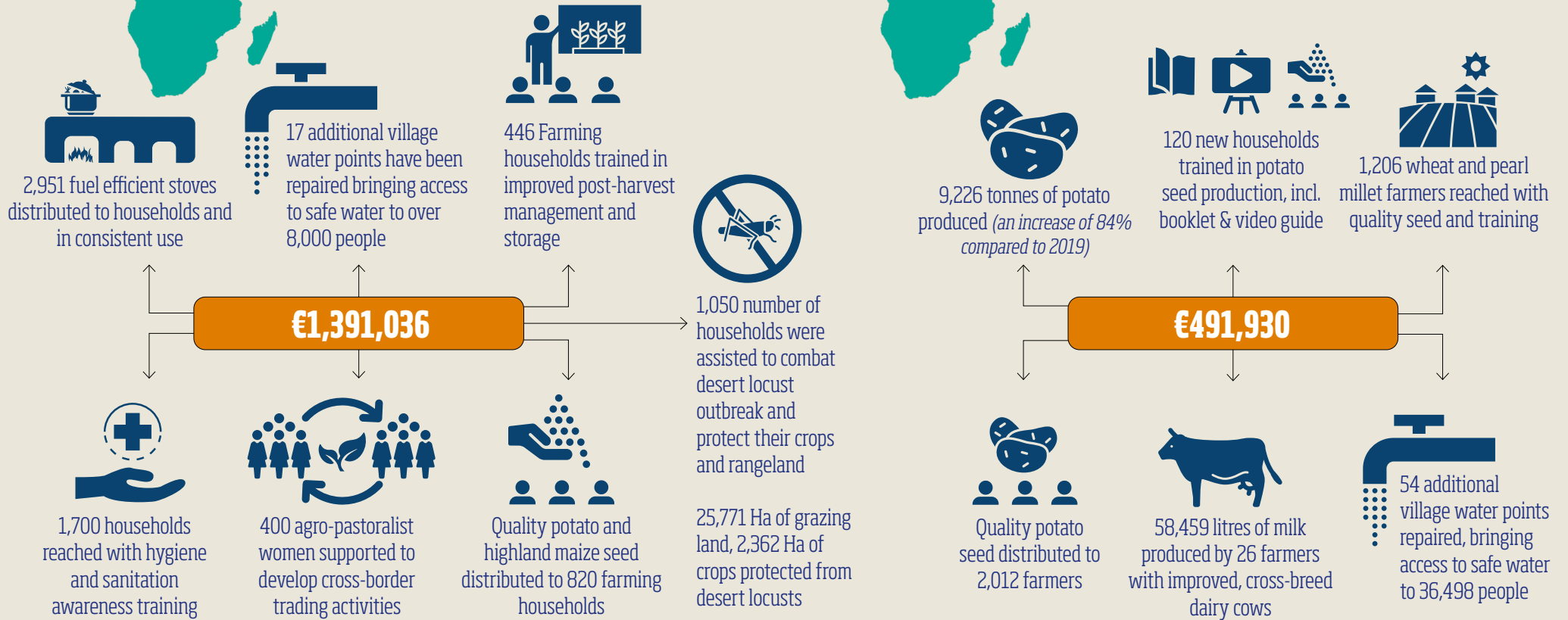




ETHIOPIAN highlights of 2020



ERITREAN highlights of 2020





Hanna Mihterab

Case Study: Eritrea Water Points

The village of Eden is located in the Anseba region of northern Eritrea and is home to Hanna Mihterab and her three young children. Until recently, Hanna and her 13-year-old son Adonai had to walk four kilometers per day to collect water from a stream, carrying the water in 20-liter jerry cans on their backs. On some days they would make the trip two or three times in order to wash the family's clothes, or if extra water was needed for visitors.

Adonai was missing classes at school and didn't have time for his homework. The water from the stream wasn't clean, meaning that Hanna had to boil it to make it safely drinkable for the family. This required further time and labor gathering scarce fuel for the fire. Despite her best efforts, the children regularly suffered from diarrhea due to unclean water, also leading to poor school attendance of all the children. The simple lack of access to a safe water source had multiple negative impacts on Hanna and her family.

Hanna's life has now been transformed by the repair of the village water point. This water point is 200 metres from where Hanna lives, requiring a round trip of only 10 minutes, and provides clean water drinking water. Since the repair of the water point, the health of Hanna's three children has significantly improved. She no longer needs to visit the local health clinic regularly and has saved money on medical expenses. The children's school attendance has improved significantly, and they now have time for homework and for play.

Hanna now has ample time and energy for other beneficial activities, including income generation - She grows vegetables including tomatoes, green peppers cabbages and onions to feed the family, and sells the surplus to the neighbouring families. She no longer spends so much time foraging for firewood to boil water,

hence reducing her impact on the increasingly scant local forestry. With every family now using the waterpoint, the carbon footprint of the village has been reduced. For Hanna, her family and her neighbours in Eden, life quality has dramatically improved, and the future looks brighter.



The Board

Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

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



Céline Reilly
(Chairperson)

Appointed June 2021



John Weakliam
(Chief Executive)



Dermot Byrne
(Chairperson)

Resigned Mar 2021



Kevin Farrell



Deirdre Hannigan



Barry Charles
Magee



Pdraig O'Ruairc



Lance O'Brien



Deirdre Clifford



Damien Faren



Company Information

TRUSTEES **Dermot Byrne** (Chairperson) (Resigned 30th April 2021)

Kevin Farrell (Resigned 30th April 2021)

Deirdre Hannigan (Resigned 30th April 2021)

Barry Charles Magee (Resigned 30th June 2021)

Padraig O'Ruairc (Resigned 30th April 2021)

Lancelot O'Brien

Deirdre Clifford

Damien Farren

Céline Reilly (Chairperson - appointed 30th April 2021)

NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED IN 2021

Stewart Gee (Appointed 11 March 2021)

Sr Margaret Tiernan (Appointed 10 June 2021)

Patricia Kane (Appointed 11 March 2021)

SECRETARY

John Wallace - Resigned 10 Sept 2020
Judith O'Connor - Appointed 10 Sept 2020
Judith O'Connor - Resigned 11 March 2021
Neil Munday - Appointed 11 March 2021

COMPANY NUMBER

152968

REVENUE CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 9670

CHARITY REGULATOR NUMBER

20024192

REGISTERED OFFICE AND
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

Equity House
Upper Ormond Quay Dublin 7

AUDITORS

Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company,
Chartered Accountants and Statutory
Audit Firm, of 16/17 College Green,
Dublin 2, D02 V078

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

Mason Hayes Curran LLP,
Barrow Street, Dublin 4, D04 TR29



Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020

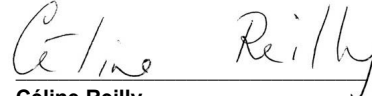
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Total
	2020 €	2020 €	2020 €	2019 €
Income:				
Donations and Legacies	-	532,867	532,867	334,986
Charitable activities	2,725,123	2,594	2,727,717	3,957,292
Other trading activities	270,000	125,373	395,373	691,101
Total income	2,995,123	660,834	3,655,957	4,983,379
Expenditure:				
Raising funds	879	211,754	212,633	231,403
Charitable activities	2,865,093	490,543	3,355,636	4,507,203
Total Expenditure	2,865,972	702,297	3,568,269	4,738,606
Net movement in funds in the financial year:				
	129,151	(41,463)	87,688	244,773
Total funds brought forward	226,309	744,100	970,409	725,636
Total funds carried forward	355,460	702,637	1,058,097	970,409

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27/10/2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Deirdre Clifford
Trustee


Céline Reilly
Trustee

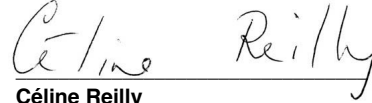


Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		2,274		3,415
Current Assets				
Stocks	1,599,103		1,513,245	
Debtors	1,448,730		1,287,057	
Cash at bank and in hand	2,089,875		1,384,401	
	5,137,708		4,184,703	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(3,559,885)		(2,173,709)	
Net Current Assets		1,577,823		2,010,994
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,580,097		2,014,409
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		(522,000)		(1,044,000)
Net assets		1,058,097		970,409
Funds				
Restricted funds		355,460		226,309
General fund (unrestricted)		702,637		744,100
Total funds		1,058,097		970,409

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21/10/2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Deirdre Clifford
Trustee


Céline Reilly
Trustee



Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

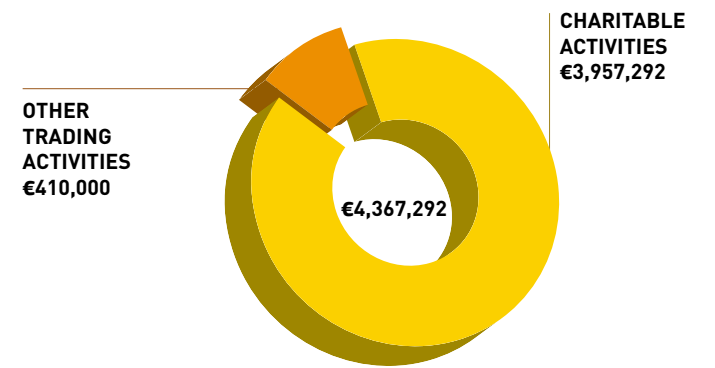
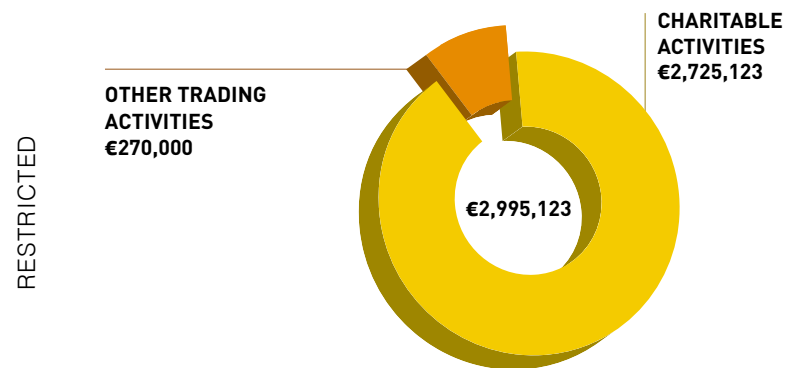
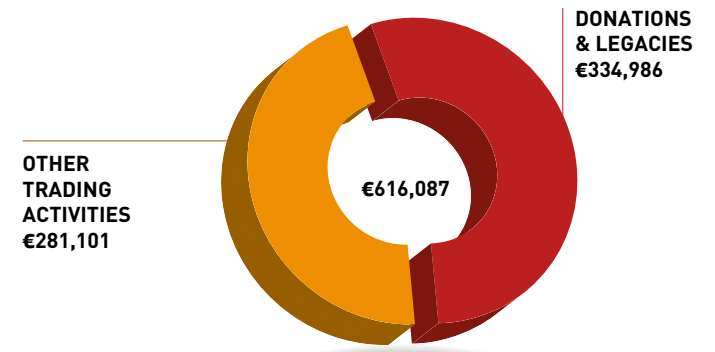
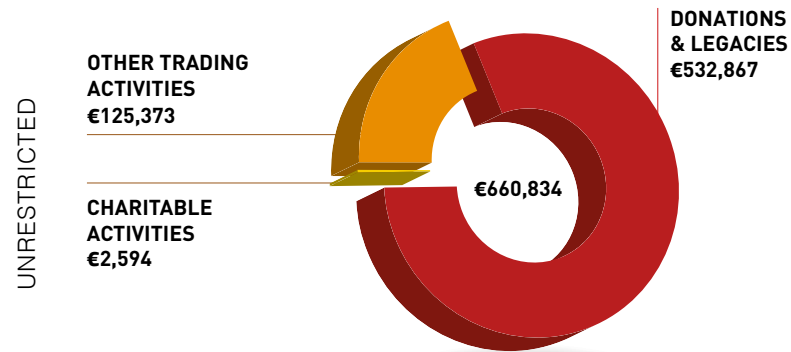
	2020	2019
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	87,688	244,773
Adjustments for: Depreciation	1,141	505
	88,829	245,278
Movements in working capital		
Movement in stocks	(85,858)	(1,513,245)
Movement in debtors	(161,673)	828,118
Movement in creditors	864,176	(584,407)
	705,474	(1,024,256)
Cash flows from financing activities		
New long term loan	(522,000)	-
New short term loan	522,000	-
	-	-
Net cash generated from financing activities		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	705,474	(1,024,256)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January 2020	1,384,401	2,408,657
	2,089,875	1,384,401



Sources of Income

2020

2019



TOTAL INCOME	2020	2019
	€3,655,957	€4,983,379





Vita



For Climate Smart
Communities

16 -17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. D07H7DE

Tel : (0)1 873 4303 • www.vita.ie • www.VitaGreenImpactFund.com

