



THE AKILI TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-9

Charity Name and Number

The Akili Trust: Registered charity number - 1114275

Akili Community Libraries (Kenyan NGO) registered number – OP.218/051/2008/017/5057

Website: www.akilitrust.org

Correspondence Address

119 Victoria Road, London N22 7XG

Trustees

Cleopatra Mukula Ajode

Andrew Ballantyne

Ruth Beedle

Pam Dix (Chair, March 2009)

Lucy Evans (Treasurer)

Laura Gavshon (from January 2010)

Mark Orchard

Anne Sofer

HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST

The Akili Trust was established in January 2006 with a remit to establish and support community libraries in Kenya and East Africa, developing from its original base in Malindi District, Coastal Province, Kenya. Trustees were recruited with expert knowledge of Kenya, libraries, education and finance, and charitable status was granted in May 2006 and NGO status in 2008.

Away from the coastal strip favoured by tourists, Coastal Province is one of the least developed areas in the region. There is little electrification and few tarmac roads. English is the language of instruction in all Kenyan schools, but there are few books available for people to read, and many adults cannot afford to buy a newspaper. In primary schools, classes of 80 to 90 children are not unusual. Only 23% of Kenyans attend secondary school and the take up of further education in the region is one of the lowest in Kenya. Yet, there is a real thirst for education and information and libraries are well respected and are seen as key places of free access to learning.

The Akili Trust aims to work with local communities to improve literacy and expand access to information and education. In practical terms, this means:

- Supporting the existing libraries and establishing new libraries as appropriate and when funds are available;



- Ensuring that the libraries have suitable collections of books in English and Kiswahili;
- Ensuring that the libraries are staffed and that staff are recruited from the local community;
- Funding librarian salaries and running costs, including daily newspapers in English and Kiswahili;
- Providing support and training for librarians;
- Establishing local management committees to run the libraries and liaising with them and with local schools and other relevant authorities;
- Maintaining a bursary programme for secondary education.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Akili Trust was created by a Declaration of Trust dated 23 January 2006. The Trust Deed provides for a minimum of three trustees, who are appointed for two or three year terms. When there is a requirement for new trustees, these are identified and appointed by the existing trustees. The Chair of Trustees and Treasurer are responsible for the induction of any new trustee and for circulating information and advice from the Charities Commission and other related organisations.

The Trust Deed gives trustees the power to apply the funds in such a manner as they think fit to further its stated aims. As the Trust aims to spend as much as possible of its funds directly in East Africa, it does not make grants to individuals or organisations who apply for funding speculatively.

Trustees meet at least four times a year to plan developments and monitor progress and finances. The committee reviews quarterly reports and correspondence from the libraries, decides on financial priorities and plans fundraising. Minutes of these meetings are held at the Trust's address. Sub-committees are formed from time to time as required.

The Akili Trust has provided funds for the registration of a sister organisation in Kenya, known as Akili Community Libraries (ACL). The intention is for ACL to provide support and guidance, and eventually to take over day-to-day supervision of Kenyan based activities. At least one Akili Trust trustee will serve as an officer of ACL and Lucy Evans has been appointed Treasurer of ACL. The formal recognition of the NGO status for this group was awarded in May 2008.

In Kenya, each Akili Trust library has a Management Committee, of which a majority is elected by and from the Registered Readers. The Management Committee includes representatives of the primary school where the library is based, normally the Headteacher and the Chair of the Primary School Management Committee. This Committee provides support, encouragement and advice to the Librarian and Assistant Librarian, as well as being a further point of contact and information for the Akili trustees.