

The Annual Report of the Trustees of SALCET for the Financial Year ending 5th April 2024

SALCET has continued to support projects in El Salvador, Uganda and Kenya over the last year, as the world emerges from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. There have not been any SALCET fieldtrips to Africa and/or El Salvador this year, but, despite not being able to visit in person, SALCET keeps in regular contact with friends and projects in all 3 countries, supporting them prayerfully and financially. SALCET is increasingly using modern technology for remote diagnostics, particularly in Kenya and Uganda, to treat and help disadvantaged children to lead a normal life. Chris and Maggie Jagger moved from Godalming to the Isle of Wight in May 2023 so the principal address for the charity has changed. SALCET is very grateful to Busbridge and Hambledon Church (BHC), Godalming, for their support over the last 20 years and for donating their Easter Appeal in 2023 to our work as a parting gift. We hope to find new sources of funding in our new location.

EL SALVADOR

Ruth Cruz, SALCET's field worker in El Salvador, continues to manage our ophthalmic work, arranging eye appointments for those needing cataract surgery or prescription spectacles, accompanying them to the ASAPROSAR or FUEDEM clinics, and purchasing their medication. She is meticulous in sending SALCET all the receipts, photos of the patients and progress reports on their treatment.

Ruth had a very difficult time personally at the beginning of this year. On April 12th 2023 the President of El Salvador ordered the arrest of over 67,000 gang members throughout the country. They were all jailed, making the country much safer physically, but subsequently prices, (particularly of rented property) soared, and Ruth was forced to move twice. Finally at the end of April she was offered a house to rent in San Carlos, close to the SALCET Community House. It took her a few months to settle and get the internet and electronic communications functioning, so she could continue her work with SALCET and Compassion. SALCET contributed towards the expense of all this. We are delighted to have Ruth 'on site' and to hear that City Hall is co-operating with the San Carlos community over the use and maintenance of the Community House. Since Ruth has been resident there has been a Mothers' Day party, a funeral wake and some medical clinics. In September Ruth became Vice president of the Community House committee at San Carlos and is helping with secretarial matters.

By July, she was busy supervising all the ophthalmic work again and has continued diligently all year.

SALCET is still supporting **Carlos Gomez**, in Panchimalco with his diabetic support group in the local community, partnering with the local medical clinic, and educating people to pursue a healthier lifestyle. Zoom meetings were held between the SALCET team in UK and Carlos's team between May and July 2023 and by September Carlos was ready to begin the group, with 20-30 patients. SALCET sent a donation to cover expenses for the first 7 months. Follow-up is needed to see how things are progressing.

SALCET had a report from the **CDH (Asociacion de Campesinos para el Desarrollo Humano) project in Morazan** in September 2023 assuring us that the medical clinic at Estancia is working well 5 days a week, with a resident doctor. There is also a basic level clinical laboratory with a paid laboratory technician and a pharmacy to dispense medicines from a paid pharmacist. They are undertaking a new project called a 'change adaptation plan' which consists of reforestation, soil conservation, protection of water sources and purchasing tanks for water storage for families. An analysis of the year's medical interventions was also included, showing many cases of urinary tract infections and gut parasites. SALCET sent a donation to support all this work in March 2024.

UGANDA

The **Ssunga Twezimbe Womens Group (STWG) in Masaka** continue to run their gardening, poultry, pig, dairy keeping and co-saving projects but it is a continuing struggle for them to make a profit and become self-sufficient. The effects of climate change and erratic weather patterns hit them badly. They are benefitting from the water storage tanks which SALCET financed last year, and sent a video of the completed project.

Robert Mwanjuzi, (whom Chris Jagger met on his trip to Masaka in March 2019,) expressed a wish to help children in his locality with special needs and/or life threatening illnesses. Chris felt this fitted in well with the 'remote diagnostic' work that SALCET has been doing in Kenya so recently Robert has become a field worker in Uganda for SALCET, and is proving trustworthy. In June 2023, in collaboration with Dr Chris Jagger in the UK, he arranged for life saving medication and an operation for a young boy with a raging infection and threat of amputation. Since then he has arranged help for 2 children with cerebral palsy (wheelchairs and physiotherapy). In December he arranged a Christmas party for 6 disabled children and their mothers and is hoping to develop this group so they can help and support each other. SALCET has sent donations to cover some of their basic medical needs, and Robert is accounting for all his expenditure.

SALCET continues to have strong links with **Bright Future Primary School in Masaka**. St Bartholomew's School in Haslemere, Surrey is still active in raising money for them too. The new headmaster at St Bartholomews met for talks with Chris Jagger in May 2023 about continuing the links between the 2 schools. Hopefully this will develop over time, but SALCET had not heard anything by the end of this financial year.

Eroni Jjunju, who runs the **Mata Dental clinic in Masaka**, which SALCET supports, has continued her dental outreach programmes to schools and Compassion projects throughout the year as well as working in the local hospital. Eroni has not required any funding from SALCET this year, but we communicate regularly and take a great interest in her invaluable work for poor Ugandan children. She is in regular contact with STWG as well. SALCET also keeps in touch with the UK charity, Dentaid, who carry out work in Uganda.

KENYA

SALCET has continued its links with a project helping children suffering with cerebral palsy in Nairobi. Through video link Dr Chris Jagger has been able to help with diagnostics and offer advice regarding physiotherapy and equipment needed to help such children. This has proved life-changing for one child in particular and he is now walking and attending school. SALCET has sent a small donation to help with this work, and we hope to build on our involvement in the years ahead.

THANKS

SALCET is very grateful to local churches, societies, institutions and individuals for their ongoing interest in and support of the charity. SALCET is actively looking for one or two new Trustees