

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019 - March 2020



FEEDING  
FUTURES



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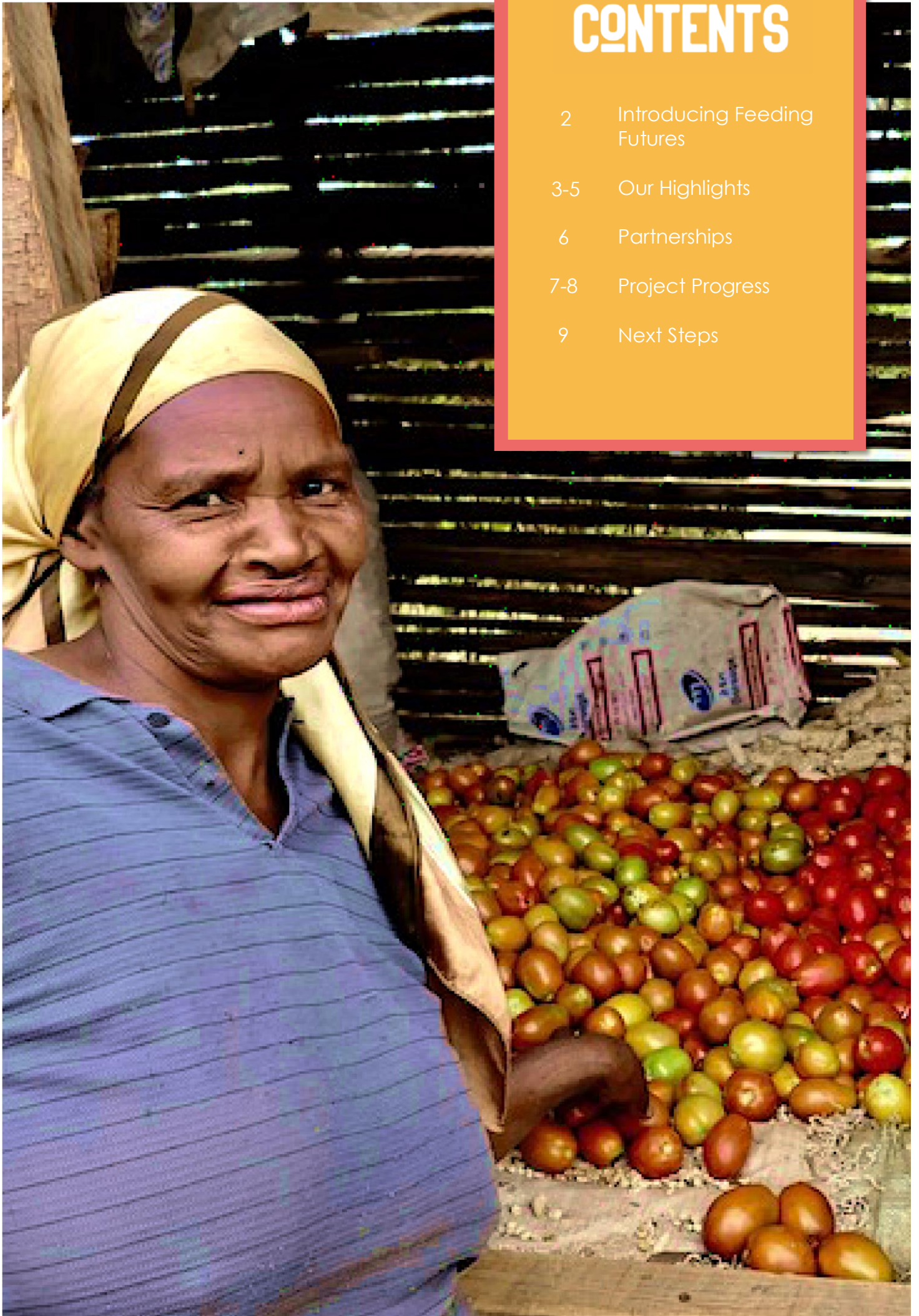
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## Introducing



Welcome to the Annual Report for 2019-20. Much has happened this year and we are pleased to be able to share it with you in this new format (produced with the help of volunteer Abby Brooks).



*Vanessa Bennett,  
Founder and Chair of  
Trustees*

### The story so far:

**Feeding Futures** was formed in 2010 as a result of a chance meeting I had with Peterson Githinji, Head Teacher at St Brendan's Primary School in Kenya. Peterson told me of the impoverished nature of his local community and how children would faint at school due to the lack of food. Having always felt moved to do some work in Africa spurred on by the justice and equality elements of my Christian faith, I went out to see the situation for myself.

If someone had told me ten years ago that I would be reporting activities for **Feeding Futures** that you are about to read, I would not have believed them. At that point, it seemed unrealistic – naïve even – to be contemplating starting the charity at all.

At the start and at every junction since, Peterson and I, along with members of the team who have joined since, have just taken the step in front of us and the result has been more than I could ever have imagined.

Now working in partnership with a different community – Mukinyai – we are working to modify our model of community development through sustainable school meals before eventually starting with a new community every year. Our vision is to see many thousands of people impacted by communities in rural Africa moving from a state of subsistence to freedom and prosperity.

THANK YOU!! If you are reading this annual report as a current supporter of **Feeding Futures**, then you are a part of every story: of every life that has been changed through our programmes.

This annual report provides a taste of how some of our bold plans and our not-so-unrealistic goals have been reached. Our hope and prayer is that you will enjoy reading progress, that you will feel inspired to join us to and that together we will see the vision fulfilled.



Vanessa Bennett  
Founder and Chair of Trustees

# HIGHLIGHTS

April 2019



## Trustee Visit to Kenya

In line with plans to take our methodology to more school communities in the region, this year began with a trustee visit to Kenya to officially launch our programme at a second school, Mukinyai Primary School. With partnerships integral to what we do, we met, negotiated and enthusiastically signed a partnership agreement with the Chief, Head Teacher and acting Chair of the Board of Management (School Governors). This partnership is built on a shared goal of sustainable development which will allow the Mukinyai village community to live life to the full. The Nakuru County Governor, Mr Lee Kinyanjui, expressed his dedication to the partnership through his representative at the official opening ceremony when he said "As county Government we commit ourselves to supporting your initiative and to ensure that when you are exiting from this project, we will make sure this project does not fail, because you are doing this on behalf of the government."

April 2019



## Official Opening Ceremony

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April, volunteers and staff were welcomed by Mary Njoroge the Head Teacher and thanked by the community at the official opening of the new school kitchen. The opening was a huge success, with all 400+ children contributing with dance, sketches, music and poetry, 200 parents attending and 700 attendees receiving dinner from our kitchen. The generosity of our community partners made this possible, as they organised the entire event including donating two marquees. Vivality, the foundations of our partnership with the Mukinyai community were firmly built. Demonstrating the meaning of partnership through a powerful 4 act 'silent' skit from our trustees and staff with the parents led to full understanding. Furthermore, with speeches from the MP, county officials, parents and children and a draft Memorandum of Understanding renegotiated after discussions with the Board of Management (BOM), it is clear the community are committed and positive about their partnership with us.

2018- 2019



## Zoe - BA (HONS) CHARITY DEVELOPMENT

Zoe joined us in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Chichester University and stayed with us for experience until 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Her time with us has been mutually beneficial as we have been able to learn from one another. Zoe's contributions included a case for support, gap analysis, market research and work towards a Fundraising strategy. Sadly, an advanced plan for a fund-raising event at the University was cancelled due to the covid-19 lockdown. However, we are delighted that Zoe feels her time with Feeding Futures has been "a learning curve and an amazing experience overall."

April to July 2019



## Egerton University

In 2019, we proudly commissioned a Needs and Assets Assessment through Egerton University with a purpose to contribute research and recommendations to a sustainable school meals and community development model that could be used to improve current and future projects. The report found that despite declining production levels, the Mukinyai community has potential to produce fruits and other long term crops with the aid of training in conservation agriculture. It highlighted barriers such as lack of trust attributable to the post-election violence and lack of assets for intensive profitable production of horticulture and livestock. However, it found the community ready to support the school feeding programme. It recommended an approach which meets the community where they are at by providing training and support to those who wish to stick to what they know (short term crops) as well as for Horticultural farmers who need support in irrigation equipment's, proper seed varieties and training on best production practices. For the full report including recommendations for future projects in detail, click here: <https://feedingfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Needs-and-Assets-Assessment-Mukinyai-Final-report-2019.9.2.pdf>



November 2019



**Church Leaders Seminar**

A seminar for Church leaders, which was opened by the Deputy Director of Education for Nakuru County, created discussions about the Church's role in the community, the meaning of partnership, resources and more. There was good participation with 43 Church leaders from 10 Churches on day 1 and 26 on day 2. The banner below shows the timeline of responsibilities in the partnership, which were explained during the seminar. This banner remains on display at the school.



January 2020



**Engaging the Community**

Training and exercises from other organisations have brought new approaches on how to engage the community and monitor progress. The tools have been especially effective during the farmer home visits, as they have enabled the farmers and field officers to identify opportunities, challenges and constraints together. The training has also been instrumental in setting deadlines for activities to be carried out. The photo above shows the parents of Mukinyai involved in an exercise from "Community Conversations" by Concern Worldwide, facilitated by Joseph Gatu. The training was important in communicating with the parents especially on the day of the meeting.

2019



**Joseph Gatu - Project Manager**

This year we appointed Joseph Gatu as Project manager. Born in Kibera, Nairobi, Joseph has vast experience with organisations that work with disadvantaged communities in Kenya. Driven by his passion and love for vulnerable children, he has risen up the career ladder from volunteering for organisations serving the needy persons in the slums of Nairobi to programme manager in organizations in Nairobi and the rift valley. Furthermore, with a diploma and degree in Community Development and Social Work and currently working on a Master's degree in social sciences with a major in Organizational development, he has a wealth of knowledge to offer the charity. Joseph is enjoying sharing his prior experience with Feeding Futures as Project Manager.

January 2020



**Demonstration Plots**

In January 'demo plots' were set up at school with preparation and planting carried out with assistance from the 4K club (official after school club for agriculture) together with their parent/carers. The 4K club and Feeding Futures will be responsible for the management of the school demo plots. Another demo site was established at a high-achieving farmer's land. Mr. Nyuto with assistance from Feeding Futures will be responsible for managing the demo on his land. The demonstration plots have been doing well despite a few challenges of monkeys and unknown insects causing minimal damage to the crops.

February 2020



### Livestock Focus

The livestock officer, Sam Nderitu Nyaga, led enhanced community training sessions with both individual farmers and in groups. He was able to respond to requests for visits from individual farmers to address various issues during February, as well as sharing a monitoring tool to evaluate the milk production for their cows. Farmers being trained in best practises for animal husbandry started, as a community, to form working alliances on issues that affect various livestock. They helped each other in times of need and as neighbours, also showed interest in conservation agriculture in their farms. This had a positive ripple effect from the discussions they had during the training.

March 2020



### Covid-19 Lockdown

The month of March was rather busy, as farmers were occupied making final touches on their land for planting with others planting. Feeding Futures also facilitated a trip to a centre of excellence for Conservation Agriculture Care for Creation Kenya at Kijabe. It was a worthwhile visit with great take home messages and lessons for reflection as we engage the community. Along with the rest of the world, Feeding Futures and its partners in Mukinyai have had to deal with the unforeseen and unprecedented disruption to normal life due to Covid-19. The school was closed indefinitely, travel impeded, and social interaction discouraged. This had the effect of destabilizing everybody. Despite this fact, and in conformity to the WHO and Ministry of health guidelines, our trainers have, at times, been able to visit farmers. They are happy to report that our farmers are resilient and have continued to work in their farms. Finally, given the current status, the team has had many meetings to brainstorm, exchange ideas and deliberate on the ways and means of making sure that our engagement with the community continues.

# PARTNERSHIPS

**Partnership** continues to be a prominent theme of Feeding Futures' model this year. In addition to building a partnership with the Mukinyai community, we believe creating meaningful partnerships with other NGOs / charities who think alike is important to our growth and development as a small charity. Through these mutually beneficial partnerships we are able to share knowledge and resources as well as learning from each other's experiences of working in the local area. This year we have been busy working in cooperation with many other non-governmental organisations:

## Compassion International



We met Sarah Waweru (Regional Project Facilitator) at Rongai - one of their project centres - where we discussed with the local team the valuable work, they

carry out with 100s of children in the area. Later in the year, at compassion's country headquarters in Nairobi, we discussed other areas of common interest with the Country Director Joel Macharia. Compassion works with churches for two years developing an understanding of the work and providing training before a centre can be fully launched. partnership and providing training for two years before a centre can be fully launched. Volunteering by local church members is a vital part of how Compassion works, and the two year period helps them to appreciate the commitment required. Where appropriate, volunteers will demonstrate their commitment by providing bricks, sand, labour etc to build the office.

We continue to explore the best way for FF to partner and be involved in growing trees with the community. This is an essential element of conservation both in terms of

## Growing Trees



good agriculture but also for the benefits trees bring to the climate.

## Ekenywa



WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) is an important element as Feeding Futures feeds children at school. In schools,

Ekenywa teaches these life skills as part of the curriculum. Ekenywa's next few projects are already planned but we discussed the possibility of a partnership with them at a future community. A full WASH system that includes a toilet block can be designed to capture and use gas for cooking purposes and human waste for fertiliser. Ekenywa have also developed systems to extract water points where drinking water or grey water can be supplied to all the community for a small price.

After a meeting at the Nakuru County Education department we were able to meet Dr Immaculate, the County Executive Committee Member (C.E.C.M) Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries who

## Ministry of Agriculture



listened to our plans very carefully and provided us with the contacts at the Egerton University. Having been introduced to her staff we were able to start building a working relationship with her department to benefit the Mukinyai Community. Dr Immaculate also provided sound advice about working with farmers to implement learning and change at Mukinyai and beyond.



# PROJECT PROGRESS

## Breakfast

At the beginning of this year, the Mukinyai school community took a big step towards its independence. Since January 2019, breakfasts and cooked lunches were provided by **Feeding Futures**, as parents struggled to feed their children leaving them more susceptible to illness and less able to fulfil their academic potential. A year on, in line with our long-term sustainability approach to aid and in accordance with the agreed timeline, the community took responsibility for the provision of breakfasts.

As part of the signed agreement, the plan was for the school to provide porridge to the pupils in the entire school. Schools opened on January 6<sup>th</sup> and after early teething problems, breakfasts were provided by parent contributions as planned.

Since then, porridge provision has continued with few issues. However due to the cost of millet and early issues with parent contributions, only maize and sorghum were used initially. The cost of breakfasts for a whole term was set by the school at 150 KShs (£1.06) for each child, which is in line with our calculations of the true cost.



## School Meals



## Key Achievements

- Pupils received meals, at the right portions, every single school day.
- Attendance has been high, and very few children have been off sick. This is an indicator that children are healthier and that they are keen to come to school as they will be fed.
- The children have benefited socially as they have reported forming more solid friendships for the future as they share a meal together in groups.
- Number of school children receiving meals daily ranged from 320 rising to 375.
- January had smooth flow of lunch being served to all pupils without any wastage and a frequent supply of fresh cabbages and onions every day. The menu was changed to ugali, cabbage and beans every Tuesday, rice, cabbage and beans every Friday and githeri (maize and beans) and cabbage the other three days. The re-introduction of ugali to the menu has been loved by all the pupils and teachers.
- Cumulative number of meals provided 115,192 meals in 2019.
- Teresa, one of the parents, reported during a clergy meeting "When our children eat at school, we get the best time to attend to our shambas (farms) without stress of where lunch will come from, so our production should increase"



## Training to Provide New Opportunities

We started training with the basics of conservation agriculture that include minimal tillage, mulching, composting and crop rotation. The training empowered small rural farmers growing the same type of crops to share and learn from each other. Many farmers have been brave enough to change how they farm and are seeing increased yields through implementing the new principles and some have diversified the crops they grow. As the soil improves through use of rotation, mulching, organic fertiliser and composting, they will see year on year the benefits.

Traditional methods of farming are common in rural Kenyan communities. There is a need to regenerate the soil after years of chemical use. A healthy, fertile soil will increase food production but improving the soil can take years. Positive changes to farming methods will help feed population increases and help slow climate changes.



## Key Achievements

- Huge improvement in community participation in provision of labour for the farming activities by the school in support of the feeding program.
- Parents turned out in large numbers to clear the scrubs in the rented 3 acres; an activity done in two different days.
- Demo plots - The demonstration plots were planted; one plot was managed with conventional farming methods and the other managed using conservation agriculture principles so that a comparison could be made.
- The training culminated in the farmers' agreeing to establish 6x6 m plots of preferred vegetables at their farms using the set standards during the training.
- Since early 2019, 80 parents farmers have been visited at their farms by our team for advice, encouragement and guidance
- "This is the greatest God given opportunity for change our village has ever got. Let us embrace it." - Rev. Wahogo

## Farm Training



# OUR NEXT STEPS

As we closed the year Covid-19 had taken hold. A planned visit to work with our Kenyan team and partners from mid-March was cancelled and that very day schools across the country were closed.

Our main concerns inevitably were for the health and safety of staff and our partners at Mukinyai, so we took the following actions: -

- **Staff to follow national rules and guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19**
- **Encourage hand hygiene at every contact (virtual) with community members**
- **Urgently spread the word about a simple hands-free hand-washing station (“tip-taps”) that can be built at every home**
- **Be available to advise partners on any farming or livestock issues**
- **Redeploy cooks to safeguard the demo plots and school shamba**

Despite these challenges, **Feeding Futures** continues to operate with resilience in the face of adversity. Whilst staff had limited ability to travel, they were asked to carry out and report on research that would assist the charity as it continues to develop and grow, plus additional team building as restrictions were lifted. Moving forward, we aim to build on our experiences to date and to develop the process of creating community partnership with the next community.





**Founder and Chair**

Vanessa Bennett

**Executive Chair**

Peterson Githinji

**Trustees**

Colin Clark (Treasurer)

Jenni Clark

Michael Askwith

Jemima Kema

Andrew Njenga

**Project Manager**

Joseph Gatu

**Agricultural and  
Community**

**Development Leader**

Naomi Matey

**Development Support  
and Livestock Officer**

Nderitu Nyaga

**Feeding Futures**

Overnoons, Stane

Street

Westhampnett PO18

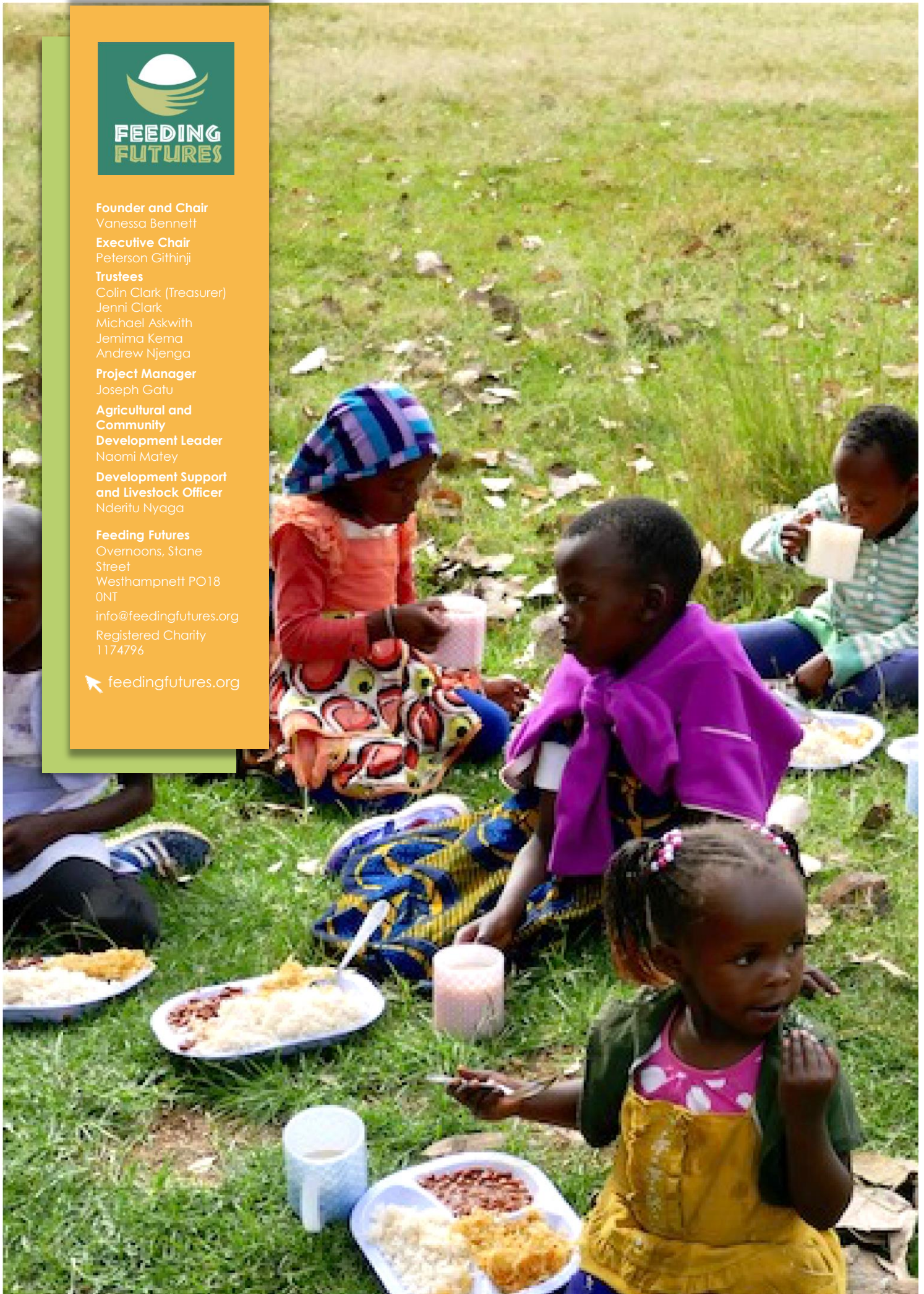
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[info@feedingfutures.org](mailto:info@feedingfutures.org)

Registered Charity

1174796

 [feedingfutures.org](http://feedingfutures.org)











## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6 April 2019 Period start date To 5 April 2020

Period end date

Charity name: Feeding Futures

Charity registration number: 1174796

## Objectives and Activities

|  | SORP reference     |   |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document  | Para 1.17          | The prevention or relief of poverty in communities reliant on subsistence farming in Kenya. We partner with school communities to implement a programme of training in sustainable agriculture and the temporary provision of school meals.           |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | Provision of school meals on a temporary basis<br>Training of parents and others in the community about sustainable agriculture.<br>Bringing all members of the community together for a joint purpose, thereby promoting peace across the community. |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit   | Para 1.18          | In considering and implementing its objectives the Trustees have continued to consider the Commission's Guidance on public benefit.   |

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

|  | SORP reference |  |
|--|----------------|--|
| Policy on grant making   | Para 1.38      | We do not give grants but instead carry out the work directly through our local representatives. |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38      | Feeding Futures does not use repayable finance.<br>!   |



|                                 |           |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Supporters and Trustees give of their time voluntarily at no cost to the Charity. This amounts to an average weekly donation of approximately 80 hours.<br>All the Trustees live and are based in the UK however, the Trustees have an authorised representative, Peterson Githinji, the Head-teacher of a School in Nakuru, Kenya, who also served as the Operations Director (approximately 20 hours per week). |
| Other                           |           |   |

## Achievements and Performance

|   | SORP reference |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20      | An official launch at the school with parents and children was hosted by the community and school, with County and District representatives, local government and the MP in attendance.<br>375 children received cooked breakfast and dinners at school.<br>All parents and members of the community were offered and many joined in with training groups and individual tuition around improving their crop diversity and yield. Seminars were held with community faith leaders as partners. |

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

|   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
| <p>Achievements against objectives set</p>                          | <p>Para 1.41</p> | <p>A signed memorandum of understanding was signed by all partners.<br/> The main objectives were to provide cooked meals on school days throughout the year - this was achieved with only a few days missing.<br/> Training groups and individual tuition with visits to the field were carried out as planned and acceptable to the community members.<br/> The community took over responsibility for providing breakfast for the third term as planned.</p> |
| <p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p> | <p>Para 1.41</p> | <p>There was a small budget shortfall, although Trustees did not consider this to be a major concern.</p>   |
| <p>Investment performance against objectives</p>                    | <p>Para 1.41</p> | <p>Some small amounts of savings are available for emergencies.</p>   |
| <p>Other</p>  |                  |   |



## Financial Review

|  |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period              | Para 1.21 | Trustees considered the Charity's financial position to be adequate and in line with the funding requirements for continuation of planned future activities.   |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held   | Para 1.22 | As planned by the trustees, just under £12000 was taken forward into the new financial year to provide for the needs of Mukinyai and to start saving towards working with a new community in 2021/22 |
| Amount of reserves held  | Para 1.22 | <£12,000   |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves  | Para 1.22 | n/a  |
| Details of fund materially in deficit  | Para 1.24 | n/a  |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | n/a  |

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)            | Para 1.47 | The Charity received, and gratefully acknowledges, most of its financial support from individuals.<br>It has also received generous donations from fundraising events. It also received donations from local schools and churches, with which further links are continuing to be developed. |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | n/a   |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity                         | Para 1.46 | The appointment of a project manager enables Feeding Futures to have more flexibility should the joint founder be unable to commit his time to the work required.   |
| Other   |           | The Trustees have updated the Risk Assessment. The Charity only commits to funding activities when funds are available and when partners in Kenya have completed the agreed activities.   |

## Structure, Governance and Management

|   |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| Description of charity's trusts:  |           | n/a  |
| Type of governing document<br>(trust deed, royal charter)   | Para 1.25 | Foundation' model Constitution               |
| How is the charity constituted?<br>(e.g unincorporated association, CIO)  | Para 1.25 | Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)   |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. |

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees                | Para 1.51 | New trustees are given a copy of our Constitution and all of our written policies (including Safeguarding and Anti Money-Laundering policies).<br>Before trustees are appointed, face-to-face meetings are held where the history, ethos and objectives of the charity are discussed along with what the prospective new trustee would be able to offer the charity.  |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | The Charity is a member of and takes advantage of training offered by Small Charities Coalition, National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)<br>The Charity developed relationships with local Government and university departments in Kenya, as well as NGOs working in the area. (Nakuru County Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Egerton University, Compassion International and Ekenywa (a WASH NGO) |
| Relationship with any related parties   | Para 1.51 | The Charity carries out its work through Lisha Jamii, a registered Society (NGO) in Kenya (2018). Two of the Charity's Trustees are also Trustees of Lisha Jamii.<br>During the year Feeding Futures has had a 3rd year student from the BA Charity Development course at Chichester University working as an intern. It was a mutually beneficial experience across the year.  |



|       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| Other |  |  |
|-------|--|--|

### Reference and Administrative details

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity name                | Feeding Futures  |
| Other name the charity uses |  |
| Registered charity number   | 1174796  |
| Charity's principal address | Overnoons, Stane Street, Westhampnett, Chichester PO18 0NT<br>UK |
|                             |  |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

|    | <b>Trustee name</b> | <b>Office (if any)</b> | <b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b> | <b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b> |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| 1  | Vanessa Bennett     | Founder and Chair      | 2010 - present                           | Trustees   |
| 2  | Colin Clark         | Treasurer              | 2017 - present                           | Trustees   |
| 3  | Jennifer Clark      |                        | 2018 - present                           | Trustees   |
| 4  | Michael Askwith     |                        | 2018 - present                           | Trustees   |
| 5  |                     |                        |  |  |
| 6  |                     |                        |  |  |
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| 18 |                     |                        |  |  |
| 19 |                     |                        |  |  |
| 20 |                     |                        |  |  |

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

| <b>Director name</b> |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
|                      |  |  |





## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity   | n/a |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects |     |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets                         |     |

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |
|                 |      |         |

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

|     |
|-----|
| n/a |
|-----|

## Other optional information

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|



## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) 

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <i>V Bennett</i> | <i>C Clark</i> |
|------------------|----------------|

Full name(s) 

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Vanessa Bennett | Colin Clark |
|-----------------|-------------|

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) 

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| Chair | Treasurer |
|-------|-----------|

Date 

|         |
|---------|
| 21/9/20 |
|---------|