Established in 1958, Africa Educational Trust has over 50 years of experience providing education to children and adults in countries where ongoing conflict and poverty have denied millions of people the chance to go to school.

**Our Vision**
Africa Educational Trust’s vision is of a continent composed of fully independent and peaceful states, which are responsive to their citizens’ needs and wishes, and provide appropriate education for all their inhabitants.

**Our Mission**
The current mission of the Africa Educational Trust is to support people in Africa, excluded from receiving an education, regardless of age, gender, religion, physical capacity, ethnic group, or displacement through conflict.

### Where We Work

- **Kenya** reaching 5900 people.
- **Uganda** reaching 138,400 people.
- **South Sudan** reaching 82,400 people.
- **Somaliland, Puntland & Central & South Somalia** reaching 88,600 people.

* = approx. 6000 people

### Who Do We Work With?

- Teachers and school officials
- Government & Policy Makers
- Local community and leaders
- Families and parents
The Africa Educational Trust has been around for a long time, working for the same goal: helping to support education in Africa. AET believes that everyone in Africa, as elsewhere, is entitled to receive an education. And we recognize that Africa has made huge strides to expand education over the years. All the same, there is still a real passion for education in Africa. People know it offers hope and opportunity and they don’t take it for granted, with good reason.

Inevitably, there are parts of Africa where educational provision falls down, often as a result of war. In Somalia, for example, the government stopped functioning for many years and multiple new administrations were formed. In newly independent South Sudan, they are starting with a serious shortage of teachers and schools, as well as a legacy of violence. AET works in difficult, conflict-affected countries like these, trying to rebuild education systems and restore hope in the future.

What we do is very varied. It includes providing high-level expertise to redesign the curriculum and re-establish exam systems in Somalia, as well as training teachers and supporting literacy classes for adults who missed out in South Sudan. Elsewhere, it is a case of working with communities to understand the social reasons why girls miss out on school and giving them extra support and protection.

We also work in more stable countries with youngsters who find themselves left behind in the existing systems. One of our programmes in Uganda gives some extra help to street children who are settling into local schools, while in Kenya we are helping develop books in the local languages for early learners just starting their education.

Working for many years in difficult places, our dedicated staff has gained a wealth of experience in finding innovative ways to tackle unexpected problems. We want to share what we have learned, provide evidence of its impact and replicate our best programmes. We are in the process of renewing our strategy, redefining our priorities and seeking new partnerships with organisations working in our field of expertise.

Our work depends crucially on the generosity of our donors and supporters. I hope you will be inspired, as I am, by the contents of this Annual Report. Our aim as a Trust is to bring together the support of the outside world to help people who have faced, and continue to face, the gravest difficulties in gaining access to a good education. Nowhere is this more important than in fragile and conflict-affected states, for here the future itself is very uncertain and education is seen as the only hope.

Sally Healy
Central to our mission is working with those groups of people who are excluded and struggle the most to access education. For example:

- Pastoralists need to move with their herds and many school systems are unwilling to adapt to this need. AET has a long history of engaging with pastoralist communities, bringing literacy, numeracy and vocational skills to over 16,400 adults and children this year alone.

- People with Disabilities face stigma and discrimination in their access to education. Over a three year period in Somalia, we have helped 1,600 children with disabilities enrol in education and 1,800 adults receive vocational skills while also strengthening local disability organisations.

- Street Children are blocked from education by poverty and discrimination. We partnered with a local organisation in Uganda supporting 800 street children in their return to school, and improving child protection for all students in Mbale.

- Women and Girls face many barriers, from social norms to poverty, when it comes to accessing education. This year 131,000 of our beneficiaries were women and girls, all of whom benefited from improved access to schools as well as alternative education programmes.
Our School Mothers Programme provides the mentoring, counselling, advocacy and practical support girls need to help them stay in school. School Mothers work with community leaders, families and teachers to support girls’ education, and will intervene in cases of drop-out, and early marriage to help girls return to school. There are now over 175 local women in Uganda and South Sudan who regularly visit schools to educate girls on relevant topics such as sanitation, reproduction and hygiene as well as other important life skills.

**School Mothers Reduce School Drop-Out**

“**The only people who live well are the educated. If you leave school, there will be no chances for good employment and earning and income. You will become financially dependant on your husband for everything.**”

Daborah, School Mother in Bor Primary school

Since the project began, we have seen an increase as high as 49% in girls' enrolment and retention in primary and secondary education.

**A Second Chance for Women to attend Secondary School in South Sudan**

Our Accelerated Secondary School Education for Women Project provides women who were forced to drop out of secondary education an alternative way to complete school and graduate, without having to take four years of full-time study. Courses are tailored to the schedule of young women, who also have other responsibilities in their home such as caring for family and children.

In 2016, 100% of the first cohort of students passed their final secondary examinations and the AET programme was ranked 9th in school results out of the entire country.
Building the Foundation for Learning

In an already fragile environment, the foundation required for learning in schools and communities is impacted by poverty. In regions where there is conflict, this foundation is further eroded.

AET works to establish the foundation needed for children to learn, including:

- A framework and curriculum for learning and teaching with methods for assessing learning results.
- Motivated and qualified teachers who have opportunities to continuously develop their skills and improve their teaching practice.
- Proper school governance and oversight with involvement from community and parents. Safe spaces that ensure all children can learn together, feel welcomed and are respected and protected within the classrooms.
- Classrooms equipped with tools and resources ranging from books to learning aids, and computers that will support students’ learning.

In 2016, 50,000 students across Somaliland, Puntland and Central and South Somalia were able to sit their secondary school exams and continue onto further education and better employment.
Teachers are key to the success of any education system, but finding someone who has the qualifications and training to be a teacher is a challenge within places that have been affected by poverty and conflict for generations. As part of our ongoing programme, we ensure that secondary school teachers in South Sudan achieve their certification in teaching and provide continuing professional development for 7,600 teachers and trainers.

Improving Curriculum, Exams and School Systems

As a lead technical partner to the Ministries of Education for Somaliland, Puntland and Central and South Somalia, we have supported the development of a competency-based curriculum for primary and secondary education in different regions. We also provided support for fair and transparent exams respected both locally and internationally.

Mother-Tongue Education Improves Learning Outcomes

It’s been established that teaching children in their mother tongue in the first three to four years of school improves their performance and makes them more likely to complete their education. In Uganda and Kenya, we are supporting teachers and schools to transition to local language teaching, using locally appropriate and culturally relevant material. Community classes are also being provided to parents so they can learn alongside their children.

“With Mother Tongue I can take advantage of children’s command of their oral language. We can work from what they know to the unknown like reading, writing and mathematics. With this approach, I believe I can make sure all children are learning.”

– Frances, Primary School Teacher, Kenya
Transforming Lives through Education

Education transforms lives, giving people the skills to lift themselves out of poverty and the knowledge to solve the problems within their community and county. We are helping people unlock their potential and achieve their dreams through our projects:

- There are few skills as basic as reading, writing and mathematics. UNESCO estimates over 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students left school with basic reading skills. We are doing our part by helping those who missed out on school gain access basic education courses.
- Every year of education increases earning by up to 10%. AET works with schools and communities to identify high demand skills and provide targeted training in these areas and vocations.
- Higher levels of education and literacy lead to more peaceful societies. We develop peace-building curricula and use schools and training centres as spaces to foster peace-building and democratic process.

In South Sudan, we trained over 225 teachers who through peace-building reached more than 12,000 students and 1,280 community members.
The challenge of living without an education is keenly felt by the many young people and adults who dropped out or missed the chance to go to school. In Somalia and South Sudan, where adult literacy rates are less than 30%, we are providing a variety of basic education and vocational classes. In Somalia, we have started an adult literacy and vocational skills project – with 1,600 beneficiaries – for women who are the head of their household. Our Speak-Up II programme in South Sudan is reaching over 3,000 adults through community learning circles.

B.R.I.T.E. (Business, Resilience, Innovation, Technology & Enterprise) Futures

Everyone wants graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects to drive economic development. The BRITE Futures Programme is piloting approaches to build students’ skills in enterprise, business and information and communication technology across 8 schools in deprived northern districts of Uganda. Over 4,300 students are gaining practical, hands-on experience with ICT and business as well as access to career guidance and local mentorship.

Alice, Secondary Student in Northern Uganda -
“My father says if you have started doing this (piggery business), you will become someone who knows how to manage her life”

Peace Building through Education

Schools and education provide space for people to come together, ask questions, confront prejudice, examine community problems and overcome differences. Our peace-building programmes in Somalia and South Sudan equip teachers to use schools and classrooms to foster discussions in a respectful and positive manner and let students address the legacy of violence and conflict they are living with.
Financial Overview 2015-2016

Income by Funder

- Big Lottery Fund, Comic Relief: £539,578
- Corporate: £39,333
- Trusts & Foundations: £1,009,599
- Other: £1,912
- Government: £2,290,642
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- Corporate; £39,333
- Trusts & Foundations; £1,009,599
- Other; £1,912
- Government; £2,290,642

Total: £3,881,064

Expenditure by Country

- Somalia: £2,794,912
- South Sudan: £763,900
- Uganda: £616,267
- Swaziland: £5,784
- Kenya: £232,239
- Other: £231,615
- Somalia; £2,794,912
- South Sudan; £763,900
- Uganda; £616,267
- Swaziland; £5,784
- Kenya; £232,239
- Other; £231,615

Total: £4,644,717
Financial Overview 2015-2016

Expenditure by Project Type

- Peace-building Education; £179,834
- Secondary Education; £205,242
- Primary Education; £742,155
- Adult Education; £263,905
- Girls Education; £450,614
- Inclusive Education; £508,481
- Other; £192,367
- Curriculum & Teacher Development; £2,102,119

Total: £4,644,717

“I am waiting for the time when all people are educated. Changes are slowly happening.”
- Susan, Radio-Literacy Student in South Sudan