



2020-21

SKIP

ANNUAL REPORT





Foreword

Writing this Annual Report has again been a slightly different experience to the standard SKIP year; a time to reflect on some of the challenges we have encountered whilst also reminding ourselves of the incredible achievements.

Unfortunately, we were not able to send out Summer Projects in 2021, following the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. SKIP has always embraced technology, due to our geographical spread, but this year required us to develop our skills even further, marked by the incredible success of our online training and fundraising events, at branch and national level. Engagement and interaction between SKIP members has been remarkable, and comforting in the new virtual world- though we all long for the day when we can gather in a lecture theatre together again.

As well as the wide array of personal and professional development opportunities available to SKIP members, we are also determined to keep our focus on our overseas relationships, with some branches running 'virtual projects' over the summer. Snapshots from a couple of branches in this report give a small taster of some of the inspiring work done by committee members and volunteers.

Throughout the year, branches have been supported by our wonderful National Committee, Supporting Alumni and Trustees. Much of their work is done behind the scenes to ensure the charity continues to grow and develop, whilst all the time keeping our focus on achieving the SKIP vision and following the SKIP values – sustainable, inclusive and empowering.

Though the future still holds uncertainties, we continue to be inspired by every single SKIP member who volunteers their time freely, and we know this will continue as we support each other through the next year. We would like to thank each and every one of you, past and present, for your tireless commitment, energy, and passion.

Our sincerest thanks,
The Board of Trustees

About SKIP

Students for Kids International Projects is a student led UK-based registered charity (1099804/SC040556), which acts to improve the health, welfare and education of children overseas within their communities, in conjunction with local organisations.

SKIP vision & mission

Our vision is for all children to be cared for and supported in accessing the basic rights of health, welfare, and education within their communities and for future professionals to have the awareness, ability and motivation to influence and contribute to global development.

Our mission is to support vulnerable and impoverished children and communities worldwide and promote the personal and professional development of students. We strive to educate and empower students to initiate and maintain sustainable community integrated overseas projects aimed at improving the health, welfare and education of children in their community.

We believe in the universal rights of the child and the role of future professionals in advocating and implementing change.

SKIP ethos & values

In due course, we hope for our individual projects, once established and effective, to not exist. Ultimately, we hope to cease being needed.

Why?

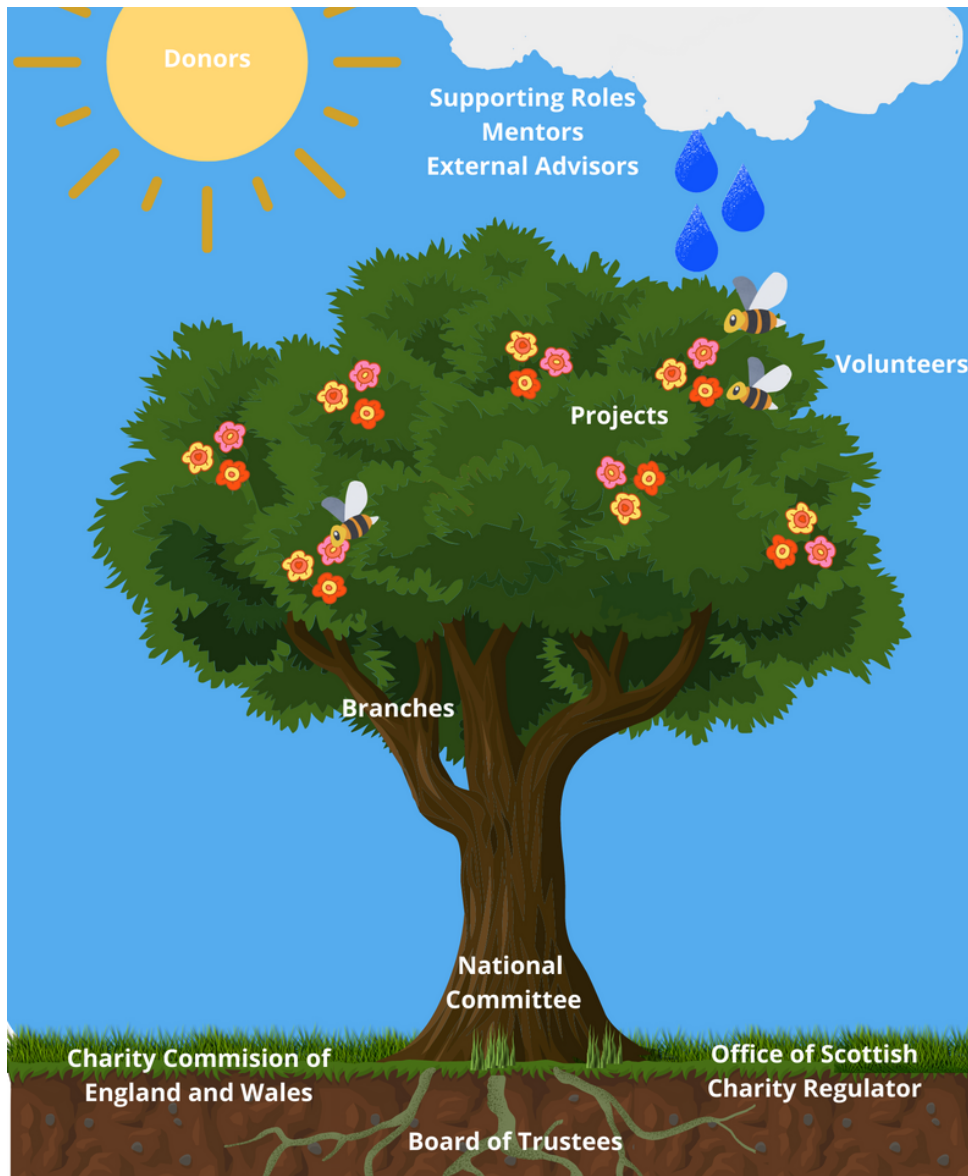
We believe that effective help should seek to find long-term solutions to existing problems, as well as providing attention to more immediate needs.

How?

By involving members of the local community, to encourage more responsibility, enthusiasm and recognition of the needs of the children.

*sustainable
inclusive
empowering*

Who's Who **SKIP**



Our Trustees ground us in legal responsibilities that we hold as a registered charity, provide strategic vision and ensure the charity is compliant with requirements.

Our National Committee is the trunk that supports branches in their activities. Each member has a specific responsibility as well as providing support to their 'buddy branch'.

Our branches bear the fruits of our labour - our project. In 2020-21 we had 12 branches who work with an overseas partner organisation. Each branch recruits project volunteers, who are the bees that pollinate our projects and enable them to flourish.

The water that feeds our continued growth comes from branch mentors, supporting alumni and external advisors who assist us in our work and the sunshine that enables us to grow is the support of our donors and the general public.

Students for Kids International Projects

UK Registered Charity: 1099804

Scottish Registered Charity: SC0405566

www.skipkids.org.uk

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National Committee reflections



Aim 1: to support and inspire the development of SKIP, through actively creating an inclusive and empowering community, for our members and beneficiaries.

Aim 2: to support all branches in delivering safe, evidence-led (virtual) projects in Summer 2020.

Our Vision 2020-21

To support and inspire the development of SKIP, through actively creating an inclusive and empowering community, for our members and beneficiaries.

Aim 3: to offer opportunities for all SKIP members to engage with Personal and Professional Development.

Aim 4: to offer opportunities for all SKIP members to engage with Personal and Professional Development.

Aim 5: to support branches in the successful recruitment and retention of committed, competent volunteers.

Celebrating our Supporting Alumni



Charlotte Lees - Online Training Lead

Charlotte Lees, our supporting alumni lead for online training has revolutionised our elearning this year, completing the move to openlearn and developing a new health and safety module for our volunteers. She has ensured all our virtual project volunteers have access to the elearning they need in order to be prepared for project and also helped trustees, national committee and supporting alumni access the modules relevant to their training in SKIP. Charlotte has recently stepped down from the role after 4 years and worked hard to produce easy to understand guidance documents to help with handover of the role.

Hericka Bruna - Recruitment Coordinator

Hericka Bruna Figueiredo Galvao, our outgoing recruitment coordinator, adapted the steps to summer process for volunteers this year in response to our projects being virtual. This included adding the need for volunteers to have a reference from outside the organisation. Hericka has stepped down this year and provided fantastic training to our new coordinator Amelia Ram. Amelia has already produced training materials to help SKIP members navigate our membership database.

RnD Hub - Jasmine Walsh & Freya Kirby

Joanna Appleby - Website Lead

Sinead Brereton - Mentor Lead

Tom Tayton - Annual Review of Budgets Lead

Holly Brice - Fundraising Lead

Marianne Sprod - Alumni Lead



Branch Mentors



Our team of dedicated Branch Mentors are returning SKIP alumni who provide personalised support to our branches. Each Mentor is assigned to a SKIP branch for a 3 year term; invaluable continuity which enables strategic oversight and a strong working relationship with the collaborating organisation.

Mentors are invited to our annual handover training event, and many also attend, or train at events throughout the year. It was particularly lovely to see many at our summer training series.

The job that mentors perform is complex and requires a broad skill set. In a typical year they will have to support branches with research and development, risk assessment, negotiations, training, logistics and incident management. Of course, 2020-21 wasn't a typical year, and as with all SKIP members, mentors were required to adapt to support their branches. Over the next few months, mentors will be leading on communications with their branch partner organisation to explore the impact of COVID on the organisation and local community, to allow us to understand how this varies between project country, and also plan ahead for 2022.

Changes to the Mentor Team

Next year we are very excited to be joined by four new mentors this year - Charlotte Lees (Cardiff), Yatheesh Thanalingam (Glasgow), Florence Shekleton (St George's) and Kate Worthington (Newcastle).

We would like to thank our outgoing mentors for all their hard work and commitment over the last few years.



Glasgow 2020-21

SKIP

SKIP Glasgow successfully ran a virtual project in the summer of 2021. Five summer volunteers volunteered over six weeks, working collaboratively using online tools. Their work included:

- Conducting detailed needs assessments of their project area
- Meeting with their Collaborating Organisation LIYO
- Designing a health survey
- Designing educational resources about COVID-19 and reducing the spread of the disease.
- Further developing their resources on contraception and women's empowerment.



SKIP Glasgow also continued to develop their relationship as part of the Scotland Malawi partnership - something that enabled them to attend the Scotland-Malawi Climate Cooperation reception as part of COP 26 in the following academic year. They were able to hear from H.E Dr Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi, Angus Robertson MSP, Rt Hon Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Frank Ross and David Hope-Jones, Co Patron of SMP. It was an amazing day to hear about the historic partnership between Malawi and Scotland in their joint effort to tackle climate change

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SKIP Members



SKIP MEMBER FEEDBACK



100% of respondents would recommend SKIP to other people



"I think SKIP adapted to the pandemic so well. Online transition for BW was almost seamless, and support throughout the year was amazing!"



81% of SKIP members planned to stay in SKIP the following year



"[SKIP events are] so fun, always useful, the guest speakers at BWs were amazing, and always love meeting SKIP members from other branches"



"I think we adapted well and quickly in challenging circumstances, and predicted the pandemic's impact well before many businesses (and even parts of government), making early decisions which stand up well when viewed with hindsight. We adapted our activities to focus on the aims we could achieve"

Thank you to all SKIP members



In 2020, SKIP had over 85 members

Training in times of COVID

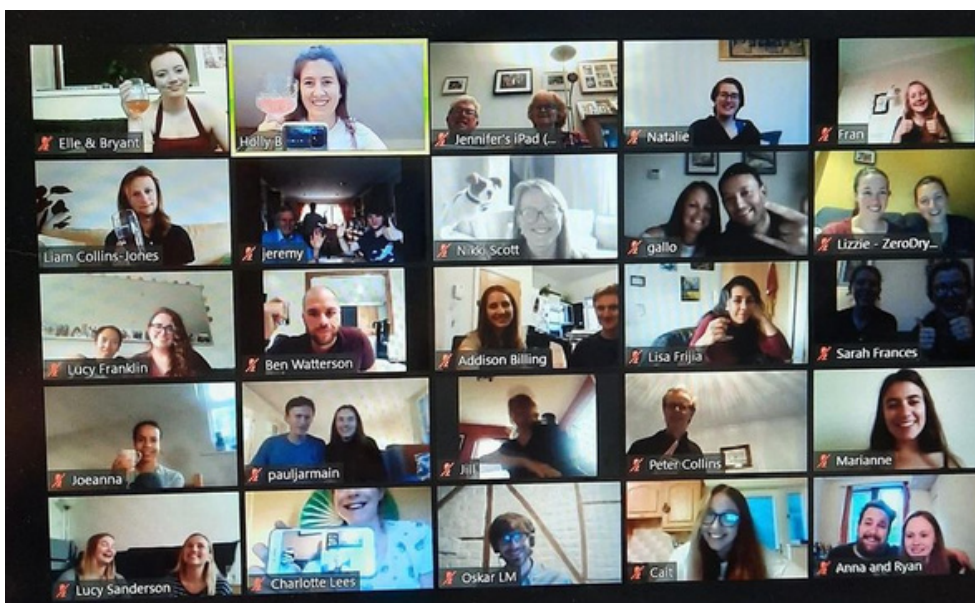


Despite the challenges Covid posed, SKIP has managed to hold 5 successful national virtual training events: our 2 fantastic Big Weekends, Project Coordinator Training day, our project preparation day for virtual volunteers and our very first Training New Digital Trainers!

Autumn 2020 saw our first virtual Big Weekend, with the whole weekend taking part on Zoom. The National committee worked tirelessly to ensure the weekend was a success with a wide range of training sessions and global health workshops. This was reflected in the overwhelmingly positive feedback we got for the weekend and the virtual Spring Big Weekend was an equal success.

We also ran a new training day virtually; our 'Project Preparation Day' which was designed to help volunteers make the most of our virtual projects. We ran sessions for both new volunteers and branch committee members to ensure everyone felt ready for our first summer of Virtual Projects.

Given the ongoing pandemic, we realised we needed to move our 'Training New Trainers' course digitally to ensure that our members were still getting the opportunity to develop their training skills and join our SKIP training network. The event was a 2 day event on Zoom that helped prepare participants to deliver digital training across the charity. Seven trainers delivered a range of sessions from Adult Learning Theory to Evaluating Training Sessions to ten participants who went on to gain their 'Bronze Certificate' for training in SKIP. Moving forward, we are hoping to be able to deliver more face to face training in SKIP as restrictions allow, but we also feel much more confident as an organisation delivering effective training virtually and we are continuing to offer opportunities for members to develop personally and professionally.



Blue Boy Awards



Here at SKIP we are extremely proud to be a completely volunteer led charity and of the time and hard work our members dedicate to SKIP. The annual Blue Boy Awards at the Spring Big Weekend are a chance to celebrate this hard work. All winners receive a certificate, as well as prizes which can range from funding for training to contribution towards project intervention costs.

**Branch of the year:
SKIP Cardiff**

**Volunteer of the year:
Natalie Cook (Trustee)**

**Trainer of the year:
Elle Morris (SKIP National Committee)**

**Fundraiser of the year:
Eleanor Veale (SKIP Southampton)
Holly Brice (Supporting Alumni)**

**Fundraising event of the year:
Global Health Conference (SKIP Hull and York)**

**Global Award:
Eleanor Cochrane (SKIP National Committee)**

Looking Forward

Reimagining SKIP

We are extremely grateful to all of those who, over the past 20 years, have supported, donated and volunteered to improve the health and welfare of children overseas and help develop the next generation of global health advocates.

The pandemic has been tough for everybody, particularly the organisations we partner with and the people in their communities. Indeed, it has also been difficult for overseas volunteering organisations, where restrictions and the risk of transmitting COVID between countries has meant travel has been impossible; SKIP has been unable to deliver any in-person projects for the past two years. Due to extremely low vaccination rates in many of the countries we work, it would be unethical to have in-person projects in 2022, which could endanger beneficiaries and volunteers. This is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future. In addition, we have also not had any in-person UK events since 2020, an important part of the SKIP volunteering calendar and community.

SKIP members have continued to innovate and excel throughout the pandemic with some brilliant work carried out during 'virtual projects' in the summer of 2021. However, COVID has impacted heavily on volunteer recruitment and retention. This, combined with limited access to technology for our partner organisations in remote parts of the Global South, means that virtual projects are not a sustainable solution to ensure SKIP continues to have an impact on improving the health and welfare of children overseas.

In addition to the impact reduced recruitment has on our projects, it also has an impact on our income and ultimately our financial viability, because membership fees form the majority of our income. We aim to keep these fees as low and accessible as possible but unfortunately many of our essential running costs, although also kept low, are fixed. Over the past 2 years we have tried to compensate for the reduced income by improving our fundraising platforms, running national fundraising events and applying for grants. Despite great work and generosity from donors our costs currently exceed our projected income - leaving the charity in an unsustainable position.

As a charity with an ethos to be as ethical as possible, we really welcome the rise of movements against 'voluntourism' and 'white saviourism'. However, as SKIP is founded on the principle of students from the UK volunteering abroad, these are movements that we must listen to carefully. This is leading us to reflect and evaluate our activities.

Everything outlined above means that SKIP needs to change to continue to have a real impact for children overseas and students in the UK. Making these changes while continuing with our current activities places a huge burden and workload on the brilliantly passionate volunteering members of SKIP, many of whom have struggled from burnout during the pandemic already.

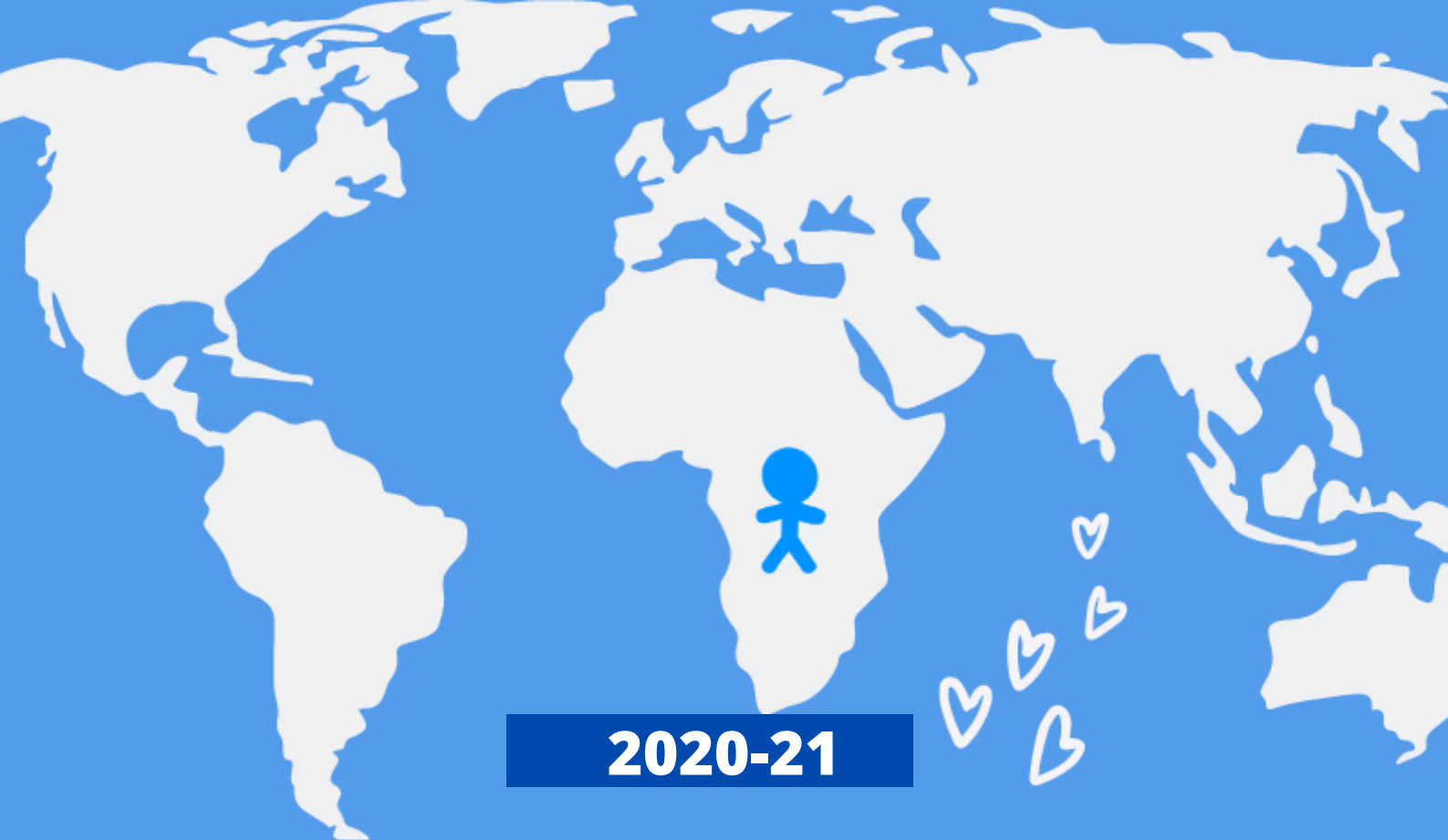
Therefore, SKIP trustees and patrons, with the support of the National Committee, branches and our supporting alumni, have decided to pause all of SKIP's current activities. This involves withdrawing from our existing projects (in The Gambia, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Cambodia), and closing all SKIP branches. We will also be pausing all fundraising and other activities. Importantly, this does NOT mean SKIP is closing or ceasing to be charity.

Instead, SKIP will undergo a 're-imagining' period, where every member of SKIP and our alumni will be able to contribute to re-shaping SKIP as we go forward into the future. How can we best have an impact on the health and welfare of children overseas? How can we best develop the next generation of global health leaders and advocates? How can we grapple with the global impacts of COVID-19 and climate change, as well as aligning our work with the issues highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement? What does a sustainable, ethical, inclusive global health volunteering charity now look like?

Over the next few months SKIP will be running focus groups and workshops to answer these questions and decide how SKIP can have the best and biggest impact possible. Changing our activities and strategy will not be easy, but one that is essential to keep SKIP relevant, positive, and impactful into the 2020s and beyond.

We really hope to see all our volunteers, new and old, get involved with the re-imagining process and see SKIP rise again, pushing the forefront of what global health student volunteering can be.

-The SKIP Trustees



2020-21

**THANKS TO ALL SKIP
MEMBERS, PARTNERS AND
SUPPORTERS**

