



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

<b>From</b>	Period start date			<b>To</b>	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 04	Year 2022		Day 31	Month 03	Year 2023

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

LET'S BUILD MY SCHOOL

Other names charity is known by

LBMS

Registered charity number (if any)

1168814

Charity's principal address

116 CROMWELL ROAD  
 FLAT 649  
 Postcode SW7 4XF

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Leila Meroue			
2	Zara Lababedi			
3	Abdul-Karim Mroueh			
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	'foundation' model constitution
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. trust, association, company)</i>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	Appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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**Section C Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.  
 Our key objectives for the year include:  
 - for the public benefit, advancing education of the communities on lowcost constructions in any part of the world where they have no or very little understanding of the possible use of local materials by carrying.

together research about techniques of construction adapted to the climate and building together low cost educational establishments.

- For the public knowledge in developed countries, raising awareness about lack of educational establishments in under developed countries by providing information, raising funds and recruiting volunteers to research and build educational establishments with local materials adapted to the climate.

- for the public benefit, the advancement of education of people in need in any part of the world who have a lack of educational establishments by providing new build classes, schools and professional centres.

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES HELD FROM APRIL 2022 to MARCH 2023**

We started the construction of our 3<sup>rd</sup> school project in January 2022. It was a high school in Casamance in the southern part of Senegal. The project counted 7 classrooms, one canteen and one library with directors' office and facilities. We were aiming to replace 4 temporary structures made of bamboo walls.

From April to July 2022 which was the start of the rainy season, we were working on the foundations (which started in January 2022). The foundations were made of SuperAdobe, the same technique used in our first and second school project, i.e. filling up bags with earth. Since the technique of construction was going to be mixed with another one, laying stabilized earth bricks, we had to pour a concrete beam on top of the foundations. This took us quite a long time to be achieved as the walls were curved and we were curving the rebars manually to a specific radius for each corner.

In March 2022, we started the brick production. Carlos from SOM (the winner of the architecture competition for this school project) came to Marsassoum from Colombia with the brick machine. Maria Brown, a certified trainer of stabilized brick construction in the organism Cratere came to train our local team during a 4 days workshop. Following this training, the brick production started.

When the rainy season started in July, we had completed our set challenge, i.e. finishing the foundations up to 50cm to 80cm above ground level, finishing the concrete beam on top, laying the coating layer on the lower walls and covering all with waterproofing protection to survive heavy rain.

In the meantime, from July to end of October, we moved our brick production from outdoor in the shade below the trees to indoor. As it was during school holidays, it was perfect timing. We used the temporary classrooms for the brick production. At the end of October we had produced the sufficient number of bricks for the entire construction, i.e. XXX

In early November, as soon as the rain stopped, we started the construction of the walls. In 2 months we layed the walls of the entire school. From end of January to March 2023 we were working on the roof. Two volunteers came from France and Ireland to manage the laying of the roof.

### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

On the 8th of December 2022, we held a fundraising event in Dakar, to fundraise for the roof construction. We organised a Christmas market. We had over 14 exponents selling their products from candles to bags to clothes and many other products. The rental of their spot was the gain for us. In addition to this, we had projected in repeat during the entire night a movie about the

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

construction of our school and our actions in Senegal, with a box for donation. Also, we set up a space behind the Christmas market for an exhibition where two Senegalese artists, Sadio (who exhibits in NYC and Miami) and his son exhibited their work.

For this event, we collected 2 millions CFA i.e. 2600 GBP which covered the cost of the materials for the concrete beam to finish up the brick walls in order to receive the roof.

#### **VOLUNTEER TRIP:**

We organised two volunteer trips, one in May 2022 from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed 17 volunteers from Holland, Greece, France, Italy, Spain, UK and Colombia helping on the foundations. Some were working on the curving of the rebars, some on the coating layer on the walls, others on the brick making. This one-week volunteer trip was help as per previous ones, i.e. sleeping in a hotel 1 hour from site with bus drive in and out to site. Each volunteer had to fundraise 600 GBP from which 40% was dedicated to the organisation of the trip (accommodation, food and transport) and 60% to the construction materials of the school.

This volunteer trip format was questioned after conversation with the volunteers. We felt that they would prefer sleeping inn the village with the team and increase their experience of humanitarian work. Also, fundraising appeared to be a difficult task for each of them, considering the plane ticket was at their own expense and was already quite a high amount. In order to adapt to their will, we organised the next volunteer trips differently.

In November 2022, after the rainy season, we needed hands to raise the walls of the school. We opened a period of 5 weeks from the 10<sup>th</sup> of November to the 15<sup>th</sup> of December where we rented a house for volunteers in the village. The volunteers would pay the house and food on site but no fundraising was asked. This format appeared to work better for all. We did welcome 6 volunteers who stayed from 3 week to 5 weeks, living the life in Marsassoum village.

In February 2023, two volunteers came to manage the roof construction, Phil for 6 weeks, and Jessie until the end of the construction in End of April 2023.

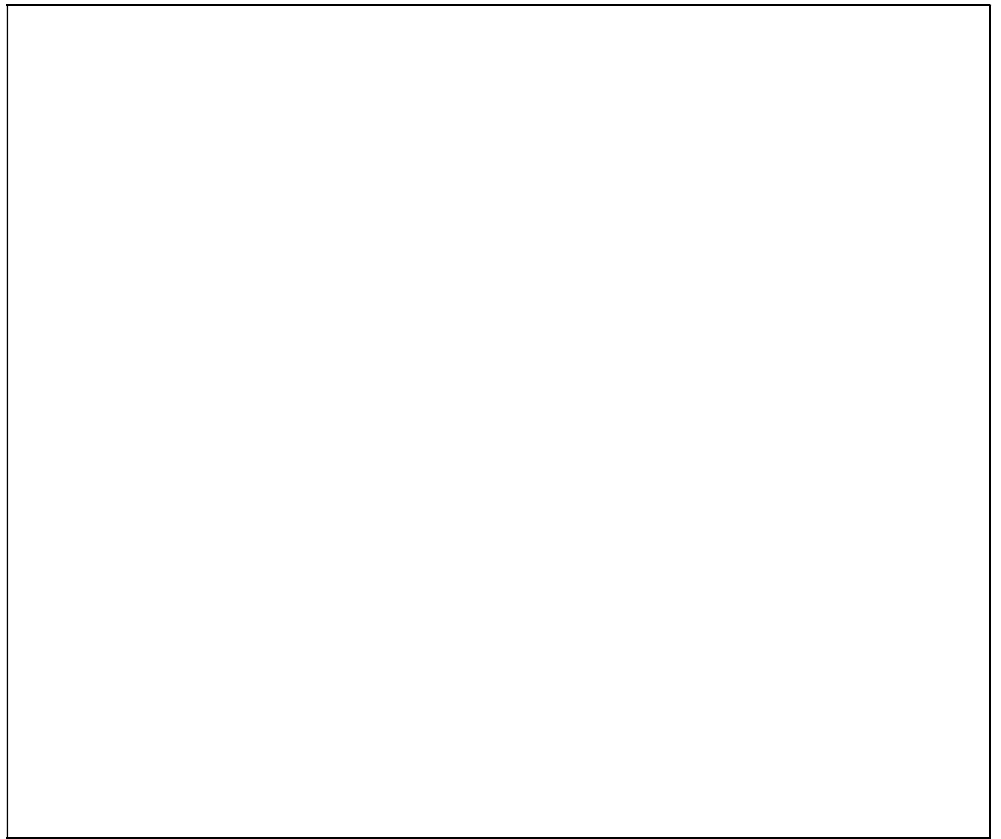
#### **COMMUNICATION:**

The communication was about calls for fundraising and donation, advertising on social media, instagram and facebook, as well as through newsletter for volunteer trips of May and November 2022.

### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year****REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS HELD FROM APRIL 2022 TO APRIL 2023****FUNDRAISING:**

In 2022-2023 the income rose to £ 71 433. The income was derived from Donations mainly online and cash (99%) and fundraising through justgiving (1%).

**CONSTRUCTION:**

We managed to build a school with a challenging design and construction methods. We built with a fully new brick machine (never tested before), and we raised curved foundations and walls. We also mixed two techniques of earth construction superAdobe and stabilized earth bricks. We had to cope with the difficulty of delivering construction materials to the village which is far and difficult to access. This school is a great success. We have managed to build 9 rooms (7 classrooms and 1 canteen and 1 library) which will be open for the following year start of classes in October 2023.

## Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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Details of any funds materially in deficit

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Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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## Section F Other optional information

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## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Leila meroué

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

chair

Date

25.01.2024