

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a red and white striped shirt, is seen from behind, sitting in a blue plastic chair. He has his right hand raised, holding a wooden stick. In the background, a woman in a blue and red dress stands near a whiteboard in a classroom setting. The text "A year in SKIP" is overlaid in white cursive script.

*A year in  
SKIP*

**SKIP Annual Report 2017-2018**



# Students making a difference worldwide



## Foreword

Students for Kids International Projects or SKIP, as it is better known amongst those of us who know and love it, has had yet another fantastic and exciting year! It fills us with great pleasure to see another generation become inspired and empowered by the excitement that being involved with SKIP and our projects brings. This year, we welcomed new volunteers and new committee members to our family, as we continue to build and strengthen our relationships across the world.

We celebrated our 15 year anniversary at SKIPFest; a weekend of reminiscence, catching up with old friends (and their children), enjoying live music and finishing the night with a silent disco with a hot-tub under the stars....and the added benefit of raising some money for SKIP National Funds. As a charity, we are striving to follow our newly created, though fairly longstanding values – sustainable, inclusive and empowering. Our RnD team are continuing to lead our drive towards sustainable ethical interventions with a sub-team working on developing emotional wellbeing resources.

The success of our charity is, as always, owed entirely to our volunteers; you are our inspiration and our motivation. We would like to thank each and every one of you for the tireless commitment, energy, and passion you bring each and every year. The annual report is an opportunity to celebrate our successes and to reflect upon the challenges the previous year has brought to us. It is also our opportunity to look to the future and to decide how, together as a charity, we are going to build upon those successes, strengthen our family and be the best charity we can possibly be.

Our sincerest thanks,  
The Board of Trustees



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# Students for Kids International Projects

Students for Kids International Projects is a student led UK-based registered charity (1099804/SC040556), which supports child welfare in communities throughout the developing world. SKIP community projects are facilitated by SKIP branches, in conjunction with local partner organisations, which enable our projects to run all year round.

## Our Vision

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

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.

## Our Ethos

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.

## Our Values

Sustainable  
Inclusive  
Empowering



## How did SKIP start?

From small beginnings come great things

**1999** - small group of Cardiff students start visiting an orphanage in Belarus

**2003**- Cardiff students present their work at Birmingham University and alumni combine to form the first National Committee. Over summer, 50 volunteers travel to Zambia and SKIP is born!

**2005** - First National Conference

**2007** - New branches gradually join and the Executive Board (current Trustees) is formed.

**Current** - SKIP continues to thrive with new branches joining and existing branches evolving



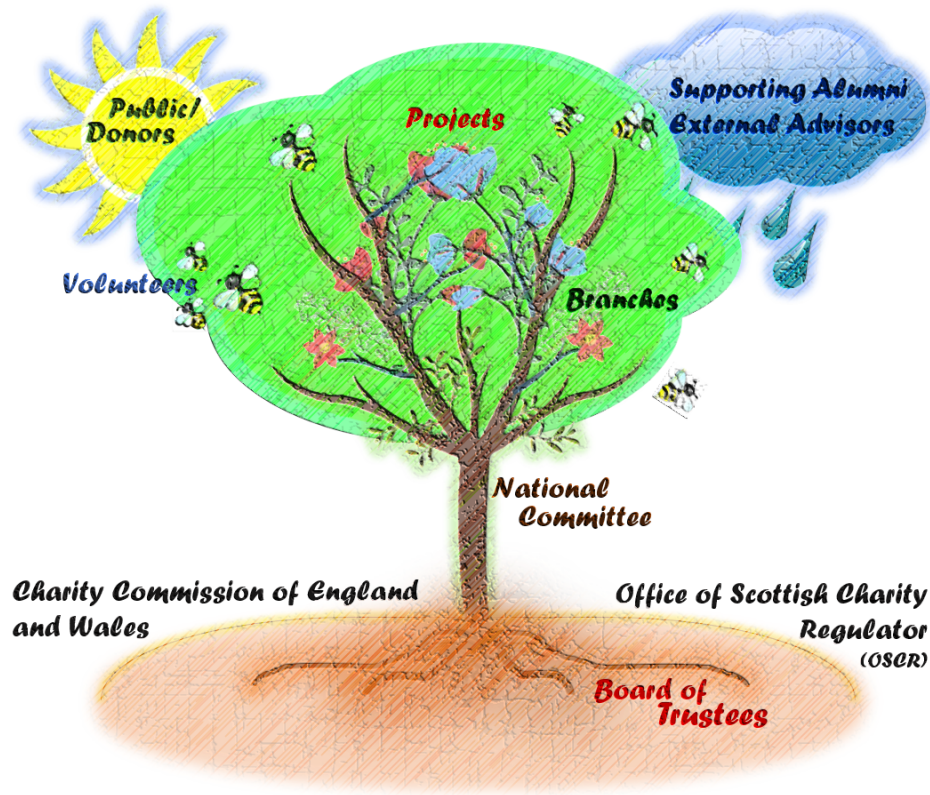
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## Meet the family

We consider the SKIP family like a blossoming tree! Our Trustees ground us in the legal responsibilities that we hold as a registered charity and provide direction, support and protection. Our National Committee is the trunk that supports our branches in their day-to-day activities. Our branches bear the fruits of our labour - our wonderful projects! The volunteers are the bees that pollinate our projects and enable them to flourish. The water that feeds our development comes from dedicated branch mentors, supporting alumni and external advisors who assist us in our work and of course the sunshine that enables us to continue to grow is the support of our donors and the general public.



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## The Board of Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for the overall strategic vision and direction of the charity, leading organisational development and ensuring the charity is compliant with all legal and financial requirements as set out by commissioning bodies. All Trustees are elected via an application process and serve for three years.

## The National Committee

The National Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the charity. Each national committee member has a specific role, for which they take the lead and assist their counterparts at branch level (e.g. publicity). Each member also has a 'buddy branch' for whom they are the main point of contact. The National Committee is elected annually at the General Assembly.

## Branches

There are currently 10 SKIP branches in various stages of development. All of our branches are full member branches that have completed their candidacy, formed successful committees, and have progressed through the initial phases of project development. Branches progress to full membership status following successful research and needs assessment projects, when they are ready to progress to their pilot project phases; this is usually within three years of election as a branch. You can learn more about each of our branches on our website.

## Supporting Alumni and Working groups

Working groups are composed of dedicated Supporting Alumni (sometimes with external advisors and branch members) and are led by Trustees or members of the National Committee. The groups are designed to assist the development and implementation of key SKIP activities.

SKIP currently recruits and runs five working groups:

1. The mentor network: providing long-term mentoring support to branches alongside National Committee; this group is led by our Branch Mentor Lead.
2. The training working group: assist in the planning, delivering and evaluation of quality training to our members and coordinate and deliver the training new and old trainers scheme. This group also includes our Online Training Lead.
3. RnD Hub: conduct audits and research at a national level to identify areas for review and work to strengthen policy/guidance.
4. Treasury and legal working group: support the national and branch treasurers whilst monitoring legal requirements.
5. Volunteer Recruitment Lead: co-ordinates the national volunteer recruitment stage called Steps to Summer.



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## A few words from our National Committee

Vision - to support and facilitate all members of the SKIP community to create and develop sustainable projects, through teamwork, and our mix of experience and skills.

### Aims

- **To support effective communication throughout the whole of the SKIP network**
  - We continued to maintain brilliant communication with branches through the buddy scheme via use of messaging groups to allow quick and regular updates and support.
  - We continued to use the 'Branch Brainy Bits' section at Big Weekends to allow branches to share ideas, improve their projects, and disseminate good practice.
  - As a National Committee we held regular meetings which allowed us to share ideas and support each other in, both in our SKIP roles and personally.
- **To ensure SKIP projects are safe, sustainable and evidence based, and support branches in planning their projects.**
  - This year we had many branches at different project stages, ranging from withdrawal stage to the country selection and research stage. We supported each branch to use stage specific tools to allow them to effectively and safely plan their summer project.
  - We provided timely, individualised feedback on tools to each branch following their completion and ensured training sessions were tailored to needs.
- **To support all SKIP members in exploring opportunities to further their personal and professional development**
  - We worked hard to create awareness of events and opportunities that are available to SKIP members. Each event provided the opportunity to develop skills, further knowledge and network with SKIP members both past and present. A highlight was SKIPfest, a celebration of 15 years of SKIP!
  - The training network continued to provide the "Training New Trainers" course to develop training, facilitating and leadership skills for members at all levels of SKIP. Participants then went on to lead a training session at a Big Weekend and join our growing network of trainers.
- **To improve recruitment and retainment, of both branch and project volunteers within SKIP.**
  - We worked hard to emphasise the importance of handover and early recruitment. We encouraged branches to think about this at an early stage to improve recruitment for both branch and volunteer roles and fully prepare all new members for their roles.
  - A new bylaw was passed at GA, to ensure early recruitment of key roles at branch level, allow for an extended handover, and facilitate a smooth transition into the new academic year.





## Branch Mentor Update

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 number of years; continuity enabling the provision of support to develop a strategic plan and achieve their goals. Importantly, they support the branch in the development and delivery of sustainable projects and the relationship with their collaborating organisation. They work closely with Branch Buddies and can provide training tailored to the branch's needs. Over the 2017-2018 academic year, our mentors have guided branches along various stages of the project cycle, helping to support new branches establish relationships with communities and partner organisations, ensuring established branches' interventions deliver a sustainable and demonstrable impact, and assisting branches in withdrawing from communities where their projects have come to a close.

### How we support our mentor team

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. Fortunately, through their experience in SKIP and with other organisations, the mentors we recruit have many of these skills already. However, we deliver training that ensures they are able to provide the highest level of support to our branches.

At this year's 2 day residential handover weekend, we welcomed all of our incoming mentors, along with more experienced mentors. This mix of experience is a unique opportunity for them to share their experiences supporting branches, discuss how they have approached different situations and learn from one another. Along with these discussions we also delivered structured training on performance management, working with external partners and guiding branches through the development and reviewing of Memorandum of Understanding with their collaborating organisations.

### Changes to the Mentor Team

We are very excited to welcome two new mentors for the year beginning 2018-2019:

- Seher Bashir, who is originally from SKIP St George's, has just completed a year on the National Committee as Global Health Lead. She will be mentoring SKIP Belfast.
- Vafie Sheriff, who has previously been Project Coordinator on SKIP St George's committee, will be applying his experience mentoring the same branch.
- Gary Paul, who has previously been a mentor for SKIP Edinburgh is now going to be taking over as mentor for SKIP Southampton
- Kathryn Baglow has been re-elected for another year to continue her exemplary support of SKIP Cardiff

We would like to say thank you and farewell to Farah Hebron and Emily Barrow who have both moved on from the mentor scheme. Their hard work and tireless support of our branches is greatly appreciated, and we wish them all the best for the future. Sinead Brereton is also moving on from her role as Mentor to St George's and we are excited to announce that she will be taking over the role of Branch Mentor Lead, coordinating the mentor scheme. In addition to her mentoring experience, Sinead has previously been Project Coordinator for Cardiff and worked on the National Committee in her role as Fundraising Coordinator. She is bringing a great amount of experience to the role and we are excited to see the mentor scheme continue to flourish and develop under her guidance. Thanks go to Rosie for being a wonderful Mentor Lead, we will miss you and you are amazing!



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# SKIP MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018



**93**

NUMBER OF  
SKIP PROJECT  
VOLUNTEERS

**12**

NUMBER OF PROJECT  
WAVES

**92**

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER  
COMPLETED ONLINE  
TRAINING

### TRAINING FEEDBACK:

"conveyed enthusiasm as well  
as professionalism"

"effective module which  
encompasses all aspects"

"very useful course"

[WWW.SKIPKIDS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SKIPKIDS.ORG.UK)



## Membership survey

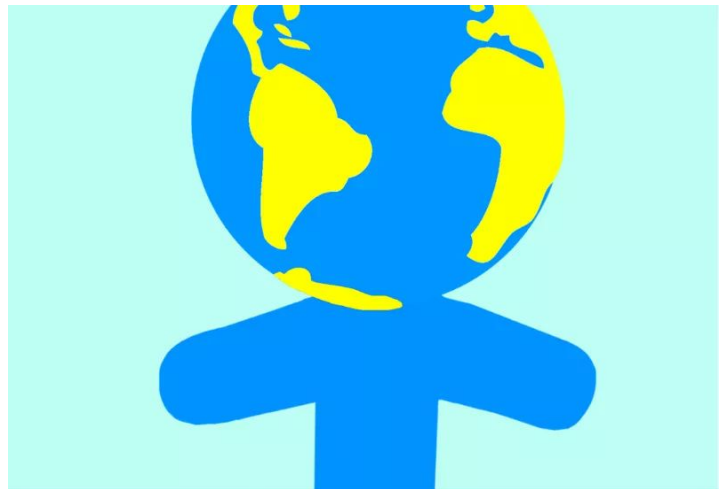
### What you told us...

"This was a wonderful experience that I would  
recommend to others"

"SKIP has been one of the most influential forces in  
my life to date"

"Thank you for letting me be a part of SKIP"

Sustainable - Inclusive - Empowering



**S**tudents for **K**ids  
**I**nternational **P**rojects

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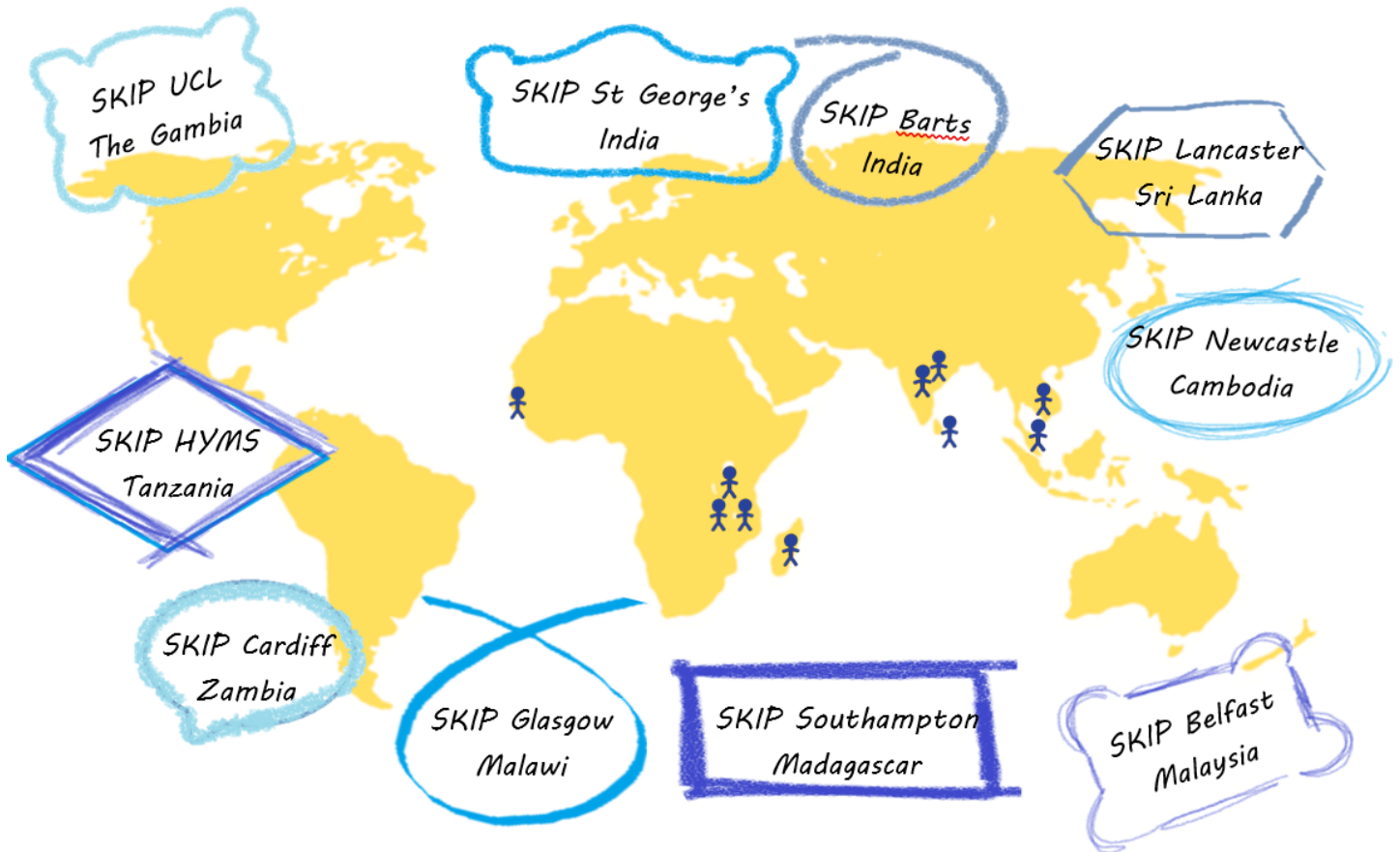
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## Branch Stories

All of our branches are doing fabulous work – we have chosen two branches to celebrate their achievements.



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# SKIP Newcastle 2018



This year at SKIP Newcastle has been full of research and development for our volunteers! As a committee we are directing our curriculums further down the health route and for our volunteers this meant teaching a brand new sex ed curriculum & holding focus groups across our villages into mental health and women's care.

## *Mental Health:*

It was bittersweet to find our community so receptive to talking about mental health.

Though we know there will be many challenges in our attempt to begin to educate them past the stereotypes. Our first step in this endeavour is appointing a new member of committee, Jack, to craft a curriculum which we hope to be ready for our 2019 volunteers.

## *Interventions in place:*

### *Sexual Education:*

The biggest success for our volunteers out on project this last summer was implementing our new Sex Ed curriculum! This was so well received by children across our 9 schools and more unexpectedly, our translators! Because of this we are considering developing a more adult based sexual health lesson for other members of the community.



## *Women's care:*

Our volunteers found there was no need for the support group we intended to put into place we found

the health centres crying out for more physical support. There is a massive deficit of long term equipment which we hope to help them work to replace.



## *Water filters:*

Sadly our project from the previous year is not currently being used due to the government eliminating the need for them. They do use them as backup's if water deliveries fail!

## *English:*

Though we are taking more of a backseat in regards to our English curriculum we still taught 60 hours of English to each class this summer which we are all incredibly proud of! We hope to find a more happy medium with our partner organisation this year between Health and English and our committee will be editing our curriculum to reflect this.





## SKIP UCL

For the past 7 years, we have been sending volunteers to a project for disabled children in Ghana. There, our aim was to improve the health and welfare of the children by funding sustainable interventions. As this partnership came to a close in summer 2017, an exciting opportunity arose this year to find a new NGO to partner with.

After researching a number of countries and organisations, we finally settled on the Gambia and sent 6 volunteers on a research trip this summer. The volunteers visited several projects, all of which work to improve child health and welfare in some way. This included an environmental organisation (The Green Trust), a charity for education and mental health (Forward For You), a respite home for children with disabilities (Hart House), and an organisation promoting women's empowerment (Women Advancement and Childcare). The trip was a resounding success; all of the NGOs were overwhelmingly inspiring and hospitable, not unlike the people and culture of Gambia itself. The volunteers successfully collected relevant data that is needed for the committee to discuss and decide which NGO to establish a partnership with.

All of the committee members are looking forward to the start of a new partnership with The Green Trust. We will keep you posted 😊

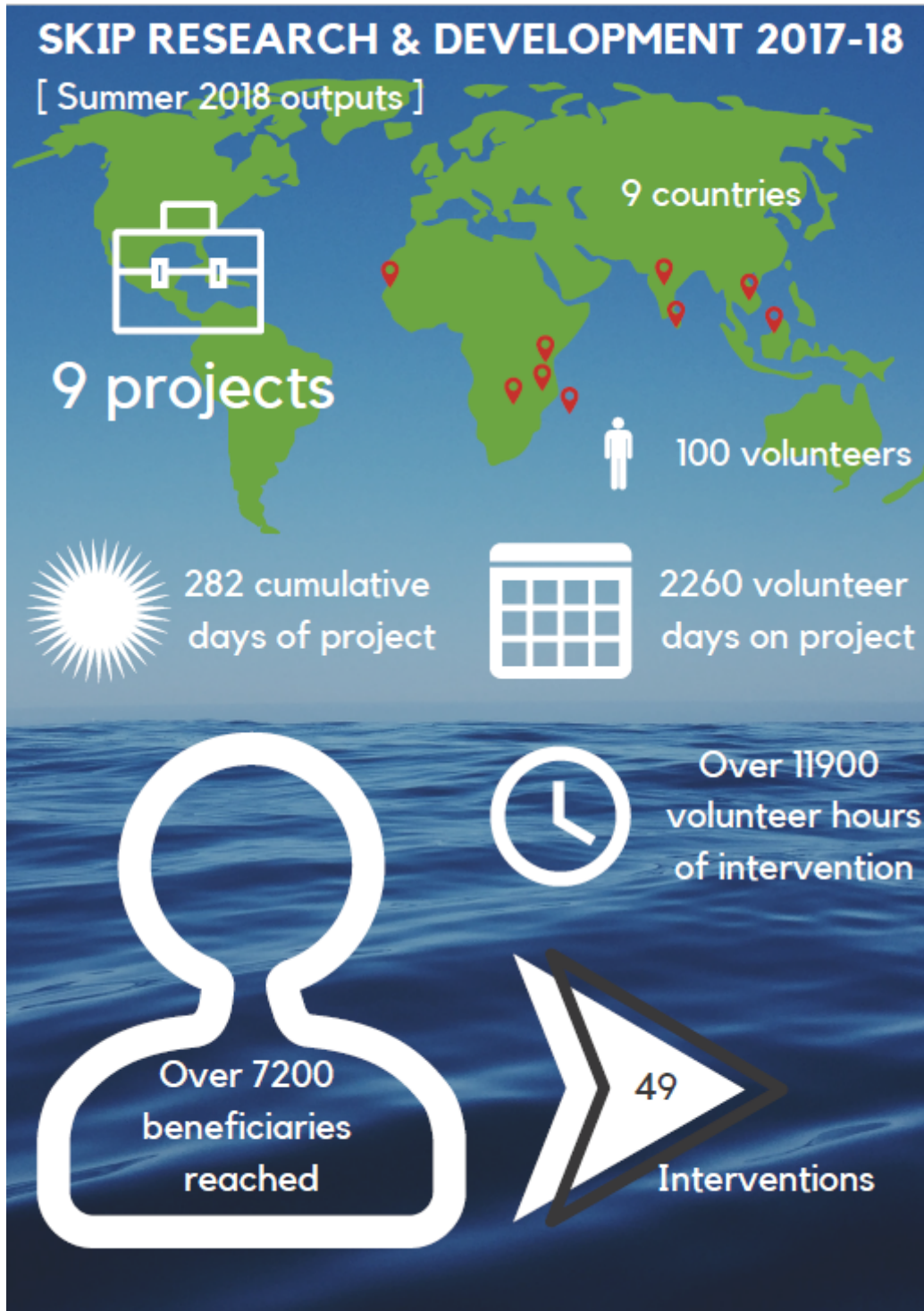


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# SKIP Interventions



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## Blue Boy Awards

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Commented [NC2]:

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Within SKIP we recognise the importance of rewarding the fantastic efforts of our volunteers. Many volunteers put in hours and hours of work each week and without them SKIP would not be making the progress it is. The 'Blue Boy Awards' is an annual event that gives us a platform to acknowledge and celebrate the success of our members. Winners receive a certificate for their professional development portfolio as well as a prize, which varies from team building activities to funds for interventions. They are presented in an awards ceremony at our Spring Big Weekend.

**Branch of the year: SKIP Glasgow**

**Volunteer of the year: Rachel Yelland (Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator)**

**Trainer of the year: Bryant Lee (SKIP HYMS)**

**Fundraiser of the year: Gwendoline Thong (SKIP Belfast)**

**Fundraising event of the year: SKIP HYMS**

**Global Award: Nikkita Gore (SKIP Barts)**

**I Ahmed Fund: SKIP Glasgow**



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# SKIP Alumni

**SKIPfest**

With music from.....  
**Conor Hartley**  
**Bongo Monkey's Mid Life Crisis**  
**Holly Elizabeth**  
**YaYa Logie**  
**Tony Gillam**  
**Absolute Rewind**

Join us to celebrate 15 years of SKIP memories

Bouncy Castle	Table Tennis
Sumo Suits	Garden Games
Fire pits & marshmallows	Hot Tub
BBQ dinner	Face-painting
Silent Disco	and much more..
Empathy for the Devil session	



15 years of SKIP  
and we raised....  
**£445.49**



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## Risk review

### Glasgow Child Protection

Volunteer added to whatsapp group related to NGO before project and reported inappropriate conversations

SKIP Trustees contacted CO to gather further information and recieved acknowledgement of email

Despite 5 further emails sent to the NGO, sadly we recieved no replies. RCA conducted by Trustees. As partnership with NGO was ending, we have limited opportunity for further engagement. Plans made for ongoing child protection mapping in the area.

### Newcastle Child Protection

Volunteers witnessed a child in the community, unrelated to the NGO, being hit with a plank of wood

Trustees conducted brief child protection mapping to gain understanding of situation in Cambodia

Email sent to NGO who confirmed that the police were aware. Debrief offered to volunteers. Branch mentor to support with child protection mapping in Cambodia.



## Financial Review

Will be added at a later date once we hear back from our accountant



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## Snippets from the year ahead



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Any questions...



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THANK YOU TO ALL SKIP MEMBERS



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## Appendix: Accounts

Will be added at a later date once we hear back from our accountant



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