

A Year in SKIP

Annual Report 2017



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 have spent time developing an alumni network to encourage people to stay involved and up to date with SKIP developments. Through the power of social media and a new membership database, we hope to develop a strong active network of alumni who can support SKIP through training, donations and also provide an enthusiastic global health community.

As a charity, we created some exciting supporting alumni roles including branch mentor lead, online training lead and annual review of budget lead. Having committed enthusiastic individuals in these roles will provide a stronger focus in these areas and all roles will work closely with the Trustees.

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



Students for Kids
International Projects
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Scottish Registered Charity: SCO4556

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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.

We aim to develop and maintain sustainable, community based projects aimed at improving the health, education and welfare of vulnerable children and to develop globally and culturally aware students who can advocate for local and international health progress as future professionals. 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.

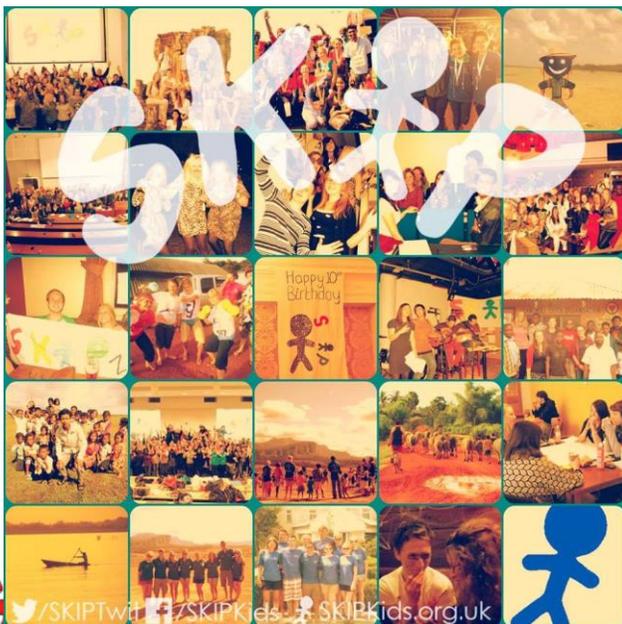
Our Ethos

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?



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By involving members of the local community, to encourage more responsibility, enthusiasm

and recognition of the needs of the children.

How did SKIP start?

From small beginnings come great things

A small group of Cardiff healthcare undergraduates began developing a Belarusian aid project for a children's orphanage. Shocked by conditions first found there, but also aware of the simple contributions that could improve quality of life, each summer students provided support to care programs, recreational activities and raised funds to supplement development. The concept was simple, students taking action now to support vulnerable children. It was apparent that students had the capacity, perseverance and drive for such projects and the orphanage as well as the students flourished in the process thus realising our SKIP vision!

Presented at the University of Birmingham the concept gave birth to SKIP! In the summer of 2003 50 volunteers travelled to Zambia to assist in a local organisation in developing community schools. At this point the SKIP Ethos began to thrive as the idea of developing projects in conjunction with collaborating organisations to improve the lives of children and communities took life. A set of morals and ethics developed, with the projects seeking to be sustainable, as well as integrate and empower local communities to support health, welfare and education of their children. Through this we hoped to not only improve the lives of children but to create healthcare professionals who would go on to become advocates for international health and child welfare.

SKIP became a registered charity in 2003 and alumni of Birmingham and Cardiff schemes collaborated to unite concepts and the charity as the National Committee. By autumn 2005 the first National conference was held and new branches were recruited to begin development of their own projects, so that by 2007 several established projects were taking place around the world. SKIP had grown faster than anyone had expected, as a fully voluntary organisation, run entirely by students we began to struggle under the strain of supporting and regulating so many projects. It became apparent the simple national infrastructure was not sufficient to provide long-term knowledge retention.

Autumn 2007 the Executive board was created. As a governing body of trustees and supporting alumni with several years experience, their knowledge could be utilised to support and guide the national committee, branches and projects as well as tackle the complex decisions about the charities growth, ethical behaviours and critical events. SKIP had entered a new phase of organisational development; we wanted branches to take greater ownership and responsibility for the rules that governed them to translate directly into national policies. With a revised constitution and new system of bylaws for branches, national and executive committees to work together to develop and govern them **SKIP emerged with a stronger sense of identity, unity and firmer sense of morals and ethics than ever before.**



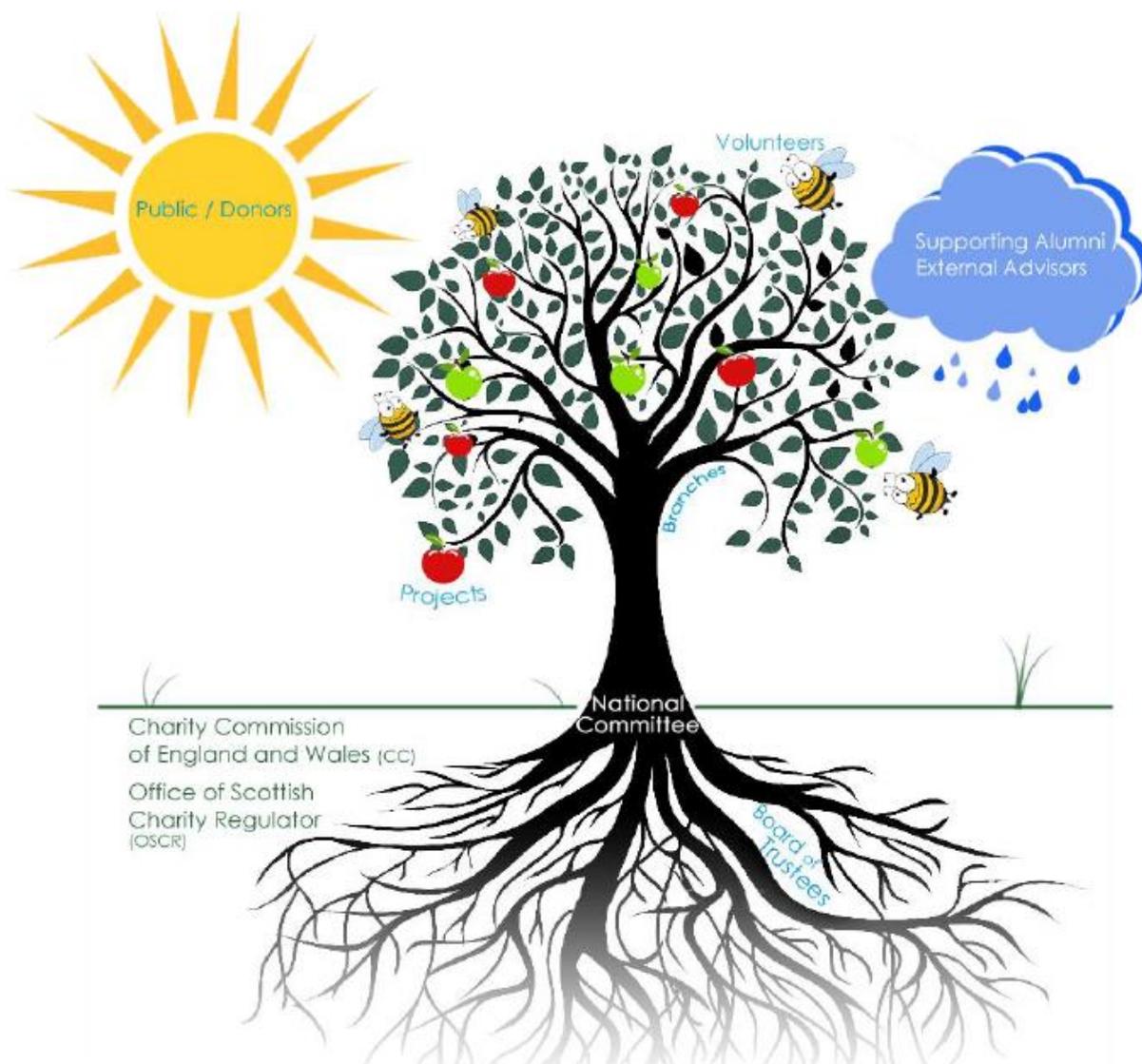
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2012 and a commitment to ensuring SKIP's continued sustainable development and growth. A full Board of Trustees to replace the Executive Board is elected, who continue to support SKIP in key areas such as branch mentoring, fundraising, training and organisational development.

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.



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. This year we said a sad farewell to Andy Young, one of our fantastic trustees, we would like to thank him for all his hard work over the last decade.

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 11 SKIP branches in various stages of development. Ten 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. We are very excited to have one candidate branch, which are our newest branches in the very early stages of their branch and 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. From 2017, this group will be 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, empower and inspire the SKIP family, enabling the growth and continued development of safe and sustainable projects.

Aims

- **To improve communication, transparency and awareness between all elements of the SKIP community**
 - We have continued to provide a year-round source of advice and support for our branches from national committee via the SKIP "buddy scheme"
 - We have introduced a new one-to-one communication process on the national committee in addition to committee meetings ensuring each member is fully supported to share their ideas
 - We have continued to encourage branches to share best practice ideas via the "Branch Brainy Bits" sessions at SKIP Big Weekends
 - Through newsletters and social media, we have increased awareness of SKIP's activities and events across our wider network
- **To support planning and progress of all projects**
 - Supporting branches in project planning has been challenging due to the current range of stages our branches are at in their project development, with some only beginning and others coming to an end. However, several very exciting international projects have been conducted this summer, as well as a Christmas project!
 - As is the case every year, the most important aspect of this has been ensuring our branches are fully supported by national committee via the buddy scheme. Through this, we have provided advice and guidance throughout project planning and ensured branches are following tools deadlines and the "Steps to Summer" series of deadlines, thus running fully planned and safe projects.
 - Training sessions at the Big Weekends have helped to clarify the different project stages our branches are currently at (including those at earlier, needs assessment stages) as well as the Steps to Summer that each must complete.
- **To encourage and enhance the personal & professional development of members**
 - SKIP's Personal and Professional Development Impact report, opportunities to attend training events and opportunities to contribute to SKIP newsletters and the Global Award have all been publicised via various communication and social media platforms. These have helped to encourage SKIP members to learn new skills through participation in SKIP activities.



Branch Mentor Update

Our team of dedicated Branch Mentors are returning SKIP alumni who provide personalised support to our branches. Each Branch Mentor is assigned to a SKIP branch for a number of years, and over that time helps them to develop a long term strategic plan, and to achieve the goals they set out. They also support the branch in their relationship with their collaborating organisation and provide training tailored to the branch's needs.

Over the 2016-2017 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 regular 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 a number of more experienced mentors, and two of our outgoing 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.

Changes to the Mentor Team

This year we are very excited to welcome three new mentors:

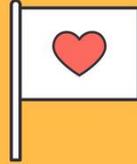
- Becky Thompson, who is originally from SKIP Glasgow, has just completed 2 years on the National Committee as events coordinator. She will be mentoring SKIP Lancaster.
- Killian Turbitt, who has been a long term committee member at SKIP Newcastle, taking on a number of roles including training coordinator and project coordinator, will be mentoring SKIP Barts.
- Victoria Powell, who started out at SKIP Cardiff, and has spent the previous 2 years on the National Committee as publicity coordinator and then national coordinator, will be mentoring SKIP UCL.

We would also like to say thank you and farewell to James Conroy, Katie Heseltine and Jack Stevenson, who have all moved on from the mentor scheme this year. We massively appreciate all their hard work providing support to our branches and wish them all the best for the future. Also moving on will be Andy Young, who has been coordinating the mentor scheme as one of SKIP's Trustees for the past 3 years. Rosie Pelham, a previous SKIP St George's project coordinator and National Coordinator, will be taking over the management of the mentor team. She is bringing a great amount of experience and a real talent for motivating and leading others to the role. We are excited to see the mentor scheme continue to flourish and develop under her guidance.



2016-2017

SKIP MEMBERSHIP



PEOPLE LOVE SKIP

SKIP has made me the doctor, friend and humanitarian I am today. The professional experience I have gained has been unbeatable and the personal growth immeasurable



PROJECT REFLECTIONS

Project was amazing everything from the accommodation to the food to the translators. It was by far the most rewarding experience of my life



RECOMMENDATIONS

94% of people plan would recommend SKIP to their friends



WHAT SKILLS HAS SKIP DEVELOPED?

100% - teamwork
90% - leadership
90% - global health knowledge



STAYING INVOLVED

66% of volunteers plan to stay involved in 2018

SOURCE:

<http://skipkids.org.uk>



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SKIP MEMBERSHIP 2016-2017

105

NUMBER OF SKIP
PROJECT
VOLUNTEERS

11

NUMBER OF SKIP
BRANCHES



SKIP VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS



74%



26%



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Branch Stories

All of our branches are doing fabulous work – we have chosen two branches at different stages in the project development to demonstrate their impact.

SKIP Glasgow

SKIP Glasgow has just completed a fantastic year, and there's no better way to celebrate than sharing it with all of our SKIP friends. Our committee started the year off feeling disheartened by the recruitment difficulties we had the year before, but with a new incredible publicity officer on board who created our 'People of SKIP Glasgow' facebook campaign – where we introduced the world to our committee 1 by 1 – the applications came flooding in! We recruited 3 teams of enthusiastic volunteers and so training began: first with our December training day where the volunteers finally meet their team, followed by our annual residential weekend in Creiff – complete with interactive sessions, role play activities, fancy dress and a scavenger hunt!



"I am immensely proud of what SKIP Glasgow has achieved this year and will miss the branch so much when I leave. I'm so glad I had the chance to work with a brilliant bunch of inspiring students and I have definitely made friends for life!" – Chelsea, outgoing Project Coordinator

Following our extensive training – our volunteers were ready for project! Team 1 flew out to Malawi in June and hit the ground running, by immediately making plans with NAYO regarding how to spend the I Ahmed money on our clinic stall intervention. Team 1 quickly established a strong relationship with the clinic stall committee and used the money wisely to restock the stall, buy padlocks to create safe storage, and buy logbooks so the clinic staff could learn how to effectively record keep. Team 2 kept the project going strong: they taught the clinic stall committee how to keep their books, began teaching healthcare to primary school children, and set up regular teaching sessions at Bvumbwe Prison – a youth rehabilitation centre we visit every year. Finally, Team 3 arrived – our only all girl team – and used their girl power to focus on interventions involving women and girls only. After collecting RnD data last year, SKIP Glasgow started Project Mwezi and taught many women and girls in the community how to make reusable sanitary pads. They also ensured that our women's group – MAWE – had a reliable contact setup at Responsible Safari Company so they could continue to sell their handmade bags, laptop cases and clothing to tourists in Malawi – and all of these profits go back into the community to support vulnerable families. Team 3 achieved this whilst continuing to run summer school, youth group and the Bvumbwe prison sessions – pheww, our volunteers all worked extremely hard this year!

"What a project!" – Hannah, volunteer

SKIP Glasgow are very proud of their achievements this past year and can't wait to see what next year's committee accomplish!



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SKIP Southampton

We had a busy start to the year attending recruitment events. We recruited 9 enthusiastic volunteers from an array of disciplines and year groups. Our volunteers conducted a 5 week project in Madagascar, reaching the surrounding rural villages of Ambohimahasina and deprived urban area of Fianarantsoa.



In the last year, we have focused our efforts on updating our interventions, developing a new teaching manual and conducting preliminary baseline research into new interventions including climate and sustainability, soap making and wellbeing. Our Research & Development team have worked extremely hard to assess the Youth Camp, which we have funded for the last 2 years. Our focus on empowering children has led to successful interventions in sexual health, equality and Project Mwezi, which teaches individuals how to make sustainable homemade sanitary towels. We strive to expand upon these interventions in the future of our projects.



"The interventions are so beneficial to the local communities. It's an amazing way to learn about each others cultures" - SKIP Southampton volunteer 2017



Our committee members enjoyed both SKIP Big Weekends and were very honoured to win the Blue Boy Award for Intervention of the Year award for our R&D assessment of the soap making intervention. Our Project Coordinator also won the Volunteer of the Year award. We also attended the Southampton Students Union Excellence in Volunteering Awards, where we were shortlisted for Best Sustainability Initiative and our project coordinator won the external engagement Volunteer of the Year award.

"SKIP Southampton has been my family for 3 years, I hope our committee can be as proud as I am for the amazing project we have all created". Kate Worthington, SKIP Southampton Project Coordinator 2016-17

We're very much looking forward to the new academic year and hope to build on our successes, by improving our recruitment process and continue to assess the sustainability of current interventions whilst assessing the R&D findings. We have a lot of enthusiasm for developing the wellbeing intervention to include topics on stress, alcohol abuse and dealing with emotions in which we hope to conduct preliminary research.

Finally, we would love to thank everyone who has supported us this year through all of our ups and downs, especially our amazing SKIP buddy, Hericka. Please stay in touch with the developments of SKIP Southampton at our Facebook page: SKIP Southampton and Instagram: skipsouthampton

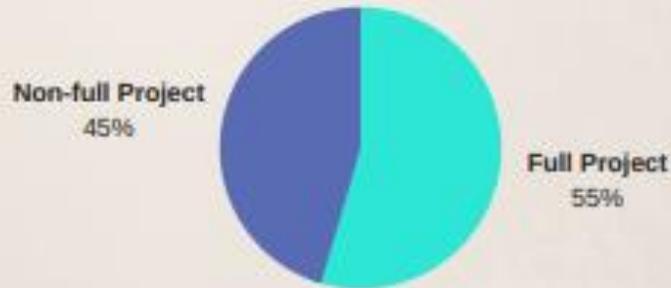
***All our SKIP love!
SKIP Southampton x***



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SKIP's Project Stages



Proportion of branches at full/non-full project stage

2017 was a challenge for SKIP's Research and Development team. Multiple branches were at a stage of choosing new countries to work in, new Collaborating Organisations to work with, or Needs Assessing a new location. Multiple changes to the way SKIP works had occurred since the original tools to aid branches through these stages had been developed. This necessitated the creation of a new, up to date suite of non-full project tools to aid branches.



Breakdown of non-full project stages

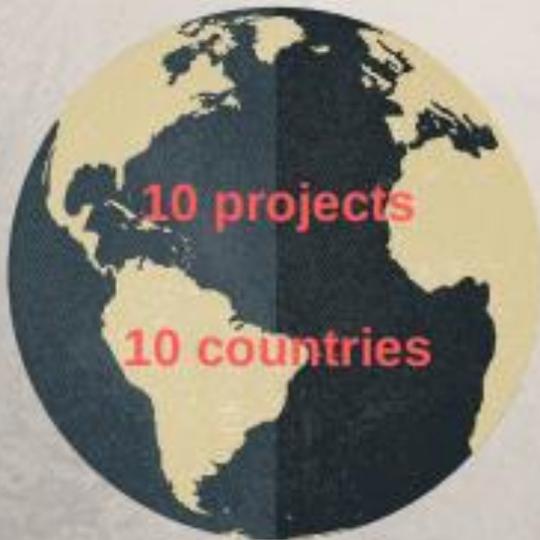
Training at SKIP Big Weekends was targeted to aid branches in using these new tools, and one-to-one support was made available via the SKIP R'n'D Team.

SKIP'S PROJECT OUTPUTS

Over 5800
beneficiaries reached

41
interventions

114
volunteers



SKIP achieved 10 successful projects in 2016/17 to 10 different countries. Over 5800 people benefited from at least one of our 41 interventions. We achieved this despite five branches not being at full-project stage, conducting needs assessments or identifying new collaborating organisations to work with.



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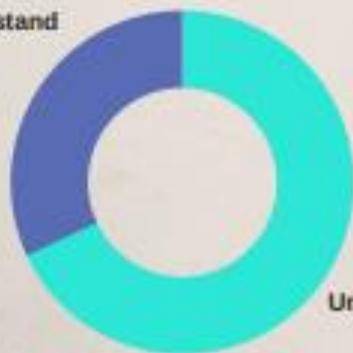
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CASE STUDY: SKIP CARDIFF

Cardiff sent two waves of six volunteers to Livingstone, Zambia from 12th June to 31st July 2017. Their interventions predominantly involve health education and community empowerment.



Don't understand
32%

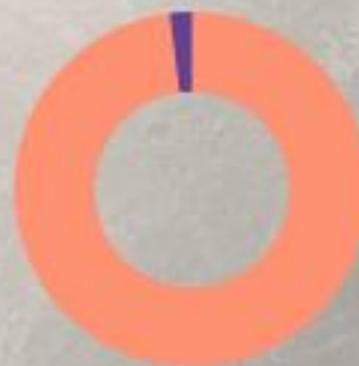


Understand
68%

A number of Cardiff's interventions involve teaching on relationships and consent. Before their intervention, a third of teenagers did not understand the concept of consent in sexual relationships

Following Cardiff's teaching intervention, 98% of teenagers understood the concept of consent.

Don't understand
2%



Understand
98%



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Blue Boy Awards

Within SKIP we recognise the importance of celebrating the fantastic work our volunteers do throughout the year. Across the charity, our members put in hours of hard work to make SKIP a success. The 'Blue Boy Awards' is an annual event held at our second big weekend, that gives us a platform to celebrate the success of our members. Winners received a certificate for their professional development portfolio, as well as a prize which varies from team building activities to funds for interventions.

Branch of the Year: SKIP St Georges

Volunteer of the Year: Kate Worthington (Southampton)

Trainer of the Year: Elliot Cissold (National Committee)

Fundraiser of the Year: Naireen Asim (SKIP St Georges)

Fundraising Event of the Year: SKIP Cardiff

Global Award: Kenneth McClean (SKIP Edinburgh)

I Ahmad Fund: SKIP Southampton



Risk review

Cardiff Child Protection

Volunteers informed SKIP Trustees that teachers at one of the schools had been seen hitting children

SKIP Trustees worked with NGO (Dream Livingstone) to liaise with the school

On contact with the school, it was clear they had already identified this problem. They had employed a new head-teacher and more full-time teaching staff. SKIP Cardiff hope to return to the school in 2018 to assess the changes.

Edinburgh Volunteer Mugging

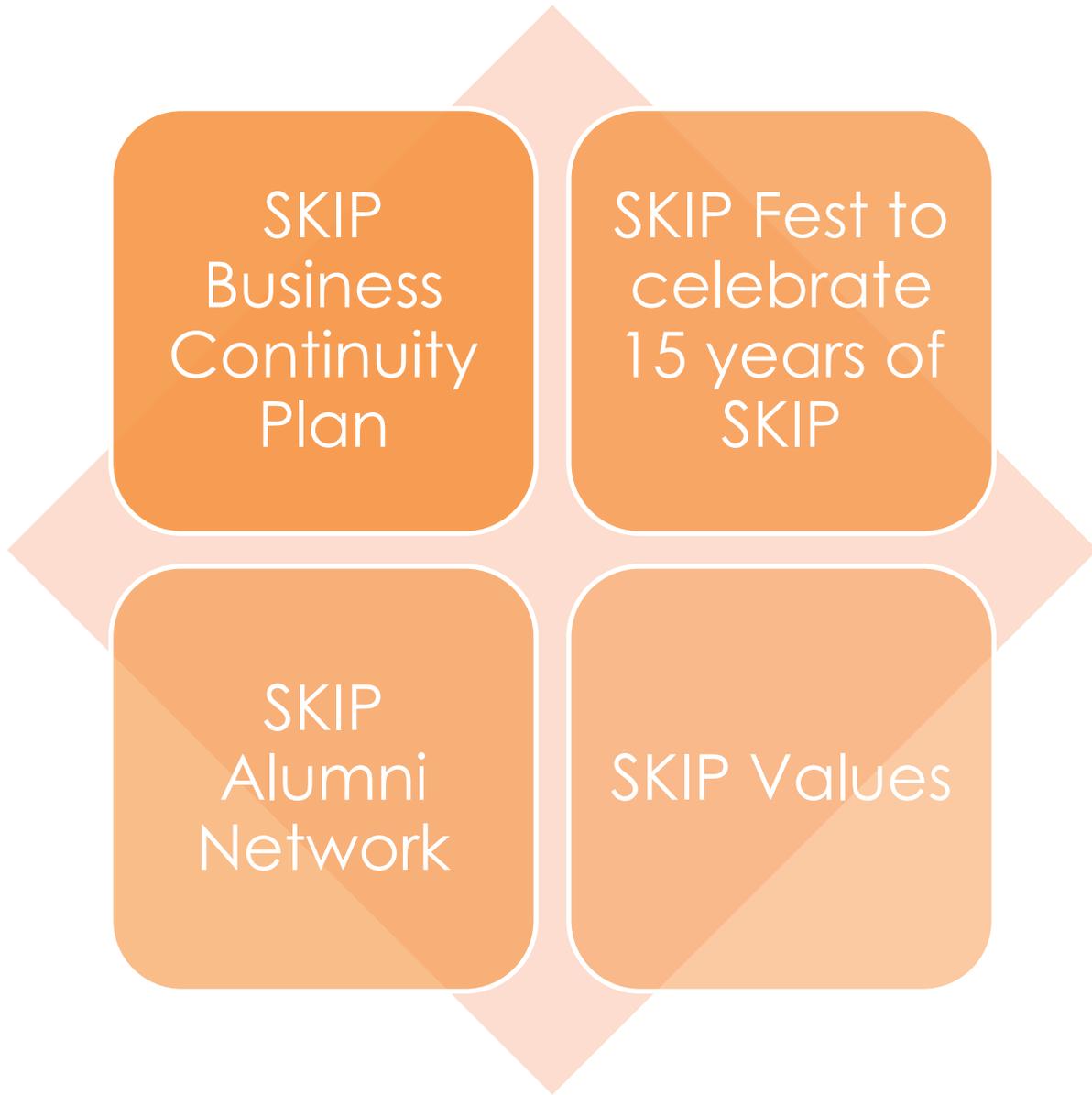
SKIP Edinburgh volunteers were victims of a mugging in Moldova

Volunteers contacted SKIP NC who provided support in liaising with the local police and the embassy

SKIP volunteers made the decision to return to the UK and were supported in this plan. A debrief was led by a SKIP Trustee on their return to the UK.



Snippets from the year ahead





Any questions....

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THANK YOU TO ALL SKIP MEMBERS



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