



**Renewable World**

TACKLING POVERTY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY



**Annual  
Review  
2014/15**



# Vision

“A world where everyone has access to affordable renewable energy, as an effective contribution to the elimination of poverty”

# Mission

“To develop and apply scaleable mechanisms that empower poor communities to achieve sustainable and resilient livelihoods through renewable energy”



**140 million hours per day are spent fetching and carrying water**

UN Water



**4.3 million people die prematurely from illness attributable to household air pollution from cooking with solid fuels**

World Health Organisation



**1.4 billion people lack access to energy**

UNDP





**85% of the world's energy poor live in remote, low-density, rural areas**

World Energy Outlook 2010

***“Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. I know this from my own experience”***

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



# About Us

Renewable World works in rural areas of developing countries **providing energy poor communities with access to renewable and sustainable energy.** Energy access is critical to improve livelihoods and break the cycle of poverty.

Working with rural communities and local partners, Renewable World provides **training, links to markets, and access to renewable energy in order to alleviate poverty** in the developing world.



# Where We Work

Communities in **East Africa, South Asia,** and **Central America** are currently benefiting from our life changing work.



**SOLAR**



**BIO-GAS**



**WIND**



**HYDRO**



# Chairman's Statement



**I first became involved with Renewable World back in 2013 whilst fundraising during a sponsored Kilimanjaro trek. I was inspired by their work with the poorest rural communities to give them a hand up rather than a hand-out, through the power of renewable energy. I became Chairman in January this year after helping the Board and management team commence a strategy review process. Already I am amazed with the amount and quality of work undertaken by all staff on such limited resources.**

So far my journey with Renewable World feels rather like climbing a mountain, exhilarating, energetic and somewhat all consuming!

Following on from the prior year's reorganisation, 2014/15 has been a year of resourcing and getting back to work in our projects and regions. Exciting new multi-year projects in Nepal and Nicaragua and numerous proposals illustrate the opportunities, but we are ever mindful of our capacity to deliver quality in everything we do. We have started to build governance, fundraising, programme and organisational capacity through careful and cost effective investment in staff and systems to provide the stability required to support this growth and minimise risk within the organisation.

Since joining one of my focuses has been to strengthen the governance and utilise the skills of the trustees and staff, many of whom are fresh to the organisation. Our Board Committees provide the forum to implement strong governance and monitor effectiveness.

We are very lucky to have a broad range of support and particularly that from businesses within the UK and Irish Renewable Energy industry that carry on their vision of a world powered by renewables outside their day job. The goodwill shown by our supporters helps to further inspire us. Engaging with our supporter base to deliver long term partnerships is a key aim.

We will continue to develop our strategy and business plans throughout 2015/16 to enable us to achieve our mission and make a greater impact.

In summary Renewable World is an organisation reborn, revitalised and reinvigorated by a new team building on a legacy to provide energy for all and make a meaningful contribution to the reduction in global poverty.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alex Hassan'.

Alex Hassan

# Review of the Year

**3 core Nepal programmes** (community Hydrum water pumping, Biogas and Solar water pumping)

**3 major projects:** UNICEF ADAP Nepal adolescent project, Lake Victoria enterprise and Mahogany community lighting

**22 local implementing partners** working on our projects

**84 funding partners**

**2 gala raffles**

**20 challenge event entrants**

**7 new UK Board Trustees**

**5 new people** recruited to our regional teams

**£499,688 awarded** from Big Lottery Fund Grant over 3 years for the SolarMUS water pumping **project in Nepal**

**£118,235 awarded** over 3 years from The Genesis Foundation for the Mahogany Reserve community lighting and enterprise development **project in Nicaragua**

Unrestricted general **reserves grown from £74,622** at 31/03/14 to **£108,737** at 31/03/15

# 1 mission shared by us all



# Our Ambassador's visit to Kenya

By Sarah Donnelly, Vice Chair

**They say you cannot understand someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes. So when I had the chance to visit some communities we work with in Kenya, I seized it. Renewable World Ambassador, television presenter Gethin Jones, walked with me.**

It was Gethin's second trip to see our projects. He had already been to Nepal and was hugely inspired by Nick, our Global Programme Manager, and the work he saw. It was strange that he was one step ahead of me. Yet I found Gethin's passion for what we do infectious.

We visited communities on the shores of Lake Victoria due to benefit from our Comic Relief funding. We sat with them. We talked with them. We ate with them. We will never really know what it's like to live their lives. We (hopefully) will never spend eight hours a day collecting water. We will never have to sell our bodies to feed our families. We won't miss out on education because we have chores or no light to study. Our lungs won't be destroyed by cooking with toxic chemicals in our home. But what we do know, is that no one else should live like this either.

These communities need the opportunity to develop. They are hungry for it. Renewable World enables them to set up small businesses and generate income in a clean, sustainable way.

It was wonderful to meet Ken, who has used the energy we provided for solar lighting to keep his café business open through the night and earn enough money to send his children to school. That means everything to him. He is smart and kind and optimistic for the future.

I learned that our projects take time, because we make sure we do everything properly. Although we have developed a strong model, all our projects are tailor made, to meet the individual needs of each different community. No projects are implemented without involving local partners or without women and adolescents from the community being on the steering group. All communities are trained in how to manage and maintain the technology and associated finances independently so it is truly sustainable. I couldn't have been more proud of what we do and how we operate.

What I discovered on this trip was that Renewable World does indeed walk in another man's, woman's or child's shoes every time we develop a project. Our aim is not to provide 'new shoes' as it were, but to help people increase their income so they can buy their next pair themselves.

Gethin works with many charities but I'm so pleased Renewable World has a special place in his heart. Shortly after returning home, he kindly nominated us as the recipient of his charity donation for doing Celebrity Mastermind. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration to change lives.

*"It's about giving people more than hope, it's giving them choices. I have no shame in exploiting my position to raise awareness and raise some money for this amazing cause. I truly believe in what they are doing. Every penny donated goes where it should be going. I guarantee it. I know them, I've seen it. For as long as I can afford it I will do as much as I can to help"*

**Gethin Jones, Ambassador**







# Sustainability

Renewable World ensures that sustainability is at the core of everything we do. Across our programmes in South Asia, East Africa, and Central America, the principle of sustainability must be present throughout the projects development, implementation and beyond. In order for benefits from renewable energy to deliver lasting impacts, projects must be financially, technically, environmentally, organisationally, and culturally sustainable.

This is achieved via a range of interlocking, self-supporting tools, methods and processes integrated into our implementation model: continually developed and adapted from learnings applied over seven years of successful project development and implementation.





# Our Work & Areas of Impact

As highlighted by the Millennium Development Goals, the fight against poverty involves a series of interlinked issues that need to be addressed in order for poverty to be reduced. Consequently, our intervention model involves a holistic approach to project design, development, and implementation.

Through our work, we assess how the provision of affordable renewable energy will positively impact on incomes, production, health and educational attainment: measuring tangible impacts on each of these in the process.

As a consequence, although our primary goal is addressing energy poverty, our impacts are targeted at a range of interlocking poverty alleviation themes. Both directly, and indirectly, our work delivers critical benefits for the poor in the areas of sustainable livelihoods and enterprise development, improved health and wellbeing, women and adolescents empowerment, access to information, education and skills attainment and environmental sustainability.



# Our Programme Highlights 2014/15

## Nepal

**723 beneficiaries** receiving water for domestic and agricultural use through 5 Hydrams

**37 households** benefiting from clean energy from 4 community biogas systems

**169 community members received training** including governance and financial literacy, agriculture and micro irrigation, technical and maintenance and supply chain development

**1 new programme** launched with support from Big Lottery Fund SolarMUS II **to install 19 solar water pumping systems** directly benefiting 5,500 individuals by 2018

**20 master trainers** trained in adolescent enterprise and life skills training packages with the ultimate aim of **reaching out to 72,000 adolescents across 6 districts** as part of the UNICEF ADAP project

**4 showcase renewable energy technology systems installed** (2 large biogas plants, 1 Hydram and 1 solar pump) in 2 communities as part of our UNICEF ADAP project

An average of **22,443 litres of water pumped per day** by each Hydram pump

**1 pilot** mobile phone enabled water metering **system installed to measure and report the water usage** from 1 Hydram pump

**2 new project partnerships** established as renewable energy and poverty alleviation partner on DFID funded climate resilience programme (BRACED) and ADRA energy and livelihoods programme

**1st field office** established in Western Nepal





## Kenya

**2 solar energy hubs** installed in communities on the shores of Lake Victoria as part of our Comic Relief funded RESOLVE project with preparation for 4 more commenced

**60 individuals joined Community Based Organisations** (CBOs) to manage the new energy hub systems

**578 individuals across 6 communities** so far receiving direct benefits from **access to electricity from solar micro-grids**

**128 beneficiaries** took part in a 3 day training session on **leadership, governance and financial management**

**11.3 kw hours of power produced per day by each energy hub**



## Nicaragua

**1 project launched** in the Mahogany Ecological Reserve **to bring 65 households and 6 microenterprises** with solar PV **energy systems** over the next 3 years



# Our Work: Sustainable Livelihoods & Enterprise Development

## The need

**According to the UN, approximately 1.2 billion people in the world live in extreme poverty surviving on less than \$1.25 each day. Due to this lack of income and financial security these men, women and children are vulnerable to shocks and unexpected events. Often having few possessions and little education, they have limited opportunities for providing income for their families. Access to employment and enterprise improves income and livelihoods.**

Over 83 percent of Nepal's population and 75 percent of Kenya's population live in rural areas. The lack of income earning opportunities in these areas is a central cause of the widespread poverty and worsening food security in the country.

## Our action

**Renewable World's projects facilitate clean and sustainable sources of energy that act as a catalyst for economic and livelihood improvement. We realise that the greatest way to help those in extreme poverty is by providing them with the tools to escape it.**

Our catalyst for change comes in the form of renewable energy systems which facilitate community enterprises. In Nepal, our Community Biogas, Solar Water Pumping and Hydram projects have helped improve agricultural yields and incomes for farmers, and nurtured micro enterprise (a small business of few employees often funded by microcredit). Dairy producers, candle makers, and mushroom farmers, are just some of these enterprises.

The success of the initial solar water pumping (SolarMUS) project has led to the launch of SolarMUS II project this year. With funding from the Big Lottery Fund, it is set to directly benefit 5,500 people across 19 communities.

In order to ensure longevity and maximise success, micro enterprises and farmers must be linked to nearby markets. Consequently, we facilitate links to markets, government services and extension works and financial credit to support and stimulate enterprise establishment and growth. This model has been used as part of the Comic Relief funded Renewable Energy Solutions for Lake Victoria (RESOLVE) project; through which local businesses draw power from the solar energy hubs and community members receive micro loan credit to establish fledgling businesses<sup>1</sup>. We are expecting five new micro start-ups in each of the six communities where we have installed energy hubs, resulting in a 30% increase in income for connected households and businesses.



**We are expecting 30 new enterprises as a result of access to solar energy hubs**

<sup>1</sup> A social micro-finance institution with 0% interest rates





## Case Study

**Renewable World's RESOLVE project gives people in communities on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya an opportunity to improve their livelihoods using electricity generated through solar energy hubs.**

Until the installation of the solar energy hub, like most others in N'gore village, Charles Otieno had no choice but to rely on fishing to support his family. Now, with access to reliable power and training in microenterprise and financial management, Charles has had the opportunity to start his own business:

*"Since I was connected to the hub, my life has been changed. I was a fisherman before but have now started a business charging phones and am generating income for my family which means that my wife has now gone back to school.*

*My child used to be in a public school but now I have extra income I have moved him to a good private school. If my business continues, I want my wife to go on with her studies up to university. That is my dream."*

# Our Work: Improved Health & Wellbeing

## The need

**Through sickness, hunger, or lack of water, millions of lives are needlessly cut short across the globe every year. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 7.6 million children under the age of five die every year because of the effects of poverty.**

Extreme poverty is not only a lack of income and education, but also the main reason why babies do not receive life-saving vaccinations, why families are forced to rely on burning pollutants in their homes and drinking unsafe water, and why malnutrition is so common.

In 2012, 4.3 million people died because of indoor air pollution, more than half of these were among children under the age of five<sup>1</sup>: Put another way, a typical household's wood fire is the equivalent of burning 400 cigarettes an hour<sup>2</sup>.

## Our action

**Across our global programme, rural families continue to receive critical services that improve the quality of their lives and reduce poverty. The burning of toxic fossil fuels, wood and dung, is replaced with clean, affordable, and sustainable energy. In Nepal, our biogas programme enables women and children to breathe freely in their homes. In Kenya, our solar energy hub programme provides lighting and power that replaces the costly and dangerous burning of kerosene with clean energy.**

Essential to the livelihoods, health and wellbeing of families is the availability of enough useable water for household and agricultural production. Our Nepalese Hydrum water pumping programme provides rural communities with a plentiful supply of water for drinking, cooking, irrigation, and sanitation at the location it is needed.

Enough water in the right place redirects time (especially women's and children's) from long, insecure and arduous journeys crop production improves incomes and improves nutritional intake lowering incidences of malnutrition in the process, whilst clean water close to homes reduces water borne diseases considerably. These impacts have been delivered to 723 additional individuals just this year thanks to our five Hydrum installations.

<sup>1</sup> WHO, Household Air Pollution And Health. 2014. Web. 29 Sept. 2015. Fact Sheet No. 292.

<sup>2</sup> Kirk Smith, University of California at Berkeley 2015



**70 school children are benefitting from clean fuel and water as part of the UNICEF ADAP project**



## Case Study

**Renewable World's Community Owned Biogas for Livelihood Enhancement Project (COBLE) continues to install large scale biogas digesters to combat the use of polluting and hazardous solid fuels. Biogas plants convert animal dung into clean, safe biogas, providing fuel for cooking and micro enterprises; improving the health and wellbeing of community members in the process.**

One such community is Udrapur, home of Tabibun Behana Nisa. In order to cook, Tabibun has to send her daughters to a forest across the Indian border to gather firewood three days a week. Every time they go she is terrified and for good reason; the border crossing is illegal and if caught by the police, arbitrary violence may follow with punitive fines commonplace. Cooking for at least four hours every day in a firewood smoke-filled room induces frequent eye and chest infections and reduces their life expectancy. For Tabibun and her family, the biogas plant will reduce their exposure to violence, improve their health and open up new opportunities:

*'My daughters will not have to risk their safety going to the jungle to collect firewood. Cooking with biogas will save time they would have spent collecting firewood, and they can use that time to go to school and not miss class. The smoke currently hurts our eyes and my daughters cough a lot, with the new gas we will be able to feel more healthy and have clean air in our home.'*

The slurry (bi-product) from the plant will also enable Tabibun and her daughters to grow high value vegetables to improve their diet and increase their household income.



# Our Work: Women & Adolescent Empowerment

## The need

**Despite significant advances in recent years, gender inequality is still a global issue. Women disproportionately lack access to health, education, income, and learning opportunities. Women and girls account for six out of 10 of the world's poorest and two-thirds of the world's illiterate people<sup>1</sup>. Only half of the world's working age women are in the labour force, compared to 77 percent of working age men and some 65 million girls are out of school, missing out on the chance to develop vital skills for their futures<sup>2</sup>.**

Twenty percent of young people in developing countries fail to complete primary school and lack skills for work<sup>3</sup>. Often children, and girls in particular, do not attend school as they must collect water and firewood for their household. For those that do complete primary education, secondary education remains limited and unemployment rates are high. Poverty reduction is not only about meeting basic needs; it is also about participation, influence and power<sup>4</sup>.

1 UNDP. Gender Equality And UNDP. New York: UNDP, 2009. Web. 27 Sept. 2015. Fast Facts UNDP.

2 UNESCO. Girl's Education - The Facts. New York: UN, 2013. Print. Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

3 UNDP. Gender Equality and UNDP. New York: UNDP, 2009. Web. 27 Sept. 2015. Fast Facts UNDP.

4 UN-DESA. The Role of Young People In Poverty Reduction: Tackling Poverty Together. Stockholm: LSU, 2009.

## Our action

**Kenya, Nepal and Nicaragua, in which our renewable energy projects are based, rank as some of the lowest nations for gender equality according to the UNDP. We aim to ensure both women and adolescents are involved in, and benefit from, our work improving the impact of the projects and ensuring sustainability.**

In 2013, UNICEF Nepal launched Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), a programme designed to give 72,000 young people in Nepal professional and life skills. In the second year of this two year programme, Renewable World has developed livelihood skills training materials to build capacities of disadvantaged and marginalized adolescents, especially girls. Over 2,500 young people have now benefited from training in business skills with a focus on renewable energy systems and livelihoods. As part of the programme we installed four 'showcase sites'. We involved adolescents in the installation, running and profiting from these renewable energy systems, inspiring young people to use renewable energy.

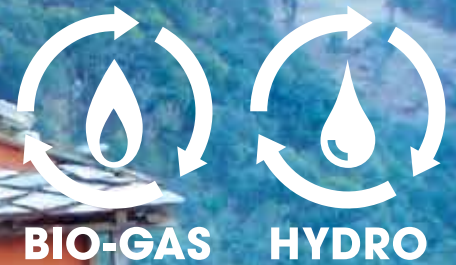
The Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that are established as the energy system owning body are an important part of our implementation model. Each CBO's constitution requires that a minimum of 50% women and 30% adolescents are represented on the management board, providing a platform for voices to be heard, interests to be included, and social norms to be challenged.

The empowering of women is an important aspect in all of our projects. Hydram community water pumping and Community Biogas in Nepal, help to minimise the time spent collecting water and firewood, and give an opportunity for women to actively engage in education and income generating activities. In Kenya, RESOLVE solar hubs provide energy to fishing communities that helps empower women fish sellers. Thanks to the provision of refrigeration facilities at the point of sale, the power dynamic is reversed and women are no longer taken advantage of and exploited in order to sell their fish.



**Our Community Based Organisations require that a minimum of 50% women and 30% adolescents are represented on the management board**





## Case Study

As part of the ADAP project with UNICEF, a showcase site was established this year in Achham, a remote far west region of Nepal. 15 year old Dipa Kumari Bhandari has thrown herself enthusiastically into the project, taking part in the Adolescent Engagement Training and being actively involved in building the community showcase biogas digester and Hydrum pump.

Dipa's mother is blind in one eye, so Dipa has taken on much of the responsibility for looking after her two brothers. Through the project, she has developed a firm understanding of how the technologies can be used to lessen her workload and improve her livelihood: the technologies can be used to lessen her workload and improve her livelihood:

*'Use of biogas will save time when cooking and our house will be clean. Similarly, access to safe drinking water near the house is great, we no longer have to fear contaminated water. With the time saved, I plan to help my parents grow vegetables in the garden using slurry from the biogas plant and water from the Hydrum'.*

As part of the project, selected participants were trained to use cameras and record the construction process and other activities from their own perspective. Dipa's experience was so positive that she now hopes to start her own business and open a photo studio.

As well as running programmes specifically targeted at empowering young people and women, we aim to advance their position in all our work. Entrenched ideas about women's roles can be a serious obstacle in Nepal, as 17 year old Sabina Behana discovered when she tried to join her community's Water User's Committee:

*'I was required to have a citizenship card. I didn't have one and my parents said a girl doesn't need a citizenship card because she must get married and leave her maternal home. I was very discouraged.'*

Our project team helped Sabina persuade her parents to apply for a citizenship card. She is now proud to be an active member of the committee:

*'I feel that I have my own identity. I am getting an opportunity to learn new skills'.*



# Our Work: Access to Information, Education & Skills Attainment

## The need

**An estimated 776 million adults lack basic literacy skills across the globe with 493 million of these being women<sup>1</sup>. Predominantly it is the poor and rural peoples, particularly women that remain under-educated.**

The role of education and skills attainment in poverty alleviation is crucial. Without essential skills and knowledge, opportunities for future employment are low. Many individuals never realise their true potential and the right to a fulfilling life. With their families trapped in low-paid jobs or unemployment children, especially girls, forego education and schooling to earn income, or undertake household duties collecting firewood and collecting water.

A lack of skills, knowledge, and information reduces agricultural production, value addition and growth. Without these, diversification, improved yield and income maximisation is impossible. Consequently, many rural households are highly vulnerable and caught in a poverty trap. Low levels of education and information also limit the rural poor's ability to access government, financial and private sector services that would help them improve their lives.

## Our action

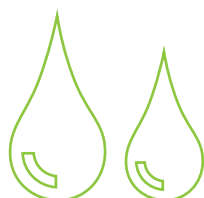
**We recognise the vital role that information, education and training plays in overcoming these barriers and help alleviate poverty. This year, 297 people have directly benefited from our governance, financial, business, and agricultural training. In Nepal, Kenya, and Nicaragua, we provide local community members with the tools and knowledge needed to maintain their renewable energy systems and maximise the economic benefits for the whole community for the lifetime of the system.**

Critical to the success of the programme is the provision of training and knowledge that enables communities to use their energy system as a catalyst for local economic improvement and growth. For instance, the Nepal Hydram programme provides agricultural training for drip irrigation systems that enables households and farmers to produce one or two additional high-value crops per year. In Kenya 21 micro enterprise owners have received small business, financial literacy and entrepreneurial training via the Comic Relief funded RESOLVE project.

Governance and financial literacy training is a core component of our project delivery model that assists communities to manage their energy systems sustainably.

In Nepal, we have linked Hydram and solar water pumps to local schools, providing 271 children with fresh, clean water and biogas to a community school. This has removed the burden of firewood collection for pupils, increasing education attendance and attainment in the process.

This year, in partnership with UNICEF Nepal, we have helped to develop and implement the Adolescent Development and Participant Programme (ADAP) that will reach over 72,000 10-19 year olds. The programme provides information, education and skills to adolescents on how to use clean energy. This helps empower them to claim their rights to respected, productive and financially rewarding work.



**64 farmers received agricultural and drip irrigation technology training in Nepal**

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, Adult And Youth Literacy. 2013. Web. 25 Sept. 2015. USI Fact Sheet, No. 26.



## Case Study

**Hydram is a clean water pumping technology which uses gravity to lift water high above its source, making it extremely useful in the hills of Nepal where many communities live far above water sources. In the communities where we have installed Hydrams with drip irrigation and provided training, farmers have increased their income by an average of 40-50%.**

Kamala Pangen, is a 35 year old from Dipka, Nepal. She spends her days cooking, washing and caring for her children while her husband works in Malaysia. Until recently she had no opportunity to develop the skills to run a successful business, but we have provided the training she needs to make the most of the additional water delivered by the Hydram. The training, in agriculture and drip irrigation, enables her to use the water to transform her dry unproductive farm into a profitable enterprise, growing high value vegetables to sell at market. We have also given Kamala and other members of the community financial literacy training, invaluable for running her micro-enterprise, and raising her position within her community. Kamala is the Treasurer for the new community Water User Committee, a position she is extremely proud of. This has helped her feel empowered and confident to take on new challenges. Kamala is enthusiastic about the future. She told us:

*'My husband can come back from Malaysia to run the farm with me. With the skills I have gained, I want to grow vegetables and set up a business. I am hoping this project will reunite our family and help us to earn more.'*

# Our Work: Environmental Sustainability

## The need

**Global poverty and climate change are two of the most important challenges currently facing humanity. As testified by the World Bank, in order to overcome one, we must overcome both, as the two are intrinsically linked.**

Climate change hits the poorest people hardest, as those living in vulnerable areas often have the fewest resources to adapt or recover quickly from shocks. Predicted change in rainfall patterns, incidence of severe flooding, increased and prolonged drought and heat waves, all affect crop production, supportive ecosystems, soil quality and rural livelihoods. Consequently, as the effects of climate change worsen, escaping poverty becomes more difficult. With limited or no access to clean, affordable energy, 1.4 billion rural poor rely on burning kerosene, charcoal and wood for cooking, heating and lighting. The production of charcoal and firewood in particular is driving land use change with deforestation damaging essential local environmental assets, producing an estimated 20% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Just under 50% of forest degradation can be attributed to firewood collection, charcoal production and to a lesser extent livestock grazing<sup>2</sup>.

## Our action

**Renewable World integrates environmental sustainability into all of our work through the focus on the introduction of renewable energy technology. Within our projects, environmental impact studies and natural resource management, are key components.**

As part of our sustainability model, the farming techniques taught to rural farmers help protect the local environment and improve farm level environmental assets, enabling farmers to improve yield and income in a sustainable manner. Farmers are trained on soil management, water usage, water-saving irrigation and integrated pest management techniques that protect and improve their natural assets. During the early phases of both our Hydram and solar water pumping projects, environmental impact studies were undertaken and local water management plans enacted to ensure sustainable use of natural assets.

Furthermore, replacing polluting fossil fuels with renewable energy helps remove harmful emissions. In our Kenyan and Nicaraguan programmes, solar panels are reducing the reliance on kerosene, and in Nepal, biogas has eliminated the need for collecting and burning firewood and charcoal.

As found by our project partners, BSP-Nepal, a single household biogas plant can save two tonnes of firewood each year, whilst community owned biogas plants, which each supply an average of 11 households, can save 22 tonnes of firewood and between 33 and 51.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per annum.

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank 'Climate Change Complicates Efforts To End Poverty'. N.p., 2015. Web. 28 Sept. 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Kissinger, G., M. Herold, V. De Sy. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers. Lexeme Consulting, Vancouver Canada, August 2012.



**Our community owned biogas plants supply an average of 11 households with clean fuel and save up to 51.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every year**





## Case Study

**Our project in Nicaragua, that will bring home solar systems to two remote, off-grid communities, will also help protect the local ecological system under threat.**

Teodora Mentsa is a farmer in Belén, a community in the reserve, far from the national grid. Teodora therefore has no choice but to burn kerosene-fuelled candles for light. Her home, and others in her community, are little more than wooden shacks, so the use of such fuel presents a clear fire hazard that could spread quickly in the wooded reserve.

Furthermore, the candles emit fumes which harm community members and the local environment. Teodora told us

*'We know it's affecting our health, but we have no alternative. It's causing a strain on our eyes as well.'*

Over the next two and a half years, we will be providing solar systems to six micro enterprises based in the reserve, helping the communities gain some much needed income. In addition, 65 households will receive home solar systems; meaning over 700 people like Teodora will have access to clean, and affordable light. This will vastly improve their lives, help reduce the carbon emissions and household pollution caused by kerosene burning, and help keep the reserve's precious forests safe.

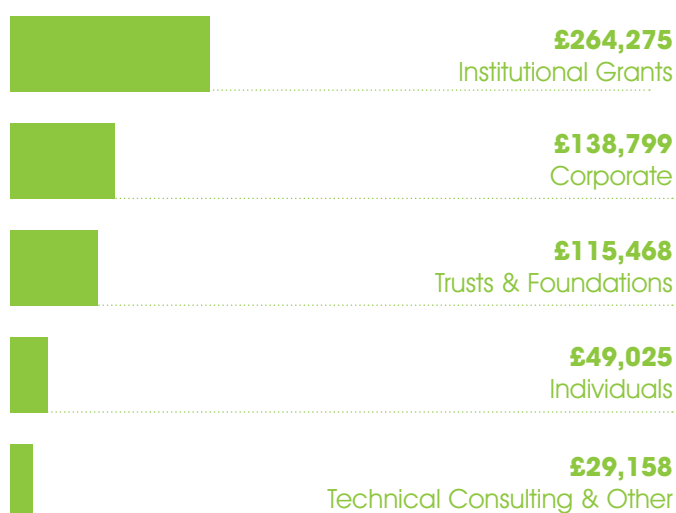
# Income

## £596,725\*

### Funding Type



### Donor Type



## Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in fundraising challenges this year, as well as the trusts and other organisations whose donations make our work possible. Your generous support is much appreciated.

**We are particularly grateful to the following generous donors:**

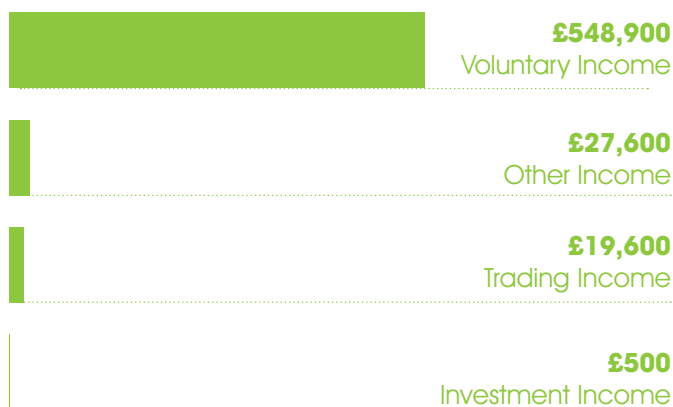
BBC (Mastermind), Cathie Associates, Edith M Ellis 185 Charitable Trust, Education and General Charitable Trust, Eleanor Rathbone Trust, Evan Cornish Foundation, F C Burgess Sunday Appeal, Fundacja Amon-Re, Gaelectric staff, Howard Family Charitable Trust, InterGen staff, Ken Lo Trust, Manknell Trust, MPI Offshore, NLI School, Opengate Foundation, Pat Newman Trust, Princes Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, The Coward Endowment, The Lindsay Foundation, The Tory Family Foundation, Tresanton trust, Tula Trust, W.F. Southall Trust, Ward Family Trust and The World Bank.

Our **Corporate Friends** below have committed to give significant multi-year unrestricted donations to enable us to build the capacity of Renewable World. They also provide valuable technical and other resources.





## Category



The following **Organisations** supported our projects through substantial multi-year grants. This includes new funds from:

Big Lottery Fund Grant for SolarMUS water pumping in Nepal (£118,235 recognised in 2014/15),

Peter Sowerby Foundation for rural knowledge centres in Kenya (£15,000 recognised in 2014/15),

Genesis Foundation for our Mahogany community and household lighting project in Nicaragua (£41,807 recognised in 2014/15).



# Expenditure

## £491,520\*\*

## Spending by Activity



**4p in every £1** is spent on **governance**

55% is restricted expenditure

**76%** of total expenditure is **on our programme**

**£97,908** is spent on **fundraising & communications**

**22 partner organisations from three countries** were granted a total of £186,056

Average of **10 full time staff** with **6 in the regional programme**

\*Total for year ended 31 March 2015 includes £71,874 receivable from Big Lottery Fund for the year 1 programme which commenced in March 2015, but has not yet been spent.

\*\*Total for year ended 31 March 2015

# Governance

## Our Approach

**Good governance is critical for the effective operation of an international not for profit organisation. In Renewable World good governance starts with having a clear and common purpose and a set of values, recruiting the right experienced, qualified and dedicated people, underpinned by appropriate systems, policies and procedures.**

Whilst all in the organisation have a role in good governance, the Trustees are legally responsible for it. Therefore during the 2014/15 year of review the Board of Renewable World met six times face-to-face for a total of 20 hours and held three additional telephone conference Board meetings for five hours. The major topics covered included:

- Strategy
- Governance and Board strengthening
- Finance, cashflow and budgeting
- Audited accounts
- Programmes and project approvals
- Fundraising pipeline
- Human resources & recruitment

In addition many more hours were spent in Board sub-committees and informal meetings between Trustees and staff.



Board members and staff discussing strategy

## Our Board

During the year the composition of the Board has changed and the Board has grown from six Trustees at the beginning to 10 Trustees at the end of the year. Seven new UK Board Trustees were recruited and inducted following the departure of three long standing, valued Trustees, all as part of our commitment to developing robust governance structures and Board strengthening. We have also strengthened the terms and the capacity of the Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee with new members. Finally we have begun a comprehensive strategy review process, with diverse stakeholder engagement and a thorough business planning process.

During 2015/16 we will continue to work on developing our strategy, strengthening our governance through our Committees, improving our internal systems, developing our staff and introducing robust risk management process.

**During the 2014/15 financial year the Board of Renewable World consisted of:**

**Gemma Grimes, Christian Egal, Sarah Donnelly** (*Trustee throughout and appointed Vice Chair from 17 February 2015*), **Alex Hassan** (*appointed Chair 4th January 2015*), **Catherine Adams** (*appointed Treasurer 15th December 2014*), **Stephen Balint** (*appointed 15th December 2014*), **Patrick Davis** (*appointed 15th December 2014*), **Louise Heaps** (*appointed 15th December 2014*), **Jeremy Taylor** (*appointed 15th December 2014*), **Peter Weston** (*appointed 15th December 2014*), **Christian Kjaer** (*resigned 15th December 2014*), **Louis FitzGerald** (*former Chair resigned 15th December 2014*), **Michael Bullock** (*former Treasurer resigned 15th December 2014*), **Matthew Stubberfield** (*appointed 1st April 2014*) acted as Company Secretary.



## Our Values

Our shared values define us and hold us together as a team enabling the impossible to happen.

**Sustainable:** at the heart of how we work is the core of sustainability in technology, project implementation and our own organisation.

**Collaborative:** we work together as one team with our partners and supporters to deliver change at community levels.

**Transformative:** our work makes a real and tangible difference to people's lives and our global impact on the planet.

**Passionate:** about our planet, what we do, where we work and who we work with.

**Enterprising:** We support partners and beneficiaries to be innovative in their use of energy, building enterprises which will create income opportunities, stimulate trade and increase their financial stability.

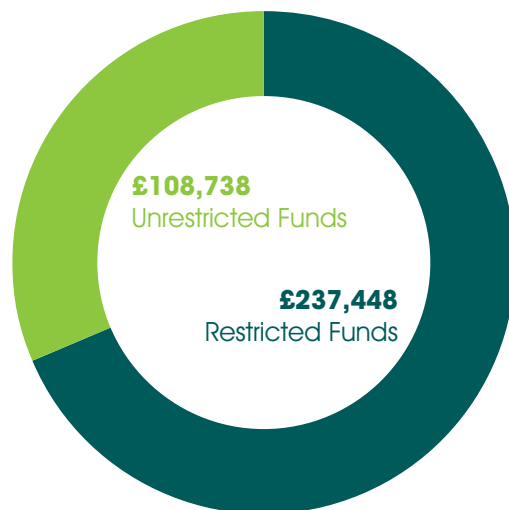
# Funds

31st March 2015

In 2014/15 **we grew our funds to £346,186**

**£105,200** of funds were **retained as reserves**

The **majority** are restricted funds **for use in our 2015/16** programme



Unrestricted funds were equivalent to 4 months of unrestricted operational expenditure

**We intend to build these unrestricted reserves** appropriately to our long term operational requirements.

# Support Us

## Give

Our work can only take place with the support of people who share our commitment to alleviating poverty and providing energy access to improve the health, income and nutrition of those living in energy poverty. **Your donation could help more youngsters like this attend school, and realise their true potential.**



## Partner With Us

Renewable World is always keen to work in partnership with like-minded organisations and businesses, who share our commitment to tackling energy poverty and promoting sustainable development. We always want to meet companies and donors who can help us deliver our aim, of providing power to remote communities in the developing world.



## Do a Challenge Event

Are you looking for a challenge to keep you fit this year and want to support an amazing cause? We've got just what you are looking for from short runs, to cycle rides, marathons and even Tough Mudder! Every June we host our own event, Earth Wind and Tyre where riders take part in an epic two day 200 mile cycle which passes ten of the UK's most iconic wind farms across the English and Scottish borders. **Sign up for one of our challenge events and help us fight poverty with every mile!**



## Work Pro Bono

As a small charity we only have access to limited resources so we value receiving support and advice from individuals and other organisations in the form of pro bono work. We may be looking for support with our own work or we may be seeking additional skills that we don't have in house. We have put together some packages of work that can be taken on by people wishing to lend their skills. These small projects can be managed in your own time and around other commitments.







To learn more, pick up the phone for an informal chat with Marie Hounslow on 01273 234801 or drop her an email [marie.hounslow@renewable-world.org](mailto:marie.hounslow@renewable-world.org)

# Looking Ahead

2015/16

**It would be fair to say that Renewable World has gone through a period of significant change over the last two years. It has been a time of rebuilding the charity's capacity in the UK – with a new, experienced Senior Management Team now in place and a significantly stronger and committed Board of Trustees. With a strategy process now underway, we passionately believe that Renewable World is in great shape to help even more power poor communities gain access to renewable energy.**

Our team in Nepal has grown to match the expanding programme we are now implementing, thanks in no small part to our new partnership with the BIG Lottery Fund. The SolarMUS II programme seeks to install 19 solar systems to bring drinkable water to around 5,500 people by 2018. Within this project we will also be piloting innovative community loan products, sharing some risk with financial institutions, removing collateral requirements and working closely with communities to prove that they can do equitable business with each other. In Nepal we will be scaling up our Hydram programme by developing the supply chain to enable communities to access this technology.

The 2015 Nepal earthquakes have had an impact on our programme sites (over half of which were affected). Our technology stood up well, despite the surrounding devastation. We fundraised to fix minor leaks so our communities at least had access to water during this tragedy and we provided solar lighting and other appropriate support to help their recovery.

Elsewhere in South Asia we are looking forward to adapting our solar technology for fish farming communities in Bangladesh, supported by USAID. In Central America we continue our partnership with blueEnergy through our Mahogany project which, with the support of the Genesis Charitable Trust, will provide households and enterprises with solar energy.

Meanwhile in East Africa, our focus is to complete our Comic Relief funded Renewable Energy Solutions for Lake Victoria Ecosystems (RESOLVE) project that aims to bring solar energy

hubs to six fishing communities on the shores of Lake Victoria. We are currently raising funds to expand our reach to more fishing communities, learning from RESOLVE and refining our approach. We will be complementing our energy hubs with Marketing, Information and Communications Hubs (MICHS), providing communities with a place to access IT equipment and commercial knowledge.

In order to successfully expand our programmes, over the next year we will be focusing on building the capacity of our regional teams and local implementing partners through creating learning opportunities and sharing knowledge. We aspire to develop partnerships with major regional funders, International NGOs, commercial investors and government at all levels to scale our programmes. We continue to increase our reach acting as a partner and renewable energy technical consultant, within projects led by partners such as iDE Nepal and ADRA. Recently improved systems and expertise recruited to monitor our impact and share our outcomes, means that we will continue to build trust with our donors based on evidence of success and a culture of learning from our experience.

None of this is possible without a robust fundraising strategy and expert financial management. As an organisation that delivers long term programme solutions we must ourselves have stable long term funding in place. We will build our general unrestricted reserves appropriately to our operational requirements and diversify our sources of income.

This is an incredibly exciting time for Renewable World with a new strategy, business plans, and new programmes. As a team, we are ready to achieve our mission and we hope you will come with us on our onward journey to help lift thousands more people out of poverty through access to clean and reliable energy.







# Join us in the fight against poverty

**Visit:** [renewable-world.org](http://renewable-world.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/RenewableWorld](https://facebook.com/RenewableWorld)

**Twitter:** @RenewableWorld

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