



**architecture**  
sans frontières

UNITED KINGDOM

Learning in action  
Annual Review 2011-2012

The ASF-UK team :

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**Board-**

Dr Matthew Barac, Chair; Mr Charles Parrack, Treasurer; Mr Neal Barnes; Ms Tamara Horbacka

**Advisors-**

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**Expert Affiliates-**

Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani; Dr Anshu Sharma; Dr Matthew French

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Architecture Sans Frontières-UK

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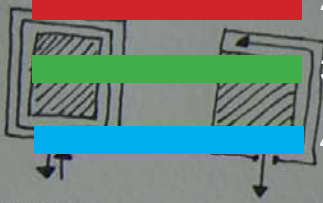
Photography: All photographs are from ASF-UK workshops and events from our photo library

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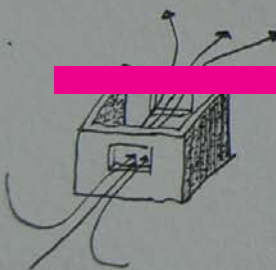
PERMANENT / LEGATIVE.



CELLULATION  
AROUND HOUSE X

ACCESS +  
CELLULATION  
WOVEN PLOT

LOCAL / ENVIRONMENT.



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CONSIDERATION OF  
INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

PIGMENT INK  
JANUARY 2023



Change by Design, Kenya- ASF-UK workshop tool cards



# 1 Message from our Chair

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Much of today's news is about the woes of recession; recent good times have given way to what feels, for many, like deprivation. While economic shocks hurt us, our society has the resources to absorb them. But what if it didn't? What of those for whom an insecure livelihood and the trappings of poverty constitute 'business-as-usual'? This historical moment offers an opportunity for solidarity with those in greater need, and also to reflect on the relevance of our professional sector in an age of global change. With unemployment rising and the construction industry stalled, we are waking up to the limits of our training: when times get tough, there's not very much for architects to do.

The work of ASF is now more important than ever, and for two reasons. Firstly, ASF is committed to helping those with urgent needs – needs arising from disasters and emergencies, or development needs. And secondly, our education and training portfolio is geared towards making design practice relevant to the wider world. We want architects to break out of the gilded cage of luxury services so that our profession is equipped to contribute to development for all, rather than just a privileged few. As this document shows, ASF has once again delivered a range of international workshops, talks and consultancies, winning prizes and support through sponsorship, donations, and funding programmes over the last year. Highlights included a workshop in Nairobi, at which ASF organised a conference in partnership with UN-HABITAT, courses in Leh and Accra, and a series of speaker events in London. We want to build on this success, extending our programme's positive impact on students and professionals.

Public belt-tightening has a devastating impact on the third sector, and corporate giving is naturally scaled back in straitened times. For the last eight years ASF has shown itself able to make a little go a long way, but what we need now is a more solid footing for the charity. With its substantial portfolio and dedicated volunteer staff, ASF is now ready to consolidate its operation. The cornerstone of our action plan is a drive to raise funds on the basis of corporate and institutional sponsorship. By inviting new partners on board, offering opportunities to support and engage in our activities, we aim to establish a more distinctive, visible, and influential role for ASF on the horizon of the construction industry and the built environment professions.



**Matthew Barac, Chair**



# 2

# Our Philosophy



Change by Design, Kenya- ASF-UK field workshop

## ASF-UK's Objectives

- 1.** Raise awareness and increase understanding of global development issues amongst practising architects and built environment professionals in order to have a positive impact on the lives of those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable.
- 2.** Foster change in the culture of architecture, to make it more relevant and meaningful in the context of global development issues.
- 3.** Integrate understanding of global development issues into the education of architects.
- 4.** Diversify the skills of architects and built environment professionals to make them better equipped to work effectively with their local partners to improve the lives of vulnerable communities worldwide.
- 5.** Advance the contribution of architects in the international development arena by encouraging and facilitating their involvement with government, NGO and voluntary organisations working in development and emergency programmes.
- 6.** Create appropriate and meaningful architectural responses.



## **ASF-UK's Philosophy**

ASF-UK believes strongly that local communities should be determining their own development and any external players should be building capacity and helping to facilitate the change needed. Through partnerships with national NGOs in both 'developed' and 'developing' countries, ASF-UK has organised international workshops where students have learnt on the ground. Since ASF-UK started the organisation has been questioning what can and should a built environment professional do in challenging contexts working with vulnerable people. We are not suggesting our approach is the only way, but it is a way for built environment professionals to embrace a social and environmental agenda. ASF-UK feels that there are challenging contexts on our own doorstep as well as further afield, and that our skills as building professionals can be invaluable if used appropriately. A working methodology grounded in community engagement, which is at the heart of ASF-UK's mode of practice, is relevant to a multitude of contexts and capable of adding value in all project scenarios.

## **ASF-UK's Approach**

By testing different strategies for engaging students, professionals and communities, ASF-UK has developed an approach that sits comfortably alongside our philosophy. ASF-UK believes that learning is most valuable when grounded in real contexts, tackling real problems and testing solutions in a hands-on way. Theory without practice can often lead to misinterpretation. Equally, practice without any theory and research can lead to over-simplification of complex local issues. ASF-UK applies its approach predominantly through a series of national and international workshops, where students are immersed in a field-based environment working with real people and challenging contexts. No ASF-UK workshop takes place exclusively in the classroom or in the field, but rather the process of learning is always a balance of the two. ASF-UK strives to ensure workshops do not exist in isolation but take place at a key stage or start of a project to generate ideas and direction, which rely on a strong relationship with our local partners. Being involved with ASF-UK is not just an avenue for architects, but all building and environmental professionals and community place-makers. Working with a range of people, we find ways of sharing knowledge and building capacity at the same time. We are all learning together.





# 3 Sponsors and Partners



WOMAD - building the ASF-UK stage





WOMAD- partners and volunteers



In 2011 and 2012 ASF-UK has had funding and support from a number of organisations:

### **ASF Funders**

- Leonardo Lifelong Learning Programme
- Vodafone World of Difference
- Walter Guinness Trust

### **ASF Supporters**

- Development Planning Unit
- Grimshaw Architects
- RIBA
- SCIBE
- School of Architecture and Built Environment, University of Westminster
- UN Habitat

### **ASF Partners**

- ASF France
- ASF Italy
- ASF Spain
- ASF Sweden
- Arup
- Fourth Door
- Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
- Ladakh Arts and Music Organisation
- Pamoja Trust
- Sabre Charitable Trust
- The Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh
- SEEDS India
- Tangentfield
- The Eden project
- Tibet Heritage Fund
- UN Habitat
- Volunteer Partnership for West Africa

## **Thank you**

ASF-UK would like to thank all our funders, supporters and partners for all their help in 2011 and 2012.

## **Sponsorship**

ASF-UK welcomes sponsorship and donations to increase the impact of our work. If you would like to donate please do so on our Virgin Money page [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).

For more information on individual membership and sponsorship opportunities for companies please contact Melissa Kinnear at [mkinnear@asf-uk.org](mailto:mkinnear@asf-uk.org).







International workshops- ASF-UK working in India

## **UK 2011**

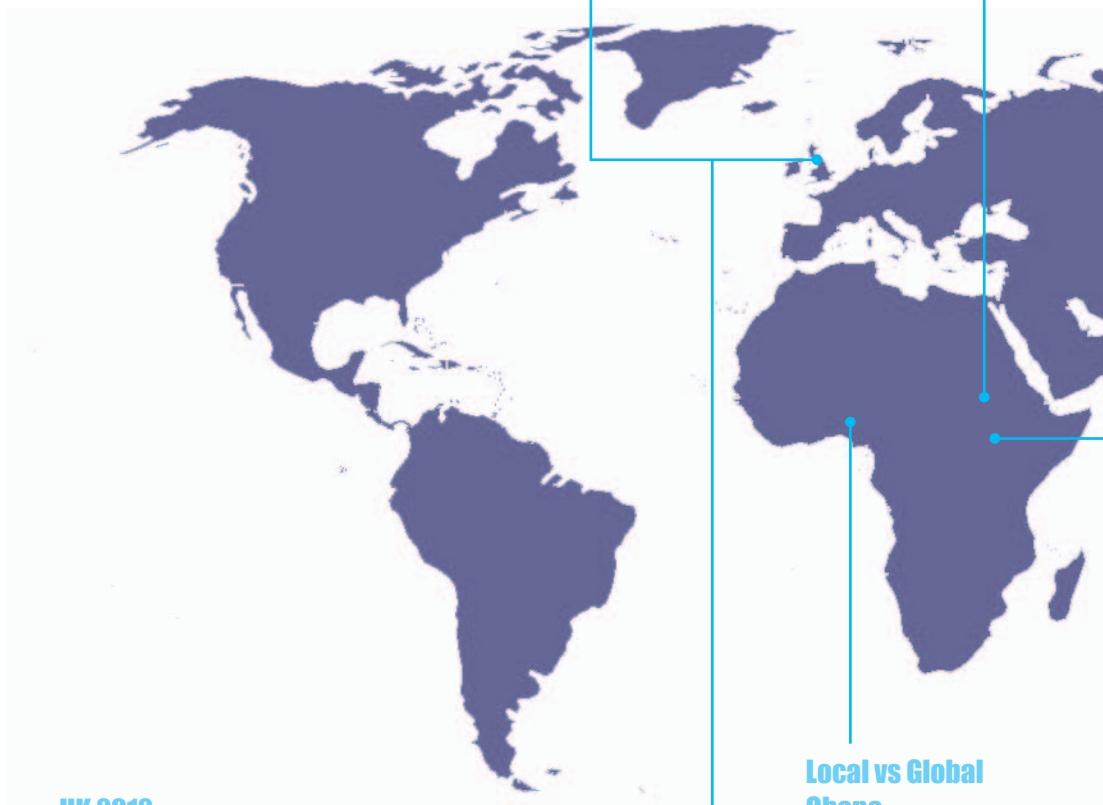
- Eden Summer School
- Social Enterprise Seminar
- Drawing for Development Workshop
- Participation for Development Workshop
- Talk Series
- Womad Stage Building

## **Learning Participatory Tools Sudan 2011**

## **UK 2012**

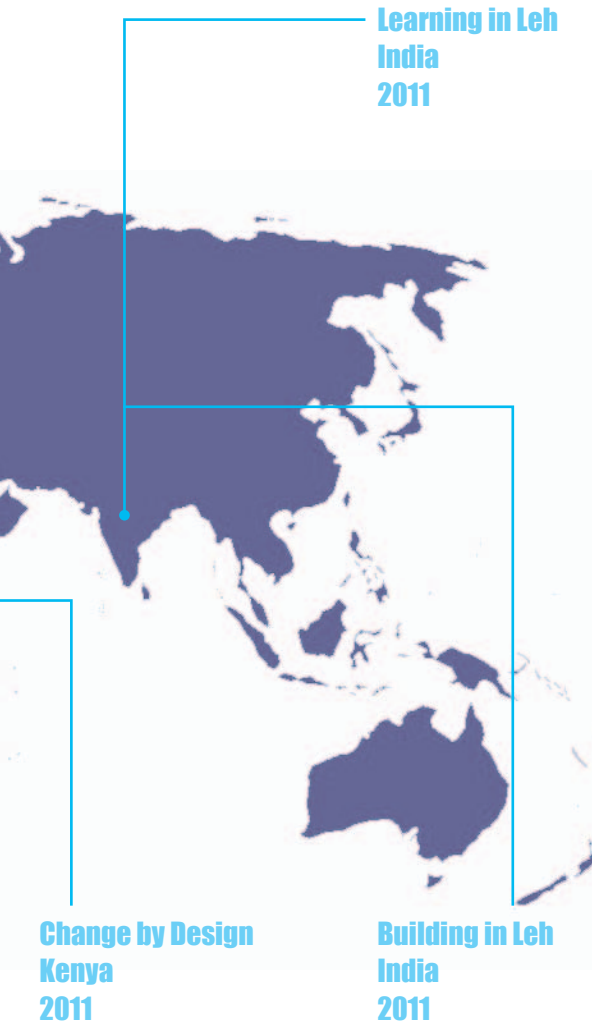
- Drawing for Development Workshop
- Participation for Development Workshop
- Talk Series

## **Local vs Global Ghana 2011**





# 4.1- Our Impact in Numbers



## 100-

Since 2006 ASF-UK has held and/or been part of over **100** talks, events, seminars and workshops.

## 2607, 355,

## 69-

Through these workshops ASF-UK has worked with **2607** international participants; **355** local participants, contractors, builders and **69** local organisations.

## 6114-

ASF-UK is volunteer led and our projects from June 2011 to June 2012 have been achieved completely by volunteers, working a total of **6114** hours.

## Change by Design: Nairobi, Kenya- [www.asf-uk.org/change-by-design](http://www.asf-uk.org/change-by-design)

**650** *volunteer hours*  
**22** *international participants*  
**17** *Kenyan participants*  
**£ 16,000** *budget*  
**£ 0** *sponsorship*

Rapid urbanization, growing inequalities and increasing demand for land are posing critical challenges for cities in the global south. This workshop aimed to engage participants from a variety of backgrounds in a hands-on process exploring participatory slum upgrading, which recognizes residents as active agents of change rather than passive recipients.

Thanks to the workshop structure I was able to rapidly build an understanding of slum upgrading issues from first hand experience and working closely with participants from backgrounds quite different to my own- Workshop participant



Housing group dreaming exercise

## 4.2- Our International Work

**Learning in Leh: Leh, India-** [www.asf-uk.org/learning-in-lehindia2011](http://www.asf-uk.org/learning-in-lehindia2011)



Final bench prototype

**I would love to continue my architecture studies in international development or shelter after disaster. From this course I know I will always want to try to design with, not for my 'clients'-**

*Workshop participant*

This workshop looked at practical ways of improving the safety, sustainability and the suitability of the learning environment of the Government Girls School in Leh. They addressed short, medium and long-term needs for the school through design and prototyping, including a new toilet block.

**1255** *volunteer hours*

**13** *international participants*

**1** *Indian participant*

**£ 9375** *budget*

**£ 187** *sponsorship*

## Local vs. Global: Ghana- [www.asf-uk.org/local-vs-global-ghana-2011](http://www.asf-uk.org/local-vs-global-ghana-2011)



### I have been able to convince quite a number of my architect friends to embrace the idea of sustainability - Local Ghanaian participant

In Ghana the team explored how a rapidly developing country with an acute housing crisis is increasingly turning its back on local construction in favour of western principles. The workshop reflected on how needs could be met in sustainable and locally relevant ways creating livelihoods and better environments. Through primary research with local NGO's, expert consultants and community members carried out hands-on design and construction as they searched for a synthesis of local and global strategies for a sustainable future. One outcome of the workshop was a test structure for a local NGO to be used as a seed bank for an agricultural initiative; demonstrating the materials and technologies that were tested during the workshop, which also created a dialogue with the local community around these issues. The workshop included a symposium with UN-Habitat which was held in Accra facilitating wider exchange of ideas around sustainability and housing in Ghana.

**1363** *volunteer hours*  
**10** *international participants*  
**4** *African participants*  
**£ 8500** *budget*  
**£ 1500** *sponsorship*



## Teaching participatory ways for working with local communities: Sudan- [www.asf-uk.org/participatory-ways-to-work-in-communitiesudan2011](http://www.asf-uk.org/participatory-ways-to-work-in-communitiesudan2011)

ASF-UK was asked by the University of Reading and the University of Khartoum to conduct a three day workshop, as part of the British Council funded Delphi project between the universities, in order to expose Sudanese built environment professionals to participatory design. The main objective was to encourage participants to rethink their roles moving away from the role of the 'provider' towards the position of an 'enabler' through a series of participatory practical exercises and experiments.

**118** *volunteer hours*  
**0** *international participants*  
**47** *Sudanese participants*  
**£ 700** *budget*  
**£ 700** *sponsorship*

**I have learned participation is of prime importance in community planning and implementation-**  
Local Sudanese participant



Participant group work

## Building in Leh: Leh, India- [www.asf-uk.org/building-in-lehindia2011](http://www.asf-uk.org/building-in-lehindia2011)

**325** *volunteer hours*

**1** *international participant*

**20** *Indian participants*

**£ 3000** *budget*

**£ 3000** *money sponsored*

Katherine Johnson, one of the workshop facilitators, stayed longer in Leh to manage the design and construction of a new, safe and sustainable toilet block for the school. This replaced one of the toilet blocks that had partially collapsed during the floods of August 2010, and had been left in a desperate and dangerous condition.



Hand washing facilities

## Leonardo Partnership- [www.asf-uk.org/challenging-practice-online-course](http://www.asf-uk.org/challenging-practice-online-course)



Partnership meeting in London

ASF-UK continued to work with partners to develop a training course for built environment professionals to practice more effectively in humanitarian and development contexts. The course is now live online for free ([www.asfint.org/Challenging-Practice,156.html](http://www.asfint.org/Challenging-Practice,156.html)) and ASF-UK continue to work on stage two.

**600** *volunteer hours*

**28** *international participants*

**0** *local participants*

**£ 16000** *budget*

**£ 16000** *money sponsored*



## An alternate view on disasters and development Summer School: The Eden Project



Shelter in tropic biome made from 'local materials'

A fantastic and very memorable experience that has encouraged me tenfold in my ambitions to learn more about emergency architecture and one day accept a position as an architect in the field - Workshop participant

**285** *volunteer hours*  
**13** *international participants*  
**2** *local participants*  
**£ 3710** *budget*  
**£ 0** *money sponsored*

This summer school addressed a range of response strategies in disaster and conflict zones. A 2 day intensive lecture series was followed by a 2.5 day hands-on design and build workshop to directly put into practice some of the theory learnt from the talks and experience first-hand the reality of building quickly with scarce resources.

## 4.3- Our Work in the UK

### Social Enterprise- Lessons for Architects: London- [www.asf-uk.org/documents](http://www.asf-uk.org/documents)

Grounded in alternative forms of practice, this seminar looked at the transformation of communities worldwide through innovative architectural practice embracing social entrepreneurship. A range of speakers introduced social entrepreneurialism and exposed the group to basic business skills needed to set up their own social enterprise

**76** *volunteer hours*  
**0** *international participants*  
**36** *local participants*  
**£ 3380** *budget*  
**£ 0** *money sponsored*



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: LESSONS FOR ARCHITECTS

# Something from Nothing



Colin Priest  
Studio Columba



Seminar presentation- Something from Nothing, Colin Priest

## **Roots Architecture at Womad**

Organised by Tangentfield a team of architects, engineers, timber framers and builders were charged to design and build 4 stages in 4 days for performers at the WOMAD Festival in 2011. Andy Edwards (ASF) and Bill Flinn (CENDEP) facilitated a team of 16 architecture students to design and build a stage made entirely from reclaimed timber and coppiced hazel.

## **Participation/Drawing for Development**

Participation/Drawing for Development workshops were held in the University of Manchester and the University of Sheffield this year for the Article 25 Chapters in both universities.

## **Talks**

This year's series of talks was kindly hosted by Grimshaw Architects in their London Office. The talks were informative and interesting and many people stayed after each talk to share insights about their potential role after a disaster over organic beer and wine.

## **Other Achievements in 2011 and 2012**

Following the Nairobi workshop the team co-authored a book entitled Change By Design, our first downloadable ASF-UK publication [www.asf-uk.org/documents](http://www.asf-uk.org/documents).

One of the members of the team who developed the workshop in Kenya nurtured a partnership with the UN Habitat to convene two very successful symposiums, one in Nairobi as part of the Change by Design workshop and one in Accra as part of the Local vs. Global workshop, which was developed by the team who ran the workshop in Ghana.

ASF-UK continues to give one off talks for Architecture Societies around the country and contributed towards the 'Participation in International Practice' evening event convened by RICS.









# 5

# Thank You



ASF-UK volunteers





Stefan Amato, Danny Cook and Luke Ritchie after their sponsored cycle ride

## **Raising money for ASF-UK**

If you would like to raise money for ASF-UK please contact Naomi at [n.shinkins@asf-uk.org](mailto:n.shinkins@asf-uk.org). Fundraising can be done through our Virgin money page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).

## **Thank you!**

ASF-UK has received a number of donations through fundraising events.

We would like to thank Gabriel Apsan and the Macquarie Group Foundation in Australia for their generous donation of 1000 Australian dollars. Gabriel Apsan, after 10 years of service for the company, had the opportunity to nominate a charity to receive this amount, and he chose ASF-UK. We would also like to thank the team from Austen Johnson, Dubai, who ran 10km in Dubai and raised £1,456.50 through generous donations.

Andy Edwards and Ben Cross set themselves the challenge of cycling from Lands End to John O Groats in just 9 days and raised £735 along the way. Stefan Amato, Danny Cook and Luke Ritchie had the same great idea and raised £448 from friends and family. Sarah Ernst ran a half marathon in Sheffield and swam a mile in Salford Quays to distract herself from her final year at university and raised £187.

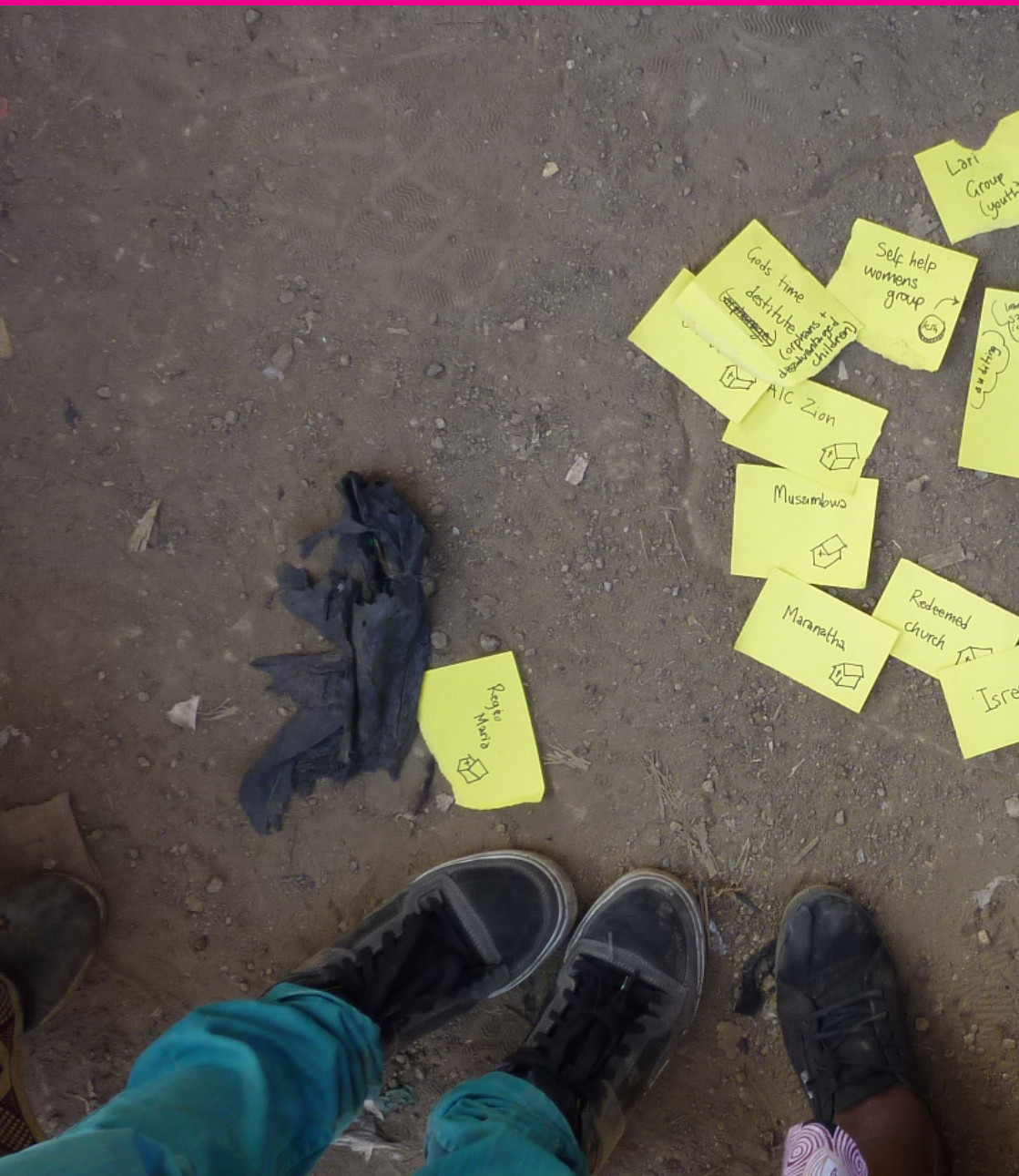
ASF-UK would like to congratulate them all on their wonderful achievements and thank them for their kind donations.

We would also like to thank Jeremy Till for sponsoring a participant of our Social Enterprise seminar in April 2011.

Finally, we would like to thank all ASF-UK volunteers for their time, energy and commitment to ASF-UK over the last year. The organisation continues to go from strength to strength and we believe that this is due largely to the great team that we currently have and the wide range of projects and focus areas that allow many different people to participate and engage with the programme and organisation at multiple levels.

### **Donate to ASF-UK**

If you would like to donate to ASF-UK this can be done through our Virgin Money page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk).



Lori  
Group  
(youth)

Self help  
womens  
group

Gods time  
distrute +  
(orphans +  
dismabled children)

AIC Zion

Musimbwa

Maranatha

Redeemed  
church

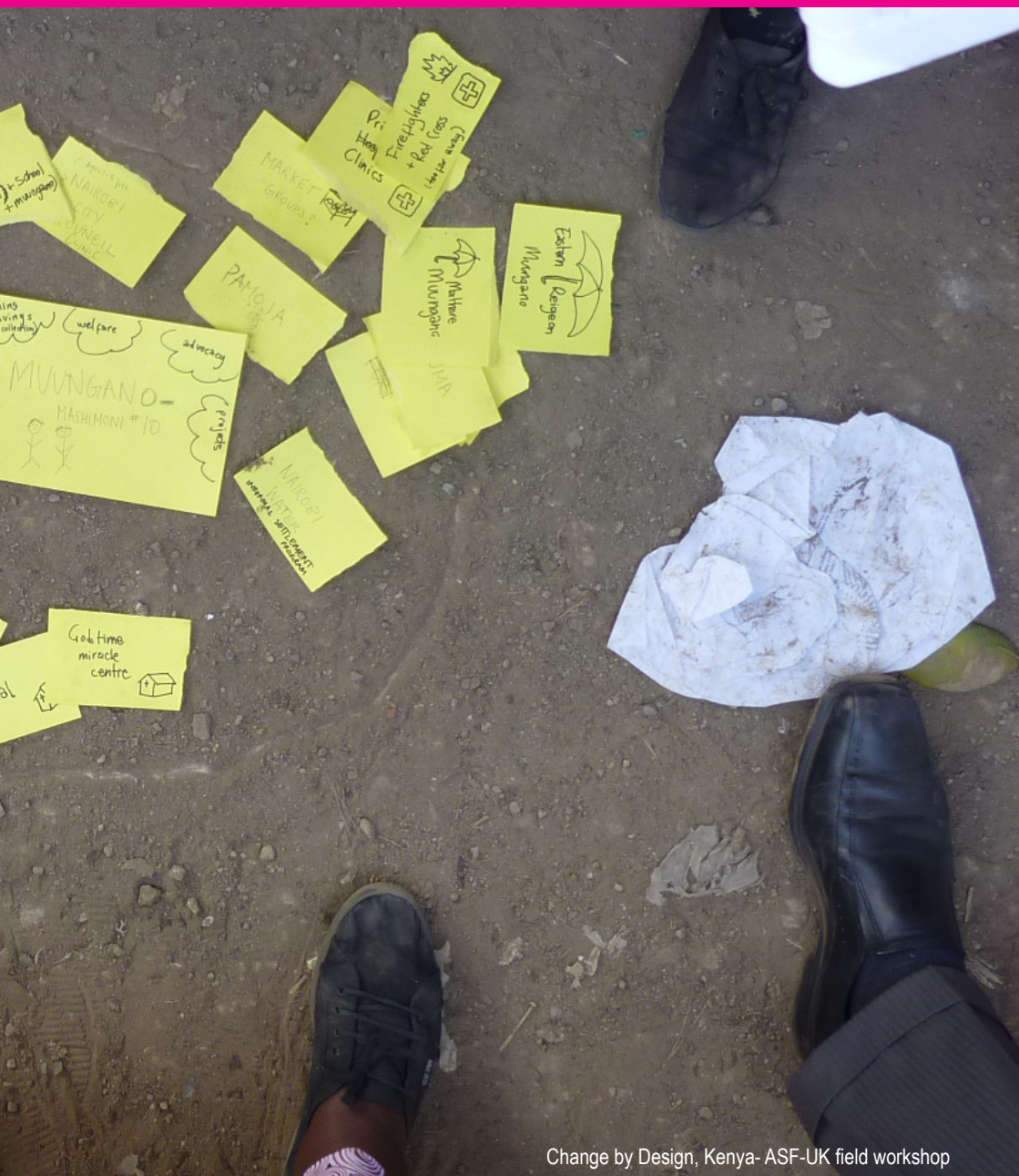
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Angelo  
Mwambi



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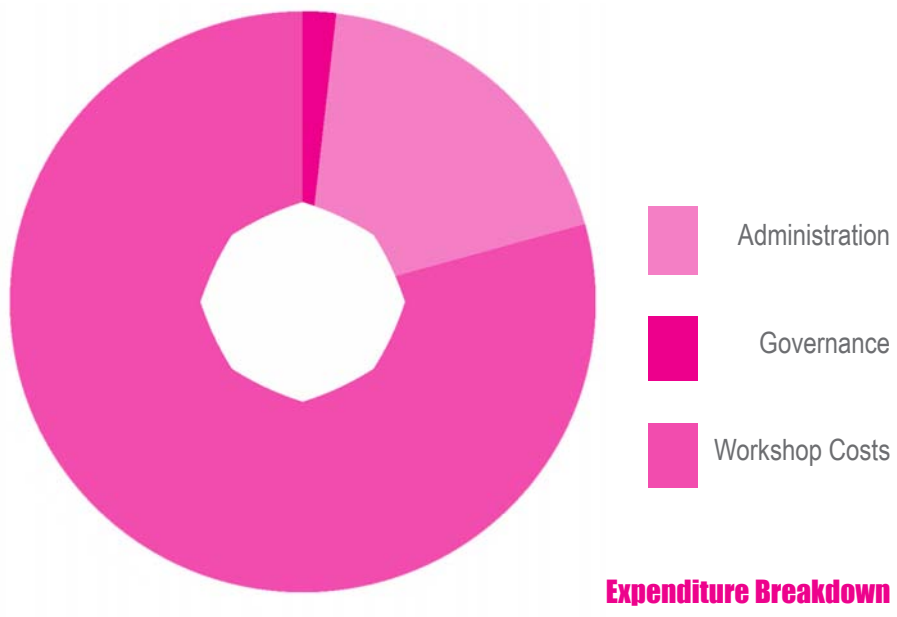
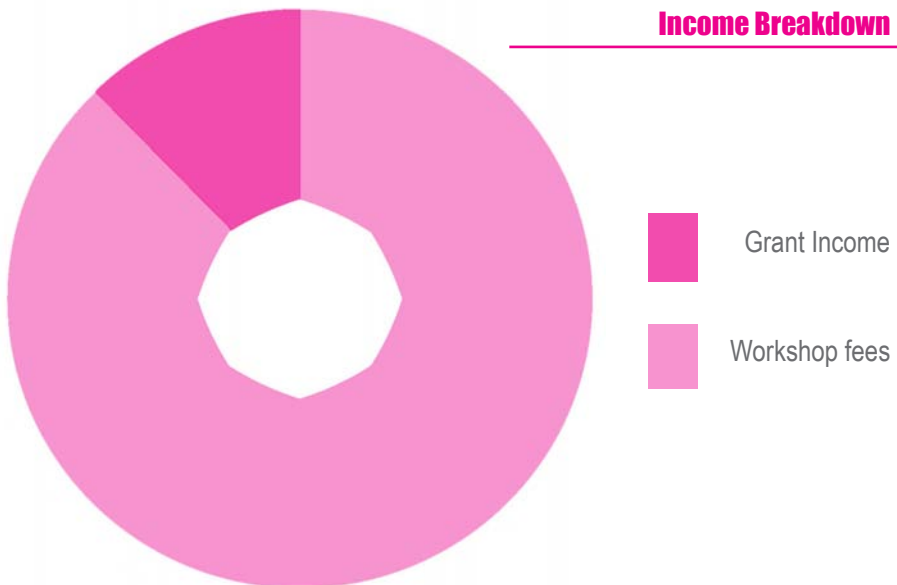
## Financial Affairs



## Summary of Accounts

The accounts summarise information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities, providing a snapshot of ASF-UK finances over the year 2011-2012. Full accounts are available on the Charity Commission website, [www.charity-commission.gov.uk/](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/).

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2012 Total £	2011 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations	-	4,732	4,732	18,037
Investment income	-	34	34	32
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Grants received	5,500	-	5,500	5,000
Fee Income	-	39,337	39,337	43,881
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	5,500	44,103	49,603	66,950
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>				
Project expenditure	-	39,676	39,676	42,469
Administrative expenditure	-	9,458	9,458	17,331
Governance cost	-	888	888	831
<b>Total resources expended</b>		50,022	50,022	60,631
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	5,500	-5,919	-419	6,319
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movements in funds</b>	5,500	-5,919	-419	6,319
<b>Funds at the start of the year</b>	-	21,138	21,138	14,819
<b>Funds at the end of the year</b>	5,500	15,219	20,719	21,138







Learning in Leh, India- ASF-UK field workshop

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<http://www.asf-uk.org/>



**architecture**  
**sans frontières**  
UNITED KINGDOM

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