



An outreach clinic organised by our local partner, RCRA Uganda, in the Rwenzori Foothills, Uganda.

Candidate Pack

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Welcome from the Chair of Trustees

Dear Candidates

Welcome to CHASE Africa. A small but fast-growing, vibrant organisation looking for a Chair to lead it through an exciting new stage in its development.

Since its inception 12 years ago, CHASE Africa has grown from scratch to an income in 2023 of over £800,000 – delivering over 1.5 million healthcare and family planning services to often isolated rural communities. We have a strong and highly motivated staff team and a thriving network of local partners that has expanded from Kenya into Uganda and, later this year, Tanzania.

CHASE Africa's projects have already brought healthcare and empowerment to tens of thousands of lives, particularly for women and girls, mitigating poverty and helping protect local environments. It has the capacity and opportunity to greatly extend its impact – both geographically and in terms of numbers reached.

Your role as Chair of Trustees will be to preside over CHASE Africa with a well-established Board of trustees, and in close liaison with the Chief Executive, to realise these opportunities.

Wishing you all luck in your application for this uniquely rewarding role.

Toby Aykroyd
Chair of Trustees
CHASE Africa (2012 – 2024)

A community dialogue organised by our local partner, Save the Elephants



About Us

CHASE Africa was founded in 2000 and was originally called The Rift Valley Tree Trust (RVTT). In 2012, the RVTT changed its name to CHASE Africa (Community Health and Sustainable Environment), to reflect a shift in direction and began to support primary healthcare and family planning programmes in remote, rural areas, initially supporting one partner.

Over the past ten years, CHASE Africa has grown year on year. Starting with one partner in 2012, we have worked with fourteen local partners (twelve in Kenya and two in Uganda), supporting them to set up and run community health programmes alongside their other work. We have also supported several environmental activities within the same communities.

These programmes target remote, rural communities that face numerous barriers to accessing health services – particularly sexual and reproductive health services, including the unmet need for family planning.

We have built up a well-diversified income source from a range of UK and International Trusts and Foundations, who provide a mixture of restricted and unrestricted funding. We have an enviable record of donor retention, with many repeat donors. We also have a steady stream of individual supporters.

CHASE Africa has transitioned over the past few years from being founder led and run, to having a professional and ambitious team of staff. We have maintained our core values of community focus, collaboration and cost-effectiveness and remain entrepreneurial and nimble in our approach.

A Community Health Worker takes a patient's blood pressure at an outreach clinic run by our local partner, Kalyet Afya Foundation



Future Plans

There are exciting opportunities for CHASE Africa to scale its approach to other communities, areas and countries. We have ambitious plans to build on our experience to date to substantially grow our impact over the next 5-10 years, by:

- supporting more exemplar projects that test innovative approaches for improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and access to family planning in rural areas;
- incorporating more health system strengthening into our programmes to ensure sustainable impact;
- building tools and resources that can enable greater replication and scaling of our approaches;
- strengthening the evidence base of the work we support;
- influencing other implementing organisations (and their funders) to incorporate SRHR, women's health and gender equality into their programmes and approaches;
- supporting policy efforts to see SRHR, family planning and wider community health being adapted as key contributing factors to successful community-focussed conservation programmes and building resilience to climate change (for example through participation in the IUCN Taskforce on Biodiversity and Family Planning).

We are planning on setting-up a CHASE Africa legal entity in East Africa in the next 12-18 months, in order to provide more localised, technical support to our partners, further strengthen the CHASE Africa Partner Network and be able to network and advocate more actively on behalf of our partners.

Patients gather at an outreach clinic organised by our local partner, Big Life Foundation, in Kenya



What issue is CHASE Africa seeking to address and why?

Healthy women, creating healthy communities, living in healthy environments

CHASE Africa seeks to empower women and girls by improving access to health services in rural communities and by addressing the high unmet need for family planning. In so doing we aim to improve maternal and child outcomes, especially in communities that have been marginalised and underserved.

CHASE Africa supports local partners that are working in communities where there remain considerable barriers to girls and women realising their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and where the unmet demand for modern contraceptives leads to high numbers of unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions and HIV infection.

In parallel, rates of preventable maternal deaths are high. Maternal death remains the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age due to many women having closely spaced pregnancies without appropriate ante-natal and post-natal support, or access to facilities or trained staff for deliveries.

The situation is particularly acute for adolescents and youth in East Africa, who experience some of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the world, alongside being the group at greatest risk of HIV infection. Girls who are not able to realise their sexual and reproductive health and rights are at greater risk of sexually transmitted infections (most notably HIV) and gender-based violence including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and are often forced to drop out of school, due to early marriage and unwanted pregnancy.



Venzetina set up her own business and now sends her two children to school after CHASE Africa taught her about family planning.

Without control over her body and rights, a woman lacks agency to make decisions about her reproductive health. Enabling women and girls to realise their sexual and reproductive health and rights is a fundamental step towards greater gender equality. It increases a woman's chances to complete their education, take up better opportunities and contribute to the growth and prosperity of their families and countries. It is also a key factor in building resilience to climate change related drought, flooding and seasonal changes, widely acknowledged to fall hardest on the most marginalised communities and those heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and food security.

In parallel to its core health programmes, CHASE Africa also supports activities that aim to protect the environment by supporting community level activities to promote and improve sustainable management of natural resources, reduce land degradation and biodiversity loss. For rural communities that are heavily dependent on natural resources, this not only benefits ecosystems, but improves livelihoods and lives, especially of rural women and children who bear the burden of activities such as collecting water and firewood and suffer most from food insecurity.

How We Work

We support local partner organisations to start-up and run community health and environment programmes, providing them with grant funding and technical support.

We have deliberately selected organisations that are deeply embedded in the local communities they serve, ensuring an intimate understanding of the local context.

Our approach to partnership is collaborative and is highly regarded by all our local partners.

As well as providing grant finance for project implementation, we also support each partner's organisational development through additional training and funding for capacity building. Our partners in turn work in close collaboration and partnership with local government services – facilitating better access to existing health services, that we also strengthen as part of our programmes.

We facilitate significant sharing of knowledge, experience and best practice across our network of partners, through exchange visits, webinars and an annual CHASE Africa Partner Network conference.

CHASE Africa staff and our local partners at the 2023 CHASE Africa Partner Conference



Responsibilities of the Role

Strategic Leadership

- Provide leadership to the charity and its Board.
- Ensure that the Board operates within its charitable objectives and provides strategic direction for the charity.
- Ensure that the Board regularly review major risks and associated opportunities.
- Ensure that the Board fulfils its duties to ensure the sound financial health of the charity.

Governance

- Ensure that the governance arrangements are working in a cost-effective way for the charity.
- Develop the knowledge and capability of the Board of Trustees.
- Ensure the Board of Trustees is regularly refreshed and incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to govern and lead the charity effectively.
- Lead the Board in its commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Ensure appropriate policies are in place, and work within any agreed policies adopted by the charity.

External Relations

- Act as an ambassador for the cause and the charity.
- Support fundraising efforts through leveraging contacts and supporting events and key meetings.
- Maintain close relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders and influencers.
- Act as spokesperson for the organisation when appropriate.
- Represent the charity at external functions, meetings and events.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Chair quarterly meetings of Trustees effectively and efficiently.
- Ensure the Trustees are fully engaged, and decisions are taken for the best, long-term interests of the charity and that the Board takes collective ownership.
- Foster and maintain constructive relationships with and between the Trustees; and between the Board and the Executive.
- Work closely with the Chief Executive to give direction to Board policymaking and to ensure that meetings are well planned, meaningful and reflect the responsibilities of the Trustees.
- Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.

Relationship with Chief Executive and wider team

- Establish and build a strong, effective and a constructive working relationship with the Chief Executive.
- Liaise with the Chief Executive to maintain an overview of the charity's affairs, providing support as necessary whilst respecting the boundaries which exist between governance and management.
- Ensure regular contact with the Chief Executive. Conduct an annual appraisal and remuneration review for the Chief Executive in consultation with other Trustees.
- Ensure that the Chief Executive has the opportunity for professional development and has appropriate external professional support.

Person Profile

For this Chair position, we are seeking an inspiring, entrepreneurial leader, who has a collaborative spirit and an understanding of key issues for CHASE Africa including SRHRs and women's health; the changing role of international NGOs; and the links between human and environmental health.

They will have:

- Successful track record of leadership of a growing organisation.
- Significant leadership experience, including experience of chairing a board.
- Sound knowledge of the principles of good governance.
- Sound knowledge and experience of financial management.
- Diplomacy, and an independent mindedness, with a willingness to challenge, in a respectful manner.
- Ability to be a credible and compelling ambassador, able to represent the organisation and the issues that we deal with to a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Willingness to engage with fund raising – attributable contributions and contacts.
- An understanding of the role of INGOs and experience of the local context where our partners work.
- Effective grasp of the SRHR arena: its challenges, opportunities, sensitivities, and the benefits of family planning.
- High level of spoken and written articulacy
- A commitment to developing a positive relationship with the Chief Executive, and other Trustees.
- Time available to take a proactive entrepreneurial role within the charity.

As well as key behaviours and attributes that we look for in all our Board members:

- A commitment to the mission, ethos, values and work of CHASE Africa.
- Strategic vision, critical thinking, and good judgement.
- Commitment to learning, encouraging change and innovation.
- Team player, with humility and ability to get on well with others.
- Prepared to commit time, not just for meetings, but for work in between.
- Ability to ensure the charity acts in accordance with regulatory framework of a UK charity and its governing document.
- Respect for the rights of individuals.

Patients attend an outreach clinic run by our local partner, RCRA Uganda, in a primary school



How to apply

To apply for this post, please submit a CV and covering letter. The cover letter should be no longer than two pages long and explain why you are interested in this post and how your skills and experience make you a good fit.

Timeline

Closing date: 2nd April 2024

Interviews: Between 15 – 26 April 2024

Selection process

All candidates will receive an update regarding their application after the closing date.

Other trustee roles

We are also recruiting for 1 or 2 new trustees, including a trustee with safeguarding expertise. If you would also like to be considered for a trustee role, please indicate this in your application or contact the team for an informal discussion before submitting your application.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

CHASE Africa is committed to an inclusive and diverse working environment. By building a culture where everyone feels heard, respected and valued we give everyone working with us the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Accessibility

If you need any reasonable adjustments or have any additional needs with your application, please get in touch.

Safeguarding

CHASE Africa is committed to creating a safe and rewarding environment for all our people, Staff, Trustees, Partners, Volunteers and the communities we support, especially children and vulnerable adults. To fulfil this commitment, we have established robust safeguarding policy and processes that everyone working with us is expected to follow, along with a confidential whistleblowing procedure that allows individuals to raise any concerns they may have.

Queries

If you have any queries on any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information, or would like to have an informal discussion, please email: harrietgordonbrown@chaseafrica.org.uk.

Role Details

Location

Meetings are a combination of in-person and online. Physical meetings are held in London and at our office in Somerset.

Term

Our Trustees serve a three-year term, which may be renewed for two additional terms.

Remuneration

The role is offered on a pro bono voluntary basis. Reasonable expenses to be reimbursed.

Time commitment

Two days per month. As well as chairing quarterly board meetings, the Chair will need to meet regularly with the CEO and carry out some external engagements.

A community dialogue targeting men organised by our local partner, The Maa Trust





CHASE

A F R I C A

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CHASE Africa is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1200992).

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