The Annual Report of the Trustees of SALCET for the Financial Year ending 5th April 2026

SALCET has celebrated the 20th anniversary of receiving charitable status this year. We have continued to support projects in El Salvador, Uganda and Kenya over the last year. There have not been any SALCET fieldtrips to Africa and/or El Salvador this year, but, despite not being able to visit in person, SALCET keeps in regular contact with friends and projects in all 3 countries, supporting them prayerfully and financially. It was hoped that a field trip to El Salvador would be possible in early 2026 because a recently retired GP with particular skills in joint injections had agreed to join the team. Unfortunately health issues ruled this out for the time being. SALCET is increasingly using modern technology for remote diagnostics, particularly in Uganda, to treat and help disadvantaged children to lead a normal life.

EL SALVADOR

Ruth Cruz, SALCET's field worker in El Salvador, continues to manage our ophthalmic work, arranging eye appointments for those needing cataract surgery, other ophthalmological procedures or prescription spectacles, accompanying them to the ASAPROSAR or FUDEM clinics, and purchasing their medication. She is meticulous in sending SALCET all the receipts, photos and videos of the patients and progress reports on their treatment. The foreman, who oversaw the building of the San Carlos Community House fifteen years ago, has received particular medical and financial help this year, for which he is very grateful. Medication, physiotherapy, chiropractic help and orthopaedic shoes have enabled him to return to work and normal life. SALCET is negotiating for the Chairman of the San Carlos Community House to receive a corneal transplant (from an American team visiting El Salvador in January 2027). A letter of recommendation has been written and initial tests paid for. A decision will be made in late 2026.

2 medical campaigns have been held in the San Carlos Community House this year, where a dentist, general practitioner, nurse and pharmacist offered help and/or treatment to local people. As Ruth Cruz lives in San Carlos now (and is Vice-President of the Community House committee) SALCET is very pleased to receive her monthly reports on how the village and community are thriving since gang activity has ceased. 34 houses are occupied now, and several more have been built further down the ravine. Steps and a handrail have been constructed; ANDA, the government water service, has provided a new water system and water meter so that all houses have potable water continually and a daily garbage collection takes place; the main road through the village has been resurfaced, potholes dealt with and overhead power cables supported safely. The Community House itself has been well maintained throughout the year. The roof and bathrooms have been repaired and general decoration carried out, so it is always available as an emergency shelter if natural disasters occur.

On June 13th 2025 the community of San Carlos hosted a visit of a family from England. The mother (whose father was a Salvadorian doctor) had made a donation to SALCET in 2013 in memory of her father. She wanted to bring her family to experience El Salvador and see what the work of SALCET had achieved. They were warmly welcomed by Ruth and the San Carlos Community House committee, enjoyed lunch and 2 presentations spanning the last 20 years. It was a memorable day for all concerned.

Unusual weather patterns have affected El Salvador this year, with very stormy seas, strong winds, heavy rain and landslides hitting the country in May and October, causing travel chaos but no major catastrophes. Everyday goods have become more expensive and the hospital system has suffered a few crises. However, the SV-doctor App is making access to medical help easier for the whole population. In order to help people earn an income, the Filadelfia Baptist church (which Ruth attends) has set up an Entrepreneurship Project for making cleaning products, which will teach people how to make these, and then sell them. 6 people from San Carlos have taken part in the initial course at the church. Future courses will be run at the Community House so that adults and young people from the community can be trained and supplement their income. SALCET has agreed to help financially with this.

The Compassion El Salvador charity, whom Ruth works for and SALCET has worked alongside in the past, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, and now offers support to 70,000 children.

SALCET continues to hold **Pastor Carlos Gomez** and his family in its prayers. As far as is known, he is still in the CECOT prison, which does not allow visitors and has featured in several documentaries in the UK recently. The letter which Dr Chris Jagger wrote to the prison authority was posted in March 2025, but there has not been any response. Ruth Cruz keeps in touch with Carlos's family. His parents moved into his old home and are paying for his needs in prison, but sadly his father died in August 2025. The President of El Salvador has initiated mass trials by video link of the gang members in CECOT prison and sentences pronounced. Hundreds of innocent inmates have been released, but to date there is no news of Carlos.

SALCET continues to support **CDH (Asociacion de Campesinos para el Desarrollo Humano)** in the rural area of Morazan with their medical work at the Estancia clinic. However, we have not been in a financial position to send funds this year. We have not received a written report this year of all their medical interventions and environmental work but understand from Dr Maruca Stanhope that the project is still thriving.

UGANDA

Robert Mwanjuzi has continued to care pastorally for the group of 6 disabled children and their mothers during this year and to provide for their medical and practical needs as appropriate. SALCET has helped finance some of these, including providing Christmas food for each family (instead of a Christmas party). Robert has sent receipts, and photos of very happy children.

Robert also completed a degree course this year and has started a primary school, renting the premises of a school which closed down. Supporting this is not within the remit of SALCET.

The political situation in Uganda as well as the uncertainties in the climate due to global warming have led to the collapse of the **Ssunga Twezimbe Womens Group (STWG) in Masaka** as SALCET knew it in 2016. We have not received any reports from them this year, and those received from Robert Mwanjuzi and Cathy Musoke indicate that the 10 women left in the group are finding it easier to provide for their families individually rather than collectively. Corruption in the country is rife so SALCET has decided that it cannot make any more financial donations to STWG, but will continue to keep an interest in the people in the Twezimbe area, through Robert Mwanjuzi.

KENYA

SALCET is continuing to support one child suffering with cerebral palsy in Nairobi. Through video link Dr Chris Jagger has been able to help with diagnostics and offer advice regarding physiotherapy and equipment to help this child. This has proved life-changing and he is now walking and attending school. SALCET sends small donations to help this child flourish and enjoy good health.

THANKS

SALCET is very grateful to faithful individuals and Charitable Trusts for their ongoing interest in and support of the charity. The website has been updated this year and new publicity leaflets produced. SALCET is actively looking for one or two new Trustees and for more financial support from individuals and organisations locally.