

Minutes of ElectricAid Committee Meeting held on 28th September, 2021 via Conference Call

Attendees:

Judith Doherty Anthony LeCourriard Shane McDonnell Tony Merriman
 Niamh Delaney John Kelly Pauline Holland Éadaoin Smith James Foley
 Bernie O'Connor Gillian O'Regan Paul Cox Mary Kavanagh
 Fergal Fitzgerald Oonagh Dalton Peter Kelly

Apologies: Joe Lawlor Gerry Mooney Zoë Murphy Sanjena Bhutani

Item	Description	Action by
Address by ElectricAid Chairperson	Judith Doherty welcomed all to the meeting and, in particular, the members of the Oxfam management team who made their presentation as detailed below.	
Presentation by Oxfam	<p>Oxfam were represented by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Mellett (Director of Fundraising and Marketing); • Roisin Coulter (Fundraising and Marketing Executive); • Niamh Carty (Director of International Programme) and • Rosa Brandon (Programme Quality Officer). <p>All four took part in the presentation.</p> <p>The Oxfam Ireland vision is for a just and sustainable world and their mission is to fight inequality to end poverty and injustice. Their values are equality, empowerment, solidarity, inclusiveness, accountability and courage.</p> <p>Oxfam Ireland operate in the following countries: Burundi, Iraq, Nepal, The Philippines, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen.</p> <p>During discussions after the presentation, Oxfam agreed to hold separate discussions with ElectricAid and offer advice on how best to liaise with local NGOs and prevent fraud and they set out their current Oxfam protection measures.</p>	
Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest were reported.	
Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by John Kelly and seconded by Pauline Holland.</p> <p>As a follow-up to the minutes, Niamh Delaney will revert with an Eirgrid nominee for the ElectricAid committee before the next meeting.</p>	
ElectricAid Office Update	<p>Fergal Fitzgerald reported on the Key Performance Indicators for the year to date.</p> <p>There have been 83 fundings in the year to date (4 in Ireland and 79 worldwide) with total grants amounting to €856,431. Projects by continent: Ireland (4), Europe (0), Africa (56), Asia (13), South America (9) and Oceania (1).</p> <p>These grants fit the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as follows:</p> <p>These grants fit the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as follows: Goal 1 (No Poverty): 4 Goal 2 (Zero Hunger): 17 Goal 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing): 20 Goal 4 (Quality Education): 20 Goal 5 (Gender Equality): 4</p>	

	<p>Goal 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation): 13 Goal 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth): 4 Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities): 1</p> <p>Special Partner Funding: €446,316 was granted to 34 projects.</p>																
Strategy Steering Group Report	<p>The Strategy Steering Group had been set up to review the impact of ElectricAid for a number of larger and smaller charities. The group consisted of a member of each of the Evalco, Membership, Finance and Governance groups.</p> <p>The purpose is to offer ElectricAid members projects of greater scale which could allow them to follow the development of such projects over a greater timescale.</p> <p>It was proposed to undertake a pilot proposal with next steps to consider criteria and terms of reference.</p>																
Finance Group Report	<p>Shane McDonnell reported on the August management accounts.</p> <p>The ESB contribution of €275,000 has been received.</p> <p>Further tax rebates in the amount of €10,000 have been received from Revenue.</p> <p>Forecast income for the current financial year is €1,038,291 with expenditure forecast at €1,034,559.</p> <p>Emergency funding was approved for projects in Haiti and Syria.</p> <p>The Finance report was proposed by Éadaoin Smith and seconded by James Foley.</p>																
Evaluation Committee Report	<p>The Evaluation Group met on 13th September.</p> <p>In attendance: Pauline Holland (Chair) Gillian O'Regan Judith Doherty Éadaoin Smith Sanjena Bhutani Tony Merriman Oonagh Dalton Fergal Fitzgerald</p> <p>Apologies: Paul Cox</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared</p> <p>Evalco assessed 18 applications seeking a combined total of €197,977 in funding. Treasurer guidance of €150,000 was advised.</p> <p>The Committee recommended 12 applications for funding totalling €128,688</p> <p>Funding reached 8 different countries, Ireland 1, Africa 6, Asia 3, Central America 2. (Total 12)</p> <p>8 projects were funded in full, 4 in part. 5 projects were rejected and 1 deferred.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="359 1877 946 2116"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Count of Country</th> <th>Recommended</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ireland</td> <td>1</td> <td>€7,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lebanon</td> <td>1</td> <td>€16,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nepal</td> <td>1</td> <td>€13,550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicaragua</td> <td>2</td> <td>€25,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Count of Country	Recommended	Ireland	1	€7,750	Lebanon	1	€16,000	Nepal	1	€13,550	Nicaragua	2	€25,000	
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Governance Group Report	<p>The Governance Group had met on 13th September with Gerry Mooney, Mary Kavanagh, Fergal Fitzgerald and Peter Kelly in attendance.</p> <p>Papers have been drafted on the following topics: Conflict of Interest; Gifts & Hospitality; Risk Management and Role of Trustees.</p> <p>It was proposed that new members of the ElectricAid committee complete the Conflicts of Interest declaration.</p> <p>It was proposed that the ElectricAid Risk Meeting take place in October in order to update the Risk Register.</p>																																												
Membership Group Report	<p>Anthony LeCourriard reported on behalf of the Membership Group:</p> <p>Excellent feedback was received from the recent Customer Solutions webinar and Nicola O’Leary, ESBI Marketing Manager, has indicated the potential help from ESBI staff based in Liberia, Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.</p> <p>Judith Doherty made a presentation to the EMP quarterly briefing which was attended by 454 staff members. The next webinar will take place in October or November with the Generation and Trading group.</p> <p>Revolut: initial discussions have taken place with Finance to implement the use of Revolut for one-off donations. However, there has been some difficulty in making contact with representatives from Revolut and it has transpired since that Revolut will not allow ElectricAid to establish an account to allow for one-off donations.</p>																																												

AOB	<p>Fergal Fitzgerald reported that there had been a recent discussion with ActionAid concerning their addition of overheads to their project applications.</p> <p>Two recent applications from Action Aid included a budget line citing 15% costs for Action Aid in Ireland. Discussions with held with the team in Action Aid who advised these costs are based on a review of the past 3 years of Action Aid costs and include elements like project governance, measurement, evaluation and learnings. Time also goes into the preparation of applications before being submitted to ElectricAid. This was circulated to the ElectricAid committee who advised these costs are out of scope. Suggested to Action Aid to consider</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of these budget lines for ElectricAid Applications 2. Consider applications where a co funder is covering these costs 3. Clearly identify and detail exactly what costs relate to a given project rather than a budget line which is limited in detail. 	
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Meeting Schedule/Deadlines/Committee Meetings for 2021/2022

Application Deadline	EvalCo	Executive Committee	Other Meetings
			Risk Meeting
			28-10-2021
20-10-2021	16-11-2021	30-11-2021	
15-12-2021	11-01-2022	25-01-2022	
16-02-2022	15-03-2022	29-03-2022	
20-04-2022	10-05-2022	24-05-2022	