



Trustee for SOS Sahel International UK- Do you have extensive knowledge of Ethiopia, Sudan and/or South Sudan? We would love to hear from you.

Background

For over 30 years, SOS Sahel International UK (SOSSUK) has been dedicated to relieving the poverty of marginalised groups who live in the drylands of the Sahel, the belt of semi-arid land south of the Sahara. Historically, SOS Sahel International UK was an umbrella organisation with country programmes across select countries in the Sahel (our first and largest being Sudan). However, after a long and difficult process of organisational transformation motivated by grassroots, African-led development, SOS Sahel International UK is now a facilitating NGO with independent national partners in Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

We support our partner organisations to work with pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, fishermen and small-holder farmers to help them protect their local environment and at the same time improve their livelihoods. SOSSUK has a small specialised staff based in our Oxford office.

Job description

SOS Sahel International UK (SOSS UK) is registered as a charity, and as a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a Board, who are Trustees of SOSS UK under Charity law, and Directors under company law.

The general responsibilities of a Trustee are:

- To ensure that SOSS UK complies with its governing rules, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations;
- To ensure SOSS UK pursues its charitable objects as defined in its governing documents;
- To ensure that SOSS UK applies its resources exclusively in furtherance of its objects, i.e. the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objectives, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are;
- To contribute actively to the Board of Trustees' role of giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining long term goals and evaluating performance against agreed targets;
- To safeguard the good name and values of SOSS UK;
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of SOSS UK;
- To ensure financial stability of SOSS UK;
- To protect and manage the property of SOSS UK and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds;
- To appoint and support staff and monitor their performance.

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of a trustee please refer to the charity commission guidance using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

Trustees will use any specific knowledge or experience they may have to help the Board agree and make sound decisions. This will involve scrutinising papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues and providing advice and guidance requested by the Board on new initiatives or other issues relevant to the area of the work of SOSS UK in which the Trustee has special expertise.

Person specification

Crucially, you will be a team-player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills as well as integrity. Ultimately, it is important that you believe that SOS Sahel International UK is an organisation that you can identify with and actively promote and support.

Each trustee should have:

- A genuine and strong commitment to SOSS UK
- An understanding of the core values, beliefs and objectives of the organisation
- An understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship of a charity or the ability to learn them rapidly
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to being a trustee
- Integrity, sound judgement and a willingness to speak their mind in a constructive manner
- The ability to make good, independent judgements
- High level strategic thinking and vision
- The ability to develop policy
- Evidence of the ability to assess performance
- An ability to think creatively
- The ability to influence, empower and where necessary lead a team
- Experience of operating at a senior (preferably Board) level is desirable

Our aim is that the skills of trustees collectively are appropriate to all aspects of our work. For the specific current vacancy, candidates should also have two or more of the following:

- In-depth knowledge of the development and emergencies contexts in either Ethiopia, Sudan and/or South Sudan
- Experience of living in Africa or working with African organisations.
- Knowledge of Amharic/Tigrinya or Arabic would be an advantage
- Be based in or near Oxford.

Time commitment

The Board usually meets four times a year for up to three hours, in London or Oxford. Board papers are issued a few days before each meeting. In addition, Trustees may be asked to contribute additional time (unlikely to be more than the equivalent of one day) between meetings.

Reimbursement

The position of Trustee is unpaid. However, SOSS UK will reimburse reasonable expenses incurred by Trustees in the course of their duties.

SOS Sahel International UK is keen to achieve greater diversity among our board of trustees so we welcome applications from all sections of the community. In particular we would like the board of SOS Sahel International UK to have a greater representation of individuals originating from developing countries, especially Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan.

To register your interest:

To register your interest in becoming a Trustee for SOS Sahel international UK, please send your CV (max 3 pages) outlining your experience, a short (max 2 pages) cover letter and a completed equal opportunities form to mail@sahel.org.uk

Your cover letter should address the profile criteria, your suitability and availability, as well as your reason for applying.

Applications should be received no later than 5pm on 10th September 2017. Interviews will be held in Oxford on Monday 2nd October 2017.