



VEGAN COMPASSION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Dear Friends,

While I knew roughly what I wanted to say in this introduction, I was struggling for a way to express it. Then I came across the words of one of our project partners, *Magic Marble Foundation (MMF)*, and knew I couldn't say it nearly as well:

Real magic isn't found in wands or spells – it lives in the moments when we choose to extend our hands to help another being in need. It's the transformation of a scared, hungry street dog into a trusting companion. It's in the smile of a child receiving a warm meal, or the freedom of a life once held in captivity who had lost all hope.... Through simple acts of compassion, we can transform lives.

Jennifer George, Founder, Magic Marble Foundation

Because we always strive to be as specific as possible about where our donations are sent, we can give a pretty accurate picture of the lives we have

impacted directly in 2025 so far – 156 displaced people from the Ethiopian civil conflict; 75 Ethiopian children and their families who receive monthly food parcels to relieve their hunger; 34 Guatemalan children at least partly saved from food insecurity; roughly 180 homeless dogs in Nepal sterilised and 2200 meals given to the temporary animal residents at a Kathmandu care centre; 50 Ugandan children nourished by a warm daily school meal; and recently, 39 orphaned children in the Democratic Republic of Congo who are now receiving good food three evenings per week (as you will read, we're striving to make it more) as well as much needed love and care at an inspirational vegan orphanage in the city of Goma.

We can add to these a few jobs provided for cooks and reliable markets created for local farmers who grow the crops that our beneficiaries enjoy.

Beyond that are possible benefits we cannot measure so easily. Who can say how much a message of compassion delivered both in word and deed might have on individual lives and wider communities? We can only put it out there and hope that its influence will prove significant.

As always, everyone involved with the charity would like to extend our gratitude to all those who have supported us over the last twelve months and beyond for your financial support and encouragement.

We couldn't achieve anything without you.

Mark Gold, Founder

November 2025

Providing Food for DRC Vegan Orphanage

Since September we have providing meals at a remarkable vegan orphanage in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC).

It is located in the city of Goma, in the east of the vast DRC, where 3,000 people were brutally murdered over a four-day period as recently as February this year – casualties of a civil war that has claimed a staggering six million lives since 1996.

Out of this carnage has emerged the inspiring vegan orphanage ***Caring For All Beings*** in Goma itself, founded and built in 2024 by Joshua Mufabule. With support from the US, Joshua has managed to fulfil his dream of creating a refuge for child victims of the war, all of whom have lost at least one parent.

Thirty-nine youngsters aged 6-16 receive love, shelter, food and clothing, with the ultimate aim of providing 'everything a parent would give their children when they have the means'.

A vegetable garden has been created where everyone helps out and learns how to grow their own crops. The youngsters also learn the value of compassionate living and the benefits of an exclusively plant-based diet for people, animals and the planet, as well as taking English lessons. With more funding will come literacy and vocational training and dance lessons.

You can watch a short video about the initiative [here](#).

At present, only nine of the children can stay at the centre overnight due to a lack of resources. The other 31 are welcomed and fed during the day, but still have to leave in the evening. Some sleep outside.

Until recently, the orphanage even lacked the finance to give the day-only members of its family a good meal before they leave at 4pm.

This is where we have stepped in, donating funds to ensure that all 39 children enjoy a substantial early evening meal for three days every week. We have initially committed funds for a year. But we want to do much more...

**** SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DRC ORPHANAGE ****

We have largely avoided making special appeals throughout our short existence, mainly because we are entirely dependent on a small number of donors who continue to be incredibly generous in their support for what we do. We would hate anyone to feel taken for granted, so if you're among that group, we will understand if you take the following as an announcement rather than an appeal!

By the end of this year, we hope to sponsor at least another two evening meals for **all the orphaned children for the whole of 2026**. The meals are costed and will feature nutritious ingredients such as sweet potatoes, beans, tofu and fruit.

Eventually, we want to see all the children enjoy the safety of the permanent home they need and deserve.

To help us achieve our goals, we have launched a *GoFundMe* appeal page. Already, we have secured match funding for the first £2500 we raise in donations.

We're also organising a couple of events and encouraging sponsored walks, coffee mornings etc.

If you would like to donate or pass on this information and encourage others, you will find the GoFundMe page [here](#).

Alternatively, our general donation page can be found [here](#).

Thank you!



Bread for Displaced Victims of Ethiopian Unrest

Following the forced abandonment of our school feeding programme at Jihur Primary School in Northern Ethiopia due to security issues, we were asked by our long-term partners *International Fund for Africa* to help feed some of the multitude of people displaced by the ongoing civil conflict. Millions of women and children in particular have lost their homes and/or had to flee from danger, often suffering the worst of human barbarism beforehand, or else on their long journeys in search of sanctuary. The most affected groups include children, pregnant women, single parents and the elderly.

Our funds allowed 156 people (including under-fives, single women and elderly folk) to receive month-long supplies of the essential Ethiopian bread ingredients of flour and oil in the early days after their arrival as refugees in Addis Ababa, plus specially formulated vegan food for the very young.

This helped to mitigate their immediate trauma.



Refugees awaiting food distribution

New Ethiopian School Feeding Initiative

In September we began a new school feeding programme. After extensive research, our Ethiopian colleagues identified schools in the Bulga region as communities where many students and their families are at risk of acute hunger, but where there is greater security than in the case of our previous project in Northern Amhara.

We are now committed to feeding 75 of the most vulnerable students with monthly take-home food parcels for the next year. The beneficiaries were chosen from three schools – Tetese Primary School, Sheriye Primary School and Dire Meda Primary School – in an area approximately 70km from Addis Ababa.

Once again, the food parcels are carefully balanced to provide a wide variety of vitamins and minerals and the quantities are sufficient to ensure that whole families can benefit. The current 10-kilo monthly rations include barley, wheat, maize, chickpea, beans, sorghum, teff and whole lentils blended into a multigrain flour. Macaroni is also distributed separately.

Families receive guidance on how to create culturally appropriate vegan meals from the mix. The emphasis is on breakfast dishes, since children learn much better when they arrive at school free from hunger: that way their long-term educational prospects and life chances are significantly improved.

As well as reducing hunger, this project creates a stable market for local growers and employs two parents to blend and distribute the food.



Some of the families benefiting from the new school feeding programme

Helping Homeless Dogs in Nepal

There are so many important campaigns to reduce non-human animal suffering (as there are to protect humans, of course) that it is a near-impossible task to single one out. Our rationale for choosing to donate to Magic Marble Foundation's (MMF) new veterinary centre in Nepal was largely governed by the trusting relationship we have already developed with the organisation, based on our shared vegan philosophy. Those values are much in evidence in the practical help that MMF offers in Nepal.

Primarily, the Nepal clinic operates a comprehensive vaccination and sterilisation programme for homeless dogs, thereby offering important protection from disease and ill-health and preventing suffering for generations to come. It also offers medical treatment and care for sick and injured individuals and the terminally ill.

In addition to its practical work at the clinic, MMF runs an extensive educational campaign, thus fitting perfectly with our own mission to combine concrete help with the promotion of kindness in the wider

community. It provides public health education on animal welfare and veganism, workshops on animal care and rabies, plus warm clothes for struggling people and beds for vulnerable dogs.

We have agreed to sponsor 30 more sterilisations and 200 meals before the end of the year.

You can watch a video of the new care centre and the values it promotes [here](#).



Ugandan School Feeding Programme Comes to an End

Late last year we renewed a commitment we first made in 2023 to cover school meals for 50 children at two primary schools situated to the west of Kampala in Uganda. Ours was a minority contribution to a wider scheme that offered daily meals to 400 children at two primary schools.

The programme was instigated and coordinated by Magic Marble Foundation and is very much in keeping with our other school feeding programmes over the years in that it provides nutritious vegan food for hungry children, thereby increasing school attendance and educational

achievement potential while also teaching students about the benefits of plant-based diets.

Unfortunately, we have recently been informed that the project cannot continue because of a lack of resources and the loss of a co-ordinator on the ground to oversee the proper distribution of food.

While it is sad to see this initiative end, we'll be pursuing the possibility of taking on an alternative scheme in 2026.



Humane Education in Guatemala

Unlike some of the other projects we are currently sponsoring, our humane education programme in Guatemala is at least taking place in a country that has been free from obvious violent conflict in 2025. Nevertheless, the country has enduring problems, notably severe economic poverty and food insecurity. In the small rural area of El Hato, where our programme is based, these deprivations are common, particularly amongst the majority native Maya population.

The programme we have sponsored since March 2025 supports 34 children aged 6-12. Many come from low-income families who may struggle to provide a stable, nutritious diet.

Every Friday, the students take part in a 35-week course whose main function is to nurture empathy, compassion and respect for animals, people and the environment. The youngsters learn the value of peaceful conflict resolution and practical ways to treat animals with care and dignity. The curriculum has been thoughtfully prepared and includes fun activities such as stories and art sessions, as well as discussion groups.

We sponsor a nutritious light meal for all the children at every session – 1320 vegan meals in total – plus occasional celebratory events where mothers are invited to share a meal and learn more about the values that their children are being encouraged to pursue.

In addition to the 34 participants, the project has reached roughly 250 people, mostly family members.

We also feel that the emphasis on respect and care for animals and people is communicated in such a creative way that it helps to improve the wellbeing of stray dogs and household pets within the community.



Our Aims and Principles

- The Vegan Compassion Group was registered as a charity (Charity Commission number 327281) in 2019, though it had supported one or two projects as the Living Without Cruelty Trust prior to this. It is run by a board of three trustees which includes its founder.

- Our aim is to demonstrate compassion in action by applying our vegan beliefs to small-scale humanitarian projects. Donations are made for specific schemes, so that we know and can accurately assess what our funds have achieved. We are able to eliminate all expenses (apart from bank transfer costs). To date, all outside help for advertising, design and printing has been generously donated and our trustees take no expenses.
- Key to our initiatives is the forging of trusting and mutually respectful relationships with charitable organisations who work in the countries where we are active. Mostly, these are fellow vegan organisations that share our vision. On the rare occasions where this is not the case, we are confident that our partners understand and respect our beliefs.
- Our approach is inclusive, quietly emphasising our core values while encouraging other sympathetic souls who might support our individual projects without fully embracing the wider vegan vision. 'Exclusively vegan but not exclusive to vegans' is our motto.

Special thanks...

to all the 'usual suspects' for their help this year: Vegfest UK for the 'freebie' stalls at its events and a free mailing to its followers and Ned Buyukmihci for running our website (as well as the notable [Action for Primates website](#)). Vegan Fairs kindly gave us a stall at Exeter Vegan Fair and offered us space at their other events.

Thanks also to Niktta Fleming who generously volunteered to increase our social media presence and is doing a fine job.

Cath Sleigh gave loyal support as a trustee for several years before leaving earlier this year. Current trustees Sharon Howe and Ali Brantingham continue to provide invaluable help.

Above all of course, we thank all our wonderful supporters!

For more information, visit
vegancompassiongroup.co.uk
 Email: info@vegancompassiongroup.co.uk
@vegancompassiongroup

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