

# ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1061352

## Details

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**Other names** ORBIS ORBIS UK

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [03303689](#)

**Registered** 1997-03-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Orbis Charitable Trust  
41-42 Craven Street  
London  
WC2N 5NG

**Phone** 020 7608 7260

**Email** [info@orbis.org.uk](mailto:info@orbis.org.uk)

**Website** [www.orbis.org.uk](http://www.orbis.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 2 The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit:2.1 The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling;2.2 The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment;2.3 The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research.

**Activities:** Orbis Charitable Trust, known as Orbis UK is based in the UK and is an affiliate of Orbis International. Orbis International is a nonprofit global development organisation dedicated to saving sight and transforming lives. Our mission is to preserve and restore sight by strengthening the capacity of local institutions in their efforts to prevent and treat blindness.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

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- Bangladesh
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Mongolia
- Peru
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- United States
- Vietnam
- Zambia

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,094,140	£5,631,656	£2,572,686	31
2023-12-31	£6,479,101	£6,123,943	£3,110,201	28
2022-12-31	£6,186,955	£6,013,830	£2,755,044	30
2021-12-31	£5,953,960	£6,586,876	£2,581,919	35
2020-12-31	£6,413,064	£5,664,587	£3,214,801	35

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Nick Fox</b>	Chair	2020-01-27
Carys Sian Block		2020-06-23
Claire Louise Porter		2025-12-02
Darsh Kirtikumar Shah		2022-12-06
Diana Lynn Wheeler		2025-12-02
FIONA HOBBS		2021-12-07
John Desmond Ferris		2023-03-28
NIGHAT KHAN		2021-12-07
SIR DOMINIC ASQUITH		2020-10-16
Sheraz Mansoor Daya		2023-03-28
William James Glaister		2025-12-02
YVETTE DUNNE		2017-12-13

**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1061352

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# Accounts

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# Expanding access to eye care in a changing world

**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024**

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Front Cover image: Five-year-old Buyandeleger from Mongolia received a life-changing cataract surgery onboard the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in 2024.

Binaya, 12, lives with his parents and two brothers in a village in Odisha, India. Their community produces sarees, a profession Binaya is likely to join when he's older. However, when Binaya started to experience vision problems, his future was clouded by uncertainty. At an Orbis eye screening he was diagnosed with bilateral cataracts and referred to our partner hospital, Trilochan Netraya. Binaya underwent a successful cataract surgery in late 2024.



# Chair and CEO welcome

## The warmest of welcomes *to the 2024 Orbis UK Annual Report*

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Dear supporters,

2024 was a year of remarkable progress and renewed momentum across Orbis UK's global programmes. Thanks to your unwavering support, and despite ongoing challenges in the wider economic and international development landscape, we exceeded ambitious targets, expanded access to eye care in some of the world's most underserved communities, and laid the groundwork for even greater impact in the years ahead.

We're proud to share that we enabled over 469,000 eye screenings and delivered more than 37,000 treatments — surpassing our targets by wide margins. In Ethiopia, we administered an extraordinary 2.5 million doses of antibiotics to combat trachoma — nearly a million more people treated than expected—and provided sight-saving eyelid surgery to over 5,000 individuals. These achievements bring us closer to the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating trachoma by 2030.

Our commitment to training the next generation of eye care professionals remained strong, with 9,908 training sessions delivered — 23% above target. In Zambia, our integrated community eye health network screened 68,035 children — nearly double our target — while in Bangladesh, our women-led green vision centres continued to break down barriers to care. With 42,821 patients seen, over half of whom were women and girls, these centres are transforming access to eye care and empowering women as leaders in their communities.

Elsewhere in Bangladesh, we continued to support vulnerable communities in Cox's Bazar, delivering vital services to the Rohingya population, and concluded a successful project with tea pickers in Sylhet, where access to glasses directly improved livelihoods. In Mongolia, we screened over 2,000 premature babies and trained hundreds of professionals, while in India, we opened two new green vision centres and distributed over 22,000 pairs of glasses.

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital returned to Mongolia and Bangladesh in 2024, delivering training and surgery in partnership with local hospitals. In Mongolia alone, over 250 professionals received world-class training, and more than 50 patients received life-changing surgery. We also supported impactful projects in South Africa, Sierra Leone, and Peru, helping to expand access to eye care through training, research, and essential equipment.

Our digital innovation also continued to thrive. Cybersight, our e-learning and telemedicine platform, reached the milestone of 100,000 users worldwide. This global community is helping to raise the standard of eye care everywhere.

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In 2024, we continued to make significant progress towards growing and diversifying our income. Major donor contributions increased by 50% year-on-year, and income from companies, trusts and foundations, and the public all saw double-digit growth. This resulted in an additional £441k in donation income (excluding legacies and statutory sources) compared to the previous year.

Whilst we continue to grow the level of restricted donations last year, and in the face of fluctuating income from legacies and the volatility of global statutory funding, we also took the strategic decision to invest in our sustainable and controllable public giving income stream, which is a major source of unrestricted income for Orbis UK. This in-year investment enabled us to inspire a new generation of regular donors to the charity, providing reliable and resilient funding for our future programming over the coming years.

We were also honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh to our second annual Orbis Visionaries reception at Abbey Road Studios. In her role as Global Ambassador for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, Her Royal Highness reflected on her visit to Orbis projects in Ethiopia and reaffirmed the global call to end avoidable blindness.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will support 21 new and existing projects through Orbis International, with a continued focus on eliminating trachoma in Ethiopia, expanding rural eye care in Bangladesh and Zambia, and scaling services in Ghana. We'll also launch new initiatives in Meghalaya, India, and South Western Ethiopia, while deepening our work in Mongolia to ensure every premature baby receives the care they need.

Together, we are building a world where no one is needlessly blind. Thank you for standing with us.

With best wishes,



**Rebecca Cronin (Chief Executive)**



**Nick Fox (Chair)**

# Who we are and what we do

Orbis and our supporters aim to create a world in which no one experiences avoidable vision loss, simply because of where they live.

Over 1.1 billion people live with sight loss globally, so ending avoidable blindness for all is a global challenge. 90% of vision loss is preventable or treatable - that's why we work with supporters and partners to deliver a sustainable and scalable approach to:

- TREAT people with vision loss, to save sight today.
- TRAIN eye care professionals, to save sight tomorrow.
- Employ TECHNOLOGY to create a future without avoidable vision loss.

## **Our vision**

A world where everyone can access the eye care they need to thrive.

## **Our mission**

To build strong and sustainable eye care systems globally that put treatment and prevention within reach for all.

## **Why we do it**

1.1 billion people in the world live with some form of visual impairment. Of these:

- 450 million are children and adolescents.
- 90% live in low- and middle-income countries.
- 55% are women and girls, and 2 out of 3 children who are blind are girls.

## **How we fight avoidable blindness**

- We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.
- We carry out screening and treatment programmes, and support the distribution of antibiotics for controlling trachoma.
- We raise awareness among communities about the importance of eye health.
- We partner with local hospitals, non-government organisations (NGOs) and governments so they can strengthen and improve eye health services.

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## Our global reach – Orbis International

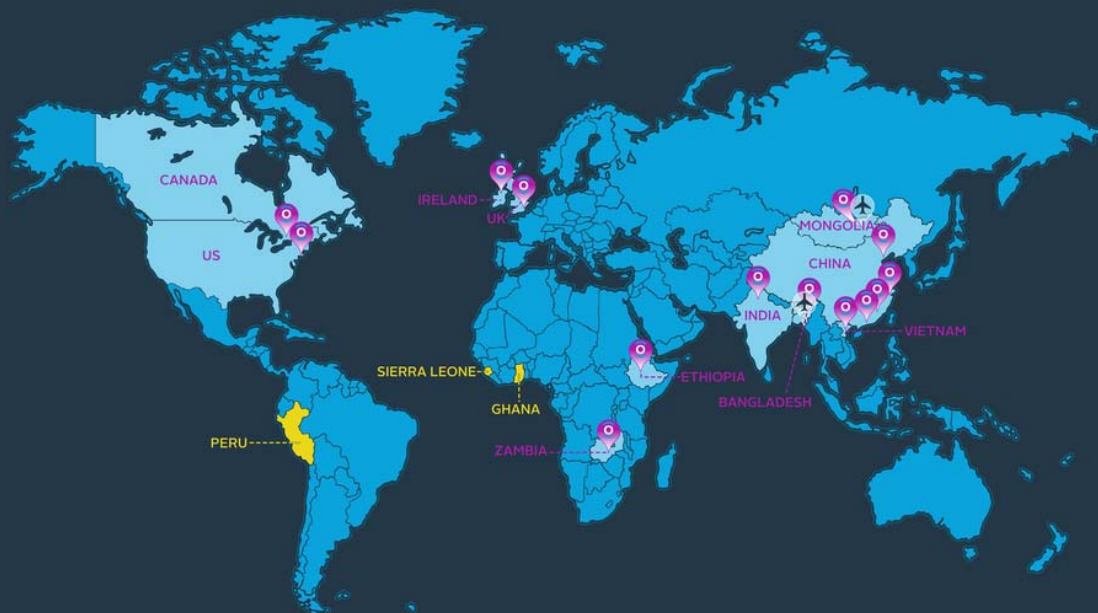
Orbis UK is an affiliate of Orbis International (OI), which is headquartered in the USA. Orbis UK funds projects delivered by Orbis International country programme teams, and supports the development and implementation of selected projects within these countries.

The vast majority of people who are blind and visually impaired live in low- and middle-income countries. Older people, women and rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected. We focus on where the need is greatest: in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Research shows that every \$1 invested in tackling leading causes of blindness, such as cataract and refractive error, delivers a \$36 return of benefits including education and employment outcomes. [1]

### Orbis's global presence in 2024

**KEY:**  2 In-Person Flying Eye Hospital Projects  14 Offices  Additional countries with Orbis UK funded projects in 2024



[1] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10680113/?report=classic>

# Our year in numbers

## Orbis UK's impact

Our partners and supporters helped us save the sight of people in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mongolia, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zambia across 18 projects in 2024.

### Key successes in saving sight we delivered in partnership included:

- enabling 469,287 eye screenings, exceeding our target by 42%.
- enabling 37,378 treatments, exceeding our target by nearly 20%.
- delivering 2,554,948 antibiotic doses, which was 79% more than our yearly target.
- delivering 9,908 training sessions for health workers, which was 23% above our target.

### As percentages of total income:

Major donors, trusts and corporate partners 31%  
Individual donors 31%  
Legacies 27%  
Statutory donors 11%

## Orbis UK's income

### Total income: £5,094k

Due to legacy income returning to normal levels in 2024 following an exceptional 2023, our total income for 2024 was -21% / -£1.4m year-on-year.

However, owing to the continuing generosity of our dedicated supporters, we saw significant year-on-year increases across fundraising streams in 2024. This growth helped us provide more access to sight saving eye care around the world.

Donations from major donors increased by 50% year-on-year, whilst income from companies, trusts & foundations and the general public all saw double-digit percentage increases. This resulted in £441k of increased donation income (excluding legacies and statutory sources) versus the previous year.

Following an extraordinary year in 2023, income from legacies returned to normal levels in 2024, resulting in a -46% / -£1.2m year-on-year legacies variance.

With the unpredictable nature of legacy income each year, as well as the uncertain economic and political environment in which we are operating in, realising year-on-year growth across our diversified fundraising streams was more important than ever to ensure we sustainably fund our sight-saving work.



In November 2024, the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital visited Chattogram, Bangladesh, for a two-week ophthalmic training programme. Orbis clinical staff and volunteer medical experts provided hands-on surgical and patient care training to eye care professionals from across Bangladesh, in addition to simulation training and ophthalmic workshops. Among the volunteer experts were UK-based anaesthetists Dr Ghalib Mukadam and Dr Lawrence Azavedo, long-time Orbis volunteers who have helped share sight-saving skills around the world.

# Comprehensive eye care

## Working with partners to provide *eye care everywhere, for everyone*

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**We work in partnership across the health system, from community-based clinics to specialist hospitals, and at all stages of a patient's journey, to deliver comprehensive eye care to people everywhere.**

In 2024, our partners helped us to deliver 469,287 eye screenings, 37,378 treatments and provide 2,554,948 antibiotic doses in Ethiopia to people at risk from trachoma.

### **Ethiopia**

In 2024 we continued progress towards eliminating trachoma in Ethiopia. The leading cause of infectious blindness worldwide, repeated trachoma infections deform eyelids and turn eyelashes inward. As a person's eyelashes scrape the eye's surface, each blink brings agonising pain. Without treatment, this can lead to permanent blindness. With over half of the world's at-risk population living in Ethiopia, our work there is critical to achieving the World Health Organization's 2030 goal of global trachoma elimination.

During 2024 our teams in Southern Ethiopia identified higher trachoma prevalence rates than anticipated. In response, Orbis worked closely with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health so they could allocate additional antibiotics to areas Orbis support in Southern Ethiopia.

This allowed us to treat nearly a million more people than expected in mass drug administration of antibiotics in Ethiopia. Over 5,000 people received sight-saving eyelid surgery for trachoma-trichiasis.

To ensure the efficacy of our work fighting trachoma, four projects in Ethiopia benefited from a new community-based feedback mechanism. 21 initial Orbis and partner staff were trained on the process, before they in turn trained 127 staff from 40 health facilities. Awareness of the scheme was raised through posters in facilities and radio broadcasts.

In addition, we conducted research funded by Sightsavers, helping establish how and when eye swab and blood samples can be used in trachoma prevalence surveys. These tests will enable more efficient deployments of mass drug administrations, meaning medicine and resources can go further in the fight against trachoma.

Beyond trachoma, comprehensive eye care services for other conditions were extended to patients in a number of regions within Southern Ethiopia. Nearly 3,000 patients received cataract surgery, including support with travel costs for patients in some of the most remote areas of the country. Over 2,200 patients received glasses, including many children through eye screening in schools.



Tesfanesh's baby Hoyte was just five weeks old when she noticed he was struggling to open his eyes through a teary discharge. When she heard there was a trachoma screening in a nearby village, Tesfanesh walked 45 minutes with Hoyte on her back to have him screened. Aster, an Orbis trained health worker conducting the screening in the village, diagnosed Hoyte with trachoma and provided antibiotics that will clear up the infection and prevent damage to his eyes.

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## Bangladesh

In 2024, our women-led green vision centres continued to provide vital eye services and break down barriers. 42,821 patients were seen at the centres (split across Chandpur and Rangpur) with nearly 30,000 receiving treatment and over 4,000 prescribed glasses.

57% of patients were female, helping to address longstanding issues with access to eye care for women and girls not being prioritised. The vision centres, which receive funding from a number of generous supporters in the UK and Europe, are run by women and have baby-changing spaces to overcome barriers that prevent women and girls receiving eye care.

During civil unrest in the summer of 2024, one of the vision centres was damaged by fire in Chandpur, leading to disruption of services. But thanks to the efforts of the local team, much of the equipment was saved during the fire, with Orbis supporters generously helping replace damaged equipment in order to restore services within a matter of weeks.

In Cox's Bazar, our work with local partners continued to provide vital eye services for the Rohingya community in the world's largest refugee camp. 88,824 screenings were completed, 1,626 people underwent surgery and 2,536 people received glasses, all numbers above target.

After launching in 2023, our project supporting tea pickers in Sylhet funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid in Northern Bangladesh concluded in 2024 with around 31,000 screenings and over 2,000 pairs of glasses provided. The project established a direct link between provision of glasses and increased income for the tea pickers, due to the intricate nature of their work and payment based on the amount of tea leaves picked. Additional support was also provided to purchase essential eye care equipment at a partner hospital, helping ensure ongoing sustainability of services in the area.

## South Africa

We supported a project in the Western Cape to raise awareness of diabetes and diabetes-related eye health issues.

Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness in South Africa. 1,126 people were screened for diabetes and diabetic retinopathy. 19 health workers were trained in awareness-raising and health promotion. Working with local partners we organised a World Diabetes Day event, with 378 attendees receiving diabetes education and screening, and guidance on preventative physical activities.



When twin boys Hasan and Hossain were born, their parents were overjoyed. As Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, the family had faced violence and persecution and fled to Bangladesh. Yet their happiness was short-lived when they realised the boys had serious vision problems. Kholil, their father, observed “The boys would often fall and hurt themselves as they couldn’t see where they were going”.

After he was told of Orbis’s services within Cox’s Bazar, Kholil took the boys for a screening and cataracts were diagnosed. After successful surgeries, glasses for both boys were provided by Orbis. Kholil added “My sons can now see more clearly, which makes me very happy. They are walking and playing without help”. Their treatment means a brighter future as the family rebuild their lives.

# Childhood blindness

## Giving children the eye care they need *to realise their potential*

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**If a child's eye condition is not identified early enough, it can lead to irreversible blindness which in turn can rob them of their education and cause a lifetime of economic hardship.**

We work with partners around the world to provide specialist paediatric ophthalmology skills and treatment. Together, we can screen and treat children to provide the essential solutions we access in the UK, like cataract surgery, medicine and glasses.

### Mongolia

Since 2009 and the introduction of resuscitation for low birth-weight babies in Mongolia, premature babies have faced improved survival rates but also increased risk from retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). ROP causes abnormal blood vessel growth in the eyes of some babies and is the leading cause of childhood blindness worldwide, making early screening essential for identifying at-risk infants.

In 2024, Orbis continued our work with Mongolia's Ministry of Health to integrate sustainable infant eye care within the health system. This included policy discussions on the mandatory inclusion of ROP screening across Mongolia for all babies born before 32 weeks. Throughout 2024, 2,079 premature babies were screened for ROP and 363 eye professionals were trained to identify and treat eye conditions in newborns.

### India

There are more blind children in India than any other country in the world. 9.3 million children are visually impaired and 270,000 are blind. Yet many children could have their sight restored, if treated early.

Orbis's green vision centres in India are community based clinics that provide a range of primary eye care services including examinations, minor treatments, detection of eye conditions and referrals to specialists whilst also being financially and environmentally sustainable.

Two new vision centres in Deogarh and Padampur opened in 2024. Overall, 47,647 people (6,455 above target) were screened across five green vision centres, schools and during outreach activities. 22,297 glasses pairs were given out and 438 educators trained on eye health and how to check pupils are wearing glasses correctly.

To address gaps in paediatric eye care availability in Odisha state, Orbis supported the training of Dr Sindhu, a paediatric ophthalmologist. Through home visits, Dr Sindhu helped address concerns from parents about their children undergoing surgery in order to help children have eye conditions like cataract and glaucoma treated.



Dr Sindhu is Chief Medical Officer at Trilochan Netralaya eye hospital, Odisha, India. In 2024, Orbis supported Dr Sindhu to specialise in paediatric ophthalmology. Dr Sindhu’s training was completed with Dr Suma, a doctor who herself had received training from Orbis over 20 years ago. Following her training, Dr Sindhu is already seeing around 140 child patients a week at the clinic including prescribing glasses and performing cataract surgery.

“I want to transfer the skills I’ve learned through the Orbis partnership, so that many other female ophthalmologists can get the opportunity to learn paediatric ophthalmology. I can be a trainer to budding ophthalmologists, then I can support our society and others can benefit from the training I’ve received” Dr Sindhu

## Sierra Leone

Working with other non-governmental organisation partners, we supported a hearing and vision research programme carried out in Sierra Leone. This initiative aimed to integrate school-based vision and hearing screenings to identify efficient low-cost treatment options to improve access to eye and ear care.

710 children were screened with 122 children identified with hearing impairments and eight required hearing aids and 103 required medications. 162 children required glasses, and 23 children had dual sensory impairments.

One of the successes was the cross-training of vision and hearing specialists, which has allowed screening services to continue beyond the study period. It also demonstrated that hearing and vision screenings could be effectively integrated into a community-based setting, demonstrating that this approach is both feasible and scalable for future programmes.

This is particularly impactful for low-resource settings where healthcare infrastructure and access to specialised services is so often stretched and unavailable to all.

# Specialist training

## Sharing expert knowledge

*with eye care professionals around the world*

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**To achieve our vision of eye care everywhere, we work with partners such as local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments to share skills, knowledge and expertise with local eye care teams. By mentoring and training eye care workers, we pass on the tools they need to save the sight of people in their communities.**

In 2024, we delivered 9,908 training sessions for health workers, which was 23% above our target. Training is integrated throughout many of our projects, allowing us to ensure sight-saving work can be delivered around the world, long into the future.

### Zambia

The training of 266 health workers, 253 teachers and 275 community volunteers by Orbis created an integrated community eye health network in the Copperbelt province. Alongside community film screenings and radio broadcasts, increased awareness of eye health led to a large increase in patients referred for screening and diagnosis.

A total of 68,035 children were screened as part of the paediatric project funded by Qatar Fund for Development in communities and schools, against a target of 36,000.

972 children had surgery and 286 children received glasses through the project, with partner hospitals also providing glasses to 949 others through the National Health Insurance Scheme.

In the North Western Province, we supported strengthening eye health services in Maheba refugee settlement and surrounding district. 27 teachers from 15 schools in the settlement attended primary eye care training and then worked with eye care staff and community health volunteers to screen 3,136 school children. The screening resulted in 108 children receiving glasses to correct refractive error and 26 children who needed specialist care were referred to a dedicated facility for this care.

### Peru

In Northern Peru, we helped increase community access to eye care. At Julcan provincial hospital, we supported the purchase of essential equipment for the eye clinic and eye care training for 20 health workers from primary and secondary levels. Vision screening toolkits were provided to all trainees and 452 people were screened, with capacity and access to eye care now increased for the community going forward.

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## The Flying Eye Hospital

In 2024, Orbis UK supported the Flying Eye Hospital to visit Mongolia and Bangladesh. The converted cargo plane, donated to Orbis by FedEx, houses a state-of-the-art ophthalmic teaching hospital, enabling volunteer eye care experts to share their skills globally.

Both visits in 2024 involved treatments, and training for local eye care workers, delivered in partnership with local teaching hospitals. In Mongolia, over 250 eye care professionals received best-in-class training, and over 50 adults and children received sight-saving surgery.

In Bangladesh, a programme that delivered treatment in the training of glaucoma, strabismus and cataracts amongst other ophthalmic skills, was hosted in Chattogram. 44 patients received sight-saving surgery including 18 children. 113 eye care workers were trained in-person with over 100 more from 47 countries around the world participating online via Cybersight.

In both Mongolia and Bangladesh, the visits of the Flying Eye Hospital will leave a sight-saving legacy for patients who have regained their vision, and for the many eye care workers whose training will help deliver better patient outcomes for years to come.



At four years old, Nandin-Egshiglen lost interest in her favourite activities and began fearing nursery. When her parents noticed a clouding of her eyes, they became anxious about her sight.

Nandin-Egshiglen was soon diagnosed with bilateral cataracts. Surgery was unaffordable to her parents, but they were given hope by news of the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital arriving in Mongolia.

Onboard, Nandin was given a Seymour bear – a cuddly friend to comfort her and ease her fears. Orbis medical volunteers worked with local Mongolian doctors to perform the surgery. Now Nandin is looking forward to starting school. Many more patients in Mongolia will continue to benefit from knowledge learned on the Flying Eye Hospital visit to Mongolia.

# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

As we sought to meet the growing needs of people affected by sight loss around the world, our supporters continued to show their staunch commitment to Orbis UK and the fight against avoidable blindness.

Orbis UK is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we continue to adhere to the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice: [fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code](https://fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code)

We act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability in all our fundraising practices. We ensure the right policies and controls are in place so that we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way. We recognise our responsibility to act appropriately and compassionately when engaging with people in vulnerable or potentially vulnerable situations. All staff and volunteers involved with fundraising are trained and aware of our policies. The Safeguarding policy outlines our general approach with people in vulnerable situations.

The Ethical Funding policy, and the 'Fundraising and Vulnerable Persons' section in the staff handbook detail specific processes fundraisers implement and follow. Staff and volunteers are trained within inductions, and refresher training is carried out periodically.

We operate a diverse range of income streams that raise money from individuals, organisations, statutory funders and legacies. We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, especially when we do not have the relevant expertise in-house. We ensure that safeguards are in place with our suppliers and require them to confirm, demonstrate and be continuously monitored by us to ensure that they comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

We received 18 complaints in 2024, all of which were related to our face-to-face fundraising activity. All complaints were resolved by our in-house Supporter Care team.

### The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust and we make this promise:

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data.

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit: [gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](https://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

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## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm and providing safe and effective care for everyone we encounter. We ensure that we have appropriate safeguarding policies and that staff, volunteers and contractors follow a strict code of conduct. These policies align with the Charity Commission's safeguarding guidance, the Charity Governance Code's 'Integrity Principle', and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Enhanced Safeguarding Standards.

In 2024, we continued working with country programme partners to maintain safeguarding policies and processes for our programmes. We continued to work with Orbis International on the development of a safeguarding reporting system for Orbis programmes in Ethiopia and India. This work will be progressed further in 2025.

The Safeguarding Management Group, led by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, met three times in 2024 and reported to the programme committee and board. We continued our membership of the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme which is designed to help prevent perpetrators of sexual misconduct moving between organisations undetected.

Orbis UK staff participated in an annual update on safeguarding. No safeguarding incidents were reported in 2024.

In 2025 we will continue to monitor, review and develop our policies and processes, particularly those in our country programmes.

## Transparency and governance

The current Charity Governance Code, last revised in 2020, sets out good governance across seven principles: organisational purpose, leadership, integrity, decision-making, board effectiveness, equality, diversity and inclusion, and openness and accountability.

The Orbis UK board remains committed to complying with the code and to a periodic review of its effectiveness against the principles set out in the code.

# How we did in 2024

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## Goal 1: We will sustainably deliver our vision and mission

Our £3.1 million programme expenditure in 2024 was directed through Orbis International to support 18 new and existing projects. All projects were designed to deliver significant impacts for the communities they reached.

We continued progress on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, and developing our pioneering women led green vision centres in Bangladesh.

We funded five new projects in 2024 including research into combined ear and eye care in Sierra Leone, providing eye care in refugee communities in Zambia, tackling the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in South Africa, expanding access to eye care in Northern Peru, and additional trachoma elimination support in Ethiopia. Across 2024 our projects supported partners to:

- Distribute 2,554,948 antibiotic doses for trachoma control and elimination
- Conduct 469,287 patient screenings
- Deliver 37,378 eye treatments
- Provide 9,908 training sessions for eye health workers.

A dedicated Orbis UK team worked with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants and compliance with donor requirements. The team also identified opportunities to secure significant extra funding for additional priority projects.

## Goal 2: We will reach and engage the audiences most likely to support us

In 2024, we scaled up our fundraising to reach audiences receptive to our cause. Testing a range of marketing opportunities, we inspired nearly 4,000 new regular supporters across the UK, a significant increase on 2023 to make an ongoing commitment to Orbis and so help us plan our future income.

In addition we ran a Ramadan appeal, had activations for Diwali and Easter, and launched an integrated campaign around World Sight Day in October asking the public and celebrities to share their stories of eye care, which led on to another positive end of year fundraising campaign.

We reached over 4.8 million people on social media and gained nearly 1,200 followers. Our website had over 123,000 visits from a wide range of audiences, including those accessing our expertise on eye conditions.

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### **Goal 3: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management**

Governance compliance and best practice was a particular focus for 2024, as a range of improvements were made to the organisation's practice. This manifested itself in an update to use of our reserves, conducting a review of internal controls using the Charity Commission's CC8 checklist and consequentially updating the finance manual to reflect these findings. At the end of 2024, we conducted a tendering exercise to appoint auditors for the forthcoming three-year period, which resulted in the appointment of Price Bailey LLP as our new audit partner.

Business Support continued to provide the organisation with HR, IT and travel services, and effective office administration with a focus on upgrading the organisation's IT security resilience, in light of the increased threat to the voluntary sector from malicious actors.

### **Goal 4: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development**

In 2024, we further strengthened our staff support offering by updating our Staff Handbook to reflect both legislative changes, as well as more practical solutions for challenges facing staff such as the inclusion of policies to support staff with menopause, carer's leave and flexible working. In addition, we have worked closely with our partners at The College of Optometrists to accommodate a full set of staff on our core office days by upgrading facilities and creating more desk space. Orbis UK also initiated the creating of four working parties dedicated to staff wellbeing, under the umbrella of "I Love Orbis". These groups focussed on feeling Inspired, Valued, Developed and having Fun at work, the feedback from which we aim to implement in future policies where practicable.



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Our second annual Orbis Visionaries reception, hosted at Abbey Road Studios in London, brought together supporters and eye care experts to shine a light on the vital work to end avoidable blindness in low- and middle-income countries.

We were honoured to once again be joined by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh, in her role as Global Ambassador for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. In renewing the call to end avoidable blindness, Her Royal Highness reflected on her visit to Orbis's work in Ethiopia to eliminate trachoma the previous year and the progress she had witnessed there.

The reception, sponsored by OMEGA, is the showcase event of our Orbis Visionaries programme, which helps connects supporters of ending avoidable blindness with opportunities to provide eye care at scale through Orbis's work.

“Our family has been supporting Orbis for 31 years. Our commitment has been steadfast during this time because we know our donations are being maximised to save sight and transform lives. Our trust in Orbis means we had no hesitation in joining the Orbis Visionary programme, to commit our future support to ensure that more lives can be transformed.”

The Ruia family, Manchester UK  
Founding Orbis Visionary members

**Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh, joined us for our second annual Visionaries reception at the Abbey Road Studios in St John's Wood, London in April 2024. The Duchess attended in her role as the Global Ambassador for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and renewed the call to end avoidable blindness for all around the world.**

# Looking ahead to 2025

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## **Goal 1: Invest in our programme priorities to meet our charitable objectives**

In 2025 our programme expenditure will be directed through Orbis International to support 21 new and existing projects. All projects aim and are designed to significantly reduce eye health problems and increase access to eye care in the communities they reach.

Eliminating trachoma in southern Ethiopia will continue to be a major focus, alongside supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and through improving rural eye care services in Bangladesh and Zambia. We will also continue focusing on screening newborn babies for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) in Mongolia, and supporting a significant scaling up of eye care services across Ghana.

We will also fund a new project strengthening paediatric eye care services in Meghalaya, India and increasing access to specialist eye care clinics in South Western Ethiopia.

A dedicated team will work with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements.

## **Goal 2: Sustainably grow our income to deliver our vision and mission**

Having successfully inspired 4,607 new donors in 2024 (a 62% increase from 2023), we will continue to invest in recruiting new monthly donors in 2025 to ensure long-term sustainable income for our sight-saving work.

We will also continue to focus on securing higher-value multi-year restricted donors for our transformational projects in Africa and South Asia.

Most importantly, we will ensure that our supporters feel the difference that they are making in the world, feel appreciated and thanked for their generosity, and are inspired to continue changing lives by saving sight.

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### **Goal 3: Reach and engage the audiences most likely to support Orbis**

We will continue to identify and engage audiences with the highest propensity and capacity to give. Central to this is engaging with audiences in the spaces and moments when our work aligns with their interests, and highlighting how our projects serve a diverse range of communities around the world.

As we seek to grow Orbis's brand in the UK further, we will work with influencers and offer a variety of ways to engage with our work, so that a range of audiences are more likely to start supporting Orbis.

### **Goal 4: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management**

Working closely with the board, we will continue to maintain a high standard of corporate governance ensuring adherence with relevant codes and legislation, aided by the appointment of new auditors for 2024 to help bolster accountability.

We will continue to review our internal financial controls and processes to ensure they remain fit for purpose and mitigate against the evolving risk profile that the organisation is faced with. This will be shaped by updates to policies, risk management strategies and through conducting internal audits through the year.

The Finance team will seek to improve its resilience across key support functions by working collaboratively across the team, ensuring contingency arrangements are in place and sector wide updates, such as changes to the Charities SORP, are incorporated into ongoing practice. The Business Support Team will have a focus on Staff Wellbeing by reviewing our employee benefit offering through benchmarking with peer organisations in an attempt to ensure that Orbis remains an employer of choice for those working in the sector.

# Thank you

**Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers**

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## **Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations**

A Nelson and Co Limited  
Bliss Family Charity  
Charities Aid Foundation - Donor Advised Funds  
David & Helen Watson  
Eddie Dinshaw Foundation  
Gary Lee-Richards  
Johnnie E Johnson  
Mr and Mrs (Dr) Mehta  
Pro Victimis Foundation  
Qatar Charity  
The Ruia family, Manchester UK  
Ulverscroft Foundation  
The Zochonis Charitable Trust

## **Statutory and institutional funders**

Qatar Fund for Development  
Sightsavers  
States of Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission

## **Corporate partners**

Heidelberg Engineering  
Hoya Lens UK  
OMEGA

## **Co-opted sub-committee members**

Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tony Cowles

## **Special thanks**

British Embassy Addis Ababa  
British Embassy Doha  
Emad Turkman MBE  
Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh

## **UK and Europe medical volunteers**

Dr Lawrence Azavedo  
Irma Casale  
Angeline Chaipa  
Dr Michelle Le Cheminant  
Dr Simon Courtman  
Dr Ghalib Mukadam  
Dr Manish Raval

## **Office volunteers**

Polly Holt

## **UK ambassadors**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Polly Braden  
Tim Bucher  
Tom Davies  
Ian Fleming  
Mary Killen  
Brian Little  
Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards  
CBE AFC FRAeS FCIM RAF (Ret'd)  
Sunil Ruia

# Board of trustees

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## **Nick Fox, Chair, UK**

Nick Fox has over thirty years of national and international experience in creative communications, based out of London, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Nick sat on the worldwide board for DDB, an Omnicom agency network based in New York. His experience encompasses all sectors from fast-moving consumer goods, finance, publishing, charity and the automotive industry. Nick has managed teams, budgets and international agency networks to increase consumer demand to drive brand value for some of the world's biggest brands. In 2013, Nick started his own independent agency with four partners, Atomic London, of which he is now chair.

Nick joined the board of Orbis UK in January 2020 and was appointed Chair in March 2022.

## **Trustees**

### **Sir Dominic Asquith, Nominations Committee Chair, UK**

After a number of years as a political analyst, teacher, journalist and traveller in the Middle East, Sir Dominic joined the British diplomatic service in 1983. He served in the Americas, South Asia and returned frequently to the Middle East. He was Ambassador successively in Iraq, Egypt and Libya between 2006 and 2012.

After retiring in 2013, he was recalled to government service as High Commissioner in India from 2016 to 2020.

He is currently a Partner in Macro Advisory Partners, which provides independent, long-term strategic counsel to decision-makers in business and government.

Sir Dominic joined the Orbis UK board in October 2020.

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## **Siân Block MBE**

Siân trained as a nurse and has over 30 years' experience in many areas of healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These include the independent sector, the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, charities and Resuscitation Councils (UK and European).

Siân joined the Orbis UK board in June 2020 and is also a member of the board of Orbis International.

## **Sheraz Daya MD FACP FACS FRCS(Ed) FRCOphth**

Sheraz Daya is an ophthalmic surgeon in practice for more than 30 years. Brought up in Tanzania, he has in the pursuit of education spent time in several countries. He trained in the United States initially under the tutelage of David Paton, the founder of Orbis. He was in practice in New York City, and later was recruited to direct and modernise the Corneoplastic Unit and Eye Bank, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, UK.

Sheraz practices at Centre for Sight an organisation he founded which has three branches. Interested in medical innovation and artificial intelligence, he co-founded a start-up company Infinite Medical Ventures in 2020.

He serves on a number of industry and society advisory boards and is the next president of AECOS-Europe (American European Congress of Ophthalmic Surgery).

Sheraz joined the Orbis UK board in July 2023

## **Yvette Dunne MA FCA, Audit Committee Chair, UK**

Yvette Dunne trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent ten years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK board in December 2017.

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## **John Ferris, MB, ChB, FRCOphth, Programme Committee Chair, UK**

John has been a consultant ophthalmologist at Cheltenham General Hospital since 1999. He has a special interest in cataract surgery, squint surgery and paediatric ophthalmology. John has an international reputation in the fields of simulation and surgical training. He was the Head of the School of Ophthalmology in the Severn Deanery for 10 years and succeeded Larry Benjamin as the Royal College of Ophthalmologists surgical skills faculty lead in 2019, a post he held until 2023.

## **Nicola Floyd**

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than 10 years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years, is the former CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charterholder and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola stepped down from the Orbis UK board in July 2024 after nearly seven years of service.

## **Fiona Hobbs**

Fiona trained and qualified as a solicitor with Linklaters and has over 30 years' experience (25 years as a partner) of developing major infrastructure and energy projects both in the UK and in emerging markets. She has held a number of senior management and governance roles within the firm and has spent six years as its global head of diversity and inclusion. She is a lay member of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee.

Fiona joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

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## **Mona Khan, MD, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK**

Mona Khan, MD has over 25 years of clinical and surgical experience as an ophthalmologist. Her private practice was located in downtown Chicago and she was on the staff of Mercy Hospital for over 20 years. At Mercy, she was the principal comprehensive ophthalmologist at the Mercy Family Health Clinic, a federally funded clinic whose mission was to treat the most vulnerable and socioeconomically disadvantaged residents from Chicago's South Side.

She retired from clinical ophthalmology to move to London in 2020 with her husband and daughter.

In September of 2021, Mona became a trustee of Advanced Research Clusters Management Ltd (ARC). ARC owns some of Europe's leading science and innovation clusters. Its portfolio includes Harwell, a leading science and innovation campus based in Oxfordshire.

Mona joined the Orbis UK board in December of 2021.

## **Patricia Moller**

Following an awarded 25-year career with the U.S. Department of State, Patricia ended her active government service to return to the private sector. Through her consultancy, Moller Global Advisory, she has advised governments, international financial institutions and businesses from Fortune 500 juggernauts to greenfield startups. She chairs the boards of directors of West Africa LNG, Africa Project Advisors, and the Baara Hospital and Agriculture Projects. In addition, she sits on a number of other boards of directors, and joined Orbis UK as a Trustee in November 2017.

Patricia has been a member of the board of Orbis International since 2013.

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## **Sophia Pathai MBBS MSc PhD MRCOphth**

Sophia Pathai is an ophthalmologist by training. She worked in the NHS and subsequently as a clinician scientist undertaking research at the International Centre for Eye Health, based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Her passion for global health was ignited during her tenure as a staff ophthalmologist on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in 2009.

Sophia has been appointed to global medical leadership roles at companies such as Roche, AbbVie and Johnson & Johnson. She is currently Vice President of Medical Initiatives at Hevolution Foundation. She gained her BSc and medical degree from University College London, and her MSc and PhD were awarded by LSHTM.

Sophia joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

## **Darsh Shah**

Darsh Shah is an Audit, Assurance & Advisory partner at Blick Rothenberg. He has over 20 years of experience in professional practice and specialises in auditing and financial reporting to clients ranging from start-ups to large international groups in the hospitality, care, recruitment and retail sector.

Prior to joining Blick Rothenberg, Darsh was a partner at an independent London practice, having spent a number of years at Deloitte LLP before that.

He is an FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants) and has a BSc in Management Sciences from The University of Manchester.

Darsh joined the Orbis UK board in December 2022.

# Financial statements



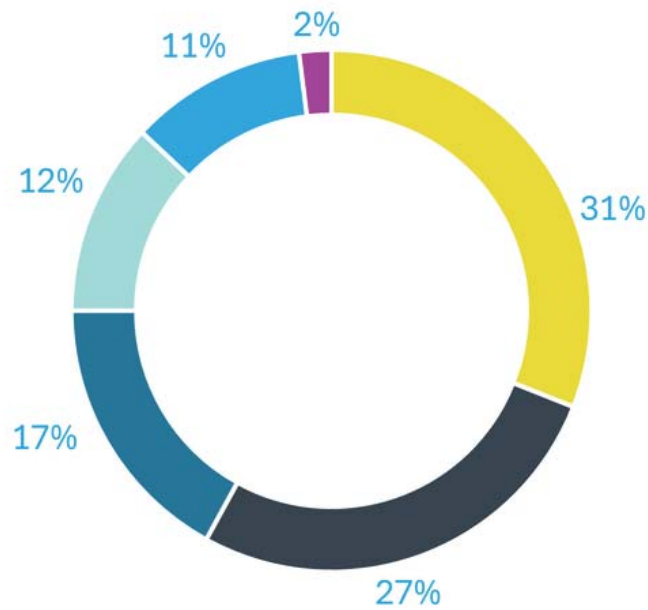
As a tea picker paid by the weight of the tea she picks in northern Bangladesh, fading vision posed a threat to Minoti's livelihood, and her ability to feed her children. Access to eye care locally is limited, leaving Minoti in fear of what the future held. But an Orbis funded project supporting tea pickers in the area provided eye screening and then a pair of glasses to restore Minoti's sight and livelihood.

# 2024

## Financial summary

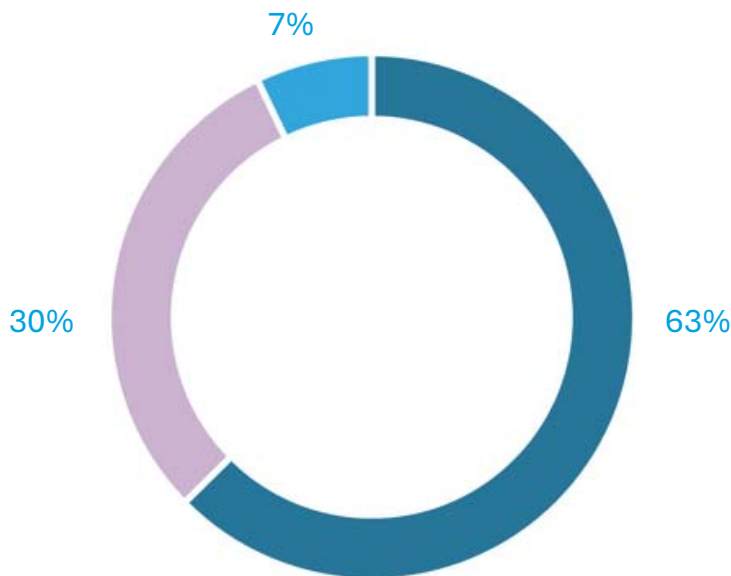
### Income 2024

- Individuals
- Legacies
- Trusts
- Major Donors
- Statutory
- Corporate



### Programme area spend 2024

- Comprehensive Eye Care
- Childhood Blindness
- Specialist Training



The cost of fundraising in 2024 was 49.7% of our income.

# Reference and administrative details

**Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK's address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.**

Orbis UK (Orbis Charitable Trust) is an affiliate of Orbis International (Project Orbis International), a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York. The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision of a world where everyone can access the eye care they need to thrive, and they share a common mission to build strong and sustainable eye care systems globally that put treatment and prevention within reach for all.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities worldwide. It designs and manages programmes and determines the global medical and programme strategy. This relationship is described in further detail in Note 18 (Related parties).

## **Objectives and principal activities of the charity**

Orbis UK's Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling.
- b. The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment.
- c. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research.

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK's objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2024, and our four key goals for 2025, can be found in the front section of this report.

## **Financial review and results for the year**

Income in 2024 was £1,385k (-23%) lower compared to 2023, primarily due to a levelling-off of legacy income, which dropped by £1,205k (-46%). This was a return to pre-2023 levels of legacy income, whereas in 2023 the charity benefited from the post-pandemic easing of probate delays that meant higher than budgeted income that year.

Grant income was £630k (-52%) lower than 2023, as a result of two key programmes funded by restricted donors ending in 2023. This was partly offset by year-on-year increases from our fundraising streams of £441k (+17%), which was part of our multi-year income generation strategy to grow our sustainable funding.

Overall expenditure was £492k (-8%) lower compared to 2023 and expenditure on charitable activities was £1,115k (-27%) lower. Spending on Childhood Blindness increased by £193k (+26%) from 2023 due to the increase in our programme work in Zambia. Comprehensive Eye Care was £1,263k (-39%) lower than 2023 due to the planned ending of funding for programmes in Ethiopia from restricted donors. Expenditure on Specialist Training was -£85k (-28%) compared to 2023 due to a reduction in restricted funding for our Cybersight and Flying Eye Hospital programmes.

A priority for the trustees and senior management team is to balance the funding requirements for our projects both now and in the future, with the ratio of our charitable activities spend versus the cost of raising funds an indicator of this. We carefully consider this from both an annual perspective and with a view to increase funding for our programmes in future years. In 2024, our ratio was 49.7%. This reflected the significant year-on-year decrease in legacy income, which is out of our control, and the decrease in grants within a volatile government funding environment.

To bolster our future income generation in a controllable and predictable manner, we took the strategic decision to invest in our successful unrestricted public giving income stream in 2024. The timing of this investment in 2024 was two-fold: 1. invest early to realise the returns sooner in the coming years, and 2. with the knowledge of a significant restricted donation that would remit in early 2025. By balancing all of these factors, we are able to increase the certainty of greater multi-year funding for our charitable activities over the coming years to save more sight and transform more lives.

Due to the reduction in legacy income compared to 2023 and the decision to invest in our fundraising campaign, this resulted in unrestricted funds at the end of December 2024 reducing, but still being £861k higher than the trustees' reserves target of £1,541k. The trustees have set a budget for 2025 that aims to further utilise this excess into increasing our spend on charitable activities and, given the success achieved in 2024, plans further investment in our Public Giving campaigns aimed at generating even greater returns over the next five years.

## **Structure, governance and management**

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 29 September 1997, 22 December 2005 and 17 April 2020. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. The following trustees retired at the 2023 AGM: Nicola Floyd. The trustees have adopted the Charity Governance Code recommendation that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years.

Two members of the board also served as directors of Orbis International during the year: Patricia Moller and Siân Block.

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions, terms of reference for subcommittees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity, as set out below. Three subcommittees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

## **Charity Governance Code**

The Charity Governance Code, which is designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to periodic reviews of our relevant practices. The last board evaluation was conducted in 2021, and the Nominations Committee guides these improvements.

A designated safeguarding trustee ensures that safeguarding is prominent in the charity's agenda, and a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group established in 2020 has a remit to collect, discuss and disseminate best practice, including board and staff recruitment, to ensure Orbis UK reflects the diversity of UK society.

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment and financial management of the charity.

## **Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for assessing and reviewing applications to recruit and select appointees to the board. The committee decisions are subject to the board's consideration and approval.

## **Chief executive and senior management team**

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## **Remuneration of personnel**

The pay of staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually by an external HR consultant, the Director of Finance and Operations, and the Chief Executive Officer. Staff pay is approved by the trustees of the Audit Committee. The review includes a benchmarking exercise which is carried out annually against comparable roles within the public and not-for-profit sector, to set market pay levels and to ensure that salaries remain competitive. All staff are paid at least the London Living Wage as calculated by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.

All staff who have passed probation at the beginning of the year and whose salaries are not adjusted as part of the benchmarking exercise will receive cost of living increases based on the Consumer Price Index where possible. Staff who are on probation at the beginning of the year will receive the cost of living payrise when they pass probation, where possible.

## **Risk management**

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The Audit Committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. The board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management annually and this was updated in 2024 to reflect updated methodology as outlined in CC26: Charities and Risk Management. This resulted in a change to our scoring method and a re-evaluation of our gross risks and the impact of mitigating controls put in place to manage these risks.

This change identified four key gross risks (pre-mitigation) to the organisation:

- An individual suffers harm, abuse or exploitation while taking part in a Orbis programme.
- Access to cash becomes restricted due to Orbis UK's banks arbitrarily closing or limiting access to bank accounts.
- Reputational risk from a negative story that causes reputational risk.
- Cyber security breach/data theft

Each of these risks have been mitigated to the point of being assessed as medium risks, but as these are the ones that are most likely to have a material impact on the running of the charity, we review these quarterly with the Audit Committee to ensure that confidence remains around the controls we have put in place to mitigate against these.

## **Reserves policy**

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income. Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,541k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2024, the balance on total unrestricted reserves was £2,429k, which was £888k above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to an improvement in our Q4 forecast, particularly with increased legacy receipts and an improvement in unrestricted expenditure that significantly increased our unrestricted reserves at the end of 2024. The trustees have revised their budget for 2025 to allow for additional investment in programmes and fundraising development which will bring the general reserves closer to the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2024, designated funds stood at £27k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 15.

## **Grant making policy**

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the Programme Committee, financial approval by the Audit Committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money
- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity.

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP/FRS 102; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that they should have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 and signed on their behalf.

**Trustee**  
**Nick Fox**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Fox', with a horizontal line underneath it.

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' annual report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, set out on page 40, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, and considered the risk of the charitable company not complying with the applicable laws and regulations including fraud in particular those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting, and tax legislation. In relation to the operations of the charitable company this included compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and SORP 2019.

The risks were discussed with the audit team and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

Reviewing minutes of Board meetings, reviewing any correspondence with the Charity Commission, agreeing the financial statement disclosure to underlying supporting documentation, and made enquiries of management and officers of the charitable company. We enquired about procedures in place for the reporting of any incidents to the Trustee Board including serious incident reporting of these matters as necessary with the Charity Commission and a review of legal fees during the period.

Management override: to address the risk of management override of controls, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness. We also assessed management bias in relation to the accounting policies adopted and in determining significant accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for> This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **Use of our Report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Signed**

**Michael Cooper-Davis FCCA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of Price Bailey LLP,  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

**Date:** 21 July 2025

**24 Old Bond Street  
London  
W1S 4AP**

# Statement of financial activities

## (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

### Year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 (£)	Restricted funds 2024 (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2023 (£)	Restricted funds 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	3,644,365	1,415,188	<b>5,059,553</b>	4,957,198	1,496,609	6,453,807
Investments		34,587	-	<b>34,587</b>	25,294	-	25,294
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>3,678,952</b>	<b>1,415,188</b>	<b>5,094,140</b>	<b>4,982,492</b>	<b>1,496,609</b>	<b>6,479,101</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		2,530,331	-	<b>2,530,331</b>	1,867,807	-	1,867,807
Charitable activities:							
• Comprehensive Eye Care		1,066,647	874,608	<b>1,941,255</b>	1,655,187	1,548,720	3,203,907
• Childhood Blindness		416,787	521,137	<b>937,924</b>	558,992	186,402	745,394
• Specialist Training		126,693	95,453	<b>222,146</b>	221,179	85,656	306,835
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,610,127	1,491,198	<b>3,101,325</b>	2,435,359	1,820,778	4,256,137
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,140,458</b>	<b>1,491,198</b>	<b>5,631,656</b>	<b>4,303,165</b>	<b>1,820,778</b>	<b>6,123,943</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(461,506)</b>	<b>(76,010)</b>	<b>(537,516)</b>	<b>679,326</b>	<b>(324,169)</b>	<b>355,157</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(461,506)</b>	<b>(76,010)</b>	<b>(537,516)</b>	<b>679,326</b>	<b>(324,169)</b>	<b>355,157</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		2,890,266	219,935	<b>3,110,201</b>	2,210,940	544,104	2,755,044
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>2,428,760</b>	<b>143,925</b>	<b>2,572,685</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>219,935</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>

All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the gain for the year.

# Balance sheet

## Year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	26,714	38,456
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>26,714</b>	<b>38,456</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	13	483,134	410,658
Short term deposits		1,791,044	2,883,768
Cash at bank and in hand		1,087,076	1,129,196
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,361,254</b>	<b>4,423,622</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(815,282)	(1,351,877)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,545,972</b>	<b>3,071,745</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,572,686</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		143,926	219,935
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		2,402,046	2,851,810
Designated funds		26,714	38,456
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>2,428,760</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,572,686</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>

These financial statements for Orbis Charitable Trust( company number 3303689) have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on July 1st 2025.

Trustee:  
Nick Fox



Trustee:  
Yvette Dunne



# Cash flow statement

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(1,167,820)	(419,596)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		34,587	25,294
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,612)	(44,396)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>32,975</b>	(19,102)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(1,134,844)	(438,698)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	4,012,964	4,451,662
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>2,878,120</b>	4,012,964

## Notes to the cash flow statement:

### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(537,516)	355,157
Depreciation charges	11,799	18,162
Interest from investments	(34,587)	(25,294)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	2,769	901
(Increase) in debtors	(72,476)	(127,169)
(Decrease) in creditors	(536,595)	(641,353)
	(1,166,606)	(419,596)

### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Short-term deposits	1,791,044	2,883,768
Cash at bank and in hand	1,087,076	1,129,196
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>2,878,120</b>	4,012,964

### C. Analysis of changes in net debts

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2024 £
Short-term investments	2,883,768	(1,092,723)	-	1,791,044
Cash at bank and in hand	1,129,196	(42,121)	-	1,087,076
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,012,964</b>	<b>(1,134,844)</b>	-	<b>2,878,120</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

## Statements year ended 31 December 2024

### 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and, as such, is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2024 is 11, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 41-42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

### 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

### **3. Presentation currency**

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

### **4. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

#### **a. Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### **b. Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the global economic situation and the impact of inflation on donors have been taken.

#### **c. Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.

The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 15, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

#### **d. Income**

Legacies are recognised once the criteria for recognition has been met, i.e. once probate has been granted, the gift is measurable and the probability of receipt is certain.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## **e. Gifts in kind and donated services**

Services, and gifts in kind that are donated to the charity are recognised as both income and expenditure. The value of such gifts/services is pre-determined by the donor, typically based on market prices for the goods/services.

## **f. Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income. Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

## **g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £750 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase
- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, although we currently no longer have any such assets

## **h. Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

## **i. Investments**

Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

## **j. Cash at bank and in hand**

Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## **k. Short term deposits**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## **l. Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

## **m. Pension costs**

During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

## **n. Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## **o. Liabilities**

Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

## **p. Financial instruments**

Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors.

## **q. Foreign exchange**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate or an agreed rate for the whole year. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 (£)	Restricted funds 2024 (£)	Total funds 2024 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2023 (£)	Restricted funds 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Donations	2,254,445	839,639	<b>3,094,084</b>	2,362,326	290,997	<b>2,653,323</b>
Legacies	1,389,920	-	<b>1,389,920</b>	2,594,872	-	<b>2,594,872</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,644,365</b>	<b>839,639</b>	<b>4,484,004</b>	<b>4,957,198</b>	<b>290,997</b>	<b>5,248,195</b>

## 6. Income from grants

		2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	<b>112,784</b>	562,920
UK Government	Nepal	-	9,646
Guernsey Overseas Aid	Bangladesh	<b>30,243</b>	24,750
Guernsey Overseas Aid	Ethiopia	<b>24,742</b>	-
Qatar Charity	Bangladesh	<b>67,913</b>	-
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision - Ethiopia	-	261,699
	Paediatric Eye Care = Zambia	<b>339,867</b>	316,072
	Flying Eye Hospital - Doha	-	30,526
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>575,549</b>	<b>1,205,613</b>

All income from grants is restricted income.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Google grant advert	1,903	61,335
Flights	2,690	8,498
Watch for Auction	5,300	-
Media / PR Campaign	-	7,534
Gift Voucher	-	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,893</b>	<b>77,442</b>

These amounts are included within our income (see note 5) and expenditure (note 9).

## 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Payments under operating leases	73,147	63,653
Depreciation	11,797	18,160
Fees paid to the auditor:		
Audit fees	33,315	20,510
Tax advisory services	1,260	1,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119,519</b>	<b>103,723</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 9. Total resources expended

	Activities Undertaken Directly 2024 (£)	Grant Funding 2024 (£)	Support Costs 2024 (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Activities Undertaken Directly 2023 (£)	Grant Funding 2023 (£)	Support Costs 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising Funds	2,343,085	-	187,246	<b>2,530,331</b>	1,591,637	-	276,170	1,867,807
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	388,825	1,346,370	206,060	<b>1,941,255</b>	444,001	2,453,366	306,540	3,203,907
Childhood Blindness	144,759	701,375	91,790	<b>937,924</b>	129,055	524,242	92,097	745,394
Specialist Training	72,380	111,953	37,812	<b>222,146</b>	85,649	163,304	57,882	306,836
Total	605,965	2,159,698	335,662	<b>3,101,325</b>	658,705	3,140,912	456,519	4,256,136
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,949,050</b>	<b>2,159,698</b>	<b>522,908</b>	<b>5,631,656</b>	<b>2,250,342</b>	<b>3,140,912</b>	<b>732,689</b>	<b>6,123,943</b>

### GRANTS PAYABLE

GRANTS PAYABLE Grants of £2,159,698 (2023: £3,140,912) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £1,491,197 (2023: £1,820,777) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these programmes are given in note 15 under Restricted Funds. The balance of £668,501 (2023: £1,320,135) was directed to programmes in Ethiopia, Ghana, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, South Africa, Peru, Zambia and Sierra Leone on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £335,662 (2023: £456,519).

## 10. Analysis of support costs

	Support Staff Costs 2024 (£)	Facilities Deprec 2024 (£)	Governance 2024 (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Support Staff Costs 2023 (£)	Facilities Deprec 2023 (£)	Governance 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising Funds	-	162,058	25,188	<b>187,246</b>	-	261,016	15,154	276,170
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	132,269	64,455	9,336	<b>206,060</b>	154,206	144,915	7,419	306,540
Childhood Blindness	49,601	38,688	3,501	<b>91,790</b>	46,262	43,609	2,226	92,097
Specialist Training	24,800	11,262	1,750	<b>37,812</b>	30,841	25,557	1,484	57,882
Total	206,670	114,405	14,587	<b>335,662</b>	231,309	214,081	11,129	456,519
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206,670</b>	<b>276,463</b>	<b>39,775</b>	<b>522,908</b>	<b>231,309</b>	<b>475,097</b>	<b>26,283</b>	<b>732,689</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 11. Staff costs

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Wages and salaries	1,661,053	1,451,159
Social security costs	196,048	171,761
Pension costs	97,208	88,140
Employment settlement agreement	-	7,083
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,954,309</b>	<b>1,718,143</b>

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

	2024	2023
£60,000 - £70,000	3	1
£70,001 - £80,000	4	2
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	2
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1

Contributions in the year to pension schemes for these employees was £45,340 (2023: £34,523). Remuneration in respect of key management personnel in the year was £378,858 (2023: £358,595).

The average headcount number of employees and full-time equivalent (FTE), analysed by function, for the year was:

	2024 Headcount	2024 FTE	2023 Headcount	2023 FTE
Fundraising and communications	20	20	19	19
Finance and administration	6	6	5	5
Programme	5	5	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £210 (2023: £233) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to one trustees amounted to £423 (2023: two trustees totalling £3,318) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment (£)	Computer Equipment (£)	Leasehold Improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
<b>At 1 January 2024</b>	<b>67,711</b>	<b>91,219</b>	-	<b>158,930</b>
Additions	1,312	-	-	1,312
Disposals	-	(12,946)	-	(12,946)
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>69,023</b>	<b>78,273</b>	-	<b>147,296</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
<b>At 1 January 2024</b>	<b>67,711</b>	<b>52,763</b>	-	<b>120,474</b>
Charge for year	-	11,797	-	11,797
Disposals	-	(11,689)	-	(11,689)
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>67,711</b>	<b>52,871</b>	-	<b>120,582</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2024</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>25,402</b>	-	<b>26,714</b>
At 31 December 2023	-	38,456	-	38,456

## 13. Debtors

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Accrued income	<b>218,870</b>	325,650
Trade Debtors	<b>141,859</b>	-
Prepayments	<b>47,399</b>	40,537
Gift Aid	<b>72,762</b>	24,252
Other debtors	<b>2,244</b>	20,219
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>483,134</b>	410,658

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Grants payable	<b>647,324</b>	1,094,690
Other creditors	<b>19,263</b>	22,431
Tax and social security	<b>54,656</b>	63,849
Trade creditors	<b>53,252</b>	81,785
Accruals	<b>23,194</b>	45,672
Pension scheme	<b>17,593</b>	43,450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>815,282</b>	1,351,877

### Grant commitments accrued (£)

Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2024	1,094,690
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	2,159,698
Grants paid during the year	(2,607,064)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>647,324</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 15. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2024 (£)	Income 2024 (£)	Expense 2024 (£)	Transfers 2024 (£)	Gains and Losses 2024 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2024 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Reserves	2,851,810	3,678,952	(4,140,458)	11,742	-	2,402,046
Fixed assets	38,456	-	-	(11,742)	-	26,714
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>3,678,952</b>	<b>(4,140,458)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,428,760</b>

<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	65,666	952,868	(874,608)	-	-	143,926
Childhood blindness	154,269	366,867	(521,136)	-	-	-
Specialist training	-	95,453	(95,453)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>219,935</b>	<b>1,415,188</b>	<b>(1,491,197)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,926</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>	<b>5,094,140</b>	<b>(5,631,655)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,572,686</b>

	Balance 1 Jan 2023 (£)	Income 2023 (£)	Expense 2023 (£)	Transfers 2023 (£)	Gain/Loss 2023 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2023 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Reserves	2,197,817	4,982,492	(4,303,166)	(25,333)	-	2,851,810
Fixed assets	13,123	-	-	25,333	-	38,456
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>4,982,492</b>	<b>(4,303,166)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>

<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	590,253	1,024,133	(1,548,720)	-	-	65,666
Childhood blindness	(15,047)	355,718	(186,402)	-	-	154,269
Specialist training	(31,102)	116,758	(85,656)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>544,104</b>	<b>1,496,609</b>	<b>(1,820,778)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>219,935</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>	<b>6,479,101</b>	<b>(6,123,944)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 15. Statement of funds (continued)

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £26,714 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves.

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care — £143,926 — Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult & child eye health, including rural eye care and Trachoma elimination.

Child Blindness - £0 - Orbis projects focussing on child eye health.

Specialist Training — £0 — Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems.

## 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 (£)	Restricted Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Unrestricted Funds 2023 (£)	Restricted Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	26,714	-	<b>26,714</b>	38,456	-	38,456
Current assets	2,508,130	853,124	<b>3,361,254</b>	3,494,489	929,133	4,423,622
Grants payable	61,874	(709,198)	<b>(647,324)</b>	(385,492)	(709,198)	(1,094,690)
Other current liabilities	(167,958)	-	<b>(167,958)</b>	(257,187)	-	(257,187)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,428,760</b>	<b>143,926</b>	<b>2,572,686</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>219,935</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2024

## 17. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease for premises that we have occupied since June 2023:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Within one year	79,013	72,638
Between one to five years	97,722	182,897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176,735</b>	<b>255,535</b>

In 2024 £73,147 (2023: £63,653) was paid under an operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2023: none).

## 18. Related parties

a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller and Sian Block served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2024, with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £2,159,698 (2023: £3,140,912) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Ethiopia, Ghana, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, South Africa, Peru, Zambia and Sierra Leone. The outstanding balance due to Orbis International at 31st December 2024 was £647,324 (2023: £1,094,690).

b. Donations were received from one Trustee amounting to £360 (2023: three Trustees totalling £6,565).

# Trustees and officers

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year and to the date of signing of these accounts, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## **Trustees**

Nick Fox  
Sir Dominic Asquith  
Siân Block  
Sheraz Daya  
Yvette Dunne  
John Ferris  
Nicola Floyd  
Fiona Hobbs  
Mona Kahn  
Patricia Moller  
Sophia Pathai  
Darsh Shah

## **Chief Executive and Company Secretary**

Rebecca Cronin

## **Senior Management Team**

Karl Askew (until January 2024)  
Florence Branchu (until July 2024)  
Colman Cawe  
Nilesh Pandya (from January 2024)  
Katherine Gannon (from July 2024)

## **Registered office**

41-42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG

## **Auditors**

Price Bailey LLP

## **Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC, Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8DN

## **Solicitors**

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE



**Irma Casale, NHS nurse and Orbis medical volunteer, providing hands-on training to local eye care teams during a 2024 strabismus-focused hospital training in Hawassa, Ethiopia – helping strengthen paediatric eye care services.**



[orbis.org](http://orbis.org)

+44 (0)20 7608 7260

**Orbis UK**

**42 Craven Street,  
London, WC2N 5NG**

Registered charity no. 1061352.

Company number 3303689.

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Eshetu, Geoff Oliver Bugbee  
and Sahos Mostafiz



**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1061352

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# Accounts

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# A visionary story of creating access to eye care

ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2023

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Front Cover image: In May 2023, six-year-old Hizkiel received the 100 millionth dose of antibiotics administered by Orbis to combat trachoma in Ethiopia.

**Kamrunnahar and Eti take a moment to test out their glasses after receiving them at Shahrasti Vision Centre, in Chandpur, Bangladesh. Orbis are pioneering a program of vision centres that are led by women, powered by green energy and financially sustainable. Since their establishment, the vision centres have already seen significantly more women and girls access treatment compared to standard services.**



# Chair and CEO welcome

## The warmest of welcomes *to the 2023 Orbis UK annual report*

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Dear supporters,

2023 was a landmark year across our Orbis UK funded projects. As the challenges of the pandemic continued to recede, we were able to achieve significant growth across a whole host of areas and celebrate some truly historic achievements.

We're delighted to report that once again we exceeded our targets for treatments, screenings and surgeries, and saw our income significantly grow. These successes are delivered by the joint efforts of the Orbis team and our in-country partners. But above all else, it's thanks to the ambition and commitment of our supporters, who make all of our sight-saving work possible.

One of the highlights of the year was the administration of Orbis's 100 millionth dose of antibiotics to combat trachoma in Ethiopia. Six-year-old Hizkiel was the recipient of the milestone dose at a special ceremony in the Gacho Baba District, in southern Ethiopia, where Orbis UK has steadfastly supported antibiotic distribution to work towards the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of eliminating trachoma by 2030. It was brilliant to celebrate this achievement alongside the confirmation that Gedeo, an area with a population of 1 million, has now successfully eliminated trachoma. There's more on these momentous achievements on page 10.

We were also delighted to host Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh at an historic Orbis organised trachoma elimination conference in Ethiopia. Her Royal Highness visited a number of Orbis projects and renewed the call to eliminate trachoma globally by 2030.

In Bangladesh, our women-led green vision centres continued to increase the number of women and girls, and patients overall, who are accessing eye care. Analysis of patient figures show that more women and girls are seeking treatment compared to typical services, and the green power and financial sustainability of these centres is seeing them go from strength to strength. Our partners and funders are continuing to help scale-up the centres: you can read more on page 12.

Elsewhere, in Mongolia we screened 41,628 babies for retinopathy of prematurity, exceeding our targets by 156%, as our partnership with the Mongolian Health Ministry continues to save the sight of premature babies. In India, our school eye screening program reached thousands of children, while projects in Ghana and Zambia helped provide screenings and train community eye health workers. Read more about these on pages 13-16.

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Firstly, we were delighted to support the Flying Eye Hospital's return to the skies for its first patient facing missions since the pandemic. In Vietnam during May, and then in Zambia in November, large numbers of local eye care workers received training and guidance from world-leading eye care experts who gave up their time as volunteers. This included a number of British health workers from the NHS, who shared their skills to help embed outstanding eye care locally. In addition, over a hundred patients received sight-saving treatment during the two visits. See more on page 17.

We are working hard to further build on our successes in 2023 by raising more funds, supporting more projects and delivering more access to eye-care for communities who would otherwise face needless vision loss. By working together, we can bring closer the ambition we share with our partners and supporters, of a world without avoidable vision loss.

Finally, we continued to keep pace with emerging technologies to reach more people and deliver better patient outcomes. In 2023, Orbis's online telemedicine and training platform Cybersight celebrated its 20th anniversary by surpassing 90,000 global eye care users across the world. Artificial intelligence eye screening software has now been integrated with Cybersight, allowing eye care professionals in low- and middle-income countries to more quickly identify and treat eye conditions. In addition, our ongoing use of virtual reality for simulation training of eye surgery, with our partner Fundamental VR, was highlighted by Meta in an international advertising campaign. This brought our work to audiences across UK TV channels, transport networks and digital platforms and helped us raise further awareness of our vital work.

With best wishes,



**Rebecca Cronin (Chief Executive)**



**Nick Fox (Chair)**

# Who we are and what we do

Orbis and our supporters aim to create a world in which no one experiences avoidable vision loss, simply because of where they live.

Over 1.1 billion people live with sight loss globally, so ending avoidable blindness for all is a global challenge. 90% of vision loss is preventable or treatable - that's why we work with supporters and partners to deliver a sustainable and scalable approach to:

- TREAT people with vision loss, to save sight today.
- TRAIN eye care professionals, to save sight tomorrow.
- Employ TECHNOLOGY to create a future without avoidable vision loss.

## **Our vision**

A world where everyone can access the eye care they need to thrive.

## **Our mission**

To build strong and sustainable eye care systems globally that put treatment and prevention within reach for all.

## **Why we do it**

1.1 billion people in the world live with some form of visual impairment. Of these:

- 450 million are children and adolescents
- 90% live in low- and middle-income countries
- 55% are women and girls, and 2 out of 3 children who are blind are girls.

## **How we fight avoidable blindness**

- We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.
- We carry out screening and treatment programmes, and support the distribution of antibiotics for controlling trachoma.
- We raise awareness among communities about the importance of eye health.
- We partner with local hospitals, non-government organisations (NGOs) and governments so they can strengthen and improve eye health services.

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## Our global reach – Orbis International

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Orbis International (OI), which is headquartered in the USA. Orbis UK funds projects delivered by Orbis International country programme teams, and supports the development and implementation of selected projects within these countries.

The vast majority of people who are blind and visually impaired live in low- and middle-income countries. Older people, women and those living in rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected.

We focus on where the need is greatest: in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Research shows that every \$1 invested in tackling leading causes of blindness, such as cataract and refractive error, delivers a \$36 return of benefits including education and employment outcomes. [1]



2 IN-PERSON  
FLYING EYE HOSPITAL PROJECTS



1 VIRTUAL  
FLYING EYE HOSPITAL PROJECT



14 OFFICES



[1] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10680113/?report=classic>

# Our year in numbers

## Orbis UK's impact

Our partners and supporters helped us to save the sight of people in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mongolia and Zambia across 12 projects in 2023.

### Key successes we delivered in partnership included:

- enabling 572,741 eye screenings, exceeding our target by 40%
- enabling 33,560 treatments, exceeding our target by nearly 15%
- delivering 3,965,369 antibiotic doses, which was 10% more than our yearly target
- delivering 11,782 training sessions for health workers, which was 97% of our target.

## Orbis UK's income

### Total income: £6,479k

2023 saw our total gross income increase year-on-year by 5% (£292k).

This enabled us to invest more in our sight-saving programmes across the world.

2023 saw a significant increase in legacy donations, due to the compassion and kindness of supporters who included a gift to Orbis in their Will.

Our income from organisations and major donors was down from the previous year, due mainly to delays in funding being received from existing donors, which is forecast to remit next financial year.

The impact of the cost-of-living impact continued to be a factor in 2023, with fewer people overall donating to Orbis compared to 2022. However, the additional generosity of existing donors and our careful monitoring of fundraising costs resulted in a 13% / £109k year-on-year net income increase from individual donors.

### As percentages of total income:

Legacies 40%  
Major donors, trusts  
and corporate partners 20%  
Individual donors 21%  
Statutory donors 19%



After receiving sight-saving treatment, Rhoda, steps off the Flying Eye Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. During the visit, 115 patients were screened, more than 50 sight-saving surgeries were performed, and more than 80 eye care professionals in-person were trained, with a further 40 trained online.

# Comprehensive eye care

## Working with partners to provide *eye care everywhere, for everyone*

**We work in partnership across the health system, from community-based clinics to specialist hospitals, and at all stages of a patient's journey, to deliver comprehensive eye care to people everywhere.**

In 2023, we worked with our partners to deliver 572,741 eye screenings, 33,560 treatments and provide 3,956,369 doses of antibiotics in Ethiopia to people at risk from blinding trachoma.

### **Ethiopia**

2023 was a year of landmarks in our work on eliminating trachoma. Multiple infections from trachoma cause eyelashes to turn inward, where they scrape across the eye's surface with each blink, causing enormous pain and permanent blindness without treatment. With over half of the world's at-risk population living in Ethiopia, our work is vital to the global goal of trachoma elimination by 2030.

Initially, we faced a major challenge with mass drug administrations, due to an insignificant supply of the antibiotic azithromycin available. We had also faced this challenge in 2022. However, we were able to unlock access to the doses needed and distributed 3.9 million doses, surpassing a target of 3.6 million.

We were also delighted to celebrate two major milestones for Orbis in Ethiopia in 2023. Firstly the administration of the 100 millionth dose of antibiotics by Orbis to help fight trachoma in Ethiopia. The milestone came 20 years after the first dose was given by Orbis in Ethiopia, showing the long-term success of our projects in the country.

The announcement of elimination of trachoma in Gedeo, an area South West of the capital Addis Ababa, also showed the scale of our impact. Over 1 million people now no longer have need for mass-drug administrations and health care teams can reprioritise their efforts to other vital work.



Six-year-old Hizkiel was the recipient of the 100 millionth dose of antibiotics given by Orbis to fight trachoma. To mark the occasion, local children performed a play and community leaders blessed the giving of the historic dose.



**"Now is the time that we must all redouble our efforts if we are to achieve our aim of eliminating trachoma by the year 2030, which is a mere six years away."**

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh renewed the call to eliminate trachoma whilst speaking at a trachoma elimination conference in Ethiopia, organised by Orbis.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh visited Ethiopia during World Sight Day 2023 celebrations, to join an Orbis-organised conference on trachoma elimination.

The event, which was jointly organised by Orbis, Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health and the British Embassy Addis Ababa, brought together over 40 organisations and more than 100 participants including the Ethiopian Minister of Health to discuss challenges, successes and future plans to eliminate trachoma. Her Royal Highness's attendance, her visits to Orbis projects to see trachoma elimination work in action, and her meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Ethiopian President during the trip helped raise further awareness of the vital urgency of this work.

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## Bangladesh

Our women-led green vision centres continued to grow their impact in 2023. The centres empower local women by training them as managers and positioning them as role models, which encourages other women to seek care. Women-led centres also remove cultural or religious barriers that might prevent women from seeking care from centres run by men. 56% of patients screened were women and girls, demonstrating the success of the approach to increase eye care for women. Numbers for screenings delivered, people receiving medicines and distributions of glasses were all above target in 2023.

We continued to work with partners to provide essential eye care services for Rohingya people living in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, and the host community. During 2023, the project completed 73,248 screenings against a target of 72,500. In addition, we worked with our local partners to conduct a total of 1,241 cataract surgeries.

We were also excited to launch a new project in Bangladesh, which aims to tackle vision impairment among tea pickers working in 12 tea estates in Sylhet, northeast Bangladesh. The initial phase trained 10 community health workers who then screened 6,622 tea workers and their families through door-to-door screening, exceeding the initial target by 32%. Those found to have an eye condition were referred for evaluation, completed at the tea estate health centres, using equipment procured by the project.



Pobi, a tea picker in Sylhet, Bangladesh, received a pair of glasses as a result of the new Orbis project.

## Tasmia and Mahfuza's story

Not long after Mahfuza hit her head whilst playing, her mother Hawa noticed her daughter falling behind at school: "She was nervous because she couldn't see the writing on the board clearly. She couldn't answer questions, so everyone would laugh at her."

Mahfuza's family live in Haimchar, Bangladesh, where Orbis established a local vision centre that provided training to Tasmia, an ophthalmic technician, to lead the centre. When Mahfuza's family visited, Tasmia diagnosed traumatic cataracts and arranged for the young girl to have surgery.



Soon after the bandages came off, Mahfuza was back playing and enjoying school. For Hawa, the relief was overwhelming: "Without these services my daughter would not have been able to see, study or live without help. I cannot express how happy I feel".

For Tasmia, it was a reminder of why her work leading the vision centre is so important.

**"After their children go through the surgery, the parents are often brought to tears. Seeing them becoming so emotional and happy makes all the hard work I put in feel like it was the best thing I have ever done. The thought of being able to help another person see this beautiful world makes me extremely motivated to keep on helping people."**

# Childhood blindness

## Giving children the eye care they need *to realise their potential*

---

**If a child's eye condition is not identified early enough, it can lead to irreversible blindness that robs them of their education and can cause a lifetime of economic hardship.**

We work with partners around the world to provide specialist paediatric ophthalmology skills and treatments. Together, we can screen and treat children, and provide the straightforward solutions that we all too often take for granted in the UK, such as cataract surgery, medicine and glasses.

### **Mongolia**

We made excellent progress in 2023 on work to include eye examinations into newborn and paediatric care, to stop blindness from retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and other eye conditions in Mongolia. ROP is a condition of abnormal development of the retina that affects premature babies. If left untreated, it can cause permanent blindness, so screening is absolutely crucial to identify those at risk of the condition.

Over the year, 41,628 babies and children were screened, exceeding the target by 156%. In addition, 94 babies were treated for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), exceeding the target by 38%. 28 neonatologists were trained on screening newborns using Red Reflex testing to detect ROP.

And a Hospital Based Training was conducted within three neonatal departments to further knowledge.

Work to improve access to specialised paediatric eye care launched with a new curriculum for eye care and health workers, developed in consultation with the Mongolian National Centre for Maternal and Child Health. A ROP training schedule was completed, and the first phase of training for ophthalmologists and neonatologists will take place in early 2024.

### **India**

In Odisha, eastern India, we launched a comprehensive child eye care project in partnership with Trilochan Netralaya, a local eye care clinic.

Over 8,500 screenings were completed across three green vision centres, at schools and through door-to-door screening and outreach camps, helping to ensure that more patients could be reached across a range of locations. 1,312 patients were referred for follow-up appointments.

A high proportion of patients attended these appointments, which enables better treatment outcomes and shows the project's dedicated follow-up strategy is proving effective.



Tamana, who received a pair of glasses thanks to a school screening programme by Orbis in India.

Glasses prescriptions for refractive error were particularly high at 710 (12% of those screened versus a national rate of 3-4%), continuing to demonstrate the significant need for eye care services in the project area.

Surgeries also significantly exceeded target, with growing numbers coming forward for screening and being referred for surgery across the course of the year.

This shows a growing awareness amongst the population of the availability of services, and the effective removal of barriers such as cost or fears over treatment.

The project team concluded the year by working on expanding access to eye care, with the addition of two more green vision centres.

# Specialist training

## Sharing expert knowledge

*with eye care professionals around the world*

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**To achieve our vision of eye care everywhere, we work with partners such as local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments to share skills, knowledge and expertise with local eye care teams. By mentoring and training eye care workers, we pass on the tools they need to save the sight of people in their communities.**

In 2023, we delivered 11,782 training sessions for health workers, 97% of our target for the year. Training is integrated across many of our projects, allowing us to ensure that sight-saving work can be delivered locally, long into the future.

### Zambia

In 2022, Orbis trained 63 volunteer Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Zambia, with a specially created curriculum delivered via non-smart phones to align with locally used technology.

In 2023, the health workers screened 19,005 people versus a target of 11,340 and referred 6,707 people for assessment by an eye care worker (target 1,134). 11,898 people visited eye care facilities (target 6,570).

The CHWs work closely with staff from eye clinics, enabling patients to receive a better, more joined-up experience. Finally, because more people are being treated locally, capacity has been freed-up at the province's main eye hospital, allowing staff to focus on the more serious cases.

### Vietnam

20 district health staff in Hoa Binh and Lai Chau were trained in refractive error, a key cause of vision loss in Vietnam.

Across three districts of Lai Chau, nearly 1,440 people received free eye check-ups and 168 people received free cataract surgery.

As part of work in the region, 184 teachers were trained on primary eye care. This helped them to identify eye conditions within the classroom, where eye conditions can often be identified early if children are noticed struggling reading books or the blackboard.

In addition, 32,517 children were screened and 1,289 spectacles provided to children free of cost.

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## The Flying Eye Hospital

In 2023, Orbis UK supported the Flying Eye Hospital to visit Vietnam and Zambia. The converted cargo-plane, donated to Orbis by FedEx, carries a state-of-the-art ophthalmic teaching hospital and allows volunteer eye care experts to share their skills around the world.

Both visits in 2023 involved a programme of treatments and training for local eye care workers, delivered in partnership with local teaching hospitals. Vietnam was the first patient-facing mission for the Flying Eye Hospital since the Covid pandemic, with over 50 patients receiving treatment and 52 eye care workers trained.

In Zambia, a strabismus-focused programme saw over 50 more patients receive sight saving treatment with over 80 eye care workers benefitting from the training in-person and online.

Whilst the benefit to patients treated during the Flying Eye Hospital visits are significant, the training will help local eye care teams save sight and deliver outstanding eye care in their communities for generations to come.



Seven-year-old Zipporah and her older brother Gabriel received treatment for strabismus as part of the Flying Eye Hospital visit to Zambia.

Nadine Grant-Mckenzie, NHS nurse at Moorfields Eye Hospital, was part of the Orbis volunteer team who helped deliver treatments and train Zambian eye care teams whilst in Lusaka.

# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

As we sought to build back-up in-person programmes last year after the pandemic, our supporters continued to show their staunch commitment to Orbis UK and the fight against avoidable blindness. Orbis UK is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we continue to adhere to the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice: [fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code](https://fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code)

We act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability in all our fundraising practices. We ensure the right policies and controls are in place so that we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way. We recognise our responsibility to act appropriately and compassionately when engaging with people in vulnerable or potentially vulnerable situations. All staff and volunteers involved with fundraising are trained and aware of our policies. The Safeguarding policy outlines our general approach with people in vulnerable situations.

The Ethical Funding policy, and the 'Fundraising and Vulnerable Persons' section in the staff handbook detail the specific processes fundraisers implement and follow. Staff and volunteers are trained as part of their inductions, and refresher training is carried out periodically.

We operate a diverse range of income streams that raise money from individuals, organisations, statutory funders, and legacies. We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, especially when we do not have the relevant expertise in-house. We ensure that the correct safeguards are in place with our suppliers and those who fundraise on our behalf. We require them to confirm and demonstrate that they comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice. We received two complaints in 2023, which was three less than in 2022. We responded to both promptly and have taken appropriate action to learn from the causes of these complaints to improve our practice.

### The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust and we make this promise:

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data.

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit: [gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](https://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

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## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm and providing safe and effective care for everyone we encounter. We ensure that we have appropriate safeguarding policies and that staff, volunteers and contractors follow a strict code of conduct. These policies align with the Charity Commission's safeguarding guidance, the Charity Governance Code's 'Integrity Principle', and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Enhanced Safeguarding Standards.

In 2023, we continued working with country programme partners to maintain safeguarding policies and processes for our programmes. In particular, we continued to work with Orbis International on the development of a safeguarding reporting system for the Orbis programme in Ethiopia and began planning with Orbis India on a new reporting system for their programme. This work will be progressed in 2024.

The Safeguarding Management Group, led by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, met four times in 2023 and reported to programme committee and board meetings. When we recruited staff in 2023, reference requests included the questions recommended by the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, which is designed to stop perpetrators of sexual misconduct moving between organisations undetected.

Orbis UK staff participated in an annual update on safeguarding. No safeguarding incidents were reported in 2023.

In 2024 we will continue to monitor, review and develop our policies and processes, particularly those in our country programmes.

## Transparency and governance

Last revised in 2020, the Charity Governance Code sets out good governance across seven principles: organisational purpose, leadership, integrity, decision-making, board effectiveness, equality, diversity and inclusion, and openness and accountability.

The Orbis UK board remains committed to complying with the code and to a periodic review of its effectiveness against the principles set out in the code.

# How we did in 2023

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## Goal 1: We will sustainably deliver our vision and mission

Our £4.3 million programme expenditure in 2023 was directed through Orbis International to support 12 new and existing projects. All projects were designed to have significant impacts on the communities they reached.

We continued our focus on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and developing our pioneering women led green vision centres in Bangladesh.

We funded three new projects in 2023 focusing on providing eye care for tea pickers in northeastern Bangladesh, delivering child eye care in Copperbelt, Zambia, and integrating technology in retinopathy of prematurity screening to improve eye care outcomes for premature babies in Mongolia. Our projects supported partners to:

- Distribute 3,965,369 antibiotic doses for trachoma control and elimination
- Conduct 572,741 patient screenings
- Deliver 33,560 eye treatments
- Provide 11,782 training sessions for eye health workers.

A dedicated team worked with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements. The team also identified opportunities to secure significant extra funding for additional priority projects.

## Goal 2: We will reach and engage the audiences most likely to support us

In 2023, we put audiences at the heart of our fundraising and communications. Using data and insights, we identified the types of individuals who would be interested in supporting our work. This resulted in a number of campaigns, including our first Ramadan appeal, focusing on our work in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In addition, we activated digital campaigns for Diwali and Easter, as well as launching an integrated campaign around World Sight Day and Christmas, calling on the public to help 'Make Trachoma History'.

As we continued to prioritise digital engagement for its greater efficiency, we reached 10,461k on social media and gained over 1.4k followers, surpassing our target of 1k. Our overall engagement rate was 3.7%, significantly above industry benchmarks. Our website had over 105k visits from a wide range of audiences (a growth of 9k from 2022), including those accessing our expertise on eye conditions.

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### **Goal 3: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management**

We continued to maintain organisational compliance with the relevant legislation and codes, and supported the board to develop its diversity and capabilities. The Finance team optimised our processes within the new finance system, making them as efficient as possible. They also provided accurate and timely reporting, and reviewed internal controls to minimise financial risks and monitored our financial position to ensure we managed resources efficiently in a challenging financial environment.

The Business Support Team worked to provide the UK staff team with HR, IT and travel services, and effective office administration.

### **Goal 4: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development**

Since the post pandemic return to more normal working practices, Orbis UK staff are now able to benefit from a permanent change to hybrid working, enabling them to work from home three days a week to aid in managing a healthy work-life balance. 2023 also saw Orbis UK relocate to our new offices in Craven Street, which allowed staff to work from a central location, easily accessed from across the South East. This also gave us an opportunity to collaborate with our new landlord, The College of Optometrists, a natural partner of Orbis. Together, we aim to offer better facilities for hybrid working and improved local amenities for our committed staff.

# Looking ahead to 2024

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## **Goal 1: We will sustainably deliver our vision and mission**

Our programme expenditure in 2024 will be directed through Orbis International to support 11 new and existing projects. All of the projects are designed to significantly reduce eye health problems in the communities they reach.

We will continue our focus on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar and improving rural eye care services in Bangladesh and Zambia. We will also continue focusing on screening newborn babies for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), and supporting government eye care workers in Ghana and Mongolia.

We will also fund a new project strengthening paediatric eye care services in Orissa, India.

A dedicated team will work with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements.

## **Goal 2: We will reach and engage audiences most likely to support us**

Building on the foundations of our 2023 audience-led approach, we will significantly increase the number and value of new individual donors to Orbis UK. We will take a data-led and multi-channel approach to diversify opportunities and reach audiences most likely to support us.

We will also increase the number and value of organisations and high-value donors who support Orbis, with a focus on securing multi-year funding to enable sustainable investment in our programmes.

To increase our unrestricted funding and help establish a long-term source of income for Orbis UK, we will invest further in our Public Giving fundraising programme. A core aim of this investment will be to increase the number of new regular giving supporters of Orbis UK. A multi-channel marketing strategy will be employed to identify the most efficient fundraising opportunities, and a set of controls will be established to ensure the spend delivers an effective fundraising return.

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### **Goal 3: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management**

Working closely with the board, we will continue to maintain a high standard of corporate governance ensuring adherence with relevant codes and legislation, with the assistance of a new platform to support efficiency in these areas. We will continue to draft excellent proposals that showcase the impact of our work and we will work to improve reporting for donors in conjunction with our global colleagues, through effective use of the new grants management database. The Finance team will continue to review and renew internal controls to minimise financial risks and strengthen compliance oversight. The Business Support team will continue to provide effective HR, IT, travel and administrative support.

### **Goal 4: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development**

The Orbis Values will be refreshed to help underpin the positive experience of working at Orbis UK. We will undertake a staff survey to gather practical ideas of how we improve our wellbeing as a team and as individuals. As part of this we plan to develop a new performance review and development process with regular check-ins to support professional resilience, ensure performance, and link to individual learning and development plans.

# Thank you

**Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers**

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## **Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations**

A Nelson and Co Limited  
Aumund Foundation  
Bliss Family Charity  
Eddie Dinshaw Foundation  
The Edenbeg Charitable Trust  
Fondation Pro Victimis  
Gary Lee-Richards  
Greendale Charitable Foundation  
Mr and Mrs (Dr) Mehta  
Qatar Charity  
The Ruia family, Manchester UK  
The Zochonis Charitable Trust

## **Statutory and institutional funders**

Foreign, Commonwealth &  
Development Office  
Qatar Fund for Development  
Sightsavers  
States of Guernsey Overseas Aid &  
Development Commission

## **Corporate partners**

Clyde & Co  
Espresso Solutions Ltd  
Heidelberg Engineering  
Hoya Vision UK  
Qatar Airways  
United Kingdom Air Cargo Club

## **Co-opted sub-committee members**

Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tony Cowles

## **Special thanks**

British Embassy Addis Ababa  
British Embassy Doha  
Her Royal Highness The Duchess  
of Edinburgh

## **UK and Europe medical volunteers**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Dr Lawrence Azavedo  
Mr Larry Benjamin  
Dr Ian Fleming  
Nadine Grant-McKenzie  
Dr Michelle Le Cheminant  
Dr Jonathan Lord  
Dr Nurhayati Lubis  
Dr Ghalib Mukadam

## **Office volunteers**

Polly Holt

## **UK ambassadors**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Polly Braden  
Tim Bucher  
Tom Davies  
Ian Fleming  
Mary Killen  
Brian Little  
Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards  
CBE AFC FRAeS FCIM RAF (Ret'd)  
Sunil Ruia

# Board of trustees

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## **Nick Fox, Chair, UK**

Nick Fox has over thirty years of national and international experience in creative communications, based out of London, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Nick sat on the worldwide board for DDB, an Omnicom agency network based in New York. His experience encompasses all sectors from fast-moving consumer goods, finance, publishing, charity and the automotive industry. Nick has managed teams, budgets and international agency networks to increase consumer demand to drive brand value for some of the world's biggest brands. In 2013, Nick started his own independent agency with four partners, Atomic London, of which he is now chair.

Nick joined the board of Orbis UK in January 2020 and was appointed Chair in March 2022.

## **Trustees**

### **Sir Dominic Asquith, Nominations Committee Chair, UK**

After a number of years as a political analyst, teacher, journalist and traveller in the Middle East, Sir Dominic joined the British diplomatic service in 1983. He served in the Americas, South Asia and returned frequently to the Middle East. He was Ambassador successively in Iraq, Egypt and Libya between 2006 and 2012.

After retiring in 2013, he was recalled to government service as High Commissioner in India from 2016 to 2020.

He is currently a Partner in Macro Advisory Partners, which provides independent, long-term strategic counsel to decision-makers in business and government.

Sir Dominic joined the Orbis UK board in October 2020.

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## **Larry Benjamin FRCS (Ed), FRCOphth, FRCOphth (Hon), DO**

Larry Benjamin was a consultant ophthalmologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire for 30 years (recently retired) and has been an Orbis medical volunteer since 2004. With special interests in cataract and diabetic retinopathy management, he has also served on the ophthalmic committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, published a number of scientific papers and two books. He was, until December 2018, chair of the microsurgical skills committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and is a past president of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is the immediate past-president of the ophthalmic section of the Royal Society of Medicine (2020-2022).

In March 2016, Larry received the Care Service Provider trophy at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his work improving access to eye care services across the globe. He was recently made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists for his contribution to UK Ophthalmology.

Larry joined the Orbis UK board in November 2008, and retired in July 2023.

## **Siân Block MBE, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK (until March 2023)**

Siân trained as a nurse and has over 30 years' experience in many areas of healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These include the independent sector, the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, charities and Resuscitation Councils (UK and European).

Siân joined the Orbis UK board in June 2020 and is also a member of the board of Orbis International.

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## **Sheraz Daya MD FACP FACS FRCS(Ed) FRCOphth**

Sheraz Daya is an ophthalmic surgeon in practice for more than 30 years. Brought up in Tanzania, he has in the pursuit of education spent time in several countries. He trained in the United States initially under the tutelage of David Paton, the founder of Orbis. He was in practice in New York City, and later was recruited to direct and modernise the Corneoplastics Unit and Eye Bank, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, UK.

Sheraz practices at Centre for Sight an organisation he founded which has three branches. Interested in medical innovation and artificial intelligence, he co-founded a start-up company Infinite Medical Ventures in 2020.

He serves on a number of industry and society advisory boards and is the next president of AECOS-Europe (American European Congress of Ophthalmic Surgery).

Sheraz joined the Orbis UK board in July 2023.

## **Yvette Dunne MA FCA, Audit Committee Chair, UK**

Yvette Dunne trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent ten years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK board in December 2017.

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## **John Ferris, MB, ChB, FRCOphth, Programme Committee Chair, UK**

John has been a consultant ophthalmologist at Cheltenham General Hospital since 1999. He has a special interest in cataract surgery, squint surgery and paediatric ophthalmology. John has an international reputation in the fields of simulation and surgical training. He was the Head of the School of Ophthalmology in the Severn Deanery for 10 years and succeeded Larry Benjamin as the Royal College of Ophthalmologists surgical skills faculty lead in 2019, a post he held until 2023.

## **Nicola Floyd**

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than 10 years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years. She is currently CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charterholder, and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola joined the Orbis UK board in September 2017.

## **Fiona Hobbs**

Fiona trained and qualified as a solicitor with Linklaters and has over 30 years' experience (25 years as a partner) of developing major infrastructure and energy projects both in the UK and in emerging markets. She has held a number of senior management and governance roles within the firm and has spent six years as its global head of diversity and inclusion. She is a lay member of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee.

Fiona joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

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### **Mona Khan, MD, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK (from March 2023)**

Mona Khan, MD has over 25 years of clinical and surgical experience as an ophthalmologist. Her private practice was located in downtown Chicago and she was on the staff of Mercy Hospital for over 20 years. At Mercy, she was the principal comprehensive ophthalmologist at the Mercy Family Health Clinic, a federally funded clinic whose mission was to treat the most vulnerable and socioeconomically disadvantaged residents from Chicago's South Side.

She retired from clinical ophthalmology to move to London in 2020 with her husband and daughter.

In September of 2021, Mona became a trustee of Advanced Research Clusters Management Ltd (ARC). ARC owns some of Europe's leading science and innovation clusters. Its portfolio includes Harwell, a leading science and innovation campus based in Oxfordshire.

Mona joined the Orbis UK board in December of 2021.

### **Patricia Moller**

Following an awarded 25-year career with the U.S. Department of State, Patricia ended her active government service to return to the private sector. Through her consultancy, Moller Global Advisory, she has advised governments, international financial institutions and businesses from Fortune 500 juggernauts to greenfield startups. She chairs the boards of directors of West Africa LNG, Africa Project Advisors, and the Baara Hospital and Agriculture Projects. In addition, she sits on a number of other boards of directors, and joined Orbis UK as a Trustee in November 2017.

Patricia has been a member of the board of Orbis International since 2013.

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## **Sophia Pathai MBBS MSc PhD MRCOphth**

Sophia Pathai is an ophthalmologist by training. She worked in the NHS and subsequently as a clinician scientist undertaking research at the International Centre for Eye Health, based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Her passion for global health was ignited during her tenure as a staff ophthalmologist on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in 2009.

Sophia has been appointed to global medical leadership roles at companies such as Roche, AbbVie and Johnson & Johnson. She is currently Vice President of Medical Initiatives at Hevolution Foundation. She gained her BSc and medical degree from University College London, and her MSc and PhD were awarded by LSHTM.

Sophia joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

## **Darsh Shah**

Darsh Shah is an Audit, Assurance & Advisory partner at Blick Rothenberg. He has over 20 years of experience in professional practice and specialises in auditing and financial reporting to clients ranging from start-ups to large international groups in the hospitality, care, recruitment and retail sector.

Prior to joining Blick Rothenberg, Darsh was a partner at an independent London practice, having spent a number of years at Deloitte LLP before that.

He is an FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants) and has a BSc in Management Sciences from The University of Manchester.

Darsh joined the Orbis UK board in December 2022.

## **Robert F Walters FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth**


Rob Walters is a consultant ophthalmologist who has worked in the National Health Service (NHS) for over 30 years and been an Orbis medical volunteer since 1994. Rob has played key roles in numerous UK eye health organisations and authored three books on the causes and treatment of blindness.

In 2014, he was honoured with the title 'Trustee of the Year' at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his dedication to improving eye health globally.

Rob also served as chairman of the boards of Orbis International in New York and Orbis Africa, and he remains an emeritus member of the Orbis International Board.

Rob joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003, and retired in July 2023.

# Financial statements



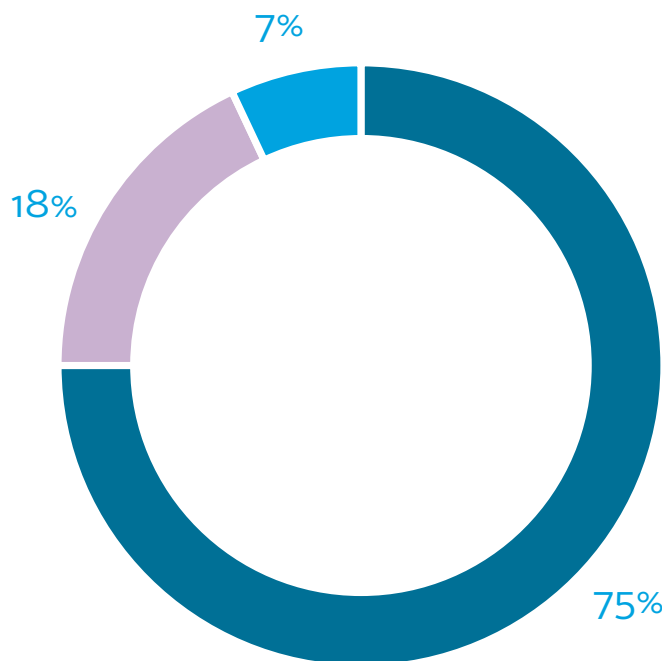
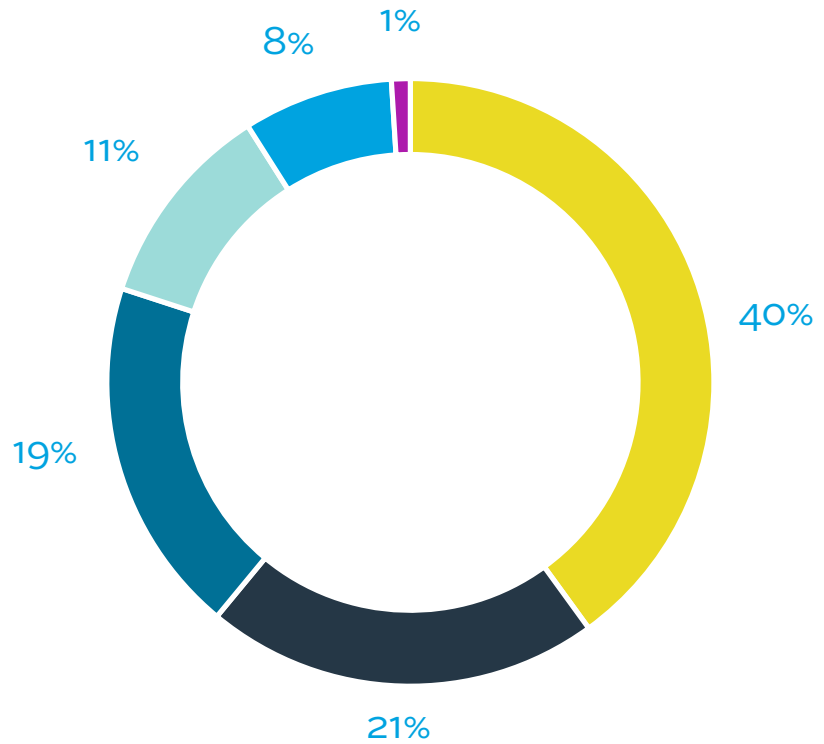
At just 3 months old, Estifanos was infected with trachoma in Ethiopia. Repeated infections can cause permanent damage to a child's sight. But thanks to an Orbis trachoma programme, Estifanos and his mother Zuriyash received vital antibiotics, to treat his infection and protect his vision.

# 2023

## Financial summary

### Income 2023

- Legacies
- Individuals
- Statutory
- Trusts
- Major Donors
- Corporate



### Programme area spend 2023

- Comprehensive Eye Care
- Childhood Blindness
- Specialist Training

The cost of fundraising was 28.8% of our income.

# Reference and administrative details

**Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK's address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.**

Orbis UK (Orbis Charitable Trust) is an affiliate of Orbis International (Project Orbis International), a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York. The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision of a world where everyone can access the eye care they need to thrive, and they share a common mission to build strong and sustainable eye care systems globally that put treatment and prevention within reach for all.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities worldwide. It designs and manages programmes and determines the global medical and programme strategy. This relationship is described in further detail in Note 18 (Related parties).

## **Objectives and principal activities of the charity**

Orbis UK's Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling
- b. The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment
- c. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK's objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2023, and our four key goals for 2024, can be found in the front section of this report.

## **Financial review and results for the year**

Income in 2023 rose by £292k (4.7%) compared to 2022. There was a significant increase in legacy income of £1,132k (77%) as delays in probate continued to ease after the pandemic. This has offset year-on-year reductions in donations of -£162k (-6%) and grant income of -£701k (-37%).

Overall expenditure increased by £110k (2%) compared to 2022. This was, in part, due to increased programme spend in Ethiopia, Zambia and Ghana as well as additional costs related to our relocation to new offices during the year.

Expenditure on charitable activities increased by £24k (1%) in 2023 compared to 2022. Programme expenditure on the Comprehensive Eye Care programme increased by £284k (9%) due to the aforementioned additional targeted expenditure in Africa, in particular, increasing trachoma elimination activity in Ethiopia, thanks to the re-supply of antibiotics. Spending on Childhood Blindness decreased by -£74k (-9%) whilst expenditure on Specialist Training decreased by -£186k (-37%).

The trustees and senior management team have a priority of continually improving the ratio of charitable activities spend versus the cost of raising funds. The cost of raising funds ratio in 2023 remained at the same level as 2022 (28.8%) for two main reasons. Firstly, expenditure on raising funds increased by £86k (5%) year-on-year, due to the continued impact of inflationary pressures on resourcing and staffing costs. Secondly, the unexpected increase in legacy income at the end of the financial was received late in year, meaning it wasn't possible to spend this on charitable activities within the financial year, thus skewing the ratios of income versus charitable spend and cost of raising funds.

The late and unexpected remittance of legacy income resulted in unrestricted funds at the end of December 2023 being £1.46m higher than the trustees' reserves target. The trustees have set a budget for 2024 which will bring the general reserves within the target range, which includes expenditure on charitable activities and planned investment in our Public Giving campaigns aimed at generating significant additional income over the next five years. These additional reserves will contribute towards this.

## **Structure, governance and management**

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 29 September 1997, 22 December 2005 and 17 April 2020. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. The following trustees retired at the 2023 AGM: Larry Benjamin and Rob Walters. The trustees have adopted the Charity Governance Code recommendation that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years.

Two members of the board also served as directors of Orbis International during the year: Patricia Moller and Siân Block (from June 2022).

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions, terms of reference for subcommittees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity, as set out below. Three subcommittees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

### **Charity Governance Code**

The Charity Governance Code, which is designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to periodic reviews of our relevant practices. The last board evaluation was conducted in 2021, and the Nominations Committee guides these improvements.

A designated safeguarding trustee ensures that safeguarding is prominent in the charity's agenda, and a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group established in 2020 has a remit to collect, discuss and disseminate best practice, including board and staff recruitment, to ensure Orbis UK reflects the diversity of UK society.

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment and financial management of the charity.

## **Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for assessing and reviewing applications to recruit and select appointees to the board. The committee decisions are subject to the board's consideration and approval.

## **Chief executive and senior management team**

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## **Remuneration of personnel**

The pay of staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually by an external HR consultant, the director of finance and operations, and the chief executive. Staff pay is approved by the trustees of the Audit Committee. The review includes a benchmarking exercise which is carried out annually against comparable roles within the public and not-for-profit sector, to set market pay levels and to ensure that salaries remain competitive. All staff are paid at least the London Living Wage as calculated by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.

All staff who have passed probation at the beginning of the year and whose salaries are not adjusted as part of the benchmarking exercise will receive cost of living increases based on the Consumer Price Index where possible. Staff who are on probation at the beginning of the year will receive the cost of living payrise when they pass probation, where possible.

## **Risk management**

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The Audit Committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. The board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management annually.

The current regulatory environment in the banking sector has presented challenges to Orbis UK with regards to access to adequate banking facilities in order to meet our operational demands. There have been two recent incidents of bank accounts being suspended, with little notice or reason provided. Whilst that has not had a material impact on the running of the charity, we are attempting to mitigate this through engagement with our banks, peers in the sector and the Charity Commission and Financial Ombudsman, to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of compliance.

There remains the risk of having to manage differing donor requirements, as we continue to grow and expand our fundraising base across different income sources and partners. Whilst this gives us the opportunity to raise greater funds for even more programmes, this requires careful balance given the number of stakeholders and reporting needs that are necessary to meet those goals. We are mitigating this through partnership work with our peers at Orbis International (OI) and actively participating in Acuity, the grant management tool implemented by OI to help manage these expectations.

Finally, the recruitment of new staff across the Fundraising and Operations teams provides an excellent opportunity to improve our effectiveness, however there are inevitable challenges in recruiting a number of new staff across a short period of time that can present some risks. This is being mitigated through a review of our HR policies and continuing to ensure we learn from best practice across the sector, when it comes to people management.

## **Reserves policy**

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income. Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,425k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2023, the balance on total unrestricted reserves was £2,890k, which was £1.32m above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to an increase in legacy receipts significantly increasing our unrestricted reserves at the end of 2023. The trustees have set a budget for 2024 which will bring the general reserves closer to the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2023, designated funds stood at £38k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 15.

## **Grant making policy**

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the Programme Committee, financial approval by the Audit Committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money
- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity.

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP/FRS 102; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that they should have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on July 12th 2024 and signed on their behalf.

**Trustee**  
**Nick Fox**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nif" with a horizontal line underneath it.

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' annual report and from preparing a strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 38, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.

- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

## **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP*

## **Signed**

**Samir Chandoo (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP,  
Statutory Auditor**

Date: 17 July 2024

6th Floor  
9 Appold Street  
London  
EC2A 2AP

# Statement of financial activities

## (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

### Year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 (£)	Restricted funds 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)	Restricted funds 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	4,957,198	1,496,609	<b>6,453,807</b>	4,021,591	2,163,485	6,185,076
Investments		25,294	-	<b>25,294</b>	1,879	-	1,879
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,982,492</b>	<b>1,496,609</b>	<b>6,479,101</b>	<b>4,023,470</b>	<b>2,163,485</b>	<b>6,186,955</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		1,867,807	-	<b>1,867,807</b>	1,781,860	-	1,781,860
Charitable activities:							
• Comprehensive Eye Care		1,655,187	1,548,720	<b>3,203,907</b>	1,278,331	1,641,304	2,919,635
• Childhood Blindness		558,992	186,402	<b>745,394</b>	452,675	366,441	819,116
• Specialist Training		221,179	85,656	<b>306,835</b>	437,977	55,242	493,219
Total expenditure on charitable activities		2,435,358	1,820,778	<b>4,256,136</b>	2,168,983	2,062,987	4,231,970
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,303,165</b>	<b>1,820,778</b>	<b>6,123,943</b>	<b>3,950,843</b>	<b>2,062,987</b>	<b>6,013,830</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>679,326</b>	<b>-324,169</b>	<b>355,157</b>	<b>72,627</b>	<b>100,498</b>	<b>173,125</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>679,326</b>	<b>-324,169</b>	<b>355,157</b>	<b>72,627</b>	<b>100,498</b>	<b>173,125</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		2,210,940	544,104	<b>2,755,044</b>	2,138,313	443,606	2,581,919
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>219,935</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>544,104</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>

All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the gain for the year.

# Balance sheet

## Year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	38,456	13,123
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>38,456</b>	<b>13,123</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	13	410,658	283,489
Short term deposits		2,883,768	3,201,464
Cash at bank and in hand		1,129,196	1,250,198
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,423,622</b>	<b>4,735,151</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,351,877)	(1,993,230)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,071,745</b>	<b>2,741,921</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,110,201</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		219,935	544,104
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		2,851,810	2,197,817
Designated funds		38,456	13,123
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on July 12th 2024.

Trustee:  
Nick Fox



Trustee:  
Yvette Dunne



# Cash flow statement

Year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	(419,596)	67,456
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		25,294	1,879
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(44,396)	(2,698)
<b>NET CASH (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(19,102)</b>	<b>(819)</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(438,698)	66,727
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	4,451,662	4,384,935
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>4,012,964</b>	<b>4,451,662</b>

## Notes to the cash flow statement:

### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Net income for the year	355,157	173,125
Depreciation charges	18,162	35,084
Interest from investments	(25,294)	(1,879)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	901	-
(Increase) in debtors	(127,169)	(7,180)
(Decrease) in creditors	(641,353)	(131,604)
	(419,596)	67,546

### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Short-term deposits	2,883,768	3,201,464
Cash at bank and in hand	1,129,196	1,250,198
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,012,964</b>	<b>4,451,662</b>

### C. Analysis of changes in net debts

	At 1 January 2023 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2023 £
Short-term investments	3,201,464	(317,696)	-	2,883,768
Cash at bank and in hand	1,250,198	(121,002)	-	1,129,196
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,451,662</b>	<b>(438,698)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,012,964</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

## Statements year ended 31 December 2023

### 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and, as such, is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2023 is 12, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

### 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

### **3. Presentation currency**

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

### **4. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

#### **a. Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### **b. Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the global economic situation and the impact of inflation on donors have been taken.

#### **c. Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.

The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 15, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

#### **d. Income**

Legacies are recognised once the criteria for recognition has been met, i.e. once probate has been granted, the gift is measurable and the probability of receipt is certain.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## **e. Gifts in kind and donated services**

Services, and gifts in kind that are donated to the charity are recognised as both income and expenditure. The value of such gifts/services is pre-determined by the donor, typically based on market prices for the goods/services.

## **f. Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income. Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

## **g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase
- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, although in this instance, due to our move to new offices in 2023, this has now been fully depreciated.

## **h. Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

## **i. Investments**

Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

## **j. Cash at bank and in hand**

Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## **k. Short term deposits**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## **l. Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

## **m. Pension costs**

During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

## **n. Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## **o. Liabilities**

Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

## **p. Financial instruments**

Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors.

## **q. Foreign exchange**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate or an agreed rate for the whole year. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 (£)	Restricted funds 2023 (£)	Total funds 2023 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)
Donations	2,362,326	290,997	2,653,323	2,558,527	257,029	2,815,556
Legacies	2,594,872	-	2,594,872	1,463,064	-	1,463,064
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,957,198</b>	<b>290,997</b>	<b>5,248,195</b>	<b>4,021,591</b>	<b>257,029</b>	<b>4,278,620</b>

## 6. Income from grants

		Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	562,920	1,254,000
UK Government	Nepal	9,646	291,489
Guernsey Overseas Aid	Bangladesh	24,750	-
Qatar Charity	Bangladesh	-	280,022
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision - Ethiopia	261,699	80,945
	Paediatric Eye Care - Zambia	316,072	-
	Flying Eye Hospital - Doha	30,526	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,205,613</b>	<b>1,906,456</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Google grant advert	61,335	59,765
Flights	8,498	30,013
Promotion at aviation festival	-	5,800
Hotel accommodation	-	5,491
Gift Voucher	75	-
Media/PR Campaign	7,534	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77,442</b>	<b>101,069</b>

These amounts are included within our income (see note 5) and expenditure (note 9).

## 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Payments under operating leases	63,653	118,290
Depreciation	18,160	34,874
Fees paid to the auditor:		
Audit fees	20,510	18,820
Tax advisory services	1,400	1,270
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,723</b>	<b>173,254</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 9. Total resources expended

	Activities Undertaken Directly 2023 (£)	Grant Funding 2023 (£)	Support Costs 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Activities Undertaken Directly 2022 (£)	Grant Funding 2022 (£)	Support Costs 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising Funds	1,591,637	-	276,170	<b>1,867,807</b>	1,606,846	-	175,014	1,781,860
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	444,001	2,453,366	306,540	<b>3,203,907</b>	579,014	2,167,368	173,253	2,919,635
Childhood Blindness	129,055	524,242	92,097	<b>745,394</b>	210,995	552,378	55,743	819,116
Specialist Training	85,649	163,304	57,882	<b>306,835</b>	220,751	202,593	69,875	493,219
	658,705	3,140,912	456,519	<b>4,256,136</b>	1,010,760	2,922,339	298,871	4,231,970
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,250,342</b>	<b>3,140,912</b>	<b>732,689</b>	<b>6,123,943</b>	<b>2,617,606</b>	<b>2,922,339</b>	<b>473,885</b>	<b>6,013,830</b>

### GRANTS PAYABLE

GRANTS PAYABLE Grants of £3,140,912 (2022: £2,922,338) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £1,820,777 (2022: £1,987,716) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these programmes are given in note 15 under Restricted Funds. The balance of £1,320,135 (2022: £934,622) was directed to programmes in Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Flying Eye Hospital, and Cybersight on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £379,508 (2022: £298,871).

## 10. Analysis of support costs

	Support Staff Costs 2023 (£)	Facilities Depreciation 2023 (£)	Governance 2023 (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Support Staff Costs 2022 (£)	Facilities Depreciation 2022 (£)	Governance 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising Funds	-	261,016	15,154	<b>276,170</b>	-	162,365	12,649	175,014
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	154,206	144,915	7,419	<b>306,540</b>	35,407	129,042	8,804	173,253
Childhood Blindness	46,262	43,609	2,226	<b>92,097</b>	11,802	41,006	2,935	55,743
Specialist Training	30,841	25,557	1,484	<b>57,882</b>	15,736	50,226	3,913	69,875
	231,309	214,081	11,129	<b>456,519</b>	62,945	220,274	15,652	298,871
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>231,309</b>	<b>475,097</b>	<b>26,283</b>	<b>732,689</b>	<b>62,945</b>	<b>382,639</b>	<b>28,301</b>	<b>473,885</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 11. Staff costs

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Wages and salaries	1,451,159	1,443,117
Social security costs	171,761	173,311
Pension costs	88,140	101,348
Employment settlement agreement	7,083	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,718,143</b>	<b>1,717,776</b>

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £70,000	1	3
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	2	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1

Contributions in the year to pension schemes for these employees was £34,523 (2022: £35,121). Remuneration in respect of key management personnel in the year was £358,595 (2022: £396,206).

The average headcount number of employees and full-time equivalent (FTE), analysed by function, for the year was:

	2023 Headcount	2023 FTE	2022 Headcount	2022 FTE
Fundraising and communications	19	19	16	15
Finance and administration	5	5	11	9
Programme	4	4	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £233 (2022: £223) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to two trustees amounted to £3,318 (2022: two trustees totalling £2,195) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment (£)	Computer Equipment (£)	Leasehold Improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
<b>At 1 January 2023</b>	<b>90,939</b>	<b>67,893</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>221,539</b>
Additions	-	44,396	-	44,396
Disposals	(23,228)	(21,070)	(62,707)	(107,005)
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>67,711</b>	<b>91,219</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158,930</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
<b>At 1 January 2023</b>	<b>88,493</b>	<b>61,544</b>	<b>58,379</b>	<b>208,416</b>
Charge for year	2,219	11,615	4,328	18,162
Disposals	(23,001)	(20,396)	(62,707)	(106,104)
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>67,711</b>	<b>52,763</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,474</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,456</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,456</b>
At 31 December 2022	2,446	6,349	4,328	13,123

## 13. Debtors

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Accrued income	<b>325,650</b>	175,385
Prepayments	<b>40,537</b>	82,087
Gift Aid	<b>24,252</b>	24,055
Other debtors	<b>20,219</b>	1,962
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>410,658</b>	283,489

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Grants payable	1,094,690	1,594,166
Other creditors	22,431	245,577
Tax and social security	63,849	49,817
Trade creditors	81,785	48,813
Accruals	45,672	33,848
Pension scheme	43,450	21,009
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,351,877</b>	<b>1,993,230</b>

### Grant commitments accrued (£)

Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2023	1,594,166
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	3,140,912
Grants paid during the year	(3,640,388)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>1,094,690</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 15. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2023 (£)	Income 2023 (£)	Expense 2023 (£)	Transfers 2023 (£)	Gains and Losses 2023 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2023 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Reserves	2,197,817	4,982,492	(4,303,166)	(25,333)	-	2,851,810
Fixed assets	13,123	-	-	25,333	-	38,456
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>4,982,492</b>	<b>(4,303,166)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	590,253	1,024,133	(1,548,720)	-	-	65,666
Childhood blindness	(15,047)	355,718	(186,402)	-	-	154,269
Specialist training	(31,102)	116,758	(85,656)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>544,104</b>	<b>1,496,609</b>	<b>(1,820,778)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>219,935</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>	<b>6,479,101</b>	<b>(6,123,944)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>
	Balance 1 Jan 2022 (£)	Income 2022 (£)	Expense 2022 (£)	Transfers 2022 (£)	Gain/Loss 2022 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2022 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Reserves	2,092,804	4,023,470	(3,918,457)	-	-	2,197,817
Fixed assets	45,509	-	(32,386)	-	-	13,123
Transfer of funds was made to allow the purchase of new Compute Equipment.						
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>4,023,470</b>	<b>(3,950,843)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	392,748	1,838,809	(1,641,304)	-	-	590,253
Childhood blindness	29,639	321,755	(366,441)	-	-	(15,047)
Specialist training	21,219	2,921	(55,242)	-	-	(31,102)
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,163,485</b>	<b>(2,062,987)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>544,104</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>6,186,955</b>	<b>(6,013,830)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2023

## 15. Statement of funds (continued)

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £38,456 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves. Transfer of funds was made to allow the purchase of new Computer Equipment.

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care — £65,666 — Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult & child eye health, including rural eye care and trachoma elimination.

Child Blindness - £154,269 - Orbis projects focussing on child eye health.

Specialist Training — £0 — Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems.

## 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 (£)	Restricted Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Unrestricted Funds 2022 (£)	Restricted Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	38,456	-	<b>38,456</b>	13,123	-	13,123
Current assets	3,494,489	929,133	<b>4,423,622</b>	2,924,242	1,810,909	4,735,151
Grants payable	(385,492)	(709,198)	<b>(1,094,690)</b>	(327,361)	(1,266,805)	(1,594,166)
Other current liabilities	(257,187)	-	<b>(257,187)</b>	(399,064)	-	(399,064)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,890,266</b>	<b>219,935</b>	<b>3,110,201</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>544,104</b>	2,755,044

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2023

### 17. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease for premises that we occupied from June 2023:

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Within one year	72,638	45,213
Between one to five years	182,897	341
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255,535</b>	<b>45,554</b>

In 2023 £63,653 (2022: £118,290) was paid under an operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2022: none).

### 18. Related parties

a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller and Siân Block served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2023, with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £3,140,912 (2022: £2,922,339) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Flying Eye Hospital, and Cybersight. The outstanding balance due to Orbis International at 31st December 2023 was £1,094,690 (2022: £1,594,166, due to Orbis International).

b. Donations were received from three Trustees amounting to £6,565 (2022: five Trustees totalling £1,261). Three of these trustees ran the Great Ethiopian Run on behalf of Orbis UK, which Orbis UK paid expenses for. This was due to be repaid by those trustees in 2024. As such, £17,400 of the Other Debtors figure in Note 13 relate to these trustee expenses. Trustee Nicola Floyd is also a trustee of The Edenbeg Charitable Trust which kindly donated £15,000 in 2023 (2022: £30,000).

# Trustees and officers

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year and to the date of signing of these accounts, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## **Trustees**

Nick Fox  
Sir Dominic Asquith  
Larry Benjamin (resigned July 2023)  
Siân Block  
Sheraz Daya (appointed March 2023)  
Yvette Dunne  
John Ferris (appointed March 2023)  
Nicola Floyd  
Fiona Hobbs  
Mona Kahn  
Patricia Moller  
Sophia Pathai  
Darsh Shah  
Robert Walters (resigned July 2023)

## **Chief Executive and Company Secretary**

Rebecca Cronin

## **Senior Management Team**

Karl Askew (from September 2023 to January 2024)  
Kath Backhouse (until February 2023)  
Florence Branchu  
Colman Cawe  
Nilesh Pandya (from January 2024)  
Mark Stavers (from February 2023 to August 2023)

## **Registered office**

42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG

## **Auditors**

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP

## **Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC, Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8DN

## **Solicitors**

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE



**“Thanks to supporters like you, I had surgery on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital at eight years old when it came to my home in Vietnam. Now, I can play sports, see my schoolwork clearly and have confidence.”**

**In 2023, and now as a teenager, Tien saw the Flying Eye Hospital for the first time since her life changing strabismus surgery in 2017.**





**orbis.org**  
**+44 (0)20 7608 7260**

**Orbis UK**  
**42 Craven Street,**  
**London, WC2N 5NG**

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Genaye Eshetu, Geoff Oliver Bugbee and Sahos Mostafiz

**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1061352

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# Accounts

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# A story of saving sight

ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2022

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Front cover image: Ten-year-old Mostakim from Bangladesh underwent an eye screening on his doorstep as part of an Orbis community screening programme. Visual impairment among children is a major public health problem in the Rangpur Division of the country, so this programme aims to increase their access to quality eye care.



Nine-year-old Netsanet from Hawassa in Ethiopia used to have strabismus, a condition which causes the eyes to look in different directions when focusing. Other children made fun of her and she would often cry. Thankfully, Netsanet received surgery to correct her vision thanks to the Orbis Volunteer Faculty so she can now enjoy school without being teased.

# Chair and CEO welcome

## The warmest of welcomes to the 2022 Orbis UK annual report

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Dear supporters,

2022 was a challenging but positive year across all of our Orbis UK funded projects. As the Covid restrictions began to lift in the countries we work in and supply chain problems eased, so too did many of the difficulties that we faced in 2021.

I'm delighted to report that our income remained strong and, by the end of the year, we had exceeded nearly all of our targets for treatments, screenings and surgeries. This success is down to the resilience and creativity of the Orbis staff team and our partners who, during the course of the pandemic, became experts in adapting and adjusting to new ways of working. It's also thanks to the commitment and engagement of you, our supporters, who make our sight-saving work possible.

One of the highlights of the year was meeting the women attending a training programme on board the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in Doha. This pioneering initiative saw a female-only volunteer faculty working with 12 women drawn from countries affected by conflict. It was hugely inspiring to talk to the participants and hear about the challenges they face in the countries where they work every single day and their commitment to provide sight-saving treatment for their patients – there's more on page 14.

The disruption to the global supply of antibiotics to treat trachoma eye infections in Ethiopia was a significant challenge to the team in 2022. They delivered 3.4 million doses which was short of our target and these activities will continue to be difficult to implement in 2023 despite hopes that these shortages will ease.

You can read on page 10 how the Ethiopia team turned the challenge of the limited availability of antibiotics into an opportunity to redouble community outreach work which takes eye care services close to where people live.

In Nepal, our Aid Match project helped children like seven-year-old Aadya to see better at school through screening her vision and providing her with glasses – you can read her story on page 13. The three-year project finished in 2022 and delivered impressive results. Over 330,000 children were screened either in school or on their doorstep, making a significant contribution to the reduction in avoidable childhood blindness in the country. The project was funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

In Zambia we were delighted to see the number of patients attending primary and district eye care facilities increase in the three districts we supported. This comes as a direct result of community health workers having an increased awareness of eye conditions thanks to the training that Orbis provided. We did this through Viamo – an innovative low-tech mobile phone training platform (see page 14).

Also last year, Mongolia's Ministry of Health approved the inclusion of Red Reflex testing into the national paediatrics residency training curriculum. This means that more babies will be screened and treated for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a condition that can cause blindness if left untreated (see page 13).

We are already working hard to build on our successes in 2022 with ambitious plans to scale up our work, with the fundraising infrastructure in place to help us achieve this. We're aiming to raise more money, support more projects, and deliver more sight-saving training and treatments to people who live where eye care resources are scarce. We are confident that together we can get even closer to our ambition of creating a world where no one lives with avoidable vision loss, simply because of where they were born.

With best wishes,



**Rebecca Cronin** (chief executive)



**Nick Fox** (chair)

# Who we are and what we do

Orbis aims to create a world in which no one lives with avoidable vision loss, simply because of where they were born.

With over 1.1 billion people living with vision loss and 90% of cases preventable or treatable, Orbis operates a sustainable and scalable model to address this immense challenge, in which we:

- TREAT people with vision loss, to save sight today.
- TRAIN eye care professionals, to save sight tomorrow.
- TECHNOLOGY to create a future without avoidable vision loss.

## Our vision

To transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness.

## Our mission

With our network of partners, we mentor and train local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

## Why we do it

1.1 billion people in the world live with some form of visual impairment. Of these<sup>1</sup>:

- 90 million are children and adolescents
- 90% live in low and middle-income countries
- 55% are women and girls

## We fight avoidable blindness

- We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.
- We carry out screening and treatment programmes and support the distribution of antibiotics for controlling trachoma.
- We raise awareness among communities about the importance of eye health.
- We partner with local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments so they can strengthen and improve eye health services.

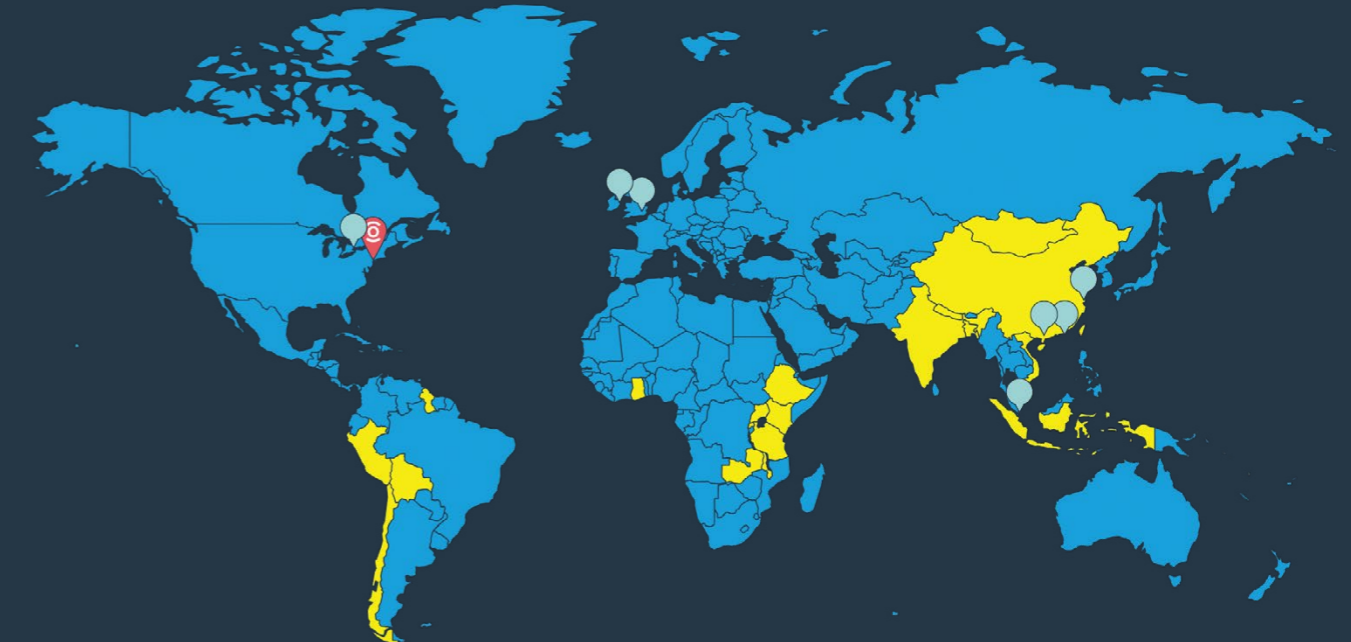
## Our global reach – Orbis International

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Orbis International (OI), which is headquartered in the USA. Orbis UK funds projects delivered by Orbis International country programme teams and supports the development and implementation of selected projects within these countries.

The vast majority of people who are blind and visually impaired live in low to middle income countries. Older people, women and those living in rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected. We focus on where the need is greatest: in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Orbis works to ensure everyone has sustainable access to quality eye care, no matter where they live.

**KEY:**  Headquarters in New York  Fundraising Offices  Countries we work in



<sup>1</sup> Adelson, J., Bourne, R. R. A., Briant, P. S., Flaxman, S., Taylor, H., Jonas, J. B., et al., Causes of blindness and vision impairment in 2020 and trends over 30 years, and prevalence of avoidable blindness in relation to VISION 2020: the Right to Sight: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. Lancet Global Health. 2020. Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas (<https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>)

Ref: [orbis.org](https://www.orbis.org)

# Our year in numbers

## Orbis UK's impact

We funded 12 projects in total: one in Ghana, one in India, one in Mongolia, one in Nepal, one in Zambia, two in Bangladesh and five in Ethiopia.

### Despite continued pandemic-related disruption, we worked with partner organisations to:

- enable 787,720 eye screenings, exceeding our target by 60%
- deliver 13,513 training sessions for clinical staff and community representatives exceeding our target by 3%
- enable 34,574 treatments, exceeding our target by nearly 35%
- deliver 3.4m antibiotic doses, which was 48% of our yearly target

## Orbis UK's income

### Total income: £6,187k

2022 saw our total gross income increase year-on-year (YoY) by 3.9% (+£233k), with our net income increasing significantly by £806k. This enabled us to invest more in our sight-saving programmes across the world.

Gains were made in our legacy income and the value of our corporate partnerships increased, as we focused on greater collaboration with the commercial sector.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis was an ever-present factor in 2022, resulting in a lower volume and value of individuals donating than the previous year. However, we did see a slight increase in the percentage of donors donating online (+1% YoY) as we focused on more cost-effective marketing channels.

### As percentages of total income:

Legacies	24%
Major donors, trusts and corporate partners	23%
Individual donors	22%
Statutory donors	31%

Dinkesh is a healthcare worker and grader on the Trachoma Impact Survey (TIS) in Ethiopia. Orbis conducts these surveys to assess the need for interventions to eliminate trachoma in the country. The TIS team also administers antibiotics for trachoma infections, refers people to health centres for treatment and educates people about preventing transmission.



# Comprehensive eye care

## Working with partners to provide eye care everywhere, for everyone

**We work in partnership with people at all levels of the health care system, including primary, secondary and tertiary care, to deliver comprehensive eye care to people everywhere. We work with everyone from medical professionals in regional hospitals to staff in rural health centres and members of local communities.**

Giving people in urgent need access to quality eye care remained challenging in 2022. Despite a global shortage of key antibiotics, the continued impact of the pandemic and ongoing donor budget cuts, our partners worked tirelessly to deliver our sight-saving work.

### Ethiopia

Trachoma is a highly infectious eye condition that, if left untreated, can develop into trichomatous trichiasis (TT) and cause irreversible blindness. Globally, half of all people at risk of TT are in Ethiopia. Our work to eliminate blinding trachoma as a public health problem in the country continued in 2022, despite a global shortage of azithromycin, the antibiotic that is used in 'mass drug administration' (MDA). Sightsavers and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) helped us to fund this work.

Last year, we conducted Trachoma Impact Surveys (TIS) in 39 districts in partnership with the Ethiopian government and other groups. As well as assessing the need for further elimination interventions, the TIS team also administered antibiotics for trachoma infection, referred people with TT to health centres, and educated people about preventing transmission.

Conducting MDA and surveys is challenging as, with many areas inaccessible to cars, journeys to isolated rural communities can be long and treacherous. But, thanks to the determination of MDA and survey teams and local health workers, we're making huge inroads into achieving the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating trachoma by 2030.

*"One time we drove for 80 km, and we had to hike for six hours uphill to reach a community. My shoes were broken due to the slippery road. When I finally reached the hill, and saw the health care centre, I couldn't move any longer. I was exhausted! Conducting the survey can be challenging, but I love this job because it prevents blindness."*

**Dinknesh,**  
Health care worker and grader on a Trachoma Impact Survey in Ethiopia

### Bangladesh

Since 2018, we've been leading on providing eye care services with our partners for both the Rohingya people living in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar and the host community. In 2022, our programme exceeded nearly all of our targets, allowing more vulnerable people to access the quality eye care they needed. We conducted vision screenings for more than 65,000 adults and 48,000 children, and we performed more than 1,500 eye surgeries. This important work was funded by Qatar Charity (QC), with additional funding for surgeries provided by the European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS).

### Boshir's story



Boshir lives in a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar with his wife and son. He used to be a farmer in his home country of Myanmar but, as a member of the Rohingya community, he was forced to flee to Bangladesh in 2017.

Two years after arriving at the camp, Boshir started to experience vision loss. He was unable to work and he needed someone to help him whenever he wanted to go anywhere. He worried that he was a burden to his family.

When he discovered he had cataracts in both of his eyes at the Vision Centre in the camp, he was initially discouraged from having surgery by his neighbours. They told him that an operation might blind him but, thankfully, Boshir did not listen.

After choosing to undergo the operation, Boshir was delighted that Orbis not only saved his sight, but also covered the cost of his treatment.

"Now I can do everything – from household work to shopping – as I did before my eye problem," he says. "They did not charge me any fees for the surgery. Rather, they arranged my travel to and from the hospital, my food, and they even gave me a pair of spectacles for free."

With his eyesight fully restored, Boshir is now working to debunk misconceptions about cataract surgery and encourage the people in his community to take eye care services from qualified health professionals.

"I have referred at least a hundred patients to the Vision Centre for eye treatment. I not only create awareness about the services of the hospital and motivate people to go there, but also accompany them to the hospital when necessary."

Elsewhere in Bangladesh, we've continued to build on our model of Women-led Green Vision Centres. Our three sustainable solar-powered vision centres provide eye care to hard-to-reach rural communities. The centres empower local women by training them as managers and positioning them as role models which encourages other women to seek care. Women-run centres also remove any cultural or religious barriers that might prevent women from seeking care from centres run by men. Encouragingly, some women visiting the centres in 2022 arrived without a chaperone. On top of this, many women brought their children with them – something that was made easier thanks to each centre's child-friendly space and breastfeeding corner – which meant even more children had access to quality eye care.

# Childhood blindness

## Giving children the eye care they need *to realise their potential*

**If a child's eye condition is not identified early enough, it can lead to irreversible blindness that robs them of their education and can cause a lifetime of economic hardship. We believe that eye care everywhere, for everyone, means fighting avoidable child blindness and restoring opportunities for a brighter future.**

We work with partners around the world to provide specialist paediatric ophthalmology skills and knowledge of children's eye health. Together, we screen and treat children, and provide the straightforward solutions that we all too often take for granted in the UK, such as cataract surgery, medicine, and glasses.

### Nepal

In 2022, we successfully concluded the third and final year of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Refractive Error Among Children (REACH) programme in Nepal. The programme, which set out to prevent visual impairment from being a barrier to education, identified and treated children with visual impairments such as refractive error and provided glasses where necessary.

The project originally centred around conducting screenings in schools. However, when the Covid pandemic closed schools for a total of 14 months, we quickly adjusted to the changing environment by taking a 'dual screening approach' and visiting children in their homes and in schools when they were open. In total, the project screened over 330,000 children, exceeding its target of 308,000 children, and the door-to-door screenings played a key role in this. Achieving this kind of success during the pandemic was all thanks to the hard work and commitment of hospital teams and the coordinating partner, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS).

Now that the project has finished, its approach has been embedded into the work of five newly established primary eye care centres, allowing more children the opportunity to enjoy an education and a life free of poverty.

### "I see everything!"



Seven-year-old Aadya used to enjoy playing and spending time with her siblings until blurred vision began to make it difficult for her to continue doing the things she loved.

"She used to sit very close to the television, and make frequent mistakes while studying," said her father, Ajay. "This is how we realised that something was wrong with her vision. We began to worry about her future."

Thankfully, Aadya was given access to timely and quality eye health services through a REACH school screening. After being diagnosed with myopia and given a pair of glasses, Ajay noticed a remarkable change in his daughter.

"I can see the transformation in my daughter's life. Now that she can see clearly, she makes fewer mistakes while writing, and she even watches TV from an appropriate distance, sitting comfortably on the sofa," he says.

Aadya says her spectacles are her favourite new accessory, and she looks towards the future with hope and joy.

### Mongolia

Our project to integrate eye examinations into newborn and paediatric care to treat cases of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and other eye conditions in Mongolia made excellent progress in 2022. ROP is a condition of abnormal development of the retina that can affect premature babies. If left untreated, it can cause permanent blindness, so screening is absolutely crucial. In 2022, the project screened 20,376 babies and children, which was more than targeted.

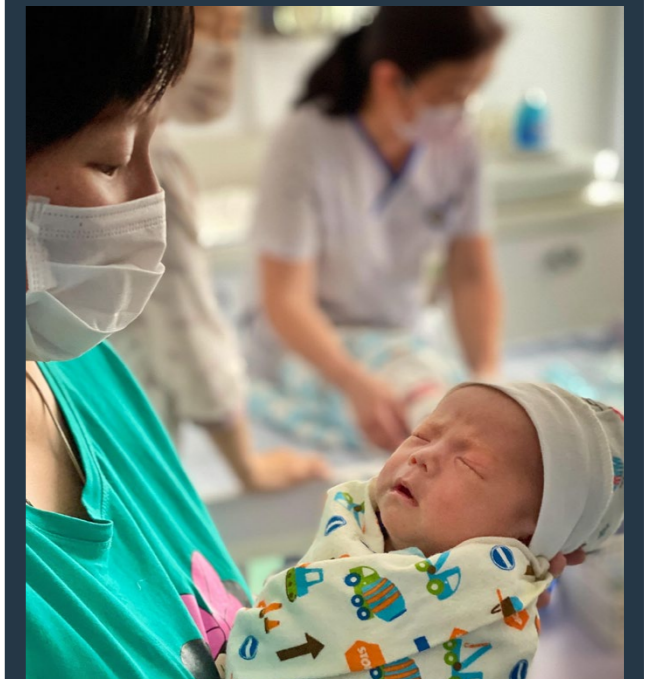
In a further step forward for paediatric eye care in Mongolia, in 2022, the Ministry of Health approved the inclusion of red reflex testing for ROP and other eye conditions into the national paediatrics residency training curriculum. This means that red reflex testing in babies and children is now a compulsory skill that all new paediatricians and neonatologists must learn as part of their residency training.

### Tumurmunkh's story

When Tumurmunkh was born two months prematurely, his parents were anxious about his health. The local paediatrician advised them to take Tumurmunkh to a hospital in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital city, where Orbis-trained paediatric ophthalmologists could check him for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

When Tumurmunkh was one month old, the family travelled 600 km from South Gobi to Ulaanbaatar for the screening. There, thanks to our partners, Tumurmunkh received the early intervention and treatment that he needed to save his sight. As a result, his parents were finally able to see a brighter future for their child.

"It does not matter what my son grows up to do in his life," said his mother Azjargal. "I just want him to be a good person."



# Specialist training

## Sharing expert knowledge

*with eye care professionals around the world*

**To achieve our vision of eye care everywhere, we work with partners such as local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments to share skills, knowledge and expertise with local eye care teams. By mentoring and training eye care workers, we pass on the tools they need to save the sight of people in their communities.**

Orbis medical volunteers play a fundamental part in providing our specialist training and we simply couldn't do what we do without them. Our volunteers train ophthalmologists, anaesthetists, nurses, biomedical engineers and others onboard the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital, in partner hospitals and online.

As the pandemic restrictions eased in 2022, we stepped up the number of training sessions that we offered to health workers across all our projects, delivering 13,513 sessions in total. This exceeded our target by several hundred.

### Training for women, from women

Working with our partners the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity and Qatar Airways we hosted a free, week-long professional development programme for 12 women in ophthalmology and nursing. The programme took place on board the Flying Eye Hospital (FEH) in Doha, and all the participants came from countries affected by conflict.

The project was a milestone in many ways, not least because it was the first time the FEH had ever delivered training to female-only participants with a female-only volunteer faculty.

As well as giving participants the opportunity to train in our state-of-the-art eye care simulation centre, the innovative programme also enabled them to network with their peers and learn from each other's experiences.

### Zambia

Last year we worked on a pilot project to enhance community eye health in three districts in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. We trained 63 volunteer community health workers (CHWs) using an innovative low-technology mobile telephone platform that delivered recorded voice-based training sessions through simple mobile phones. This inclusive learning method didn't require the internet and was free to participants – all they had to do was take the training calls at times that were convenient to them.

Since completing the training, the CHWs have increased their knowledge of eye conditions and become active in screening people in their communities and referring them for treatment.

As a result of the project, the number of patients attending eye clinics in the pilot's three districts has increased – in fact in the last quarter of 2022 the number doubled to 4,500 people. What's more, the knowledge that the CHWs gained during their training is now being shared through their health education work and, in 2022, it reached nearly 10,000 people. On top of this, because the CHWs are now in regular contact with staff from eye clinics, patients receive a better, more joined-up experience. Finally, because more people are being treated locally, capacity has been freed up at the province's main eye hospital, allowing staff there to focus on the more serious cases.

### Community unity

Mapalo lives in a village in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. When she was six, her eyes began to get red as she kept scratching them daily. Her mother, Barbra, thought it was the result of getting dirt in her eyes while she was playing, and she hoped the condition would go away if she washed her face with water. It didn't, and soon Mapalo stopped playing with her friends because the pain from scratching her eyes had become excruciating.

"I became worried seeing my child with red eyes and the eyelid failing to open, I thought I would lose her to blindness", said Barbra.

With the condition getting worse, Barbra sought advice from neighbours who advised that she put drops of breast milk or urine in Mapalo's eyes. Traditional remedies like these are based on myths, and they are often suggested in many communities.

Thankfully, Barbra ignored these suggestions and instead approached Mum Chilele, a community health worker who had been trained through the low-technology mobile telephone sessions that Orbis piloted in Zambia last year.

Mum told Barbra that she had done the right thing and referred Mapalo to the Masaiti District Hospital for an eye screening. There she was diagnosed with ptosis, a condition that causes the eyelid to droop, before being referred for surgery at Kitwe Teaching Eye Hospital. The surgery was a success and Mapalo is now out playing with her friends once more.

Barbra was excited to see her daughter free from pain and enjoying clear vision again. As for Mum Chilele, she continues her important work of educating local people about how to care for their eyes and busting myths about traditional remedies.



# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

Despite another challenging, uncertain year, our supporters continued to show their unwavering commitment to Orbis UK and the fight against avoidable blindness.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we continue to adhere to the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice: [fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code](https://fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code)

We act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability in all our fundraising practices. We ensure the right policies and controls are in place so that we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way. We recognise our responsibility to act appropriately and compassionately when engaging with people in vulnerable or potentially vulnerable situations. All staff and volunteers involved with fundraising are trained and aware of our policies.

The Safeguarding policy outlines our general approach with people in vulnerable situations. The Ethical Fundraising policy, updated in 2020, and the 'Fundraising and Vulnerable Persons' section in the staff handbook detail the specific processes fundraisers implement and follow. Staff and volunteers are trained as part of their inductions, and refresher training is carried out periodically.

We operate a diverse range of income streams that raise money from individuals, organisations, statutory funders, and legacies.

We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, especially when we do not have the relevant expertise in-house. We ensure that the correct safeguards are in place with our suppliers and those who fundraise on our behalf. We require them to confirm and demonstrate that they comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

We received five complaints in 2022. This is an increase from one complaint in the previous year. We responded to all five promptly and have also taken appropriate action to learn from the causes of these complaints to improve our practice.

## The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value our supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust, and we make this promise:

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data.

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit:

[gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](https://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm and providing safe and effective care for everyone we encounter. We ensure that we have appropriate safeguarding policies and that staff, volunteers and contractors follow a strict code of conduct. These policies align with the Charity Commission's safeguarding guidance, the Charity Governance Code's 'Integrity Principle', and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Enhanced Safeguarding Standards.

In 2022, we continued working with country programme partners to maintain safeguarding policies and processes for our programmes. In particular, we worked with Orbis India to raise the awareness of school children and teachers in our Nepal project about safeguarding and reporting concerns, and we continued to support Orbis Ethiopia to raise awareness among health workers and communities. We also worked with Orbis International on the development of a safeguarding reporting system for the broader programme in Ethiopia. This work will be progressed in 2023.

The Safeguarding Management Group, led by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, met four times in 2022 and reported to programme committee and board meetings. The group reviewed our safeguarding policy and code of conduct. During 2022, Orbis UK joined the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, which is designed to stop perpetrators of sexual misconduct moving between organisations undetected. Orbis UK staff participated in an annual update on safeguarding. No safeguarding incidents were reported in 2022.

In 2023 we will continue to monitor, review and develop our policies and processes, particularly those in our country programmes.

## Transparency and governance

Last revised in 2020, the Charity Governance Code sets out good governance across seven principles: organisational purpose; leadership; integrity; decision-making; board effectiveness; equality, diversity and inclusion; and openness and accountability. The Orbis UK board remains committed to complying with the code and to a periodic review of its effectiveness against the principles set out in the code.

# How we did in 2022

## Goal 1: We will use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness

Our £2.9 million programme expenditure in 2022 was directed through Orbis International to support 12 new and existing projects. All projects were designed to have significant impacts on the communities they reached.

We continued our focus on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, screening schoolchildren in Nepal, and managing diabetic eye care in Vietnam.

We funded five new projects focusing on community eye care in Ghana and Zambia, the prevention of childhood blindness in Mongolia and a remote part of northern India, and an innovative women-led Green Vision Centre project in Bangladesh. Our projects supported partners to:

- Distribute 3.4m antibiotic doses for trachoma control and elimination
- Conduct 787,720 patient screenings
- Deliver 34,500 eye treatments
- Provide 13,500 training sessions for eye health workers

A dedicated team worked with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements. The team also identified opportunities to secure significant extra funding for additional priority projects.

## Goal 2: We will grow our income

Like many charities, 2022 was a challenging year for our income generation due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and cuts to the UK Aid budget. This was particularly felt in our fundraising income streams, with individuals and organisations giving less than previous years.

Despite this, our year-on-year (YoY) gross income increased by 3.9% (+£233k), with our net income increasing by £806k YoY.

This consisted of a gross income performance of:

- £1,906k from statutory funders (-9% / -£168k YoY)
- £1,463k from legacies (+60% / +£549k YoY)
- £1,364k from individual donors (-4.7% / -£67k YoY)
- £685k from trusts and foundations (-12.6% / -£98k YoY),
- £589k from major donors, high-value donors and community (-5.7% / -£36k YoY)
- £178k from companies (+20.6% / +£24k YoY).

## Goal 3: We will appeal to a broader audience

We made strong progress in engaging a broader audience, in addition to targeting our priority audiences. This included an increase in digital following and engagement which enabled us to optimise our marketing return on investment.

Our overall reach was 12,833k on social media and we gained over 1k followers. Our overall engagement rate was 4.6%, surpassing a target of 3.5%. Our website had over 81,000 visitors from a wide range of audiences, including those accessing our expertise on eye conditions.

As part of our target audience activity, we held our first Diwali 'See the Light' campaign in October, with British Asian and South Asian diaspora influencers attending our London Eye event and promoting our programmes in South Asia through their extensive channels.

## Goal 4: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management

Our board of non-executive trustees drawn from diverse backgrounds with a broad range of experience and skills continued to work closely with the executive team to maintain a high standard of corporate governance ensuring adherence to the latest legislation, regulations and the Charity Governance Code.

## Goal 5: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development

The Covid pandemic saw a redefinition of ways of working with a greater emphasis on work life balance and staff wellbeing. As part of adapting to the influx of changes in the working environment, and following a survey of the staff team, we established a flexible, hybrid working arrangement.

We combined a number of wellbeing initiatives and Learning and Development opportunities to benefit staff and help foster a more efficient and engaged workforce.

# Looking ahead to 2023

## Goal 1: We will sustainably deliver our vision and mission

Our programme expenditure in 2023 will be directed through Orbis International to support 11 new and existing projects. All of the projects are designed to significantly reduce eye health problems in the communities they reach.

We will continue our focus on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar and improving rural eye care services in Bangladesh and Zambia. We will also continue focusing on screening newborn babies for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and supporting government eye care workers in Ghana and Mongolia. We will also fund a new project strengthening paediatric eye care services in Orissa, India.

A dedicated team will work with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements. We will work to increase our income sustainably and we recognise this will have an impact on our financial results in the years ahead.

## Goal 2: We will reach and engage the audiences most likely to support us

We will identify and engage audiences with the highest propensity and capacity to donate to Orbis, to optimise our precious resources for the biggest impact. We will increase our digital marketing and digital donations to enable us to reach our target audiences in the most cost-effective and impactful way. We will also secure higher-value and multi-year funders across our key territories.

## Goal 3: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management

We will continue to support organisational compliance with the relevant legislation and codes, while supporting the board to develop its diversity and capabilities. The Finance team will support staff by making financial processes as efficient as possible, while providing accurate and timely reporting and continuously reviewing internal controls to minimise financial risks. The Business Support team will continue to provide effective support to UK staff in the areas of HR, IT, travel, and office administration.

## Goal 4: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development

By using the Orbis Values, we will continue to promote staff wellbeing and ensure Orbis UK is a rewarding place to work and an employer of choice. We will also continue to develop the skills, knowledge and experience of our staff in order to achieve our goals and fund more sight-saving work.

# Thank you

Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers

## Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations

Anthony and Louise Fincham  
Bliss Family Charity  
Brian Shaffer  
Carpenter Charitable Trust  
David and Helen Watson  
Gary Lee-Richards  
Johnnie E Johnson  
Jim Paterson  
Laing Family Trusts  
Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust  
Pro Victimis Foundation  
R U B White Charitable Trust  
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust  
Sunil & Shashi Ruia  
The Charity of The Order of The Marist Sisters Province of England  
The Eddie Dinshaw Foundation  
The Edenbeg Charitable Trust  
The Pinchbeck Charitable Trust  
The Souter Charitable Trust  
The Zochonis Charitable Trust  
Ulverscroft Foundation  
Valentine Charitable Trust

We also want to thank the high-value donors who wished to remain anonymous. We are especially grateful to all supporters who generously made a gift in their Will to Orbis in 2022.

## Statutory and institutional funders

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
Sightsavers  
The Qatar Fund for Development  
Qatar Charity

## Corporate partners

Alcon Spain  
Amati Global Investors Ltd  
A Nelson and Co Limited  
Espresso Solutions Ltd

European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)  
European Society of Retina Specialists (EURETINA)  
Mankiewicz Coatings LLC  
Qatar Airways  
TD Tom Davies  
Viking Cruises

## Special thanks

British Embassy Doha  
Embassy of the State of Qatar, UK  
HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh  
The Ministry of Health, Qatar  
Sonia Szamocki

## UK and Europe medical volunteers

Larry Benjamin  
Fiona Dean  
John Ferris  
Nadine Grant-McKenzie  
Rajen Gupta  
Ghalib Mukadam

## Office volunteers

Polly Holt

## UK ambassadors

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Polly Braden  
Tim Bucher  
Tom Davies  
Ian Fleming  
Mary Killen  
Brian Little  
Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards CBE AFC  
FRaES FCIM RAF (Ret'd)  
Sunil Ruia

## Co-opted sub-committee members

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tony Cowles

# Board of trustees

## Chair

### Nick Fox, Chair, UK

Nick Fox has over thirty years of national and international experience in creative communications, based out of London, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Nick sat on the worldwide board for DDB, an Omnicom agency network based in New York. His experience encompasses all sectors from fast-moving consumer goods, finance, publishing, charity and the automotive industry. Nick has managed teams, budgets and international agency networks to increase consumer demand to drive brand value for some of the world's biggest brands. In 2013, Nick started his own independent agency with four partners, Atomic London, of which he is now chair.

Nick joined the board of Orbis UK in January 2020 and was appointed Chair in March 2022.

## Trustees

### Darsh Shah

Darsh Shah is an Audit, Assurance & Advisory partner at Blick Rothenberg. He has over 20 years of experience in professional practice and specialises in auditing and financial reporting to clients ranging from start-ups to large international groups in the hospitality, care, recruitment and retail sector. Prior to joining Blick Rothenberg, Darsh was a partner at an independent London practice, having spent a number of years at Deloitte LLP before that.

He is an FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants) and has a BSc in Management Sciences from The University of Manchester.

Darsh joined the Orbis UK board in December 2022.

### Sir Dominic Asquith Nominations Committee Chair, UK

After a number of years as a political analyst, teacher, journalist and traveller in the Middle East, Dominic Asquith joined the British diplomatic service in 1983. He served in the Americas, South Asia and returned frequently to the Middle East. He was Ambassador successively in Iraq, Egypt and Libya between 2006 and 2012. After retiring in 2013, he was recalled to government service as High Commissioner in India from 2016 to 2020. He is currently a Partner in Macro Advisory Partners, which provides independent, long-term strategic counsel to decision-makers in business and government.

Sir Dominic joined the Orbis UK board in October 2020.

### Fiona Hobbs

Fiona trained and qualified as a solicitor with Linklaters and has over 30 years' experience (25 as a partner) of developing major infrastructure and energy projects both in the UK and in emerging markets. She has held a number of senior management and governance roles within the firm and has spent six years as its global head of diversity and inclusion. She is a lay member of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee.

Fiona joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

### Larry Benjamin FRCS (Ed), FRCOphth, FRCOphth (Hon) DO Programme Committee Chair, UK

Larry Benjamin was a consultant ophthalmologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire for 30 years (recently retired) and has been an Orbis medical volunteer since 2004. With special interests in cataract and diabetic retinopathy management, he has also served on the ophthalmic committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, published a number of scientific papers and two books. He was, until December 2018, chair of the microsurgical skills committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and is a past president of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is the immediate past-president of the ophthalmic section of the Royal Society of Medicine (2020-2022). In March 2016, Larry received the Care Service Provider trophy at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his work improving access to eye care services across the globe. He was recently made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists for his contribution to UK Ophthalmology.

Larry joined the Orbis UK board in November 2008.

### Mona Khan, MD

Mona Khan, MD has over 25 years of clinical and surgical experience as an ophthalmologist. Her private practice was located in downtown Chicago and she was on the staff of Mercy Hospital for over 20 years. At Mercy, she was the principal comprehensive ophthalmologist at the Mercy Family Health Clinic, a federally funded clinic whose mission was to treat the most vulnerable and socioeconomically disadvantaged residents from Chicago's south side. She retired from clinical ophthalmology to move to London in 2020 with her husband and daughter.

In September of 2021 Mona became a trustee of Advanced Research Clusters Management Ltd (ARC). ARC owns some of Europe's leading science and innovation clusters. Its portfolio includes Harwell, a leading science and innovation campus based in Oxfordshire.

Mona joined the Orbis UK board in December of 2021.

### Nicola Floyd

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than 10 years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years. She is currently CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charter holder, and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola joined the Orbis UK board in September 2017.

# Financial statements

## Patricia Moller

Following an awarded 25-year career with the U.S. Department of State, Patricia ended her active government service to return to the private sector. Through her consultancy, Moller Global Advisory, she has advised governments, international financial institutions and businesses from Fortune 500 juggernauts to greenfield startups. She chairs the boards of directors of West Africa LNG, Africa Project Advisors, and the Baara Hospital and Agriculture Projects. As well, she sits on a number of other boards of directors.

Patricia joined Orbis UK as a Trustee in November 2017. She has been a member of the board of Orbis International since 2013.

## Robert F Walters FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth

Rob Walters is a consultant ophthalmologist who has worked in the National Health Service (NHS) for over 30 years and been an Orbis medical volunteer since 1994. Rob has played key roles in numerous UK eye health organisations and authored three books on the causes and treatment of blindness. Rob initially joined Orbis as a volunteer surgeon in 1994. He then joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003 and served as chair from 2008-2015. In 2014, he was honoured with the title 'Trustee of the Year' at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his dedication to improving eye health globally. Rob also served as chairman of the boards of Orbis International in New York and Orbis Africa, and he remains an emeritus member of the Orbis International Board. He is currently Chair of Orbis in the Middle East.

Rob joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003.

## Siân Block MBE, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK

Siân trained as a nurse and has over 30 years' experience in many areas of healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These include the independent sector, the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, charities and Resuscitation Councils (UK and European).

Siân joined the Orbis UK board in June 2020.

## Sophia Pathai MBBS MSc PhD MRCOphth

Sophia Pathai is an ophthalmologist by training. She worked in the NHS and subsequently as a clinician scientist undertaking research at the International Centre for Eye Health, based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Her passion for global health was ignited during her tenure as a staff ophthalmologist on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in 2009. She has been appointed to global medical leadership roles at companies such as Roche, AbbVie, and Johnson & Johnson. She is currently Vice President of Medical Initiatives at Hevolution Foundation. She gained her BSc and medical degree from University College London, and her MSc and PhD were awarded by LSHTM.

Sophia joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

## Yvette Dunne MA FCA Audit Committee Chair, UK

Yvette Dunne trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent ten years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK board in December 2017.

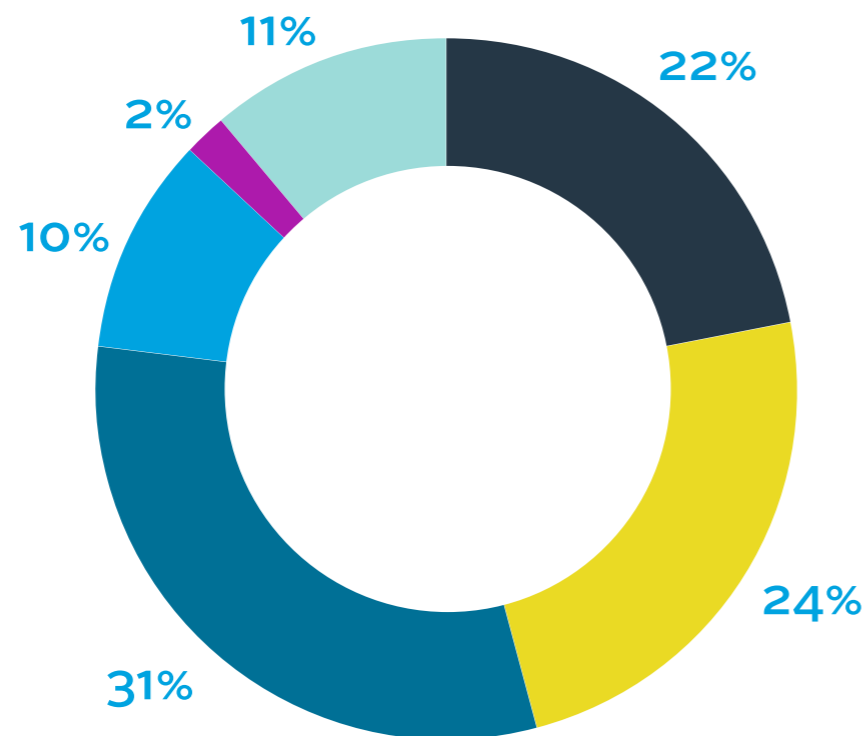


Sarnai is five years old and lives in rural Mongolia. When a painful swelling appeared on her eyelid and began to affect her vision, she and her family travelled 300km to seek eye care in the capital city. Sarnai's doctor consulted with an Orbis medical expert online to diagnose her with a benign tumour – this led to Sarnai undergoing successful sight-saving surgery.

# 2022 Financial summary

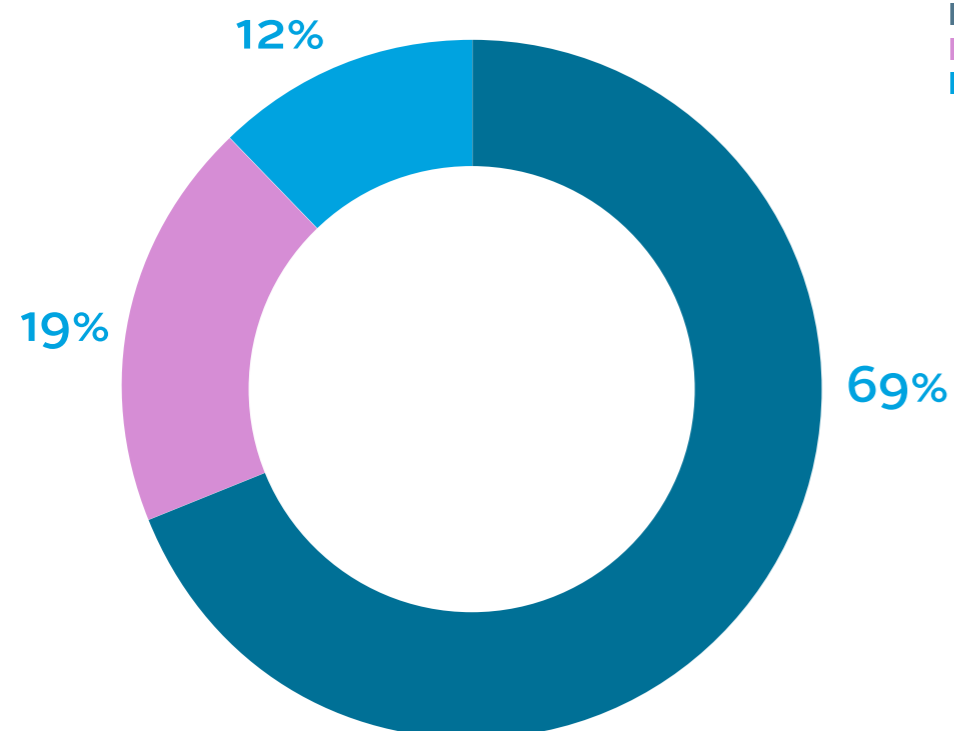
## Income 2022

- Individual supporters
- Legacies
- Statutory
- Major donors
- Corporate
- Trusts



## Charitable activities 2022

- Comprehensive eye care
- Childhood blindness
- Specialist training



The cost of fundraising was 28.8% of our income

# Reference and administrative details

**Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK's address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.**

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Project Orbis International, a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York. The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness, and they share a common mission to mentor, train and inspire local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities worldwide. It designs and manages programmes and determines the global medical and programme strategy. This relationship is described in further detail in Note 18 (Related parties).

## Objectives and principal activities of the charity

Orbis UK's Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling
- b. The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment
- c. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK's objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2022, and our five key goals for 2023, can be found in the front section of this report.

## Financial review and results for the year

Income in 2022 rose by £233k (3.9%) compared to 2021. There was a small reduction of £149k (5%) in donations and £168k (8%) in grant income but this has been offset by an increase in legacy income of £549k (60%). Legacy income fell in the pandemic due to a slow down with grants of probate and HRMC but started to improve again in the latter part of 2022.

Overall expenditure decreased by £573k (9%) compared to 2021. This was almost entirely due to decreased spending on charitable activities due to a global shortage of antibiotics following the Covid 19 pandemic which led to a significant reduction in mass drug administration in Ethiopia.

Expenditure on raising funds increased by £45k (3%) which is due to inflationary pressures on costs. The cost of raising funds in 2022 was 28.8% of income, which was above the target set by the trustees of 25%. The trustees and senior management team continue to monitor and work towards hitting the target.

Expenditure on charitable activities decreased by £618k (13%) in 2022 compared to 2021.

Programme expenditure on the Comprehensive Eye Care programme decreased by £698k (19%) due to the aforementioned shortage of antibiotics for the trachoma elimination programmes in Ethiopia. Spending on Childhood Blindness increased slightly by £9k (1%). Expenditure on Specialist Training increased by £70k (17%) due to increased funding on our Cybersight programme and the Flying Eye Hospital.

Unrestricted funds at the end of December 2022 were £396k higher than the trustees' reserves target. This was due to a significant reduction in mass drug administration in Ethiopia due to a global shortage of antibiotics following the Covid 19 pandemic. The trustees have set a budget for 2023 which will bring the general reserves within the target range.

We are extremely grateful to those who help prevent and treat blindness in the developing world through their generous donations.

## Structure, governance and management

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 29 September 1997, 22 December 2005 and 17 April 2020. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. The following trustees are our longest-serving and will retire at the next AGM: Larry Benjamin and Rob Walters. The Charity Governance Code recommends that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years. The trustees have agreed to adopt this recommendation and will implement it over the coming years.

Three members of the board also served as directors of Orbis International during the year: Patricia Moller, Charles Vyvyan (until June 2022) and Sian Block (from June 2022).

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions, terms of reference for subcommittees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity, as set out below. Four subcommittees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

## Charity Governance Code

The Charity Governance Code, which is designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The 'Integrity Principle' has been refreshed to emphasise the importance of safeguarding and protecting beneficiaries from harm. The 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' principle has been comprehensively rewritten to enable the board to ensure its approach to diversity supports its effectiveness, leadership and decision making.

A designated safeguarding trustee ensures that safeguarding is prominent in the charity's agenda, and a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group was established in 2020 with a remit to collect, discuss and disseminate best practice, including board and staff recruitment, to ensure Orbis UK reflects the diversity of UK society.

The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to periodic reviews of our relevant practices. The last board evaluation was conducted in 2021, and the nominations committee is guiding the suggested improvements.

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment, and financial management of the charity.

## Programme Committee

The Programme Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring. Many of them have an ophthalmic background.

## Fundraising and Communications Committee

The Fundraising and Communications Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for supporting the Orbis UK senior management team to maximise fundraising and communications initiatives in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

## Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for assessing and reviewing applications to recruit and select appointees to the board. The committee decisions are subject to the board's consideration and approval.

## Chief executive and senior management team

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## Remuneration of personnel

The pay of staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually by an external HR consultant, the director of finance and operations and the chief executive and approved by the trustees of the Audit Committee. The review includes a benchmarking exercise which is carried out annually against comparable roles within the public and not-for-profit sector to set market pay levels and to ensure that salaries remain competitive. All staff are paid at least the London Living Wage as calculated by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.

All staff who have passed probation at the beginning of the year and whose salaries are not adjusted as part of the benchmarking exercise will receive cost of living increases based on the Consumer Price Index where possible.

## Risk management

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The Audit Committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. The board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management annually. A new risk management policy was implemented in 2022 to further enhance risk management.

Recruitment of experienced and high-quality fundraising staff remain a challenge and without them capacity, activity and income will fall. To mitigate against this we have undergone a reorganisation to create experience and talent and continue to work towards being an employer of choice.

A further risk is the capacity of in-country teams to meet increased donor reporting requirements; this continues to be mitigated through the role of the Orbis UK programme support and finance teams and the development of much better reporting and a grant management function in Orbis International.

There is also a risk from cyber-crime and online data theft, which is mitigated by carrying out an annual penetration test with our IT partners, ensuring our IT infrastructure is protected by being current and training staff on the threat landscape.

Finally, we have recognised the risk to our reputation from negative stories in the press which could lead to funders stopping or suspending funding. We are mitigating this through due diligence on all significant relationships and work on crisis communication plans.

## Reserves policy

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income. Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,650k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2022, the balance on total reserves was £2,211k, which was £396k above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to unrestricted programme expenditure being lower because of a significant reduction in mass drug administration in Ethiopia due to a global shortage of antibiotics following the Covid 19 pandemic. The trustees have set a budget for 2023 which will bring the general reserves within the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2022, designated funds stood at £13k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 15.

## Grant making policy

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the Programme Committee, financial approval by the Audit Committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money
- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP/FRS 102; make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that they should have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 7 August 2023 and signed on their behalf.



Trustee  
NICK FOX

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit: the information given in the strategic report and the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the strategic report and the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' annual report and from preparing a strategic report.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 30, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

## Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed *Moore Kingston Smith LLP*

**Neil Finlayson (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP,  
Statutory Auditor

Date: 8 August 2023

6th Floor, 9 Appold Street,  
London, EC2A 2AP

# Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)  
Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)	Restricted funds 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2021 (£)	Restricted funds 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	4,021,591	2,163,485	<b>6,185,076</b>	3,406,576	2,547,068	5,953,644
Investments		1,879	-	<b>1,879</b>	316	-	316
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,023,470</b>	<b>2,163,485</b>	<b>6,186,955</b>	<b>3,406,892</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>5,953,960</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		1,781,860	-	<b>1,781,860</b>	1,736,439	-	1,736,439
Charitable activities:							
• Comprehensive Eye Care		1,278,331	1,641,304	<b>2,919,635</b>	1,673,150	1,944,756	3,617,906
• Childhood Blindness		452,675	366,441	<b>819,116</b>	550,772	259,002	809,774
• Specialist Training		437,977	55,242	<b>493,219</b>	364,262	58,495	422,757
Total expenditure on charitable activities		2,168,983	2,062,987	<b>4,231,970</b>	2,588,184	2,262,253	4,850,437
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,950,843</b>	<b>2,062,987</b>	<b>6,013,830</b>	<b>4,324,623</b>	<b>2,262,253</b>	<b>6,586,876</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	34	-	34
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>72,627</b>	<b>100,498</b>	<b>173,125</b>	<b>(917,697)</b>	<b>284,815</b>	<b>(632,882)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>72,627</b>	<b>100,498</b>	<b>173,125</b>	<b>(917,697)</b>	<b>284,815</b>	<b>(632,882)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		2,138,313	443,606	<b>2,581,919</b>	3,056,010	158,791	3,214,801
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>544,104</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>


All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the gain for the year.

# Balance sheet

Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	<b>13,123</b>	45,509
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>13,123</b>	45,509
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	13	<b>283,489</b>	276,309
Short term deposits		<b>3,201,464</b>	2,767,617
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>1,250,198</b>	1,617,318
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,735,151</b>	4,661,244
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<b>(1,993,230)</b>	(2,124,834)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,741,921</b>	2,536,410
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,755,044</b>	2,581,919
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		<b>544,104</b>	443,606
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		<b>2,197,817</b>	2,092,805
Designated funds		<b>13,123</b>	45,509
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>2,210,940</b>	2,138,313
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	15	<b>2,755,044</b>	2,581,919

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 7 August 2023.

Trustee:   
Nick Fox

Trustee:   
Yvette Dunne

# Cash flow statement

Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	67,546	(20,416)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		1,879	316
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,698)	-
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(819)</b>	316
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		66,727	(20,100)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	4,384,935	4,405,035
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>4,451,662</b>	4,384,935

## Notes to the cash flow statement:

### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	173,125	(632,882)
Depreciation charges	35,084	37,317
Interest from investments	(1,879)	(316)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	2,651
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(7,180)	433,514
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(131,604)	139,300
	<b>67,546</b>	<b>(20,416)</b>

### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Short-term	3,201,464	2,767,617
Cash at bank and in hand	1,250,198	1,617,318
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,451,662</b>	4,384,935

### C. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2022 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2022 £
Short-term investments	2,767,617	433,847	-	3,201,464
Cash at bank and in hand	1,617,318	(333,759)	(33,361)	1,250,198
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,384,935</b>	100,088	(33,361)	<b>4,451,662</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

## 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and, as such, is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2022 is 12, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015.

Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

## 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

## 3. Presentation currency

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 4. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

#### a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### b. Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the global economic situation and the impact of inflation on donors have been taken.

#### c. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.

The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 15, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

#### d. Income

Donations are recognised in the financial statements when received. Legacies are recognised once the charity becomes entitled to the legacy, is certain of receipt, and can measure the amount of the legacy with reasonable accuracy; this is usually upon grant of probate, when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt. Grants are recognised when received or receivable.

#### e. Gifts in kind and donated services

Medical supplies and other items and services received are included as income at value to the charity and as resources expended at the same value when distributed, where the value in the year is £1,000 or more per annum from the donor.

#### f. Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income. Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

#### g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2022

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase
- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, which has been taken as the date of the break option of 10 May 2023 even though the lease expires on 10 May 2028

#### h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### i. Investments

Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

#### j. Short term deposits

Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

#### k. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### l. Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

#### m. Pension costs

During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

#### n. Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### o. Liabilities

Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

#### p. Financial instruments

Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors.

#### q. Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate or an agreed rate for the whole year. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 (£)	Restricted funds 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2021 (£)	Restricted funds 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
Donations	2,558,527	257,029	<b>2,815,556</b>	2,492,370	472,580	2,964,950
Legacies	1,463,064	-	<b>1,463,064</b>	914,206	-	914,206
Grants	-	1,906,456	<b>1,906,456</b>	-	2,074,488	2,074,488
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,021,591</b>	<b>2,163,485</b>	<b>6,185,076</b>	<b>3,406,576</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>5,953,644</b>

### 6. Income from grants

		Total 2022 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	<b>1,254,000</b>	1,728,000
		<b>1,254,000</b>	<b>1,728,000</b>
UK Government	Nepal	<b>291,489</b>	163,364
	Ethiopia	-	155,810
		<b>291,489</b>	<b>319,173</b>
Government of Jersey	Ethiopia	-	27,315
		-	<b>27,315</b>
Qatar Charity	Bangladesh	<b>280,022</b>	-
		<b>280,022</b>	-
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision - Ethiopia	<b>80,945</b>	-
		<b>80,945</b>	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,906,456</b>	<b>2,074,488</b>

All income from grants is restricted income.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Google grant advert	<b>59,765</b>	18,000
Flights	<b>30,013</b>	4,421
Promotion at aviation festival	<b>5,800</b>	7,427
Hotel accommodation	<b>5,491</b>	3,867
Legal advice	-	10,239
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101,069</b>	<b>43,954</b>

These amounts are included within our income (see note 5) and expenditure (note 9).

### 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Payments under operating leases	<b>118,290</b>	118,332
Depreciation	<b>35,084</b>	37,318
Fees paid to the auditor:		
• Audit fees	<b>18,820</b>	16,063
• Tax advisory services	<b>1,270</b>	1,015

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

## 9. Total resources expended

	Activities Undertaken Directly 2022 (£)	Grant Funding 2022 (£)	Support Costs 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Activities Undertaken Directly 2021 (£)	Grant Funding 2021 (£)	Support Costs 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising funds	1,606,846	-	175,014	<b>1,781,860</b>	1,513,561	-	222,878	1,736,439
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	579,014	2,167,368	173,253	<b>2,919,635</b>	638,098	2,765,067	214,741	3,617,906
Childhood Blindness	210,995	552,378	55,743	<b>819,116</b>	245,422	481,759	82,593	809,774
Specialist Training	220,751	202,593	69,875	<b>493,219</b>	196,338	160,345	66,074	422,757
	<b>1,010,760</b>	<b>2,922,339</b>	<b>298,871</b>	<b>4,231,970</b>	<b>1,079,858</b>	<b>3,407,171</b>	<b>363,408</b>	<b>4,850,437</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,617,606</b>	<b>2,922,339</b>	<b>473,885</b>	<b>6,013,830</b>	<b>2,593,419</b>	<b>3,407,171</b>	<b>586,286</b>	<b>6,586,876</b>

### GRANTS PAYABLE

Grants of £2,922,338 (2021: £3,407,171) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £1,987,716 (2021: £2,197,387) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these programmes are given in note 15 under Restricted Funds. The balance of £934,622 (2021: £1,209,783) was directed to programmes in Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Flying Eye Hospital, and Cybersight on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £298,871 (2021: £363,408).

## 10. Analysis of support costs

	Support Staff Costs 2022 (£)	Facilities Depreciation 2022 (£)	Governance 2022 (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Support Staff Costs 2021 (£)	Facilities Depreciation 2021 (£)	Governance 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Cost of raising funds	-	162,365	12,649	<b>175,014</b>	-	211,871	11,007	222,878
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	35,407	129,042	8,804	<b>173,253</b>	43,753	162,543	8,445	214,741
Childhood Blindness	11,802	41,006	2,935	<b>55,743</b>	16,828	62,517	3,248	82,593
Specialist Training	15,736	50,226	3,913	<b>69,875</b>	13,463	50,013	2,598	66,074
	<b>62,945</b>	<b>220,274</b>	<b>15,652</b>	<b>298,871</b>	<b>74,044</b>	<b>275,073</b>	<b>14,291</b>	<b>363,408</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,945</b>	<b>382,639</b>	<b>28,301</b>	<b>473,885</b>	<b>74,044</b>	<b>486,944</b>	<b>25,298</b>	<b>586,286</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

## 11. Staff costs

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Wages and salaries	<b>1,443,117</b>	1,520,455
Social security costs	<b>173,311</b>	171,166
Pension costs	<b>101,348</b>	112,877
Employment settlement agreement	-	14,366
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,717,776</b>	1,818,864

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

Emolument Range	2022	2021
£60,000 - £70,000	<b>3</b>	1
£70,001 - £80,000	<b>1</b>	1
£80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	-
£90,001 - £100,000	<b>1</b>	1
£110,001 - £120,000	<b>1</b>	2

Contributions in the year to pension schemes for these employees was £45,182 (2021: £42,149). Remuneration in respect of key management personnel in the year was £483,052 (2021: £564,511).

The average headcount number of employees and full-time equivalent (FTE), analysed by function, for the year was:

	2022 Headcount	2022 FTE	2021 Headcount	2021 FTE
Fundraising and communications	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	18	16
Finance and administration	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	12	11
Programme	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	35	32

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £223 (2021: £189) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to two trustees amounted to £2,195 (2021: two trustees totalling £898) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

## 12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment (£)	Computer Equipment (£)	Leasehold Improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 2022	90,939	70,264	62,707	223,910
Additions	-	2,698	-	2,698
Disposals	-	(5,069)	-	(5,069)
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>90,939</b>	<b>67,893</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>221,539</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 2022	83,611	49,389	45,401	178,401
Charge for year	4,882	17,224	12,978	35,084
Disposals	-	(5,069)	-	(5,069)
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>88,493</b>	<b>61,544</b>	<b>58,379</b>	<b>208,416</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022</b>				
At 31 December 2021	7,328	20,875	17,306	45,509

## 13. Debtors

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Accrued income	175,385	143,527
Prepayments	82,087	59,186
Gift Aid	24,055	70,805
Other debtors	1,962	2,791
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283,489</b>	<b>276,309</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2022

## 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Grants payable	1,594,166	1,946,975
Other creditors	245,577	23,760
Tax and social security	49,817	51,903
Trade creditors	48,813	55,435
Accruals	33,848	24,895
Pension scheme	21,009	21,866
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,993,230</b>	<b>2,124,834</b>

Included in other creditors in 2022 is an amount of £224,587 which was a duplicate receipt for a legacy that was received in December 2022 and repaid in January 2023. Also included within other creditors are amounts owing to pension schemes of £21,009 (2021: £21,866).

Movement in recognised provisions and funding commitments during the year.

	Grant commitments accrued (£)
Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2022	1,946,975
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	2,922,339
Grants paid during the year	(3,275,148)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>1,594,166</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 15. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2022 (£)	Income 2022 (£)	Expenditure 2022 (£)	Gains and Losses 2022 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2022 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
General Reserves	2,092,804	4,023,470	(3,918,457)	-	2,197,817
Fixed assets	45,509	-	(32,386)	-	13,123
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>4,023,470</b>	<b>(3,950,843)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Grant funding:					
Comprehensive eye care	392,748	1,838,809	(1,641,304)	-	590,253
Childhood blindness	29,639	321,755	(366,441)	-	(15,047)
Specialist training	21,219	2,921	(55,242)	-	(31,102)
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,163,485</b>	<b>(2,062,987)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>544,104</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>6,186,955</b>	<b>(6,013,830)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>

	Balance 1 Jan 2021 (£)	Income 2021 (£)	Expenditure 2021 (£)	Gains and Losses 2021 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2021 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
General Reserves	2,970,533	3,406,892	(4,284,655)	34	2,092,804
Fixed assets	85,477	-	(39,968)	-	45,509
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>3,406,892</b>	<b>(4,324,623)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Grant funding:					
Comprehensive eye care	109,245	2,227,336	(1,943,833)	-	392,748
Childhood blindness	43,572	245,992	(259,925)	-	29,639
Specialist training	5,974	73,740	(58,495)	-	21,219
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>(2,262,253)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,606</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>5,953,960</b>	<b>(6,586,876)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

#### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £13,122 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves.

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care – £590,253 – Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult & child eye health, including rural eye care and Trachoma elimination.

Child eye health – (£15,047) – Orbis projects focussing on child eye health. Funds have been received in 2023 to remove the deficit on this fund.

Specialist Training – (£31,102) – Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems. Funds have been received in 2023 to remove the deficit on this fund.

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 (£)	Restricted Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Unrestricted Funds 2021 (£)	Restricted Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	13,123	-	<b>13,123</b>	45,509	-	45,509
Current assets	2,924,242	1,810,909	<b>4,735,151</b>	2,844,771	1,816,473	4,661,244
Grants payable	(327,361)	(1,266,805)	<b>(1,594,166)</b>	(574,108)	(1,372,867)	(1,946,975)
Other current liabilities	(399,064)	-	<b>(399,064)</b>	(177,859)	-	(177,859)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,210,940</b>	<b>544,104</b>	<b>2,755,044</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2022

### 17. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease for premises that we subsequently vacated in May 2023 at the time of the break clause:

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Within one year	45,213	117,299
Between one to five years	341	41,608
	<b>45,554</b>	158,907

In April 2023 Orbis UK undertook annual commitments on an operating lease for premises that we moved into in June 2023:

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Within one year	34,000	-
Between one to five years	286,875	-
	<b>320,875</b>	-

In 2022 £118,290 (2021: £118,332) was paid under an operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2021: none).

### 18. Related parties

a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller, Sian Block and Charles Vyvyan served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2022, with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £2,922,338 (2021: £3,407,171) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Flying Eye Hospital, and Cybersight. The outstanding balance due to Orbis International at 31st December 2022 was £1,594,166 (2021: £1,946,975, due to Orbis International).

b. Donations were received from five Trustees amounting to £1,261 (2021: six Trustees totalling £11,513). Trustee Nicola Floyd is also a trustee of The Edenbeg Charitable Trust which kindly donated £30,000 in 2022.

# Trustees and officers

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year and to the date of signing of these accounts, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## Trustees

Rob Pinchbeck (chair, resigned March 2022)  
Nick Fox (chair from March 2022)  
Sir Dominic Asquith  
Larry Benjamin  
Sian Block  
Sheraz Daya (appointed March 2023)  
Yvette Dunne  
John Ferris (appointed March 2023)  
Nicola Floyd  
Fiona Hobbs  
Mona Kahn  
Patricia Moller  
Sophia Pathai  
Darsh Shah (appointed December 2022)  
Charles Vyvyan (resigned June 2022)  
Catharina Waller (resigned June 2022)  
Robert Walters

## Chief Executive and Company Secretary

Rebecca Cronin

## Senior Management

Kath Backhouse (until February 2023)  
David Bennett (until April 2022)  
Florence Branchu  
Colman Cawe  
Mark Stavers (from February 2023)

## Registered office

42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG

## Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP

## Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, Hatton Garden, London. EC1N 8DN

## Solicitors

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London. EC4R 1BE



[orbis.org](http://orbis.org)  
+44 (0)20 7608 7260

Orbis UK,  
42 Craven Street,  
London, WC2N 5NG

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**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1061352

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# Accounts

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# A story of ingenuity in challenging times

ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021

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# Chair and CEO welcome

## The warmest of welcomes *to the 2021 Orbis UK annual report*

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Dear supporters,

In many respects, 2021 has presented even greater challenges than 2020, when the pandemic broke. But, thanks to the resilience and ingenuity of staff and partners – and to your relentless commitment to saving sight – we're still able to reflect positively on an exceptional year.

Like so many NGOs, sudden and severe cuts to the UK Aid budget left some of our projects unfunded and in jeopardy. I'm sad to say that the real-life impact of these cuts was felt in places in urgent need of eye care, like Mymensingh, Bangladesh and Gedeo in Ethiopia. However, we still managed to implement 16 projects in Asia and Africa. And we've been able to mitigate the effects of the cuts by reallocating funds and collaborating with others to find solutions.

The most significant of these collaborations was with fellow NGO Sightsavers in Ethiopia, whose financial input contributed to the delivery of 8.1 million doses of trachoma antibiotics in Ethiopia, nearly 3 million more than planned (see page 10). And thanks to further longstanding partnerships we expect to restart many stalled programmes in 2022.

The pandemic continued to disrupt sight-saving eye care programmes in 2021. School closures in Nepal prevented eye screening activities from taking place as normal. But Orbis partners developed a 'dual screening' approach, giving children access to eye care at school and following up with their parents and families at home. We're delighted to report that, in total, more than 1 million screenings were carried out, 30% more than our target (see page 8), giving thousands more children a better chance to realise their potential.

Much of our training in 2021 focused on supporting health professionals like Sarita from Nepal (see page 13). Sarita is a shining example of how sharing expertise can set young optometrists on their sight-saving career journeys. We have also shared practical knowledge to help deliver eye care in Covid-safe ways. Nowhere has this been more critical than in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, with frontline health workers. We continue to help meet the urgent need for eye care in this region, which, since 2018, has hosted more than 1 million forcibly displaced Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Please take a moment to read Zamir's story on page 11 to understand the life-changing effects of affordable cataract surgery for people living in Cox's Bazar.

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Despite some unavoidable setbacks to our programmes, we remain in good health financially, raising close to £6 million this year – our income being spread across legacies, individuals, trusts, foundations, corporate partners and statutory funds.

This financial stability has underpinned a thriving team here in the UK, who have continued to show remarkable instincts to adapt to a fast-moving and challenging development landscape. We're particularly proud of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) working group, which has introduced a range of initiatives, including awareness-raising of race inequality, unconscious bias training and anonymised recruitment. As we enter 2022, our board of trustees is now predominantly female, and we operate hybrid working to accommodate the needs and wishes of all staff.

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital will return to the skies this year, carrying out vital specialist training sessions. It will also mark its 40th anniversary. Since 1982, it has delivered 316 programmes in more than 95 countries, providing urgently needed access to eye care for millions of people around the world.

So, as we look to 2022 and beyond, we draw hope and inspiration from all our staff, supporters, partners and people we work with. With a strategic focus on raising awareness, we will attract many more donors. Together, we can support more vital programme work saving people's sight around the world.

Yours,



**Rebecca Cronin** (chief executive)



**Nick Fox** (chair)

# Who we are and what we do

We're an international charity working to make eye care available everywhere, for everyone, so no one has to experience the consequences of avoidable blindness.

## Our vision

To make eye care available everywhere, for everyone, so no one has to experience the consequences of avoidable blindness.

## Our mission

With our network of partners, we mentor and train local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

## Why we do it

- 338 million people in the world are blind or moderately to severely visually impaired<sup>1</sup>
- 77% of all cases are treatable or preventable<sup>2</sup>
- 1.1 billion people live with some form of visual impairment. Of these:
  - 90 million are children and adolescents
  - 90% live in low and middle-income countries
  - 55% of these people are women and girls<sup>3</sup>

## Our work changes the way the world sees

- We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.
- We carry out screening and treatment programmes and support the distribution of antibiotics for controlling trachoma.
- We raise awareness among communities about the importance of eye health.
- We partner with local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments so they can strengthen and improve eye health services.

## How we do it

Working with our partners, we share knowledge and expertise to help develop the skills and capacity of eye care teams. We also raise awareness about the importance of eye health so more people seek treatment, and we improve access to quality eye care for people who need it.

<sup>1</sup> Burton, Matthew J., Ramke, Jaqueline, Marques, Ana Patricia, Bourne, R. R., Congdon, Nathan, Jones, Iain, et al. The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health: vision beyond 2020. The Lancet Global Health. 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Burton, Matthew J., Ramke, Jaqueline, Marques, Ana Patricia, Bourne, R. R., Congdon, Nathan, Jones, Iain, et al. The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health: vision beyond 2020. The Lancet Global Health. 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Adelson, J., Bourne, R. R. A., Briant, P. S., Flaxman, S., Taylor, H., Jonas, J. B., et al., Causes of blindness and vision impairment in 2020 and trends over 30 years, and prevalence of avoidable blindness in relation to VISION 2020: the Right to Sight: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. Lancet Global Health. 2020. Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas (<https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>)

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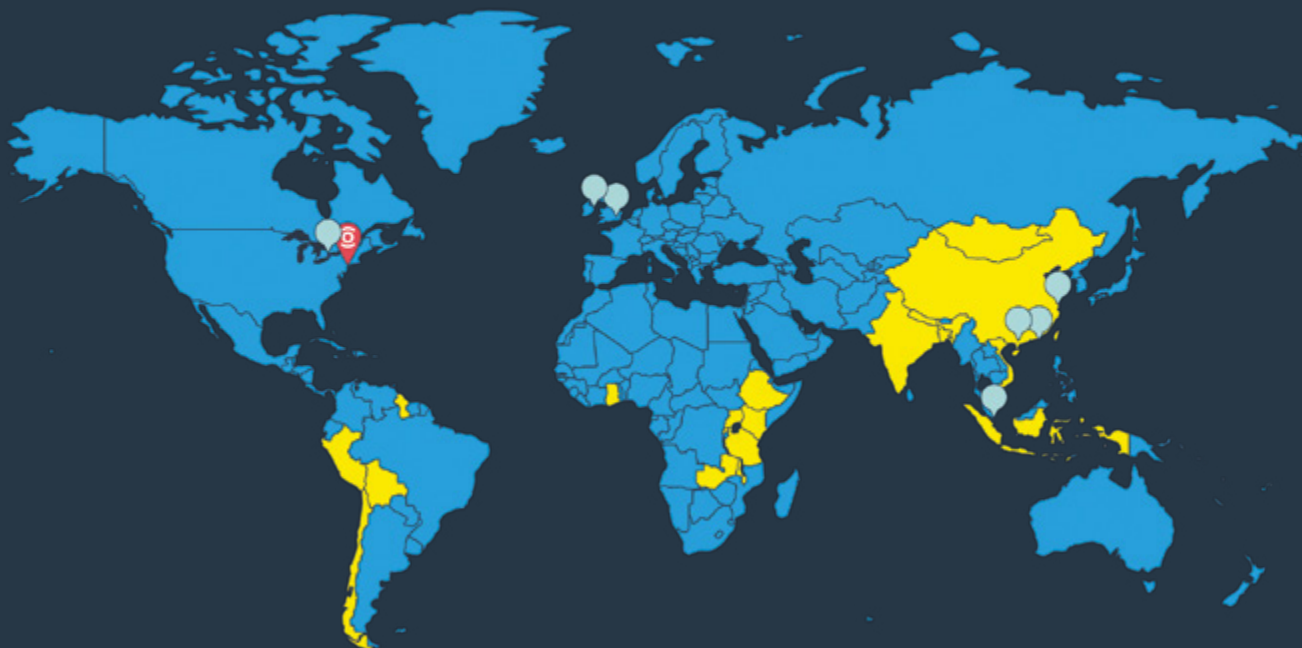
## Our global reach – Orbis International

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Orbis International (OI), which is based in the USA. Orbis UK funds projects overseen by six other country offices and supports the development and implementation of the larger of these projects.

The vast majority of people who are blind and visually impaired live in low to middle income countries. Older people, women and those living in rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected. We focus on where the need is greatest: in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Orbis works to ensure everyone has sustainable access to quality eye care, no matter where they live.

**KEY:**  Headquarters in New York  Fundraising Offices  Countries we work in



# Our year in numbers

## Impact

We funded 16 projects in total: one in Vietnam, one in Zambia, two in Nepal, two in Bangladesh and 10 in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, we were pleased to maintain the momentum of the long-term trachoma elimination programme, which is critical to the country's public health.

### Despite pandemic-related disruption, we worked with 28 partner institutions to

- deliver more than 8.1m antibiotic doses, far exceeding our target of 5.5m.
- enable more than 1 million eye screenings, exceeding our target by almost 30%. Nearly 60% of these screenings were for children.
- deliver over 36,000 training sessions for clinical staff and community representatives, almost doubling our target.
- enable nearly 45,000 treatments, of which just over half were prescriptions for glasses.

## Income

**Total income: £5,954k**

### Despite the pandemic continuing to affect the number of programmes going ahead, we still:

- Raised £2,074k from statutory donors
- Received 18% of income from online channels, continuing our digital transformation

We were exceedingly grateful to 13,107 individual donors, of whom 6,146 were regular givers.

We received 59 legacies with a total value of £914,206

42 charitable trusts supported us, with a value of £783,235

20 companies supported us with a value of £108,501

### As percentages of total income:

Legacies	15%
Major donors, trusts and corporate partners	26%
Individual donors	24%
Statutory donors	35%



# Comprehensive eye care

## Working with partners to provide eye care everywhere, for everyone

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**Comprehensive eye care is about working with people throughout eye health systems – government officials, medical professionals in regional hospitals, staff in rural health centres and members of local communities – to provide eye care for people who need it, wherever they are.**

Making eye care available to people in urgent need remained challenging in 2021. Donor budget cuts and ongoing pandemic restrictions made reaching people hard. But through the determination of our partners and by adapting to a fast-changing situation, we managed to achieve some remarkable results.

### Ethiopia

We have a longstanding commitment to eliminating trachoma as a public health problem in Ethiopia. If left untreated, repeated trachoma infections can develop into trachomatous trichiasis (TT), where the eyelid turns inwards, scraping painfully against the cornea. Ultimately, it can lead to irreversible blindness.

Early in the year, cuts to the UK foreign aid budget left several million people in urgent need of antibiotics to prevent trachoma. But, through additional funding provided by Sightsavers, Orbis Ethiopia successfully distributed 8,127,635 doses, nearly 50% more than their target. And they ensured every dose was administered in a Covid-secure way.

Trachoma remains the second major cause of blindness and the third major cause of low vision in Ethiopia. But trachoma impact surveys show the difference Orbis, in partnership with the Ethiopian

government and other groups, is making. Nearly half the 155 woredas (districts) in which Orbis UK funds programmes now show reduced infection levels. No further mass drug administration (MDA) is required in 33, and in five, no surgeries are required either.

Trachoma is a highly infectious condition that can devastate people, families and communities. In 2021, Orbis partners took significant steps toward eliminating trachoma as a public health problem.

### Bangladesh

In 2018, we ensured eye care was a key pillar of the healthcare response to the refugee crisis in South-East Bangladesh. Since the political situation in Myanmar forced the Rohingya community to flee, more than 1 million Myanmar nationals have settled in the camps in Cox's Bazar. Most live day-to-day in basic shelters with only essential facilities, and many urgently need eye care for conditions including cataract, glaucoma and refractive error.

In 2020, Orbis Bangladesh led the coordination of aid agencies in making eye care accessible to communities in the refugee camps and across Cox's Bazar district. This year, we focused on training more frontline health workers to raise awareness of eye health and refer people to the local Cox's Bazar Baitush Sharaf Hospital (CBBSH) and its two Vision Centres.

Adapting to ongoing pandemic restrictions, Orbis partners went house-to-house to conduct screenings and administer treatments. We're pleased to report that our approach is working well and early results have been extremely positive. So much so that the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has invited Orbis Bangladesh to provide technical support in developing the eye health facilities in a new hospital.

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## Vietnam

The number of people who are blind or visually impaired in Vietnam has decreased significantly since we first began working with local eye health teams in 1996. But there are still 520,000 people who are blind.

In most countries, the pandemic most severely affected our work in early 2021. But in Vietnam, restrictions only affected our community outreach activities from mid-May onwards. Our partners still managed to screen more than two-thirds of the target number of people for diabetic retinopathy. And we're pleased to be able to fund the project's continuation in 2022 so it can fully reach its aims.

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## Zamir's story



Zamir lives in the remote Ukhiya subdistrict of Cox's Bazar in South East Bangladesh. He's a mason by trade, and his income supports his wife and two children. Masonry is a good job for Zamir – although

he's from a rural community, he has no land. And the fast-growing city of Cox's Bazar provides lots of opportunities for building work.

Zamir was in his 30s when his eyesight started to deteriorate. And over two years, he became unable to see anything very well. He explained, "the problem rendered me out of work as no one was hiring me anymore for my failing to maintain the quality of work".

Urgently needing to provide for his family, he turned to his savings. But they soon ran out. Even if he could access eye care services, Zamir knew he wouldn't be able to afford treatment.

The arrival of more than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar has put overwhelming pressure on health services in Cox's Bazar. Since 2018, Orbis has worked with partners and the Cox's Bazar Baitush Sharaf Hospital (CBBSH) to support the eye care needs of the refugees and host population alike.

Zamir's friends directed him to the Ukhiya Vision Centre, where he was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes and referred to the CBBSH for surgery. To his great delight and surprise, the operation, medication and glasses were all free.

"I did not pay a single penny for the surgery. What I paid for my eye treatment is the taka 3 (3 pence) that I spent to buy a ticket at Ukhiya the first day I visited the health facility."

*"I don't know what would have happened to me hadn't they facilitated eye care services in my area. I might have remained blind and without work for the rest of my life."*

With his eyesight fully restored, Zamir is now happily back working again. He's especially grateful to have received eye care in his community, as he explained: "I don't know what would have happened to me hadn't they facilitated eye care services in my area. I might have remained blind and without work for the rest of my life."

# Childhood blindness

## Giving children the eye care they need *to realise their potential*

**For children and babies with sight loss, the effects can be life-long. Many schoolchildren report struggling to see the blackboard or read their books, and some withdraw from school altogether. Education is often the only way out of poverty for children in disadvantaged communities.**

We work with partners around the world to share specialist paediatric ophthalmology skills, knowledge and experience with local eye care teams. Often, a straightforward surgery to remove a cataract or correct a squint, or even a prescription for glasses, can be the catalyst for a child to pursue their hopes and dreams.

### Nepal

Much of our partners' sight-saving work with children took place in Nepal in 2021. Since 2016, Orbis India has played a leading role in the Refractive Error Among Children (REACH) programme.

REACH is an innovative model that identifies and treats children with refractive error. It provides glasses where necessary and allows users to manage each patient's screening, referral and treatment journey on a bespoke database (REACHSoft). This year, our programmes adapted to pandemic restrictions, applying a 'dual screening' approach by visiting children in their homes and at school. We retained the approach once schools had reopened to make sure as many children as possible were screened.

In Province 1, despite the challenges of school closures, Orbis partners achieved 95% of their screening target, 164% of their prescriptions target, and 123% of their surgery target. Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), who are skilled in engaging parents and children about the importance of good eye health, were key to reaching people in their homes.

### Vision Ambassadors



Who better to raise awareness about the importance of eye care and wearing glasses than children themselves?

Volunteer Vision Ambassadors in schools play a vital role during

screening activities by holding up eye charts, organising their friends into queues and sharing positive stories about eye health.

In Nepal's Province 2, 582 Vision Ambassadors were active, more than double the project's target. They engaged their school friends in screening and awareness activities, gathered feedback, and shared critical safeguarding information.

2021 saw the highest achieving quarter ever for the project in Province 2, with 56,614 screenings, 1,860 glasses prescriptions, 1,100 referrals and 14 surgeries. These exceptional results helped mitigate the effects of pandemic restrictions across the year and also the project's suspension at the statutory donor's request. However, a three-month extension has been granted, and we hope to make up the shortfall in 2022.

Because the initial round of screenings remains incomplete, the project has not been able to reach all its annual targets. However, compliance visits were carried out in 48 schools, and we're pleased to report that more than half the students with prescriptions were wearing their glasses correctly.

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Meanwhile, in the final quarter alone, the project teams visited 142 schools and screened nearly 60,000 children, leading to 3,736 prescriptions for glasses and 40 critical eye operations.

Once prescribed glasses, it can be challenging to make sure children wear them. There remains a stigma around needing glasses, and children with refractive

error are often teased and excluded from social groups. This year, Orbis-funded teams provided counselling and raised awareness in-person and over the phone to combat these issues. Overall, 64% of children in Province 1 were wearing their new glasses correctly, which is encouraging considering the disruption caused by pandemic restrictions.

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## **A conversation with Sarita, REACH optometrist**

As well as providing sight-saving children's screenings, treatments and referrals for surgery, the REACH programme also provides training and job opportunities for eye care professionals. Sarita qualified as an optometrist in 2019 and is now employed on the REACH programme in Nepal. On the day Orbis caught up with her, she had screened 401 children and conducted 5-10 detailed examinations.

### ***How do you feel to be part of a team doing this sort of work?***

I feel proud because my career is starting with this project, and I'm learning about paediatrics. I'm also doing such good things, like social work.

### ***Can you tell us how REACH works?***

REACH is different. We are going to so many screenings, child screening. REACH is comprehensive, beyond comprehensive... with REACH, we follow up. We are giving the spectacles, then after three months, we check compliance because if they don't use, our time and our effort will be useless. So REACH is different from others."

### ***Do the children you see understand about eye care?***

[Children] worry – "we will get the spectacles now our friends will tease us, I don't want the spectacles." They force themselves to look normal – "I can see better than without the spectacles." That is the problem, and we have to convince them because I am wearing spectacles it is good for us.

### ***And what about parents? Are they worried they might have to pay?***

It is a big problem. We have to convince them that this is normal – not only your children, others also. "Even I'm using spectacles," we use this to convince the parents. We used to call the parents in the government school, and we have to force them – "Please bring, all spectacles we will give free". Then only they bring.

### ***Why do you think vision is so important?***

"Vision is important. Right to sight for everyone is important. For normal life, for living standard and for better education, for better career. Vision is most important."

# Specialist training

## Sharing expert knowledge

*with eye care professionals around the world*

**Working with our partners, we share skills, knowledge and expertise to support local eye care teams in developing their skills and capacity. With a growing, ageing global population, specialist training is critical. Every time someone is trained, many more benefit – the eye care workers they train in turn and the many thousands of patients they all see.**

Orbis medical volunteers are at the heart of specialist training. Through programmes in hospitals, onboard the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital and online, they train ophthalmologists, anaesthetists, nurses, biomedical engineers and others to help realise our vision of eye care everywhere.

In 2021, our target was to deliver 18,500 training sessions for health workers across all our projects. But thanks to additional funds from Sightsavers for mass drug administration (MDA) in Ethiopia, we delivered more than 36,000. This remarkable increase will have an exponential effect on the number of people whose sight is saved in Ethiopia and around the world.

### Bangladesh

In Cox's Bazar, South East Bangladesh, our training activity under Covid conditions was boosted by supporters' incredible generosity in response to our matched-funding Christmas appeal. Training sessions

included work on adapting to minimise the risk of Covid infection, sharing skills for frontline health workers, supporting eye care teams to grow their capacity, and supply chain management. In total, almost 190,000 patients directly benefited from access to specialist eye care in Covid-safe facilities.

### Distance learning

Unfortunately, due to ongoing travel restrictions, the Flying Eye Hospital was again unable to travel internationally in 2021. However, we have continued to optimise the latest digital technology to conduct training sessions remotely.

Operating again as the Virtual Flying Eye Hospital, medical volunteers implemented 10 remote courses for Orbis partners in 34 countries, including Ghana, China and Mongolia, and across Latin America. In total, more than 635 eye care professionals attended these training sessions, which included traditional lectures, webinars and a virtual hands-on simulation.

### A special birthday

In 2022, we will have two reasons to celebrate. The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital will return to the skies, carrying out vital specialist training sessions. It will also mark its 40th anniversary. Since 1982, it has delivered 316 programmes in more than 95 countries, providing urgently needed access to eye care for millions of people around the world.

Watch this space for more exciting news about 40 years of eye care innovation.

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## When students become teachers

More than 20 years ago, Suma Ganesh attended an Orbis-funded hospital-based training programme in India. Inspired to learn more, she travelled to New York in 2001 to complete an ophthalmology fellowship. And it was meeting Orbis medical volunteers during that time that sparked her interest in paediatric ophthalmology.

Returning to India, she took part in the 'Hand in Hand Sight Saving Project', as she explains:

"It was the first hospital-based programme. Before this, [there] were Flying Eye Hospital programmes, but this was the first land-based programme. It was planned by the Orbis team, making it as child friendly as possible. They designed the building based on the Orbis child eye hospitals in Hong Kong and made it very child-friendly with a play area."

In 2004, having completed her qualifications, Dr Suma Ganesh took a position at Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, where the children's eye centre – India's first – was established. Over the years, she has participated in many more training programmes, developing her specialism in strabismus (squint). She's also developed many professional friendships, including one with medical volunteer Dr Andrea Molinari, with whom she now co-teaches on the Orbis online training platform, Cybersight.

Now the Deputy Medical Director, Chairperson and Head of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at the hospital, Dr Ganesh thinks back to her own early experiences when reflecting on how valuable Cybersight is today:

*"You may be in a remote area, and you have no senior to guide you. I know – because I had that initially. You see a complicated case, and – who do I ask? So, there is in Cybersight this senior doctor, this mentor, to guide you to treat this condition."*

*"I have been helped a lot, and I know all my mentees have been helped. And I can see their progress, and I think that's a very heartening thing as a mentor. I can see their progress, and I'm very proud of them."*

# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

Despite another challenging, uncertain year, our supporters continued to show their unwavering commitment to Orbis UK and our fight against avoidable blindness.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we continue to adhere to the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice: [www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code](http://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code)

We act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability in all our fundraising practices. We ensure the right policies and controls are in place so that we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way. We recognise our responsibility to act appropriately and compassionately when engaging with people in vulnerable or potentially vulnerable situations. All staff and volunteers involved with fundraising are trained and aware of our policies.

The Safeguarding policy outlines our general approach with people in vulnerable situations. The Ethical Fundraising policy, updated in 2020, and the 'Fundraising and Vulnerable Persons' section in the staff handbook detail the specific processes fundraisers implement and follow. Staff and volunteers are trained as part of their inductions, and refresher training is carried out periodically.

We operate a diverse range of income streams that raise money from individuals, organisations, statutory funders, and legacies.

We use third-party suppliers to help us raise funds, especially when we do not have the relevant expertise in-house. We ensure that the correct safeguards are in place with our suppliers and those who fundraise on our behalf. We require them to confirm that they comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

We received one complaint in 2021, which was resolved. This is an increase of one from the previous year.

## The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value our supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust, and we make this promise:

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit:

[gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](http://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

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## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm and providing safe and effective care for everyone we encounter. We ensure that we have appropriate safeguarding policies and that all our staff, volunteers and contractors follow a strict code of conduct. These policies align with the Charity Commission's Safeguarding guidance, the Charity Governance Code's 'Integrity Principle', and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Enhanced Safeguarding Standards.

In 2021, despite pandemic restrictions significantly affecting our plans, we continued working with our country programme partners to maintain safeguarding policies and processes for our programmes. In particular, as we did in 2020, we worked with Orbis Ethiopia to raise awareness about safeguarding reporting among health workers and communities involved with Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for trachoma. We also worked with Orbis International to initiate the development of an effective and locally appropriate safeguarding concern reporting system for the broader programme in Ethiopia. This work will be progressed in 2022, local coronavirus restrictions permitting.

The Safeguarding Management Group, led by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, met eight times in 2021 and reported back to subsequent board meetings. All Orbis UK staff participated in an annual update on the safeguarding policy. As was the case in 2020, there were no safeguarding incidents reported in 2021.

In 2022, we will continue to monitor, review and develop our policies and processes – particularly those in our country programmes

## Transparency and governance

We are committed to full financial accountability and transparency. To find out about our participation in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), please visit [orbis.org.uk/transparency](https://orbis.org.uk/transparency)

The Charity Governance Code sets out the principles and key elements of good governance for the boards of voluntary and charity organisations. The Code was refreshed in December 2020 and highlighted two drivers for change in the way charities are run and managed: safeguarding and racial inequality. Safeguarding is increasingly prominent on the charity agenda, and there has been growing awareness of the need to tackle racism and wider inequality.

In 2021, the staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) working group developed a strategy to raise awareness of racial equality issues. We're at quite an early stage on our journey, but progress has included the first all-staff ED&I survey, unconscious bias training, and the introduction of anonymised CVs in the recruitment selection process. Workstreams identified for 2022 include further enhancements to the recruitment process and workplace inclusion.

The Nominations Committee advises on recruiting new trustees based upon consideration of skills and, particularly, the need to reflect diversity. As a result of their efforts, we now have a more diverse board with a wider range of knowledge, experience and perspective.

The Nominations Committee also oversaw a board evaluation and will report in mid-2022. To date, there have been no significant findings.

The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Charity Governance Code's guidance and is committed to a periodic review of relevant practices.

# How we did in 2021

## **Goal 1: We will use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness.**

We performed strongly against our annual targets, despite pandemic-related disruption. Our achievements were also thanks to the determination of our partners, additional needs we identified, and additional funding.

- All 28 of our non-profit and government partners were able to continue work to some level during the pandemic and acted quickly to expand services when restrictions were lifted.
- We provided more than 8.1 million antibiotic doses, far exceeding our target of 5.5 million. This was due to extra funding kindly provided by Sightsavers to meet additional needs we had highlighted and to compensate for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) budget cuts.
- We enabled more than 1 million eye screenings, exceeding our target by almost 30%. Nearly 60% of these were for children.
- We delivered over 36,000 training sessions for clinical staff and community representatives, almost doubling our target primarily due to the additional trachoma work we undertook.
- We enabled almost 45,000 treatments, of which just over half were prescriptions for glasses, a simple treatment that often has a significant impact.

## **Goal 2: We will generate income from a diversity of sources to meet the ambitions and plans of the organisation.**

Like many charities, our income in 2021 has been significantly affected by the UK government's changes to foreign aid, resulting in a 67.5% reduction of budgeted income from the UK government.

Legacies – one of our largest income sources – was affected by several factors, including delays to probate. This resulted in over half (52%) of anticipated income not remitting, although we expect much of it to remit in 2022.

Once again, however, we are hugely grateful to our donors across the UK and Europe. They generously continued their support during the second year of the pandemic, ensuring avoidable sight loss and blindness were not forgotten issues.

Our Philanthropy income increased by 16.4% from the previous year. Income from individuals decreased slightly, by 2.8%, and income from organisations, including trusts and foundations, decreased by 30.1%.

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### **Goal 3: We will broaden and deepen brand awareness amongst our key target audiences.**

We also significantly increased our reach and engagement in 2021.

Our number of followers on social channels increased by over 14% to nearly 23,000, alongside a 68% increase in engagement. We had 19,639,623 impressions across all our social channels.

Our website had 103,000 users, an increase of 20.9% from last year, and our newsletter subscribers increased by 79% to 30,232.

In the final quarter of the year, we launched our 'I'd See' awareness campaign, which reached 865,820 people and generated 2,151,627 impressions on social media, 32,282 clicked through to the landing page after seeing an 'I'd See' Facebook ad.

### **Goal 4: We will ensure our team are safe and supported and that the organisation is working optimally and sustainably.**

We have continued to invest in staff learning and development, and we have enhanced our HR function to aid staff recruitment, induction and retention. Across finance, business support and compliance, we have continued to review and report accurately and efficiently, ensuring that we have adhered to the latest legislation, regulations and the Charity Governance Code.

Our ED&I (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) working group, set up this year, comprises staff from across the organisation. The group discuss important ED&I topics, educates staff, and introduces initiatives that help deliver our vision and mission in the best ways possible.

# Looking ahead to 2022

## **Goal 1: We will use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness**

Our £2.8 million programme expenditure in 2022 will be directed through Orbis International to support 11 new and existing projects. All of them are designed to have significant impacts on the communities they reach.

We will continue our focus on helping to eliminate trachoma in southern Ethiopia, supporting eye care in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, screening schoolchildren in Nepal, and managing diabetic eye care in Vietnam.

We will fund new projects focusing on community eye care in Ghana and Zambia, the prevention of childhood blindness in Mongolia and a remote part of northern India, and an innovative women-led Green Vision Centre project in Bangladesh. Our new projects will support 28 local partners to:

- Distribute 6,950,000 antibiotic doses for trachoma control and elimination
- Conduct 393,000 patient screenings
- Deliver 19,000 eye treatments
- Provide 11,000 training sessions for eye health workers

A dedicated team will work with Orbis International and its country teams to optimise the performance of the projects, the value of the grants, and compliance with donor requirements. The dedicated team will also identify opportunities to secure significant extra funding for additional priority projects.

## **Goal 2: We will grow our income**

We will increase the number and value of new donors through our marketing and relationship fundraising activities. We will also maximise the value of existing donors through data-driven engagement and compelling asks. We will invest in legacy marketing to lay the foundations for long-term sustainable income and optimise our short-term acquisition and engagement activities to drive the highest return on investment.

## **Goal 3: We will appeal to a broader audience**

In addition to targeted marketing, we will appeal to a broader audience to exponentially grow our income. We will create integrated marketing campaigns that attract, at scale, mainstream audiences. From their initial engagement, we will take our supporters on a journey to deepen their understanding of our work and the impact that their donations will make.

## **Goal 4: We will develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management**

We will ensure the organisation continues to comply with relevant legislation, the Charity Governance Code, and other standards. We will also support the board to develop its diversity and capabilities.

## **Goal 5: We will develop a culture that promotes staff wellbeing and encourages staff development**

We will promote a culture that continues to support staff wellbeing and the best approaches to hybrid and flexible working. We will also nurture and encourage staff through the Learning & Development programme.

# Thank you

**Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers**

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## Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations

Aumund Foundation  
Bliss Family Charity  
Pamela Dawswell  
Joy and Richard Desmond  
Evan Cornish Foundation  
Anthony L Fincham  
Four Acre Trust  
Gary Lee-Richards  
Guthrie Essame Charitable Trust  
Headley Trust  
Peter & Rosemary Hickson  
Johnnie E Johnson  
Laing Family Trusts  
Mickleham Trust  
Mrs F E Hinton Charitable Trust  
Pro Victimis Foundation  
R U B White Charitable Trust  
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust  
The Eddie Dinshaw Foundation  
The Hicks Family  
The Pinchbeck Family Trust  
The Souter Charitable Trust  
David and Helen Watson  
Peter J Williams

**We also want to thank the high-value donors who wished to remain anonymous. We are especially grateful to all supporters who generously made a gift in their Will to Orbis in 2021.**

## Statutory and institutional funders

The Clothworkers' Foundation  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
Jersey Overseas Aid  
Sightsavers  
The Qatar Fund for Development

## Corporate partners

Aviation Logistics Network (ALN)  
Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT)  
Eskmuir Group

European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)  
European Society of Retina Specialists (EURETINA)  
RSM Channel Islands  
STG Aerospace  
Storm Interface  
TD Tom Davies

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Bhim Ruia Foundation  
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Vinoos and Varsha Patel  
Embassy of the State of Qatar, UK  
HRH The Countess of Wessex

## UK and Europe medical volunteers

Larry Benjamin  
Fiona Dean  
John Ferris  
Nadine Grant-McKenzie  
Rajen Gupta  
Ghalib Mukadam

## Office volunteers

Polly Holt

## UK ambassadors

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Polly Braden  
Tom Davies  
Ian Fleming  
Mary Killen  
Brian Little  
Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards CBE AFC  
FRAeS FCIM RAF (Ret'd)  
Sunil Ruia

## Co-opted sub-committee members

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tim Bucher  
Sonia Szamocki

# Board of trustees

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## Chair

### **Nick Fox, Chair, UK, Fundraising & Communications Chair, UK**

Nick Fox has over thirty years of national and international experience in creative communications, based out of London, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Nick sat on the worldwide board for DDB, an Omnicom Agency Network based in New York. His experience encompasses all sectors, including fast-moving consumer goods, finance, publishing, charity and the automotive industry. Nick has managed teams, budgets and international agency networks to increase consumer demand to drive brand value for some of the world's biggest brands.

In 2013, along with four partners, Nick started his own independent agency, Atomic London, of which he is now chair.

Nick joined the Orbis UK board in January 2020. Nick succeeded Rob Pinchbeck as chair of the board of trustees in March 2022.

## Trustees

### **Catharina Waller**

Catharina Waller is a senior trademark attorney at the law firm Bates Wells and has over 15 years' experience working in the intellectual property (IP) law sector. She frequently works with both charities and commercial companies on IP matters. She has a degree in chemical engineering from Imperial College, as well as a degree in intellectual property management.

Catharina joined the Orbis UK board in July 2017.

### **Charles Vyvyan**

After Oxford University, Charles Vyvyan spent 35 years in the army in a variety of operational command and staff appointments throughout the world. Since he retired in 2000, he has worked as a strategic adviser to a number of government and commercial organisations.

Charles joined the Orbis UK board in June 2008 and also sits on the board of Orbis International.

### **Sir Dominic Asquith, Nominations Committee Chair, UK**

After a number of years as a political analyst, teacher, journalist and traveller in the Middle East, Dominic Asquith joined the British diplomatic service in 1983. He served in the Americas, South Asia and returned frequently to the Middle East. He was Ambassador successively in Iraq, Egypt and Libya between 2006 and 2012. After retiring in 2013, he was recalled to government service as High Commissioner in India from 2016 to 2020. He is currently a partner in Macro Advisory Partners, which provides independent, long-term strategic counsel to decision-makers in business and government.

Dominic joined the Orbis UK board in October 2020.

### **Fiona Hobbs**

Fiona trained and qualified as a solicitor with Linklaters and has over 30 years' experience (25 as a partner) of developing major infrastructure and energy projects both in the UK and in emerging markets. She has held a number of senior management and governance roles within the firm and has spent six years as its global head of diversity and inclusion. She is a lay member of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee.

Fiona joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

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## **Larry Benjamin FRCS (Ed), FRCOphth, DO, Programme Committee Chair, UK**

Larry Benjamin was a consultant ophthalmologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire for 30 years (recently retired) and has been an Orbis medical volunteer since 2004. He has recently returned to work to help with the cataract backlog from Covid. With special interests in cataract and diabetic retinopathy management, he has also served on the ophthalmic committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, published a number of scientific papers and two books. He was, until December 2018, chair of the microsurgical skills committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and is the immediate past president of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is the president of the ophthalmic section of the Royal Society of Medicine. In March 2016, Larry received the Care Service Provider trophy at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his work improving access to eye care services across the globe.

Larry joined the Orbis UK board in November 2008.

## **Mona Khan**

Mona Khan, MD, has over 25 years of clinical and surgical experience as an ophthalmologist. Her private practice was located in downtown Chicago, and she was on the staff of Mercy Hospital for over 20 years. At Mercy, she was the principal comprehensive ophthalmologist at the Mercy Family Health Clinic, a federally funded clinic whose mission was to treat the most vulnerable and socio-economically disadvantaged residents from Chicago's south side.

She retired from Ophthalmology to move to London in 2020 with her husband and daughter. Mona is also a member of the Harwell Oxford Management Limited Company Board of Directors. Harwell is a leading science and innovation campus based in Oxfordshire.

Mona joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

## **Nicola Floyd**

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than 10 years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years. She is currently CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charter holder, and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola joined the Orbis UK board in September 2017.

## **Patricia Moller**

Following a highly awarded 25+ year career with the US Department of State, Patricia ended her government service to return to the private sector.

Through her consultancy, Moller Global LLC, she has advised Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, IFIs and governments. Presently, Patricia chairs the board of West Africa LNG Group and The Baara Hospital. She also serves on a number of other boards.

Patricia joined the Orbis UK board in November 2017. She also sits on the board of Orbis International.

## **Robert F Walters FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth.**

Rob Walters is a consultant ophthalmologist, working in the National Health Service (NHS) for over 30 years, and an Orbis medical volunteer since 1994. Rob has played key roles in numerous UK eye health organisations and authored three books on the causes and treatment of blindness. Rob initially joined Orbis as a volunteer surgeon in 1994. He then joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003 and served as chair from 2008-2015. In 2014, he was honoured with the title 'Trustee of the Year' at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his dedication to improving eye health globally. Rob also served as chairman of the boards of Orbis International in New York and Orbis Africa, and he remains an emeritus member of the Orbis International Board. He is currently chair of Orbis in the Middle East.

Rob joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003.

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## **Siân Block MBE, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK**

Siân trained as a nurse and has over 30 years' experience in many areas of healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These include the independent sector, the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, Charities and Resuscitation Councils (UK and European).

Siân joined the Orbis UK board in June 2020.

## **Sophia Pathai MBBS MSc PhD MRCOphth**

Sophia Pathai is an ophthalmologist by training. She worked in the NHS and subsequently as a clinician scientist undertaking research at the International Centre for Eye Health, based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Her passion for global health was ignited during her tenure as a staff ophthalmologist on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in 2009. She has been appointed to global medical leadership roles at companies such as Roche, AbbVie, and Johnson & Johnson, and currently works in venture capital with a focus and passion for investments at the intersection of healthcare and technology.

She gained her BSc and medical degree from University College London, and her MSc and PhD were awarded by LSHTM.

Sophia joined the Orbis UK board in December 2021.

## **Yvette Dunne MA FCA, Audit Committee Chair, UK**

Yvette Dunne trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent ten years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector, and she currently advises schools and charities on compliance and risk management.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK board in December 2017.

## **Thank you**

We would like to thank the trustees who stood down from the board this year for their service. Their contribution to Orbis UK, our mission and the achievement of our aims is greatly appreciated.

### **Tony Cowles**

Tony joined the Orbis UK board in 2002 and left in December 2021.

### **Rob Pinchbeck**

Rob joined the board of Orbis UK in July 2017 and left in March 2022.

### **Nigel Young**

Nigel joined the Orbis UK board in 2012 and left in June 2021.

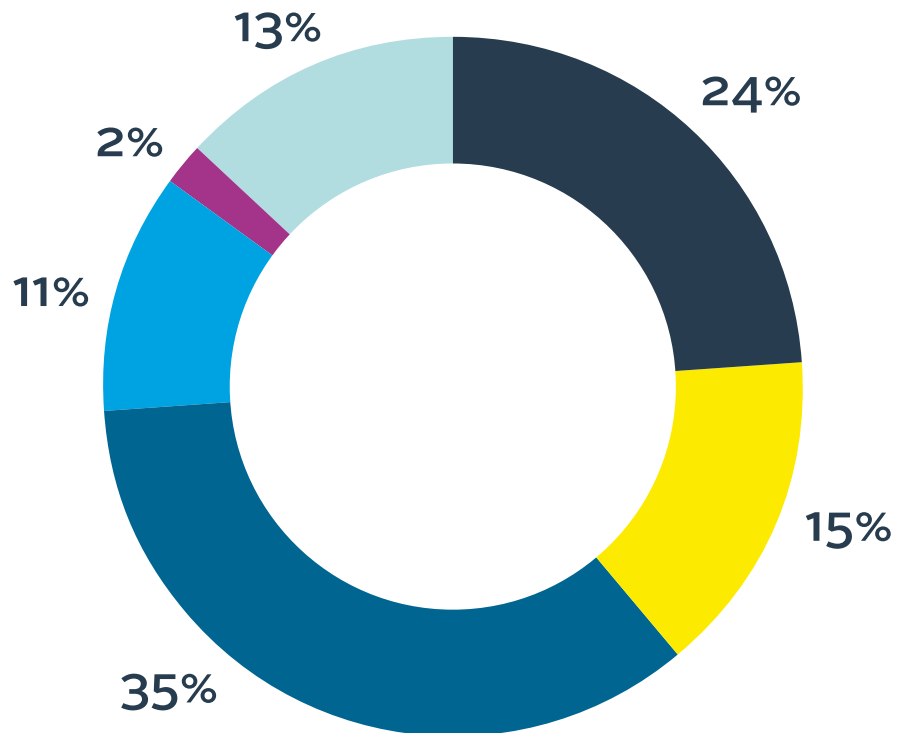
# Financial statements



# 2021 Financial summary

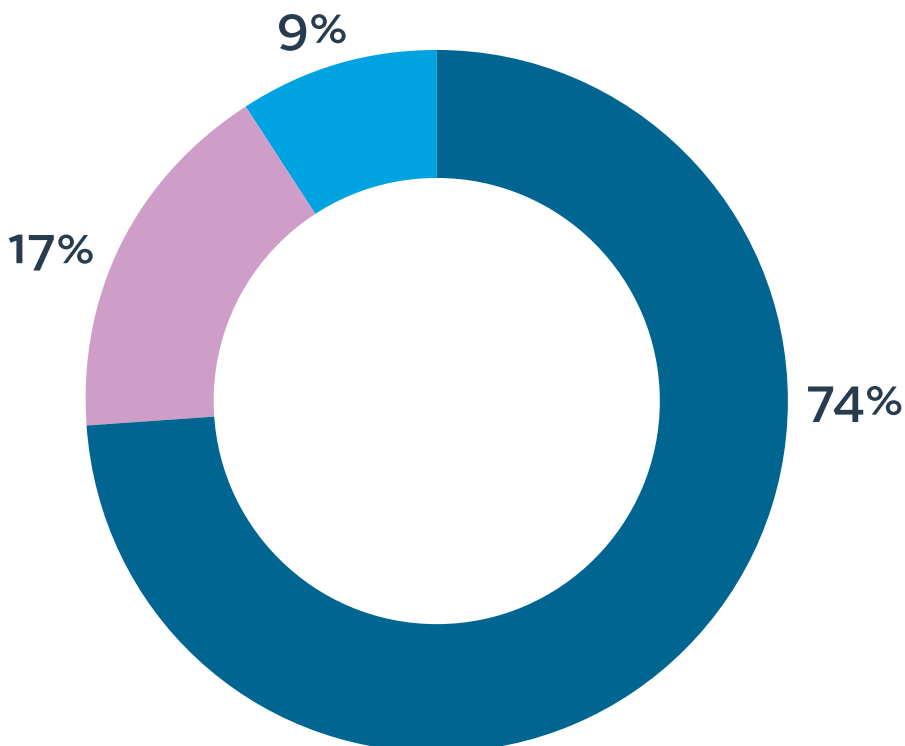
## Income 2021

- Individual supporters
- Legacies
- Statutory
- Major donors
- Corporate
- Trusts



## Charitable activities 2021

- Comprehensive eye care
- Childhood blindness
- Specialist training



The cost of fundraising was 29.2% of our income

# Reference and administrative details

**Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK's address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.**

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Project Orbis International, a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York. The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness, and they share a common mission to mentor, train and inspire local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities worldwide. It designs and manages programmes and determines the global medical and programme strategy. This relationship is described in further detail in Note 18 (Related parties).

## **Objectives and principal activities of the charity**

Orbis UK's Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling
- b. The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment
- c. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK's objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2021, and our five key goals for 2022, can be found in the front section of this report.

## Financial review and results for the year

Income in 2021 fell by £459k (7%) compared to 2020. Donations including Gift Aid were £334k lower (10%) than in 2020, and this was due to a large Gift Aid claim in 2020 including six months of claims relating to 2019 and a large one-off gift-in-kind donation in 2020 of £150k for surgical instruments. Legacy income was £914k (2020: £1,591), a reduction of £677k. Orbis UK, in line with other charities, experienced a fall in legacy income due to delays in obtaining Probate Office and HMRC caused by the pandemic. The legacy income pipeline for 2022 and 2023 is solid. Income from grants increased to £2,074k in 2021 (2020: £1,504k). This was an increase of 38%. An increase in the Sightsavers grant of £1,058k offset a downfall in income from FCDO due to the cancellation of a UK Aid Direct grant in Ethiopia halfway through the year and new grants from Qatar Fund for Development and Qatar Charity delayed until 2022.

Overall expenditure increased by £922k (16%) compared to 2020. This was a planned increase in expenditure due to free reserves being high at 31 December 2020.

Expenditure on raising funds increased due to an increase in expenditure on marketing to individual donors and on digital and awareness-raising initiatives to maximise fundraising income. The cost of raising funds in 2021 was 29.2% of income, which was above the target set by the trustees of 25%. The variance was caused by a combination of the unexpected decrease in legacy income and the investment in fundraising during 2021 using the excess free reserves from 2020.

Expenditure on charitable activities increased by £506k (12%) in 2021 compared to 2020.

Programme expenditure on the Comprehensive eye care programme increased by £1,133k (46%) due to increased funding from Sightsavers for the trachoma elimination programmes in Ethiopia. Spending on Childhood Blindness decreased by £602k (43%) due to the end of funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) for the Qatar Creating Vision programme during 2020. Expenditure on Specialist Training decreased by £24k (5%).

Unrestricted funds at the end of December 2021 were £58k higher than the trustees' reserves target. This was due to programme activity being restricted for some projects by the pandemic. The trustees have agreed that the excess funds will be directed towards programme expenditure in 2022.

We are extremely grateful to those who help prevent and treat blindness in the developing world through their generous donations.

## Structure, governance and management

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 29 September 1997, 22 December 2005 and 17 April 2020. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. The following trustees are our longest-serving and will retire at the next AGM: Charles Vyvyan and Rob Walters. The retirees may offer themselves for re-election. The Charity Governance Code recommends that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years. The trustees have agreed to adopt this recommendation and will implement it over the coming years.

Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan also serve as directors of Orbis International.

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions,

terms of reference for subcommittees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity, as set out below. Four subcommittees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

## **Charity Governance Code**

The Charity Governance Code, which is designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The 'Integrity Principle' has been refreshed to emphasise the importance of safeguarding and protecting beneficiaries from harm. The 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' principle has been comprehensively rewritten to enable the board to ensure its approach to diversity supports its effectiveness, leadership and decision making.

A designated safeguarding trustee ensures that safeguarding is prominent in the charity's agenda, and a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group was established in 2020 with a remit to collect, discuss and disseminate best practice, including board and staff recruitment, to ensure Orbis UK reflects the diversity of UK society.

The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to periodic reviews of our relevant practices. The last board evaluation was conducted in 2021, and the nominations committee is guiding the suggested improvements.

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment, and financial management of the charity.

## **Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring. Many of them have an ophthalmic background.

## **Fundraising and Communications Committee**

The Fundraising and Communications Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for supporting the Orbis UK senior management team to maximise fundraising and communications initiatives in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for assessing and reviewing applications to recruit and select appointees to the board. The committee decisions are subject to the board's consideration and approval.

## **Chief executive and senior management team**

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## Remuneration of personnel

The pay of staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually by an external HR consultant, the director of finance and operations and the chief executive and approved by the trustees of the Audit Committee. The review includes a benchmarking exercise which is carried out annually against comparable roles within the public and not-for-profit sector to set market pay levels and to ensure that salaries remain competitive. All staff are paid at least the London Living Wage as calculated by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.

All staff who have passed probation at the beginning of the year and whose salaries are not adjusted as part of the benchmarking exercise will receive cost of living increases based on the Consumer Price Index where possible.

## Risk management

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The Audit Committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. The board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management annually. A new risk management policy is being implemented in 2022 to further enhance risk management.

Changes to the FCDO funding strategy mean that OUK cannot rely on UK Aid funding in the future. There is still no clarity over FCDO funding priorities or budgets. To mitigate against the loss of income, research into other sources of statutory funding and innovative approaches such as programme partnerships with other INGOs is ongoing.

A further risk is the capacity of in-country teams to meet increased donor reporting requirements; this continues to be mitigated through the role of the Orbis UK programme support and finance teams and the development of a grant management function in Orbis International.

There is also a risk from cyber-crime and online data theft, which is mitigated by carrying out an annual penetration test with our IT partners, ensuring our IT infrastructure is protected by being current and training staff on the threat landscape.

## Reserves policy

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income. Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,850k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2021, the balance on general reserves was £2,093k, which was £58k above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to unrestricted programme expenditure being lower than budgeted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The trustees have set a budget for 2022 which will bring the general reserves within the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2021, designated funds stood at £.46k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 15.

## Grant making policy

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the Programme Committee, financial approval by the Audit Committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money

- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP/FRS 102;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that they should have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 June 2022 and signed on their behalf.



**Trustee**  
**NICK FOX**

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the trustees' annual report and from preparing a strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 31, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.

- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Signed

**Neil Finlayson (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP,**  
**Statutory Auditor**

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP*

Date: 22 June 2022

6th Floor, 9 Appold Street,  
London, EC2A 2AP

# Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 (£)	Restricted funds 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	3,406,576	2,547,068	<b>5,953,644</b>	4,295,149	2,098,965	6,394,114
Investments		316	-	<b>316</b>	18,950	-	18,950
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>3,406,892</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>5,953,960</b>	<b>4,314,099</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>6,413,064</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		1,736,439	-	<b>1,736,439</b>	1,286,868	33,764	1,320,632
Charitable activities:							
• Comprehensive Eye Care		1,673,150	1,944,756	<b>3,617,906</b>	692,109	1,793,021	2,485,130
• Childhood Blindness		550,772	259,002	<b>809,774</b>	674,052	738,416	1,412,468
• Specialist Training		364,262	58,495	<b>422,757</b>	308,058	138,299	446,357
Total expenditure on charitable activities		2,588,184	2,262,253	<b>4,850,437</b>	1,674,219	2,669,736	4,343,955
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4,324,623</b>	<b>2,262,253</b>	<b>6,586,876</b>	<b>2,961,087</b>	<b>2,703,500</b>	<b>5,664,587</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		34	-	<b>34</b>	-	-	-
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(917,697)</b>	<b>284,815</b>	<b>(632,882)</b>	<b>1,353,012</b>	<b>(604,535)</b>	<b>748,477</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(917,697)</b>	<b>284,815</b>	<b>(632,882)</b>	<b>1,353,012</b>	<b>(604,535)</b>	<b>748,477</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		3,056,010	158,791	<b>3,214,801</b>	1,702,998	763,326	2,466,324
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>

All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the deficit for the year.

# Balance sheet

## Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	45,509	85,477
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>45,509</b>	<b>85,477</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	13	276,309	709,823
Short term deposits		2,767,617	2,638,144
Cash at bank and in hand		1,617,318	1,766,891
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,661,244</b>	<b>5,114,858</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,124,834)	(1,985,534)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,536,410</b>	<b>3,129,324</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		443,606	158,791
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		2,092,805	2,970,533
Designated funds		45,509	85,477
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	15	<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 21 June 2022.

Trustee:   
 Nick Fox

Trustee:   
 Yvette Dunne

# Cash flow statement

Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	(20,416)	264,415
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		316	18,950
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-
Acquisition of investments		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(5,418)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>316</b>	<b>13,532</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(20,100)	277,947
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	4,405,035	4,127,089
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>4,384,935</b>	<b>4,405,036</b>

## Notes to the cash flow statement:

### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(632,882)	748,477
Depreciation charges	37,317	37,516
(Gains) from investments	-	-
Interest from investments	(316)	(18,950)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	2,651	430
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	433,514	(323,418)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	139,300	(179,640)
	<b>(20,416)</b>	<b>264,415</b>

### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Short-term	2,767,617	2,638,144
Cash at bank and in hand	1,617,318	1,766,891
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,384,935</b>	<b>4,405,035</b>

### C. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2021 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2021 £
Short-term investments	2,638,144	129,473	-	2,767,617
Cash at bank and in hand	1,766,891	(151,977)	2,404	1,617,318
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,405,035</b>	<b>(22,504)</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>4,384,935</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

Statements year ended 31 December 2021

## 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and, as such, is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2021 is 11, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 6th Floor, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015.

Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

## 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

## 3. Presentation currency

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

## 4. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

### a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### **b. Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak has been taken.

### **c. Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure. The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 15, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

### **d. Income**

Donations are recognised in the financial statements when received. Legacies are recognised once the charity becomes entitled to the legacy, is certain of receipt, and can measure the amount of the legacy with reasonable accuracy; this is usually upon grant of probate, when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt. Grants are recognised when received or receivable.

### **e. Gifts in kind and donated services**

Medical supplies and other items and services received are included as income at value to the charity and as resources expended at the same value when distributed, where the value in the year is £1,000 or more per annum from the donor.

### **f. Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income. Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Payments in foreign currency are translated at the actual rate on the date of the transaction.

### **g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20–25 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, which has been taken as the date of the break option of 10 May 2023 even though the lease expires on 10 May 2028

### **h. Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

### **i. Investments**

Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

### **j. Short term deposits**

Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

### **k. Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### **l. Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

### **m. Pension costs**

During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

### **n. Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### **o. Liabilities**

Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

### **p. Financial instruments**

Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors. At the balance sheet date, the charity held financial assets at amortised cost of £4,531k (2020: £4,654k) and financial liabilities at amortised cost of £2,079k (2020: £1,690k).

### **q. Foreign exchange**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2021 (£)	Restricted funds 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
Donations	2,492,370	472,580	<b>2,964,950</b>	2,704,283	594,946	3,299,229
Legacies	914,206	-	<b>914,206</b>	1,590,866	-	1,590,866
Grants	-	2,074,488	<b>2,074,488</b>	-	1,504,019	1,504,019
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,406,576</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>5,953,644</b>	<b>4,295,149</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>6,394,114</b>

### 6. Income from grants

		Total 2021 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	<b>1,728,000</b>	670,000
		<b>1,728,000</b>	<b>670,000</b>
UK Government	Nepal	<b>163,363</b>	176,839
	Ethiopia	<b>155,810</b>	222,845
	Job Retention Scheme	-	33,764
	Vision for Zambia	-	5,000
		<b>319,173</b>	<b>438,448</b>
Government of Jersey	Ethiopia	<b>27,315</b>	109,259
	Human Resources for Eye Health in Africa	-	62,840
		<b>27,315</b>	<b>172,099</b>
Qatar Charity	Bangladesh	-	193,452
		-	<b>193,452</b>
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision	-	30,020
		-	<b>30,020</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,074,488</b>	<b>1,504,019</b>

All income from grants is restricted income.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Google grant advert	18,000	18,000
Legal advice	10,239	-
Promotion at aviation festival	7,427	-
Flights	4,421	6,249
Hotel accommodation	3,867	-
Surgical instruments	-	150,040
Emergency lighting for the Flying Eye Hospital	-	8,193
Medical equipment	-	7,775
Social media listening	-	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,954</b>	<b>191,257</b>

### 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Payments under operating leases	118,332	120,361
Depreciation	37,318	37,516
Fees paid to the auditor:		
• Audit fees	16,063	13,375
• Tax advisory services	1,015	910

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 9. Total resources expended

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 (£)	Grant funding 2021 (£)	Support costs 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Activities undertaken directly 2020 (£)	Grant funding 2020 (£)	Support costs 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising funds	1,513,561	-	222,878	<b>1,736,439</b>	1,095,919	33,764	190,949	1,320,632
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive eye care	638,098	2,765,067	214,741	<b>3,617,906</b>	519,085	1,756,866	209,179	2,485,130
Childhood blindness	245,422	481,759	82,593	<b>809,774</b>	387,433	894,299	130,736	1,412,468
Specialist training	196,338	160,345	66,074	<b>422,757</b>	129,613	264,449	52,295	446,357
	<b>1,079,858</b>	<b>3,407,171</b>	<b>363,408</b>	<b>4,850,437</b>	<b>1,036,131</b>	<b>2,915,614</b>	<b>392,210</b>	<b>4,343,955</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,593,419</b>	<b>3,407,171</b>	<b>586,286</b>	<b>6,586,876</b>	<b>2,132,050</b>	<b>2,949,378</b>	<b>583,159</b>	<b>5,664,587</b>

#### GRANTS PAYABLE

Grants of £3,377,170 (2020: £2,915,614) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £2,197,387 (2020: £2,500,058) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these programmes are given in note 15 under Restricted Funds. The balance of 1,179,783 (2020: £415,556) was directed to programmes in Ethiopia, Southern and Western Africa, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and India and the Flying Eye Hospital on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £363,327 (2020: £392,210).

### 10. Analysis of support costs

	Support staff costs 2021 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2021 (£)	Governance 2021 (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Support staff costs 2020 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2020 (£)	Governance 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Cost of raising funds	-	211,871	11,007	<b>222,878</b>	7,578	176,256	7,115	190,949
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive eye care	43,753	162,543	8,445	<b>214,741</b>	74,125	129,814	5,240	209,179
Childhood blindness	16,828	62,517	3,248	<b>82,593</b>	46,328	81,134	3,274	130,736
Specialist training	13,463	50,013	2,598	<b>66,074</b>	18,531	32,454	1,310	52,295
	<b>74,044</b>	<b>275,073</b>	<b>14,291</b>	<b>363,408</b>	<b>138,984</b>	<b>243,402</b>	<b>9,824</b>	<b>392,210</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,044</b>	<b>486,944</b>	<b>25,298</b>	<b>586,286</b>	<b>146,562</b>	<b>419,658</b>	<b>16,939</b>	<b>583,159</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 11. Staff costs

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Wages and salaries	1,520,455	1,496,400
Social security costs	171,166	164,046
Pension costs	112,877	100,316
Employment settlement agreement	14,366	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,818,864</b>	<b>1,760,762</b>

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	2	1

Contributions in the year to pension schemes for these employees was £42,149 (2020: £31,932). Remuneration in respect of key management personnel in the year was £564,511 (2020: £427,818).

The average headcount number of employees and full-time equivalent (FTE), analysed by function, for the year was::

	2021 headcount	2021 FTE	2020 headcount	2020 FTE
Fundraising and communications	18	16	18	17
Finance and administration	12	11	12	10
Programme support	5	5	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £189 (2020: £221) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to two Trustees amounted to £898 (2020: two Trustees totalling £653) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the Trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment (£)	Computer equipment (£)	Leasehold improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 2021	90,939	90,654	62,707	244,300
Disposals	-	(20,390)	-	(20,390)
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>90,939</b>	<b>70,264</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>223,910</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 2021	78,729	47,671	32,423	158,823
Charge for year	4,882	19,457	12,978	37,317
Disposals	-	(17,739)	-	(17,739)
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>83,611</b>	<b>49,389</b>	<b>45,401</b>	<b>178,401</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2021</b>				
At 31 December 2020	12,210	42,983	30,284	85,477

### 13. Debtors

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Accrued income	143,527	247,159
Gift Aid	70,805	399,449
Prepayments	59,186	61,382
Other debtors	2,791	1,833
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276,309</b>	<b>709,823</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Grants payable	1,946,975	1,572,606
Trade creditors	55,435	32,114
Tax and social security	51,903	54,942
Other creditors	23,760	274,310
Accruals	24,895	30,295
Pension scheme	21,866	21,267
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,124,834</b>	<b>1,985,534</b>

Movement in recognised provisions and funding commitments during the year.

	Grant commitments accrued (£)
Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2021	1,572,606
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	3,407,170
Grants paid during the year	(3,032,801)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>1,946,975</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 15. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2021 (£)	Income 2021 (£)	Expenditure 2021 (£)	Transfers 2021 (£)	Gains and losses 2021 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2021 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General reserves	2,970,533	3,406,892	(4,284,655)	-	34	2,092,804
Fixed assets	85,477	-	(39,968)	-	-	45,509
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>3,406,892</b>	<b>(4,324,623)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	109,245	2,227,336	(1,943,833)	-	-	392,748
Childhood blindness	43,572	245,992	(259,925)	-	-	29,639
Specialist training	5,974	73,740	(58,495)	-	-	21,219
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>2,547,068</b>	<b>(2,262,253)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,606</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>5,953,960</b>	<b>(6,586,876)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>

	Balance 1 Jan 2020 (£)	Income 2020 (£)	Expenditure 2020 (£)	Transfers 2020 (£)	Gains and losses 2020 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2020 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General reserves	1,584,993	4,314,099	(2,928,559)	-	-	2,970,533
Fixed assets	118,005	-	(32,528)	-	-	85,477
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>4,314,099</b>	<b>(2,961,087)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	61,575	1,868,231	(1,791,160)	(29,401)	-	109,245
Childhood blindness	635,719	116,868	(738,416)	29,401	-	43,572
Specialist training	66,032	80,102	(140,160)	-	-	5,974
UK Government - job retention scheme	-	33,764	(33,764)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>(2,703,500)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158,791</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>	<b>6,413,064</b>	<b>(5,664,587)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

#### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £45,509 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves.

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care – £392,748 – Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult & child eye health, including rural eye care and Trachoma elimination.

Child eye health - £29,639 - Orbis projects focussing on child eye health.

Specialist Training – £21,219 – Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems.

**TRANSFERS BETWEEN RESTRICTED FUNDS** – The transfer of funds between restricted funds of £29,401 in 2020 represents funds from the same donor and grant being moved between projects.

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 (£)	Restricted funds 2021 (£)	Total funds 2021 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total funds 2020 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	45,509	-	<b>45,509</b>	85,477	-	85,477
Current assets	2,844,771	1,816,473	<b>4,661,244</b>	3,351,233	1,763,625	5,114,858
Grants payable	(574,108)	(1,372,867)	<b>(1,946,975)</b>	32,228	(1,604,834)	(1,572,606)
Other current liabilities	(177,859)	-	<b>(177,859)</b>	(412,928)	-	(412,928)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,138,313</b>	<b>443,606</b>	<b>2,581,919</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2021

### 17. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease with a break clause in May 2023 as follows:

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Within one year	117,299	119,845
Between one to five years	41,608	157,766
	<b>158,907</b>	277,611

In 2021 £118,332 (2020: £120,361) was paid under an operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2020: none).

### 18. Related parties

- a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2021, with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £3,377,170 (2020: £2,915,614) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Rwanda and the Flying Eye Hospital. The outstanding balance due from Orbis International at 31st December 2021 was £1,946,975 (2020: £1,572,606, due to Orbis International).

- b. Donations were received from six Trustees amounting to £11,513 (2020: five Trustees totalling £12,603). Trustee Robin Pinchbeck is also a trustee of The Pinchbeck Charitable Trust which kindly donated £10,000 in 2021.

# Trustees and officers

Year ended 31 December 2021

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## Trustees

Rob Pinchbeck (chair, resigned March 2022)

Nick Fox (chair from March 2022)

Sir Dominic Asquith

Larry Benjamin

Sian Block

Anthony Cowles (resigned December 2021)

Yvette Dunne

Nicola Floyd

Fiona Hobbs (appointed December 2021)

Mona Kahn (appointed December 2021)

Patricia Moller

Sophia Pathai (appointed December 2021)

Charles Vyvyan

Catharina Waller

Robert Walters

Nigel Young (resigned June 2021)

## Chief executive

Rebecca Cronin

## Senior management

Kath Backhouse

David Bennett

Flo Branchu

Colman Cawe (from December 2021)

Andrew Jones (until November 2021)

## Registered office

6th Floor, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AF

## Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP

## Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, Hatton Garden, London. EC1N 8DN

## Solicitors

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London. EC4R 1BE



[orbis.org](http://orbis.org)  
+44 (0)20 7608 7260

Orbis UK, 6th Floor,  
10 Lower Thames Street,  
London, EC3R 6AF

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Genaye Eshetu, Geoff Oliver Bugbee

**ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1061352

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# Accounts

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# Fighting avoidable blindness in a global pandemic

ORBIS CHARITABLE TRUST ANNUAL  
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020

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# Who we are and what we do

Orbis is an international charity and leader in the global fight against avoidable blindness for nearly four decades.

## Our vision

To transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness

## Our mission

With our network of partners, we mentor, train and inspire local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

## Why we do it

- 338 million people in the world are blind or moderately to severely visually impaired
- 77% of all cases are treatable or preventable<sup>1</sup>
- 1.1 billion people live with some sort of visual impairment
- 90 million are children and adolescents
- 90% live in low and middle-income countries
- 55% of these people are women and girls<sup>2</sup>

## Our work changes the way the world sees

- We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.
- We carry out screening and treatment programmes and support the distribution of antibiotics for controlling trachoma.
- We raise awareness and inspire communities about the importance of eye health.
- We strengthen and improve eye health services by partnering with local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments.

## How we do it

We work with partners in eye care teams – from health workers in rural clinics to eye surgeons in urban centres – so together we can save and restore vision, ensuring no-one has to face a life of avoidable blindness.

<sup>1</sup> Burton, Matthew J., Ramke, Jaqueline, Marques, Ana Patricia, Bourne, R. R., Congdon, Nathan, Jones, Iain, et al. The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health: vision beyond 2020. The Lancet Global Health. 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Adelson, J., Bourne, R. R. A., Briant, P. S., Flaxman, S., Taylor, H., Jonas, J. B., et al., Causes of blindness and vision impairment in 2020 and trends over 30 years, and prevalence of avoidable blindness in relation to VISION 2020: the Right to Sight: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. Lancet Global Health. 2020. Accessed via the IAPB Vision Atlas (<https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>)

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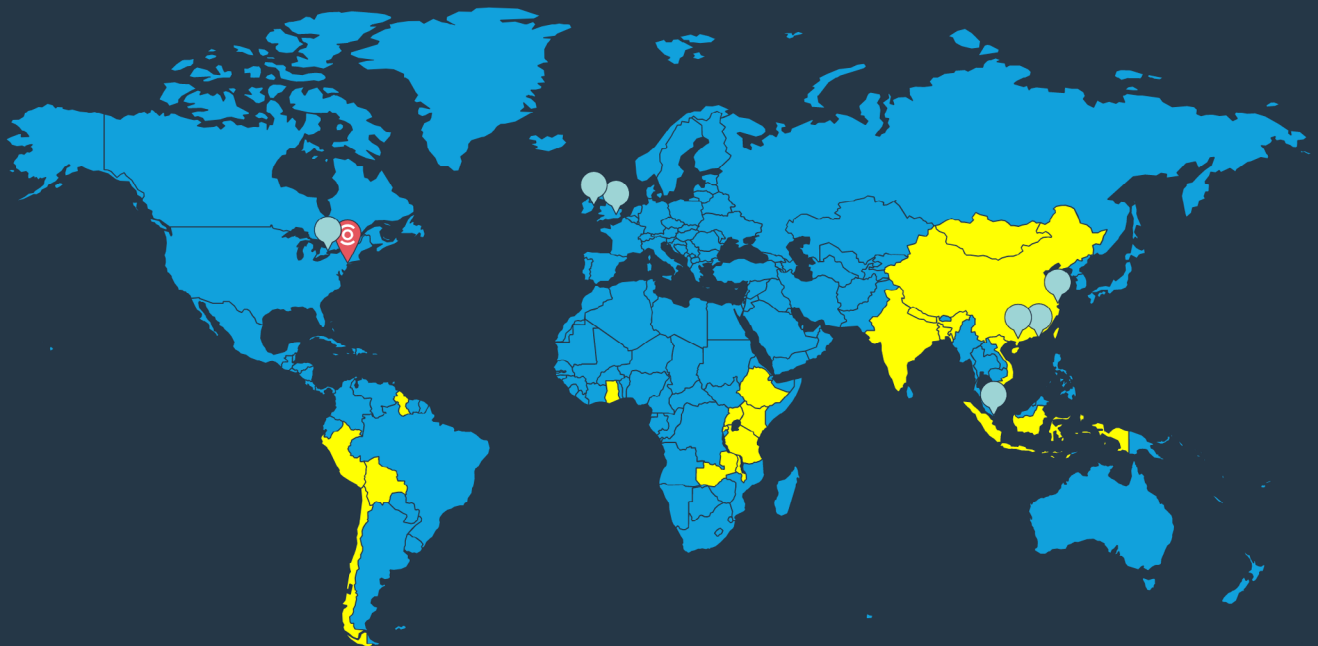
## Our global reach – Orbis International

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Orbis International, which is based in the USA. Along with six other affiliate offices, we work with other country offices to fund, develop, and implement local projects.

The vast majority of people that are blind and visually impaired live in developing countries. And older people, women and those living in rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected. We focus on where the need is greatest – in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Orbis works to ensure everyone has sustainable access to quality eye care, no matter where they live.

**KEY:**  Headquarters in New York  Fundraising Offices  Countries we work in



Ref: [orbis.org.uk/where](https://orbis.org.uk/where)

# Chair and CEO welcome

## A very warm welcome *to the 2020 Orbis UK annual report.*

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**If there's a single theme that sums up this extraordinary year, it's one of common humanity. Like everyone, we experienced a whole range of emotions last March as we began to absorb the full implications of the coronavirus pandemic. But, by responding to a fast-changing situation, learning, planning and adapting quickly – and doing all this together around the world as professionals, volunteers, teams and individuals – we've learned just how much we share.**

The whole world now knows more about infection control and remote working than we ever imagined. But as eye health experts working in low-income, rural areas, we're well accustomed to using technology to forge distanced human connections. This year, under travel restrictions, local virtual consultations with ophthalmologists in regional hospitals were more critical than ever. And we found new ways to treat hard-to-reach patients too – like Rohingya refugee Shahed, whose innovative follow-up cataract treatment you can read about on pages 9 and 10.

Meanwhile, our unique Flying Eye Hospital teaching facility went fully virtual, connecting eye health experts with trainee doctors, nurses and health workers around the world. In total, we delivered 14,000 training sessions – nearly double our forecast at the beginning of the year. Just as importantly, as you'll read on pages 13 and 14, trained Orbis professionals showed the sort of courage and commitment we're familiar with in our own NHS to deliver COVID-secure eye care on the ground.

Many of our projects were affected by hospitals suspending services and reallocating staff for COVID-19 patients. However, by capitalising on non-lockdown periods and working with local governments to find COVID-secure ways to sustain eye care services, we still managed to have a considerable impact. We provided 4.3 million doses of antibiotics to fight blinding trachoma in Ethiopia and supported 346,000 eye screenings and 41,000 treatments and surgeries around the world.

We also concluded the first phase of our Qatar Creating Vision project in South Asia in 2020. Supported by the Qatar Fund for Development, it has provided 6.7 million screenings and treatments and more than 82,000 training sessions over four years. Across all our projects this year, we screened a total of nearly 290,000 children. One of them was Sneha, from the Parsa district of Nepal. Her story on pages 11 and 12 shows just how vital glasses prescriptions are for young people's futures – wherever they live.

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Sadly, we weren't able to deliver all our project activities, which, of course, has affected how much programme work we've been able to raise funds for. But we started from a robust financial base, and our supporters have responded with astonishing steadfastness, loyalty and flexibility. At £4.89 million, our UK voluntary income actually exceeded our target by 24% – driven by phenomenal responses to two appeals for Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

We're proud that our financial stability in an uncertain world has helped save the sight of people already facing enormous challenges in the pandemic. But, as treatment backlogs continue to mount and so many lives remain precarious, we have more work than ever still to do. We've been humbled and inspired by you, our supporters, as we've weathered this storm. It's thanks to you, therefore, that we look forward with shared hope, humility and determination to 2021.

Yours,



**Rebecca Cronin** (Chief executive)



**Rob Pinchbeck** (Chairman)

“On behalf of our trustees, supporters and everyone we work with, I would like to thank the Orbis UK team, who overcame all the obstacles the world threw at us in an extremely challenging year and just kept going. We are all hugely grateful for their unswerving dedication and hard work.”

**Rob Pinchbeck, Chairman**

# 2020 at a glance

## Our year in numbers

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### Income

**Total income: £6,413,064**

#### **Despite financial slowdowns and fewer programmes going ahead, we still:**

- Exceeded our UK voluntary income target by 24%, raising £4,890,095
- Raised £1,504,019 from statutory donors
- Received 20% of income from online channels, continuing our digital transformation

We were exceedingly grateful to 12,698 individual donors, of whom 5,546 were regular givers

We received 61 legacies with a total value of £1,590,866

64 charitable trusts supported us, with a value of £1,036,074

35 companies supported us, with a value of £251,891

#### **As percentages of total income:**

Legacies	25%
Major donors, trusts and corporate partners	28%
Individual donors	23%
Statutory donors	24%

### Impact

We funded 10 projects in total: three each in Ethiopia and Bangladesh; two in Nepal; one in Zambia; and one in the East Africa region.

#### **Despite pandemic restrictions, we worked with 26 partner healthcare institutions and delivered:**

- 4.3 million antibiotic doses for trachoma control, beating our target
- 346,000 eye screenings, 83% of which were for children
- 41,000 eye care treatments, including cataract and trichomatous trichiasis surgeries
- 14,000 eye health worker training sessions – nearly double our target

# Fighting avoidable blindness in a global pandemic

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**The coronavirus pandemic has made preventing and treating avoidable blindness both harder and more urgent. Eye care services around the world have either been suspended or repurposed to fight COVID-19, opportunities for in-person training have been greatly reduced, and sources of income have been disrupted.**

Where we work, in countries where health systems were already under strain, the effects have been devastating. So, in a year like no other, we've leant heavily on our experience of innovation and technology to meet the rising demand for eye care in a newly remote world.

COVID-19 has created particular challenges for our work. Typically, eye care requires eye health workers and patients to be in close proximity – so social distancing and infection control measures have made it costly and complicated to carry out eye screenings, treatments and surgeries. Our mass antibiotic distribution programmes routinely require people to congregate in large gatherings, which has been impossible. And, even after restrictions have been lifted, many people have avoided healthcare settings for fear of becoming infected. Finding solutions to these problems has demanded ingenuity, experience and resolve.

Thanks to funds provided by our generous supporters, including statutory and institutional donors, we've been able to do just that. We adapted eye health settings in line with guidance on social distancing, we gave staff the personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitisers they needed, and we developed new, COVID-secure ways to look after people's eye health.

Our eye care workers responded with determination and imagination. Overcoming fears for their own safety and the relentless demands of PPE and constant sanitising, they restarted work tackling major backlogs and undertaking laborious house-to-house visits to see people no longer able to gather in groups. Meanwhile, the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital was reimagined as the virtual Flying Eye Hospital, providing remote training webinars via Cybersight.

2020 has been a challenging year beyond any of our expectations, not least because of all the people whose eye conditions we simply couldn't treat due to pandemic restrictions. But, thanks to our experience in infection control and technology, and the extraordinary efforts of our staff, volunteers and donors, we've been able to continue saving sight and transforming lives.

# Comprehensive eye care

## Working together to provide eye care to everyone who needs it

---

**Comprehensive eye care is about working with people across eye health systems – from medical professionals in regional hospitals to staff in rural health centres and members of local communities – to provide quality eye care to people in need.**

It also means working with governments to influence the way eye health is administered at local and national levels. In 2020, we had to rethink rapidly how we delivered across all these touchpoints. But, despite the challenges presented by coronavirus, we still screened, treated and performed surgeries on over 4.6 million people.

### South East Bangladesh

Three years ago, we established eye health services for Rohingya refugees and local communities in South East Bangladesh, our first humanitarian response project. In 2020, we completed phase one of our work through the Qatar Creating Vision initiative, paving the way for the next phase.

Working closely with our partners, we've been delighted to achieve all our project targets, carrying out 210,592 screenings of adults and children. What's more, as the leading eye health NGO in the Rohingya camps, Orbis Bangladesh led the coordination of the World Health Organization (WHO), UN agencies, the Red Cross and government bodies.

With nearly 40% of adults screened requiring treatment, demand for eye care has been far higher than anticipated across the project – reflecting a legacy of inadequate, underfunded healthcare among both the Rohingya and host populations. Between March and August 2020 access to the camps was severely restricted due to coronavirus, creating a backlog and driving demand even higher.

Since March, we've been working closely with the local government to prevent and control infection in eye health facilities during the pandemic. We also ran a highly successful Christmas appeal to support our partner, the Cox's Bazar Baitush Hospital (CBBSH), providing training, PPE and extra cleaning materials, and helping create socially distanced healthcare settings in the hospital.

Our work in South East Bangladesh has been the product of effective collaboration with other NGOs and the government. But it's still only been possible to meet a quarter of the demand for eye care in Cox's Bazar. Due to our programme's successes and ongoing need in the region, the project has been extended until 2023. We look forward to continuing this vital work.



### Shahed's cataract – A father's story

Shahed had a tough start in life. He was one of the thousands of Rohingya babies forced to leave their homes in Myanmar and seek refuge in Bangladesh. Like so many others, Shahed's family found themselves trying to rebuild their lives in a refugee camp.

But something else was wrong. Shahed wasn't responding to his parents' calls, and he struggled to walk. As his father describes, "even though we noticed the problem of Shahed's vision, we couldn't treat him. We thought it was a curse". Thanks to our project in Cox's Bazar, Shahed was diagnosed with congenital cataracts in late 2019. He successfully received surgery on both eyes and was soon happily playing sport and dancing with his friends.

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## *Coronavirus meant Shahed's follow-up treatment was in jeopardy*

But when coronavirus forced eye services to close, Shahed's follow-up treatment was in jeopardy. By April he had infectious conjunctivitis in his left eye. Without treatment, he would have faced more pain and further disruption to his home and school life.

Since the pandemic hit, Orbis has adapted to provide follow-up treatment in the camps via teleconsultation and help families treat patients in their homes – so children like Shahed can continue to receive expert care even under pandemic restrictions. As Shahed's father explained, "during lockdown, I went to the Ukhia Vision Centre twice according to the advice and continued medicine as prescribed".

Several months later, Shahed still receives follow-up care, but he's now back to his sporty self. His father can't hide his joy: "I am happy now that his eyes are good, and he can see. I am grateful to all who have restored my son's vision."

## **Ethiopia**

Our work in Ethiopia spans more than 20 years. In that time, along with other NGOs and the Government of Ethiopia, we've taken significant steps towards eliminating trachoma as a public health problem. It's especially important that we prevent trichomatous trichiasis (the advanced stage of trachoma in which the eyelid turns inwards, painfully scratching the cornea) because, if left untreated, it can lead to permanent blindness. To fight trachoma in Ethiopia, we carry out mass distributions of antibiotics, eye screenings and surgeries.

Last year, in the SNNPR Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region, social distancing restrictions meant that health workers could not be physically close enough to patients to examine them for clear signs of trachoma. Relying instead on their judgement, more people were referred to specialist eye care workers with suspected trachoma, increasing their caseloads. In one regional zone, we worked with the government to add eye health questions to door-to-door COVID-19 questionnaires – an ingenious socially distant screening method that helped maintain momentum with the screening programme.

We also played a significant role in developing the Federal Ministry of Health's national Standard Operating Procedures, mandating PPE and house-to-house rather than clustered administration of drugs. These vital measures were time and resource-intensive but helped make sure we could administer antibiotics to entire populations, as required, while minimising the risk of coronavirus transmission. Despite not being able to start dispensing drugs until December, we still supported the delivery of more than 4.3 million sight-saving doses.

# Childhood blindness

## Ensuring healthy visual development *in those crucial first few years*

**If a child's eye condition is not identified early enough, it can lead to irreversible visual impairment or even blindness – which in turn can create a cycle of social exclusion, emotional trauma and economic hardship.**

We go to countries where specialist skills and knowledge of children's eye health are in demand. We work with schools, communities and eye health professionals to screen and treat children and create brighter futures.

### Bangladesh and India

Over the course of our four-year Qatar Creating Vision project in India, which came to a close in 2020, we've pioneered and piloted the largest child eye health programme of its kind, REACH (Refractive Error Among Children). REACH is a school-screening model that identifies children with refractive error – typically myopia, which makes seeing the blackboard in class harder – and provides them with glasses where necessary.

In Bangladesh we've established a vast and robust community referral network. Starting with 'vision points' in schools, community health workers refer people in need of eye care to specialist staff in Vision Centres and hospitals. We're especially pleased to report that most of the seven community Vision Centres we established are now self-financing. In fact, the Government of Bangladesh and local partner BRAC have been so impressed with the centres' effectiveness, they have pledged to build more Vision Centres, bringing specialist eye care services to more districts across the country.

Since the project began, across both countries and together with our partners, we've supported the delivery of more than 6 million children's eye health screenings, leading to nearly 400,000 prescriptions for glasses and over 24,000 surgeries. We've also

created sustainable eye care services through the training of over 81,000 doctors, ophthalmologists, nurses, teachers, community health workers and surgeons (including specialists in retinopathy of prematurity – a condition which affects premature babies).

### Nepal

Our work in Nepal also centres on REACH. This year, we managed to screen 52,397 children before coronavirus caused schools to close. During that time, outreach teams from our partner Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh hospitals were redeployed to support the pandemic response.

With schools closed, we needed to find an alternative way to continue looking after children's eye health. Enter the Female Community Health Volunteers. As established government health workers who already knew their communities inside out, they were the perfect candidates to support our house-to-house screenings. They helped us reach a further 27,036 children by the end of the year. With this adapted approach, we even managed to reach more than 1,000 children who didn't normally go to school, and who therefore would not otherwise have been screened.



### Sneha's story

Some of the children in Sneha's school in the Parsa district of Nepal just don't get it. If they see a classmate wearing glasses, they'll tease them – "double battery" is one of their favourite insults. But as Sneha and growing numbers of children in Nepal are coming to realise, glasses are actually a sign of something much more positive.

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Sneha loves to study. But it was becoming impossible for her to see the blackboard in class. She'd resorted to copying friends' notebooks to make sure she wasn't left behind. Too often in developing countries eye health issues in children go undetected, becoming increasingly debilitating over time. Problems seeing the classroom blackboard due to shortsightedness (myopia) are among the most tell-tale signs – and precisely the symptoms that our REACH programmes are designed to identify.

*Sneha was one of 2,625 children to be prescribed glasses before the pandemic forced schools to close*

Sneha, in Grade 8, was one of the 52,000 children screened during a REACH programme before the pandemic forced schools to close. She received them two weeks later. Not only do these programmes improve children's eye health, by appointing child 'Vision Ambassadors' to raise awareness and counselling parents they also help break down the stigma of wearing glasses.

Sneha's grandmother was convinced: "Spectacles don't affect anyone's appearance. Getting the right vision is more important, and there is no correlation between specs and beauty". Her attitude had definitely rubbed off on Sneha, who was proud of her glasses and more than ready to recommend eye tests for her schoolmates.

We asked Sneha what might lay ahead after school now she can happily study again. "Bank manager", came the immediate reply, with a distinctly confident new smile.

## **Zambia**

As with so many of our partner hospitals this year, the Masaiti district hospital in the Northern region of Zambia had to adapt quickly to deal with the pandemic. Once it had been converted to a COVID-19 isolation centre, local eye care professionals were reassigned for roles including screening visitors for coronavirus at a roadside checkpoint.

Despite these and other challenges, our project still supported almost 40,000 child screenings. And in all 10 districts, we successfully integrated eye health into other health services, including maternal and child health programmes – which means eye care has become more mainstream and likely to be prioritised in future.

# Specialist training

**In normal years, our medical volunteers travel around the world, passing on expert skills and knowledge to local eye health professionals.**

Of course, this wasn't possible after March 2020. But thanks to our experience in technology-driven remote learning, we quickly adapted. In total, 119 medical volunteers from 21 countries – including the UK – delivered virtual training sessions and webinars online.

## Human Resources for Eye Health

Our Human Resources for Eye Health programme is designed to provide hands-on training to strengthen five institutions' training facilities and clinical capacity across East Africa. This year we adapted quickly to keep on track, delivering courses remotely on Medical Retina, Paediatric Ophthalmology and Glaucoma. One of the highlights was a series of webinars on surgery simulation given by Will Dean, a UK medical volunteer, practising consultant, and clinical research fellow from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with the Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology and the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda.

## The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital

The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital is a one-of-a-kind ophthalmic teaching hospital on board a customised MD-10 aircraft. This year, though it couldn't travel as normal, its mission remained in flight. Becoming the virtual Flying Eye Hospital, it facilitated the transfer of expert knowledge to eye care professionals – from ophthalmologists and ophthalmology residents, to nurses, biomedical engineers, and technicians – in nine countries across three continents.

Staff and volunteers pivoted quickly to focus all the Flying Eye Hospital's training and broadcast facilities on remote learning, delivering a total of 93 live training sessions. And using Cybersight, our award-winning online training and mentorship platform, we saw a dramatic

increase in take-up by eye care professionals keen to enhance their skills despite coronavirus restrictions.

To date, as we still live with the pandemic, our virtual Flying Eye Hospital projects are proving more than a stopgap. Once our team of experts can safely resume their in-person schedule, a new, enhanced Flying Eye Hospital training model will blend in-person and virtual courses around the world.



### Charles's story

Meet Charles, an ophthalmic clinical officer (OCO) from Chililabombwe in Copperbelt province, Zambia. Previously a general clinical officer, he became angry about the

number of local people going blind simply because they could not afford journeys to hospitals in larger towns. So, four years ago, he took advantage of Orbis's specialist training to provide expert eye care to patients in his community.

As a border town with lots of through-traffic, Chililabombwe has been especially vulnerable to coronavirus transmission. Fortunately, Charles's Orbis training had included infection control. So when the pandemic hit, he pitched in, collecting samples and escorting COVID-positive patients. He explained: "This is not my area of work, but we're doing it. Why? Because we want to fight the one common enemy: coronavirus".

*“One day, coronavirus will go. But people who live with those eye conditions – they may remain blind for good. So it's better we continue”.*

**Charles, Ophthalmic Clinical Officer, Zambia**

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It is challenging work. "We are scared. Everything has changed. We wear masks all the time, and you have to be in full PPE. No wonder we are calling it the 'new normal'. I always need to be close to my family. But when I get home, I don't have contact with anyone until I have changed, had a shower, and made sure I have no more contact with the infected environment."

Under the government's direction, Charles's clinic has remained open during the pandemic, though they have seen a drop-off in the number of patients visiting. The community is wary, especially of examinations that require patients and eye care workers to be in close contact. But Charles is undeterred: "One day, coronavirus will go. But people who live with those eye conditions – they may remain blind for good. So it's better we continue."

Thanks to Charles, the people of Chililabombwe are better protected from coronavirus and avoidable blindness.

# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

For Orbis UK, our supporters are at the core of everything we achieve; we simply would not be able to deliver our mission to eliminate avoidable blindness without your extraordinary generosity. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and are wholly committed to adhering to the standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice: [www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code](http://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code). In every aspect of our fundraising activity, we make sure we act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability.

We do this by having the right policies and controls in place to ensure we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way, recognising our responsibility to act appropriately and with compassion when engaging with vulnerable or potentially vulnerable people. All staff and volunteers involved with fundraising are trained and aware of existing policies. The Safeguarding policy encompasses the general approach the organisation takes to people with vulnerabilities, and the Ethical Fundraising policy, updated in 2020, and the “Fundraising and Vulnerable Persons” section in the staff handbook, are specific on the processes fundraisers use. Staff and volunteers are trained on induction, and refresher training is carried out periodically.

Orbis UK aims for a diverse range of fundraising activities that includes income from; legacies, philanthropy, individual donors, grants from; charitable trusts, institutions and government, and corporate donations. All fundraising is undertaken by staff and volunteers at Orbis UK and are appropriately trained, experienced and adhere to the appropriate professional fundraising standards, and all permanent fundraising staff are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. Orbis UK undertakes an annual internal audit process to ensure compliance with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

Fundraising objectives, risks appetite and oversight are the responsibility of the Fundraising and Communications trustee sub-committee for the trustee board. The day-to-day fundraising operations are delegated to the senior management team, who are accountable for; delivery, performance and adherence to fundraising best practice and regulations. In 2020, we received no complaints about our fundraising. (2019 three)

## The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value our supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust, and we make this promise:

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit: [gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](http://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

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## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm, providing safe and effective care, and ensuring all our staff, contractors and volunteers follow a strict code of conduct.

In 2020, we continued working with our programme implementation partners on improving our safeguarding policies and processes to make our programmes as safe as possible for the people we work with. Some of this work, including the project to develop locally appropriate and effective systems for beneficiaries to report to us, has been unavoidably delayed by coronavirus restrictions. However, we have raised awareness about safeguarding among communities receiving mass drug administration (MDA) as well as providing orientation training and reporting mechanisms for MDA workers. Our team in Ethiopia is investigating longer-term non-MDA safeguarding measures.

The Safeguarding Management Group, chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, met seven times in 2020 and reported back to the board at every meeting. All trustees completed a safeguarding e-learning module, and all staff participated in our annual briefing.

There were no safeguarding incidents to report in 2020 (2019 none).

Safeguarding will continue to be a focus for us in 2021. We will continue developing, reviewing, and monitoring our systems to ensure they are consistent with the Charity Governance Code's refreshed 'Integrity Principle'. This way, we will protect the right of everyone with whom we have contact to be safe.

## Transparency and governance

We are committed to full financial accountability and transparency. To find out about our participation in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), please visit [orbis.org.uk/transparency](https://orbis.org.uk/transparency)

The Charity Governance Code, designed as a tool to support improvement in charity boards' governance and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The 'Integrity Principle' has been refreshed to emphasise the importance of safeguarding and protecting beneficiaries from harm. The 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' principle has been comprehensively rewritten, enabling our board to lead and make effective decisions on diversity.

We established a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group to help increase the awareness and understanding of key areas of equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace among Orbis UK staff and the board of trustees. This will include but is not limited to race, gender, culture, economic and social issues. We also established a Nominations Committee to assist and advise the board in the recruitment of trustees, particularly those from under-represented groups. We have designed all these measures to ensure we remain an inclusive organisation that welcomes diversity as a strength as we evolve.

The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to a periodic review of our relevant practices, including a board evaluation in 2021.

# How we did in 2020

## Goal 1: Use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness

We performed strongly against our targets despite the disruption caused by the pandemic.

- We supported 26 partner organisations, including hospitals and training institutions, across Asia and Africa
- We provided more than 4.2 million doses of antibiotics to support trachoma elimination – just beating our target
- We conducted nearly 346,000 eye screenings, of which 83% were for children
- We supported the delivery of over 41,000 eye care treatments, including cataract and trichomatous trichiasis surgeries
- We delivered almost 14,000 training sessions for doctors, nurses, community health workers and teachers – nearly double our target

## Goal 2: Generate income

In 2020, although we had fewer projects to fund and economies around the world suffered, we still performed well raising an overall total of £6,413,064.

After a final instalment from the Qatar Fund for Development, the first phase of Qatar Creating Vision, concluded in December 2020. Over four years, the initiative has provided 6.7 million screenings and treatments and more than 82,000 training sessions in India and Bangladesh. We continue to plan for its expansion into phase two in 2021.

- At £4.89 million, our UK voluntary income exceeded our target by nearly 24%. However, the £1,504,019 million we received from statutory donors was £140,000 less than we anticipated. Due to the pandemic, at £223,472, our Middle East

income was £2.1 million below target, but we hope to make up the shortfall in 2021

- We were awarded a provisional £1.4 million grant from DFID (now the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office FCDO) for a project in Bangladesh
- Continuing our digital transformation, 20% of our appeal income now comes through online channels

## Goal 3: Build and increase brand awareness amongst our four key target audiences in the UK, Europe and the Middle East

Despite the cancellation of Farnborough International Airshow, where the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital was to provide the centrepiece of our brand awareness campaign, we still gained media coverage and improved our social media profile.

- The number of people following us on social media grew by 31%, more than double our target
- 9,337 new supporters signed up to our email newsletter
- Traffic to our website increased by 4.5%

## Goal 4: Develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management, and nurture talent

- The Fundraising and Communications Committee met five times in 2020, including an emergency meeting at the beginning of the pandemic
- We continued to upgrade our systems and software with a new, smart IT supplier
- We created a Learning and Development strategy and appointed a manager to oversee skills-sharing, appraisals and training needs. We also carried out ten training sessions, including peer-to-peer sharing of skills and knowledge
- We continued to hone and improve our recruitment policies and process in line with GDPR and industry best practice

# Looking ahead to 2021

## **Goal 1: We will use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness**

We will work with Orbis International to monitor our grants' performance and the projects we fund, continuously seeking to improve delivery, reporting, and impact. In total, we will spend £3.58 million supporting 18 projects around the world.

There will be an even greater focus in 2021 on our essential work helping to eliminate trachoma in Ethiopia. We'll also support Comprehensive Eye Care and Childhood Blindness projects in Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam and Zambia. This means supporting 28 partner institutions to:

- distribute 5.5m doses of antibiotics for trachoma elimination
- conduct 780,000 patient screenings
- deliver 48,000 eye treatments
- provide 18,500 training sessions for health workers

## **Goal 2: We will generate income from a diversity of sources to meet the ambitions and plans of the organisation**

We will broaden our individual, foundation, corporate and institutional supporter base. Through enhancements to the supporter experience and new fundraising products, we will also raise more unrestricted income, build legacy income, and maximise our fundraising potential through digital channels. Strengthening our data management and reporting structures, we will ensure we make appropriate, evidence-based fundraising decisions.

## **Goal 3: We will broaden and deepen brand awareness amongst our key target audiences**

Our communications will target audiences that are most inclined to support Orbis. We will ensure brand communications are aligned with fundraising, articulating our strategic mission in an integrated and consistent way. Working together, our teams will use all appropriate and effective channels, materials and collateral to inform, inspire and motivate action.

## **Goal 4: We will ensure our team are safe and supported and that the organisation is working optimally and sustainably**

We will invest in staff learning and development, expand our 'digital first' capacity, and enhance our HR function to aid staff recruitment, induction and retention. Across finance, business support and compliance, we will continue to review and report accurately and efficiently, ensuring we adhere to the latest legislation, regulations and the Charity Governance Code.

# Thank you

**Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers.**

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## **Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations**

Aumund Foundation  
Bliss Family Charity  
Carmen Butler-Charteris Charitable Trust  
Carpenter Charitable Trust  
Pamela Dawswell  
Four Acre Trust  
Haramead Trust  
Headley Trust  
Peter & Rosemary Hickson  
Johnnie E Johnson  
Laing Family Trusts  
Gary M Lee-Richards  
Mickleham Trust  
R U B White Charitable Trust  
Sandra Charitable Trust  
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust  
The Bhim Ruia Foundation  
The Clothworkers' Foundation  
The Eddie Dinshaw Foundation  
The Edenbeg Trust  
The Hicks Family  
The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust  
The Pinchbeck Family Trust  
The Sandhu Charitable Foundation  
The Souter Charitable Trust  
Peter J Williams  
Zochonis Charitable Trust

**We also want to thank the high value donors who wished to remain anonymous. We are especially grateful to all supporters who generously made a gift in their Will to Orbis during 2020.**

## **Statutory funders**

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
Jersey Overseas Aid  
The Qatar Fund for Development  
Sightsavers

## **Corporate partners**

A Nelson and Co Limited  
Airport Operators Association  
Blink Medical a Katena Company  
Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT)  
Europartners Group  
European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)  
Goldman Sachs Gives  
Head for Points  
Merkle / Periscopix  
Southampton International Airport  
STG Aerospace  
Storm Interface  
TD Tom Davies

## **Special thanks**

HRH The Countess of Wessex  
British Embassy Doha  
Joy and Richard Desmond  
Embassy of the State of Qatar, UK  
World Innovation Summit for Health

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## **UK and Europe medical volunteers**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Larry Benjamin  
John Brookes  
Fiona Dean  
Will Dean  
Sara Wassnig-Riglar

## **Office volunteers**

Polly Holt

## **UK ambassadors**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Polly Braden  
Tom Davies  
Mary Killen  
Dr Brian Little  
Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards CBE AFC  
FRAeS RCIM RAF  
Sunil Ruia

## **Co-opted sub-committee members**

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tim Bucher

# Board of trustees

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## Chairman

### **Rob Pinchbeck, Chairman, UK**

Rob spent more than forty years working in the oil and oil services industries in the UK, USA, Australia and UAE, latterly working with the private equity sector in mergers and acquisitions and leading subsequent organisational integrations. He has previously served as a non-executive director on a number of private company boards and also as a trustee of the UK medical research charity RAFT; he is presently Chairman of ASX-listed SRJ Technologies. Rob has a degree in engineering (Imperial, London) and Masters' degrees in business (Stanford, California) and history (King's, London).

Rob joined the board of Orbis UK in July 2017 and was appointed Chairman in June 2020. He also chairs the Fundraising and Communications Committee.

## Trustees

### **Sir Dominic Asquith, Nominations Committee Chair, UK**

After a number of years as a political analyst, teacher, journalist and traveller in the Middle East, Dominic Asquith joined the British diplomatic service in 1983. He served in the Americas, South Asia and returned frequently to the Middle East. He was Ambassador successively in Iraq, Egypt and Libya between 2006 and 2012. After retiring in 2013, he was recalled to government service as High Commissioner in India from 2016 to 2020. He is currently a Partner in Macro Advisory Partners, which provides independent, long-term strategic counsel to decision-makers in business and government.

Dominic joined the Orbis UK board in October 2020.

### **Larry Benjamin FRCS (Ed), FRCOphth, DO, Programme Committee Chair, UK**

Larry Benjamin was a consultant ophthalmologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire for 30 years (recently retired) and has been an Orbis medical volunteer since 2004. With special interests in cataract and diabetic retinopathy management, he has also served on the ophthalmic committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, published a number of scientific papers and two books. He was, until December 2018, Chair of the Microsurgical Skills Committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and is the immediate past president of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is the president of the ophthalmic section of the Royal Society of Medicine. In March 2016, Larry received the Care Service Provider trophy at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his work improving access to eye care services across the globe.

Larry joined the Orbis UK board in November 2008.

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## **Sian Block**

Sian has over 30 years' experience in many areas of healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These include the independent sector, the NHS, the Department of Health and Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, Charities and Resuscitation Councils (UK and European). A strategic thinker with proven leadership skills who upholds the highest standards of conduct and professional integrity, Sian has a vision and passion for healthcare and its provision.

Sian joined the Orbis UK board in June 2020.

## **Tony Cowles**

Tony Cowles has served in senior managerial positions for a number of airlines and travel services companies. He is a freeman of the City of London and a liveryman with the Worshipful Company of Marketors.

Tony joined the Orbis UK board in September 2002.

## **Yvette Dunne, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK**

Yvette Dunne trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent ten years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector, and she currently advises schools and charities on compliance and risk management.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK Board in December 2017.

## **Nick Fox**

Nick Fox has over thirty years of international experience in creative communications, based out of London, LA and Tokyo. His experience encompasses all sectors from fast-moving consumer goods, finance, publishing, charity and the automotive industry. Nick has managed teams, budgets and agency networks to increase consumer demand to drive brand value. In 2013 Nick started his own agency with four partners, Atomic London. He is also a partner in Blackwood 7, an innovative independent AI platform, based out of Denmark, which delivers automated media plans across all geographies and channels.

Nick joined the Orbis UK Board in January 2020..

## **Nicola Floyd**

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than ten years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years. She is currently CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charter holder, and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola joined the Orbis UK Board in September 2017.

## **Patricia Moller**

Following a highly awarded 25+ year career with the US Department of State, Patricia ended her government service to return to the private sector. Through her consultancy, Moller Global LLC, she has advised Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, IFIs and governments. Presently, Patricia chairs the board of West Africa LNG Group and The Baara Hospital. She also serves on a number of other boards.

Patricia joined the board of Orbis UK in November of 2017. She also sits on the board of Orbis International.

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## **Charles Vyvyan**

After Oxford University, Charles spent 35 years in the army in a variety of operational command and staff appointments throughout the world. Since he retired in 2000, he has worked as a strategic adviser to a number of government and commercial organisations.

Charles joined the Orbis UK board in June 2008 and also sits on the board of Orbis International.

## **Catharina Waller**

Catharina Waller is a senior trademark and patent attorney at the law firm Bates Wells and has over ten years' experience working in the intellectual property (IP) law sector. She frequently works with both charities and commercial companies on IP matters. She has a degree in chemical engineering from Imperial College, as well as a degree in intellectual property management.

Catharina joined the Orbis UK Board in July 2017.

## **Robert F Walters FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth.**

Rob Walters is a consultant ophthalmologist, working in the National Health Service (NHS) for over 30 years, and an Orbis medical volunteer since 1994. Rob has played key roles in numerous UK eye health organisations and authored three books on the causes and treatment of blindness. Rob initially joined Orbis as a volunteer surgeon in 1994. He then joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003 and served as Chair from 2008-2015. In 2014, he was honoured with the title 'Trustee of the Year' at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his dedication to improving eye health globally. Rob also served as Chairman of the boards of Orbis International in New York and Orbis Africa, and he remains an emeritus member of the Orbis International Board. He is currently Chairman, Orbis in the Middle East

Rob joined the Orbis UK Board in June 2003

## **Nigel Young, Audit Committee Chair, UK**

Nigel Young trained with KPMG in London and has been a finance director of several UK public companies. In addition to a degree in economics from the University of Birmingham, he also holds a master's degree in environmental science. Nigel is also currently a non-executive chairman of P2i Limited.

Nigel joined the Orbis UK board in March 2012.

## **Thank you**

We would like to thank the trustees who stood down from the board this year for their service. Their contribution to Orbis UK, our mission and the achievement of our aims is greatly appreciated.

## **Michael Boyd**

Michael joined the Orbis UK board in 2010 and also sits on the Orbis Ireland board. Michael left Orbis UK in December 2020.

## **Peter Hickson**

Peter joined the Orbis UK board in 2008 and became Chair of the board in 2015. He also served for three years on the board and as treasurer of Orbis International. Peter left the Orbis UK board in June 2020.

## **Christine Tomkins**

Christine joined the Orbis UK board in 2011 and left it in February 2020.

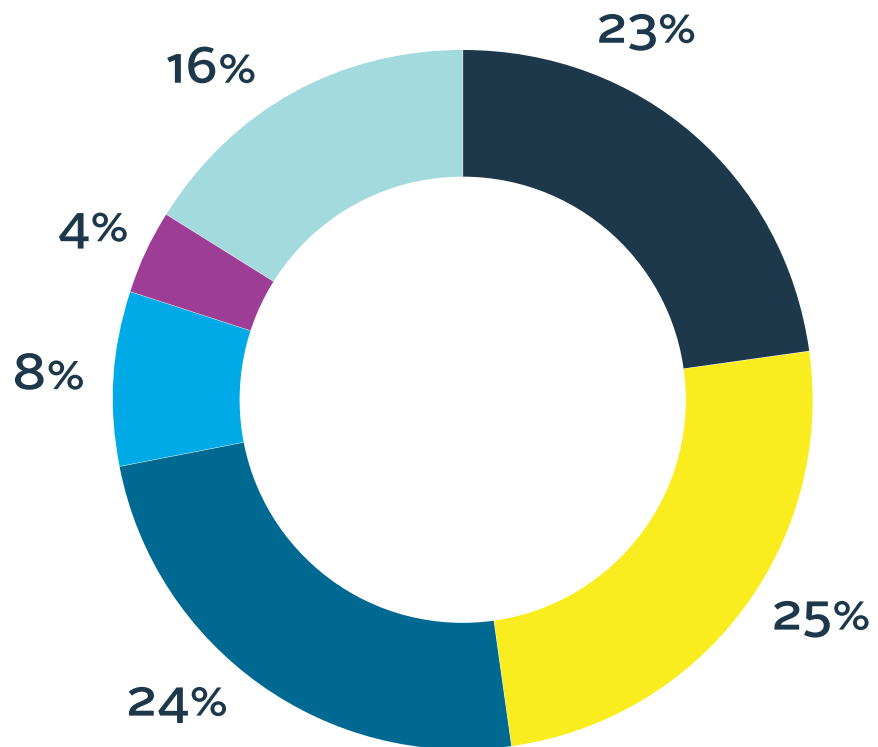
# Financial statements



# 2020 Financial summary

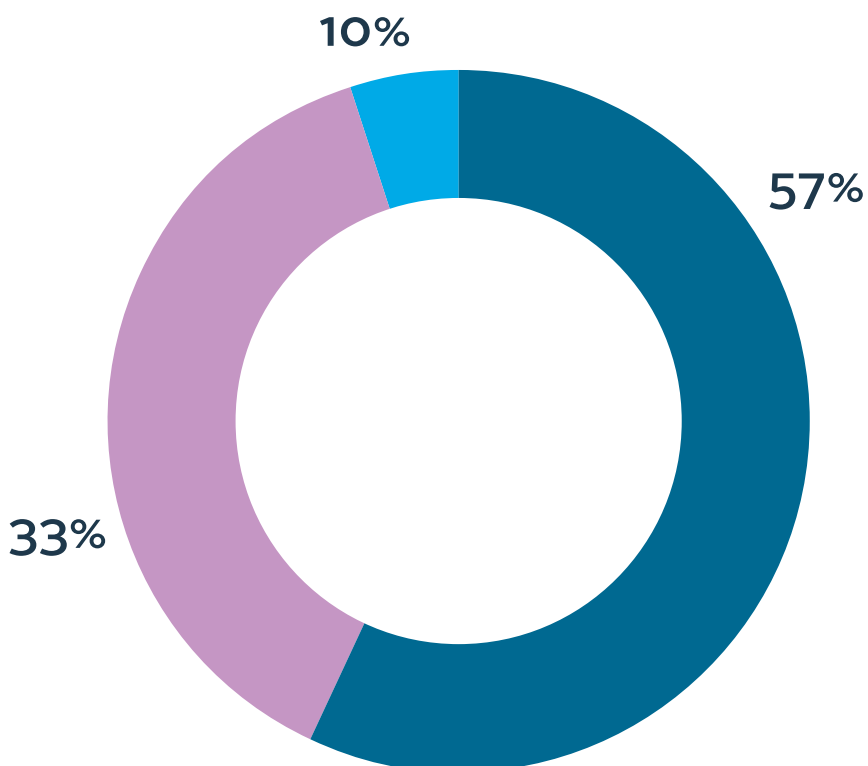
## Income 2020

- Individual supporters
- Legacies
- Statutory
- Major donors
- Corporate
- Trusts



## Charitable activities 2020

- Comprehensive eye care
- Childhood blindness
- Specialist training



The cost of fundraising was 20.6% of our income in 2020.

# Reference and administrative details

**Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK's address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.**

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Project Orbis International, a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York.

The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness, and they share a common mission to mentor, train and inspire local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities world-wide. It designs and manages programmes and determines the global medical and programme strategy.

This relationship, and those with other affiliated organisations and Orbis Ireland, are described in further detail in Note 18 (Related parties).

## Objectives and principal activities of the charity

Orbis UK's Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions and the prevention and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by the provision of training, education and counselling
- b. The relief of sickness of persons suffering from blindness, sight deficiencies or other medical conditions by, but not limited to, the provision of healthcare services and medical treatment
- c. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness, sight deficiencies and other medical conditions and the publication of the useful results of that research

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK's objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2020, and our four key goals for 2021, can be found in the front section of this report.

## Financial review and results for the year

Income for donations and legacies was the highest in Orbis UK's history thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Income from grants was considerably lower than in 2019.

In more detail, income from donations and legacies, excluding grants, was £4,890k, which was an increase of 19% compared to 2019. There was a substantial increase in trust income of 215% due to two generous donations from a new donor. Thanks, in part, to a Gift Aid claim relating to 2019, income from individual supporters increased by 22%. Corporate income increased by 22% due to a substantial donation of surgical instruments kindly donated by Blink Medical. Major donor income fell by 29% compared to 2019. This was partly due to 2019 income being high due to a successful Department for International Development (DFID) 'See My Future' Aid Match appeal for Nepal. Grant income fell by 65% compared to 2019. The two most significant reductions were due to a decrease in funding for the trachoma elimination programme in Ethiopia (£1,723k) and the end of the Qatar Creating Vision grant donated by Qatar Fund for Development (£1,107k). There are other uncertainties caused by Covid-19 on future funding.

Overall expenditure decreased by £3,232k (36%) compared to 2019.

Fundraising expenditure decreased by £135k compared to 2019. Some planned activities, such as the Flying Eye Hospital visit to Farnborough International Airshow were cancelled owing to the pandemic. The cost of raising funds in 2020 was 20.6% of income (2019: 17.1%), which is well below trustees' target range of 25-30%.

Expenditure on charitable activities decreased by £3,097k (42%) in 2020 compared to 2019.

Programme expenditure on the Comprehensive eye care programme decreased by £1,782k (42%) due to the planned decrease in funding from Sightsavers for the trachoma elimination programmes in Ethiopia. Spending on Childhood Blindness decreased by £1,402k (50%) due to the end of funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) for the Qatar Creating Vision programme. Expenditure on Specialist Training increased by £87k (24%).

Unrestricted funds at the end of December 2020 were higher than the trustees' reserves target. Unrestricted income was higher than anticipated in 2020, which, combined with a temporary reduction in programme activity due to the global pandemic, led to free reserves at the end of 2020 being £991k above the upper level of the target set by the trustees. The trustees agreed that the majority of the excess reserve funds would be directed towards programme expenditure in 2021. They have also agreed to an increase in spending on digital and awareness raising initiatives to maximise fundraising income. We are extremely grateful to those who help prevent and treat blindness in the developing world through their generous donations.

## Structure, governance and management

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 29 September 1997, 22 December 2005 and 17 April 2020. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. The following trustees are our longest-serving and will retire at the next AGM: Yvette Dunne, Nicola Floyd, Patricia Moller, Rob Pinchbeck and Catharina Waller. The retirees may offer themselves for re-election. The Charity Governance Code recommends that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years. The trustees have agreed to adopt this recommendation and will implement it over the coming years.

Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan also serve as directors of Orbis International. Michael Boyd, who stepped down on the 1 December 2020, also served as a director of Orbis Ireland.

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions, terms of reference for subcommittees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity as set out below. Four sub-committees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

## **Charity Governance Code**

The Charity Governance Code, which is designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was updated in 2020. The 'Integrity Principle' has been refreshed to emphasise the importance of safeguarding and protecting beneficiaries from harm. The 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' principle has been comprehensively rewritten to enable the board to ensure its approach to diversity supports its effectiveness, leadership and decision making.

We established a staff-led Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion group with a remit to collect, discuss and disseminate best practice, including in recruitment, to ensure Orbis reflects the diversity of UK society.

The Orbis UK board is mindful of the Code's guidance and is committed to periodic reviews of our relevant practices, including a board evaluation in 2021.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association were revised in 2019 and adopted in 2020.

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment, and financial management of the charity.

## **Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring. Many of them have an ophthalmic background.

## **Fundraising and Communications Committee**

The Fundraising and Communications committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for supporting the Orbis UK senior management team to maximise fundraising and communications initiatives in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

## **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee comprises trustees who are responsible for assessing and reviewing applications to recruit and select appointees to the board. The committee decisions are subject to the board's consideration and approval.

## Chief executive and senior management team

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## Remuneration of personnel

The pay of staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually by an external HR consultant, the director of finance and operations and the chief executive and approved by the trustees of the Audit Committee. The review includes a benchmarking exercise which is carried out annually against comparable roles within the public and not-for-profit sector to set market pay levels and to ensure that salaries remain competitive. All staff are paid at least the London Living Wage as calculated by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission.

All staff who have passed probation at the beginning of the year and whose salaries are not adjusted as part of the benchmarking exercise will receive cost of living increases based on the Consumer Price Index where possible.

## Risk management

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The Audit Committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. The board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management annually.

Covid-19 and its continuing impacts are regarded as the principal risk by trustees. They continue to monitor their effects and impacts on the charity, including its operational and future strategic plans. The budgeting process for 2021 and future years has been re-evaluated to consider the effects of Covid-19. An inability to carry out funded programmes has led to an increase in free reserves by December 2020, so trustees have budgeted for 2021 to ensure they remain in line with the reserves policy.

A further risk is the capacity of in-country teams to meet increased donor reporting requirements; this continues to be mitigated through the role of the Orbis UK programme support and finance teams. There is also a risk from cyber-crime and online data theft, which is mitigated by carrying out an annual penetration test with our IT partners, ensuring our IT infrastructure is protected by being current and training staff on the threat landscape. That international incidents may have an impact on staff, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries continues to be an identified risk, which is mitigated through adherence to government travel advisory updates and working with partners to monitor local events.

## Reserves policy

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income. Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,800k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2020, the balance on general reserves was £2,971k which was £991k above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to unrestricted trust income in 2020 being higher than expected, unrestricted expenditure being lower than budgeted due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a high level of general reserves brought forward from 2020 (£1,585k). The trustees have set a budget for 2021 which will bring the general reserves within the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2020 designated funds stood at £85k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 15.

## Grant making policy

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the Programme Committee, financial approval by the Audit Committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money
- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP/FRS 102;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

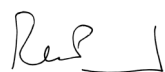
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that he/she should have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/ herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

## Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 22 June 2021 and signed on their behalf.



Trustee  
**ROBIN PINCHBECK**

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS '102', The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 30, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP*

**Signed**

**Neil Finlayson (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor**

Date: 25 June 2021

Devonshire House, 60 Goswell  
Road, London, EC1M 7AD

# Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	4,295,149	2,098,965	<b>6,394,114</b>	3,673,102	4,727,837	8,400,939
Investments		18,950	-	<b>18,950</b>	21,497	-	21,497
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,314,099</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>6,413,064</b>	<b>3,694,599</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>8,422,436</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		1,286,868	33,764	<b>1,320,632</b>	1,380,238	75,000	1,455,238
Charitable activities:							
• Comprehensive Eye Care		692,109	1,793,021	<b>2,485,130</b>	938,414	3,328,356	4,266,770
• Childhood Blindness		674,052	738,416	<b>1,412,468</b>	1,162,448	1,652,491	2,814,939
• Specialist Training		308,058	138,299	<b>446,357</b>	187,252	172,358	359,610
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,674,219	2,669,736	<b>4,343,955</b>	2,288,114	5,153,205	7,441,319
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,961,087</b>	<b>2,703,500</b>	<b>5,664,587</b>	<b>3,668,352</b>	<b>5,228,205</b>	<b>8,896,557</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	(558)	-	(558)
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>1,353,012</b>	<b>(604,535)</b>	<b>748,477</b>	<b>25,689</b>	<b>(500,368)</b>	<b>(474,679)</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	(28,079)	28,079	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>1,353,012</b>	<b>(604,535)</b>	<b>748,477</b>	<b>(2,390)</b>	<b>(472,289)</b>	<b>(474,679)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		1,702,998	763,326	<b>2,466,324</b>	1,705,388	1,235,615	2,941,003
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>

All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the deficit for the year.

# Balance sheet

## as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	85,477	118,005
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>85,477</b>	<b>118,005</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	13	709,823	386,405
Short term deposits		2,638,144	2,118,362
Cash at bank and in hand		1,766,891	2,008,727
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,114,858</b>	<b>4,513,494</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,985,534)	(2,165,175)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,129,324</b>	<b>2,348,319</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		158,791	763,326
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		2,970,533	1,584,993
Designated funds		85,477	118,005
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>1,702,999</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	15	<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 22 June 2021.



Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Pinchbeck



Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nigel Young

# Cash flow statement

## year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	264,415	1,367,945
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		18,950	21,497
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	47,626
Acquisition of investments		-	(26,539)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,418)	(71,209)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>13,532</b>	<b>(28,625)</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		277,947	1,339,320
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	4,127,089	2,787,769
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>4,405,036</b>	<b>4,127,089</b>

### Notes to the cash flow statement:

#### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	748,477	(474,679)
Depreciation charges	37,516	35,957
Loss on investments	-	558
Interest from investments	(18,950)	(21,497)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	430	1,370
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(323,418)	1,145,266
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(179,640)	680,970
	<b>264,415</b>	<b>1,367,945</b>

#### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Short-term	2,638,144	2,118,362
Cash at bank and in hand	1,766,891	2,008,727
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,405,035</b>	<b>4,127,089</b>

#### C. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2020 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2020 £
Short-term investments	2,118,362	519,782	-	2,638,144
Cash at bank and in hand	2,008,727	(244,240)	2,404	1,766,891
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,127,089</b>	<b>275,542</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>4,405,035</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and as such is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2020 is 13, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 6th Floor, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015.

Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

### 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

### 3. Presentation currency

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

### 4. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

#### a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### **b. Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak has been taken. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has caused delays to the projects planned for 2020, resulting in a reduction of expenditure and consequent increase in unrestricted funds of £1.3m. Trustees have also revised operational plans and expenditures and have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

### **c. Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.

The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 15, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

### **d. Income**

Donations are recognised in the financial statements when received. Legacies are recognised once the charity becomes entitled to the legacy, is certain of receipt, and can measure the amount of the legacy with reasonable accuracy; this is usually upon grant of probate, when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt. Grants are recognised when received or receivable.

### **e. Gifts in kind and donated services**

Medical supplies and other items and services received are included as income at value to the charity and as resources expended at the same value when distributed, where the value in the year is £1,000 or more per annum from the donor.

### **f. Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income.

Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Payments in foreign currency are translated at the actual rate on the date of the transaction.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20–25 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase
- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, which has been taken as the date of the break option of 10 May 2023 even though the lease expires on 10 May 2028

### h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

### i. Investments

Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

### j. Short term deposits

Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

### k. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### l. Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

### m. Pension costs

During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

### n. Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### o. Liabilities

Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

### p. Financial instruments

Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors. At the balance sheet date the charity held financial assets at amortised cost of £4,654k (2019 £4,448k) and financial liabilities at amortised cost of £1,690k (2019 £2,047k).

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### q. Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

### 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Donations	2,704,283	594,946	<b>3,299,229</b>	2,071,627	430,302	2,501,929
Legacies	1,590,866	-	<b>1,590,866</b>	1,601,475	-	1,601,475
Grants	-	1,504,019	<b>1,504,019</b>	-	4,297,535	4,297,535
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,295,149</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>6,394,114</b>	<b>3,673,102</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>8,400,939</b>

### 6. Income from grants

		Total 2020 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	<b>670,000</b>	2,392,588
		<b>670,000</b>	<b>2,392,588</b>
UK Government	Ethiopia	<b>222,845</b>	386,078
	Nepal	<b>176,839</b>	10,864
	Job Retention Scheme	<b>33,764</b>	-
	Vision for Zambia	<b>5,000</b>	134,474
		<b>438,448</b>	<b>531,416</b>
Qatar Charity	Bangladesh	<b>193,452</b>	-
		<b>193,452</b>	<b>-</b>
Government of Jersey	Ethiopia	<b>109,259</b>	136,573
	Human Resources for Eye Health in Africa	<b>62,840</b>	100,000
		<b>172,099</b>	<b>236,573</b>
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision	<b>30,020</b>	1,136,958
		<b>30,020</b>	<b>1,136,958</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,504,019</b>	<b>4,297,535</b>

All income from grants is restricted income.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Surgical instruments	150,040	-
Google grant advert	18,000	18,000
Emergency lighting for the Flying Eye Hospital	8,193	-
Medical equipment	7,775	-
Flights	6,249	17,629
Programme support in the form of frames	-	10,300
Stand at aviation festival	-	9,330
Legal advice	-	6,523
Aviation festival tickets	-	6,290
Fundraising product development	-	1,500
Social media listening	1,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191,257</b>	<b>69,572</b>

### 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Payments under operating leases	120,361	119,773
Depreciation	37,516	35,956
Fees paid to the auditor:		
• Audit fees	13,375	12,800
• Tax advisory services	910	910

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 9. Total resources expended

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 (£)	Grant funding 2020 (£)	Support costs 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Activities undertaken directly 2019 (£)	Grant funding 2019 (£)	Support costs 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising funds	1,095,919	33,764	190,949	<b>1,320,632</b>	1,245,053	-	210,185	1,455,238
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive eye care	519,085	1,756,866	209,179	<b>2,485,130</b>	398,479	3,711,967	156,324	4,266,770
Childhood blindness	387,433	894,299	130,736	<b>1,412,468</b>	600,310	1,980,143	234,486	2,814,939
Specialist training	129,613	264,449	52,295	<b>446,357</b>	111,956	221,600	26,054	359,610
	<b>1,036,131</b>	<b>2,915,614</b>	<b>392,210</b>	<b>4,343,955</b>	<b>1,110,745</b>	<b>5,913,710</b>	<b>416,864</b>	<b>7,441,319</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,132,050</b>	<b>2,949,378</b>	<b>583,159</b>	<b>5,664,587</b>	<b>2,355,798</b>	<b>5,913,710</b>	<b>627,049</b>	<b>8,896,557</b>

**GRANTS PAYABLE** Grants of £2,915,614 (2019: £5,913,710) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £2,500,058 (2019: £4,946,398) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these programmes are given in note 15 under Restricted Funds. The balance of £415,556 (2019: £967,312) was directed to programmes in Ethiopia, Southern and Western Africa, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and India and the Flying Eye Hospital on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £392,211 (2019: £416,864).

### 10. Analysis of support costs

	Support staff costs 2020 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2020 (£)	Governance 2020 (£)	Total 2020 (£)	Support staff costs 2019 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2019 (£)	Governance 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Cost of raising funds	7,578	176,256	7,115	<b>190,949</b>	-	202,945	7,240	210,185
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive eye care	74,125	129,814	5,240	<b>209,179</b>	48,144	104,454	3,726	156,324
Childhood blindness	46,328	81,134	3,274	<b>130,736</b>	72,216	156,681	5,589	234,486
Specialist training	18,531	32,454	1,310	<b>52,295</b>	7,442	17,991	621	26,054
	<b>138,984</b>	<b>243,402</b>	<b>9,824</b>	<b>392,210</b>	<b>127,801</b>	<b>279,127</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>416,864</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146,562</b>	<b>419,658</b>	<b>16,939</b>	<b>583,159</b>	<b>127,801</b>	<b>482,072</b>	<b>17,176</b>	<b>627,049</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 11. Staff costs

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Wages and salaries	1,496,400	1,389,451
Social security costs	164,046	147,562
Pension costs	100,316	89,941
Employment settlement agreement	-	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,760,762</b>	<b>1,641,954</b>

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1

Contributions in the year to pension schemes for these employees was £31,932 (2019: £30,510). Remuneration in respect of key management personnel in the year was £427,818 (2019: £434,386).

The average headcount number of employees and full-time equivalent (FTE), analysed by function, for the year was:

	2020 headcount	2020 FTE	2019 headcount	2019 FTE
Fundraising and communications	18	17	18	18
Finance and administration	12	10	10	9
Programme support	5	5	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	32	31

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £221 (2019: £184) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to two trustees amounted to £653 (2019: one trustee totalling £3,449) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment (£)	Computer equipment (£)	Leasehold improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 2020	90,939	85,794	62,707	239,440
Additions	-	5,418	-	5,418
Disposals	-	(558)	-	(558)
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>90,939</b>	<b>90,654</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>244,300</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 2020	73,847	28,143	19,445	121,435
Charge for year	4,882	19,656	12,978	37,516
Disposals	-	(128)	-	(128)
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>78,729</b>	<b>47,671</b>	<b>32,423</b>	<b>158,823</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2020</b>	<b>12,210</b>	<b>42,983</b>	<b>30,284</b>	<b>85,477</b>
At 31 December 2019	17,092	57,651	43,262	118,005

### 13. Debtors

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Gift Aid	399,449	-
Accrued income	247,159	302,404
Prepayments	61,382	65,681
Other debtors	1,833	18,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>709,823</b>	<b>386,405</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Grants payable	1,572,606	1,953,378
Other creditors	295,577	118,280
Tax and social security	54,942	45,035
Trade creditors	32,114	32,207
Accruals	30,295	16,275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,985,534</b>	<b>2,165,175</b>

Movement in recognised provisions and funding commitments during the year.

	Grant commitments accrued (£)
Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2020	1,953,378
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	2,949,378
Grants paid during the year	(3,330,150)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>1,572,606</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 15. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2020 (£)	Income 2020 (£)	Expenditure 2020 (£)	Transfers 2020 (£)	Gains and losses 2020 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2020 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General reserves	1,584,993	4,314,099	(2,928,559)	-	-	<b>2,970,533</b>
Fixed assets	118,005	-	(32,528)	-	-	<b>85,477</b>
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>4,314,099</b>	<b>(2,961,087)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	61,575	1,868,231	(1,791,160)	(29,401)	-	<b>109,245</b>
Childhood blindness	635,719	116,868	(738,416)	29,401	-	<b>43,572</b>
Specialist training	66,032	80,102	(140,160)	-	-	<b>5,974</b>
UK Government - job retention scheme	-	33,764	(33,764)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,098,965</b>	<b>(2,703,500)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158,791</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>	<b>6,413,064</b>	<b>(5,664,587)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>

	Balance 1 Jan 2019 (£)	Income 2019 (£)	Expenditure 2019 (£)	Transfers 2019 (£)	Gains and losses 2019 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2019 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General reserves	1,621,266	3,694,599	(3,702,234)	(28,079)	(558)	1,584,993
Fixed assets	84,123	-	33,882	-	-	118,005
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,705,389</b>	<b>3,694,599</b>	<b>(3,668,352)</b>	<b>(28,079)</b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>1,702,999</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive eye care	220,759	3,364,235	(3,525,247)	1,828	-	61,575
Childhood blindness	974,159	1,067,471	(1,432,162)	26,251	-	635,719
Specialist training	22,197	196,131	(170,796)	18,500	-	66,032
Our influence	18,500	-	-	(18,500)	-	-
Digital transformation project	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,235,615</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>(5,228,205)</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>763,326</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,941,003</b>	<b>8,422,436</b>	<b>(8,896,557)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

#### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £85,478 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves.

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care – £109,245 – Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult & child eye health, including rural eye care and Trachoma elimination.

Child eye health – £43,572 – Orbis projects focussing on child eye health.

Specialist Training – £5,974 – Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems.

Our influence – £nil – Orbis projects focussing on promoting eye health.

**TRANSFERS FROM UNRESTRICTED FUNDS TO RESTRICTED** – The transfer of funds in 2019 represents funds expended before 2019 which were as allocated as restricted expenditure but which were not charged to donors.

**TRANSFERS BETWEEN RESTRICTED FUNDS** – The transfer of funds between restricted funds of £29,401 in 2020 represents funds from the same donor and grant being moved between projects.

The transfer of funds between restricted funds of £18,500 in 2019 represents funding of the Flying Eye Hospital which was split 50:50 between Specialist Training and Our Influence in 2018 but is now charged 100% to Specialist Training.

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 (£)	Restricted funds 2020 (£)	Total funds 2020 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total funds 2019 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	85,477	-	85,477	118,005	-	118,005
Current assets	3,351,233	1,763,625	5,114,858	2,294,124	2,219,370	4,513,494
Grants payable	32,228	(1,604,834)	(1,572,606)	(497,334)	(1,456,044)	(1,953,378)
Other current liabilities	(412,928)	-	(412,928)	(211,797)	-	(211,797)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,056,010</b>	<b>158,791</b>	<b>3,214,801</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## Statements year ended 31 December 2020

### 17. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease with a break clause in May 2023 as follows:

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Within one year	119,845	119,786
Between one to five years	157,766	276,960
	<b>277,611</b>	396,746

In 2020 £120,361 (2019: £119,773) was paid under an operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2019: none).

### 18. Related parties

- a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2020, with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £2,915,614 (2019: £5,913,710) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Rwanda and the Flying Eye Hospital. The outstanding balance due from Orbis International at 31st December 2020 was £1,572,606 (2019: £1,953,378, due to Orbis International).

- b. Orbis Ireland is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland in 2005, Michael Boyd was a Director of Orbis Ireland. No financial transactions have taken place between the two organisations in 2020.
- c. Donations were received from five trustees amounting to £12,603 (2019: six Trustees totalling £34,752). Trustee Robin Pinchbeck is also a trustee of The Pinchbeck Charitable Trust which kindly donated £10,000 in 2020 and trustee Nicola Floyd is also a trustee of The Edenbeg Charitable Trust which kindly donated £20,000 in 2020.

# Trustees and officers

Year ended 31 December 2020

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## Trustees

Peter Hickson (Chairman, resigned June 2020)

Rob Pinchbeck (Chairman from June 2020)

Sir Dominic Asquith (appointed October 2020)

Larry Benjamin

Sian Block (appointed June 2020)

Michael Boyd (resigned December 2020)

Anthony Cowles

Yvette Dunne

Nicola Floyd

Nick Fox (appointed January 2020)

Patricia Moller

Christine Tomkins (resigned February 2020)

Charles Vyvyan

Catharina Waller

Robert Walters

Nigel Young

## Chief executive

Rebecca Cronin

## Senior management

Kath Backhouse

David Bennett

Andrew Jones

## Registered office

6th Floor, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AF

## Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Devonshire House, 60 Goswell Road, London. EC1M 7AD

## Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, Hatton Garden, London. EC1N 8DN

## Solicitors

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London. EC4R 1BE



orbis.org  
+44 (0)20 7608 7260

Orbis UK, 6th Floor,  
10 Lower Thames Street,  
London, EC3R 6AF

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