

Charity number: 1068313

UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees	Amanda Hopper Rachel Harrison
Registered Charity Number	1068313
Principal Office	30 St Mary's Road Leatherhead Surrey KT22 8EY
Local Office	520 Huseyn Javid Prospect House 2 Baku Azerbaijan
Independent examiner	Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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).

Structure

The Trust was formed on 16 January 1998 by a declaration of trust.

The trustees who served during the year were:

- Amanda Hopper
- Rachel Harrison
- Arthur John Loftus Patterson

There were no changes in the make-up of the Board this year. We recruit new Board members on the basis of the needs of the Board and in particular to ensure that the Board contains a good range of skills, experience, perspectives and expertise. Recruitment is by a mix of personal recommendation and advertising, specifying the particular skills required. Personal recommendation comes from other Board members, staff, advisors and users of United For Aid Azerbaijan services.

A candidate meets first with both the Chair and Executive Director before being invited to meet other Board members, which is followed by a formal interview by existing Board members.

Election to the Board is by a vote of existing Board members. The United Aid for Azerbaijan maintains a right to have two of its appointees on the Board at any one time and appointees need to be approved by a vote of the entire Board.

The Board is currently considering fixed terms for its members and roles.

Induction and Training of Board Members

New Board members are provided with background materials on the activities and history of the charity and spend time with members of staff learning about the various operations of the charity. Those trustees with particular interests in legal and financial matters (Treasurer, for example) are briefed in detail on processes, systems, and reporting procedures, and are given appropriate direct access to information systems. Trustees are also invited to meet users of United Aid For Azerbaijan services.

Running the Charity

The charity's governing body, its Board, meets 2-3 times a year, according to the Governing Document. With the use of modern communication methods which suit international organisations, the Board and Director are able to have regular online meetings. The Board sets strategic direction and oversees the proper operations of the charity but does not generally involve itself in detailed operational matters and decisions.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Continued)

Responsible to the Board is the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Gwendolyn Burchell MBE, who is invited to attend and report to Board meetings. Ms. Gwendolyn Burchell manages all operational matters, including management of other staff, and may also recommend policy to the Board for its discussion. The Chief Executive Officer is not authorised to commit the charity to any single new expenditure over £2,000 without prior Board approval. All expenditure requires at least two signatures, one of which must be from a Trustee.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. There is a register of risks and contingency plans for significant disasters.

UAFA consistently maintains its direction with regards to its mission and objectives in Azerbaijan, working towards a child welfare system that emphasises family care, inclusion and education for all.

2024 Summary

The year 2024 was a year of both challenges and resilience for UAFA. Due to ongoing restrictions around grant registration for NGOs registered overseas, UAFA faced significant difficulties in accessing funds. This led to a decrease in overall activity compared to previous years. Despite these hurdles, the organization remained committed to its mission and achieved progress in key strategic areas

Detailed Report on Activities - 2024

Key Program Areas

1. Mektebim Program Development

The Mektebim program continued to evolve as a cornerstone of UAFA's approach to empowering communities through education and entrepreneurship. The main priorities for the year included:

- **Strengthening recruitment of women with entrepreneurial capacity:** UAFA worked to identify and engage women leaders who could benefit from and contribute to the program.
- **Finalizing pedagogical program and guidance:** Significant work was undertaken to complete the curriculum and teaching resources, ensuring that the program is both practical and scalable.
- **Reviewing the business model to reflect social franchising:** To promote sustainability and replication, UAFA revised the business framework, incorporating social franchising principles to allow wider outreach.
- **Team development:** UAFA shifted away from employing people with project management experience in the NGO sector to employing people with appropriate business experience from the private sector, to reflect the organisational shift that UAFA is making towards sustainable social enterprise.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Continued)

2. Learning Management System (LMS) Development

UAFA made important progress in digitization and capacity-building through the LMS initiative:

- **UNDP grant awarded:** A small but meaningful grant was secured from UNDP, providing critical support for the development of the LMS.
- **Online platform development:** The foundation of the LMS platform was successfully built, creating a digital space for training, resources, and collaboration.
- **Future steps:** The next phase will focus on content enrichment, user testing, and integrating accessibility features to ensure inclusivity.

Organizational Challenges

The restrictions on funding access significantly affected operational capacity in 2024. While some planned activities had to be postponed, UAFA used this time strategically to refine internal systems, strengthen partnerships, and prepare for greater impact once funding channels are stabilized.

Achievements Despite Challenges

- Maintained core expertise in Early Childhood alongside boosting capacity to manage social business development effectively.
- Continued organizational functions despite reduced financial flows.
- Advanced two strategic initiatives (Mektebim and LMS) that will have long-term social impact.
- Strengthened relationships with funding partners, committing to aligned objectives for 2025.
- Laid the groundwork for sustainable growth through social franchising and digital learning.
- Created and led 5 panel discussions during COP29 on the key issues related to Early Childhood Development, Women's Empowerment and Social Enterprise.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

UAFA is entering 2025 with renewed determination. Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Finding sustainable solutions to grant registration barriers affecting NGOs.
- Scaling the Mektebim program through expanding the social franchising model.
- Launching the LMS platform with content and training modules.
- Continuing to build strategic partnerships to diversify funding and ensure sustainability.
- Review and redesign UAFA's website to communicate our organisational development.

Acknowledgements

UAFA extends sincere gratitude to its partners, donors, and dedicated team members who stood by the organization during a difficult year. The progress made in 2024 is a testament to the resilience of our community and the enduring value of our mission.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Continued)

Financial Review

For the year ended 31 December 2024, the results show a deficit of £44,525 (2023 –£9,883) and total reserves of negative £28,834 (2024 – £15,691).

Reserves Policy (Revised 2024)

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to approximately six months committed expenditure. The trustees consider that maintaining reserves at this level provides a prudent safeguard, ensuring that the charity can continue its key activities in the event of a temporary or unforeseen reduction in income, while appropriate plans are implemented to restore financial stability.

During the 2024 financial year, the charity experienced unexpected external funding disruption arising from bureaucratic delays outside the organisation's control. This temporary shock has resulted in a negative financial position at year-end. In response, the Trustees have accelerated the organisation's transition towards developing and expanding social enterprise activities. This strategic shift aims to strengthen financial resilience, diversify income sources, and reduce reliance on grant funding in the medium to long term.

The Trustees acknowledge that, during this period of transition, the level of reserves may temporarily fall below the target threshold. However, a clear recovery plan is in place to rebuild reserves progressively as the new income streams from social enterprise activities are established. The Trustees regularly review the reserves position and are confident that the charity remains a going concern, with appropriate measures in place to ensure sustainability and alignment with its charitable objectives.

Trustees' Responsibility Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Continued)

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;
- Make judgements and accounting 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 to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statement comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Amanda Hopper
Trustee and Chair

Date: 07.10.2025

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITED AID FOR
AZERBAIJAN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered a part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE

independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 18 October 2025

UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
¹FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Voluntary income			-		
Charitable activities		37,043	-	37,043	133,607
Total income		37,043	-	37,043	133,607
 Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		78,056		78,056	143,490
Total expenditure		78,056		78,056	143,490
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(41,013)		(41,013)	(9,883)
 Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		15,691		15,691	25,574
Total funds carried forward	6	(25,322)	-	(25,322)	15,691

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Non Current Assets				-	
Current Assets					
Cash at bank	3	777		15,691	
Petty cash		385			
Receivables		27,723			
		<u>28,884</u>		<u>15,691</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(54,206)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net current assets			<u>(25,322)</u>		<u>15,691</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(25,322)</u>		<u>15,691</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	5		-		-
NET ASSETS			<u>(25,322)</u>		<u>15,691</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	6		-		
Unrestricted income funds			<u>25,322</u>		<u>15,691</u>
			<u>25,322</u>		<u>15,691</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Amanda Hopper
Trustee and Chair

Date: 18.10.2025

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.6 Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of 31 December 2024. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

1.7 Fund accounting

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the accounts.

2. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	57,745	63,952
Social security costs	9,319	11,189
	<u>£67,064</u>	<u>£75,141</u>

None of the employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2023 – nil).

3. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payroll taxes	10,503	-
Wages	16,409	-
Supplier	1,420	-
Director's loan	25,874	-
	<u>£54,206</u>	<u>£nil</u>

**UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

4. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	28,884	-	28,884	15,691
Creditors due within one year	(54,206)	-	(54,206)	-
	<u>(£25,322)</u>	<u></u>	<u>(-£25,322)</u>	<u>£15,691</u>
	<u><u></u></u>	<u><u></u></u>	<u><u></u></u>	<u><u></u></u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Basis of preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Companies Act 2006.

UAFA meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.2. Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

1.3. Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.4. Expenditure

Expenditure is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of those assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Computer and office equipment	-	33.33% straight line
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITED AID FOR AZERBAIJAN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net
12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB
30 October 2025