SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales · Charity number 1076497

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03742986
Registered	1999-07-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG
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Website	www.senseinternational.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND OR WHO HAVE A HEARING OR VISION IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL IMPAIRMENTS OR PERSONS WHO HAVE MULTIPLE DISABILITIES IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF THE BENEFICIAL CLASSPROMOTING ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE BENEFICIAL CLASS IN ANY COUNTRY OF THE WORLDPROMOTING ACTIONS ON PREVENTION OF THE DISABILITIES OF THE BENEFICIAL CLASS AND TO UNDERTAKE OR PROMOTE RESEARCH.

Activities: Sense International supports people with deafblindness and their families to be full and active members of society through work in health, early intervention, education and vocational training. We work with governments and in partnership with local organisations across these areas, addressing issues such as early diagnosis and family communication, immunisation and enabling supportive legislation.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Bangladesh
- India
- Kenya
- Nepal
- Peru
- Romania
- Tanzania
- Uganda

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,604,922	£3,286,364	£1,185,610	57
2024-03-31	£3,134,879	£2,817,749	£867,052	63
2023-03-31	£2,346,956	£3,014,228	£549,922	56
2022-03-31	£2,535,517	£2,566,515	£1,217,194	55
2021-03-31	£2,320,316	£2,455,718	£1,248,192	51

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Raaxeet Kumar Harakhchand Haria Shah	Chair	2019-09-04
Dilnaz Khambata		2025-10-01
Joseph Collenette		2025-10-01
Kiran Virdee		2023-04-06
Lauren Watters		2019-09-04
Nicholas Corby		2017-12-05
Sian Tesni Copeland Roberts		2024-09-23
Simon Gallow		2025-10-01
Sunil Shah		2017-12-05
Suzi Nandera		2023-04-06
Vivienne Hoskins		2025-09-22

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SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1076497

Accounts

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Company registration number 3742986, Charity number 1076497

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Chair's foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Sense International 2024/25 annual report.

Sense International have delivered another impactful year, ensuring people with deafblindness move closer to realising their rights to health, education and employment, in the challenging backdrop of cuts to international development funding globally. This year, over 6,000 children were supported to learn and be educated and 1,565 young adults with deafblindness now have a better chance of earning a living. Together with partners and organisations of people with disabilities, we have raised our voices and advocated national and local governments for meaningful inclusion of people with deafblindness in policies, programmes and services.

2024 marked 30 years of Sense International. We celebrated this incredible milestone through our Changemakers' campaign, reflecting on our successes and accomplishments over the last 30 years. It showcased the difference we have made to the lives of tens of thousands of people with deafblindness globally, shining a light on the barriers and challenges people with deafblindness continue to face. The highlight of our 30th year was the gala in September graced by our Patron, HRH the Princess Royal, raising over £100,000. We are grateful to our supporters and partners for their generosity in making this event a success.

Another proud moment was the launch of our Global Deafblindness Resource Hub in February, in partnership with the Nelumbo Foundation, hosted by Google at the Google Accessibility Discovery Centre in London. The hub is a digital platform offering a 'one stop shop' that guides and navigates people with deafblindness and their support networks to understand and connect more widely. The hub offers resources and information, local signposted services and networks. I want to thank Nelumbo Foundation for their support and steer in this innovative venture, which continues to evolve and widen its offering to our beneficiaries, their families and support staff.

A particular highlight and proud moment was to see Sense International Kenya win the prestigious Zero Project Award and receive much-deserved recognition for their InBusiness work, supporting micro-entrepreneurs with disabilities to grow and sustain their businesses, as part of the Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme.

As ever, I remain grateful to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, our President, Lord Levy, and our Honorary President, Sunil Sheth, who continue to champion and promote our work. I am appreciative of our board members in the UK and the national boards globally as well as our dedicated volunteers for their expertise and support. It would not be possible to deliver our incredible impact without the work and dedication of partners, staff and teams here in the UK and across the world. Their commitment, hard work and dedication ensure that we continue to deliver high quality and impactful programmes and services and I thank them all.

Chair's foreword (continued)

I would also like to thank our funders and donors for their continued support (see the list on pages 48-49) which among others include the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Comic Relief, the Nelumbo Foundation, companies, trusts and foundations, individual supporters, as well as to our parent organisation Sense for their unwavering support.

Our work over the last three decades has made significant strides in challenging barriers and driving inclusion of people with deafblindness into mainstream policy, programmes and services, but critical gaps and challenges still remain. We were devastated to hear about further cuts to UK aid funding in early 2025, coming close on the heels of decimated USAID funding alongside other statutory cuts and freezes globally. I believe these cuts and its impact will be felt disproportionately by those who are already among the furthest left behind like the millions of adults and children with deafblindness who will only be pushed further into poverty and exclusion. The sector continues to face unprecedented challenges at a time when the work and solidarity of civil society organisations is needed the most. A safer world and a sustainable future for all is only possible if we join hands to reduce poverty and inequality so we leave no one behind.

R H Shah

Rex H Shah

Chair of Sense International
Date: 23 September 2025

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (including the Directors' report)

The Trustees of Sense International (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Sense International is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29 March 1999. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Vision: Our vision is of a world in which all people with deafblindness are equal and active members of society.

Mission: We work with people with deafblindness and partner organisations, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Values and Principles:

1. **We champion inclusion:** of everyone we work with in decisions affecting them.
2. **We are rights-based:** respecting dignity and diversity, promoting equality and respect for all human rights.
3. **We value individuals:** taking a person-centred approach which recognises the potential of each person, supports their quality of life and keeps them safe from harm.
4. **We work in partnership:** collaborating across the world with people with deafblindness, their representative organisations, families, carers, teachers and other professionals, communities, local organisations and governments, building respectful relationships for lasting change.
5. **We uphold high standards:** of accountability, integrity, quality and sustainability.

To ensure that these values and principles are truly embedded across the organisation, Sense International has a set of I-Statements which personalise these values for each member of the Sense International team:

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

- **I will listen to others:** However something is communicated to me – whether that be by gesture, facial expression, body tension or posture, sign language, objects of reference, in writing or by voice – I actively listen.

- **I will understand and respond:** I try to the best of my ability to understand what is being communicated to me and I always respond in a timely and respectful way.

- **I will respect others:** I respect and treat others as I would wish to be respected and treated myself.

- **I will be honest and open:** I am open about the reasons for my actions and give my honest opinion knowing that it will be respected.

- **I will participate and contribute:** I participate to the best of my ability and contribute willingly and freely.

- **I will take informed risk:** I consider the benefits of taking a risk, as well as what might happen if things go wrong. Where possible I seek to manage risk rather than avoid it.

- **I will find things to celebrate:** I recognise that all achievements, no matter how small they might seem to me, are cause for celebration.

- **No decision about me, without me:** I always seek to involve individuals in coming to decisions that affect them.

Sense International works through local Sense International offices in India, Kenya, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda and through lead partners in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Volunteers

Sense International's work is supported by trustees, volunteers in the shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International, and other volunteer fundraisers in raising funds for our work. No monetary value has been placed on this support in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Fundraising and engagement

We would like to thank all our incredible supporters who have helped Sense International in 2024/25. In the last few years and in response to the current funding landscape, Sense International is diversifying fundraising and has seen growth in Trusts and Foundations income which has continued through this year as well as some early signs of growth in events, high value funding and individual giving. Our focus has also been in building stronger sustainable financial growth across our regional teams and the countries we operate in to support a localised agenda in fundraising. We continue to build long-term relationships with all of our supporters and partners, ensuring we value the contribution every individual, group or organisation makes to Sense International – whether that be their time, their voice or their financial support.

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly

Our fundraising is carried out in line with Sense International's values which means that honesty, transparency and accountability are central to everything we do. Ensuring that our supporters trust us is critical to all our fundraising efforts. We continue to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ensure that our policies, guidelines and processes are reviewed and updated regularly. We have guidelines in place for fundraising from vulnerable people and never put pressure on anyone to donate.

Sense International is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and works in a way that is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. Suppliers and those fundraising on our behalf are closely monitored through regular meetings, and in the event of contracts not being adhered to they are brought to an end. In 2024/25 we worked with one professional marketer and no commercial participators to support our fundraising.

Last year we did not receive any complaints about Sense International's fundraising, nor were any complaints made to the Fundraising Regulator during this period. We respond quickly to requests to change the way in which we contact people and always ensure that we manage our supporters' personal details in a respectful and secure manner. We also review our data management procedures on a regular basis.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly (continued)

From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the team received six requests from Sense International supporters through the Fundraising Preference Service asking us to stop sending fundraising communications to them.

Fundraising is overseen by the Chief Executive of Sense International, Associate Director of Fundraising and Communications, the Group Director of Engagement for Sense and the Sense International Fundraising Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Board).

Governance

There were eleven Trustees on the Board during the year as detailed below:

Richard Cooper (resigned 16 December 2024)
Nicholas Corby
Mythily Katsaris (resigned 23 September 2024)
Suzi Nandera
Sian Tesni Copeland Roberts (appointed 23 September 2024)
Raaxeet Shah (Chair)
Sunil Shah
Lisa Szucs (resigned 13 April 2025)
Kiran Virdee
Lauren Watters
Gillian Wood (resigned 23 September 2024)

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. The Board may appoint members by co-option who will hold office until the following AGM and shall be eligible for re-election by the Board or election at the AGM. The Board meets four times a year and the Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings.

The Programme Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and has three Trustees who meet with the Director and the Senior Programmes team to discuss strategic and operational programmatic issues as well as Safeguarding. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

The Fundraising Advisory Committee meets regularly between Board meetings to discuss progress against the Fundraising Strategy and to support events and approaches to individuals, companies and Trusts / Foundations. It is made up of Trustees and one specialist volunteer.

The Finance and Audit Committee has three Trustee members who meet to review the deployment of Sense International’s financial resources and the effectiveness of Sense International’s internal and external auditing procedures. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Recruitment of new Trustees

Prospective candidates to be Trustees for Sense International are interviewed by at least two members of the Board including the Chair of the Board and the Director following responses to an advert, or through recommendation. The appointment of new Trustees is recommended to the Board of Trustees and on acceptance by the Board they are co-opted, until standing for election at the following AGM.

There is a comprehensive induction for new Trustees. The induction plan involves meetings with senior staff and internal and external training as necessary, along with an information pack, including signing up to adhere to appropriate policies e.g. Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

Relationship with related parties

Sense International is an independently registered charity and company, and is a subsidiary of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association (“Sense”). During the year, the Chief Executive of Sense International also held the post of Chief Executive of Sense. From 1 April 2025 Sense and Sense International have had separate Chief Executives. The Board of Trustees reports once a year, at the AGM, to Sense, the sole member of Sense International. Sense provides support through sharing common facilities such as office space and IT, accounting and human resources support.

Delegated authority

The Board has delegated the day-to-day operational management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. The broad areas of delegation, for which the Chief Executive is accountable, are set out in the Sense governance handbook and are similar for Sense International.

During the year, to ensure these responsibilities were discharged effectively, the Chief Executive delegated responsibility to the Director of Sense International. The Director of Sense International was also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Since 1 April 2025, following the appointment of the Director of Sense International as Chief Executive of Sense International, there has not been a separate post of Director of Sense International. The Chief Executive of Sense International is also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees' (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees' to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees' have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 the 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 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each director in office at the date the directors' report is approved, that:

- so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Public Benefit

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

Charity Governance Code

The Board of Sense International believes that the policies and practice of Sense International are in keeping with the principles, rationale and key outcomes of the Charity Governance Code. In line with the requirements for charities to publish a statement in their annual report explaining the use of the Code, specifically on the three principles (4, 5 and 6),the Trustees state the following:

- Principle 3 recommends that the Board 'understand their safeguarding responsibilities'. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item in all board meetings and a safeguarding report is produced for the board. The board approved Sense International's refreshed Safeguarding Policy in September 2025.

- Principle 4 recommends that the Board 'describe the charity's approach to risk'. An updated version of the Sense International risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting. In addition, each national Board reviews the risk register for that country at each Board meeting.

- Principle 5 recommends that 'The board explains in the governance statement how the charity reviews or evaluates the board.'

- Principle 6 recommends that 'The board publishes an annual description of what it has done to address the diversity of the board and the charity's leadership and its performance against its diversity objectives, with an explanation of where they have not been met.'

The Board currently has a good mixture of professional skills. In terms of gender balance there were five male and six female Trustees. Among the trustees we have experience of South Asia, East Africa and Latin America as well lived experience as a parent of a child with deafblindness When discussing new recruitment, the Board keeps diversity in mind. Age is an aspect of diversity kept under review by the Board.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Charity Governance Code (continued)

Gender balance of management roles:

- The CEO of Sense International is female with extensive experience of international development.
- The Associate Director Fundraising for Sense International is female.
- The Head of Finance for Sense International is male with international experience.

Safeguarding

Sense International operates a rights-based, risk-based approach to safeguarding. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of all forms.

In 2024/25 routine review of policies were undertaken in line with Charity Commission guidance. A new refreshed Safeguarding Policy was approved by the board in September 2025.

Recruitment across the organisation is carried out in accordance with our Safer Recruitment Policy. All staff complete an online training module during their probation, which serves as an introduction to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding considerations and we continue with periodic refresher training for staff in all our teams

Safeguarding Focal Points lead on safeguarding in each of the country programmes. Following clear terms of reference, these individuals take responsibility for championing good safeguarding practice at local level, meet regularly to share experience and feed into wider organisational work to strengthen systems and procedures.

Our reporting system continues as previously reported. During 2024/25 we received two reports through the safeguarding reporting channels, none of which met the Charity Commission’s definition of a Serious Incident.

For further information on Sense International’s Safeguarding System and related work, please visit our website: Safeguarding Statement (senseinternational.org.uk)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Environmental Statement

As Sense International is based within the Sense offices in the UK we are following Sense's environmental and carbon reporting.

As part of their annual obligations Sense has produced their SECR Energy and Carbon report 2024-2025 by following the UK HM Government "Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance June 2023". Sense also used the GHG Reporting Protocol Corporate Standard. The abridged SECR report can be found in Sense's annual accounts. Over the past four years a lot of work has been done in relation to the organisation's aims of reducing energy consumption and carbon output. Sense now has a stated vision of being carbon neutral by 2040 and to that end has allocated resources to form a dedicated team, and a budget to carry out carbon and energy reduction projects. Sense's major contributors to carbon output (property, fleet and supply chain) are now under the direct management of the Sense Property team. This has enabled a more co-ordinated approach involving the whole organisation and Sense published a new Environmental Policy in the 2024/5 which makes direct reference to Sense International.

In addition to this, as Sense International we continue to monitor our CO2 emissions from air travel on an annual basis through reports from our travel providers.

Reappointment of auditors

A resolution to reappoint HaysMac LLP as auditors to the company will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of Trustees

R H Shah

Rex H Shah

Chair

Date: 23 September 2025

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Sense International supports children and adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. In the countries we work, people with deafblindness are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed, with lower educational outcomes than other persons with disabilities. People with deafblindness face multiple barriers, including lack of access to healthcare, education, vocational training and opportunities to participate in their community compounded by lack of accessible information and communication, which makes it extremely difficult for them to voice their issues.

Sense International had three strategic objectives for 2024/25:

- INNOVATE: People with deafblindness are included in national systems.
- INFORM: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge.
- INFLUENCE: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets.

Overall, we have delivered on our strategic objectives despite a challenging year due to a tough economic and funding landscape exacerbated by the cost of living pressures faced globally. In formulating and reporting on our strategy, we include all members of the Sense International family, including Sense International India. Sense International India is a fully independent charity. Only a small part of its expenditure is funded through Sense International and only this part of its expenditure is included in Sense International's financial statements.

Strategic objective 1: People with deafblindness are included in national systems

We innovate and, working in partnership with governments, public structures including schools, hospitals and health facilities, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), parents and others, show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training.

Screening and Early Intervention

We take a life cycle approach, identifying children with deafblindness as early as possible and supporting them through their life stages from education through to employment and family and community life. Through our work, we demonstrate to governments, health authorities, families and communities how early screening and intervention can make a huge difference to a child's life.

We screened **55,770 children for deafblindness**.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

In **Tanzania**, 33,560 children were screened over the year. This was part of the Caretech Foundation funded three-year Sensory Screening and Early Intervention project. Out of the 33,560 children screened, using the first stage risk factor screening questionnaire, 3,055 children were referred to the Early Intervention units for second stage hearing and eye screening and assessment. In the year 3,330 children attended their second stage screening, and 134 children were identified with deafblindness and other complex disabilities. These children are now enrolled in the Early Intervention services and together with their caregivers and Occupational Therapist are working to achieve their developmental milestones.

Sense International **Kenya** successfully launched screening services in Msambweni County Referral Hospital in Kwale County funded by the Hear the World Foundation. 2,460 children (1,226 girls and 1,234 boys) were screened with 22 children fitted with hearing aids.

Sense International **India** started new Baby screening programmes in Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Jharkhand which have increased the visibility of the project in these states and also ensured that newborn babies who are either born in or come for any treatment get the free assessment for hearing within the hospital. This will provide parents of newborn babies

Inclusive Education

Every child has the right to an education. We work with families, schools, colleges, partner organisations, government institutions and Ministries of Education, to enable learners with deafblindness to fulfil their potential, by getting the educational support that they need. This may be home-based, centre-based or in a mainstream school where the child receives support from a learning support assistant. We do what is needed to enable children with deafblindness to learn – from training parents and teachers, to providing specialist technology and adapting school facilities, curricula and learning materials.

Across all countries, we supported 6,007 children with deafblindness to access education.

As part of our Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme funded by FCDO, inclusive education projects are running in Tanzania, Bangladesh and Nepal.

In **Romania** four orientation and mobility trips were organised in the mountains in April-May 2024 and March 2025 for 52 children with deafblindness from 17 partner schools along with 25 teachers and 15 family members. These were more than just trips, they were moments of growth, overcoming limits and getting to know new places and people, and even creating new friendships. For many of them, this was their first time traveling by train to the mountains, a great opportunity to socialise and spend time in nature.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Vocational training and livelihoods

Like any young person, young people with deafblindness want to be as independent as possible, earn a living and contribute to their families and communities. We support young people with deafblindness through the different stages of this process, enabling them to join a vocational training centre, become an apprentice, or plan to start their own business.

1,565 young people were supported with vocational training or opportunities to earn across our eight countries.

In **Tanzania**, from January to March, as part of the vocational training project funded by the Government of the Faroe Islands and the Hodge Foundation, we supported 68 youth with disabilities to be placed in skills development programmes. These youth are supported by 10 trained and dedicated college instructors.

Sense International **India** supported 32 adults with deafblindness with seed grants to start income generation activities.

Sense International **Kenya** provided business growth kits to 19 micro-entrepreneurs and their families under the InBusiness project part of the Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme funded by FCDO. Business Development Service (BDS) providers will track business performance to assess growth. Over 60% of micro-entrepreneurs have reporting more than double growth.

Strategic objective 2: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge

We share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Across all countries, 17,373 people were trained to support people with deafblindness.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

In February 2025, we successfully launched the Global Deafblindness Resource Hub, co-hosting this global launch with Google with the event held at the Google Discovery Accessibility Centre. The launch was attended by 180 participants from 20 countries in person and online. The Global Deafblindness Resource Hub funded by Nelumbo Foundation, is a platform that brings together, for the first time, access to a range of resources from across the eight countries we work in. It will offer a 'one stop shop' into information that can guide and navigate people with deafblindness and their support networks to understand and connect more widely with information, local signposted services and networks. We continue to develop the online Global Deafblindness Resource Hub with accessible information and resources for people with deafblindness and those who support them, including parents, caregivers, teachers and NGO workers. We currently have resources in 7 languages on the hub – English, Nepali, Romanian, Spanish, Bangla, Hindi and Swahili.

"First steps: a guide for parents of children with deafblindness and sensory impairments" developed by Sense International Romania as an essential resource for parents of children with deafblindness (https://surdocecitate.ro/en/press-releases/first-steps/) was formally launched in June 2024, simultaneously in three major cities in Romania and received great media coverage. It was developed with input of over 70 parents of children with deafblindness.

Sense International **Tanzania**, as part of the Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme funded by FCDO, continued to expand their Parents Support Groups (PSG) Model for building capacity in leadership, group management, income generations, disability rights and child safeguarding among parents. Through training and support, 12 PSGs started small businesses with 10 receiving seed funding of TZS 5million (approx. £2800) to grow their businesses. Profits have helped families support their children's education, including providing school meals. The initiative has also strengthened group leadership, peer support, and collective action within communities including teacher parent relationships.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Sense International **Peru** provided virtual educational support services in Ucayali, Madre de Dios and Amazonas regions through 103 sessions delivered to 52 family members of students with disabilities (21 females and 31 males). They also delivered similar service to 114 education professionals from government disability inclusion teams from the regions of Ancash, Cajamarca, La Libertad, Lambayeque and Piura and to inclusive teachers in the Northeast Macro Region and Central Regions. The purpose of these sessions was to create a space for reflection and exchange and strengthen capacities on inclusive policies, cultures and practices, providing support to improve the inclusive experience of students.

Strategic objective 3: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets

We advocate for change based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, work with organisations led by people with deafblindness and parents' groups, and gather rigorous research and evidence.

Sense International Kenya won the prestigious Zero Project Award for their InBusiness project, part of the Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme. The project supports micro-entrepreneurs with disabilities to grow their businesses, provides them with training and adaptation and seeks to connect them to a wider enterprise network. It was notable that our work in Kenya has been recognised as one of 77 winners out of 522 nominations from across the world. The Sense International Kenya team received the award at the Zero Project Conference held in Vienna in March.

Sense International **India** contributed to the civil society report on accessibility commissioned by the Supreme Court of India and SI India's note on access to education for people with deafblindness included in the final report submitted to the Supreme Court. More than 117 people with deafblindness participated in the consultation, providing inputs on their access to schools.

Our partner in **Nepal** hosted the first ever Asia Deafblind International (DBI) conference with attendees from over 30 countries including colleagues from East Africa, Bangladesh, India, and UK drawing attention of local stakeholders including Ministries and government authorities to the situation of people with deafblindness and raising the profile of our work and cause.

Sense International **Uganda**'s advocacy efforts have resulted in disability data being included in lower health facilities resulting in better availability of medications for children with complex disabilities as the disability data has informed better planning.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

On 3rd December to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities in the **UK**, the Director of Sense International participated in a panel discussion at an event hosted by FCDO and Inclusive Futures to raise awareness of the work of the programme and to advocate for the adoption of the Six Principles of Inclusive Development, which have been developed based on our learning from the Inclusive Futures work.

Following the devastating cuts to **UK**'s Official Development Assistance (ODA) bringing UK's ODA contribution to its lowest level in over 24 years, Sense International – through its membership of networks such as Bond and IDDC - joined the sector in condemning these cuts through letters to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and other government officials and through statements highlighting that the impact of the cuts will be felt significantly and disproportionately by people with disabilities particularly those with deafblindness who are among the furthest left behind.

Objectives for 2025/26

Our objectives for 2025/26 continue to be as set out in our 2022-27 strategy, namely:

Mission: We work in partnership with people with deafblindness and others, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Strategic Objective 1 (Innovate) **People with deafblindness are included in national systems**: we innovate and show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training, working in partnership with governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, parents and others.

Strategic Objective 2 (Inform) **People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge**: we share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Strategic Objective 3 (Influence) **People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets**: we support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, join advocacy efforts by organisations of people with deafblindness and parents' groups, gather rigorous research and evidence, and meet decision-makers.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Objectives for 2025/26 (continued)

A few of our priorities for 2025/26 include (not an exhaustive list):

- Sense International will begin work on developing our new strategy (2027-28 onwards) which will include considerations and commitments on how we can become more locally led as an organisation with a view to ensuring that power, agency and ownership of the work we do sits with local people and communities and that people with deafblindness have a say in what we do and the way we work. Consultations with local and UK teams and trustees and local communities are planned in 2025/26.

- In Tanzania, we will begin a five year programme called ‘Collective Action on Disability Rights’ This is a grant of 10million Norwegian Kroner funded by the Norwegian government through Atlas Alliance and Signo Foundation. The ‘Collective Action on Disability Rights’ programme aims to empower persons with disabilities and their representative organisations (OPDs) to claim their rights, improve their lives, and hold governments accountable for implementing inclusive policies in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In Tanzania the programme focuses on improving access to quality inclusive pre-primary, primary and secondary education for girls and boys with disabilities.

- We will take our Global Inclusive Education programme from strength to strength ensuring more children with deafblindness have access to education and people with deafblindness have access to information and resources in an accessible way through our Global Deafblindness Resource Hub, following its successful launch in February 2025. In 2025/26 we look forward to the local launches of the Hub in all our countries.

- We will be closing out our Disability Inclusive Development Inclusive Futures programme funded by FCDO as the programme comes to an end in December 2025. We will be publishing and disseminating learning pieces from the programme sharing the insights and experience gained from almost 7 years of implementing of inclusive education and inclusive business and livelihoods programmes.

- In Romania, we will be supporting the formal establishment and launch of the first ever Association of People with Deafblindness in July 2025.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Internal Financial Control

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material financial misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget and operational plan approved by the Trustees. A number of matters are specifically reserved for the Trustees approval. There is a clear organisational structure with appropriate lines for reporting.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, reforecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- Policy documents covering major strategic and operational activities are developed and reviewed with appropriate regularity and consultation.
- Regular monitoring of budgets, operational plan and financial activities by the Director of Sense International with the Management Team.
- Identification and management of risks

The Trustees adopted a risk management policy in December 2018 which was updated on 26th November 2019. Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for the management of risks to the Director of Sense International. An ongoing risk management process assesses business risks and implements risk management strategies. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and regularly updating an action plan to allow satisfactory mitigation and management of likely risks.

This occurs as an intrinsic part of the annual operational planning process and is then reviewed in regular meetings of senior managers, reported to the Trustees each quarter both in the Finance and Audit Committee and the in Board Meetings. It is further overseen by the Sense audit committee. The Trustees have developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Charity and to changes in the external environment, including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management, the Trustees, and when required to other external authorities such as the Charity Commission, together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

The principal risks are as follows:

Fundraising: Sense International’s fundraising team in the UK and the in-country teams fail to reach targets. This risk is mitigated by the adoption of a realistic fundraising strategy, by a focussed and highly skilled team of fundraisers concentrating on Sense International, and by the close involvement of Trustees in fundraising efforts.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Internal Financial Control (continued)

Compliance: In-country partners do not adhere to policies, systems, procedures and donor compliance requirements leading to a financial, reputational, compliance or quality risk. This risk is mitigated through ensuring partners sign Memoranda of Understanding, committing to following Sense International policies in key areas, discussing the policies, systems and procedures at the start of programmes and identifying staff training needs and on-going compliance measures, and through regular and periodic monitoring by SI staff.

Financial management: Sense International global teams do not comply with financial procedures or national financial reporting requirements or do not have the necessary levels of skill and experience to ensure robust, transparent, timely and accurate management of finances. This risk is mitigated through a programme of review of in-country financial procedures, through training and monitoring by UK finance and programme staff.

Currency exchange: As Sense International receives income mainly in Pound Sterling and spends in a variety of currencies, its spending power is reduced if the Pound Sterling falls in value against these operating currencies. The risk is mitigated through spreading exposure to currency fluctuation by holding part of Sense International's cash in various operating currencies and in Euros and US Dollars.

Financial review for the year ended 31 March 2025

Income for the year was £3.60m (2024: £3.13m). Total expenditure was £3.29m (2024: 2.82m). The proportion of expenditure spent on charitable activities decreased to 90% (2024: 92%).

During the year, the Chief Executive of Sense International was the Chief Executive of Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The salary of the Director of Sense International was set based on benchmarking in line with the salaries of director-level employees within Sense - each job role in the organisation is mapped to a Sense pay band and to a job level within the Sense job evaluation system. The benefits available for the Director of Sense International are in line with those of other employees. The review of the pay of the director is carried out, and set, in line with the overall pay award for all other employees.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Reserves

The Trustees agreed an aim to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to four months' annual expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. The Trustees have set this target in order to ensure Sense International has reserves capable of providing sufficient working capital for budgeted operational commitments and funding responsive action in the event of a significant financial downturn.

At 31 March 2025, unrestricted reserves totalled £275,133 which is equivalent to four months' expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. (2024: £23,141 equivalent to two weeks.) The level of unrestricted reserves is now in line with the level targeted by the Trustees.

By Order of Trustees

R H Shah

Rex H Shah

Chair

Date: 23 September 2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sense International

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Sense International for the period ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cashflows 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 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 31st March 2025 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the 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 charity 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report and the Chairman's 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.

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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sense International (continued)

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' Report (which includes the strategic report and 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 strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' 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 by the charitable company; or
- the charitable company 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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement**,** 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:

Independent auditor's report to the members of Sense International (continued)

Based on our understanding of the and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to GDPR and employment law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, and consider other factors such as payroll tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to fraud in revenue recognition and the risk of management override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- **Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;**
- **Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;**
- **Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and**
- **Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical 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 for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.

Steve Harper (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP

Date: 27 September 2025

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and legacies		1,003,360	1,604,612	**2,607,972**	2,170,230
Charitable activities	2	24,667	962,134	**986,801**	959,837
Investments		6,183	3,966	**10,149**	4,812
Total		**1,034,210**	**2,570,712**	**3,604,922**	**3,134,879**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	315,114	-	**315,114**	219,558
Charitable activities	4	222,924	2,748,326	**2,971,250**	2,598,191
Total		**538,038**	**2,748,326**	**3,286,364**	**2,817,749**
Net income/(expenditure)		496,172	(177,614)	**318,558**	317,130
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds		(244,180)	244,180	**-**	-
Net movement on funds		**251,992**	**66,566**	**318,558**	**317,130**
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		23,141	843,911	**867,052**	549,922
Fund balances carried forward at end of year		**275,133**	**910,477**	**1,185,610**	**867,052**

The accounting policies and notes on pages 31 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

All the results included in the statement of financial activities above relate to continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above, and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented. There is no difference between the fund balances and the net incoming resources for the years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 is given in Note 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	7,825	19,218
Current assets			
Debtors	6	387,696	244,297
Cash at bank and in hand		957,270	1,046,831
Total current assets		1,344,966	1,291,128
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	(151,181)	(419,294)
Net current assets		1,193,785	871,834
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,201,610**	**891,052**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	8	(16,000)	(24,000)
Total net assets		1,185,610	867,052
The funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	10,11	910,477	843,911
Unrestricted funds	10,11	275,133	23,141
Total charity funds		1,185,610	867,052

The financial statements on pages 28 to 47 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 23 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

R H Shah

Rex H Shah
Chair
Company registration number 3742986

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	18	(95,658)	638,920
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		10,149	4,812
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(4,052)	(5,553)
Net cash (used in) operating activites		6,097	(741)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(89,561)	638,179
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,046,831	408,652
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**20**	957,270	1,046,831

Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards including:

- Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and
- the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards; Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees have reviewed the Company's forecasts, and made appropriate enquiries of the wider Group's financial position and forecasts, in assessing the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. Trustees have reviewed the forecasts in the light of severe and plausible downsides such as loss of retail income or lower than expected income from fundraising events. The risk presented by operating with a low level of unrestricted reserves is mitigated by the ongoing financial support of the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense") which was confirmed in a letter of support to the Trustees of Sense International received in September 2025. The Trustees consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate because there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. On this basis the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Particulars of the significant accounting policies of the Charity are given below.

Accounting policies (continued)

Income from Charitable Activities
This consists of income from grants and contracts, which is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants received in advance but with donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability. Income receivable under the terms of a grant at balance sheet date is recognised as accrued income and recognised within debtors.

Donations and Legacies
Legacy income is recognised on a receivable basis when it is probable that legacy income will be received and the value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Donations are accounted for when received.

Donations includes donations from Sense International's parent company, Sense. Sense operates five shops for the benefit of Sense International and the profit from these shops is donated to Sense International and included in donations and legacies.

Investment Income
Investment income consists of bank interest and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
All expenditure, including any irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Fundraising for Sense International is carried out by fundraisers employed by the parent charity Sense and all costs charged to Sense International for this work are direct costs. Accordingly, all support costs relate to charitable activities.

Cost incurred by country programmes are included within direct costs. Costs incurred in the UK are allocated to direct or support costs based on an estimate of the split by activity of staff time in each cost centre.

Governance Costs
Governance costs include external audit and Trustees' expenses.

Cash at Bank and in Hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounting policies (continued)

Foreign Currency
i. Functional and presentation currency
The company's functional and presentation currency is the Pound Sterling.

ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Recognition of Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful economic lives in equal annual instalments over 4 years.

Purchases of fixed assets valued at £500 and above are capitalised, otherwise they are expensed in the year the cost is incurred.

Pension Costs
The charity operates defined contribution schemes for staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are payable.

Taxation
The company is recognised as a charity by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purposes of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is exempt from Corporation Tax.

Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Restricted fund expenditure is accounted for when the funds are expended. All expenditure made in the countries we work in outside the UK is accounted for as restricted fund expenditure and a transfer is made from unrestricted funds at the end of the year to cover any expenditure not covered by restricted income.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Principal Accounting Estimates and Judgements
In the application of Sense International's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These estimates together with their underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The matter below is considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported:

Legacy income is recognised as detailed under income recognition above. In calculating the level of accrued legacy income, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the value and probability of receipt.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Income from			
Donations and legacies	794,700	1,375,530	**2,170,230**
Charitable activities	-	959,837	**959,837**
Investments	2,882	1,930	**4,812**
Total	**797,582**	**2,337,297**	**3,134,879**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	219,551	7	**219,558**
Charitable activities	202,346	2,395,845	**2,598,191**
Total	**421,897**	**2,395,852**	**2,817,749**
Net income/(expenditure)	375,685	(58,555)	**317,130**
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	(369,140)	369,140	**-**
Net movement on funds	**6,545**	**310,585**	**317,130**
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	16,596	533,326	**549,922**
Fund balances carried forward at end of year	**23,141**	**843,911**	**867,052**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities

Income from Charitable Activities	2025 £	2024 £
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme 'Inclusive Futures' consortium	**866,252**	714,520
Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission Education, learning and skills for people with deafblindness in Bangladesh	**52,460**	50,900
Faroe Islands Ministry of Justice Empowering Youth with Disabilities: Market-Driven Vocational Training for Sutainable Livelihoods in Singida, Tanzania	**43,422**	-
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Improving Developmental Outcomes for Children with Complex Disabilities in Garissa and Kwale Counties of Rural Kenya (UK Aid Match)	**-**	75,881
Comic Relief - (SI Uganda) Holistic Early Child Development (ECD) for Children with Complex Disabilities in Uganda	**-**	67,131
Active Citizens Fund Romania Program – (SI Romania) The voice of people with deafblindness in Romania	**-**	51,405
Unrestricted Income	**24,667**	-
Total Income from Charitable Activities	**986,801**	**979,635**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

During the year, a donation of £300,000 (2024: £500,000) was received from the parent company, Sense.

In addition, in the year ended 31 March 2025, Sense donated £124,075 (2024: £123,148) representing the net profit on five shops run by Sense that are designated as Sense International shops.

Income from legacies for the year was £98,599 (2024: £6,000).

4 Expenditure

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Raising funds	315,114	-	**315,114**
Charitable activities	2,874,446	96,804	**2,971,250**
	3,189,560	**96,804**	**3,286,364**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	89,804	7,000	**96,804**
	89,804	**7,000**	**96,804**

Governance costs included £7,000 (2024: £8,064) of external audit fees. No payments were made to Sense International's auditors in respect of non-audit services.

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Raising funds	219,558	-	**219,558**
Charitable activities	2,453,656	144,535	**2,598,191**
	2,673,214	**144,535**	**2,817,749**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2024
Charitable activities	£	£	£
	102,675	**41,860**	**144,535**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

5 Tangible assets

	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 31 March 2024	7,672	69,002	4,650	**81,324**
Additions	4,052	-	-	**4,052**
Disposals	(1,303)	-	-	**(1,303)**
31 March 2025	**10,421**	**69,002**	**4,650**	**84,073**
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 31 March 2024	5,629	55,757	720	**62,106**
Charge for the year	1,882	11,283	1,323	**14,487**
Eliminated on disposal	(345)	-	-	**(345)**
At 31 March 2025	**7,166**	**67,040**	**2,043**	**76,248**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2025	**3,256**	**1,962**	**2,607**	**7,825**
At 31 March 2024	2,043	13,245	3,930	**19,218**

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes. There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date (2023: £nil).

6 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	**109,764**	69,222
Accrued income	**264,438**	159,537
Prepayments	**13,494**	15,538
	387,696	**244,297**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**592**	72
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	**69,298**	215,491
Deferred income	**14,482**	73,131
Other creditors and accruals	**66,809**	130,600
	151,181	**419,294**

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

Deferred income is restricted income received prior to the year end subject to a condition that it may not be spent until after the year end. All deferred income was utlised in the year following receipt.

8 Creditors falling due after more than one year

The amount due after more than one year is in respect of a loan of £40,000 that is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2024. The amount falling due after more than one year is £16,000 (2024: £24,000). The loan is from a related party as disclosed in note 15.

9 Capital

Sense International is registered in England (Company registration number 3742986) as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. The liability of the member is limited by guarantee. The member has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding one pound as may be required in the event of the charity being wound up.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education Phase 2	261,879	549,347	475,956	-	335,270
Romania – In-country Income	120,244	73,801	52,048	-	141,997
John Lewis Foundation	99,545	(9,399)	86,000	-	4,146
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention (Uganda) Phase 2	99,505	117,697	140,182	-	77,020
Karlson Javita Charitable Foundation (Peru)	59,616	68,720	50,659	-	77,677
Deaf Child Worldwide (Kenya)	32,128	28,633	60,761	-	-
Hollyhock Foundation	25,050	23,366	34,271	-	14,145
IHelp Uganda	20,301	30,187	20,710	-	29,788
Commonwealth Foundation (Kenya)	17,366	4,981	9,610	-	12,736
Active Citizens Romania	14,986	(2,764)	12,222	-	-
CareTech Foundation Tanzania	13,917	45,216	59,133	-	-
MTN Telecoms (Uganda)	13,078	179,820	169,820	-	23,078
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	9,643	24,798	16,775	-	17,666
Synevo (Romania)	8,014	-	8,014	-	-
Halcrow Foundation	7,421	4,122	10,958	-	585
Medicor	6,470	-	6,470	-	-
Priory Foundation	3,923	-	655	-	3,268
Hugh Symons (Bangladesh)	3,491	(297)	3,194	-	-
Lavelle Peru	3,474	42,724	41,136	-	5,062
James Tudor Foundation (Nepal)	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Romania Orange E-Sense	2,712	-	2,712	-	-
Guernsey Overseas Aid Education 2 (Bangladesh)	678	21,699	22,377	-	-
FCDO Disability Inclusive Development	-	866,252	866,252	-	-
Else Krone Frosenius Stiftung	-	80,150	55,244	-	24,906
Peru Holding Fund	-	15,502	47,040	31,538	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	5,561	88,788	83,227	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	2,637	64,612	61,975	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	1,166	51,865	50,699	-
Bangladesh Holding Fund	-	-	16,730	16,730	-
Hear the World Foundation	-	78,092	78,092	-	-
Comic Relief Uganda	-	70,308	40,101	-	30,206
Hollyhock Foundation (Nepal)	-	51,856	31,454	-	20,402
Faroe Islands	-	43,422	23,592	-	19,830
Guernsey Overseas Aid Education 3 (Bangladesh)	-	29,060	20,851	-	8,209
Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
Other	17,470	74,125	96,772	-	16,741
Total restricted	**843,911**	**2,570,712**	**2,748,326**	**244,180**	**910,477**
Unrestricted	23,141	1,034,210	538,038	(244,180)	275,133
Total	**867,052**	**3,604,922**	**3,286,364**	**-**	**1,185,610**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Romania – In-country Income	134,113	59,349	73,218	-	120,244
Comic Relief Uganda	114,034	67,318	181,352	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	56,274	-	56,274	-	-
IHelp Uganda	51,508	21,956	53,163	-	20,301
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	47,077	-	47,077	-	-
Medicor	29,791	-	23,321	-	6,470
Active Citizens Romania	27,380	51,405	63,799	-	14,986
Hollyhock Foundation	20,621	26,846	22,417	-	25,050
Guernsey Overseas Aid (Bangladesh)	13,189	29,009	42,198	-	-
Commonwealth Foundation (Kenya)	10,783	25,515	18,932	-	17,366
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	8,737	-	8,737	-	-
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	2,217	22,800	15,374	-	9,643
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	1,551	-	1,551	-	-
Lavelle Peru	120	32,529	29,175	-	3,474
Nelumbo Stiftung Education Phase 2	-	456,521	194,642	-	261,879
John Lewis Foundation	-	99,545	-	-	99,545
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention (Uganda) Phase 2	-	153,667	54,162	-	99,505
Karlson Javita Charitable Foundation (Peru)	-	64,304	4,688	-	59,616
Deaf Child Worldwide (Kenya)	-	40,214	8,086	-	32,128
CareTech Foundation (Tanzania)	-	70,866	56,949	-	13,917
MTN Telecoms (Uganda)	-	162,452	149,374		13,078
Synevo (Romania)	-	13,442	5,428	-	8,014
Halcrow Foundation	-	7,421	-	-	7,421
Priory Foundation	-	5,000	1,077	-	3,923
Hugh Symons (Bangladesh)	-	3,500	9	-	3,491
The James Tudor Foundation (Nepal)	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Romania Orange E-Sense	-	6,253	3,541	-	2,712
Guernsey Overseas Aid Education (Bangladesh)	-	23,401	22,723	-	678
FCDO Disability Inclusive Development	-	713,450	713,450	-	-
Subtotal carried forward to next page	**517,395**	**2,159,763**	**1,850,717**	**-**	**826,441**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Subtotal bought forward from previous page	**517,395**	**2,159,763**	**1,850,717**	**-**	**826,441**
Uganda Holding Fund	-	106,690	165,298	58,608	-
Nelumbo Stiftung Education Phase 1	-	46,592	46,592	-	-
The Hodge Foundation Inclusive Education (Bangladesh	-	7,500	7,500	-	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	3,972	100,590	96,618	-
Tanzania Buhangija School	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	-	102,324	102,324	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	-	98,609	98,609	-
Romania Holding Fund	-	-	10,413	10,413	-
Other	15,931	10,280	11,309	2,568	17,470
Total restricted	**533,326**	**2,337,297**	**2,395,852**	**369,140**	**843,911**
Unrestricted	16,596	797,582	421,897	(369,140)	23,141
Total	**549,922**	**3,134,879**	**2,817,749**	**-**	**867,052**

Restricted funds are funds held by the Charity for particular applications, specified by the donor and within the Charity's objectives, and can only be applied to those particular purposes. The restrictions may apply to income or capital or both. Many of the restricted funds are generated through targeted project appeals.

Expenditure incurred outside of the UK that is not eligible to be charged against specific restricted income is charged against a restricted fund set up for each country. Where we receive income that is restricted to be spent in a particular country, but not otherwise restricted, it is credited to the restricted fund for that country. At the end of each year, if expenditure from the restricted fund for a country exceeds income to the fund, then a transfer is made from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to bring the fund balance to zero.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are held for the general purposes of the Charity. Because they can be deployed flexibly, unrestricted funds allow the Charity to fund core organisational costs necessary for delivery of projects partially funded with restricted funds. Unrestricted funds also allows the Charity, through co-funding, to leverage restricted funding from Governmental and State agencies that will usually only commit to fund part of the costs of major projects. Hence, unrestricted funds are vitally important for the day to day operation of the Charity and the support we provide to people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £
Fixed assets	7,825	0	**7,825**
Net current assets	283,308	910,477	**1,193,785**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(16,000)	0	**(16,000)**
	275,133	**910,477**	**1,185,610**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	19,218	-	**19,218**
Net current assets	27,923	843,911	**871,834**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(24,000)	-	**(24,000)**
	23,141	**843,911**	**867,052**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

12 Employees' remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and Salaries	**1,016,690**	1,118,459
Social Security costs	**61,353**	73,083
Other pension costs	**55,203**	62,421
	1,133,246	**1,253,963**

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Charity was 57 (2024: 63).

No employees earned £60,000 to £70,000 (2024: 1), one employee earned between £70,000 and £80,000 (2024: nil), and one employee earned between £80,000 and £90,000 (2024: 1).

The Trustees of Sense International received no remuneration (2024: £nil) and received £162 reimbursements of expenses (2024: £nil).

13 Pensions

Sense International contributes to defined contribution pension schemes in the countries in which it operates. The pension charge for the year was £62,421 (2023: £67,076).

14 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for at 31 March 2025 amounted to £nil (2024: £nil).

15 Related Parties

In the year ending 31 March 2020, Sense International entered into a loan with Dandylion Consulting Limited, a company of which trustee Sunil Shah was also a Director in the year. The loan was unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. During the prior year, Dandylion Consulting Limited agreed to a deferment of repayments by one year. The amount of the loan outstanding at the balance sheet date is £24,000. See also note 8.

See Note 3 for donations from Sense International's parent charity Sense and Note 17 for disclosure of remuneration for key management personnel.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

16 Parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party

The charity's parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is considered by the Trustees to be Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, a charity and company, registered in England. The registered address of Sense from which copies of this company's financial statements are available is:

101 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9LG

17 Key Management Personnel

During the year, the Trustees delegated day to day responsibility to the Chief Executive, Richard Kramer who was supported by Kavita Prasad, the Director of Sense International. The Chief Executive was remunerated by Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The Director of Sense International was remunerated by Sense International and her remuneration is included in the amounts disclosed in Note 12.

The aggregate remuneration of the one key management personnel remunerated by Sense International (2024: 1), was £89,183 (2024: £86,676) before pension contributions of £4,459 (2024: £4,332).

18 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Net Income/(expenditure)	**318,558**	317,130
Adjustments for:		
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**958**	-
Investment income received	**(10,149)**	(4,812)
Depreciation	**14,487**	14,965
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(143,399)**	224,816
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**(276,113)**	86,821
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	**(95,658)**	**638,920**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

19 Net debt

	At 1 April 2024	Cashflows	Other non-cash movements	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash	1,046,831	(89,561)	-	**957,270**
Loans falling due within one year	(8,000)	8,000	(8,000)	**(8,000)**
Loans falling due after more than one year	(24,000)	-	8,000	**(16,000)**
Total	**1,014,831**	**(66,803)**	**-**	**933,270**

20 Analysis of changes in net cash

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,046,831	(89,561)	-	**957,270**
Net cash	**1,046,831**	**(89,561)**	-	**957,270**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**
Net cash	**408,652**	**638,179**	**-**	**1,046,831**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

21 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,046,831	(89,561)	-	**957,270**
Cash and cash equivalents	**1,046,831**	**(89,561)**	-	**957,270**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**
Cash and cash equivalents	**408,652**	**638,179**	**-**	**1,046,831**

Major Supporters

The Trustees are indebted to all of our donors for their support, both financial and otherwise. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Charity to operate. We are particularly grateful to those who have made unrestricted donations in the year. With special thanks to:

Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement

Active Citizens Fund Romania, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021 – Sense International Romania

Beatrice Laing Charitable Trust

Bhim Ruia Foundation

CareTech Foundation

Coles-Medlock Foundation

Comic Relief – Sense International Uganda

Commonwealth Foundation – Sense International Kenya

Deaf Child Worldwide – Sense International Kenya

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Forrester Family Trusts

Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Government of the Faroe Islands

Halcrow Foundation

Hear the World Foundation – Sense International Kenya

Hodge Foundation

John & Sarah Rockliff (Friends of the Reed Foundation)

Major Supporters (continued)

John Lewis Partnership Foundation

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa - Sense International Uganda

Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc. - Sense International Peru

MTN Foundation – Sense International Uganda

Nelumbo Foundation

Pradip Dhamecha

Sunil Shah

Synevo Romania with the support of Medicover Association – Sense International Romania

Terry Williams

The Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada – Sense International Uganda partner with Kyambogo University.

The Hollyhock Charitable Foundation

The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation’s LACT programme

Sense International
Annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

Charity Information

Charity name	Sense International
Governing instrument	Memorandum and Articles of Association
Registered charity number	1076497
Company registration number	3742986
Trustees	Richard Cooper (resigned 16 December 2024) Nicholas Corby Mythily Katsaris (resigned 23 September 2024) Suzi Nandera Sian Tesni Copeland Roberts (appointed 23 September 2024) Raaxeet Shah (Chair) Sunil Shah Lisa Szucs (resigned 13 April 2025) Kiran Virdee Lauren Watters Gillian Wood (resigned 23 September 2024)
Company secretary	Richard Kramer (resigned 31 January 2025) Edward Watson-O'Neill (appointed 3 February 2025, resigned 31 March 2025) Kavita Prasad (from 31 March 2025)
Key management personnel	
Chief executive	Richard Kramer (to 31 January 2025) Edward Watson-O'Neill (from 3 February 2025 to 31 March 2025) Kavita Prasad (from 1 April 2025)
Director	Kavita Prasad (to 31 March 2025)
Registered office	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG

Charity information (continued)

Bankers	National Westminster Bank PLC Tavistock House, Tavistock Square London, WC1H 9JA
Solicitors	Wilsons Solicitors LLP Alexandra House St John Street Salisbury SP1 2SB Trowers & Hamlins LLP 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ
Independent Auditors	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1AG

SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1076497

Accounts

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Company registration number 3742986, Charity number 1076497

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the Sense International 2023/24 annual report. It has been another impactful year for Sense International advancing the rights of people with deafblindness and ensuring access to health, education and employment. At the same time, through advocacy, influencing national and local governments to ensure meaningful inclusion of people with deafblindness in policies, programmes and services. Our work takes a life cycle approach – we aim to identify children with deafblindness as early as possible so they can receive the support they need. With our support children with deafblindness are prepared for education and transition into schooling. And as they grow and become young adults, we continue to support many of them with vocational training and livelihoods so they can live full and independent lives.

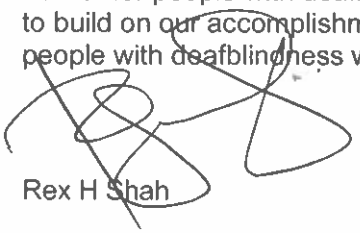
In 2023/24, Sense International screened 70,887 children for deafblindness, and supported 5,586 children with deafblindness and complex disabilities to access education. 1,180 young people with deafblindness received vocational training or livelihoods support. We also trained over 9000 parents and carers, health-care workers, teachers and government officials and we continued to ensure strong safeguarding systems and practice. Working alongside people with deafblindness, we have had some notable advocacy successes driving change in national laws, policies and budgets and improving support for people with deafblindness and their families, for generations to come. Noteworthy this year is Sense International India's advocacy efforts that led to persons with deafblindness being mentioned in four out of the 60 recommendations submitted to G20 leaders at the 18th G20 Summit held in New Delhi, India in September 2023. Also commendable are the efforts of Sense International Romania and Sense International Tanzania in steering the formation of organisations led by persons with deafblindness so they can self-advocate for their rights and push forward the disability inclusion agenda in their countries. In this report, you will read examples of accomplishments and achievements from all the countries in the Sense International family.

I was particularly pleased to see Sense International host a webinar in June 2023 to support the launch of the Second Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness produced by the World Federation of Deafblindness (WFDB). The lack of credible data is one of the key reasons for significant gaps in laws, policy, programmes and services and the exclusion of persons with deafblindness. The Global Reports on Deafblindness present some of the only data available on deafblindness. It provides valuable insight in raising and highlighting the situation of persons with deafblindness worldwide.

I remain immensely grateful to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal and our President, Lord Levy, who continue to champion and promote our work. I am also pleased to share that Sunil Sheth was appointed Honorary President of Sense International in March 2024. Sunil Sheth previously served as Chair of Sense International and has been a longstanding supporter and advocate for the rights of persons with deafblindness. I am appreciative of our Board members in the UK and the national boards globally as well as our dedicated volunteers for their expertise and support. We work closely with a number of partner organisations, and together much has been achieved over the last year. It would not be possible to deliver this incredible work without the dedication of our staff and teams here in the UK and across the world. Their commitment and hard work in delivering projects, supporting initiatives and oversight of established successes is immense and I thank them all.

I would also like to thank our funders and donors for their continued support (see the list on pages 52 and 53) which among others include the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Comic Relief, the Nelumbo Foundation, companies, trusts and foundations, individual supporters, as well as to our parent organisation Sense for their unwavering support.

2024 marks 30 years of Sense International, a huge milestone for our work. Our 30th anniversary is a chance to celebrate our past, present and future. Whilst our work over the last three decades has made significant strides ensuring inclusion of people with deafblindness into mainstream policy, programmes and services, critical gaps and challenges still remain. We are proud to take a moment this year to celebrate our work over the last 30 years. Our people, our many accomplishments and the countless lives that have been changed for the better. We still have much more to do to ensure people with deafblindness have the means and opportunities to realise their rights and reach their true potential. As an organisation we are very proud that Sense International continues to deliver for people with deafblindness across four continents and we will use this milestone to build on our accomplishments and successes and continue to advocate for the rights of people with deafblindness worldwide, firm in the belief that 'we leave no one behind'.



Rex H Shah

Chair
Date: 18 November 2024

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (including the Directors' report)

The Trustees of Sense International (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Sense International is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29 March 1999. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Vision: Our vision is of a world in which all people with deafblindness are equal and active members of society.

Mission: We work with people with deafblindness and partner organisations, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Values and Principles:

1. **We champion inclusion:** of everyone we work with in decisions affecting them.
2. **We are rights-based:** respecting dignity and diversity, promoting equality and respect for all human rights.
3. **We value individuals:** taking a person-centred approach which recognises the potential of each person, supports their quality of life and keeps them safe from harm.
4. **We work in partnership:** collaborating across the world with people with deafblindness, their representative organisations, families, carers, teachers and other professionals, communities, local organisations and governments, building respectful relationships for lasting change.
5. **We uphold high standards:** of accountability, integrity, quality and sustainability.

To ensure that these values and principles are truly embedded across the organisation, Sense International has a set of I-Statements which personalise these values for each member of the Sense International team:

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

- **I will listen to others:** However something is communicated to me – whether that be by gesture, facial expression, body tension or posture, sign language, objects of reference, in writing or by voice – I actively listen.

- **I will understand and respond:** I try to the best of my ability to understand what is being communicated to me and I always respond in a timely and respectful way.

- **I will respect others:** I respect and treat others as I would wish to be respected and treated myself.

- **I will be honest and open:** I am open about the reasons for my actions and give my honest opinion knowing that it will be respected.

- **I will participate and contribute:** I participate to the best of my ability and contribute willingly and freely.

- **I will take informed risk:** I consider the benefits of taking a risk, as well as what might happen if things go wrong. Where possible I seek to manage risk rather than avoid it.

- **I will find things to celebrate:** I recognise that all achievements, no matter how small they might seem to me, are cause for celebration.

- **No decision about me, without me:** I always seek to involve individuals in coming to decisions that affect them.

Sense International works through local Sense International offices in India, Kenya, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda and through lead partners in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Volunteers

Sense International's work, including in our programmes, is supported by volunteers, who worked approximately 2,200 hours. Additionally, significantly more time than that was worked by trustees, volunteers in the shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International, and other volunteer fundraisers in raising funds for our work. No monetary value has been placed on this support in the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account).

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Fundraising and engagement

We would like to thank all our incredible supporters who have helped Sense International in 2023/24. In the last few years and in response to the current funding lanscape, Sense International is diversifying fundraising and has seen growth in Trusts, Foundations and Philanthropy income which has continued through this year as well as some early signs of growth in events and individual giving. Our focus has also been in building stronger sustainable financial growth across our regional teams and the countries we operate in to support a localised agenda in fundraising. We continue to build long-term relationships with all of our supporters and partners, ensuring we value the contribution every individual, group or organisation makes to Sense International – whether that be their time, their voice or their financial support.

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly

Our fundraising is carried out in line with Sense International's values which means that honesty, transparency and accountability are central to everything we do. Ensuring that our supporters trust us is critical to all our fundraising efforts. We continue to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ensure that our policies, guidelines and processes are reviewed and updated regularly. We have guidelines in place for fundraising from vulnerable people and never put pressure on anyone to donate.

Sense International is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and works in a way that is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. Suppliers and those fundraising on our behalf are closely monitored through regular meetings, and in the event of contracts not being adhered to they are brought to an end. In 2023/24 we worked with one professional fundraiser and no commercial participators to support our fundraising.

Last year we did not receive any complaints about Sense International's fundraising, nor were any complaints made to the Fundraising Regulator during this period. We respond quickly to requests to change the way in which we contact people and always ensure that we manage our supporters' personal details in a respectful and secure manner. We also review our data management procedures on a regular basis.

From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the team did not receive any requests from Sense International supporters through the Fundraising Preference Service asking us to stop sending fundraising communications to them.

Fundraising is overseen by the Group Director of Engagement for Sense and the Sense International Fundraising Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Board).

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Governance

There were twelve Trustees on the Board during the year as detailed below:

Maria Arce-Moreira (to 20 December 2023)
Nicholas Corby
Suzi Nandera (from 6 April 2023)
Raaxeet Shah (Chair)
Lisa Szucs (from 6 April 2023)
Kiran Virdee (from 6 April 2023)
Gillian Wood (to 23 September 2024)
Richard Cooper
Mythily Katsaris (to 23 September 2024)
Lucy Roberts (to 3 October 2023)
Sunil Shah
Sian Tesni (from 23 Septmber 2024)
Lauren Watters

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. The Board may appoint members by co-option who will hold office until the following AGM and shall be eligible for re-election by the Board or election at the AGM. The Board meets four times a year and the Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings.

The Programme Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and has three Trustees who meet with the Director and the Senior Programmes team to discuss strategic and operational programmatic issues as well as Safeguarding. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

The Fundraising Advisory Committee meets regularly between Board meetings to discuss progress against the Fundraising Strategy and to support events and approaches to individuals, companies and Trusts / Foundations. It is made up of Trustees and one specialist volunteer.

The Finance and Audit Committee has three Trustee members who meet to review the deployment of Sense International's financial resources and the effectiveness of Sense International's internal and external auditing procedures. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

Recruitment of new Trustees

Prospective candidates to be Trustees for Sense International are interviewed by at least two members of the Board including the Chair of the Board and the Director following responses to an advert, or through recommendation. The appointment of new Trustees is recommended to the Board of Trustees and on acceptance by the Board they are co-opted, until standing for election at the following AGM.

There is a comprehensive induction for new Trustees. The induction plan involves meetings with senior staff and internal and external training as necessary, along with an information pack, including signing up to adhere to appropriate policies e.g. Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Relationship with related parties

Sense International is an independently registered charity and company, and is a subsidiary of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"). The Chief Executive of Sense International also holds the post of Chief Executive of Sense. The Board of Trustees reports once a year, at the AGM, to Sense, the sole member of Sense International. Sense provides support through sharing common facilities such as office space and IT, accounting and human resources support.

Delegated authority

The Board has delegated the day-to-day operational management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. The broad areas of delegation, for which the Chief Executive is accountable, are set out in the Sense governance handbook and are similar for Sense International.

To ensure these responsibilities are discharged effectively, the Chief Executive delegates responsibility to the Director of Sense International. The Director of Sense International is also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Public Benefit

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Charity Governance Code

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

The Board of Sense International believes that the policies and practice of Sense International are in keeping with the principles, rationale and key outcomes of the Charity Governance Code. In line with the requirements for charities to publish a statement in their annual report explaining the use of the Code, Trustees state the following:

- Principle 3 recommends that the Board 'understand their safeguarding responsibilities'. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item in all board meetings and a safeguarding report is produced for the board. Sense International conducted a refresher training for the Board of Sense International in September 2023.

- Principle 4 recommends that the Board 'describe the charity's approach to risk'. An updated version of the Sense International risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting. In addition, each national Board reviews the risk register for that country at each Board meeting.

- Principle 5 recommends that 'The board explains in the governance statement how the charity reviews or evaluates the board.'

- Principle 6 recommends that 'The board publishes an annual description of what it has done to address the diversity of the board and the charity's leadership and its performance against its diversity objectives, with an explanation of where they have not been met.'

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Charity Governance Code (continued)

The Board currently has a good mixture of professional skills. In terms of gender balance there were five male and five female Trustees. Among the Trustees there is experience of South Asia, East Africa and Latin America as well as a parent of a child with deafblindness. When discussing new recruitment, the Board keeps diversity in mind. Age is an aspect of diversity kept under review by the Board.

Gender balance of management roles:

- The CEO of Sense and Sense International is male.
- The Director of Sense International is female with extensive experience of international development.
- The Associate Director Fundraising for Sense International is female.
- The Head of Finance for Sense International is male with international experience.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Safeguarding

Sense International operates a rights-based, risk-based approach to safeguarding. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of all forms.

In 2023/24 routine review of policies were undertaken in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Recruitment across the organisation is carried out in accordance with our Safer Recruitment Policy. All staff complete an online training module during their probation, which serves as an introduction to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding considerations and we continue with periodic refresher training for staff in all our teams

Safeguarding Focal Points lead on safeguarding in each of the country programmes. Following clear terms of reference, these individuals take responsibility for championing good safeguarding practice at local level, meet regularly to share experience and feed into wider organisational work to strengthen systems and procedures.

We have an established reporting system in place. During 2023/24 we received five reports through the safeguarding reporting channels, all focused on community-based child protection issues, none of which met the Charity Commission's definition of a Serious Incident..

For further information on Sense International's Safeguarding System and related work, please visit our website: Safeguarding Statement (senseinternational.org.uk)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Environmental Statement

As Sense International is based within the Sense offices in the UK we are following Sense's environmental and carbon reporting.

Sense produced their SECR Energy and Carbon report 2023-24 by following the UK HM Government "Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance March 2019". Sense also used the GHG Reporting Protocol Corporate Standard. Over the past two years a lot of work has been done in relation to the organisation's aims of reducing energy consumption and carbon output. Sense now has a stated vision of being carbon neutral by 2040 and to that end has allocated resources to form a dedicated team, and a budget to carry out carbon and energy reduction projects. Sense's major contributors to carbon output (property, fleet and supply chain) are now under the direct management of the Sense Property team. This has enabled a more co-ordinated approach involving the whole organisation and Sense has published a new Environmental Policy in the first quarter of 2024/5 which makes direct reference to Sense International.

In addition to this, as Sense International we continue to monitor our CO2 emissions from air travel on an annual basis through reports from our travel providers.

Reappointment of auditors

A resolution to reappoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as auditors to the company will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of Trustees

Rex H Shah

Chair

Date: 18 November 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees' (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees' to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees' have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 the 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 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each director in office at the date the directors' report is approved, that:

- so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

By Order of Trustees

Rex H Shah

Chair

Date: 18 November 2024

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Sense International supports children and adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. In the countries we work, people with deafblindness are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed, with lower educational outcomes than other persons with disabilities. People with deafblindness face multiple barriers, including lack of access to healthcare, education, vocational training and opportunities to participate in their community compounded by lack of accessible information and communication, which makes it extremely difficult for them to voice their issues.

Sense International had three strategic objectives for 2023/24:

- INNOVATE: People with deafblindness are included in national systems.
- INFORM: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge.
- INFLUENCE: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets.

Overall, we have delivered on our strategic objectives despite a challenging year due to a tough economic and funding landscape exacerbated by the cost of living pressures faced globally. In formulating and reporting on our strategy, we include all members of the Sense International family, including Sense International India. Sense International India is a fully independent charity. Only a small part of its expenditure is funded through Sense International and only this part of its expenditure is included in Sense International's financial statements.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Strategic objective 1: People with deafblindness are included in national systems

We innovate and,working in partnership with governments, public structures including schools, hospitals and health facilities, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), parents and others, show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training.

Screening and Early Intervention

We take a life cycle approach, identifying children with deafblindness as early as possible and supporting them through their life stages from education through to employment and family and community life. Through our work, we demonstrate to governments, health authorities, families and communities how early screening and intervention can make a huge difference to a child's life.

We screened **70,887 children for deafblindness**.
Total receiving early intervention therapy and support: 967

In **Tanzania**, 40,618 children were screened over the year. This was part of the Caretech Foundation funded three-year Sensory Screening and Early Intervention project.. Out of the 40,618 children screened, using the firststage risk factor screening questionnaire, 6,101 children were referred to the Early Intervention units for secondstage, hearing and eye screening and assessment. In the year 4,916 children actually managed to attend their second stage screening, and 159 children were identified with complex disabilities, including deafblindness. These children are now enrolled in the Early Intervention services and together with their caregivers and Occupational Therapist are working to achieve their developmental milestones.

In **Kenya**, we successfully completed the FCDO UK Aid Match funded three-year Early Intervention project. During the year, 23,016 children were screened. Over the three years, a total of 84,126 (F 40,011 / M 44,115) children have been screened at the first stage far exceeding the target of 55,000. 10,912 (F5,239 / 5,673) children were further screened at the second stage exceeding the target of 6,875. 147 children with complex disabilities were enrolled into the Early Intervention programme. Two Occupational Therapists (OTs) hired by the project are now fully assimilated into county payroll with a further 2 OTs are in the process of being taken up by the county government. This is a huge influencing win for SI Kenya, contributing to the sustainability of our Early Intervention work in Kenya.

Sense International **India** opened a new centre for persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities in Bengaluru to provide early intervention, education and vocational training for persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Inclusive Education

Every child has the right to an education. We work with families, schools, colleges, partner organisations, government institutions and Ministries of Education, to enable learners with deafblindness to fulfil their potential, by getting the educational support that they need. This may be home-based, centre-based or in a mainstream school where the child receives support from a learning support assistant. We do what is needed to enable children with deafblindness to learn – from training parents and teachers, to providing specialist technology and adapting school facilities, curricula and learning materials.
Across all countries, we supported 5,586 children with deafblindness to access education.

In Kenya, we successfully closed out the FCDO funded Disability Inclusive Development (DID) project on home-based education. Out of the 45 learners recruited into this project, 18 have transitioned to school-based education so far. Sense International Kenya will continue working with the School-based Inclusion Teams (SBIT) based within the mainstream schools on the importance of accepting and including learners with disabilities in schooling.

In Bangladesh, the Shikhbo Shobai (Education for all) project which aims to prepare the children with multiple disabilities for schooling successfully provided home-based education support to 160 children, with 57 of them transitioning from home-based to school-based education, and 45 of the 57 successfully graduating into the next grade. This transition signifies a significant milestone in the education and independent living skills of the children.

In Uganda, we successfully completed the three year 'Holistic Early Childhood Development services for children with complex disabilities' project in the eight districts of Central and Eastern part of the country with funding from Comic Relief. In total, 305 children accessed holistic early childhood development services. Through this, 221 children showed improved health, nutrition, safety and general well-being.

Sense International Peru received an Honourable Mention for its human rights work as part of the XII Edition of the "Javier Pérez de Cuellar" Award promoted by the French Embassy in Peru. The award specially recognised our project "Improving Educational Inclusion for Boys and Girls with Deafblindness and Multiple Disabilities in 8 neglected regions of Peru" which has been running since February 2021.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Vocational training and livelihoods

Like any young person, young people with deafblindness want to be as independent as possible, earn a living and contribute to their families and communities. We support young people with deafblindness through the different stages of this process, enabling them to join a vocational training centre, become an apprentice, or plan to start their own business.

1,180 young people were supported with vocational training or opportunities to earn across our eight countries.

In **Bangladesh**, out of the 4 youth with deafblindness (2 males and 2 females) who received six months vocational training, under the Skills Training for Advancing Resources (STAR) model developed by BRAC, an apprenticeship type model where trainees receive training from a Master Craft Person in their communities in trades such as sewing, carpentry computers and batik, 2 (1 male and 1 female) have been placed in jobs, both now receiving a regular monthly income.

Sense International **India** supported over 1000 adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities with vocational training and livelihoods.

In **Kenya**, under the FCDO-funded Disability Inclusive Development (DID) InBusiness project, 36 microentrepreneurs had improved access to the market after receiving intensive business training and being supported with business growth kits and linkage to supply chain avenues. Five micro entrepreneurs (3 females and 2 males) actively participated in a two-day exhibition organized by the Kakamega Small and Medium Entrepreneurs. The event aimed to display diverse businesses, providing a platform for meaningful networking, raise awareness on complex disabilities and successful income generation

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Strategic objective 2: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge

We share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Across all countries, **9,178 people** were trained to support people with deafblindness.

We were successful in securing a second phase of funding from the Nelumbo Foundation for the Global Inclusive Education programme that will be implemented over three years in all eight countries. This programme will also see the launch of the Global Resource Hub, a digital platform with information and resources for people with deafblindness and the people who support them. We continue to develop the hub with accessible information and resources for people with deafblindness and those who support them, including parents, caregivers, teachers and NGO workers. We currently have resources in English, Spanish, Nepali, Hindi, Romana and Swahili and will soon add resources in Bangla.

In Uganda, we successfully launched five ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) centres at five schools equipping them with computers and assistive technology equipment for deaf and blind children with funding from the MTN Foundation. This intervention has benefited over 1000 learners with hearing and visual impairments and over 50 teachers now have access to online information for educational purposes and also improved ICT skills.

In Romania, we successfully organised the first training course on deafblindness for sign language interpreters. Attended by 17 interpreters, this course combined theoretical information and practical exercises, equipping interpreters to interpret for people with deafblindness. Sense International Romania closely collaborated with Sense International, Sense and Sense International India on the course.Sense International Romania have now been invited by the University of Bucharest, the Faculty of Journalism and Social Sciences, to deliver the deafblindness module of the sign language interpretation course as a postgraduate course, beginning next academic year.

In Peru, 99 education professionals from Ancash, La Libertad and Piura regions, registered and participated in the virtual technical assistance programme on deafblindnes and 162 participants attended the face-to-face workshops. Topics covered included: understanding of deafblindness and multiple disabilities; individual education plans for students with deafblindness and reasonable accommodations based on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach. Additionally, parents and family members from Alto Amazons (Loreto region) received one-to-one socioemotional virtual support sessions. These sessions helped parents and family members with challenges around developing emotional relationships, lack of emotional boundaries and need of empowerment and trust within families. 110 virtual sessions were delivered to 17 families in the last quarter of the year.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Strategic objective 3: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets

We advocate for change based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, work with organisations led by people with deafblindness and parents' groups, and gather rigorous research and evidence.

On 29th June 2023, Sense International delivered a webinar on the **Second Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness** launched by the World Federation of Deafblindness (WFDB). Sense International was a key collaborator and contributor to the report. The webinar was part of celebrations marking International Day of Deafblindness celebrated on 27th June (Helen Keller's birthday) and was aimed at wider civil society partners as well as funders to shed light on the situation of people with deafblindness globally and provide recommendations for better inclusion of people with deafblindness in services, systems and programmes. We had presenters from three different continents and had 70 participants from a wide range of organisations attending the webinar.

Sense International **Romania** created a space for 44 people with deafblindness to advocate for their rights and coordinate with each other, and also provided this with training and awareness on their rights. The group has now decided to establish a first ever Association of People with Deafblindness to promote and advance rights and inclusion of people with deafblindness in Romania which is a significant result for Sense International Romania and the deafblindness and disability sector in Romania.

Sense International **India** participated in the Disability Equity Justice (DEJ) Working Group consultations held as part of G20 hosted in India. Four out of the 60 recommendations submitted to G20 leaders by the working group included mentions of persons with deafblindness thanks to Sense International India's engagement and advocacy.

In **Bangladesh**, through successful advocacy efforts of our partner Centre for Disability in Development's National Resource Centre for Deafblindness, the National Centre for Special Education (NCSE) has incorporated deafblindness in their draft BSEd (Bachelor of Science Education) curriculum, which means awareness and education on deafblindness will be integrated into the NCSE curriculum. This is a significant milestone that will help raise awareness, foster inclusivity, and empower students to better understand and support individuals with deafblindness for a long time to come.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Strategic objective 3: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets (continued)

In **Nepal**, a tactile sign language workshop was conducted by Society for Deafblind Parents (SDBP), with representatives from Deaf Association of Nepal (DAN), the Ministry and Departments of Education in attendance. Following this workshop, Ministry representatives voiced their commitment to sustaining the programme and providing support for tactile communication in their next fiscal year budget. Additionally, the local government in Pokhara has allocated a budget of NPR 1million (approximately £6060) to start a resource class on deafblindness in Kaski. This is a significant accomplishment following coordination and advocacy efforts of our partners in Nepal.

In **Tanzania**, we hosted three meetings with youth with deafblindness and supported them to develop their constitution and choose leaders ready to register their own organization of youth with deafblindness. These youth with deafblindness were also supported by Sense International Tanzania to participate in the status report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the **UK**, the Bond Disability and Development Group and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) hosted a celebration for International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December 2023) through an event at the Parliament Offices on 4 December 2023. The event consisted of a panel discussion with ministry officials alongside testimonials from persons with disabilities from around the world. It showcased a video presentation of Mwanaasha, a woman with deafblindness supported by our programme in Tanzania who spoke about the barriers she faced and how Sense International supported her in becoming financially independent, starting her own business, and also helped her in amplifying her voice advocating for the rights of people with deafblindness to be realised.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Objectives for 2024/25

Our objectives for 2024/25 continue to be as set out in our 2022-27 strategy, namely:

Mission: We work in partnership with people with deafblindness and others, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Strategic Objective 1 (Innovate) **People with deafblindness are included in national systems:** we innovate and show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training, working in partnership with governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, parents and others.

Strategic Objective 2 (Inform) **People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge**: we share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Strategic Objective 3 (Influence) **People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets:** we support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, join advocacy efforts by organisations of people with deafblindness and parents' groups, gather rigorous research and evidence, and meet decision-makers.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Objectives for 2024/25 (continued)

A few of our priorities for 2024/25 include (not an exhaustive list):

- In Latin America, we will work through a partner in a new geography, Ecuador, and expand our education and livelihoods work to reach more people with deafblindness
- In Kenya, working with local authorities and partners, we will set up hearing screening and early interventions services in Garissa and Kwale counties, and train local health workers and professionals on early intervention approaches to identify and support children with deafblindness.
- In Nepal, we will enable children and youth with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments to have access to early screening, education, lifelong learning and skills training in Kathmandu, Kaski, Rupandehi and Morang districts in Nepal.
- In India, through a new two-year partnership with the John Lewis Partnership, we will support young people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments to access employment in Delhi and Alleppey.
- In Uganda, we will expand our early intervention services to two new districts.
- We will continue to deliver our Global Inclusive Education programme ensuring more children with deafblindness and complex disability have access to education. As part of this programme, we will launch our Global Resource Hub, a digital platform with information and resources for people with deafblindness and the people who support them.
- Lastly, to mark 30 years of Sense International in 2024, we are holding a series of campaigns and events, including a gala held in September 2024, to raise awareness and enhance support for people with deafblindness and our work.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Internal Financial Control

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material financial misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget and operational plan approved by the Trustees. A number of matters are specifically reserved for the Trustees approval. There is a clear organisational structure with appropriate lines for reporting.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, reforecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- Policy documents covering major strategic and operational activities are developed and reviewed with appropriate regularity and consultation.
- Regular monitoring of budgets, operational plan and financial activities by the Director of Sense International with the Management Team.

Identification and management of risks

The Trustees adopted a risk management policy in December 2018 which was updated on 26th November 2019. Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for the management of risks to the Director of Sense International. An ongoing risk management process assesses business risks and implements risk management strategies. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and regularly updating an action plan to allow satisfactory mitigation and management of likely risks.

This occurs as an intrinsic part of the annual operational planning process and is then reviewed in regular meetings of senior managers, reported to the Trustees each quarter both in the Finance and Audit Committee and the in Board Meetings. It is further overseen by the Sense audit committee. The Trustees have developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Charity and to changes in the external environment, including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management, the Trustees, and when required to other external authorities such as the Charity Commission, together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Identification and management of risks (continued)

The principal risks are as follows:

- Fundraising: Sense International's fundraising team in the UK and the in-country teams fail to reach targets. This risk is mitigated by the adoption of a realistic fundraising strategy, by a focussed and highly skilled team of fundraisers concentrating on Sense International, and by the close involvement of Trustees in fundraising efforts.
- Compliance: In-country partners do not adhere to policies, systems, procedures and donor compliance requirements leading to a financial, reputational, compliance or quality risk. This risk is mitigated through ensuring partners sign Memoranda of Understanding, committing to following Sense International policies in key areas, discussing the policies, systems and procedures at the start of programmes and identifying staff training needs and on-going compliance measures, and through regular and periodic monitoring by SI staff.
- Financial management: Sense International global teams do not comply with financial procedures or national financial reporting requirements or do not have the necessary levels of skill and experience to ensure robust, transparent, timely and accurate management of finances. This risk is mitigated through a programme of review of in-country financial procedures, through training and monitoring by UK finance and programme staff. From 1 April 2022 we implemented, where possible, the same computerised accounting systems across the organisation enabling more timely monthly and quarterly reviews of management accounts.
- Currency exchange: As Sense International receives income mainly in Pound Sterling and spends in a variety of currencies, its spending power is reduced if the Pound Sterling falls in value against these operating currencies. The risk is mitigated through spreading exposure to currency fluctuation by holding part of Sense International's cash in various operating currencies and in Euros and US Dollars.

Financial review for the year ended 31 March 2024

Income for the year was £3.13m (2023: £2. 34m). Total expenditure was £2.82m (2023: £3.01m). The proportion of expenditure spent on charitable activities decreased to 92% (2023: 93%).

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Reserves

The Trustees agreed an aim to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to four months' annual expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. The Trustees have set this target in order to ensure Sense International has reserves capable of providing sufficient working capital for budgeted operational commitments and funding responsive action in the event of a significant financial downturn.

At 31 March 2024, unrestricted reserves totalled £23,141 which is equivalent to two weeks' expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. (2023: £16,596 equivalent to one week.) The level of unrestricted reserves is significantly lower that the level targeted by the Trustees, however the risk presented by operating with a low level of unrestricted reserves is mitigated by the ongoing financial support of the parent charitable company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense") which was confirmed in a letter of support to the Trustees of Sense International received in November 2024. On this basis the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

By Order of Trustees

Rex H Shah
Chair
Date: 18 November 2024

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Sense International's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the balance sheet as at 31 March 2024; the statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) and the cash flow statement for the year then ended; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance 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 an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of 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 based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Trustees' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report for the period ended 31 March 2024 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they 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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry/environment, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- enquiring of management and the Board of Trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Finance and Audit Committee;
- identifying and testing journal entries, including journal entries posted with unusual account combinations to income; and
- assessing financial statement disclosures, and testing to supporting documentation, for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charitable company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.



Daniel Chan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
London
18 November 2024

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and legacies		794,700	1,375,530	**2,170,230**	1,364,898
Charitable activities	2	-	959,837	**959,837**	979,635
Investments		2,882	1,930	**4,812**	2,423
Total		**797,582**	**2,337,297**	**3,134,879**	**2,346,956**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	219,551	7	**219,558**	200,248
Charitable activities	4	202,346	2,395,845	**2,598,191**	2,813,980
Total		**421,897**	**2,395,852**	**2,817,749**	**3,014,228**
Net income/(expenditure)		375,685	(58,555)	**317,130**	(667,272)
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds		(369,140)	369,140	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		16,596	533,326	**549,922**	1,217,194
Fund balances carried forward at end of year		**23,141**	**843,911**	**867,052**	**549,922**

The accounting policies and notes on pages 34 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

All the results included in the statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) above relate to continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) above, and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented. There is no difference between the fund balances and the net incoming resources for the years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023 is given in Note 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	**19,218**	28,630
Current assets			
Debtors	6	**244,297**	469,113
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,046,831**	408,652
Total current assets		**1,291,128**	**877,765**
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	**(419,294)**	**(324,473)**
Net current assets		**871,834**	**553,292**
Total assets less current liabilities		**891,052**	**581,922**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	8	**(24,000)**	**(32,000)**
Total net assets		**867,052**	**549,922**
The funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	10,11	**843,911**	533,326
Unrestricted funds	10,11	**23,141**	16,596
Total charity funds		**867,052**	**549,922**

The financial statements on pages 31 to 51 were approved by the Board on 18 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rex H Shah
Chair
Company registration number 3742986

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	18	**638,920**	**(593,358)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		**4,812**	2,423
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**(5,553)**	(2,505)
Net cash (used in) investing activites		**(741)**	**(82)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**638,179**	**(593,440)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**408,652**	1,002,092
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21	**1,046,831**	**408,652**

Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards including:

- Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and
- the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards; Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees have reviewed the Company's forecasts, and made appropriate enquiries of the wider Group's financial position and forecasts, in assessing the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. Trustees have reviewed the forecasts in the light of severe and plausible downsides such as loss of retail income or lower than expected income from fundraising events. The risk presented by operating with a low level of unrestricted reserves is mitigated by the ongoing financial support of the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense") which was confirmed in a letter of support to the Trustees of Sense International received in November 2024. On this basis the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Particulars of the significant accounting policies of the Charity are given below.

Income from Charitable Activities
This consists of income from grants and contracts, which is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants received in advance but with donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability. Income receivable under the terms of a grant at balance sheet date is recognised as accrued income and recognised within debtors.

Accounting policies (continued)

Donations and Legacies
Legacy income is recognised on a receivable basis when it is probable that legacy income will be received and the value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Donations are accounted for when received.

Donations includes donations from Sense International's parent company, Sense. Sense operates five shops for the benefit of Sense International and the profit from these shops is donated to Sense International and included in donations and legacies.

Investment Income
Investment income consists of bank interest and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
All expenditure, including any irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Fundraising for Sense International is carried out by fundraisers employed by the parent charity Sense and all costs charged to Sense International for this work are direct costs. Accordingly, all support costs relate to charitable activities.

Cost incurred by country programmes are included within direct costs. Costs incurred in the UK are allocated to direct or support costs based on an estimate of the split by activity of staff time in each cost centre.

Governance Costs
Governance costs include external audit and Trustees' expenses.

Cash at Bank and in Hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounting policies (continued)

Foreign Currency
i. Functional and presentation currency
The company's functional and presentation currency is the Pound Sterling.

ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Recognition of Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful economic lives in equal annual instalments at the following annual rates:

Computer Equipment	25%
Motor Vehicles	25%
Fixtures and Fittings	25%

Purchases of fixed assets valued at £500 and above are capitalised, otherwise they are expensed in the year the cost is incurred.

Pension Costs
The charity operates defined contribution schemes for staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) in the period in which they are payable.

Taxation
The company is recognised as a charity by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purposes of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is exempt from Corporation Tax.

Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Restricted fund expenditure is accounted for when the funds are expended. All expenditure made in the countries we work in outside the UK is accounted for as restricted fund expenditure and a transfer is made from unrestricted funds at the end of the year to cover any expenditure not covered by restricted income.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Principal Accounting Estimates and Judgements
In the application of Sense International's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These estimates together with their underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The matter below is considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported:

Legacy income is recognised as detailed under income recognition above. In calculating the level of accrued legacy income, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the value and probability of receipt.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Income from			
Donations and legacies	663,079	701,819	**1,364,898**
Charitable activities	-	979,635	**979,635**
Investments	449	1,974	**2,423**
Total	**663,528**	**1,683,428**	**2,346,956**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	200,248	-	**200,248**
Charitable activities	322,299	2,491,681	**2,813,980**
Total	**522,547**	**2,491,681**	**3,014,228**
Net income/(expenditure)	140,981	(808,253)	**(667,272)**
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	(428,806)	428,806	**0**
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	304,421	912,773	**1,217,194**
Fund balances carried forward at end of year	**16,596**	**533,326**	**549,922**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities

Income from Charitable Activities	2024 £	2023 £
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme 'Inclusive Futures' consortium	**714,520**	603,172
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Improving Developmental Outcomes for Children with Complex Disabilities in Garissa and Kwale Counties of Rural Kenya (UK Aid Match)	**75,881**	129,042
Comic Relief - (SI Uganda) Holistic Early Child Development (ECD) for Children with Complex Disabilities in Uganda	**67,131**	137,314
Active Citizens Fund Romania Program – (SI Romania) The voice of people with deafblindness in Romania	**51,405**	64,358
Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission Education, learning and skills for people with deafblindness in Bangladesh	**50,900**	22,500
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Healthy Life for People with Deafblindness in Nepal	-	23,249
Total Income from Charitable Activities	**959,837**	**979,635**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

During the year, a donation of £500,000 (2023: £350,000) was received from the parent company, Sense.

In addition, in the year ended 31 March 2024, Sense donated £123,148 (2023: £103,373) representing the net profit on five shops run by Sense that are designated as Sense International shops.

Income from legacies for the year was £6,000 (2023: £89,725).

4 Expenditure

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Raising funds	219,558	-	**219,558**
Charitable activities	2,453,656	144,535	**2,598,191**
	2,673,214	**144,535**	**2,817,749**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	102,675	41,860	**144,535**
	102,675	**41,860**	**144,535**

Governance costs included £8,064 (2023: £8,064) of external audit fees. No payments were made to Sense International's auditors in respect of non-audit services.

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Raising funds	200,248	-	**200,248**
Charitable activities	2,649,077	164,903	**2,813,980**
	2,849,325	**164,903**	**3,014,228**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	136,313	28,590	**164,903**
	136,313	**28,590**	**164,903**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

5 Tangible assets

	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	5,545	69,002	1,224	75,771
Additions	2,127	-	3,426	5,553
31 March 2024	**7,672**	**69,002**	**4,650**	**81,324**
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	2,950	44,140	51	47,141
Charge for the year	2,679	11,617	669	14,965
At 31 March 2024	**5,629**	**55,757**	**720**	**62,106**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2024	**2,043**	**13,245**	**3,930**	**19,218**
At 31 March 2023	2,595	24,862	1,173	28,630

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes. There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date (2023: £nil).

6 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	**69,222**	29,253
Accrued income	**159,537**	430,860
Prepayments	**15,538**	9,000
	244,297	**469,113**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	72	2,067
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	215,491	199,816
Deferred income	73,131	791
Other creditors and accruals	130,600	121,799
	419,294	324,473

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

8 Creditors falling due after more than one year

The amount due after more than one year is in respect of a loan of £40,000 that is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2024. The amount falling due after more than one year is £24,000 (2023: £32,000). The loan is from a related party as disclosed in note 15.

9 Capital

Sense International is registered in England (Company registration number 3742986) as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. The liability of the member is limited by guarantee. The member has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding one pound as may be required in the event of the charity being wound up.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Romania – In-country Income	134,113	59,349	73,218	-	120,244
Comic Relief Uganda	114,034	67,318	181,352	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	56,274	-	56,274	-	-
IHelp Uganda	51,508	21,956	53,163	-	20,301
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	47,077	-	47,077	-	-
Medicor	29,791	-	23,321	-	6,470
Active Citizens Romania	27,380	51,405	63,799	-	14,986
Holyhock Foundation (Tanzania)	20,621	26,846	22,417	-	25,050
Guernsey Overseas Aid (Bangladesh)	13,189	29,009	42,198	-	-
Commonwealth Foundation (Kenya)	10,783	25,515	18,932	-	17,366
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	8,737	-	8,737	-	-
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	2,217	22,800	15,374	-	9,643
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	1,551	-	1,551	-	-
Lavelle Peru	120	32,529	29,175	-	3,474
FCDO Disability Inclusive Development	-	713,450	713,450	-	-
Nelumbo Stiftung Education Phase 2	-	456,521	194,642	-	261,879
John Lewis Foundation	-	99,545	-	-	99,545
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention (Uganda) Phase 2	-	153,667	54,162	-	99,505
The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation (Peru)	-	64,304	4,688	-	59,616
Deaf Child Worldwide (Kenya)	-	40,214	8,086	-	32,128
CareTech Foundation (Tanzania)	-	70,866	56,949	-	13,917
MTN Telecoms (Uganda)	-	162,452	149,374	-	13,078
Synevo (Romania)	-	13,442	5,428	-	8,014
Halcrow Foundation	-	7,421	-	-	7,421
Priory Foundation	-	5,000	1,077	-	3,923
Hugh Symons (Bangladesh)	-	3,500	9	-	3,491
The James Tudor Foundation (Nepal)	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Romania Orange E-Sense	-	6,253	3,541	-	2,712
Guernsey Overseas Aid Education (Bangladesh)	-	23,401	22,723	-	678
Nelumbo Stiftung Education Phase 1	-	46,592	46,592	-	-
Subtotal carried forward to next page	**517,395**	**2,206,355**	**1,897,309**	**-**	**826,441**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Subtotal brought forward from previous page	**517,395**	**2,206,355**	**1,897,309**	**-**	**826,441**
Tanzania Buhangija School	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
The Hodge Foundation Inclusive Education (Bangladesh)	-	7,500	7,500	-	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	3,972	100,590	96,618	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	-	102,324	102,324	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	106,690	165,298	58,608	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	-	98,609	98,609	-
Romania Holding Fund	-	-	10,143	10,143	-
Other	15,931	10,280	11,579	2,838	17,470
Total restricted	**533,326**	**2,337,297**	**2,395,852**	**369,140**	**843,911**
Unrestricted	16,596	797,582	421,897	(369,140)	23,141
Total	**549,922**	**3,134,879**	**2,817,749**	**-**	**867,052**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

Fund	Balance at 31 March 2022	Income and Transfers in	Expenditure and transfers out	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	224,398	173,126	397,524	-	-
Romania – In-country Income	137,708	27,670	31,265	-	134,113
Comic Relief Uganda	80,993	135,090	102,049	-	114,034
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	62,701	-	62,701	-	-
Medicor	55,000	-	25,209	-	29,791
My Turn to Learn Appeal	42,635	(48,245)	(5,610)	-	-
Tanzania Adults Vocational	38,342	-	38,342	-	-
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	37,284	33,192	70,476	-	-
Lavelle Peru	33,799	43	33,722	-	120
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	32,353	81,263	57,342	-	56,274
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	31,047	-	22,310	-	8,737
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	30,374	-	29,764	-	610
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	28,482	49,374	30,779	-	47,077
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	24,000	-	24,000	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	9,148	24,900	32,497	-	1,551
UN Women Uganda	6,843	33,292	40,135	-	-
IHelp Uganda	4,061	107,063	59,616	-	51,508
Active Citizens Romania	-	64,414	37,034	-	27,380
Holyhock Foundation (Tanzania)	-	41,123	20,502	-	20,621
Care Tech (Tanzania)	-	34,443	34,443	-	-
Commonwealth Foundation (Kenya)	-	30,113	19,330	-	10,783
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	-	22,664	20,447	-	2,217
Guernsey Overseas Aid (Bangladesh)	-	22,500	9,311	-	13,189
FCDO Disability Inclusive Development	-	593,908	593,908	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	154	119,817	119,663	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	-	209,773	209,773	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	2,008	77,278	75,270	-
Other	33,605	255,333	297,717	24,100	15,321
Total restricted	**912,773**	**1,683,428**	**2,491,681**	**428,806**	**533,326**
Unrestricted	304,421	663,528	522,547	(428,806)	16,596
Total	**1,217,194**	**2,346,956**	**3,014,228**	**-**	**549,922**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted funds are funds held by the Charity for particular applications, specified by the donor and within the Charity's objectives, and can only be applied to those particular purposes. The restrictions may apply to income or capital or both. Many of the restricted funds are generated through targeted project appeals.

Expenditure incurred outside of the UK that is not eligible to be charged against specific restricted income is charged against a restricted fund set up for each country. Where we receive income that is restricted to be spent in a particular country, but not otherwise restricted, it is credited to the restricted fund for that country. At the end of each year, if expenditure from the restricted fund for a country exceeds income to the fund, then a transfer is made from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to bring the fund balance to zero.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are held for the general purposes of the Charity. Because they can be deployed flexibly, unrestricted funds allow the Charity to fund core organisational costs necessary for delivery of projects partially funded with restricted funds. Unrestricted funds also allows the Charity, through co-funding, to leverage restricted funding from Governmental and State agencies that will usually only commit to fund part of the costs of major projects. Hence, unrestricted funds are vitally important for the day to day operation of the Charity and the support we provide to people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	19,218	-	**19,218**
Net current assets	27,923	843,911	**871,834**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(24,000)	-	**(24,000)**
	23,141	**843,911**	**867,052**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	28,630	-	**28,630**
Net current assets	19,966	533,326	**553,292**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(32,000)	-	**(32,000)**
	16,596	**533,326**	**549,922**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

12 Employees' remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**1,118,459**	830,643
Social Security costs	**73,083**	30,865
Other pension costs	**62,421**	67,076
	1,253,963	**928,584**

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Charity was 63 (2023: 56).

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 (2023: nil) and one employee earned between £90,000 and £100,000 (2023: nil).

The Trustees of Sense International received no remuneration (2023: £nil) and received no reimbursements of expenses (2023: £nil).

13 Pensions

Sense International contributes to defined contribution pension schemes in the countries in which it operates. The pension charge for the year was £62,421 (2023: £67,076).

14 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for at 31 March 2024 amounted to £nil (2023: £nil).

15 Related Parties

In the year ending 31 March 2020, Sense International entered into a loan with Dandylion Consulting Limited, a company of which trustee Sunil Shah was also a Director in the year. The loan was unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. During the prior year, Dandylion Consulting Limited agreed to a deferment of repayments by one year. The amount of the loan outstanding at the balance sheet date is £40,000. See also note 8.

See Note 3 for donations from Sense International's parent charity Sense and Note 17 for disclosure of remuneration for key management personnel.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

16 Parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party

The charity's parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is considered by the Trustees to be Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, a charity and company, registered in England. The registered address of Sense from which copies of this company's financial statements are available is:

101 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9LG

17 Key Management Personnel

The Trustees delegate day to day responsibility to the Chief Executive, Richard Kramer who is supported by Kavita Prasad, the Director of Sense International. The Chief Executive was remunerated by Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The Director of Sense International is remunerated by Sense International and her remuneration is included in the amounts disclosed in Note 12.

The aggregate remuneration of the one key management personnel remunerated by Sense International (2023: 2), was £86,676 (2023: £71,519) before pension contributions of £4,332 (2023: £20,862).

18 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net Income/(expenditure)	**317,130**	(667,272)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income received	**(4,812)**	(2,423)
Depreciation	**14,965**	17,279
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**224,816**	(162,557)
Increase in creditors	**86,821**	221,615
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	**638,920**	**(593,358)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

19 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net cash

	2024 £	2023 £
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	**638,179**	(593,440)
Changes generated from/(used in) cash flows	**638,179**	**(593,440)**
Net cash at the start of the year	**408,652**	1,002,092
Net cash at end of year	**1,046,831**	**408,652**

20 Analysis of changes in net cash

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**
Net cash	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**
Net cash	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

21 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**
Cash and cash equivalents	408,652	638,179	-	**1,046,831**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**
Cash and cash equivalents	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**

Major Supporters

The Trustees are indebted to all of our donors for their support, both financial and otherwise. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Charity to operate. We are particularly grateful to those who have made unrestricted donations in the year. With special thanks to:

Active Citizens Fund Romania, programme funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021 – Sense International Romania

CareTech Foundation

Comic Relief – Sense International Uganda

Commonwealth Foundation – Sense International Kenya

Deaf Child Worldwide – Sense International Kenya

Educational Opportunity Foundation

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Halcrow Foundation

Hodge Foundation

John & Sarah Rockliff (Friends of the Reed Foundation)

John Lewis Partnership Foundation

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa - Sense International Uganda

Major Supporters (continued)

Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc. - Sense International Peru

Medicor Foundation

MJB Charitable Trust

MTN Foundation – Sense International Uganda

Nelumbo Foundation

Orange Foundation Romania - Sense International Romania

Sunil Shah

Synevo Romania with the support of Medicover Association – Sense International Romania

Terry Williams

The Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada – Sense International Uganda partner with Kyambogo University.

The Hollyhock Charitable Foundation

The Priory Foundation

The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation – Latin American Children's Trust (LACT) Programme

The Souter Charitable Trust

Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust

Charity Information

Charity name	Sense International
Governing instrument	Memorandum and Articles of Association
Registered charity number	1076497
Company registration number	3742986
Trustees	Richard Cooper Nicholas Corby Suzi Nandera (from 6 April 2023) Raaxeet Shah (Chair) Sunil Shah Lisa Szucs (from 6 April 2023) Sian Tesni (from 23 Septmber 2024) Kiran Virdee (from 6 April 2023) Lauren Watters
Company secretary	Richard Kramer
Key management personnel	
Chief executive	Richard Kramer
Director	Kavita Prasad
Registered office	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG

Charity information (continued)

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc Chancery Lane & Holborn (D) Branch PO Box 159 332 High Holborn London WC1V 7PS
Solicitors	Wilsons Solicitors LLP Alexandra House St John Street Salisbury SP1 2SB Trowers & Hamlins LLP 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ
Independent Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 1 Embankment Place London WC2N 6RH

SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1076497

Accounts

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Company registration number 3742986, Charity number 1076497

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce Sense International's 2022/23 annual report. It was another impactful year for Sense International, reaching more children and adults with deafblindness and more people with training and information about deafblindness, and continuing to influence national policies and practice to ensure inclusion of people with deafblindness in the countries we work. Following the disruptions caused by the global pandemic the past two years, we were pleased to resume face-to-face delivery of programmes particularly training, undertake visits to our global offices and connect with our stakeholders in person this year.

In 2022/23, Sense International screened over 60,000 children for deafblindness, and supported 7,939 children with deafblindness and complex disabilities to access education. 1,205 young people received vocational training or livelihoods support, thanks to Sense International. We also trained 8,774 parents and carers, health-care workers, teachers and government officials and we continued to ensure strong safeguarding systems and practice. We have had some notable advocacy successes, working alongside people with deafblindness to drive change in national laws, policies and budgets to improve support for people with deafblindness and their families, for generations to come. In this report, there are examples of achievements from all the countries in the SI family.

This year saw each of our global programmes developing national strategies underpinning our global strategic framework ensuring inclusion of people with deafblindness in societies and systems, so they can thrive and fulfil their potential.

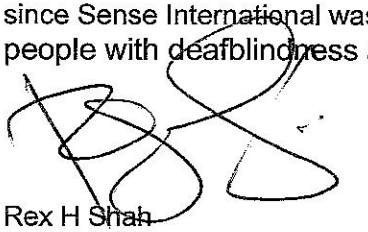
In October 2022, we welcomed our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, to our Uganda programme. In the run-up to the royal visit, there was a horrific fire at the school we had planned to visit and sadly 12 children lost their lives. Out of respect for the mourning families and the school, the Princess Royal and her husband along with the British Ambassador to Uganda visited the Sense International Uganda offices instead and met with Sense International Uganda trustees, staff and some of the children and families we support and learnt more about our work, the people we support and our impact in Uganda. We held a minute's silence in memory of the children who lost their lives in the tragic fire. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the grieving families.

I am immensely grateful to our Patron, partner organisations, Board members in the UK and across the national boards and our dedicated volunteers for their expertise and support, and to everyone who makes our work with, and for, people with deafblindness possible. Our President, Lord Levy, remains hugely supportive of our work and hosted a supporter engagement event at the House of Lords in September. Our work would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our teams here in the UK and across the world and we thank them all.

While much has been accomplished this year, these remain challenging times for the international development sector. Covid-19 and the global cost of living crisis have exacerbated the financial constraints faced by the sector, and the funding challenges facing international NGOs cannot be underestimated. We remain immensely grateful for the continued support of all our donors (see the list on pages 51 and 52) which among others

include the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Guernsey and Jersey Overseas Aid Commissions, Comic Relief, the National Lottery Community Fund, the Nelumbo Foundation, companies, trusts and foundations, individual supporters, as well as to our parent organisation Sense for their unwavering support.

I'm very proud of the way Sense International continues to deliver for people with deafblindness across four continents but there is much more to do. The second Global Report on Deafblindness launched this year highlights the inequalities faced by people with deafblindness. Children with deafblindness are 30% more likely to live in poverty compared to children without disabilities and only 20% of children with deafblindness are in primary school. Persons with deafblindness across the world continue to be excluded from life. Next year, 2024, marks the 30th Anniversary year since Sense International was founded and we look forward to continuing our vital work, removing barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included, can fulfil their potential and realise their rights.



Rex H Shah

Chair
Date: 20 December 2023

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (including the Directors' report)

The Trustees of Sense International (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Sense International is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29 March 1999. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Vision: Our vision is of a world in which all people with deafblindness are equal and active members of society.

Mission: We work with people with deafblindness and partner organisations, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Values and Principles:

1. **We champion inclusion:** of everyone we work with in decisions affecting them.
2. **We are rights-based:** respecting dignity and diversity, promoting equality and respect for all human rights.
3. **We value individuals:** taking a person-centred approach which recognises the potential of each person, supports their quality of life and keeps them safe from harm.
4. **We work in partnership:** collaborating across the world with people with deafblindness, their representative organisations, families, carers, teachers and other professionals, communities, local organisations and governments, building respectful relationships for lasting change.
5. **We uphold high standards:** of accountability, integrity, quality and sustainability.

To ensure that these values and principles are truly embedded across the organisation, Sense International has a set of I-Statements which personalise these values for each member of the Sense International team:

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

- **I will listen to others:** However something is communicated to me – whether that be by gesture, facial expression, body tension or posture, sign language, objects of reference, in writing or by voice – I actively listen.
- **I will understand and respond:** I try to the best of my ability to understand what is being communicated to me and I always respond in a timely and respectful way.
- **I will respect others:** I respect and treat others as I would wish to be respected and treated myself.
- **I will be honest and open:** I am open about the reasons for my actions and give my honest opinion knowing that it will be respected.
- **I will participate and contribute:** I participate to the best of my ability and contribute willingly and freely.
- **I will take informed risk:** I consider the benefits of taking a risk, as well as what might happen if things go wrong. Where possible I seek to manage risk rather than avoid it.
- **I will find things to celebrate:** I recognise that all achievements, no matter how small they might seem to me, are cause for celebration.
- **No decision about me, without me:** I always seek to involve individuals in coming to decisions that affect them.

Sense International works through local Sense International offices in India, Kenya, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda and through lead partners in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Volunteers

Sense International's work is supported by volunteers. We estimate that volunteers have worked for 1,000 hours in implementing our charitable activites. Many times that has been spent by trustees, volunteers in the shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International, and other volunteer fundraisers in raising funds for our work. No monetary value has been placed on this support in the Statement of Financial Activities. Sense International is also supported by people raising funds for Sense International as volunteers and by volunteers in the charity shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Fundraising and engagement

We would like to thank all our incredible supporters who have helped Sense International in 2022/23. In the last few years, Sense International has invested in fundraising and has seen growth in Trusts, Foundations and Philanthropy income which has continued through this year. We continue to build long-term relationships with all of our supporters and partners, ensuring we value the contribution every individual, group or organisation makes to Sense International – whether that be their time, their voice, their energy, or their financial support.

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly

Our fundraising is carried out in line with Sense International's values which means that honesty, transparency and accountability are central to everything we do. Ensuring that our supporters trust us is critical to all our fundraising efforts. We continue to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ensure that our policies, guidelines and processes are reviewed and updated regularly. We have guidelines in place for fundraising from vulnerable people and never put pressure on anyone to donate.

Sense International is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and works in a way that is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. Suppliers and those fundraising on our behalf are closely monitored through regular meetings, and in the event of contracts not being adhered to they are brought to an end. In 2022/23 we worked with one professional fundraiser and no commercial participators to support our fundraising.

Last year we did not receive any complaints about Sense International's fundraising, nor were any complaints made to the Fundraising Regulator during this period. We respond quickly to requests to change the way in which we contact people and always ensure that we manage our supporters' personal details in a respectful and secure manner. We also review our data management procedures on a regular basis.

From 1st April 2022 to 31 March 2022, the team did not receive any requests from Sense International supporters through the Fundraising Preference Service asking us to stop sending fundraising communications to them.

Fundraising is overseen by the Director of Engagement for Sense and the Sense International Fundraising Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Board).

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Governance

There were twelve Trustees on the Board during the year as detailed below:

Maria Arce-Moreira
Nicholas Corby
Dean Lumer (to 24 September 2022)
Raaxeet Shah
Sunil Sheth (to 24 September 2022)
Lauren Watters
Richard Cooper
Mythily Katsaris
Lucy Roberts (to 3 October 2023)
Sunil Shah
Verity Stiff (to 24 September 2022)
Gillian Wood

Suzi Nandera, Lisa Szucs and Kiran Virdee were appointed on 6 April 2023.

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. The Board may appoint members by co-option who will hold office until the following AGM and shall be eligible for re-election by the Board or election at the AGM. The Board meets four times a year and the Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings.

The Programme Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and has three Trustees who meet with the Director and the Senior Programmes team to discuss strategic and operational programmatic issues as well as Safeguarding. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

The Fundraising Advisory Committee meets regularly between Board meetings to discuss progress against the Fundraising Strategy and to support events and approaches to individuals, companies and Trusts / Foundations. It is made up of Trustees and one specialist volunteer.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Recruitment of new Trustees

Prospective candidates to be Trustees for Sense International are interviewed by at least two members of the Board including the Chair of the Board and the Director following responses to an advert, or through recommendation. The appointment of new Trustees is recommended to the Board of Trustees and on acceptance by the Board they are co-opted, until standing for election at the following AGM.

There is a comprehensive induction for new Trustees. The induction plan involves meetings with senior staff and internal and external training as necessary, along with an information pack, including signing up to adhere to appropriate policies e.g. Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

Relationship with related parties

Sense International is an independently registered charity and company, and is a subsidiary of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"). The Chief Executive of Sense International also holds the post of Chief Executive of Sense. The Board of Trustees reports once a year, at the AGM, to Sense, the sole member of Sense International. Sense provides support through sharing common facilities such as office space and IT, accounting and human resources support.

Delegated authority

The Board has delegated the day-to-day operational management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. The broad areas of delegation, for which the Chief Executive is accountable, are set out in the Sense governance handbook and are similar for Sense International.

To ensure these responsibilities are discharged effectively, the Chief Executive delegates responsibility to the Director of Sense International. The Director of Sense International is also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law UK GAAP (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 the 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 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each director in office at the date the directors' report is approved, that:

- so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Public Benefit

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Charity Governance Code

The Board of Sense International discussed the Charity Governance Code at their meeting on 29th June 2020. The Trustees reviewed Sense International's rating against the principles and key outcomes. Trustees noted that the Code asks charities to publish a statement in their annual report explaining the use of the Code, including three principles specifically:

- Principle 4 recommends that the Board 'describe the charity's approach to risk'. An updated version of the Sense International risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting. In addition, each national Board reviews the risk register for that country at each Board meeting.
- Principle 5 recommends that 'The board explains in the governance statement how the charity reviews or evaluates the board.'
- Principle 6 recommends that 'The board publishes an annual description of what it has done to address the diversity of the board and the charity's leadership and its performance against its diversity objectives, with an explanation of where they have not been met.'

The Board currently has a good mixture of professional skills. In terms of gender balance in the first half of the year of the year there were six male and six female Trustees and in the second half there were four male and five female trustees. Among the Trustees there is experience of South Asia, East Africa and Latin America as well as a parent of a child with deafblindness. When discussing new recruitment, the Governance Committee keep diversity in mind. Age is an aspect of diversity kept under review by the Board.

Gender balance of management roles:

- The CEO of Sense and Sense International is male.
- The Director of Sense International is female with extensive experience of international development.
- The Head of Fundraising for Sense International is female.
- The Head of Finance for Sense International is male with international experience.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Safeguarding

Sense International operates a rights-based, risk-based approach to safeguarding. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of all forms.

In 2022/23 routine review of policies were undertaken in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Recruitment across the organisation is carried out in accordance with our Safer Recruitment Policy. All staff complete an online training module during their probation, which serves as an introduction to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding considerations and we continue with periodic refresher training for staff in all our teams

Safeguarding Focal Points lead on safeguarding in each of the country programmes. Following clear terms of reference, these individuals take responsibility for championing good safeguarding practice at local level, meet regularly to share experience and feed into wider organisational work to strengthen systems and procedures.

Our reporting system continues as previously reported. During 2022/23 we received 6 reports, mainly on community-based child protection issues, none of which met the Charity Commission's definition of a Serious Incident and was reported accordingly.

For further information on Sense International's Safeguarding System and related work, please visit our website: Safeguarding Statement (senseinternational.org.uk)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Environmental Statement

As Sense International is based within the Sense offices in the UK we are following Sense's environmental and carbon reporting.

Sense have produced their SECR Energy and Carbon report 2022-23 by following the UK HM Government "Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance March 2019". Sense have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol Corporate Standard. The past year has seen intense action regarding the organisation's aims of reducing energy consumption and carbon output. The Organisation now has a stated vision of being carbon neutral by 2040 and to that end has allocated resources to form a dedicated team, and a budget to carry out carbon and energy reduction projects. Sense's major contributors to carbon output (property, fleet and supply chain) are now under the direct management of the Sense Property team. This has enabled a more co-ordinated approach involving the whole Organisation. Sense is currently considering a fully inclusive environment strategy, and will be looking to publish a new Environmental Policy, and action plan this year.

Sense's London office (where the majority of Sense International staff are based) has been fully refurbished, incorporating LED lighting to reduce energy, incorporated an agile working approach to the office environment, which has released office space to enable us to incorporate another charity tenant increasing the more efficient use of floor space. Sense and Sense International's trading operation recycles more than 5500 tonnes per annum of clothing and furniture and there are plans to increase this.

Sense have undertaken the major project to change all our electric meters to 'smart' meter. The software that compliments this project will give us on demand information and correct readings. We will be able to analyse the power usage which in turn will help us to make informed decisions regarding future energy reduction projects.

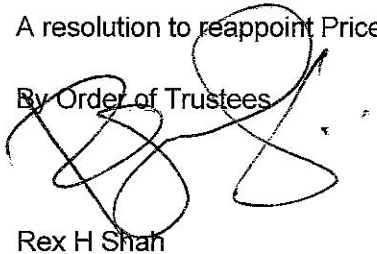
In addition to this, as Sense International we are separately monitoring our air travel and have received a report from our travel provider regarding our CO2 emissions in the year 2022-23. It is recognised that the figures for 2020/21 and 2021/22 were largely deflated due the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as the business is now returning to normal working practices, and flights have increased the impacts have risen back to pre-Covid levels. We will be monitoring this and aiming to reduce our air travel where possible going forwards. We are also looking to see how we can support our teams around the world to establish their carbon footprint, monitor this and reduce our carbon footprint where possible.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Reappointment of auditors

A resolution to reappoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as auditors to the company will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of Trustees



Rex H Shah

Chair

Date: 20 December 2023

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Sense International supports children and adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. People with deafblindness in the countries we work in are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed, with lower educational outcomes than other persons with disabilities. They face multiple barriers, including lack of access to healthcare, education, vocational training and opportunities to participate in their community compounded by lack of accessible information and communication, which makes it extremely difficult for them to voice their issues.

Sense International had three strategic objectives for 2022/23:

- INNOVATE: People with deafblindness are included in national systems.
- INFORM: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge.
- INFLUENCE: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets.

Overall, we have delivered on our strategic objectives despite a challenging year where some delays and difficulties due to COVID-19 continued added to the cost of living pressures faced globally. In formulating and reporting on our strategy, we include all members of the Sense International family, including Sense International India. Sense International India is a fully independent charity. Only a small part of its expenditure is funded through Sense International and only this part of its expenditure is included in Sense International's financial statements.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Strategic objective 1: People with deafblindness are included in national systems

We innovate and working in partnership with governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), parents and others, show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training.

Screening and Early Intervention

The sooner we identify a child with deafblindness, and ensure the support they need, the more likely they are to develop to their full potential. Through our work, we demonstrate to governments, health authorities, families and communities how early screening can be used, and the huge difference that early support and therapy can make. We train health workers and enable parents to understand and communicate with their child, as well as to boost their child's progress towards achieving developmental milestones.

We screened **60,847 children for deafblindness**.
Total receiving early intervention therapy and support: 403

In India, 3,967 babies were screened for visual and hearing impairments and 49 received early intervention services. Multiple training sessions were delivered onsite and at district, state and regional levels.

In Kenya, we screened over 48,532 children in the year. We were able to screen large numbers this year due to an additional 30 Community Health Volunteers being assigned to screening. Screening was done using tablet-based technology - each Community Health Volunteer was issued with a tablet, installed with specialised software, allowing them to conduct screening and upload data to a central database, which allowed Sense International Kenya to instantly track progress.

In Peru, we supported the establishment of 3 sensory stimulation rooms in schools in the regions of Ica, Apurimac and Tumbes to provide therapy support to students with disabilities enrolled in the schools.

In Uganda, we have supported Multi-disciplinary Assessments by Paediatricians, Ophthalmologists, Ear Nose and Throat specialists from four general hospitals who delivered recommendations for each child based on their hearing, sight, weight, birth history. A total of 6,237 children have been screened using the risk questionnaire this year. 131 children (81 boys and 50 girls) have been enrolled in early intervention services.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Inclusive Education

Every child has the right to an education. We work with families, schools, colleges, partner organisations, government institutions and Ministries of Education, to enable learners with deafblindness to fulfil their potential, by getting the educational support that they need. This may be home-based, centre-based or in a mainstream school where the child receives support from a learning support assistant. We do what is needed to enable children with deafblindness to learn – from training parents and teachers, to providing specialist technology and adapting school facilities, curricula and learning materials.

Across all countries, we supported **7,939** children with deafblindness to access education.

In Uganda, we continued to provide learning support assistance to 55 children (25 girls and 30 boys) in 30 schools. 50 children progressed to the next grades. We are providing this support in 12 districts – 4 in the Eastern and 8 in the Central regions of Uganda.

In India, 3,104 children were supported with access to education, with 407 in schools, and others supported through centres or at home. Rehabilitation professionals including special educators and community-based rehabilitation workers (CBR) at Sense India's partner organizations provide educational services to children with deafblindness and multiple disabilities through the centre and home-based programme. Under the centre-based programme, children visit the deafblind resource centres run by Sense International India's partner organizations and under the home-based programme, the rehabilitation professionals visit the homes of children who either live far from the resource centres or are unable to visit the centre due to their health conditions. The sessions being conducted for children not only focus on academic development but also emphasize the holistic development of the children. There are 407 children with deafblindness and multiple disabilities in 17 states who are enrolled in 228 regular inclusive schools, either govt. aided or private. These children are also supported by partner organizations through additional education sessions to support them in following the regular school curriculum.

In Bangladesh, we supported 157 children (88 boys and 69 girls) with access to education through the Regional Resource Centres and our home-based education programme. Out of these, 30 boys and 27 girls have transitioned to schools so far, because of our continuous advocacy work with School Management Committees (SMC). The team also organised a national meeting with 19 young people with deafblindness from three different regions, their carers and our deafblind field educators to discuss their previous year's main activities, challenges and achievements. They also conducted a planning session on how to activate the National Level Network of Deafblind People. The meeting was a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and accessible society for deafblind individuals in Bangladesh.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Inclusive Education (continued)

In Romania, Sense International Romania organised the National Conference "Education of Children with Deafblindness: Together for 22 Years!" to mark their 22nd anniversary. More than 60 people participated in the two-day event, including representatives of the Ministry of Education, partner special schools, universities and people with deafblindness.

Vocational training and livelihoods

Like any young person, young people with deafblindness want to be as independent as possible, earn a living and contribute to their families and communities. We support young people with deafblindness through the different stages of this process, enabling them to join a vocational training centre, become an apprentice, or plan to start their own business.

1,205 young people were supported with vocational training or opportunities to earn across our eight countries.

In Bangladesh, out of the 15 trainees with deafblindness that were trained, using the Skills Training for Advancing Resources (STAR) model (developed by BRAC), which is an apprenticeship type model where trainees receive training from a Master Craft Person in their communities in trades such as sewing, carpentry computers and batik.12 are now employed and earning an income. A video documentary was developed on one of the trainees and their journey.

In Kenya, under the FCDO-funded Disability Inclusive Development (DID) InBusiness project, 18 micro entrepreneurs had improved access to the market after receiving intensive business training and being supported with business growth kits and linkage to supply chain avenues. Some of the micro entrepreneurs are reporting tripling and doubling of profit margins since their participation in the project.

In Peru, for the second year in a row – Sense International Peru was awarded the national 'Inclusivity and Disability' award by CONADIS (the national authority on disability in Peru) for their "Skills for Life: Occupational Skills Programme for Youth and Adults with Deafblindness in Peru". This is a huge recognition for Sense International Peru and helps raise the profile of the organisation as well as people with deafblindness in Peru.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Strategic objective 2: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge

We share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Across all countries**, 8,774 people** were trained to support people with deafblindness. Funded by Nelumbo Foundation, we continue to develop the online **Global Deafblindness Resource Centre** – deafblindness.info – with accessible information and resources for those who support people with deafblindness, including parents, caregivers, teachers and NGO workers. We currently have resources in three languages on the hub – English, Romanian and Spanish – and will soon have resources in more languages, including Bangla, Hindi, Nepali and Swahili.

In Kenya, eight physical resource hubs were also established in schools and hospitals, all equipped with tablets. The tablets have programmes and resources installed, providing information on disability and deafblindness which 1,898 learners and 753 teachers accessed. Additionally, the first class of 63 learning support assistants (LSAs) completed their practical training and graduated from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. 80% of the LSAs trained in Kenya are still being supported by the local school boards, demonstrating the value and sustainability of the approach, and we continue to advocate for the Ministry of Education to officially embed LSAs in schools.

In Peru, 117 education professionals from Ica, Tacna and Tumbes were trained to support students with deafblindness and received a final certification for 200 academic hours.

In Bangladesh, we organized a three-day training on disability, deafblindness and Inclusive education for school teachers in three regions. The training course is designed to sensitize and improve the capacity of teachers on disability, deafblindness and inclusive education enabling them to effectively address the education support needs of children with deafblindness/ multi-sensory impairment in school. A total of 55 school teachers (33 men and 22 women) from three regions participated in the training. This included teachers from Jashore, Satkhira, Rangpur and Bogura districts in Bangladesh.

In India, a booklet on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 was designed and developed by Sense International India for Persons with Deafblindness. The 'A-Z of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016' is an easy guide to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, a landmark legislation passed by the Government of India to safeguard the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Strategic objective 2: People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge (continued)

In Tanzania, 11 teachers of learners with deafblindness and 4 carer takers from the deafblind units at Uhuru Mchanganyiko and Buguruni school for the deaf were trained on the newly established Competence Based Curriculum for learners with deafblindness. Topics covered were communication skills, self-help skills (activities of daily living skills), reading, writing and arithmetic skills, entrepreneurial skills, leisure (sports/games/music) and recreation with emphasis on embedding sports in learning activities, artwork, and the use of information technology in learning (ICT).

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Strategic objective 3: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets

We advocate for change based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, work with organisations led by people with deafblindness and parents' groups, and gather rigorous research and evidence.

We were closely involved in developing the **Second Global Report on Deafblindness**, launched in 2022/23 by the World Federation of Deafblindness. This is a vital advocacy tool shedding light on the situation of people with deafblindness globally and providing recommendations for better inclusion of people with deafblindness in services, systems and programmes.

In Romania, after ten years of campaigning by Sense International Romania, early intervention has been formally embedded in the Romanian education system. New legislation allows for the establishment of services nationwide and the government is using pioneering services set up by Sense International Romania as a best practice model. Also, Sense International Romania's 'e-Sense' - the online platform and software for the education of children with deafblindness has been formally authorised by the Ministry of Education.

In Nepal, due to the advocacy efforts of Sense International's partners - National Resource Centre in Deafblindness (NRCDB) with the support of Society for Deafblind Parents (SDBP) and Deaf Association of Nepal (DAN) – the Ministry of Education has established a first-of-its-kind programme of NPR 3 million (approx. £20,000) to support resource classes for children with deafblindness. In addition, the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens, the line ministry on disability in Nepal, has allocated a budget of NPR 2.9 million to SDBP and DAN.

In Peru, Sense International Peru organised a social campaign to raise awareness on the rights and needs of people with deafblindness. This included a TV interview with Sense International Peru's Director, as well as video statements from Sense International Peru's key strategic partners such as the Association of Deafblind People (ASCUP), the Association of People with Disabilities, and Disability Rights activists. They also commemorated key national and international days like the "National Education Day" and Down Syndrome World Day to spread their message and share relevant information about disability, deafblindness and inclusive services. This has really contributed to tackling misconceptions and stigma and promoting a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities in Peru.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Strategic objective 3: People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets (continued)

In Tanzania, we made significant progress towards our Education Service Resource and Assessment Centre (ESRAC) model being adopted nationally. The Tanzanian President's Office Regional Authority and Local Government responsible for managing district and regional services released three guidelines developed by Sense International, including on establishing ESRACs at local authorities across the country, on the implementation of an inclusive education strategy and on assistive devices in schools. The district governments in Misungwi and Shinyanga have already begun work on setting up their own ESRACs.

SI Tanzania also participated in the review of the National Guideline for Educational Support, Resources and Assessment Centers coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, where they advocated for the need for children with deafblindness to be reflected in the guidelines.

In India, 10 adults with deafblindness concluded a 4-months internship with different Sense International India partner organisations, focusing on learning about self-advocacy and undertaking initiatives at local level. The internship has helped them to gain confidence and contribute by working as part of a team.

In Uganda, we continue our advocacy with the district health authorities of the greater Masaka region where our early intervention project is being implemented to ensure that the disability data is captured and included in the district health management information systems (DHMIS).

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Objectives for 2023/24

Our objectives for 2023/24 continue to be as set out in our 2022-27 strategy, namely:

Mission: We work in partnership with people with deafblindness and others, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Strategic Objective 1 (Innovate) **People with deafblindness are included in national systems:** we innovate and show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training, working in partnership with governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, parents and others.

Strategic Objective 2 (Inform) **People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge**: we share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Strategic Objective 3 (Influence) **People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets:** we support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, join advocacy efforts by organisations of people with deafblindness and parents' groups, gather rigorous research and evidence, and meet decision-makers.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Internal Financial Control

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material financial misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget and operational plan approved by the Trustees. A number of matters are specifically reserved for the Trustees approval. There is a clear organisational structure with appropriate lines for reporting.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, reforecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- Policy documents covering major strategic and operational activities are developed and reviewed with appropriate regularity and consultation.
- Regular monitoring of budgets, operational plan and financial activities by the Director of Sense International with the Management Team.

Identification and management of risks

The Trustees adopted a risk management policy in December 2018 which was updated on 26th November 2019. Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for the management of risks to the Director of Sense International. An ongoing risk management process assesses business risks and implements risk management strategies. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and regularly updating an action plan to allow satisfactory mitigation and management of likely risks.

This occurs as an intrinsic part of the annual operational planning process and is then reviewed in regular meetings of senior managers, reported to the Trustees each quarter and further overseen by the Sense audit committee. The Trustees have developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Charity and to changes in the external environment, including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management, the Trustees, and when required to other external authorities such as the Charity Commission, together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

The principal risks are as follows:

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Identification and management of risks (continued)

- Fundraising: Sense International's fundraising team in the UK and the in-country teams fail to reach targets. This risk is mitigated by the adoption of a realistic fundraising strategy, by a focussed and highly skilled team of fundraisers concentrating on Sense International, and by the close involvement of Trustees in fundraising efforts.
- Compliance: In-country partners do not adhere to policies, systems, procedures and donor compliance requirements leading to a financial, reputational, compliance or quality risk. This risk is mitigated through ensuring partners sign Memoranda of Understanding, committing to following Sense International policies in key areas, discussing the policies, systems and procedures at the start of programmes and identifying staff training needs and on-going compliance measures, and through regular and periodic monitoring by SI staff.
- Financial management: Sense International global teams do not comply with financial procedures or national financial reporting requirements or do not have the necessary levels of skill and experience to ensure robust, transparent, timely and accurate management of finances. This risk is mitigated through a programme of review of in-country financial procedures, through training and monitoring by UK finance and programme staff. From 1 April 2022 we implemented, where possible, the same computerised accounting systems across the organisation enabling more timely monthly and quarterly reviews of management accounts.
- Currency exchange: As Sense International receives income mainly in Pound Sterling and spends in a variety of currencies, its spending power is reduced if the Pound Sterling falls in value against these operating currencies. The risk is mitigated through spreading exposure to currency fluctuation by holding part of Sense International's cash in various operating currencies and in Euros and US Dollars.

Financial review for the year ended 31 March 2023

Income for the year was £2.34m (2022: £2.53m). Income in 2022 had been boosted by a significant one-off unrestricted donation. Total expenditure was £3.01m (2022: £2.56m). The proportion of expenditure spent on charitable activities increased to 93% (2022: 92%).

During the year a loss of £148,615 was recognised in respect of a fraud by an employee of Sense International Uganda. The matter has been reported to the charity commission and an independent forensic investigation has been completed.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Reserves

The Trustees agreed an aim to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to four months' annual expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. The Trustees have set this target in order to ensure Sense International has reserves capable of providing sufficient working capital for budgeted operational commitments and funding responsive action in the event of a significant financial downturn.

At 31 March 2023, unrestricted reserves totalled £16,596 which is equivalent to one week's expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. (2022: £304,421 equivalent to six months.) The level of unrestricted reserves is significantly lower that the level targeted by the Trustees, however the risk presented by operating with a low level of unrestricted reserves is mitigated by the ongoing financial support of the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense") which was confirmed in a letter of support to the Trustees of Sense International received in December 2023. On this basis the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

By Order of Trustees

Rex H Shah
Chair
Date: 20 December 2023

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Sense International's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the balance sheet as at 31 March 2023; the statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) and cash flow statement for the year then ended; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance 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 an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of 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 based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Trustees' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report for the period ended 31 March 2023 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they 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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry/environment, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- enquiring of management and the board of trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of the board of trustees;
- identifying and testing journal entries, including journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and
- assessing financial statement disclosures, and testing to supporting documentation, for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charitable company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

D Chan

Daniel Chan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Birmingham
20 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and legacies		663,079	701,819	**1,364,898**	1,815,911
Charitable activities	2	-	979,635	**979,635**	716,246
Investments		449	1,974	**2,423**	3,360
Total		**663,528**	**1,683,428**	**2,346,956**	**2,535,517**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	200,248	-	**200,248**	215,047
Charitable activities	4	322,299	2,491,681	**2,813,980**	2,351,468
Total		**522,547**	**2,491,681**	**3,014,228**	**2,566,515**
Net income/(expenditure)		140,981	(808,253)	**(667,272)**	(30,998)
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	10	(428,806)	428,806	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		304,421	912,773	**1,217,194**	1,248,192
Fund balances carried forward at end of year		**16,596**	**533,326**	**549,922**	**1,217,194**

The accounting policies and notes on pages 34 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

All the results included in the statement of financial activities above relate to continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above, and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented. There is no difference between the fund balances and the net incoming resources for the years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 is given in Note 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	**28,630**	43,404
Current assets			
Debtors	6	**469,113**	306,556
Cash at bank and in hand		**408,652**	1,002,092
Total current assets		**877,765**	**1,308,648**
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	**(324,473)**	**(102,858)**
Net current assets		**553,292**	**1,205,790**
Total assets less current liabilities		**581,922**	**1,249,194**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	8	**(32,000)**	**(32,000)**
Total net assets		**549,922**	**1,217,194**
The funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	10,11	**533,326**	912,773
Unrestricted funds	10,11	**16,596**	304,421
Total charity funds		**549,922**	**1,217,194**

The financial statements on pages 31 to 50 were approved by the Board on 20 December 2023

Rex H Shah
Chair
Company registration number 3742986

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Net cash outflow from operating activities	18	**(593,358)**	**(71,114)**
Investing activities – investments			
Interest received		**2,423**	**1,065**
Investing activities – capital expenditure			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(2,505)**	**-**
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		**-**	**904**
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		**(593,440)**	**(69,145)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**1,002,092**	**1,071,237**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**21**	**408,652**	**1,002,092**

Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards including:

- Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and
- the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards; Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees have reviewed the Company's forecasts, and made appropriate enquiries of the wider Group's financial position and forecasts, in assessing the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. Unrestricted reserves have fallen significantly during the year from £304,421 to £16,596. However the risk presented by operating with a low level of unrestricted reserves is mitigated by the ongoing financial support of the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense") which was confirmed in a letter of support to the Trustees of Sense International received in December 2023. On this basis the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Particulars of the significant accounting policies of the Charity are given below.

Income from Charitable Activities
This consists of income from grants and contracts, which is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants received in advance but with donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability. Income receivable under the terms of a grant at balance sheet date is recognised as accrued income and recognised within debtors.

Accounting policies (continued)

Donations and Legacies
Legacy income is recognised on a receivable basis when it is probable that legacy income will be received and the value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Donations are accounted for when received.

Donations includes donations from Sense International's parent company, Sense. Sense operates five shops for the benefit of Sense International and the profit from these shops is donated to Sense International and included in donations and legacies.

Investment Income
Investment income consists of bank interest and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
All expenditure, including any irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Fundraising for Sense International is carried out by fundraisers employed by the parent charity Sense and all costs charged to Sense International for this work are direct costs. Accordingly, all support costs relate to charitable activities.

Cost incurred by country programmes are included within direct costs. Costs incurred in the UK are allocated to direct or support costs based on an estimate of the split by activity of staff time in each cost centre.

Governance Costs
Governance costs include external audit and Trustees' expenses.

Cash at Bank and in Hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounting policies (continued)

Foreign Currency
i. Functional and presentation currency
The company's functional and presentation currency is the Pound Sterling.

ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Recognition of Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful economic lives in equal annual instalments over 4 years.

Purchases of fixed assets valued at £500 and above are capitalised, otherwise they are expensed in the year the cost is incurred.

Pension Costs
The charity operates defined contribution schemes for staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are payable.

Taxation
The company is recognised as a charity by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purposes of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is exempt from Corporation Tax.

Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Restricted fund expenditure is accounted for when the funds are expended. All expenditure made in the countries we work in outside the UK is accounted for as restricted fund expenditure and a transfer is made from unrestricted funds at the end of the year to cover any expenditure not covered by restricted income.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Principal Accounting Estimates and Judgements
In the application of Sense International's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These estimates together with their underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The matter below is considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported:

Legacy income is recognised as detailed under income recognition above. In calculating the level of accrued legacy income, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the value and probability of receipt.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Income from			
Donations and legacies	877,654	938,257	**1,815,911**
Charitable activities	-	716,246	**716,246**
Investments	35	3,325	**3,360**
Total	**877,689**	**1,657,828**	**2,535,517**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	215,047	-	**215,047**
Charitable activities	181,430	2,170,038	**2,351,468**
Total	**396,477**	**2,170,038**	**2,566,515**
Net income/(expenditure)	481,212	(512,210)	**(30,998)**
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	(235,607)	235,607	**0**
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	58,816	1,189,376	**1,248,192**
Fund balances carried forward at end of year	**304,421**	**912,773**	**1,217,194**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities

Income from Charitable Activities	2023 £	2022 £
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme 'Inclusive Futures' consortium	**603,172**	205,820
Comic Relief - (SI Uganda) Holistic Early Child Development (ECD) for Children with Complex Disabilities in Uganda	**137,314**	136,768
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Improving Developmental Outcomes for Children with Complex Disabilities in Garissa and Kwale Counties of Rural Kenya (UK Aid Match)	**129,042**	98,526
Active Citizens Fund Romania Program – (SI Romania) The voice of people with deafblindness in Romania	**64,358**	-
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Healthy Life for People with Deafblindness in Nepal	**23,249**	92,996
Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission Education, learning and skills for people with deafblindness in Bangladesh	**22,500**	-
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Learning for All: Inclusive Education for Learners with Complex Disabilities in Kenya (UK Aid Direct)	-	91,057
The National Lottery Community Fund Improved Livelihoods and Participation in Society for People with Deafblindness/MSI in Tanzania	-	52,209

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Increasing access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for children and young adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh.	-	19,664
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Good health and well-being for all: establishing the first sensory screening and early intervention programme for children with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments in Tanzania	-	19,206
Total Income from Charitable Activities	**979,635**	**716,246**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

During the year, a donation of £350,000 (2022: £350,000) was received from the parent company, Sense.

In addition, in the year ended 31 March 2023, Sense donated £103,373 (2022: £104,891) representing the net profit on five shops run by Sense that are designated as Sense International shops.

Income from legacies for the year was £89,725 (2022: £11,304).

4 Expenditure

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	200,248	-	**200,248**	**215,047**
Charitable activities	2,649,077	164,903	**2,813,980**	**2,351,468**
	2,849,325	**164,903**	**3,014,228**	**2,566,515**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	136,313	28,590	**164,903**	**171,001**
	136,313	**28,590**	**164,903**	**171,001**

Governance costs included £8,064 (2022: £6,720) of external audit fees. No payments were made to Sense International's auditors in respect of non-audit services.

Direct costs of charitable activities included £148,615 of losses recognised in the year in relation to a fraud by an employee at Sense International Uganda. The matter has been reported to the charity commission and an independent forensic investigation has been completed.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Tangible assets

	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	4,264	69,002	0	73,266
Additions	1,281	0	1,224	2,505
Disposals	0	0	0	0
31 March 2023	**5,545**	**69,002**	**1,224**	**75,771**
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	1,820	28,042	0	29,862
Charge for the year	1,130	16,098	51	17,279
Eliminated on Disposal	0	0	0	0
At 31 March 2023	**2,950**	**44,140**	**51**	**47,141**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2023	**2,595**	**24,862**	**1,173**	**28,630**
At 31 March 2022	2,444	40,960	0	43,404

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes. There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date (2022: £nil).

6 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued income	**430,860**	182,005
Prepayments	**9,000**	11,154
Other debtors	**29,253**	113,397
	469,113	**306,556**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**2,067**	-
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	**199,816**	7,807
Deferred income	**791**	291
Accruals	**44,051**	19,414
Other creditors	**77,748**	75,346
	324,473	**102,858**

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

8 Creditors falling due after more than one year

The amount due after more than one year is in respect of a loan of £40,000 that is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2024. During the year the terms of the agreement were altered to delay repayments by one year. The amount falling due after more than one year is £32,000 (2022: £32,000). The loan is from a related party as disclosed in note 15.

9 Capital

Sense International is registered in England (Company registration number 3742986) as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. The liability of the member is limited by guarantee. The member has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding one pound as may be required in the event of the charity being wound up.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	224,398	173,126	397,524	-	-
Romania – In-country Income	137,708	27,670	31,265	-	134,113
Comic Relief Uganda	80,993	135,090	102,049	-	114,034
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	62,701	-	62,701	-	-
Medlcor	55,000	-	25,209	-	29,791
My Turn to Learn Appeal	42,635	(48,245)	(5,610)	-	-
Tanzania Adults Vocational	38,342	-	38,342	-	-
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	37,284	33,192	70,476	-	-
Lavelle Peru	33,799	43	33,722	-	120
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	32,353	81,263	57,342	-	56,274
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	31,047	-	22,310	-	8,737
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	30,374	-	29,764	-	610
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	28,482	49,374	30,779	-	47,077
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	24,000	-	24,000	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	9,148	24,900	32,497	-	1,551
UN Women Uganda	6,843	33,292	40,135	-	-
IHelp Uganda	4,061	107,063	59,616	-	51,508
Active Citizens Romania	-	64,414	37,034	-	27,380
Holyhock Foundation (Tanzania)	-	41,123	20,502	-	20,621
Care Tech (Tanzania)	-	34,443	34,443	-	-
Commonwealth Foundation (Kenya)	-	30,113	19,330	-	10,783
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	-	22,664	20,447	-	2,217
Guernsey Overseas Aid (Bangladesh)	-	22,500	9,311	-	13,189
FCDO Disability Inclusive Development	-	593,908	593,908	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	154	119,817	119,663	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	-	209,773	209,773	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	2,008	77,278	75,270	-
Other	33,605	255,333	297,717	24,100	15,321
Total restricted	**912,773**	**1,683,428**	**2,491,681**	**428,806**	**533,326**
Unrestricted	304,421	663,528	522,547	(428,806)	16,596
Total	**1,217,194**	**2,346,956**	**3,014,228**	**-**	**549,922**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	208,199	363,834	347,635	-	224,398
Romania – In-country Income	100,321	74,421	37,034	-	137,708
Comic Relief Uganda	78,347	137,386	134,740	-	80,993
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	67,534	19,664	24,497	-	62,701
Medicor	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
My Turn to Learn Appeal	58,060	48,245	63,670	-	42,635
Tanzania Adults Vocational	45,395	52,209	59,262	-	38,342
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	17,007	92,996	72,719	-	37,284
Lavelle Peru	-	49,459	15,660	-	33,799
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	85,566	-	53,213	-	32,353
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	60,208	-	29,161	-	31,047
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	74,994	-	44,620	-	30,374
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	61,418	5,500	38,436	-	28,482
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	-	22,697	13,549	-	9,148
UN Women Uganda	-	33,387	26,544	-	6,843
IHelp Uganda	-	64,759	60,698	-	4,061
NLCF Uganda	58,982	-	58,982	-	-
Enabel Vocational	49,477	134,740	184,217	-	-
Porticus Uganda 2020-21	35,119		35,119	-	-
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	29,180	3,874	33,054	-	-
Tanzania Early Intervention	20,554	19,206	39,760	-	-
BandAid Uganda	18,163	7,153	25,316	-	-
Australian Embassy Tanzania	15,811	-	15,811	-	-
Tanzania HDIF	9,475	-	9,475	-	-
Romania Orange E-Sense	4,461	7247	11,708	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya	-	91,057	91,057	-	-
FCDO (UK Aid Match) Kenya Early Intervention	-	98,526	98,526	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	271	72,626	72,355	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	4,276	103,931	99,655	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	971	48,702	47,731	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	521	22,435	21,914	-
Other	67,105	270,429	297,881	(6,048)	33,605
Total restricted	**1,189,376**	**1,657,828**	**2,170,038**	**235,607**	**912,773**
Unrestricted	58,816	877,689	396,477	(235,607)	304,421
Total	**1,248,192**	**2,535,517**	**2,566,515**	**-**	**1,217,194**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted funds are funds held by the Charity for particular applications, specified by the donor and within the Charity's objectives, and can only be applied to those particular purposes. The restrictions may apply to income or capital or both. Many of the restricted funds are generated through targeted project appeals.

Expenditure incurred outside of the UK that is not eligible to be charged against specific restricted income is charged against a restricted fund set up for each country. Where we receive income that is restricted to be spent in a particular country, but not otherise restricted, it is credited to the restricted fund for that country. At the end of each year, if expenditure from the restricted fund for a country exceeds income to the fund, then a transfer is made from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to bring the fund balance to zero.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are held for the general purposes of the Charity. Because they can be deployed flexibly, unrestricted funds allow the Charity to fund core organisational costs necessary for delivery of projects partially funded with restricted funds. Unrestricted funds also allows the Charity, through co-funding, to leverage restricted funding from Governmental and State agencies that will usually only commit to fund part of the costs of major projects. Hence, unrestricted funds are vitally important for the day to day operation of the Charity and the support we provide to people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	28,630	0	**28,630**
Net current assets	19,966	533,326	**553,292**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(32,000)	-	**(32,000)**
	16,596	**533,326**	**549,922**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	43,404	-	**43,404**
Net current assets	293,017	912,773	**1,205,790**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(32,000)	-	**(32,000)**
	304,421	**912,773**	**1,217,194**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

12 Employees' remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	**830,643**	696,827
Social Security costs	**30,865**	65,648
Other pension costs	**67,076**	63,132
	928,584	**825,607**

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Charity was 56 (2022: 55).

No employees (2022: nil) earned over £60,000.

The Trustees of Sense International received no remuneration (2022: £nil) and received no reimbursements of expenses (2022: £nil).

13 Pensions

Sense International contributes to defined contribution pension schemes in the countries in which it operates. The pension charge for the year was £67,076 (2022: £63,132).

14 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for at 31 March 2023 amounted to £nil (2022: £nil).

15 Related Parties

In the year ending 31 March 2020, Sense International entered into a loan with Dandylion Consulting Limited, a company of which trustee Sunil Shah was also a Director in the year. The loan was unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. During the year, Dandylion Consulting Limited agreed to a deferment of repayments by one year. The amount of the loan outstanding at the balance sheet date is £40,000. See also note 8.

See Note 3 for donations from Sense International's parent charity Sense and Note 17 for disclosure of remuneration for key management personnel.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party

The charity's parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is considered by the Trustees to be Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, a charity and company, registered in England. The registered address of Sense from which copies of this company's financial statements are available is:

101 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9LG

17 Key Management Personnel

The Trustees delegate day to day responsibility to the Chief Executive, Richard Kramer who is supported by Kavita Prasad, the Director of Sense International (from August 2022), and was supported by Alison Marshall, the Director of Sense International up to August 2022. The Chief Executive was remunerated by Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The Director of Sense International is remunerated by Sense International and her remuneration is included in the amounts disclosed in Note 12.

The aggregate remuneration of the two key management personnel remunerated by Sense International (2022: 1), was £71,519 (2022: £39,872) before pension contributions of £20,862 (2022: £21,897).

18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash outflow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure	**(667,272)**	(30,998)
Investment income received	**(2,423)**	(1,065)
Depreciation	**17,279**	16,087
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**-**	2,295
Increase in debtors	**(162,557)**	(1,300)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**221,615**	(56,133)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	**(593,358)**	**(71,114)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

19 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net cash

	2023 £	2022 £
Decrease in cash in the year	**(593,440)**	(69,145)
Changes generated from cash flows	**(593,440)**	**(69,145)**
Net cash at the start of the year	**1,002,092**	1,071,237
Net cash at end of year	**408,652**	**1,002,092**

20 Analysis of changes in net cash

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**
Net cash	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**

21 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash outflow from operating activities

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**
Cash and cash equivalents	1,002,092	(593,440)	-	**408,652**

Major Supporters

The Trustees are indebted to all the donors listed below for their support, both financial and otherwise. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Charity to operate. We are particularly grateful to those who have made unrestricted donations in the year.

British & Foreign School Society

CareTech Foundation

Comic Relief – Sense International Uganda

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency (funded by the European Union) – Sense International Kenya

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Jaspar Foundation

Jersey Overseas Aid

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa - Sense International Uganda

Laduma Dhamecha Charitable Trust

Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc. - Sense International Peru

Medicor Foundation

National Lottery Community Fund

Nelumbo Foundation

Orange Foundation - Sense International Romania

Rupin and Madhavi Vadera

Sense International Ambassador's Circle Members

The Commonwealth Foundation – Sense International Kenya

Major Supporters (continued)

The Evan Cornish Foundation

The Souter Charitable Trust

The Hollyhock Charitable Foundation

The Rainford Trust

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation

The Princess Anne's Charities Trust

The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation

Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust

UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund – Uganda Society for Disabled Children and Sense International Uganda

Sense International
Annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Information

Charity name	Sense International
Governing instrument	Memorandum and Articles of Association
Registered charity number	1076497
Company registration number	3742986
Trustees	Maria Arce-Moreira Richard Cooper Nicholas Corby Mythily Katsaris Dean Lumer (to 24 September 2022) Suzi Nandera (from 6 April 2023) Lucy Roberts (to 6 April 2023) Raaxeet Shah Sunil Shah Sunil Sheth (to 24 September 2022) Verity Stiff (to 24 September 2022) Lisa Szucs (from 6 April 2023) Kiran Virdee (from 6 April 2023) Lauren Watters Gillian Wood
Company secretary	Richard Kramer
Key management personnel	
Chief executive	Richard Kramer
Director	Alison Marshall (to August 2022) Kavita Prasad (from August 2022)
Registered office	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG

Charity information (continued)

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc Chancery Lane & Holborn (D) Branch PO Box 159 332 High Holborn London WC1V 7PS
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2ES
Independent Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP One Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3AX

SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1076497

Accounts

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

Company registration number 3742986, Charity number 1076497

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Chair's Introduction

The mission of Sense International is to promote the inclusion of people with deafblindness within the wider society and to support them and their families. The journey begins from early intervention, medical help and advice, with continued support, access to education and the means to attain their true potential to live a fulfilling life.

Despite the severe impact of the Covid pandemic, during 2021/22, in all our settings, through online programmes we reached more people with training and information about deafblindness. Through these channels we have been represented at conferences, held training courses and had meetings with Government officials. This has had a direct impact in influencing national policies and practices to ensure the fairer inclusion of people with deafblindness. In the last year over 37,000 young children were screened for deafblindness. 5,467 children received educational support and 1,653 young people received vocational training or livelihood support, thanks to Sense International.

We also trained thousands of parents and carers, health-care workers, teachers and government officials.

As an organisation, we are conscious of our role in safeguarding and we continued to ensure strong safeguarding systems and practices remain at the forefront of our work. Regular refresher training and testing of our processes has seen acknowledgement and positive recognition from our partner organisations.

The message to raise deafblindness awareness through training, events and media channels, has extended our reach to a vast audience around the world. We have had some notable advocacy successes, working alongside people with deafblindness to drive change in national laws, policies and budgets to improve support for people with deafblindness and their families. In this report there are examples of achievements from all the countries in the Sense International family.

Our work is dependent upon the support of donors. Our thanks and appreciation to: The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Guernsey and Jersey Overseas Aid Commissions, Comic Relief, the National Lottery Community Fund, trusts and foundations, companies, individual supporters, as well as our parent organisation Sense and many others as listed on page 48 of this report.

During the year we launched the Ambassador's Circle to support our fund raising drive and increase awareness of the work carried out by Sense International.

Chair's Introduction (continued)

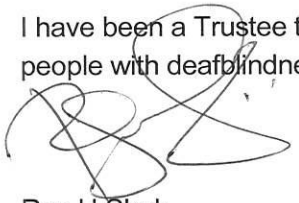
We remain indebted to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal,who takes a keen interest in our work and recently engaged with our Directors in an online event held earlier this year.

Everything we do is thanks to the unwavering dedication of our Patron and the staff, partner organisations, Board members (in the UK and across the national boards). Collectively, the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment to the work makes it possible for us to make a difference for all the people we support. Despite unprecedented challenges, our teams across the world showed remarkable resilience and commitment throughout the year, ensuring that the good work of Sense International continued and the people we support remained in touch. We thank them all.

Alison Marshall, Director of Sense International, has left us after five and half years to become CEO of Age International. We thank her for her enormous contribution to the cause and wish her continued success. We welcome Kavita Prasad as the new Sense International Director from August 2022.

Sunil Sheth has stepped down from the Board of Sense International UK in September 2022 after many years as Chair and Trustee. We acknowledge and appreciate the immense contribution he has made. It is with some pride that he can look back at the way the organisation has grown to serve larger numbers of people with deafblindness across four continents, and of all that the organisation has achieved during his time at the helm. Sunil Sheth has beaten the drum for Sense International with passion. We are all grateful to the many who have lent their support as a result.

I have been a Trustee the last three years, and am delighted to be taking over as Chair in September 2022. I share Sunil's passion for supporting people with deafblindness and I hope to help lead the organisation to new levels of impact.



Rex H Shah

Chair
Date: 12 December 2022

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (including the Directors' report)

The Trustees of Sense International (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Sense International is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29 March 1999. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Vision: Our vision is of a world in which all people with deafblindness are equal and active members of society.

Mission: We work with people with deafblindness and partner organisations, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Values and Principles:

1. **We champion inclusion:** of everyone we work with in decisions affecting them.
2. **We are rights-based:** respecting dignity and diversity, promoting equality and respect for all human rights.
3. **We value individuals:** taking a person-centred approach which recognises the potential of each person, supports their quality of life and keeps them safe from harm.
4. **We work in partnership:** collaborating across the world with people with deafblindness, their representative organisations, families, carers, teachers and other professionals, communities, local organisations and governments, building respectful relationships for lasting change.
5. **We uphold high standards:** of accountability, integrity, quality and sustainability.

To ensure that these values and principles are truly embedded across the organisation, Sense International has a set of I-Statements which personalise these values for each member of the Sense International team:

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

- **I will listen to others:** However something is communicated to me – whether that be by gesture, facial expression, body tension or posture, sign language, objects of reference, in writing or by voice – I actively listen.
- **I will understand and respond:** I try to the best of my ability to understand what is being communicated to me and I always respond in a timely and respectful way.
- **I will respect others:** I respect and treat others as I would wish to be respected and treated myself.
- **I will be honest and open:** I am open about the reasons for my actions and give my honest opinion knowing that it will be respected.
- **I will participate and contribute:** I participate to the best of my ability and contribute willingly and freely.
- **I will take informed risk:** I consider the benefits of taking a risk, as well as what might happen if things go wrong. Where possible I seek to manage risk rather than avoid it.
- **I will find things to celebrate:** I recognise that all achievements, no matter how small they might seem to me, are cause for celebration.
- **No decision about me, without me:** I always seek to involve individuals in coming to decisions that affect them.

Sense International works through programme offices in Kenya, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda and through lead partners in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Volunteers

Sense International's work is supported by volunteers. We estimate that volunteers have worked for 1,000 hours in implementing our charitable acitivties. Many times that has been spent by trustees, volunteers in the shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International, and other volunteer fundraisers in raising funds for our work. No monetary value has been placed on this support in the Statement of Financial Activities. Sense International is also supported by people raising funds for Sense International as volunteers and by volunteers in the charity shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Fundraising and engagement

We would like to thank all our incredible supporters who have helped Sense International in 2021/22. In the last few years, Sense International has invested in fundraising and has seen growth in Trusts, Foundations and Philanthropy income which has continued through this year. We continue to build long-term relationships with all of our supporters and partners, ensuring we value the contribution every individual, group or organisation makes to Sense International – whether that be their time, their voice, their energy, or their financial support.

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly

Our fundraising is carried out in line with Sense International's values which means that honesty, transparency and accountability are central to everything we do. Ensuring that our supporters trust us is critical to all our fundraising efforts. We continue to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ensure that our policies, guidelines and processes are reviewed and updated regularly. We have guidelines in place for fundraising from vulnerable people and never put pressure on anyone to donate.

Sense International is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and works in a way that is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice. Suppliers and those fundraising on our behalf are closely monitored through regular meetings, and in the event of contracts not being adhered to they are brought to an end. In 2021/22 we worked with two professional fundraisers and no commercial participators to support our fundraising.

Last year we did not receive any complaints about Sense International's fundraising, nor were any complaints made to the Fundraising Regulator during this period. We respond quickly to requests to change the way in which we contact people and always ensure that we manage our supporters' personal details in a respectful and secure manner. We also review our data management procedures on a regular basis.

From 1st April 2021 to 31 March 2022, the team did not receive any requests from Sense International supporters through the Fundraising Preference Service asking us to stop sending fundraising communications to them.

Fundraising is overseen by the Director of Engagement for Sense and the Sense International Fundraising Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Board).

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Governance

There were twelve Trustees on the Board during the year as detailed below:

Maria Arce-Moreira	Richard Cooper
Nicholas Corby	Dean Lumer (resigned 24 September 2022)
Mythily Katsaris (appointed 20 September 2021)	Lucy Roberts
Rex Shah (Chair from 24 September 2022)	Sunil Shah (Treasurer)
Sunil Sheth (resigned 24 September 2022) (Chair)	Verity Stiff (resigned 24 September 2022)
Lauren Watters	Gillian Wood

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. The Board may appoint members by co-option who will hold office until the following AGM and shall be eligible for re-election by the Board or election at the AGM. The Board meets four times a year and the Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings.

The Programme Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and has five Trustees who meet with the Director and the Senior Programme team to discuss strategic and operational programmatic issues as well as Safeguarding. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

The Fundraising Advisory Committee meets regularly between Board meetings to discuss progress against the Fundraising Strategy and to support events and approaches to individuals, companies and Trusts / Foundations. It is made up of Trustees and one specialist volunteer.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Recruitment of new Trustees

Prospective candidates to be Trustees for Sense International are interviewed by at least two members of the Board and the Director following responses to an advert, or through recommendation. They also meet the Chair of the Board. The appointment of new Trustees is recommended to the Board of Trustees and on acceptance by the Board they are co-opted, until standing for election at the following AGM.

There is a comprehensive induction for new Trustees. The induction plan involves meetings with senior staff and internal and external training as necessary, along with an information pack, including signing up to adhere to appropriate policies e.g. Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

Relationship with related parties

Sense International is an independently registered charity and company, and is a subsidiary of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"). The Chief Executive of Sense International also holds the post of Chief Executive of Sense. The Board of Trustees reports once a year, at the AGM, to Sense, the sole member of Sense International. Sense provides support through sharing common facilities such as office space and IT, accounting and human resources support.

Delegated authority

The Board has delegated the day-to-day operational management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. The broad areas of delegation, for which the Chief Executive is accountable, are set out in the Sense governance handbook and are similar for Sense International.

To ensure these responsibilities are discharged effectively, the Chief Executive delegates responsibility to the Director of Sense International. The Director of Sense International is also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law UK GAAP (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 the 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 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each director in office at the date the directors' report is approved, that:

- so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Public Benefit

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Charity Governance Code

The Board of Sense International discussed the Charity Governance Code at their meeting on 29th June 2020, and the Trustees confirm that this review remains appropriate for this financial year. The Trustees reviewed Sense International's rating against the principles and key outcomes. Trustees noted that the Code asks charities to publish a statement in their annual report explaining the use of the Code, including three principles specifically:

- Principle 4 recommends that the Board 'describe the charity's approach to risk'. An updated version of the Sense International risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting. In addition, each national Board reviews the risk register for that country at each Board meeting.
- Principle 5 recommends that 'The board explains in the governance statement how the charity reviews or evaluates the board.'
- Principle 6 recommends that 'The board publishes an annual description of what it has done to address the diversity of the board and the charity's leadership and its performance against its diversity objectives, with an explanation of where they have not been met.'

The Board currently has a good mixture of professional skills. In terms of gender balance during most of the year there were six male and six female Trustees. Among the Trustees there is experience of South Asia, East Africa and Latin America as well as a parent of a child with deafblindness. When discussing new recruitment, the Governance Committee keep diversity in mind. Age is an aspect of diversity kept under review by the Board.

Gender balance of management roles:

- The CEO of Sense and Sense International is male.
- The Director of Sense International is female with extensive experience of international development.
- The Head of Fundraising for Sense International is female.
- The Head of Finance for Sense International is male with international experience.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Safeguarding

Sense International operates a rights-based, risk-based approach to safeguarding. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of all forms.

2021/22 continued on the work we reported on in 2020/21 consolidating the adoption and implementation of the strengthened suite of policies written in 2019/20. Routine review of policies were undertaken in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Recruitment across the organisation is carried out in accordance with our Safer Recruitment Policy. All staff complete an online training module (the content of which was reviewed and updated in 2021) during their probation, which serves as an introduction to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding considerations. Training opportunities have been actively sought for those staff whose roles require further input.

Safeguarding Focal Points lead on safeguarding issues in each of the country programmes. Following clear terms of reference, these individuals take responsibility for championing good safeguarding practice at local level, meet regularly to share experience and feed into wider organisational work to strengthen systems and procedures.

Our reporting system continues as previously reported. During 2021/22 we received nine reports, none of which met the Charity Commission's definition of a Serious Incident and were subsequently resolved/handled internally.
Two examples of our practical work in safeguarding during 2021/22:

- Our work in Kenya, to familiarise family members with safeguarding knowledge and procedures, was chosen and shared as a positive case study in 2021 by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and subsequently featured as a case study in an Open University online course in implementing safeguarding.

- In Romania, we developed a series of short accessible video clips on online safety which we are using to sensitise young people with deafblindness on risks related to internet use.

For further information on Sense International's Safeguarding System and related work, please visit our website: Safeguarding Statement (senseinternational.org.uk)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Environmental Statement

We are aware of the need to keep our use of CO2 emissions to a minimum and while the last financial year has presented many challenges associated with COVID-19, it has also provided some opportunities for us to reflect upon our ways of working. We are considering these in more detail and aiming to set benchmarks and a baseline as we develop our new strategy from 2022 to 2027 to ensure our approach has the minimum impact on the environment, while enabling us to meet our strategic objectives effectively and in compliance with donor requirements.

By Order of Trustees

Rex H Shah

Chair
Date: 12 December 2022

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Sense International is a global charity supporting people with deafblindness in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. Children and adults with deafblindness in these countries struggle to access the healthcare, education, vocational training and opportunities to participate in their community which they have a right to.

We provide expertise, training and support to local organisations, to enable children and adults with deafblindness to communicate, develop self-care, study at home or at school, and learn skills to generate an income. We also advocate to governments to make changes to laws, budgets, policies and practices so people with deafblindness can thrive.

Four strategic objectives

Sense International had four strategic objectives for 2021/22:

- Ensure quality services.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness.
- The voice of people with deafblindness is heard.
- Rights are recognised and realised.

Overall, we have delivered on our strategic objectives despite delays and difficulties due to COVID-19, such as continued closure of schools and limits on face-to-face interactions. In many places we adapted and innovated, for example by moving support and training on-line. This enabled us to continue to reach families and education or health-care professionals despite the restrictions.

In formulating and reporting on our strategy, we include all members of the Sense International family, including Sense International India. Sense International India is a fully independent charity. Only a small part of its expenditure is funded through Sense International and only this part of its expenditure is included in Sense International's accounts.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Strategic Objective 1 - Ensure quality services

Across Sense International we strive to demonstrate the benefits of increasing access to high quality services for people with deafblindness, including working with government ministries to encourage learning and sustainability. We work across three themes: screening and early intervention, inclusive education and vocational skills and livelihoods.

Screening and Early Intervention

The sooner any baby with visual and/or hearing impairment is identified, and given the support they need, the more likely they are to develop to their full potential. We demonstrate to Ministries of Health how screening can identify impairment at an early stage, and the huge difference that early years of professional support and therapy can make. We train health workers and enable parents to understand and communicate with their child, as well as working with them at home to boost their child's progress towards achieving their developmental milestones.

Examples of achievements

Total children screened: 37,190.
Total receiving early intervention therapy and support: 880

- **India:** During the year 4,606 babies were screened for visual and hearing impairments and 697 received early intervention services. Multiple training sessions were delivered onsite and at district, state and regional levels.
- **Kenya:** 20,859 children were screened for complex disabilities by Community Health Volunteers using the risk factor questionnaire at community and health centre / dispensaries level and 62 children were enrolled in early intervention therapeutic services.
- **Uganda:** We have supported Multi-disciplinary Assessments by Paediatricians, Ophthalmologists, Ear Nose and Throat specialists from four general hospitals who delivered recommendations for each child based on their hearing, sight, weight, birth history. 44 health workers and 50 local health volunteers were trained in screening. A total of 8,557 children have been screened using the risk questionnaire this year. 91 have been enrolled in early intervention services. Meanwhile 37 (18M,19F) were identified with single impairments and were referred to other health institutions.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Inclusive Education

Every child has the right to an education. We work with families, schools, colleges, partner organisations, government institutions and Ministries of Education, to enable learners with deafblindness to fulfil their potential, by getting the educational support that they need. This may be home-based, centre-based or in a mainstream school where the child receives support from a learning support assistant. We do what is needed to enable children with deafblindness to learn – from training parents and teachers, to providing specialist technology and adapting school facilities, curricula and learning materials.

Examples of achievements

- **Nepal:** 87 children received educational support. We provided online sign language training for staff and parents through schools in Morang and Simli. Schools in Morang have been renovated to include accessible classrooms that children with disabilities can attend. Teacher training was conducted for 42 teachers in Morang and Rupandehi. Following our advocacy, we received commitment from governmental officials to support new resource classes for children with deafblindness in Kathmandu and to provide student stipends. This will make a big difference to the numbers of children with deafblindness who can get an education.
- **Peru:** 247 children were supported to access education. We worked with the Minister of Schools to identify students with deafblindness and delivered online training on identification. SI Peru's course on deafblindness in partnership with Ministry of Education had 200 participants. In November, SI Peru was awarded first place in the National Competition of Good Practices in Inclusion and Disability 2021, organised by the Peruvian National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. The award ceremony was held in the Congress of the Republic and attended by the First Lady of the Nation. The judging panel were very impressed by SI Peru's project "Improving the Special and Inclusive Education System for Students with Deafblindness and Multiple Disabilities in Rural Areas of Perú".
- **Bangladesh:** 227 children were supported with home-based education, with 64 children in school (including 29 new enrolments) and others supported through centres.
- **Romania:** SI Romania delivered an online 'Deafblindness initiation' course in October/November 2021, the course, over 7 weeks, was successful and 30 participants graduated. 24 young people with deafblindness and multisensory impairments, supported by family members and teachers enjoyed 'orientation and mobility camps' in the mountains, building their communication and leadership skills. SI Romania trained 51 teachers on deafblindness. 1,406 children across Romania were involved in awareness raising activities around the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Examples of achievements (continued)

- **Tanzania**: 67 children were supported with access to education. After a lot of work, the Tanzanian Commissioner of Education approved the Curriculum for People with Deafblindness developed by SI Tanzania. Five deafblind learning centres (at Uhuru Mchanganyiko, Mwanga school for the deaf, Msandaka school for the deaf, Tumaini- Singida school for the deaf, and Mugeza school for the deaf) were equipped with up-to-date teaching and learning materials including Braille machines, Word Building Education Kit Alphabets and numbers, low vision stands, footballs with bells, hand magnifiers and games.
- **Kenya:** 102 children with complex disabilities were supported to learn in schools, while 41 children were supported through home-based education. Families were supported to deliver home-learning for their children through provision of 90 computer tablets pre-loaded with learning materials through a partnership with E-Kitabu. Deafblind resources hubs were renovated and provided with equipment. We trained 100 Learning Support Assistants to give one-to-one support to children in mainstream classrooms.
- **Uganda:** 330 children were supported with home-based education while 18 were supported to learn in mainstream schools, supported by 12 Learning Support Assistants. SI Uganda works in partnership with the Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa and the Ministry of Education to support schools with orbit readers (equipment for learners with visual impairment) and to train teachers on their use and maintenance: 181 learners have been supported. SI Uganda also provided training to parents, teachers, Parent Teacher Associations, school management committees and local leaders from the Eastern region. Training focused on a range of issues including play and learning materials for early childhood education centres, management and safeguarding.
- **Internationally:** We have developed the Global Deafblindness Resource Centre https://deafblindness.info/ with accessible materials for those who support people with deafblindness, including parents, caregivers, teachers and NGO workers. The online hub provides 'how-to' resources on education, leisure and play, livelihoods, and health, as well as research reports and information about deafblindness. The resources come from across the Sense International family, as well as some of our partners. Materials are available in English and Spanish and we are working to include more languages in the future.

Vocational training and livelihoods

Young people with deafblindness want to be as independent as possible. They want to learn vocational skills and earn a living or contribute to the household income. We support them through the different stages of this process, enabling them to join a vocational training centre, become an apprentice, or make a plan and start up their own business. We provide links to advisers and local business support schemes.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Examples of achievements

- **Uganda:** young people with deafblindness were trained in pre-vocational skills (35 young people), at vocational colleges (30 young people) and through apprenticeships (57 young people), and are subsequently establishing and running local small businesses focussed on basket weaving, how to make doormats and beaded items, hairdressing, carpentry, growing vegetables, and rearing goats and cows. The plan is to diversify the types of vocational skills available.
- **Kenya:** 143 young people were enrolled in vocational training or apprenticeships and 89 'graduated' into formal or informal employment. Six business development service providers were recruited and trained to support youth with complex disabilities to run small local enterprises.
- **Tanzania:** 35 young people with complex disabilities were assessed and provided with recommendations on a vocational course placement. We helped to renovate Yombo Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre, including installation of a computer room and thanks to SI Tanzania's advocacy 18 young people with complex disabilities are benefiting from government support where accommodation and meals are provided by Yombo Vocational training centre for free. We ensured official authorisation of guidance for tutors on how to adapt the national vocational training curriculum for youth with complex disabilities. 33 young people received livelihoods support. Parents were also trained to support their young people in the successful running of their enterprises.
- **Bangladesh:** 15 young people were enrolled in vocational training and 13 received support to earn a livelihood.

Strategic Objective 2: Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness

We are always seeking to understand more about the challenges facing people with deafblindness and the effectiveness of our interventions. Research provides us with valuable evidence which we use to advocate to governments for improvements in their implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Examples of achievements

- **Internationally:** We contributed to the drafting of the second global report on deafblindness as part of the report research reference group and through providing case studies.
- **India:** Research work on mental health issues as part of a project supported by Grand Challenges Canada is ongoing. A tool to screen the mental health of persons with deafblindness has been developed by Sense India and endorsed. Training on mental health was organised for special educators and Community Based Rehabilitation workers and they have been talking to families and young people to collect data which is being analysed by professionals.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Examples of achievements (continued)

- **Romania:** In March SI Romania, partnered with three major Universities (The University of Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the University of Iași) to run The National Conference "Education of Children with Deafblindness: Together Again!" The event brought together over 100 participants daily, special education and mainstream education teachers working with children with deafblindness/multisensory impairments, teachers, educators, students, psychologists, social workers and other specialists. There were 12 hours of live presentations and 20 invited speakers addressed issues such as disability and resilience in times of war, digital educational resources for children with deafblindness, early intervention models, and shared good practices.

Strategic Objective 3: Voice of people with deafblindness is heard

Disability activists say "nothing about us without us" and it is right that people living with deafblindness should be the ones speaking out about the challenges they face and the changes they want to see. We support people with deafblindness to speak out through training, networking and providing opportunities to meet with decision-makers. We also support groups of parents of children with deafblindness. While caregivers cannot speak on behalf of their children, they appreciate support to advocate to the government for social protection, access to services and educational opportunities for their children.

Examples of achievements

- **India:** Shrutilata Singh, Specialist Network Support officer, who is herself a person with deafblindness, was the recipient of the CavinKare Ability Mastery Award 2022. Shruti's article on the effective use of technology to engage network members (with deafblindness) during the pandemic was published in the Deafblind International Review. She was also has been elected as a Committee Member for the Commonwealth Network of Young People, along with two other young women with deafblindness. Udaan Member Ishaan Chakraborty, an adult with deafblindness, was one of the lead pannelists in a webinar on "Understanding Acquired Deafblindness".
- **Nepal:** A successful National Deafblind youth workshop was held with 25 young people with deafblindness who learned about their rights and about advocacy work. A network of parents of children with deafblindness was established in Sindhuli and 13 young people with deafblindness attended rights-based advocacy and awareness training.
- **Tanzania:** SI Tanzania has provided mentoring and coaching for 10 young people with deafblindness on advocacy and speaking out about their rights.
- **Romania:** supported 13 young people with deafblindness with training in leadership and advocacy, so they can speak about about their rights.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Strategic Objective 4: Rights are recognised and realised

We advocate for change based on the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other UN Conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We raise awareness among people with deafblindness, their families and communities to increase understanding that everyone has rights to health care, education, decent work, social protection, inclusion and participation. We advocate with governments for progressive realisation of these rights, pushing for better implementation of the UNCRPD at all levels, so that people with deafblindness can live, learn and thrive.

Examples of achievements

- **Bangladesh:** Strong advocacy supported people with deafblindness and their families to access the Covid vaccine.
- **India**: SI India made 3 representations about deafblindness at the Global Disability Summit held virtually from 14-17th February 2022. Shruti, SI India's Network Specialist and Asha, a young woman with deafblindness participated in the World Bank led World Data Forum in Bern, Switzerland. Shurti spoke about the importance of counting people with deafblindness and about the accessibility of the Forum itself which generated a lot of discussion.
- **Romania**: In February, SI Romania was invited by the National Authority for People with Disabilities, Child Protection and Adoption, to discuss the situation of people with deafblindness in Romania. As a result, the team was asked to recommend proposals to change and improve Law 27/2020 which recognises Romanian Sign Language as an official language, through amendments to include deafblindness and people with deafblindness. Also, SI Romania has been invited by the Government to support the creation of occupational standards for interpreters for people with deafblindness and to train them, as well as to support the improvement of the criteria for deafblindness, so that people with deafblindness are included in the correct category of disability.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Examples of achievements (continued)

- **Peru:** In February 2022, a Virtual Conversation was held called "Rights Approach in Inclusive Education: Strategies for the return to classrooms 2022". It was organised by the "Peruvian Network of Inclusive Education" and SI Peru's Director presented on 'Management of Inclusive Education in institutions: Experience of educational inclusion of students with deafblindness' to an audience of over 70 people including representatives of the Ombudsman's Office and the Ministry of Education. In June 2021, the Peruvian Government approved the first public policy on disability which SI Peru had been contributing to and promoting. In July 2021, after 10 years of sustained advocacy work by SI Peru with the Ministry of Education, the formal requirements, profile and competencies for the training of interpreter guides for people with deafblindness were approved and published. This is a huge step forward in enabling people with deafblindness to access the support to which the law entitles them. It means that insitutes of higher education can now offer a Bachelor's degree level of training for Interpreteur Guides. This success is a testimony to the persistence of SI Peru since Peru first drafted the law recognising deafblindness as a unique disability and establishing provisions for support back in 2010.
- **Nepal:** effective advocacy led to training on special education for teachers in Rupandehi, Morang, Kaski and Chitawan Schools, to improve access to education for students with deafblindness.
- **Uganda:** SI Uganda persuaded the National Council of Persons with Disabilities to take on advocacy work around deafblindness.
- **Tanzania:** thanks to the advocacy of SI Tanzania, deafblindness is now being recognised for the first time as a disability in the Social Action Fund. This is an advocacy group for marginalised people in Tanzania which give monetary support to those who need it.
- **Nepal:** Trained 40 media professionals on deafblindness, leading to 5 mentions in newspapers and overall 1,625 media mentions of the national census campaign on deafblindness.

COVID-19 response: SI India reached over 1,292 families with people with deafblindness with COVID support (protective and sanitary equipment and food). In Bangladesh 242 people were supported through outreach.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Objectives for 2022/23

In 2021/22 we undertook a review and refresh of our strategy. While our vision remains the same, we crystallised our mission and consolidated our values and principles. We agreed to shape our work under three strategic and five enabling objectives. In 2022/23 we will continue to deliver work on earlier years, inclusive education, and vocational training and livelihoods, alongside training and knowledge sharing, and advocacy, so that people with deafblindness are included in systems and societies.

Mission: We work in partnership with people with deafblindness and others, to remove barriers in societies and systems, so that people with deafblindness are fully included and can fulfil their potential.

Strategic Objective 1 (Innovate) **People with deafblindness are included in national systems:** we innovate and show how people with deafblindness can be included in national systems such as healthcare, education and vocational training, working in partnership with governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, parents and others.

Strategic Objective 2 (Inform) **People with deafblindness, and the people who support them, have more information, skills and knowledge**: we share information and train people with deafblindness, their families and carers, health-workers, educators and other professionals, communities and decision-makers, so that people with deafblindness get better support.

Strategic Objective 3 (Influence) **People with deafblindness are recognised in laws, policies and budgets:** we support people with deafblindness to self-advocate, join advocacy efforts by organisations of people with deafblindness and parents' groups, gather rigorous research and evidence, and meet decision-makers.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Internal Financial Control

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material financial misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget and operational plan approved by the Trustees. A number of matters are specifically reserved for the Trustees approval. There is a clear organisational structure with appropriate lines for reporting.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, reforecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- Policy documents covering major strategic and operational activities are developed and reviewed with appropriate regularity and consultation.
- Regular monitoring of budgets, operational plan and financial activities by the Director of Sense International with the Management Team.

Identification and management of risks

The Trustees adopted a risk management policy in December 2018 which was updated on 26th November 2019. The policy remains appropriate for this financial year. Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for the management of risks to the Director of Sense International. An ongoing risk management process assesses business risks and implements risk management strategies. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and regularly updating an action plan to allow satisfactory mitigation and management of likely risks.

This occurs as an intrinsic part of the annual operational planning process and is then reviewed in regular meetings of senior managers, reported to the Trustees each quarter and further overseen by the Sense audit committee. The Trustees have developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Charity and to changes in the external environment, including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management, the Trustees, and when required to other external authorities such as the Charity Commission, together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Identification and management of risks (continued)

The principal risks are as follows:

- Fundraising: Sense International's fundraising team in the UK and the in-country teams fail to reach targets. This risk is mitigated by the adoption of a realistic fundraising strategy, by a focussed team of fundraisers concentrating on Sense International, and by the close involvement of Trustees in fundraising efforts.
- Compliance: In-country partners do not adhere to policies, systems, procedures and donor compliance requirements leading to a financial, reputational, compliance or quality risk. This risk is mitigated through ensuring partners sign Memoranda of Understanding, committing to following Sense International policies in key areas, discussing the policies, systems and procedures at the start of programmes and identifying staff training needs and on-going compliance measures, and through regular and periodic monitoring by SI staff.
- Financial management: Sense International in-country teams do not comply with financial procedures or national financial reporting requirements or do not have the necessary levels of skill and experience to ensure robust, transparent, timely and accurate management of finances. This risk is mitigated through a programme of review of in-country financial procedures, through training and monitoring by UK finance and programme staff. In addition, from 1 April 2022, we are implementing, where possible the same computerised accounting systems across the organisation enabling more timely monthly and quarterly reviews of management accounts.
- Currency exchange: As Sense International receives income mainly in Pound Sterling and spends in a variety of currencies, its spending power is reduced if the Pound Sterling falls in value against these operating currencies. The risk is mitigated through spreading exposure to currency fluctuation by holding part of Sense International's cash in various operating currencies and in Euros and US Dollars.

Financial review for the year ended 31 March 2022

Income for the year was £2.53m (2021: £2.32m). The increase was as a result of higher income from fundraising and from resumption of trading by the charity shops which Sense operate for Sense International's benefit and which had been closed for much of 2020-21. Total expenditure was £2.56m (2021: £2.46m). The proportion of expenditure spent on charitable activities increased to 92% (2021: 89%).

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Reserves

The Trustees agreed an aim to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to four months' annual expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. The Trustees have set this target in order to ensure Sense International has reserves capable of providing sufficient working capital for budgeted operational commitments and funding responsive action in the event of a significant financial downturn.

At 31 March 2022, unrestricted reserves totalled £304,421 which is equivalent to six months' expenditure from unrestricted funds, including transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. (2021: £58,816 equivalent to one month.)

During the year to 31 March 2022, Sense International received a significant one-off unrestricted donation. We expect a shortfall on net new unrestricted funds raised in the year ending 31 March 2023 leading to the unrestricted reserves decreasing towards the targeted level.

By Order of Trustees



Rex H Shah

Chair
Date: 12 December 2022

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Sense International's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022; the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) and cash flow statement for the year then ended; the Accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance 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 an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of 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 based on these responsibilities.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Trustees' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Report, including the Strategic 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' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we are required to report if we have identified any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report. We have nothing to report in this respect.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they 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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company/industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries. Audit procedures performed included:

- enquiry of management and the board of trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of the board of trustees;
- identifying and testing journal entries, including journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and
- assessing financial statement disclosures, and testing to supporting documentation, for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

DChan

Daniel Chan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Birmingham

Date: 15 December 2022

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	877,654	938,257	**1,815,911**	1,355,735
Charitable activities	2	-	716,246	**716,246**	958,788
Investments		35	3,325	**3,360**	5,793
Total		**877,689**	**1,657,828**	**2,535,517**	**2,320,316**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	215,047	-	**215,047**	263,340
Charitable activities	4	181,430	2,170,038	**2,351,468**	2,192,378
Total		**396,477**	**2,170,038**	**2,566,515**	**2,455,718**
Net income/(expenditure)		481,212	(512,210)	**(30,998)**	(135,402)
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	10	(235,607)	235,607	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		58,816	1,189,376	**1,248,192**	1,383,594
Fund balances carried forward at end of year		**304,421**	**912,773**	**1,217,194**	**1,248,192**

The notes on pages 36 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

All the results included in the statement of financial activities above relate to continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above, and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented. There is no difference between the fund balances and the net incoming resources for the years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021 is given in Note 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	**43,404**	**62,690**
Current assets			
Debtors	6	**306,556**	305,256
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,002,092**	1,071,237
Total current assets		**1,308,648**	**1,376,493**
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	**(102,858)**	**(150,991)**
Net current assets		**1,205,790**	**1,225,502**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,249,194**	**1,288,192**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	8	**(32,000)**	**(40,000)**
Total net assets		**1,217,194**	**1,248,192**
The funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	10	**912,773**	1,189,376
Unrestricted funds	10	**304,421**	58,816
Total charity funds	11	**1,217,194**	**1,248,192**

The financial statements on pages 30 to 47 were approved by the Board on 12 December 2022

Rex H Shah

Chair
Company registration number 3742986

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Net cash outflow from operating activities	18	**(71,114)**	(279,191)
Investing activities – investments			
Interest received		**1,065**	5,793
Investing activities – capital expenditure			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**-**	(65,585)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		**904**	-
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		**(69,145)**	**(338,983)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**1,071,237**	1,410,220
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**21**	**1,002,092**	**1,071,237**

Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards including:

- Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and
- the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards; Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees have reviewed the Company's forecasts and made appropriate enquiries of the wider Group's financial position and forecasts, including assessment of a severe but plausible downside scenario in relation to the impact of COVID19 in assessing the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. On this basis and considering the ongoing financial support confirmed by the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"), the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Particulars of the significant accounting policies of the Charity are given below.

Income from Charitable Activities
This consists of income from grants and contracts, which is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants received in advance but with donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability. Income receivable under the terms of a grant at balance sheet date is recognised as accrued income and recognised within debtors.

Accounting policies (continued)

Donations and Legacies
Legacy income is recognised on a receivable basis when it is probable that legacy income will be received and the value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Donations are accounted for when received.

Donations includes donations from Sense International's parent company, Sense. Sense operates five shops for the benefit of Sense International and the profit from these shops is donated to Sense International and included in donations and legacies.

Investment Income
Investment income consists of bank interest and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
All expenditure, including any irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Fundraising for Sense International is carried out by fundraisers employed by the parent charity Sense and all costs charged to Sense International for this work are direct costs. Accordingly, all support costs relate to charitable activities.

Cost incurred by country programmes are included within direct costs. Costs incurred in the UK are allocated to direct or support costs based on an estimate of the split by activity of staff time in each cost centre.

Governance Costs
Governance costs include external audit and Trustees' expenses.

Cash at Bank and in Hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Foreign Currency
i. Functional and presentation currency
The company's functional and presentation currency is the Pound Sterling.

ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Accounting policies (continued)

Recognition of Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful economic lives in equal annual instalments over 4 years.

Purchases of fixed assets valued at £500 and above are capitalised, otherwise they are expensed in the year the cost is incurred.

Pension Costs
The charity operates defined contribution schemes for staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are payable.

Taxation
The company is recognised as a charity by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purposes of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is exempt from Corporation Tax.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Restricted fund expenditure is accounted for when the funds are expended. All expenditure made in the countries we work in outside the UK is accounted for as restricted fund expenditure and a transfer is made from unrestricted funds at the end of the year to cover any expenditure not covered by restricted income.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Principal Accounting Estimates and Judgements
In the application of Sense International's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These estimates together with their underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The matter below is considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported:

Legacy income is recognised as detailed under income recognition above. In calculating the level of accrued legacy income, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the value and probability of receipt.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Income from			
Donations and legacies	556,468	799,267	**1,355,735**
Charitable activities	5,356	953,432	**958,788**
Investments	202	5,591	**5,793**
Total	**562,026**	**1,758,290**	**2,320,316**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	257,545	5,795	**263,340**
Charitable activities	259,271	1,933,107	**2,192,378**
Total	**516,816**	**1,938,902**	**2,455,718**
Net income/(expenditure)	45,210	(180,612)	**(135,402)**
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	(170,382)	170,382	-
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	183,988	1,199,606	**1,383,594**
Fund balances carried forward at end of year	**58,816**	**1,189,376**	**1,248,192**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities

Income from Charitable Activities	2022 £	2021 £
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme 'Inclusive Futures' consortium	205,820	138,282
Comic Relief - (SI Uganda) Holistic Early Child Development (ECD) for Children with Complex Disabilities in Uganda	136,768	116,253
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Improving Developmental Outcomes for Children with Complex Disabilities in Garissa and Kwale Counties of Rural Kenya (UK Aid Match)	98,526	73,669
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Healthy Life for People with Deafblindness in Nepal	92,996	98,096
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Learning for All: Inclusive Education for Learners with Complex Disabilities in Kenya (UK Aid Direct)	91,057	142,362
The National Lottery Community Fund Improved Livelihoods and Participation in Society for People with Deafblindness/MSI in Tanzania	52,209	67,892
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Increasing access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for children and young adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh.	19,664	64,106

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2022 £	2021 £
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Good health and well-being for all: establishing the first sensory screening and early intervention programme for children with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments in Tanzania	19,206	84,024
The National Lottery Community Fund Improving livelihoods for people with deafblindness in Uganda	0	27,293
UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (Uganda Society for Disabled Children and SI Uganda) Removing barriers to Women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes and responses related to conflict prevention.	0	18,481
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) UK Aid Direct Rapid Response Fund COVID-19 Rapid Response for People with Deafblindness, their families and Schools in Kenya.	0	122,974
Total Grants and Contracts Income	716,246	953,432
Other Income from Charitable Acitvities	0	5,356
Total Income from Charitable Activities	716,246	958,788

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

During the year, a donation of £350,000 (2021: £350,000) was received from the parent company, Sense.

In addition, in the year ended 31 March 2022, Sense donated £104,891 (2021: £nil) representing the net profit on five shops run by Sense that are designated as Sense International shops. These were closed for much of the year to 31 March 2021 due to the pandemic and made a loss. Accordingly there was no donation in the year to 31 March 2021 from Sense in respect of net profit on these shops.

Legacies of £11,304 (2021: £20,000) were recognised during the year.

4 Expenditure

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	215,047	-	**215,047**	**263,340**
Charitable activities	2,180,467	171,001	**2,351,468**	**2,192,378**
	2,395,514	**171,001**	**2,566,515**	**2,455,718**

Support Costs	Management	Governance	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	156,728	14,273	**171,001**	**178,331**
	156,728	**14,273**	**171,001**	**178,331**

Governance costs included £6,720 (2021: £5,600) of external audit fees. No payments were made to Sense International's auditors in respect of non-audit services.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Tangible assets

	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	27,658	101,930	3,030	132,618
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	(23,394)	(32,928)	(3,030)	(59,352)
31 March 2022	**4,264**	**69,002**	**-**	**73,266**
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	21,132	46,673	2,123	69,928
Charge for the year	1,066	15,021	-	16,087
Eliminated on Disposal	(20,378)	(33,652)	(2,123)	(56,153)
At 31 March 2022	**1,820**	**28,042**	**-**	**29,862**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2022	**2,444**	**40,960**	**-**	**43,404**
At 31 March 2021	6,526	55,257	907	62,690

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes. There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date (2021: £nil).

6 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accrued income	**113,397**	198,002
Prepayments	**182,005**	10,635
Other debtors	**11,154**	96,619
	306,556	**305,256**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	5,730
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	**7,807**	36,536
Accruals and Deferred income	**78,137**	64,029
Other creditors	**16,914**	44,696
	102,858	**150,991**

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

8 Creditors falling due after more than one year

The amount due after more than one year is in respect of a loan of £40,000 that is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. The amount falling due after more than one year is £32,000 (2021: £40,000). The loan is from a related party as disclosed in note 15.

9 Capital

Sense International is registered in England (Company registration number 3742986) as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. The liability of the member is limited by guarantee. The member has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding one pound as may be required in the event of the charity being wound up.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

10 Movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	208,199	363,834	347,635	-	224,398
Romania – In-country Income	100,321	74,421	37,034	-	137,708
Comic Relief Uganda	78,347	137,386	134,740	-	80,993
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	67,534	19,664	24,497	-	62,701
Medicor	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
My Turn to Learn Appeal	58,060	48,245	63,670	-	42,635
Tanzania Adults Vocational	45,395	52,209	59,262	-	38,342
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	17,007	92,996	72,719	-	37,284
Lavelle Peru	-	49,459	15,660	-	33,799
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	85,566	-	53,213	-	32,353
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	60,208	-	29,161	-	31,047
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	74,994	-	44,620	-	30,374
Latin American Children's Trust Peru	61,418	5,500	38,436	-	28,482
Latin American Children's Trust Peru 2021-24	-	55,011	26,529	-	28,482
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	-	22,697	13,549	-	9,148
UN Women Uganda	-	33,387	26,544	-	6,843
IHelp Uganda	-	64,759	60,698	-	4,061
NLCF Uganda	58,982	-	58,982	-	-
Enabel Vocational	49,477	134,740	184,217	-	-
Porticus Uganda 2020-21	35,119		35,119	-	-
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	29,180	3,874	33,054	-	-
Tanzania Early Intervention	20,554	19,206	39,760	-	-
BandAid Uganda	18,163	7,153	25,316	-	-
Australian Embassy Tanzania	15,811	-	15,811	-	-
Tanzania HDIF	9,475	-	9,475	-	-
Romania Orange E-Sense	4,461	7247	11,708	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya	-	91,057	91,057	-	-
FCDO (UK Aid Match) Kenya Early Intervention	-	98,526	98,526	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	271	72,626	72,355	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	4,276	103,931	99,655	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	971	48,702	47,731	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	521	22,435	21,914	-
Other	67,105	215,418	271,352	(6,048)	5,123
Total restricted	**1,189,376**	**1,657,828**	**2,170,038**	**235,607**	**912,773**
Unrestricted	58,816	877,689	396,477	(235,607)	304,421
Total	**1,248,192**	**2,535,517**	**2,566,515**	**-**	**1,217,194**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	251,758	173,280	216,839	-	208,199
Romania – In-country Income	72,794	49,846	22,319	-	100,321
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	20,059	107,473	41,966	-	85,566
Comic Relief Uganda	-	116,744	38,397	-	78,347
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	-	74,994	-		74,994
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	41,439	64,106	38,011	-	67,534
Latin American Children's Trust	49,983	49,511	38,076	-	61,418
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	81,886	-	21,678	-	60,208
NLCF Uganda	120,394	27,293	88,705	-	58,982
My Turn to Learn Appeal	144,358	27,500	113,798	-	58,060
Enabel Vocational	180,857	1,055	132,435	-	49,477
Tanzania Adults Vocational	35,924	67,892	58,421	-	45,395
Porticus Uganda 2020-21	-	51,209	16,090	-	35,119
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	9,003	38,154	17,977	-	29,180
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	12,000	12,000	-	-	24,000
Tanzania Early Intervention	25,804	84,024	89,274	-	20,554
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	9,335	98,096	90,424	-	17,007
Australian Embassy Tanzania	21,613	-	5,802	-	15,811
Tanzania HDIF	13,643	40,022	44,190	-	9,475
Romania Orange E-Sense	15,197	30,022	40,758	-	4,461
FCDO Rapid Response Fund Kenya 2020	-	122,974	122,974	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya	3,179	142,355	145,534	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	-	11,071	11,071	-	-
FCDO (UK Aid Match) Kenya Early Intervention	-	73,669	73,669	-	-
DID TO35	-	92,420	92,420	-	-
Else Krone Fresenius	-	24,287	24,287	-	-
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Fdn	-	23,954	23,954	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	917	85,672	84,755	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	1,727	54,788	53,061	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	13,633	29,165	15,532	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	80	26,225	26,145	-
Other	90,380	137,982	133,983	(9,111)	85,268
Total restricted	**1,199,606**	**1,758,290**	**1,938,902**	**170,382**	**1,189,376**
Unrestricted	183,988	562,026	516,816	(170,382)	58,816
Total	**1,383,594**	**2,320,316**	**2,455,718**	**-**	**1,248,192**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted funds are funds held by the Charity for particular applications, specified by the donor and within the Charity's objectives, and can only be applied to those particular purposes. The restrictions may apply to income or capital or both. Many of the restricted funds are generated through targeted project appeals.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are held for the general purposes of the Charity. Because they can be deployed flexibly, unrestricted funds allow the Charity to fund core organisational costs necessary for delivery of projects partially funded with restricted funds. Unrestricted funds also allows the Charity, through co-funding, to leverage restricted funding from Governmental and State agencies that will usually only commit to fund part of the costs of major projects. Hence, unrestricted funds are vitally important for the day to day operation of the Charity and the support we provide to people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	43,404	-	**43,404**
Net current assets	293,017	912,773	**1,205,790**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(32,000)	-	**(32,000)**
	304,421	**912,773**	**1,217,194**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fixed assets	62,690	-	**62,690**
Net current assets	36,126	1,189,376	**1,225,502**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(40,000)	-	**(40,000)**
	58,816	**1,189,376**	**1,248,192**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

12 Employees' remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	696,827	687,155
Social Security costs	65,648	64,318
Other pension costs	63,132	85,137
	825,607	836,610

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Charity was 55 (2021: 51).

No employees (2021: nil) earned over £60,000.

The Trustees of Sense International received no remuneration (2021: £nil) and received no reimbursements of expenses (2021: £nil).

13 Pensions

Sense International contributes to defined contribution pension schemes in the countries in which it operates. The pension charge for the year was £63,132 (2021: £85,137).

14 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for at 31 March 2022 amounted to £nil (2021: £nil).

15 Related Parties

In the year ending 31 March 2020, Sense International entered into a loan with Dandylion Consulting Limited, a company of which trustee Sunil Shah was also a Director in the year. The loan is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. The amount of the loan outstanding at the balance sheet date is £40,000. See also note 8.

See Note 3 for donations from Sense International's parent charity Sense and Note 17 for disclosure of remuneration for key management personnel.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party

The charity's parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is considered by the Trustees to be Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, a charity and company, registered in England. The registered address of Sense from which copies of this company's financial statements are available is:

101 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9LG

17 Key Management Personnel

The Trustees delegate day to day responsibility to the Chief Executive, Richard Kramer who is supported by Alison Marshall, the Director of Sense International. The Chief Executive was remunerated by Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The Director of Sense International is remunerated by Sense International and her remuneration is included in the amounts disclosed in Note 12.

18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash outflow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure	**(30,998)**	(135,402)
Investment income received	**(1,065)**	(5,793)
Depreciation	**16,087**	4,984
Loss on disposal of fixed asets	**2,295**	-
Increase in debtors	**(1,300)**	(86,009)
Decrease in creditors	**(56,133)**	(56,971)
	(71,114)	**(279,191)**

19 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net cash

	2022 £	2021 £
Decrease in cash in the year	(69,145)	(338,983)
Changes generated from cash flows	**(69,145)**	**(338,983)**
Net cash at the start of the year	**1,071,237**	1,410,220
Net cash at end of year	**1,002,092**	**1,071,237**

20 Analysis of changes in net cash

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,071,237**	(69,145)	-	**1,002,092**
Net cash	**1,071,237**	(69,145)	-	**1,002,092**

21 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash outflow from operating activities

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flows £	Non-cash changes £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,071,237	**(69,145)**	-	**1,002,092**
Cash and cash equivalents	1,071,237	**(69,145)**	-	**1,002,092**

Major Supporters

The Trustees are indebted to all the donors listed below for their support, both financial and otherwise. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Charity to operate. We are particularly grateful to those who have made unrestricted donations in the year.

Beatrice Laing Trust

Comic Relief – Sense International Uganda

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EFKS)

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency (funded by the European Union) – Sense International Kenya

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Hollyhock Charitable Foundation

Jaspar Foundation

Jersey Overseas Aid

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa – Sense International Tanzania and Sense International Uganda

Latin American Children's Trust (LACT)

Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc. – Sense International Peru

Medicor Foundation

Nelumbo Foundation

Orange Foundation – Sense International Romania

Rupin and Madhavi Vadera

Sense International's Ambassador Circle members

Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)

The Band Aid Charitable Trust

The Batchworth Trust

Major Supporters (continued)

The Britford Bridge Trust

The British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)

The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

The Coles-Medlock Foundation

The Dorfred Charitable Trust

The Evan Cornish Foundation

The Hugh Symons Charitable Trust

The Ireland Roddan Trust

The Lady More Charitable Trust

The National Lottery Community Fund.

The Princess Anne's Charities Trust

The Quilter Foundation

The Randal Charitable Foundation

The Rhododendron Trust

The Souter Charitable Trust

The Spectacle Makers' Charity

The St Mary's Charity

The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust

The Tula Trust Ltd

The Ward Family Charitable Trust

UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund - Uganda Society for Disabled Children and Sense International Uganda

Charity Information

Charity name	Sense International
Governing instrument	Memorandum and Articles of Association
Registered charity number	1076497
Company registration number	3742986
Trustees	Maria Arce-Moreira Richard Cooper Nicholas Corby Dean Lumer (resigned 24 September 2022) Mythily Katsaris (appointed 20 September 2021) Lucy Roberts Raaxeet Shah (Chair from 24 September 2022) Sunil Shah (Treasurer) Sunil Sheth (resigned 24 September 2022) (Chair) Verity Stiff (resigned 24 September 2022) (Vice-Chair) Lauren Watters Gillian Wood
Company secretary	Richard Kramer
Key management personnel	
Chief executive	Richard Kramer
Director	Alison Marshall (to August 2022) Kavita Prasad (from August 2022)
Registered office	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG

Charity information (continued)

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 83 Tavistock House Tavistock Square London WC1H 9JA
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2ES
Independent Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP One Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3AX

SENSE INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1076497

Accounts

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

Company registration number 3742986, Charity number 1076497

Sense International

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Chair's Introduction

The last year has seen the devastating spread of COVID-19 across the world. Its impact has been wide-ranging and included restricted access to health services and medication due to lockdown measures; a lack of safety information in accessible formats; and a loss of personal and communication support for people with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments (MSI), including guides, interpreters and therapists, due to lockdown and social distancing guidelines.

However, despite the challenges this has presented to our work, including planning, delivering and monitoring activities across all of our countries of operation, our teams have continued to adapt our ways of working to the constraints imposed by COVID-19 and to deliver quality services within the stipulations allowed by national government restrictions and travel limitations. Our primary focus has been on ensuring the safety of the people we support, their families and communities, as well as our staff and partners, while maintaining work on the four strategic and four enabling objectives in our strategy, wherever possible.

Sadly, while some activities could not happen or have been continually delayed, the teams have responded with agility and innovation. Their versatility and success in re-phasing, adapting and delivering new activities to respond to the global pandemic while meeting the needs of donors is reflective of their unwavering commitment to support and work for people with deafblindness, whose exclusion has been even further exacerbated by the global pandemic.

The dexterity and tenacity of our team can be demonstrated by our success in receiving an award through UK Aid Direct's Rapid Response Fund in Kenya, coupled with the impressive roll out and implementation of our emergency response. The grant provided food and medicine to support 200 people with deafblindness / MSI and their families, as well as hygiene facilities in over 20 schools, impacting thousands of pupils and teachers, and helping them to combat the virus. It also provided mental health support and accessible information about the virus and how to keep safe to hundreds of families during the COVID-19 crisis.

This impressive work is a fantastic example of how we have adapted to ensure our unique and vital support for thousands of people with deafblindness, and their families, continues no matter what adversity we meet along the way.

Although many events and conferences have been cancelled or postponed, we have raised awareness of deafblindness through television, print and social media, reaching thousands of people around the world, working alongside people with deafblindness to advocate for change. In India, the UN Commission for Social Development created a platform for us to raise awareness of deafblindness. Our team in Romania organised a national awareness campaign called 'I too have a voice', involving 22 children and young people with deafblindness, who created a child-friendly version of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which was shared and has led to a stream of amazing videos created by children who are understanding these laws and their rights.

Chair's Introduction (continued)

In Tanzania, the Government acknowledged SI Tanzania as the only provider of technical support for deafblindness/MSI in the country and we remain the only NGO involved in building the capacity of local government assessment teams in identifying learners with deafblindness to join schools. Our work with the Ministry of Education will help enable people with deafblindness to continue to learn and thrive, and highlights how our work helps ensure the inclusion of all learners.

Thanks to our programmes, thousands of young children can access screening for visual and hearing impairments, and those in need of sensory stimulation and therapy, where restrictions allowed, were offered early intervention support. Our inclusive education work continued to enable children to learn, whether providing equipment, training parents and teachers through online courses, adapting curricula and learning materials, advocating for new approaches or tackling stigma. The implementation of our first ever multi-country inclusive education project has begun, facilitating shared learning and experience across the organisation. We have enabled young people to gain vocational skills, set up small businesses and contribute to their communities.

This year, we have also continued our focus on strengthening our safeguarding systems and practice, and run regular webinars to share learning across the Sense International family, along with targeted training for staff and partners.

We continue to value the support of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Guernsey and Jersey Overseas Aid Commissions, Comic Relief, National Lottery Community Fund, companies such as Orange, various trusts and foundations, as well as our parent organisation Sense. We are immensely grateful to all our donors and supporters (see the list on pages 46-47).

I am extremely proud of all that we achieved for, and with, people with deafblindness despite the immense challenges throughout this year and the impressive way the team has responded to overcome these. Our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, continues to take an active interest in and is hugely supportive of our work. As always, I am immensely grateful to her and the staff, partner organisations, Board members, in the UK and across the National Boards, for their expertise and support, and to all the supporters who make it possible for Sense International to include people who would otherwise be 'left behind'.

I reiterate my thanks to everyone who makes the work of Sense International possible and I look forward to another impactful year ahead.



Sunil Sheth
Chair
Date: 22 September 2021

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (including the Directors' report)

The Trustees of Sense International (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Sense International is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29 March 1999. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our vision is of a world in which all persons with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments (MSI) in developing countries are empowered to be equal and active members of society. We work in partnership with others across the globe – people with deafblindness/MSI, their families, carers and other professionals – to ensure anyone facing challenges because of deafblindness/MSI has access to advice, guidance and support. We are a rights-based organisation and our values underpin our vision and purpose, guiding us in all that we do.

- **Respect for diversity** - we embrace diversity, and promote fairness and respect for all.
- **Individual worth** - we recognise the intrinsic value and potential of each individual.
- **Participation and inclusion** - we promote opportunities for the most marginalised people to have their voices heard.
- **Equality** - we actively seek recognition of the rights of all people, and challenge prejudice and discrimination.
- **Sustainability** - we work with others to ensure that support for people with deafblindness and their families can be sustained into the future.

To ensure that these values and principles are truly embedded across the organisation, Sense International has a set of I-Statements which personalise these values for each member of the Sense International team:

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

- **I will listen to others:** However something is communicated to me – whether that be by gesture, facial expression, body tension or posture, sign language, objects of reference, in writing or by voice – I actively listen.
- **I will understand and respond:** I try to the best of my ability to understand what is being communicated to me and I always respond in a timely and respectful way.
- **I will respect others:** I respect and treat others as I would wish to be respected and treated myself.
- **I will be honest and open:** I am open about the reasons for my actions and give my honest opinion knowing that it will be respected.
- **I will participate and contribute:** I participate to the best of my ability and contribute willingly and freely.
- **I will take informed risk:** I consider the benefits of taking a risk, as well as what might happen if things go wrong. Where possible I seek to manage risk rather than avoid it.
- **I will find things to celebrate:** I recognise that all achievements, no matter how small they might seem to me, are cause for celebration.
- **No decision about me, without me:** I always seek to involve individuals in coming to decisions that affect them.

Sense International works through programme offices in Kenya, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda and through lead partners in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Volunteers

Sense International's work is supported by volunteers. Our Board members in the UK and on the national Board of each programme are volunteers, and five volunteers have worked as interns in our offices in Kenya and Uganda during the course of the year. Together we estimate that volunteers have worked for 4,000 hours supporting Sense International. No monetary value has been placed on this support in the Statement of Financial Activities. Sense International is also supported by people raising funds for Sense International as volunteers and by volunteers in the charity shops that Sense manages for the benefit of Sense International.

Fundraising and engagement

We would like to thank all our incredible supporters who have helped Sense International in 2020/21. It has been a difficult year, with fundraising events being cancelled due to the pandemic. In the last few years, Sense International has invested in fundraising and has seen growth in Trusts, Foundations and Philanthropy income which has continued through this year. We have worked in partnership with funders on grants and contracts when we have adapted our programmes to the changing needs of those we support and to the challenging working conditions due to the pandemic. We continue to build long-term relationships with all of our supporters and partners, ensuring we value the contribution every individual, group or organisation makes to Sense International – whether that be their time, their voice, their energy, or their financial support.

Our commitment to fundraise responsibly

Our fundraising is carried out in line with Sense International's values which means that honesty, transparency and accountability are central to everything we do. Ensuring that our supporters trust us is critical to all our fundraising efforts. We continue to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ensure that our policies, guidelines and processes are reviewed and updated regularly. We have guidelines in place for fundraising from vulnerable people and never put pressure on anyone to donate.

Sense International is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and works in a way that is compliant with the Code of Fundraising Practice.

Suppliers and those fundraising on our behalf are closely monitored through regular meetings, and in the event of contracts not being adhered to they are brought to an end.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

In 2020/21 we worked with two professional fundraisers and no commercial participators to support our fundraising.

Last year we did not receive any complaints about Sense International's fundraising, nor were any complaints were made to the Fundraising Regulator during this period. We respond quickly to requests to change the way in which we contact people and always ensure that we manage our supporters' personal details in a respectful and secure manner. We also review our data management procedures on a regular basis.

From 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2021, the team received three requests from Sense International supporters through the Fundraising Preference Service asking us to stop sending fundraising communications to them. These requests were actioned.

Fundraising is overseen by the Director of Engagement for Sense and the Sense International Fundraising Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the Board).

Governance

There were eleven Trustees on the Board during the year as detailed below:

Maria Arce-Moreira
Nicholas Corby
Lucy Roberts
Sunil Shah (Treasurer)
Verity Stiff (Vice-Chair)
Lauren Watters
Richard Cooper
Dean Lumer
Raaxeet Shah
Sunil Sheth (Chair)
Susan Turner (stepped down 15 September 2020)
Gillian Wood (appointed 15 September 2020)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Governance (continued)

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of three years. The Board may appoint members by co-option who will hold office until the following AGM and shall be eligible for re-election by the Board or election at the AGM. The Board meets four times a year and the Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings.

The Programme Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and has five Trustees who meet with the Director and the Senior Programme team to discuss strategic and operational programmatic issues as well as Safeguarding. It meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

The Fundraising Advisory Committee meets regularly between Board meetings to discuss progress against the Fundraising Strategy and to support events and approaches to individuals, companies and Trusts / Foundations.

The Governance Committee is convened when needed.

Recruitment of new Trustees

Prospective candidates to be Trustees for Sense International are interviewed by at least two members of the Board and the Director following responses to an advert, or through recommendation. They also meet the Chair of the Board. The appointment of new Trustees is recommended to the Board of Trustees and on acceptance by the Board they are co-opted, until standing for election at the following AGM.

There is a comprehensive induction for new Trustees. The induction plan involves meetings with senior staff and internal and external training as necessary, along with an information pack, including signing up to adhere to appropriate policies e.g. Conflict of Interest and Safeguarding.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Relationship with related parties

Sense International is an independently registered charity and company, and is a subsidiary of Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"). The Chief Executive of Sense International also holds the post of Chief Executive of Sense. The Board of Trustees reports once a year, at the AGM, to Sense, the sole member of Sense International. Sense provides support through sharing common facilities such as office space and IT, accounting and human resources support.

Delegated authority

The Board has delegated the day-to-day operational management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. The broad areas of delegation, for which the Chief Executive is accountable, are set out in the Sense governance handbook and are similar for Sense International.

To ensure these responsibilities are discharged effectively, the Chief Executive delegates responsibility to the Director of Sense International. The Director of Sense International is also a member of the Sense Executive Team.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Sense International for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report)and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). 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 the 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.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (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 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each director in office at the date the directors' report is approved, that:

- so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Public Benefit

Trustees have referred to the information contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives, and planning future activities to implement the charity's objects.

The information given about our objectives give clear examples of how our work is beneficial and brings public benefit through a wide range of activities and will continue to provide public benefit in line with our objects.

Charity Governance Code

The Board of Sense International discussed the Charity Governance Code at their meeting on 29th June 2020. The Trustees reviewed Sense International's rating against the principles and key outcomes. Trustees noted that the Code asks charities to publish a statement in their annual report explaining the use of the Code, including three principles specifically:

- Principle 4 recommends that the Board 'describe the charity's approach to risk'. An updated version of the Sense International risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting. In addition, each national Board reviews the risk register for that country at each Board meeting.

- Principle 5 recommends that 'The board explains in the governance statement how the charity reviews or evaluates the board.'

- Principle 6 recommends that 'The board publishes an annual description of what it has done to address the diversity of the board and the charity's leadership and its performance against its diversity objectives, with an explanation of where they have not been met.'

The Board currently has a good mixture of professional skills. In terms of gender balance during most of the year there were six male and five female Trustees. Among the Trustees there is experience of South Asia, East Africa and Latin America as well as a parent of a child with deafblindness. When discussing new recruitment, the Governance Committee keep diversity in mind. Age is an aspect of diversity kept under review by the Board.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Charity Governance Code (continued)

Gender balance of management roles:

- The CEO of Sense and Sense International is male.
- The Director of Sense International is female with extensive experience of international development.
- The Head of Fundraising for Sense International is female.
- The Head of Finance for Sense International is male with international experience.

Safeguarding

Following a review of safeguarding policies, practices and procedures across the organisation in 2019/20, Sense International continued to implement its comprehensive action plan and started 2020/21 with further policies to complement the safeguarding system, as well as routine reviews of existing policies and reporting procedures. 2020/21 has focused on consolidation of the the safeguarding systems while responding to changing risks, particularly those arising from the pandemic in terms of isolation and remote working in the context of increased risk of abuse. This has been led by a group of staff Safeguarding Focal Points from the countries where we work.

All staff complete an online training module during their probation which serves as an introduction to child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding considerations. Training opportunities are actively sought for those staff whose roles require further input. Safeguarding Focal Points lead on safeguarding issues in each of the country programmes. Following clear terms of reference, these individuals take responsibility for championing good safeguarding practice at local level, meet regularly to share experience and feed into wider organisational work to strengthen systems and procedures. This network has proved valuable in fostering greater understanding and embedding a positive safeguarding culture.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Safeguarding (continued)

Furthermore, additional training and discussion with local trustees has ensured that safeguarding is addressed at national Board level and that Board Focal Points have been identified in each country. Organisational level risk registers include safeguarding risks and are reported against at Board meetings.

Clear and well understood reporting procedures are very important to ensure that staff, volunteers and others in contact with the organisation know how they can raise a concern. The report@senseinternational.org.uk mailbox and clear lines of communication between safeguarding leads in the different teams means reports feed through to the UK, regardless of where they occur. This means that cases can be assessed and management support provided, as appropriate. During 2020/21 we received four reports, none of which met the Charity Commission's definition of a Serious Incident and were subsequently resolved/handled internally.

For further information on Sense International's Safeguarding System and related work, please visit our website:
www.senseinternational.org.uk/about-us/our-safeguarding-statement

Environmental Statement

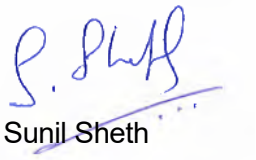
Sense International does not undertake any activities that cause environmental damage. We are aware of the need to keep our use of CO2 emissions to a minimum and while the last financial year has presented many challenges associated with COVID-19, it has also provided some opportunities for us to reflect upon our ways of working. We will be considering these in more detail as we start developing our new strategy during 2021/2022 to ensure our approach has the minimum impact on the environment while enabling us to meet our strategic objectives effectively and in compliance with donor requirements.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Reappointment of auditors

A resolution to reappoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as auditors to the company will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By Order of Trustees



Sunil Sheth

Chair

Date: 22 September 2021

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Sense International is a global charity supporting people with deafblindness in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. Children and adults with deafblindness in these countries struggle to access the healthcare, education, vocational training and opportunities to participate in their community which they have a right to.

We provide expertise, training and support to local organisations, to enable children and adults with deafblindness to communicate, develop self-care, study at home or at school and learn skills to generate an income. We also advocate to governments to make changes to laws, policies and practices so people with deafblindness can thrive.

COVID-19

The COVID pandemic affected all our teams during this year. Our activities have been constantly adapted to the changing needs of the people with deafblindness we support, the changing public health situation in the countries where we operate, and the changing priorities of donors. Despite some of our activities being severely curtailed, particularly home-visits to children with deafblindness and access to inclusive education with the closure of many schools due to lockdown restrictions, we have mobilised staff and partners to contact the people with deafblindness we support, and their families, with information on how to stay safe, delivered food parcels and hygiene equipment to families, connected families to local support schemes where these exist and have been advocating to governments for people with deafblindness to be included in national response plans. We have also fed into government guidance to make it more disability inclusive, for example, plans to re-open schools.

Four strategic objectives

Sense International has four strategic objectives:

- Ensure quality services.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness.
- The voice of people with deafblindness is heard.
- Rights are recognised and realised.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Overall, it has largely been a year of great success in meeting our strategic objectives. However, there are objectives where we had planned to achieve more, for example, in screening and early intervention, and vocational training, where most of the activities require face to face contact. While we delivered quality services where possible, our efforts were severely hampered by the impact of external factors caused by COVID-19, resulting in delays delivering activities due to global lockdown restrictions and the continual need to adapt and rephase our projects to respond effectively to the immediate needs of persons with deafblindness while complying with donor requirements. We have been working on our plans for the future to mitigate some of the challenges encountered this year and will continue to deliver quality services in line with our commitment to ensure the rights of people with deafblindness are realised.

Strategic objective 1 - Ensure quality services

Across Sense International we strive to demonstrate the benefits of increasing access to high quality services for people with deafblindness, including working with government ministries to encourage learning and sustainability. We work across three themes: screening and early intervention, inclusive education and vocational skills and livelihoods.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Screening and Early Intervention	Key achievements
The sooner any baby with visual and/or hearing impairment is identified, and given the support they need, the more likely they are to develop to their full potential. We demonstrate to Ministries of Health how screening can identify impairment at an early stage, and the huge difference that early years of professional support and therapy can make. We train health workers and enable parents to understand and communicate with their child, as well as working with them at home to boost their child's progress towards achieving their developmental milestones.	**India:** Early intervention screening and services were disrupted in the year due to the pandemic. However over 2000 children were screened for sensory impairments with more than 600 children receiving early intervention services, including five with deafblindness and multi sensory impairments. **Kenya:** A new sensory screening and early intervention project started in Garissa and Kwale Counties in October 2020, targeting 55,000 children to be screened for sensory impairments and 124 children and their families supported through early intervention therapy. The construction of four early intervention units also started and will be equipped with sensory screening and therapy equipment was sourced and 169 health workers were trained on disability and sensory screening. **Tanzania:** More than 10,000 children were screened for sensory impairments with 85 being identified with deafblindness and other complex disabilities who were supported with early intervention therapy services and assistive devices. **Uganda:** Between April and September almost 7000 children were screened for sensory impairments with 50 children being identified with deafblindness and other complex disabilities and supported with early intervention therapy and assistive devices.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Inclusive Education	Key achievements
Every child has the right to an education. We work with families, schools, colleges, partner organisations, government institutions and Ministries of Education, to enable learners with deafblindness to fulfil their potential, by getting the educational support that they need. This may be home-based, centre-based or in a mainstream school where the child receives support from a learning support assistant. We do what is needed to enable children with deafblindness to learn – from training parents and teachers, to providing specialist technology and adapting school facilities, curricula and learning materials.	**Bangladesh:** We worked with 10 partner organisations to provide education and livelihood support to 695 children and young adults. Due to continued lockdown restrictions, our field educators had to provide services and support by telephone and monthly home visits. In addition, we provided cash support to the families which allowed them to survive the pandemic. **India**: More than 1700 children received centre based, home based and online services during the year and almost 1000 teachers were trained on appropriate teaching techniques for children with deafblindness studying in mainstream schools. A further 4200 educators, parents and other professionals were trained on deafblindness through 17 national webinars. Parents and caregivers were trained through a three month online course and 115 paramedical and medical professionals were also trained helping to address some of the barriers to education for children with deafblindness. **Kenya:** We developed the Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) curriculum, guidelines and training manual, and trained 99 LSAs through the Kenya Institute of Special Education, enabling 99 children with deafblindness and other complex disabilities to be identified and enrolled in mainstream education. A further 163 children with deafblindness and other complex disabilities received home-based education. We trained 254 education professionals on disability and inclusive education for children with deafblindness and other complex disabilities. Handwashing stations were distributed to 75 schools, food and medicine distributed to over 300 families, and training on soap making delivered in nine schools. Accessible COVID-19 information was produced and disseminated.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Inclusive Education (continued)	Key achievements (continued)
	Nepal: We set up a resource class in a community school in Rupandehi enrolling six children with deafblindness and work has been done on selecting a community school in Morang for another resource class. Once operational, school enrolment campaigns will be conducted in both districts. Currently, we are supporting 66 children and young adults with deafblindness to attend school. **Peru:** 235 educational professionals were trained in specialised teaching methods for learners with deafblindness (including 81 teachers in Bolivia). Three new sensory rooms were established in special education schools with staff trained in sensory stimulation approach. New referral system was developed and launched to ensure improved access to inclusive education for learners with deafblindness. **Romania:** E-Sense educational software platform was lauched to support teachers and parents of learners with sensory impariments and testing begun with partner schools. **Tanzania**: We conducted a capacity assessment of special primary schools in Tanzania to support learners with deafblindness/MSI. We also started the process of rolling out the Orbit Reader 20 (Introducing the Orbit Reader 20 - RNIB - See differently) for learners with vision impairments in partnership with the Tanzania Institute of Education, the Ministry of Education and Kilimanjaro Blind Trust. **Uganda:** The new Holistic Early Childhood Development (ECD) for children with complex disabilities project was launched enabling access to holistic ECD services that address health, nutrition, safety, protection, stimulation and care needs of 300 children with deafblindness.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Vocational training and livelihoods	Key achievements
Young people with deafblindness want to be as independent as possible. They want to learn vocational skills and earn a living or contribute to the household income. We support them through the different stages of this process, enabling them to join a vocational training centre, become an apprentice, or make a plan and start up their own business. We provide links to advisers and local business support schemes.	**Bangladesh:** Working in partnership with Jhikargacha Development Organization (JDO), we provided training to caregivers and persons with deafblindness on Poultry and Cattle rearing for income generation. **India:** About 750 adults with deafblindness and multiple disabilities received centre based, home based and online support in vocational skills, including financial support to start income generating activities or to rebuild their businesses during the pandemic. **Tanzania:** We trained 36 youths with deafblindness and other complex disabilities on business development, book-keeping and safeguarding. They were also supported with small grants to set up their own businesses. **Peru:** We supported 45 young people with deafblindness and their families in Arequipa, Cusco and Lima to develop business plans and launch their enterprises with some seed funding provided, alongside advocacy to the Ministry of Labour to support development of a vocational training model. **Kenya:** We supported 12 young people with deafblindness, micro-entrepeneurs, with training, guidance and grants to develop small scale businesses. During the COVID-19 lockdown we also provided them with accessible information, personal protective equipment and additional grants to diversify and further develop their businesses. **Uganda:** We developed and printed vocational skills resource books to support the vocational curriculum for learners with deafblindness and other complex disabilities. We also trained 12 Instructors from 6 vocational training centres and established four community based vocational institutions. Communicator guides were also trained on use of tactile and basic communication skills.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Strategic Objective 2: Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness

We are always seeking to understand more about the challenges facing people with deafblindness and the effectiveness of our interventions. Research provides us with valuable evidence which we use to advocate to governments for improvements in their implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness We are always seeking to understand more about the challenges facing people with deafblindness and the effectiveness of our interventions. Research provides us with valuable evidence which we use to advocate to governments for improvements in their implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	**Key achievements** **Bangladesh:** Working in partnerhip with the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), we have raised awareness of deafblindness and on the rights of persons with deafblindness in the community and in schools, including developing a video on hygiene practice and health directives which has been circulated using local cable channel in areas where UKAM project is being implemented. The video is available on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jG2k0KKz0Ls **India**: We contributed to the Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA) study on the impact of COVID-19 on persons with deafblindness. **Nepal:** We contributed to research on experiences of persons with disabilities by the Institute of Development Studies during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Peru**: We shared learning from the Latin America Children's Trust (LACT) Education programme with the Ministry of Education and learning from the Maria Marina Foundation and Fundación ONCE para América Latina Skills for Life programme with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to improve knowledge and understanding of deafblindness.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness (continued)	**Key achievements (continued)** **Romania**: We held the International conference "Deafblindness during the pandemic" online with over 200 participants sharing learning and experiences of life during the pandemic for people with deafblindness, their families, teachers and support workers. We conducted an online survey of 18 special schools on children and young people with sensory impairments and their internet usage to feed into design of materials for the Sensi-Online Safety for Children with Sensory Impairments project and for wider use. **Tanzania**: We conducted an assessment of 10 resource hubs to support learners with deafblindness and complex disabilities resulting in Sense International Tanzania being requested by the Ministry of Education to support the harmonisation of the draft syllabus in line with competence-based standards. **Kenya:** In partnership with the Action Network for Children with Disabilities, we launched the monitoring report on implementation of the early years competence based curriculum for learners with diverse disabilities. The launch meeting was attended by 50 Government, Non-Government and civil society institutions. Our report of the Rapid Response Fund project that was implemented in response to the COVID-19 includes recommendations for disability inclusion in emergency response work, particularly deafblindness and other complex disabilities. **Uganda:** We showcaseed the Orbit Reader 20 technology at the Teacher Instructor Education and Training department (TIET) third teacher education symposium that was organised by the Ministry of Education.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Strategic Objective 3: Voice of people with deafblindness is heard

Voice of people with deafblindness is heard	Key achievements
Disability activists say “nothing about us without us” and it is right that people living with deafblindness should be the ones speaking out about the challenges they face and the changes they want to see. We support people with deafblindness to speak out through training, networking and providing opportunities to meet with decision-makers. We also support groups of parents of children with deafblindness. While caregivers cannot speak on behalf of their children, they appreciate support to advocate to the government for social protection, access to services and educational opportunities for their children.	**Bangladesh:** Two regional network meetings were attended by 30 young adults with deafblindness. **India:** We encouraged adult deafblind network members to participate in discussions, surveys and consultations. Many of them are engaged with Deafblind International Youth Network and their efforts ensured deafblind inclusion in the Commonwealth Network of Children and Youth with Disabilities (CCYDN). In addition, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued advice using inputs from these recommendations. Our young achiever in sports, Pushpa has been chosen by CNN, the international news agency, to showcase her achievements and challenges as a young adult with deafblindness through a short movie. We have enhanced online engagement of people with Deafblindness and their families and they have started interacting with officials to resolve issues related to disability pension, ration and medicine support during lockdown. They are actively participating in webinars, roundtable discussions, Right to Information (RTI) workshops and policy consultations and participated in state advocacy meetings attended by disability commissioners and directors from state departments of education, health and social welfare. **Nepal:** We organised a national workshop for 44 adults with deafblindness and 19 parents. We also continue to work with Society of Deafblind Parents (SDBP) and Deafblind Association Nepal to ensure the voices of the persons with deafblindness and their parents are heard.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Voice of people with deafblindness is heard (continued)	**Romania:** 22 children and young people took part in national campaign on the rights of people with disabilities and an online advocacy groups of young people with deafblindness was established. **Tanzania:** We supported the Tanzanian Association of the Deafblind (TASODEB) with an organisational assessment and the development of a capacity strengthening plan. **Uganda:** We continued to support the National Association of the Deafblind Uganda (NADBU) and the Ugandan Parents of Deafblind Children Association in particular with management and communication skills training. **Peru:** We supported the establishment of a new association called the Asociación De Sordociegos Unidos Del Peru (ASCUP), formed by people with deafblindness and family members. **UK:** We continue to work with the World Federation of the Deafblind.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Strategic objective 4: Rights are recognised and realised

Rights are recognised and realised	Key achievements
We advocate for change based on the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other UN Conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We raise awareness among people with deafblindness, their families and communities to increase understanding that everyone has rights to health care, education, decent work, social protection, inclusion and participation. We advocate with governments for progressive realisation of these rights, pushing for better implementation of the UNCRPD at all levels, so that people with deafblindness can live, learn and thrive.	**Bangladesh:** Sense International India organized the participation of a panel of adults with deafblindness in side events of 59th session of the UN Commission for Social Development. **India:** We advocated for change and progressive realisation of rights of people with deafblindness at state, national and international levels through representation and participation of persons with deafblindness and their support persons including family members. We have successfully leveraged our special consultative status at United Nations to get visibility for persons with deafblindness at UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), UN World Data Forum (UNWDF), UNCRPD Conference of States Parties (COSP13) and UN Commission for Social Development (UNCSocD59). Our written and oral statements were published and presented during these UN events. We held national webinars around Helen Keller Day and World Disability Day with representation from National institutes. We participate in the State Planning Commission task force of Chattisgarh state and in Delhi state advisory committee to state disability commissioner. **Nepal:** We advocate for ensuring people with deafblindness are included in the regulation of rights of persons with disabilities and that the regulations are accessible.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Rights are recognised and realised (continued)	**Romania:** We responded to the call for consultations on the new national Strategy for People with Disabilities 2021-27 led by the National Authority for People with Disabilities, highlighting the importance of specifically mentioning deafblindness as a distinct disability and met with Ministry of Labour officials and the President of the National Authority of People with Disabilities to discuss criteria for recognition of deafblindness in legislation. **Uganda:** We organised stakeholder engagement which successfully ensured that specific provisions on deafblindness were included in the draft National Disability Policy. **Peru**: Through the network 'Working Table on Disability and Rights' we campaigned against a newly proposed disability rights Bill, instead advocating for the continued progress and proper implementation of the existing legislation. We lobbied the Government at the start of the pandemic for proper inclusion of people with disabilities in their emergency response protocols which initially failed to reach our community of people with deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Objectives for 2021/22

In 2021/22 we will continue to further the objectives set out in our strategy - `Realising Rights: From Isolation to Inclusion':

- Strategic objective 1 - Ensure quality services with a focus on early years (screening and early intervention), inclusive education for school-age learners and vocational training and livelihoods for young people.
- Strategic Objective 2 - Improved knowledge and understanding of deafblindness.
- Strategic Objective 3 - Voice of people with deafblindness is heard, including work to support national associations of people with deafblindness.
- Strategic Objective 4 - Rights are recognised and realised, including advocacy at all levels.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Internal Financial Control

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget and operational plan approved by the Trustees. A number of matters are specifically reserved for the Trustees approval. There is a clear organisational structure with appropriate lines for reporting.
- Regular review and consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variances from budgets, reforecasts and non-financial performance indicators.
- Policy documents covering major strategic and operational activities are developed and reviewed with appropriate regularity and consultation.
- Regular monitoring of budgets and financial activities by the Director of Sense International with the Management Team.

Identification and management of risks

The Trustees adopted a risk management policy in December 2018 which was updated on 26th November 2019. Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for the management of risks to the Director of Sense International. An ongoing risk management process assesses business risks and implements risk management strategies. This involves identifying the types of risks the Charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and regularly updating an action plan to allow satisfactory mitigation and management of likely risks.

This occurs as an intrinsic part of the annual operational planning process and is then reviewed in regular meetings of senior managers, reported to the Trustees each quarter and further overseen by the Sense audit committee. The Trustees have developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Charity and to changes in the external environment, including procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management, the Trustees, and when required to other external authorities such as the Charity Commission, together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Identification and management of risks (continued)

The principal risks are as follows:

- Fundraising: Sense International's fundraising team in the UK and the in-country teams fail to reach targets. This risk is mitigated by the adoption of a realistic fundraising strategy, by a focussed team of fundraisers concentrating on Sense International, and by the close involvement of Trustees in fundraising efforts. However, the fundraising environment both in the UK and in-country has become more difficult as a result of the pandemic, the merger of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in June 2020 followed by the reduction in the UK overseas aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of GDP but in real terms one third.
- Compliance: In-country partners do not adhere to policies, systems, procedures and donor compliance requirements leading to a financial, reputational, compliance or quality risk. This risk is mitigated through ensuring partners sign Memoranda of Understanding, committing to following Sense International policies in key areas, discussing compliance in these areas at the start of programmes, and through regular monitoring by SI staff.
- Financial management: Sense International in-country teams do not comply with financial procedures or national financial reporting requirements or do not have the necessary levels of skill and experience to ensure robust, transparent, timely and accurate management of finances. This risk is mitigated through a programme of review of in-country financial procedures, through training and monitoring by UK finance and programme staff.
- Currency exchange: As Sense International receives income mainly in Pound Sterling and spends in a variety of currencies, its spending power is reduced if the Pound Sterling falls in value. The risk is mitigated through spreading exposure to currency fluctuation by holding part of Sense International's cash in various operating currencies and in Euros and US Dollars.

Financial review for the year ended 31 March 2021

Income for the year was £2.32m (2020: £2.48m). The decrease was as a result of lower income from fundraising events and from the charity shops which Sense operate for Sense International's benefit. Total expenditure was £2.46m (2020: £2.29m). The proportion of expenditure spent on charitable activities was unaltered at 89% (2020: 89%).

Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Reserves

The Trustees agreed an aim to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months' expenditure. The Trustees have set this target in order to ensure Sense International has reserves capable of providing sufficient working capital for budgeted operational commitments and funding responsive action in the event of a significant financial downturn.

Alongside this, the Trustees take account of any risks that might impact on the level of reserves required. These include:

- Time needed to implement an effective operational response to any significant reductions in income streams.
- Dependence on and reliability of individual income streams.
- Robustness of the internal reporting and response methods.
- Potential for variation in cash flow forecasts.

At 31 March 2021, restricted reserves totalled £1,189,376 and unrestricted reserves totalled £58,816 which is equivalent to one weeks' expenditure only. (2020: £1,199,606 and £183,988 respectively, the later equivalent to four weeks' expenditure).

In 2019, Sense International adopted a three year fundraising strategy focussed on raising income and unrestricted income in particular. This has successfully led to an increase in fundraised income from philanthropy and trusts. However, unrestricted income from events has been much reduced as a result of the pandemic, and no income was received from Sense in respect of the charity shops it operates for the benefit of Sense International, as these made losses during the lockdown. As a result unrestricted reserves decreased over the year. We expect unrestricted income from these sources to resume in the year ending 31 March 2022, putting the charity in a position to increase its reserves in future years towards the target set in the reserves policy.

By Order of Trustees

Sunil Sheth
Chair
Date: 22 September 2021

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Sense International's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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 (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021; the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year then ended; the Accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance 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 an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of 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 based on these responsibilities.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International (continued)

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Trustees' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Report, including the Strategic 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' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we are required to report if we have identified any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report. We have nothing to report in this respect.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, 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 in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they 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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company/industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries and the manipulation of key accounting judgements and estimates. Audit procedures performed included:

- enquiry of management and the board of trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of the board of trustees and board subcommittees;
- identifying and testing journal entries, including journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and
- assessing financial statement disclosures, and testing to supporting documentation, for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Sense International (continued)

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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.



Daniel Chan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Birmingham
22 September 2021

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	556,468	799,267	**1,355,735**	1,677,256
Charitable activities	2	5,356	953,432	**958,788**	794,745
Investments		202	5,591	**5,793**	4,201
Total		**562,026**	**1,758,290**	**2,320,316**	**2,476,202**
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	4	257,545	5,795	**263,340**	247,022
Charitable activities	4	259,271	1,933,107	**2,192,378**	2,047,951
Total		**516,816**	**1,938,902**	**2,455,718**	**2,294,973**
Net income/(expenditure)		45,210	(180,612)	**(135,402)**	181,229
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	10	(170,382)	170,382	**-**	-
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		183,988	1,199,606	**1,383,594**	1,202,365
Fund balances carried forward at end of year		**58,816**	**1,189,376**	**1,248,192**	**1,383,594**

The notes on pages 41 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

All the results included in the statement of financial activities above relate to continuing activities. The Charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above, and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented. There is no difference between the fund balances and the net incoming resources for the years stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020 is is given in Note 1.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	**62,690**	2,089
Current assets			
Debtors	6	**305,256**	219,247
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,071,237**	1,410,220
Total current assets		**1,376,493**	**1,629,467**
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	**(150,991)**	(207,962)
Net current assets		**1,225,502**	**1,421,505**
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,288,192**	**1,423,594**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	8	**(40,000)**	**(40,000)**
Total net assets		**1,248,192**	**1,383,594**
The funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	10	**1,189,376**	1,199,606
Unrestricted funds	10	**58,816**	183,988
Total charity funds	11	**1,248,192**	**1,383,594**

The financial statements on pages 35 to 52 were approved by the Board on 22 September 2021

Sunil Sheth
Chair
Company registration number 3742986

Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards including:

- Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and

- the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards; Accounting and Reporting for Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"); and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees have reviewed the Company's forecasts and made appropriate enquiries of the wider Group's financial position and forecasts, including assessment of a severe but plausible downside scenario in relation to the impact of COVID19 in assessing the adoption of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements. On this basis and considering the ongoing financial support confirmed by the parent company, Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association ("Sense"), the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption, under paragraph 1.12(b), from preparing a statement of cash flows, on the basis that it is a qualifying entity and its ultimate parent company, Sense includes the Charity's cash flows in its consolidated financial statements.

Particulars of the significant accounting policies of the Charity are given below.

Accounting policies (continued)

Income from Charitable Activities
This consists of income from grants and contracts, which is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants received in advance but with donor imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability. Income receivable under the terms of a grant at balance sheet date is recognised as accrued income and recognised within debtors.

Donations and Legacies
Legacy income is recognised on a receivable basis when it is probable that legacy income will be received and the value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability. Donations are accounted for when received.

Donations includes donations from Sense International's parent company, Sense. Sense operates five shops for the benefit of Sense International and the profit from these shops is donated to Sense International and included in donations and legacies.

Investment Income
Investment income consists of bank interest and is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
All expenditure, including any irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Fundraising for Sense International is carried out by fundraisers employed by the parent charity Sense and all costs charged to Sense International for this work are direct costs. Accordingly, all support costs relate to charitable activities.

Cost incurred by country programmes are included within direct costs. Costs incurred in the UK are allocated to direct or support costs based on an estimate of the split by activity of staff time in each cost centre.

Governance Costs
Governance costs include external audit and Trustees' expenses.

Accounting policies (continued)

Cash at Bank and in Hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks,
And other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Foreign Currency
i. Functional and presentation currency
The company's functional and presentation currency is the pound sterling.

ii. Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Recognition of Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful economic lives in equal annual instalments over 4 years.

Purchases of fixed assets valued at £500 and above are capitalised, otherwise they are expensed in the year the cost is incurred.

Pension Costs
The charity operates defined contribution schemes for staff. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are payable.

Taxation
The company is recognised as a charity by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purposes of Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is exempt from Corporation Tax.

Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for other purposes, are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Restricted fund expenditure is accounted for when the funds are expended. All expenditure made in the countries we work in outside the UK is accounted for as restricted fund expenditure and a transfer is made from unrestricted funds at the end of the year to cover any expenditure not covered by restricted income.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Principal Accounting Estimates and Judgements
In the application of Sense International's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These estimates together with their underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The matter below is considered to be the most important in understanding the judgements that are involved in preparing the financial statements and the uncertainties that could impact the amounts reported:

- Legacy income is recognised as detailed under income recognition above. In calculating the level of accrued legacy income, management is required to exercise estimation and judgement, particularly in determining the value and probability of receipt.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	**£**
Income from			
Donations and legacies	586,192	1,091,064	**1,677,256**
Charitable activities	-	794,745	**794,745**
Investments	2,324	1,877	**4,201**
Total	**588,516**	**1,887,686**	**2,476,202**
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	232,698	14,324	**247,022**
Charitable activities	293,824	1,754,127	**2,047,951**
Total	**526,522**	**1,768,451**	**2,294,973**
Net income	**61,994**	**119,235**	**181,229**
Transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds	(346,967)	346,967	**-**
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	468,961	733,404	**1,202,365**
Fund balances carried forward at end of year	**183,988**	**1,199,606**	**1,383,594**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID Learning for All: Inclusive Education for Learners with Complex Disabilities in Kenya (UK Aid Direct)	**142,362**	62,618
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID UK Aid Direct Rapid Response Fund: COVID-19 Rapid Response for People with Deafblindess, their families and Schools in Kenya (supplementary to project above)	**122,974**	-
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme 'Inclusive Futures' consortium	**138,282**	57,887
Comic Relief (SI Uganda) Holistic Early Child Development (ECD) for Children with Complex Disabilities in Uganda	**116,253**	-
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Healthy Life for People with Deafblindness in Nepal	**98,096**	95,307
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Good health and well-being for all: establishing the first sensory screening and early intervention programme for children with deafblindness/multi-sensory impairments in Tanzania	**84,024**	110,768

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID Improving Developmental Outcomes for Children with Complex Disabilities in Garissa and Kwale Counties of Rural Kenya (UK Aid Match)	**73,669**	-
The National Lottery Community Fund Improved Livelihoods and Participation in Society for People with Deafblindess/MSI in Tanzania (Project ID: 10353772)	**67,892**	60,029
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID Increasing access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for children and young adults with deafblindness in Bangladesh	**64,106**	71,756
The National Lottery Community Fund Improving livelihoods for people with deafblindness in Uganda (Project IDs: 10305741 and 10357491)	**27,293**	191,551
UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (Uganda Society for Disabled Children and SI Uganda) Removing barriers to Women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes and responses related to conflict prevention	**18,481**	-
The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOA) Enhancing community-based services and effective education in Bangladesh	**-**	51,032

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

2 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission Early intervention for children with multi-sensory impairments in Wakiso, Uganda	-	39,946
Australian High Commission Direct Aid Programme (DAP) Establishing 2 early intervention units for sensory screening and early intervention services for children with multisensory impairments (Tanzania)	-	33,042
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – formerly DFID Establishing Early Intervention services for infants with sensory impairments in Kenya and Uganda (UK Aid Match)	-	10,744
The National Lottery Community Fund Capacity assessment of the Tanzania Association of Deafblind People (TASODEB) (Project ID: 10305741)	-	10,065
Total Grants and Contract Income	**953,432**	794,745
Other Income from Charitable Activities	**5,356**	-
Total Income from Charitable Activities	**958,788**	794,745

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

3 Donation from parent company

During the year, a donation of £350,000 (2020: £40,777) was received from the parent company, Sense.

In the year ended 31 March 2021, the five shops run by Sense that are designated as Sense Ineternational shops were closed for much of the year due to the pandemic and made a loss. Accordingly there was no donation in the year from Sense in respect of net profit on these shops. In the year ended 31 March 2020, Sense donated £122,861 representing the net profit on these five shops. In addition, in the year ended 31 March 2020, Sense donated the proceeds of sales in all its shops donated as part of the Chance to Shine Appeal for Sense International, amounting to £199,223. These amounts are included in donations and legacies.

4 Expenditure

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	**£**	£
Raising funds	263,340	-	**263,340**	247,022
Charitable activities	2,014,047	178,331	**2,192,378**	2,047,951
	2,277,387	**178,331**	**2,455,718**	**2,294,973**

Support Costs	**Management**	**Governance**	**Total 2021**	**Total 2020**
	£	£	**£**	**£**
Charitable activities	153,822	24,509	**178,331**	176,295
	153,822	**24,509**	**178,331**	**176,295**

Governance costs included £5,600 (2020: £5,600) of external audit fees. No payments were made to Sense International's auditors in respect of non-audit services.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

5 Tangible assets

	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost				
At 1 April 2020	21,434	42,569	3,030	67,033
Additions	6,224	59,361	-	65,585
31 March 2021	**27,658**	**101,930**	**3,030**	**132,618**
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 April 2020	20,555	42,569	1,820	64,944
Charge for the year	577	4,104	303	4,984
At 31 March 2021	**21,132**	**46,673**	**2,123**	**69,928**
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2021	**6,526**	**55,257**	**907**	**62,690**
At 31 March 2020	879	-	1,210	2,089

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes. There were no capital commitments at the balance sheet date (2020: £nil).

6 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	**£**
Accrued income	**198,002**	95,646
Prepayments	**10,635**	8,538
Other debtors	**96,619**	115,063
	305,256	**219,247**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	**5,730**	1,048
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	**36,536**	115,836
Accruals and Deferred income	**64,029**	65,990
Other creditors	**44,696**	25,088
	150,991	**207,962**

Amounts due to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed date of repayment and are repayable on demand.

8 Creditors falling due after more than one year

The amount due after more than one year is in respect of a loan of £40,000 that is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. The loan is from a related party as disclosed in note 15.

9 Capital

Sense International is registered in England (Company registration number 3742986) as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. The liability of the member is limited by guarantee. The member has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding one pound as may be required in the event of the charity being wound up.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

10 Movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	251,758	173,280	216,839	-	208,199
Romania – In-country Income	72,794	49,846	22,319	-	100,321
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	20,059	107,473	41,966	-	85,566
Comic Relief Uganda	-	116,744	38,397	-	78,347
Nelumbo Stiftung Early Intervention Uganda	-	74,994	-		74,994
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	41,439	64,106	38,011	-	67,534
Latin American Children's Trust	49,983	49,511	38,076	-	61,418
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	81,886	-	21,678	-	60,208
NLCF Uganda	120,394	27,293	88,705	-	58,982
My Turn to Learn Appeal	144,358	27,500	113,798	-	58,060
Enabel Vocational	180,857	1,055	132,435	-	49,477
Tanzania Adults Vocational	35,924	67,892	58,421	-	45,395
Porticus Uganda 2020-21	-	51,209	16,090	-	35,119
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	9,003	38,154	17,977	-	29,180
The Batchworth Trust (Nepal)	12,000	12,000	-	-	24,000
Tanzania Early Intervention	25,804	84,024	89,274	-	20,554
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	9,335	98,096	90,424	-	17,007
Australian Embassy Tanzania	21,613	-	5,802	-	15,811
Tanzania HDIF	13,643	40,022	44,190	-	9,475
Romania Orange E-Sense	15,197	30,022	40,758	-	4,461
FCDO Rapid Response Fund Kenya 2020	-	122,974	122,974	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya	3,179	142,355	145,534	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya Cofunding	-	11,071	11,071	-	-
FCDO (UK Aid Match) Kenya Early Intervention	-	73,669	73,669	-	-
DID TO35	-	92,420	92,420	-	-
Else Krone Fresenius	-	24,287	24,287	-	-
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Fdn	-	23,954	23,954	-	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	917	85,672	84,755	-
Uganda Holding Fund	-	1,727	54,788	53,061	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	13,633	29,165	15,532	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	80	26,225	26,145	-
Other	90,380	137,982	133,983	(9,111)	85,268
Total restricted	**1,199,606**	**1,758,290**	**1,938,902**	**170,382**	**1,189,376**
Unrestricted	183,988	562,026	516,816	(170,382)	58,816
Total	**1,383,594**	**2,320,316**	**2,455,718**	**-**	**1,248,192**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

Fund	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2020
Nelumbo Stiftung Education	-	259,350	7,592	-	251,758
Enabel Vocational	-	213,969	33,112	-	180,857
My Turn to Learn	192,002	20,000	67,644	-	144,358
NLCF Uganda	109,144	191,551	180,301	-	120,394
Thomas Cook Children's Charity	-	91,380	9,494	-	81,886
Romania – In-country Income	35,751	37,724	681	-	72,794
Latin American Children's Trust	53,438	45,892	49,347	-	49,983
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	21,997	71,756	52,314	-	41,439
Tanzania Adults Vocational	-	60,029	24,105	-	35,924
Tanzania Early Intervention	34,426	110,768	119,390	-	25,804
Australian Embassy Tanzania	-	33,042	11,429	-	21,613
FCDO UK Aid Match Kenya	-	20,059	-	-	20,059
Romania Orange E-Sense	-	32,687	17,490	-	15,197
Kenya Ford Foundation	26,911	-	11,772	-	15,139
Tanzania – HDIF	-	157,977	144,334	-	13,643
Porticus Uganda	79,885	-	66,548	-	13,337
Guernsey Overseas Aid Uganda	-	39,946	28,134	-	11,812
Maria Marina Foundation Peru	35,409	21,634	45,861	-	11,182
Kenya Open Society Initiative East Africa	-	37,794	27,532	-	10,262
Jersey Overseas Aid Nepal	-	95,307	85,972	-	9,335
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa Uganda	-	27,456	18,453	-	9,003
Jersey Overseas Aid Bangladesh	7,291	51,032	53,009	-	5,314
VOICE Kenya	-	22,687	19,483	-	3,204
FCDO UK Aid Direct Kenya	-	62,625	59,446	-	3,179
Rubella Appeal	45,000	-	45,000	-	-
FCDO UK Aid Match Bangladesh	40,000	-	40,000	-	-
UK Aid Direct Kenya Co-funding	-	21,354	21,354	-	-
Kenya Task Order 6	-	28,960	28,960	-	-
Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa	-	37,292	37,292	-	-
Finding Grace Appeal	-	20,299	20,299	-	-
Tasodeb Capacity Building	-	33,286	33,286	-	-
Kenya Holding Fund	-	986	87,209	86,223	-
Tanzania Holding Fund	-	421	121,482	121,061	-
Peru Holding Fund	-	130	43,551	43,421	-
Romania Holding Fund	-	-	68,148	68,148	-
Other	52,150	40,293	88,427	28,114	32,130
Total restricted	**733,404**	**1,887,686**	**1,768,451**	**346,967**	**1,199,606**
Unrestricted	468,961	588,516	526,522	(346,967)	183,988
Total	**1,202,365**	**2,476,202**	**2,294,973**	**-**	**1,383,594**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

10 Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted funds are funds held by the Charity for particular applications, specified by the donor and within the Charity's objectives, and can only be applied to those particular purposes. The restrictions may apply to income or capital or both. Many of the restricted funds are generated through Project targeted appeals.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are held for the general purposes of the Charity. Because they can be deployed flexibly, unrestricted funds allow the Charity to fund core organisational costs necessary for delivery of projects funded with restricted funds. Unrestricted funds also allows the Charity, through co-funding, to leverage restricted funding from Governmental and State agencies that will usually only commit to fund part of the costs of major projects. Hence, unrestricted funds are vitally important for the day to day operation of the Charity and the support we provide to people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	62,690	-	**62,690**
Net current assets	36,126	1,189,376	**1,225,502**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(40,000)	-	**(40,000)**
	58,816	**1,189,376**	**1,248,192**

The corresponding amounts for the previous year were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	2,089	-	**2,089**
Net current assets	221,899	1,199,606	**1,421,505**
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(40,000)	-	**(40,000)**
	183,988	**1,199,606**	**1,383,594**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

12 Employees' remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and Salaries	**687,155**	620,849
Social Security costs	**64,318**	57,069
Other pension costs	**85,137**	78,052
	836,610	**755,970**

The average monthly number of persons employed by the Charity was 51 (2020: 47).

No employees (2020: nil) earned over £60,000.

The Trustees of Sense International received no remuneration (2020: £nil) and received no reimbursements of expenses (2020: £nil).

13 Pensions

Sense International contributes to defined contribution pension schemes in the countries in which it operates. The pension charge for the year was £85,137 (2020: £78,052).

14 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided for at 31 March 2021 amounted to £nil (2020: £nil).

15 Related Parties

In the prior year, Sense International entered into a loan with Dandylion Consulting Limited, a company of which trustee Sunil Shah was also a Director in the year. The loan is unsecured, interest free, and repayable in five equal annual instalments from March 2023. The amount of the loan outstanding at the balance sheet date is £40,000. See also note 8.

See Note 3 for donations from Sense International's parent charity Sense and Note 17 for disclosure of remuneration for key management personnel.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

16 Parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party

The charity's parent undertaking and ultimate controlling party is considered by the Trustees to be Sense, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, a charity and company, registered in England. The registered address of Sense from which copies of this company's financial statements are available is:

101 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9LG

17 Key Management Personnel

The Trustees delegate day to day responsibility to the Chief Executive, Richard Kramer who is supported by Alison Marshall, the Director of Sense International and, from 23 December 2020, by Emma Judge as interim Director until Alison Marshall's return. The Chief Executive was remunerated by Sense and received no remuneration from Sense International. The Director of Sense International is remunerated by Sense International and her remuneration is included in the amounts disclosed in Note 12.

Major Supporters

The Trustees are indebted to all the donors listed below for their support, both financial and otherwise. Without their support it would not have been possible for the Charity to operate.

Major grants from statutory authorities and substantial donations were received from the following supporters:

Comic Relief (directly to Sense International Uganda)

Dorfred Charitable Trust

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency (funded by the European Union)
(directly to Sense International Kenya)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Green Hall Foundation

Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission

Hollyhock Charitable Foundation

James Tudor Foundation

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa

Latin American Children's Trust

Love is Kindness Charitable Trust

Medicor Foundation

Mrs J B Wood’s Charitable Trust

Nelumbo Stiftung

Old Mutual Trust Fund

Rhododendron Trust

Rupin and Madhavi Vadera

Souter Charitable Trust

Stavros Niarchos Foundation

The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

The Band Aid Charitable Trust

The Beatrice Laing Trust

The Batchworth Trust

The Blackwood Engineering Trust

The British and Foreign School Society

The Carmen Butler-Charteris Trust

The Cumber Family Charitable Trust

The Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung

Major Supporters (continued)

The Grace Trust

The Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

The National Lottery Community Fund

The Open Society Initiative for East Africa (directly to Sense International Kenya)

The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust

Uganda Society for Disabled Children (funded by UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund)

Ulverscroft Foundation

With special thanks to the Founding Members of Sense International's Ambassador Circle.

Charity Information

Charity name	Sense International
Governing instrument	Memorandum and Articles of Association
Registered charity number	1076497
Company registration number	3742986
Trustees	Maria Arce-Moreira Richard Cooper Nicholas Corby Dean Lumer Lucy Roberts Raaxeet Shah Sunil Shah (Treasurer) Sunil Sheth (Chair) Verity Stiff (Vice-Chair) Susan Turner (stepped down 15 September 2020) Lauren Watters Gillian Wood (appointed 15 September 2020)
Company secretary	Kris Murali (resigned 29 May 2020) Richard Kramer (appointed 29 May 2020)

Key management personnel

Chief executive	Richard Kramer
Deputy chief executive	Kris Murali (resigned 29 May 2020)
Director	Alison Marshall Emma Judge (as interim Director from 23 Dececmber 2020)

Charity information (continued)

Registered office	101 Pentonville Road London N1 9LG
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 83 Tavistock House Tavistock Square London WC1H 9JA
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2ES
Independent Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP One Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3AX