



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **1/4/2023** Period start date To **31/3/2024** Period end date

Charity name: **Children of Colombia**

Charity registration number: **1095987**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To raise funds for three recognised and respected organisations providing care and education for impoverished, sick and disadvantaged young people in Colombia.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Funds have been raised by sponsorship, donations and fundraising events organised by donors and by the charity. These funds have been paid out to the specific foundations supported by Children of Colombia which provide support to disadvantaged young people in line with our charity's objectives.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission has been considered by the trustees. No personal benefit is received by the board, as all funds are used for the support of our three carefully chosen foundations, with whom the trustees maintain close contact to monitor developments.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Funds were donated by a combination of regular and one-off donors.</p> <p>Children of Colombia was therefore able to distribute over £45,000 to Fundacion Natutama and Fundacion Social Fenix over the year.</p> <p>Children of Colombia funding continued to help Fundacion Fenix to support vulnerable young women by covering education costs, particularly in the social welfare and health care sectors. Funding has also helped pay for rent, internet and food to keep particularly vulnerable students safe and in touch with the group so that they could receive essential support and mentoring and continue their studies, despite the challenges of their lives in Bogota.</p> <p>After recovering from the effects of the pandemic and floods, Fundacion Natutama once again suffered a reduction in visitor numbers in 2023, this time due to the severe drought in the Amazon. The funding from Children of Colombia was fortunately able to cover some of the financial deficit this has caused. Education programmes and workshops at the centre and in local schools have continued to expand, as has the environmental monitoring and community engagement run by the Fundacion.</p> <p>Hogares Luz y Vida continues to strive to offer the highest standards of professional healthcare in a cheerful, happy environment. They are caring for over 220 children and young people who have mental and physical disabilities, serious and chronic illnesses, and others who have been abandoned or orphaned, including some Venezuelan refugees. They run three homes in Bogota and in the countryside outside the city, and are currently building a new, purpose-built home for chronically ill youngsters in Bogota. They also still provide their own school for residents and nearby children who cannot afford to go to state school. Donations have gone towards wheelchairs, toys, beds and equipment for the children.</p>

		All this work has been supported by the funds raised by Children of Colombia.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	We wanted to maintain the level of support to the foundations while, which we achieved. We also wanted to ensure communication with each of them was both active and effective, and we now have even more engagement with each foundation than previously, particularly with regard to their future plans. In particular, our Secretary Gwyneth Simmons visited all three foundations in November 2023 and was able to see first-hand how they were managing and talk to them about their successes, challenges and hopes for the future.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Although we did not run a specific appeal this year, we continued to receive a high level of donations from regular and new donors. The involvement of new donors this year suggests that our focus on improving our social media presence and sharing news more regularly continues to be successful.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	£13,423
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The charity maintains a reserve to cover regular costs eg JustGiving subscriptions and website maintenance.</p> <p>Funds are periodically distributed to the three foundations supported by Children of Colombia when a sufficient balance in excess of this £500 has accumulated to justify the transfer costs, or as requested by the foundations if necessary.</p> <p>It is the trustees' preference to move funds to the foundations as regularly as possible to maximise the funds available to them. Although we fully paid out the cash balance brought forward from the prior year in 2023-24, the level of donations has happily remained high. The funding from our donors continues to be relied on but until they are requested, it has been deemed better to</p>

		<p>hold them in the UK than to transfer them to Colombia due to the rate of exchange.</p> <p>Since the year end, £32,795 has been transferred to Natutama, Fenix and Luz y Vida in 2024/25 to date.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£500
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The charity raises funds from the public, who contribute chiefly via the charity's Just Giving page, or directly to the charity's bank account.</p> <p>Supporters occasionally hold a fundraising event, the proceeds from which are donated to Children of Colombia. The charity itself organises occasional appeals through Just Giving eg the "Save the Amazon Education Centre" for Natutama in 2021-22.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Declaration of trust
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by the Board

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Children of Colombia
Registered charity number	1095987
Charity's principal address	97 Kingston Road, Oxford, OX2 6RL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ms Kate Seal	Chairman		Board of Trustees
2	Mrs Gwyneth Simmons	Secretary/Publicity		
3	Miss Bryony Simmons	Treasurer		
4	Mrs Francisca Sankson			
5	Miss Alex Raikes			
6	Ms Antonia Bonilla Mora			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	n/a
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

n/a

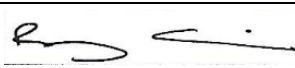
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Bryony Simmons	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	2/1/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Children of Colombia

No (if any)
1095987

CC16a


Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2023		31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	15,903	20,814	-	36,717	26,163
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	1,127
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,903	20,814	-	36,717	27,290
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,903	20,814	-	36,717	27,290
A3 Payments					
Transfers to children's foundations	20,165	25,135	-	45,300	16,330
Website design fees	100	-	-	100	100
Bank transfer fees	115	-	-	115	70
Just Giving fees	216	-	-	216	216
Website hosting	25	-	-	25	-
Ebay charge (refunded)	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	20,621	25,135	-	45,756	16,716
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	20,621	25,135	-	45,756	16,716
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,718	4,321	-	9,039	10,574
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,674	13,788	-	22,462	11,888
Cash funds this year end	3,956	9,467	-	13,423	22,462

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cleared funds in bank	3,956	9,467	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,956	9,467	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Bryony Simmons	02/01/2025	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Children of Colombia

This report on the financial statements of Children of Colombia (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the "Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Charity and the examiner

As trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Act. You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of Section 145 of the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed



Name *STUART ALLEN, FCCA, DIRECTOR, THE FOSSEWAY PRACTICE LIMITED*
Address *OFFICE 3, BATSFORD ESTATE, BATSFORD, MORETON IN MARSH, GLOS GL56 9QF*
Date *14 JANUARY 2025*