

BHOLA'S CHILDREN

England & Wales · Charity number 1118345

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2007-03-12

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONG CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN BANGLADESH PARTICULARLY THOSE ORPHANED AND/OR WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SEE FIT.

Activities: We fund a home and school for orphaned and disabled children on the island of Bhola in Bangladesh. Capacity is now over 50 live-in children plus 20 attending daily. We arrange medical ops and assistive devices for the disabled, teach the 3R's and life skills, and train in farming, tailoring, carpentry and metalwork. We educate the local community on avoidable causes of disability.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SOUTHERN BANGLADESH
- Bangladesh

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£49,653	£56,062	-	-
2024-03-31	£38,025	£106,823	-	-
2023-03-31	£43,994	£141,417	-	-
2022-03-31	£41,660	£141,417	-	-
2021-03-31	£35,686	£56,163	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DINAH LEAH CARLOTTA WIENER	Chair	2007-02-19
Andrew Hogan		2018-07-10
BARNABY MARK WIENER		2007-02-19
Freda Mary Graf		2014-01-21
MR SANDY ANSON		2007-04-20
MS ANNE HAMILTON		2008-04-29

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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BHOLA'S CHILDREN
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2025

The trustees of Bhola's Children (registered no. 1118345) present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes 1 and 2 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Overview

The year has been dominated by two issues of existential importance for the charity:

- 1) *Regime change in Bangladesh*: in last year's report we drew attention to the big and uncertain impact of the regime change in Bangladesh which occurred in August 2024 after the 31st March year end. At the time of writing this year's report the political situation remains very uncertain and this needs to be borne in mind when reading all sections of this report.
- 2) *Our funding crisis*: the good news is that the charity has bought a window of time to find a sustainable solution by temporarily reducing the number of children supported, reducing the range of training facilities provided, and other cost saving measures. Some improvements in funding have already been achieved.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the budget and grant-making policy for the year.

The purpose of the charity set out in its trust deed is to advance education, health and poverty relief among children in Southern Bangladesh, particularly those orphaned or with disabilities. More particularly, it was established in 2007 to provide a permanent source of funding for Bhola's Children Special School – Bangladesh ("BCSB"), a local charitable trust which runs a single project, a home and school for disabled children on the island of Bhola in Southern Bangladesh.

Background

Bhola is an island of two million people. The high level of poverty has been exacerbated by rapid erosion of the North East corner of the island which displaced families, some multiple times. There are very limited medical facilities on the island. Early marriage, early first pregnancy, poverty, lack of education, and inability to access appropriate medical care and facilities all contribute to high levels of disability. For the children and their families this is made much worse by the terrible social stigma attaching to disability. Disabled children are also more likely to be abused by family or neighbours.

Despite the evident needs, there is no other facility on the island capable of meeting those needs in the way that BCSB does.

The vision

The charity (hereinafter "BCUK") furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by granting funds to BCSB for the purposes of the home and school.

From the outset the project was unusual in two key respects:

- it brings together and provides for children with all types of physical and mental disability; and
- it feels like a home not an institution.

These were key parts of the vision of the founder and first director of the project, Howlader Ali. By having those with different disabilities together the children flourish helping each other. They see that their particular disability does not prevent them being a valued part of the happy “family”. And their actual families see in many cases that their disabled child can acquire economically productive skills. Indeed, the disabled child may be more productive than their siblings who have not had access to training. This is a start to reducing the social stigma attaching to both the child and the family. Reducing that stigma was Ali’s long-term aim.

The trustees are proud of how successfully BCSB has realised Ali’s vision over the last eighteen years and how his successors have built on what he started. This has benefited the public through:

- meeting the social, educational and medical needs of disabled children who would otherwise not have those needs met
- educating the wider community about the contribution that those with disabilities can make economically and socially so that in time the disabled will be able to live with dignity and without stigma.

How BCSB realises the vision

1) Admissions policy

The home and school is open to any disabled child from the age of five, regardless of gender, religion, or social, political or financial status of their family. Now that BCSB is so well known throughout the island there is greater demand than BCSB can meet. Admission is based on an assessment of the needs of the child and BCSB’s ability to meet those needs. If demand exceeds the number of places, priority is given to the poorest.

The detailed assessment procedure includes a visit to the family home and looking at the whole family situation.

BCSB is not at present equipped to deal with children under five years old, or who are not capable of self-toileting, or the most seriously autistic. Also the focus is on disabilities arising before, during or shortly after childbirth. Disabilities resulting from injuries or illness sustained later in life are generally regarded as the province of other agencies.

The aim is to equip the children when they leave to live a productive life with dignity, so far as their disabilities permit, and while staying at BCSB to feel safe, loved and valued for who they are, as part of an inclusive family.

There is an increasing emphasis on support for the family as well as the child. Besides remaining in close communication while the child is in residence, this can be anything from advising on breast feeding a child with a cleft palate to teaching them to sign or to help the child with physio or occupational therapy exercises. This may involve the parent(s) staying at BCSB for a few days. This can also benefit a child who cannot be admitted for some reason or can be admitted only for a short period.

2) Education

The children who are capable of attending normal school attend a school just up the road in the mornings. BCSB provides classes covering reading and writing in Bangla and English and in Bangla and roman script, arithmetic, art, dance, sign language and (for the deaf) lipreading and vocalisation.

All the children and all the staff have to learn sign language so that the deaf children can communicate freely with anyone in the boundary.

For slow learners there is now a dedicated class called the Sunshine School. This takes non-residential children on a paying basis. The staff have benefited from specialist training provided by Mann, an Indian charity which specialises in training autistic children and young adults and finding them employment.

There is no religious education provided by BSCB, which has no religious affiliation. But the children are able to attend religious instruction at their local place of worship. An indicator of the inclusiveness of BCSB is that the staff, while mainly Muslim, includes two Hindus and, until her recent retirement through ill health, one Christian.

3) Technical training

Older children are taught employable skills including:

- Agriculture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Tailoring and embroidery
- Computer skills
- Mobile repair
- Food preparation and cooking
- Serving at table

Increasingly, BCSB is seeking to broaden the range of skills training available and increase the standard by forming partnerships with larger local organisations which can afford better facilities and specialist instructors teaching to certificated standards. For example, instruction in computers and IT and in electrical wiring is provided at HEED Technical Training College nearby. This increases the chances of each child receiving training which makes the most of their individual aptitudes and capabilities.

The ablest children are sent for further training in Dhaka where BCSB has close relations with specialist organisations providing training and safe accommodation for the disabled.

The older teenagers are given increasing responsibilities, for example as teaching assistants or interns in the Physio Department, for which they are paid a small salary.

4) Hostel accommodation and pastoral care

The girls and boys sleep in small dormitories on separate floors of the main hostel building.

A house mother and house father provide pastoral care and instruction in personal hygiene for the girls and boys respectively.

The children are expected to do their fair share of the household chores. They are organised into teams led by older children, which are responsible for cleaning their dormitories and the communal rooms and other tasks on a rota basis.

Until December 2024 the families of residential children only needed to provide soap and toiletries. Everything else was free of charge. In January 2025 a monthly charge of Tk 1,000 (£6.25) was introduced as an experiment, since increased to Tk 2,000 (£12.50) for new admissions. The relief of poverty associated with disability remains part of our aims, so only those who are considered reasonably able to pay are charged. Parents understand the reason for the charge and have generally been happy to pay it. £12.50 is less than the monthly food cost (£15), let alone the overall monthly cost per child including training, rehabilitation and overheads (£85).

5) Medical care

Medical care is provided by local medical services except for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, which are provided on-site by BCSB's own Physiotherapy Department.

The Physiotherapy Department is run by a qualified physiotherapist with additional diagnostic assistance from an external consultant. There are very limited physiotherapy facilities on the island, mostly of poor quality. BCSB's Department has an excellent reputation and treats external fee-paying adult patients as well as our children. Those with cerebral palsy or occupational therapy needs are treated daily, others as required. Occupational therapy is particularly helpful for the slow learners. Two of the female staff came to the home as blind children and when older were trained to provide physiotherapy.

BCSB is regularly approached for help with children with deformities such as cleft lips, cleft palates and club feet. When a sufficient number have done so, BCSB arranges for a group of those with clefts to go to Dhaka for free operations. Those with club feet can now get operations at a specialist unit in Bhola City and are referred there. BCSB then helps with follow-up physiotherapy. BCSB also helps by providing or advising on assistive devices.

6) Sport and recreation

Time is allocated every day for play and sport. Depending on the season and weather there may be cricket, badminton, football, swimming, bicycling, board games, chess, carom, hopscotch and many more. There are also regular dance and music classes – it is a joy to see a group of deaf children dancing gracefully and in time to music!

BCSB children are regularly entered for competitions almost invariably winning prizes. In 2024-25 these included:

- Display, parade and dance competitions where the BCSB teams compete against teams from normal schools (these competitions have been suspended since August 2024)
- Drawing competitions for the disabled at various levels
- Chess competition for the disabled
- Talent competitions in education

Three Big Changes

Change of Director

Sadly on 31st December Zakirul Haque, the Director of BCSB for the last ten years, left to pursue business interests in Dhaka where his family live, although he still remains involved with BCSB as a member of the board. He deserves immense credit for what he achieved in that time. The trustees wish to express their huge gratitude to him for this and wish him and his family well for the future. He had originally come to hold the fort for three months after the previous Director was dismissed, but so loved the project that he ended up staying for ten years.

Ismail Sahib the Accountant and Administration Manager was promoted to Director in his place. It could not have been a more difficult time to take over given the other big changes but from the start he has risen to the challenges well.

Emergency reduction in BCSB Budget

Sadly, because of the problems developing new funding sources, it was necessary in January 2025 to halve the number of residential children, lay off three staff and reduce the salaries of the remaining staff. Non-essential spending was cut. This included most spending on technical training in woodwork, metalwork and agriculture, and funding for external training, but the facilities remain in place. It is hoped that this is a temporary situation – see Financial Review – Fundraising below.

Most of the staff have been in post for many years. To them BCSB is their “home” and their “family”. We are proud to see how committed they are to seeing the project through this difficult time and how they are helping each other out by sharing tasks outside their normal role as say teacher.

Change in BCSB Board

Sadly, in Bangladesh under the previous autocratic regime of Sheikh Hasina it became near impossible to do anything without the active support of Awami League politicians. Hence BCSB had Unus, the Chairman of the Bhola City Upazila (district council), as its Chairman. However, the new regime in August 2024 immediately sacked all the politicians and many administrators perceived as their cronies. All those associated with the old regime fled the country or went into hiding and many have since been charged with various offences including Unus.

So Unus had to resign as Chairman of BCSB and was replaced by another member of the board Shawkat Hossain. Unus, unusually for a Bangladeshi politician, is well regarded as a man of integrity by all parties and is able to move freely in Bhola. We hope that the charges against him will in time be dropped, because there is no doubting his personal commitment to supporting BCSB.

Grant making policy

Grants are made to BCSB in instalments against a pre-approved annual budget which has also been approved by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. The grants are subject to BCSB complying with a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between BCUK and BCSB.

How our grants delivered public benefit

Typically in 2024 the residential children included 30 deaf, 20 slow learners, 10 with physical disabilities, 3 with CP and 1 blind. From January 2025 the numbers were halved.

In the year five children left for jobs and three left to get married.

Besides the children, five of the staff of BCSB are themselves disabled and might otherwise find it hard to find accommodation and employment and impossible to get married. They include two blind, one deaf, one CP, and one acid victim. Three of them have successfully married with the support of BCSB and have children of their own.

BCSB thus provides substantial benefits to many disabled children from mostly very poor families in an island of two million people where there are no comparable alternative facilities. And, as its reputation grows, it benefits the wider community by showing that disabled children can be economically productive and valued individuals who deserve to live and be treated with dignity rather than stigma.

Monitoring of the achievements

BCSB operates as a project of DORP (Development Organisation for the Rural Poor), a large long-established Bangladeshi NGO. This means that the project is subject to detailed monitoring by the Bangladesh government's NGO Affairs Bureau ("NGOAB"). This includes pre-approval of the annual budget, pre-approval of each payment received from BCUK and subsequent auditing by auditors on the Bangladesh government's list of approved auditors.

BCSB also has to comply with the monitoring requirements of the Department of Social Welfare, with which it is registered, and with the financial control procedures of DORP through whom the funds are remitted.

To satisfy BCUK that BCSB spends the money received in ways which meet the specific intentions and charitable aims of BCUK the primary controls are:

- the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) governing relations between BCUK and BCSB
- pre-approval by BCUK of BCSB's annual budget and five-year plans
- online monitoring by BCUK of the BCSB cashbook
- visits by one or more BCUK trustees two or more times a year to inspect the operations and financial records and attend meetings with the BCSB trustees and DORP
- joint meetings on Zoom of the BCUK and BCSB boards; and
- frequent, often daily, telephone and email contact between BCUK and BCSB, in particular between the Chair of BCUK and the Director of BCSB.

Sandy Anson visited the project in July 2024 immediately before the political troubles started. Unfortunately, scheduled visits by other trustees in November, January and March had to be cancelled for safety reasons. So we are happy to report that after the year end Sandy Anson was able to visit in July 2025 and found everything in remarkably good shape considering the big changes and difficulties. Staff morale was high. The staff were working well with the new Director. BCSB was getting more income from charges and local personal donations and securing some larger grants from government authorities. And during his visit he was able to get to know and build a fruitful relationship with the new appointees in senior official positions.

Financial review

Fundraising

Until this year, with one exception, namely a large legacy of £274,000 received in May 2019, almost all the charity's income comprised personal donations from a core group of UK donors mainly in West London, supplemented by occasional fundraising events including appeals through local churches.

But the running costs of the project have grown sharply in recent years, due to the increased number of children, increased quality of care provided and massive price inflation during and after the pandemic which shows no sign of reversing. These cost increases have far outpaced the amount that could reasonably be raised from the existing donor base. So, if the project in its present form was to be financially sustainable in the longer term, it was clearly necessary to develop new sources of income and/or make radical changes in how it was structured.

While the legacy provided a breathing space, it also made it very difficult to raise new funds during the pandemic, the Ukraine and Gaza Wars and the cost-of-living crisis. A professional fundraiser was appointed for the first time in May 2021, but the results were disappointing with only £20,000 over two years raised by them from grant-making bodies. So that relationship was terminated in March 2022.

Our focus shifted to launching a Sponsor-a-Child scheme and to reducing costs by making the project more self-sustaining both by increasing income streams within the project and by raising funds locally in Bangladesh. Unfortunately the Sponsor-a-Child scheme had to be suspended first because of the security situation and then because of the reduction in administrative staff at BCSB.

Before the regime change it had been decided that BCSB should sell a piece of valuable land which was surplus to requirements. This would have funded 80 children for at least a year and provided a window for other sources of funds to be developed. However, the regime change has had the effect that many people have access to less money because they have moved it abroad or had it frozen in one of the "bad" banks, and, if they do have access to funds, they are not willing to make any decisions until they see how the political situation pans out after the election (expected in spring 2026). For the same reasons people are unwilling to commit to larger personal donations.

The future is potentially much brighter depending on how the political position develops. BCSB has applied several times in the past for its own NGO registration but this has been blocked for political reasons. Those reasons no longer apply and the present regime is processing applications more swiftly. If and when the current application is successful, this will open doors to a much wider range of sources of grants and donations in Bangladesh. BCSB has already in 2025 received more government grants and support in kind than previous years from the newly appointed, more supportive officials. Together with the increased income from charges the project is on its way to becoming more self-sustainable and less reliant on BCUK.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees' policy is to invest surplus funds in bank fixed deposits with up to one year's maturity and/or notice accounts, while ensuring that all the funds are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. There have been no surplus funds since June 2024.

Interest received in the current year was £483 (last year £2,376).

Expenditure

It has been the trustees' policy that all of the money raised from donors and the net amount raised from fundraising activities should be applied for the benefit of the children in Bhola, except for money spent on:

- bank charges (this year £211, last year £148)
- CAFDonate charges on online donations (this year £16, last year £49)
- printing and website maintenance (this year £102, last year £360).

The trustees personally have borne, and continue to bear, all the other administration costs. In particular they bear the considerable costs of travel and accommodation when visiting BCSB on charity business.

Expenditure – grants to BCSB

Expenditure on grants to BCSB is shown in the accounts on a cash basis. This is because grants are not confirmed until paid and they cannot be paid until both the annual budget and the individual payment have been approved by the NGOAB. BCSB's accounting year is the calendar year, whereas BCUK's is the year to 31st March. As NGOAB approval is not received until two, three or even four months into the year, the first payment for the year may be before or after BCUK's 31st March year end. Also the amount of the first payment may represent anything between three and six months expenditure depending on our judgement of future exchange movements and, for example, the need to complete building work ahead of the monsoon. For these reasons the cash figure can be very different from the costs incurred in the year by BCSB.

Financial summary

Results per the accounts	This year £	Last year £
Personal donations	44,848	22,649
Grants from foundations/trusts	3,000	13,000
Investment income	483	2,376
Total income	<u>48,331</u>	<u>38,025</u>
Cost of raising funds	190	487
Cost of grants paid to BCSB	<u>55,872</u>	<u>106,336</u>
Total expenditure	<u>56,062</u>	<u>106,823</u>
(Deficit) per accounts	(6,409)	(68,798)
Total funds at end of year	22,902	29,311
of which restricted funds	0	29,311

If the grant expenditure had been accounted for on an accruals rather than cash basis:

- the result would have been a surplus of £3,099 this year and deficit of £61,798 last year
- the funds at the year end would have been £34,402 this year and £50,311 last year.

The restriction on the restricted funds was that the funds were intended as a working capital reserve to cover adverse temporary cashflow fluctuations and the trustees were expected (but not legally bound) to replenish the reserve within twelve months of drawing on it. In

March 2024 the trustees drew on this £40,000 reserve for the first time to the extent of £10,689 at the year end. During the current year the donor removed the restriction so that all the reserves became unrestricted.

Going concern basis

The chances of the charity ceasing to be a going concern are minimal, so long as there is a surviving trustee and the charity has banking facilities. The charity's administrative expenses are almost all borne by the trustees personally. Grants are only finally approved at the time they are paid and they are only paid if the funds are available. The trustees therefore consider it is appropriate to present the accounts on a going concern basis.

Risks

It is a regrettable fact of modern life that Anti-Moneylaundering Legislation and Charity Commission rules and guidance are becoming ever more stringent. Any involvement with Bangladesh is of itself sufficient to raise the authorities' concerns. The trustees are confident that under the current rules they can satisfy enquiries made by the banks at their annual reviews of the charity's accounts or by the Charity Commission, but it is impossible to predict how those rules and the attitudes of the various authorities and the banks may develop in future. If the worst were to happen and the charity's banking facilities were withdrawn, this would prevent the charity from operating.

The chances of the grantee ceasing to be a going concern are more significant. In particular:

- Bhola is a high-risk area in terms of environmental disasters.
- Children's homes are a high-risk activity in terms of the potential for reputational damage, both deserved and undeserved.
- The Bangladesh authorities have the legal power to close down Non-Governmental Organisations and their projects without notice.
- BCSB is a small organisation which is heavily reliant on the person of the Director for whom a replacement could be difficult to secure at short notice.
- BCUK might be unable to provide funds sufficient to cover the minimum costs for the project to be viable.

The charity aims to have sufficient reserves to provide emergency financial aid in the interests of the children in any such circumstances, but there is no binding legal obligation to provide that support. In such circumstances, even if it had the funds, there is no guarantee that there would be a legal means of delivering them to where they were needed.

Under the MOU BCSB is required to have a safeguarding policy which meets UK requirements. In the UK the requirement now is to have a policy which safeguards not just vulnerable children and adults but anyone within or who comes into contact with the organisation.

BCUK has its own safeguarding policy. Before authorising visits by BCUK trustees the trustees consider the security and health risks to the visiting trustee, who also has to be personally satisfied that the visit is safe.

Reserves policy

For the time being the trustees are prioritising passing on all the money they raise to BCSB. Keeping the project alive is considered more important at this juncture than building up reserves. That is subject to retaining £5,000 to cover any costs involved in winding up BCUK, if it should come to that.

As and when the funding situation is sufficiently improved, the trustees will consider what level of contingency reserve it is appropriate to designate in the light of the then political situation, mix of UK and local funding, exchange rate volatility, and any other relevant factors. Meanwhile there is some flexibility in that BCSB's budget continues to include a 5% contingency provision.

The political situation in Bangladesh

In July 2024 students took to the streets in Bangladesh protesting against the reinstatement by the courts of a preference for the grandchildren of those who fought for independence in 1971 when applying for government jobs. Many others joined the protests out of dissatisfaction with the increasingly autocratic and corrupt government. 1,200 people were killed by the police attempting to suppress the riots before the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina fled to India. The police and anyone associated with the regime fled or went into hiding. Since then an interim government has been formed under the internationally respected Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. Whether he will succeed in steering the country through the economic, political and constitutional reforms necessary before fair and safe elections can be held remains uncertain. It is not made easy by frequent large street protests making demands with the potential for violence if they are frustrated.

As of now, the possibilities include:

- 1) A descent into violence between opposing street mobs
- 2) Election of a government run by the Bangladesh National Party with a clear majority
- 3) Election with a messier outcome perhaps leading to a BNP-led coalition
- 4) The interim government hangs on with no election date

The latest indication from the government is that it hopes to hold elections in April 2026. BCSB has politician friends in both main political parties and the board has positioned itself, as far as it can, to be in favour with either.

Plans for the future

An overarching aim is to make the project more self-sustaining financially by raising funds locally through grants and donations and generating income from sales of services and goods and so making it less dependent on UK funding. The island of Bhola is undergoing rapid economic development following the development of substantial gas fields. Completion of a bridge to the mainland in the next few years will further accelerate development. It is anticipated that this will create significant markets for BCSB's services and goods, bring businesses to the island who will want to be seen supporting local good causes and make it easier to hire qualified staff.

Assuming that sufficient UK and local funds are raised to tide the project over the next two years an immediate priority is to continue building up capacity at the Sunshine School and Physiotherapy Department, as these are self-funding and there is no one else on the island providing professional physiotherapy or autism services.

Another aim is to develop the production of handcrafts with a view to generating more income from this source. But progress on this must await the resumption of full technical training.

We have identified a range of other investments in people and buildings that would widen and strengthen the quality of the services BCSB provides in ways that would be invaluable to those on the island and/or make the project financially more sustainable. But it is impossible to make plans for these while the political situation remains on a knife edge.

Structure, governance and management

BCUK

BCUK is run by a board of the eight trustees listed below.

The board contains trustees with a range of relevant skills and experience and the balance of these skills and experience is kept under review.

There are no staff. All the work is done by the trustees with occasional assistance from other volunteers in connection with fundraising events and IT.

Office facilities are provided by the Chair from her home.

BCSB

BCSB is a Bangladesh charitable trust with a board of eight trustees who are all well-respected members of the local community. The board, however, needs to be restructured as explained above.

BCSB is registered with the Social Welfare Department.

MOU

The MOU between BCUK and BCSB was last revised in January 2023. It sets out various matters that must be agreed jointly by the two parties. These include the appointment of the Director of BCSB, terms of his or her employment and any changes thereto. In practice there is email, telephone and Zoom contact between the Chair of BCUK and the Director, at least weekly and often daily. Since the pandemic there have also been occasional joint meetings of the BCUK and BCSB boards on Zoom.

The purchases of the land and original buildings were funded by a group of individual donors including the current chair of BCUK. The subsequent buildings were funded by BCUK. All the land and buildings are now registered in the name of BCSB, but under the MOU BCUK must agree to the disposal of any interest in the land and buildings.

The MOU also requires both parties to share minutes of their meetings.

DORP

Pending BCSB getting its own NGO registration, which can take years, BCSB became a project of DORP (Development Organisation of the Rural Poor) a large long-established Bangladesh NGO. DORP handles the considerable work in dealing with the NGO Affairs Bureau in respect of the project in return for 3% of the funds remitted by BCUK. Otherwise it is supportive of but plays no part in the management of the project. The involvement of DORP was a necessary price for BCSB being allowed to receive funds from BCUK through the banking system.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees

Alexander ("Sandy") Anson FCA, Treasurer

Nicholas Breeze (*resigned 05/05/2025*)

Bruna Colombo-Otten (*resigned 06/05/2025*)

Freda Graf

Anne Hamilton

Andrew Hogan

Barnaby Wiener

Registered Office and Principal Office: 12 Cornwall Grove, London, W4 2LB

Charity Number: 1118345

Independent examiner: Michael Godbee FCA, 99 The Avenue, London, W13 8JT

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 28th July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees



Alexander Anson, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of: Bhola's Children
(Charity no. 1118345)

On accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2025

Set out on pages: 14 to 21

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

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

I draw attention to pages 7 to 10 of the trustees' annual report where the trustees' give more explanation of the financial situation of the charity and their reasons for preparing the accounts on a going concern basis.

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

Signed: 

Date: 2/10/2025

Name: MICHAEL GODBEE

Relevant professional qualification: FCA

Address: 99 THE AVENUE, LONDON, W13 8JT

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
Charity No. 1118345
Annual accounts for the period
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Current year			Prior year		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations	3	46,670	-	46,670	22,649	-	22,649
Grants	3	2,500	-	2,500	13,000	-	13,000
Investments	3	483	-	483	2,376	-	2,376
Total		49,653	-	49,653	38,025	-	38,025
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	190	-	190	487	-	487
Charitable activities	4	55,872	-	55,872	106,336	-	106,336
Total		56,062	-	56,062	106,823	-	106,823
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,409)	-	(6,409)	(68,798)	-	(68,798)
Transfers between funds		29,311	(29,311)	-	10,689	(10,689)	-
Net movement in funds		22,902	(29,311)	(6,409)	(58,109)	(10,689)	(68,798)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		22,902	(29,311)	(6,409)	(58,109)	(10,689)	(68,798)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		-	29,311	29,311	58,109	40,000	98,109
Total funds carried forward		22,902	-	22,902	-	29,311	29,311

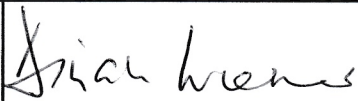
There were no endowment funds at any time in either year.

Balance sheet

At 31 March

	Note	Current year £	Prior year £
Current assets:			
Stock	6	180	240
Debtors	7	7,186	3,464
Investments	8	-	20,186
Cash at bank	9	15,480	5,421
Total current assets		22,846	29,311
Creditors	10	-	-
Total current liabilities		-	-
Net current assets		22,846	29,311
Total assets less current liabilities		22,846	29,311
Net assets		22,846	29,311
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment and restricted income funds	12	-	29,311
Unrestricted funds	13	91,700	68,798
Total charity funds		91,700	98,109

Approved by the trustees on 2nd January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Position	Name	Signature
Chair of the Trustees	Dinah Leah Carlotta WIENER	
Treasurer	Alexander Lothian ANSON	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (second edition, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019); and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change in the basis of accounting in the current year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

There have been no changes to the figures for last year.

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 INCOME

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; • it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS or SORP.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met (5.8 to 5.12 FRS102). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance-related conditions are met.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Notes to the Accounts

Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.
Governance and support costs	Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include costs of grant-making and subsequent monitoring. All governance and support costs in the year other than bank charges were borne personally by the trustees in accordance with their policy of not charging such costs to the charity.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.
Deferred income	No deferred income has been included in the accounts.

2.3 ASSETS

Fixed assets and investments	The charity had no fixed assets or investments in the current or prior year.
Stocks	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 3 Analysis of income and endowments

		This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies	Donations and gifts – unrestricted	37,595	13,041
	Donations – restricted	-	-
	Expenses waived by trustees	1,822	6,986
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	7,253	2,622
	Total	46,670	22,649

The trustees' expenses above and in Note 4 were expenses incurred on travel and subsistence in the course of their duties when visiting the project in Bangladesh (this year 1 trustee, last year 4 trustees). The Trustees waived their right to claim these expenses. The Trustees also incurred and waived other expenses in the course of their duties on, for example, the provision of home office and telephone facilities and travel to meetings, but it was not considered economic to identify and quantify these.

Grants	Grants from private grant-making bodies	2,500	13,000
	Total	2,500	13,000

Investment income	Bank interest	483	2,376
	Total	483	2,376

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

		This year £	Last year £
Costs of raising funds	Commission and fees paid in respect of donations received through the CAFDonate website	8	16
	Printing	-	60
	Website maintenance and development	102	300
	Bank charges on foreign donations and account maintenance	80	111
	Total	190	487

Charitable activities	Grants paid to BCSB	54,000	99,250
	Trustees' expenses for visits to BCSB (Note 3)	1,822	6,986
	Bank charges on foreign payments	50	100
	Total	55,872	106,336

Grants paid to BCSB vary significantly from year to year because of timing differences in when they are paid. See the Trustees' Report for more details.

Bank charges are the only costs borne by the charity in respect of grantmaking.

Notes to the Accounts

Approved expenditures funded by grants to BCSB	2024 £	2023 £
Buildings and equipment	3,339	6,152
Staff salaries	37,490	27,913
Food, medicine and healthcare	17,214	17,935
Education, training and rehabilitation	7,296	4,013
Travel	2,223	2,308
Utilities and security	2,138	1,797
Administration and audit	942	1,150
Contribution to DORP	1,620	4,937
Total	72,262	66,205

These figures are on a cash basis and are based on the audited accounts of BCSB for the calendar years 2023 and 2024 converted at the average exchange rate for the year concerned.

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

Number of trustees who claimed expenses

Total amount claimed

All the trustees who incurred expenses in the performance of their duties waived their right to claim those expenses. See Note 3.

This year	Last year
None	None
£0	£0

5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

Note 6 Stocks

	This year £	Last year £
Leaflets and Gift Aid envelopes	180	240
	180	240

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accrued bank interest	1	935	0	0
Gift Aid recoverable	7,185	2,529	0	0
Total	7,186	3,464	0	0

Notes to the Accounts

Note 8 Investments

	This year £	Last year £
Bank 100-day notice deposit	0	20,186
Total	0	20,186

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank	15,480	5,421
Cash in hand	0	0
Total	15,480	5,421

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Creditors –CAFDonate fees	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

11.1 Remuneration and benefits

No remuneration or other benefits were paid to a trustee or other related party during either year by the charity or by any institution or company connected with it. See notes 3 and 5.1 regarding trustees' waived expenses.

11.2 Loans

No amounts were owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at either year end.

11.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to the charity	Description of the transactions	This year £	Last year £
Bhola's Children Special School Bangladesh ("BCSB")	Bangladesh charitable trust which operates the home and school funded by the Charity	Grants paid by the Charity to BCSB for the purposes specified in Note 4	0	0

Notes to the Accounts

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

CURRENT YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	29,311	-	(29,311)	-
Total restricted funds	29,311	-	(29,311)	-

PRIOR YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	(10,689)	29,311
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	(10,689)	29,311

There were no endowment funds in the current or prior year.

The £40,000 Working Capital Fund was intended to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations in income and expenditure. There was an expectation but not a legal requirement that amounts drawn from the fund were repaid within 12 months. This restriction was withdrawn by the donor during the year.

Note 13 Unrestricted funds – designated

CURRENT YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Winding up costs	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Undesignated reserve	68,798	(6,409)	29,311	(5,000)	-	86,700
Total unrestricted funds	68,798	(6,409)	29,311	-	-	91,700

PRIOR YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	40,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	-
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	(6,300)	-
Undesignated reserve	11,809	-	10,689	-	46,300	68,798
Total unrestricted funds	58,109	-	10,689	-	-	68,798

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1 – 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12
Annual Accounts	13 – 21

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
CHARITY REG. NO. 1118345
12 Cornwall Grove, London W4 2LB, UK
Tel: +44(0)20 8994 6011
Website: www.bholaschildren.org

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees of Bhola's Children (registered no. 1118345) present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes 1 and 2 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Post-year end events

Whilst this report concerns the year to 31st March 2024 and the position at that date there have been important events since then in Bangladesh, which have a bearing on almost every section of this report. In particular they create great uncertainty about the future of the project we support. The events and their ramifications are explained in the section "Regime Change" below. This comes, sad to say, after the most successful year ever operationally for the project, when important new developments like the Sunshine School came to fruition.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the budget and grant-making policy for the year.

The purpose of the charity set out in its trust deed is to advance education, health and poverty relief among children in Southern Bangladesh, particularly those orphaned or with disabilities. More particularly, it was established in 2007 to provide a permanent source of funding for Bhola's Children Special School – Bangladesh ("BCSB"), a local charitable trust which runs a single project, a home and school for disabled children on the island of Bhola in Southern Bangladesh.

Background

Bhola is an island of two million people. The high level of poverty has been exacerbated by rapid erosion of the North East corner of the island which displaced families, some multiple times. There are very limited medical facilities on the island. Early marriage, early first pregnancy, poverty, lack of education, and inability to access appropriate medical care and facilities all contribute to high levels of disability. For the children and their families this is made much worse by the terrible social stigma attaching to disability. Disabled children are also more likely to be abused by family or neighbours.

Despite the evident needs, there is no other facility on the island capable of meeting those needs in the way that BCSB does.

The vision

The charity (hereinafter "BCUK") furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by granting funds to BCSB for the purposes of the home and school.

From the outset the project was unusual in two key respects:

- it brings together and provides for children with all types of physical and mental disability; and

- it feels like a home not an institution.

These were key parts of the vision of the founder and first director of the project, Howlader Ali. By having those with different disabilities together the children flourish helping each other. They see that their particular disability does not prevent them being a valued part of the happy “family”. And their actual families see in many cases that their disabled child can acquire economically productive skills. Indeed, the disabled child may be more productive than their siblings who have not had access to training. This is a start to reducing the social stigma attaching to both the child and the family. Reducing that stigma was Ali’s long-term aim.

The trustees are proud of how successfully BCSB has realised Ali’s vision over the last sixteen years and how Zakirul Haque, the Director for the last nine years, has built on what Ali started. This has benefited the public through:

- meeting the social, educational and medical needs of disabled children who would otherwise not have those needs met
- educating the wider community about the contribution that those with disabilities can make economically and socially so that in time the disabled will be able to live with dignity and without stigma.

How BCSB realises the vision

1) Admissions policy

The home and school is open to any disabled child from the age of five, regardless of gender, religion, or social, political or financial status of their family. Now that BCSB is so well known throughout the island there is greater demand than BCSB can meet. Admission is based on an assessment of the needs of the child and BCSB’s ability to meet those needs. If demand exceeds the number of places, priority is given to the poorest.

During the year a more detailed assessment procedure was introduced, which includes a visit to the family home and looking at the whole family situation.

BCSB is not at present equipped to deal with children under five years old, or who are not capable of self-toileting, or the seriously autistic. Also the focus is on disabilities arising before, during or shortly after childbirth. Disabilities resulting from injuries or illness sustained later in life are generally regarded as the province of other agencies.

The aim is to equip the children when they leave to live a productive life with dignity, so far as their disabilities permit, and while staying at BCSB to feel safe, loved and valued for who they are, as part of an inclusive family.

There is an increasing emphasis on support for the family as well as the child. Besides remaining in close communication while the child is in residence, this can be anything from advising on breast feeding a child with a cleft palate to teaching them to sign or to help the child with physio or occupational therapy exercises. This may involve the parent(s) staying at BCSB for a few days. This can benefit a child who cannot be admitted for some reason or can be admitted only for a short period.

2) Education

The children who are capable of attending normal school attend a school just up the road in the mornings. BCSB provides classes covering reading and writing in Bangla and English and in Bangla and roman script, arithmetic, art, dance, sign language and (for the deaf) lipreading and vocalisation.

For slow learners there is now a dedicated class called the Sunshine School. This takes non-residential children on a paying basis. During the year a partnership was set up with Mann, an Indian charity which specialises in training autistic children and young adults and finding them employment. Mann have provided free of charge access to their online training course for teachers of autistic children. This has enabled BCSB to raise the standard of teaching provided by the existing staff. As the number of fee-paying students increases, fully qualified specialist teachers will be hired.

There is no religious education provided by BSCB, which has no religious affiliation. But the children are able to attend religious instruction at their local place of worship. An indicator of the inclusiveness of BCSB is that the staff, while mainly Muslim, includes two Hindus and one Christian.

3) Technical training

Older children are taught employable skills including:

- Agriculture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Tailoring and embroidery
- Computer skills
- Mobile repair
- Food preparation and cooking
- Serving at table

Increasingly, BCSB is seeking to broaden the range of skills training available and increase the standard by forming partnerships with larger local organisations which can afford better facilities and specialist instructors teaching to certificated standards. For example, instruction in computers and IT and in electrical wiring is provided at HEED Technical Training College nearby. This increases the chances of each child receiving training which makes the most of their individual aptitudes and capabilities.

The ablest children are sent for further training in Dhaka where BCSB has close relations with specialist organisations providing training and safe accommodation for the disabled.

The older teenagers are given increasing responsibilities, for example as teaching assistants, for which they are paid a small salary.

4) Hostel accommodation and pastoral and medical care

The girls and boys sleep in small dormitories on separate floors of the main hostel building.

A house mother and house father provide pastoral care and instruction in personal hygiene for the girls and boys respectively.

Medical care is provided by local medical services except for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, which are provided on-site by staff – daily for those with cerebral palsy. (See Physiotherapy Department below.) Two female staff came to the home as blind children and when older were trained to provide physiotherapy. A consultant physiotherapist who is also qualified in occupational therapy visits weekly to provide diagnoses and treatment plans and to review progress. The occupational therapy is particularly helpful for the slow learners.

The arrangements whereby children needing operations for cleft lips, cleft palates and other deformities were taken to a hospital at Barisal or Dhaka on the mainland for free treatment has been suspended by the hospitals. It is hoped that this will resume at some point.

The children are expected to do their fair share of the household chores. They are organised into teams led by older children, which are responsible for cleaning their dormitories and the communal rooms and other tasks on a rota basis.

All the children and all the staff have to learn sign language so that the deaf children can communicate freely with anyone in the boundary.

At present the families must provide soap and toiletries. Everything else is free of charge. The trustees of BCUK and BCSB keep this under review and it is likely that more of the services will be charged for in future in those cases where the child's family have the means to pay. The relief of poverty associated with disability is part of our aims, so priority would always continue to be given to the poorest.

5) Sport and recreation

Time is allocated every day for play and sport. Depending on the season and weather there may be cricket, badminton, football, swimming, bicycling, board games, chess, carom, hopscotch and many more. There are also regular dance and music classes – it is a joy to see a group of deaf children dancing gracefully and in time to music!

BCSB children are regularly entered for competitions almost invariably winning prizes. In 2023-24 these included:

- Display, parade and dance competitions where the BCSB teams compete against teams from normal schools
- Drawing competitions for the disabled at various levels
- Chess competition for the disabled
- Talent competitions in education
- For the Special Olympics in Berlin in July 2023 six of our disabled children, all from very poor families, were selected to represent Bangladesh at the Special Olympics in Berlin. One could not get her passport in time, but the five who went won four gold medals, two silver medals and a fourth place, a truly remarkable result for our small school.

Grant making policy

Grants are made to BCSB in instalments against a pre-approved annual budget which has also been approved by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. The grants are subject to BCSB complying with a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between BCUK and BCSB.

How our grants delivered public benefit

Typically the residential children included 30 deaf, 20 slow learners, 10 with physical disabilities, 3 with CP and 1 blind.

Besides the children, six of the staff of BCSB are themselves disabled and might otherwise find it hard to find accommodation and employment and impossible to get married. They include two blind, one deaf, one CP, one acid victim and one with cleft and deformed foot. Three of them have successfully married with the support of BCSB.

BCSB thus provides substantial benefits to many disabled children from mostly very poor families in an island of two million people where there are no comparable alternative facilities. And, as its reputation grows, it benefits the wider community by showing that disabled children can be economically productive and valued individuals who deserve to live and be treated with dignity rather than stigma.

Monitoring of the achievements

BCSB operates as a project of DORP (Development Organisation for the Rural Poor), a large long-established Bangladeshi NGO. This means that the project is subject to detailed monitoring by the Bangladesh government's NGO Affairs Bureau ("NGOAB"). This includes pre-approval of the annual budget, pre-approval of each payment received from BCUK and subsequent auditing by auditors on the Bangladesh government's list of approved auditors.

BCSB also has to comply with the monitoring requirements of the Department of Social Welfare, with which it is registered, and with the financial control procedures of DORP through whom the funds are remitted.

To satisfy BCUK that BCSB spends the money received in ways which meet the specific intentions and charitable aims of BCUK the primary controls are:

- the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) governing relations between BCUK and BCSB
- pre-approval by BCUK of BCSB's annual budget and five-year plans
- online monitoring by BCUK of the BCSB cashbook
- visits by one or more BCUK trustees two or more times a year to inspect the operations and financial records and attend meetings with the BCSB trustees and DORP
- joint meetings on Zoom of the BCUK and BCSB boards; and
- frequent, often daily, telephone and email contact between BCUK and BCSB, in particular between the Chair of BCUK and the Director of BCSB.

Financial review

Donations, grants and strategic review

Until this year, with one exception, namely a large legacy of £274,000 received in May 2019, almost all the charity's income comprised personal donations from a core group of UK donors mainly in West London, supplemented by occasional fundraising events including appeals through local churches.

But the running costs of the project have grown sharply in recent years, due to the increased number of children, increased quality of care provided and massive price inflation during and after the pandemic which shows no sign of reversing. These cost increases have far outpaced the amount that could reasonably be raised from the existing donor base. So, if the project in its present form was to be financially sustainable in the longer term, it was clearly necessary to develop a new source of income and/or make radical changes in how it was structured.

While the legacy provided a breathing space, it also made it very difficult to raise new funds during the pandemic, the Ukraine War and the cost-of-living crisis. A professional fundraiser was appointed for the first time in May 2021, but the results were disappointing with only £20,000 over two years raised by them from grant-making bodies. So that relationship was terminated in March 2022.

Our focus shifted to launching a Sponsor-a-Child scheme and to reducing costs by making the project more self-sustaining both by increasing income streams within the project and by raising funds locally in Bangladesh.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees' policy is to invest surplus funds in bank fixed deposits with up to one year's maturity and/or notice accounts, while ensuring that all the funds are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Interest received in the current year was £2,376 (last year £2,180).

Expenditure

It has been the trustees' policy that all of the money raised from donors and the net amount raised from fundraising activities should be applied for the benefit of the children in Bhola, except for money spent on:

- bank charges (this year £211, last year £148)
- CAFDonate charges on online donations (this year £16, last year £49)
- printing of the charity's leaflet and Gift Aid envelopes (this year £nil, last year £180)

The trustees personally have borne, and continue to bear, all the other administration costs. In particular they bear the considerable costs of travel and accommodation when visiting BCSB on charity business.

The fundraiser's fees were this year £nil (last year £7,245).

Expenditure – grants to BCSB

Expenditure on grants to BCSB is shown in the accounts on a cash basis. This is because grants are not confirmed until paid and they cannot be paid until both the annual budget and the individual payment have been approved by the NGOAB. BCSB's accounting year is the calendar year, whereas BCUK's is the year to 31st March. As NGOAB approval is not received until two, three or even four months into the year, the first payment for the year may be before or after BCUK's 31st March year end. Also the amount of the first payment may represent anything between three and six months expenditure depending on our judgement of future exchange movements and, for example, the need to complete building work ahead of the monsoon. For these reasons the cash figure can be very different from the costs incurred in the year by BCSB.

Financial summary

Results per the accounts	This year £	Last year £
Personal donations	22,649	26,078
Grants from foundations/trusts	13,000	3,000
Fundraising events	0	12,736
Investment income	<u>2,376</u>	<u>2,180</u>
Total income	<u>43,994</u>	<u>43,994</u>
Cost of raising funds	487	10,750
Cost of grants paid to BCSB	<u>106,336</u>	<u>98,339</u>
Total expenditure	<u>106,823</u>	<u>109,089</u>
(Deficit) per accounts	(68,798)	(65,095)

Total funds at end of year	29,311	98,109
<i>of which restricted funds</i>	<i>29,311</i>	<i>40,000</i>

If the grant expenditure had been accounted for on an accruals rather than cash basis:

- the deficits would have been £61,798 this year and £74,349 last year
- the funds at the year end would have been £50,311 this year (£40,000 restricted and £10,311 unrestricted) and £112,109 last year.

The restriction on the restricted funds is that the funds are intended as a working capital reserve to cover adverse temporary cashflow fluctuations and the trustees are expected (but not legally bound) to replenish the reserve within twelve months of drawing on it. In March 2024 the trustees drew on this £40,000 reserve for the first time to the extent of £10,689 at the year end. After the year end the donor removed the restriction so that all the reserves became unrestricted.

Fundraising

The fundraising climate remained extremely difficult during the year for all charities with the overall level of giving down and the priorities of grant-making bodies having been changed by first Covid, then the Ukraine War and then the cost-of-living crisis. The trustees' efforts to raise more from grants were not successful. The proposed Sponsor-a-Child was first delayed and then had to be suspended following the regime change and resultant breakdown of law and order in Bangladesh but it is hoped to resume it in more settled times.

Going concern basis

The chances of the charity ceasing to be a going concern are minimal, so long as there is a surviving trustee and the charity has banking facilities. The charity's administrative expenses are almost all borne by the trustees personally. Grants are only finally approved at the time they are paid and they are only paid if the funds are available. The trustees therefore consider it is appropriate to present the accounts on a going concern basis.

Risks

It is a regrettable fact of modern life that Anti-Moneylaundering Legislation and Charity Commission rules and guidance are becoming ever more stringent. Any involvement with Bangladesh is of itself sufficient to raise the authorities' concerns. The trustees are confident that under the current rules they can satisfy enquiries made by the banks at their annual reviews of the charity's accounts or by the Charity Commission, but it is impossible to predict how those rules and the attitudes of the various authorities and the banks may develop in future. If the worst were to happen and the charity's banking facilities were withdrawn, this would prevent the charity from operating.

The chances of the grantee ceasing to be a going concern are more significant, in particular:

- Bhola is a high-risk area in terms of environmental disasters.
- Children's homes are a high-risk activity in terms of the potential for reputational damage, both deserved and undeserved.
- The Bangladesh authorities have the legal power to close down Non-Governmental Organisations and their projects without notice.
- BCSB is a small organisation which is heavily reliant on the person of the Director for whom a replacement could be difficult to secure at short notice.
- BCUK might be unable to provide funds sufficient to cover the minimum costs for the project to be viable.

The charity aims to have sufficient reserves to provide emergency financial aid in the interests of the children in any such circumstances, but there is no binding legal obligation to provide that support. In such circumstances, even if it had the funds, there is no guarantee that there would be a legal means of delivering them to where they were needed.

Under the MOU BCSB is required to have a safeguarding policy which meets UK requirements. In the UK the requirement now is to have a policy which safeguards not just vulnerable children and adults but anyone within or who comes into contact with the organisation. The last full review of BCSB's policy was in July 2021 but it is updated between reviews as and when necessary and the next full review is due in 2024.

BCUK reviewed its own safeguarding policy at the same time. Before authorising visits by BCUK trustees the trustees consider the security and health risks to the visiting trustee, who also has to be personally satisfied that the visit is safe.

During the year the Director introduced a more detailed and integrated system for planning, budgeting and managing the human and financial resources of the project. This will make it much easier for an interim or permanent successor to take over when he leaves or for any reason becomes unable to carry out his duties.

Reserves policy

As at the year end the trustees felt it was unnecessary to have a designated contingency reserve when the Working Capital Reserve of £40,000 (equivalent to 42% of the annual running cost budget) effectively fulfilled this role.

However, since the regime change the charity is in a situation where it faces great uncertainty about its future role in the project and has very little control over the situation. Until there is some clarity about the situation in Bangladesh and/or get we an injection of new funds we have no basis on which to make future plans. So we have no basis for a reserves policy other than to hold all our funds ready to help BCSB or the children directly whilst retaining as an absolute minimum the amount necessary to fund the minimal winding up costs of the charity if it should come to that.

Plans for the future

An overarching aim is to make the project more self-sustaining financially by raising donations locally and generating local income from sales of services and goods. The island of Bhola is undergoing rapid economic development following the development of substantial gas fields. Completion of a bridge to the mainland in the next few years will further accelerate development. It is anticipated that this will create significant markets for BCSB's services and goods, bring businesses to the island who will want to be seen supporting local good causes and make it easier to hire qualified staff.

An immediate priority is to continue building up capacity at the Sunshine School and Physiotherapy Department, both to increase the numbers served and increase the income generated.

Another priority is to develop the production of handcrafts with a view to generating income from this source. This involves first developing the skills and organisation for items to be produced consistently to a saleable standard and identifying which products would be profitable. The technical training programmes would remain training programmes where students learn by making mistakes. Items for sale would be made only by older students preparing for the world of work outside BCSB, for which they would be paid.

Regime change

In July 2024 students took to the streets in Bangladesh protesting against the reinstatement by the courts of a preference for the grandchildren of those who fought for independence in 1971 when applying for government jobs. Many others joined the protests out of dissatisfaction with the increasingly autocratic and corrupt government. 1,200 people were killed by the police attempting to suppress the riots before the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina fled to India. The police and anyone associated with the regime fled or went into hiding. Since then an interim government has been formed under the internationally respected Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. Whether he will succeed in steering the country through the economic, political and constitutional reforms necessary before fair elections can be held is far from certain.

Meanwhile, it is not safe for us to visit the project. Many police remain in hiding and the state of law and order is fragile.

The chairman of BCSB was the Chairman of the District Council. He went into hiding, was dismissed from his post in common with all members of the Awami League, Shaikh Hasina's party, and has since been arrested. Whatever he else he may have done (the charges against him may be purely speculative) he certainly had a great heart for BCSB and was about to be very useful in relation to both NGO registration for BCSB and raising funds locally. For three months after the regime the other board members were very reluctant to show their faces and we could not get them to hold a board meeting to address the major issues facing them (meetings have now resumed).

Under the old regime BCSB could not have functioned without an Awami League member as Chairman, especially as several members are active members of the opposition party. Now the board has to be restructured to be acceptable under whatever new regime emerges.

The action plan we had previously agreed with them to address the funding problem had three main elements: (1) a valuable surplus piece of land to be sold to provide a year's worth of funds while (2) approaching some known wealthy local businessmen to join the board and make significant donations, and (3) more urgently pursuing NGO registration which would open doors to a wider range of local grantors/donors. There is another option involving a larger local charity which would probably change the nature of the BCSB project and so is less attractive to us, but if all else fails we may have to consider it.

Without a functioning board none of these avenues could be pursued, especially the land sale which requires all the board to attend the court in person to apply for permission.

It could not be more unfortunate that this comes at the time our Director is leaving.

So we face a situation where the power to do anything about the various problems of funding, appointing a new Director, and managing the interregnum and transition to a new Director rests almost entirely with the BCSB board. They have funds to last until the end of March 2025, after which the project might have to close while a solution is found. The BCUK trustees could extend that cut-off point but will want to see evidence of real progress in developing new local funding before committing further UK donors' money.

Structure, governance and management

BCUK

BCUK is run by a board of the eight trustees listed below.

The board contains trustees with a range of relevant skills and experience and the balance of these skills and experience is kept under review.

There are no staff. All the work is done by the trustees with occasional assistance from other volunteers in connection with fundraising events and IT.

Office facilities are provided by the Chair from her home.

BCSB

BCSB is a Bangladesh charitable trust with a board of eight trustees who are all well-respected members of the local community. The board, however, needs to be restructured as explained above.

BCSB is registered with the Social Welfare Department.

BCSB is a small organisation and relies heavily on the person of the Director. The current Director, Zakirul Haque, is highly regarded by BCUK but since the year end has given notice that he will leave at the end of 2024 after ten years. It will take time to find a permanent replacement, so there may be an interregnum with an interim Director.

MOU

The MOU between BCUK and BCSB was last revised in January 2023. It sets out various matters that must be agreed jointly by the two parties. These include the appointment of the Director of BCSB, terms of his or her employment and any changes thereto. In practice there is email, telephone and Zoom contact between the Chair of BCUK and the Director, at least weekly and often daily. Since the pandemic there have also been occasional joint meetings of the BCUK and BCSB boards on Zoom.

The purchases of the land and original buildings were funded by a group of individual donors including the current chair of BCUK. The subsequent buildings were funded by BCUK. All the land and buildings are now registered in the name of BCSB, but under the MOU BCUK must agree to the disposal of any interest in the land and buildings.

The MOU also requires both parties to share minutes of their meetings.

DORP

Pending BCSB getting its own NGO registration, which can take years, BCSB became a project of DORP (Development Organisation of the Rural Poor) a large long-established Bangladesh NGO. DORP handles the considerable work in dealing with the NGO Affairs Bureau in respect of the project in return for 3% of the funds remitted by BCUK. Otherwise it is supportive of but plays no part in the management of the project. The involvement of DORP was a necessary price for BCSB being allowed to receive funds from BCUK through the banking system.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees
Alexander ("Sandy") Anson FCA, Treasurer
Nicholas Breeze
Bruna Colombo-Otten
Freda Graf
Anne Hamilton
Andrew Hogan
Barnaby Wiener

Registered Office and Principal Office: 12 Cornwall Grove, London, W4 2LB

Charity Number: 1118345

Independent examiner: Michael Godbee FCA, 99 The Avenue, London, W13 8JT

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 2nd January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees



Alexander Anson, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of: Bhola's Children
(Charity no. 1118345)

On accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2024

Set out on pages: 13 to 21

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

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

I draw attention to pages 5 to 9 of the trustees' annual report where the trustees' give more explanation of:

- the financial situation of the charity and their reasons for preparing the accounts on a going concern basis, and
- post-year end events regarding the restricted funds and regarding the implications of the regime change in Bangladesh.

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

Signed: 

Date: 8/1/2025

Name: MICHAEL GODBEE

Relevant professional qualification: FCA

Address: 99 THE AVENUE, LONDON, W13 8JT

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
Charity No. 1118345
Annual accounts for the period
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Current year			Prior year		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations	3	22,649	-	22,649	26,078	-	26,078
Grants	3	13,000	-	13,000	3,000	-	3,000
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	12,736	-	12,736
Investments	3	2,376	-	2,376	2,180	-	2,180
Total		38,025	-	38,025	43,994	-	43,994
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	487	-	487	10,750	-	10,750
Charitable activities	4	106,336	-	106,336	98,339	-	98,339
Total		106,823	-	106,823	109,089	-	109,089
Net income/(expenditure)		(68,798)	-	(68,798)	(65,095)	-	(65,095)
Transfers between funds		10,689	(10,689)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(58,109)	(10,689)	(68,798)	(65,095)	-	(65,095)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(58,109)	(10,689)	(68,798)	(65,095)	-	(65,095)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		58,109	40,000	98,109	123,204	40,000	163,204
Total funds carried forward		-	29,311	29,311	58,109	40,000	98,109

There were no endowment funds at any time in either year.

Balance sheet

				At 31 March	
				Current	Prior year
				year	
				£	£
Current assets:					
Stock	6			240	300
Debtors	7			3,464	3,869
Investments	8			20,186	58,033
Cash at bank	9			5,421	35,911
Total current assets				29,311	98,113
Creditors	10			-	4
Total current liabilities				-	4
Net current assets				29,311	98,109
Total assets less current liabilities				29,311	98,109
Net assets				29,311	98,109
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment and restricted income funds	12			29,311	40,000
Unrestricted funds	13			-	58,109
Total charity funds				29,311	98,109

Approved by the trustees on 2nd January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Position	Name	Signature
Chair of the Trustees	Dinah Leah Carlotta WIENER	
Treasurer	Alexander Lothian ANSON	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (second edition, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019); and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change in the basis of accounting in the current year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

There have been no changes to the figures for last year.

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 INCOME

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; • it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS or SORP.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met (5.8 to 5.12 FRS102). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance-related conditions are met.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Notes to the Accounts

Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.
Governance and support costs	Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include costs of grant-making and subsequent monitoring. All governance and support costs in the year other than bank charges were borne personally by the trustees in accordance with their policy of not charging such costs to the charity.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.
Deferred income	No deferred income has been included in the accounts.

2.3 ASSETS

Fixed assets and investments	The charity had no fixed assets or investments in the current or prior year.
Stocks	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 3 Analysis of income and endowments

		This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies	Donations and gifts – unrestricted	13,041	20,401
	Donations – restricted	-	-
	Expenses waived by trustees	6,986	2,764
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	2,622	2,913
	Total	22,649	26,078

The trustees' expenses above and in Note 4 were expenses incurred on travel and subsistence in the course of their duties when visiting the project in Bangladesh. The Trustees waived their right to claim these expenses. The Trustees also incurred and waived other expenses in the course of their duties on, for example, the provision of home office and telephone facilities and travel to meetings, but it was not considered economic to identify and quantify these.

Grants	Grants from private grant-making bodies	13,000	3,000
	Total	13,000	3,000

Income from other trading activities	Income from fundraising event	-	12,736
	Total	-	12,736

Investment income	Bank interest	2,376	2,180
	Total	2,376	2,180

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

		This year £	Last year £
Costs of raising funds	Fundraiser's fees	-	7,245
	Commission and fees paid in respect of donations received through the CAFDonate website	16	49
	Printing	60	60
	Website development	300	-
	Expenses of fundraising event	-	3,323
	Bank charges on foreign donations and account maintenance	111	73
	Total	487	10,750

Charitable activities	Grants paid to BCSB – other	99,250	95,500
	Trustees' expenses for visits to BCSB	6,986	2,764
	Bank charges on foreign payments	100	75
	Total	106,336	98,339

The only costs borne by the charity in respect of grantmaking are bank charges.

Notes to the Accounts

Approved expenditures funded by grants to BCSB	This year £	Last year £
Buildings and equipment	6,152	10,094
Staff salaries	27,913	39,174
Food, medicine and healthcare	17,935	30,958
Education, training and rehabilitation	4,013	9,864
Travel	2,308	2,758
Utilities and security	1,797	2,561
Administration and audit	1,150	3,047
Contribution to DORP	4,937	4,697
Total	66,205	103,153

These figures are on a cash basis. The Trustees' report contains further explanation.

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

Number of trustees who claimed expenses

Total amount claimed

This year	Last year
None	None
£0	£0

All the trustees who incurred expenses in the performance of their duties waived their right to claim those expenses. See Note 3 for details.

5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

Note 6 Stocks

	This year £	Last year £
Gift Aid envelopes	180	180
Leaflets	60	120
	240	300

Notes to the Accounts

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accrued bank interest	935	1,193	0	0
Gift Aid recoverable	2,529	2,676	0	0
Total	3,464	3,869	0	0

Note 8 Investments

	This year £	Last year £
Bank 1-year fixed deposits	0	15,000
Bank 100-day notice deposit	20,186	43,033
Total	20,186	58,033

The figures for last year in Notes 8 and 9 have been restated to correctly show the 100-day notice account as an Investment rather than Cash at bank.

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank	5,421	35,911
Cash in hand	0	0
Total	5,421	35,911

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Creditors –CAFDonate fees	0	4	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

11.1 Remuneration and benefits

No remuneration or other benefits were paid to a trustee or other related party during either year by the charity or by any institution or company connected with it. See note 5.1 regarding trustees' expenses.

11.2 Loans

No amounts were owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at either year end.

Notes to the Accounts

11.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to the charity	Description of the transactions	This year £	Last year £
Bhola's Children Special School Bangladesh ("BCSB")	Bangladesh charitable trust which operates the home and school funded by the Charity	Grants paid by the Charity to BCSB for the purposes specified in Note 4	99,250	95,500

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

CURRENT YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	(10,689)	29,311
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	(10,689)	29,311

PRIOR YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	-	40,000

There were no endowment funds in the current or prior year.

The £40,000 Working Capital Fund is intended to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations in income and expenditure. There is an expectation but not a legal requirement that amounts drawn from the fund are repaid within 12 months. This restriction was withdrawn by the donor after the year end. But as at the year end the amount of £10,689 utilised in March 2024 was expected to be replaced from unrestricted reserves by March 2025. See the Trustees' Annual Report for further explanation.

Note 13 Unrestricted funds – designated

CURRENT YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	40,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	-
BCSB staff provident fund	-	-	-	-	(6,300)	(6,300)
Undesignated reserve	18,109	(68,798)	10,689	-	46,300	6,300
Total unrestricted funds	58,109	(68,798)	10,689	-	-	-

Notes to the Accounts

PRIOR YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	80,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	40,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	(6,300)	-
Undesignated reserve	36,904	(65,095)	-	-	46,300	18,109
Total unrestricted funds	123,204	(65,095)	-	-	-	58,109

There is no designated contingency reserve as the Trustees consider that the Working Capital Fund (Note 12) fulfils this role.

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1 – 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12
Annual Accounts	13 – 21

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
CHARITY REG. NO. 1118345
12 Cornwall Grove, London W4 2LB, UK
Tel: +44(0)20 8994 6011
Website: www.bholaschildren.org

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees of Bhola's Children (registered no. 1118345) present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes 1 and 2 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the budget and grant-making policy for the year.

The purpose of the charity set out in its trust deed is to advance education, health and poverty relief among children in Southern Bangladesh, particularly those orphaned or with disabilities. More particularly, it was established in 2007 to provide a permanent source of funding for Bhola's Children Special School – Bangladesh ("BCSB"), a local charitable trust which runs a single project, a home and school for disabled children on the island of Bhola in Southern Bangladesh.

Background

Bhola is an island of two million people. The high level of poverty has been exacerbated by rapid erosion of the North East corner of the island which displaced families, some multiple times. There are very limited medical facilities on the island. Early marriage, early first pregnancy, poverty, lack of education, and inability to access appropriate medical care and facilities all contribute to high levels of disability. For the children and their families this is made much worse by the terrible social stigma attaching to disability. Disabled children are also more likely to be abused by family or neighbours.

Despite the evident needs, there is no other facility on the island capable of meeting those needs in the way that BCSB does.

The vision

The charity (hereinafter "BCUK") furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by granting funds to BCSB for the purposes of the home and school.

From the outset the project was unusual in two key respects:

- it brings together and provides for children with all types of physical and mental disability; and
- it feels like a home not an institution.

These were key parts of the vision of the founder and first director of the project, Howlader Ali. By having those with different disabilities together the children flourish helping each other. They see that their particular disability does not prevent them being a valued part of the happy "family". And their actual families see in many cases that their disabled child can acquire economically productive skills. Indeed, the disabled child may be more productive than their siblings who have not had access to training. This is a start to reducing the social

stigma attaching to both the child and the family. Reducing that stigma was Ali's long-term aim.

The trustees are proud of how successfully BCSB has realised Ali's vision over the last sixteen years and how Zakirul Haque, the Director for the last nine years, has built on what Ali started. This has benefited the public through:

- meeting the social, educational and medical needs of disabled children who would otherwise not have those needs met
- educating the wider community about the contribution that those with disabilities can make economically and socially so that in time the disabled will be able to live with dignity and without stigma.

How BCSB realises the vision

1) Admissions policy

The home and school is open to any disabled child from the age of five, regardless of gender, religion, or social, political or financial status of their family. Now that BCSB is so well known throughout the island there is greater demand than BCSB can meet. Admission is based on an assessment of the needs of the child and BCSB's ability to meet those needs. If demand exceeds the number of places, priority is given to the poorest.

During the year a more detailed assessment procedure was introduced, which includes a visit to the family home and looking at the whole family situation.

BCSB is not at present equipped to deal with children under five years old, or who are not capable of self-toileting, or the seriously autistic. Also the focus is on disabilities arising before, during or shortly after childbirth. Disabilities resulting from injuries or illness sustained later in life are generally regarded as the province of other agencies.

The aim is to equip the children when they leave to live a productive life with dignity, so far as their disabilities permit, and while staying at BCSB to feel safe, loved and valued for who they are, as part of an inclusive family.

There is an increasing emphasis on support for the family as well as the child. Besides remaining in close communication while the child is in residence, this can be anything from advising on breast feeding a child with a cleft palate to teaching them to sign or to help the child with physio or occupational therapy exercises. This may involve the parent(s) staying at BCSB for a few days. This can benefit a child who cannot be admitted for some reason or can be admitted only for a short period.

2) Education

The children who are capable of attending normal school attend a school just up the road in the mornings. BCSB provides classes covering reading and writing in Bangla and English and in Bangla and roman script, arithmetic, art, dance, sign language and (for the deaf) lipreading and vocalisation.

For slow learners there is now a dedicated class called the Sunshine School. This takes non-residential children on a paying basis. During the year a partnership was set up with Mann, an Indian charity which specialises in training autistic children and young adults and finding them employment. Mann have provided free of charge access to their online training course for teachers of autistic children. This has enabled BCSB to raise the standard of

teaching provided by the existing staff. As the number of fee-paying students increases, fully qualified specialist teachers will be hired.

There is no religious education provided by BCSB, which has no religious affiliation. But the children are able to attend religious instruction at their local place of worship. An indicator of the inclusiveness of BCSB is that the staff, while mainly Muslim, includes two Hindus and one Christian.

3) *Technical training*

Older children are taught employable skills including:

- Agriculture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Tailoring and embroidery
- Computer skills
- Mobile repair
- Food preparation and cooking
- Serving at table

Increasingly, BCSB is seeking to broaden the range of skills training available and increase the standard by forming partnerships with larger local organisations which can afford better facilities and specialist instructors teaching to certificated standards. For example, instruction in computers and IT and in electrical wiring is provided at HEED Technical Training College nearby. This increases the chances of each child receiving training which makes the most of their individual aptitudes and capabilities.

The ablest children are sent for further training in Dhaka where BCSB has close relations with specialist organisations providing training and safe accommodation for the disabled.

The older teenagers are given increasing responsibilities, for example as teaching assistants, for which they are paid a small salary.

4) *Hostel accommodation and pastoral and medical care*

The girls and boys sleep in small dormitories on separate floors of the main hostel building.

A house mother and house father provide pastoral care and instruction in personal hygiene for the girls and boys respectively.

Medical care is provided by local medical services except for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, which are provided on-site by staff – daily for those with cerebral palsy. (See Physiotherapy Department below.) Two female staff came to the home as blind children and when older were trained to provide physiotherapy. A consultant physiotherapist who is also qualified in occupational therapy visits weekly to provide diagnoses and treatment plans and to review progress. The occupational therapy is particularly helpful for the slow learners.

The arrangements whereby children needing operations for cleft lips, cleft palates and other deformities were taken to a hospital at Barisal or Dhaka on the mainland for free treatment has been suspended by the hospitals. It is hoped that this will resume at some point.

The children are expected to do their fair share of the household chores. They are organised into teams led by older children, which are responsible for cleaning their dormitories and the communal rooms and other tasks on a rota basis.

All the children and all the staff have to learn sign language so that the deaf children can communicate freely with anyone in the boundary.

At present the families must provide soap and toiletries. Everything else is free of charge. The trustees of BCUK and BCSB keep this under review and it is likely that more of the services will be charged for in future in those cases where the child's family have the means to pay. The relief of poverty associated with disability is part of our aims, so priority would always continue to be given to the poorest.

5) Sport and recreation

Time is allocated every day for play and sport. Depending on the season and weather there may be cricket, badminton, football, swimming, bicycling, board games, chess, carom, hopscotch and many more. There are also regular dance and music classes – it is a joy to see a group of deaf children dancing gracefully and in time to music!

BCSB children are regularly entered for competitions almost invariably winning prizes. In 2022-23 these included:

- Display, parade and dance competitions where the BCSB teams compete against teams from normal schools – two 1st and three 2nd places
- Drawing competitions for the disabled at various levels – five 1st, five 2nd and four 3rd places, plus one chosen by the Prime Minister for her New Year greetings card
- Chess competition for the disabled – 1st place
- Cricket tournament – man of the match (wheelchair student)
- Talent competitions in education – 1st and 2nd
- Special Olympics qualifying competitions at local, regional and national level ... culminating (after the year end) in July 2023 when six of our children were selected to represent Bangladesh at the Special Olympics in Berlin. One could not get her passport in time, but the five who went won four gold medals, two silver medals and a fourth place.

The frequency and number of prizes won is extraordinary for such a small school and it does wonders for the confidence of the children involved. The Special Olympics winners were all from very poor families.

Grant making policy

Grants are made to BCSB in instalments against a pre-approved annual budget which has also been approved by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. The grants are subject to BCSB complying with a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between BCUK and BCSB.

How our grants delivered public benefit

Typically the residential children included 30 deaf, 20 slow learners, 10 with physical disabilities, 3 with CP and 1 blind.

Besides the children, six of the staff of BCSB are themselves disabled and might otherwise find it hard to find accommodation and employment and impossible to get married. They

include two blind, one deaf, one CP, one acid victim and one with cleft and deformed foot. Three of them have successfully married with the support of BCSB.

BCSB thus provides substantial benefits to many disabled children from mostly very poor families in an island of two million people where there are no comparable alternative facilities. And, as its reputation grows, it benefits the wider community by showing that disabled children can be economically productive and valued individuals who deserve to live and be treated with dignity rather than stigma.

Monitoring of the achievements

BCSB operates as a project of DORP (Development Organisation for the Rural Poor), a large long-established Bangladeshi NGO. This means that the project is subject to detailed monitoring by the Bangladesh government's NGO Affairs Bureau ("NGOAB"). This includes pre-approval of the annual budget, pre-approval of each payment received from BCUK and subsequent auditing by auditors on the Bangladesh government's list of approved auditors.

BCSB also has to comply with the monitoring requirements of the Department of Social Welfare, with which it is registered, and with the financial control procedures of DORP through whom the funds are remitted.

To satisfy BCUK that BCSB spends the money received in ways which meet the specific intentions and charitable aims of BCUK the primary controls are:

- the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) governing relations between BCUK and BCSB
- pre-approval by BCUK of BCSB's annual budget and five-year plans
- online monitoring by BCUK of the BCSB cashbook
- visits by one or more BCUK trustees two or more times a year to inspect the operations and financial records and attend meetings with the BCSB trustees and DORP
- joint meetings on Zoom of the BCUK and BCSB boards; and
- frequent, often daily, telephone and email contact between BCUK and BCSB, in particular between the Chair of BCUK and the Director of BCSB.

Financial review

Donations, grants and strategic review

Until this year, with one exception, namely a large legacy of £274,000 received in May 2019, almost all the charity's income comprised personal donations from a core group of UK donors mainly in West London, supplemented by occasional fundraising events including appeals through local churches.

But the running costs of the project have grown sharply in recent years, due to the increased number of children, increased quality of care provided and massive price inflation during and after the pandemic which show no sign of reversing. These cost increases have far outpaced the amount that could reasonably be raised from the existing donor base. So, if the project in its present form was to be financially sustainable in the longer term, it was clearly necessary to develop a new source of income and/or make radical changes in how it was structured.

Fortunately, the legacy provided a breathing space. But it also made it very difficult to raise new funds during the pandemic and since then the Ukraine War and cost-of-living crisis. A

professional fundraiser was appointed for the first time in May 2021, but the results were disappointing with only £20,000 over two years raised by them from grant-making bodies. So that relationship has been terminated and the focus shifted more to reducing costs by making the project more self-sustaining.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees' policy is to invest surplus funds in bank fixed deposits with up to one year's maturity and/or notice accounts, while ensuring that all the funds are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Interest received in the current year was £2,180 (last year £1,346). This low return on the large funds invested from the legacy reflected the very low levels of interest rates in the period.

Expenditure

It has been the trustees' policy that all of the money raised from donors and the net amount raised from fundraising activities should be applied for the benefit of the children in Bhola, except for money spent on:

- bank charges (this year £148, last year £183)
- CAFDonate charges on online donations (this year £49, last year £nil)
- printing of the charity's leaflet and Gift Aid envelopes (this year £180, last year £nil)
- website upgrades (this year £nil, last year £nil)

The trustees personally have borne, and continue to bear, all the other administration costs. In particular they bear the considerable costs of travel and accommodation when visiting BCSB on charity business.

The fundraiser's fees were this year £7,245 (last year £7,470, of which some £5,000 represented one-off set-up costs).

Expenditure – grants to BCSB

Expenditure on grants to BCSB is shown in the accounts on a cash basis. This is because grants are not confirmed until paid and they cannot be paid until both the annual budget and the individual payment have been approved by the NGOAB. BCSB's accounting year is the calendar year, whereas BCUK's is the year to 31st March. As NGOAB approval is not received until two, three or even four months into the year, the first payment for the year may be before or after BCUK's 31st March year end. Also the amount of the first payment may represent anything between three and six months expenditure depending on our judgement of future exchange movements and, for example, the need to complete building work ahead of the monsoon. For these reasons the cash figure can be very different from the costs incurred in the year by BCSB.

To see the underlying trend in expenditure it is better to look at the BCSB budgets approved by BCUK. For the relevant calendar years these were 2020 £89,027, 2021 £88,321 and 2022 £95,000 and 2022 £98,000. Costs were lower in 2021 because many of the children were with their families during lockdown. Since then food and energy prices in particular have risen spectacularly (up to 300% for some staples), but a significant part of this increase has been offset by a more favourable exchange rate.

Financial summary

Results per the accounts	This year £	Last year £
Personal donations	26,078	27,314
Grants from foundations/trusts	3,000	13,000
Fundraising events	12,736	0
Investment income	<u>2,180</u>	<u>1,346</u>
Total income	<u>43,994</u>	<u>41,660</u>
Cost of raising funds	10,750	7,578
Cost of grants paid to BCSB	<u>98,339</u>	<u>133,839</u>
Total expenditure	<u>109,089</u>	<u>141,417</u>
(Deficit) per accounts	(65,095)	(99,757)
Total funds at end of year	98,109	163,204
of which restricted funds	40,000	40,000

If the grant expenditure had been accounted for on an accruals rather than cash basis:

- the deficits would have been £74,349 this year and £53,757 last year
- the funds at the year end would have been £134,859 this year and £209,204 last year.

In summary, the charity ended the year with sufficient unrestricted funds to cover the next year's expenditure. But in the absence of new sources of funds the number of children would have to be cut thereafter to a point where the continued viability of the project would be in question.

Fundraising

At the time of writing the charity is about to launch a major fundraising initiative, a Sponsor-a-Child scheme, to draw in new donors.

The exhaustion of the legacy funds removes an obstacle to securing funds from grant-making bodies. Also BCSB is developing activities, in particular regarding the Sunshine School for slow learners and the Physiotherapy Department, which such bodies are more likely to have an interest in funding.

The trustees, therefore, have reason to expect greater fundraising success in future.

Going concern basis

The chances of the charity ceasing to be a going concern are minimal, so long as there is a surviving trustee and the charity has banking facilities. The charity's administrative expenses are almost all borne by the trustees personally. Grants are only finally approved at the time they are paid and they are only paid if the funds are available. The trustees therefore consider it is appropriate to present the accounts on a going concern basis, especially in the light of the fundraising plans.

Risks

Unfortunately, it is a fact of modern life that Anti-Moneylaundering Legislation and Charity Commission rules and guidance are becoming ever more stringent. Any involvement with Bangladesh is of itself sufficient to raise the authorities' concerns. The trustees are confident

that under the current rules they can satisfy enquiries made by the banks at their annual reviews of the charity's accounts or by the Charity Commission, but it is impossible to predict how those rules and the attitudes of the various authorities and the banks may develop in future. If the worst were to happen and the charity's banking facilities were withdrawn, this would prevent the charity from operating.

The chances of the grantee ceasing to be a going concern are more significant, in particular:

- Bhola is a high-risk area in terms of environmental disasters.
- Children's homes are a high-risk activity in terms of the potential for reputational damage, both deserved and undeserved.
- The Bangladesh authorities have the legal power to close down Non-Governmental Organisations and their projects without notice.
- BCSB is a small organisation which is heavily reliant on the person of the Director for whom a replacement could be difficult to secure at short notice.
- BCUK might be unable to provide funds sufficient to cover the minimum costs for the project to be viable.

The charity aims to have sufficient reserves to provide emergency financial aid in the interests of the children in any such circumstances, but there is no binding legal obligation to provide that support. In such circumstances, even if it had the funds, there is no guarantee that there would be a legal means of delivering them to where they were needed.

Under the MOU BCSB is required to have a safeguarding policy which meets UK requirements. In the UK the requirement now is to have a policy which safeguards not just vulnerable children and adults but anyone within or who comes into contact with the organisation. BCSB's policy was last reviewed in July 2021 but is updated between reviews as and when necessary.

BCUK reviewed its own safeguarding policy at the same time. Before authorising visits by BCUK trustees the trustees consider the security and health risks to the visiting trustee, who also has to be personally satisfied that the visit is safe.

During the year the Director introduced a more detailed and integrated system for planning, budgeting and managing the human and financial resources of the project. This will make it much easier for an interim or permanent successor to take over when he leaves or for any reason becomes unable to carry out his duties.

Reserves policy (see note 13 to the accounts)

Total reserves at the year end stood at £98,109 (last year £163,204) of which £40,000 at both year ends was restricted.

The trustees consider that there is no need for a designated contingency reserve, because this function is effectively fulfilled by the working capital reserve of £40,000 (equivalent to nearly 42% of the running costs for 2023). This reserve is restricted and may only be used to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations. The understanding is that any amount drawn from the fund is reimbursed within twelve months.

The use being made of the legacy in 2019 has been explained above. Note 13 to the Accounts concerning the Reserves shows how the legacy fund has been earmarked. It has taken a long time to sort out the design of the BCSB staff provident fund at BCSB but this was resolved during the year and the £6,300 earmarked for funding past service entitlement was delivered to the great satisfaction of the staff.

Plans for the future

An overarching aim is to make the project more self-sustaining financially by raising donations locally and generating local income from sales of services and goods. The island of Bhola is undergoing rapid economic development following the development of substantial gas fields. Completion of a bridge to the mainland in the next two or three years will further accelerate development. It is anticipated that this will create significant markets for BCSB's services and goods, bring businesses to the island who will want to be seen supporting local good causes and make it easier to hire qualified staff.

An immediate priority is to continue building up capacity at the Sunshine School and Physiotherapy Department, both to increase the numbers served and increase the income generated. In the medium term this will require a new building for the Sunshine School on land already owned by BCSB.

Another priority is to develop the production of handcrafts with a view to generating income from this source. This involves first developing the skills and organisation for items to be produced consistently to a sellable standard and identifying which products would be profitable. The technical training programmes would remain training programmes where students learn by making mistakes. Items for sale would be made only by older students preparing for the world of work outside BCSB, for which they would be paid.

Structure, governance and management

BCUK

BCUK is run by a board of the eight trustees listed below.

The board contains trustees with a range of relevant skills and experience and the balance of these skills and experience is kept under review.

There are no staff. All the work is done by the trustees with occasional assistance from other volunteers in connection with fundraising events and IT.

Office facilities are provided by the Chair from her home.

BCSB

BSCB is a Bangladesh charitable trust with a board of nine trustees who are all well-respected members of the local community. The Chairman is an influential local politician. BCSB is registered with the Social Welfare Department.

BCSB is a small organisation and relies heavily on the person of the Director. The current Director, Zakirul Haque, has been in post seven years and is highly regarded by BCUK.

MOU

The MOU between BCUK and BCSB was last revised in January 2023. It sets out various matters that must be agreed jointly by the two parties. These include the appointment of the Director of BCSB, terms of his or her employment and any changes thereto. In practice there is email, telephone and Zoom contact between the Chair of BCUK and the Director, at least weekly and often daily.

The purchases of the land and original buildings were funded by a group of individual donors including the current chair of BCUK. The subsequent buildings were funded by BCUK. All the land and buildings are now registered in the name of BCSB, but under the MOU BCUK must agree to the disposal of any interest in the land and buildings.

The MOU also requires both parties to share minutes of their meetings.

DORP

Pending BCSB getting its own NGO registration, which can take years, BCSB became a project of DORP (Development Organisation of the Rural Poor) a large long-established Bangladesh NGO. DORP handles the considerable work in dealing with the NGO Affairs Bureau in respect of the project in return for 5% of the funds remitted by BCUK (reduced to 3% from January 2023). Otherwise it is supportive of but plays no part in the management of the project. The involvement of DORP was a necessary price for BCSB being allowed to receive funds from BCUK through the banking system.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees
Alexander ("Sandy") Anson FCA, Treasurer
Nicholas Breeze
Bruna Colombo-Otten
Freda Graf
Anne Hamilton
Andrew Hogan
Michael Maude (resigned 06/12/2022)
Barnaby Wiener

Registered Office and Principal Office
12 Cornwall Grove, London, W4 2LB

Charity Number: 1118345

Independent examiner

Michael Godbee FCA, 99 The Avenue, London, W13 8JT

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 12th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees



Alexander Anson, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of: **Bhola's Children**
(Charity no. 1118345)

On accounts for the year ended: **31st March 2023**

Set out on pages: **13 to 21**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

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

I draw attention to pages 5 to 9 of the trustees' annual report where the trustees' give more explanation of the financial situation of the charity and their reasons for preparing the accounts on a going concern basis.

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

Signed:



Date: 20/12/2023

Name:

MICHAEL GODBEE

Relevant professional qualification:

FCA

Address:

99 THE AVENUE, LONDON, W13 8JT

BHOLA'S CHILDREN

Charity No. 1118345

Annual accounts for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Statement of financial activities

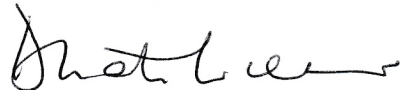
	Note	Current year			Prior year		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations	3	26,078	-	26,078	27,314	-	27,314
Grants	3	3,000	-	3,000	13,000	-	13,000
Other trading activities	3	12,736	-	12,736	-	-	-
Investments	3	2,180	-	2,180	1,346	-	1,346
Total		43,994	-	43,994	41,660	-	41,660
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	10,750	-	10,750	7,578	-	7,578
Charitable activities	4	98,339	-	98,339	133,839	-	133,839
Total		109,089	-	109,089	141,417	-	141,417
Net income/(expenditure)		(65,095)	-	(65,095)	(99,757)	-	(99,757)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(65,095)	-	(65,095)	(99,757)	-	(99,757)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(65,095)	-	(65,095)	(99,757)	-	(99,757)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		123,204	40,000	163,204	222,961	40,000	262,961
Total funds carried forward		58,109	40,000	98,109	123,204	40,000	163,204

There were no endowment funds at any time in either year.

Balance sheet

				At 31 March	
				Current	Prior year
				year	
				£	£
Current assets:					
Stock	6			300	180
Debtors	7			3,869	3,852
Investments	8			58,033	137,050
Cash at bank	9			35,911	22,122
Total current assets				98,113	163,204
Creditors				4	-
Total current liabilities				4	-
Net current assets				98,109	163,204
Total assets less current liabilities				98,109	163,204
Net assets				98,109	163,204
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment and restricted income funds	12			40,000	40,000
Unrestricted funds	13			58,109	123,204
Total charity funds				98,109	163,204

Approved by the trustees on ??? 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Position	Name	Signature
Chair of the Trustees	Dinah Leah Carlotta WIENER	
Treasurer	Alexander Lothian ANSON	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (second edition, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019); and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change in the basis of accounting in the current year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

There have been no changes to the figures for last year.

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 INCOME

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; • it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS or SORP.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met (5.8 to 5.12 FRS102). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance-related conditions are met.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Notes to the Accounts

Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.
Governance and support costs	Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include costs of grant-making and subsequent monitoring. All governance and support costs in the year other than bank charges were borne personally by the trustees in accordance with their policy of not charging such costs to the charity.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.
Deferred income	No deferred income has been included in the accounts.

2.3 ASSETS

Fixed assets and investments	The charity had no fixed assets or investments in the current or prior year.
Stocks	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 3 Analysis of income and endowments

		This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies	Donations and gifts – unrestricted	20,401	21,228
	Donations – restricted	-	-
	Expenses waived by trustees	2,764	2,764
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	2,913	3,322
	Total	26,078	27,314

The trustees' expenses above and in Note 4 were expenses incurred on travel and subsistence in the course of their duties when visiting the project in Bangladesh. The Trustees waived their right to claim these expenses. The Trustees also incurred and waived other expenses in the course of their duties on, for example, the provision of home office and telephone facilities and travel to meetings, but it was not considered economic to identify and quantify these.

Grants	Grants from private grant-making bodies	3,000	13,000
	Total	3,000	13,000

Income from other trading activities	Income from fundraising event	12,736	-
	Total	12,736	-

Investment income	Bank interest	2,180	1,346
	Total	2,180	1,346

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

		This year £	Last year £
Costs of raising funds	Fundraiser's fees	7,245	7,470
	Commission and fees paid in respect of donations received through the CAFDonate website	49	-
	Printing	60	-
	Expenses of fundraising event	3,323	-
	Bank charges on foreign donations and account maintenance	73	108
	Total	10,750	7,578

Charitable activities	Grants paid to BCSB – other	95,500	131,000
	Trustees' expenses for visits to BCSB	2,764	2,764
	Bank charges on foreign payments	75	75
	Total	98,339	133,839

The only costs borne by the charity in respect of grantmaking are bank charges.

Notes to the Accounts

Approved expenditures funded by grants to BCSB	This year £	Last year £
Buildings and equipment	10,094	2,660
Staff salaries	39,174	34,016
Food, medicine and healthcare	30,958	18,913
Education, training and rehabilitation	9,864	8,712
Travel	2,758	1,816
Utilities and security	2,561	2,515
Administration and audit	3,047	788
Contribution to DORP	4,697	5,087
Total	103,153	74,507

These figures are on a cash basis. The Trustees' report contains further explanation.

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

Number of trustees who claimed expenses

Total amount claimed

This year	Last year
None	None
£0	£0

All the trustees who incurred expenses in the performance of their duties waived their right to claim those expenses. See Note 3 for details.

5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

Note 6 Stocks

	This year £	Last year £
Gift Aid envelopes	180	180
Leaflets	120	0
	300	180

Notes to the Accounts

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accrued bank interest	1,193	542	0	0
Gift Aid recoverable	2,676	3,310	0	0
Total	3,869	3,852	0	0

Note 8 Investments

	This year £	Last year £
Bank 1-year fixed deposits	15,000	65,000
Bank 100-day notice deposit	43,033	72,050
Total	58,033	137,050

The figures for last year in Notes 8 and 9 have been restated to correctly show the 100-day notice account as an Investment rather than Cash at bank.

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank	35,911	22,122
Cash in hand	0	0
Total	35,911	22,122

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Creditors –CAFDonate fees	4	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	0

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

11.1 Remuneration and benefits

No remuneration or other benefits were paid to a trustee or other related party during either year by the charity or by any institution or company connected with it. See note 5.1 regarding trustees' expenses.

11.2 Loans

No amounts were owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at either year end.

Notes to the Accounts

11.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to the charity	Description of the transactions	This year £	Last year £
Bhola's Children Special School Bangladesh ("BCSB")	Bangladesh charitable trust which operates the home and school funded by the Charity	Grants paid by the Charity to BCSB for the purposes specified in Note 4	95,500	131,000

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

CURRENT YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	-	40,000

PRIOR YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	-	40,000

There were no endowment funds in the current or prior year.

The £40,000 Working Capital Fund is intended to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations in income and expenditure. There is an expectation but not a legal requirement that amounts drawn from the fund are repaid within 12 months.

Note 13 Unrestricted funds – designated

CURRENT YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	80,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	40,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	(6,300)	-
Undesignated reserve	36,904	(65,095)	-	-	46,300	18,109
Total unrestricted funds	123,204	(65,095)	-	-	-	58,109

Notes to the Accounts

PRIOR YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	120,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	80,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	-	6,300
Undesignated reserve	96,661	(99,757)	-	-	40,000	36,904
Total unrestricted funds	222,961	(99,757)	-	-	-	123,204

There is no designated contingency reserve as the Trustees consider that the Working Capital Fund (Note 12) fulfils this role.

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

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Independent Examiner's Report	12
Annual Accounts	13 – 21

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
CHARITY REG. NO. 1118345
12 Cornwall Grove, London W4 2LB, UK
Tel: +44(0)20 8994 6011
Website: www.bholaschildren.org

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2022

The trustees of Bhola's Children (registered no. 1118345) present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes 1 and 2 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the budget and grant-making policy for the year.

The purpose of the charity set out in its trust deed is to advance education, health and poverty relief among children in Southern Bangladesh, particularly those orphaned or with disabilities. More particularly, it was established in 2007 to provide a permanent source of funding for Bhola's Children Special School – Bangladesh ("BCSB"), a local charitable trust which runs a single project, a home and school for disabled children on the island of Bhola in Southern Bangladesh.

Background

Bhola is an island of two million people. The high level of poverty has been exacerbated by rapid erosion of the North East corner of the island which displaced families, some multiple times. There are very limited medical facilities on the island. Early marriage, early first pregnancy, poverty, lack of education, and inability to access appropriate medical care and facilities all contribute to high levels of disability. For the children and their families this is made much worse by the terrible social stigma attaching to disability. Disabled children are also more likely to be abused by family or neighbours.

Despite the evident needs, there is no other facility on the island capable of meeting those needs in the way that BCSB does.

The vision

The charity (hereinafter "BCUK") furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by granting funds to BCSB for the purposes of the home and school.

From the outset the project was unusual in two key respects:

- it brings together and provides for children with all types of physical and mental disability; and
- it feels like a home not an institution.

These were key parts of the vision of the founder and first director of the project, Howlader Ali. By having those with different disabilities together the children flourish helping each other they see that their particular disability does not prevent them being a valued part of the happy "family". And their actual families see in many cases that their disabled child can acquire economically productive skills. Indeed, the disabled child may be more productive than their siblings who have not had access to training. This is a start to reducing the social

stigma attaching to both the child and the family. Reducing that stigma was Ali's long-term aim.

The trustees are proud of how successfully BCSB has realised Ali's vision over the last sixteen years and how Zakirul Haque, the Director for the last seven years, has built on what Ali started. This has benefited the public through:

- meeting the social, educational and medical needs of disabled children who would otherwise not have those needs met
- educating the wider community about the contribution that those with disabilities can make economically and socially so that in time the disabled will be able to live with dignity and without stigma.

How BCSB realises the vision

The home and school is open to any disabled child from the age of five, regardless of gender, religion, or social, political or financial status of their family. Now that BCSB is so well known throughout the island there is greater demand than BCSB can meet. Admission is based on an assessment of the needs of the child and BCSB's ability to meet those needs. If demand exceeds the number of places, priority is given to the poorest.

BCSB is not at present equipped to deal with children under five years old, or who are not capable of self-toileting, or are significantly autistic (but see future plans below). Also the focus is on disabilities arising before, during or shortly after childbirth. Disabilities resulting from injuries or illness sustained later in life are generally regarded as the province of other agencies.

The aim is to equip the children when they leave to live a productive life with dignity, so far as their disabilities permit, and while staying at BCSB to feel safe, loved and valued for who they are, as part of an inclusive family.

The children who are capable of attending normal school attend a school just up the road in the mornings. BCSB provides classes for the remainder in the morning and for all the children in the afternoon covering reading and writing in Bangla and English and in Bangla and roman script, arithmetic, sign language and (for the deaf) vocalisation.

There is no religious education provided by BSCB, which has no religious affiliation. But the children are able to attend religious instruction at their local place of worship. An indicator of the inclusiveness of BCSB is that the staff, while mainly Muslim, includes two Hindus and one Christian.

Older children are taught employable skills including:

- Agriculture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Tailoring and embroidery
- Computer skills
- Mobile repair
- Food preparation and cooking
- Serving at table

Increasingly, BCSB is seeking to broaden the range of skills training available and increase the standard by forming partnerships with larger local organisations which can afford better facilities and specialist instructors teaching to certificated standards. For example, instruction

in computers and IT and in electrical wiring is provided at HEED Technical Training College nearby. This increases the chances of each individual child receiving training which makes the most of their aptitudes and capabilities.

The ablest children are sent for further training in Dhaka where BCSB has close relations with specialist organisations providing training (and safe accommodation) for the disabled.

The older teenagers are given increasing responsibilities, for example as teaching assistants, for which they are paid a small salary.

It is always gratifying to see the number who leave to go into paid employment (7 in 2019, 9 in 2020, 4 in 2021 and 5 in 2022 (first 9 months)) plus those training for employment in BCSB's Physiotherapy Department (see below). This shows the success of BCSB's rehabilitation programmes.

A house mother and house father provide pastoral care and instruction in personal hygiene for the girls and boys respectively.

Medical care is provided by local medical services except for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, which are provided on-site by staff – daily for those with cerebral palsy. Two female staff came to the home as blind children and when older were trained to provide physiotherapy. Two male students, one wheelchair, one with treated club foot, are also being trained. A consultant physiotherapist who is also qualified in occupational therapy visits monthly to provide diagnoses and treatment plans and to review progress. The occupational therapy is particularly helpful for the slow learners.

A few times a year children needing operations for cleft lips, cleft palates and other deformities are referred to a hospital at Barisal or Dhaka on the mainland where their treatment is provided free. This service is open to disabled children who are not living at the home.

All are taught to swim, a necessity on an island where nowhere is more than three or four metres above sea level and in the rainy season much of the island is under water.

All the children and all the staff have to learn sign language so that the deaf children can communicate freely with anyone in the boundary.

There is sporting activity every day such as cricket, badminton and swimming.

At present the families pay for any travel costs to the mainland for medical treatment and must provide soap and toiletries. Everything else is free of charge. The trustees of BCUK and BCSB keep this under review and it is likely that more of the services will be charged for in future in those cases where the child's family have the means to pay. The relief of poverty associated with disability is part of our aims, so priority would always continue to be given to the poorest.

Since the end of the year more detailed assessment and verification of the family situation of each child has been introduced. This includes visiting the family home.

There is an increasing emphasis on support for the family as well as the child. Besides remaining in close communication while the child is in residence, this can be anything from advising on breast feeding a child with a cleft palate to teaching them to sign or to help the child with physio or occupational therapy exercises. This may involve the parent(s) staying at BCSB for a few days. This can benefit a child who cannot be admitted for some reason or only for a short period.

Grant making policy

Grants are made to BCSB in instalments against a pre-approved annual budget which has also been approved by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. The grants are subject to BCSB complying with a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between BCUK and BCSB.

Review of our achievements and performance: How our grants delivered public benefit

The Covid pandemic makes it difficult to give meaningful statistics for the number of children helped in 2020 and 2021. The number “on our books” bore no relation to the number actually in residence or receiving training at any one time because of varying lockdown restrictions and family preferences during this time of uncertainty. In the years to 31 March 2021 and 2022 BCSB had 60-70 residential children “on the books” and a further 5–10 who would normally have been attending daily classes or physiotherapy. Typically these included 20 deaf, 20 slow learners, 10 with physical disabilities, 3 with CP and 1 blind.

Regular communication, counselling and other support for the children and their families was maintained throughout the period of Covid disruption.

During the year BCSB resumed referring children to the mainland for operations provided free. In the year 13 children were referred for cleft operations.

The Physiotherapy Department provided daily physiotherapy or occupational therapy for an average of eight residential and non-residential children and on a paying basis for some external adults.

During the year BCSB helped eight students get jobs after completing their vocational training, the best outcome of all.

Competitive events resumed during 2021 and the year to March 2022 proved very successful for BCSB children and students:

- Two children won prizes of Tk100,000 (£90) for paintings used by the Prime Minister for her greeting cards. Another two won the same prize last year.
- One boy got a gold medal as a member of the champion Bangladesh team in Special Olympic football. The competition was held online in an improvised form because of Covid.
- On Victory Day 16th December 2021 BCSB display teams came first in Parade and second in dance in Bhola. On Independence Day 26th March 2022 they came First in dance.
- In an essay writing competition held by the district Secondary Education Office two students claimed first places in the Special Child category.
- In a drawing competition held to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the father of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, one student came first in Bhola District and then first in the regional event at Barisal.

Besides the children, six of the staff of BCSB are themselves disabled and might otherwise find it hard to find accommodation and employment and impossible to get married. They include two blind, one deaf, one CP, one acid victim and one with cleft and deformed foot. Three of them have successfully married with the support of BCSB.

BCSB thus provides substantial benefits to many disabled children from mostly very poor families in an island of two million people where there are no comparable alternative facilities. And, as its reputation grows, it benefits the wider community by showing that disabled children can be economically productive and valued individuals who deserve to live and be treated with dignity rather than stigma. In the course of the year Covid-19 was sufficiently brought under control for normal delivery of these benefits to be resumed.

Monitoring of the achievements

BCSB operates as a project of DORP (Development Organisation for the Rural Poor), a large long-established Bangladeshi NGO. This means that the project is subject to detailed monitoring by the Bangladesh government's NGO Affairs Bureau ("NGOAB"). This includes pre-approval of the annual budget, pre-approval of each payment received from BCUK and subsequent auditing by auditors on the Bangladesh government's list of approved auditors.

BCSB also has to comply with the monitoring requirements of the Department of Social Welfare, with which it is registered, and with the financial control procedures of DORP through whom the funds are remitted.

To satisfy BCUK that BCSB spends the money received in ways which meet the specific intentions and charitable aims of BCUK the primary controls are:

- the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) governing relations between BCUK and BCSB
- pre-approval by BCUK of BCSB's annual budget and five-year plans
- online monitoring by BCUK of the BCSB cashbook
- visits by one or more BCUK trustees two or more times a year to inspect the operations and financial records and attend meetings with the BCSB trustees and DORP (these visits were suspended from January 2020 because of Covid-19, but resumed in November 2021)
- since September 2010, joint meetings on Zoom of the BCUK and BCSB boards; and
- frequent, often daily, telephone and email contact between BCUK and BCSB, in particular between the Chair of BCUK and the Director of BCSB.

Financial review

Donations, grants and strategic review

Until this year, with one exception, namely a large legacy of £274,000 received in May 2019, almost all the charity's income comprised personal donations from a core group of UK donors mainly in West London, supplemented by occasional fundraising events including appeals through local churches.

But the running costs of the project have grown sharply in recent years, due to the increased number of children and increased quality of care provided. This has far outpaced the amount that could reasonably be raised from the existing donor base. So, if the project in its present form was to be financially sustainable in the longer term, it was clearly necessary to develop a new source of income and/or make radical changes in how it was structured.

Fortunately, the legacy provided a breathing space. But it also meant that active fundraising was not possible until potential donors could be presented with a clear explanation of how the legacy was to be used and the need for their donations. A new strategic plan was needed which addressed the funding gap, the best use of the legacy and the implications of the pandemic both for future fundraising and project delivery.

After careful consideration of a range of strategic options the trustees decided in April 2021 that:

- the project should continue in its current form
- over the next three years the funding gap for running costs should be closed by seeking grants from private foundations and trusts (who since the pandemic have become more willing to fund the core running costs of projects)
- for this purpose a professional fundraiser should be hired
- meanwhile the rest of the gap would be covered by using part of the legacy
- the remaining legacy would be kept available for capital and other developments.

The fundraiser was appointed in May 2021 and the first applications for grants made in August 2021. The aim is for the fundraiser to raise at least ten times the amount of their fees. Initial progress has been slow because some grant-makers had stopped accepting new applications and others were cutting back, and also because of illness of the fundraiser. One grant of £10,000 a year for two years was received in the year but there is reason to hope for more rapid progress in the coming year.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees' policy is to invest surplus funds in bank fixed deposits with up to one year's maturity and/or notice accounts, while ensuring that all the funds are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Interest received in the current year was £1,346 (last year £2,559). This low return on the large funds invested from the legacy reflected the very low levels of interest rates in the period.

Expenditure

It has been the trustees' policy that all of the money raised from donors and the net amount raised from fundraising activities should be applied for the benefit of the children in Bhola, except for money spent on:

- bank charges (this year £183, last year £129)
- donation website charges (this year CAFDonate £nil, last year Virgin Giving £34)
- printing of the charity's leaflet and Gift Aid envelopes (this year £nil, last year £nil)
- website upgrades (this year £nil, last year £nil)

The trustees personally have borne, and continue to bear, all the other administration costs. In particular they bear the considerable costs of travel and accommodation when visiting BCSB on charity business.

In the current year, as explained above, the trustees for the first time hired a professional fundraiser. The fundraiser's fees were £7,470 in the year, of which some £5,000 represented one-off set-up costs.

Expenditure – grants to BCSB

Expenditure on grants to BCSB is shown in the accounts on a cash basis. This is because grants are not confirmed until paid and they cannot be paid until both the annual budget and the individual payment have been approved by the NGOAB. BCSB's accounting year is the calendar year, whereas BCUK's is the year to 31st March. As NGOAB approval is not received until two, three or even four months into the year, the first payment for the year may be before or after BCUK's 31st March year end. In 2021 the first payment was made after 31st March and in 2022 a larger than usual payment representing six months expenditure

was made before 31st March. This, together with exchange rate movements, explains the big swing in the reported expenditure from £56,060 last year to £131,075 this year.

To see the underlying trend in expenditure it is better to look at the BCSB budgets approved by BCUK. For the relevant calendar years these were 2020 £89,027, 2021 £88,321 and 2022 £95,000. Costs were lower in 2021 because many of the children were with their families during lockdown and higher in 2022 because the pandemic has resulted in a steep permanent increase in the costs of food and fuel.

Financial summary

Results per the accounts	This year £	Last year £
Personal donations	30,314	29,710
Grants from foundations/trusts	10,000	4,000
Legacy	0	417
Investment income	<u>1,346</u>	<u>2,559</u>
Total income	<u>41,660</u>	<u>35,686</u>
Cost of raising funds	7,578	103
Cost of grants paid to BCSB	<u>133,839</u>	<u>56,060</u>
Total expenditure	<u>141,417</u>	<u>56,163</u>
(Deficit) per accounts	(99,757)	(20,477)
Total funds at end of year	163,204	262,961
<i>of which restricted funds</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>40,000</i>

If the grant expenditure had been accounted for on an accruals rather than cash basis:

- the deficits would have been £53,757 this year and £65,163 last year
- the funds at the year end would have been £209,204 this year and £247,961 last year.

In summary, the charity is well capitalised at present. But for the last two years the pause in active fundraising has led to a significant shortfall in non-legacy donations relative to expenditure on grants to BCSB. The legacy provides a cushion for another three or four years whilst funding is put on to a more sustainable long-term footing and is also a short-term cushion against the uncertainties of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

Risk management

The charity's administrative expenses are almost all born by the trustees personally. Grants are only finally approved at the time they are paid and they are only paid if the funds are available. Therefore, the chances of the charity ceasing to be a going concern are minimal, so long as there is a surviving trustee and the charity has banking facilities.

Unfortunately, it is a fact of modern life that Anti-Moneylaundering Legislation and Charity Commission rules and guidance are becoming ever more stringent. Any involvement with Bangladesh is of itself sufficient to raise the authorities' concerns. The trustees are confident that under the current rules they can satisfy enquiries made by the banks at their annual reviews of the charity's accounts or by the Charity Commission, but it is impossible to predict how those rules and the attitudes of the various authorities and the banks may develop in future. If the worst were to happen and the charity's banking facilities were withdrawn, this would prevent the charity from operating.

The chances of the grantee ceasing to be a going concern are more significant, in particular:

- Bhola is a high-risk area in terms of environmental disasters.
- Children's homes are a high-risk activity in terms of the potential for reputational damage, both deserved and undeserved.
- The Bangladesh authorities have the legal power to close down Non-Governmental Organisations and their projects without notice.
- BCSB is a small organisation which is heavily reliant on the person of the Director for whom a replacement could be difficult to secure at short notice.

The charity aims to have sufficient reserves to provide emergency financial aid in the interests of the children in any such circumstances, but there is no binding legal obligation to provide that support. In such circumstances, even if it had the funds, there is no guarantee that there would be a legal means of delivering them to where they were needed.

Under the MOU BCSB is required to have a safeguarding policy which meets UK requirements. In the UK the requirement now is to have a policy which safeguards not just vulnerable children and adults but anyone within or who comes into contact with the organisation. BCSB's policy was last reviewed in July 2021 but is updated between reviews as and when necessary.

BCUK reviewed its own safeguarding policy at the same time. Before authorising visits by BCUK trustees the trustees consider the security and health risks to the visiting trustee, who also has to be personally satisfied that the visit is safe.

Since the year end the Director has introduced a more detailed and integrated system for planning, budgeting and managing the human and financial resources of the project. This will make it much easier for an interim or permanent successor to take over when he leaves or for any reason becomes unable to carry out his duties.

Reserves policy (see note 13 to the accounts)

Total reserves at the year end stood at £163,204 (last year £262,961) of which £40,000 at both year ends was restricted.

The trustees consider that there is no need for a designated contingency reserve, because this function is effectively fulfilled by the working capital reserve of £40,000 (equivalent to nearly 50% of the running costs budget for 2021). This reserve is restricted and may only be used to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations. The understanding is that any amount drawn from the fund is reimbursed within twelve months.

The use being made of the legacy in 2019 has been explained above. Note 13 to the Accounts concerning the Reserves shows how the legacy fund has been earmarked. It has taken a long time to sort out the design of the BCSB staff provident fund at BCSB but since the year end this has been resolved and the £6,300 earmarked for funding past service entitlement has been delivered to the great satisfaction of the staff.

Plans for the future

In December 2019 the BCUK trustees approved a five-year outline budget for BCSB (subject to review each year) which included provision for:

- increased teaching staff
- building accommodation at the Supari Bagan site for the older boys and for rental to staff and third parties.

- building new offices and other facilities above shops-to-let along the boundary facing the main road.
(Both building projects were intended to make the project more self-financing in the medium term).

With Covid-19 these plans had to be put on hold, as BCUK and BCSB trustees adjusted to the rapidly changing situation. In response to what are now the most pressing needs on the island, it was decided to prioritise:

- expanding the physiotherapy department by employing a professionally qualified physiotherapist and investing in equipment to expand the range of treatments that can be offered to both residential and non-residential clients;
- developing the capability to become a government-approved facility for autistic children;
- increasing the number and expertise of the teaching staff.

Another priority is to resolve the drainage problems at the main site. These problems have become worse in the last two years as a result of the immediate neighbours raising the level of their land so that the older buildings on our land are now frequently flooded. Various solutions are being investigated, but until a technically viable solution is identified, it is not possible to estimate the financial and other implications.

Structure, governance and management

BCUK

BCUK is run by a board of the nine trustees listed below.

The board contains trustees with a range of relevant skills and experience and the balance of these skills and experience is kept under review.

There are no staff. All the work is done by the trustees with occasional assistance from other volunteers in connection with fundraising events and IT.

Office facilities are provided by the Chair from her home.

BCSB

BSCB is a Bangladesh charitable trust with a board of nine trustees who are all well-respected members of the local community. The Chairman is an influential local politician. BCSB is registered with the Social Welfare Department.

BCSB is a small organisation and relies heavily on the person of the Director. The current Director, Zakirul Haque, has been in post seven years and is highly regarded by BCUK.

MOU

The MOU between BCUK and BCSB was last revised in January 2020. It sets out various matters that must be agreed jointly by the two parties. These include the appointment of the Director of BCSB, terms of his or her employment and any changes thereto. In practice there is email, telephone and Zoom contact between the Chair of BCUK and the Director, at least weekly and often daily.

The purchases of the land and original buildings were funded by a group of individual donors including the current chair of BCUK. The subsequent buildings were funded by BCUK. All

the land and buildings are now registered in the name of BCSB, but under the MOU BCUK must agree to the disposal of any interest in the land and buildings.

The MOU also requires both parties to share minutes of their meetings.

DORP

Pending BCSB getting its own NGO registration, which can take years, BCSB became a project of DORP (Development Organisation of the Rural Poor) a large long-established Bangladesh NGO. DORP handles the considerable work in dealing with the NGO Affairs Bureau in respect of the project in return for 5% of the funds remitted by BCUK. Otherwise it is supportive of but plays no part in the management of the project. The involvement of DORP was a necessary price for BCSB being allowed to receive funds from BCUK through the banking system.

It is hoped that BCSB will finally get its own NGO registration in 2023, in which case that year will be the last under the DORP umbrella.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees
Alexander ("Sandy") Anson FCA, Treasurer
Nicholas Breeze
Bruna Colombo-Otten
Freda Graf
Anne Hamilton
Andrew Hogan
Michael Maude
Barnaby Wiener

Registered Office and Principal Office

12 Cornwall Grove, London, W4 2LB

Charity Number: 1118345

Independent examiner

Michael Godbee FCA, 99 The Avenue, London, W13 8JT

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 7th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees



Alexander Anson, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of:

**Bhola's Children
(Charity no. 1118345)**

On accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2022

Set out on pages:

13 to 21

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2022.

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

Independent examiner's statement

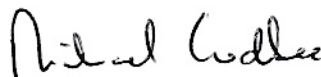
I report in respect of my examination of the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Date: 26/10/2022

Name:

MICHAEL GODBEE

Relevant professional qualification:

FCA

Address:

99 THE AVENUE, LONDON, W13 8JT

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
Charity No. 1118345
Annual accounts for the period
1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Current year			Prior year		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations – legacy	3	-	-	-	417	-	417
Donations – other	3	30,314	-	30,314	19,710	13,000	32,710
Grants	3	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Investments	3	1,346	-	1,346	2,559	-	2,559
Total		41,660	-	41,660	22,686	13,000	35,686
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	7,578	-	7,578	103	-	103
Charitable activities	4	133,839	-	133,839	43,060	13,000	56,060
Total		141,417	-	141,417	43,163	13,000	56,163
Net income/(expenditure)		(99,757)	-	(99,757)	(20,477)	-	(20,477)
Transfers between funds				-			-
Net movement in funds		(99,757)	-	(99,757)	(20,477)	-	(20,477)
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(99,757)	-	(99,757)	(20,477)	-	(20,477)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		222,961	40,000	262,961	243,438	40,000	283,438
Total funds carried forward		123,204	40,000	163,204	222,961	40,000	262,961

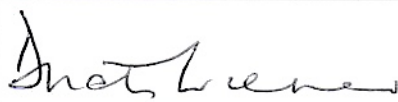
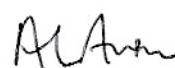
There were no endowment funds at any time in either year.

Balance sheet

At 31 March

	Note	Current year £	Prior year £
Current assets:			
Stock	6	180	180
Debtors	7	3,852	5,974
Investments	8	137,050	241,415
Cash at bank	9	22,122	15,392
Total current assets		163,204	262,961
Creditors	10	-	-
Total current liabilities		-	-
Net current assets		163,204	262,961
Total assets less current liabilities		163,204	262,961
Net assets		163,204	262,961
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment and restricted income funds	12	40,000	40,000
Unrestricted funds	13	123,204	222,961
Total charity funds		163,204	262,961

Approved by the trustees on 7th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Position	Name	Signature
Chair of the Trustees	Dinah Leah Carlotta WIENER	
Treasurer	Alexander Lothian ANSON	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (second edition, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019); and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change in the basis of accounting in the current year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

There have been no changes to the figures for last year.

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 INCOME

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; • it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS or SORP.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met (5.8 to 5.12 FRS102). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance-related conditions are met.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Notes to the Accounts

Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.
Governance and support costs	Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include costs of grant-making and subsequent monitoring. All governance and support costs in the year other than bank charges were borne personally by the trustees in accordance with their policy of not charging such costs to the charity.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.
Deferred income	No deferred income has been included in the accounts.

2.3 ASSETS

Fixed assets and investments	The charity had no fixed assets or investments in the current or prior year.
Stocks	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 3 Analysis of income and endowments

		This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies	Donations and gifts – unrestricted	24,228	14,465
	Donations – restricted	-	13,000
	Expenses waived by trustees	2,764	-
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	3,322	5,245
	Subtotal other donations	30,314	32,710
	Legacy – unrestricted	-	417
	Total	30,314	33,127

Restricted donations last year were made for the Covid Relief Fund (see note 13).

Grants	Grants from private grant-making bodies	10,000	-
	Total	10,000	-
Investment income	Bank interest	1,346	2,559
	Total	1,346	2,559

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

		This year £	Last year £
Costs of raising funds	Fundraiser's fees	7,470	-
	Commission and fees paid in respect of donations received through the Virgin Giving website	-	34
	Bank charges on foreign donations and account maintenance	108	69
	Total	7,578	103
Charitable activities	Grants paid to BCSB – Covid Relief Fund	-	16,000
	Grants paid to BCSB – other	131,000	40,000
	Trustees' expenses for visits to BCSB	2,764	-
	Bank charges on foreign payments	75	60
	Total	133,839	56,060

The only costs borne by the charity in respect of grantmaking are bank charges.

The Covid Relief Fund grants included £13,000 from restricted donations and £3,000 from general funds.

Notes to the Accounts

Trustees' expenses were expenses incurred on travel and subsistence in the course of their duties when visiting the project in Bangladesh. The Trustees waived their right to claim these expenses (see Note 3). The Trustees also incurred and waived other expenses in the course of their duties on, for example, the provision of office and telephone facilities but it was not considered economic to identify and quantify these.

Approved expenditures funded by grants to BCSB	This year £	Last year £
Buildings and equipment	2,660	4,394
Staff salaries	34,016	30,678
Food, medicine and healthcare	18,913	17,753
Education, training and rehabilitation	8,712	10,718
Travel	1,816	1,489
Utilities and security	2,515	2,460
Administration and audit	788	2,270
Contribution to DORP	5,087	3,023
	74,507	72,785
Covid-19 relief fund	-	16,000
Total	74,507	88,785

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

Number of trustees who claimed expenses

Total amount claimed

This year	Last year
None	None
£0	£0

All the trustees who incurred expenses in the performance of their duties waived their right to claim those expenses.

5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

Note 6 Stocks

	This year £	Last year £
Gift Aid envelopes	180	180
	180	180

Notes to the Accounts

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accrued bank interest	542	1,207	0	0
Gift Aid recoverable	3,310	4,767	0	0
Total	3,852	5,974	0	0

Note 8 Investments

	This year £	Last year £
Bank 1-year fixed deposits	65,000	170,000
Bank 100-day notice deposit	72,050	71,415
Total	137,050	241,415

The figures for last year in Notes 8 and 9 have been restated to correctly show the 100-day notice account as an Investment rather than Cash at bank.

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank	22,122	14,392
Cash in hand	0	1,000
Total	22,122	15,392

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Creditors	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

11.1 Remuneration and benefits

No remuneration or other benefits were paid to a trustee or other related party during either year by the charity or by any institution or company connected with it. See note 5.1 regarding trustees' expenses.

11.2 Loans

No amounts were owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at either year end.

Notes to the Accounts

11.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to the charity	Description of the transactions	This year £	Last year £
Bhola's Children Special School Bangladesh ("BCSB")	Bangladesh charitable trust which operates the home and school funded by the Charity	Grants paid by the Charity to BCSB for the purposes specified in Note 4	0	16,000

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

CURRENT YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Covid Relief Fund	-	-	-	-
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	-	40,000

PRIOR YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Covid Relief Fund	-	13000	(13,000)	-
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	13,000	(13,000)	40,000

There were no endowment funds in the current or prior year.

The £40,000 Working Capital Fund is intended to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations in income and expenditure. There is an expectation but not a legal requirement that amounts drawn from the fund are repaid within 12 months.

Note 13 Unrestricted funds – designated

CURRENT YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	120,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	80,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	-	6,300
Undesignated reserve	96,661	(99,757)	-	-	40,000	36,904
Total unrestricted funds	222,961	(99,757)	-	-	-	123,204

Notes to the Accounts

PRIOR YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	160,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	120,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	-	6,300
Undesignated reserve	77,138	(20,477)	-	-	40,000	96,661
Total unrestricted funds	243,438	(20,477)	-	-	-	222,961

There is no designated contingency reserve as the Trustees consider that the Working Capital Fund (Note 12) fulfils this role.

Accounts



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1 – 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Annual Accounts	12 – 20

BHOLA'S CHILDREN
CHARITY REG. NO. 1118345
12 Cornwall Grove, London W4 2LB, UK
Tel: +44(0)20 8994 6011
Website: www.bholaschildren.org

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees of Bhola's Children (registered no. 1118345) present their annual report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes 1 and 2 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition) and Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the budget and grant-making policy for the year.

The purpose of the charity set out in its trust deed is to advance education, health and poverty relief among children in Southern Bangladesh, particularly those orphaned or with disabilities. More particularly, it was established in 2007 to provide a permanent source of funding for Bhola's Children Special School – Bangladesh ("BCSB"), a local charitable trust which runs a single project, a home and school for disabled children on the island of Bhola in Southern Bangladesh.

Background

Bhola is an island of two million people. The high level of poverty is exacerbated by the rapid erosion of the North East corner of the island which has displaced families, some multiple times. There are very limited medical facilities on the island. Early marriage, early first pregnancy, poverty, lack of education, and inability to access appropriate medical care and facilities all contribute to high levels of disability. For the children and their families this is made much worse by the terrible social stigma attaching to disability.

Despite the evident needs, there is no other facility on the island capable of meeting those needs in the way that BCSB does.

The vision

The charity (hereinafter "BCUK") furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by granting funds to BCSB for the purposes of the home and school.

From the outset the project was unusual in two key respects:

- it brings together and provides for children with all types of physical and mental disability; and
- it feels like a home not an institution.

These were key parts of the vision of the founder and first director of the project, Howlader Ali. By having those with different disabilities together the children flourish helping each other and see that their particular disability does not prevent them being a valued part of the happy "family". And their actual families see in many cases that their disabled child can acquire economically productive skills. Indeed, the disabled child may be more productive than their siblings who have not had access to training. This is a start to reducing the social stigma attaching to both the child and the family. Reducing that stigma was Ali's long-term aim.

The trustees are proud of how successfully BCSB has realised Ali's vision over the last fourteen years. This has benefited the public through:

- meeting the social, educational and medical needs of disabled children who would otherwise not have those needs met
- educating the wider community about the contribution that those with disabilities can make economically and socially so that in time the disabled will be able to live with dignity and without stigma.

How BCSB realises the vision

The home and school is open to any disabled child from the age of four, regardless of gender, religion, or social, political or financial status of their family. Now that BCSB is so well known throughout the island there is greater demand than BCSB can meet. Admission is based on an assessment of the needs of the child and BCSB's ability to meet those needs, but priority is now given to the very poorest.

BCSB is not at present equipped to deal with children under four years old, or who are not capable of self-toileting, or are significantly autistic (but see future plans below). Also the focus is on disabilities arising before, during or shortly after childbirth. Disabilities resulting from injuries or illness sustained later in life are generally regarded as the province of other agencies.

The aim is to equip the children when they leave to live a productive life with dignity, so far as their disabilities permit, and while staying at BCSB to feel part of an inclusive family.

The children who are capable of attending normal school attend a school just up the road in the mornings. BCSB provides classes for the remainder in the morning and for all the children in the afternoon covering reading and writing in Bangla and English and in Bangla and roman script, arithmetic, sign language and (for the deaf) vocalisation.

There is no religious education provided by BSCB, which has no religious affiliation, but the children are able to attend religious instruction at their local place of worship.

Older children are taught employable skills including:

- Agriculture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Tailoring
- IT
- Mobile repair
- Food preparation and cooking
- Serving at table

Increasingly, BCSB is seeking to broaden the range of skills training available and increase the standard by forming partnerships with larger local organisations which can afford better facilities and specialist instructors teaching to certificated standards. For example, instruction in computers and IT and in electrical wiring is provided at HEED Technical Training College nearby. This increases the chances of each individual child receiving training which makes the most of their aptitudes and capabilities.

The ablest children are sent for further training in Dhaka where BCSB has close relations with specialist organisations providing training (and safe accommodation) for the disabled. Since 2015 nine have been trained there of whom three are now in employment.

The older teenagers are given increasing responsibilities, for example as teaching assistants, for which they are paid a small salary.

A house mother and house father provide pastoral care and instruction in personal hygiene for the girls and boys respectively.

Medical care is provided by local medical services except for physiotherapy which is provided on-site by staff – daily for those with cerebral palsy. Two of those staff had come to the home as blind children and when older were trained to provide physiotherapy. A qualified medical consultant visits monthly to provide diagnoses and treatment plans.

A few times a year children needing operations for cleft lips, cleft palates, club feet and other deformities are taken to a hospital at Barisal on the mainland. This service is extended to disabled children who are not living at the home.

All are taught to swim, a necessity on an island where nowhere is more than three or four metres above sea level and in the rainy season much of the island is under water.

All the children and all the staff have to learn sign language so that the deaf children can communicate freely with anyone in the community.

There is sporting activity every day such as cricket, badminton and swimming.

At present all of this is free of charge to the children's families, with a few exceptions such as the initial assessment on admission and travel costs to the mainland. The trustees of BCUK and BCSB keep this under review and it is likely that more of the services will be charged for in future in the minority of cases where the child's family have the means to pay.

Grant making policy

Grants are made to BCSB in instalments against a pre-approved annual budget which has also been approved by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. The grants are subject to BCSB complying with a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between BCUK and BCSB.

Review of our achievements and performance: How our grants delivered public benefit

During the year BCSB, but for Covid-19, would have provided a home, education, training and medical care for an average of 78 children (last year 80). These included 44 deaf, 18 slow learners, 16 with physical disabilities, and 4 blind.

The national lockdown from 25th March 2020 meant that schools were closed and BCSB had to send all the children back to their families. Regular communication, counselling and other support for the children and their families was maintained throughout. In May some of the older and stronger children returned and were able to resume their studies in campus but currently no children are studying at HTTC or in Dhaka. Since 2015 nine have trained to academic grade 9 at HTTC and nine in Dhaka. Three of the latter are now in employment. Also three children have been provided with training in mobile repair by the Social Welfare department, one to such an advanced level that it is hoped to hire him as an in-house instructor.

Competitive athletics and sports events have been cancelled this year but in recent years BCSB children have won medals at local, regional and national championships for disabled children. One was man of the match in the final of a national competition for wheelchair tennis!

It was not possible this year to take any children to the mainland for operations and the Physiotherapy Department could not treat external clients. But the Department continued to provide regular treatment to eight children in-house.

The BCUK trustees decided to launch a special appeal for a Covid-19 relief fund in June 2020 which raised some £13,000. This together with a further £3,000 saved from BCSB's normal expenditure enabled BCSB to make a cash distribution to 563 families with disabled children in financial distress, far more than the families of the 78 children who normally live in the home. This was done in close consultation with the District Commissioner's office and has resulted in a further big increase in the profile of BCSB on the island. It has also revealed that the level of disablement-related need on the island is far greater than we had realised.

For many years the Director of BCSB has been one of the recipients of the annual awards by the Bhola District Commissioner for those making an important contribution to society in Bhola. In the last three years the level of recognition of BCSB has increased greatly. This recognition has extended to the office of the Prime Minister who has an autistic grandchild and has made help for the disabled a priority. She has four times in the last three years chosen paintings by children at BCSB for her greeting cards, for which they receive a substantial cheque.

Besides the children, several of the staff of BCSB are themselves disabled and might otherwise find it hard to find accommodation and employment.

BCSB thus provides substantial benefits to many disabled children from mostly very poor families in an island of two million people where there are no comparable alternative facilities. And, as its reputation grows, it benefits the wider community by showing that disabled children can be economically productive and valued individuals who deserve to live and be treated with dignity rather than stigma. It is to be hoped that Covid-19 will soon be brought under control so that normal delivery of these benefits can be resumed.

Monitoring achievement

BCSB operates as a project of DORP (Development Organisation for the Rural Poor), a large long-established Bangladeshi NGO. This means that the project is subject to detailed monitoring by the Bangladesh government's NGO Affairs Bureau. This includes pre-approval of the annual budget, pre-approval of each payment received from BCUK and subsequent auditing by auditors on the Bangladesh government's list of approved auditors.

BCSB also has to comply with the monitoring requirements of the Department of Social Welfare, with which it is registered, and with the financial control procedures of DORP through whom the funds are remitted.

To satisfy BCUK that BCSB spends the money received in ways which meet the specific intentions and charitable aims of BCUK the primary controls are:

- the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) governing relations between BCUK and BCSB;
- pre-approval by BCUK of BCSB's annual budget and five-year plans;
- online monitoring by BCUK of the BCSB cashbook

- visits by one or more BCUK trustees two or more times a year to inspect the operations and financial records and attend meetings with the BCSB trustees and DORP (these visits have been suspended since January 2020 because of Covid-19, but will resume as soon as permitted and safe);
- since September 2010, joint meetings on Zoom of the BCUK and BCSB boards; and
- frequent, often daily, telephone and email contact between BCUK and BCSB, in particular between the Chair of BCUK and the Director of BCSB.

Financial review

Donations

With one exception, namely a large legacy of £274,000 received in May 2019, almost all the charity's income to date has comprised personal donations from UK donors supplemented by occasional fundraising events. BCUK has a core of regular donors mostly in West London. These donations fluctuate substantially from year to year according to the timing of appeals and fundraising events.

There are occasional foreign donations (this year £nil, last year £783) from a Swedish family who have a long association with Bhola and were involved in setting up the project.

Legacy

After receiving the legacy the trustees spent some months considering how best to utilise this windfall in the interests of the children and in particular how to use the money to make the project more sustainable in the longer term. Active fundraising was paused until donors could be presented with a clear explanation of how the legacy and any further funds raised would be applied.

It was decided to apply the money in three ways:

- 1) a contribution of £40,000 a year for up to five years to the running costs of BCSB.

In response to growing demand the number of children had recently been increased from 60 to 80 on an ad hoc basis, but this was not sustainable without increasing commensurately the budget for food and staff. In addition, there was expected to be an increase in food, compliance and other costs in 12 to 18 months time after BCSB obtained its own NGO registration. The contribution to running costs would cover these increases until more permanent sources of core funds could be developed.

- 2) a contribution to the cost of future building projects.

It was envisaged that two building projects to improve the facilities for the project's work would include parts which could be let on a commercial basis. This would provide a steady source of income in local currency reducing the dependence on UK income subject to foreign exchange fluctuations and other uncertainties. A third potential project would provide basic accommodation for those children who had nowhere else to go on reaching adulthood.

- 3) £6,300 funding for the past service entitlement in the proposed staff provident scheme

The trustees felt that fresh fundraising should remain on hold until the building plans had been fleshed out at which point they would start fundraising again in earnest.

Covid-19

Then came Covid-19. All building projects and the associated fundraising plans had to be put on hold. And regarding running costs there was and there remains great uncertainty. Each time children have to be sent back to their families greatly reduces the quantity of food and other items needed, but against that there have been big increases of up to 50% in prices. Bhola being an island is more susceptible to supply shortages and consequent price hikes.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees' policy is to invest surplus funds in bank fixed deposits with up to one year's maturity and/or notice accounts, while ensuring that all the funds are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Interest received in the current year was £2,559 (last year £3,185). This low return on the large funds invested from the legacy reflected the very low levels of interest rates in the period.

Expenditure

It is the trustees' policy that all of the money raised from donors and the net amount raised from fundraising activities should be applied for the benefit of the children in Bhola, except for money spent on:

- bank charges (this year £129, last year £146)
- Virgin Giving charges (this year £34, last year £3)
- printing of the charity's leaflet and Gift Aid envelopes (this year £nil, last year £nil)
- website upgrades (this year £nil, last year £nil)

The trustees, therefore, personally bear all the other administration costs. In particular they bear the considerable costs of travel and accommodation when visiting BCSB on charity business.

The cost of grants paid to BCSB this year was £56,060 (last year £96,179). BCSB has a 31st December accounting year end, so the BCSB budgets approved by BCUK for the relevant calendar years were 2019 £77,166, 2020 £89,027 and 2021 £88,321. The timing of payments varies each year because of delays in obtaining NGOAB approval, exchange rate movements and other factors, so the proportion of the budget paid by 31st March varies likewise. The low figure paid in this year is because the NGOAB did not approve any payments for 2021 until after 31st March.

Financial summary

	This year £	Last year £
Income before legacy	35,269	314,647
Legacy	<u>417</u>	<u>274,000</u>
Total income	<u>35,686</u>	<u>314,647</u>
 Total expenditure	 56,163	 96,248
 (Deficit) before legacy	 (20,894)	 (55,581)
(Deficit)/surplus after legacy	(20,477)	218,399
 Total funds at end of year	 262,961	 283,438

of which restricted funds

40,000

40,000

In summary, the charity is well capitalised at present. But for the last two years the pause in active fundraising has led to a significant shortfall in non-legacy donations relative to expenditure on grants to BCSB. The legacy provides a cushion for another three or four years whilst funding is put on to a more sustainable long-term footing and is also a short-term cushion against the uncertainties of Covid-19.

New funding model

The trustees decided in December 2020 that the existing funding model which had worked well in the early years was no longer viable because the donor base has not grown as the charity has grown. They decided it was necessary to start raising a significant portion of funds from grant-making organisations and to do so would require the expertise of a professional fundraiser. Accordingly, a fundraiser was appointed shortly after the year end. It is expected that the fundraiser's costs will be met by a charitable foundation, so that the charity can continue to say to personal donors that virtually every penny *they* contribute will go to the children.

Risk management

The charity's administrative expenses are all born by the trustees personally, fundraising costs are minimal, and grants are only finally approved at the time they are paid. Therefore, the chances of the charity ceasing to be a going concern are minimal, so long as there is a surviving trustee and the charity has banking facilities.

Unfortunately, it is a fact of modern life that Anti-Moneylaundering Legislation and Charity Commission rules and guidance are becoming ever more stringent. Any involvement with Bangladesh is of itself sufficient to raise the authorities' concerns. The trustees are confident that under the current rules they can satisfy enquiries made by the banks at their annual reviews of the charity's accounts or by the Charity Commission, but it is impossible to predict how those rules and the attitudes of the various authorities and the banks may develop in future. If the worst were to happen and the charity's banking facilities were withdrawn, this would prevent the charity from operating.

The chances of the grantee ceasing to be a going concern are more significant, in particular:

- Bhola is a high-risk area in terms of environmental disasters.
- Children's homes are a high-risk activity in terms of the potential for reputational damage, both deserved and undeserved.
- The Bangladesh authorities have the legal power to close down Non-Governmental Organisations and their projects without notice.
- BCSB is a small organisation which is heavily dependent on the person of the Director for whom a replacement could be difficult to secure at short notice.

The charity aims to have sufficient reserves to provide emergency financial aid in the interests of the children in any such circumstances, but there is no binding legal obligation to provide that support. In such circumstances, even if it had the funds, there is no guarantee that there would be a legal means of delivering them to where they were needed.

Under the MOU BCSB is required to have a safeguarding policy which meets UK requirements. In the UK the requirement now is to have a policy which safeguards not just vulnerable children and adults but anyone within or who comes into contact with the organisation. BCSB's policy was last updated in [July] 2021.

BCUK updated its own safeguarding policy at the same time. Before authorising visits by BCUK trustees the trustees consider the security and health risks to the visiting trustee, who also has to be personally satisfied that the visit is safe.

Reserves policy (see note 13 to the accounts)

Total reserves at the year end stood at £262,961 (last year £283,438) of which £40,000 at both year ends was restricted.

The trustees consider that there is no need for a designated contingency reserve, because this function is effectively fulfilled by the working capital reserve of £40,000 (equivalent to nearly 50% of the running costs budget for 2021). This reserve is restricted and may only be used to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations. The understanding is that any amount drawn from the fund is reimbursed within twelve months.

As already mentioned under *Legacy* above, the trustees have given considerable thought as to how to make the most appropriate use of the legacy of £274,000 received last year, bearing in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on large windfalls. The legacy was not subject to any restrictions. Note 13 to the Accounts concerning the Reserves earmarks the funds in accordance with the allocation in *Legacy* above.

Plans for the future

In December 2019 the BCUK trustees approved a five-year outline budget for BCSB (subject to review each year) which included provision for:

- increased teaching staff
- building accommodation at the Supari Bagan site for the older boys and for rental to staff and third parties.
- building new offices and other facilities above shops-to-let along the boundary facing the main road.
(Both building projects were intended to make the project more self-financing in the medium term).

With Covid-19 these plans have had to be put on hold, as BCUK and BCSB trustees adjust to the rapidly changing situation.

Further aims, which are subject to additional local funding, are:

- employing a professionally qualified physiotherapist;
- developing the capability to become a government-approved facility for autistic children;
- building accommodation at the Bhel Umiah site for disabled staff and older disabled children who have nowhere else to go when they become young adults.

A priority is to resolve the drainage problems at the main site. These problems have become worse in the last two years as a result of the immediate neighbours raising the level of their land so that the older buildings on our land are now frequently flooded. Various solutions are being investigated, but until a technically viable solution is identified, it is not possible to estimate the financial and other implications.

Structure, governance and management

BCUK

BCUK is run by a board of the nine trustees listed below.

The board contains trustees with a range of relevant skills and experience and the balance of these skills and experience is kept under review.

There are no staff. All the work is done by the trustees with occasional assistance from other volunteers in connection with fundraising events and IT.

Office facilities are provided by the Chair from her home.

BCSB

BCSB is a Bangladesh charitable trust with a board of nine trustees who are all well-respected members of the local community. The Chairman is an influential local politician. BCSB is registered with the Social Welfare Department.

BCSB is a small organisation and relies heavily on the person of the Director. The current Director, Zakirul Haque, has been in post seven years and is highly regarded by BCUK.

MOU

The MOU between BCUK and BCSB was last revised in January 2020. It sets out various matters that must be agreed jointly by the two parties. These include the appointment of the Director of BCSB, terms of his or her employment and any changes thereto. In practice there is email, telephone and Zoom contact between the Chair of BCUK and the Director, at least weekly and often daily.

The purchases of the land and original buildings were funded by a group of individual donors including the current chair of BCUK. The subsequent buildings were funded by BCUK. All the land and buildings are now registered in the name of BCSB, but under the MOU BCUK must agree to the disposal of any interest in the land and buildings.

The MOU also requires both parties to share minutes of their meetings.

DORP

Pending BCSB getting its own NGO registration, which can take years, BCSB became a project of DORP (Development Organisation of the Rural Poor) a large long-established Bangladesh NGO. DORP handles the considerable work in dealing with the NGO Affairs Bureau in respect of the project in return for 5% of the funds remitted by BCUK. Otherwise it is supportive of but plays no part in the management of the project. The involvement of DORP was a necessary price for BCSB being allowed to receive funds from BCUK through the banking system.

It is hoped that BCSB will finally get its own NGO registration in 2021, in which case that year will be the last under the DORP umbrella.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees
Alexander ("Sandy") Anson FCA, Treasurer
Nicholas Breeze
Bruna Colombo-Otten
Freda Graf
Anne Hamilton

Andrew Hogan
Michael Maude
Barnaby Wiener

Registered Office and Principal Office
12 Cornwall Grove, London, W4 2LB

Charity Number: 1118345

Independent examiner
Michael Godbee FCA, 99 The Avenue, London, W13 8JT

Bankers
CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 8th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Dinah Wiener, Chair of Trustees



Alexander Anson, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of: **Bhola's Children**
(Charity no. 1118345)

On accounts for the year ended: **31st March 2021**

Set out on pages: **12 to 20**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Date: 20/8/2021

Name:

MICHAEL GODBEE

Relevant professional qualification:

FCA

Address:

99 THE AVENUE, LONDON, W13 8JT

BHOLA'S CHILDREN

Charity No. 1118345

Annual accounts for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Current year			Prior year		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations – legacy	3	417	-	417	274,000	-	274,000
Donations – other	3	19,710	13,000	32,710	37,462	-	37,462
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	2,559	-	2,559	3,185	-	3,185
Total		22,686	13,000	35,686	314,647	-	314,647
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	103	-	103	69	-	69
Charitable activities	4	43,060	13,000	56,060	96,179	-	96,179
Total		43,163	13,000	56,163	96,248	-	96,248
Net income/(expenditure)		(20,477)	-	(20,477)	218,399	-	218,399
Transfers between funds							
				-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(20,477)	-	(20,477)	218,399	-	218,399
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(20,477)	-	(20,477)	218,399	-	218,399
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		243,438	40,000	283,438	25,039	40,000	65,039
Total funds carried forward		222,961	40,000	262,961	243,438	40,000	283,438

There were no endowment funds at any time in either year.

Balance sheet

At 31 March

	Note	Current year £	Prior year £
Current assets:			
Stock	6	180	180
Debtors	7	5,974	7,624
Investments	8	241,415	255,236
Cash at bank	9	15,392	20,398
Total current assets		262,961	283,438
Creditors	10	-	-
Total current liabilities		-	-
Net current assets		262,961	283,438
Total assets less current liabilities		262,961	283,438
Net assets		262,961	283,438
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment and restricted income funds	12	40,000	40,000
Unrestricted funds	13	222,961	243,438
Total charity funds		262,961	283,438

Approved by the trustees on 8th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Position	Name	Signature
Chair of the Trustees	Dinah Leah Carlotta WIENER	
Treasurer	Alexander Lothian ANSON	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historic cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (second edition, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019); and with
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and with
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change in the basis of accounting in the current year.

1.3 Changes to previous accounts

There has been one change to the figures for last year.

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 INCOME

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; • it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS or SORP.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met (5.8 to 5.12 FRS102). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance-related conditions are met.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Notes to the Accounts

Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.
Governance and support costs	Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include costs of grant-making and subsequent monitoring. All governance and support costs in the year other than bank charges were borne personally by the trustees in accordance with their policy of not charging such costs to the charity.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.
Deferred income	No deferred income has been included in the accounts.

2.3 ASSETS

Fixed assets and investments	The charity had no fixed assets or investments in the current or prior year.
Stocks	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 3 Analysis of income and endowments

		This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies	Donations and gifts – unrestricted	14,465	28,077
	Donations – restricted	13,000	-
	Expenses waived by trustees	-	4,200
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	5,245	5,185
	Subtotal other donations	32,710	37,462
	Legacy – unrestricted	417	274,000
	Total	33,127	311,462

Restricted donations were made for the Covid Relief Fund (see note 13).

Other trading activities	Sale of greetings cards	-	-
	Sale of tablecloths and embroidery	-	-
	Fundraising events	-	-
	Total	-	-
Investment income	Bank interest	2,559	3,185
	Total	2,559	3,185

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

		This year £	Last year £
Costs of raising funds	Commission and fees paid in respect of donations received through the Virgin Giving website	34	3
	Bank charges on foreign donations and account maintenance	69	66
	Total	103	69
Charitable activities	Grants paid to BCSB – Covid Relief Fund	16,000	-
	Grants paid to BCSB – other	40,000	91,899
	Trustees' expenses for visits to BCSB	-	4,200
	Bank charges on foreign payments	60	80
	Total	56,060	96,179

The only costs borne by the charity in respect of grantmaking are bank charges.

The Covid Relief Fund grants included £13,000 from restricted donations and £3,000 from general funds.

Notes to the Accounts

Trustees' expenses were expenses incurred on travel and subsistence in the course of their duties when visiting the project in Bangladesh. The Trustees waived their right to claim these expenses (see Note 3). The Trustees also incurred and waived other expenses in the course of their duties on, for example, the provision of office and telephone facilities but it was not considered economic to identify and quantify these.

Approved expenditures funded by grants to BCSB	This year £	Last year £
Buildings and equipment	4,394	4,710
Staff salaries	30,678	28,432
Food, medicine and healthcare	17,753	15,195
Education, training and rehabilitation	10,718	7,605
Travel	1,489	2,132
Utilities and security	2,460	2,483
Administration and audit	2,270	2,324
Covid-19 relief fund	16,000	-
Contribution to DORP	3,023	1,717
Total	88,785	64,598

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Trustee expenses

Number of trustees who claimed expenses

Total amount claimed

All the trustees who incurred expenses in the performance of their duties waived their right to claim those expenses.

This year	Last year
None	None
£0	£0

5.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts

Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner

This year £	Last year £
0	0
0	0

Note 6 Stocks

	This year £	Last year £
Gift Aid envelopes	180	180
	180	180

Notes to the Accounts

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accrued bank interest	1,207	2,464	0	0
Gift Aid recoverable	4,767	5,160	0	0
Total	5,974	7,624	0	0

Note 8 Investments

	This year £	Last year £
Bank 1-year fixed deposits	170,000	170,000
Bank 100-day notice deposit	71,415	85,236
Total	241,415	255,236

The figures for last year in Notes 8 and 9 have been restated to correctly show the 100-day notice account as an Investment rather than Cash at bank.

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank	14,392	20,398
Cash in hand	1,000	0
Total	15,392	20,398

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Creditors	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

11.1 Remuneration and benefits

No remuneration or other benefits were paid to a trustee or other related party during either year by the charity or by any institution or company connected with it. See note 5.1 regarding trustees' expenses.

11.2 Loans

No amounts were owing to or from the charity's trustees or other related parties by the charity at either year end.

Notes to the Accounts

11.3 Other transactions with trustees or related parties

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to the charity	Description of the transactions	This year £	Last year £
Bhola's Children Special School Bangladesh ("BCSB")	Bangladesh charitable trust which operates the home and school funded by the Charity	Grants paid by the Charity to BCSB for the purposes specified in Note 4	16,000	0

Note 12 Endowment and restricted income funds

CURRENT YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Covid Relief Fund	-	13000	(13,000)	-
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	13,000	(13,000)	40,000

PRIOR YEAR

Restricted income Fund	Fund brought forward £	Added £	Utilised/ Released £	Carried forward £
Working capital fund	40,000	-	-	40,000
Total restricted funds	40,000	-	-	40,000

There were no endowment funds in the current or prior year.

The £40,000 Working Capital Fund is intended to cover adverse short-term cashflow fluctuations in income and expenditure. There is an expectation but not a legal requirement that amounts drawn from the fund are repaid within 12 months.

Note 13 Unrestricted funds – designated

CURRENT YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	160,000	-	-	-	(40,000)	120,000
BCSB staff provident fund	6,300	-	-	-	-	6,300
Undesignated reserve	77,138	(20,477)	-	-	40,000	96,661
Total unrestricted funds	243,438	(20,477)	-	-	-	222,961

Notes to the Accounts

PRIOR YEAR

Designation	Reserve brought forward £	Surplus/ deficit for the year £	Transfer from restricted £	Newly designated £	Utilised/ Released £	Reserve carried forward £
Legacy contribution to running costs	-	-	-	200,000	(40,000)	160,000
BCSB staff provident fund	-	-	-	6,300	-	6,300
Undesignated reserve	25,039	218,399	-	(206,300)	40,000	77,138
Total unrestricted funds	25,039	218,399	-	-	-	243,438

There is no designated contingency reserve as the Trustees consider that the Working Capital Fund (Note 12) fulfils this role.