





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2023.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Freckleton Business Centre
Freckleton Street
Blackburn
BB2 2AL

www.steppingstonescharity.org | info@steppingstonescharity.org

Registered Charity no. 1135645



Chairman's report | Message from the Trustees

My chairing the Board of Trustees of SteppingStones Charity has been both challenging and fulfilling. I am extremely proud of what has been achieved by our hard-working staff and volunteers, the resourceful and resilient communities we serve, and those who continue to give so generously to support the cause.

We could not have achieved anything this year without the extraordinary philanthropy of our donors. I am thankful for their generous and selfless giving against a backdrop of global economic stagnation, rising inflation and escalating cost-of-living pressures. Their continuing support speaks volumes for their passion and compassion, and for the trust they place in us to fulfil our mission. This Annual Report brings to life the wide-ranging work that SSC does across South America, to help those affected by humanitarian crises and to lift communities out of poverty. It is work that requires initiative, innovation and real determination at a time when global hunger is on the increase and climate related disasters are becoming more frequent and severe.

Furthermore, in a changing world, the SSC family is changing too. In the west coast of South America, Ecuador, we are trying to establish Masjid Yusuf at the heart of Cuenca city. It will be, we hope an epicentre of learning for skill development, empowerment, knowledge and a community outreach hub for all communities and genders. We have already started providing weekly food packs for the poor and elderly. We still need to complete the purchase of the building which we hope we will complete by August 2024. Our work is still continuing in helping the poor across Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela.

It is my privilege to chair a diverse Board of Trustees that is elected by the membership of the SSC family in a federated structure. We are also launching an exciting new long-term strategy for the organisation that sets out to strengthen not only our humanitarian and development work but also our campaigns for change and the coordination and collaboration we are building across our federation.

With your continuing support, SSC will continue to do all we can to build a future free from poverty and suffering.

Omar Hanif
Chair of the Board of Trustees,
SteppingStones Charity

Omar Hanif

steppingstonescharity.org

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Reference and administrative details

Registered Charity Name	Steppingstones Charity
Charity Registration Number	1135645
Principal Office	Freckleton Street Business Centre, Freckleton Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 2AL

The trustees

Mr M A Karolia

Mr A Kabir

Mr O Hanif

Independent examiner

Ahmed Adam Karolia

Suite 28 Blackburn Enterprise Centre

Furthergate

Blackburn

Lancashire

BB1 3HQ



Structure, governance and management

Who We Are

SteppingStones Charity is currently led by a group of dedicated volunteers under the supervision of the board of trustees. Currently we have two-part time seasonal staff who work on an adhoc basis and we hope to, in the near future, employ part and full time staff. Our volunteers continue to play a key role in the delivery of our services and are vital in enabling us to reach more destitute and poor people in order for us to provide the stability and support that they need.

Our Vision

Our vision of the world is where the poverty stricken and destitute communities have the same and equal opportunities as everyone else.

Our Mission

To stay true to our vision of a future with equal opportunities for disadvantaged people to fulfil their life ambitions as everyone else. We must continue to have higher expectations about what disadvantaged people can achieve and create the right conditions for that to happen.

Our Values

Accountability, ambition, collaboration and diversity.



Objectives and activities

Objectives

SteppingStones Charity's long term objectives are to provide relief of poverty and hardship, the advancement of education, providing healthcare, livelihood and economic empowerment for vulnerable communities and individuals.

Current Activities

Our relief work is now being carried out in Guyana and Brazil in South America as well as being extended in certain regions of the Caribbean. Our volunteers travel to these regions to access and supervise all the work carried with regards to the relevant projects.

Working alongside local community leaders, the needs of the communities are identified and then projects are implemented in order to meet their specific needs in terms of education, sponsorships, food parcels as well as many other areas of concern that may arise from our findings.



together we can make a difference...

Achievements and performance

Achievements

In retrospect of last year's achievements in addition to bettering ourselves as a non-profit organisation, we have accomplished much more relief work and implemented many more projects over our current financial year since our inception.

With many countries still vulnerable to post Covid-19, provisions and basic necessities have become even more difficult to access and acquire. Nevertheless, projects were implemented in Ecuador, Brazil, Guyana, and now Venezuela all of which are located in South America.

Food Packs were distributed in Guyana, Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela to all people regardless of gender, faith, and ethnicity, particularly those living under the poverty threshold or those who are completely homeless.

Food packs included local staple foods, fulfilling the very basic needs, (oil, butter rice, sardines, etc). These food packs were designed to support a family of approximately 2-4 people for up to 3-4 weeks. In total, 100 food packs were distributed to destitute families and communities in Guyana, 14,265, were distributed in Ecuador, 4500 of which was distributed in Ramadan and 9765 have already been distributed since January 2023 through our weekly food bank scheme initiated in January 2023 from Masjid Yusuf and 4620 food packs were distributed in Venezuela. These food packs were allocated to families and poor local residents in Anaco, Venezuela. A grand total of 18,985, food packs were given out this year 2023 which is quite significant for a small charity.

Having already extended our work in the Amazon Forest (Ecuador) where we are continuously helping poor Amazonians with food and clothing, Last year, we helped 790 Amazonians with food packs and 105 families with new clothing. This year we expanded our work into other regions of the Amazon Forest and thus helped an astounding 1810 with food packs and 1000 families with wheelchairs.

This year, instead of providing clothes to orphans in Guyana, we presented solar lighting to Amazonians in the Ecuadorian region. 129 families were given hand held solar lighting. These solar lights were purchased locally and sourced from local businesses. These solar lights have helped the Amazonians venture out at night more easily and have helped children study at night who are seeking education.

The Sadaqatul-Fitr project was given on the day of Eid to the less fortunate in Guyana as well as Brazil using the kind donations made by those who possess the value of Nisaab beyond their basic needs. This helped the poor have a beneficial and joyous Eid. 35 people in Guyana benefitted from the Sadaqatul-Fitr project, 35 people benefitted in Brazil & 107 were helped in Ecuador. A total of 177 people were helped.

In addition to this, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, we have handed out 122 packs of school materials to families less fortunate than others. The school materials comprised of, pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers, books, water drinking bottles, pencil cases and back packs. The donation for the school materials was donated by Wensely Fold Primary School based in Blackburn, Lancashire.

Our annual Qurbani project was implemented in the poor regions of West Bengal, India. Meat, which not everyone can afford to buy, was distributed to poverty-stricken families and communities, a total of 2000 poor orphans labouring families benefitted from these meat packs and were able to enjoy meat on the day of Eid/ We have achieved far more in 2023 and have exceeded our expectations and we hope that next year we can succeed in bringing about more changes for people in vulnerable situations.

Acknowledgement

The board of trustees would like to express its gratitude for the immense and selfless commitment which has been given to the charity by its volunteers each year without hesitation. This is instrumental in helping to minimise operation costs and maximising aid to our beneficiaries. We would like to thank our donors, supporters and all other organisations for their part they have played. Their hard work and kindness has not gone unnoticed.



Financial review

Financial review

The Charity receives donations from the general public and other charities. This helps the charity to meet its obligations and achieve the objectives efficiently during the year.

Reserves Policy

The reserves are maintained at an adequate level to continue the charity's activities. The trustees have decided to continue the current activities and to improve on them when and as the budget permits.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major risk which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Plans for future periods

Future Projects

Last year, it led to the first stages of our ambitious plans to deliver across a wider area with a real focus on how we can help the poor live independently in the communities within which we work. The destitute people have never been content to live in a society in which they can't play an active part and SteppingStones Charity is working alongside them to bring about the changes we want to see. Therefore, this year our main focus is helping locals set up livelihood projects in all 3 countries. This will help enabled communities to stand on their own feet and generate income not only for their families but for their community.

We will still continue our work in helping with sponsorship of children so we can help meet their educational needs, help those who cannot pay for their medicines or medical equipment, renovate homes, provide aid to those who are less fortunate than us. However, We will most certainly have to work harder in order to raise enough money to reach our target to help others and achieve all the projects we have set out to do. Since our projects are sustainable and we have provided assistance on a constant basis over a number of years, we hope to achieve our goals for the years ahead through the continued assistance of our trustees, volunteers and donors.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 17 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

M A Karolia

Mr M A Karolia
Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SteppingStones Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Steppingstones Charity ('the charity') for the year ended 28 February 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do 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.

Ahmed Adam Karolia
Independent Examiner

Suite 28 Blackburn Enterprise Centre
Furthergate
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 3HQ
17 November 2023



Statement of Financial Activities

28 February 2023

		2023	2022
		Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	Note	£	£
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies	4	91,132	114,513
Total income		91,132	114,513
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities	5,6	(84,155)	(122,129)
Total expenditure		(84,155)	(122,129)
Net income and net movement in funds		6,977	(7,616)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		53,833	61,448
Total funds carried forward		60,810	53,833

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



Statement of Financial Position

28 February 2022

		2023	2022
	Note	£	£
Current Assests			
Debtors	11	4,814	3,906
Cash at bank and in hand		56,259	50,190
		<u>61,073</u>	<u>54,096</u>
Net current assets		<u>61,073</u>	<u>54,096</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		61,073	54,096
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	<u>263</u>	<u>264</u>
Net assets		60,810	53,832
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		<u>60,810</u>	<u>53,833</u>
Total charity funds	13	<u>60,810</u>	<u>53,833</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 17 November 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

M A Karolia

Mr M A Karolia
Trustee



Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Freckleton Business Centre, Freckleton Street, Blackburn, BB2 2AL

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

No cash flow statement has been presented for the charity.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.



Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.



4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations				
Collection boxes, appeals and donations	<u>91,132</u>	<u>91,132</u>	<u>114,513</u>	<u>114,513</u>

5. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable donations	79,767	79,767	116,091	116,091
Support costs	<u>4,388</u>	<u>4,388</u>	<u>6,037</u>	<u>6,038</u>
	84,155	84,155	122,128	122,129

6. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable donations	79,767	233	80,000	116,091
Support costs	-	3,891	3,891	5,774
Governance costs	<u>-</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>264</u>
	79,767	4,388	84,155	122,129

7. Analysis of support costs

	Administration Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	-	857
Communications and IT	2,777	2,777	3,424
General office	236	236	65
Finance costs	1,111	1,111	1,428
	<u>4,124</u>	<u>4,124</u>	<u>5,774</u>

8. Independent examination fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	264	264
	<u>264</u>	<u>264</u>

9. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	-	857

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2022: 1).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

10. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

11. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>4,814</u>	<u>3,906</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>263</u>	<u>264</u>

13. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds	At 1 March 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 28 February 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>53,833</u>	<u>91,132</u>	<u>[84,155]</u>	<u>60,810</u>

Unrestricted funds	At 1 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 29 February 2022
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>61,448</u>	<u>114,513</u>	<u>[122,128]</u>	<u>53,833</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	61,074	61,074	54,096	54,096
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(264)</u>	<u>(264)</u>	<u>(264)</u>	<u>(264)</u>
Net assets	<u>60,810</u>	<u>60,810</u>	<u>53,832</u>	<u>53,832</u>



