

UNAUDITED

ANNUAL REPORT

29TH FEBRUARY

2024





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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 29 February 2024.

CHAIR'S REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2024 was a significant year for our work in South America, as we expanded our efforts to reach more people in need. The region faced increasing challenges, with economic hardship and climate change worsening conditions for many. We were privileged to extend our support into Mexico, where we provided essential food aid to families facing hunger. Our work did not stop there. We continued delivering assistance in Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, and the Amazon Forest, offering relief through food, clothing, wheelchairs, solar wells, and other vital items to vulnerable communities.

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Recognising that lasting change requires long-term commitment, we remained dedicated to helping these communities not only with immediate aid but also by fostering resilience to face future challenges. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that the people we serve receive the help they need, whether through emergency relief or by addressing ongoing poverty and inequality. This year, we touched the lives of thousands across South America, a success made possible by the generous support of our donors.

The past year has shown us that the need for humanitarian assistance is greater than ever. But with the dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners, we have risen to meet these challenges. As we continue to work across the region, we are constantly expanding our efforts to better respond to crises and help those in need. We are also improving our capacity to deliver impactful interventions that make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to provide crucial aid, and we are committed to continuing this work into 2025 and beyond. We are deeply grateful to all who have contributed to our mission, and it is through your support that we are able to make a lasting impact in South America. Together, we are creating hope and relief for countless families, and we remain committed to our vision of a better future for all.



Omar Hanif

Chair of the Board of Trustees
SteppingStones Charity

Reference and Administrative Details

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

The Trustees

Mr M A Karolia

Mr A Ahmed

Mr O Hanif

Independant 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 ad-hoc 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 fulfill 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 from poverty and hardship, advancement of education, provide 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 regard 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.

Achievements and Performance

Achievements

Reflecting on the achievements of the past year, our organization has made significant progress in providing relief and implementing key projects. In the face of ongoing challenges, including the lingering effects of COVID-19, we have continued to deliver vital aid in Ecuador, Brazil, Guyana, and Venezuela, while also expanding our operations into Mexico.

In response to increasing needs, food packs were distributed across Guyana, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Mexico, reaching people regardless of gender, faith, or ethnicity, particularly those living in poverty. These food packs, containing staple items such as oil, butter, rice, and sardines, were designed to support families of 2-4 people for 3-4 weeks. Key achievements include:

- **Guyana**
135 food packs were distributed to struggling families and vulnerable individuals.
- **Ecuador**
8,650 food packs were distributed throughout the year, including 1,950 during Ramadan.
- **Venezuela**
8,650 food packs were distributed throughout the year, including 1,950 during Ramadan.
- **Brazil**
In Rolandia, Jaguapita, and Palmeiras Village, 670 food packs were distributed.
- **Amazon Basin (Ecuador)**
6,700 food packs were distributed to impoverished Amazonians, with 387 of the most vulnerable receiving new clothing. We also provided wheelchairs to 14 disabled individuals.

Two new projects were initiated in the Amazon Forest, where we distributed fish to 1,380 people. Additionally, 2,600 bedsheets were donated to Hospital Homero in Castanier Crespo. In Brazil, 46 blankets were distributed to the homeless in Vila Arcaño – Valo Velho during the colder months.

In 2024, we surpassed many of our goals and expanded our impact. Looking ahead, we are optimistic that, with continued support, we can build on this progress and further extend our assistance to those in need, making a lasting difference in vulnerable communities.



Sadaqatul-Fitr Project

This project, supported by donations from those who meet the Nisaab requirement, was implemented to assist less fortunate individuals during Eid. Beneficiaries included 20 people in Guyana, 35 in Brazil, 30 in Ecuador, and 25 in Mexico, for a total of 110 individuals helped.

Qurbani Project

Our annual Qurbani initiative took place in the impoverished regions of West Bengal, India, where meat was distributed to 2,465 underprivileged families. This project ensured that families who rarely have access to meat were able to enjoy it during Eid.

Acknowledgements

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 the 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 26 November 2024 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 SteppingStonesCharity [the charity] for the year ended 29 February 2024.

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 Commision under section 145[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 ay 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 the accounts set out in the Charities [Accounts and Reports] Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independant 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

Independant Examiner

Suite 28 Blackburn Enterprise Centre

Furthergate, Blackburn, Lancashire

BB1 3HQ

26 November 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and Legacies	4	70,653	70,653	91,132
Total Income		70,653	70,653	91,132
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	5,6	[78,254]	[78,254]	[84,155]
Total Expenditure		[78,254]	[78,254]	[84,155]
Net Income and Net Movement in Funds		[7,601]	[7,601]	6,977
Reconciliation in Funds				
Total Funds Brought Forward		60,810	60,810	53,833
Total Funds Carried Forward		53,209	53,209	60,810

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

29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	197	4,814
Cash at Bank and in Hand		52,312	56,259
		<hr/> 53,509	<hr/> 61,073
Net Current Assets		<hr/> 53,509	<hr/> 61,073
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		53,509	61,073
 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year	 12	 300	 263
Net Assets		<hr/> 53,209	<hr/> 60,810
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		53,209	60,810
Total Charity Funds	13	<hr/> 53,209	<hr/> 60,810

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 26 November 2024, 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 102j (Charities SORP (FRS 102jj 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.

Growing 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, noncharitable 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 £ 2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2023
Donations				
Collection Boxes, Appeals and Donations	70,653	70,653	91,132	91,132

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2023
Charitable Donations	66,653	66,653	79,767	79,767
Support Costs	11,601	11,601	4,388	4,388
	78,254	78,254	84,155	84,155

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Charity Type

	Activities Undertaken Directly £	Support Costs £	Total Funds £ 2024	Total Funds £ 2023
Charitable Donations	66,653	-	66,653	79,767
Support Costs	-	11,301	11,302	4,124
Governance Costs	-	300	300	264
	66,653	11,601	78,255	84,155

7. Analysis of Support Costs

	Administration Support Costs £	£	Total 2024	£	Total 2023
Premises	360		360		-
Communication and IT	5,731		5,731		2,777
General Office	125		125		236
Finance Costs	847		847		1,111
Travelling Expenses	4,230		4,230		-
Sundry Expenses	8		8		-
	<u>11,301</u>		<u>11,301</u>		<u>4,124</u>

8. Independent Examination Fees

	£	2024	£	2023
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements		<u>300</u>		<u>264</u>

9. Staff Costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2023: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: 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

	£	2024	£	2023
Other Debtors		197		4,814

12. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year

	£	2024	£	2023
Accruals and Deferred Income		300		263

13. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds

	At 1 March 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 29 February £ 2024
General Funds	60,810	70,653	[78,254]	53,209

	At 1 March 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 28 February £ 2023
General Funds	53,833	91,132	[84,155]	60,810

14. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £ 2023
Current Assets	53,509	53,509	61,074	61,074
Creditors Less Than 1 Year	[300]	[300]	[264]	[264]
Net Assets	53,209	53,209	60,810	60,810



IMAGINE STRUGGLING TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR FAMILY DAY AFTER DAY. IMAGINE HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A MEAL AND MEDICINE FOR YOUR CHILD. IMAGINE WALKING HOURS JUST TO FIND A JOB THAT PAYS ENOUGH TO SURVIVE. IMAGINE WORKING ALL DAY AND STILL GOING TO BED HUNGRY. IMAGINE BEING ONE OF 700 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD LIVING IN POVERTY. WHAT IF TOGETHER WE COULD CHANGE THAT?

