

The Trust for Child Soldiers Annual Report April 2023 to March 2024

Charity Commission Number 1144484

Objectives:

- (i) To relieve the sick and promote good health in particular but not exclusively by promoting the psychosocial wellbeing and social inclusion of children and youth experiencing psychological distress as a result of armed conflict in Africa.
- (ii) To relieve poverty and distress amongst children and youth affected by armed conflict in Africa, generally and individually, by provision of grants, items, services or facilities to those in need.
- (iii) To undertake research and publish the useful results on issues affecting the psychological welfare and security of children and youth affected by conflict in Africa and the rest of the world, in order to advance public education.

The Trust has pursued objectives (i) and (ii) in the financial year.

Activities and public benefits

The Trust has carried out its work in the vicinity of the city of Gulu, northern Uganda, and has made grants benefitting 163 households to the value of £16,957 during the financial year and provided medical assistance to 211 individuals to the value of £4,700, as well as 965 individual consultations for our beneficiaries at St Philips Health Centre, to the value of £3,114. In addition, many hours of volunteer input have been directed at assisting beneficiaries in a number of ways. 94% of our expenditure was in the form of direct grants to beneficiaries.

Report on Activities

Throughout the year, the Trust has held twice-weekly clinics, when people can drop in to request assistance. Timings of clinics were selected to coincide with when a doctor is on duty at St Philips Health Centre should people come with complex medical issues. When the Trust is in a financial position to make substantial grants to new beneficiaries, typically of the order of £100-£200, the team does due diligence regarding requests through home visits to establish the facts about the need and circumstances of the individual/family concerned. The team will then make a decision. Where the request is for costly medical treatment, including transfers to medical facilities in other parts of the country, we will usually send the person concerned to St Philips Health Centre for a second opinion, and to establish the viability of the proposed treatment.

General grants

In the course of the year, we have supported a total of 67 individuals with education costs 37 girls and 30 boys. 28 are children to whom we have made an on-going commitment to cover their school

fees and other requirements, while the others we have supported with one off or top-up payments to cover shortfalls. Education was our largest expenditure item at £10,199.

We have supported the livelihoods of 47 individuals, 41 women and six men, with grants totalling £2,466. We have also helped 36 women and nine men with small grants for an assortment of reasons including things such as help with funeral expenses, help with legal issues, visiting relatives in prison, roof repair and wheelchair repair. These other grants totalled £637. We helped 32 women and two men and their children to relocate, usually to stay with relatives in rural communities where they would receive more support, at a cost of £574.

In addition, we made emergency/subsistence grants totalling £3,529 to 66 women and 14 men. Usually these represented cases of single-parent families struggling to cover food or accommodation costs. Most were one-off payments but for six families we provided monthly assistance of, in most cases, about £22, to assist with food costs.

This range of contributions reflect our commitment to a model of direct giving, where we make grants based on the specific, self-identified needs of households.

Medical grants

We gave a total of £4,700 in medical grants to 211 individuals for a wide range of conditions and procedures, including sickle cell disease, cancer treatments and operations, broken limbs, obstetric problems, snake bites and more.

In addition, we have given 965 vouchers for consultations at St Philips Health Centre to a value of £3,114. We try to ensure that these are given to people who would not otherwise be able to afford to access healthcare. Our current system does not record the number of individuals helped as there will be some overlaps with the above 211, and some have had multiple consultations.

Registered Office

The Trust's registered office during the year was Garden Flat, 6 Old Devonshire Road, London SW12 9RB.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust's governing document is the trust deed of 27th October 2011.

The Trust is governed by the trustees. New trustees are invited to join on the basis of expressed interest and relevant skills following a vote of the existing trustees.

A minimum of two trustee meetings take place each year.

During the year one new trustee, Dr Sophie Mylan, was appointed. Diana Birkett continued as Chair.

Trustees who served during the year were:

1. Diana Birkett (Chair)
2. Julian Hopwood
3. Eliana Lafone
4. Sophie Mylan (appointed 13/01/2024)
5. Charles Ogeno
6. Anna Phillips
7. Helen Saunders
8. Kim Silburn

Administration

Joseph Okello has continued to make a major contribution to the Trust's work as our administrator and bookkeeper and is also heavily involved in our work supporting beneficiaries.

Volunteers

Volunteers Jackie Aciro, Jacky Atingo and Dick Kinyera have worked extensively through the year in many capacities and made important contributions to the support of particular beneficiaries.

Financial review: financial position, relevant policies adopted and concerns or risks

Income for the year was £27,722, and expenditure was £26,255. Income increased by 17% and expenditure increased by 10% on 2022-23. Reserves at the years end stand at £2,917, double the figure of £1,450 in 2022-23. Monthly standing orders in March 2023 totalled £758.

Restricted funds

The Trust has two restricted funds:

Medical Fund

One donor stipulates that her donations should be used for medical purposes. Medical expenditure so far has substantially exceeded these donations, resulting in no balance of funds.

Education Fund, formerly Children Born of War Education Fund

In 2022 nearly £2,000 was donated for the education of a group of young people born in LRA captivity, established as the Children Born of War Education Fund. This was largely spent down in 2021-22 and 2022-23, such that on 1st April 2023 there was only £88 left in the Fund, and only one donation of £51 in was made 2023-24.

In February 2024 we received a donation of £5,000 from the social enterprise Giveclarity, which stipulated that it should be spent on broad educational purposes, including both actual school fees and on-costs as well as support of families to help them educate their own children. We merged this with the original CBW Education Fund, identifying 12 families from our existing beneficiaries who qualified for this Fund, as well as the two remaining beneficiaries of the original CBW Education Fund. We have included 4th Quarter expenditure on the 12 families and two individuals in the Fund's outgoings, totalling £2,503.

Gift Aid

We were able to claim a total of £3,141 in Gift Aid for donations made in 2022-23 and are able to claim £3,583 for donations made in 2023-24 in the next financial year.

Risk

The Trust's financial position has continued to strengthen and our work to expand. This is the first year our income has exceeded £25,000, meaning we have reached the level at which Charity Commission regulations require our accounts to be examined by an independent person. 39% of our income was in the form of predictable standing-order donations, 50% were one-off donations, and 11% Gift Aid reimbursements from the previous year. This leaves us in the position of needing to continue to actively fundraise in order to maintain our level of operation and in particular we need to increase our predictable income to ensure we can cover our school fees commitments and likely health spending.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana Birkett', written in a cursive style.

Diana Birkett, Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of The Trust for Child Soldiers Charity no 1144484

On accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 as set out on page 6

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 2024.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

19th December 2024

Name: Malcolm Forbes

Address:

60 Beechdale Road
London
SW2 2BE

Statement of Financial Activities¹

Receipts and Payments

for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Apr 2023 - Mar 2024	Total Apr 2022 - Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
<i>Activities to further the charity's objects</i>				
Donations and legacies	19,214	5,367	24,581	20,268
Gift Aid	3,141	-	3,141	3,471
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	22,355	5,367	27,722	23,739
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
<i>Charitable expenditure</i>				
Grants disbursed to 161 households to relieve poverty	14,451	2,506	16,957	16,471
Medical assistance to 211 individuals	4,386	314	4,700	3,355
Medical assistance through 965 clinic consultations	3,114	-	3,114	2,993
Activity costs	1,395	-	1,395	878
Management and administration	89	-	89	72
Total resources expended	23,435	2,820	26,255	23,769
FUND BALANCES AT 1 April 2023	1,362	88	1,450	1,480
FUND BALANCES AT 31 March 2024	282	2,635	2,917	1,450

Statement of assets and liabilities on 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds
Cash in hand	237	-	-
Funds in bank	45	2,635	-
Total cash funds	282	2,635	-
Other monetary assets	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-
Liabilities	-	-	-

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Diana Birkett, Chair

¹ These have been drawn up according to the Charity Commission Standard of Recommended Practice (SORP) for small charities.