



Trustees' Annual Report 2024

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Fly The Phoenix

Registered Charity #1148531 in England and Wales

for

The Phoenix Projects

www.thephoenixprojects.org

Submitted by the Trustees

On 9th May 2025

Registered Address	Registered Bank	Registered Bank	Trustees
Wayside House	HSBC	Santander	Moli Griffin
7 Nethergate Street	9 High Street	Bootle	Sharon Hodgkins
Clare	Bracknell	Merseyside	Sean Risdale
Suffolk	Berkshire	L30 4GB	Dom Williams
CO10 8NP	RG12 1DN	United Kingdom	Doreen Williams
United Kingdom	United Kingdom		



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1.0 Executive Summary

The Phoenix Projects are a non-profit-making organisation that believes education, daily food and employment opportunities are basic human rights for those who live in extreme poverty. Since 2002 we have promoted these rights in several Latin American countries by starting new schools, supporting others and implementing small businesses within the communities to benefit the local families. We currently work in Ecuador, Guatemala and Perú.

During the financial period between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024, £81,661 (£97,466 – 2023) was raised and received through our charity Fly The Phoenix. £82,190 (£95,654 – 2023) was spent on the operating costs of The Phoenix Projects including local teachers' salaries, food and fruit, educational materials, construction and implementation of sustainable income-generating plans which should benefit many local families in the future.



2.0 The Phoenix Projects in Latin America

Fly The Phoenix is the registered UK charity for The Phoenix Projects who currently work in Ecuador, Guatemala and Perú promoting full education and employment in various communities. We have previously worked in Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua.

We aim to offer daily sustainable education to hundreds of children, teenagers and adults each year in primary, secondary, college and university by providing local teachers, scholarships and implementing small family businesses from which all the children and teenagers can continue their further education.

Local employment opportunities are created by investing in sustainable income-generating community initiatives which will help pay for the schools in the future and provide for the families' household costs.

3.0 Message from the Trustees

It has been a successful year on the projects in spite of the mounting pressures on the charitable sector worldwide from the ongoing cost of living crisis. Despite donations falling by 20% over the past two years we remain committed to full education in marginalised communities in Latin America and have seen more children enter and remain in the classroom and graduate. We had anticipated the declines and foresee further drops in donations in 2025 although with current plans in place and tightened budgets across the board the projects shouldn't be impacted too much.

The importance of the sustainable income plans we have been implementing for the past several years is ever more apparent with this negative trend and we will continue to invest in these plans over the coming years offering the communities a more certain future.

Charity Challenges remain very important fundraisers with last year's successful Patagonia Challenge and the 20th Anniversary Challenges in Ecuador this year and Perú in 2026. Coupled with the Impington School trip to Perú and the annual Appeal, these crowdfunding events generate much needed income for the projects and potential new donors for the future.

Thank you so much to all our donors for continuing to support our work in Latin America. We would not have been able to achieve what we have done without your generous support.

We, as the Board of Trustees, have approved this report and it has been signed by Dominic Williams on our behalf on 9th May 2025.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dominic Williams", with a small flourish at the end.

Dominic Williams, Founder and Trustee



4.0 Sustainable Income Plans

At present the projects are reliant on donations, fundraising and sustainable income plans. Depending on funding we hope to invest over £50,000 (\$60,000) in sustainable family income-generating plans in the communities over the next few years which will ultimately make all the projects self-sustainable financially whilst creating employment opportunities.

The plans range from a variety of small businesses depending on the available experience in the community. We also invest in training sessions if needed. They are generally agricultural-based though we have implemented weaving and internet businesses in the past.

So far over 375 families have benefitted from our sustainable income plans meaning their children's secondary school, college and university costs can be covered in the future. We plan to increase this number substantially over the coming years.

Once our current projects are 100% sustainable we will identify further communities in need of education and implement sustainable income plans to cover these costs in the future.



Plan Huerto - irrigated school vegetable garden in the desert in Perú



5.0 Ecuador

In 2005 The Phoenix Projects began working in three local Kichwa-speaking indigenous schools in the communities of Huayrapungo, Muenala and Urcusiqui. In 2007 we started work in Larcacunga. All above 3000m (10,000 feet) in the Andes mountains each school had one or two teachers working across all 7 grades and little access to educational resources. Following a government overhaul of the education system in 2014, rural schools were centralized and we concentrated on the school in Urcusiqui which also received students from Muenala, Huayrapungo and Achupallas.



Rural communities in Ecuador

Since we started our financial support for local University students studying teaching in 2016 in exchange for them working in the school to ensure one teacher per class we have helped seven students with their long-term educational costs. Dozens of younger students have benefitted from them being in the classroom over the years receiving a dedicated education.

As well as providing local teachers, daily food and fruit, educational materials and internet in the school we have built energy-efficient stoves and started various sustainable income plans with families in the communities which help cover further education costs.

Almost eight hundred children have had the opportunity to receive primary, secondary and University education since we started work in 2005 both in the schools and helped by income generated from the family sustainable plans.



Classroom materials for science classes

During 2024 six local Phoenix teachers provided classes to over seventy students and we continued to pay for monthly internet, gas, supplies to enhance the daily food programme, cleaning products for the toilets and educational classroom materials as well as a new printer for the school. The number of Phoenix-funded teachers decreased for the new school year in August as they concluded their university studies we were helping them with and were now in the position to find work elsewhere and the government added further graduate teachers as part of their training.

Various traditional events were celebrated throughout the year including Mother's Day, Day of the Child, Fanesca at Easter and Day of the Dead, as well as Pawkar Raymi and Muchuk Nina giving thanks to Pachamama (Mother Earth) for the flowering of crops and the upcoming harvests of grains.



Traditional dance

Construction and maintenance was undertaken during the year with the house for the new family in the community being finished. Materials and paint were purchased to build a wall to protect the school and paint all the classrooms. Due to deterioration of the classrooms anti-fungal paint and cement was bought to fill in cracks as well as wiring for electricity installation in the rooms which previously did not have the capability.

Our work was expanded to two new communities during the year. Azabí is a forgotten tiny hamlet of about thirty families in the cloud forest which is only reachable by dirt track. Essential food supplies for the elderly and disabled members of the community were delivered and a large-scale arable sustainable plan was started by planting beans on a 2½ acre (1 hectare) piece of land. Another large-scale sustainable plan was introduced in a community near Otavalo. These aim to provide part-time income for several members of the communities as well as income for the management of Plan Moo as the herd continues to grow.

A new school vegetable garden was started and more cows were purchased as part of Plan Moo which aims to cover teachers' salaries sustainably in the future.



Community members in Azabí

5.1 Ecuador costs 2024

	2024	2023
Total costs	-£27,635	-£39,886
Local teachers	-£19,313	-£28,100
Sustainable Plans	-£2,475	-£6,050
Food and celebrations	-£2,463	-£2,850
Construction	-£1,768	-£1,075
Materials and internet	-£1,617	-£1,811



5.2 Ecuador forecast costs 2025

For the next financial year we forecast that the basic running costs for Ecuador will be £23,000 excluding investment in sustainable plans.

The number of local Phoenix teachers will remain at three from the six we started with in 2024. The children's education will not be affected as graduate teachers now come to the school for training to ensure a presence in each class. Funding for the internet and essential classroom materials each month including some food as well as cultural celebrations will continue.

Investment will be made in various sustainable plans as we strive to cover some of the project's core costs in-country so we can help out with more one-off critical projects in the current communities and also help others.

The volcano charity challenge will take place in May/June to celebrate twenty years working in the communities in Ecuador.

	2025	2024
Total costs	-£23,000	-£27,635
Local teachers	-£19,300	-£19,313
Food and celebrations	-£2,500	-£2,463
Materials and internet	-£1,200	-£1,617
Sustainable Plans	-£tba	-£2,475
Construction	-£tba	-£1,768

5.3 Ecuador sustainable plans

The following is a timeline of the various sustainable plans we have introduced:

Plan Moo (cows) – Introduced in 2008 with families receiving a cow and the income derived from milk sales and subsequent calves' milk helping to cover our local teachers' salaries and further education costs of their children. Purchases were continued in 2024 and more are planned for 2025.



Plan Cuy (guinea pigs) – This was introduced in 2011 with the building of cuy houses and the rearing of guinea pigs for sale. The income helps with further education costs. Further investment in Plan Cuy will be made in 2025.

Plan Ironwoman – This community initiative was started in 2012 with the aim of providing sustainable iron-rich crops for pregnant mothers to fight infant malnutrition. Investment was made in materials, tools and seeds.

Plan Huerto (vegetable gardens) - Started in 2013 with the aim to provide regular food for school meals and the community. Larger scale harvests were trialled with potatoes in 2014 and beans in 2024. Further expansion will be undertaken in 2025.

Plan Pollo (chickens) - Introduced in Muenala in 2015 with the sales of eggs being shared between the families for further education costs. The old classrooms were used after the centralization of the schools.

Plan Chanco (pigs) - Introduced in 2021 by purchasing young pigs to fatten up and sell after six months with profits going to the families.



Plan Huerto red bean harvest in Azabí in 2024



6.0 Guatemala

The Phoenix Projects began in Kaqchikel-speaking communities at 1,600m (5,000 feet) in Chimaltenango and Sacatepéquez in 2002. Since then we have built schools for children to receive primary education, invested heavily in sustainable income plans, provided daily food and fruit as well as educational materials. We have also constructed energy efficient stoves to help reduce in-house air pollution, provided materials to rebuild homes and food supplies after natural disasters including Hurricanes Stan and Agatha, donated fertilizer for family crops, provided food and fruit-trees to the elderly population, reforested tens of thousands of trees and awarded hundreds of scholarships for further education.

Now that primary school is freely available through the state system we have concentrated on secondary school, college and university education since 2019 with particular attention to students with serious underlying health issues and those living in severe poverty around Lake Atitlán.

Since we started in 2002 over three thousand children and teenagers have had the opportunity to receive an education either in our schools, with the scholarships we provide or from the income generated from the sustainable plans we have implemented over the past several years.



Equality in the classroom



During 2024 one hundred secondary school and college students received scholarships in schools around Lake Atitlán. We also provided educational materials to one hundred primary school students. The government provides the basics at the start of the school year though very often these run out quickly and the poorest families cannot purchase replacements leading to the children leaving education. One local Phoenix teacher also helps in the schools when he can, as well as managing the projects.



Educational utensils for primary school students

As part of the scholarship programme the students and their parents get together several times a year to clean the lake's shore. Hundreds of trees are also planted and maintained in the communities where the scholarship students live to offset the carbon footprint from The Phoenix Projects which includes international flights for the charity challenges and the Impington School trip to Perú as well as daily transport taken by the local teachers.

Work began on building a new centre for Plan Costura (sewing business) with tonnes of rock being moved and cut by hand to prepare the area and build the supporting back wall against landslides and earthquakes.



Reforestation for their future

6.1 Guatemala costs 2024

	2024	2023
Total costs	-£24,986	-£11,384
Education & scholarships	-£13,847	-£10,967
Sustainable income plans	-£11,139	-£417



6.2 Guatemala forecast costs 2025

For the next financial year we forecast that the basic running costs for Guatemala will be £14,000 excluding further investment in sustainable plans (apart from reforestation).

The scholarship programme for one hundred secondary and college students from several communities will continue as well as school materials being purchased for three hundred primary school students.

Our local teacher will continue to work in the communities, offering help with homework and advice as well as managing the sustainable plans.

The sustainable plans will be expanded including Plan Costura (sewing business) in two communities to help single mothers and University students cover extra costs of their education. Plan Huerto (school vegetable gardens) will provide food in the schools and plan reforestation aims to offset the carbon footprint of The Phoenix Projects.

	2025	2024
Total costs	-£14,000	-£24,986
Education & scholarships	-£13,000	-£13,847
Sustainable income plans	-£1,000	-£11,139

6.3 Guatemala Sustainable Plans

The following is a timeline of the various sustainable plans we have introduced:

Plan Reforestation - Started in 2002 working with a women's group in Chimaltenango funding a tree nursery producing and planting on average 25,000 trees a year. The plan was handed over to the women as they found their own clients in 2018. This plan, as well as community litter clearing, was reintroduced in 2021 at Lake Atitlán.

Plan Huerto (vegetable gardens) - The investment in seeds, fertilizers, fencing and tools for small family gardens and on a larger scale with tomatoes and green beans in 2012.

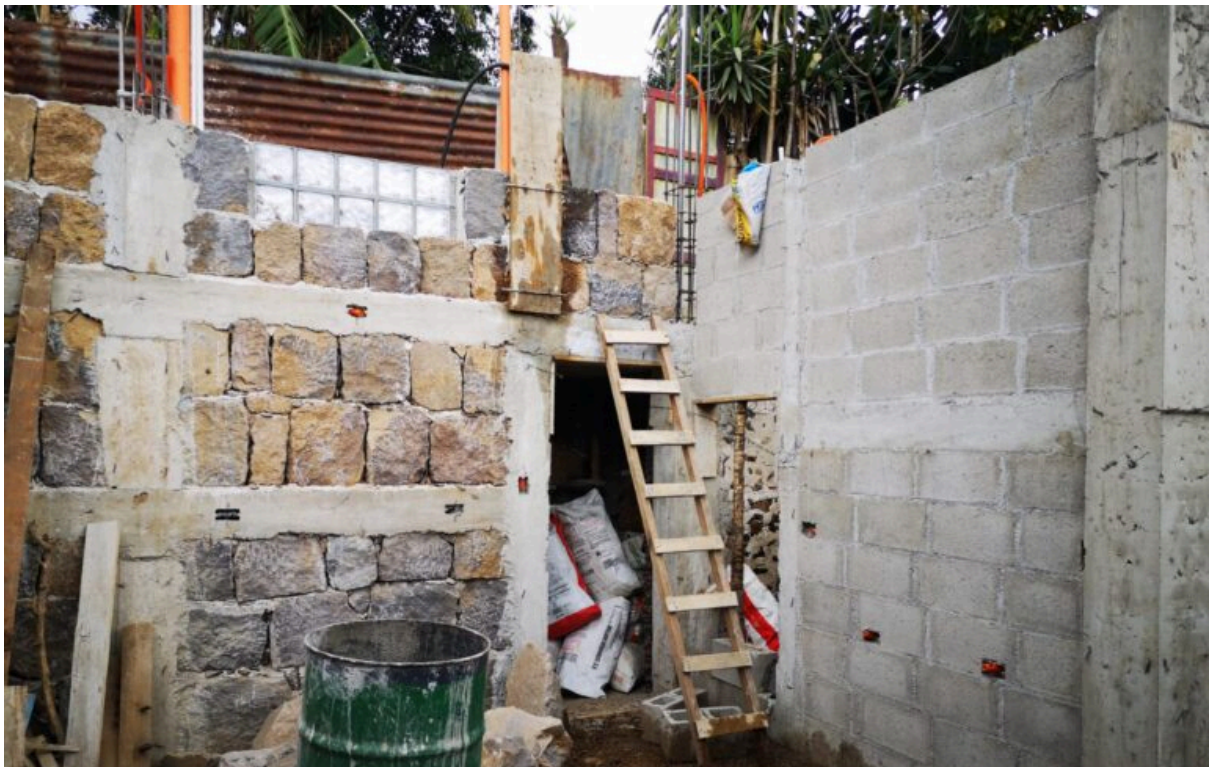
Plan Moo - The purchase of cows between 2013 and 2017 with the income from milk staying with the families to help with further education costs.



Plan Negocio (business) - The purchase of machines in 2013 that grind basic maize into the dough needed to make tortillas. The machines were handed over to the families.

Plan Costura - The purchase of large weaving looms for "cortes" (the indigenous traditional dresses) and investing in training for the women in 2015. This plan was increased in 2019 at Lake Atitlán with the purchase of sewing machines and a new centre was constructed in 2024/5.

Plan Pollo (chickens) - Started in 2015 with the investment in infrastructure including pens, feed and chickens with the income from the sales of meat and eggs (after costs for reinvestment) staying with the families to help with further education costs. The plans were handed over to the families in 2017.



Construction begins on the Plan Costura centre

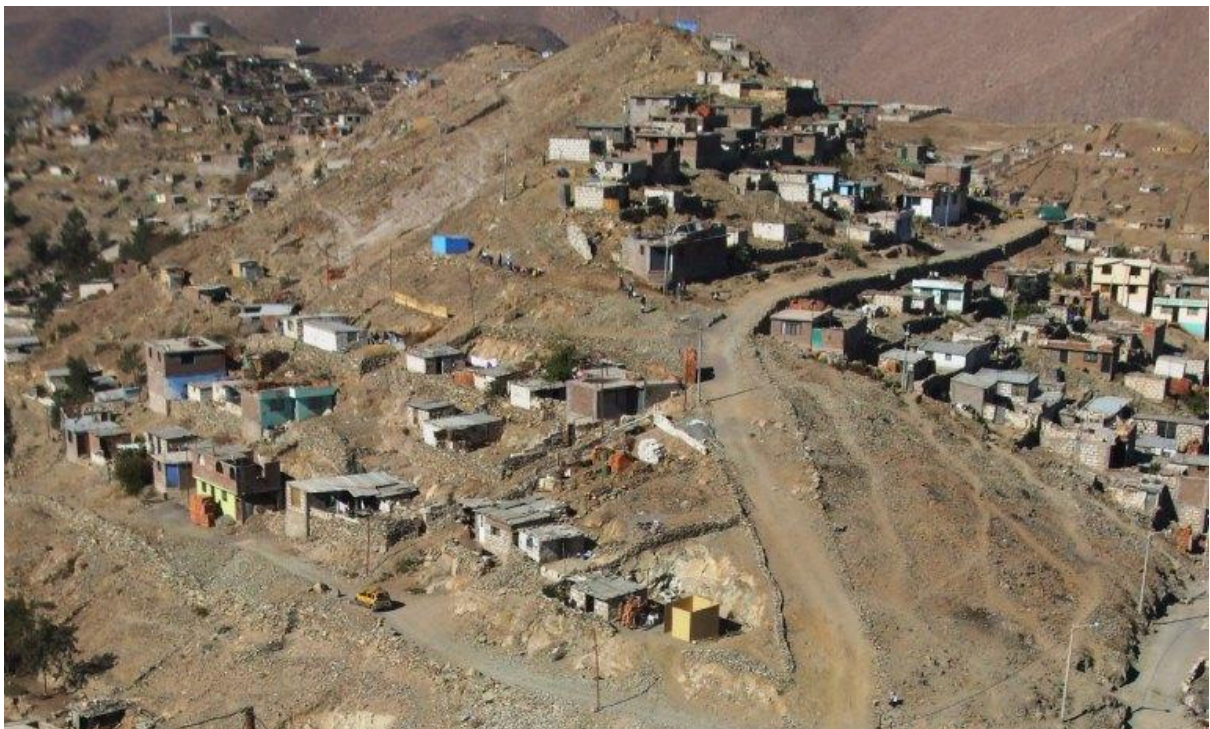


7.0 Perú

The Phoenix Projects began work in Perú in both kindergarten and primary schools in the Quechua and Aymara-speaking desert communities of Triunfo and Maldonado in Sachaca on the outskirts of Arequipa at 2,400m (7,800 feet) in 2006 and later in Chiguata, Chivay and Machahuaya. For many years we employed local teachers and cooks so the children could have one hot meal a day as well as fresh fruit.

We have built extra classrooms, energy-efficient stoves and kitchens in the schools, awarded materials scholarships for further education and communal water tanks due to the scarcity of water. In 2013 the government became more proactive with food programmes and teachers so our work is now concentrated in Maldonado.

Since we started work in 2006 almost nine hundred children have had the opportunity to receive a primary education and move on to further education.



Sachaca

During 2024 our local Phoenix teacher helped provide education for almost fifty students who were given their own workbooks for language comprehension and grammar (Spanish) and maths so they can follow lessons and work individually when the government teachers take another class.



Daily fresh fruit was provided for the children to supplement their diet as well as gas to cook the government-provided food programme. We have seen positive results with their annual government-sponsored medical check-ups which the doctors confirm is due to the daily fruit and the vegetables from the school garden.



Individual text and workbooks

Water filtration systems were installed in the school so the children have access to drinking water all the time. The water in the community, which is only available for a couple of hours in the early morning each day when we fill the storage tanks, isn't drinkable.

Twenty-eight students and three teachers from Impington International College, Cambridge, United Kingdom, undertook their annual trip in July. Thanks to their fundraising the final terrace of the vegetable garden was cleared of rocks and levelled out and drip-irrigation was installed and vegetable seedlings were planted, including onion, beetroot, lettuce and cabbage.

A brick oven was built for baking bread and other food and the temporary large stone steps between the main school and the classroom which was built on the first Impington trip were replaced with a permanent staircase. A large mural was painted to celebrate the relationship with the school and Impington International College.



Brick oven

Various traditional events were celebrated throughout the year including Mother's Day, Day of the Child and the Anniversary of the school. The annual trip to the coast with the children and some mothers to celebrate the end of the school year was also undertaken. They live in high-altitude desert all year round with little water and certainly not enough to immerse themselves so the day is a welcome respite, especially for those who have never seen, or been in, the sea before.



Cultural celebrations



7.1 Perú running costs 2024

	2024	2023
Total costs	-£14,558	-£30,723
Local teachers	-£9,220	-£10,864
Construction	-£2,525	-£3,420
Celebrations & food	-£1,912	-£3,537
Sustainable Plans	-£475	-£2,280
Classroom materials	-£426	-£2,364
Charity Challenge costs	-£n/a	-£8,258

7.2 Perú forecast costs 2025

For the next financial year we forecast that the basic running costs for Perú will be £10,000 excluding investment in sustainable plans and construction.

Our local teacher will continue as well as the supply of individual textbooks for the children and daily fruit and gas for the meals the government sends the products for each month. Cultural celebrations during the year including the end of year trip to the beach will also be funded.

Vegetables from the Plan Huerta (vegetable garden) and the new brick oven will enhance the daily diet of the children with extra produce being shared with the families in their homes.

The Impington International College school trip is scheduled for October when they will continue their work on construction projects in the school and one-on-one teaching. Plans are ongoing for the Colca Canyon Charity Challenge to be held in 2026 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary working in Perú.

	2025	2024
Total costs	-£10,000	-£14,558
Local teachers	-£7,700	-£9,220
Celebrations & food	-£1,900	-£1,912
Classroom materials	-£400	-£426
Construction	-£tba	-£2,525
Sustainable Plans	-£tba	-£475

7.3 Perú sustainable plans

The following is a timeline of the various sustainable plans we have introduced:

Plan Huerto (vegetable gardens) - Started in 2022 with the aim to provide regular food for school meals and the community. It uses drip-irrigation and hydroponic systems due to limited water supply.



The students learning about drip irrigation and types of harvests



8.0 The Phoenix Projects Management costs 2024

	2024	2023
Total costs	-£8,500	-£8,500
Management costs	-£7,500	-£7,500
Transport costs	-£1,000	-£1,000

8.1 The Phoenix Projects Management costs 2025

	2025	2024
Total costs	-£8,500	-£8,500
Management costs	-£7,500	-£7,500
Transport costs	-£1,000	-£1,000

9.0 Fly The Phoenix costs 2024

Fly The Phoenix is run voluntarily by founders Dom and Doreen Williams.

	2024	2023
Total costs	-£6,511	£5,161
Patagonia Charity Challenge	-£4,000	-£2,650
Communications and media	-£1,750	-£1,750
Bank transfer charges	-£761	-£761

9.1 Fly The Phoenix costs 2025

Fly The Phoenix will continue to be run voluntarily by founders Dom and Doreen Williams.

	2025	2024
Total costs	-£2,500	-£6,511
Communications and media	-£1,750	-£1,750
Bank transfer charges	-£750	-£761
Charity Challenge	-£tba	-£4,000



The objective of Fly The Phoenix



10.0 Financial Statement

From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
Opening Balance	£13,663.00	£11,851.00
Restricted funds	£75,146.00	£93,145.00
Unrestricted funds	£6,515.00	£4,321.00
Total funds received¹	£81,661.00	£97,466.00
Total expenditure	-£82,190.00	-£95,654.00
Ecuador	-£27,635.00	-£39,886.00
Guatemala	-£24,986.00	-£11,384.00
Perú	-£14,558.00	-£30,723.00
Project Management	-£8,500.00	-£8,500.00
Charity Challenge	-£4,000.00	-£2,650.00
Communications and media	-£1,750.00	-£1,750.00
International Bank Charges	-£761.00	-£761.00
Assets	£0.00	£0.00
Liabilities	-£0.00	-£0.00
Net Balance	£13,134.00	£13,663.00


¹Includes Gift Aid

We, as the Board of Trustees, approved this financial statement on 9th May 2025 and it has been signed by Dominic Williams on our behalf.

Dominic Williams

Trustee

11.0 Independent Examiner's Report



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A
Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

On accounts for the year ended

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement

Charity Name

FLY THE PHOENIX

311224

Charity no (if any)

1148531

1
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~):

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed L J Smith

Name LISA SMITH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any) B. Ed HONS

Address GARDENERS COTTAGE,
LEAPINGS LANE,
THURLSTONE
SHEFFIELD S36 9QP U.K

Date 8.5.2025

From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
Opening Balance	£13,663.00	£11,851.00
Restricted funds	£75,146.00	£93,145.00
Unrestricted funds	£6,515.00	£4,321.00
<hr/>		
Total funds received¹	£81,661.00	£97,466.00
Total expenditure	-£82,190.00	-£95,654.00
Ecuador	-£27,635.00	-£39,886.00
Guatemala	-£24,986.00	-£11,384.00
Perú	-£14,558.00	-£30,723.00
Project Management	-£8,500.00	-£8,500.00
Charity Challenge	-£4,000.00	-£2,650.00
Communications and media	-£1,750.00	-£1,750.00
International Bank Charges	-£761.00	-£761.00
Assets	£0.00	£0.00
Liabilities	-£0.00	-£0.00
Net Balance	£13,134.00	£13,663.00

¹Includes Gift Aid

We, as the Board of Trustees, approved this financial statement on 9th May 2025 and it has been signed by Dominic Williams on our behalf.



Dominic Williams

Trustee



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity Name FLY THE PHOENIX		
On accounts for the year ended	311224	Charity no (if any)	1148531
Set out on pages	1 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.		
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below):</p> <p>(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or <p>(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p><i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i></p>		
Signed	L J Smith	Date	8.5.2025
Name	LISA SMITH		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)	B. Ed HONS		
Address	GARDENERS COTTAGE, LEAPINGS LANE, THURLSTONE SHEFFIELD S36 9QP U.K		