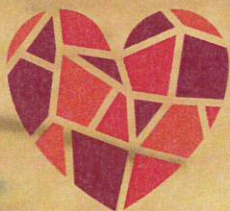


ANNUAL REPORT 2024

AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BROKEN HEARTS HELPING BREAK POVERTY



EMPATHY

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

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Empathy International

"Broken hearts helping break poverty"

Helping the rural poor through Education, Income generation and Aid

Empathy International Trustees Report 2024 & Unaudited Accounts year ended 31 December 2024

Charity name and number	Empathy International, Charity Registration number 1156970
Contact person (Name and position)	Mr Andrew Hepburn (Project field manager)
Trustees	Mrs Naomi Hepburn (PhD Agriculture) Mr Thomas Frederick Paul Doble (Engineer) Mrs Pamela Langsdon (Retail)
Email address website Instagram	projects@empathyinternational.org.uk www.empathyinternational.org.uk @empathy.poor
Telephone & WhatsApp number	UK: +44 (0) 7484734274
Project aim	Sustainable technical help and compassion for the rural poor
Address	Rosilian, Tolgus Mount, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3TA
Accounting period	1 st January – 31 st December 2024

Introduction

At *Empathy International*, we are deeply committed to reaching, resourcing, and releasing the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalised from all forms of poverty. To further this mission, we were officially granted UK registered charity status on 8th May 2014.

Our passion is promoting sustainable income-generating activities, expanding access to education, and addressing food security can significantly reduce the effects of extreme poverty and malnutrition. However, the challenge is that those living in poverty often lack more than just capital to start a small business—they also face limited access to relevant training, quality education, ongoing technical support, and, perhaps most critically, hope for a better future.

To address this bottle neck and advance this purpose of providing grass root skill in Laos, SE Asia we are so happy to have co-founded and manage projects of the Mekong Vocational Center which helps 100's of rural families from all the Provinces of Northern Laos who have often no other avenues to receive a hand up in life.

In January 2025 we were extremely honoured when Dame Marcia Twelftree DBE from the UK came to visit our vocational center. Dame Marica has deep understand and working knowledge of the importance of education having led the "outstanding" Charters School in Sunningdale, Berkshire, for 12 years, advised the UK Government on policy at the Implementation Review Unit and served as a member of the Association of School and College Leaders' council for many years and please find her feedback

"I was delighted to visit the Mekong Vocational Centre in Luang Prabang Laos in Jan 2025. As an educator with 49 years experience of running secondary schools I have always been passionate about the value of skills - based training and the need for good quality vocational education in every country. At this centre they have successfully developed an excellent sustainable model for vocational training which cannot fail to impress. Over a wide range of skills they are giving over 300 students a year opportunities which they can take back to benefit their communities. A project to be proud of." Dame Marcia Twelftree DBE (Jan 2025)

Current sustainably reducing poverty initiatives

Education Support:

- **Bamboo School Project:** Provides school uniforms, teaching materials, and school fees for rural school children, enabling continued access to education.

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security:

- **Fish & Frog Hatcheries:** Supply high-quality fish and frogs to poor rural families, improving nutrition and income.
- **Mushroom Cultivation Program:** Delivers skills, premium mushroom spores and cultivation equipment to villages.
- **Technical Farming Support:** Offers hands-on training to rural families in fish, pig, and mushroom farming and breeding.
- **Aquatic, Animal & Fungal Disease Management:** Developing and distributing village level manuals and guidance for effective disease control.
- **Rural Hydroponics:** testing and refining next step vegetable production for increased yield and reduce inputs eg fertilisers and pesticides

Women's Empowerment:

- **"Dignity" Rural Women's Skills Project:** Trains young rural women in sewing, chicken production, hairdressing, and handcrafts and each lady receives a sewing machines.

Livestock Improvement:

- **Piggy Bank Project Farm:** Enhances the breeding stock of piglets to poor families.

Affordable Farming Solutions:

- Develops and promotes low-cost options for animal feed, fertilizers, equipment.

Along with these practical life skills trainings, we also endeavour to provide relevant and practical on-going technical support and backup so that poor households can generate a sustainable income and provide food security. These initiatives not only increases income and food security but also noticeably increases self-confidence and hope.

Looking back on 2024

- Upgrading the 'Piggy Bank Project' breeding program which promotes modern pig farming methods to rural villages and while provides improved breeding stock to increase yield.
- The Dignity sewing and clothes design training was in much demand and helped almost 200 young rural women.
- Improved Aquatic Program for our 2 hatcheries providing increased survival rates/yields carp, tilapia & frogs has had a tough year as families find it hard to buy fish feed.
- Delighted to start Hydroponics with the help of a UK specialist volunteer to increase food production.
- 2024 saw mushroom farming help many families to new regions in Northern Laos farming with simple, cheap and appropriate methods for landless poor which provides a daily crop to sell.
- Adding 'understanding Solar' to the Electrical training.
- Very pleased to have started the 'understanding finance' program.
- Continued with the Improved Mushroom Program which tests new and low cost growing methods for farmers, in particular testing new sterilising methods.
- Trained new staff in the production of quality of mushroom spores (seed) for rural families.
- Training of local Trainers in income generation techniques and disease management
- Supporting youth internship in rural fish farming, mushroom farming.
- Providing a small Compassion fund to help the poor with warm clothing, food & medical costs.
- 25 international volunteers, graciously gave their time to help the work of Empathy International;
- Promoting the importance of sustainable development for the rural poor through social media

Looking forward to 2025

- Starting new training courses in carpentry and handicrafts.
- Completely new fish and frog breeding facilities and lined ponds
- Improving the Hair salon training facilities to allow more rural women to be trained.
- Welcoming UK volunteering team with essential building skills to upgrade electrics throughout centre and building a new mechanics training building.
- We are excited about new and expanding opportunities to help the rural poor which village level business in particular the Piggy Bank Project which seeks to produce and supply better yielding crossbred pigs and also provide technical and disease management advice.
- Working on starting new village tourism initiatives
- We will continue to seek out like minded partners to help as many poor people in as many suitable/sustainable ways as possible;
- We will seek to strengthen our governance and procedures but implementing the actions highlighted in our financial review so we have a strong accountable structure to carry the expanding work.

INCOME & EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS OVERVIEW



The **Piggy Bank Project** produces and provides improved high quality piglets to the rural poor along with Free animal health care through our village outreach team.

- New Improved breed stock (male Lao native black x female Landrace pink) starting to produce better piglets which is being well received by the rural poor.
- Bulk feed for farmers is progressing well so they can reduce their feeds costs.



MEKONG
VOCATIONAL CENTER

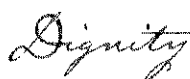
The **Mekong Vocational Center** is doing great work providing trades, skills and equipment to rural families.

- During 2024 we expanded significantly the training facilities so as to start hospitality, cooking, barista, computers, digital skills, hydroponics etc



The **LINK** men's project trains and equips rural village men with the new skills they need to make an income and to raise their social status through motorbike repairs & maintainance

- 132 rural young men and women trained in repairs and equipped with tools.



The **Dignity** women's projects trains and equips rural village women at risk of trafficking with the sewing and craft skills they need to make an income and to raise their social status so they are able to stay in their own safe communities.

- 190+ young women from minority tribes trained-equipped with sewing machines.
- 93 with Hair & Beauty Salon



The **Fish Aid** hatcheries produce and supplied approx 2 million high quality Tilapia fry (baby fish) & frogs to +100 rural poor families to grow for food and sell for income.

- Following from the success of day training sessions in our other projects, we have also organise short-term Aquaculture trainings so more villagers are more able to attend.



The **Mushroom Project** produces high quality mushroom spores and trains/equips rural poor families to help start micro mushroom farms beside their homes to supply their villages.

- 121 families have been trained and equipped to start their own mushroom farms.
- Improved mushroom production have been introduced following farmer requests.



Bamboo Schools provides essential and much needed educational supplies to rural school children e.g school uniforms, books, pens, play mats, white boards etc

- 3 rural primary schools (200 kids approx) are being partnered and supplied with educational equipment and supplies, along with new sponsorship scheme to pay school fees for rural poor children at risk of having to stop their education.

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Trustees' Report *(Continued)*

The Trustees' Report is approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Naomi Hepburn
Trustee

15 August 2025

Thomas Doble
Trustee

15 August 2025

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

I report on the accounts of Empathy International for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of Empathy International and examiner

The members of Empathy International are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by Empathy International and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Empathy International members 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

15 August 2025

Craig Chapman BSc (Hons) ACA
4 Tregarne Terrace
St Austell
Cornwall
PL25 4BE

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2.1	24,893	705	25,598	18,526
Charitable activities	2.2	-	84,520	84,520	33,270
Investments	2.3	48	-	48	23
Total		24,941	85,225	110,166	51,819
Expenditure					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	22,875	86,933	109,808	56,109
Total		22,875	86,933	109,808	56,109
Net movement in funds		2,066	(1,708)	358	(4,290)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,186	1,786	3,972	8,262
Total funds carried forward		4,252	78	4,330	3,972

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

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

(Registration number: 1156970)

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		-		706
Current assets					
Debtors	8	-		600	
Cash at bank and in hand		4,660		2,996	
		<u>4,660</u>		<u>3,596</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(330)		(330)	
Net current assets			<u>4,330</u>	<u></u>	3,266
Net assets			<u>4,330</u>		<u>3,972</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Total restricted funds			78		1,786
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income			4,252		2,186
Total charity funds			<u>4,330</u>		<u>3,972</u>

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit.

Trustees responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Naomi Hepburn
Trustee

15 August 2025

Thomas Doble
Trustee

15 August 2025

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 12.

Income

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- the charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost.

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions into foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Ongoing transactions are also translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Office equipment 33% straight line basis

2. Income

2.1 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Appeals and donations	19,127	705	19,832	17,926
Gift Aid tax reclaimed	5,766	-	5,766	600
	<u>24,893</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>25,598</u>	<u>18,526</u>

2.2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income from charitable grants	-	84,520	84,520	33,270
	<u>-</u>	<u>84,520</u>	<u>84,520</u>	<u>33,270</u>

2.3 Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Interest on cash deposits	48	-	48	23
	<u>48</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>23</u>

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 *(continued)*

3. Costs of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct Costs				
Support for Fish and frog farming	-	12,763	12,763	9,936
Support for Mushroom farms	-	968	968	9,633
Support for Motorbike projects	-	957	957	-
Support for Piggy Bank project	-	9,848	9,848	7,346
Support for Mekong VC	14,328	62,397	76,725	22,127
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Direct Costs	14,328	86,933	101,261	49,042
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 *(continued)*

4. Charitable Activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Support Costs				
Staff training	16	-	16	-
Equipment, repairs and renewals	1,448	-	1,448	956
Printing, postage and stationery	114	-	114	23
Charity project travel	5,908	-	5,908	4,800
Advertising and website	173	-	173	90
Bank charges	282	-	282	276
Exchange (gain)/loss	33	-	33	(304)
Depreciation of office equipment	539	-	539	896
Profit on disposal - office equipment	(296)	-	(296)	-
Total Support Costs	8,217	-	8,217	6,737
Governance Costs				
Independent Examination	330	-	330	330
Total Government Costs	330	-	330	330
Total Expenditure	22,875	86,933	109,808	56,109

5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no remuneration or benefits in kind during this or the prior year.

6. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditors remuneration – Independent examination	330	330
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	539	896
Profit on disposal - office equipment	(296)	-

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 *(continued)*

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 January 2024	7,002
Additions	-
Disposals	(3,123)
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2024	3,879
	<hr/>
Depreciation	
As at 1 January 2024	6,296
Charge for the year	539
Eliminated on disposal	(2,956)
	<hr/>
As at 31 December 2024	3,879
	<hr/>
Net Book Value	
As at 31 December 2024	-
	<hr/> <hr/>
As at 31 December 2023	706
	<hr/> <hr/>

8. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors – gift aid reclaim	-	600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	600
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	330	330
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	330	330
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

EMPATHY INTERNATIONAL

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 *(continued)*

10. Members' liability

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation and as such there is no members liability on winding up the charity.

11. Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees of the charitable incorporated organisation.

12. Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	As at 31 December 2024 £
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	2,186	24,941	(22,875)	4,252
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted funds				
Income generating projects	1,786	85,225	(86,933)	78
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,972	110,166	(109,808)	4,330
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Tangible assets	-	-	-	706
Current assets	4,582	78	4,660	3,596
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(330)	-	(330)	(330)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	4,252	78	4,330	3,972
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>