

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales · Charity number 1157149

Details

Other names CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION {CAM}

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [05801288](#)

Registered 2014-05-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7DA

Phone +441513456913

Email info@congomerseyside.org.uk

Website www.congomerseyside.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) TO RELIEVE POVERTY OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONG REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, MIGRANT WORKERS AND OTHER LOCAL PERSONS IN NEED LIVING IN MERSEYSIDE BY PROVIDING INFORMATION, INTERPRETING, TRANSLATING, ADVOCACY, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE SERVICES FOR EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING.2) TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF MERSEYSIDE AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION, ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS.3) SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE

Activities: ? Drop in: Information (multilingual translation, interpretation), Advice & guidance, referrals and sign posting? Education & Community development activities - employable skills workshops? Financial & Digital inclusion workshops? Events facilitation: community cohesion, events ? A range of recreational and leisure activities: Music, arts, outings and visits to local sites.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Knowsley
- Liverpool City
- Sefton
- Wigan
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£107,382	£123,544	-	-
2024-03-31	£143,320	£135,107	-	-
2023-03-31	£106,405	£95,643	-	-
2022-03-31	£42,821	£44,508	-	-
2021-03-31	£50,896	£49,108	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Charles Lemba		2014-03-10
Deborah Mbosso		2022-10-15
Eleanor Smith		2023-10-23
Rev John Baptist		2023-10-23
Vanessa Ndunguna-Ntemo		2023-10-23

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1157149

Accounts

The Congolese Association of Merseyside

Registered Charity number: 1157149
Company Limited by Guarantee: 05801288

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025



Find US

Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97, Stanley Road / Bootle Merseyside
L 20 7DA



01513456913

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Fax: 01513456913



E: Congomerseyside@yahoo.fr

Website: <http://www.congomerseyside.org.uk>



Cam Congomerseyside



@of_merseyside



CongoAssociationofMerseyside

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

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THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are listed below.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Charity number 1157149

Company Registration Number 5801288

Office Address Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

Registered Office Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

**Secretary
& Operation Manager** Petronelle K Moanda

Management Committee Rev John Baptist
Mr Charles Lemba Matondo
Miss Deborah Mbosso
Miss Vanessa Ndunguna-Ntemo
Miss Eleanor Smith

**Accountants
and Independent
Examiner** CWC Consultants (Previously) -Whitfield
Accounting & Integrated Services Ltd

Bankers **Barclays Bank plc**
Great Crosby Branch
18-22 Liverpool Road
LIVERPOOL
L23 5SF

Lloyds Bank PLC
88-94 Church Street
Liverpool
L1 3HD

The management Committee regularly review the major risks to which the charity is exposed. And the measures taken to manage these risks and to reduce their occurrence. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

The Committee members are satisfied that systems are in place to manage the risks that have been identified.

Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Policies for Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and diversity, and Reserves Policy are present, to ensure compliance with the welfare of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Criminal Records (DBS) checks are carried out for all individuals working with the children and vulnerable adults.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Aims & Objectives

1. Aims:

Our vision is to provide a welcoming hub for displaced people (asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants), who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration and support those needing help to settle, access and participate in their new community, fulfil their potential and thrive, both individually and collectively.

Our key aim is to deliver services and activities that tackle social problems around the integration and social cohesion of non-English speaker migrants who struggle to navigate the mainstream systems due to language limitations which often leads to long-term issues with accessing employment and maintaining health and wellbeing, leading to high levels of poverty and social disadvantage. We work to help individuals and the community become better connected, economically secure, healthier, stronger and more resilient. We strive to:

- create a cohesive community;
- make a lasting difference to beneficiaries' lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems;
- reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination;
- encourage or enable them to share in the life of the whole community

we want to see a growing sense of humanity, within our community where people of any background can live at peace and respect for each other and make our community a better place to live and work in harmony.

2. Objectives:

"Our goal" is to help more members of the community to thrive and live more fulfilled life.

During this financial year, our target was to engage with 500 individuals (350 asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants directly and 150 secondary beneficiaries), to give as many people as possible access support services, to help alleviate suffering and their hardship and develop their resilience. Because we believe that it is our social responsibility, our common endeavour to do what we can to help the community around us, during difficult times.

However, following the cost of living hike, the energy crisis, the continuous community tensions and the recent unrest have left communities grappling with fear and uncertainty, the user's poverty increased, jobs and income decreased, which lead to urgent and ongoing needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable groups.

Summary of Trends

Overall numbers:

Total beneficiaries served over the year: **2,031**.

Monthly numbers ranged from a low of 31 (May 2024) to a peak of 468 (March 2025).

Growth pattern:

The first six months (Apr–Sep 2024) had lower and fluctuating participation (31–84 beneficiaries monthly), reflecting the initial stages of engagement. From October 2024 onwards, there is a sharp and sustained increase —October saw the first large jump to 220 beneficiaries, and numbers remained consistently high thereafter.

The largest growth occurred between Feb 2025 (280) and Mar 2025 (468), showing a strong uptake towards the year-end.

Beneficiary groups:

French speakers are the largest group (733 total; Males 227, Females 504, Young 2). Lusophones follow, with notable female participation (Females 305 vs Males 120). Other residents and Locals show smaller but steady contributions, with female engagement generally higher than male. Young people participation is very low (only 5 recorded across all groups).

3. Core Services

During 19 years, we have run programmes aimed to initially help, but not exclusively non-English speaker migrants to settle, gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become empowered.

We developed a portfolio of innovative services that exploits the range of skills, quality and internal resources available to encourage, empower and enable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to build new lives and other residents who face life challenges to overcome them.

We therefore delivered holistic services and activities including:

- Advice, Guidance & Support (Interpretation/Translation)
- Education & Training – Workshops
- Advocacy and Professional Services
- Community Cohesion events that promote social connection, outings and conferences and workshops involving other stakeholders.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Aims & Objectives

3. Core services (cont'd)

The project is based at the central office that provides help and advice to our users, and IT Hub for digital connectivity, ESOL and admin. All our services are provided free to our clients.

Our objects and funding limit the services we provide to those residents in Merseyside. The number of our direct users this financial year was 909 beneficiaries. IT HUB 2,031 individuals, as a result of partnership with Hugh Baird College.

Our drop-ins service can only deal directly with 5 individual clients per day. And is based to an initial assessment of an individual's personal commitment to seeking help also by referring to statutory or/ mainstream services.

The main areas of charitable activity are the provision of multilingual information, advice, and guidance; outreach work; and the operation of an IT room as a digital training project for those in need. These activities and the achievements that flow from our work are described below:

1. Drop in: Provision of easy access multilingual information, translation, interpretation, on-call support; for individuals and families. It is based on initial assessment and tailored help soon after.

Advice, Guidance, signposting services including general administrative tasks such as completing immigration forms, application for housing/ education support, communication with mainstream services (Job Centre, CV, GP, hospital, education, Benefit checks ...etc...) including getting people to emergency protection and access to critical safety.

2. Advocacy services - We facilitate access to professionals and external agencies to clients providing translation and interpretation in languages they understand better, and responsive to their needs.

We use Professionals including Independent Advocates, Solicitors, Counsellors, Lifestyle Advisors, Wellbeing coaches, Therapists, Trauma specialists, Life coaches, Support workers, Assessors.

3. Education and lifelong learning

We have renovated a new IT Community Hub that offers Language classes (ESOL) 2 hours / 1 days per week, Digital Inclusion 2 sessions 2 hours per week- Online safety, identifying web tools e.g. comparison sites for deals on utilities, insurance, shopping, banking, socialising; and where to get advice on money issues.

The facility is also offering free access to computer, Internet, printing, scanning and cup of tea. It is run with help of University Students work placement: CAM offers them a supportive and structured environment that allows students to grow in confidence and enhance their workplace skills.

4. Outreach/Engagement:

The outreach work of the charity provides support to people who are vulnerable, isolated, and excluded from the society. This work continued to expand in the year under review. At the beginning of the year, we had set a target to reach 350 people and to make our other services available to them. We worked with key partners agencies on site or off site to promote our programmes and reach out to more people experiencing hardship - including - home visit when needed

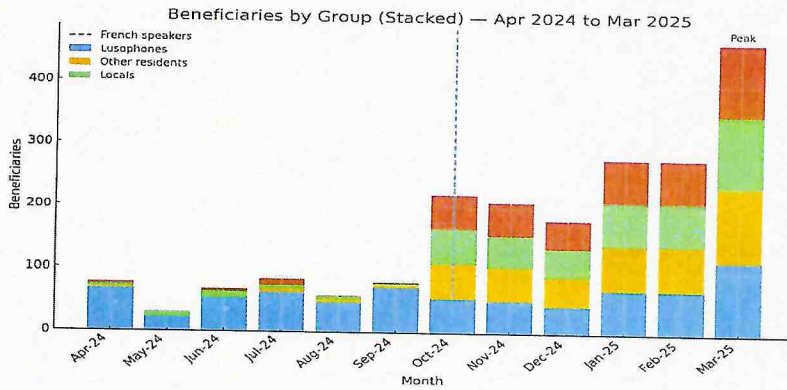
We have exceeded our target. We believe that equal access to our services is an important issue for us.

In addition to our current monitoring of access to our services by gender, age group, immigration status we produce each year a publication of our direct clients/ beneficiary ethnicity monitoring chart. We are aware from a baseline study undertaken this year, using data available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website that Black and minority ethnic communities are disproportionately represented in deprived areas of our county, and we operate equal access culture to our services, which is vital to our success and that successful outcomes must be shared by all communities that use our services.

5. Social, recreational and leisure activities: including cultural events, to enable clients get together, to connect the disconnected, provide them with opportunities to step out in the limelight, improve their confidence, self-esteem and boldness to interact with neighbours. We work with other local VS organisations to ensure that we reach out to more residents.

These recreational/ leisure activities and social cohesion events bring people together to celebrate our diverse cultures. We simply help increase people's pride in their community, and enable their fostering of a community spirit, and the building of a coalition of citizen within and around our city.

Achievements - Key Statistics 2024/2025



Impact

> Increased back office costs

- * Greater volume of cases and a high demand for services - increase in refugee homelessness due to further Home office asylum applications backlog clearances
- * Disruption to income (stretched/reduced resources) to meet the raised demand
- * Increased demand for more equipment/repairs and adaptations - to enhance digital system
 - Space renovation (Repairs & Maintenance)
 - Equipment and furniture acquisition
 - Rent and rate increase
 - Utilities bills increase
 - Staff costs increase
- * Raised utility bills and emergency interventions fees (travel-overnight accommodation-clothing-food parcels hostels for homeless) Energy vouchers, etc...

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025



Way Forward

The plan aims to provide the organisation with a balanced portfolio of income from institutions, trusts, companies and individuals which will create a platform for the long-term sustainability of our programs. And to develop income generation streams, to lessens dependency on grants, avoid the backdrop of limited resources and insecurities over funding.

We are continually looking at how we can harness the energy, strengthen collaborative relationships that we have formed throughout the last years, in order to move the organisation forward.

Next few years, we will further continue and consolidate our 4 key areas:

- > Expansion of Drop-In - Advocacy – Education/Employment
- > Raise profile of IT Hub – enhance learning activities Digital skills/English language
- > Strengthen our referral system with Key partners and Mainstream services
- > Develop our Social Enterprise program- Preparing to grow and succeed in income generation: “Community Pub - Café & Catering Service - Community Shop”
 - > Priority for te management is to register The Congolese Association of Merseyside with OISC (Office of the *as a new-look Immigration Advice Authority, or IAA next year*); to become a regulated organisation for the provision of immigration services, on own right.

The Management would like to thank once again our funders and supporters for their much appreciated and valuable support without who, the Management would not be able to continue to deliver its much needed services to the Community.

For the Congolese Association of Merseyside
Petronelle K Moanda
Compliance Manager

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
or the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report on the accounts for The Congolese Association of Merseyside for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees, members and examiner

As the charity members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(B) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

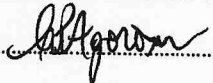
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.

.....

Date: 27/10/2025

**Cheryl P Agorom, ICPA
Independent Examiner
C W C Consultants Services**

**Business First
23 Goodlass Road
Hunts Cross
Liverpool L24 9HJ**

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income:				
Community Foundation		3,000	3,000	
Elisabeth Rathbone Grant				-
Comic Relief				1,000
Sefton CVS				10,000
National lottery		4,956	4,956	43,061
Citizen Advice		44,677	44,677	3,531
Citizen Advice		6,400	6,400	1,500
DC-UK				
Tate Gallery	1,100		1,100	
S. Joseph		1,500	1,500	
Kook Foundation				5,105
Mak Consulting				3,500
Rathbone	1,500		1,500	
Printerland	431		431	
LCVS				1,630
Henry Smith		26,750	26,750	39,200
Lloyds Bank	2,500		2,500	25,000
Members' contribution				4,641
Other income:	14,568		14,568	5,152
Total incoming resources	20,099	87,283	107,382	143,320
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	(121,825)		(121,825)	(133,122)
Governance costs	(300)		(300)	(300)
Depreciation	(1,419)		(1,419)	(1,685)
Total resources expended	(123,544)		(123,544)	(135,107)
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers				
Gross transfers between funds				
	(16,162)	-	-16,162	8,213
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	22,706		22,706	14,493
Brought forward				
Total funds carried forward	6,544	-	6,544	22,706

Approved by the trustees on 30/10/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

C. Lemba
Charles Matondo Lemba
Trustee

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on Page 1 of the trustees report.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

C Lemba
Charles Matondo Lemba
Trustee

Date:30/10/2025.....

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	2		<u>8,039</u>		<u>9,458</u>
			8,039		9,458
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,912</u>		<u>20,182</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>(6,407)</u>		<u>(6,934)</u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(1,495)		13,248
Net assets			<u>6,544</u>		<u>22,706</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds: b/fd		11,754		3,541	
Restricted funds b/fd		10,952		10,952	
Surplus/Deficit for the year		<u>-16,162</u>		<u>8,213</u>	
Total charity funds			<u>6,544</u>		<u>22,706</u>

Approved by the trustees on

C Lemba

Charles Matondo Lemba

Trustee

... and signed on their behalf by:

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Registered charity number : 1157149

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	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
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Current assets					
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Net current (liabilities)/assets			(1,495)		13,248
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Restricted funds b/fd			10,952		10,952
Surplus/Deficit for the year			<u>-16,162</u>		<u>8,213</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>6,544</u></u>		<u><u>22,706</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on
C Lemba
 Charles Matondo Lemba
 Trustee

... and signed on their behalf by:

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of them was reimbursed expenses.

2. Tangible fixed assets

There are fixed assets of £8,039 net book value - the depreciation was £1,419.

	2025 £	2024 £
	-	-
3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	6,407	6,934
	-	-

4. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising

There were no restricted funds during the year were

Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers '31 March 2025 £	Balance at £
			-	87,283
	-	-	-	-

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1157149

Accounts

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustee Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

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THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

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Charity number 1157149

Company Registration Number 5801288

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**Secretary
& Operation Manager** Petronelle K Moanda

Management Committee Rev John Baptist
Mr Charles Lemba Matondo
Miss Deborah Mbosso
Miss Vanessa Ndunguna-Ntemo
Miss Eleanor Smith

**Accountants
and Independent
Examiner** Whitfield Accounting &
Integrated Services Ltd
now trading as C W C Consultants Services

Bankers **Barclays Bank plc**
Great Crosby Branch
18-22 Liverpool Road
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THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Congolese Association of Merseyside is a Community hub of ions shaping ions. It was set up in 2004 by 6 members of the local community (founders) out of the hardship and stress caused by addressing integration issues alone when they first arrived in the UK. It was first registered as a company limited by guarantee No. 5801288 on 29 April 2006, then later registered as a Charity on 21 May 2014 Number 1157149.

CAM is owned and run by local residents to address the social dilemma of our marginalised community (African French and Luzophone speakers Refugees, Asylum seekers and other migrants) facing social exclusion due to language and cultural barriers.

Organisational Structure

The organisation has continued to benefit from 5 committee members with complementary skills, and is staffed by 10 multilingual volunteers. The committee diligently and generously engaged with the project while drawing on their personal refugee and life experiences.

Our day-to day activities are run entirely by trained volunteers and the community champions, which creates a far more responsive and informed provision because it is led by people who have had "lived" experiences of these issues and know how to help resolve them at the earliest possible stages.

The organisation's activities were and are still entirely run by volunteers. Our management structure remained unchanged. However, we have fully rejuvenated our board, benefitting from 4 new recruits including young people 25-35 years olds. We are passionate about further enhancing the excellent service our teams provide by enhancing their capacity and capability, to continue to run existing services, and to refresh our talent pool to ensure we remain viable and able to deliver our intended core activities and to develop our income generation endeavours (Community shop, community café) and focus our efforts to create a more sustainable future.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The existing trustees were initially selected by the community in their Annual General Meeting on 23 October 2023. The views and recommendations of elders and community leaders were obtained before the names of the proposed trustees were put forward to the members attending the AGM, for confirmation.

In selecting the trustees, individuals who regularly attended events, activities, meetings and functions organised by the charity were identified. The process of selection involved consideration of the person's eligibility and competence, specialist knowledge and skill and attitude.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, the trustees were given details of their role and were also provided with the policies and procedures adopted by our charity. Details of the charity commission were provided to the trustees and they were advised to go through the various publications of the charity commission including guidance on charities and public benefit. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities under the Charities Act.

Risk Management

The Management Committee regularly review the major risks to which the charity is exposed. And the measures taken to manage these risks and to reduce their occurrence. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

The Committee members are satisfied that systems are in place to manage the risks that have been identified.

Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Policies for Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and diversity are present, to ensure compliance with the welfare of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre.

These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) now DBS checks are carried out for all individuals working with the children and vulnerable adults.

**THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Aims & Objectives

1. Aims:

Our vision is to provide a welcoming hub for displaced people (asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants), who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration and support those needing help to settle, access and participate in their new community, fulfil their potential and thrive, both individually and collectively.

Our key aim is to deliver services and activities that tackle social problems around the integration and social cohesion of non-English speaker migrants who struggle to navigate the mainstream systems due to language limitations which often leads to long-term issues with accessing employment and maintaining health and wellbeing, leading to high levels of poverty and social disadvantage. We work to help individuals and the community become better connected, economically secure, healthier, stronger and more resilient. We strive to:

- create a cohesive community;
- make a lasting difference to beneficiaries' lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems;
- reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination;
- encourage or enable them to share in the life of the whole community

we want to see a growing sense of humanity, within our community where people of any background can live at peace and respect for each other and make our community a better place to live and work in harmony.

Objectives:

"Our goal" is to help more members of the community to thrive and live more fulfilled life. During this financial year, our target was to engage with 500 individuals (350 asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants directly and 150 secondary beneficiaries), to give as many people as possible access support services, to help alleviate suffering and their hardship and develop their resilience. Because we believe that it is our social responsibility, our common endeavour to do what we can to help the community around us, during difficult times.

However, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living hike, the energy crisis, and the continuous restrictions which have shocked and galvanized the community, so our service user's poverty increased, jobs and income decreased.

Individual people who have used our services are :	802	
Females	504	
Males	197	
Young people	101	

3. Core Services

During 18 years, we have run programmes aimed to initially help, but not exclusively non-English speaker migrants to settle, gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become empowered.

We developed a portfolio of innovative services that exploits the range of skills, quality and internal resources available to encourage, empower and enable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to build new lives and other residents who face life challenges to overcome them.

We therefore delivered holistic services and activities including:

- Advice, Guidance & Support (Interpretation/Translation)
 - Education & Training – Workshops
 - Advocacy and Professional Services
- Community Cohesion events that promote social connection, outings and conferences and workshops involving other stakeholders.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Aims & Objectives**3. Core services (cont'd)**

Services	Activities	Targeting
Drop-In	Information – Advice - Guidance	French, Lusophones Migrants (Asylum Seekers, refugees) and others Residents needing help.
Advocacy	Signing in, referrals to professionals (Immigration, Housing, Education, Health Services,) etc...	Community and Beyond,
Practical Help/Outreach	Food and emergency essentials Home- visits/Hospital/Prisons/ Travels/ overnight shelter.	Community and Beyond,
Education – IT Hub facility	Education & Upskilling Activities/ E-learning, Financial Inclusion, Languages & Digital connectivity sessions, including Entrepreneurship including	Community and Beyond,
Social integration & connections	Community cohesion, interaction, networking and leisure activities including Arts, Dance Events, cultural food and attire.	Community and Beyond, mainly senior residents - to combat isolation

Expansion - New Services Activities**Activities****1- Brand New - Empreinte IT Community Hub**

IT – People Hub – offering free services – IT basic skills, printing, scanning, tea / coffee, fruits
 398 people attended our IT hub, 65 regular attendees
 3 permanent jobs created, 2 apprentices, 5 work placements from local universities and colleges, 8 volunteers joined

Impact**> Increased back office costs**

- * Greater volume of cases and a high demand for services - increase in refugee homelessness due to further Home office asylum applications backlog clearances
- * Disruption to income (stretched/reduced resources) to meet the raised demand
- * Increased demand for more equipment/repairs and adaptations - to enhance digital system
 - Space renovation (Repairs & Maintenance)
 - Equipment and furniture
 - Rent and rate
 - Utilities
 - Staff costs
- * Raised utility bills and emergency interventions fees (travel-overnight accommodation-clothing-food parcels hostels for homeless)

2- Outreach Engagement Services

- * More outreach and engagement sessions – with the target group (those who are affected by the cost of living) crisis
 Networking Events and gathering / day outs: We have organised 6 social events and celebrations this year as gateway to our entrepreneurship route to selling artefacts, traditional costumes and cultural food. Over 1000 people have attended:
Youth Connect - 80 young people attended sessions.
 We took a group of 25 young people; 14 - 25 to London (5 days) for a football competition):

> Events - Increased event logistic fees

- Extensive promotion of future services (Catering-Cultural food - Community Shop - Artefacts - Traditional costumes)

E-Visas: 124 applications made, in line with the current Home Office transition to digital immigration system

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Aims & Objectives

The aims of our charity to relieve poverty or financial hardship among refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, workers, and other local persons in need living in Liverpool City, Region by providing Advice, Information and guidance on how to access local advocacy and mainstream services for integration (including Education, Employment, Immigration, Welfare, Housing, Health and wellbeing);

We work to help individuals and families to settle, to boost their integration;

> Enhance access to community life and foster participants chance to bring their share to their new community

>To fulfil their potential and thrive, both individual and collectively;

>To bring our city to become better connected, economically secure, healthier, stronger, and more resilient>>

Areas of Intervention

During the financial year 2023/2024, we have expanded our services, broadened our reach (through drop-in, outreach/engagement, advocacy services and education) with learning hub and development activities, to better respond to service users' needs.

Our monitoring data shows that people who recently accessed our services required more support with:

- 1) Housing and homelessness support
- 2) Debt advice, debt collectors notice, Bailiffs, Housing notice to quit, and court summons
- 3) General Information, Advice, Guidance, referrals and sign postings.
- 4) Immigration and settlement advice
- 5) Domestic violence and crime help.

Our Flagship Programmes

1. Drop-ins support – Provision of easy access multilingual information, translation, interpretation, on-call support, to individuals and families newly arrived and long living residents based on initial assessment and tailored help soon after.

Advice, Guidance, signposting services including general administrative tasks such as completing immigration forms, application for housing/ education support, communication with mainstream services (Job Centre, CV, GP, hospital, Education, Benefit checks ...etc...) including getting people to emergency protection and access to critical safety.

2. Advocacy services – Immigration – Housing – Mainstream .

We facilitate access to professionals and external agencies to clients providing translation and interpretation in languages clients understand better, and responsive to their needs. We use Professionals including Independent Advocates, Solicitors, Counsellors, Lifestyle Advisors, Wellbeing coaches, Therapists, Support workers, Trauma specialists, Life coaches, Assessors.

3. Practical support & outreach – Visit to prisoners, the sick in hospitals, homes, delivering essential necessities to residents.

We supported a rising number of domestic violence and homeless providing them with essential ranging from (emergency food parcel, utility: heating, electricity and travel costs, emergency accommodation, items of clothing and bedding, rehousing the homeless.

We continued the provision and delivery food and essential supplies (Food parcels - Energy vouchers/care package and home essentials delivery to families struggling with costs of living.

4. Education & Lifelong learning – We have opened a new IT hub, innovated with more repairs and touches, acquired necessary equipment renewed old furniture.

The equipment (laptops, computers desktops, printer/scanners) have strengthened our capacity and capability to deliver Digital Connectivity services, this more needed services to the community and combat digital divide within our region.

The IT Hub continues to deliver Basic skills - Skills for work, Financial Capability, and Digital Inclusion sessions, and 5 new volunteers - have joined and 4 jobs created.

398 direct beneficiaries have visited our IT centre and 65 are regular attendees.

The new Hub offers Language classes (ESOL) 2 hours / 1 days per week, Digital Inclusion 2 sessions 2 hours per week With experienced teachers from Hugbaird College

Also online safety, identifying web tools e.g. comparison sites for deals on utilities, insurance, shopping, banking, Socialising; and referrals where to get advice on money issues.

Entrepreneurship program: devoted to supporting would-be entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups in needs Practical support tailored to their needs and wants

(Community café, cakes, cultural foods, Barber shop, including art/ crafts and dog grooming)

5. Social Integration Activities

During this financial year, we have delivered with partners, 6 integration activities.

Over 1200 individuals and families attended.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Way Forward (cont'd)

The plan aims to provide the organisation with a balanced portfolio of income from institutions, trusts, companies and individuals which will create a platform for the long-term sustainability of our programs. And to develop income generation streams, to lessens dependency on grants, avoid the backdrop of limited resources and insecurities over funding.

We are continually looking at how we can harness the energy, strengthen collaborative relationships that we have formed throughout the last years, in order to move the organisation forward.

Next few years, we will ontinue and consolidate our 4 key areas:

- > Expansion of Drop-In - Advocacy – Education/Employment
- > Raise profile of IT Hub – enhance learning activities Digital skills/English language
- > Strengthen our referral system with Key partners and Mainstream services
- > Develop our Social Enterprise program- Preparing to grow and succeed in income generation: “Community Pub - Café & Catering Service - Community Shop”

as a new-look Immigration Advice Authority, or IAA next year); to become a regulated organisation for the provision of immigration services, on own right.

The Management would like to thank once again our funders and supporters for their much appreciated and valuable support without who, the Management would not be able to continue to deliver its much needed services to the Community.

C Lemba

For the Congolese Association of Merseyside

Charles Matondo Lemba

Director

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

FINANCE REVIEW

The overall finances (£143,320) set to help us achieve our goals for the period are from Trusts and Foundations, National Lottery and Donations. The surplus for the year carried forward is £8,213.

The principal sources of funding for our charity are the grants from our key donors below, that we salute and shout about their trust and support to our work.

DONORS	
Citizen Advice Liverpool	LCVS-Community Impact Fund
The Henry Smith Charity	Membership contribution & Donations
The National Lottery Community Fund	Lloyds bank Foundation
Comic Relief - Ground Work	Cook Foundation Netherlands
VOLA UKSPF	

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Drop-ins support** – 30h/w x 52 = 1,560 hours Multilingual Information, Advice and Guidance to newly arrived and long living residents.
- Advocacy** – Immigration – Housing – Mainstream 10h/m x 12 = 120 sessions.
We have sign posted – made multiple referrals to professional services.
- Practical support & outreach** – Visit to prisoners, the sick in hospitals, homes bound individuals, delivering essential necessities to residents. 8h/week x 52 = 416 hours
We have delivered 116 Energy vouchers (Gas & electricity to clients worth £49 each Total worth £5,684
E-Visas: 124 applications made, in line with the current Home Office transition to digital immigration system
- Education & Lifelong learning** – We have innovated our, renewed equipment and furniture.
The IT Hub has delivered Basic skills - Skills for work, Financial Capability, Digital Inclusion sessions
398 direct beneficiaries have visited. 3 permanent jobs created – 2 apprentices opportunities
5 work placements from local universities and colleges - 5 new volunteers joined.
Entrepreneurship program: devoted at supporting would-be entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups in need of practical support - according to their needs: 35 participants with broad business ideas incubation;
(Community café, cakes, cultural foods, art/ crafts and dog grooming)
6 weeks Self employers Business Incubation workshops.
- Social Integration Activities:** During this financial year, we have delivered with partners, 6 integration activities. Over 1200 individuals and families attended.
 - Global Liverpool with Citizen Advice
 - Day out in Park – Visit to Port Sunlight
 - Arts Exhibition with Blackfest
 - World in Bootle – with Sefton CVS
 - Sefton Volunteering fair
 - Visit to Liverpool Museums

We continued the provision and delivery food and essential supplies (Food parcels - Energy vouchers/care package and home essentials delivery to families struggling with costs of living.

How do we ensure that the organisation can build resilience and a sustainable service delivery, to maintain momentum and reach our growth targets was the management priority?

Future-proofing was highly needed more than ever to ensure that we were not simply reacting to crisis, but that we had a robust processes in place to deal with them in the future, and that we were taking necessary steps to ensure that our work remains financially sound and viable and that we continued to perform and deliver project benefits to the primary target group.

In the next financial year, we will focus on strengthening CAM so it is better equipped to meet the needs of those who need our support. We will be taking those challenges forward and creating a renewed plan to ensure we return stronger than ever.

We will collaborate to maximise our existing resources by drawing upon our network of key partners, whilst we will continue to undertake proper research to understand about the various options that can be used to maintain a steady flow of funds as well as to build a strong foundation for long term success.

CAM has a new adapted four-year (2023-2027) income generation plan in place which has been produced with the help of Sefton CVS, capacity building team. The approach has been delivering the desired results. We hope that this plan will continue to guide our fundraising activities over this next phase of securing and developing our service provision and move from strength to strenght.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

I report on the accounts for The Congolese Association of Merseyside for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees, members and examiner

As the charity members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(B) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

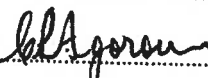
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.


.....

Date: 17/12/2024

**Cheryl P Agorom, ICPA
Independent Examiner
C W C Consultants Services**

**Business First
23 Goodlass Road
Hunts Cross
Liverpool L24 9HJ**

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	1				
Voluntary income:					
John Moores Foundation					
John Moores Foundation		-	-	-	5,000
Elisabeth Rathbone Grant		-	-	-	3,500
Comic Relief		1,000		1,000	9,500
Sefton		-	10,000	10,000	
National lottery		-	43,061	43,061	42,622
Citizen Advice		-	3,531	3,531	-
DC-UK		1,500	-	1,500	-
Kook Foundation		-	5,105	5,105	-
Mak Consulting		3,500	-	3,500	-
The Leathersellers		-	-	-	2,000
LCVS		1,630	-	1,630	-
Henry Smith		-	39,200	39,200	12,800
Lloyds Bank		25,000	-	25,000	27,250
Members' contribution		4,641	-	4,641	3,733
Other income:		5,152	-	5,152	-
Loans					
Total incoming resources		42,423	100,897	143,320	106,405
Resources expended					
Charitable activities		(32,225)	(100,897)	(133,122)	(95,343)
Governance costs		(300)		(300)	(300)
Depreciation		(1,685)		(1,685)	
Total resources expended		(34,210)	(100,897)	(135,107)	(95,643)
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers					
Gross transfers between funds					
Reconciliation of funds		8,213	-	8,213	10,762
Total funds brought forward		14,493		14,493	5,418
Brought forward					(1,687)
Total funds carried forward		22,706	-	22,706	14,493

Approved by the trustees on: 17/12/2024, and signed on their behalf by:

*C Lemba*Charles Matondo Lemba
Trustee

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on Page 1 of the trustees report.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

C Lemba
Charles Matondo Lemba
Trustee

Date: 17/12/2024.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	2		9,458		-
			<u>9,458</u>		<u>-</u>
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			<u>20,182</u>		<u>14,493</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3		<u>(6,934)</u>		<u>-</u>
Net current (liabilities)/assets			13,248		14,493
Net assets			<u><u>22,706</u></u>		<u><u>14,493</u></u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds: b/fd			3,541		3,541
Restricted funds b/fd			10,952		1,877
Surplus/Deficit for the year			<u>8,213</u>		<u>9,075</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>22,706</u></u>		<u><u>14,493</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 17/12/2024... and signed on their behalf by:

C Lemba

Charles Matondo Lemba

Trustee

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024****1. Trustees**

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of them was reimbursed expenses.

2. Tangible fixed assets

There are fixed assets of £11,233 showing a depreciation of £1,685 and a net book value of £9,458.

	2024 £	2023 £
3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	6,934	-
Accruals	-	-
	-	-

4. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising

There were no restricted funds during the year were

Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers '31 March 2024 £	Balance at £
100,897		100,897	-	-
-	-	100,897	-	-

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1157149

Accounts


The Congolese Association of Merseyside


Registered charity number: 1157149
Company Limited by Guarantee: 05801288

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

 **Find US**


Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97, Stanley Road / Bootle Merseyside
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 @of_merseyside

 CongoAssociationofMerseyside

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed and the Statement of The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are listed below. Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Charity number 1157149

Company Registration Number 05801288

Office Address Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

Registered Office Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

Management Committee	Lesley Ann Armstrong	Chair (acting)
	Charles Lemba Matondo	Treasurer
	Moacir Paulino Medeiros	Director
	Michel Makunsa Ndofunso	Director
	Deborah Mbosso	Director

Secretary: Petronelle K Moanda

Accountants and Independent Examiner Whitfield Accounting & Integrated Services Ltd
Block B
23 Goodlass Road
Hunts Cross
LIVERPOOL
L24 9HJ

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
Great Crosby Branch
18-22 Liverpool Road
LIVERPOOL
L23 5SF

Volunteers	Matieu Kapsi	Project Manaer
	Joana kungi	Outreach Interpreter
	Oriodina Tavares Fernandes	Outreach
	Gisele Ndaya Ndambu	Admin Finance
	Daiane Nunes Santana	Cleaner
	Alpha Dimbani	Outreach
	Raissa Ogbona	Outreach
Salma Kona	Outreach	

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Aims & Objectives

Purposes and Aims

The Congolese Association of Merseyside (CAM) Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation a hub of ions shaping ions, managed by first-hand experienced board and volunteers.

The aims of our charity to relieve poverty or financial hardship among refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, workers, and other local persons in need living in Merseyside by providing Counselling, Advice, Information through interpreting, translating, advocacy services for employment, health, housing.

To further or benefit the residents of Merseyside and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to promote integration, advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation, leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents,

Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims.

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

Our main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and prevention of the poverty. The strategies we used to meet these objectives included:

▣ Providing a range of services which are reflective of relevant quality standards and address the potential problems related to integration issue.

▣ Focussing upon limiting barrier which comes with language barrier, race, education to individual but also their family and friends and the wider community of Merseyside.

▣ Working in partnership with other agencies to secure the widest range of services is available that best matches the needs of our client population.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on the prevention of poverty exclusion to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Our funding comes from donations, trusts, foundations, and corporate grants. And the mainstay of our service remains our volunteers who provide advice and distribute information leaflets. In the year under review over 2,000 volunteer hours were donated.

Who used and benefited from our services?

CAM targets initially but not exclusively (asylum seekers, refugees ad migrants) who are rebuilding their lives in our city, and any other economically inactive residents furthest from the labour market.

We intentionally deliver services and activities that tackle social problems around the integration and social cohesion of non-English speaker migrants who struggle to navigate the mainstream systems due to language limitations which often leads to long-term issues with accessing employment and maintaining health and wellbeing, leading to high levels of poverty and social disadvantage. We work to help individuals to settle, to boost their integration; access to community life to bring their share to their new community, fulfil their potential and thrive, both individually; and collectively enable the community to become better connected, economically secure, healthier, stronger, and more resilient.

The project is based at the central office and provides help and advice to our users. All our services are provided free to our clients.

Our objects and funding limit the services we provide to those residents in Merseyside. The number of our direct users is estimated at some 300, for example, our drop-ins service can only deal directly with 150 individual clients at any time. Our service is based to an initial assessment of an individual's personal commitment to seeking help also by referring to mainstream services.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Key services

The main areas of charitable activity are the provision of multilingual information, advice, and guidance; outreach work; and the operation of an IT room as a training project for those in need. These activities and the achievements that flow from our work are described below.

1. Drop in: Provision of easy access multilingual information, translation, interpretation, on-call support; for individuals and families.

Advice, Guidance, signposting services including general administrative tasks such as completing immigration forms, application for housing/ education support, communication with mainstream services (Job Centre, GP, hospital, education, Universal credit ...etc..)

2. Advocacy services - We facilitate access to professionals and external agencies to clients providing translation and interpretation in languages they understand better, and responsive to their needs.

3. Outreach/Engagement:

The outreach work of the charity provides support to people who are vulnerable, isolated, and excluded from the society. This work continued to expand in the year under review. At the beginning of the year, we had set a target to reach 350 people and to make our other services available to them. on site or off site with partner agencies to promote our programmes and reach out to more people experiencing hardship - including - home visit when needed.

We believe that equal access to our services is an important issue for us. In addition to our current monitoring of access to our services by gender, age group, immigration status we produce each year a publication of our direct clients/ beneficiary ethnicity monitoring chart. We are aware from a baseline study undertaken this year, using data available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website, that black and minority ethnic communities are disproportionately represented in deprived areas of our county. Equal access to our services is vital to our success and that successful outcomes must be shared by all communities that use our services.

5. Social, recreational and leisure activities: including cultural events, to enable clients get together, to connect the disconnected, provide them with opportunities to step out in the limelight, improve their confidence, self-esteem and boldness to interact with neighbours. We work with other local VS organisations to ensure that we reach out to more residents.

These recreational/ leisure activities and social cohesion events bring people together to celebrate our diverse cultures. We simply help increase people's pride in their community, and enable their fostering of a community spirit, the building of a coalition of citizen within and around our city.

Achievements

During the financial year 2022/2023 we have increased services our drop-in, outreach and advocacy services with minimum development activities, as we carried out a community consultation to help us adapt our programmes, to better respond to service user's needs.

The strong focus was specifically geared on strengthening CAM abilities to meet clients' needs, taking challenges forward and creating a renewed strategy to respond and adapt to the new environment. The management has worked closely with Sefton Voluntary Services capacity building team in order to make this happen, ensuring strong voices are at the centre of the planning, delivery, the review processes and programmes; and to make sure that the organisation activities are still needed and are fit for purpose.

a) We have produced our Organisational Business Plan - Map out a three-year plan to take the organisation forward and guide us through the changes we will need to make; and

b) Produced our Organisational Sustainability Strategy - with plan to diversify our income streams to safeguard the future.

c) We run an entrepreneurship programme for our beneficiaries in partnership with Liverpool Commonwealth Association and Community Concept (Expanding Horizon) funded by ESF to help them set up their own businesses.

The training project continues to be focused on the opening of the internet café (computer for the community and to further develop our drop-in centre).

Partnership working

During this financial year, CAM has extended his reach by working in partnership with other Vs, business and professional bodies to provide a holistic package to people who rely on its services, mainly but not exclusively the following:

-Sefton Charity and Voluntary Services - Capacity Building and Infrastructure Development

-Bethlehem Centre

-Asylum Link Merseyside

-Liverpool Lighthouse Ltd

-Muslim Association Liverpool

-Immigration Lawyers (Michael Rose Baylis and IAS Manchester).

-Lawson Hunte Immigration Services Ltd

-Injury claim companies DHF Solicitors

-Liverpool Commonwealth Association - Community Concept

We continue to work in close co-operation with Liverpool and Sefton County Council Social Services department in operating this outreach project. We are grateful for their support.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**Financial Review****Plans for Future Periods**

The charity plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The outcomes we would like to achieve outmost we need is the workforce development, so it is worth to upskill the leadership, the senior management, staff, and volunteers to acquire transformation power to adapt -- to renew internal capacity and capability. To be ready to move to something new. We need to recentre our strategy for the next stage, for a true growth.

1. Leadership development

2. Marketing & promotion

3. Robust fundraising

4. Logistics to set up a bilingual internet café/ training suite include workstations for community that would not otherwise have access to ICT

5. Plans are also being developed to work on several schemes with local employers and local job centres to place our users who have been through our training projects on mentoring schemes which it is hoped will lead to long-term gainful employment or entrepreneurship (start own small scale businesses).

Structure, Governance and ManagementGoverning Document

Originally set up in 2004, The Congolese Association of Merseyside (CAM) was born out of the hardship and stress caused by addressing integration issues alone when the founders first arrived in the UK. The challenges they faced led them to set up the organisation in 2004 and was registered as a company limited by guarantee nr 5801288 on 29th April 2005, then registered Charity on 21st May 2014 Number 1157149.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

All member of the Management Committee gives their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 to the accounts.

In an effort to maintain this broad skill mix, members of the Management Committee are requested to provide a list of their skills (and update it each year) and in the event of particular skills being lost due to retirements, individuals are approached to offer themselves for election to the Management Committee.

Trustee Induction and Training

The existing trustees were initially selected by the community in their Annual General Meeting on 26 April 2022. In selecting the trustees, individuals who regularly attended events, meetings and functions organised by the charity were identified. The process of selection involved consideration of the person's eligibility, competence, specialist knowledge and skill. The views and recommendations of elders and community leaders were obtained before the names of the proposed trustees were put forward to the members attending the AGM, for confirmation.

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity having been encouraged to take up the "Cooks Tour" of the Advice Centre and the Outreach Work offered as part of the two "charity membership open days" that are run each year.

Additionally, new trustees are invited and encouraged to attend a series of short training sessions (of no more than an hour) to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates. These are jointly led by the Chair of the Management Committee and the Operations Manager acting Chief Executive of the charity and cover:

- the obligations of Management Committee members.
- the main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity including the Memorandum and Articles.
- Resourcing and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts.
- Future plans and objectives.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Risk Management

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity. Criminal Records DBS checks are carried out for all individuals working with the children and vulnerable adults.

Funding

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. The charity funding source is heavily reliant on donations, trusts, foundations, and corporate grants; the awards come very restricted with terms and conditions. Part of an unrestricted income fund is earmarked for a particular project it may be designated as a separate fund. To fulfil the charity's commitments to a particular restricted grant/donation the Congolese Association of Merseyside might have to commit some of its own unrestricted funds to support the relevant activities. Therefore, CAM intends to increase its contribution to public life and benefit and intends to grow its reserves as it seeks opportunities to do so. These funds are necessary to continue to underpin the significant public benefit provided by the CAM in pursuance of its objects in the areas of Community Development. Therefore, CAM considers a suitable minimum level of free reserve to be an amount broadly equivalent to six months' essential operational spend. Such reserves will provide support should the organisation face an unforeseen downturn or significant event which has an adverse financial impact.

Goals

It is important that the charity has put aside reserves to meet those commitments to overcome unexpected event that may arise during its duties and responsibilities to deliver projects and programmes such as:

- (1) Contingency: unexpected expenditure in the event of an emergency.
- (2) Cash-flow: situations where a bill has to be paid before the money to cover it has been received;
- (3) Commitment: a commitment to occasional significant expenditure which cannot be covered by the annual income.
- (4) Conservation: funds which the trustees cannot spend immediately without compromising their legal responsibilities to ensure that their charity's resources are used necessarily, reasonably and incidentally in fulfilment of their charitable objects.
- (5) Closure: the charity becomes financially unsustainable and has to be wound up.

Financial Review:

The overall finances to help us achieve our charity goals for the period are from private grant makers (Trusts and foundations) donations and own earned income. These comprised the following:

- Grants
- Fundraising activities
- Member contributions

The principal sources of funding for the period under review are the grants from our key donors below. We very much appreciate their generosity, salute their crucial input and shout about their trust and support to our work.

- Comic Relief (Groundwork)- Leather seller
- Eleanor Rathbone Trust- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Henry Smith Charity John Moores Foundation- National Lottery Fund
- John Moores Foundation

The surplus for the year carried forward is £21,116.

The Management Committee would like to thank our funders cited above for their much appreciated and valuable support without whom the Management would not be able to continue its much-needed work with the French and Lusophone migrants' community and other vulnerable people of Merseyside.

Organisational Structure

CAM is a front-line community charity, owned and run by residents to address the social dilemma of our marginalised community (French speakers Refugees, Asylum seekers and other migrants) facing social exclusion due to language and cultural barriers. It has a Management Committee of up to 5 committed board members with complementary skills and is staffed by 8 part time volunteers.

The committee members meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

The Secretary also sits on the Committee but has no voting rights.

Staff and volunteers have continued to deliver programmes, projects and activities that reflect our vision of a society in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect. They have and are still diligently and generously engaged with the project while drawing on their personal and past challenges (as asylum seeking/ refugee and immigrants) and life experiences. The Services Manager has responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of the Centre, individual supervision of the volunteers and also ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

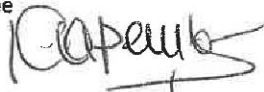
The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on Page 1 of the trustees report.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

po
..... Charles Lemba

Date: 24/01/2024

Trustee



THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

We report on the accounts for The Congolese Association of Merseyside for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees, members and examiner

As the charity members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(B) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

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

..........

Date: 24/01/2024.....

Cheryl P Agorom, ICPA, BA(Hons)
Independent Examiner
Whitfield Accounting &
Integrated Services Ltd

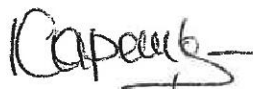
Business First Ltd
Block B
23 Goodlass Road
LIVERPOOL
L24 9HJ

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Barka Foundation (Poland)					4,195
John Moores Foundation			5,000	5,000	5,000
Elisabeth Rathborne Grant			3,500	3,500	
Comic Relief			9,500	9,500	
LCC Liverpool			0	0	1,250
Cloth Workers Foundation			0	0	3,500
Arnold Clark			0	0	1,000
Big Help			0	0	750
National lottery			42,622	42,622	2,500
Albert Hunt			0	0	1,000
The Leathesellers		2,000	0	2,000	
Donal Forester/Grant			0	0	5,000
P H Holt Foundation			0	0	5,000
Garfield Weston Foundation			0	0	5,000
Henry Smith			12,800	12,800	
Other donations			0	0	8,626
Lloyds Bank		27,250		27,250	
Membership contributions		3,733	0	3,733	
Hemby Trust Grant				0	
Vinci			0	0	
Barrow Cadbury			0	0	
Total incoming resources	3	32,983	73,422	106,405	42,821
Resources expended					
Charitable activities					
Governance costs		(95,643)	-	(95,643)	(44,508)
Total resources expended		(62,660)	-	10,762	(1,687)
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers					
Gross transfers between funds					
Reconciliation of funds	10	(1,687)		10,762	(1,687)
Total funds brought forward				(1,687)	
Total funds carried forward		(1,687)	-	9,075	(1,687)

Approved by the trustees on 24/01/2024 and signed on their behalf by: Po Charles Lemba
Trustee



THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Registered charity number : 1157149

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	-	-	-	-
Current assets					
Debtors					
Cash at bank and in hand	8	14,493		3,731	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	-		-	
Net current (liabilities)/assets		14,493		3,731	
Net assets		<u>14,493</u>		<u>3,731</u>	
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds: b/fd		3,541		3,541	
Restricted funds b/fd		1,877		1,877	
Surplus/Deficit for the year		<u>9,075</u>		<u>(1,687)</u>	
Total charity funds		<u><u>14,493</u></u>		<u><u>3,731</u></u>	

Approved by the trustees on ... and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee 
 Po Charles Lemba

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

4. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of them was reimbursed expenses.

5. Tangible fixed assets

There are no fixed assets

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
6. Debtors		
Other debtors	-	-
7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	-	-
8. Restricted funds		

INFORMATION ONLY

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising of below

Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers 31 March 2023 £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
	73,422	-	-	73,422
-	73,422	0	0	73,422

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1157149

Accounts

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

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THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are listed below.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Charity number 1157149

Office Address Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

Registered Office Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre
97 Stanley Road
Bootle
LIVERPOOL
L20 7DA

**Secretary
& Operation Manager** Petronelle K Moanda

Management Committee Lesley Ann Armstrong
Charles Lemba Matondo
Moacir Paulino Medeiros
Michel Makunsa Ndefunsu

**Accountants
and Independent
Examiner** Whitfield Accounting &
Integrated Services Ltd
Wavertree Business Village
11 Tipton Way
Wavertree
Liverpool
L13 1DA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
Great Crosby Branch
18-22 Liverpool Road
LIVERPOOL
L23 5SF

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Congolese Association of Merseyside is a Community hub of ions shaping ions. It was set up in 2004 by 6 members of the local community (founders) out of the hardship and stress caused by addressing integration issues alone when they first arrived in the UK. It was first registered as a company limited by guarantee No. 5801288 on 29 April 2006, then later registered as a Charity on 21 May 2014 Number 1157149.

CAM is owned and run by local residents to address the social dilemma of our marginalised community (African French and Luzophone speakers Refugees, Asylum seekers and other migrants) facing social exclusion due to language and cultural barriers.

Organisational Structure

The organisation has continued to benefit from 5 committee members with complementary skills, and is staffed by 8 multilingual volunteers. The committee diligently and generously engaged with the project while drawing on their personal refugee and life experiences.

Our day-to day activities are run entirely by trained volunteers and the community champions, which creates a far more responsive and informed provision because it is led by people who have had "lived" experiences of these issues and know how to help resolve them at the earliest possible stages.

The organisation's activities were and are still entirely run by volunteers. Our management structure remained unchanged. However, we lost 2 volunteers during the crisis, and we have benefitted from 4 new recruits. We are passionate about further enhancing the excellent service our teams provide by enhancing their capacity and capability, to continue to run existing services, and to refresh our talent pool to ensure we remain viable and able to deliver our intended core activities.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The existing trustees were initially selected by the community in their Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2021. The views and recommendations of elders and community leaders were obtained before the names of the proposed trustees were put forward to the members attending the AGM, for confirmation.

In selecting the trustees, individuals who regularly attended events, activities, meetings and functions organised by the charity were identified. The process of selection involved consideration of the person's eligibility and competence, specialist knowledge and skill and attitude.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, the trustees were given details of their role and were also provided with the policies and procedures adopted by our charity. Details of the charity commission were provided to the trustees and they were advised to go through the various publications of the charity commission including guidance on charities and public benefit. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities under the Charities Act.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity and the measures taken to manage these risks and reduce their occurrence. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to manage the risks that have been identified. Policies for Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and diversity are present.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) now DBS checks are carried out for all individuals working with the children and vulnerable adults.

Frontline workers were provided with the necessary tools to ensure we follow strictly all required policies and procedures in relation to COVID-19 prevention precautions, which include social distancing measures, heightened sanitization, reduced physical interactions and use of PPE.

Registered charity number : 1157149
THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Aims & Objectives

1. Aims:

Our vision is to provide a welcoming hub for displaced people (asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants), who are rebuilding their lives because of homelessness or forced migration and support those needing help to settle, access and participate in their new community, fulfil their potential and thrive, both individually and collectively.

Our key aim is to deliver services and activities that tackle social problems around the integration and social cohesion of non-English speaker migrants who struggle to navigate the mainstream systems due to language limitations which often leads to long-term issues with accessing employment and maintaining health and wellbeing, leading to high levels of poverty and social disadvantage. We work to help individuals and the community become better connected, economically secure, healthier, stronger and more resilient. We strive to:

- create a cohesive community;
- make a lasting difference to beneficiaries' lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems;
- reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination;
- encourage or enable them to share in the life of the whole community

we want to see a growing sense of humanity, within our community where people of any background can live at peace and respect for each other and make our community a better place to live and work in harmony.

Objectives:

"Our goal" is to help more members of the community to thrive and live more fulfilled life. During this financial year, we hoped to engage with 400 individuals (250 asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants directly and 150 secondary beneficiaries), to give as many people as possible access support services, to help alleviate suffering and their hardship and develop their resilience. Because we believe that it is our social responsibility, our common endeavour to do what we can to help the community around us, during difficult times.

However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the continuous restrictions which have shocked and galvanized the community, so our service user's poverty increased, jobs and income decreased.

Individual people who have used our services are : 508.

Asylum seekers	107	21%
Settled status	188	37%
Pre-settled	137	27%
Naturalised	76	15%
Females	295	58%
Males	187	37%
Young people	27	5%

Most of our beneficiaries worked in hospitality industry. Due to the lockdowns and restrictions, they lost jobs, shielding, or they have parental responsibility. They could not report change of circumstance/or claim appropriate benefits due to language limitation, which has led them to severe loss of income, financial struggle and poverty.

3. Core Services

During 16 years, we have run programmes aimed to initially help, but not exclusively non-English speaker migrants to settle, gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become empowered.

We developed a portfolio of innovative services that exploits the range of skills, quality and internal resources available to encourage, empower and enable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to build new lives and other residents who face life challenges to overcome them.

We therefore delivered holistic services and activities including:

- Advice, Guidance & Support (Interpretation/Translation)
- Education & Training – Workshops
- Advocacy and Professional Services
- Community Cohesion events that promote social connection, outings and conferences and workshops involving other stakeholders.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Aims & Objectives

3. Core services (cont'd)

Information , advice and guidance : Provision of easy access to multilingual information, translation, interpretation.

Advocacy - access to professional help/ referrals / and sign-postings

Development programme: The delivery of a range of upskilling support workshops

Outreach/Engagement : In and off site with partners to promote our programme and reach out to more people

Social /Recreational and Leisure activities

We have partnered with two local churches (Logos Christian Centre International and Bethlehem Community Resource Centre in Liverpool), as well as others voluntary organisations to provide essential services to diverse groups (people of all ages, and all backgrounds), to improve lives of vulnerable people across Merseyside.

4. Impact of COVID-19

Although COVID-19 pandemic galvanised communities and organisations, CAM remained in operation throughout. The management reduced the provision of services and the key adapted services were geared around the current needs, "vital services": with drastic adjustments to respond to the greater volume/nature of cases and a high demand for services a continued support to existing beneficiaries and new residents calling for help during this time of uncertainty.

- * Greater volume of cases and a high demand for services
- * Disruption to income (stretched/reduced resources) to meet the raised demand
- * Reduced staffing due to family situation (self-isolation, shielding)
- * Reduced activities - services restricted to essentially COVID-19 related interventions
- * Increased demand for more equipment/repairs and adaptations - to enhance digital system to help the team to work remotely in their homes to meet the changing needs
- * Raised utility bills and emergency interventions fees (remote working - funeral costs, bereavement support, hostels for homeless)
- * More outreach and engagement sessions with the target group who have lost jobs/ or grieving or in crisis (those who are affected by the coronavirus crisis)

Activities

Drop-in (Remotely) - Beneficiaries continued to access multilingual information, advice and guidance sessions remotely through an open telephone line and on social media platform.

Emotional and mental health wellbeing support; constant connection with most vulnerable beneficiaries providing telephone support/friendship (email, phone calls, group WhatsApp, Facebook or develop online activities to help reduce isolation.)

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Aims & Objectives

3. Core services (cont'd)

1 session/2 hrs/week - for support, signposting guidance/referrals to professionals for urgent problems if they come up during phone or Zoom conversations.

Financial Inclusion : We provided practical help to people who were struggling financially, help with completing benefit claims, report change in circumstance, including guidance on benefits and entitlements available and debt advice.

Advocacy: We continued to enable access to professional advice to help beneficiaries feel more confident about their legal rights and the asylum application process, leave to remain, biometric residence permit and citizenship applications.

Practical support: Provision and delivery of food and essential supplies (Food/care package delivery to families - drop shopping, medication, if necessary / for vulnerable people self-isolating.

Facebook page update with signposting references for support with key services and in an emergency. For example, food banks domestic violence support, urgent mental health support, benefits and debt advice.

We have supported a rising number of domestic violence and homeless providing them with essentials ranging from (emergency food parcel, utility - heating, electricity, travel costs, emergency accommodation, items of clothing, bedding, and rehousing the homeless.

The Management Committee are committed to using their skills, experience, passion and dedication to make themselves available at no cost, use available resources to provide support to the hard-to-reach members of our locality.

While we were able to respond to these requests it is now on a piecemeal basis.

Since 10 May 2021, we returned to our limited face-to-face intervention, we monitored people welfare ensuring that reasonable measures were taken to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus, in particular by limiting close face to face interaction and by improving hygiene - provision of PPE mask, and social distancing sign displayed.

As the furlough scheme was coming to an end, we entered uncharted ground with challenges once again. In the following months the end of furlough deepened distress in the country. Unemployment increased so poverty did leading to people desperately needing help.

We very much entered even more challenging times, requiring a need to increase the support for our work in terms of a more varied funding stream. We strived to be creative and flexible in our structure and approach to continue to show compassion for the vulnerable, especially women and children, who were stuck in poverty for a long time due to lack of information and support throughout their transition into integration.

Therefore, in the next financial year, we will focus on strengthening CAM so it is better equipped to meet the needs of those who need our support. We will be taking these challenges forward and create a renewed strategy to respond and adapt to the new environment.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Aims & Objectives

Key Achievements

During the financial year 2021/2022, we have reduced services on our drop-in, outreach and advocacy services with minimum development activities, as we carried out 3 community consultation to help us adapt our programmes, to better respond to service users' needs.

Our monitoring data shows that people who recently accessed our services required more support with:

- 1) Information, Advice, Guidance, referrals and sign postings.
- 2) Benefit claims.
- 3) Housing and homelessness support
- 4) Immigration and settlement advice
- 5) Domestic violence and crime help.

Our key services were:

Drop-in (remotely), then face to face - Beneficiaries continued to access multilingual information, advice and guidance sessions remotely through an open telephone line and on social media platform;
Emotional and mental health wellbeing support, constant connection with most vulnerable beneficiaries providing telephone support/friendsip (Emails, phone calls, Group WhatsApp, Facebook or develop online activities to help reduce isolation)
1 session / 2hrs/week - for support, signposting guidance/referrals to professionals for urgent problems if they come up during phone or Zoom conversations.

Financial inclusion - We provided practical help to people who were struggling financially, help with completing benefit claims, report change in circumstance, including guidance on benefits and entitlements available and debt advice.

Advocacy: We continued to enable access to professional help to enable beneficiaries to feel more confident about their legal rights and the asylum application process, leave to remain, biometric residence permit and citizenship applications.

Practical support

We continued the provision and delivery food and essential supplies (Food/care package delivery to families - drop shopping permit and citizenship applications.

Provision and delivery food and essential supplies (Food/care package delivery to families - drop shopping medication, if necessary / for vulnerable people self-isolating.

Facebook page update with signposting references for support with key services and in an emergency. For example, food banks, domestic violence support, urgent mental health support, benefits and debt advice.

We supported a rising number of domestic violence and homeless providing them with essential ranging from (emergency food parcel, utility: heating, electricity and travel costs, emergency accommodation, items of clothing and bedding, rehousing the homeless.

We acquired computers and desktops to strengthen our capacity and capability to deliver these more needed services to the community

We continued the provision and delivery food and essential supplies (Food/care package delivery to families - drop shopping

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

FINANCE REVIEW

The overall finances (£42,821.55) set to help us achieve our goals for the period are from Trusts and Foundations, National Lottery and Donations. The deficit for the year carried forward is £3,541.74.

The principal sources of funding for our charity are the grants from our key donors below, that we salute and shout about their trust and support to our work.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Moores | 7. Donald Forrester Trust |
| 2. National Lottery | 8. Vinci |
| 3. Liverpool City Council (Our Liverpool) | 9. All Churches Trust (Hope Beyond) |
| 4. Liverpool Community Care Grant | 10. Hemby Trust |
| 5. Barrow Cadbury | 11. Neighbourly |
| 6. Power of Change | |

Way Forward

The pandemic has brought many challenges and has created lasting change to CAM, as it was for many Communities Voluntary Organisations. Since the lockdown was eased, it was not that we look like we conquered COVID-19 pandemic and we were back to normal.

It is 'a waiting and see game' - compliance with the safety of people, that is, adhering to Government guidance which is at the core of our delivery strategy. So, it could be next year that it all gets back to normal.

As we head towards the end of the lockdowns, and the furlough program was ending, we expected an increase in unemployment, financial difficulties and increased poverty due to loss of earnings for beneficiaries leading to an increased demand for our services. So it was the case.

To CAM this meant we were entering uncharted ground with challenges once again. We knew there would be uncertainty and instability to maintain essential costs of sustaining current activities, however, learning how to live with uncertainty was firmly part of running an organisation.

How do we ensure that the organisation can build resilience and a sustainable service delivery, to maintain momentum and reach our growth targets was the management priority?

Future-proofing was highly needed more than ever to ensure that we were not simply reacting to crisis, but that we had a robust processes in place to deal with them in the future, and that we were taking necessary steps to ensure that our work remains financially sound and viable and that we continued to perform and deliver project benefits to the primary target group.

In the next financial year, we will focus on strengthening CAM so it is better equipped to meet the needs of those who need our support. We will be taking those challenges forward and creating a renewed plan to ensure we return stronger than ever.

We will collaborate to maximise our existing resources by drawing upon our network of key partners, whilst we will continue to undertake proper research to understand about the various options that can be used to maintain a steady flow of funds as well as to build a strong foundation for long term success.

CAM has a four-year (2019-2023) income generation plan in place which has been produced with the help of Liverpool CVS. The approach has been delivering the desired results. We hope that this plan will continue to guide our fundraising activities over this next phase of securing and developing our service provision.

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Way Forward (cont'd)

The plan aims to provide the organisation with a balanced portfolio of income from institutions, trusts, companies and individuals which will create a platform for the long-term sustainability of our programs.

We are continually looking at how we can harness the energy, strengthen collaborative relationships that we have formed throughout the last year, in order to build back the organisation.

The Management would like to thank once again our funders and supporters for their much appreciated and valuable support without who, the Management would not be able to continue to deliver its much needed services to the Community.

For the Congolese Association of Merseyside
Charles Matondo Lemba

C Lemba

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

I report on the accounts for The Congolese Association of Merseyside for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees, members and examiner

As the charity members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(B) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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

.....  SA (HONS)

Date: 03/11/2022

**Cheryl P Agorom, ICPA
Independent Examiner
Whitfield Accounting &
Integrated Services Ltd**

**Wavertree Business Village
11 Tapton Way
LIVERPOOL
L13 1DA**

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
John Moores Foundation					
Barka Foundation (Poland)		4,195			-
John Moores Foundation		5,000	0		5,000
All Church Trust: Hope Beyond			0		10,650
LCC Care Grant			0		3,500
LCC Liverpool		1,250			1,250
Cloth Workers Foundation		3,500	0		
Arnold Clark		1,000	0		
Big Help		750			
National lottery		2,500	0		8,164
Albert Hunt		1,000			
Power for Change			0		9,673
Donal Forester/Grant		5,000			2,500
P H Holt Foundation		5,000	0		
Garfield Weston Foundation		5,000	0		
Members' contribution			0		120
Other donations		8,626			
Neighbourly					400
Donations: Leverhulme Group & Chris Kassongo			0		149
Hemby Trust Grant					1,500
Vinci			0		1,340
Barrow Cadbury					6,650
Total incoming resources	3	42,821	-	42,821	50,896
Resources expended					
4					
Charitable activities		(44,508)		(44,508)	(49,108)
Governance costs					
Total resources expended		(1,687)	-	-1,687	1,788
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers					
Gross transfers between funds	10				
		(1,687)		-1,687	1,788
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward				5,418	3,630
Total funds carried forward		(1,687)	-	3,731	5,418

Approved by the trustees on 06/12/2022

C Lemba

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on Page 1 of the trustees report.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Trustee

Date: 06/12/2022

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	8				
Cash at bank and in hand		3,731		5,418	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	9	-		-	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			3,731		5,418
Net assets			<u>3,731</u>		<u>5,418</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds: b/fd		3,541		3,541	
Restricted funds b/fd		1,877		1,877	
Surplus/Deficit for the year		(1,687)		-	
Total charity funds			<u>3,731</u>		<u>5,418</u>

Approved by the trustees on 06/12/2022... and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee *C Lemba*

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

4. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of them was reimbursed expenses.

5. Tangible fixed assets

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
6. Debtors		
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. Restricted funds **INFORMATION ONLY**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising

There were no restricted funds during the year were

Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers	Balance at '31 March 2022 £
-	-	-	-	-
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1157149

Accounts

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Statement of financial activities	4
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are listed below.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name	THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Charity number	1157149
Office Address	Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre 97 Stanley Road Bootle LIVERPOOL L20 7DA
Registered Office	Suite 4 - Kingspark Business Centre 97 Stanley Road Bootle LIVERPOOL L20 7DA
Secretary & Operation Manager	Petronelle K Moanda
Management Committee	Lesley Ann Armstrong Charles Lemba Matondo Moacir Paulino Medeiros Michel Makunsa Ndefunsu Petronelle K Moanda (Secretary)
Accountants and Independent Examiner	Whitfield Accounting & Integrated Services Ltd Wavertree Business Village 11 Tipton Way Wavertree Liverpool L13 1DA
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc Great Crosby Branch 18-22 Liverpool Road LIVERPOOL L23 5SF

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Congolese Association of Merseyside is a Community hub of ions shaping ions. It was set up in 2004 by 6 members of the local community (founders) out of the hardship and stress caused by addressing integration issues alone when they first arrived in the UK. It was first registered as a company limited by guarantee No. 5801288 on 29 April 2006, then later registered as a Charity on 21 May 2014 Number 1157149.

CAM is owned and run by local residents to address the social dilemma of our marginalised community (African French and Luzophone speakers Refugees, Asylum seekers and other migrants) facing social exclusion due to language and cultural barriers.

Organisational Structure

The organisation has continued to benefit from 5 committee members with complementary skills, and is staffed by 8 multilingual volunteers. The committee diligently and generously engaged with the project while drawing on their personal refugee and life experiences.

Our day-to day activities are run entirely by trained volunteers and the community champions, which creates a far more responsive and informed provision because it is led by people who have had "lived" experiences of these issues and know how to help resolve them at the earliest possible stages.

The organisation's activities were and are still entirely run by volunteers. Our management structure remained unchanged. However, we lost 2 volunteers during the crisis, and we have benefitted from 4 new recruits. We are passionate about further enhancing the excellent service our teams provide by enhancing their capacity and capability, to continue to run existing services, and to refresh our talent pool to ensure we remain viable and able to deliver our intended core activities.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The existing trustees were initially selected by the community in their Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2021. The views and recommendations of elders and community leaders were obtained before the names of the proposed trustees were put forward to the members attending the AGM, for confirmation.

In selecting the trustees, individuals who regularly attended events, activities, meetings and functions organised by the charity were identified. The process of selection involved consideration of the person's eligibility and competence, specialist knowledge and skill and attitude.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, the trustees were given details of their role and were also provided with the policies and procedures adopted by our charity. Details of the charity commission were provided to the trustees and they were advised to go through the various publications of the charity commission including guidance on charities and public benefit. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities under the Charities Act.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity and the measures taken to manage these risks and reduce their occurrence. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to manage the risks that have been identified. Policies for Health and Safety are present.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) now DBS checks are carried out for all individuals working with the children and vulnerable adults.

Frontline workers were provided with the necessary tools to ensure we follow strictly all required policies and procedures in relation to COVID-19 prevention precautions, which include social distancing measures, heightened sanitization, reduced physical interactions and use of PPE

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Aims & Objectives

1. Aims:

The key aims of the Congolese Association of Merseyside is to deliver services and activities that tackle increasing social problems around integration and social cohesion of non-English speakers' migrants within, who are struggling to navigate the mainstream systems due to language limitation.

To provide participants with opportunities and tools for success and life chance to thrive as individuals, thus help communities to be stronger, healthier, better connected and economically secure.

To see a growing sense of humanity, within our community where people of any background can live at peace and respect for each other and make our community a better place to live and work in harmony.

Objectives:

"Our goal" is to help more members of the community to thrive and live more fulfilled life. During this financial year, we hoped to engage with 400 individuals (250 asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants directly and 150 secondary beneficiaries), to give as many people as possible access support services, to help alleviate suffering and their hardship and develop their resilience. Because we believe that it is our social responsibility, our common endeavour to do what we can to help the community around us, during difficult times.

However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the continuous restrictions which have shocked and galvanized the community, so our service user's poverty has increased, jobs and income have decreased.

There was an increase of 31.75% in demand of services.

Individual people who have used our services are : 527, an increase of 31.75% due to the pandemic and the restrictions to contain the spread of the disease.

1) Asylum seekers: 158 = 30%

2) Refugees: 210 = 40%

3) Other migrants: 132 = 25%

4) Local residents: 26 = 5%

Most of our beneficiaries work in hospitality industry. Due to the lockdowns and restrictions, they have lost jobs, shielding, or they have parental responsibility. They could not report change of circumstance/or claim appropriate benefits due to language limitation, which has led them to severe loss of income, financial struggle and poverty.

3. Core Services

During 15 years, we have run programmes aimed to initially help, but not exclusively non-English speaker migrants to settle, gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become empowered.

We developed a portfolio of innovative services that exploits the range of skills, quality and internal resources available to encourage, empower and enable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to build new lives and other residents who face life challenges to overcome them.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Aims & Objectives

3. Core services (cont'd)

Information , advice and guidance : Provision of easy access to multilingual information, translation, interpretation.

Advocacy - access to professional help/ and referrals

Development programme: The delivery of a range of upskilling support workshops

Outreach/Engagement : In and off site with partners to promote our programme and reach out to more people

Social /Recreational and Leisure activities

We have partnered with two local churches (Logos Christian Centre International and Bethlehem Community Resource Centre in Liverpool), as well as others voluntary organisations to provide essential services to diverse groups (people of all ages, and all backgrounds), to improve lives of vulnerable people across Merseyside.

4. Impact of COVID-19

Although COVID-19 pandemic has galvanised communities and organisations, CAM has remained in operation throughout. The management reduced the provision of services and the key adapted services were geared around the current needs, "vital services": with drastic adjustments to respond to the greater volume/nature of cases and a high demand for services a continued support to existing beneficiaries and new residents calling for help during this time of uncertainty.

Greater volume of cases and a high demand for services

Disruption to income (stretched/reduced resources) to meet the raised demand

Reduced staffing due to family situation (self-isolation, shielding)

Reduced activities - services restricted to essentially COVID-19 related interventions

Increased demand for more equipment/repairs and adaptations - to enhance digital system to help the team to work remotely in their homes to meet the changing needs

Raised utility bills and emergency interventions fees (remote working - funeral costs, bereavement support, hostels for homeless)

More outreach and engagement sessions with the target group who have lost jobs/ or grieving or in crisis (those who are affected by the coronavirus crisis)

Activities

Drop-in (Remotely) - Beneficiaries continued to access multilingual information, advice and guidance sessions remotely through an open telephone line and on social media platform.

Emotional and mental health wellbeing support; constant connection with most vulnerable beneficiaries providing telephone support/friendship (email, phone calls, group WhatsApp, Facebook or develop online activities to help reduce isolation.)

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Aims & Objectives

3. Core services (cont'd)

1 session/2 hrs/week - for support, signposting guidance/referrals to professionals for urgent problems if they come up during phone or Zoom conversations.

Financial Inclusion : We provided practical help to people who were struggling financially, help with completing benefit claims, report change in circumstance, including guidance on benefits and entitlements available and debt advice.

Advocacy: We continued to enable access to professional advice to help beneficiaries feel more confident about their legal rights and the asylum application process, leave to remain, biometric residence permit and citizenship applications.

Practical support: Provision and delivery of food and essential supplies (Food/care package delivery to families - drop shopping, medication, if necessary / for vulnerable people self-isolating.

Facebook page update with signposting references for support with key services and in an emergency. For example, food banks domestic violence support, urgent mental health support, benefits and debt advice.

We have supported a rising number of domestic violence and homeless providing them with essentials ranging from (emergency food parcel, utility - heating, electricity, travel costs, emergency accommodation, items of clothing, bedding, and rehousing the homeless.

The Management Committee are committed to using their skills, experience, passion and dedication to make themselves available at no cost, use available resources to provide support to the hard-to-reach members of our locality.

While we are able to respond to these requests it is now on a piecemeal basis.

Since 10 May 2021, we returned to our limited face-to-face intervention, we monitor people welfare ensuring that reasonable measures are taken to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus, in particular by limiting close face to face interaction and by improving hygiene - provision of PPE mask, and social distancing sign displayed.

As the furlough scheme is coming to an end, we are entering uncharted ground with challenges once again. In the coming months the end of furlough will deepen distress in the country. Unemployment will increase so poverty will increase leading to people desperately needing help.

We are entering even more challenging times, requiring a need to increase the support for our work in terms of a more varied funding stream. We must be creative and flexible in our structure and approach to continue to show compassion for the vulnerable, especially women and children, who are stuck in poverty for a long time due to lack of information and support throughout their transition into integration.

Therefore, in the next financial year, we will focus on strengthening CAM so it is better equipped to meet the needs of those who need our support. We will be taking these challenges forward and creating a renewed strategy to respond and adapt to the new environment.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Aims & Objectives

Key Achievements

During the financial year 2020/2021, we have reduced services on our drop-in, outreach and advocacy services with minimum development activities, as we carried out 3 community consultation to help us adapt our programmes, to better respond to service users' needs.

Drop-in (remotely) - Beneficiaries continued to access multilingual information, advice and guidance sessions remotely through an open telephone line and on social media platform;
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Practical support

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We have acquired comuters and desk

We have distributed 58 food bxes

Housing

College & Unversity

Apprenticeship

Volunteering

Jobs

Self-employment

Organisation setting up/business support

Immigratiion advice (Advocacy/Interpretation/translation/Referrals

Benefits claims

Domesic violence - Hate crime (arson attacks during the financial year 2018/2019 we have reduced services on our drop-in outreach and advocacy

services with minimum development activities, as we carried out 3 community consultation to help us adapt our programmes, to better respond to service users' ne4eds.

Ks)

Bereavement and funeral supports.

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

FINANCE REVIEW

The overall finances (£54,526) set to help us achieve our goals for the period are from Trusts and Foundations, National Lottery and Donations. The surplus for the year carried forward is £5,418.

The principal sources of funding for our charity are the grants from our key donors below, that we salute and shout about their trust and support to our work.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Moores | 7. Donald Forrester Trust |
| 2. National Lottery | 8. Vinci |
| 3. Liverpool City Council (Our Liverpool) | 9. All Churches Trust (Hope Beyond) |
| 4. Liverpool Community Care Grant | 10. Hemby Trust |
| 5. Barrow Cadbury | 11. Neighbourly |
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Way Forward

The pandemic has brought many challenges and has created lasting change to CAM, as it was for many Communities Voluntary Organisations. Since the lockdown was eased, it is not that we look like we have conquered COVID-19 pandemic and we are back to normal.

It is 'a waiting and see game' - compliance with the safety of people, that is, adhering to Government guidance which is at the core of our delivery strategy. So, it could be next year that it all gets back to normal.

Now as we head towards the end of the lockdowns, and the furlough program is ending, we expect an increase in unemployment, financial difficulties and increased poverty due to loss of earnings for beneficiaries leading to an increased demand for our services.

To CAM this means we are entering uncharted ground with challenges once again. We know there will be uncertainty and instability to maintain essential costs of sustaining current activities, however, learning how to live with uncertainty is part of running an organisation.

How do we ensure that the organisation can build resilience and a sustainable service delivery, to maintain momentum and reach our growth targets is the management priority?

Future-proofing is needed now more than ever to ensure that we are not simply reacting to crisis, but that we have a robust processes in place to deal with them in the future, and that we are taking necessary steps to ensure that our work remains financially sound and viable and that we continue to perform and deliver project benefits to the primary target group.

In the next financial year, we will focus on strengthening CAM so it is better equipped to meet the needs of those who need our support. We will be taking those challenges forward and creating a renewed plan to ensure we return stronger than ever.

We will collaborate to maximise our existing resources by drawing upon our network of key partners, whilst we will continue to undertake proper research to understand about the various options that can be used to maintain a steady flow of funds as well as to build a strong foundation for long term success.

CAM has a four-year (2019-2023) income generation plan in place which has been produced with the help of Liverpool CVS. The approach has been delivering the desired results. We hope that this plan will continue to guide our fundraising activities over this next phase of securing and developing our service provision.

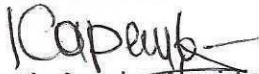
THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Way Forward (cont'd)

The plan aims to provide the organisation with a balanced portfolio of income from institutions, trusts, companies and individuals which will create a platform for the long-term sustainability of our programs.

We are continually looking at how we can harness the energy, strengthen collaborative relationships that we have formed throughout the last year, in order to build back the organisation.

The Management would like to thank once again our funders and supporters for their much appreciated and valuable support without who, the Management would not be able to continue to deliver its much needed services to the Community.



For the Congolese Association of Merseyside
Petronelle K Moanda

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

I report on the accounts for The Congolese Association of Merseyside for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees, members and examiner

As the charity members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by The Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(B) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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

.....
Cheryl P Agorom, ICPA
Independent Examiner
Whitfield Accounting &
Integrated Services Ltd

Date: 24/06/2021

Wavertree Business Village
11 Tapton Way
LIVERPOOL
L13 1DA

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE
Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on Page 1 of the trustees report.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Trustee

Date: 28/6/2021

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
John Moores Foundation		-	0		9,198
A4 ALL		5,000	0	5,000	
John Moores		10,650	0	10,650	
All Church Trust: Hope Beyond		3,500	0	3,500	4,000
LCC Care Grant		1,250		1,250	
LCC Liverpool			0		
Comic Relief			0		3000
Elizabeth Rathbone Trust		8,164	0	8,164	
National lottery		9,673	0	9,673	
Power for Change		2,500		2,500	
Donal Forester/Grant			0		8,634
P H Holt Foundation			0		1000
LCVS		120	0	120	42
Members' contribution		400		400	
Neighbourly		149	0	149	570
Donations: Leverhulme Group & Chris Kassongo		1,500		1,500	
Hemby Trust Grant		1,340	0	1,340	
Vinci		6,650		6,650	
Barrow Cadbury					
Total incoming resources	3	50,896	-	50,896	26,544
Resources expended					
	4				
Charitable activities		(49,108)		(49,108)	(26,095)
Governance costs					
Total resources expended		1,788	-	1,788	449
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers					
Gross transfers between funds	10	1,788	-	1,788	449
Reconciliation of funds		3,630	-	3,630	3,181
Total funds brought forward					
Total funds carried forward		5,418	-	5,418	3,630

Approved by the trustees on 28/6/2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

CM LEMBA

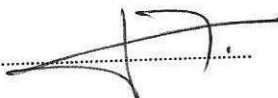


THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	8				
Cash at bank and in hand		5,418		3,630	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9				
			-		-
Net current (liabilities)/assets			5,418		3,630
Net assets			<u>5,418</u>		<u>3,630</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds:		5,418		3,630	
Restricted funds					
Total charity funds			<u>5,418</u>		<u>3,181</u>

Approved by the trustees on 28/6/2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee 

Registered charity number : 1157149

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

4. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of them was reimbursed expenses.

5. Tangible fixed assets

THERE ARE NO FIXED ASSETS

THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
6. Debtors		
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020- £
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. Restricted funds

INFORMATION ONLY

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising

There were no restricted funds during the year were

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers	Balance at '31 March 2021 £
	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>