

## *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

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CongoAssociationofMerseyside

**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**  
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**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**  
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Registered charity number : 1157149

**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

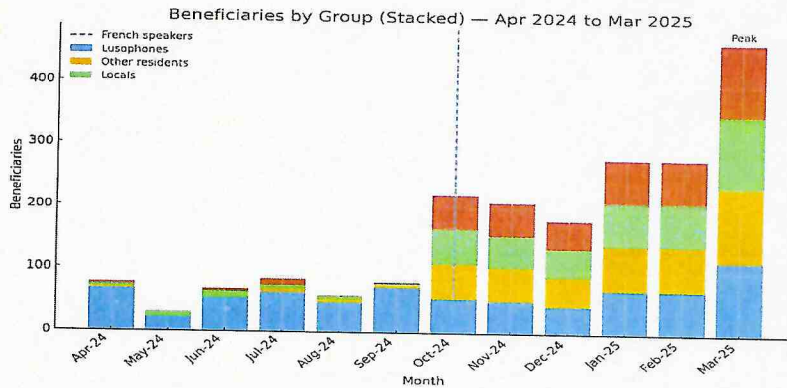
We have exceeded our target. We believe that equal access to our services is an important issue for us.

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...

**THE CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE**  
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Registered charity number : 1157149



**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**

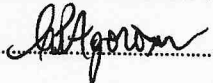
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Community Foundation			3,000	3,000	-
Elisabeth Rathbone Grant					1,000
Comic Relief					10,000
Sefton CVS			4,956	4,956	43,061
National lottery			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
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>20,099</b>	<b>87,283</b>	<b>107,382</b>	<b>143,320</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities		(121,825)		(121,825)	(133,122)
Governance costs		(300)		(300)	(300)
Depreciation		(1,419)		(1,419)	(1,685)
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>(123,544)</b>		<b>(123,544)</b>	<b>(135,107)</b>
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds					
Reconciliation of funds		(16,162)	-	-16,162	8,213
Total funds brought forward		22,706		22,706	14,493
Brought forward					
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>6,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,544</b>	<b>22,706</b>

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	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	2		<u>8,039</u>		<u>9,458</u>
			8,039		9,458
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand			<u>4,912</u>		<u>20,182</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	3		<u>(6,407)</u>		<u>(6,934)</u>
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>			(1,495)		13,248
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>6,544</u></u>		<u><u>22,706</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
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>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<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**

Registered charity number : 1157149

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	2	<u>8,039</u>		<u>9,458</u>	
		8,039		9,458	
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,912</u>		<u>20,182</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	3	<u>(6,407)</u>		<u>(6,934)</u>	
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>		(1,495)		13,248	
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>6,544</u></u>		<u><u>22,706</u></u>	
<b>Income funds</b>					
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>	
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<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
-	-	-	-	-