

I AM SOMEBODY'S CHILD SOLDIER
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CONTENTS	Page
Legal and administrative information	3
Trustees' report	4 - 9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 13

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Office address:

48 West World
West Gate
London, W5 1DT

Co-Founder / Co-Director:

Shirah Mansaray

Co-Founder / Co-Director:

James Mansaray

Trustees who served during the year

Mr James Mansaray, BA Youth Justice
Ms Shirah Mansaray, LLB

Appointed January 2021 Leigh Esterhuizen

Appointed January 2021 Nanette Onu

Appointed January 2021 John Teixeira

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of I am Somebody's Child Soldier for the year. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (revised 2005).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution and governing document

I am Somebody's Child Soldier is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered at the Charity Commission on 08 July 2014, and is governed by its constitution.

Method of appointment or election of Board of Trustees

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the constitution. Regular reviews are held to identify any expertise gaps within the Board of Trustees and appointments are made where required to strengthen the Board of Trustees, subject to all trustees' approval.

When it is necessary to appoint new trustees, due to either a trustee stepping down or a gap of expertise in the board is identified, recruitment will initially begin through the networks of the board and management team. Advertisements will then be placed online on recruitment sites and charity notice boards.

Trustees will review applications and successful applicants will be invited to attend a telephone interview with the managing trustee. Following on from the telephone interview, the successful applicant will be asked to write a proposal outlining key tasks and projects they wish to implement during their tenure as a trustee. The managing trustee will then feed back to the board of trustees both the proposal and comments from the telephone interview. Following this, on the provision that the board is satisfied, and the applicant still wishes to join the trustee board, they will be appointed.

The Trustees who served during the period are shown on page 3.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Board of Trustees

The charity arranges for an information pack of important documents to be sent to the new trustee.

These include:

- A copy of the governing document
- The latest trustee minutes
- The latest accounts and annual return
- The guidance 'The essential trustee: what you need to know (CC3)', and 'The hallmarks of an effective charity (CC10)'
- The charity's policy on dealing with conflicts of interest
- Any other key documents which trustees will need, for example, the charity's strategic plan and its vision and values or mission statement

The charity works to provide an induction program that is suitable for the new trustee and one that takes into account the small size and nature of our charity. The main objective of the induction process is to equip the new trustee with the information they need to properly govern the charity and fulfil on their trustee responsibilities.

The new trustee will be invited to a trustee meeting where they will have the opportunity to take part in discussions with existing trustees and learn everything they need to know initially in order to make an effective contribution to the management of the charity.

As the charity hopes to grow and expand its workforce, a more structured induction program will be adopted to help new trustees better understand the work of the charity.

This induction will include:

- Introductions to senior management and staff
- Introductions to any professional advisers retained by the charity
- Visits to see services provided by the charity nationally and internationally
- Visits to schemes and projects of the charity
- Meetings with beneficiaries of the charity
- An assessment of any training required by the new trustee

Organisational structure and decision-making

The governance of the charitable company is the responsibility of the Trustees. Day to day management is by the Director of Fundraising, who draws on the support and expertise of the highly experienced Board of Trustees as needed.

Related party relationships

The Charity has considered the disclosure requirements of the SORP for related party relationships and believes that there are no related party relationships and transactions, other than the Trustees and their close connections.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees fully accepts its responsibilities for ensuring that the major risks to which the Charity is exposed are identified, and that there are systems and procedures in place to mitigate those risks.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Principle objects

- 1 – To empower former child soldiers, victims of war, women returnees and children born in captivity through economic development initiatives and educational programmes.*
- 2 – To rehabilitate and reintegrate former child soldiers and victims of war into their communities.*
- 3 – The relief of sickness and promotion of good health through provision of psychotherapy for rescued child soldiers still suffering from post-war trauma in Northern Uganda and to build rehabilitation centres for the continued provision of on-going psychotherapy given to rescued child soldiers and victims of war.*
- 4 – To enhance and advance education for the public benefit by raising awareness about the impact of mental illness in Africa.*

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In completing our Trustee Annual Return, we hope that it assists the public in making economic decisions in relation to supporting or donating to the charity. We also hope that the report assists the public in assessing the charity's progress against our objectives and that the public understands our plans in relation to our purposes.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (UCL) FUNDING GRANT

for students in Uganda and are continuing the success of the challenge in 2023.

The University Challenge 2023 aimed to enhance online learning adaptation post-COVID-19 through a collaborative project between universities in the Global North and Global South. The project partners included I am Somebody's Child Soldier (IamSCS), University College London (UCL), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Makerere University, Kyambogo University, and Humanity for All Foundation Uganda (HAF). IamSCS and its implementing partner, HAF, managed the project, whilst expert trainers and course facilitators in Uganda delivered the project.

The University Challenge 2023 additionally aimed to strengthen students' capacity in utilising online learning programs and practical engineering learning tools whilst building on the success of the **2022 Online University Challenge**. During the 2022 challenge, students from the partner universities teamed up in diverse groups to analyse, discuss, and address the inequalities women around the world faced, especially in the global south. Students developed and presented well-thought-out and original solutions to issues affecting women in their local communities, focusing on food security, economics, electricity, and education. **Over 70 students participated in the 2022 challenge**, and the project succeeded in building educational links between students from universities in the Global North and Global South.

The University Challenge 2023 differed from the 2022 challenge as it focused on students acquiring practical engineering and innovation skills required to implement project ideas that emerged from the previous challenge. The entire challenge was delivered online with students guided on how to use Zoom for team meetings and other online software for collaborative working. Students were reimbursed mobile and internet data costs for the duration of the Challenge. **Over 250 students enrolled into the online 2023 University Challenge**. The Challenge utilised practical tools including Arduino kits and 3D printers to produce research-based engineering interventions that addressed socioeconomic challenges in the Global South. The challenge introduced Arduino and **3D printing** to students from diverse academic disciplines, some of which had never interacted with these tools, whilst utilising pre-recorded videos and live taught sessions by expert trainers to increase online engagement and knowledge sharing.

Students were masters and undergraduate level from UCL, MUST, Kyambogo University, and Makerere University and academic disciplines included engineering, medicine, law, electronics, agriculture, and economics. Students were divided into diverse groups comprising various universities, ages, gender and academic disciplines and were given two weeks to ideate and formulate innovative prototypes addressing a particular 'theme challenge'. **Theme challenges included: Food insecurity; Economic instability; Unsustainable electricity sources; Inequality in Education; and Health Inequality**. Each teams' objective was to approach one of the 5 thematic areas from a global perspective whilst using Arduino kits and 3D Printers to formulate technological and innovative solutions.

Students were taught presentation skills, online communication skills and business planning skills via live online tutorial sessions delivered by the CEO of IamSCS, Shirah Z Mansaray. Student presentations included an introduction, outline of the problem, proposed solution (including number of potential beneficiaries), timeline for delivery, issues that could arise, costs and investment plan, a plan for delivery, and a conclusion. Each student team presented their final innovations and prototypes in a 10-minute pre-recorded video that was examined by a team of external judges, including industry and academic experts on particular topics and themes. Presentations were marked on: Structure; Implementation facility, Suitability of the solution, Statistics, Needs Analysis, Business plan, Group Participation and Group Presentation coherence.

There were a number of really innovative ideas from students, with the winning team creating a Computer Vision and sonification device that, when worn by sight impaired students, transmitted image data via audio output. Other outstanding and innovative projects from students included one team who utilised their Arduino kit to create a Sign Language Translator that was able to translate sign language to a verbal form, allowing people who use sign language to communicate with those who do not know it and who rely on verbal communication. Another team created a Gas detection device that could detect harmful gases in mines in Uganda and emit warning signals to miners.

...they acquired during the challenge would advance their academic and professional careers **moving forward**. 91.2% of the 114 students who provided feedback stated that they would continue working on their solutions that they created during the 2023 Challenge. 94% of students indicated that their team working skills improved whilst 76% stated they had acquired innovation skills and 70% acquired critical thinking skills.

Most significantly, the 2023 Challenge increased university students' independence in online learning capability and capacity and remote practical skills acquisition whilst simultaneously deepening the engagement between universities in Uganda and UCL. The project offered an opportunity for bidirectional student learning between UCL and universities in Uganda, established an online community of practice and skills sharing through the online learning challenge, provided a localised perspective on innovations and technologies for addressing global challenges through online learning. The challenge successfully engaged students from varying academic backgrounds/disciplines in new academic knowledge and practical engineering skills interchange and promoted capacity building through partnerships that addressed global challenges and had a global reach and real-world impact. IamSCS, HAF and UCL are very proud of all the students who participated and to the Africa and Middle East Teaching Fund for providing crucial funding for this project.

Performance against Charitable Objectives

As far as practicable, the trustees have provided information in the report about the resources spent on particular activities that furthered the charity objectives.

The projects detailed above by the charity executives illustrate our commitment to address issues affecting children and surrounding local communities. Our main focus following the setbacks caused by Covid-19 global pandemic has been aligning the charity with its core objectives and increasing the funds available for planned activities.

Although the global Covid-19 pandemic significantly affected the charity's operations and finances, it brought in the opportunity to revisit the charity's business model, policies and fundraising strategy, while fine-tuning programmatic priorities around Covid-proof access to education and ICT-centered community development.

Fundraising Costs Review

The public should note that our fundraising costs each year are not entirely to facilitate funds being raised but are also to help us meet our charity objective of "enhancing public awareness of the impact of mental illness on the lives of child soldiers and child victims of war in Africa". The amount the charity paid in respect of fundraisers' commission and fees was split reasonably between paying fundraisers to raise awareness about mental health and its impact on victims of war, including rescued child soldiers and also paying our fundraisers to raise crucial funds needed to further our charitable objectives. In the notes to Accounts section, there is a note reflecting this as a percentage estimate of 10% of fundraisers commission and fees as spent on raising public awareness of mental illness amongst victims of war and rescued child soldiers.

The trustees are aware of the significant costs involved in raising charitable funds in the current financial climate, and to caveat the significant fundraising costs the trustees engaged fundraisers with the task of awareness raising and campaigning that we build into all of our fundraising efforts and campaigns. Furthermore, for the past several years, the trustees have initiated a significant scaling back of the charity's street fundraising campaign in order to focus our efforts on field research initiatives and to align our program development strategically with our amended charity objectives.

EDUCATION

Access to safe, quality education for children affected by armed conflict has an important role in reintegration, as well as providing a route to a better future. Schools can often protect these highly vulnerable children. Education also

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIPS DURING 2022-2023

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University College London (UCL) has entered into a triple pronged partnership with I am Somebody's Child Soldier (IAMSCS). The University's Computer Science Department facilitated a collaboration between a handful of students and IAMSCS through an 'Industry Exchange' Project, whereby the students provided their expertise to the development and enrichment of IAMSCS's digital presence, as well as worked on research projects. In addition, IAMSCS continues to provide fellowship opportunities to UCL students to give students work experience outside of their studies.

The purpose of the partnership between I am Somebody's Child Soldier and UCL is to support IAMSCS's educational projects and campaigns. The students, in turn, are able to apply the knowledge they acquire in their taught modules to a legitimate and established organisation whose ethos and aims have far-reaching benefits.

IAMSCS PUBLIC COMMITMENTS

To support safe, innovative, and economically sustainable societies in the Global South with concerted efforts directed at programs that promote mental wellbeing for war affected children and communities. IAMSCS continues to work with community-based organisations, local government and policy makers to empower war affected individuals and community members through protection of human rights, mental wellbeing and technological innovation.

IAMSCS Programs are:

Research-led – our projects and programs are developed in conjunction with local partners' field research, beneficiary participation, and academic research. This ensures that IAMSCS programs deliver the most effective impact within limited resource settings. Additionally, a research-led approach affirms the correlation of our programs with the reality of the field through needs assessment, data collection and monitoring and evaluation tools.

Beneficiary-driven – IAMSCS is accountable to our beneficiaries and through our programs ensure a strong focus on empowering the most vulnerable individuals in war affected communities. Through participatory intervention approaches, which involve beneficiaries and their guardians in our program development, our programs reportedly deliver greater impact. Additionally, beneficiary feedback mechanisms are implemented throughout the project cycle in the form of post-delivery project questionnaires and beneficiary representatives in the project steering Committee.

IAMSCS is grateful to all our supports, donors and beneficiaries who have ensured that the charity continues to '**change the narrative, change the conversation, change the perception**' of former child soldiers and war affected communities in Gulu, Uganda.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Charity achieved a surplus for the year of £332 Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £19,879 and total expenditure amounted to £20,229 Full details of the income and expenditure are given in the attached Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the accounts.

The trustees consider the results and financial state of the charity as at the year-end to be satisfactory.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they

Reserves Policy


The Charity has no reserves policy at this stage. However, the Trustees have set aside a 'reserve account' with the aim that this will grow to cushion the charity against shortages in income in the future.

Principle funding sources

The trustees are grateful for the generosity of the general public who contributed nearly all of the income of the charity through street bucket collections.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 19 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Shirah Mansaray
Trustee

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BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CREDITORS: due within one year			
Accrual		992	2,886
Cash at bank and in hand		9,287	7,062
		<u>10,279</u>	<u>9,947</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-10,279	-9,947
NET ASSETS		<u>-10,279</u>	<u>-9,947</u>
FUNDS			
Designated fund	5	-10,279	-9,947
General fund		-	-
		<u>-10,279</u>	<u>-9,947</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), and authorised for issue, by the Trustees on 30 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:-



Shirah Mansaray, Trustee

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The effect of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2023 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2023 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants which have a restriction as to timing are recognised over the period for which they are given.

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the accounts.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the Charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

Designated funds are those set aside by management for future use on specific purposes. Fixed assets designated funds represent the value of assets tied up in fixed assets.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. All expenditure is accounted for gross, and when incurred.

(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Public collections	19,897	19,897	1,504	1,504
Other small grants and donations	-	0	9565	484
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	19,897	19,897	11,069	11,069
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Bank Charges	1,632	1,632	1,625	1,625
Fundraisers commission	393	393	-	0
General office expenses	555	555	163	163
Insurance	185	185	185	185
Grants to Partner Organisations	7,679	7,679	50	50
Advert	1,134	1,134	0	0
Professional Fees	500	500	0	0
Project Costs	5,383	5,383	8,233	8,233
Stationary expenses	10	10	-	0
Travel expenses	100	100	0	0
Other Expenses	2,657	2,657	436	436
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	20,229	20,229	10,692	10,692
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	-332	-332	377	377
Accumulated brought forward	-9,794	-9,794	-10,171	-10,171
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2022	-10,126	-10,126	-9,794	-9,794

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7,679	50
Other Expenditure	12,550	10,642
	<u>20,229</u>	<u>10,692</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	5,383	8,233
	<u>5,383</u>	<u>8,233</u>

4 DIRECTORS / TRUSTEES EMOLUMENTS

The directors or key management personnel received no emoluments (2022: £nil) in respect of their services to the Charity.

5 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resource	Resources Expended	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted fund	-9,947	19,897	-20,229	-	-10,279
Total funds	<u>-9,947</u>	<u>19,897</u>	<u>-20,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-10,279</u>

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Net current assets	-	-9,287	-	-9,287	-7,062
Creditors due within one year	-	-992	-	-992	-2,886
	<u>-</u>	<u>-10,279</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-10,279</u>	<u>-9,947</u>

7 ORGANISATION

I am Somebody's Child Soldier is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered on 08 Jul 2014.

The above results are derived entirely from continuing activities.