

# AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

England & Wales · Charity number 1168468

## Details

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**Other names** A2B

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-07-27

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

## Contact

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**Address** 19 Minehead Avenue  
Sully  
Penarth  
South Glamorgan  
CF64 5TH

**Phone** 07799286698

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**Website** [www.a2balbania.org](http://www.a2balbania.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** (1) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CONDITION OF NEED OR HARDSHIP OR WHO ARE AGED OR SICK AND TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS CAUSED THEREBY IN SUCH PARTS OF THE BALKANS OR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT LIMITED TO PROVIDING GRANTS, ITEMS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED AND/OR CHARITIES, OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY; (2) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ADVANCING THE EDUCATION (INCLUDING TRAINING) OF PEOPLE IN THE BALKANS OR THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD IN SUCH WAYS AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES THINK FIT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BY: (A) AWARDING TO SUCH PERSONS SCHOLARSHIPS, MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES OR GRANTS; AND(B) PROVIDING FOR THEIR EDUCATION (INCLUDING TRAINING) FOR ENTRY TO ANY OCCUPATION, TRADE OR PROFESSION ON LEAVING ANY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT;(3) TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF ALBANIA AND THE BALKANS, 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 ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS;(4) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN SUCH PARTS OF THE BALKANS OR THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY SEE FIT FROM TIME TO TIME BY MEANS OF SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN MISSION, PASTORAL WORK, AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH CHRISTIAN VALUES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY;(5) TO FURTHER SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH MAY BE CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT FROM TIME TO TIME.

**Activities:** Providing grants to a charity based in Albania who provide meals and support to the elderly, support to families through a Family Link Programme and support and education to children through kindergarten all generally based in/from day centres. Also support other projects on an adhoc basis.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Albania
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£60,121	£76,089	-	-
2024-03-31	£64,243	£73,237	-	-
2023-03-31	£103,610	£80,663	-	-
2022-03-31	£61,709	£71,804	-	-
2021-03-31	£73,249	£74,571	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>DR SAM WHITMARSH</b>	Chair	2015-11-11
BERNARD MARK BENTLEY		2024-08-08
Elizabeth Pollard		2024-08-08
Raymond Burn Flux		2024-08-08

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168468

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# Accounts

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**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Charity number: 1168468

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)  
CONTENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	<b>Page</b>
<b>Legal and Administrative Information</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Trustees' Report</b>	<b>2 to 7</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account</b>	<b>10 to 11</b>

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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<b>Charity Number</b>	1168468
<b>Registered Office</b>	19 Minehead Avenue Sully Penarth South Glamorgan CF64 5TH
<b>Trustees</b>	Dr Sam Whitmarsh David Ayrton (resigned 8 August 2024) Ms Tracey Bishop (resigned 8 August 2024) Andrew Davies (resigned 8 August 2024) Bernard Bentley (appointed 8 August 2024) Ray Flux (appointed 8 August 2024) Steven Parker (appointed 8 August 2024) Elizabeth Pollard (appointed 8 August 2024)
<b>Key management</b>	Richard Parsons (Operations Manager)
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Simon Ellingham FCA DChA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. This report is presented in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to the Constitution dated 11th November 2015.

The overall management and control of the charity rests with the individual members of the Board of Trustees who meet in accordance with the Constitution which requires the presence of at least two or, if the number of trustees is greater, a third of its members to form a quorum. The Board may appoint a Chairperson and revoke such appointment at any time. All business is decided by a simple majority, each trustee having one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Charity trustees are elected the body of trustees by a resolution at a properly convened meeting and serve for a term of three years. Trustees retiring at the end of their term are eligible for reappointment. In selecting potential candidates for appointment as trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience of individuals to ensure their suitability to administer the CIO. There shall be a minimum of three trustees and there is no maximum. There are currently five trustees.

**Voluntary staff**

The charity benefits from the services provided by volunteers. Voluntary help is not valued for the purposes of the accounts.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place policies addressing the main operational risk areas, including that regarding data protection, and they aim to use best practice. An appropriate level of funds will be maintained to help mitigate the main financial risks.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and aims**

A2B is an organisation that works to 'Lift Dignity and Restore Hope' amongst the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. By meeting both immediate and longer-term need through a range of activities in Health, Education, Livelihoods and Protection, we aim to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

A2B is based on Christian values and principles, believing that true human development seeks to address all areas of a person's life, physically, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

The trustees declare 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.

**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities - legal**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was set up to take forward the work of Aid to the Balkans Forward Trust (A2B), which operated as an unincorporated charity (Registered with the Charity Commission 1077088) since 1999.

On 1 April 2017, the assets of the old charity were transferred to this new body and it started to operate from that date.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities - operational**

**Overview of Charitable Partnerships and Collaborations**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) exists to support the work of A2B Albania, our affiliated partner working in Albania to serve vulnerable communities through practical help, education, and social support. This work is strengthened through collaboration with a range of partner organisations who provide resources, expertise, and practical assistance and we would like to recognise and thank each of the following: Foodbank Albania, FSCI UK, PARI TEC GMBH- Germany, AMOS Foundation- Germany, GAIN International- Swiss and ISTEP- Swiss, RBN – Netherlands, Hope for Albania – Netherlands, Nova College CIOS Haarlem Hoofddorp- Netherlands, World Race- USA, YWAM.

**Fundraising and Donor Engagement**

During the year, AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) continued to raise funds and maintain active engagement with supporters in order to sustain and expand A2B Albania's frontline work. We continued to share updates through electronic and written communications, strengthening donor connection and awareness of the ongoing needs across the communities served.

**Organisational Impact: Scale and Reach**

Across the organisation, A2B Albania's work continues to provide consistent weekly support to over 500 vulnerable individuals. This includes:

- 170 children
- 75 women
- 192 older people
- 13 individuals living with disabilities
- 49 families

In addition to direct individual support, the charity facilitates multiple community groups, including parent engagement and training activities connected to the children and families served, helping strengthen resilience, safeguarding awareness, and long-term wellbeing.

**Project Portfolio: Key Initiatives and Impact**

**1. Multidisciplinary Social Centers (MSCs)**

A2B Albania's Multidisciplinary Social Centres remain a core part of our charitable activity, offering multi-layered community support that is practical, relational, and preventative. Through the MSC network, the charity provides a safe, consistent environment where people experiencing poverty, isolation, disability, or disadvantage can access food, education, wellbeing support, and social care.

Rather than operating as single-purpose services, the MSCs bring multiple forms of support together, enabling families and individuals to receive joined-up help that reflects real-life needs.

**Key MSC activities delivered during the year include:**

**Kindergarten programmes**

The MSCs provide early years education for children from families facing significant hardship. Alongside learning and development support, children are provided with consistent meals and a stable environment that encourages attendance and engagement in education.

**After-school clubs and child-focused activities**

The MSCs provide after-school support and structured activities that help children 11-18 remain connected to positive influences and safe spaces. These programmes also reinforce safeguarding awareness, including support that helps prevent child exploitation, violence, and trafficking risks.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Project Portfolio: Key Initiatives and Impact**

**1. Multidisciplinary Social Centers (MSCs) cont.**

**Feeding programmes and practical care**

Daily meal provision remains a vital component of the work, particularly for older individuals and those living in acute poverty. In addition to hot meals delivered through the centres, support is also provided to those unable to travel, ensuring care reaches the most isolated and vulnerable.

**Psychosocial support for older people**

As well as addressing physical need, the MSCs provide relational support and safe social connection for elderly individuals experiencing loneliness and hardship. The centres offer a consistent community environment, helping reduce isolation while ensuring people can access practical help.

**Community support and family engagement**

MSC work continues to encourage and strengthen families, including engaging parents and caregivers through community group activity and training, helping families prioritise education, navigate challenges, and access services they might otherwise struggle to reach.

**2. Foodbank Project**

The Foodbank Project remains a vital part of the charity's crisis response and ongoing support for households experiencing extreme poverty. Working in collaboration with Foodbank Albania, A2B Albania acts as a key distribution hub in Elbasan and surrounding areas, ensuring food aid reaches those who are most in need.

This support enables families and individuals to meet basic needs while reducing immediate pressures that often lead to longer-term hardship. The project also supports the wider charity network by connecting food provision with other forms of community care and social support.

**3. Family Link Project**

The Family Link Project continues to connect sponsors directly with families experiencing severe poverty and instability in Albania. During this year, the project supported approximately **49 families**, providing ongoing assistance with essential needs.

Support provided through Family Link typically includes food provision and additional practical support where needed, including help with urgent costs such as rent, medical needs, and education-related expenses. Families supported by this programme often face significant crises, including loss of income, disability, family breakdown, or complex health and social challenges.

**Case Study:** Mirela is a mother of five children, living with her wider family in extremely difficult circumstances in the countryside near Elbasan. The household includes seven family members, Mirela (27), her mother-in-law/grandmother (68), and five children aged between 3 and 13. Two years ago, Mirela was a victim of domestic violence and was abandoned by her husband. Since then, she and her children have returned to live in the grandmother's home, which is already overcrowded, as they also share the property with the children's uncle and his five children.

Living conditions are very poor, and the family has faced severe hardship, with the children regularly experiencing hunger and malnutrition due to a lack of resources. After joining the Family Link programme, Mirela's family now receives monthly food and hygiene packages, providing stable support for essential needs.

Alongside this, we have been able to improve the children's day-to-day living situation by providing practical items that many of us take for granted. This year, the charity donated beds, mattresses, pillows, and blankets for the children, who previously slept on the floor with only a thin blanket for cover.

A2B have been able to further support the family by providing education support with the two younger children now attending the "Another Life" (AL) kindergarten in Peqin, while the three older boys are enrolled in public school, having previously received early education and care through AL Peqin. Mirela and the children's grandmother continually express their gratitude for the support and care their children have received, recognising the meaningful difference it has made to their daily lives, stability, and wellbeing.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Project Portfolio: Key Initiatives and Impact**

**4. House of Opportunity**

The House of Opportunity provides safe accommodation and structured support for vulnerable young adults, particularly those transitioning from state care or facing heightened risks of exploitation and trafficking. The project aims to provide stability, guidance, and practical life skills, helping individuals build confidence and independence. In January 2025 the House of Opportunity Programme relocated after the local government took back the previous building.

During this year, the House of Opportunity supported:

- **5 young men - residents living within the centre**
- **4 young women supported in a non-resident capacity**

Support includes a stable environment, mentoring, life-skills development, and practical steps towards employment and sustainable independence, with ongoing pastoral support from the local team.

**Case Study:** Xhulio is now living his independent life in Tirana, and we couldn't be prouder! He grew up in an orphanage in Shkoder, and like so many who leave the Albanian care system, faced the challenge of transitioning into the world without the family support many take for granted. That's where the House of Opportunity programme (HOP) came in. After leaving the care system, Xhulio came to live at HOP for two years, where he learned essential life skills he hadn't picked up during his time in the orphanage. He finished high school alongside training to become a waiter, all while living in a safe and supportive environment. In 2024, he took a huge step towards independence, moving into a shared flat in Tirana to begin his new life. This is exactly what HOP's mission is all about - helping young people transition out of the care system into independent living. But for Xhulio, HOP isn't just a stepping stone; it's still the place he calls home. He often returns to visit his "family" here, feeling safe and supported by the community that helped him along the way. In September, Xhulio turned 23, and the staff and friends at HOP threw him a surprise birthday party to celebrate not only his birthday but also his successes. It was a joyful moment that truly reflected the deep bonds formed at HOP, showing just how much it means to those who have been part of this family. Xhulio's story is a testament to the lasting impact HOP has on the young people it supports, we couldn't be happier to see him thriving in his new life. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for him, and we'll always be here to cheer him on!

**5. Children's Camps**

Children's camps remain a key part of the charity's outreach and preventative work, providing safe and structured opportunities for children to experience community, learning, play, and encouragement.

During this year, A2B Albania delivered children's camps for approximately **200 children**, across **4 locations**:

- **Peqin**
- **Rrogozhine**
- **Përmet**
- **Elbasan**

These camps provided a mixture of sport, creative activities, games, teaching inputs, and relational support. They also create opportunities to engage families, strengthen positive parenting, and reinforce the importance of education and long-term wellbeing.

**6. AMOS Project Support**

AMOS continues to provide valuable practical support by transporting high-quality goods from Germany for free distribution to families in need. These goods commonly include essential household items such as beds, mattresses, washing machines, and refrigerators.

This project enables the charity to respond to urgent household crises and support families moving from unstable conditions into safer and more sustainable living environments.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Project Portfolio: Key Initiatives and Impact cont**

**7. iStep IT and Computer courses**

The iStep project organises computer courses for children and young people. These courses are held twice a year in Albania, with a team of 6-8 professionals from Switzerland. Throughout the year, this face-to-face training is followed up through the provision of online sessions every other week. iStep also provides all the necessary materials, including computers, photocopiers, video projectors, and various other equipment to support the learning process.

**Staffing in Albania**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) continued to support the employment of local staff in Albania to maintain and deliver these charitable activities. Staffing numbers remain consistent with the previous reporting year:

- 6 Teachers
- 5 Cooks
- 1 Social Workers
- 3 Cleaners
- 2 House Parents
- 1 Coordinator
- 2 Directors/Managers
- Volunteers from local youth groups, churches and a group of university students studying Social Work or Education

**Trustees and Leadership in the UK**

**Board of Trustees**

- Sam Whitmarsh - Chair
- Raymond Flux
- Steven Parker
- Bernard Bentley
- Elizabeth Pollard

*David Ayrton, Andrew Davies and Tracey Bishop* resigned as trustees in August 2024. The trustees would like to express their heartfelt thanks for their dedication and service over many years. Collectively, these three individuals represent more than two decades of commitment to A2B, and their contribution has been instrumental in enabling the charity to grow and continue its work.

**Looking Forward**

We extend our deep gratitude to each supporter and partner who makes our work possible. AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) looks forward to the coming year, confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable communities in Albania.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) is a grant funding organisation to its partner charity in Albania, A2B Albania; this has been the case for the entire year to 31 March 2025.

Giving and other income received to fund A2B's work during the year amounted to £60,121 (2024: £64,243). This level of income received is in line with the average in prior years. Gift Aid tax relief is a principal element of the Charity's income, and the amount received during the year, £11,690, represents 12.8% of total donations (2024: 22%).

Grant funding to A2B Albania increased by around 3.8% to £75,630 (2024: £72,877) including some £16,250 granted for specific purposes (2024: £20,877). A2B UK have reviewed funding after the balance sheet date and the Charity's core funding commitment to A2B Albania has been met.

Giving to the Family Link programme and associated family support amounted to £10,505 (inclusive of Gift Aid). Some £5,645 was also received to part fund Another Life Centre in Peqin, Albania. Other appeals and restricted receipts comprised £100 for the House of Opportunity Project. The analysis of those funds is shown at note 5 to the accounts. All such giving is granted to A2B Albania, without deduction, the month after receipt.

There was an unrestricted fund deficit for the year of £11,742 and a restricted fund deficit of £4,226. On 31st March 2025, the Charity's funds comprised those on deposit in the UK, being £5,786, all of which was represented by unrestricted funds.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy on reserves is to maintain cash and bank deposits sufficient to meet short term requirements. On 31st March 2025, the unrestricted fund balance covered about 1 month's average core funding grant to A2B Albania.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity legislation requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



SAM WHITMARSH

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Simon Ellingham FCA DChA

Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants  
Windover House  
St. Ann Street  
Salisbury  
SP1 2DR

Date: 4 Dec 2024

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT and STATEMENT OF ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Funds		2025 Total £	2024 Total £
	Unrestricted	Restricted		
Note	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<i>Voluntary income</i>				
Donations and gifts received in the UK	35,913	16,250	52,163	52,073
<i>Interest</i>				
UK bank accounts	234	-	234	480
<i>Other income</i>				
Gift Aid	7,724	-	7,724	11,690
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>43,871</b>	<b>16,250</b>	<b>60,121</b>	<b>64,243</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>				
Grant funding: A2B Albania	55,154	20,476	75,630	72,877
<i>Other administrative expenses in the UK</i>				
Bank charges	285	-	285	360
Travel expenses	174	-	174	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>55,613</b>	<b>20,476</b>	<b>76,089</b>	<b>73,237</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>(11,742)</b>	<b>(4,226)</b>	<b>(15,968)</b>	<b>(8,994)</b>
Transfers between funds	(2,064)	2,064	-	-
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) AFTER</b>	<b>(13,806)</b>	<b>(2,162)</b>	<b>(15,968)</b>	<b>(8,994)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCES</b>				
Total balances brought forward at 1 April 2024	19,592	2,162	21,754	30,248
Net receipts/(payments)	(13,806)	(2,162)	(15,968)	(8,994)
Balance on Agency account at 31 March 2024			-	500
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>21,754</b>
<b>Statement of assets</b>				
UK bank balances			<b>5,786</b>	<b>21,754</b>

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Dr Sam Whitmarsh

The notes form part of these accounts

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**BASIS OF PREPARATION OF ACCOUNTS**

The accounts, including notes thereto, show all funds which are governed by the Charity presented on a cash received and paid basis. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**FUND ACCOUNTING**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for specified purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements, where applicable.

Gift Aid tax refunds are apportioned across funds on an actual basis in accordance with underlying gift aid income. All costs are UK administrative costs and are allocated to the general fund.

**2. GRANT FUNDING**

The trustees do not directly oversee the operational management of charitable activities in Albania having fully ceded the responsibility to the trustees of the sister charity established in that country, A2B Albania. A2B in the UK have pledged to continue to raise money and provide on-going grant funding for the core charitable activities and, grant funding shown in the Receipts & Payments account is made wholly to A2B Albania. That charity is subject to funding terms and conditions including reporting obligations to A2B UK. As part of their due diligence, the trustees receive six monthly reports from Albania and visit the projects, when feasible, to ensure monies are being expended in accordance with the purposes for which grants are made.

During the year core funding was £4,600 per month which helps to finance the Bread of life Centre covering staff and other direct costs. In addition, funding is provided through the Family Link programme and for other projects and specific appeals. The details are shown in note 5, restricted funds analysis.

**3. GUARANTEES AND SECURED DEBTS**

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

No trustee was paid remuneration during the year. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year. Any expenses that are incurred are wholly for operating costs within the objects of the Charity.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS**

	At 1 April 2024 £	Receipts (including Gift Aid) £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Family Link Programme	1,100	10,505	12,833	1,228	-
Another Life Centre - Peqin	562	5,645	7,018	811	-
House of Opportunity	-	100	125	25	-
Agency account (note 6)	500		500		
	<u>2,162</u>	<u>16,250</u>	<u>20,476</u>	<u>2,064</u>	<u>-</u>

The **Family Link Programme** supports and encourages financial and relational links between UK donors and families in need in Albania.

**Another Life Centre at Peqin.** Two streams of funding are received and granted to Albania; part funding for the Centre as a whole started after initial third-party funding ceased; and, on-going support to help operate and staff a kindergarten; a place of safety and early education for local children. The funding for the kindergarten project ceased during the preceding year.

**House of Opportunity:** Gifts received for the refuge established for young people, run by A2B Albania and mainly funded by third parties.

**6. AGENCY ACCOUNT**

During the preceding year an appeal was made directly by A2B Albania for support for a family in Albania. Whilst Aid to the Balkans (UK) were not directly involved in the appeal, the Charity was used as a vehicle to transfer monies to A2B Albania by Stewardship, and two tranches of money totalling £5,500 were received towards the end of the financial year. £5,000 was transferred in March 2024 and the balance of £500 held on account at the year end was transferred to A2B Albania in April 2024.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168468

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# Accounts

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# A2B

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2024**  
**for**  
**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1168468**

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2024**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets	8
Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account	9 to 10

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees** **for the Year to 31 March 2024**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. This report is presented in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number 1168468**

##### **Principal address**

Elm House  
Drinkstone Road  
Hessett  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP30 9AU

##### **Trustees**

The charity trustees are appointed as and when appropriate by the body of trustees in office. The trustees who served during the period and those currently in office are:

Dr Sam Whitmarsh	Chairperson
Mr David Ayrton	Treasurer
Mr Mark Appleby (resigned 6th December 2023).	
Ms Tracey Bishop	
Mr Andrew Davies	

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to the Constitution dated 11th November 2015.

The overall management and control of the charity rests with the individual members of the Board of Trustees who meet in accordance with the Constitution which requires the presence of at least two or, if the number of trustees is greater, a third of its members to form a quorum. The Board may appoint a Chairperson and revoke such appointment at any time. All business is decided by a simple majority, each trustee having one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Charity trustees are elected the body of trustees by a resolution at a properly convened meeting and serve for a term of three years. Trustees retiring at the end of their term are eligible for reappointment. In selecting potential candidates for appointment as trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience of individuals to ensure their suitability to administer the CIO.

There shall be a minimum of three trustees and there is no maximum. There are currently four trustees.

##### **Voluntary staff**

The charity benefits from the services provided by volunteers. Voluntary help is not valued for the purposes of the financial statements.

##### **Other advisors**

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME194JQ

**Independent Examiner:** Derek Gadd, 30 Conyers Way, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2SW

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2024

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place policies addressing the main operational risk areas, including that regarding data protection, and they aim to use best practice. An appropriate level of funds will be maintained to help mitigate the main financial risks.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

A2B is an organisation that works to 'Lift Dignity and Restore Hope' amongst the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. By meeting both immediate and longer-term need through a range of activities in Health, Education, Livelihoods and Protection, we aim to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

A2B is based on Christian values and principles, believing that true human development seeks to address all areas of a person's life, physically, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

The trustees declare 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.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities - legal**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was set up to take forward the work of Aid to the Balkans Forward Trust (A2B), which operated as an unincorporated charity (Registered with the Charity Commission 1077088) since 1999.

On 1 April 2017, the assets of the old charity were transferred to this new body and it started to operate from that date.

##### **Charitable activities – operational**

##### **Overview of Charitable Partnerships and Collaborations**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) proudly dedicates its resources to support A2B Albania, our affiliated partner in Albania. This partnership enables us to deliver impactful programs to vulnerable communities with the indispensable support from collaborating organisations, including: Foodbank Albania, FSCI UK, PARI TEC GMBH- Germany, AMOS Foundation- Germany, GAIN International- Swiss and ISTEP- Swiss, Nova College CIOS Haarlem Hoofddorp- Holland, World Race- USA, YWAM.

Many initiatives that A2B Albania implements would not be viable without the extensive support from these partners.

As the principal supporter of A2B Albania, AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) collaborates closely on various projects. Together, we work to provide vital assistance and services across communities, with specific highlights detailed throughout this report.

##### **Fundraising and Donor Engagement**

We continue to champion fundraising efforts in support of A2B Albania, aiming to expand awareness of the essential programs and initiatives. These projects positively impact approximately 500 vulnerable individuals weekly. Through both electronic and written communications, we maintain engagement with our donors, sharing updates and fostering connections that allow us to further extend our outreach and assistance.

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2024

#### **Project Portfolio: Key Initiatives and Impact**

##### **1. Multidisciplinary Social Centers (MSCs)**

The charity operates three multidisciplinary social centres (MSCs), two in Elbasan and one in Peqin. These centres provide various forms of aid, including hot meals, education, and social services to underprivileged community members.

- Bread of Life MSC (Elbasan): Serving approximately 75 elderly individuals with daily hot meals during every day from 9.00 – 14.00 this centre provides a safe space for social interaction and food assistance is provided at home for those in need.
- Kindergarten Programs: Each centre operates a kindergarten, offering early childhood education, meals, and supportive services for children facing socio-economic hardships. These programs also include after-school clubs, promoting awareness on preventing child exploitation, violence, and trafficking.
- Community Support: The centres are instrumental in encouraging impoverished families to prioritize education for their children, even as financial strains might otherwise lead to children working or begging.

##### **2. Foodbank Project**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) collaborates with Foodbank Albania, positioning A2B as the distribution hub for food aid in Elbasan and neighbouring areas. During this operational year, over 1,000 individuals received essential food supplies. One dedicated staff member oversees the project, ensuring efficient delivery to those in critical need across the Elbasan prefecture.

##### **3. Family Link Project**

The Family Link Project connects UK sponsors with 30-35 families in Albania who face severe poverty. This program provides consistent food parcels and financial aid for rent, medical expenses, and educational support. Most beneficiaries are referred by social services and lack other means of support due to family crises or the loss of a primary income provider. A2B also facilitates access to essential government benefits and offers parenting workshops, job placement assistance, and support with educational expenses for children.

##### **Case Study: the "Selimi" family**

The Selimi family were referred to A2B by social services due to severe poverty and mental health challenges. When A2B workers first met the family, the five youngest children were alone, as the parents, both facing mental health issues, had left the home. The oldest boy, around 9 or 10, was in charge of the others, greeted A2B staff with joy despite his limited verbal skills, communicating mostly through sounds and gestures. As he grows, he faces frustration with his inability to communicate effectively, which sometimes leads to aggression—a challenge in a crowded home where all siblings share a single room.

The family's living conditions were poor, with sparse, worn-out furniture and unsafe electrical wiring. A2B lobbied the local government on behalf of the family for over a year to provide appropriate support for the family and to make essential repairs, eventually succeeding in securing basic electrical improvements and plastering. Once these were completed, A2B provided new furniture, beds, chairs, and essential kitchen items, helping the family learn how to use and maintain them.

Two months later, A2B returned to find the home in disarray, with litter and uncleaned surfaces. Despite the challenges, some improvements were visible, such as a cleared garden area and a reliable water supply. Supporting this family requires long term support. A2B has since organised a regular work team to assist this family in maintaining cleanliness and learning essential life skills, hoping that sustained support can help them build a safer, healthier home environment.

##### **4. House of Opportunity**

The House of Opportunity offers vulnerable young adults, often at risk of trafficking, a safe environment as they transition from state care to independence. This project provides life skills training, counselling, employment support, and secure housing with on-site guidance from house parents. Despite recent challenges, the project has successfully continued to operate, helping these young individuals build brighter futures.

**Case Study: Ledio's story.**

Ledio grew up in an environment marked by poverty, corruption, and the pervasive influence of criminals in his community. Like many in similar circumstances, he sought an escape and, as a teenager, began experimenting with drugs, influenced by local gangs. This dangerous path led to a near-fatal overdose, and only after an emergency intervention was he resuscitated. During his recovery, Ledio made a profound decision to turn his life around and never take drugs again.

Local authorities' social services brought Ledio's situation to the attention of A2B, which extended him an invitation to join the House of Opportunity (HoP) in Elbasan. Here, he found a safe environment away from past influences and began learning the skills needed to build an independent life. Coming from a background with limited education and no exposure to modern amenities like washing machines, cookers, or even a shower, Ledio faced a steep learning curve. But with the guidance and support of the HoP community, he gradually adapted to his new life.

At HoP, Ledio enrolled in a vocational course in electrical work. He dedicated himself fully to his studies and successfully achieved his electrician certification. With this qualification, Ledio secured a job in Tirana, the capital of Albania. He has since moved out of the HoP and now rents an apartment with his cousin, continuing his journey as an apprentice electrician with aspirations of becoming fully qualified.

Ledio remains closely connected to the House of Opportunity, often visiting to see his friends and mentors. Reflecting on his transformative experience, he shares, "This is my home – my family that changed my life."

**5. Children's Camps**

In August 2023, A2B continued its traditional month-long children's camp, welcoming over 100 participants. These camps offer diverse activities such as sports, crafts, and educational workshops. Parents of participants were also engaged through evening sessions on positive parenting, strengthening family bonds and emphasizing the importance of education.

**6. Additional Support Initiatives**

Smaller projects continued to address urgent needs, including funding for medical expenses, and supporting participation in regional training events. One notable activity included sending representatives to a conference in Moldova, where A2B exchanged insights with other NGOs, continuing to develop the network with FSCI and connected charities.

**7. iStep**

The iStep project organises computer courses for children and young people. These courses are held twice a year in Albania, with a team of 6-8 professionals from Switzerland. Throughout the year, this face-to-face training is followed up through the provision of online sessions every other week. iStep also provides all the necessary materials, including computers, photocopiers, video projectors, and various other equipment to support the learning process.

**8. AMOS**

Delivers high-quality goods to those in need, transporting them from Germany by truck. These goods, which include refrigerators, washing machines, beds, and mattresses, are distributed free of charge to poor families through our various projects.

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2024

#### **Staffing in Albania**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) supports the employment of dedicated staff in Albania to maintain and expand the organization's reach and effectiveness:

- 6 Teachers
- 5 Cooks
- 2 Social Workers
- 3 Cleaners
- 3 House Parents
- 2 Directors/Managers
- Volunteers from local youth groups and churches

#### **Trustees and Leadership in the UK**

Board of Trustees

- Sam Whitmarsh - Chair
- David Ayrton - Treasurer
- Andrew Davies
- Tracey Bishop

Mark Appleby resigned as a trustee in December 2023. The trustees express their heartfelt thanks to Mark for his dedication and contributions over the past year. Though he is stepping down from his role as a trustee, Mark will continue to support A2B in new ways.

#### **Looking Forward**

We extend our deep gratitude to each supporter and partner who makes our work possible. AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) looks forward to the coming year, confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable communities in Albania.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) is a grant funding organisation to its partner charity in Albania, A2B Albania; this has been the case for the entire year to 31 March 2024.

Giving and other income received to fund A2B's work during the year amounted to £64,243 (2023: £103,610). Whilst this a significant reduction year on year, the level of income received is in line with the average in prior years. Gift Aid tax relief is a principal element of the Charity's income, and the amount received during the year, £11,690, represents 22% of total donations (2023: 14%).

Grant funding to A2B Albania reduced by around 7.5% to £72,877 (2023: £78,795) including some £20,877 granted for specific purposes (2023: £19,712). As against that, the Albanian Lek has strengthened against Sterling by around 6% during the year providing an exchange rate gain on funding for the work of A2B Albania. A2B UK have reviewed funding after the balance sheet date and the Charity's core funding commitment to A2B Albania has been met.

Giving to the Family Link programme and associated family support amounted to £14,636 (inclusive of Gift Aid). Some £5,581 was also received to part fund Another Life Centre in Peqin, Albania. Other appeals and restricted receipts comprised £625 given to support the Bread of Life Centre and £69 for the House of Opportunity Project. The analysis of those funds is shown at note 5 to the accounts. All such giving is granted to A2B Albania, without deduction, the month after receipt.

There was an unrestricted fund deficit for the year of £9,028 and a restricted fund surplus of £34. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the Charity's funds comprised those on deposit in the UK, being £21,754. Of this, restricted funds comprised £2,162 including £500 held on account at the year end and paid to A2B Albania in April 2024, more fully described under note 6 to the accounts. No funds were in deficit.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2024**

**Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy on reserves is to maintain cash and bank deposits sufficient to meet short term requirements. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the unrestricted fund balance covered just under 4.5 month's average core funding grant to A2B Albania.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity legislation requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report on 27 November 2024.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



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Dr Sam Whitmarsh - Chairman  
Trustee

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Aid to The Balkans UK (A2B) (Charity no. 1168468)**

I report on the accounts of Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Derek Gadd

30 Conyers Way,  
Gt. Barton  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP31 2SW

Date: 29-11-2024

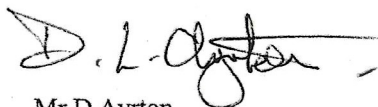
**Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**

**Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets**

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024			2023
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds -note 5 £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Donations and gifts received in the UK		34,343	17,730	52,073	90,801
<i>Interest:</i>					
UK bank accounts		480	-	480	133
<i>Other income</i>					
Refund of Income Tax (Gift Aid)		8,509	3,181	11,690	12,676
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>43,332</b>	<b>20,911</b>	<b>64,243</b>	<b>103,610</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>					
Grant funding: A2B Albania	2	52,000	20,877	72,877	78,795
<i>Other administrative expenses in UK</i>					
Bank charges		360	-	360	397
Travel expenses		-	-	-	971
Staff development		-	-	-	500
		360	-	360	1,868
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>52,360</b>	<b>20,877</b>	<b>73,237</b>	<b>80,663</b>
<b>Excess receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>(9,028)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(8,994)</b>	<b>22,947</b>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (payments) after transfers</b>		<b>(9,028)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(8,994)</b>	<b>22,947</b>
<b>Reconciliation of fund balances</b>					
Total balances brought forward at 1 April 2023		28,620	1,628	30,248	7,301
Net (payments) after transfers		(9,028)	34	(8,994)	22,947
Balance on Agency account at 31 March 2024	6	-	500	500	
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>19,592</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>21,754</b>	<b>30,248</b>
<b>Statement of assets</b>					
UK bank balances		19,592	2,162	21,754	30,248
				<b>21,754</b>	<b>30,248</b>

The accounts and notes on pages 8-10 were approved on 27 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr D Ayrton  
Trustee

# **Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**

## **Notes to Receipts and Payments Account**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting basis**

The accounts, including notes thereto, show all funds which are governed by the Charity presented on a cash received and paid basis. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The statement of receipts and payments show donated income received and expenditure incurred in the UK. The Trustees do not have operational oversight of the overseas charity, A2B Albania

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for specified purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements, where applicable.

Gift Aid tax refunds are apportioned across funds on an actual basis in accordance with underlying gift aid income. All costs are UK administrative costs and are allocated to the general fund.

### **2. GRANT FUNDING**

The trustees do not directly oversee the operational management of charitable activities in Albania having fully ceded the responsibility to the trustees of the sister charity established in that country, A2B Albania. A2B in the UK have pledged to continue to raise money and provide on-going grant funding for the core charitable activities and, grant funding shown in the Receipts & Payments account is made wholly to A2B Albania. That charity is subject to funding terms and conditions including reporting obligations to A2B UK. As part of their due diligence, the trustees receive six monthly reports from Albania and visit the projects, when feasible, to ensure monies are being expended in accordance with the purposes for which grants are made.

During the year core funding was £4,000 per month which helps to finance the Bread of life Centre covering staff and other direct costs. In addition, funding is provided through the Family Link programme and for other projects and specific appeals. The details are shown in note 5, restricted funds analysis.

### **3. GUARANTEES AND SECURED DEBTS**

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

### **4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

No trustee was paid remuneration during the year.

No expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (*2023: travelling expenses of £971 paid to 1 trustee*). Any expenses that are incurred are wholly for operating costs within the objects of the Charity.

## Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)

### Notes to Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 March 2024

#### 5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS

		At 1st April 2023	Receipts (including Gift Aid)	Expenses	Fund transfers	At 31st March 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Family Link Programme	1,100	1,228	14,636	14,764	-	Another Life
Centre - Peqin	562	400	5,581	5,419	-	
Other specific appeals:						
House of Opportunity	-	-	69	69	-	
Bread of Life Centre	-	-	625	625	-	
		<u>1,628</u>	<u>20,911</u>	<u>20,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,662</u>

The **Family Link Programme** supports and encourages financial and relational links between UK donors and families in need in Albania.

**Another Life Centre at Peqin.** Two streams of funding are received and granted to Albania; part funding for the Centre as a whole started after initial third-party funding ceased; and, on-going support to help operate and staff a kindergarten; a place of safety and early education for local children. The funding for the kindergarten project ceased during the year.

**Other specific gifts.** Funding for specific operational needs identified by the managers of A2B Albania or A2B UK Trustees:

**House of Opportunity:** Gifts received for the refuge established for young people, run by A2B Albania and mainly funded by third parties.

**Bread of Life Centre:** Gift received specially for the Bread of Life Centre

#### 6. AGENCY ACCOUNT

During the year an appeal was made directly by A2B Albania for support for a family in Albania. Whilst Aid to the Balkans (UK) were not directly involved in the appeal, the Charity was used as a vehicle to transfer monies to A2B Albania by Stewardship, and two tranches of money totalling £5,500 were received towards the end of the financial year. £5,000 was transferred in March 2024 and the balance of £500 held on account at the year-end was transferred to A2B Albania in April 2024.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168468

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# Accounts

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# A2B

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2023**

**for**

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1168468**

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2023**

	<b>Page</b>
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets	6
Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account	7 to 8

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees** **for the Year to 31 March 2023**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. This report is presented in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

1168468

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Suffolk  
IP30 9AU

##### **Trustees**

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Dr Sam Whitmarsh	Chairperson
Mr David Ayrton	Treasurer
Mr Mark Appleby	
Ms Tracey Bishop	
Mr Andrew Davies	
Mr Paul Heffer (resigned 26 January 2023)	

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to the Constitution dated 11th November 2015.

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##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

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**Independent Examiner:** Derek Gadd, 30 Conyers Way, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2SW

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2023**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place policies addressing the main operational risk areas, including that regarding data protection, and they aim to use best practice. An appropriate level of funds will be maintained to help mitigate the main financial risks.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

A2B is an organisation that works to 'Lift Dignity and Restore Hope' amongst the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. By meeting both immediate and longer-term need through a range of activities in Health, Education, Livelihoods and Protection, we aim to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

A2B is based on Christian values and principles, believing that true human development seeks to address all areas of a person's life, physically, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

The trustees declare 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.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities - legal**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was set up to take forward the work of Aid to the Balkans Forward Trust (A2B), which operated as an unincorporated charity (Registered with the Charity Commission 1077088) since 1999.

On 1 April 2017, the assets of the old charity were transferred to this new body, and it started to operate from that date.

##### **Charitable activities – operational**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) exclusively supports A2B Albania, our affiliated charity in Albania. A2B Albania continues its collaborative efforts with various organizations, and we express immense gratitude for the backing provided by: ABC clinic, Foodbank Albania, FSCI, Paul Ritzau Foundation, Passi and Beyond, St Mensenkinderen, and YWAM. Many of the initiatives would not be feasible without the substantial or complete support from these partners. AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) stands as the primary collaborator with A2B Albania and engages in joint projects with these organizations through A2B Albania, as detailed in this report.

We continue our fundraising support of A2B Albania, aiming to promote awareness of projects and showcase the work that aids approximately 500 vulnerable and underprivileged people weekly. We employ various communication channels, including electronic and written means, to engage with our donor base.

The following project portfolio constitutes the bulk of AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) support in Albania:

The charity operates three multidisciplinary social centres (MSC), with two located in Elbasan and one 25 miles away in Peqin, a nearby town. The Bread of Life MSC in Elbasan offers a hot meal and a safe, warm environment for approximately sixty elderly individuals every weekday in school term time. Food is provided to these people at their homes outside of school terms. It also hosts a Kindergarten providing pre-school education up to age 6 and meals for underprivileged children.

The remaining two MSC's also run Kindergarten projects and address various educational and social needs, including after-school homework clubs, activities raising awareness against exploitation, violence and trafficking of children and young people, as well as strengthening the family. These kindergartens also provide a hot meal for the students.

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees** **for the Year to 31 March 2023**

Given the prevalent poverty in many Albanian families, where children are often engaged in work or begging instead of attending school, the goal is to educate these families and facilitate their children's enrolment in state schools. An example of the type of children the kindergartens support is described in the story of Mario.

Mario is far behind his peers at school because he is from the Gypsy ethnic group. He missed out on early years education, has some mental health problems for which he receives no formal support outside of A2B and comes from a difficult family background. He lives with his brother, grandparents and uncle. He spends his spare time looking after his grandparents who also have mental health problems. His parents divorced when he was 1 or 2 years old and his Mum remarried and now has 5 more boys and 1 girl. Since the new family arrived, the mother doesn't want anything to do with Mario or his brother. Their Dad is an alcoholic and is still in the area but does not support the family. The grandmother is a road sweeper, and their uncle is a beggar. The grandmother, grandfather and uncle all live together in 2 rooms with Mario and his brother. During the summer, the uncle takes the boys to go begging – he is training them. This year when an A2B social worker saw this, they contacted a specialist in the Elbasan municipality Child Protection Units who arranged support and involved the police. A2B support the family by arranging government disability allowance for the grandfather, providing them with a food parcel and providing space in clubs and afterschool activities that A2B organise. This together is enough for the family. A2B make it very clear that this support is contingent on the family continuing to send the children to school and keep them from begging on the streets.

The foodbank project partners with Foodbank Albania where A2B act as a distribution centre for foodbank activities in Elbasan as well as distributing food to those that need it across the Elbasan prefecture which includes five other major towns. Over 1000 people were supported in the year to March 2023 with one staff member administering the project.

The Family Link Project establishes a connection between sponsors in the UK and 35-50 families in Albania facing desperate circumstances. Essential assistance, such as regular food parcels and financial support for rent, medical expenses, or educational needs, is extended to families whose survival hinges on this aid. The majority of these families have undergone traumatic experiences or find themselves destitute due to the departure of the primary earner, either through death or family breakdown. A significant number of these families are referred to A2B by local government social services, and A2B collaborates with these services to ensure that the families receive the entitled benefits. A2B also organises positive parenting classes, coordinating educational meetings and training with parents and connection to the Elbasan employment office helping find work for some of the children's parents.

The House of Opportunity project aids vulnerable young adults, frequently exposed to the risk of trafficking, during their transition from the state care system to independent adulthood. The project offers life skills, counselling, and employment guidance, complemented by secure accommodation and an on-site house parent. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, this initiative as a household continued without disruption.

During August 2022, A2B organised a month of children's camps, returning to a pre-pandemic scale. The program involved over 100 children, offering a blend of food, games, sports, crafts, and various activities designed to inspire a brighter future for the participants. The focus was on encouraging children to seize the educational and other opportunities available to them. The opportunity was also used to engage some of the children's parents who were invited to a number of evening classes on positive parenting.

In addition, a range of smaller projects and donations were made to fund individual medical needs, purchase of bibles and travel to a conference in Bulgaria where a group of NGOs gathered with the charity FSCI to share experiences and best practice.

#### **Employees In Albania**

The following are employed by the charity in Albania:

- 6 x Teachers
- 5 x Cooks
- 2 x Social Workers
- 3 x Cleaners
- 3 x House Parents
- 2 x Director/Managers

Plus a number of volunteers from local youth groups and churches

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2023**

#### **Trustees (UK)**

Sam Whitmarsh (Chair)  
David Ayrton (Treasurer)  
Andrew Davies  
Tracey Bishop  
Mark Appleby

Paul Heffer resigned as a trustee in January 2023. The trustees thank Paul for his contribution over years of service with A2B. Paul was one of the founders of A2B and will be greatly missed.

We are eternally grateful to all our individual and organisational supporters, without you A2B would not be able to operate. We look forward to an exciting new year ahead!

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) is a grant funding organisation to its partner charity in Albania, A2B Albania; this has been the case for the entire year to 31 March 2023.

Giving and other income received to fund A2B's work during the year amounted to £103,610, a significant increase of almost 68% compared to that in 2022. During the year the Charity has benefitted from some very generous unrestricted gifts. Gift Aid tax relief is a principal element of the Charity's income, and the amount received during the year, £12,676, represents 14% of total donations (2022: 14%).

Grant funding to A2B Albania has increased by around 10% to £78,795 (2022: £71,408) including some £19,712 granted for specific purposes (2022: £23,608). As against that, the Albanian Lek exchange rate has weakened against Sterling by around 12% during the year providing a squeeze on funding for the Bread of Life Centre and Family Link programme. A2B UK have reviewed funding subsequent to the balance sheet date and the Charity's core funding commitment to A2B Albania has been met.

Giving to the Family Link programme and associated family support amounted to £14,734 (inclusive of Gift Aid). Some £4,746 was also received to part fund Another Life Centre in Pequin, Albania. Other appeals and restricted receipts comprised £200 given to support an outdoor children's play area. The analysis of those funds is shown at note 5 to the accounts. All such giving is granted to A2B Albania, without deduction, the month after receipt.

There was an unrestricted fund surplus for the year of £22,970 and a restricted fund deficit of £23. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Charity's funds comprised those on deposit in the UK, being £30,248. Of this, restricted funds comprised £1,628. No funds are in deficit.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy on reserves is to maintain cash and bank deposits sufficient to meet short term requirements. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the unrestricted fund balance covered just under 7 month's average core funding grant to A2B Albania.

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity legislation requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



Dr Sam Whitmarsh – Chair

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Aid to The Balkans UK (A2B) (Charity no. 1168468)**

I report on the accounts of Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

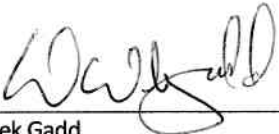
My examination was conducted in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Derek Gadd

30 Conyers Way,  
Gt. Barton  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP31 2SW

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**  
**Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023			2022
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds -note 5 £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Donations and gifts received in the UK		73,794	17,007	90,801	53,898
<i>Interest:</i>					
UK bank accounts		133	-	133	1
<i>Other income</i>					
Refund of Income Tax (Gift Aid)		10,003	2,673	12,676	7,810
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>83,930</b>	<b>19,680</b>	<b>103,610</b>	<b>61,709</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>					
Grant funding: A2B Albania	2	59,083	19,712	78,795	71,408
<i>Other administrative expenses in UK</i>					
Bank charges		397	-	397	396
Travel expenses		971	-	971	-
Staff development		500	-	500	-
		1,868	-	1,868	396
Fund raising costs		-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>60,951</b>	<b>19,712</b>	<b>80,663</b>	<b>71,804</b>
<b>Excess receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>22,979</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>22,947</b>	<b>(10,095)</b>
Transfer between funds		(9)	9	-	-
<b>Net (payments) after transfers</b>		<b>22,970</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>22,947</b>	<b>(10,095)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of fund balances</b>					
Total balances brought forward at 1st April 2022		5,650	1,651	7,301	17,396
Net (payments) after transfers		22,970	(23)	22,947	(10,095)
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2023</b>		<b>28,620</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>30,248</b>	<b>7,301</b>
<b>Statement of assets</b>					
UK bank balances		28,620	1,628	30,248	7,301
<b>Total Charity funds at 31st March 2023</b>				<b>30,248</b>	<b>7,301</b>

The accounts and notes on pages 6 to 8 were approved on 8/12/2023 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr D Ayrton  
Trustee

# **Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**

## **Notes to Receipts and Payments Account**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting basis**

The accounts, including notes thereto, show all funds which are governed by the Charity presented on a cash received and paid basis. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The statement of receipts and payments show donated income received and expenditure incurred in the UK. The Trustees do not have operational oversight of the overseas charity, A2B Albania

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for specified purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements, where applicable.

Gift Aid tax refunds are apportioned across funds on an actual basis in accordance with underlying gift aid income. All costs are UK administrative costs and are allocated to the general fund.

### **2. GRANT FUNDING**

The trustees do not directly oversee the operational management of charitable activities in Albania having fully ceded the responsibility to the trustees of the sister charity established in that country, A2B Albania.

A2B in the UK have pledged to continue to raise money and provide on-going grant funding for the core charitable activities and, grant funding shown in the Receipts & Payments account is made wholly to A2B Albania. That charity is subject to funding terms and conditions including reporting obligations to A2B UK. As part of their due diligence, the trustees receive six monthly reports from Albania and visit the projects, when feasible, to ensure monies are being expended in accordance with the purposes for which grants are made.

During the year core funding was £4,000 per month which helps to finance the Bread of life Centre covering staff and other direct costs. In addition, funding is provided through the Family Link programme and for other projects and specific appeals. The details are shown in note 5, restricted funds analysis.

## Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)

### Notes to Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 March 2023

#### 3. GUARANTEES AND SECURED DEBTS

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

#### 4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustee was paid remuneration during the year.

Travel expenses for a monitoring visit to Albania, amounting to £971 were reimbursed to 1 trustee during the year (2022: Nil). Any expenses that are incurred are wholly for operating costs within the objects of the Charity.

#### 5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS

	At 1st April 2022	Receipts	Expenses	Transfers (from General fund)	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Family Link (including Gift Aid)	1,276	14,734	14,787	5	1,228
Another Life Centre - Peqin	375	4,746	4,725	4	400
Other specific appeals:					
Play area		200	200		
	<u>1,651</u>	<u>19,680</u>	<u>19,712</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1,628</u>

The **Family Link** programme supports and encourages financial and relational links between UK donors and families in need in Albania.

**Another Life Centre at Peqin.** Two streams of funding are received and granted to Albania; part funding for the Centre as a whole started after initial third party funding ceased; and, on-going support to help operate and staff a kindergarten; a place of safety and early education for local children. The funding for the kindergarten project ceased during the year.

**Other specific gifts.** Funding for particular operational needs identified by the managers of A2B Albania or A2B UK Trustees:

**Play area:** Gift received for the provision of outdoor play equipment.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168468

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# Accounts

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# A2B

**Report of the Trustees and  
Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2022**  
for  
**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1168468**

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2022**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets	6
Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account	7 to 8

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year to 31 March 2022**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ending 31 March 2022. This report is presented in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1168468

**Principal address**

Elm House  
Drinkstone Road  
Hessett  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP30 9AU

**Trustees**

The charity trustees are appointed as and when appropriate by the body of trustees in office. The trustees who served during the period and those currently in office are:

Dr Sam Whitmarsh	Chairperson
Mr David Ayrton	Treasurer
Mrs Nicola Davies (resigned 18-11-2021)	Secretary
Mr Mark Appleby (appointed 27-01-2022)	
Ms Tracey Bishop	
Mr Andrew Davies	
Mr Paul Heffer	

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to the Constitution dated 11th November 2015.

The overall management and control of the charity rests with the individual members of the Board of Trustees.

The charity trustees meet in accordance with the Constitution which requires the presence of at least two or, if greater, a third of its members to form a quorum. The Board may appoint a Chairperson and revoke such appointment at any time. All business is decided by a simple majority, each trustee having one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Charity trustees are elected the body of trustees by a resolution at a properly convened meeting and serve for a term of three years. Trustees retiring at the end of their term are eligible for reappointment. In selecting potential candidates for appointment as trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience of individuals to ensure their suitability to administer the CIO.

There shall be a minimum of three trustees and there is no maximum. There are currently six trustees.

**Voluntary staff**

The charity benefits from the services provided by volunteers. Voluntary help is not valued for the purposes of the financial statements.

**Other advisors**

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME194JQ

**Independent Examiner:** Derek Gadd, 30 Conyers Way, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2SW

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2022

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place policies addressing the main operational risk areas, including that regarding data protection, and they aim to use best practice. An appropriate level of funds will be maintained to help mitigate the main financial risks.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

A2B is an organisation that works to 'Lift Dignity and Restore Hope' amongst the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. By meeting both immediate and longer term need through a range of activities in Health, Education, Livelihoods and Protection, we aim to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

A2B is based on Christian values and principles, believing that true human development seeks to address all areas of a person's life, physically, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

The trustees declare 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.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities - legal**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was set up to take forward the work of Aid to the Balkans Forward Trust (A2B), which operated as an unincorporated charity (Registered with the Charity Commission 1077088) since 1999.

On 1 April 2017, the assets of the old charity were transferred to this new body and it started to operate from that date.

##### **Charitable activities – operational**

AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) continues to solely fund A2B Albania, our partner charity based in Albania. A2B Albania continues to work in partnership with other organisations and we are hugely grateful for the support of: ABC clinic, Foodbank Albania, FSCI, Paul Ritzau Foundation, Passi and Beyond, St Mensenkinderen and YWAM. Many of the projects would not be viable without partial or full support from these partners. AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) are the largest partner to A2B Albania and collaborate with these organisations through A2B Albania in a range of projects as described in this report.

AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) continue our fundraising and marketing support of A2B Albania, raising awareness of projects and sharing the amazing work which helps around 500 vulnerable and impoverished people each week. This takes the form of electronic and written communication to our donor base along with presentations and potential partner organisations typically church groups.

The established project portfolio constitutes the bulk of AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) support to A2B Albania. Although significantly disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic A2B Albania continued to operate the following projects:

##### **FAMILY LINK PROGRAMME**

The programme is funded by sponsors who support individual families with a portion going to administration and transport. Sponsors mainly come from a number of churches throughout the UK. During this year 32 families were helped with the charity providing food parcels, medicines and in some cases help with rents or locating suitable accommodation for those living in adverse poverty. Due to Covid it is expected that unemployment will increase putting more demand on the charity's resources. Currently approximately one hundred and sixty people of all ages are supported through this scheme.

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2022

#### **Charitable activities cont.**

##### **DAY CENTRES**

The charity provides 3 day centres, two in Elbasan and one in Peqin - a local town. The Bread of Life centre in Elbasan provides a hot meal and a safe warm place for around sixty elderly people along with a Kindergarten providing pre-school education and a meal to underprivileged children. The other 2 day centres provide a range of educational needs and an after school homework club. These too offer a hot meal for those who need it. Many families in Albania live in adverse poverty and often do not send their children to school as they use them for work or begging. The aim is to educate these families and to get their children into state schools.

##### **THE HOUSE OF OPPORTUNITY**

This project is based in a building in the town centre. It provides support for young adults who mainly come from orphanages where they are expected to leave at the age of 16. Many of them have nowhere to go and very little prospects. The building provides a home and support to help them to find a better pathway into the future. It is hoped that with the right funding this project will expand next year.

##### **FOOD BANK ALBANIA**

AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) is the base in Elbasan for the charity 'Food Bank Albania' based in Tirana. We provide resources, transport and staff to distribute food parcels to the poor and needy in the area. The food generally comes from local supermarkets.

##### **Other smaller projects:**

In the summer months AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B) ran 3 weeks of children's camps, the scope of the projects grew as covid restrictions began to be scaled back. Food, games, craft and other activities aimed to show the children a brighter future for themselves, and to encourage children to take advantage of the educational and other opportunities that they are presented with.

Various school visits with, for example, the foodbank project took place over the year with the aim to raise awareness of the challenges of poverty in Albania.

##### **EMPLOYEES In Albania**

The following are employed by A2B Albania

- x Teachers
- x Cooks
- 4 x Social Workers
- 3 x Cleaners
- 3 x House Parents
- 1 x Office Administrator
- 2 x Director/Managers

Nichola Davies resigned as a trustee in November 2021. The trustees thank Nichola for her contribution over her years of service with A2B.

We are eternally grateful to all our individual and organisational supporters, without you A2B would not be able to operate. We look forward to an exciting new year ahead!

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) is a grant funding organisation to its partner charity in Albania, A2B Albania; this has been the case for the whole of the year to 31 March 2022.

Giving and other income received to fund A2B's work during the year amounted to £64,659, a reduction of 12% compared to that in 2021. In 2021 the Charity benefitted from generous one-off gifts and a significant response to the Covid recovery appeal. Gift Aid tax relief is a principal element of the Charity's income, and the amount received during the year, £7,810 represents 14% of total donations (2021: 11%).

AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

Report of the Trustees  
for the Year to 31 March 2022

**FINANCIAL REVIEW continued**

Grant funding this year to A2B Albania has remained similar to that of the previous year at £74,358 (2021: £74,267) including some £26,558 granted for specific purposes. Sterling exchange rate against the Albanian Lek has remained reasonably stable during the year providing for a more consistent level of funding for the Bread of Life Centre and Family Link programme. A2B UK have met the Charity's core funding commitment to A2B Albania.

Giving to the Family Link programme and associated family support amounted to £15,038 (inclusive of tax relief). Some £4,275 was also received to part fund Another Life Centre in Pequin, Albania of which £156 was given specifically for the Kindergarten. Other appeals and restricted receipts included £3,200 given to support the young people's refuge, House of Opportunity; £3,050 to help finance medical expenses and £625 for the provision of Bibles. The analysis of those funds is shown at note 5 to the accounts. All such giving is granted to A2B Albania, without deduction, the month after receipt.

There was an unrestricted fund deficit for the year of £9,881 and a restricted fund deficit of £214. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the Charity's funds comprised those on deposit in the UK, being £7,301. Of this, restricted funds comprised £1,651. No funds are in deficit.

**Reserves policy**

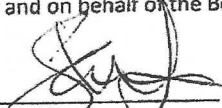
The trustees' policy on reserves is to maintain cash and bank deposits sufficient to meet short term requirements. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the unrestricted fund balance covered just over 1 month's average core funding grant to A2B Albania and shortly after the balance sheet date substantial unrestricted donations were received improving the reserves cover to over 7 months.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity legislation requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr Sam Whitmarsh - Chairman  
Trustee

06/02/23

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Aid to The Balkans UK (A2B) (Charity no. 1168468)**

I report on the accounts of Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

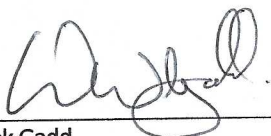
My examination was conducted in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Derek Gadd

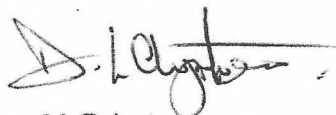
30 Conyers Way,  
Gt. Barton  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP31 2SW

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> FEB. 2023

**Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**  
**Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	2022			2021
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds -note 5 £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Donations and gifts received in the UK		34,053	19,845	53,898	66,272
<i>Interest:</i>					
UK bank accounts		1	-	1	6
<i>Other income</i>					
Refund of Income Tax (Gift Aid)		4,261	3,549	7,810	6,971
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>38,315</b>	<b>23,394</b>	<b>61,709</b>	<b>73,249</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>					
Grant funding: A2B Albania	2	47,800	23,608	71,408	74,267
<i>Other administrative expenses in UK</i>					
Bank charges		396	-	396	304
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>48,196</b>	<b>23,608</b>	<b>71,804</b>	<b>74,571</b>
<b>Excess (payments)/receipts</b>		<b>(9,881)</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>(10,095)</b>	<b>(1,322)</b>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (payments) after transfers</b>		<b>(9,881)</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>(10,095)</b>	<b>(1,322)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of fund balances</b>					
Total balances brought forward at 1st April 2021		15,531	1,865	17,396	18,718
Net (payments) after transfers		(9,881)	(214)	(10,095)	(1,322)
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2022</b>		<b>5,650</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>7,301</b>	<b>17,396</b>
<b>Statement of assets</b>					
UK bank balances		5,650	1,651	7,301	17,396
<b>Total Charity funds at 31st March 2022</b>				<b>7,301</b>	<b>17,396</b>

The accounts and notes on pages 6 to 8 were approved on 6 February 2023 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr D Ayrton  
Trustee

# **Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**

## **Notes to Receipts and Payments Account**

**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting basis**

The accounts, including notes thereto, show all funds which are governed by the Charity presented on a cash received and paid basis. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The statement of receipts and payments show donated income received and expenditure incurred in the UK. The Trustees do not have operational oversight of the overseas charity, A2B Albania

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for specified purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements, where applicable.

Gift Aid tax refunds are apportioned across funds on an actual basis in accordance with underlying gift aid income. All costs are UK administrative costs and are allocated to the general fund.

### **2. GRANT FUNDING**

The trustees do not directly oversee the operational management of charitable activities in Albania having fully ceded the responsibility to the trustees of the sister charity established in that country, A2B Albania.

A2B in the UK have pledged to continue to raise money and provide on-going grant funding for the core charitable activities and, grant funding shown in the Receipts & Payments account is made wholly to A2B Albania. That charity is subject to funding terms and conditions including reporting obligations to A2B UK. As part of their due diligence, the trustees receive six monthly reports from Albania and visit the projects, when feasible, to ensure monies are being expended in accordance with the purposes for which grants are made.

During the year core funding was £4,000 per month which helps to finance the Bread of life Centre covering staff and other direct costs. In addition, funding is provided through the Family Link programme and for other projects and specific appeals. The details are shown in note 5, restricted funds analysis.

## Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)

### Notes to Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 March 2022

#### 3. GUARANTEES AND SECURED DEBTS

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

#### 4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustee was paid remuneration during the year.

No travel, promotional or other expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (2021: Nil). Any expenses that are incurred are wholly for operating costs within the objects of the Charity.

#### 5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS

	At 1st April 2021	Receipts	Expenses	Transfers	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Family Link (including Gift Aid)	1,271	15,038	15,033	-	1,276
Another Life Centre - Peqin	594	4,275	4,494	-	375
Another Life - Kindergarten	-	156	156	-	-
Other specific appeals:					
House of Opportunity	-	3,200	3,200	-	-
Medical & personal costs	-	100	100	-	-
Bibles	-	625	625	-	-
	<u>1,865</u>	<u>23,394</u>	<u>23,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,651</u>

The **Family Link** programme supports and encourages financial and relational links between UK donors and families in need in Albania.

**Another Life Centre at Peqin.** Two streams of funding are received and granted to Albania; part funding for the Centre as a whole started after initial third party funding ceased; and, on-going support to help operate and staff a kindergarten; a place of safety and early education for local children. The funding for the kindergarten project ceased during the year.

**Other specific gifts.** Funding for particular operational needs identified by the managers of A2B Albania or A2B UK Trustees:

**House of Opportunity:** Gifts received for the refuge established for young people, run by A2B Albania and mainly funded by third parties.

**Medical/personal costs:** Funding for personal costs of a service user.

**Bibles:** Gift received for the provision of Bibles to service users.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1168468

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# Accounts

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# A2B

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2021**  
**for**  
**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1168468**

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year to 31 March 2021**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets	6
Notes to the Receipts and Payments Account	7 to 8

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees** **for the Year to 31 March 2021**

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ending 31 March 2021. This report is presented in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

1168468

##### **Principal address**

Elm House  
Drinkstone Road  
Hessett  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP30 9AU

##### **Trustees**

The charity trustees are appointed as and when appropriate by the body of trustees in office. The trustees who served during the period and those currently in office are:

Dr Sam Whitmarsh	Chairperson
Mr David Ayrton	Treasurer
Mrs Nicola Davies	Secretary
Ms Tracy Bishop	
Mr Andrew Davies	
Mr Paul Heffer	

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to the Constitution dated 11th November 2015.

The overall management and control of the charity rests with the individual members of the Board of Trustees.

The charity trustees meet in accordance with the Constitution which requires the presence of at least two or, if greater, a third of its members to form a quorum. The Board may appoint a Chairperson and revoke such appointment at any time. All business is decided by a simple majority, each trustee having one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Charity trustees are elected the body of trustees by a resolution at a properly convened meeting and serve for a term of three years. Trustees retiring at the end of their term are eligible for reappointment. In selecting potential candidates for appointment as trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience of individuals to ensure their suitability to administer the CIO.

There shall be a minimum of 3 trustees and there is no maximum. There are currently 6 trustees.

##### **Voluntary staff**

The charity benefits from the services provided by volunteers. Voluntary help is not valued for the purposes of the financial statements.

##### **Other advisors**

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME194JQ

**Independent Examiner:** Derek Gadd, 30 Conyers Way, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2SW

## **AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

### **Report of the Trustees** **for the Year to 31 March 2021**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place policies addressing the main operational risk areas, including that regarding data protection, and they aim to use best practice. An appropriate level of funds will be maintained to help mitigate the main financial risks.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

A2B is an organisation that works to 'Lift Dignity and Restore Hope' amongst the most vulnerable members of society in Albania. By meeting both immediate and longer-term need through a range of activities in Health, Education, Livelihoods and Protection, we aim to help people lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty.

A2B is based on Christian values and principles, believing that true human development seeks to address all areas of a person's life, physically, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

The trustees declare 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.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities - legal**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was set up to take forward the work of Aid to the Balkans Forward Trust (A2B), which operated as an unincorporated charity (Registered with the Charity Commission 1077088) since 1999.

On 1 April 2017 the assets of the old charity were transferred to this new body and it started to operate from that date.

##### **Charitable activities – operational**

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) continues to solely fund A2B Albania, our partner charity based in Albania. A2B Albania continues to grow in partnership with other organisations and we are hugely grateful for the support of: ABC clinic, Foodbank Albania, FSCI, Paul Ritzau Foundation, Passi and Beyond, St Mensenkinderen and YWAM. Many of the projects would not be viable without partial or full support from these partners. AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) are the largest partner to A2B Albania and collaborate with these organisations through A2B Albania in a range of projects as described in this report.

AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) continue our fundraising and marketing support of A2B Albania, raising awareness of projects and sharing the amazing work which helps around 500 vulnerable and impoverished people each week. This takes the form of electronic and written communication to our donor base along with presentations and potential partner organisations – typically church groups.

The 2020/2021 year was heavily affected by the covid pandemic with national curfew starting in March 2020. All day centre and kindergarten projects were closed according to government directive. The House of Opportunity and foodbank projects continued. Albania has significant informal economy with many paid cash in hand for a day's work. With the economy closed and these people unable earn a wage, an already vulnerable group were pushed further under the poverty line. A2B Albania mobilised the 21 strong team to purchase, pack and deliver food to those in need. On top of the 250 people that are regularly supported, 350 were added, more than doubling our food budget. Following various appeals, money from the UK and other countries was provided both directly to A2B Albania and via AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) to cover these costs along with coordination and distribution of medicines, clothes, beds and shoes to those in need.

## AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year to 31 March 2021

#### **Charitable activities cont.**

Following this initial response, A2B Albania were selected by the local government to further support the local community with food provision and A2B staff were involved for the rest of the first lockdown.

A2B were able to continue provision of food support for all of our Kindergarten and Day centre clients through the rest of the year. Although day centres remained closed during the 2020-2021 financial year the kindergartens opened again under socially distanced conditions as did homework clubs and summer camps. Many of the children we support do not have access to computers at home and so could not access the online services schools were providing. So A2B used donated IT equipment from the Paul Ritzau Foundation to create "school from home" clubs (socially distanced) whilst schools were closed to support these children and allow them to continue learning.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic dominated the 2020/2021 year, the effects of the 6.4-magnitude earthquake from November 2019 were still being felt in the port city of Durrës and surrounding villages. When the Covid-19 restrictions were slightly relaxed during the autumn of 2020 A2B Albania were able to help families rebuild lives and literally rebuild homes as building materials were purchased and distributed to those still living in tents near their damaged homes.

The established project portfolio constitutes the bulk of AID TO THE BALKANS (UK) support in Albania. Although significantly disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic A2B Albania continued to operate the following projects in addition to the day centre and kindergarten projects already described:

- **The foodbank project** took on new priority during the covid-19 pandemic bringing in food for distribution to an even larger group of people than before. A2B act as the hub for Foodbank Albania in Elbasan, and one staff member administers the project.
- **The family link project** connects sponsors in the UK to 35 families in Albania who are in desperate need. Regular food parcels and financial support for rent, medical or educational needs are provided to families that could not survive without it. Most of these families have suffered traumatic experiences or are destitute following the departure of the breadwinner through death or family breakdown. Many are referred to A2B by local government social services, and A2B work with social services to ensure the families receive benefits they are entitled to. Provision continued throughout the pandemic.
- **The House of Opportunity project** supports vulnerable young adults often at risk of trafficking as they transition from the state care system to adult life. Life skills, counselling and employment advice are provided along with safe accommodation and an onsite house parent. As a household, this project continued unaffected by the pandemic. The house parents staff leading the project changed during the year.
- In the summer months A2B ran 3 weeks of **children's camps**, the scale was much reduced over previous years due to social distancing and reduced staffing availability and only the neediest children were provided for. Food, games, craft and other activities aimed to show the children a brighter future for themselves, and encouraged children to take advantage of the educational and other opportunities that they are presented with.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) is a grant funding organisation to its partner charity in Albania, A2B Albania; this has been the case for the whole of the year to 31 March 2021.

Giving and other income received to fund A2B's work during the year amounted to £73,249, about the historic annual average, and a reduction of 26% compared to that in 2020. In 2020 the Charity benefitted from generous one-off gifts and a significant response to the Earthquake recovery appeal. Gift Aid tax relief is an important element of the Charity's income, and the amount received during the year, £6,971 represents 11% of total donations (2020: 8%).

Grant funding this year to A2B Albania has decreased by 28% overall at £74,267 (2020: £103,183) including some £28,767 granted for specific purposes. Sterling exchange rate against the Albanian Lek has remained reasonably stable during the year providing for a more consistent level of funding for the Bread of Life Centre and Family Link programme.

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year to 31 March 2021**

A2B UK have met the Charity's core funding commitment to A2B Albania.

Giving to the Family Link programme and associated family support amounted to £15,926 (inclusive of tax relief). Some £3,650 was also received to part fund Another Life Centre in Pequin, Albania of which £100 was given specifically for the kindergarten. Other appeals and restricted receipts included £5,941 given as a humanitarian response to the effects of the covid-19 pandemic in Albania; £2,500 to support food distribution and £650 for medical expenses. The analysis of those funds is shown at note 5 to the accounts. All such giving is granted to A2B Albania, without deduction, the month after receipt.

There was a unrestricted fund deficit for the year of £1,452 and a restricted fund surplus of £130. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the Charity's funds comprised those on deposit in the UK, being £17,396. Of this, restricted funds comprised £1,865. No funds are in deficit.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy on reserves is to maintain cash and bank deposits sufficient to meet short term requirements. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the unrestricted fund balance covered just under 4 month's average core funding grant to A2B Albania.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Charity legislation requires trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report on 27 January 2022.

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



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Dr Sam Whitmarsh - Chairman  
Trustee

**AID TO THE BALKANS UK (A2B)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Aid to The Balkans UK (A2B) (Charity no. 1168468)**

I report on the accounts of Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

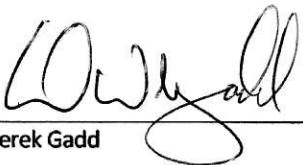
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Derek Gadd

30 Conyers Way,  
Gt. Barton  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP31 2SW

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**  
**Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	2021			2020
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds -note 5 £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Donations and gifts received in the UK		42,960	23,312	66,272	92,165
<i>Interest:</i>					
UK bank accounts		6	-	6	23
<i>Other income</i>					
Refund of Income Tax (Gift Aid)		4,386	2,585	6,971	7,329
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>47,352</b>	<b>25,897</b>	<b>73,249</b>	<b>99,517</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Direct charitable expenditure</i>					
Grant funding	2	45,500	28,767	74,267	103,183
<i>Other administrative expenses in UK</i>					
Bank charges		304	-	304	300
Fund raising & promotional costs		-	-	-	103
Travel expenses		-	-	-	640
		304	-	304	1,043
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>45,804</b>	<b>28,767</b>	<b>74,571</b>	<b>104,226</b>
<b>Excess (payments)/receipts</b>		<b>1,548</b>	<b>(2,870)</b>	<b>(1,322)</b>	<b>(4,709)</b>
Transfer between funds		(3,000)	3,000	-	-
<b>Net (payments) after transfers</b>		<b>(1,452)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>(1,322)</b>	<b>(4,709)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of fund balances</b>					
Total balances brought forward at 1st April 2020		16,983	1,735	18,718	23,427
Net (payments) after transfers		(1,452)	130	(1,322)	(4,709)
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31st March 2021</b>		<b>15,531</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>17,396</b>	<b>18,718</b>
<b>Statement of assets</b>					
UK bank balances		15,531	1,865	17,396	18,718
<b>Total Charity funds at 31st March 2021</b>				<b>17,396</b>	<b>18,718</b>

The accounts and notes on pages 6 to 8 were approved on 27 January 2022 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

  
Mr D Ayrton  
Trustee

# **Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)**

## **Notes to Receipts and Payments Account**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Accounting basis**

The accounts, including notes thereto, show all funds which are governed by the Charity presented on a cash received and paid basis. The accounts are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The statement of receipts and payments show donated income received and expenditure incurred in the UK. The Trustees do not have operational oversight of the overseas charity, A2B Albania

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for specified purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements, where applicable.

Gift Aid tax refunds are apportioned across funds on an actual basis in accordance with underlying gift aid income. All costs are UK administrative costs and are allocated to the general fund.

### **2. GRANT FUNDING**

The trustees do not directly oversee the operational management of charitable activities in Albania having fully ceded the responsibility to the trustees of the sister charity established in that country, A2B Albania.

A2B in the UK have pledged to continue to raise money and provide on-going grant funding for the core charitable activities and, grant funding shown in the Receipts & Payments account is made wholly to A2B Albania. That charity is subject to funding terms and conditions including reporting obligations to A2B UK. As part of their due diligence, the trustees receive six monthly reports from Albania and visit the projects, when feasible, to ensure monies are being expended in accordance with the purposes for which grants are made.

During the year core funding was £3,800 per month which helps to finance the Bread of life Centre covering staff and other direct costs. In addition, funding is provided through the Family Link programme and for other projects and specific appeals. The details are shown in note 5, restricted funds analysis.

## Aid to the Balkans UK (A2B) (registered charity no. 1168468)

### Notes to Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 3. GUARANTEES AND SECURED DEBTS

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

#### 4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustee was paid remuneration during the year.

No travel, promotional or other expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (2020: 744).

Expenses incurred in 2020 were wholly operating costs within the objects of the Charity.

#### 5. RESTRICTED FUNDS ANALYSIS

	<i>At 1st April 2020</i>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31st March 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Family Link (including Gift Aid)	1,404	15,793	15,926	-	1,271
Another Life Centre - Peqin	281	3,963	3,650	-	594
Another Life - Kindergarten	50	50	100	-	-
Other specific appeals					
Covid-19 Appeal	-	5,941	5,941	-	-
Medical & personal costs	-	150	650	500	-
Food parcels - covid appeal	-	-	2,500	2,500	-
	<u>1,735</u>	<u>25,897</u>	<u>28,767</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>1,865</u>

The **Family Link** programme supports and encourages financial and relational links between UK donors and families in need in Albania.

**Another Life Centre at Peqin.** Two streams of funding are received and granted to Albania; part funding for the Centre as a whole started after initial third party funding ceased; and, on-going support to help operate and staff a kindergarten; a place of safety and early education for local children. The funding for the kindergarten project ceased during the year.

**Other specific gifts.** Funding for particular operational needs identified by the managers of A2B Albania or A2B UK Trustees.

**Covid appeal:** Humanitarian response to the pandemic in Albania in 2020.

**Medical costs:** Funding for medical costs of one of the project managers.

**Food parcels:** One-off uplift in funding to help with the Charity's distribution of food and supplies during the covid crisis.