

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1170882

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-12-21

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

Contact

Address 20 Ringlet Drive
East Leake
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 6XU

Phone 07983411913

Email info@acrossborders.org.uk

Website www.acrossborders.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:THE PROMOTION OF THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES BY CHARITABLE BODIES IN THE MENA REGION (FOR THE PURPOSES OF ACROSS BORDERS, THIS IS DEFINED AS ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, IRAN, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MALTA, MOROCCO, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND YEMEN) FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY:A) PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO REFUGEE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS IN THE MENA REGION, TO INCREASE CAPACITY, SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL ALL HAVE A COMMON PURPOSE AND AMBITION, TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF REFUGEES AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS. B) SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CHARITABLE PURPOSES CARRIED OUT BY CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO SUPPORT REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS IN THE MENA REGION.

Activities: Across Borders operates to raise the profile of people seeking refuge in the Middle East. Working with partner organisations in the region we seek to strengthen their service provision by the provision of technical support and funding, at the same time as raising the interests of people in the UK in their situation.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Egypt
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£6,611	£12,818	-	-
2024-03-31	£11,558	£7,730	-	-
2023-03-31	£8,507	£15,287	-	-
2022-03-31	£17,680	£23,889	-	-
2021-03-31	£19,799	£316	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Fiona Cameron	Chair	2016-12-01
Emma Goldie		2018-09-06
Rosie Pope		2025-09-01
Tamla Willie		2025-05-01

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1170882

Accounts



ACROSS BORDERS
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Trustees' Annual Report
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

Trustees' Annual Report

Fiona Cameron

Temitope Yusuf – Treasurer (resigned 31 March 2025)

Rosie Watt – Secretary (resigned 31 March 2025)

Emma Goldie

Wafa Suleiman

Abuzar Abagna

Tamla Willie - (started 1 March 2025)

Report from the Chair

Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organizations and sharing good practice across borders.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)

In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations providing advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.

To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.

We would like to thank our funders this year in particular the National Lottery Awards for All who allowed us to pivot in the face of circumstance and start a new project. We also express gratitude to our trustees, our volunteers, our partners - in particular, StARS, and Voices in Refuge, and our clients.



Fiona Cameron, Chair of Trustees

Remote Legal Clinic Project

The Sudanese war broke out in April 2023, and led to a huge increase in numbers approaching the office of our partner organization, StARS in Egypt. This severely impacted their capacity to work on anything other than Refugee Status Determination for new arrivals. As a result of this, the project was paused at the end of FY 2023/24. After reviewing the situation in mid-2024, the decision was made to close the project until or unless the context in Egypt changes significantly.

Refugees for refugees Project

We continued the 'Refugees for Refugees' project which aims to support clients in the UK to integrate and access services easily and fairly. The goals of the project are to train displaced people to support their communities, provide supervision to support volunteers to deliver mentoring services to their mentees; and through professional development opportunities, support volunteers to gain employment opportunities.



When most people hear the word refugee, the images that come to mind are too often defined by crisis, displacement, and need. What is less visible - but equally true - is the extraordinary leadership, resilience and innovation that refugees bring to their own communities. With limited resources and immense challenges, they are not only rebuilding their lives, but also driving solutions that strengthen entire communities.

- During the reporting period, between April 2024 and March 2025, the project's activities included:
 - Delivered a focus group with refugees and asylum seekers, including volunteers, project participants, and members of refugee communities, to identify the needs and how to address gaps in existing services.
 - We created a project manual detailing all project procedures, including instructions for service delivery which can be utilised by volunteers.
 - Delivered volunteer training; 7 volunteers completed a 4-day training course covering core topics including: Introduction to Across Borders and Refugees 4 Refugees Project; Life in the UK - Challenges and differences, Connecting with community in the UK; Safeguarding, Confidentiality and Professional Boundaries; and Project Manual, Case Management and Communication with Mentees.
- Conducted outreach with refugee organizations and community groups to inform about the project and establish referral pathways.
- Supported volunteers to deliver befriending services to mentees through group supervision and reflective practice sessions.

Initially, the project was designed with the intention to support newly arrived asylum seekers during their asylum journey, and newly recognised refugees. However, through delivering focus groups, we learnt that some members of refugee communities had integration support needs even after residing in the UK for long periods of time. Consequently, during the year we opted to extend the scope of the project to include anyone with a background of displacement who wanted support to integrate into their communities.



Refugee leadership isn't new—it's just under-recognized

Long before international agencies arrived, displaced communities were already creating their own education systems, protection networks, and mutual aid groups. These structures may have been informal, but they were effective. What is sometimes called a "leadership gap" is better understood as a recognition gap—one that narrows when we truly see and invest in the remarkable work refugees are already doing.

Over time, displaced communities transformed these grassroots efforts into refugee-led organizations delivering structured and professional services - from medical care and food programs to housing, education, mental health, women and children's support, and legal aid. Some of these organizations have been running for decades, a testament to the strength of refugee leadership and to the enduring nature of displacement itself.

Community Interpreting Project



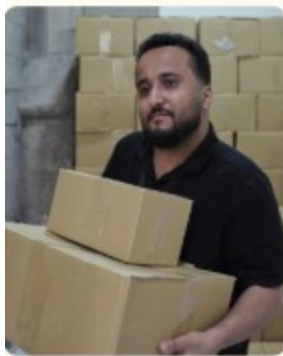
Voices in Refuge
Interpreting services

In partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com), Across Borders undertook two training courses online. 27 individuals participated from all over the world. The training is designed for those who already find themselves interpreting in refugee contexts and provides the basic theoretical concepts such

as the cardinal rules of interpreting as well as sessions areas such as safeguarding, and practice sessions. The interpreting training not only equips individuals with the tools to provide safeguarding services within their communities but also equips people with new skills.

Fundraising for StARS

St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) is a charity based in Cairo, Egypt that we have been fundraising for. We also partnered with them on the remote legal clinic and real resettlement projects. The war in Sudan and cuts to funding has significantly affected them in 2024-2025 and we are happy to be able to help them in however small a way. This year we were able to donate £ 7290.94 to StARS.



Lived experience drives better solutions

Refugee leaders often design programs that respond to needs outsiders might overlook. In countries where refugees face restrictions on work or education, these leaders create livelihood initiatives that work within legal limits while still opening paths forward - such as vocational training, language and integration support, small business support, and informal education programs that allow children and adults to keep learning. They also address challenges that are less visible to external actors but deeply felt in daily life. Women's safety, for instance, is often prioritized through women-only spaces, peer support groups,

We have a handful of regular donors who give monthly towards the work done by StARS. Funds raised are passed on based on the wishes of the donors.

We are grateful to donors and supporters who continue to give generously. We intend to continue to collect donations for StARS through one-off donations and regular giving. Donors can gift aid their donation when donating through our website [here](#). They can also indicate if the donation is for us, Across Borders, or for StARS.

Plans for 2025/2026

After a difficult year last year, Across Borders has reinvigorated itself in the year 2024/2025 and piloted its new project By Refugees for Refugees. This year, we hope to expand the project significantly, and are currently focused on working geographically in Bristol. We want to recruit new volunteers and increase the number of clients we work with.

As well as putting on new interpreting courses online we are also planning to run an in-person training in Bristol this summer with our long-term partners Voices in Refuge.

We have two great new board members - Tamla Willie and Rosie Pope who we hope will bring new energy and enthusiasm to the project.

If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on info@acrossborders.org.uk.


If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>

Financials

	Across Borders		1170882			CC1 6a
Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	1-Apr-24		To	31-Mar-25		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrest ricted funds	Restric ted funds	Endow ment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
National Lottery				-	10000	
Individual donations		6,611		6,611	1,558	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		6,611		6,611	11,558	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts		6,611		6,611	11,558	
A3 Payments						
Donation to StARS		£7,290.94	-	7290.94	-	

Consultancy fees		£5,000.00	-	5000	6,756
Mobile costs		£66.00	-	66	102
Insurance			-	0	352
Email costs		£172.80	-	172.8	132
Website costs		£132.48	-	132.48	173
Zoom licence		£155.88	-	155.88	144
Fundraising costs			-	0	71
Sub total		12,818	-	12,818	7,730
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		12,818	-	12,818	7,730
Net of receipts/(payments)		-6,208	-	-6,208	3,827
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end		-6,208	-	-6,208	3,827
Section B					
Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period					
Categories	Details		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
			to nearest	to nearest £	to nearest

		£		£
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank			4,275
			-	
Total cash funds				4,275
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK		OK
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
Details		to nearest £		to nearest £
B2 monetary assets	Other		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Details		Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets				-
				-
				-
				-
				-
Details		Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)
B4 Assets				-

retained for the charity's own use					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
	Details		Fund to which liability relates		Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name			Date of approval
			Fiona Cameron			24/01/26

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees

Charity Name Across Borders

On accounts for the year ended

March 2025	Charity no (if any)	1170882
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Set out on pages

<small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>
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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: T. Yusuf

Date: 28 Jan 2026

Name: Temi Yusuf

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

--

Address:	55 Belleville Drive
	Nottingham
	NG5 5PG

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1170882

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From (Period start date): 1 April 2023

To (Period end date): 31 March 2024

Charity name: Across Borders

Charity registration number: 1170882

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organizations and sharing good practice across borders.</p> <p>The objectives of the charity are as follows:</p> <p>(1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)</p> <p>(2) In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.</p> <p>(3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees</p>

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

Para 1.17 and 1.19

Remote Legal Clinic Project

Across Borders secured funding to support a further year of collaboration with the University of Nottingham law school between September 2022 to July 2023. Over this year the students were fully trained enabling them to support 131 individuals (56 cases) through legal representation in relation to Refugee Status Determination, or resettlement legal representation, or protection counseling and interventions. Across Borders initiated conversations with four other universities in its efforts to expand the programme. The universities recognised how curricula would benefit from an applied learning experience however only one of the establishments found the initiative currently practicable (the University of Bedfordshire). The war in Sudan has meant that the backlog of Sudanese cases that the students typically supported no longer required this assistance. In addition, the influx of Sudanese refugees increased pressure on StARS' already limited resources meaning that they were unable to commit staff time to facilitate the other types of casework that the students would undertake. Owing to these conditions the project has been paused.

The Real Resettlement Project

We noticed that from 2023 there was no resettlement for families to the UK; this, we understand, is related to housing stock shortages in the UK. Owing to this, as most of our mentees receive calls from the UNHCR offering them the opportunity to opt to be resettled in a different country, unfortunately we had to take the decision to close the project because the project had two phases; one in Egypt and one in the UK. The second phase of the project depends totally on the UK side.

All the cases on this project are closed and the real resettlement project has ended.

In consultation with the Real Resettlement funder we started a new project in the UK called 'Refugees for Refugees'. We have a number of trained volunteers ready to support refugees and Asylum seekers on this new project.

		<p><u>Community Interpreting Project</u></p> <p>In partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com), Across Borders undertook two training courses online. 41 individuals participated from all over the world. The training is designed for those who already find themselves interpreting in refugee contexts and provides the basic theoretical concepts such as the cardinal rules of interpreting as well as sessions areas such as safeguarding, and practice sessions.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees of Across Borders have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. All of the charity's activities are for charitable and public benefit purposes only.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	See above and in the full annual report below.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity is in a good financial position as we have funding to continue our 'Refugees for Refugees' project for a set period of time. We continue to seek funding from donations and grants to continue our work.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Across borders has a policy in which three months of running costs for the charity's activities should be held in the case of the charity winding down. However, due to funding being restricted to the project delivery, we are yet to achieve this target.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	X
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties about the charity as a going concern. Nonetheless, we heavily rely on grants to fund our projects and activities.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees or shorter term in order to stagger trustee appointments.</p> <p>In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Across Borders
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1170882
Charity's principal address	20 Ringleet Drive, East Leake, Loughborough Leicestershire LE12 6XU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rosie Watt	Secretary		
2	Temi Yusuf	Treasurer		
3	Emma Goldie			
4	Fiona Cameron			
5	Wafa Sulieman			
6	Abuzar Abagna			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Rosie Watt

Full name(s) Rosie Watt

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc) Trustee

Date 26 January 2025



ACROSS BORDERS
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Trustees' Annual Report
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

Trustees' Annual Report

Fiona Cameron – Chair
Temitope Yusuf – Treasurer
Rosie Watt – Secretary
Emma Goldie
Wafa Suleiman
Abuzar Abagna

Report from the Chair

Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organizations and sharing good practice across borders.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)

In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations providing advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.

To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.

We would like to thank our funders: the National Lottery, the Evan Cornish Foundation, and Synergi. We also express gratitude to our trustees, our volunteers, our partners - in particular, StARS, and Voices in Refuge, University of Nottingham, and our clients.

We look forward to 2024.

Remote Legal Clinic Project

St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) remains the only legal aid provider for asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt seeking legal support and representation with UNHCR processes. Across Borders secured funding to support a further year of collaboration with the University of Nottingham law school between September 2022 to July 2023. This enabled the recruitment of a Senior Legal Officer to join StARS' Refugee Legal Aid Department team in mid-November 2022 to facilitate key parts of

the project including delivering training to students and assigning them cases, providing tailored guidance to students on approaches to casework and supervision sessions, and project reporting. Over this year the students were fully trained enabling them to support 131 individuals (56 cases) through legal representation in relation to Refugee Status Determination, or resettlement legal representation, or protection counseling and interventions. All submissions and referrals drafted by the students were submitted to UNHCR Egypt, resulting in positive progression of each case. During this period StARS' Senior Legal Officer collaborated with the University of Nottingham to provide Q&A responses about the project and key outcomes in the University of Nottingham E-Newsletter, raising awareness about the situation in Egypt for refugees and the difference the project makes and publicising opportunities for students to get involved.

Across Borders initiated conversations with four other universities in its efforts to expand the programme. The universities recognised how curricula would benefit from an applied learning experience however only one of the establishments found the initiative currently practicable (the University of Bedfordshire). Disappointingly this plan couldn't be realised owing to the shifting needs amongst Sudanese refugees approaching StARS for legal assistance: the war in Sudan has meant that the backlog of Sudanese cases that the students typically supported no longer required this assistance. In addition, the influx of Sudanese refugees increased pressure on StARS' already limited resources meaning that they were unable to commit staff time to facilitate the other types of casework that the students would undertake. StARS instead advised that students' in-person support in Cairo would be more practicable; an ongoing conversation with the University of Nottingham to explore this has, unfortunately, not proffered a solution mainly owing to funding constraints and security concerns. Owing to these conditions the project has been paused.

The Real Resettlement Project

Introduction

We noticed that from 2023 there was no resettlement for families to the UK which we understand is related to the UK housing stock shortage. As most of our mentees receive an option from the UNHCR to opt to be resettled in an alternative country, unfortunately we had to take the decision to close the project because the project had two phases; one in Egypt and one in the UK. The second phase of the project depends totally on the UK side.

According to these developments we were not able to continue our support to the families. So we communicated with all families and provided a safe exit to them making sure that they are aware and they are able to make their own decisions in relation to the support they were receiving from Across Borders. We also provided the advice they needed at that time.

What's happened so far?

All the cases were closed and the real resettlement project has ended.

What's next?

Refugees for refugees project:

In collaboration with the funder of the Real Resettlement project, we started a new project in the UK called 'Refugees for Refugees'. We have a number of trained volunteers ready to support refugees and Asylum seekers on this new project.

When refugees arrive in the UK, they get a cultural shock and need time to become oriented, until they are used to the UK system. Meanwhile, people feel lost and lonely, and those who are coming with high hopes may also become frustrated. This project also extended to include migrant families as well as refugees in recognition that they are facing many challenges during their asylum journey where they need emotional support, how to access available services, and link them with their communities.

People who do not speak English need more support to navigate the UK systems and become oriented. After the long journey to a new country needing a lot of support, getting this support from volunteers with lived experience is more supportive and relevant, and therefore effective. The volunteers who provide this support are the best people to support those refugees and migrants, they can share their own experience and they can show how they cope with different challenges themselves.

Integration is not always an easy process. Asylum Seekers can face real challenges with adaptation and integration to the UK, as well as in accessing needed services and opportunities. Some of this is predicated on the understanding refugees have of what they can expect when they get to the UK. Activities completed during the reported period include:

- We conducted a focus group with refugees and asylum seekers to address the needs and gaps in the services they get.
- We have created a referral system.
- After an initial assessment, they are then supported by volunteers who have experienced migration and being refugees themselves.

Community Interpreting Project

In partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com), Across Borders undertook two training courses online. 41 individuals participated from all over the world. The training is designed for those who already find themselves interpreting in refugee contexts and provides the basic theoretical concepts such as the cardinal rules of interpreting as well as sessions areas such as safeguarding, and practice sessions. The interpreting training not only equips individuals with the tools to provide safeguarding services within their communities but also equips people with the skills to look for work.

Fundraising for StARS

St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) is a charity based in Cairo, Egypt that we have been fundraising for. We also partnered with them on the remote legal clinic and real resettlement projects.

We have a handful of regular donors who give monthly towards the work done by StARS. Funds raised are passed on based on the wishes of the donors.

In 2022-23, Across Borders received £529.35 in donations for StARS. However, for this year 2023-24, there was a 289% increase in the monetary donations received which brought the total to £1,532.59. This was made up of a single donation of £967.10 and the remaining £565.49 from regular monthly donors.

We are grateful to donors and supporters who continue to give generously. We intend to continue to collect donations for StARS through one-off donations and regular giving. Donors can gift aid their donation when donating through our website [here](#). They can also indicate if the donation is for us, Across Borders, or for StARS.

Communications

In 2023/2024 we continued to use our three main social media platforms to highlight our work, advertise for new volunteers, and make requests for donations.

We have three main social media platforms which we use:

- Instagram: @acrossborders_uk
- Facebook: Across Borders
- Twitter: @acrossbordersuk

These continue to be run and updated by board members.

Plans for 2024/2025

2023/2024 has been a difficult year for Across Borders. The turbulence experienced in Northeast Africa has impacted the work at StARS in a way which has meant that both the Remote Legal Clinic project and the Real Resettlement project have had to be paused, temporarily at least. 2024/2025 will be a year of refocusing for the organisation, whilst we repurpose our funds and volunteers to support refugees and asylum seekers who are already within the UK. We therefore will be focusing on building partnerships with organisations working with refugees working in the UK, and training and working with refugee mentors and volunteers to build their skills.

We will continue to raise funds for StARS and hope that in the future we will be able to work more directly with them again.

As our long-time Chair and Treasurer both feel that it is time to step down from the board, after several years, we will also be looking to reinvigorate the board with new people and new ideas.

If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on info@acrossborders.org.uk.

If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>.

	Across Borders	1170882	CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts		

	For the period from	1-Apr-23	To	31-Mar-24	

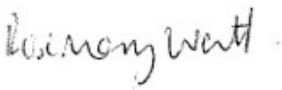
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
National Lottery	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Evan Cornish	-	-	-	-	4,500
Synergi	-	-	-	-	3,000
Individual donations	25	£1,532.59	-	1,558	1,007
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25	11,533	-	11,558	8,507
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	25	11,533	-	11,558	8,507
A3 Payments					
Donation to StARS	-	-	-	-	915

Evan Cornish Grant to StARS	-	-	-	-	4,510
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	-	1,638
Consultancy fees	-	£6,756.00	-	6,756	6,000
Trainer Fees	-	-	-	-	1,067
Mobile costs	-	102	-	102	324
Insurance	-	352	-	352	369
Email costs	-	£132.48	-	132	132
Website costs	-	£172.80	-	173	187
Zoom licence	-	£143.88	-	144	144
Fundraising costs	21	50	-	71	-
Sub total	21	7,709	-	7,730	15,287
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	21	7,709	-	7,730	15,287
Net of receipts/(payments)	4	3,823	-	3,827	- 6,780
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	4	3,823	-	3,827	- 6,780

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	4	10,478	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4	10,478	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)


B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Rosie Watt	26/01/2025	

Independent Examiner: Rhys Williams

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1170882

Accounts

	Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
	Period start date			Period end date			
	From	01	April	2022	To	31	March

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name		Across Borders	
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)			
		1170882	
Charity's principal address		20 Ringlet Drive, East Leake	
		Loughborough	
		Leicestershire	
		Postcode	LE12 6XU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fiona Cameron	Chair		
2	Rosie Watt	Secretary		
3	Temitope Yusuf	Treasurer		
4	Emma Goldie			
5	Wafa Sulieman			
6	Abuzar Abagna			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

	20			
	Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)			
	Name		Dates acted if not for whole year	

	Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)		
	Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Other trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; ● the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; ● relationship with any related parties; ● trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Across Borders works in partnership with the University of Nottingham and St Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

(1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)

(2) in particular but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations that provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrews Refugee Services.

(3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for the public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Remote Legal Clinic project continues its important activities to support St Andrew's Refugee Services' (StARS). StARS remains the only legal aid provider for asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt seeking legal support and representation with UNHCR processes. Demand for this legal support continued to stretch the casework capacity of StARS' Refugee Legal Aid Department (RLAD) throughout the first half of 2023. Implementation of the 2022/23 remote legal support to refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt (the Project) increased RLAD's capability to reach more clients and meet this demand, maintaining a high-quality standard and ensuring support to at-risk refugees.

During the past year, mentors on the Real Resettlement project provided one-to-one meetings with their mentees through phone calls and text messages. The phone calls include providing emotional support, information about life in the UK, signposting to the services in Egypt and the UK.

In collaboration with our amazing partners Voices in Refuge, we offered a free interpreting course for those interested in community interpreting. The training project continues the Across Borders theme of refugee leadership by giving refugees the opportunity to take a professional course, which recognises the importance of interpreting, recognizing the vital part it plays in ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees are able to access their rights, and teaching the participants an additional number of transferable skills which will come in useful during their employment journey in the UK.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We are grateful for all our volunteers, whom without we will not be able to achieve all that has taken place in this year.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Please see below

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Across borders has a policy in which three months of running costs for the charity's activities should be held in the case of the charity winding down.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Grants were received from the Evan Cornish Foundation and Synergi. Other funds have been raised through individual donations.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
---	--

Full name(s) Fiona Cameron

--	--

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair

--	--

Date : 26/01/2024

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ACROSS BORDERS
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Trustees' Annual Report
and Financial Statements
for the Period
1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

Trustees' Annual Report

Fiona Cameron – Chair
Temitope Yusuf – Treasurer
Rosie Watt – Secretary
Emma Goldie
Wafa Suleiman
Abuzar Abagna

Report from the Chair

Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organizations and sharing good practice across borders.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

- 1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)
- 2) In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.
- 3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees

Throughout the year we continued to support our partner StARS in Egypt. The partnership continued to thrive, as we hosted a visit from their Deputy Director who provided training for our partners at the University of Nottingham, raised money for their unrestricted donations, and took referrals from their clients who were due to be resettled.

In December 2022 we held a community event for all those who had been involved in our work during the previous year. This included students from the Law Clinic, volunteers from the Resettlement Project, Trustees and even some of our clients. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum generously donated their space to us and we heard presentations about all the different projects.

We want to pass our gratitude to our funders, the National Lottery, the Evan Cornish Foundation and Synergi. Also our thanks goes out to our trustees, our volunteers, our partners - in particular, StARS, Nottingham University Law School and Voices in Refuge, and of course, to our clients.

We look forward to 2024.

Remote Legal Clinic

Introduction

Ongoing Programme delivery

St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) remains the only legal aid provider for asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt seeking legal support and representation with UNHCR processes. Demand for this legal support continued to stretch the casework capacity of StARS' Refugee Legal Aid Department (RLAD) throughout the first half of 2023. Implementation of the 2022/23 remote legal support to refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt (the Project)

increased RLAD's capability to reach more clients and meet this demand, maintaining a high-quality standard and ensuring support to at-risk refugees.

StARS recruited a Senior Legal Officer (SLO) to join the Refugee Legal Aid Department team in mid-November 2022 and has coordinated the project throughout its duration including delivering training, assigning cases, providing detailed guidance to students on approaches to casework, supervision sessions, and project reporting. This role trains students and ensures the smooth workflow for the students including supervision and feedback, other related practicalities related to the running of the project including reporting, compliance with GDPR and safeguarding standards.

The SLO trained the volunteer students. Training includes three core areas: Refugee Status Determination, Resettlement representation and protection referrals. 100% or 4 out of 4 students received training and demonstrated knowledge gain.

The students expressed finding the training content engaging. Prior to the training the students completed a questionnaire containing 28 questions pre and post training to assess their knowledge gain. Each of the four students demonstrated knowledge gain in every area of training. Via the end-of-project evaluation survey that was completed by the students about their overall experience, they fed back that they had assessed that they had deepened their legal knowledge and enhanced their practical skills including in the summarizing and drafting of testimony, legal assessment and analysis.

In regards to their overall experience of volunteering on the project the students reported satisfaction and overall gains with respect to knowledge and skills, and all provided positive responses regarding balancing the Project casework alongside their university commitments - this had been a focus for ongoing improvement for the model. Each of the students confirmed that they would recommend their experience volunteering on the project to other Nottingham law students.

In regards to this, in coordinating with the students and allocating their casework each week, the Remote Legal Support SLO remained mindful of the students' competing priorities and adjusted workloads accordingly to reach achievable goals. Other feedback included that the casework was more difficult than one student had expected, but still reported that they had improved over the course of the Project; another student indicated that the recruitment phase for the law clinic could be clearer on expectations, particularly with respect to time and effort involved in the commitment to the Project over the academic year which has been fed back to the university for review. Feedback from at least one of the students also indicates their preference for more direct involvement with clients. In light of this a hybrid model has been proposed (with students spending part of their academic year in Cairo) and is now under discussion between the university and StARS, facilitated by Across Borders.

131 individuals (56 cases) reached in Cairo through legal representation by receiving Refugee Status Determination, or resettlement legal representation, or protection counseling and interventions. Following the completion of their first training (refugee status determination (RSD) casework training and shadowing), the students were assigned weekly casework with detailed guidance and feedback from the Remote Legal Support SLO on a weekly basis. The students drafted 23 RSD legal submissions, **supporting 68 individuals**. A focus on RSD submissions throughout the project was necessary owing to the influx of RSD rejections issued by UNHCR in 2022. In addition, the students worked on drafting witness testimony in the form of affidavits. This remote support provided by the students has enabled StARS to clear its backlog of pending 2022 RSD appeal cases. This has been critical as it's allowed a focus on balancing the current appeals caseload with other casework priorities, in particular, the urgent need to support registration related 4 derivative refugee status requests and UNHCR file reopening submissions for Sudanese nationals with sur place claims that have arisen as a result of the emerging conflict in Sudan.

Following the completion of online resettlement and protection casework training in March 2023 the students drafted 12 protection referrals, **supporting 14 refugees**. The majority of these cases were for LGBTQI+ refugees who face ongoing, targeted, and severe protection risks, including sexual violence. Assisting with resettlement representation was more challenging because of the tight review and submission cycle for StARS resettlement referrals which did not regularly align with student availability and time allocated for clinic work from week to week.

By the end of the Project, the volunteer students from the University of Nottingham **completed a total of 56 legal submissions and referrals for StARS' clients, benefitting 131 refugees**. All submissions and referrals drafted by the students were submitted to UNHCR Egypt, resulting in positive progression of each case.

Awareness raising during Refugee Week 2023: interviews with StARS and Across Borders were conducted for the University of Nottingham's Refugee Week publication targeting the student community. In May 2023, to coincide with Refugee Week, Across Borders and the SLO collaborated with the University of Nottingham to provide Q&A responses about StARS' work and the collaboration with UoN students as part of their University of Nottingham E-Newsletter. With the theme of 'compassion,' the aim of this contribution was not only to highlight the impact of the Project and explain how students can get involved in future, but also to provide insight about Across Borders' values and aims in addressing the needs of people forcibly displaced and into how StARS' model uses a holistic and client-centered approach.

Programme expansion / what's next?

Across Borders initiated conversations with University of Birbeck (London), University of Bedfordshire, University of Glasgow and Vrije University Amsterdam towards expanding the legal remote project. Our proposals were well received and led to discussions about how current university curricula would benefit from an applied learning experience and how this might be practicable within wider department agendas and working practices. Insights and know-how from the University of Nottingham's experience have been shared with these universities to increase understanding and credibility of the opportunity.

Having reviewed materials about the project's offer, the Vrije University (Amsterdam) explained that their work focuses on expert opinions, therefore differing to StARS' needs. This interaction, however, led to a referral to a further university, the University of Amsterdam, and we're currently following up with the Director of Amsterdam Law Clinics about this. Following a meeting between the University of Nottingham and the University of Bedfordshire to explore some additional technicalities of how the project works in practice, the latter committed to come on board as a partner. This plan has, unfortunately, had to be postponed because of the refocus of StARS' legal work on emerging casework related to the Sudan conflict.

As well, though we have not been able to take forward collaboration with Vrije University (Amsterdam), our contact there has proposed a collaboration with a legal advice service which assists asylum seekers and refugees in Tangier, Rabat and Agadir, the Hijra Legal Clinic which presents an exciting opportunity for expansion and for Across Borders to fulfill its mission to support partners across the Middle East region.

The Real Resettlement Project



Introduction : Resettlement is now a key part of the UK immigration system. However, refugee resettlement is not always successful and much of this is predicated on the refugees' understanding of what they can expect when they get to the UK. The main purpose of the resettlement project is to provide accurate information about life in the UK, such information include education, employment, service providers etc, thereby, the newcomer refugees from Egypt should guide by this information to integrate easily into UK culture.

What's happened so far?



The Project depends completely on seven volunteers who are refugees themselves and were previously resettled in the UK, and fully trained to provide genuine information to refugees in Egypt as well as refugees who arrived in the UK. During the past year, mentors provided one-to-one meetings with their mentees through phone calls and text messages. 292 phone calls and 39 text messages were made to mentees. The phone calls include providing emotional support, information about life in the UK, signposting to the services in Egypt and the UK. Positive feedback was received from mentees expressing their satisfaction of the services that mentors provided, especially the emotional support, given the difficult life situation our mentees face in Egypt. Mentees were grateful to meet someone who has similar experience to talk to him about their issues and get support.

During the past year there were eight families who arrived in the UK who were receiving services from the Real resettlement project and they continue to get these services in the UK which include general information about life in the UK including the UK culture, connecting with communities. Although the first plan of the project was to continuously provide services

to mentees for a maximum of six months from the time of arrival, this was extended as mentees expressed their needs to be following up with them and continue receiving support from their mentors.

Unfortunately in the report period the project has lost three volunteers due to various reasons because of their studying and work which makes it hard for them to dedicate time for the project. A plan is in place to recruit new volunteers to the project to take over the communications with mentees of those who stepped down.

What's next?

We plan to recruit six new community mentors and provide them with training, and to raise further funds to develop the project. The funds will help in recruiting interpreters for certain languages such as Oromo, which is a current issue for mentors to communicate with mentees who speak this language.

We hope to develop networks with service providers in the UK to increase opportunities of services for our mentees in the UK. We also hope to do an event to gather all our mentees who arrived in the UK.

Community Interpreting Project

In collaboration with our amazing partners Voices in Refuge we offer a free interpreting course for those interested in community interpreting.

This year we have run three courses, *An Introduction to Community Interpreting*, reaching over 60 individuals from 19 nationalities, including Ukraine, Sudan, and other countries who are currently seeing large numbers of people who have been forcibly displaced.

The training project continues the Across Borders theme of refugee leadership by giving refugees the opportunity to take a professional course, which recognises the importance of interpreting, recognizing the vital part it plays in ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees are able to access their rights, and teaching the participants an additional number of transferable skills which will come in useful during their employment journey in the UK.

One of our participants said:

For over 15 years, I've been passionately teaching English for speakers of Arabic, but recently, I decided to venture into the uncharted territory of community interpreting. I had the privilege of attending introduction to community interpreting training sessions provided by Voices in Refuge and Across Borders, and I can't emphasize enough how profoundly useful and eye-opening this experience was. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Barbara, Halima, and Matt for their exceptional dedication

in delivering the interpreting course. Their approach was not only friendly but also highly informative, making the learning process both engaging and enlightening. Now as I finished the training sessions, my journey as a community interpreter has only just begun. I plan to use these newfound skills to continue helping my community and explore opportunities for collaboration with local organizations. Together, we can create a more inclusive and harmonious environment.



Voices in Refuge/Across Borders graduates from *An Introduction to Community Interpreting*, summer 2024

Fundraising for StARS

Introduction: Since Across Borders started, we have been raising funds for St Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) which is based in Cairo, Egypt. StARS is our main partner organisation for both our legal and resettlement projects.

What's happened so far?

In this year, although we saw a reduction in the number of regular donors, we were able to retain a few donors who continued to donate on a monthly basis.

The funds raised will be used towards the Real Resettlement Project.

What's next?

We continue to collect money for StARS through one off donations and regular giving. Every penny we raise goes directly to StARS programming. You can gift aid your donation and you can donate through our website [here](#).

Communications

We have been building on our online engagement and used our social media channels to raise awareness of the work we are doing with our partner organisations. We have three main social media platforms which we use:

Instagram: @acrossborders_uk

Facebook: Across Borders

Twitter: @acrossbordersuk

We understand that social media can be powerful in helping to reach more people and extend the reach of our work as well. We want to continue to use the platforms for fundraising and awareness raising purposes.

Plans for 2023/2024

As we move into a new financial year, it is clear that the situation for refugees and asylum seekers all over the world is more acute than ever. With the UK government pursuing an aggressive anti-immigration policy, focused on a very small number of asylum seekers, increased hostilities worldwide and a looming economic crisis, it is difficult to plan for the future.

In 2023/2024 we hope to expand our services through:

- Taking on and training new volunteers as community mentors in our Resettlement Project to enable us to work with more people being referred from Egypt.
- Bringing in more universities in the UK to boost the capacity of StARS Egypt to manage casework research.
- Finding additional funding to employ a project manager.

The interpreting project is done in partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com), and we are working with universities on the legal project.

If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on info@acrossborders.org.uk.

If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>.

	Across Borders		1170882		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	1-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23	

Section A Receipts and payments

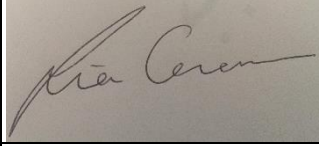
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Matrix			-	-	4,500
National Lottery			-	-	9,650
Evan Cornish		4,500	-	4,500	-
Synergi		3,000	-	3,000	-
Individual donations	30	977	-	1,007	3,530
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	30	8,477	-	8,507	17,680
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	30	8,477	-	8,507	17,680
A3 Payments					
Donation to StARS	-	915	-	915	10,019
Evan Cornish Grant to StARS	-	4,510	-	4,510	-
Matrix Fund to StARS	-	-	-	-	4,500
Souter Trust Fund to StARS	-	-	-	-	1,400
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	20
Volunteer expenses	-	1,638	-	1,638	444
Consultancy fees	-	6,000	-	6,000	5,500
Trainer Fees	-	1,067	-	1,067	1,150
Mobile costs	-	324	-	324	345
Insurance	-	369	-	369	-
Email costs	-	132	-	132	170

Website costs	-	187	-	187	144
Zoom licence	-	144	-	144	144
Advertising	-	-	-	-	20
Misc	-	-	-	-	33
Sub total	-	15,287	-	15,287	23,889
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	-	15,287	-	15,287	23,889
Net of receipts/(payments)	30	- 6,810	-	- 6,780	- 6,209
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	30	- 6,810	-	- 6,780	- 6,209

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	30	6,625	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	30	6,625	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details			
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

			Fiona Cameron	26/01/2024

Independent Examiner: Rhys Williams

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1170882

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	April	2021		31	March	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by



Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

20 Ringlet Drive, East Leake	
Loughborough	
Leicestershire	
Postcode	LE12 6XU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fiona Cameron	Chair		
2	Rosie Watt	Secretary		
3	Temitope Yusuf	Treasurer		
4	Emma Goldie			
5	Wafa Sulieman			
6	Abuzar Abagna			
7				
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20				

	Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)	
	Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

	Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)		
Type of adviser	Name	Address	

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Other trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; ● the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; ● relationship with any related parties; ● trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Across Borders works in partnership with the University of Nottingham and St Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo.</p>
--	---

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

(1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)

(2) in particular but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations that provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrews Refugee Services.

(3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for the public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Welcoming its third cohort of students in 2021, the Remote Legal Clinic project continues its important activities to support St Andrew's Refugee Services' (StARS) Refugee Legal Aid Department (RLAD) to meet the demands for legal support representation with UNHCR processes. Law students from Nottingham University volunteering at the university's Human Rights Law Clinic are trained in International Refugee Law and legal frameworks and protection mechanisms relevant to the Egyptian context and are then supported by RLAD to assist on cases. As the only legal aid provider in Egypt, increasing RLAD's casework capacity in this way makes a critical difference. Students' involvement in the project has shaped their career direction and equipped them to be more work-ready.

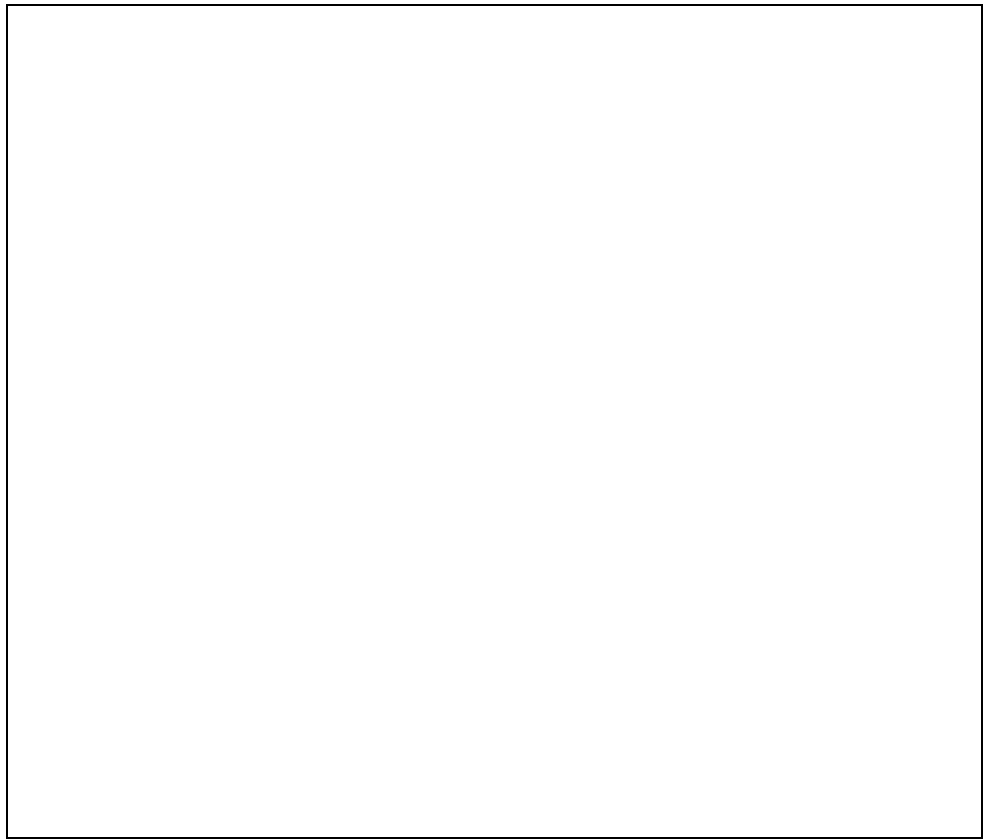
The main purpose of the resettlement project is to provide accurate information about the life in the UK, such information include education, employment, service providers etc, thereby, the newcomer refugees from Egypt should guide by this information to integrate easily into UK culture. In the first 6 months we prepared the pilot by conducting focus groups with a group of 12 individuals who had experience of resettlement from Cairo to London. We then used this information to develop our policies and procedures for the pilot, developed an M&E framework for monitoring progress and devised the core activities. In January 2022 we had our mentee training. Training was delivered where possible by individuals who also had experience of migration and included subjects around Community Connection, safeguarding, employment and education, welfare and benefits, health system and case management. Altogether we completed 6 training sessions of 2 hours long with 12 volunteer community mentors. In February 2022 we received our first 33 referrals from StARS and allocated them to mentors.

We started on the interpreting project during this year which is a free Introduction to Community Interpreting course done online for a 6–8-week period. We are targeting those with lived experience of forced migration, that may have found themselves for others or are considering interpreting as a career.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Please see below

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Across borders has a policy in which three months of running costs for the charity's activities should be held in the case of the charity winding down.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A grant was received from the National Lottery Awards for All, and another from the Matrix fund.
Other funds have been raised through individual donations.

Section F

Other optional information

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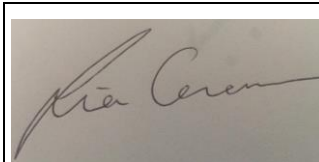
Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Fiona Cameron

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair

Date : 17 December 2022



ACROSS BORDERS
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Trustees' Annual Report
and Financial Statements
for the Period
1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

Trustees' Annual Report

Fiona Cameron – Chair
Rosie Watt – Secretary
Temitope Yusuf – Treasurer
Emma Goldie
Wafa Suleiman
Abuzar Abagna

Report from the Chair

Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organisations and sharing good practice across borders.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

- (1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)
- (2) In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.
- (3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees

This year started with ...

Remote Legal Clinic

Introduction

Welcoming its third cohort of students in 2021, the Remote Legal Clinic project continues its important activities to support St Andrew's Refugee Services' (StARS) Refugee Legal Aid Department (RLAD) to meet the demands for legal support representation with UNHCR processes. Law students from Nottingham University volunteering at the university's Human Rights Law Clinic are trained in International Refugee Law and legal frameworks and protection mechanisms relevant to the Egyptian context and are then supported by RLAD to assist on cases. As the only legal aid provider in Egypt, increasing RLAD's casework capacity in this way makes a critical difference. Students' involvement in the project has shaped their career direction and equipped them to be more work-ready.

What's happened so far?

Refugee Status Determination-focused activities at RLAD resumed in 2021 however the impact of COVID-19 restrictions continued to affect the workflow due to the lack of large-scale scheduling of interviews. An unprecedented spike in workload related to first instance negative decisions in late 2021 caused a further disruption to workflow requiring a focus on this emergent need to rapidly appeal a number of cases. Since the students' training had been diversified this year to include resettlement modules this supported them being able to pick up protection related work instead through this period.

The 2020 cohort finished up their work on the project in June 2021 which included a student providing a [reflection](#) for Refugee Week 2021 on their work with RLAD. In September four students received training to test and enhance knowledge on principles of international refugee law and the procedures for implementing the law in Egypt. This included an overview of UNHCR Egypt's RSD processing modalities, and explanation of RLAD's policies and processes for RSD services; familiarisation with source country conditions via country-of-origin

information sessions; increasing the understanding of the protection environment for refugees in Egypt, UNHCR's resettlement criteria and processing and the protection interventions that RLAD can take. Using case studies which focused on credibility assessment, RSD legal submissions, Resettlement and Protection referrals and ethical considerations, the students gained knowledge and drafting skills.

Dedicated resources to support the students and manage the workflow has been a key enabler for the project. The students are provided with detailed instruction about their weekly assignment and written feedback together with remote supervision which offers an opportunity to consolidate the training and access real time advice on cases.

A monitoring framework has been developed to support a project evaluation and track progress on set targets. At the midpoint of the project, 4 cases (20% of target) receiving RSD legal representation from RLAD were supported through the drafting of legal submissions while 1 case (10% of the target) receiving resettlement legal representation from RLAD was supported through the drafting of external resettlement forms; and 4 (10%) cases receiving protection counselling and interventions from StARS were supported through the drafting of expedited processing requests and protection referrals.

What's next?

As well as continuing casework, during the final part of the project an evaluation will be completed to explore the effectiveness of the project for the various stakeholders involved including refugees in Cairo, RLAD and the Law Department at the University of Nottingham and the students. Using the evaluation's recommendations, Across Borders will be able to develop the project to ensure ongoing alignment with available resources, interests and needs of the stakeholders. It will also position Across Borders to consider scaling the project to expand to other universities.

The Real Resettlement Project

Introduction : Resettlement is now a key part of the UK immigration system. However, refugee resettlement is not always successful and much of this is predicated on the refugees' understanding of what they can expect when they get in the UK. The main purpose of the resettlement project is to provide accurate information about the life in the UK, such information include education, employment, service providers etc, thereby, the newcomer refugees from Egypt should guide by this information to integrate easily into UK culture.

What's happened so far?

This year has been a big year for the Real Resettlement Project as the pilot has gotten underway.

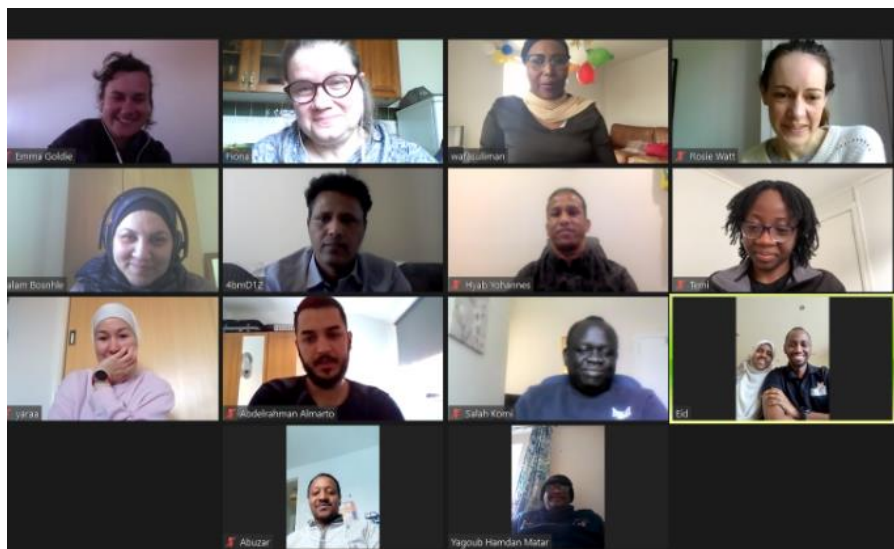
In the first half of the year we employed as consultant/s Abuzar and Wafa to run the pilot, both of whom have experience of being resettled to the UK from Egypt.

In the first 6 months we prepared the pilot by conducting focus groups with a group of 12 individuals who had experience of resettlement from Cairo to London. We then used this information to develop our policies and procedures for the pilot, developed an M&E framework for monitoring progress and devised the core activities.

In November 2022 we advertised for mentees for the pilot using our social media, volunteer websites and through word of mouth. We successfully recruited 37 mentees who all have experienced some kind of forced migration and come from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Yemen.

Alongside the above, we held meetings with our partner in Cairo, StARS and developed referral pathways and a referral form for people being resettled to the UK. This could be used by StARS staff and community-based organisations in Cairo to refer to individuals being resettled to the UK.

In January 2022 we had our mentee training. Training was delivered where possible by individuals who also had experience of migration and included subjects around Community Connection, safeguarding, employment and education, welfare and benefits, health system and case management. Altogether we completed 6 training sessions of 2 hours long with 12 volunteer community mentors.



In February 2022 we received our first 33 referrals from StARS and allocated them to mentors. Since then, Wafa and Abuzar have provided space for bi-monthly phone calls and group supervision for mentors and mentees. Overall we have conducted 197 phone calls with 37 of mentees and their families in Cairo. Key issues raised and discussed include: concerns around children's education in the UK, concerns about English language and finding work, uncertainty around the welfare and health system in the UK and overall uncertainty linked to the process of pre-

flight/flight information. Our mentees have been able to provide this info to mentors to ensure they feel supported and safe.

Mentors have also provided mentees with emotional support.

Some feedback from mentors includes:

- We are glad to be in a situation where we help people and give them useful information that can help them to be prepared when they arrive in the UK.
- The program has helped me a lot to build my skills in various ways such as case management, communication with mentees.
- At the start of the program I was not confident enough to do this work but the training that we had has helped me a lot to be able to do communication and then when we started doing a phone call I became more confident.
- The mentees were so happy for our conversations with them and they always say our support and emotional support they get from us give them hope and make them relief from day to day hard life.

What's next?

- We are in the process of developing M&E indicators and would like to carry out a mid-term evaluation.
- We will put out another call for volunteers in summer.

Fundraising for StARS

Introduction: One of the reasons Across Borders was set up was to give an easy way for people in the UK to donate to StARS, and during COVID we set up a fundraising appeal for the organisation.

What's happened so far?

In March 2020 when the COVID pandemic began, we started an emergency fundraiser for StARS which remained open throughout that year. We raised just under £10,000 in unrestricted funding which went towards StARS COVID programmes, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

In the last two years, StARS has witnessed a heightened sense of desperation amongst the displaced communities in Egypt. The economic downfall caused by COVID-19 in conjunction with limited access to vital services has resulted in an increase in homelessness, food insecurity, and limited access to lifesaving medical care. In March 2022, the Egyptian Pound depreciated by more than 16 percent against the US dollar. Furthermore, the Egyptian Central Bank reported an inflation rate of 8.8 percent, a record high in the last three years. The currency depreciation and soaring inflation rates were results from the crises in Ukraine. Egypt has already reported an increase in the price of wheat, and subsequently bread due to the countries' dependence on Russian and Ukrainian wheat imports. The sharp increase in food prices will exacerbate the existing financial



pressures brought on by COVID-19 in refugee communities. Furthermore, price increases for necessities caused by inflation rates could potentially push more refugees further into poverty. Already, UNHCR reported in their Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report that 65 percent of surveyed respondents stated food was the most frequent expense. Throughout the pandemic, including the most recent reporting period, StARS has continued to provide community-centred services to the most vulnerable refugee populations within Greater Cairo. StARS has worked to bridge the gap in the provision of vital services while

UNHCR continues to operate at a limited capacity. StARS' Unaccompanied Children and Youth, Psychosocial and Refugee Legal Aid Departments play an integral role in supporting displaced adults, families, and unaccompanied children and youth in Cairo

The money went to fund the fantastic emergency work that StARS did, and enabled them to continue to support thousands of vulnerable refugees in Cairo. You can read more about their stories on our website.



What's next?

We continue to collect money for StARS through one off donations and regular giving. Every penny we raise goes directly to StARS programming. You can gift aid your donation and you can donate through our website [here](#).

Communications

We have been building on our online engagement and used our social media channels to raise awareness of the work we are doing with our partner organisations. We have three main social media platforms which we use:

Instagram: @acrossborders_uk

Facebook: Across Borders

Twitter: @acrossbordersuk

We understand that social media can be powerful in helping to reach more people and extend the reach of our work as well. We want to continue to use the platforms for fundraising and awareness raising purposes.

Plans for 2022/2023

We will continue on the work of our three projects: resettlement project, legal project, and the interpreting project. We secured £9,650 from the National Lottery which will be used from June 2022 - May 2023 for the resettlement project. We would like to raise more funds to support all Across Borders' activities.

The interpreting project is done in partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com), and we are working with universities on the legal project.

If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on info@acrossborders.org.uk.

If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>.

Across Borders	1170882
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01-Apr-21	To	31-Mar-22
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Matrix		4,500	-	4,500	
National Lottery		9,650	-	9,650	10,000
Individual donations	250	3,281	-	3,530	9,718
Other	0		-	0	81
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	250	17,431	-	17,680	19,799
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	250	17,431	-	17,680	19,799

A3 Payments

Donation to StARS	-	10,019	-	10,019	
Matrix Fund to StARS	-	4,500	-	4,500	-
Souter Trust Fund to StARS	-	1,400		1,400	114
Bank charges	-	20		20	202
Volunteer expenses	-	444	-	444	-
Consultancy fees	-	5,500	-	5,500	-
Trainer Fees	-	1,150	-	1,150	-
Mobile costs	-	345		345	
Email costs	-	170		170	
Website costs	-	144	-	144	-
Zoom licence	-	144		144	
Advertising	-	20		20	
Misc	-	33	-	33	-
Sub total	-	23,889	-	23,889	316

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	-	23,889	-	23,889	316
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Net of receipts/(payments)	250	- 6,458	-	- 6,209	19,483
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	250	- 6,458	-	- 6,209	19,483

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories

Details

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds
to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B1 Cash funds

Cash in Bank
Cash in PayPal account

13,435
5
-
13,440

-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-

Total cash funds

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error

Agreement Error

OK

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds
to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details

-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-

B3 Investment assets

Details

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)
-
-
-
-
-

Details

--

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)
-

Current value (optional)
-

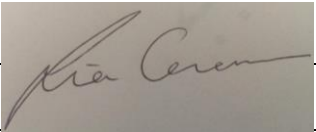
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Fiona Cameron	17 December 2022

Independent Examiner: Rachel Chiu

ACROSS BORDERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1170882

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	April	2020		31	March	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Across Borders

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1170882

Charity's principal address

20 Ringlet Drive, East Leake

Loughborough

Leicestershire

Postcode

LE12 6XU

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fiona Cameron	Chair		
2	Rosie Watt	Secretary		
3	Temitope Yusuf	Treasurer	appointed - 7 November 2020	
4	Emma Goldie			
5	Wafa Sulieman		appointed - 19 August 2020	
6	Abuzar Abagna		9 September 2020	
7				
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10				
11				
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15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

--	--

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity’s organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees’ consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

	Across Borders works in partnership with the University of Nottingham and St Andrew’s Refugee Services in Cairo.
--	--

Section C Objectives and activities

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	(2) in particular but not exclusively by working in partnership with

organisations that provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrews Refugee Services.

(3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for the public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.

This year started with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lock down in March affected the remote legal project we run in partnership with the University of Nottingham, as well as the work of our partner organisation in Egypt, and as the effects of the pandemic began to be felt across the world, Across Borders switched its focus to raising funds for StARS COVID response.

As we all learned to manage in the “new normal”, our legal project started up again remotely, and we have just trained our second cohort of students.

In September last year we went through a strategic planning process with the help of Alice Johnson of CCIP which helped us to develop our priorities for the coming year, and as a result of which we re-wrote our Vision and Mission for the organisation.

We have also been lucky enough to recruit two fantastic comms volunteers, Sharon Natt and Julia Dezso who have worked hard on managing our social media and who have been instrumental in building up our reputation and helping us with fundraising. We have also recruited three new trustees to the board, which has greatly increased our capacity.

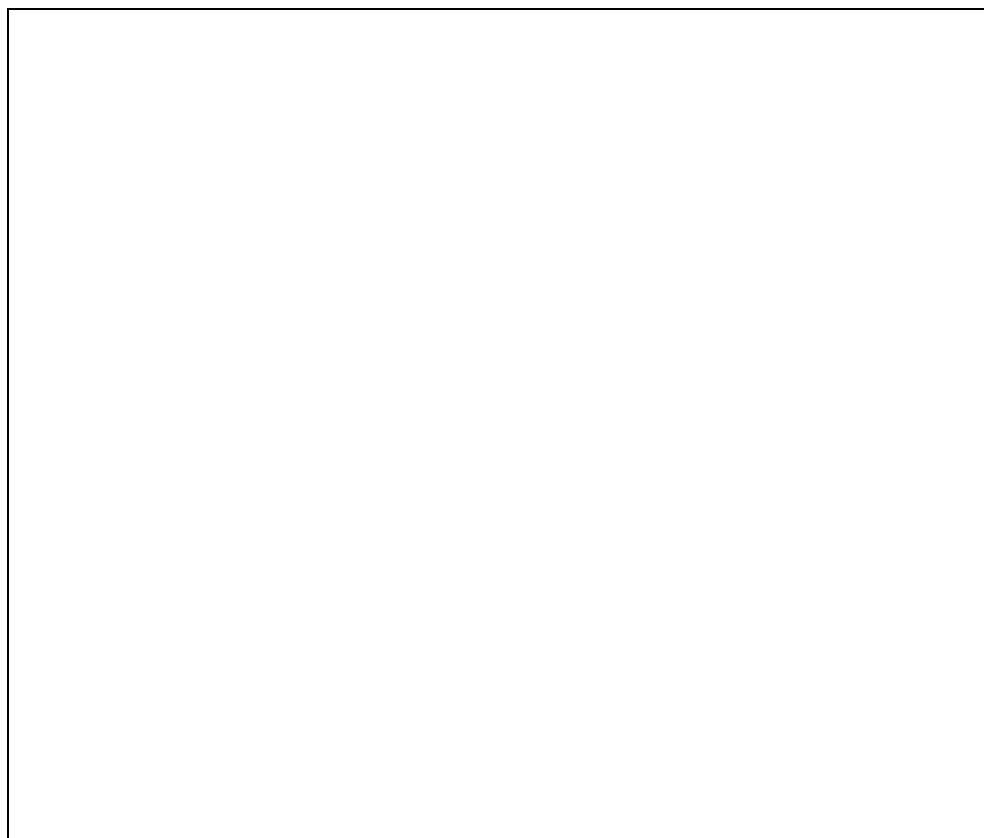
In addition, we received funding from the National Lottery, Awards for All to set up a new project, Real Resettlement which aims to better support refugees from Egypt resettled to the UK.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
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Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Please see below

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Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A grant has been received from the National Lottery Awards for All. Other funds have been raised through individual donations.

Section F

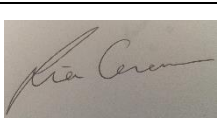
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Fiona Cameron	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	09/01/2022	



ACROSS BORDERS
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Trustees' Annual Report
and Financial Statements
for the Period
1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021**

Trustees' Annual Report

Fiona Cameron – Chair

Temitope Yusuf - Treasurer (date appointed - 7 November 2020)

Rosie Watt – Secretary

Emma Goldie

Wafa Suleiman (date appointed - 19 August 2020)

Abuzar Abagna (date appointed - 9 September 2020)

Report from the Chair

Across Borders was founded in December 2016 to promote refugee rights using refugee perspectives to support programming for refugees so that people can meaningfully access their rights and entitlements. We do this through capacity building, supporting refugee-led organisations and sharing good practice across borders.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

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- (2) In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.
- (3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees

This year started with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lock down in March affected the remote legal project we run in partnership with the University of Nottingham, as well as the work of our partner organisation in Egypt, and as the effects of the pandemic began to be felt across the world, Across Borders switched its focus to raising funds for StARS COVID response.

As we all learned to manage in the “new normal”, our legal project started up again remotely, and we have just trained our second cohort of students.

In September last year we went through a strategic planning process with the help of Alice Johnson of CCIP which helped us to develop our priorities for the coming year, and as a result of which we re-wrote our Vision and Mission for the organisation.

We have also been lucky enough to recruit two fantastic comms volunteers, Sharon Natt and Julia Dezso who have worked hard on managing our social media and who have been instrumental in building up our reputation and helping us with fundraising. We have also recruited three new trustees to the board, which has greatly increased our capacity.

In addition, we received funding from the National Lottery, Awards for All to set up a new project, Real Resettlement which aims to better support refugees from Egypt resettled to the UK.

Remote Legal Clinic

Introduction

The Remote Legal Clinic project, which launched in 2019, trains law students in the UK so that they can support St Andrew's Refugee Services' (StARS) Refugee Legal Aid Department (RLAD) in Cairo with its caseload. The innovative model is a partnership between Nottingham University and StARS and provides law

students with an opportunity to train in International Refugee Law and gain real-life experience of practicing law as well as increasing the capacity of access to legal aid for StARS' clients in Cairo.

Being recognised as a refugee in Egypt provides for protection against detention and deportation and without registration documents individuals are not able to access medical services or education, or services such as registering a birth. RLAD is currently the only service that provides legal aid for people seeking asylum in Egypt. The service includes access to information and counselling and where representation is considered to make a significant difference in a case's determination, RLAD provides full representation in the refugee status determination, protection, or resettlement process.

The remote legal clinic supports this important work by increasing RLAD's capacity. As a remote-working model, the project isn't affected by the security situation and travel restrictions which can impact the supply of staff and interns at RLAD, and provides an alternative to those who want to support this work but don't have the means to travel to Egypt. As well, complex regulation in the UK doesn't allow students to practice law and so this opportunity is highly desirable because it allows students to apply newly acquired legal knowledge and skills in international refugee law.

What's happened so far?

Two cohorts of university students have received training (in 2019 and 2020) which enables them to work on cases with support from their tutor along with remote guidance from lawyers in Egypt. The 2019 training was delivered in-person by the RLAD Refugee Status Determination Coordinator. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this approach wasn't feasible for the 2020 cohort and so the training was instead delivered by Nottingham University, using existing materials previously developed. Once the students have completed the training they are ready to take on one case per week. Following a first instance interview in Cairo, the RLAD coordinator preps the case, pulling together the precedents that the students will use, and gets these as well as the interview transcript to the University lead who reviews it ahead of sharing the materials with the students. The students then draft over the next few days, each taking on either research to corroborate the account or working on the legal argument. Their work is reviewed by their tutor and then returned to Cairo for finalisation ahead of submission to UNHCR. This process takes one week.

During the first year of the project, Covid-19 brought severe disruption to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) services in Egypt with UNHCR pausing all its operations from March 2020. RSD has resumed in 2021 via a remote model but at reduced capacity and the workflow has been difficult to predict because advanced schedules aren't shared with RLAD. RLAD has also had a resourcing issue because of travel restrictions in Egypt and the economic insecurity resulting from the pandemic.

This work has been completed with generous funding from the Matrix Causes Fund.

What's next?

We're exploring the project model, looking to diversify the students' workload so that they take on Resettlement work as well. This will mean that when the Refugee Status Determination workflow is lighter students will be able to pivot and work on protection work instead. For students this additional area of learning allows them to expand their knowledge base further. We've also applied for funds to consolidate the project's training package.

Fundraising for StARS

Building on the fundraising efforts from FY 2019-20, we were able to help fundraise £9,717.86 via online donations throughout this financial year, of which £9,441.26 was done on behalf of St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS). These were from one-off donations and recurring donations from regular donors.

All funds raised for StARS will be paid to them via bank transfer which will be used to fund the range of activities they provide. Due to the adverse impact of Covid-19, StARS has seen a large reduction in international aid and we are pleased this donation sum will go towards helping plug the much needed income gap.

The Real Resettlement Project

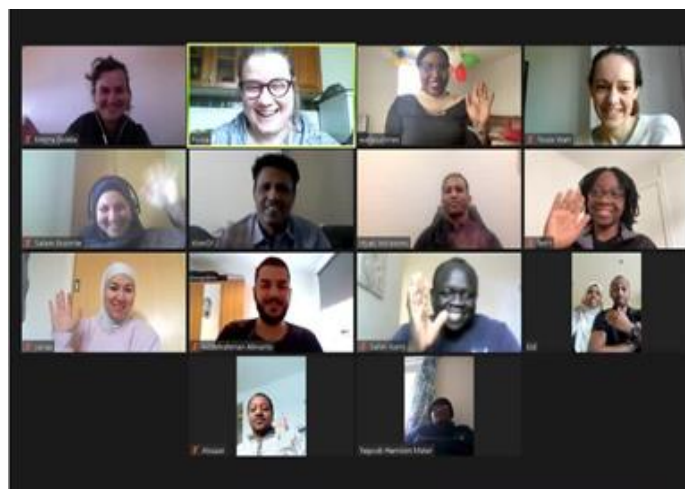
Resettlement is now a key part of the UK immigration system. However, refugee resettlement is not always successful and much of this is predicated on the refugees' understanding of what they can expect when they get in the UK.

The main purpose of the resettlement project is to provide accurate information about the life in the UK, such information include education, employment, service providers etc, thereby, the newcomer refugees from Egypt should guide by this information to integrate easily into UK culture.

These guidelines will be provided by refugees who were previously resettled and who are trained former StARS staff as well and the guidelines will be reachable in drive with /or website. Further, the program is led by two refugee coordinators who used to work at StARS.

Experience of refugees in supporting their community and leading in managing their challenges was a successful experience in Egypt. We believe that refugees can support each other with the resources and training we provide.

The program has two phases to work on, the first phase starting in Egypt through an awareness sessions to refugees lead by StARS and the second phase will start in the UK when the refugees arrived, then monitoring and follow up will take place until they settled and engage as needed with the future view that those refugees could be part of future support to other newcomers and the experience to be circled with across borders support in any training or support.



The project is planned for one year starting from April 2021 to April 2022, by the end of the project, we would have a very good information system in place to help refugees to achieve their goals depending on available information, manage expectation, and set up a clear way to understand UK system, how it works and how they can engage in as they wish.

Plans for 2021/2022

We hope to develop both the legal project and the resettlement project during the coming year, and to raise further funds to develop them.

As part of the resettlement project, we hope to set up a network of resettled refugees in the UK, and to host an event, when conditions allow. We have already secured £10,000 grant funding from National Lottery from Mid-March 2021 which will fund the next 12 months' activities within the resettlement project.

We will be developing community training programmes, starting with a community interpreting training which will be delivered in partnership with Voices in Refuge (www.voicesinrefuge.com).

If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on info@acrossborders.org.uk.

If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>.

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Across Borders

1170882

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16
a

For the
period from

01-Apr-20

To

31-Mar-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Souter Trust	-	-	-	-	3,000
National Lottery	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Individual donations	277	9,441	-	9,718	789
Other	81	-	-	81	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	358	19,441	-	19,799	3,789
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	358	19,441	-	19,799	3,789

A3 Payments

Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	-	1,069
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	-
Donation platform costs	114	-	-	114	-
Website maintenance costs	202	-	-	202	209
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	316	-	-	316	1,278
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	316	-	-	316	1,278
Net of receipts/(payments)	42	19,441	-	19,483	2,511
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	42	19,441	-	19,483	2,511

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	42	19,601	-
	Cash in PayPal account	-	2,351	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	42	21,952	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B2 Other monetary assets		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

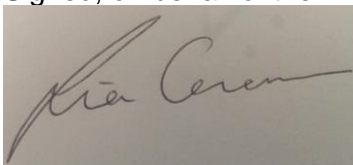
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Fiona Cameron	09/01/2022

Signed, on behalf of the Trustees,



Fiona Cameron