

**ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

**FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA
ASSOCIATION CIO**

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1171620

Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1171620
WORKING NAMES	Friends of The Gambia Association CIO
DATE OF REGISTRATION	15th February 2017
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st January 2023
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st December 2023
TRUSTEES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	Donna Makins Sandra Hill-Smith Richard Hughes Gillian Hill Jeffrey Phillips
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Association Registered 15th February 2017, As Amended 20th December 2017.

OBJECTS

The objects of the Association of Friends of Gambia are: To relieve poverty, alleviate pain and suffering and advance education of people in Gambia by: **1)** The provision of education by: a) The sponsorship of individual School Children in Gambia. b) The sponsorship of individual students in further and higher education including students that have been awarded scholarships outside of Gambia. **2)** Improving the accessibility and quality of education in Gambia by the provision of classrooms, furniture, books and other educational aids for School. Also by assisting Schools generate income and the direct financial support of Teachers. **3)** Advancing and improving the availability and quality of medical care and health care by the provision of medical supplies, equipment, facilities and ancillary services for the people in Gambia. **4)** The provision of Workshops and equipment for carpentry, metalwork, building and other crafts for the benefit of the people of Gambia. **5)** The provision of aid for communal agricultural projects such as market gardens and other farming activities in Gambia. **6)** The provision of shipping so that aid and goods may be sent to Gambia and freely distributed to needy people. **7)** The raising of funds by public and private appeal to finance Charitable projects executed by the CIO in Gambia to benefit the people of that country.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	8 Essex Close Morden SM4 4NP
PRIMARY BANKERS	Barclay Bank Plc 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Castle View Accounting Ltd Ground Floor Offices 53 High Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AJ

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Chair's Report

It has been my privilege to act as chairman during the reporting period. I am grateful to my fellow trustees for their hard work and support and for the work of our team in The Gambia, Modou Camara, Sulayman Manneh, Jariatou Jallow and Odin.

I would also like to thank Lynda Redfern and Jackie Massey for all their help with the book-keeping and the accounts and Paul Hughes who attends trustee meetings when he can and does a lot behind the scenes with making new contacts.

Number of tourists to The Gambia in 2023 were improved from the previous few years, but visitors were still less than pre-pandemic.

The office staff continued to make payments to the students and do school visits where required. They also coordinated deliveries of rice and oil to sponsored children and their families, and collated and sent reports and letters through to the Sponsorship Secretary for dissemination to sponsors.

Richard managed a check-in visit to Bakindik to see how the repair work was bearing up and continues to look at ways to replace the play equipment at GOVI School.

The sad loss of Kate Phillips, my mum, a long-term supporter of FoTGA and The Gambia at the beginning of 2023 was devastating. Dad and I decided to go out to The Gambia in March 2023 and spread the news in person. Although there were very sad moments during the trip, there were a lot of memories shared. We also managed for our trip to coincide with the celebration of students which Rob Isdale and his wife Margaret had organised and hoped to attend. It was a wonderful afternoon, with music, prayers and the sharing of food.

Donations to FoTGA in memory of mum came in at a whopping £1,000+. This money has been allocated to the legacy fund, to support students who lose their sponsors in the final years of their education.

It is important, that if FoTGA is to continue in its present form, that more members put their names forward to act as trustees, and volunteers who need not necessarily be trustees. Volunteers need only commit for as little as 2 hours a month, although we would obviously welcome those with more time too. We are also grateful to anyone that fundraises for projects – if you have an idea for a project you would like to see happen in The Gambia, or would like to do some fundraising, please get in touch.

Thanks also to all the sponsors and donors for your commitment to the charity. We are hugely grateful.

Donna Makins - Chair

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Secretary's Report

FOTGA currently has five Trustees, plus volunteers contributing anything from a few hours per year to a significant amount of time every week. Many hands make light work – please get in touch if you could help, even in a small way.

We aim to hold an online committee meeting for Trustees each month, and generally invite volunteers to attend as well. In 2023 we held 10 meetings – the April and December meetings were cancelled due to other commitments.

We are currently without a Treasurer, despite calling for volunteers at the 2023 AGM, and advertising via a variety of routes. We have therefore employed Castle View Accounting Ltd to prepare our year-end accounts and undertake the review. Lynda Redfern has done a sterling job of the book keeping but is also looking to step down. We would welcome volunteers to take on some or all of the book keeping and treasurer role.

Our office has been busy this year, as have the committee in helping to keep the office running. We have dealt with a range of maintenance issues from an office flood after heavy rain (requiring the landlord to replace the roof), to termites in the window frames. We have procured new anti-virus software for all the office computers. Towards the end of the year our office manager, Modou, handed in his notice in order to pursue other opportunities but after some negotiation he agreed to stay on part time on a pro rata basis for which we are grateful. We have updated the staff roles to take account of this change, as well as putting a new leave policy into place.

The office provides a report each week to inform the Trustees of the activities of the week, and the template was updated towards the end of the year to provide more structure and help the staff give us a full picture of their work.

More widely, over the year we have started investigating other charities which work in the Gambia, with the aim of getting in touch to share intelligence and possibly also making efficiencies / combining efforts in future. We've also been in contact with the United Nations Development Agency (through a personal contact of one of our volunteers) and investigated a new UNICEF programme supporting education in the Gambia, and a new draft bill for Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Gambia.

In addition to our main work around sponsorship and projects we sent a shipment of donated goods, put a former student back in touch with his old sponsor so he could express his appreciation, and helped spread the news of a new charity orthoptic programme for young children at Kanifing.

Sandra Hill-Smith - Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Sponsorship Secretary's Report

FoTGA operates a Sponsorship Scheme primarily providing grants to children and schools. On joining the scheme, the sponsor becomes a member of FoTGA, agrees to pay a monthly subscription and in return will receive updates of their sponsored child's progress. Once a child has been sponsored through FoTGA, providing they continue to meet certain conditions, they will receive a grant each school term, throughout their education. The grant enables the students to go to school and helps with the cost of uniforms, stationery, a satchel, school fees and lunches. Some also receive a travel allowance.

Sadly, as always, we receive many requests for sponsorship, but few offers of new sponsors, just 4 in 2023. Our Waiting List of students is over 60. So please keep asking friends and family and colleagues to help.

At the end of the year, we were supporting:

Level	Number
Nursery School	8
Lower Basic School	27
Upper Basic School	17
Senior Secondary School	28
Higher Education	14
Other Support	2
Total	96
Schools / Teachers / Clinic	3

We were also able to make a number of one-off grants to help students complete their education, as well as supporting Brikhama teachers, giving regular fish and rice donations to GOVI school for the blind and buying some much needed equipment for Bakindik Clinic.

FoTGA maintains a small office in The Gambia which manages the distribution of grants to the students and also forwards reports & letters back to the UK for onward distribution to sponsors. A very important link. The office also arranges for the distribution of gifts from sponsors such as rice, oil, money, bicycles to be delivered to the students and their families.

G. Hill - Sponsorship Secretary

Projects Report

I visited two of our projects in the year :-

The BAKINDIK visit was a follow up on previous visits to ensure that authorised repair work to the FOTGA constructed health centre had been completed and the one member of staff was happy with the building condition.

My inspection of the building appeared satisfactory (save for a problem with the solar power to the water pump - however I understand that this has now been rectified). The facility was being well used by the community.

The compound in which the medical facility stands has been augmented by the villagers in the building of extra accommodation for visiting health professionals!

The GOVI school visit was also a follow up on an independent report and estimate for the playground repair and upgrade.

The playground is in a very poor state there is broken and dangerous equipment uneven ground and broken fences hence this facility is not used.

No work on this has been performed and we are waiting on funds to be able to commence work - approximately £10,000 to £15,000 would be needed to finance this and we are waiting for donations to materialise.

Richard Hughes - Projects Manager

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Law and the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Charities Act 2011 require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus or deficit of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 1st September 2024

Signed on their behalf by Trustee 

Printed Name: SANDRA HILL-SMITH

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds						
Donations, Grants & Legacies	3a	7,263	5,520	2,713	15,496	12,828
Charitable Activities	3b	23,407	-	-	23,407	23,185
Investment Income	3c	474	-	-	474	65
Other Incoming Resources	3d	216	-	-	216	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		31,360	5,520	2,713	39,593	36,078
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of Generating Funds						
Cost of Charitable Activities	4a	26,444	5,319	3,590	35,353	41,539
Governance Costs	4b	1,104	-	-	1,104	1,556
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		27,548	5,319	3,590	36,457	43,095
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		3,812	201	(877)	3,136	(7,017)
Funds Brought Forward		55,650	235	8,248	64,133	71,150
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		59,462	436	7,371	67,269	64,133

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.


The notes on pages 10 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Dec-23 £	TOTAL 31-Dec-22 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	7	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	9	16,526	-	16,526	9,781
Cash at Bank and in Hand	8	43,896	7,807	51,703	55,799
Total Current Assets		60,422	7,807	68,229	65,580
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	960	-	960	1,447
NET CURRENT ASSETS		59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	11	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		59,462	-	59,462	55,650
Restricted Funds	5	-	436	436	235
Endowment Funds	6	-	7,371	7,371	8,248
Total Funds		59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133

Approved by the Trustees on 1st September 2024.

Signed on their behalf by Trustee 

Printed Name: SANDRA HILL-SMITH

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1st January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported net in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Currency

Funds are transferred to The Gambia on a regular basis using a registered Foreign Exchange dealer in The Gambia. Payment is made and received on the same day and recorded at the exchange rate quoted. Transactions are recorded using the monthly average exchange rate. Assets at the end of the financial year are converted at the actual rate on Balance Sheet date.

Unrestricted funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the charity as set out in the trustees report. The movements of the unrestricted funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. These restrictions often arise as a result of appeals for special offerings for specific purposes.

Designated funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for particular purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The CIO held no fixed assets during this or the previous financial year.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st December 2023 : None

31st December 2022 : None

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
a) Donations, Grants & Legacies						
Gift Aid		6,926	-	-	6,926	5,723
Gifts & Donations	5	337	5,520	-	5,857	4,005
Legacies & Memorial Donations	6	-	-	2,713	2,713	3,100
		7,263	5,520	2,713	15,496	12,828
b) Charitable Activities						
Membership Subscriptions		680	-	-	680	770
Sponsorship Income		22,727	-	-	22,727	22,415
		23,407	-	-	23,407	23,185
c) Investment Income						
Interest		474	-	-	474	65
		474	-	-	474	65
d) Other Incoming Resources						
Sundry Income		216	-	-	216	-
		216	-	-	216	-

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
a) Cost of Charitable Activities						
Activities & Projects	5	1,639	2,799	-	4,438	3,237
Bank Charges	5	172	98	-	270	549
Charitable Grants	5 & 6	10,685	1,000	3,590	15,275	19,617
Equipment Costs		892	-	-	892	546
Gifts & Donations	5	-	821	-	821	2,975
Humanitarian Aid	5	-	480	-	480	661
Office Costs	5	2,381	121	-	2,502	2,400
Printing, Postage & Stationery		1,036	-	-	1,036	1,054
Rent & Rates		878	-	-	878	1,483
Repairs & Maintenance		860	-	-	860	462
Sponsorship of Schools		963	-	-	963	791
Sponsorship of Teachers		1,490	-	-	1,490	1,846
Staff Costs	12	3,702	-	-	3,702	4,224
Sundry Expenses		266	-	-	266	411
Telephone Costs		385	-	-	385	344
Travel & Subsistence		466	-	-	466	572
Utility Costs		272	-	-	272	295
Website Costs		357	-	-	357	72
		26,444	5,319	3,590	35,353	41,539
b) Governance Costs						
Independent Examiners Fees	9	960	-	-	960	-
Legal & Professional Fees		-	-	-	-	1,328
Meeting Costs		144	-	-	144	228
		1,104	-	-	1,104	1,556

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

	Balance 01-Jan-23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Rice & Gifts by Sponsors Fund	-	1,040	1,040	-	-
Humanitarian Donations	-	480	480	-	-
Berending Clinic	-	-	-	-	-
Gilkock FC	-	-	-	-	-
Projects Fund	235	1,000	1,000	-	235
Govi School Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Bakindik Clinic	-	3,000	2,799	-	201
	235	5,520	5,319	-	436

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR

	Balance 01-Jan-22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Rice & Gifts by Sponsors Fund	50	2,502	2,552	-	-
Humanitarian Donations	-	650	650	-	-
Berending Clinic	374	355	729	-	-
Gilkock FC	80	-	80	-	-
Projects Fund	327	2,000	2,092	-	235
Govi School Fund	177	-	177	-	-
	1,008	5,507	6,280	-	235

The Restricted funds are wholly represented by the charity's cash reserves and are to be expended as specified above.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

6. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

	Balance 01-Jan-23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Legacy Endowment Fund	8,248	2,713	3,590	-	7,371
	8,248	2,713	3,590	-	7,371

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR

	Balance 01-Jan-22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31-Dec-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Legacy Endowment Fund	9,604	3,100	4,456	-	8,248
	9,604	3,100	4,456	-	8,248

The Endowment funds are wholly represented by the charity's cash reserves and are to be expended as specified above.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

7. INVESTMENTS

The CIO held no fixed assets investments during this or the previous financial year.

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 31-Dec-23 £	TOTAL 31-Dec-22 £
Cash at Bank & in Hand	43,896	7,807	51,703	55,799
	43,896	7,807	51,703	55,799

9. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 31-Dec-23 £	TOTAL 31-Dec-22 £
Sundry Debtors	4,871	-	4,871	4,547
The Gambia Office	11,655	-	11,655	5,234
	16,526	-	16,526	9,781

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 31-Dec-23 £	TOTAL 31-Dec-22 £
Independent Examiners Fees	960	-	960	-
Sundry Creditors	-	-	-	1,447
	960	-	960	1,447

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The CIO held no long term liabilities during this or the previous financial year.

12. NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 31-Dec-23 £	TOTAL 31-Dec-22 £
Fixed Asset Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets	59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	59,462	7,807	67,269	64,133

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

13. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Gross Wages, Salaries & Fees	3,702	4,224
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	-	-
	<u>3,702</u>	<u>4,224</u>

Employees who were engaged in each of the following activities:

	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Charitable Activities	4	4

The Charity employs staff through a NGO in Gambia. The NGO pays the Gambian equivalent of National Insurance and Pension Costs and staff costs are shown net of National Insurance and Pension Costs. No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2022:None).

14. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

No payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them (2022:None).

15. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

16. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the CIO's needs. This is based on the CIO's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the CIO will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

17. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The CIO acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the CIO has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the CIO should undertake.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMBIA ASSOCIATION CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of the Friends of The Gambia Association CIO on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 8 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

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Date: 9th September 2024