

*Cambridge
Refugee
Resettlement
Campaign*



Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2023

Registered Charity (CIO Foundation) in England: 1172836





Period ended 30 June 2023

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for displaced persons within the local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House · 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA · UK

Editors

Josephine Munton & Heidi Radke

Editorial assistant

Damilola Ogunlana

Writers and contributors

Sam Adler, Jan Ayton, Bob Brimblecombe, Yasar Cohen-Shah, Rose Elgar, Amy Ellis, Dan Ellis, Samir Hamaia, Amanda Hoey, Saussan Khalil, Adrian Matthews, Faye Parker, Monica Poulter, Kay Powell, Sarah Santhosham, Sue Spencer, Eeva Stewart, Hilary Sutton, Robin Turner, Catharine Walston, Rosemary Watson, Sharon Williams.

Cover photo

Chris Cellier

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Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:

info@cambridgerefugees.org

A warm thanks to all in CRRC who have contributed to the report.





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Administrative Details

Board of Trustees as of 30 June 2023

Amy Ellis
Dan Ellis
Amanda Hoey
Adrian Matthews
Kay Powell
Heidi Radke
Sarah Santhosham
Sue Spencer
(Michael) Robert Turner
Catharine Walston

Registered address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, followed by a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.





The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Cambridge and Cambridgeshire-based organisation. It became an Unincorporated Association in March 2016, before being registered with the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO Foundation) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. It is led by the Board of Trustees, and there is a Core Committee which coordinates the different areas in subgroups and is involved in behind-the-scenes operations. Each subgroup has one or more dedicated Trustee and other volunteer contact(s).

The reporting period for this report is July 2022 to June 2023 unless otherwise stated.





History of CRRC

On 15 December 2015, Cambridge welcomed the first refugees and their families resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). CRRC had established itself at that time as a community group in Cambridge at the height of the Syrian refugee crisis, campaigning for the resettlement of refugees.

At the start of our campaign, CRRC lobbied Cambridge City Council to agree to settle a minimum of 50 individual refugees in our city, pledging our support. The team was delighted when the target was increased to 100 by the City Council. By June 2019, over 100 individual refugees were being resettled under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes in Cambridge. The emphasis of CRRC's work was gradually focussing on assistance with personal and professional development opportunities and employment support. English-language support for adults and children, monthly socials, holiday activities, and direct family support remained key areas of CRRC's activities. The fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban and the Russian invasion of Ukraine necessitated a renewed emphasis on campaigning for and welcoming new arrivals, as well as adjusting to changes in the needs of support requested. In addition to welcoming and supporting these families and individuals, CRRC has been providing services and support to an increasing number of other refugees and asylum seekers who have been arriving in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire outside of the resettlement schemes.



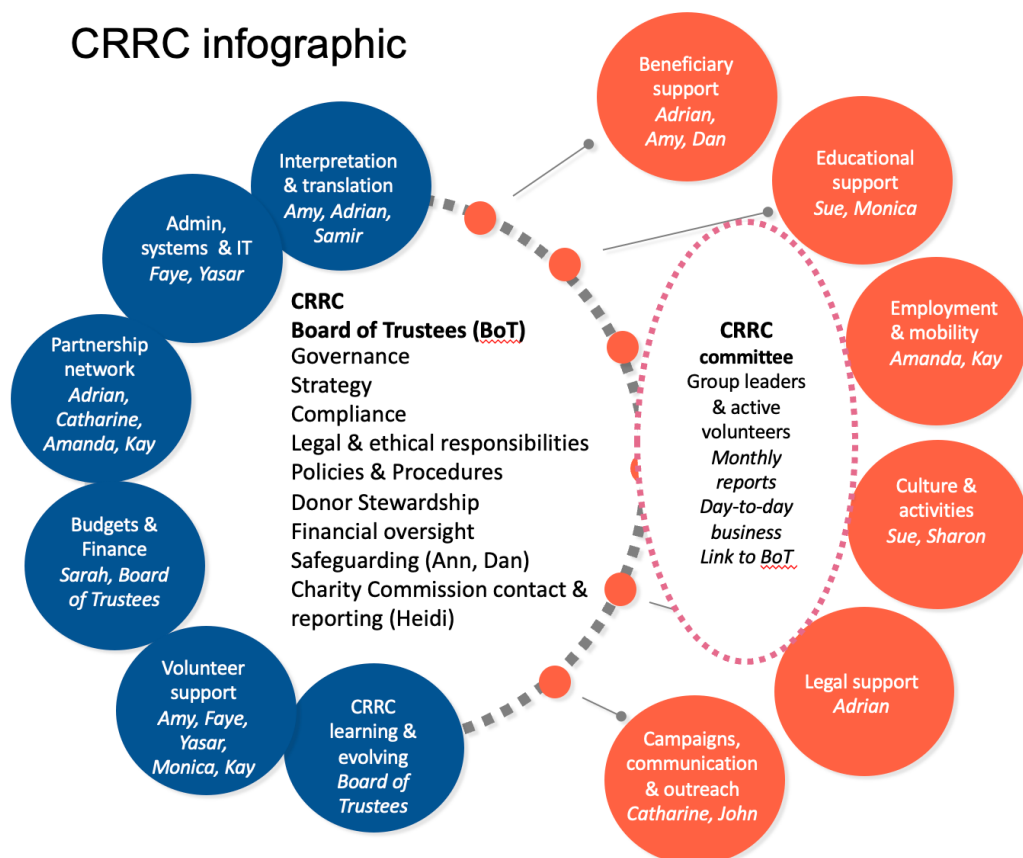
CRRC has continued to work closely with Cambridge City, South Cambridge District Council, Huntingdon District Council, as well as the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and organised or participated in events with a range of others. These partners include the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Cambridge University Student Action for Refugees, Anglia Ruskin University, City of Sanctuary, Cambridge Assessment English, CamCrag, Cambridge United Football Club, Cambridge Central Mosque, Cambridge Community Fund and Cambridge Buddhist Centre. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services since 2016.





Structure, Governance, and Management

CRRC infographic



● = Operational management ● = Direct action areas

NVPR = refugees not associated with a Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme

This is CRRC's sixth report as a CIO, during which it was governed by between 10 to 11 charity trustees at given times.

In July 2022, Ann Goodridge stepped down as chair and trustee due to personal reasons and was gratefully thanked for her contributions. Heidi Radke took over as chair of the Board of Trustees and Catharine Walston was established as chair of the Core Committee. Sarah Santhosham took over from Robin Turner as Treasurer, who very kindly agreed to stay on as a trustee.

The constitution provides for a minimum of five and a maximum of 12 trustees. Being a Foundation CIO, the only voting members are its trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees. Any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment and can serve for three consecutive terms.



Trustees commit to giving their time and expertise freely. No trustee remuneration was paid during this period.

All relevant interests must be disclosed by trustees and registered with the other trustees. In accordance with the charity's best practice, a trustee must withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. There were no such conflicts of interests or decision withdrawals in this period.

During the reporting period, Trustees met at least bi-monthly in video or hybrid meetings. Each meeting was chaired and minuted. quorum for trustee meetings is two charity trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater. Actions, approvals, charity progress, accounts, and any other business are reviewed in each meeting. Between meetings, trustees communicate using email and WhatsApp. The trustees review the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity on a yearly basis.





Volunteers and Supporters

Our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and supporters of CRRC for their commitment and their tremendous contributions to CRRC's work!

CRRC could not carry out its work without the tremendous contributions from its many volunteers and supporters. CRRC works in a collaborative manner, recognising that the nature of a volunteer-led group requires flexibility, whilst ensuring that it fulfils tasks that it commits to, within given timeframes to achieve its objectives. The organisation actively seeks and values volunteers from diverse backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives.

There has been a high level of ongoing engagement from potential volunteers getting in touch with CRRC to express their interest in being involved, suggesting that the operational model is effective.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, 29 new volunteers joined CRRC to take up a range of roles. The team completed basic and enhanced DBS checks for these volunteers, in line with UK Government requirements and according to their role. At the end of the financial year, CRRC had over 161 active volunteers, as well as further excellent applicants waiting for potential opportunities. The huge number of volunteer hours provided, and level of enthusiasm and dedication shown by our volunteers form a vital part of the CRRC community.

Several volunteer gatherings took place to allow volunteers to exchange ideas, and to introduce prospective volunteers to understand their potential role prior to signing up.





Beneficiaries

Who Benefits from CRRC's Activities?

- Refugees settling or resettled by the Local Authority predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire benefit by being assisted in their settling-in process and integration into the community.
- Local communities, including community and faith-based groups into which refugees are settling or being resettled, profit by fostering and promoting diversity and social cohesion.
- Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit by being supported in the delivery of their statutory functions.

CRRC accepts referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations, or authorities, and considers whether assistance sought is consistent with the organisation's mandate and scope. Decisions on providing assistance are made at quorate meetings of the trustees or as otherwise permitted by the constitution. The trustees have regular meetings, where decisions are tabled at an open discussion. There is also the opportunity for suggestions to be submitted within our online group forum. Once decisions have been submitted, the trustees discuss and then vote for the preferred option. The trustees discuss and adapt to changing local and national circumstances and the needs of the beneficiaries.

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

The Charity's Objectives

The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is constituted for the following purposes:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters, or other like causes, including through the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and training, and the promotion of good citizenship.
- b) To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters, or other like causes.





The Charity's Main Activities

CRRC

- provides a range of **practical support** to refugees and liaises with local stakeholders. It works closely with county councils, district councils, city councils, local charities, and other organisations that support and campaign around refugee issues and enables the people of Cambridgeshire to volunteer to support refugees;
- provides **welcome packs** and secures **household necessities** for newly arrived refugees settling in Cambridgeshire;
- provides **emergency grants** to local refugees who are experiencing severe hardship, a disaster or emergency, and signposts or provides help to families on low incomes in applying for grants to help with the cost of living;
- facilitates and provides **language tuition** and interpreting services to refugees;
- assists refugees to develop **employability skills** and works with local employers to identify appropriate vacancies and other opportunities;
- supports mobility requirements through the provision of bicycles and support for passing the UK driving test;
- provides **funds** to refugees for participation in community-based social activities and for educational purposes;
- helps to prepare **accommodation** for refugees;
- organises **social events** for refugees and CRRC's volunteers;
- **informs** faith-based groups, community groups, politicians and other organisations and individuals where appropriate, about the situation of refugees and involves them in CRRC's projects;
- organises and co-organises **fundraising** events.

Benefits

In setting CRRC's objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit:

By supporting and promoting the welfare and inclusion of all refugees predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, there is a public benefit to refugees, local communities, and stakeholders in creating a welcoming and safe environment for refugees. CRRC achieves this by providing a range of practical support (including providing welcome packs and household necessities to refugees), organising social events for the refugees, CRRC volunteers and the local communities, and helping to prepare accommodation.





By supporting refugees to adapt to their new environment, the local communities benefit from refugees' contributions and involvement in the local community, whether by way of employment or social cohesion etc. In addition to the examples provided above, CRRC assists refugees to develop employability skills and works with local employers to identify appropriate opportunities.

By providing practical support to local authorities in accommodating refugees, both benefit from CRRC's assistance in overcoming logistical and economic challenges (among others) that can be experienced in the process of settling in. CRRC provides this assistance by, as mentioned above, helping to prepare accommodation for refugees.

By publicising and celebrating the contribution of refugees to local communities, UK society and culture, refugees, local communities and the public at large benefit from embracing diversity, and challenging hostility and discrimination in society. CRRC achieves this by organising social, advocacy and fundraising events for refugees, local communities, and volunteers. These activities help inform faith-based organisations, and community groups and other advocacy bodies on the plight of refugees and their contributions to UK society.





Risk Management

During the financial year ending June 2023, the trustees considered the major risks to which the charity was exposed, reviewed, and monitored them and put in place mitigation steps. The main risks that trustees identified during this period were:

External Environment

The hardship faced by CRRC's beneficiaries has been exacerbated by changes to the benefits system, the general cost of living crisis in the UK and misunderstandings about their responsibilities as benefits claimants. Some beneficiaries have suffered from hostility toward refugees or their religion in their locality. There have been increasing challenges to our beneficiaries, which has put pressure (in terms of time, commitment, and opportunities) on beneficiaries and volunteers working closely with the families. The organisation has worked to mitigate the impact of these challenges by assisting families and signposting them to relevant information and practical support. Where necessary, the organisation has provided emergency in-kind and financial support, and encouraged our beneficiaries and volunteers to adjust to changes by taking advice early.

Financial Security of CRRC

The ability to continue CRRC's work relies on monetary donations and donations in-kind from groups and individuals. The organisation encourages charitable giving from the local community through social media, fundraising events, and general promotion activities. Where appropriate, GiftAid for donations (when from individuals) is collected. In the event of a significant donation (over £10,000), CRRC will request the individuals'/companies' address details and undertake due diligence checks to satisfy the trustees as to the source of the donations and ensure that the prospective gift is aligned with the charity's objectives. Most payments are by cash, cheque, or bank transfer. There have been no concerns to date in relation to public donations, and a full income and expenditure database has been maintained. Donors' names are acknowledged in our external communications and accounts with the consent of the donor.

Operational Risks

CRRC carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood, and policies and procedures are then put in place to mitigate these. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

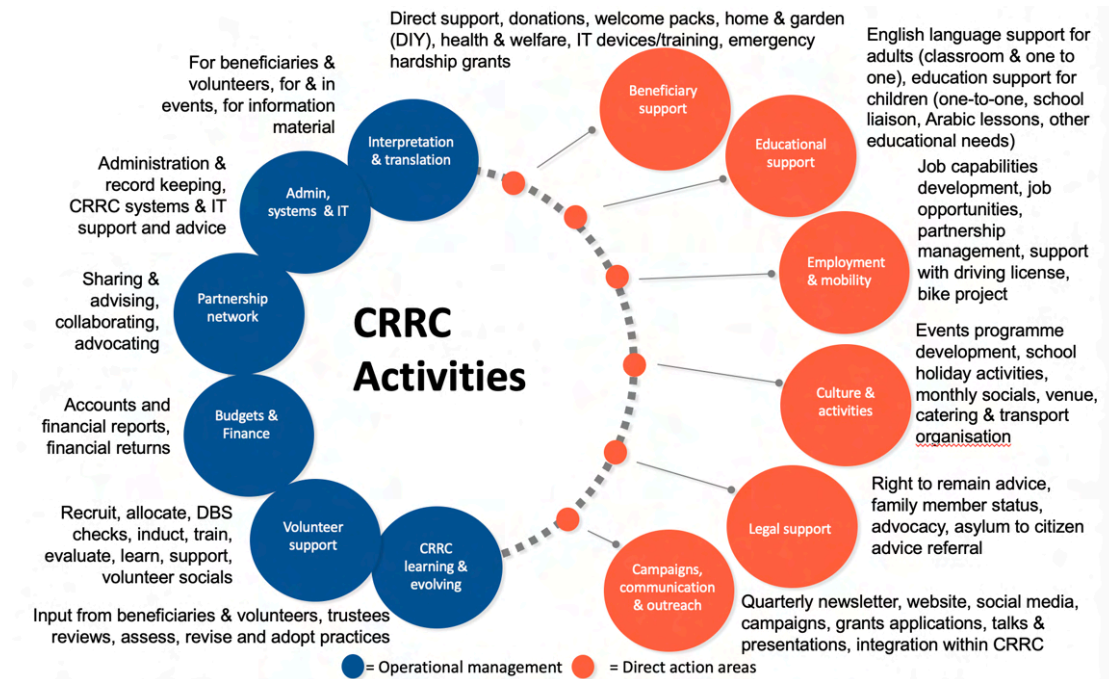




Period ended 30 June 2023

Achievements and Performance

CRRC's Activities in the Year July 2022 to June 2023



Support for Families and Individuals

Who did CRRC support over the reporting period?

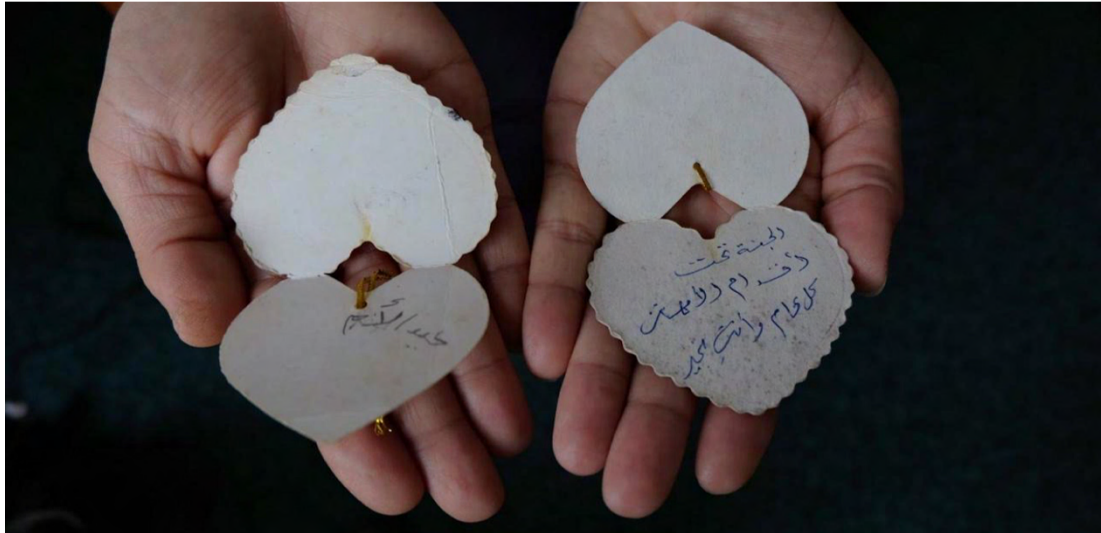
CRRC continued to support families and individuals who had been arriving through the UK Government's VPRS schemes in addition to a individuals or families arriving via other routes, some of whom were asylum seekers.

The family support team

The family support team continued to provide a large variety of practical and emotional support through so-called focal-point volunteers. Focal points were asked to submit a summary of their actions at the end of each month. Requests were then either dealt with directly by family support team members (e.g., transport assistance, translation assistance, indefinite-leave-to-remain support, benefit support, housing support) or passed onto the relevant specialised team, be it donations, IT, gardening, DIY, bikes, driving, education, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) or Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).



Teams were necessary where the needs of the recipient family remained high, usually due to considerable emotional and/or physical challenges. Focal point teams included native language speakers, to address difficulties due to illiteracy or with particular challenges with learning English.



Health and welfare support

Focal points assisted with health and welfare concerns of recipient families. CRRC provided welcome packs of food supplies. Focal points liaised with families and helped them purchase school uniforms for the children as well as new shoes, school bags and PE kits. Focal points helped several families deal with serious medical needs and disabilities, including help with PIP payments. Volunteers drove recipients to hospitals and medical appointments, sometimes at considerable distance from Cambridge, to undergo necessary medical procedures.

Core members of the family support team participated in child safeguarding meetings alongside assigned social and family workers to support a vulnerable family. Another family received practical and legal support and advice on how to navigate housing and legal status within the UK.

CRRC provided emergency hardship grants to local refugees who experience severe hardship or an emergency. This type of support was intended as a short-term solution rather than a long-term financial commitment. The application process for a hardship grant was overseen by the trustees and follows the emergency hardship grant policy. CRRC also acted as a distributor of vouchers for the Cambridge Food Bank for beneficiaries in especially difficult circumstances.





Support for the home

Donations

The donations team delivered practical support to refugees needing to furnish houses and flats. Activity fell into three basic categories:

1. Visiting refugees either in their new homes or before they took occupancy to audit requirements.
2. Putting out requests across CRRC and the wider network to source items.
3. Collecting and delivering donations and, to a lesser extent, storing items either in the CRRC garage or at any other available premises.

We continued to receive requests for white goods, and these could sometimes be sourced through donations. Any donated white goods must be PAT tested and certified before delivery, and we are grateful to the electricians who have kindly provided these services free-of-charge.

Donations were also laid out at CRRC's social events and guests were encouraged to help themselves. Clothes, tableware along with vases, pictures and more decorative items proved to be popular.

***Many thanks to all our donors!
It is particularly gratifying to see how donors in the
surrounding villages became our best local ambassadors,
spreading the word among friends and neighbours.***

DIY

The CRRC DIY team helped with fixing broken drawers and wardrobes, repairing doors, hanging up mirrors, TVs, curtain rails and dismantling and removing a broken trampoline from a family's back garden which was dangerous for the children.

Gardening project

The garden group visited and worked in the gardens of two recently arrived families from Afghanistan and one Ukrainian family and continued to support the gardens of two single-parent families in the city. Front and back gardens were cleared, basic gardening equipment was provided, and potatoes, broad beans, courgette, tomatoes, flowers, and herbs were planted. The garden group regularly liaised with CRRC's donations and DIY teams. We are fortunate that all the volunteers are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.





Families and individuals from Afghanistan

We saw eight Afghan families arriving locally under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), the scheme to assist those who had supported British forces fighting in Afghanistan. While some of these families were relocated in Ministry of Defence (MOD) property at Brampton, others were placed in self-catering hotel accommodation in the new Eddington complex in Cambridge, pending a move to more permanent local accommodation. As these were furnished properties, assistance provided to these families, except for 'tech' provision, was mostly of the non-material kind such as English lessons for the women.





Families and individuals from Ukraine

The largest new cohort of refugees we assisted over the period were Ukrainian families most of whom had arrived under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme launched by the Government in March 2022. Under the scheme, families were hosted by UK residents in their own homes for a minimum of six months. While many families remained with their hosts after the initial six months, some were required to leave by their hosts and others felt the need to move into independent accommodation arrangements. Where Ukrainian guests were required to leave by their former hosts, the duty to prevent them becoming homeless fell to the local authority in which they had been hosted. Likewise, local authorities provided housing advice to those seeking to move into independent accommodation but not being made homeless.

As a result of these pressures, we began to see a significant number of requests for assistance from Cambridge City Council housing departments. In all, 25 families were referred to us over the reporting period for help. Property types found to rehouse families moving on from being hosted (or from living with settled extended family members) were a mix of local authority owned, housing association, sheltered property with assisted living for the elderly and disabled, and private rented properties found through the Cambridge City town hall lettings team.

Early requests for assistance give a flavour of what CRRC was being asked to provide:

"Thank you for your willingness to help. I saw the house; unfortunately, it is big and completely empty. The kitchen has only an electric stove and a few cabinets. The minimum requirement for moving is a refrigerator, preferably with a freezer, a washing machine, a double bed for me and my son, and a single bed for my mother. We have nothing of our own, a few bedspreads, two pots and a frying pan, personal belongings. Also please, a vacuum cleaner, because there is carpet on the 2nd floor and stairs, and my son is allergic to dust."

CRRC had previously only been faced with requests for such significant amounts of basic household necessities from the one or two families that had arrived in Cambridge through 'family reunion' or other non-resettlement routes (families arriving under the VPRS schemes were provided with all basic white goods, sofa, beds, dining table and chairs by the resettling local authority).





The CRRC donations team stepped up to the mark and did an incredible job developing strong links with other local charities, such as the Besom Project, Cambridge Re-use and especially Emmaus – all able to supply good-quality second-hand furniture and white goods at reasonable costs to meet the needs of this group. The donations team also developed a resource sheet for beneficiaries detailing all the sources of free or cheap goods available in and around Cambridge.

Gratitude for CRRC's assistance was expressed by beneficiaries and by referring agencies:

“I am truly grateful for your help. Finally, we have a table and chairs. Thank you again. Best wishes, Olga.”

By early 2023, the strain on the resources of the wider charitable sector around Cambridge, aiming to meet the needs of Ukrainian families moving into unfurnished accommodation, led to a meeting with city council officials and an agreement was reached that basic white goods, sufficient beds, curtains, and a sofa would in future be provided by the council contractor. Funding for this provision comes from the Government grant provided to local authorities for supporting those arriving under the ‘Homes for Ukraine’ scheme. CRRC would still be asked to provide what the Council considers ‘non-essential’ items, such as kitchen equipment and crockery, bedding, carpeting, dining table and chairs, vacuum cleaners, wardrobes, and desks.

Local authority support in terms of goods provision remains unavailable for Ukrainian families moving on from being accommodated under the ‘extended family’ scheme.

Many thanks to all volunteers of the family support team for your tremendous engagement!





Support for families and individuals from Afghanistan resettled in Huntingdon and Brampton areas

By the end of June 2023, the number of Afghan families resettled in the Huntingdon/Brampton area had reached 10, with the arrival of a family initially resettled in Peterborough. This family was housed in Brampton, within easy walking distance of the other seven Afghan families in the village, and a short bus ride from the two families in Huntingdon. Another two Afghan families were to be resettled in Brampton in July. In our support for Brampton families, we worked closely with Brampton Hub, a local community group.

So, what had started in 2021 with a smattering of families and been enlarged with arrival of two families from northern Afghanistan in January and May 2022, had become a community by mid-2023. It was rewarding to witness how the families supported each other, socialised with each other – as if they had become one big, extended family.



This weekly gathering of women from the Afghan families resettled in Brampton and Huntingdon continued to be popular, with a full house most weeks. Normally held in the Methodist Church in Brampton, the group sometimes decamped to a nearby café, where the women were encouraged to ask the about the cakes on offer and order for themselves.

All the women also attended the weekly English classes provided by the council in Huntingdon.





CRRC assisted the families in a range of ways during the year:

- several of the men received CRRC grants to pay for driving lessons;
- we got Solidarity Packages from Emmaus for most families (the required £100 donation usually provided by Cambridge Aid);
- in some cases, we helped meet the cost of urgent dental treatment, no NHS services being available;
- in early 2023, we successfully applied to the Cambridge Community Fund for StayWell Grants (£400) for all families except one, to help families meet energy bills. (CCF could not make grants to any family with a debt exceeding £300, and one family had a debt well exceeding that);
- thanks to CRRC's link with Laptops4Learning, most families had tech. support (provision of laptops, iPads and smartphones);
- support for one of the women with midwifery qualifications through her Occupational English Test; support for adults applying to courses at Cambridge Regional College, Huntingdon campus;
- working with Housing Associations when housing problems arose, such as the rat-infestation in the home of one of the Huntingdon families;
- in conjunction with Tom Wright at the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA), we offered employment advice and strongly encouraged the men, whose English was not good enough to enable a return to their previous occupations, to attend all classes offered (council, college, etc.). Most of the men took night jobs (in restaurants, with delivery services, etc.) so that they could be at home in the day to support their non-English-speaking wives.

We also helped to get the brother of one of the men now based in Huntingdon to the UK. Despite working for the British Government for 20 years, he remained in hiding in Kabul with his wife and five children. We sought help from various bodies, such as MPs, former Kabul-based employers, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Afghan Pro Bono Initiative (APBI). In June 2023, APBI told us that the FCDO was opening a new window (Pathway 3) for 6 weeks for Afghans to apply for resettlement. We helped the family apply.





In December 2022, with Huntingdon District Council, CRRC organised a meeting of representatives of all groups in the Huntingdon/ Peterborough area working with refugee families. This opened up new and valuable opportunities and links, especially with H.E.L.P., a Peterborough-based charity, which helped source refurbished second-hand bikes.



Many thanks to CRRC volunteer Natasha Pairaudeau for stepping in to support the Huntingdon families while Kay Powell was away in late 2022 and mid-2023.

And many thanks also to Naeem Gulzad, who came to Brampton as a refugee with his wife and three children, for his readiness to help CRRC whenever Dari and Pashto translation was needed.

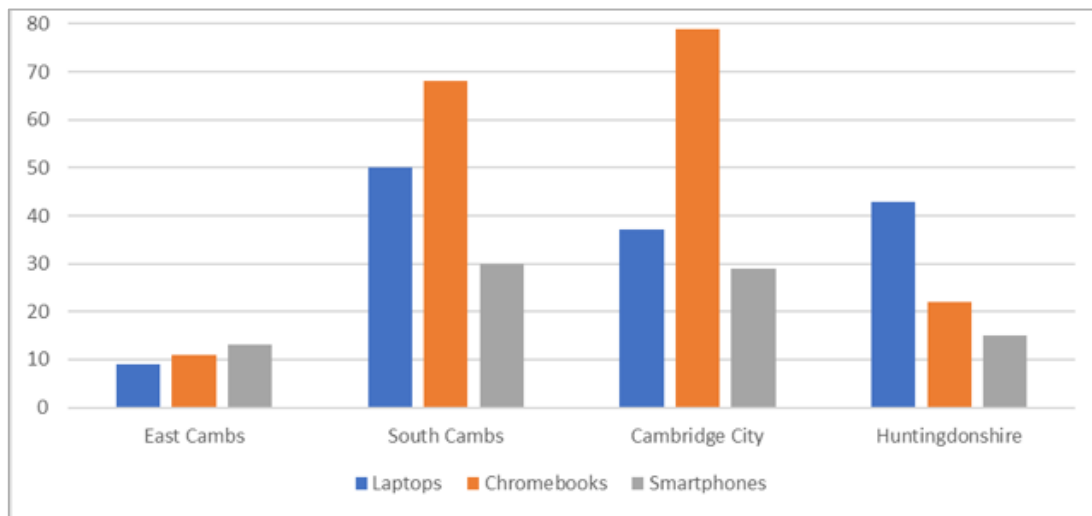




IT Provided to CRRC Families

The infographic below shows the devices that CRRC Team Ukraine was able to deliver to Ukrainian families settling in Cambridgeshire up to the end of June 2023. Many families required more than one device, i.e. for the parent and secondary school-age children.

Devices allocated July 2022 – June 2023



| Area | Laptops | Chromebooks | Smartphones | Totals |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| East Cambridgeshire | 9 | 11 | 13 | 33 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 50 | 68 | 30 | 148 |
| Cambridge City | 37 | 79 | 29 | 145 |
| Huntingdonshire | 43 | 22 | 15 | 80 |
| Devices overall | | | | 406 |

***“Thank you, this will help me keep in touch
with my husband back in Ukraine”***





IT help for CRRC clients from other areas of the world

Between July 2022 and June 2023, we helped around 20 families with 25 tech items, mainly Windows laptops and phones, plus a few Chromebooks. We are very grateful to Laptops4Learning, for supplying us with most of these devices, after repurposing older devices by securely wiping them and fixing any faulty components.

We support adults and children at secondary school and above, plus some younger children if devices are needed e.g. for remote education.



“This will help me learn English and find work”.





Mobility

Driving support

CRRC Trustees consider that it is of significant benefit to our beneficiaries if they can drive in the UK. Being able to drive could assist directly or indirectly with employment, as well as help individuals and their families enjoy a better quality of life and move more swiftly towards independence.

The UK driving test is in two parts – a theory test and a practical test. CRRC does not pay for the theory test, the driving test, or the provisional driving licence. Our support focuses on paying for driving lessons. All CRRC beneficiaries applying for funding to help pay for their lessons must have passed the theory test and hold a provisional licence.

In late 2022 we undertook a review of the criteria for providing driving support. This was necessary as, in addition to increased numbers of beneficiaries applying for support, we became aware that what we were able to afford would not necessarily be sufficient to bring someone up to the standard to pass the practical test. Prior to the review, the standard criteria applied was to offer to pay for 10 hours of driving lessons for those who had driven previously in their home country, and 20 hours of lessons for those who hadn't. While this standard continued, new criteria required applicants to think about the additional resources they might need to pass the test including contributing money of their own to pay for additional lessons and finding someone with sufficient experience to give them driving practice. Priority would also be given to those in more isolated locations away from reliable public transport routes.

From July 2022 to June 2023, 15 individuals applied to be considered for financial support for lessons (up from eight in the previous year). Nine of the applicants were women – none of whom had driven previously and six were men, five of whom had driven before. While these 15 funding applications were agreed in the financial year, not all applicants went on to take their lessons over this period. Four of the women and five of the men applying for support during the year have now passed their driving test. All those who have passed have purchased vehicles and, as anticipated, this had made a significant difference to their families' quality of life and employment opportunities.





Bicycle project

Amanda Hoey and team continued to work in collaboration with The Bike Project in London to provide CRRC beneficiaries, both adult and child, with a working bike, plus helmet, lights and a secure lock. Bike training was continued with several women taking part in The Bike Project's 'Pedal Power', providing refugee women with one-to-one cycle lessons with female instructors.



Further requests for bicycles came directly to CRRC for both children and adults. CRRC ensured that all donated cycles were serviced and roadworthy before delivery and locks, helmets, lights and hi-vis tabards were provided. On delivery, we also spend time explaining how best to stay safe when cycling, with particular emphasis on how to use roundabouts.





English Language and Education Support

English language support for adults

CRRC ESOL for adults continued to meet the needs of those who cannot attend college classes, which remain inaccessible particularly for women with young children, but also for those in poor health or who lack literacy.



The local college was over-subscribed and wait times were extensive. CRRC continued to provide very professional volunteer-led language support organised by Hilary Sutton (pictured) and Monica Poulter and supported by a team of volunteer experienced ESOL teachers and child carers.

In September 2022 the workshop format continued with a weekly class for up to 10 learners held at a central Cambridge location. Throughout the academic year CRRC reimbursed bus fares and a taxi fare for a student with mobility issues. The workshop was supported by several volunteer teachers, which enabled targeted one-to-one support.

Students who had been here for several years needed support with employment and the qualifications needed to apply for citizenship. A few students were preparing for the B1 speaking and listening test that is required for citizenship.





Others were given support to manage everyday situations such as dealing with household problems, medical needs, children's schooling, and general survival needs.

Individual support in addition to the workshop was provided by experienced ESOL teachers giving one-to-one support, either face-to-face in a library, or in the home, or online. A particular need was for students with a medical background to improve their English to pass the relevant exam for medical practitioners and to resume their previous career. This was a particularly challenging situation for teachers and students alike. Several of our volunteers also provided language support for Ukrainian guests. With the growing number of refugees settling in Cambridge, it has not been possible to meet every request for help and the recruitment of additional volunteers is a priority for the year ahead.

The team of volunteers in Brompton led by Kay Powell and Clare Senior was active throughout the year. The English Conversation Group that they established continued to offer language development, but also support with the Life in the UK test. The sessions provided an opportunity for women to socialise outside the home and for their children to play together.

Educational support for the children

Support for school-age children, organised by Sue Spencer, continued throughout the year with experienced primary and secondary teachers providing subject-specific as well as language development. This is an important and much appreciated means of support for families. Nearly all school-age children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by the CRRC children's tuition team. Some pre-school children also have had support from tutors. CRRC volunteers were matched with the families and normally met the children once a week. The aim of this support is to help the children to develop language skills, encourage conceptual understanding, increase knowledge of their cultural community, and to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The one-to-one teachers supporting school-age children have often helped with liaising with the children's school so that the child was supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Several of the one-to-one tutors have become close friends with the children and the entire family and have engaged with many different aspects of family life over time.





Many of the English tutors worked with different families. The volunteers had the opportunity to meet once a month before the socials, to exchange ideas, resources and concerns.

First language support for the children

CRRC commissioned further Arabic classes, and Saussan Khalil, who teaches the classes, reported that the children made good progress.

With many thanks to all the volunteers who continued to offer their time and expertise.

We would also like to thank Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press for their continued support in providing resources.





Activities and Culture

School holiday activities

We are very grateful to the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) for facilitating our holiday and after-school activities for three years with grant-funding.



A big thank you to everyone involved in the activities team this year. We tried some new events, and it was great to see just how many families got involved and how much they enjoyed them.

The 2022/23 activities programme got off to a great start with a picnic on Jesus Green in August. It was a gloriously sunny day and the 10 families who came along enjoyed the playground and playing football, cricket, and tennis. We were so pleased that several families from Huntingdon made use of the coaches that we organised and could enjoy the fun.





The annual outing to **Hunstanton** was the next activity held in September. Families from Cambridge and Huntingdon enjoyed a lovely sunny day out at the seaside. The children had fun digging in the sand and some families took a boat trip. We used coaches for these trips and they proved much more practical than trains or cars.



The programme continued with a visit to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, who gave us free entry and tours of the gardens. The guides were very helpful and everyone found the gardens interesting. After the tours the families met for a picnic, which was a great opportunity for everyone to share food and chat.





Period ended 30 June 2023



A **bowling trip** in December was followed closely by a visit to the **Nutcracker** at the Junction, Cambridge. It was a great success with over 40 people coming along. We would like to thank The Junction for their generosity in giving us free tickets and ice creams. Everyone enjoyed the show particularly the dancing, music, singing and costumes.

Ninety people came to the Cambridge **Ice Arena** in January 2023, including families on a coach from Bampton and Huntingdon. Ice skating was a new experience for many, but everyone was keen to give it a go and really enjoyed themselves.





A brand-new experience for everyone was a visit to the **Clip and Climb wall** in February. Even though there were some nerves to start with, everyone had a go and quickly built their confidence. The children were very adventurous and thoroughly enjoyed conquering the wall.





Period ended 30 June 2023

Socials

CRRC has been running socials since December 2015 when the team welcomed the first three beneficiary families. The socials provide the face-to-face contact on which CRRC prides itself, involving the whole community, whilst offering private meeting space for confidential conversations. The socials are now held at a large primary school in Cambridge and organised by a small team of volunteers with regular liaison with the Board of Trustees.





The activities group took over organising the socials and held their first one in October, and the second one in March. Families from Cambridge, surrounding villages and Huntingdon came along and enjoyed sharing food and chatting. The weather was warmer for the next social in May and so the children were able to play outside.

About 18 families (68 people) attended, including some new families and about 27 volunteers. The children enjoyed the activities, especially the crown-making. Project Linus brought beautiful handmade quilts to give to families.

CRRC gratefully thanks all volunteers of the socials team!





Legal Support

CRRC continued to support an asylum-seeking family, now in their fourth year of seeking permission to remain. The family were awaiting an appeal against refusal of their initial claim before the immigration courts. They were receiving legal support from IR Immigration Law, a Cambridge-based law firm specialising in immigration and asylum cases.

Legal provision for immigration and asylum cases and for associated matters such as family reunion, asylum support and other home office applications is only available free of charge in Cambridge via a dedicated asylum and immigration caseworker at Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum with whom CRRC continues to work closely.

As our original cohort of resettlement cases have been completing their five years of 'Refugee Leave', their cases were reviewed by the Home Office. They would normally receive Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), allowing them to remain permanently in the UK. Prior to receiving ILR, applicants are required to travel to a Home Office facility (e.g. Croydon) to provide their 'biometrics' (fingerprints and iris recognition) and photographs. These are then used to produce the Biometric Residence Card (BRP) which is proof of entitlement to services such as housing, benefits, NHS provisions etc. CRRC supported the resettlement families in this process, by covering the costs of the journey and, where necessary, help with logistics.

After five years of Refugee Leave and a year of ILR, a recipient can apply for British Citizenship. For adults (those over 18) the 'naturalisation' process to become a British Citizen requires the applicant to pass an English language competence test and a knowledge of 'Life in the UK' test. CRRC Trustees decided that they could not directly support applications for citizenship for adults, which in the reporting period cost over £1,300 per person (in addition for fees to take the required tests). Eligible Children must apply to *register* rather than naturalise – a simpler process not requiring language or knowledge of UK tests. Nevertheless, the fees for child registration applications were still over £1000 per child.

In June 2022, after a long-fought battle by NGO's and others, the Government made a concession in respect of children eligible to apply for citizenship. This was to offer a 'fee waiver' for child applicants whose parents could not afford the fee without impacting on the child's welfare. CRRC committed to trying to find an immigration firm prepared to assist applications for citizenship – especially from eligible children. Since July 2023, we have been in contact with GYROS, an organisation based in Great Yarmouth who are funded to do free immigration legal work.





Campaigns, Communications, and Outreach

CRRC's communications and outreach strategy focusses on providing news of our activities to our supporters via a quarterly newsletter and social media channels, using those channels to ask for donations and thank donors, giving talks and presentations to interested groups, including schools, and participating in national campaigns concerned with refugees and asylum-seekers.

An important campaign this year was that around dental care. Dr Brandi Leach's report on resettled refugee families' access to NHS dental care was commissioned by CRRC and published in January 2023. The research and findings of her report were submitted as evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health and Social Care enquiry into NHS dental provision. We were delighted that our evidence was later cited in the Committee's report.

We joined national campaigns against the Illegal Migration Bill and its plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda, described by the Archbishop of York as 'cruelty without purpose'. We were also joint signatories to open letters published in the national press on the disappearance of child refugees from hotels, the irresponsible use of language in whipping-up violence against asylum-seekers, the campaigns for 'communities not camps' and to extend the Afghan resettlement schemes.

Trustees made presentations to school groups at Comberton Village College and Coleridge Community College and to the Rotary Club of Cambridge. They also attended and spoke at events aimed at newly arrived Ukrainians organised by Cambridge4Ukraine, an information seminar organised by the Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society and a charity polo match raising funds for Ukrainian support. The Communications team was able to support CRRC's Ukraine response more generally with callouts for laptops and other tech to refurbish for redistribution.

Our newsletter, edited by Catharine Walston, has continued to be published quarterly and sent to almost 500 subscribers and is further disseminated through the City of Sanctuary Faith Groups network. Our Facebook group has 1,500 members and our Twitter/X feed is followed by 1,200 accounts. Kay Powell, who runs CRRC's Twitter/X feed, undertook a major makeover of our Volunteer Handbook in December 2022, and we were very grateful to her.

In June, CRRC finished the year with participation in Refugee Week 2023, hosting a round-table discussion at the Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge.





Financial Review and Reserves Policy

During this sixth year of operations, the budget has been reviewed during regular trustee meetings, ensuring that new expenditure is checked and authorised by the trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that expenditure remains within agreed limits. The net income for the year was £ **14,512**.

CRRC's balance at 30 June 2023 was £ **72,162**. The charity does not have a reserves policy. Trustees review spending regularly, adjust budgets as required, encourage donations within the local community and plan fundraising activities to ensure that ongoing and planned support of beneficiaries and all CRRC's activities can be maintained.





Plans for the Future

The 2022-2023 financial year has been CRRC's busiest year to date. Never has the work of CRRC been more important than it is now. Global and national challenges have reinforced the need for a charity like ours. We have worked very hard to develop our services to respond to the rapidly growing demand across Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

We have started work to critically analyse the needs of beneficiaries and CRRC's priorities, which we want to continue over the course of the next financial year to strengthen our strategy. We want to future proof CRRC to be able to sustainably provide critical services to refugees to facilitate achieving economic stability and becoming self-reliant. We are enthusiastic to continue to develop further partnerships and to continue to draw on the large number of volunteers in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, committed to support refugees to realise their potential and contribute to the society.





Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24.04.2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Heidi Radke
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Note: The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and its compliance with all legal requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the reputation of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities. The trustees take pride in maintaining the integrity of information included on the charity website and other social media.





Period ended 30 June 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year to 30 June 2023

| | Unrestricted Funds 2023 £ | Restricted Funds 2023 £ | Total Funds 2023 £ | Total Funds 2022 £ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 83,113 | 26,500 | 109,613 | 61,342 |
| Total income | 83,113 | 26,500 | 109,613 | 61,342 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 86,776 | 8,325 | 95,101 | 57,869 |
| Total expenditure | 86,776 | 8,325 | 95,101 | 57,869 |
| Net income for the year | - 3,662 | 18,175 | 14,512 | 3,473 |
| Balances at 1 July 22 | 57,650 | - | 57,650 | 54,177 |
| Balances at 30 June 23 | 53,988 | 18,175 | 72,162 | 57,650 |

All the above funds are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.



**Period ended 30 June 2023****Balance Sheet**

as at 30 June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 72,162 | 57,650 |
| Net current assets | 72,162 | 57,650 |
| Total net assets | 72,162 | 57,650 |
| Funds | | |
| General reserve | 53,988 | 57,650 |
| Restricted funds | 18,175 | - |
| | 72,162 | 57,650 |

on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Heidi Radke
Chair of the Board of TrusteesSarah Santhosham
Treasurer

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 30 June 2023****Accounting policies****Statutory information**

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in the UK. The registered office address is c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Public benefit entity

The CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the CIO's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

d) Income

Income is recognised when the CIO has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, and it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

e) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received/generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.



**f) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the CIO in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the CIO in the delivery of our programmes. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the CIO. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the CIO's activities.

g) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

h) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

i) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the CIO has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

j) Staff and pensions

The CIO currently has no employees or pension obligations.

k) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the end of the month in which the transaction occurred.





Period ended 30 June 2023

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign
(Charity number)

on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

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.

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.

Hilary Seaward, FCA
Chartered Accountant
9 Sherlock Road
Cambridge, CB3 0HR

26 September 2023





Help the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Volunteer

CRRC always needs enthusiastic volunteers. The team cannot offer money, although expenses are reimbursed, but it is extremely rewarding to work directly helping local refugees. For example, CRRC is always looking for trained ESOL teachers who can teach in a private home, and for childcare help during these English lessons. Please check our website for updates on [volunteering opportunities](#).

Donate Money

The organisation relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters to continue the work for refugees resettling here in Cambridge. As CRRC is run entirely by volunteers from their own homes, there are no staff, office, or administration costs. Your donation will go directly towards helping the refugee families themselves. **Donations can be made through our [website](#).**

Offer Employment and Work Experience

Once a refugee family begins to settle into their home, their children are at school and their own English classes are progressing, the adults need to become independent and self-sufficient by earning their living in legitimate and worthwhile work. CRRC [seeks opportunities](#) across a wide range of employment areas based on the jobs and skill-development these adults have had in the country they have just fled.

Calling all Landlords and Landladies

There is a great need for accommodation. Please see our [website](#) for further details



Find more about our work at cambridgerefugees.org; or email info@cambridgerefugees.org to discuss ways to support CRRC





Donors

CRRC sincerely thanks our many generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, whose contributions make a real difference to our beneficiaries.

BACA
Rosemary Barrett
Alex Brandon
Besom Project
Brampton Hub
Brandi Leach
Peter Britton and the Jesus College
Music Society
Cambridge Aid
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Community Fund
Cambridge Lawn Tennis Centre
Cambridge Reuse
CambridgeRun4Ukraine
Cambridge University Press
Cambridge Women's Resources Centre
Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meeting
Cambridgeshire Healthwatch
Clay Farm Surgery and S-Tech
Melissa Dring
Dutch Bikes
Eastleightonstone Parish
Emmaus
The Girdlers Charity

Grow Kids
GYROS
H.E.L.P.
Hope into Action
Huntingdon Housing Associations
Huntingdonshire District Council
Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy
Land-Aid
Laptops4Learning
Oxford University Press
PARCA (Peterborough Asylum and
Refugee Community Association)
Project Linus, UK
Refugee Education UK
Refugee & Migrants Children's Consortium
Resettle Chesterton
Rotary Club Reach Community Solar Farm
Scrubs for Cambridgeshire
Sew Positive
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Dr Margaret Thouless
Vodafone
Elizabeth Wells-Thulin and Harry Peirse

... and all other individuals who donated items, large and small, all of which count in CRRC's joint efforts.

A heartfelt thank you to all individuals and organisations, who donated generously to CRRC and supported our work with time and expertise during the reporting period!

