
Newborn, Infant and Child Health Education International

Registered Charity Number: 1174977

Trustees' Report and Accounts

For the Year Ended
3rd October 2023

sjn consultants

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Newborn, Infant and Child Health Education International
also known as NICHE International

Charity Number: 1174977

Principal Address: Lytchett House
13 Freeland Park,
Wareham Road
Poole
Dorset
BH16 6FA

Charity Trustees:

Trustees who served during the year:

Alison Earley	Chair
Alison Grove	
Catherine Harrison	
John Madar	
Alistair Morris	
Sebastian Palmer	
Julia Thomson	

Also 2 co-opted charity members:

Dr Jarlath O'Donohoe
Mrs Grace Ndze Bongban

Independent Examiner:

Sandra J Nairn ACMA CGMA
SJN Consultants Ltd
Creag A' Chaorainn
Inverasdale
Poolewe
Wester Ross
IV22 2LN

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Structure, Governance and Management

Newborn, Infant and Child Health Education International (also known as NICHE International) is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with effect from 4th October 2017, with registration number 1174977.

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charity is governed and administered in accordance with its constitution, which was adopted on 4th October 2017 and amended with effect from 12th February 2018.

Trustees are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

There are 7 trustees, 5 of whom are doctors, and the chair of the trustees rotates. Trustees have experience working for teaching and medical charities in Cameroon, Liberia and other resource poor countries, in project management, post-graduate teaching and business. The charity Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits in return for their work.

The charity operates a safeguarding policy, an equality and diversity policy and a code of conduct to which all trustees and volunteers must adhere.

Partnerships: In Cameroon, the charity works in partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS). Course candidates come from both the CBCHS health facilities and the government hospitals in all areas of Cameroon. In Uganda the charity works in partnership with Bwindi Community Hospital, and UK based charity Child Health Matters

The charity has a **Memorandum of Understanding** in place with three other health education charities working in developing countries:

- MCAI (Maternal & Childhealth Advocacy International). Registered as a SCIO No. SC043467
- Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG). Registered Charity 1045478
- Child Health Matters. Registered Charity 1184421

Risks relate to travelling and working in middle- and low-income countries with poorly resourced health systems and/or political instability. Each trip is risk assessed with reference to in-country advisors, the RSA travel assistance mobile app from healix.com and Foreign & Commonwealth Office guidelines.

The charity provides comprehensive travel and medical insurance. A Security and Safety Operating Procedures handbook (SOPS) is provided to all trustees and volunteers.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

To relieve sickness and to promote and protect the good health of babies and children. To work to reduce mortality rates in low- and middle-income countries, by assisting in the provision of training courses and other healthcare projects.

Main Activities

In planning our activities for the year, we have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustees' meetings.

Our focus is to continue to teach the Neonatal Care provider courses to frontline practitioners from all healthcare sectors in Cameroon, Uganda and other poorly resourced areas of the world.

These courses have been designed by ALSG and MCAI especially for resource limited settings and we have made further adaptations for our work in Cameroon, Liberia and Uganda. Three of the charity trustees sit on the ALSG Strengthening Emergency Care committee, which oversees the educational content of the Newborn Care Course.

The course covers resuscitation at birth and problems which occur in the first weeks of life. Simple equipment is used and there is an emphasis on basic care such as breast feeding and skin-to-skin care in line with the World Health Organisation's 'Every Newborn Action Plan'.

We aim to promote sustainability by training local staff to become instructors and to teach the Neonatal Care course to others. Training local trainers is done through the ALSG / Resus Council Generic Instructor Course (GIC), which covers educational theory and practical teaching, assessment and feedback skills.

We believe that training local instructors is vital for embedding new ways of working and for the sustainability of the project.

We work to encourage peer to peer skills practice among local health care staff.

We continue to develop partnerships with our in-country hosts in order to deliver these courses as widely as possible, and also with organisations in the UK which develop and promote healthcare courses and course materials which are designed for middle- and low-income countries.

The volunteers who work for NICHE International are doctors, nurses, and resuscitation officers with appropriate clinical backgrounds who have been accredited by the Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG) and/or the Resuscitation Council (RC(UK)) to teach neonatal and other life support courses in the UK. All have considerable experience of instructing, some of them as course directors, and also have knowledge of teaching in low- and middle-income countries. Instructors are recruited through ALSG, and through teaching contacts of current instructors.

These volunteers give their time and expertise to deliver the Neonatal Care course alongside the qualified NICHE trustees.

Achievements and Performance

A partnership has been formed with the charity, Child Health Matters (reg charity no.1184421) to deliver Newborn Care Courses in Bwindi Community Hospital, South West Uganda. In February 2022, NICHE instructors went to the hospital to run the first two Neonatal Care Courses (NCC) and identify suitable healthcare workers to train as instructors on the return visit. Feedback from these first two courses was excellent.

In February 2023, the first Generic Instructor Course (GIC) was held in Bwindi Community Hospital, Uganda, followed by support for the newly trained instructors while they taught two Neonatal Care Courses. Because of the recent Ugandan Ebola outbreak, this trip had been postponed from 2022. Virtual learning for Instructor candidates was attempted before the course, but this was challenging due to computer access and Wifi. 4 GIC Instructors travelled from the UK, and one from Cameroon. 43 candidates successfully completed the NCC training. 6 Ugandan candidates completed their training as Instructor candidates, and 6 need further experience.

In Cameroon, local Instructors have run NCC training courses for their colleagues during the year. Our project lead in Cameroon Mrs Grace Ndze, came to the UK in April 2023. This was to enable her to increase her experience by doing a Newborn Life Support course in London and a GIC in Bristol. She was able to look round neonatal units and also deliver training in skin-to-skin mother care to neonatal nurses and midwives in London.

Future Plans

Uganda: Further NCCs with support from Instructors from a UK faculty.

Continue to work on providing e-learning and remote mentorship.

Cameroon: Further Instructor Development Days, and another GIC in Feb 2024. Work on identifying and training a Cameroonian educator, in order to complete our 10 steps to sustainability, see <https://www.nicheinternational.org.uk/front-page/truly-sustainable-training>

NCC course review. The trustees regularly review the course content in the light of new evidence related to newborn care, WHO publications and feedback from learners.

Fuller details of NICHE International's background, achievements and future plans, including costings, are detailed in the charity's current business plan which may be found here: www.nicheinternational.org.uk

Financial Review

Policy on reserves

The charity currently holds no substantial reserves. The funds available have been used for charitable activities.

Should the charity be in the position to build up reserves in unrestricted funds, these would be used in the first instance to provide an emergency fund in case extraction of the charity's volunteers working overseas were to become necessary.

Review of accounts

During the first part of the year, funding came from a mixture of grants and fundraising by the trustees.

The online support of courses and material developed, which is listed above, was carried out by the charity's volunteers.

Funds currently held will be used to deliver our training courses – Neonatal Care Course (NCC) and Generic Instructor Course (GIC).

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s):



Full name(s):

Alison Earley

Sebastian Palmer

Position:

Trustee

Trustee

Date:

26 Mar 24

26 Mar 24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees/members of NICHE International

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 3rd October 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 9.

Trustees' responsibilities

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

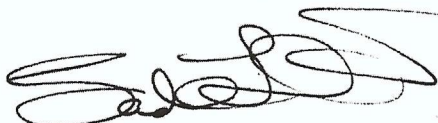
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:



Dated: 26 Mar 24

Sandra J Nairn ACMA CGMA

SJN Consultants Ltd

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Poolewe

Wester Ross

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**For the year ended 03 October 2023**



	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Receipts				
Public Donations	4,641	12,615	17,256	6,578
Donor Funds	0	15,000	15,000	7,000
Fees	0	0	0	0
Repayments	0	0	0	1,749
Gift Aid Claimed	1,250	0	1,250	0
Total receipts	5,891	27,615	33,506	15,327
Payments				
Postage	170	0	170	127
Customs	0	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0	417
Travel Expenses Cameroon	0	1,188	1,188	6,425
Travel Expenses Liberia	0	0	0	0
Travel Expenses Uganda	0	7,016	7,016	10,440
Course Expenses Cameroon	0	164	164	3,729
Course Expenses Liberia	0	0	0	0
Course Expenses Uganda	0	2,881	2,881	5
Communications	144	16	160	144
Stationery	32	0	32	218
Bank Charges	19	5	24	4
Fundraising Expenses	0	0	0	6
Independent Examination Fees	144	0	144	144
Sundry Expenses	0	0	0	38
Total payments	509	11,270	11,779	21,697
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	5,382	16,345	21,727	(6,370)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Cash funds at 04 Oct 22	6,790	1,042	7,832	14,202
Cash Funds at 03 Oct 23	12,172	17,387	29,559	7,832

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 03 October 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Cash Funds			
Bank account	10,925	17,387	28,312
Cash	50	0	50
Paypal	1,197	0	1,197
Total Cash Funds	12,172	17,387	29,559
Other Monetary Assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use:			
Equipment – Manekins (2021), Projector (2022)	718	0	718
Liabilities:			
Professional fees – I.E.	144	0	144

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signature(s):		
Full name(s):	Alison Earley	Sebastian Palmer
Position:	Trustee	Trustee
Date:	26 Mar 24	26 Mar 24

Charity Registration Number: 1174977