

Charity Number: 1177569

**CONGO FREE POVERTY**  
**(CONGO SANS PAUVRETE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT & UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31  
MARCH 2024**

## **Reference and administrative information**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

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<b>Charity number</b>	1177569
<b>Registered office</b>	Flat 44, Crossmount House, Bowyer Street, London SE5 0XB
<b>Trustees</b>	Wete Biawete Esia Baleze Goncalves Jose
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays bank

## **Trustees' annual report**

### **For the year ended 31 March 2024**

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative information set out above forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current requirements, the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and reporting by Charities: SORP, applicable to charities preparing their accounts.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and it's governed as CIO – FOUNDATION charitable organisation. Its governing document was first adopted in 2018 and amended on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Currently the charity has a management committee of 3 people who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

#### **Trustee' recruitment, induction, and training**

The trustees of the charity are elected at the charity Annual General Meeting. Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity having been encouraged to take up volunteering hours at our operational centre. Additionally, new trustees are invited and encouraged to attend a series of short training sessions to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates.

Training covers:

- The obligations of management committee members.
- The main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity including the constitution.
- Resourcing and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts.
- Future plans and objectives of the charity.

### **Risk management**

The board of trustees has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate systems or procedures have been developed to mitigate the risks, the charity faces.

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures

are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, users, and visitors.

## **Objectives and activities**

### **Purposes and aims**

The trustees regularly review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report on the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to the groups of people it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the set aims and objectives.

The organisation's objects are:

- To relieve poverty among refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and their dependants living in England and Wales by providing interpreting/translating/advocacy/ health/housing advice and education."
- To provide Congolese young people, born in United Kingdom, with free Congolese dialects classes in Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili and Chiluba in the interests of maintaining Congolese language and cultural heritage.
- To relieve poverty among children and young people living in D R Congo, by providing them with basic education, social and health support.
- The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.
- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

## **Vision**

The vision of Congo Free Poverty is "That every individual is heard, valued and supported"

## **Mission**

Congo Free Poverty commits to:

- Being a user-led organisation & putting individuals first.
- Delivering high quality & innovative services.
- Improving users' well-being.

- Amplifying the voice of socially excluded & marginalised individuals to influence change.

### **Strategic Aims**

We have now in place a 5-year (2024 – 2029) strategic plan, which involves putting people at the centre of everything we do. The strategy has identified 3 key strategic objectives. These are:

- To build long-term financial stability.
- To give targeted support using a ‘whole family’ approach.
- To building capacity.

### **Achievements and performance, and beneficiaries of our services**

The charity’s main activities and those whom it aims to help are described below.

#### Children and young people

We provided a number of services for children and young people including supplementary classes, homework club, and Congolese languages tuition. We also worked and supported young people with mental health issues.

#### Women sewing group

The weekly sewing group is a chance for migrant women including refugees and asylum seekers to come together and learn some basic sewing skills and make their own clothes in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

#### Core support

The core support includes helping people with benefits checks and advice, Blue Badge applications, council tax discount applications, referrals and signposting to other community resources.

### **Financial review**

Against the limited resources and insecurities over funding, it has again been a difficult year to plan or develop new services and activities.

#### Principal funding sources

The principal source of funding for the charity are its members’ monthly donations, and Trusts and charitable Foundations.

#### Investment policy

No material investments are held at this time. The trustees will consider an appropriate investment policy in the future as unrestricted funds are raised.

#### Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the expenditure. But as its stand the charity has no or very limited free reserves.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees of the Congo Free Poverty are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accounting Practice). The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005. Under the Charities Act 2011, the trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each reporting year which gives a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- And prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. 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.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

**Esia Baleze**

Trustee



Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**CONGO FREE POVERTY / CONGO SANS PAUVRETE**  
**Statement of financial activities (income and expenditure)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Membership	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	3,450.00
Peoples' Health Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00
Pay Pal's donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
Awards For All	0.00	16,600.00	16,600.00	0.00
London Community Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,200.00
Christ Winner Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Souter Charitable Trust	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00
Donnations (other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b><u>Total income</u></b>	<b><u>1,800.00</u></b>	<b><u>19,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>20,800.00</u></b>	<b><u>24,730.00</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Salaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Professional fees	0.00	550.00	550.00	0.00
Rent / room hire	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Travel / volunteers expenses	0.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	1,400.00
Sewing group activities	0.00	1,900.00	1,900.00	8,300.00
capital equipment/sewing	0.00	6,800.00	6,800.00	0.00
Children classes activities	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,200.00
Sundries/refreshments	0.00	750.00	750.00	500.00
African festival	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,200.00
Computers	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00
<b><u>Total expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>1,500.00</u></b>	<b><u>13,700.00</u></b>	<b><u>15,200.00</u></b>	<b><u>16,500.00</u></b>
<b><u>Net income / expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>300.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,300.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,600.00</u></b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>
<b><u>Reconciliation of funds</u></b>				
Total funds brought forward	<b><u>300.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,300.00</u></b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>
<b><u>Total funds carried forward</u></b>	<b><u>300.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,300.00</u></b>	<b><u>13,830.00</u></b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>

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

**Balance sheet****As at 31 March 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>6,800.00</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors		
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>13,830.00</b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		
Total net assets	<b>13,830.00</b>	<b><u>8,230.00</u></b>

Approved by the trustees on 20 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

**Esia Baleze**

Trustee



**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1. Accounting policies**

**a) Statutory information**

Congo Free Poverty is a charity and is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The registered office address is Flat 44, Crossmount House, Bowyer Street, London SE5 0XB.

**b) Basis of accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis with all incoming resources and outgoing resources shown on a cash basis.