HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1180747

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2018-11-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	121 Drummond Rd Bermondsey London England SE16 2JY
Phone	07518032902
Email	Hopeforcommunities@hotmail.com
Website	www.hopeforcommunities.com

Activities

Objects: THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, BUT IN PARTICULAR IRAQ, BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF, PRIMARILY BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EDUCATION, TRAINING, HEALTHCARE PROJECTS AND ALL THE NECESSARY SUPPORT DESIGNED TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO GENERATE A SUSTAINABLE INCOME AND BE SELF-SUFFICIENT.

Activities: Hope for Communities operates in Northern Iraq. We have a Community Centre in a refugee community offering English language classes and a safe space for children to attend and play and be creative. We also run projects and activities in local government run orphanages. We are opening a community hub which will also have a apprenticeship programme for vulnerable adolescents and young adults.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Iraq

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£104,654	£112,674	-	-
2024-03-31	£111,670	£70,301	-	-
2023-03-31	£64,930	£54,370	-	-
2022-03-31	£16,149	£18,932	-	-
2021-03-31	£32,123	£24,587	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW DAVID MCCOLLOUGH	Chair	2018-11-19
Abey Varghese Philip		2022-11-25
Alison Ruth Nicholson		2025-02-24
JOHN DOUGLAS HENRY GREENWAY		2018-11-19
Michael Alexander Ross Channon		2022-09-16
Phillip Andrew Gray		2024-02-26
SARAH ANNE LOUISE HARRIS		2018-11-19

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HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1180747

Accounts



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2024–2025

Charity Information

Founders and Directors of Hope for Communities

Sharo Ahmedi

Alexis Rachel Ahmedi

Trustees of Hope for Communities (as of 31st March 2025, unless stated, all acted for the entire year)

Andrew David McCullough

Sarah Anne Louise Harris

John Douglas Henry Greenway

Michael Alexander Ross Channon

Abey Varghese Philip

Phillip Andrew Gray

Alison Ruth Nicholson (elected as a trustee 24th February 2025)

Note: All trustees have confirmed that they have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Charity Commission Registration Number 1180747

Charity UK address

121 Drummond Rd, Bermondsey,
London, England.
SE16 2JY

Charity website

www.hopeforcommunities.com

Why We Exist

This is a summary of our charity's objectives, as set out in our governing document:

The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world, but in particular Iraq, by providing or assisting in the provision of, primarily but not limited to, education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

A Letter from Sharo and Alexis, Directors of Hope for Communities

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and delighted to share this year's annual report with you. It has been a remarkable year marked by meaningful growth and progress across our work.

At the heart of these achievements is our incredible local team. Their dedication, passion, and tireless efforts have brought so many of the inspiring stories and successes in this report to life. We also extend our sincere thanks to our trustees, whose generosity of time and expertise strengthens our mission every step of the way.

We are deeply thankful to the communities who have welcomed us and allowed us to walk alongside them. It is a privilege to witness the growth of young people as they step into their potential, and we celebrate each milestone with pride and joy.

As a small charity, we are continually humbled by the generosity of those who support us. Your contributions make a real and lasting impact, and we see that impact growing stronger each year.

The longer we work within these communities, the clearer the transformation becomes. While challenges and barriers are part of the journey, the stories of change and resilience fuel our determination to keep moving forward.

So, settle in with a warm drink (and a treat if you fancy), and take a moment to read through our report. It's a reflection of what we've achieved together, and a glimpse of the hope that lies ahead.

Our Values, Vision and Mission

OUR VALUES
The arrows that guide us

Hope – We believe that even the most marginalised communities can be transformed by **courageous**, **contagious hope**.

Generosity – We believe that those so long considered the least deserve our very best, so our motto is "**The best for the least**".

Sustainable impact – We're not interested in short-term fixes, but in building to last.

Growing people – We're nurturing the amazing talent and potential in our local community.

Integrity – We steward our resources with honesty, transparency and diligence for maximum benefit to all.

Honour – We act with humility as we work with different communities, respecting their cultures and learning from them.

OUR VISION
Where we're going

Our vision is to see **hope restored** to communities where it has been crushed by war, displacement or poverty.

OUR MISSION
What we're doing to get there

We're restoring hope by helping to provide education, training, healthcare*, and all the support needed to enable individuals in the most marginalised communities to reach sustainable self-sufficiency.

*as our capacity grows

A Summary of the Main Activities and Achievements of Hope for Communities

Barika Community Centre, Kurdistan Region, Northern Iraq



Our Centre in Barika, (a community of displaced people and refugees), is the place where so many of our core values were born, nurtured, and brought to life. In a neighbourhood where many charities and NGOs who came before us struggled to connect, we chose to stay, listen, and build trust. Today, we celebrate the hope that has taken root, a hope grounded in our commitment to creating lasting, **sustainable impact**.



Five days a week, children and young people visit our centre to learn English, play sports, and simply enjoy being in a safe, welcoming space. This project began with one of our guiding values: **Honouring the community.** We asked residents what services they wanted, not what we thought they needed. And now, through ongoing consultations, we continue to shape our work around their voices.



When we first stepped into the building, only three rooms were usable. The walls were grey, cracked, and peeling., but with **integrity** and careful stewardship of our supporters' generosity, we began to transform it step by step. Today, the Centre is unrecognisable: bright, colourful murals cover the walls, more rooms are open and alive with activity, and outside, a multi-sports pitch, now covered, keeps games going all year round. Without our Centre, children here would have nowhere to gather beyond their homes and often closed schools.



We will share more about this later in our report, but it is from our work in this community that we are supporting young people who never imagined they could attend university. Through our scholarship program, doors are opening to futures once thought impossible. Their success is contagious. Other young people now see that a hopeful future is within reach. **Hope** is rising, and it's changing the story of this community.

Projects in Government Run Children's Homes



For over five years, we've been investing in the lives of children and young people living in children's homes, working with children who have experienced unimaginable trauma. Week after week, our team shows up. This consistency builds trust, nurtures healthy relationships, and reminds these young people that they are not forgotten.

Staff in the homes now introduce us as *"the organisation that never stopped coming back."* Unlike others who arrived with promises and cameras only to disappear, our commitment has always been different: we don't believe in quick fixes. We believe in **sustainable impact**. Because of that commitment, our team has become a steady presence in the lives of children who often struggle to trust adults. Over time, through patience and persistence, we've earned that trust, and with it, the chance to help them rediscover **hope** and a sense of belonging.

As children grow and transition into new homes for their age group, it's our team who remain the familiar faces they know and trust. This continuity makes all the difference.

One young boy, moving from the 5 to12 year old's home into the 12 to 18 year old's home, lit up with joy when he saw our team walk in. With surprise and excitement he exclaimed, "The other boys told me people came every week and took us out to fun places, but I didn't realise it was going to be you!" Moments like this capture the heart of our work: being the steady presence in lives that often feel uncertain.

We don't just meet children once; we journey with them as they grow, move through different homes, and eventually step into our apprenticeship programme. This trust, built over years of consistency, allows us to live out our core value of **growing people**, helping them discover stability, confidence, and **hope** for the future.



Over the past five years, our commitment hasn't only touched the lives of children, it has also built strong, positive relationships with the managers and staff who care for them. When challenges arise, it's our team the managers turn to for support. This year, when the youngest home relocated to a new building, it was Hope for Communities they asked to help with transport and moving everything safely. This trust speaks volumes. We are proud to be known not just as visitors, but as partners, a community that consistently chooses **generosity** with our time and resources.

Apprenticeship Training Programme



When we launched our apprenticeship programme, it felt like we were playing catch-up. Our vision was to give young men leaving the care system the time, support, and guidance they need to thrive. The young women in the care system, don't face the same risk of homeless and prison that the young men face, and so it was the young men who we saw were in the most need of the apprenticeship programme. We wanted to help them complete their education, learn independent living skills, set life goals, and transition smoothly into adulthood. We knew it wouldn't be easy, bringing **hope** into the most hopeless situations rarely is, but we went in with open eyes and open hearts.

However, reality looked different at first. The young men who joined us were 19, already out of care, and already facing serious challenges. In the first weeks, we were tackling urgent issues like homelessness. So the situation wasn't ideal; we didn't have time to prepare these young men prior to having to leave the home.

Fast forward three years, and the story has changed. We've supported eight apprentices so far, and our commitment doesn't end when they leave us. We stay connected, because we believe in building relationships that last; we value **sustainability**. Our team celebrates their milestones, helps them prepare for exams, and are there in times of crisis. All of our apprentices know we're just a phone call away.



Today, we've caught up. We've supported those who were most in need, and now we're welcoming younger apprentices, those with a few years still left in care. This gives us the time and space to invest deeply in their growth, to prepare them for independence, and to live out our core value… **growing people**.

At the end of this report, you'll find a case study that tells the story of one apprentice whose life has been transformed by Hope for Communities. His journey reflects what we stand for, and why this work matters.

Hope Hub (Coffee Shop and Community Space)



Hope Hub was established to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our Apprenticeship Programme. As we envisioned what this initiative could become, we recognised that a coffee shop offered the ideal setting, one where young apprentices could gain acceptance and confidence while engaging with customers.

Over time, Hope Hub has grown beyond its original purpose. It now serves as the home of our charity office, a venue for staff training and team meetings, and a space where our team can connect, relax, and **grow** together.

Operating as a coffee shop six days a week, Hope Hub has faced challenges due to the current economic climate and its location outside of high-traffic commercial areas. While daily customer numbers remain modest, our team has mastered the art of crafting exceptional coffee, that we modestly consider the best in the city! The true vibrancy of Hope Hub, however, emerges during our weekly community events, when the space transforms into a hub of activity and connection.

In **honour**ing what we feel would be most enjoyed by our community, we have curated free events designed to be both enjoyable and enriching. Highlights include:

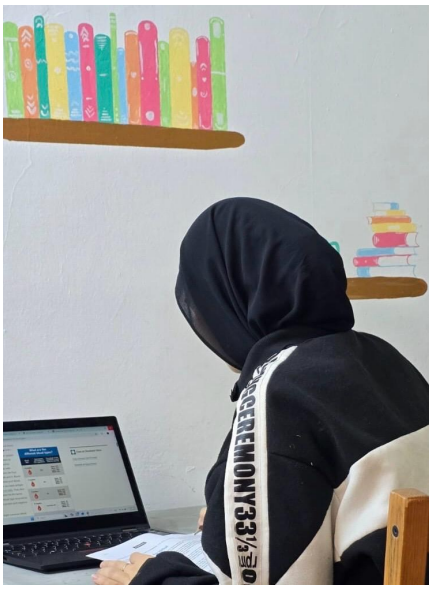
- English Café (twice weekly): A welcoming space for practising English and building connections.
- Book Clubs: Monthly gatherings in English, Kurdish, and Arabic.
- Games Night: A popular weekly evening of laughter, learning, and shared fun.



- Movie Night: Weekly screenings with popcorn, fostering friendship and relaxation.
- Korean Language & Culture Evenings (twice monthly): A recent addition that has drawn new visitors, reflecting the strong local interest in Korean culture.

For many, these events have become a lifeline. Where isolation and loneliness can be real challenges, Hope Hub offers **generosity**, friendship, and belonging. It has truly become the “living room” of our community, a place where people feel at home, connected, and valued.

University Scholarship Programme



Last year, we introduced a new and ambitious initiative in our annual report: the University Scholarship Pilot Project. We highlighted the story of a remarkable young woman who was our first scholarship student. With our support, she secured a place at one of the leading universities in our region.

Her first year was an academic preparatory programme focused on strengthening her English and developing the study skills needed for university-level work. She excelled. While many students from the most prestigious private schools struggled to pass their exams, she consistently achieved outstanding results. Moving away from her family and community to live in the city was a significant transition, and throughout this period our team became a vital source of support and encouragement.



She has now begun her undergraduate degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences and continues to thrive. The potential we recognised in her early on is now being fully realised in an environment that nurtures her abilities. She is achieving top marks and has **grow**n visibly in confidence. Her transformation is inspiring other children and young people in her community, demonstrating what is possible and helping **hope** take root.



Looking ahead to Autumn 2025, four young people from our Barika community aspire to attend university. Each will have different needs, and as a charity we aim to support them as we are able. For some, this may involve assistance with tuition fees; for others, help with accommodation or a one-off purchase of essential equipment. Our commitment extends beyond **generosity** with financial support. These young people are stepping into a completely new environment, and the friendship, mentoring, and practical guidance our team provides can be just as crucial. This holistic support often makes the difference between simply accessing higher education and truly succeeding in it.

Staff Training and Development



Visitors to our projects consistently remark on the brilliance of our team. As we shared at the beginning of this report, and as the updates throughout have shown, much of the **hope** that is emerging in our communities is as a direct result of their dedication. Investing in building an exceptional team has always been central to our mission; as our team **grow**s, our projects flourish.

Every new staff member begins with an induction programme that goes far beyond policies and checklists. We want them to understand the heart of our work and the values that shape every project. As founders, some of our proudest moments are when we see team members using those values to guide decisions and advocate for how we should respond in challenging situations. Our monthly team meetings are an important space for connection. We share updates and stories, celebrate birthdays, and learn from one another through peer-led training. Our management team also receives ongoing training and support as they take on new responsibilities.

In addition to our regular training, we respond to emerging needs by offering specialised workshops. One training need we identified, is an awareness that our team works in communities where people have experienced complex trauma. We wanted to ensure they felt equipped to support others while also caring for their own wellbeing. This year, one of our trustees, Ali Nicholson, a qualified counsellor, provided trauma-informed training. More details about this training can be found in her visitor's report.



Future Projects and Plans



This section could easily span many pages. If we responded to every need we encountered, we would be launching new initiatives constantly. Yet we remain committed to operating with **integrity**, ensuring that every project we begin is built on strong foundations and designed for **sustainable** impact. This means striking a careful balance between responding quickly to urgent needs and building programmes that endure.

Given the medical background of our founders and directors, healthcare has always been part of our long-term vision. For many years, however, it did not present itself as the most immediate priority or opportunity. We are excited to share that new opportunities are opening for us to begin medical work. We have established connections with outstanding healthcare providers beyond our region who are eager to invest and partner with us, bringing **hope** to our community through improved healthcare services.

As with all our projects, this new direction requires significant groundwork. Securing permissions and approvals from government offices will demand time and persistence, but this process is essential. We are committed to **honour**ing our community by ensuring that every step forward is taken with **integrity** and transparency.

Our first medical project will be launched in the community we have served the longest (Barika). We have spent time consulting with the community and worked to ascertain what they feel the most pressing medical needs are. We are hoping to start a pilot project with an initial focus on diagnosing and managing chronic health conditions that, if left untreated, can lead to severe complications or even death. The need for improved medical services in this area is profound, and we welcome the opportunity to finally begin addressing it.



Visitor's Report

By Alison Nicholson one of our Trustees, who is a Qualified Counsellor and Teacher, and provided a training workshop



The main aim of my trip was to support Sharo and Alexis to deliver training to staff members. The training focus was to support the staff to be able to better identify ways in which trauma might impact the young people they work with. Then to follow this to learn how to support students to regulate their emotions and behaviours through a compassionate approach. This training also supported the staff to consider how they might need to care for themselves as they may experience secondary trauma and also have their own trauma in their lives.

It is important for me to mention how Sharo and Alexis have developed a culture of encouragement and support within their team. This was so noticeable in every meeting I went to, but 2 examples have really stuck out to me;

Firstly the whole team gave up their free time to attend a family wedding for one of the apprentices. The young man was visibly giddy with happiness that the whole team had attended to support him. Some of the men taught him some dance moves and made sure he made it home safely at the end of the night. Everyone joined in eagerly with the celebrations, showered the apprentice with encouragement and spoke to me about him with real kindness.

The second striking example of the positive culture Sharo and Alexis have developed was the way the team engaged in the training days. Everyone contributed positively to group discussions, showing deep care and compassion for the young people they work with, and an earnestness to want to create an environment for the young people to grow and flourish in.



Through the training days I also supported Sharo, Alexis and the team to review some policies and procedures such as behaviour management and the staff code of conduct. The staff contributed a lot of positive ways to support the young people and showed high expectations for everyone involved with Hope for Communities. It is clear everyone is highly invested in the work of the charity and often go above and beyond to provide the best they can for the young people.



I was fortunate to be able to visit Barika, one of the orphanages and meet with a student they are funding through university.

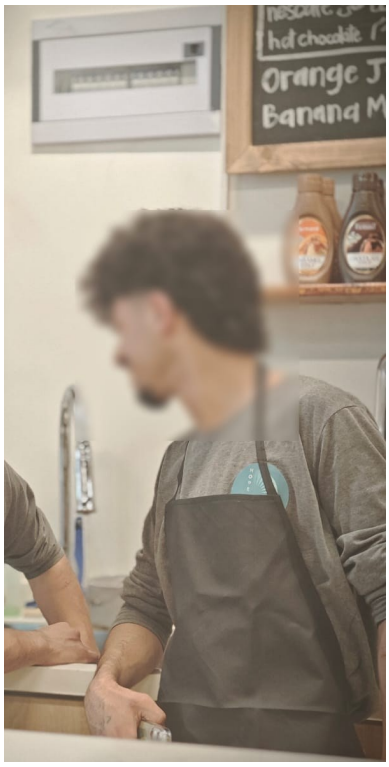
I was so pleased to see how Sharo, Alexis and the team are continuously developing the spaces they use, namely Barika and Hope hub, through decorating and updating resources to suit the needs of the service users and to ensure the spaces are warm and welcoming. Barika was full of life because I was able to attend one of their yearly parties. The children enjoyed games, activities and snacks throughout the day. Having visited 3 years ago I have seen how they have transformed Barika into a hub of activity and learning for the local community.



Hope Hub is a great resource for training the apprentices, hosting language and book clubs and providing a space for staff to meet, work and have training.

I was so privileged to meet with the first student Hope for Communities is sponsoring through university. Having met her during my first visit 3 years ago I was taken back by just how much she had developed in confidence since then. She clearly feels confident in being part of the charity and looks not only to Sharo and Alexis but other staff members for support and community. She is thriving at University and the support she receives from the charity is clearly a key part of this.

A Case Study – An Apprentices's Journey of Hope and Determination



There are countless stories of inspirational children and young people whose lives have been transformed through the hope they have discovered. This year, we are proud to share the journey of one of our apprentices.

Growing up in orphanages after his family was unable to care for him, he became well known to our team through his regular involvement in our activities. For young men in his age group, we often arrange outings of their choosing, and he once reflected: *"getting away from the orphanage would make things better for us."*

By the time he joined our apprenticeship programme, he had already left school. In his community, failing exams means being held back a year, and without support many boys lose confidence, eventually giving up on education altogether. Our apprenticeship programme is designed to change that trajectory by providing supplies, attending meetings with teachers, and helping young men prepare for critical exams.

This apprentice embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly. We were able to advocate for him, and support him to go back into the school system. Through his barista training, he gained valuable skills and secured employment as a barista. The job not only provided accommodation but also allowed him to balance work with his school commitments. Although he has officially graduated from our apprenticeship programme, he remains an integral part of our Hope for Communities family. For young men without families of their own, our team becomes that support system.

He continues to visit the centre before major exams for tutoring and encouragement. When life feels overwhelming, he turns to our team for guidance. Different staff members meet with him regularly, motivating him to stay focused and pursue his dreams. His ambition is to complete the level of education required to enter further training in a trade such as mechanics or electrical work.

While his journey is filled with hope, it is not without challenges. He still requires significant support and faces many obstacles. Yet our team remains committed to walking alongside him, encouraging him to persevere in his education and strive for a brighter future.
In his own words: *"Before I got to know this charity, I didn't have any ambitions, I didn't think of the future. But after getting to know them they taught me to think about my future and work hard for a better future."*

Financial Review

Hope for Communities is very grateful to all of its supporters who have so generously helped us in being able to continue with all of our projects.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The trustees have agreed to hold three months of the charities running costs in reserve. This is to enable projects to continue in the event of a drop in income.

Amount of reserves held at end of financial year: £57,521

This was more than the needed 3 months' running costs (as of March 2025), however at present our projects are constantly developing and we are starting new projects and so these additional reserves help us in being able to confidently start new initiatives.

(At the end of the financial year, there was also £11,825 that has been transferred from our UK bank for projects and initiatives in the Kurdish region of Iraq that is yet to be deployed.)

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	Andrew David McCullough
Position	Chair of Trustees
Date	22nd January 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Hope for Communities	1180747

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/4/2024		31/3/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off donations from individuals	6,098	1,000	-	7,098	16,886
Regular invoiced donations from individuals	13,795	-	-	13,795	5,900
Donations from buinesses/organisations	42,379	25,325	-	67,704	88,808
Fundraising events and campaigns	4,018	10,000	-	14,018	-
Give as you live	97	-	-	97	16
Amazon	-	-	-	-	25
HMRC-reclaimed gift aid	1,942	-	-	1,942	-
Bank refunds	-	-	-	-	35
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	68,329	36,325	-	104,654	111,670
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	68,329	36,325	-	104,654	111,670
A3 Payments					
Staff Salaries and Pension Costs	54,688	31,086	-	85,774	34,127
Rent	3,147	2,801	-	5,948	6,833
Utilities/heating	1,832	889	-	2,721	2,897
Petrol/vehicle maintenance	970	50	-	1,020	1,097
Staff meetings/training	170	500	-	670	440
Projects:Equipment/refreshments/resources	554	2,835	-	3,389	9,967
Buildings maintenance	112	-	-	112	186
Bank charges/comms/admin kurdistan	218	-	-	218	546
Orphanages:Trips out/events	1,393	11	-	1,404	1,017
Apprenticeships salaries/support	1,631	5,653	-	7,284	7,412
Scholarship Programme	552	1,229	-	1,781	-
Travel/Accomodation	777	-	-	777	1,794
Staff development/investment	-	-	-	-	3,291
Communications/admin UK	504	-	-	504	452
Charges for bank transfers	1,806	-	-	1,806	1,222
Stripe Fees	317	-	-	317	334
Draw down of funds previously transferred to Kurdistan that were yet to be deployed in prior periods	- 1,051	-	-	- 1,051	- 1,314
Sub total	67,620	45,054	-	112,674	70,301
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	67,620	45,054	-	112,674	70,301
Net of receipts/(payments)	709	- 8,729	-	- 8,020	41,369
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	52,833	12,708	-	65,541	24,172
Cash funds this year end	53,542	3,979	-	57,521	65,541

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	UK Bank Account	53,542	3,979	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**53,542**	**3,979**	**-**
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

B5 Liabilities

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

Money transferred to projects in Kurdistan, including prior periods, that is yet to be deployed at the end of 31 Mar 2025

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
	11,825

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Sarah Harris	22/1/2026
	Abey Varghese Philip	22/1/2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hope for Communities

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hope for Communities Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. Please see supplementary information section for additional details of the examination undertaken.

Signed: 

Name: Gajen Ganandran MEng, ACMA

Relevant professional qualification: Qualified Chartered Management Accountant

Address: 43 Monkhams Drive, Woodford, IG8 0LX

Date: 27 January 2026

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1180747

Accounts



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2023–2024

Charity Information

Founders and Directors of Hope for Communities

Sharo Ahmedi

Alexis Rachel Ahmedi

Trustees of Hope for Communities (as of 31st March 2024, unless stated, all acted for the entire year)

Andrew David McCullough

Sarah Anne Louise Harris

John Douglas Henry Greenway

Michael Alexander Ross Channon

Abey Varghese Philip

Phillip Andrew Gray elected as a trustee 26th February 2024

David John Nunn Resigned as a trustee 28th April 2023

Vivienne Lesley Nunn Resigned as a trustee 26th February 2024

Note: All trustees have confirmed that they have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Charity Commission Registration Number 1180747

Charity UK address

121 Drummond Rd, Bermondsey,
London, England.
SE16 2JY

Charity website

www.hopeforcommunities.com

Why We Exist

This is a summary of our charity's objectives, as set out in our governing document:

The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world, but in particular Iraq, by providing or assisting in the provision of, primarily but not limited to, education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

A Letter from Sharo and Alexis, Directors of Hope for Communities

We are so thankful for another wonderful year with Hope for Communities. The impact that we have had as a charity has continued to grow. Each success and every high that we have seen in all of our different projects, has been celebrated. We've had the joy of seeing our motto, 'The best for the least', genuinely being achieved in people's lives.

As we talk about the amazing things that Hope for Communities has been doing, we want to be very clear that so many of these successes are thanks to our amazing local staff. We have invested in and built a dynamic and inspiring team, who share our values and have adopted our vision in a unique and encouraging way. When we share highlights and encouraging developments please know that these are all due to the work of our fantastic team.

We are also thankful to our trustees, and to all those who have generously volunteered time to support us. As the work of the charity has grown, our group of wonderful supporters has, too. So we want to thank all of you who have helped us and stood with us. Without your commitment and backing we wouldn't have been able to invest in all these communities.

Our charity is already making a real impact, and as we head into our seventh year, we are looking forward to growing even more effective in fulfilling our vision to bring hope to communities.

Our Values, Vision and Mission

When we founded Hope for Communities, we knew why we were starting it, and many of our values have been there from the beginning. But as the charity has grown, so has our understanding of what our values, vision and mission are:

OUR VALUES
The arrows that guide us

Hope – We believe that even the most marginalised communities can be transformed by **courageous**, **contagious hope**.

Generosity – We believe that those so long considered the least deserve our very best, so our motto is "**The best for the least**".

Sustainable impact – We're not interested in short-term fixes, but in building to last.

Growing people – We're nurturing the amazing talent and potential in our local community.

Integrity – We steward our resources with honesty, transparency and diligence for maximum benefit to all.

Honour – We act with humility as we work with different communities, respecting their cultures and learning from them.

OUR VISION
Where we're going

Our vision is to see **hope restored** to communities where it has been crushed by war, displacement or poverty.

OUR MISSION
What we're doing to get there

We're restoring hope by helping to provide education, training, healthcare*, and all the support needed to enable individuals in the most marginalised communities to reach sustainable self-sufficiency.

*as our capacity grows

A Summary of the Main Activities and Achievements of Hope for Communities

Barika Community Centre, Kurdistan Region, Northern Iraq



This was our first project and we see it as being foundational, reflecting how our values and vision were shaped. It was as we started to train and invest in the development of local teachers who work in the centre that we realised we can bring hope to communities not just directly through our projects, but indirectly through training up an amazing team of local staff. As the centre is so **grounded in our values** it is the perfect place for new staff to be inducted into our mission and ethos.

Sustainability is also such a key part of what we are trying to do in the community. Many charities and NGOs provide short-term relief and projects in a community., often delivering essentials, or offering short, one-off courses and experiences. We felt strongly that to bring real hope and change we should aim for what we offer to be sustainable. That doesn't mean things aren't evolving and developing, but we want to be a consistent source of hope and opportunity for this community. This has meant that we have children and young people that we have known for seven years, helping us enormously as we seek to encourage them in developing skills and characteristics such as self-confidence and resilience.

We are currently at our centre five days a week, with our amazing team. We offer English Language classes with a developed curriculum that has proved very effective. We offer a variety of sports classes, games, crafts and a lot of fun. **We are a safe space for children and young people to come and be with their friends**. For economic reasons, teachers aren't consistently receiving salaries and schools are often closed. For the teenage girls in the community many say that if they were unable to come to our centre, when schools were closed they would never be able to leave their homes, due to local tradition, and there would be nowhere else for them to go.



Projects in Government Orphanages



We have continued to go into the government orphanages every week for a couple of hours. For two of the homes we always try to take the children outside for an activity. At the youngest home (0–5 year olds) **this is the only time the children leave the house in the week**, so it's truly vital for their wellbeing. If schools are open, the children at the oldest boy's home (12–18) will travel to be educated, but our visit is still the only time they will be let outside for any fun or recreation.

Another way we give the young boys autonomy is by asking their opinions on what activities we should do. When one of them had moved up from the 5–12-year-old house, he was so excited to see our staff member, as he knew them so well from our regular visits over four years. He said "The older boys told me a group came in every week and took us out to fun places, but I didn't realise it would be you!" This continuity in the children's lives is really important. The staff in the various homes, and the homes themselves, are all normally kept completely separate. This means that when a child gets old enough to move into a new home, they will leave behind everyone they know, and the adults caring for them are usually strangers.



We feel so privileged that **although it is just for one day a week, our team has managed to build such positive, healthy relationships with the children**, and they are able to continue even when the children move up to older homes.

Apprenticeship Training Programme

We have many encouraging stories and highlights that we could share from our Apprenticeship Programme, but of course there are also many challenges. Every apprentice has a different set of complex needs and has experienced different traumas. **One of the biggest gifts we can give our apprentices is our time**. Our wonderful team spend a lot of time with the apprentices and, if appropriate, meet family members to see how we can best support them. As every situation is unique, the programme we offer is tailored to each apprentice. Some of the young men have been homeless and so we have also had to support them in finding housing. Others have reached 18 and left the orphanage and find themselves in a situation where they are now also caring for, or needing to support, their own siblings.

What is really positive is the ability to see our value of **sustainable impact** really playing out. Not only because we are with our apprentices as they grow up through the care system so that we already have strong and healthy relationships with them when they start working with us. But also because after they have left our programme and moved into new situations we still regularly check in on them. They come to visit our team and let us know how they are.

One thing that we can really see is that our team of mentors have really become the people that our apprentices turn to when they need support. When they face challenges or find themselves in difficulty, someone from our team is the first person they call. **They know they can trust us and they feel safe with us**. This is even more significant when you realise that for most of these young men, life has taught them to not trust or rely on anyone. They don't easily give trust or respect as sadly life has taught them this isn't wise.

One way we really hope to help our apprentices is to support them to return to education. Our team have advocated and provided a lot of support, and **all three of our current apprentices are back in school** and trying to do two years at a time to catch up and complete their schooling. For some of them, the issue of trust really limits them, and they often struggle with behavioural issues and consequent threats of expulsion. We have worked hard to develop a good relationship with their schools and meet regularly to support their continued education. **One of our young men came top in exams for his school year** showing the potential even the most troubled young people have if they are patiently supported through their challenges.



Hope Hub Café and Community Centre



We are still working out what Hope Hub may become. We know our top priority is that it is a safe place for our apprentices to work and to train with us. It is difficult for it become a successful and busy coffee shop when this is our top priority.

Most people who work in our region are employed by the government, and due to economic pressures more often than not people aren't receiving salaries. For all businesses like ours there is a struggle to remain open, with many similar ventures opening for a few months and then closing.

What Hope Hub has managed to become is **a space for people in the community to gather and build friendships**. We have a number of different events happening throughout the week, such as English language cafés, book clubs, art clubs, and games evenings. People have commented how significant our events are at **helping them find positive social connection.**



Staff Training and Development

As Hope for Communities has grown, one of our increasingly important core values has been the emphasis we place on **growing people** – nurturing the talent and potential in the local community. We provide high-quality training tailored to the needs of our team. When they start working in a teaching role, all new staff members go through **a training programme that we have developed**. During this time they learn practical skills that are useful in the classroom, and our long-term staff members take the opportunity to explain and instil our values into them.

It's important for us to hear from our team as to how they feel we can support their development. One area where all of our team felt they needed more understanding was in special educational needs. It's an area of education that in our region has only recently received attention, so many of our team felt unprepared to work with children with additional needs. We were able to organise **a superb two-day workshop** where two visitors from the UK who both have many years of experience in this field were able to come and provide training. It was an excellent time, and the highlight for us was seeing how our staff responded and immediately saw how they could apply the training and use it to help our children and young people.



Our monthly team meetings are a key time for us to grow together as a team, sharing updates and encouraging stories. We also use the time as an opportunity for training, with our team taking turns to provide peer-led tutorials on a variety of different topics. We have also recently started a training programme for those in our team with management responsibilities, which focuses on them developing leadership and management skills.

New Projects

Scholarship Programmes

As we have shared, Hope for Communities feels strongly that those who are used to getting the worst of things from their communities and societies shouldn't just get better things – **we believe they deserve the best.** As we started to dream with our students in our Barika Community Centre, we began to imagine supporting them to get scholarships to attend the best university in our region. We have started by supporting one of our students to get a scholarship to a great university, this story can be found in our case study later on in the report. With your support we hope to help many more young people to get the best!

Teacher Training in Kurdistan



Another new project that we hope to develop more in 2024 is deploying some of our staff's training and experience to see them go into local government schools and provide training sessions for teachers.

We hope that our education manager Shkar, who received his PGCE in the UK, will be able to impart some of what he has learned to benefit teachers and school children across Kurdistan.



Although it might just be one workshop in a school, **we have heard encouraging stories from teachers in Kurdistan who changed their entire practice following similar sessions**, when they realised there were alternative ways to teach and manage their classrooms.

Visitor's Report

By Peter Wood, Deputy Head of St James School, London, who provided a training workshop

I visited Hope for Communities in the Spring of 2024. The purpose of the visit was to support the team in working with children who may have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). My background is in education and developing practice in SEND, and I have worked in a London primary school for the last 19 years, where I am a Deputy Headteacher.



I travelled with a friend and spent a week staying with Sharo and Alexis and their family. Over the week, I visited Hope Hub, the work in Barika, and spent time with the team understanding the work they do, seeing it in practice and then leading them through two days of full training with them.

The aim of the first two days was to gain a better understanding of how the charity operates within its context and culture, and learn from the team and people involved in the charity. This was crucial because although the training on SEND and inclusion was already planned, I knew we could not just place a blanket of how we operate in the UK and expect it to work in another context. So, over the first two days I gained clarity through spending time with the team and children, learning and amending the training to fit as best as possible so it was more beneficial for the Hope for Communities team. Upon arrival, we headed out to visit Hope Hub where we met some of the team working there, and boys who were completing their apprenticeship in the café. We spent some time together talking through the charity, how Hope Hub worked, and the boys that were being supported there. These conversations were so important for me to build a better understanding of the people in the team and the young people they work with, as well as the culture and understanding of SEND.



Continued overleaf

These conversations continued into the following day where we spent the day at Barika. My friend and I had a brilliant Q&A session at Barika with one of Alexis' classes where the students showcased their outstanding English! This was also a great chance to see and discuss with some of the pupils how they view the charity and the team and what it means to them. It was clear from these conversations how precious the Hope for Communities school is to them and how they genuinely feel the team care and love them, wanting the best for them. We also observed some lessons and joined in with a sports session. It was a real privilege to spend time here and meet so many of the children and workers. Again, this was key to see so that I could better understand what the team needed for their training.

The following two days were spent at Hope Hub, where the coffee shop was closed so that we could run the full two days' training with all of the Hope for Communities team. We looked at what inclusion and SEND are; different categories of need; types of need and practical solutions that may help. Within their context and with the resources available, we spent time brainstorming and developing plans that are solution-focused. I was blown away by the compassion and heart the team had for the young people they are working with. I had already witnessed it in action during the first two days but throughout the training too, it was clear the team has a culture of inclusivity and the key in the training was to draw this out further. It was clear as we trained that Sharo and Alexis have built a very special team that all have their own skill sets and strengths but also all share one joint vision and heart for what they do. The whole team engaged brilliantly and thoughtfully throughout and we all finished feeling like it had been beneficial.

The final few days were spent visiting people, spending time seeing the city and surrounding areas and their staggering beauty! Throughout the trip we were looked after so well by Sharo and Alexis and the family whose hospitality, friendship and insights made the trip all the more successful and enjoyable. The team made us feel incredibly welcome the whole time and it was clear to see what a unique and passionate team Hope for Communities have built.



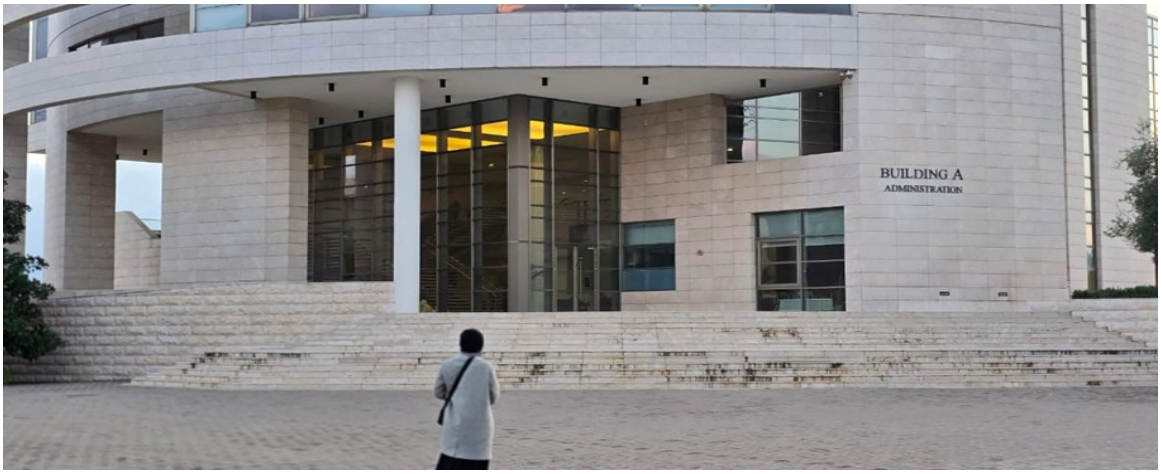
A Case Study – Sara's story

(name changed)

We have been working in Sara's community for nearly seven years. It's made up of people who have been internally displaced by war and oppression in Iraq or are refugees from Iran and Syria. Most of the children who come to our centre were born in that community. They are refugees, unable to return safely to their home countries. They live outside the city and face many challenges: economic hardship, unemployment, and low standards of education and healthcare. When we started working among them, we asked people how we could best support them. It was unanimous: the adults all wanted us to teach their children English to increase their chances of future employment, and the children all wanted to learn karate. So, this is how we started.

Sara and her siblings have been with us from the start. At that time we didn't have our amazing team of locally-trained staff, so our main English teacher was one of our directors, Alexis. We had English classes filled with singing, games and crafts for the younger children and an older class following a curriculum. Sara was only 12 but came along with her older sisters. In the first lesson, Alexis explained that this wasn't really the right class for her, but as she had come with her sisters she could stay for that lesson. We quickly realised that she was not only able to keep up with the older teenagers, she was flying.

From that day, she has remained in our highest-level English class and could now be described as fluent. We have spent years in our English lessons asking the children questions like "What are you dreaming for your future?" But we always try to strike a balance between dreams, ambition, and realism about what may be possible. Sara dreamed of getting into a good university, of having a future where she has a good job and a happy life. These would be normal dreams for most young people, but sadly for Sara and many of her peers they were close to being unrealistic and might only lead to disappointment.



Continued overleaf

As we saw our oldest students approaching University age, we began as a team to dream with them. One thing we have always strived for is for the children and young people that we work with to get the best. They are so used to receiving the least: they go to the worst schools, which sometimes open for just three months out of 12. So we decided to trial a scholarship programme. What would it look like for our students to not only find themselves at University, but at the best private university in our city? The year we started was very challenging: many of the students were unable to pass their final year, as their school just hadn't been open.

But with her fierce determination and self-motivation, Sara was able to get a good enough pass to get into the University. Because she is an exceptional young person, with our support, she was able to get a scholarship to the best University in our city. To achieve the degree that Sara is getting at her University means she will pretty much be guaranteed to find a good job at the end. The scholarship she received covered a percentage of her tuition, and as a charity we are committed to funding the remaining costs and the costs of her accommodation and living expenses. We are also mentoring and supporting Sara as she faces this huge transition.

It is sometimes hard to keep dreaming for bigger and better things when you are faced with so many barriers. But we are committed to keep on dreaming so that we can bring hope to more communities. **We want Sara to be the first of many young people who are able to go to university**. We want to find creative ways to support young people in the community who may not be so academic, and help them find ways to build a brighter and more hopeful future, too.

Contribution Made by Volunteers

The directors of the charity (Sharo and Alexis Ahmedi), were in this time period volunteering for the charity Hope for Communities. The charity is thankful for their contribution.

Financial Review

Hope for Communities is very grateful to all of its supporters who have so generously helped us in being able to continue with all of our projects.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The trustees have agreed to hold three months of the charities running costs in reserve. This is to enable projects to continue in the event of a drop in income.

Amount of reserves held at end of financial year: £65,541

This was more than the needed 3 months' running costs (as of March 2024), however at present our projects are constantly developing and we are starting new projects and so these additional reserves help us in being able to confidently start new initiatives.

(At the end of the financial year, there was also £12,876 that has been transferred from our UK bank for projects and initiatives in the Kurdish region of Iraq that is yet to be deployed.)

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

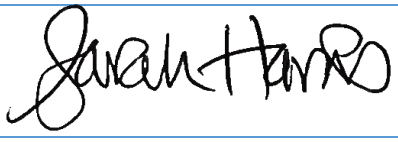
Structure, Governance and Management

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

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	Sarah Harris
Position	Trustee
Date	28th January 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/4/2023		31/3/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off donations from individuals	16,886	-	-	16,886	8,690
Regular invoiced donations from individuals	5,900	-	-	5,900	3,740
Donations from buinesses/organisations	22,250	66,558	-	88,808	50,811
Give as you live	16	-	-	16	36
Amazon	25	-	-	25	24
HMRC-reclaimed gift aid	-	-	-	-	1,629
Bank refunds	35	-	-	35	-
		-	-		
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	45,112	66,558	-	111,670	64,930
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	45,112	66,558	-	111,670	64,930
A3 Payments					
Staff	1,712	32,415	-	34,127	21,283
Rent	1,894	4,939	-	6,833	2,307
Utilities/heating	1,344	1,553	-	2,897	619
Petrol/vehicle maintenance	853	244	-	1,097	1,488
Staff meetings/training	440	-	-	440	350
Projects:Equipment/refreshments/resources	3,348	6,619	-	9,967	10,502
Buildings maintenance	186	-	-	186	382
Bank charges/comms/admin kurdistan	546	-	-	546	318
Orphanages:Trips out/events	349	668		1,017	624
Apprenticeships salaries/support		7,412		7,412	294
Travel/Accomodation	1,794			1,794	
Staff development/investment	3,291			3,291	1,083
Communications/admin UK	452			452	403
Fundraising agency				-	750
Charges for bank transfers	1,222			1,222	1,266
Stripe Fees	334			334	177
Draw down of funds previously transferred to Kurdistan that were yet to be deployed in prior periods	- 1,314	-	-	- 1,314	12,524
Sub total	16,451	1 53,850	-	70,301	54,370

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	16,451	53,850	-	70,301	54,370
Net of receipts/(payments)	28,661	12,708	-	41,369	10,560
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	24,172	-	-	24,172	13,612
Cash funds this year end	52,833	12,708	-	65,541	24,172

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	UK bank account	52,833	12,708	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	52,833	12,708	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

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

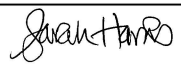
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

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

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
Money transferred to projects in Kurdistan, including prior periods, that is yet to be deployed at the end of 31 Mar 2024	12,876

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Sarah Harris	28/01/2025
	Abey Varghese Philip	28/01/2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hope for Communities

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hope for Communities Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. Please see supplementary information section for additional details of examination undertaken.

Signed: 

Name: Gajen Ganandran MEng, ACMA

Relevant professional qualification: Qualified Chartered Management Accountant

Address: 83 Chalgrove Crescent, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0LX UK

Date: 26 January 2025

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1180747

Accounts



TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Charity Information

Founders and Directors of Hope for Communities

Sharo Ahmedi

Alexis Rachel Ahmedi

Trustees of Hope for Communities (as of 31st March 2023, unless stated, all acted for the entire year)

David John Nunn

Vivienne Lesley Nunn

Andrew David McCullough

Sarah Anne Louise Harris

John Douglas Henry Greenway

Michael Alexander Ross Channon *Elected as trustee on 16th September 2022*

Abey Varghese Philip *Elected as trustee on 25th November 2022*

Note: All trustees have confirmed that they have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Charity Commission Registration Number 1180747

Charity UK address

121 Drummond RD, Bermondsey
London. England
SE16 2JY

Charity website

www.hopeforcommunities.com

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Summary of the Purposes of Hope for Communities as set out in our Governing Document

The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world, but in particular Iraq, by providing or assisting in the provision of, primarily but not limited to, education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

A Letter from Sharo and Alexis, Directors of Hope for Communities

In last year's annual report we shared the significance of our first big charity event in London in September 2022. It was felt by many that this was a real step towards increasing our impact as a charity. We had spent the previous years training and investing in local people and laying strong foundations in Kurdistan. We anticipated that after our event in September 2022 we would start to see significant growth and development.

We are pleased to say that this has happened and as our finances show for this last year we had a big increase in income and in spending on our projects. We now feel at a stage where our foundations have taken us to a place where we can continue to grow and develop the work of Hope for Communities. We have many exciting opportunities where we are confident we can invest and see lasting change and development. One of our focuses is to ensure we are continuing to grow and develop our presence as a UK charity to be able to resource the communities we are privileged to be able to invest in Kurdistan.

As directors we would like to thank our local team. So many of the wonderful things that you will read about in this report are because of their hard work and enthusiasm. We are also thankful for our team of trustees and friends in the UK who support us in many ways. We would like to thank our supporters, as it is your generosity that has helped us see hope restored to the communities we work in. It would help us if you could send this report to some of your contacts and encourage them to become part of this journey.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Summary of the Main Activities and Achievements of Hope for Communities

Community Centre in Barika, Kurdish Region of Northern Iraq



In this next year we will be celebrating our 6th year of having our centre in this wonderful community. We are investing in young people's lives and watching them as they grow. At our longest running project we have learned a great deal and seen many positive developments. The centre is currently managed by one of our senior managers, Shkar, and the joy that our whole team, along with Shkar, bring into the lives of the children we work with is very evident.

The Education system here is struggling, as economic issues mean teachers aren't being paid and schools often aren't opening at all. We are currently in an 8 month period where schools haven't opened. This leaves the children in our community bored and unable to learn.



We continue to follow a curriculum teaching English in a way that will prepare those young people, that want to, work towards an internationally recognised qualification. We have children who didn't know a word of English when they first visited us, and are now fluent in English. We also have a sports programme which is an excellent opportunity for the children to learn new skills and enjoy some exercise (and much needed fun!). This is especially significant for the teenage girls who come to our centre as this may be their only opportunity to engage with sport and play as children.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

An exciting trip out



One of the challenges of preparing children in a community such as ours for an internationally recognised language qualification is that you inevitably end up having to teach around a lot of topics that have no relevance to their lives or experience. For example, you may have whole lessons about going on holidays, flying on airplanes, etc. You often talk in detail about places and experiences that the children have never had an opportunity to experience, such as going swimming in a pool, going to the cinema, visiting a museum. Not only are these topics not relevant to their experience, it can also feel uncomfortable to be constantly reminding a group of young people about their lack of opportunities.

In a recent lesson the topic of the day was to talk about the cinema. The first question was 'have you ever been to the cinema?' One of the young girls answered this question saying 'unfortunately not.' We had a discussion about this afterwards as a team. A plan began to develop to organise a trip into the city to go the cinema. Many of the children had also seen and heard about our new centre in the city and told us they really wanted to visit it. So we picked up the children in a bus, took them into the city, went to the cinema and then came to our centre for lunch and a delicious hot chocolate. Here are what some of the young people said about the trip:

'The movie was amazing. It was my first time seeing it, and afterwards we got to play games together'

'It was lovely as it was our first time to the cinema and the movie was amazing. I liked it because I went with all of you and I sat next to Alexis, which I enjoyed'.

'it was a good time, and the popcorn was so delicious'.

'It was lovely as it was my first time going out with my friends and teachers'.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Projects in Government Orphanages



We have continued as a team to go into the orphanages every week. With additional funding, we have been able to take the children from the youngest home (0-5 year olds) out, usually to a soft play, nearly every week. As this is the only time the children of this age leave the house it has been such an important activity to be able to offer as a team. One lovely story we heard was that one of the 4 year olds waits at the window every Sunday morning as this is the day that we come. He has no schedule and nothing is written up anywhere about what day it is and so everyone is intrigued as to how he knows, but he does know and he is always waiting for our team on a Sunday.

We have continued to go into the 5-12 year old boys home. One highlight for our team was a special event that was organised by the manager of the home for children's day. We had been asked as a team to help in the preparations for it by helping the children to create some art work which they could display. We had some lovely (and messy!) painting and craft sessions with small groups in the couple of months before the event. We had some collaborative art projects that all the children worked on, and then we made a large poster for every child, with all of their art work. It was so special to see the children running over and finding their paintings and pictures, and proudly telling everyone that was their work. The children also went up on the stage to sing some songs, and between each performance they would run and find our team to sit with us. It was very rewarding for our team that the children knew they had us there cheering for them.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Some changes in the structures of the homes meant that, as well as the 12 to 18 year old boys that we have been working with for three years, two homes merged which opened up a door for us to begin working with a whole new group of young boys. They were excited by the opportunity we gave them to choose some activities and places to visit. Many of the young boys chose to go swimming, and it was very encouraging for us as a team to see their confidence growing and to teach them how to swim. For the children in the homes, the fact that schools aren't opening means these trips out and these weekly activities are even more essential, as these children are otherwise staying indoors for long periods with no structures and routines. Building strong and trusting relationships with these young men is a wonderful opportunity as they will go on to become our apprentices.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Training for the Social Services Department

Sometimes as a team we have asked the question, "Is two hours a week going into every home enough?" Of course, with more funding we would be able to increase the amount of time we spend in all of the homes and the number of homes we are able to go into. But still we ask the question, can we be doing anything more as a charity to help with these amazing children's everyday lives.

Over the past three years our team have invested in building positive relationships with the staff and managers who work in the homes. One of the managers pointed out that they had observed a real difference in the way our team interacted with the children. We spoke about the training and investment we have given to our staff, we spoke about the importance of consistency amongst the various staff members around behaviour management etc. From these conversations, the idea of providing a wider training for people working with children in the area emerged.

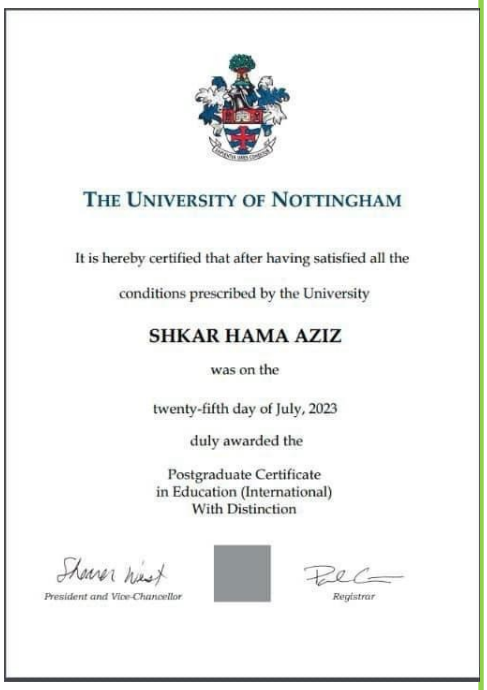
Amazingly, the social services department gave us support in this and we were able to organise a whole day for all staff providing care for children in all of the homes in our city. We were able to teach on important topics such as understanding behaviours in children who have experienced trauma and ways in which we can manage challenging behaviour. The day was a great success and the social services department are very interested in the prospect of us being able to arrange some more training.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Staff Training and Development

One of the biggest learning points for us has been that investing in the training and development of our team of local staff is the thing that has the biggest impact on all of our projects. Our staff being well resourced and supported allows them to really invest well in the communities in which we work. We have continued to work with KnownValuedLoved to provide a specialised teacher training course for all new staff that begin to work with us. Our education manager has also now been trained to be able to provide this training for all new staff.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

It is hereby certified that after having satisfied all the conditions prescribed by the University

SHKAR HAMA AZIZ

was on the

twenty-fifth day of July, 2023

duly awarded the

Postgraduate Certificate
in Education (International)
With Distinction

President and Vice-Chancellor

Registrar

We have benefited greatly from the advice and input of experienced professionals in the UK. For example, as one of our team took on the role of becoming a mentor for our apprentices, we were able to arrange for him to have weekly training sessions with someone who was highly experienced in this area. They were able to brainstorm about any issues, and plan together excellent training and strategies for the apprentices.

We continue to invest in general regular training for our staff. We highlight areas that require further development and we source training for these areas. Also, we have introduced peer training at our monthly staff meetings. Each month one of our team will research a topic and then prepare some teaching and discussion, these have been really interesting and helpful.

One of our longest members of staff, Shkar, who manages our community centre in Barika and manages education in all of our projects , was funded by the charity to complete an international PGCE online with Nottingham University. Not only did Shkar complete the degree but he managed to pass it with distinction which was a truly amazing achievement as Shkar had to learn a whole new way of studying and style of essay writing which was so different from his previous educational experience in Kurdistan. We are excited to see how Shkar can use this degree to improve the educational standards for many children and young people across Kurdistan.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Apprenticeship Programmes and Hope Hub

Last year we shared in our report about the exciting news that we had received the funding to begin our apprenticeship programme and open our Hope Hub. We are happy to report that we have seen so much success in this programme. Having worked closely with the children in the orphanages for a few years, we were aware of the challenges that these young people faced, reaching 18 years of age with very limited employment and education options. Over time we developed the idea of opening a Coffee Shop/Community Hub which would, whilst serving the local community, could also be a place where these young people learn, train and work in a safe environment.

We have loved working with a number of young men and have seen many encouraging stories. One of the most significant things is the level of trust they have developed with our wonderful team of staff. This means that previously, they would have found themselves in danger and at risk when unable to control their emotions/anger, they have used techniques we have taught them or have contacted their mentors for support. We honestly believe this has kept them from situations where they could easily have ended up in prison.

The first two young men who were with us both were able to find full time employment on leaving us which also provided accommodation. They still face many challenges and we continue to speak with them and try to mentor them. We currently have five young men on our programme and they are really enjoying it. They have grown in confidence and are now much more comfortable dealing with customers. We have weekly training sessions focusing on important topics such as life skills, cooking and baking, controlling emotions, managing finances to name just a few. We are so proud of the way they have made so much effort with the programme.

The Hope Hub itself is really becoming a place that's investing in people in the surrounding community. Our most popular weekly event are our English Language classes, we have people that attend whose English is such a high standard they aren't coming to practice they just love the opportunities to socialise with people. We also have a Kurdish Language cafe , a games club and a book club. We are also in discussions to open the first sign language cafe that we know of in our region. We are still in the early stages of this project and so there is potential for more growth, but so far we are all very encouraged by all that is happening.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Encouraging visitors reports from some of our partners

Report Written by Aime Gotte, Project Development Manager at Care and Relief for the Young (CRY)

It has been a privilege for CRY to partner with and support the work of Hope for Communities in Kurdistan over the years. However, CRY had not yet had the opportunity to witness the amazing work done by HFC on the ground. To address this, Aimé Gotte visited Sharo, Alexis, and their team in May 2023.

Sharo and Alexis had planned a whole schedule to take me around their various projects, besides the orphanage, due to safeguarding and logistical reasons. The work I witnessed was inspiring, strategic, and profound. On the first day, I spent most of my time in the newly created Kurdish cafe. There, I met some of the team members, two of the apprentices, and some of the overseas workers. Although there were few clients that day, experiencing the concept of the cafe, especially in benefit of the apprentices, was a privilege.

On the second and third days I was taken to the children's centre and I witnessed and participated in several activities/workshops including the sports programme and English lessons. One of my highlights was to speak with two older female beneficiaries in English. Alexis had shared with me, how these girls couldn't speak a word of English upon their arrival at the centre and here they were having a full on conversation with me.

Overall, and the feedback that was shared to the CRY upon my return is that Hope for Communities are doing a crucial work which will truly help children and young people break the cycle of poverty for themselves. We are most pleased with this partnership and as mentioned, it is an honour to humbly serve the vision.

Lastly, as part of my job with CRY, I travel around the world to visit our project partners. In most cases, and understandably so, the visits can feel a little staged or rehearsed by some of our partners. This is perhaps due to the pressure they may feel of having a funder visiting. I understand it, don't condemn it but it can sometimes be tricky for me to fully understand what is the usual routine in the projects, which is what is what CRY is interested in witnessing. However, on this occasion, when visiting Hope for Communities, I didn't feel this dynamic at all. What I saw appeared to be the full reality of what happens on a weekly basis. It was most refreshing to see and brought a real authenticity to my visit which from a professional and personal point of view was most appreciated.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Encouraging visitors reports from some of our partners

Report Written by Andy Ball, Founder and CEO of KnownValued-Loved

There was a lot of anxiety around this trip to Kurdistan. The UK Government advice was not to travel due to the ongoing political situation in Iraq. It was a struggle to find insurance, and our trustees had many questions around the value of the trip compared to the risks.

What I found when I arrived however, was very different. I felt welcome, I felt safe and ultimately, I felt excited to be in country that was very close to our heart as a charity. Trips like this are so important, and I knew that despite all the reservations it had to go ahead. This wasn't about being stubborn and thinking we knew better, or that the advice didn't apply to us. If we cancelled trips such as this, I felt it set a precedent that would define us very differently as a charity moving forward. I won't allow us to be the charity that supports at arm's length. We can't allow our partners and friends to take the risks and do the work on the ground whilst we do the easy bit and send money and ask for feedback and updates. That isn't who we set out to be and it isn't who we will be in the future.

The risks are real. In the past month a number of ISIS members were captured in the surrounding area of Sulaymaniyah. There are over 2 million refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan, making up nearly 30% of the total population of the country. For many of them their time in the camp is all they have known. When needs are great, stress levels are high. I don't intend to glamorize the risks – not once during my time there did I feel unsafe, unless you include the 40degree heat that I struggled to acclimatize to!

I loved spending time in the 'Hope for Communities' center. Positioned just inside one of the old camps. We drove around the community to get sense of what people's lives looked like. The UN had invested in roads, there was schools (although only open for a few hours each day), small shops and children playing outside – a community had been built out of nothing.

The center itself was amazing – and children appeared out of nowhere ready to learn, do activities and interact with staff. It wasn't sad, it wasn't bleak, it was full of joy, laughter and hope. That is the story we have always tried to tell – the challenges that these children face speak for themselves – the negative images are all over the news. We always want to be part of the solution and working alongside Hope for Communities, we definitely are. The children spoke to me about their hobbies, they showed me the library, they tried (and failed) to teach me some Kurdish words. They shared their aspiration's to be doctors/ nurses/ teachers - inspired by the adults around them at the center.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

I mentioned before that for some children, life in these camps is all they have known, and the reality is, it maybe all they know and see in the future. For some It's hard to see a break in the cycle. I met one boy who had dropped out of school – he was clever, confident and had a great personality – when I asked him why he no longer went to school he said he didn't see the value in it. He is now working in his uncle's restaurant washing dishes, with one day off every two weeks. Schools are open for three hours a day but the teachers are not being paid regularly, they are underfunded and out dated. The generation that can change the future of the country are being let down by other people's decisions.

We spent a day with the teachers from the center. We told them that they matter! We had fun and laughed a lot. We explored topics such as the impact of trauma on learning and development. We shared ideas around behavior management and building relationships with students. I will never fail to be inspired by teachers who work in the conditions that these guys do.

The trip itself was a success. I left feeling like I had done what I intended to do. To invest some time into our partners, to strengthen relationships and to get a better understanding of the community and how we could continue to support in the future. We always want to stand with our partners and show them we are with them and will continue to walk this walk with them.

But its not enough….. I am struggling after coming home to gather my thoughts. I'm struggling with the fact that I can get on a plane and return to 'normality', and only a few hours behind me such need and poverty exists. Even though it is masked with smiles and laughs – there are children living in situations that they don't deserve. Their lives are worth much more.

I also leave with a feeling that the work of KnownValuedLoved has to be more impactful, it has to go further. We need to be more active! And anyone who knows me will know that's it is feelings like this that started this charity! I don't know what's coming next but I know it's going to be good!

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Contribution made by Volunteers

The directors of the charity (Sharo and Alexis Ahmedi), were in this time period volunteering for the charity Hope for Communities. The charity is thankful for their contribution.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Financial Review

Hope for Communities is very grateful to all of its supporters who have so generously helped us in being able to continue with all of our projects.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The trustees have agreed to hold three months of the charities running cost in reserve. This is to enable projects to continue in the event of a drop in income.

Amount of reserves held at end of financial year: £24,172

This was more than the needed 3 months running costs (as of March 2023), however at present our projects are constantly developing and we are starting new projects and so these additional reserves help us in being able to confidently start new projects.

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	Andrew David McCullough
Position	Chair of trustees (at time of signing report).
Date	25th January 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Hope for Communtities	1180747

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/4/2022		31/3/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off donations from individuals	8,690	-	-	8,690	3,440
Regular invoiced donations from individuals	3,740	-	-	3,740	2,530
Donations from buinesses/organisations	27,486	23,325	-	50,811	8,860
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	1,304
Give as you live	36	-	-	36	16
Amazon	24	-	-	24	-
HMRC-reclaimed gift aid	1,629	-	-	1,629	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	41,605	23,325	-	64,930	16,149
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	41,605	23,325	-	64,930	16,149
A3 Payments					
Staff	8,776	12,508	-	21,283	14,379
Rent	1,025	1,282	-	2,307	945
Utilities/heating	392	228	-	619	172
Petrol/vehicle maintenance	1,488	-	-	1,488	543
Staff meetings/training	350	-	-	350	-
Projects:Equipment/refreshments/resources	1,685	8,816	-	10,502	1,045
Buildings maintenance	382	-	-	382	769
Bank charges/comms/admin kurdistan	318	-	-	318	97
Orphanages:Trips out/events	427	197	-	624	31
Apprenticeships salaries/support		294	-	294	-
Staff development/investment	1,083	-	-	1,083	-
Communications/admin UK	403	-	-	403	403
Fundraising agency	750	-	-	750	-
Charges for bank transfers	1,266	-	-	1,266	440
Stripe Fees	177	-	-	177	108
Payments sent to kurdistan yet to be deployed	12,524	-	-	12,524	-
Sub total	31,045	23,325	-	54,370	18,932
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,045	23,325	-	54,370	18,932
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,560	0	-	10,560	- 2,783
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,612	-	-	13,612	16,395
Cash funds this year end	24,172	0	-	24,172	13,612

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	uk bank account	24,172	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,172	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Sarah Harris	SARAH HARRIS	11-Dec-23
	ABEY PHILIP	**11-Dec-23**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hope for Communities

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hope for Communities Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: 

Name: Gajen Ganandran MEng, ACMA

Relevant professional qualification: Qualified Chartered Management Accountant

Address: 83 Chalgrove Crescent, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0LX UK

Date: 27 January 2024

Supplementary information to Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hope for Communities ("the Charity")

Detailed below are the key steps that I have undertaken in arriving at my independent examiner's statement, following the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Direction 1: Check whether the Charity is eligible to have an independent examination

My examination of the Charity confirms that it is eligible for an independent examination based on:

1. The Charity not being incorporated as a company
2. Having a Gross Income of less than <£250,000 for the accounting year ending 31 March 2023 and since inception.
3. The charity having no subsidiaries

Furthermore, no requirements were identified for the Charity to prepare accruals accounts. This was confirmed by reviewing the Governing document (last amended April 2021).

Direction 2: Check for any conflict of interest that prevents the examiner from carrying out their independent examination

I confirm that

1. I have no close personal relationships with the trustees (as listed in the Governing document) that could compromise my independence.
2. I have no day to day involvement in the administration of the charity
3. I do not provide any other services to the Charity

I have identified no circumstances where my judgment that would reasonably lead to the perception that I have not acted independently.

As a member of the Charter Institute of Management Accountants and with over fifteen years of post-qualified experience in the Financial Services industry, I believe I am sufficiently skilled to carry out the examination.

Direction 3: Record your independent examination

The following documents were examined in arriving at my assessment:

Financial

- Receipt & Payments Account 2022 – 2023
- UK Payment Accounts 2022 – 2023
- Detailed UK Receipt Accounts 2022 – 2023
- Co-Operative Bank Accounts – transaction details 1 April 2022 to 28 April 2023 *(for verification against receipts recorded in the accounts)*
- Sample copies of receipts for the month of March 2023 – highest month of expenditure for project related costs at £6,666 to test record keeping and verification of expenses.
- Copy of trustees annual report

Non-Financial

- Charity Governing document
- Internal Financial Controls Policy (unchanged from last examination)
- Risk Management Policy (unchanged from last examination
- Sample review of trust meeting minutes

My appointment by the trustees was confirmed by the Chair of Trustees (Andy McCullough) on 18 December 2023 via email.

> Hi Gaj
>
> I'm writing to confirm that the trustees of Hope for Communities are delighted to engage you again this year to undertake the independent examination of accounts for the charity.
> Thank you so much for assisting the charity in this matter.
> Please let me know if there is anything else you need from us.
>
> Warm regards, and season's greetings.
> Andy McCullough
> Chair
> Hope for Communities

To support the examination process, a number of calls and email communication was undertaken with the Charity Director (Alexis Ahmedi).

Key areas of discussion / questions were:

- Key drivers for the increase in staff costs
- Key drivers for the increase in rental costs and supporting documents
- Key expenditures under Projects, in particular circa £6.6k expenditure in March 2023
- Further details and supporting on the staff development expenditure of £1k in June 2022
- Reporting treatment in the accounts for funds held in Kurdistan bank account that are yet to be deployed, with the treatment being confirmed as appropriate as an expense as it has been paid outside the UK based on Charity commission's confirmation
- Reasons for bank transfer charges increasing
- Queries as to why no independent examination was required for the prior year

  Key findings to the above queries are outlined under the Direction 11 section.

The conclusion of the examination has been shared with the trustees.

There were no matters of material significance about which a report must be made direct to the Commission.

Direction 4: Plan the independent examination

The examination procedure was planned in an appropriate basis taking into account the circumstance of the Charity.

Understanding the Charity

Through both the documents outlined above and follow up discussions, I was able to maintain an understanding of the charity's constitution, objectives, organisational structure, the funds managed, its activities and accounting records and systems to support my review. This follows on from my independent examination of the 2021 accounts.

Areas for improvement outlined to the trustees:

- Consider the implementation of a simple, low cost digital expense tracking tool e.g. with the ability to log copies of receipts (via phone / tablet) and staff payments to increase automation of record keeping.

Going concern

Given the Charity undertakes payment and receipts accounting (not accruals) and given the end of period funds, there are no concerns identified relating to the charity being a going concern.

End of period funds of circa £24,000 is held to cover three months of the charity's running expenses. Furthermore, the charity continues to receive robust levels of donations in 2023/24 to meet expenditures, which are budgeted and prioritised based on the level of donation receipts.

Direction 5: Check that accounting records are kept to the required standard

In undertaking this examination, I have sought to confirm:

- Accounting records are complete and produced to the required standard
- The process by which the trustees ensure the accounting records are complete
- Internal financial controls were followed

The final set of accounts were approved by the trustees on 11 December 2023.

Direction 6: Check that the accounts are consistent with the accounting records

In undertaking my examination I compared the accounts to the underlying accounting records for receipts and payments, prior year accounts and the UK bank statement.

Confirmation was provided that the necessary steps to ensure that restricted funds were correctly reported in the accounts.

Direction 7: If the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and one or more related party transactions took place the examiner must check if these were properly disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Not applicable as the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Direction 8: Check the reasonableness of the significant estimates and judgments and accounting policies used in accounting for the types of fund held and in the preparation of the accounts

There are no year end balances in the Restricted or Endowment funds.

A total of £23,325 of restricted donations made in the period by two organisations (Friends in Formation and CRY).

This amount was fully deployed during the period to fund staff costs and key projects (e.g. Hope hub/ coffee shop initiative) in line with the restrictions from the donors.

I received confirmation from the trustees that the necessary steps to ensure that restricted or endowed funds are correctly reported in the accounts.

Given the cash accounting undertaken by the Charity, the examination did not identify any significant estimates or judgements had been made in preparing the accounts.

Direction 9: The examiner must check whether the trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the charity at the end of the reporting period and, if the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, check whether the trustees have made an assessment of the charity's position as a going concern when approving the accounts

Given the Charity's accounts and closing funds, there is nothing in the review that would indicate that the Charity would not continue to be a going concern.

End of period funds of circa £24,000 is held to cover three months of the charity's running expenses. Furthermore, the charity continues to receive robust levels of donations in 2023/24 to meet expenditures, which are budgeted and prioritised based on the level of donation receipts.

Direction 10: Check the form and content of the accounts

The accounts and supporting schedules have been reviewed as part of this examination.

Where receipts and payments accounts have been prepared, I checked that the charity can lawfully prepare such accounts, that all the accounting statements are present and that the funds of the charity are correctly identified.

I have further undertaken sample testing of records e.g. reviewing UK bank statements for receipts and sample payment receipts as part of this examination.

Direction 11: Identify items from the analytical review of the accounts that need to be followed up for further explanation or evidence

Performed analytical review of the accounts (2022-23 compared to 2021-22 and 2020-21) with follow up queries and requests for supporting information in the following areas:

- Copy of UK bank statement to review against detailed receipts schedule.

- Key drivers for the increase in staff costs
  - Number of employees has increased in line with the increased number of projects.
  - Currently 8 employees and 4 volunteers
  - Senior manager is the highest paid employee at c.£700 per month (annualised £8.4k)

- Key drivers for the increase in rental costs
  - Increase reflects the charity is now renting two properties with the most recent addition being the Hope hub / coffee shop, which is of a higher cost given city centre location.

- Key expenditure under Projects (£10.5k, £8.8k from the restricted funds), in particular circa £6.5k expenditure in March 2023.
  - This primarily relates to the setting up of the new Hope Hub / coffee shop project.
  - Receipts were shared for the expenditure in March, including larger US dollar denominated transactions.

- Further details and supporting on the staff development cost of £1k in June 2022
  - Funding for international PGCE at a UK university for the senior manager employee
  - Transaction receipt (email) shared.

- Reasons for bank transfer charges increasing
  - This links to higher project costs and using the international banking system, in-line with the charity commissions guidelines, which incurs higher chargers but provides better safeguards.

No exceptional items were noted.

Direction 12: Compare the trustees' annual report with the accounts

The final accounts were reviewed against the trustee's final annual report and these were identified to be consistent.

Direction 13: Write and sign the independent examination report, Statutory duty to report matters of material significance to the Commission and Examiner's discretion to report relevant matters to the Commission

The signed independent examination report has been submitted to the trustees for noting.

No matters for raising to the Commission were identified.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1180747

Accounts

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES



TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Charity Information

Founders and Directors of Hope for Communities
Sharo Ahmedi
Alexis Rachel Ahmedi

Trustees of Hope for Communities (as of 31st March 2022, all acted for the entire year)

David John Nunn—Chair
Vivienne Lesley Nunn
Andrew David McCullough
Sarah Anne Louise Harris
John Douglas Henry Greenway

Note: All trustees have confirmed that they have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Charity Commission Registration Number

1180747

Charity Uk address

121 Drummond RD
Bermondsey
London
England
SE16 2JY

Charity website

www.hopeforcommunities.com

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Summary of the Purposes of Hope for Communities as set out in our Governing Document

The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world, but in particular Iraq, by providing or assisting in the provision of, primarily but not limited to, education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable in-

A Letter from Sharo and Alexis, Directors of Hope for Communities

The previous year has been an interesting and exciting year for Hope for Communities. On paper there is an obvious drop in income from the previous year, however this is mostly related to timings of major grants and a slowing down of projects and inability to connect and fundraise in person due to Covid. However we were able to continue to run all of our projects and even increase local staff numbers which has allowed us work more towards our goal of seeing hope restored to communities in which we work. With the ability to get back to connecting and meeting with people, we are pleased to say there has been a significant increase in income in the current financial year.

One massive highlight of the year was our first major charity event held in London in September 2022. One of our trustees described it as being almost like a launch event for Hope for Communities. Although we have been registered as a charity for a number of years, we have intentionally used these early years to spend time laying good foundations, and seeking to establish healthy and successful pilot projects. However we feel that the charity is now moving onto the next stage of growth and development. We are very grateful for the many people who have supported us to reach this stage. What the charity really needs to continue to grow and develop is an increase in the number of committed regular givers. While big one off gifts can really make a difference, and an impact in sustaining our projects, regular giving will enable us to establish long term and sustainable investment in the communities that we work in. Maybe you already support Hope for Communities, and if you do we want to say a very big thankyou for being 'part of it.' We would ask you to consider helping us to increase the number of people who know about our charity, we would encourage you to share this report with people, so they are able to find out more about what we do, and are invited to become 'part of it' as well.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Summary of the Main Activities and Achievements of Hope for Communities

Community Centre in Barika, Kurdish Region of Northern Iraq



This was Hope for Communities first project, which means that we have now been working with some of the same children and young people for almost 5 years. The Centre has really grown and developed from being just Sharo and Alexis, with Sharo registering the children at the door and Alexis singing baby shark and playing games with the children, to a place where we currently have 15 members of staff (as of Jan 2023) who either volunteer or work part or full time to support the running of the community centre and/or our other projects. Through our training with KnownValuedLoved (a UK charity working to support education), we have developed a full curriculum, and we now have lessons being planned and taught by teachers who have completed a training course with KnownValuedLoved.

Whilst we have developed our teaching standards and are seeing huge progress in the English of the children, we have stayed true to our original vision that the centre needs to be a place for children to come and have fun, to play, and to feel loved. We have rooms set up for games and crafts, and we have a library where children are able to borrow books to read at home (this for most, will be their only access to books). We are currently excited to see the first group of students working towards being able to take an internationally recognized English Language qualification within the next couple of years. This could be life changing for these young people, as it open up opportunities for future employment and will hopefully work towards bringing lasting change to the whole community.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Projects in Government Orphanages

We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to continue working in the local government orphanages in our city. Our work has mainly been focused in 3 homes this past year, the home for 0-4 year olds, the home for 5-12 year old boys and the home for 12-18 year old boys. As you can imagine the activities look very different in each home, but the heart that we go in with, to let the children know they are loved and they are valued, is the same in every home. We don't take photos of the children as they are vulnerable and in the care system, but we will try and paint a picture of what a typical week in each of the homes may look like.

0-4 year old home: The children in this home aren't old enough yet to attend nursery and so many never go outside of the home. This is why we aim to take the children out of the home as often as we can for trips. The most popular place for us to take them is to soft play, which as you can imagine is lots of fun, but also an opportunity for these children to leave the home and experience something outside of the four walls that they are always in. When we aren't taking this group out for trips we are playing games, telling stories, singing songs and making crafts.

5-12 year old boys: This is the busiest of the homes we visit and can often feel the most chaotic. What is great about this home is the huge changes and improvements we have seen in the 2 years since we have been going in. Initially the boys wouldn't have all been able to engage in a game together without fighting, they wouldn't have all been able to sit and listen to a story, or complete a craft, which are activities that we now do regularly. This is definitely one of our most challenging projects, but the children are excited to see our team each week, and we love that they are getting the opportunity to play and have fun.

12-18 year old boys: One of the main positives that has come out of our time in this home is the trust that we have been able to build with these boys and young men. Due to many years of trauma and various challenges they sadly have reached a point in life where they have lost trust in adults, and they have learnt not to rely on others. This meant that at the start of us going into this home, many didn't want to engage. However the consistency of our team going into the home every week has made a huge difference in the relationships we have been able to build. We also try to give the boys an opportunity to suggest activities, which they have done e.g. going out to play snooker. We recently were able to take them swimming and teach them to swim which they requested and had never before been given the opportunity to do.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Exciting Future Projects– A Community Hub/Coffee Shop in Slemani!

In last years report we mentioned that we had been exploring how Hope for Communities could potentially support some of the children and young people who we had been working with in the 12-18 year old orphanage; who at 18 would find themselves without a home or employment. As most of them won't have completed education, or have the family/community connections which can be so important in this culture to find employment, these young men often find themselves unemployed and homeless. Due to traumatic life experiences and limited opportunities too many will also sadly end up in the prison system. For some time as a charity we have been exploring how best we can respond to this heart-breaking situation.



We are pleased to share that we have received the funding to open a community hub in our city in 2023. We will serve coffee and snacks and so will be able to provide employment and training for the young men who are in such need. We hope this employment and training will be a stepping stone to enabling them to find other employment in the city. We also will simultaneously provide a mentorship programme for these young boys and men. It will be with our staff who have been working with them for the past 2 years and so have already built up a trusting relationship. The aim will be to help these young men to stay in education where possible, and to avoid activities and situations which make them more likely to end up in prison. We hope to be able to provide them with life skills training to be able to support them to work and live independently.



HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Staff Training and Development

It has always been a priority of Hope for Communities to not only invest in communities through projects, but also invest in the development and training of a team of local staff, which is another way of bringing hope into communities. It also has the huge benefit of meaning the people who are benefitting from our projects are also been looked after by an excellent team of staff..





As well as our usual annual training e.g. safeguarding, first aid etc, Hope for Communities have hugely benefitted this year from training and support provided by a UK registered charity called KnownValuedLoved. KnownValuedLoved seek to advance education is communities such as ours, and have supported us with excellent teacher training courses and follow up support in implementing and developing our educational programmes. We can see the huge impact that this training and support has made to our staff and therefore to the children and young people that we work with.



Contribution made by Volunteers

Hope for Communities had four members of staff from the UK volunteering for the charity throughout this time period; Sharo Ahmedi, Alexis Ahmedi, Joanna Martin and Hannah Townhill. The charity is thankful for their contribution.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Trustee visitors report

Andrew McCullough one of our trustees was able to visit our projects between the 9th and 16th of March 2022. Here are some excerpts from his report…

'Orphanage Trip to the Zoo

We took a group of very young children (3-4 years old) from one of the orphanages to the zoo. These children almost never go out, because of a lack of funding and no transportation. One young boy had difficulty walking unaided, and when I enquired, I was told that he was unaccustomed to walking as he has never worn shoes before and has never been out of the Home. We were able to support the home as we were able to access a minibus and offer the support of extra staff. As the weather improves and Covid restrictions lift, it is expected that more of these trips will be able to be offered.'

'Nawroz end-of-term celebration at the community centre

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity to participate in the end-of-term celebration and award ceremony at the community centre in the camp. Since my last visit 3 years ago, the centre has developed dramatically, with colourful paint, more rooms brought into use, the library looking well-supplied and well-loved, and generally more evidence of care, use, and community. Large numbers of children attended the morning and afternoon prize-giving ceremonies, including several parents, which is a really positive development in building bridges into families in the camp. There was food, the giving of certificates, a video celebrating the childrens' accomplishments, and Kurdish dancing. Everyone was invited to wear traditional Kurdish dress, resulting in a very colourful occasion.

I spoke to three teenage young women with excellent English who told me they want to study medicine to be doctors "like Alexis." If poverty is powerlessness and lack of agency, these young women have been empowered with hope that is tangible and within reach.'

'The Staff Team

One of the most impressive things observable on this visit was the quality of the staff team that has been built. They are an excellent team of bright, young people with initiative, shared values, and a genuine concern for the children with whom they are working. I sense this is an outstanding achievement of the charity to date, the equipping and building together of such a quality team of people. Visiting the home of some of the staff and talking to their parents, it was possible to see the high levels of trust and respect that Sharo and Alexis have been able to engender. One staff members father told me that he is very proud that his son is working for Hope for Communities, and sees this as a respectable and worthy employment – high praise indeed.'

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Financial Review

Hope for Communities is very grateful to all of its supporters who have so generously helped us in being able to continue with all of our projects.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The trustees have agreed to hold three months of the charities running cost in reserve. This is to enable projects to continue in the event of a drop in income.

Amount of reserves held at end of financial year: *£13,612*

This was more than the needed 3 months running costs (as of March 2022), however at present our projects are constantly developing and we are starting new projects and so these additional reserves help us in being able to confidently start new projects.

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	Sarah Harris
Full Name	SARAH ANNE LOUISE HARRIS
Position	TRUSTEE
Date	29/1/23

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Hope for Communities	1180747

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/4/2021		31/03/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off donations from individuals	3,440	-	-	3,440	2,355
Regular invoiced donations from individuals	2,530	-	-	2,530	1,735
Donations from buinesses/organisations	1,460	7,400	-	8,860	25,500
Fundraising events	1,304	-	-	1,304	2,477
Everyclick LTD	-	-	-	-	56
Give as you live	16	-	-	16	-
		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	8,749	7,400	-	16,149	32,123
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,749	7,400	-	16,149	32,123
A3 Payments					
Staff	6,979	7,400	-	14,379	12,904
Rent	945	-	-	945	1,761
Petrol	506	-	-	506	526
Food distributions		-	-	-	4,671
Staff training	-	-	-	-	104
Refreshments/masks/sanitisers	276	-	-	276	225
Printing/books/stationary/translation	485	-	-	485	278
Plumbing/repairs/centre equipment	769			769	112
Banking charges kurdistan	22			22	3
Heating/electricity	172			172	14
Vehicle maintanance	37			37	
sports/art equipment/resources	284			284	261
website design and maintanance	370			370	365
communications	68			68	732
charity administration kurdistan	7			7	745
charity administration UK	33			33	33

Travel/Trips and outings	31			31	2
Charge for money transfers	440			440	98
Stripe Fees	108			108	90
Project Payments to Kurdistan Yet to Be Deployed (Cash & Bank)				-	1,663
				-	
				-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	**11,532**	**7,400**	**-**	**18,932**	**24,587**
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total payments	**11,532**	**7,400**	**-**	**18,932**	**24,587**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**- 2,783**	**-**	**-**	**- 2,783**	**7,536**
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	**16,395**	-	-	**16,395**	-
Cash funds this year end	**13,612**	**-**	**-**	**13,612**	**7,536**

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	UK bank account	13,612	-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,612	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

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

		£	£
		£	£

B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Sarah Harris	SARAH HARRIS	29/1/23
	ABEY PHILIP	29/1/23

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1180747

Accounts

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES



Trustee Annual Report

2020/2021

Charity Information

Trustees of Hope for Communities (all acted for the entire year)

David John Nunn—Chair

Vivienne Lesley Nunn

Andrew David McCullough

Sarah Anne Louise Harris

John Douglas Henry Greenway

Note: All trustees have confirmed that they have regarded the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Corporate Trustees (Directors) of Hope for Communities

Sharo Ahmedi

Alexis Rachel Ahmedi

Charity Commission Registration Number

1180747

Charity Uk address

121 Drummond RD
Bermondsey
London
England
SE16 2JY

Charity website

www.hopeforcommunities.com

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

A Summary of the Purposes of Hope for Communities as set out in our Governing Document

The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world, but in particular Iraq, by providing or assisting in the provision of, primarily but not limited to, education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

A Summary of the Main Activities and Achievements of Hope for Communities

Working in Orphanages in the Kurdish Region of Northern Iraq

This year Hope for Communities started working in some of the orphanages (homes for children without carers) in our city. Children who grow up in the care system in this region are especially vulnerable in terms of being able to develop self sufficiency. Traumatic experiences that have led to them being placed into care make it difficult for them to pursue education and/or training. ,This has a huge impact on their ability to find employment as adults. Also in this region, many employment opportunities arise through family connections which most of these children and young people won't have.

We go into different homes (orphanages) for a couple of hours each week. The homes vary depending on age, and in most cases gender, and so our activities vary accordingly. Our team spends time encouraging the children, through the activities and exercises that we do. We have seen the children grow in confidence and have seen the joy that can come from this time that we are able to invest. We want them to learn and develop the necessary skills to help them achieve their full potential in the future. Going forward, we hope with further funding to be able to support some of the older children who will soon be too old for the homes. We are exploring how Hope for Communities can support and train them to be self sufficient as adults.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Community Centre in Barika, Kurdish Region of Northern Iraq

Hope for Communities has continued to run projects in it's Community Centre in Barika. The centre is in a community where there are refugees, internally displaced people, and people that may be originally from the region, but living amongst the community due to poverty. At present children attending the centre are mostly Iranian Kurdish with some children coming from an Iraqi Kurdish, Syrian or Iraqi Arabic background. Before starting our projects we spent time speaking with the community and seeing what we could provide that would support them, as a way to seeing hope restored. Most of the parents wanted us to provide English Language classes for their children, and most of the children wanted us to provide Karate lessons, and so that's what we do.





It is a joy and privilege for our team to see how these children have grown in confidence. Although the parents wanted us to offer English classes, we decided to make these lessons as fun and interactive as possible e.g. with games, songs, and crafts. We were also able to open a library in our centre, which the children have absolutely loved. We can see the delight that the opportunity to come and borrow books each week brings, it will be the first library most of these children will have ever been in. Our staff training has helped develop how we see these lessons as being a real opportunity to shape and invest in children's lives and the wider community. We are helping them to develop skills and characteristics that will be hugely beneficial to them in the future.





Our centre did have to close for a few months due to Covid, following government guidelines. However when it was safe to reopen we were very happy to do so, again following the local guidance and advice to keep the community as safe as possible.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Hope for Communities' response to COVID

Hope for Communities mostly runs projects that are more focused on long term investment and community development. However as coronavirus was impacting the whole world, we saw the huge impact it was having on communities like the one where we ran our centre. The small amount of money that comes into certain families in the community for example through day labouring was no longer coming in. The opportunity arose for us to apply for some funding which was specifically for helping to provide food for those impacted by Covid. It was a great way to check in and connect with the community at a time when the centre was closed. It was a good opportunity to build relationships with some of the community leaders, as they were able to help us support the most vulnerable families. It was heart breaking to hear that for some of the families, the food that we gave was the only food that they had eaten n days.





At the time when the community centre had to be closed due to Covid, Hope for Communities explored how we could use our skills and resources to continue to serve our community and the wider communities in the region. We noticed that around the world resources were being made available online for people to use at home whilst isolated and in lockdown. We realized that these resources weren't as widely available in the Kurdish language. And so as a team we made a number of Youtube videos to support people and families whilst at home during lockdown. We put up English Language classes, exercise videos and crafts and game ideas to support children and their families in lockdown. These videos have met the original purpose of serving the needs of a community at a time of lockdown, but also have remained available online for people to access, at the time of writing this report our videos have had over 6000 views in total.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Staff Training

It is important for us as a charity that the people we work with receive support at the highest possible standard. This is why it is so important to Hope for Communities to invest a significant amount of energy in training our staff. As an example of this is, when we were planning to start working in the local orphanages we realized we needed to think about what would be helpful for us to learn as a team, before we took on this new challenge. Some friends of Hope for Communities in the UK, with a background in social care were able to provide training on how we approach working with children in these contexts. We looked at 'safeguarding children, understanding children who have experienced trauma, and managing challenging behaviour in a positive way.' This training was really beneficial for our projects in the orphanages as well our other projects.



Contribution made by Volunteers

Hope for Communities had three members of staff from the UK volunteering for the charity throughout this time period; Sharo Ahmedi, Alexis Ahmedi and Joanna Martin. The charity is thankful for their contribution.

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Financial Review

Hope for Communities is very grateful to all of its supporters who have so generously helped us in being able to continue with all of our projects, start new projects and respond to the Covid crisis.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The trustees have agreed to hold three months of the charities running cost in reserve. This is to enable projects to continue in the event of a drop in income.

Amount of reserves held at end of financial year: *£15,111*

This is more than the amount needed. However due to the impact of Covid and the uncertainty this caused we were restricted in developing or starting new projects. Also as we want the majority of our projects to focus on long term investment in communities, we are hoping as a charity to see more of our donations becoming regular gifts, as opposed to one off gifts,. While we are very grateful for these it can make it more challenging to budget and plan for projects in the future.

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	DAVID JOHN NUNN
Position	Chair of Trustees.
Date	27/1/2022.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Hope For Communities	1180747

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date: 01/04/2020	To	Period end date: 31/03/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off donations from individuals	2,355	-	-	2,355	900
Regular invoiced donations from individuals	1,735	-	-	1,735	-
Donations from businesses/organisations	14,829	10,671	-	25,500	13,244
Fundraising events	2,477	-	-	2,477	-
Everyclick LTD	56	-	-	56	-
Give As You Live	-	-	-	-	26
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	21,452	10,671	-	32,123	14,170
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,452	10,671	-	32,123	14,170
A3 Payments					
Staff	6,904	6,000	-	12,904	3,684
Rent	1,761	-	-	1,761	-
Petrol	526	-	-	526	512
Food distributions	-	4,671	-	4,671	-
Staff training	104	-	-	104	-
Refreshments/masks/sanitisers	225	-	-	225	55
Printing/books/stationary/translation	278	-	-	278	104
Plumbing/repairs/centre equipment	112		-	112	135
Banking charges kurdistan	3	-	-	3	-
Heating	14	-	-	14	14
sports/art equipment/resources	261	-	-	261	153
website design and maintanance	365	-	-	365	535
communications	732	-	-	732	-
charity administration kurdistan	745	-	-	745	-
charity administration UK	33	-	-	33	-
Travel reimbursment	2	-	-	2	-
Charge for money transfers	98	-	-	98	115
Stripe Fees	90	-	-	90	
Project Payments to Kurdistan Yet to Be Deployed (Cash & Bank)	1,663	-	-	1,663	1,100
		-	-	-	188
		-	-		
Sub total	13,916	10,671	-	24,587	6,595
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,916	10,671	-	24,587	6,595
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,536	-	-	7,536	7,575
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,575	-	-	7,575	-
Cash funds this year end	15,111	-	-	15,111	7,575

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Uk bank account	15,111	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,111	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

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

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

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	D Nunn	DAVID NUNN	27/1/2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Hope for Communities

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hope for Communities Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 30 March 2021. These accounts form the first full year of accounts since the Trust's inception.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: 

Name: Gajen Ganandran MEng, ACMA

Relevant professional qualification: Qualified Chartered Management Accountant

Address: 83 Chalgrove Crescent, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0LX UK

Date: 25 January 2022