

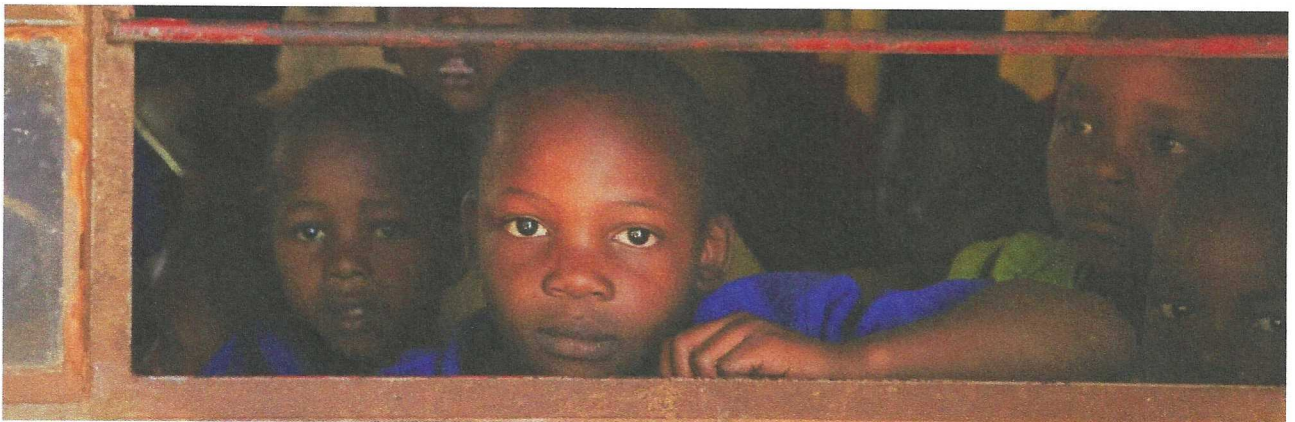


Throw A Starfish

Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Charity Registration number
1180888



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Reference and Administrative information

Patron	Rt Rev Peter Hill
Trustees	Mrs Alison Biggs Rev Laurence Biggs Mrs Catherine Mwangi - from 4/4/23 Mrs Irma Mullins (Chair) – from 4/4/23 Rev Canon David Hague – to 4/4/23 Mr Thomas Salisbury – to 4/4/23
Mission Director	Rev Laurence Biggs
Registered office	24 Woodlands Road Chapel-en-le-Frith High Peak Derbyshire SK23 0XR
Website	www.ThrowAStarfish.org
Email	info@ThrowAStarfish.org
Telephone	0330 229 0482
Charity registration number	1180888
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Throw A Starfish is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose only members are its Trustees. It was registered on 28 November 2018.

The governing document is a constitution dated 10th September 2018.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee is appointed by the existing trustees for a term of three years, which can be subsequently renewed.

In selecting individuals for appointment as appointed charity trustees, the charity trustees have regard to interest in the charity and the areas where we work, as well as the skills, knowledge, and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Mrs. Irma Mullins and Mrs Catherine Mwangi were appointed trustees on 7th March 2023 and took up their roles on 4th April 2023, when Rev David Hague and Mr Thomas Salisbury stood down.

The Mission Director is ("ex-officio") a charity trustee, for as long as he or she holds that office.

Trustee Meetings

The trustees met on three occasions during the year (96% attendance) to plan the charity's development and monitor and review its financial affairs. At the end of 2023, an operations team was set up, reporting to the trustees and working to carry out the charity's work.

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business, and operational risks that the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to mitigate these risks.

Overseas travel to developing countries on Throw A Starfish business, whether by trustees or others, will take cognisance of Foreign Office advice and will always have valid medical and travel insurance for the countries and regions concerned. Consideration will also be given to input from in-country partners. Service overseas risk assessments are reviewed annually.

Again, this year, the only person to travel overseas was the Mission Director, who visited Kenya twice. As international travel returns to normal, overseas travel is expected to increase in the forthcoming year.

The charity has a safeguarding policy, and DBS checks are taken for all volunteers serving with us.

Public Benefit

Throw A Starfish operates for the public benefit by providing charitable relief to the poor and needy, currently mainly in Africa. No charges are made for any charitable activities. Needs and priorities are assessed, and plans for the effective use of funds are made through visits to partners and further information gathered from telephone and email communication.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Trustees have taken advantage of the option available under that Act, to charities with a gross income of less than £250,000, to prepare a simple receipts and payments account rather than full accounts on an accruals basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose the trust's financial position with reasonable accuracy at all times. They are also responsible for safeguarding the trust's assets and, hence, for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Objectives and activities

Vision

To inspire and enable volunteers to use their time, talents or finances to impact poverty one step at a time.

Charitable objects

1. The relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all regions of the world
2. The advancement of the Christian religion throughout the world

Activities

We aim to:

- Inspire individuals to recognise that although they may not be able to change the world as individuals, they can certainly change the world for one person or group of people.
- Enable individual volunteers to use their skills, to visit trusted partners and make a difference at a time convenient to the volunteer.
- See that some people have time, and others have other resources which they can use to make a difference.
- Identify and establish relationships with trusted partners and develop projects in situations of poverty around the world.

Achievements and performance

We have recently spent a lot of time reviewing our structures and objectives to better prepare for the work ahead.

Two of our founding trustees have left the charity to be replaced by two new trustees, but a skills audit among the board members recently identified gaps that need filling—see below.

Makutano Plastic Recycling Centre



Solar power was installed at Makutano this year. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits, this has given the site a cheap ongoing electricity supply, which has enabled the process of recycling plastics to start up. Quantities recycled are currently lower than expected due to major changes in handling plastics in Kenya during the year, but throughput is expected to increase in the months ahead.

The trustees have decided that the project should now be handed over to the local Kenyan partner. Although we will keep an interest in progress, no future investment is envisaged in the project.

Future Plans

We will recruit at least two new trustees who have knowledge and experience in finances, marketing, and digital media.

We will start a digital marketing campaign to increase funds and grow our database.

Focus for the next two years – Autism in Africa/Kenya

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder affecting communication and behaviour.

In Kenya, many autistic individuals remain undiagnosed due to a lack of resources and awareness.

The 2019 census reported that in the Mount Kenya region, which is the focus of this project:

The total population	1,626,472	number who are autistic	65,059
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Children aged under five	232,520	number who are autistic	9,301
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Each year another approximately 46,000 children will be born of whom 1840 will be autistic

As births exceed deaths each year, there will be a growing number of autistic people in the target area and at present, there are no specialist facilities to support them and their families.

NB Although there has been limited research in this area, it can be assumed that approximately 4% of the population will be on the autism spectrum.

Current challenges

- Lack of Diagnostic Services: Limited availability of diagnostic tools and trained professionals.
- Late Intervention: Scarcity of early intervention programs.
- Limited Access to Therapies: Inadequate availability of speech and occupational therapies and high costs
- Educational Barriers: Insufficient special needs schools and lack of trained educators.
- Public Stigma: Persistent misconceptions and stigma surrounding autism.
- Policy Gaps: Weak policies and lack of enforcement to support autistic individuals.

Goals

We want to work with a local partner to setup

- Establish high-quality autism care centres in the Mount Kenya South region of Kenya
- Provide early and affordable comprehensive diagnosis, intervention, and support services.
- Raise public awareness and reduce stigma.
- Advocate for more robust policies and support for individuals with autism.

Financial review

The Charity's income comes from private donations and occasional grants. Gift Aid is claimed on most eligible private donations.

This year, our total income amounted to £8,134, all of which was Unrestricted. This is more than sufficient to cover our operating costs.

The most significant items of expenditure this year were:

£11,235 (including the remaining £2,486 of restricted income) for continued work on the Makutano plastic recycling facility. This covered the cost of purchasing and installing solar power at the plant, which enabled it to start operations and continue to benefit from cheap energy.

£2,486 of unrestricted income for overseas travel by the Mission Director (2 visits to Kenya). This cost will likely increase in coming years as more people will travel with the charity.

The balance at the end of the year was £17,515 (£24,919 last year). This, together with support from donors who give by monthly standing order, will provide for ongoing charitable activities through the next financial year.

A bank account is held with Lloyds Bank, but Throw A Starfish has no investments or investment policy.

The Charity does not have a formal reserves policy, but we look to keep a bank balance to cover 6 months of operation, and there are no plans to incur expenditure beyond the current level of bank balances.

Throw A Starfish will continue to raise funds from a mixture of personal applications and applications to grant-making bodies.

Any Volunteers to serve overseas with Throw A Starfish are expected to cover their own costs, although support is budgeted to help initial starfish throwers.

Independent Examiners report on the accounts

Report to the Trustees of Throw A Starfish on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 10 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

1. I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2024.
2. As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
3. 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Keith Parkhouse

Dated:

28 January 2025

Keith Parkhouse

Accounts

Receipts and payments accounts

Throw A Starfish
Receipts and payments accounts
for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	2a	£8,143	£0	£0	£8,143	£13,094
Investment income	2b	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total receipts		£8,143	£0	£0	£8,143	£13,094
Payments						
Expenditure on charitable activities	3a	£13,062	£2,486	£0	£15,548	£30,008
Governance costs	3b	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Finance costs	3c	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sub total		£13,062	£2,486	£0	£15,548	£30,008
Asset and investment						
					£0	£0
					£0	£0
Sub total		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total payments		£13,062	£2,486	£0	£15,548	£30,008
Net of receipts/(payments)		-£4,918	-£2,486	£0	-£7,404	-£16,914
Transfers between funds					£0	£0
Cash funds last year end		£22,433	£2,486		£24,919	£41,833
Cash funds this year end		£17,515	£0	£0	£17,515	£24,919

Signature



Name

Laurence Biggs (Mission Director)

Date

26/1/25



Irma Mullins (Chair of Trustees)

27.1.25

Notes on accounts

- The annual report has been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis as prescribed by the Charity Commissioners, and they meet the appropriate legal requirements.

2. Receipts

2.a Donations and legacies

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Current year</u>	<u>Previous year</u>
Non Giftaid donations	£7,018		£7,018	£10,654
Gift aid donations	£1,125		£1,125	£1,900
Gift aid reclaimed			£0	£540
Total	£8,143	£0	£8,143	£13,094

2.b Investment income

Bank interest

Total	£0	£0	£0	£0
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3. Payments

3.a Expenditure on charitable activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Previous Year</u>
Affiliations	£145		£145.00	£129
Website hosting	£355		£355.20	£400
Charity insurance	£769		£769.38	£654
Office supplies			£0.00	£0
Telephone	£72		£72.00	£0
Charity equipment	£115		£114.99	£0
Website development	£361		£360.99	£0
Kithogondo well			£0.00	£1,518
Makatanu Plastic recycling centre	£8,749	£2,486	£11,235.13	£25,338
Overseas travel	£2,486		£2,485.65	£1,873
Misc	£9		£9.35	
Total	£13,062	£2,486	£15,548	£29,912

3.b Governance costs

Independent examination

Total	£0	£0	£0	£0
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3.c Finance costs

Bank charges

Total	£0	£0	£0	£0
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4. Restricted funds

There are no restricted funds at year end