

AKWAABA

England & Wales · Charity number 1181291

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-12-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 154 Sandford Road
London
E6 3PX

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Website www.akwaaba.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1. THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE MIGRANTS, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OR IMMIGRATION STATUS BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND CLASSES.2. TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF MIGRANTS, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SUCH PEOPLE AND ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.3.TO RELIEVE HARDSHIP AMONG MIGRANTS BY PROVIDING OR FACILITATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, LEGAL ADVICE, ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT.4.TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER SOLIDARITY AND BUILD A SHARED COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

Activities: Akwaaba is a Hackney-based social centre for migrants. We offer a space for rest, play, learning and mutual support. Akwaaba seeks to reduce social isolation, to build lasting relationships between new members of the community and old (regardless of age, background or immigration status), and to foster solidarity in an extremely diverse inner London

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Hackney

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£84,038	£79,609	-	-
2024-03-31	£67,967	£76,743	-	-
2023-03-31	£75,427	£64,212	-	-
2022-03-31	£82,663	£125,748	-	-
2021-03-31	£243,576	£205,442	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bukola Akinniyi		2022-02-01
Ibtisam Imam		2021-12-01
Jihad Issa		2024-03-01
Morgan Paige Harries		2025-05-01
OMOLOLA ALIMI		2018-12-21
Otto Wolf		2024-03-01

AKWAABA

England & Wales - Charity number 1181291

Accounts

AKWAABA ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: April 2024 - March 2025

Charity Registration Number: 1181291

PART 1: ABOUT AKWAABA



Akwaaba is a Hackney-based social centre for migrants. We offer a space for rest, play, learning and mutual support. Akwaaba is for all migrants regardless of immigration status, 'race', religion, country of origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and (dis)ability.

We believe that no-one is illegal. We are committed to actively opposing racism and all other forms of discrimination and oppression.

Our aim is to build community and foster care, cooperation and solidarity. As a community, we try

to make decisions collectively and give all members an equal say in how the social centre is run.

Akwaaba is a volunteer-run space.

Our primary aims are to:

- Offer a safe and welcoming space for migrants of all backgrounds for social activities and mutual support
- Foster solidarity and build a shared community of people from different backgrounds
- Provide material support including food, travel bursaries and other donated items to migrant members experiencing hardship

Summary of changes to Akwaaba's activities between April 2024 to March 2025

PART 2: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In 2024 and 2025, Akwaaba continued to operate from Stoke Newington School. We hold Sunday drop-in sessions twice a month from our base in Stoke Newington Secondary School. We continued our regular activities including a hot meal, a children's programme, arts workshops, English conversation classes, computer support and a barbershop. Alongside these activities, we began to expand our offer with music, movement workshops and sewing being offered. We also host monthly outreach visits delivered by a partner charity Positive East which provide free STI testing and sexual health advice.

Our sessions are attended by an average of 150 people including up to 30 children. Each week we distribute £5 travel bursaries to half the attendees (around 70 people) according to a rota system. We cover travel costs for volunteers up to £10, although some volunteers travel from far afield and pay more than this to get to our sessions.

Our Sunday sessions are run by and for migrants. The majority of Sunday volunteers are migrant members with lived experience of the hostile environment who originally attended the space in order to access support or participate in an activity. Core Akwaaba programmes are led by migrant volunteers including the kitchen, the travel support scheme, the arts workshop and the barbershop, as well as special events like our annual beach trip and Christmas party. Three quarters of the participatory budgeting group (which has determined Akwaaba's annual budget and approved discretionary spending over the past two years) are migrant members with lived experience. Similarly Akwaaba's financial transactions through our bank account are approved by migrant volunteers.

Kids Team

Akwaaba Kids sessions provide a safe, fun, child-centred space for kids whose parents/carers are onsite engaging with the wider community, with a range of games and activities.

- We continue to run regular "child liberation" reading and reflection sessions, where we discuss new ideas relating to child-centricity, children's rights, and innovative practice, and how to implement changes in the space as a result.
- At Akwaaba's Christmas session the team activities include making snow globes, karaoke, gingerbread decorating, Christmas cards/decorations. Each child who attended was given a small chocolate gift.

- In addition to our usual Sunday sessions, we ran a session at a local adventure playground over summer with biscuit decorating and glitter tattoos alongside outdoor play.

Beach Trip

In August, Akwaaba took 200 members to Margate in its biggest trip yet. 140 adults and 60 children took the train from Kings Cross to the seaside on a spectacular sunny day. Some members plunged into the sea, while others tentatively wet their feet. Some enjoyed fish and chips on the sand, while others shared home cooked meals with friends. But everyone seemed to cherish another special trip where we got to leave London, revel in each other's company, and breathe in some fresh sea air.

Christmas party

At this year's Christmas party, we had 322 people attending the session in total. Everybody who attended the session enjoyed Christmas dinner and a variety of activities.

English classes

We run English teaching sessions on a fortnightly basis with a consistent core group of learners, alongside occasional attendance from other members. At the beginning of each term, we hold collective planning sessions with learners to understand what they want from the classes and what would be most useful or enjoyable for them. This collaborative approach shapes the programme and helps ensure the sessions are relevant and engaging.

As a result, our sessions combine practical English linked to real challenges learners have experienced in their daily lives with topics they are personally interested in exploring. For example, one learner who hopes to become a hairdresser spent several weeks researching and writing about this ambition in English. Learners have also actively contributed to how the classes are taught. Many have told us they value more formal exercises, particularly those who missed structured learning during their earlier education, and we have incorporated this feedback into our approach.

Alongside the learner sessions, we hold regular teacher training sessions. This has allowed us to expand and strengthen the teaching team over time, including supporting former learners to become involved as teachers themselves.

SIMs

We have a programme of regular SIM distribution through the National Databank, as we are part of their Online Centres Network. There is always significant demand for these SIMs, and the

distribution process also allows us to identify and start to solve a range of other digital access issues that members might experience.

Movement workshops: dance and yoga

We ran two movement sessions throughout the year at our Sunday drop ins at Stoke Newington - dance classes and chair yoga. Our dance classes were attended by around 5 people per week and encompassed a range of styles including salsa, afrobeats and zumba. Participants enjoyed them as an opportunity to have fun, let their hair down and do some exercise.

Chair yoga is an accessible physical practice which promotes bodily awareness, relaxation and mobility. Sessions begin with a few minutes of breathing exercises which calm the nervous system and facilitate mindfulness, move into a series of gentle movements and stretches starting from the head and gradually working down to the feet, and close with a period of silence. We usually had 5-10 participants at each session, including a mix of community members and volunteers of all ages. In feedback, participants said they found the exercises to be accessible and helpful for unlocking stiffness in their bodies. Many people asked for recommendations of videos that they could use to practice at home, and some got involved in other yoga classes in other settings.

Volunteer day

In March this year, we began planning for a volunteer day, pictured below, that was used to engage Akwaaba volunteers and our wider community in deciding the direction for Akwaaba strategically. We made key decisions on working groups, funding allocations and priorities for the year ahead.

In February, we also held the Akwaaba 10 year anniversary. At this we brought together a significant number of volunteers and community members to celebrate the achievements of Akwaaba over the last 10 years, we had food, music, comedy and a range of other activities available for adults and young people.



Arts project

We meet weekly every Sunday. 2 weeks at Stoke Newington school and 2 weeks at Metroland studios. Our members enjoy drawing, painting, colouring, making clay, mash paper, making masks, textiles etc.

We've 10m discussions at the end of each session. Our members comment that the art group helps their wellbeing, socialise and make friends as well as improving their creativity.

We practise writing for some time. Some of our members write poems. Some write some emotional writing. We made a trip to the other cinema to watch some refugee's show. It was free. We have offered good delicious pizzas with different tastes .

We did a small exhibition in our Christmas party and ran a workshop to make any creature from the flour and water. We always used recycled materials or simple ones to be creative.



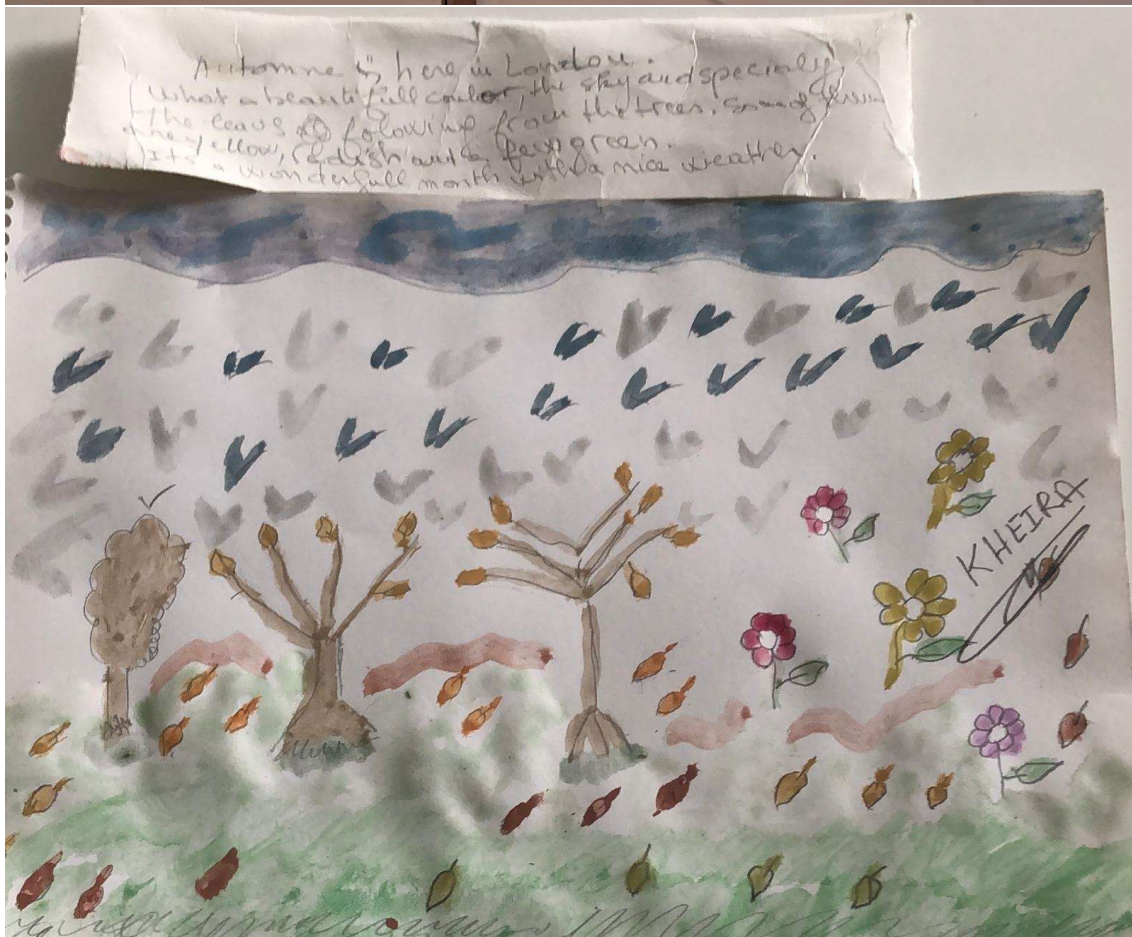
















Kitchen

Both of Akwaaba's regular kitchen volunteers continue to do great and people love their meals. At present Akwaaba is open twice a month and they usually serve up to 250 meals every session for both adults and children. The cost of cooking for each session adds up to £750 per session.

Computer section

Akwaaba has an IT cafe where members can use a number of laptops for browsing, listening to music, to watch a movie, to make online applications. A couple of volunteers are available to help with queries or online searches or applications for a range of needs. Tech support for personal devices is available.

This year we were able to provide reconditioned laptops to volunteers to improve their engagement with Akwaaba and provide printing for volunteers and community members where needed.

Sexual Health Support/Advocacy - Positive East

Positive East continued to attend Akwaaba sessions providing a range of support including STI testing, contraception and sexual health related support.

Women's Resilience fund

In 2024, Akwaaba won a bid to secure multi-year funding from the Smallwood Trust to directly support migrant/refugee/asylum-seeking women in Hackney. Akwaaba received the first 10k installment of a 4 year unrestricted grant in late 2024, and assembled a working group to decide how best to allocate the resource. Women with experience of the immigration system were in the working group, so were able to lend their perspectives about a fair system of distribution. The decision was made collectively to provide as many small grants as possible, with a higher amount available to women who had no recourse to public funds or were experiencing homelessness. We gave out 62 grants in February 2025, and women reported using this money on essential things like food, travel, rent, utilities and homeware. A member of the working group is also representing Akwaaba at the Hackney Women's Network, where grantees from Smallwood meet quarterly to discuss systemic issues affecting migrant women, and how these can be better addressed in partnership.

PART 3: GOVERNANCE OF AKWAABA

The Board of Trustees continued to meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the activities of these working groups while individual trustees participated in other working groups.

During the 2024-2025 financial year Akwaaba continued to function in decentralised way, in which our working groups came to the fore:

- The Budget Group, which is open to all members to join, met regularly to determine the budget for the coming quarter and authorise changes to funds allocated to different parts of the project.
- The Fundraising Group continued to source funding for Akwaaba's operation

Akwaaba's community ethos continues to be its strength, allowing the project to rapidly respond and making dramatic changes according to the needs of our members.

PART 4: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Akwaaba's income was £84,038 (2023-24 - 67,967)

Akwaaba's income increased from the previous financial year, Akwaaba ended the financial year of 2024/25 with an increase of £4,430. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those who contributed funds to Akwaaba's operations as well as those who continue to put in efforts into our fundraising.

Net assets at year-end (ie. cash balance) was £73,743 (2023-24 £69,313), of which £72,340 (2023-24 £69,313) was unrestricted funds and £1,403 (£8,197 2022-23) restricted funds.

Akwaaba's main costs continue to be running Sunday sessions, specifically the kitchen costs as well as rent and activities, members' travel to the sessions as well as newly introduced Winter Resilience Support. One of the significant increases in costs related to catering our sessions as we began to use external caterers due to venue limitations for cooking on site. Overheads were for insurance, fundraising and employing an accountant.

This year we maintained reserves of around £35,000 to continue running sessions. This provides for approximately six months of essential costs required to run sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

The main financial risk is the loss of income from recurring donations/grants over a sustained period of time, particularly during current difficult socio-economic conditions in the UK which are seeing household and organisational incomes heavily impacted. During uncertain times,

Akwaaba is committed to making plans based on existing and confirmed funds only, protecting its reserves and monitoring funds to avoid a deficit position.

PART 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Akwaaba
Registered charity number	1181291
Charity's principal address at 31-03-2024	154 Sandford Road LONDON E6 3PX

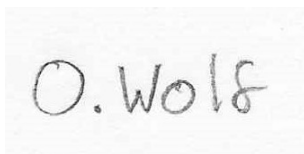
Names of Trustees at 31-03-2025

1. Bukola Akinniyi
2. Omolola Alimi
3. Ibtisam Imam
4. Naomi Byrne
5. Otto Wolf
6. Jihad Issa
7. Morgan Harries

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

This is to confirm that the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit set out on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>.

Approved by the order of the members of the board and signed on behalf by:



28/01/2026
(Otto Wolf, Trustee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AKWAABA (CHARITY NUMBER: 1181291)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of AKWAABA Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 19 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 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.



Kalpesh Shah FCCA
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Dacre Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 3DL

Dated: 29 January 2026



AKWAABA			1181291	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 01 April 2024	to	Period end date 31 March 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					
Donation Income	49,321	-	-	49,321	48,990
Grant Income	-	34,717	-	34,717	18,977
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	49,321	34,717	-	84,038	67,967
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	49,321	34,717	-	84,038	67,967
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Rent and Activities	7,011	6,634	-	13,645	21,317
Sunday Kitchen	15,435	4,700	-	20,135	10,075
Sunday Children Activities	2,291	252	-	2,543	3,042
Sunday Travel Support	10,926	11,079	-	22,005	14,190
Winter Resilience Support	5,330	-	-	5,330	19,900
Daytrips	2,536	1,109	-	3,645	3,891
Citizenship Support	-	-	-	-	-
Womens Resilience Support	-	8,440	-	8,440	-
Volunteer Training	607	1,100	-	1,707	2,077
Volunteer Devices & Data	-	-	-	-	38
Overheads	1,608	-	-	1,608	1,663
Governance	550	-	-	550	550
Sub total	46,295	33,314	-	79,609	76,743
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	46,295	33,314	-	79,609	76,743
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,027	1,403	-	4,430	- 8,776
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	69,313	-	-	69,313	78,089
Cash funds this year end	72,340	1,403	-	73,743	69,313

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	Bank	70,754	1,403	
	Petty Cash	102	-	
	Paypal Account	1,483	-	
	Total cash funds	72,340	1,403	-
	(agree balances with receipts)	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
	O. Wolf	Otto Wolf	28/01/2026	

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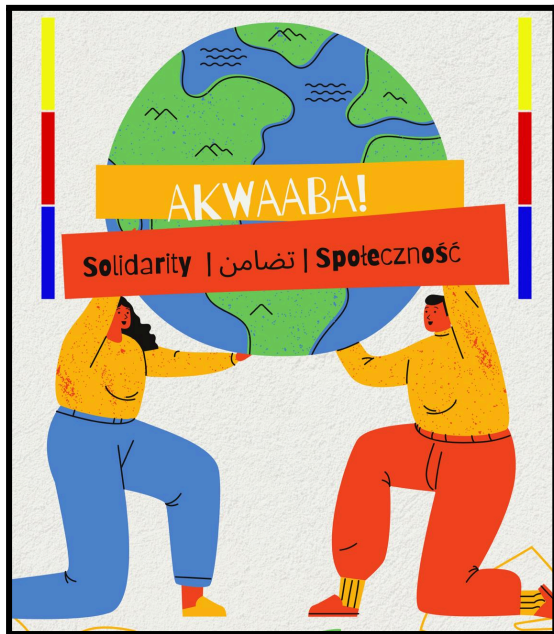


AKWAABA ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: April 2023 - March 2024

Charity Registration Number: 1181291

PART 1: ABOUT AKWAABA



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- Provide material support including food, travel bursaries and other donated items to migrant members experiencing hardship



Summary of changes to Akwaaba's activities between April 2023 to March 2024

PART 2: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

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Our sessions are attended by an average of 150 people including up to 30 children. Each week we distribute £5 travel bursaries to half the attendees (around 70 people) according to a rota system. We cover travel costs for volunteers up to £10, although some volunteers travel from far afield and pay more than this to get to our sessions.

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Kids Team

Akwaaba Kids sessions provide a safe, fun, child-centred space for kids whose parents/carers are onsite engaging with the wider community, with a range of games and activities.

AKWAABA

- We have continued our recruitment drive to allow us to book in more kids at our sessions, and to welcome new families into the Akwaaba community.
- We continue to run regular "child liberation" reading and reflection sessions, where we discuss new ideas relating to child-centricity, children's rights, and innovative practice, and how to implement changes in the space as a result.
- In addition to our usual Sunday sessions, we ran a session at a local adventure playground and took a trip to watch Clapton Community FC.

Pictures of marble painting, and one of the kids' continued favourites - slime!



Beach Trip

This year, the beach trip working group organised a trip on 12 August. The group chose to go to Ramsgate. The trip was attended by around 120 people, half adults and half children. People brought and shared food and as the sun was shining, lots of people went into the water.

Christmas party

At this year's Christmas party, we had 377 people attending the session. We handed out Christmas grants at an average of approximately £50 per person to support them over this period. Alongside this we provided Christmas dinner to everybody who attended the session.

English

We hold an English teaching session every week after lunch is served. We have a regular group of members attending with a range of ability levels, ranging from those with little to no English to those who speak well but want to practise their written skills. We have a team of enough volunteers to

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accommodate the diversity of approaches. We try to run the sessions in a participatory way, working with the regular group of students to plan our content. We normally use a theme-based structure, which allows us to take the same topic for several sessions in a row and build our knowledge consistently. Our topics generally cover knowledge directly useful to learners' daily lives and often engage with relevant social and political questions.

SIMs

We have a programme of regular SIM distribution through the National Databank, as we are part of their Online Centres Network. There is always significant demand for these SIMs, and the distribution process also allows us to identify and start to solve a range of other digital access issues that members might experience.

Movement workshops: dance and yoga

We've started a programme of movement workshops which happen every Sunday session. We have beginner salsa/afrobeat dance classes from 3.15-4 and then after a short break, accessible chair yoga from 4.15-5. The workshops are designed to be accessible to all, and there's a regular group of Akwaaba members who attend both sessions, representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and abilities. The feedback for this new programme has been really positive - lots of people have taken up a physical activity which they had never done before in their lives and have felt the benefit.

Volunteer day

At the end of April, we held a full day volunteer day open to all Akwaaba volunteers, with approximately 30 people in attendance.

The day allowed us to discuss Akwaaba's values, history, and past achievements, as well as think about the future of the organisation. Through a series of activities the group was able to reflect on questions such as what it meant for Akwaaba to be a community and where people could see the organisation in 5 years. We also discussed a range of topics in more detail, including how to make Akwaaba a safer space for all, or how to better recruit and support volunteers. The day ended with a shared meal, allowing volunteers to socialise and get to know each other better.

We received positive feedback from many volunteers, who appreciated the opportunity to come together, reflect on our current praxis, make collective decisions, and build up relationships. We hope to organise regular volunteer days going forward, at least twice a year.

Arts project

We meet weekly every Sunday. 2 weeks at Stoke Newington school and 2 weeks at Kilburn library. Our members enjoy drawing, painting, colouring, making clay, mash paper, making masks, etc.

The members reflect that the art group helps their wellbeing, socialise and make friends as well as improving their creativity.

We have an art exhibition in the refugee week. We share our art work at Stoke Newington school and invite visitors from outside to see our art work. We exhibited around 100 pieces and had a music show in which a professional singer sang three songs for us and members from the art group

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performed some poems. Then we opened the stage to open mic from Akwaaba members. There were some people singing and some people playing guitar.

We made a trip to Victoria and Albert museum to get our artist inspired.

We visited the Serpentine gallery. There was an exhibition there and we made the workshop there that time.

We made a trip to the zoo exhibition and we ran our workshop there as well.

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Sewing class

At Akwaaba, those who attend are able to use sewing machines to make pillow cases, or personal items. Each person was able to take a pillow case at the Christmas party.

Kitchen

Both of Akwaaba's regular kitchen volunteers continue to do great and people love their meals. At present Akwaaba is open twice a month and they usually serve up to 250 meals every session for both adults and children. The cost of cooking for each session adds up to £500 per session.

Hairdressing

Akwaaba continues to provide haircuts to those coming to our sessions. Despite our previous hairdresser now being too busy with other obligations at Akwaaba, we have managed to find new volunteers who are willing to provide haircuts. We provide haircuts to both women and men to ensure that many of the mental health benefits associated with a haircut are available to our community and not obstructed by financial barriers.

Computer section

Akwaaba has an IT cafe where members can use a number of laptops for browsing, listening to music, to watch a movie, to make online applications. A couple of volunteers are available to help with queries or online searches or applications for a range of needs. Tech support for personal devices is available. A total of 5 reconditioned laptops were purchased and lent to volunteers. A new printer has been purchased and is available for members to do printouts and photocopies.

PART 3: GOVERNANCE OF AKWAABA

The Board of Trustees continued to meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the activities of these working groups while individual trustees participated in other working groups.

During the 2023-2024 financial year Akwaaba continued to function in decentralised way, in which our working groups came to the fore:

- The Budget Group, which is open to all members to join, met regularly to determine the budget for the coming quarter and authorise changes to funds allocated to different parts of the project.
- The Fundraising Group continued to source funding for Akwaaba's operation

Akwaaba's community ethos continues to be its strength, allowing the project to rapidly respond and making dramatic changes according to the needs of our members.



PART 4: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Akwaaba's income was £67,967 (2022-23 - 75,426)

Akwaaba's income decreased from the previous financial year, Akwaaba ended the financial year of 2023/24 with a loss of £8,776. We intentionally increased our spending this year in response to cash reserves being far above our minimum reserves policy. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those who contributed funds to Akwaaba's operations as well as those who continue to put in efforts into our fundraising.

Net assets at year-end (ie. cash balance) was £69,313 (2022-23 £78,089), of which £61,116 (2022-23 £57,654) was unrestricted funds and £8,197 (£26,452 2022-23) restricted funds.

Akwaaba's main costs continue to be running Sunday sessions, specifically the kitchen costs as well as rent and activities, members' travel to the sessions, which more than doubled that year, as well as newly introduced Winter Resilience Support. Overheads were for insurance, fundraising and employing an accountant.

This year we maintained reserves of around £35,000 to continue running sessions. This provides for approximately six months of essential costs required to run sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

The main financial risk is the loss of income from recurring donations/grants over a sustained period of time, particularly during current difficult socio-economic conditions in the UK which are seeing household and organisational incomes heavily impacted. During uncertain times, Akwaaba is committed to making plans based on existing and confirmed funds only, protecting its reserves and monitoring funds to avoid a deficit position.

PART 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

AKWAABA



Charity name	Akwaaba
Registered charity number	1181291
Charity's principal address at 31-03-2024	154 Sandford Road LONDON E6 3PX

Names of Trustees at 31-03-2024

1. Bukola Akinniyi
2. Omolola Alimi
3. Ibtisam Imam
4. Naomi Byrne
5. Tomasz Muszynski
6. Otto Wolf
7. Jihad Issa
8. Lucy Rix

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

This is to confirm that the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit set out on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>.

Approved by the order of the members of the board and signed on behalf by:

27.01.2025
(Otto Wolf, Trustee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AKWAABA (CHARITY NUMBER: 1181291)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of AKWAABA Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 15 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 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.



Kalpesh Shah FCCA
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Dacre Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 3DL

Dated: 28 January 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01 April 2023		31 March 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					
Donation Income	48,990	-	-	48,990	41,458
Grant Income	0	18,977	-	18,977	33,968
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	48,990	18,977	-	67,967	75,426
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	48,990	18,977	-	67,967	75,426
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Rent and Activities	12,332	8,985	-	21,317	20,146
Sunday Kitchen	10,075	-	-	10,075	7,877
Sunday Children Activities	2,513	529	-	3,042	3,815
Sunday Travel Support Sunday	7,230	6,960	-	14,190	6,181
Winter Resilience Support	6,950	12,950	-	19,900	16,440
Daytrips	3,000	891	-	3,891	3,412
Citizenship Support	-	-	-	-	50
Covid-19 Response	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Training	1,177	900	-	2,077	650
Volunteer Devices & Data	38	-	-	38	1,953
Overheads	1,663	-	-	1,663	3,212
Governance	550	-	-	550	475
Sub total	45,528	31,215	-	76,743	64,211
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	45,528	31,215	-	76,743	64,211
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,462	- 12,238	-	- 8,776	11,215
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	57,654	20,435	-	78,089	66,874
Cash funds this year end	61,116	8,197	-	69,313	78,089

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	Bank	60,609	8,197	-
	Petty Cash	219	-	-
	Paypal Account	288	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	61,116	8,197	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
	O. Wolf	Otto Wolf	28/01/2025	

AKWAABA

England & Wales - Charity number 1181291

Accounts



AKWAABA ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: April 2022 - March 2023

Charity Registration Number: 1181291

PART 1: ABOUT AKWAABA



Akwaaba is a Hackney-based social centre for migrants. We offer a space for rest, play, learning and mutual support. Akwaaba is for all migrants regardless of immigration status, 'race', religion, country of origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and (dis)ability.

We believe that no-one is illegal. We are committed to actively opposing racism and all other forms of discrimination and oppression.

Our aim is to build community and foster care, cooperation and solidarity. As a community, we try

to make decisions collectively and give all members an equal say in how the social centre is run.

Akwaaba is a volunteer-run space.

Our primary aims are to:

- Offer a safe and welcoming space for migrants of all backgrounds for social activities and mutual support
- Foster solidarity and build a shared community of people from different backgrounds
- Provide material support including food, travel bursaries and other donated items to migrant members experiencing hardship



Summary of changes to Akwaaba's activities between April 2022 to March 2023

PART 2: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In April 2022, Akwaaba re-opened at Stoke Newington School. We hold Sunday drop-in sessions twice a month from our base in Stoke Newington Secondary School. Our regular activities include a hot meal, a children's programme, arts workshops, English conversation classes, computer support and a barbershop. We also host monthly outreach visits delivered by a partner charity Positive East which provide free STI testing and sexual health advice.

Our sessions are attended by an average of 150 people including up to 30 children. Each week we distribute £5 travel bursaries to half the attendees (around 70 people) according to a rota system. We cover travel costs for volunteers up to £10, although some volunteers travel from far afield and pay more than this to get to our sessions.

Our Sunday sessions are run by and for migrants. The majority of Sunday volunteers are migrant members with lived experience of the hostile environment who originally attended the space in order to access support or participate in an activity. Core Akwaaba programmes are led by migrant volunteers including the kitchen, the travel support scheme, the arts workshop and the barbershop, as well as special events like our annual beach trip and Christmas party. Three quarters of the participatory budgeting group (which has determined Akwaaba's annual budget and approved discretionary spending over the past two years) are migrant members with lived experience. Similarly Akwaaba's financial transactions through our bank account are approved by migrant volunteers.

External support with internal relationships and communication

During the covid pandemic, the various teams in Akwaaba started working a lot more autonomously than before, which allowed us to expand dramatically in response to the emergency situation, focus on lots of different things at once and get a lot done. However it led to some communication issues between teams as we struggled to maintain a forum through which all of Akwaaba could come together in discussion. We hoped that these issues would be resolved once we returned to regular face-to-face Sunday sessions, but we found it really difficult to create the time and space to work through them. There always seemed to be more urgent things to address



than organisational health and relationships. This year, we found that some conflicts and tensions continued to crop up between volunteers and teams stemming from disagreements about how we should run our sessions and the absence of a forum to talk them through.

For that reason, we put together a cross-team working group to arrange a series of externally facilitated discussions for volunteers. The aim of these sessions has been to help us talk through our differences, establish more sustainable ways of working and rebuild trust between volunteers. We identified an organisation called Navigate who provided a facilitator and we have been working with him through one-on-one conversations, small focus groups and larger meetings to support organisational communication.

Kitchen Performance:

Both of Akwaaba's regular kitchen volunteers are doing great and people love their meals. At present Akwaaba is open twice a month and they usually serve 200 to 250 meals every session for both adults and children. The cost of cooking for each session adds up to £300-£350 per session.

Kids Team

In the last year, the kids' team has focused on re-opening and establishing its regular kids sessions, running during Akwaaba sessions across two self-contained children's spaces (indoor and outdoor). These sessions provide a safe, fun, child-centred space for kids whose parents/carers are onsite engaging with the wider community, with a range of games and activities.

- Providing a safe environment for as many kids as possible. The pandemic saw a significant drop in volunteer numbers, so we have dedicated significant time to recruiting and inducting new volunteers.
- We have begun regular "child liberation" reading and reflection sessions, where we discuss new ideas relating to child-centricity, children's rights, and innovative practice, and how to implement changes in the space as a result.
- We have sought to ensure the longevity of the kids team by making sure we share power and decision-making as evenly as possible between volunteers, ensuring we don't become overly dependent on specific long-serving team members.

Pictures of zine making, and one of the kids' favourites - slime!

AKWAABA



Art Project

Our inaugural art festival took place on 11 June, when for the first time, members of the public were invited to attend an Akwaaba session. We displayed around 50 pieces of work throughout our main space, created by members of the art project. The work was on sale and several pieces were purchased by visitors, raising funds for the art project. Alongside the exhibition, we held an open mic musical concert, and several members and volunteers got up on stage to perform for the attendees. It was a memorable occasion and one that we hope to repeat on an annual basis.

Decorations made during the Christmas party art workshop:



Beach Trip

This year, the beach trip working group decided to organise two trips on 6 and 27 August to ensure that the maximum number of members could attend. The group chose to go to Broadstairs, which



has a direct train connection to Stratford offering £1 tickets to children. Both trips were attended by around 120 people, half adults and half children. People brought and shared food and as the sun was shining, lots of people went into the water.

View from the promenade at Broadstairs:



Christmas party

Our Christmas party took place on 11 December and was attended by 300 people including 50 children. We provided a festive meal, themed conversation classes and hosted a performance by a Ukrainian refugee choir. As part of our regular arts and crafts sessions members designed and made Christmas decorations. We issued 205 cost of living grants to members in need, totalling £10,250. The grants were part funded by a council programme and part funded through a crowdfunding campaign.

After the party, lots of members chose to send thank you messages on our whatsapp channel. A selection are included below.

"Thank you Akwaaba management personnel. You made us and the year 2022 with smiling faces. First the meal was very well cooked with the inclusion of a big chunk of turkey! You have made my 2022 Christmas celebration easy. For the first time, I even got a beautiful hair cut."

"Thank you all Akwaaba staffs including kitchen team, from chef and his staff, for the nice thing they had done. Everything was prepared in a brilliant way, I've never seen before like that. And again thank you very much for the money - they are very happy because they needs that money."



“Thank you to the Akwaaba organisation and its employees for this beautiful and exceptional day. The management of the organisation has spared no effort in providing all possible assistance to all members. It is one of the leading organisations in the field of volunteer and humanitarian work.”

PART 3: GOVERNANCE OF AKWAABA

The Board of Trustees continued to meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the activities of these working groups while individual trustees participated in other working groups.

During the 2022-2023 financial year Akwaaba continued to function in decentralised way, in which our working groups came to the fore:

- The Budget Group, which is open to all members to join, met regularly to determine the budget for the coming quarter and authorise changes to funds allocated to different parts of the project.
- The Fundraising Group continued to source funding for Akwaaba’s operation

Akwaaba’s community ethos continues to be its strength, allowing the project to rapidly respond and making dramatic changes according to the needs of our members.

PART 4: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Akwaaba’s income was £75,427 (2021-22 - 82,663).

Akwaaba’s income dropped slightly compared to previous financial year as we moved away from Covid-response towards pre-pandemic operations Akwaaba ended the financial year 2022/23 with a surplus of £11,215. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those who contributed funds to Akwaaba’s operations as well as those who continue to put in efforts into our fundraising.

Net assets at year-end (ie. cash balance) was £78,089 (2021-22 £66,874), of which £57,654 (2021-22 £40,422) was unrestricted funds and £20,435 (2021-22 £26,452) restricted funds.



Akwaaba's main costs are running Sunday sessions, members' travel to the sessions as well as newly introduced Winter Resilience Support. Overheads were for insurance, fundraising and employing an accountant.

This year we maintained reserves of around £35,000 to continue running sessions. This provides for approximately six months of essential costs required to run sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

The main financial risk is the loss of income from recurring donations/grants over a sustained period of time, particularly during current difficult socio-economic conditions in the UK which are seeing household and organisational incomes heavily impacted. During uncertain times, Akwaaba is committed to making plans based on existing and confirmed funds only, protecting its reserves and monitoring funds to avoid a deficit position.

PART 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Akwaaba
Registered charity number	1181291
Charity's principal address at 31-03-2023	154 Sandford Road LONDON E6 3PX

Names of Trustees at 31-03-2023

1. Bukola Akinniyi
2. Omolola Alimi
3. Ibtisam Imam
4. Gargi Bhattacharyya



5. Naomi Byrne
6. Tomasz Muszynski
7. Lucy Rix
8. Shanthi Sivakumaran

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

This is to confirm that the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit set out on their website:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>.

Approved by the order of the members of the board and signed on behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Muszynski', is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

Tomasz Muszynski
(Trustee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AKWAABA (CHARITY NUMBER: 1181291)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of AKWAABA Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.



Kalpesh Shah
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Dacre Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 3DL

Dated: 30 January 2024



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
fromPeriod start date
01 April 2022

To

Period end date
31 March 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					
Donation Income	41,458	-	-	41,458	52,458
Grant Income	262	33,706	-	33,968	30,205
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	41,721	33,706	-	75,427	82,663
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	41,721	33,706	-	75,427	82,663
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Session Costs	9,336	10,810	-	20,146	7,490
Sunday Kitchen	6,040	1,837	-	7,877	8,584
Sunday Children Activities	315	3,500	-	3,815	5,992
Travel to Sessions & Activities	893	5,288	-	6,181	6,671
Winter Resilience Support	3,750	12,690	-	16,440	-
Daytrips	- 0	3,412	-	3,412	3,397
Citizenship Support	50	-	-	50	50
Covid-19 Response	-	-	-	-	86,625
Volunteer Training	650	-	-	650	150
Volunteer Devices & Data	170	1,783	-	1,953	5,173
Overheads	2,832	380	-	3,212	1,166
Governance	452	23	-	475	450
Sub total	24,489	39,723	-	64,212	125,748
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,489	39,723	-	64,212	125,748
Net of receipts/(payments)	17,232	- 6,017	-	11,215	- 43,085
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	40,422	26,452	-	66,874	109,959
Cash funds this year end	57,654	20,435	-	78,089	66,874

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	Bank	56,049	20,435	-
	Petty Cash	240	-	-
	Paypal Account	1,365	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	57,654	20,435	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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

Tomasz Muszynski

Date of approval

30/01/2024

AKWAABA

England & Wales - Charity number 1181291

Accounts

AKWAABA ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: April 2021 - March 2022

Charity Registration Number: 1181291

PART 1: ABOUT AKWAABA



Akwaaba is a Hackney-based social centre for migrants. We offer a space for rest, play, learning and mutual support. Akwaaba is for all migrants regardless of immigration status, 'race', religion, country of origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and (dis)ability.

We believe that no-one is illegal. We are committed to actively opposing racism and all other forms of discrimination and oppression.

Our aim is to build community and foster care, cooperation and solidarity. As a community, we try

to make decisions collectively and give all members an equal say in how the social centre is run.

Akwaaba is a volunteer-run space.

Our primary aims are to:

- Offer a safe and welcoming space for migrants of all backgrounds for social activities and mutual support
- Foster solidarity and build a shared community of people from different backgrounds
- Provide material support including food, travel bursaries and other donated items to migrant members experiencing hardship

Summary of changes to Akwaaba's activities between April 2021 to March 2022

PART 2: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Akwaaba went through a transition period in 2021- 2022 as the organisation moved from operating in pandemic conditions to returning to the usual Sunday community sessions indoors. During this financial period, Akwaaba wound down the pandemic programmes which provided extra support to members in need as a result of the pandemic. Akwaaba then underwent a period of rest and reflection after we moved from our temporary outside venue at St Mary's Gardens. During the period that Akwaaba ceased weekly open sessions, Akwaaba members worked hard to find a new venue where we could meet inside and maintain community ties and activities. In April 2022, Akwaaba re-opened at Stoke Newington School.

Covid Response

Akwaaba continued our Covid-19 Pandemic response which had been established at the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 to support members. In the first six months of 2021-22 we spent £85,642 which was raised for our Covid Response activities. The most significant proportion of the expenditure was for regular hardship support and emergency grants.

In August 2021, Akwaaba ran our first ever beach trip to Margate. 200 members of Akwaaba participated. Approximately half were children. The event was a great success and Akwaaba hopes to make it an annual tradition.



We continued to run weekly Sunday sessions until September 2021 when we closed for six months for a period of rest, reflection and

planning before we moved to a new permanent venue. Akwaaba had successfully organised a significant funding and support drive during the pandemic which ensured that members and a

wider number of people in need were able to access support, advice and food during the hardest periods of the lock down. The significant increase in support had placed increased pressure on Akwaaba volunteers and it was agreed that a period of rest and reflection was needed before we returned to meeting indoors as we had done before the pandemic. This long-overdue break allowed us to recuperate and work on rebuilding some of our internal structures that had been overstretched by our Covid-response. We caught up on the administrative issues including trustee recruitment, accounting and policy development and to hold a series of member consultations to plan our post pandemic recovery.

During this period, we ran some one off sessions for members so they could remain connected and supported including a Christmas Party in December 2021.

Akwaaba moved to a fantastic new venue - Stoke Newington Secondary School - in April 2022. Akwaaba has been running two sessions a month at the new venue with some online activities while we develop volunteer capacity. In the lead up to April 2022, Akwaaba volunteers reviewed our systems and structures to ensure a smooth transition to the new venue.

Kitchen Performance 2021-22:

The kitchen team continued to grow in strength while cooking under pandemic conditions (where Akwaaba was serving takeaway meals). Members praised the chefs for cooking delicious meals. They said that the food was freshly prepared and served hot in packed takeaways every session.

From April 2021 to March 2022, the Kitchen Team served 200 meals per session including volunteers. Since the end of the pandemic (30 September 2021) the Kitchen Team has not received any food donations from previous community food partners. Akwaaba has been responsible for purchasing food to prepare for the session.

Kids Team

The Kids Team continued activities that had developed in response to the pandemic as well as their usual activities. The Kids Team's main activities included:

- Running a family support scheme

- Weekly online sessions for the kids activities including arts, crafts, games and cooking
- 11 sessions at a local adventure playground across summer;
- Halloween and Christmas sessions including lunch for volunteers, parents & kids
- Running a laptop lending library for families
- Sending all children a card on their birthday
- Supporting parents to organise coffee mornings to socialise and provide other kinds of support

PART 3: GOVERNANCE OF AKWAABA

The Board of Trustees continued to meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the activities of these working groups while individual trustees participated in other working groups. Two new trustees were recruited during the year through an open application and interview process.

During the 2021-2022 financial year Akwaaba continued to function in decentralised way, in which our working groups came to the fore:

- The Budget Group, which is open to all members to join, met regularly to determine the budget for the coming quarter and authorise changes to funds allocated to different parts of the project.
- The Fundraising Group continued to source funding for Akwaaba's operation
- The working groups managing our Sunday sessions, children's programme, hardship support, English classes, storytelling and yoga projects worked independently of each other to organise activities remotely or in different locations around Hackney.

Akwaaba's community ethos continues to be its strength, allowing the project to rapidly respond and making dramatic changes according to the needs of our members.

PART 4: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Akwaaba's income was £82,663 (2019-20£243,576).

Akwaaba's income dropped significantly this year as Akwaaba's operations moved from pandemic emergency support towards normal operations. Akwaaba ended the financial year 2021/22 with a deficit of £43,085, this was due to spending remainders of some of the grants received in previous financial year. The previous year's income was exceptionally large as we responded to the COVID emergency situation by expanding our financial and material support provision for extremely vulnerable members. As a voluntary group we did not have the organisational capacity to sustain this long term and we focus on solidarity rather than charitable service so we wanted to return to our previous way of working. We took the decision to target lower fundraising income in 21-22, and spend down the COVID grants while remaining significantly above our minimum reserves threshold. We have achieved this and are on track to return to surplus in 22-23 having restored our pre COVID model of Sunday sessions and community building. We gratefully thank all those who generously contributed funds. Also those who made such outstanding fundraising efforts.

Net assets at year-end (ie. cash balance) was £66,874 (2020-21£109,914), of which £40,422 (2019-20 £71,762) was unrestricted funds and £26,452 (2019-20 £38,152) restricted funds. Again, the drop in assets was due to some grants held at the end of previous financial year being spent. For that reason Covid-19 response continued to be the biggest expense in this financial year by some margin.

The remainder of the income has been applied to the running of Sunday sessions, and travel costs for members to attend Akwaaba events and meetings. Overheads were mainly for hiring space for the Sunday sessions.

A reserve of £16,000 has been maintained to safeguard the ability to continue running sessions. This provides for approximately six months of essential costs required to run sessions in non-pandemic times. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

The main financial risk is the loss of income from recurring donations/grants over a sustained period of time, particularly during current difficult socio-economic conditions in the UK which are seeing household and organisational incomes heavily impacted. During uncertain times, Akwaaba is committed to making plans based on existing and confirmed funds only, protecting its reserves and monitoring funds to avoid a deficit position.

PART 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Akwaaba
Registered charity number	1181291
Charity's principal address at 31-03-2021*	35c Glenarm Road London E5 0LY
*Subsequently changed	

Names of Trustees at 31-03-2022

1. Bukola Akinniyi
2. Omolola Alimi
3. Khalid Bashar
4. Gargi Bhattacharyya
5. Naomi Byrne
6. Tomasz Muszynski
7. Lucy Rix
8. Shanthi Sivakumaran

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

This is to confirm that the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit set out on their website:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>.

Approved by order of the members of the board and signed on behalf by:



25/01/2023

Tomasz Muszynski (Trustee)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AKWAABA
(CHARITY NUMBER: 1181291)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of AKWAABA Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. K. Shah", with a horizontal line underneath.

Kalpesh Shah
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Dacre Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 3DL

Dated: 28 January 2023


Receipts and payments accounts
CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01 April 2021	To	Period end date 31 March 2022
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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					
Donation Income	46,843	5,615	-	52,458	131,722
Grant Income	-	30,205	-	30,205	111,854
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	46,843	35,820	-	82,663	243,576
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	46,843	35,820	-	82,663	243,576
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday Session Costs	7,490	-	-	7,490	6,226
Sunday Kitchen	8,584	-	-	8,584	12,215
Sunday Children Activities	1,211	4,781	-	5,992	4,940
Volunteer Devices & Data	5,173	-	-	5,173	20
Daytrips & Other Activities	3,397	-	-	3,397	-
Support Groups/Meetings	6,127	544	-	6,671	11,724
Member Training	150	-	-	150	-
Citizenship Support	50	-	-	50	1,012
	-	-	-	-	-
Covid-19 Response	58,983	27,642	-	86,625	158,373
Hardship Support (Covid-19)	-	-	-	-	7,500
Overheads	1,166	-	-	1,166	2,982
Governance	450	-	-	450	450
Sub total	92,781	32,967	-	125,748	205,442
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	92,781	32,967	-	125,748	205,442
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 45,938	2,853	-	- 43,085	38,134
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	86,360	23,599	-	109,959	71,825
Cash funds this year end	40,422	26,452	-	66,874	109,959

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	Bank	36,622	26,452	-
	Petty Cash	132	-	-
	Paypal Account	3,668	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	40,422	26,452	-
		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			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	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



Tomasz Muszynski

25/01/2023

Section C Accounting Policies and notes to the Receipts and Payments Accounts

1. Company Information

Akwaaba is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity Commission: 1181291). The registered address is 35C Glenarm Road, London, E5 0LY.

2. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

Charities registered in England and Wales that are not companies are allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act') to prepare receipts and payments accounts, provided the charity's gross income is less than £250,000.

Receipts and payments accounts have been chosen by the Trustees, since Akwaaba is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and complies with the above for its accounting periods to 31st March 2021 and 31st March 2020.

The accounts have been prepared, using the Charity Commission's pro forma accounts (CC16a), and have been signed-off as ready for an independent examination.

The following have been prepared by the trustees:

- A Trustees' Annual Report
- A Receipts and Payments Account
- A Statement of Assets and Liabilities

3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the objectives of the CIO at the discretion of the membership.

Restricted income funds are resources which are to be applied to specific purposes as requested by the funder, in line with designated giving.

4. Incoming Resources

All incoming financial resources are included in the Income & Expenditure Account upon receipt of monies into the Akwaaba bank account, cash-in-hand records or PayPal. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet.

All volunteer time (ie. free time) is considered an in-kind donation which is not recorded/accounted for.

Akwaaba categorises its income into three main categories:

Donation Income: Any gift of cash from an individual or organisation to support Akwaaba's self-determined goals, for which the funder receives nothing in return. The funder can normally receive tax relief directly from HMRC for their donations. Akwaaba is also positioned to claim gift aid on donations from individuals.

Grant Income: Any funding bid that has resulted in non-repayable funds being awarded to Akwaaba. These funds are mainly provided towards a specific

purpose and are therefore (generally) accounted for as restricted income.

Fundraising Income: Any funding received through a fundraising event/initiative planned by Akwaaba members.

5. Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised at the point at which payment is made. Expenditure is classified and aggregated under specific categories, as per their nature (eg. travel costs for members, childcare costs for members, kitchen costs). All costs are directly attributed to categories.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

6. Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash held in a current account, in a Paypal account and cash in hand which is split into 'travel' and 'general'.

7. Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the CIO to continue as a going concern. These accounts are prepared on the Going Concern concept.

8. Reserves

A reserve of £15,000 is maintained to safeguard the ability to continue running sessions, in the event that fundraising levels drop below weekly expenditures for a significant length of time. £15,000 provides for approximately six months of normal sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

The full acquisition cost of tangible property below £500 will be fully expensed at the point of purchase. Assets may be capitalised if they have a useful life exceeding one year and a per unit acquisition cost exceeding £500. Capital assets capitalised will be depreciated over their estimated useful economic life.

Any property capitalised by Akwaaba, for its own use, will be disclosed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

10. Taxation

Akwaaba uses its income for charitable purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation tax. No VAT exemptions have been sought as there is no trading.

11. Trustee Expenses/Related Parties

There are expenses which represent reimbursement of legitimate payments made by trustees personally, in order to carry out their duties as trustee (eg. travel expense). There are trustees who are also members of the migrant community and are eligible for cash payments, as part of Akwaaba activities (eg. funds to cover travel expenses or childcare to attend sessions/meetings/trainings).

AKWAABA

England & Wales - Charity number 1181291

Accounts



AKWAABA ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: April 2020 - March 2021

Charity Registration Number: 1181291

PART 1: ABOUT AKWAABA



Akwaaba is a Hackney-based social centre for migrants. We offer a space for rest, play, learning and mutual support. Akwaaba is for all migrants regardless of immigration status, 'race', religion, country of origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and (dis)ability.

We believe that no-one is illegal. We are committed to actively opposing racism and all other forms of discrimination and oppression.

Our aim is to build community and foster care, cooperation and solidarity. As a community, we try

to make decisions collectively and give all members an equal say in how the social centre is run. Akwaaba is a volunteer-run space.

Our primary aims are to:

- Offer a safe and welcoming space for migrants of all backgrounds for social activities and mutual support
- Foster solidarity and build a shared community of people from different backgrounds
- Provide material support including food, travel bursaries and other donated items to migrant members experiencing hardship

AKWAABA

Summary of changes to Akwaaba's activities between April 2020 to March 2020

Akwaaba's activities were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic as we adapted to respond to the current situation. The pandemic had a disproportionate impact on our members some of whom were medically vulnerable, others no longer able to work in zero hour contract jobs and with children. Many of Akwaaba's members live in precarious accommodation or are without a place to stay and they were particularly vulnerable



During the first lockdown, Princess May closed and was no longer able to host Akwaaba. We moved to St Paul's Church who graciously opened their kitchen and hall to Akwaaba after Church services were suspended. As we were no longer able to run Sunday sessions as usual and the needs of members had changed due to the pandemic we dramatically altered and expanded our provision to meet those needs (see Part 2: Achievement and Performance). Later in the year we moved the base for our activities to The Castle Climbing Centre and then to St Mary's Community Garden.

2. If a quarantine or a lockdown is announced...
...where will you stay? <i>Don't Know</i>
What kind of support will you need (we may not be able to provide any help)
● Provision of daily food (hot food, takeaway food, sandwiches) ● Visits ● Provisions of canned food and groceries ● Provision of safe warm place to stay/sleep overnight

All the decisions made and the activities delivered were set up by members and volunteers without distinction. It would not have been possible to have achieved the significant increase and change in our response to the pandemic without our members active participation and leadership.



PART 2: ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Food Provision

- Almost every Sunday from 15 March 2020, freshly prepared, cooked and served hot takeaway meals (including a Christmas dinner with dessert and non-alcoholic mulled wine in mid-December) to an average of 200 people, most of them street homeless
- From March to October 2020, sourced food from local businesses, food redistribution organisations (including the Felix Project), local mutual aid groups and fresh donations from Growing Communities for our hot takeaway meals and food parcels.
- From October 2020, we continued to receive food donations for preparing Sunday meals from local businesses and Growing Communities for our takeaway sessions.
- Packaged donations and purchased supplies into an average of 65 food parcels per week,



hand delivered by our team of errand runners each Sunday across the whole of London

- From November 2020 transitioned to providing supermarket vouchers of between £20 and £35 (depending on member situation and household size) to an average of 75 households each month

- Advised and advocated around free school meals



AKWAABA

eligibility and applications for Akwaaba families

Community Connection

- Members stayed in touch through our Members and Parents WhatsApp groups, where people share articles, memes, their art, personal news, photos from their daily lives etc.
- Published the first ever issue of the Akwaaba magazine, digitally for our members at home and with a print run of 200 in English and 200 in Polish for distribution with our Sunday takeaway meals. Entirely made up of submissions from Akwaaba members, it included recipes, interviews, poetry, art, competitions, poems, and a kids' corner. The next issue is out soon!



- Paired up 17 members through our buddy scheme, whereby buddies kept in touch via calls/texts to provide mutual moral support
- Organised a small number of Zoom socials, including a Christmas special
- Commissioned a facilitation trainer to support parents in setting up a Zoom peer support group

AKWAABA

- Held Zoom meetings open to all Akwaaba members for participatory decision-making when capacity and resource restrictions meant we had to rethink or reduce food parcel and hardship fund provision and decide how best to do this

Financial Assistance

- Our Migrant Support Fund offers members visiting our Sunday takeaway sessions £5 cash. On average we helped around 100 members each Sunday session.
- Members also receive two bus tickets each Sunday.
- Every 4 weeks, sent a hardship fund payment of £40 initially and £20 from October to 68 families and 93 individual members
- Supported members in crisis who needed emergency help with food, utilities or rent and who have no other source of support (including no state support) by providing 121 emergency grants to members of up to £300 and totalling £25,135. We also provided 171 grants for non-members of between £10 and £40 and totaling £3765.
- Sent £20 utilities grants to 31 members to help with gas/electricity top-up meter costs
- Referred 34 members with no state support or other sources of income to the COVID-19 Red Cross hardship fund for a three-month grant of £360
- Distributed 8 grants of £60 each from the Against Borders for Children Solidarity Fund to families with NRPF, no income from employment and no state support



Devices and Internet Access

- Sent a £10 phone credit voucher to 175 members every month from April 2020
- Researched the best internet data deals from mobile networks and shared this information and extra funds with families so they could move onto deals with more data

AKWAABA

during the first lockdown; provided vouchers for internet data during the early 2021 lockdown when many were homeschooling

- Distributed 120 smartphones, 50 feature phones and 90 power banks to street homeless members
- Offered tech support, fixing lots of phones, tablets and laptops for members
- Sourced 44 secondhand devices and distributed them to ensure every family has a laptop or tablet
- Started up a laptop lending library with 10 laptops for families to borrow in case they needed access to more than one device

Children's Project

- Ran Zoom sessions for the kids every Saturday from the end of April, featuring different activities: music, dancing, drawing, painting, origami, scavenger hunts, quizzes, games, cookery, meditation and more.
- Sent a basic craft pack to 65 families, and then after we got a grant from Dissenters Arts N16, sent fancy craft packs to each family with primary school children and ordered individual arts/crafts supplies, from knitting stuff, to paints, pottery and hair dolls, for 19 older children.
- Started an Instagram account to show off the kids' crafty creations
- Sent the children cards on their birthdays and made referrals to Free Cakes For Kids
- Hand printed "Akwaaba Baby" baby grows to welcome each newborn (12 in a year!)
- Wrapped and hand delivered over 125 Christmas presents and 50 gift tokens to the kids
- Sent a book to each child and a Bookstart pack to each of the under 5s
- Bought £50 of equipment/books/toys to support the wellbeing and educational development of each child with autism/SEN



AKWAABA

- Put together a list of online resources for kids to share with parents in search of recommendations
- Printed homework for children during school closures
- Delivered footballs donated by Alive and Kicking to 30 families
- Distributed knitting packs donated by Knit for Peace to 20 families



Support, Signposting and Errand Running

- Matched 120 individual Akwaaba members with a volunteer who calls on an ad hoc basis, providing emotional and practical support where possible, linking the member up with Akwaaba support, as well as referring and signposting to other organisations for specialist services like counselling, legal aid, food banks etc.
- Matched 71 Akwaaba families with a volunteer who calls fortnightly, providing emotional and practical support where possible, linking the families up with support from Akwaaba and other sources, and helping out where they can with research, advocacy, signposting and referrals
- Offered up to six online/telephone counselling sessions to members with our English and Polish-speaking counselling volunteer



- Maintained a spreadsheet of relevant services (e.g. hot meals, food banks, housing advice, immigration advice, financial assistance, casework etc.) for signposting members to, including by printing and distributing flyers

- Signed up 120 errand runners who ran errands for members, e.g. doing grocery shopping for those shielding/self-isolating, delivering items from Akwaaba, helping out with moving flats etc.

AKWAABA



Activities, training and English language learning

- Our yoga volunteer taught simple yoga and meditation classes for all abilities every Saturday afternoon on Zoom
- The Storytelling Group met every Sunday afternoon on Zoom to read from a book (which we have mailed to participants), discuss it and then sometimes do their own creative writing
- We invited Resist & Renew to run an online facilitation training for our members
- Organised a first aid training session to be delivered online by the Red Cross and open to any interested members
- Ran two member-led Safer Spaces skillshares
- Ran individual English language tuition by video or phone for 23 members and referred many more to local English language schools. We also began a lesson-twinning scheme to reduce isolation of students and teachers.
- Ran two English teacher training sessions, and developed a crowd-sourced bank of resources to support our teachers

EEA Advice Project (in partnership with the Public Interest Law Centre)

- Helped 20 people with their housing situation: 19 rough sleeping members referred to emergency Covid-19 accommodation in hotels and hostels (16 of them successfully, 3 unsuccessfully), one vulnerable person referred to a housing solicitor and moved from inappropriate temporary housing to lifelong accommodation
- During the first phase of emergency accommodation, we repeatedly raised the issue of inadequate food provision and supported 10 members with this by putting them in touch with local mutual aid groups, challenging local authorities or both
- Provided advice and support around welfare benefits for 15 members
- Successfully applied for 9 VRF Emergency Fund grants for members for costs of rent, basic needs or to overcome barriers to support
- Supported around a dozen members in arranging appointments for passports with the embassy and helped cover the costs, or found organisations who could, for at least 6 members
- Helped with access to healthcare (e.g. help liaising with GPs, accompanying to GP visits and hospital visits) for at least 6 members (two of those members passed away in 2020)

AKWAABA



- Provided immigration advice for EEA nationals around the EU Settlement Scheme for about 40 people

Political Education

- We launched a series of monthly online events, Akwaaba Learn & Discuss. This is a space for learning and discussion, for everyone in Akwaaba, around the UK border regime and hostile environment, their relationship to racial capitalism, colonialism and white supremacy, and how we might fight back. So far we have had sessions on:
 - The relationship between racism and immigration controls, with guest speaker Luke de Noronha
 - The relationship between immigration law and colonialism, with guest speaker Nadine El-Enany
 - The history of NHS charges for migrants and how these charges were resisted, with guest speaker Kathryn Medien
 - Housing rights for migrants and the history of racism in housing, with guest speakers from Housing Action Southwark and Lambeth

Fundraising

- Secured a total of £175,000 from 12 grants of between £400 and £52,000
- Raised almost £30k through a crowdfunder set up during the first lockdown and almost £2.5k from our Christmas dinner crowdfunder, and are now working towards a £40k target for our new crowdfunder
- Received over £15,000 from direct donations

Volunteers

- Recruited over 30 new volunteers, many of whom were existing migrant members of Akwaaba
- In addition to lots of smaller inter- and intra-team meetings, organised two volunteer days where volunteers from across all the Akwaaba teams met in a combined outdoor in-person and online Zoom meeting to reflect on and help improve our pandemic response, with over 30 attending in July and over 50 in November

AKWAABA

- Provided child care reimbursements to enable Akwaaba parents to volunteer for Akwaaba's takeaway food sessions on Sunday
- Supported migrant members to become volunteers in different ways. For example, provided help with filling in the volunteer application forms at our Sunday sessions and remotely; covered travel expenses for Sunday sessions for all volunteers who needed it; and contributed towards phone and internet costs and provided access to laptops and tech support for remote volunteering.





PART 3: GOVERNANCE OF AKWAABA

The Board of Trustees continued to meet quarterly to monitor and oversee the activities of these working groups while individual trustees participated in other working groups. Two new trustees were recruited during the year through an open application and interview process.

During this time of dramatic change in need within our community, Akwaaba was able to harness the organisational improvements to decentralise the project which were made over the previous years. 2020-2021 was a year in which our working groups came to the fore:

- The Budget Group, which is open to all members to join, met regularly to determine the budget for the coming quarter and authorise changes to funds allocated to different parts of the project.
- The Fundraising Group was instrumental in tripling our income over the year, which allowed us to support our members during the pandemic.
- The increase in income created additional work for the Finance Committee. New members were recruited from within Akwaaba and additional processes were put in place to manage our increased budget.
- The working groups managing our Sunday sessions, children's programme, hardship support, English classes, storytelling and yoga projects worked independently of each other to organise activities remotely or in different locations around Hackney. This allowed the project to operate at a much larger scale than had been previously possible.

Akwaaba's community ethos continues to be its strength, allowing the project to rapidly respond and making dramatic changes according to the needs of our members.



PART 4: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Akwaaba's income was £243,576 (2019-20 £136,742 over 15 months).

Recurring donations from individuals and a wide range of organisations have enabled our community to sustain a steady income stream. We gratefully thank all those who generously contributed funds. Also those who made such outstanding fundraising efforts. Akwaaba had, in the previous year, readied itself to raise funds towards its Covid-19 response.

Net assets at year-end (ie. cash balance) was £109,914 (2019-20 £71,780), of which £71,762 (2019-20 £31,555 was unrestricted funds and £38,152 (2019-20 £40,225) restricted funds. A very high proportion of the income received was for the Covid response fund.

The remainder of the income has been applied to the running of Sunday sessions, and travel costs for members to attend Akwaaba events and meetings. Overheads were mainly for hiring of space at Princess May Primary School.

A reserve of £15,000 was maintained to safeguard the ability to continue running sessions. This provides for approximately six months of normal sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

The main financial risk is the loss of income from recurring donations/grants over a sustained period of time, particularly during the global pandemic which is seeing household and organisational incomes heavily impacted. During uncertain times, Akwaaba is committed to making plans based on existing and confirmed funds only, protecting its reserves and monitoring funds to avoid a deficit position.



PART 5: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name	Akwaaba
Registered charity number	1181291
Charity's principal address at 31-03-2021* *Subsequently changed	35c Glenarm Road London E5 0LY

Names of Trustees at 31-03-2021

1. Omolola Alimi
2. Khalid Bashar
3. Toyosi Balogun
4. Michael Boyle
5. Tomasz Muszynski
6. Premila Sattianayagam
7. Shanthi Sivakumaran
8. Maria Stephens

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

This is to confirm that the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit set out on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>.

S.Sivakumaran (Trustee)

28.01.2022



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AKWAABA (CHARITY NUMBER: 1181291)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of AKWAABA Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the period ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 15 to 18.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. K. Shah", with a horizontal line underneath.

Kalpesh Shah FCCA
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Dacre Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 3DL

Dated: 29 January 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

AKWAABA

1181291

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01 April 2020

To

Period end date
31 March 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					
Donation Income	44,351	87,371	-	131,722	102,761
Grant Income		111,854	-	111,854	31,660
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-	2,321
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	44,351	199,225	-	243,576	136,742
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	44,351	199,225	-	243,576	136,742
A3 Payments					
Cost of Fundraising	-	-	-	-	104
Sunday Session Costs	3,039	3,187	-	6,226	
Sunday Kitchen	1,340	10,875	-	12,215	10,264
Sunday Children Activities	14	4,926	-	4,940	3,033
Childcare Costs				-	1,444
Support Groups/Meetings Travel	6,362	5,362	-	11,724	17,827
Member Training	-	-	-	-	1,149
Citizenship Support	-	1,012	-	1,012	3,090
DBS Checks				-	1,708
Covid-19 Response	-	158,373	-	158,373	3,670
Hardship Support (Covid-19)	-	7,500	-	7,500	287
Overheads	-	3,451	-	3,451	20,959
Governance		-		-	793
Sub total	10,755	194,687	-	205,442	64,328
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	430
	-	-	-	-	204
Sub total	-	-	-	-	634
Total payments	10,755	194,687	-	205,442	64,962
Net of receipts/(payments)	33,596	4,538	-	38,134	71,780
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,166	33,614	-	71,780	-
Cash funds this year end	71,762	38,152	-	109,914	71,780



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	Bank	64,230	38,152	-
	Petty Cash	594		-
	Paypal Account	6,938		-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	71,762	38,152	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
		S. Sivakumaran	28.01.2022	



Section C Accounting Policies and notes to the Receipts and Payments Accounts

1. Company Information

Akwaaba is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity Commission: 1181291). The registered address is 35C Glenarm Road, London, E5 0LY.

2. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

Charities registered in England and Wales that are not companies are allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act') to prepare receipts and payments accounts, provided the charity's gross income is less than £250,000.

Receipts and payments accounts have been chosen by the Trustees, since Akwaaba is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and complies with the above for its accounting periods to 31st March 2021 and 31st March 2020.

The accounts have been prepared, using the Charity Commission's pro forma accounts (CC16a), and have been signed-off as ready for an independent examination.

The following have been prepared by the trustees:

- A Trustees' Annual Report
- A Receipts and Payments Account
- A Statement of Assets and Liabilities

3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the objectives of the CIO at the discretion of the membership.

Restricted income funds are resources which are to be applied to specific purposes as requested by the funder, in line with designated giving.

4. Incoming Resources

All incoming financial resources are included in the Income & Expenditure Account upon receipt of monies into the Akwaaba bank account, cash-in-hand records or PayPal. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet.

All volunteer time (ie. free time) is considered an in-kind donation which is not recorded/accounted for.

Akwaaba categorises its income into three main categories:

- *Donation Income:* Any gift of cash from an individual or organisation to support Akwaaba's self-determined goals, for which the funder receives nothing in return (including any funding generated through a social fundraising platform such as Givew.com). The funder can normally receive tax relief directly from HMRC for their donations. Akwaaba is also positioned to claim gift aid on donations from individuals.
- *Grant Income:* Any funding bid that has resulted in non-repayable funds being awarded to Akwaaba. These funds are mainly provided towards a specific purpose and are therefore (generally) accounted for as restricted income.



- *Fundraising Income:* Any funding received through a fundraising event/initiative planned by Akwaaba members.

5. Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised at the point at which payment is made. Expenditure is classified and aggregated under specific categories, as per their nature (eg. travel costs for members, childcare costs for members, kitchen costs). All costs are directly attributed to categories.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

6. Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash held in a current account, in a Paypal account and cash in hand which is split into 'travel' and 'general'.

7. Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the CIO to continue as a going concern. These accounts are prepared on the Going Concern concept.

8. Reserves

A reserve of £15,000 is maintained to safeguard the ability to continue running sessions, in the event that fundraising levels drop below weekly expenditures for a significant length of time. £15,000 provides for approximately six months of normal sessions. Any restricted fund balances that cover operational costs are taken into consideration when calculating the required unrestricted reserve.

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

The full acquisition cost of tangible property below £500 will be fully expensed at the point of purchase. Assets may be capitalised if they have a useful life exceeding one year and a per unit acquisition cost exceeding £500. Capital assets capitalised will be depreciated over their estimated useful economic life.

Any property capitalised by Akwaaba, for its own use, will be disclosed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

10. Taxation

Akwaaba uses its income for charitable purposes and is therefore exempt from Corporation tax. No VAT exemptions have been sought as there is no trading.

11. Trustee Expenses/Related Parties

There are expenses which represent reimbursement of legitimate payments made by trustees personally, in order to carry out their duties as trustee (eg. travel expense).

There are trustees who are also members of the migrant community and are eligible for cash payments, as part of Akwaaba activities (eg. funds to cover travel expenses or childcare to attend sessions/meetings/trainings).