



sainted
roots

Sainted
Roots

2024
Annual
Report

Charity
Number:
1184408

Contents



Executive Summary	P 2
How We Make A Difference	P 3
2024 Delivery Summary	P 4
2024 Achievements Summary	P 5
The Sainted Roots Theory of Change	P 7
Community Champions Programme	P 8
Programme Challenges & Lessons Learnt	P12
Impact Since Inception	P13
2024 Financial Review	P14 - 15
Meet The Team	P16 - 17

Executive Summary



Zimbabwe's rural communities continue to face challenges, yet the spirit of resilience in Manicaland remains strong. At Sainted Roots, our mission continues to nurture self-reliance, unity, and sustainable growth. We do this by drawing on the strengths already rooted within our communities.

Ongoing Drought:

While the continuing drought has strained agriculture and daily life, communities in Manicaland have shown determination and adaptability. Farmers continue to embrace climate-smart practices, like **diga-u-gute**, seed-saving, and small-scale irrigation to sustain food production. Unlike in past years, the region was largely spared from severe cyclone damage, allowing families to focus their energy on restoring productivity and rebuilding livelihoods.

Growth and Local Leadership:

2024 marked a significant milestone as Sainted Roots was officially registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) in Zimbabwe, strengthening our foundation and deepening our commitment to long-term community partnership. Our Champions Program also continued to grow, building local leadership and encouraging participatory governance. These champions are becoming vital voices in shaping development priorities and strengthening trust between communities and local authorities.

Renewed Hope:

Across our partner villages, we are witnessing a quiet yet steady renewal of optimism. Through ongoing engagement in Conversation Cafés and the leadership of our Community Champions, families are sharing ideas, supporting one another with resources, and strengthening their livelihoods. The Champions' cooperative projects are lifting morale, generating small income streams, and helping communities rebuild confidence and stability.

The year 2024 has shown how Sainted Roots thrives when rooted in service, working hand in hand with communities, thinking long-term, and honouring the earth as a source of life and value. This approach continues to inspire improved farming practices and deeper connections between people and the land.

At Sainted Roots, we remain devoted to nurturing the strength and potential within every community, helping Zimbabwe not only to endure but to thrive.

Faith Nyabdza - St Francis

Co-founder and Chair of Trustees

How We Make A Difference



Now registered as a PVO, Sainted Roots continues to work alongside rural communities in **Makoni District, Manicaland Province**, helping them lead their own paths out of poverty through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and local innovation. Our approach remains grounded in community ownership and the belief that lasting change grows from within.

In 2024, our focus strengthened around the **Community Champions Program**, supporting five dedicated leaders from Shenayeguta, Njanike, Chikuruwo, Mutondoro, and Kamhera.

These champions are building skills in leadership and **participatory governance**, ensuring that local voices shape our development priorities. Through their guidance, communities are finding renewed confidence, unity, and **sustainable progress**.

Aim

The long-term aim of Sainted Roots is to **promote long term sustainable development** in the rural communities of Makoni District, Manicaland Province, with the intention of expanding into the neighboring provinces of Masvingo and Mashonaland East.

Objectives

1. To support sustainable relief of poverty and improvement of living conditions amongst the economically and socially disadvantaged rural communities.
2. To provide support for economic growth and regeneration in the rural communities.
3. To empower the communities to take ownership of finding solutions that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Activities

1. We support and provide training to proactive individuals, helping them become Community Champions that have the capacity to uplift their communities.
2. We work with Agriculture Officers to train and encourage sustainable farming methods to improve harvests, for food and economic stability.
3. We plant fruit and indigenous trees, to enhance biodiversity and to help restore the local environment.
4. We work with consultants to provide training and community counselling to empower and build capacity.
5. We work with local agencies and are committed to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of the communities we serve.

2024 Delivery Summary



Operations Summary

2024 was another year of ongoing transition for Sainted Roots, as we slowed down operations to reflect, consolidate, and strengthen our foundations. We focused on understanding what participatory governance means in practice for the communities we serve.

In response to the continuing drought and broader social and economic challenges, our efforts centred on capacity building and leadership development through the Community Champions Program. Champions received interpersonal development training to help them continue growing as trusted local leaders.

Building on the success of 2023, we continued hosting Conversation Cafés, creating safe and welcoming spaces for community members to share experiences, express concerns, and collaboratively explore solutions.

Through these initiatives, Sainted Roots strengthened its model of empowerment, supporting communities to lead with confidence, unity, and resilience.



2024 Achievements Summary



Peacebuilding and Community Engagement

In 2024, peacebuilding remained central to Sainted Roots' work. We continued Conversation Cafés, including one with the Community Champions to develop personal missions and community visions. These forums strengthened trust, encouraged collaboration, and supported communities in navigating social challenges.

The **Community Champions Programme** grew with five leaders from Shenayeguta, Njanike, Chikuruwo, Mutondoro, Gandanzara, and Kamhera receiving training in leadership, governance, and financial planning. Champions led by example in agriculture and animal husbandry, raising 32 piglets, 230 chickens, and six calves, producing food for their families, trading surplus, and creating four new local jobs. Innovative initiatives included borrowing livestock to support each other's growth.

A **Field Day** attended by 28 community members and the local Agricultural Officer. We celebrated innovation and collaboration, with seed and fertilizer awarded to outstanding and inspirational farming initiatives that are strengthening local resilience and knowledge.

We established **Zunde raMambo**, a traditional welfare system where a portion of each harvest is set aside to support others in times of need. This year, 10×50kg of maize were stored for food and seed security. However, with the failure of food aid deliveries and the impact of the ongoing drought on local harvests, Sainted Roots stepped in to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable families. We also purchased produce from local farmers to both supplement relief efforts and secure seed for the next planting season, ensuring continued community resilience.

The Champions have been central in fostering **participatory governance**, as we look to shift the program towards being directed by those on the ground. Through mentorship and peer-learning, they are building a sense of shared responsibility within their communities.

These efforts are laying a **strong foundation** for long-term sustainability. By combining practical agricultural skills, leadership development, and open community dialogue, Sainted Roots is fostering initiatives that will continue to uplift families and communities well into the future, **strengthening social cohesion, diversifying local economic opportunities, and deepening local ownership across Makoni District.**

2024 Achievements Highlights



Achievements Include:

- 4no. **Workshops delivered** with Community Champions and the SR Rural Team, including financial planning and mentoring those working with them.
- **1 no. Conversation Café** was held with the Community Champions and members from three villages; Njanike, Shenayaguta, and Murehwa. The event included activities to strengthen personal and community missions and visions, while also reflecting on lessons learned from the collapse of the community farming projects.
- **2 no. Field Days** held with the local Agricultural Officer. Attended by 50-60 people from across the 5 villages.
- **100kg of sweet bean, 100kg of rapoko** (finger millet) purchased for food security and seed
- **6 permanent** and **50 seasonal** jobs created by the Community Champions
- **A total of 30 piglets, 2100 chickens, 20 goats and 5 calves**, were born and raised by the Community Champions
- Following our ongoing collaboration with local agencies. Victims of **Gender Based Violence** have been directed to local agencies for support.
- **Toys and clothes donated** to community children.
- **Crop storage and thrashing floor** for processing harvests buildings works were completed. Built by local builders working with local youths.
- **Zunde raMambo** established with 10x 50kg of maize stored to help those most in need.
- **20 liters** of honey produced



Community Champions Programme



Programme Outline Definition

Purpose

Why are we doing this? (in order to ...)

To harness the power and vision of individuals in order to deliver projects that provide a positive economic and social outcome for both their households and surrounding communities.

Key Stakeholders

- Proactive individuals or groups coming from villages connected to SR's work.
- SR Team - Who will manage the day to day?
- Consultants / Third Parties
- Funders, Donors, Investors and the SR Board

End Result

What do we need to achieve in the time available?

- A documented Community Champions programme by June 2023.
- Initial trial of programme on "Big 5" 2023-24 Farming Season.
- Full programme roll out to start Farming Season 2024 - 25.
- Funding and resources available for Initial trial and roll out.

Success Criteria

Against which criteria will the result be measured?

- **People:**
 - ✓ xx Community Champions
 - ✓ xx Projects Created
 - ✓ xx Employed by SR
- **Economic**
 - ✓ xx Seasonal Jobs Created
 - ✓ \$xx Profits Generated
- **Households:**
 - ✓ xx Children impacted
 - ✓ xx% increase in household income
- **Biodiversity:**
 - ✓ xx Trees planted
 - ✓ xx projects focused on biodiversity
- **Community**
 - ✓ xx Community Projects Initiated By Champions
- **Longevity**
 - ✓ xx% of projects are running for 5 years plus

Community Champions Program

A summary of the year



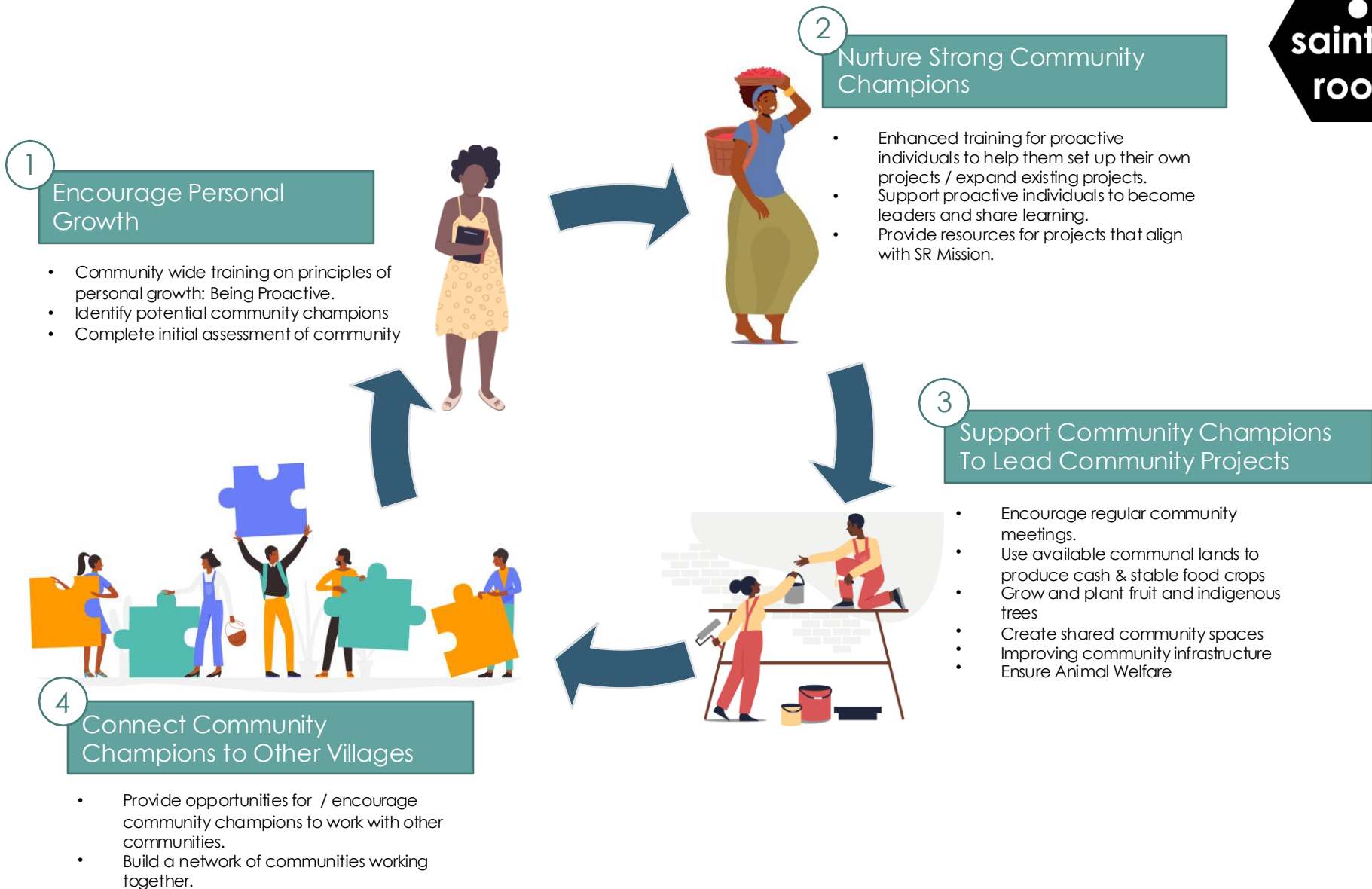
The Community Champions Programme empowers local leaders to drive sustainable change in their communities. In 2024, five Champions received leadership training, facilitation, and participatory governance, strengthening their ability to support and mobilise their communities. Champions are also leading by example in agriculture and animal husbandry, producing enough food to support their families, sell surplus, and create both permanent and seasonal local jobs.

Despite challenges from drought and limited water access, two champions achieved successful harvests while the others faced poor yields. All five continue to trade vegetables in their communities and have shown ingenuity in supporting one another. For example, one champion borrowed a female pig for two years to raise and breed, with the promise of returning it pregnant. Through workshops, peer-learning, and Conversation Cafés, champions foster inclusive dialogue and collaborative problem-solving, helping village communities take ownership of their development while strengthening social cohesion and long-term impact.



Sainted Roots' Theory of Change

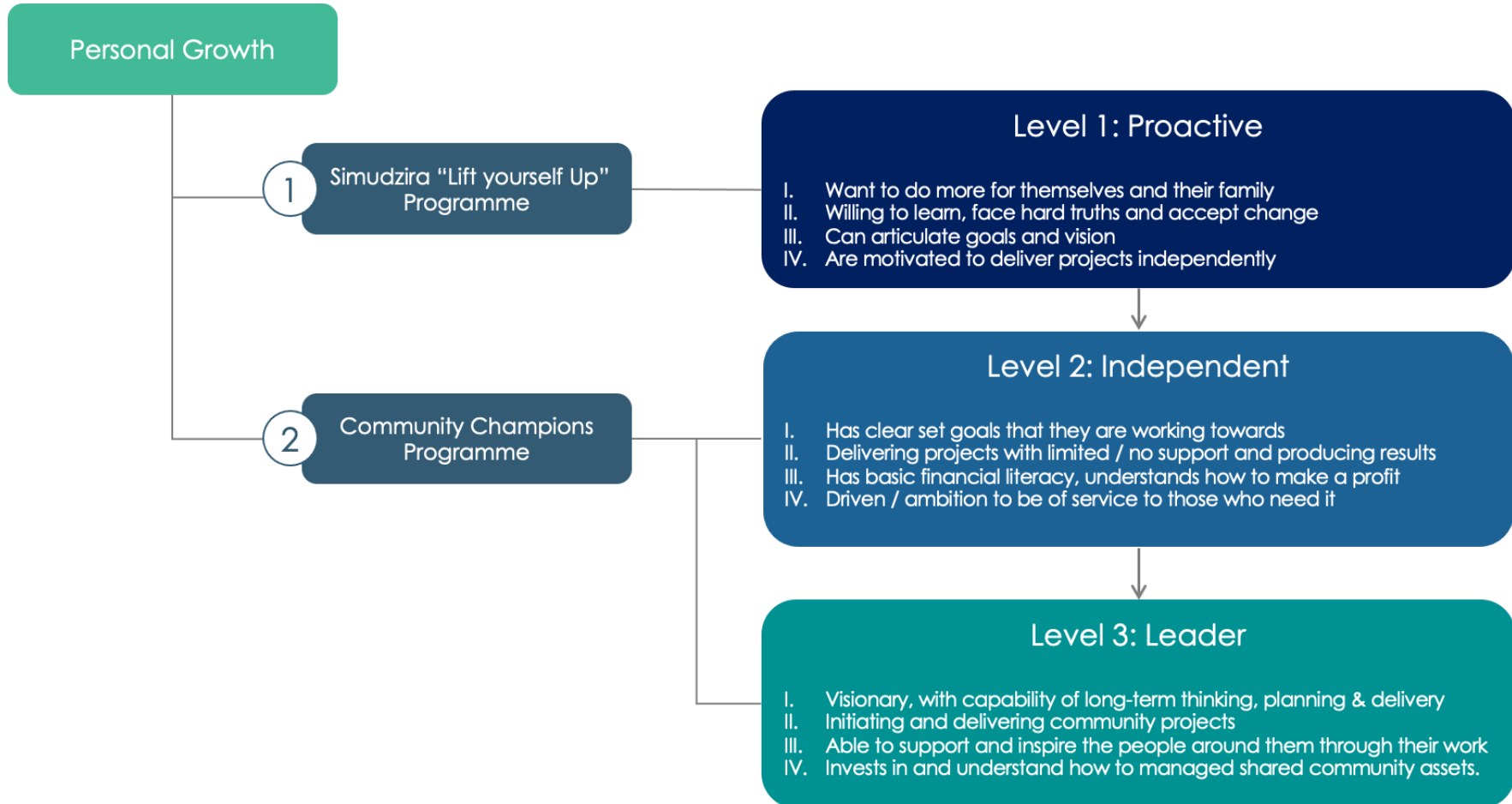
Activities Refined



Community Champions Programme



Programme Overview as part of the Personal Growth Programme



Community Champions Photos

Community Champions at work farming and raising animals.



Photographs courtesy of African farming Content Creator **She_Africa**. Follow on Youtube: @SheAfrica5933

Programme Challenges



A summary of the challenges faced with delivery/scaling of programmes and improvements that will be made as a result.

Challenges

- **Economic Conditions.** Local currency instability and price fluctuations have continued to pose challenges. Although the new currency, the ZiG, has been introduced, rural communities are often among the last to be informed of such changes leaving them vulnerable to losses during major economic transitions.
- **Pre-natal Droughts.** The low rainfall of 2023 has significantly affected the 2024 harvest. Our **Zunde raMambo** reserves have been depleted, and restocking will remain a challenge for as long as the drought persists.
- **Marketing Challenges.** Rural farmers continue to face challenges in accessing profitable markets for their produce. Government initiatives, such as the command agriculture program, often undervalue produce, impacting on profits for smallholder farmers.
- **Lack Of Resources.** The ongoing limited availability of farming tools has led to over-reliance on livestock for agricultural work. Additionally, restrictions on seed production and distribution, coupled with the use of bio-engineered seeds, continue to impact local farming practices

Lessons Learnt

- Develop the Community Champions programme further with a focus on community led participatory governance,
- Hold regular Conversation Cafés to get people to communicate more effectively and address social issues early
- Strengthen relationships between village communities, the police, and other agencies to raise awareness of safeguarding issues, relevant laws, and the support services available.
- Install a borehole in each community and promote micro-market gardening to help mitigate the impact of drought on food scarcity.
- Develop Tree planting program and encourage the use of drought farming methods such **diga-u-gute** and **zero-tillage**.
- Develop clearer pathways to market and to improve the profitability of rural farmers.

Impact Since Inception



Data: Activities delivered between Nov 2015 - Dec 2024.



School Fees Funded For 175 Children (including 35 orphans), supporting the education provision for 600+ children from surrounding villages



20 Hectares of communal land donated to support our work. Some lands not used following the collapse of the community farming programmes



Ongoing support continues for 33 adults living with HIV. *Zunde raMambo* food and seed where distributed to those most in need.



6 villages impacted through training provision



Working in 6 villages through the Community Champions Program and community farming projects



\$68,600 Donated to SR programmes and invested in rural communities



\$45,000 income generated and invested back into the community



50+ seasonal jobs and 6 part time jobs created to support delivery of our work



40% of villagers surveyed were reported to have access to 3 meals per day & further 54% had access to at least 2 meals per day



Over 70 Tonnes of produce grown



Support given to children and vulnerable adults experiencing abuse



Over 3,000 Trees budded & grafted.

2024 Finance Review

2024 Charity Commission Report

Sainted Roots – 11844084

For the year ended 31 December 2024



	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
1. Net Income / (Expenditure)				
Income (GBP)				
<i>Donations & Legacies</i>				
Donations and Gifts	5,009.04	0.00	0.00	5,009.04
Total Donations & Legacies	5,009.04	0.00	0.00	5,009.04
<i>Other</i>				
Bank Interest	4.19	0.00	0.00	4.19
Total Other	4.19	0.00	0.00	4.19
Total Income	5,013.23	0.00	0.00	5,013.23
Expenditure (GBP)				
<i>Charitable Activities</i>				
Delivery of Charitable Goods & Services	(4,017.89)	0.00	0.00	(4,017.89)
Governance Costs	(200.00)	0.00	0.00	(200.00)
Total Charitable Activities	(4,217.89)	0.00	0.00	(4,217.89)
<i>Other</i>				
Connectivity, Phone & Data	(225.47)	0.00	0.00	(225.47)
IT Software	(568.87)	0.00	0.00	(568.87)
Total Other	(794.34)	0.00	0.00	(794.34)
Total Expenditure	(5,012.23)	0.00	0.00	(5,012.23)
Total Net Income / (Expenditure)	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

2024 Finance Review

2024 Spend Breakdown by Function / Programme

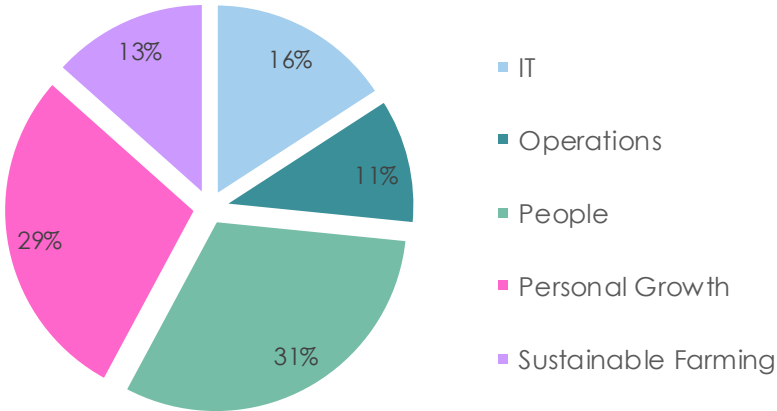
Sainted Roots - 1184408

For the year ended 31 December 2024



Function / Programme	Amount (GBP)
IT	794.34
Microsoft 365 Software	199.79
Phone & Data	50.01
Wix - Website Hosting, Design and Domain	288
Phone & Data	175.46
Xero Accounting Software	81.08
Operations	538.36
Transport Expense For Employee	33.34
Road Tax	50.85
Freelander Vehicle Maintenance	233.34
SR PVO Registration Costs	100
SR PVO Registration Expense	100
Transportation - Gates Securing Rural SR HQ	20.83
People	1,566.6
Wages	1465.1
Christmas Bonus	101.5
Personal Growth	1,440.69
Fuel	1067.9
Rural Food Donation	126.92
Training - Big 5 Champions Programme	229.2
Travel Expenses - Training	16.67
Sustainable Farming	672.24
Rural Food Donation	283.32
Cement - Rural Building Project Grain Storage	100
Garage & Lock - Storage	108.33
Tractor Hire	120.59
Fertiliser Donation	60
Grand Total	5,012.23

Programme / Function Spend (Amount)



Meet The Team



Think Long Term: Hope grows where teamwork sows its seeds

UK Trustees

Ms. Faith Nyabadza-St Francis

Chairperson

Overseeing and organising programs & safeguarding on the ground. Developing structure and capacity building programmes.

Ms Tendy St Francis

Secretary

Accounting, Operational procedures, Architecture & Infrastructure Program, Governance and Reporting

Ms Chi St Francis

Treasurer

Accounting, Operations & IT, Programme Development, Digital marketing, Fundraising, Governance & Reporting

UK Board of Advisors

Ms Christina Adetiba

Operational procedures, Governance and Reporting

Mrs. Tsitsi Masukume

Safeguarding advisor.

Ms. Tamuka Chitemere

General Guidance

Mrs. Annette Mashingaidze

General Guidance

Zimbabwe Managing Committee

Ms. Faith Nyabadza-St Francis

Chairperson

Retired District Nurse

Mrs. Mercy Hatendi

Vice-chairperson:

Health Development Practitioner

Ms Rumbidzai Chijiri

Secretary:

Teacher/ Professional Development Officer

Mr David Nyamurera

Vice Secretary

Provincial Director-National AIDS Council

Ms Ruth Tapfumaneyi

Treasurer:

Health Education and Promotion

Other Members

Mr Simon Matsvai

Sustainable Farming Programme Advisor

Stanley Makoni

Farmer / Rural projects coordinator

Meet The Team



Sainted Roots Rural Team

Mr Stanley Makoni

Rural Farming Projects Manager

Mr Enoch Chibika

Shenayeguta Farming Projects Supervisor
Tree Grafting & Budding

Mr Enock Nyabadza

Assistant Shenayeguta Farming Project Supervisor
Construction Projects

Mrs Melodious Gudoricharima

Homestead Maintenance and Hospitality Supervisor

Mrs Chipso Nyabadza (Mai Tapi)

Assistant Homestead Maintenance and Hospitality

Consultants and Support

Mrs Mashaya

Agriculture Officer

Emmanuel Manyati

Training and Community Counselling Consultants

Community Champions

Mrs Makoni

Njanike Village

Mr Mbauya

Shenayaguta Village

Mr and Mrs Chikuruwo

Chikuruwo Village

Mr Mutondoro

Gandanzara / Mutondoro Village

Mr Sandzira

Jecha Village