STAND BY ME

England & Wales · Charity number 1185124

Details

Other names	KIDS ALIVE, KIDS ALIVE UK
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-09-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Stand By Me 630 Upper Brentwood Road Romford Essex RM2 6HS
Phone	01708442271
Email	hi@standby.me
Website	www.standby.me

Activities

Objects: AS AN EXPRESSION OF JESUS' LOVE, THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:THE RELIEF AND PREVENTION OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BELIEFS, ETHNICITY AND SOCIAL STATUS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, AND BY EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

Activities: WE CARE FOR OVER 4,000 KIDS ACROSS THE WORLD BUT NO TWO ARE THE SAME, SO WE TAKE CARE TO UNDERSTAND AND MEET EACH OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, FROM FOOD AND HEALTHCARE, TO LOVING PARENTS AND QUALITY EDUCATION. WE HELP THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, STAND ON THEIR OWN TWO FEET AND CHANGE THEIR FUTURES. WE HAVE TRANSFORMED THOUSANDS OF KIDS LIVES, AND WE ARE ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Burma
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- India
- Kenya
- Moldova
- Nepal
- Romania

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£3,047,772	£3,014,959	£1,986,777	14
2023-12-31	£2,781,975	£3,048,348	£1,953,964	14
2022-12-31	£2,602,237	£2,829,776	£2,220,337	14
2021-12-31	£2,618,044	£2,371,275	£2,447,876	12
2020-12-31	£2,453,070	£1,936,608	£2,201,107	12

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Edward Carpenter		2013-10-23
Elizabeth Staniforth		2018-12-17
GORDON JOSEPH HAYNES		2024-07-11
Peter William Jordon		2026-04-01

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STAND BY ME

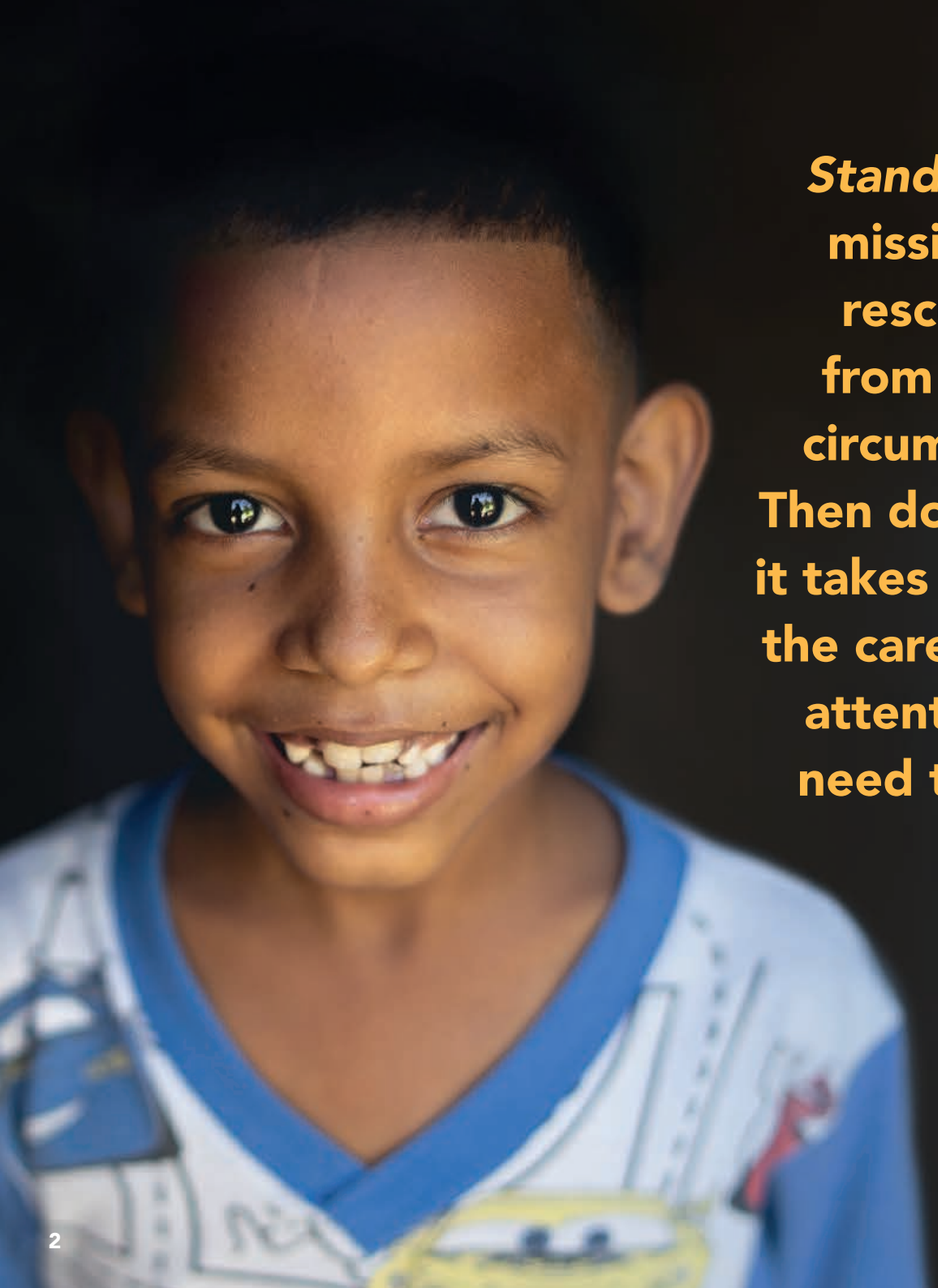
England & Wales - Charity number 1185124

Accounts



STAND BY me

Annual Report & Accounts 2024



Stand by Me's **mission is to rescue kids from terrible circumstances. Then do whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive.**

A message from the director

I am delighted to share with you our latest Annual Report and Accounts, celebrating all that God has accomplished through *Stand by Me* in 2024. Within these pages you will find remarkable stories of transformation from children around the world, stories made possible only through your generous support.

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the opportunity of a quality education, which enables them to overcome immense challenges and realise the potential God has placed within them. This year we were thrilled to see four kindergarten classrooms in Ethiopia transformed with new resources and to equip Abdi Academy with a new IT lab. From the youngest kindergartener joining our *Stand by Me* family to university students pursuing their degrees, your support is opening doors to life-changing opportunities that will shape their futures.

We are continually humbled and inspired by the compassion of our staff as they serve with dedication, often in the most difficult circumstances. In Myanmar, despite civil war and food insecurity, our teams have reached out to some of the most vulnerable families. This year, our GCEC and Lois Schools became true beacons of hope, opening their doors to refugee children and providing them with education, daily food, safety and the assurance of love. We once expanded these schools to reach more children, but God had an even greater purpose: to create a refuge for those who had lost their homes and communities.



I am deeply thankful for God's faithfulness and provision, and for your commitment which enabled us to raise revenues of over £3 million in 2024. As we face the ongoing challenges of conflict in Myanmar and the global rise in living costs, I am encouraged by your steadfast support. Because of your generosity, thousands of children are experiencing care, hope and the love of God.



Ahmad Ayoubi
Chief Executive Director

Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated by Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.

Our child-centred care



Loving care
We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Strong families
We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



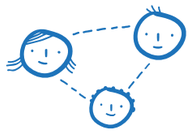
Great education
Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



Access to healthcare
We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



A reason for hope
It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



Caring relationships
Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.



Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.



Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



Bethany School, Ethiopia.

Caring for over 3,800 kids worldwide

Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic

Educating children facing poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of a free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

Kenya

Giving orphaned and abandoned children loving care in our family homes.

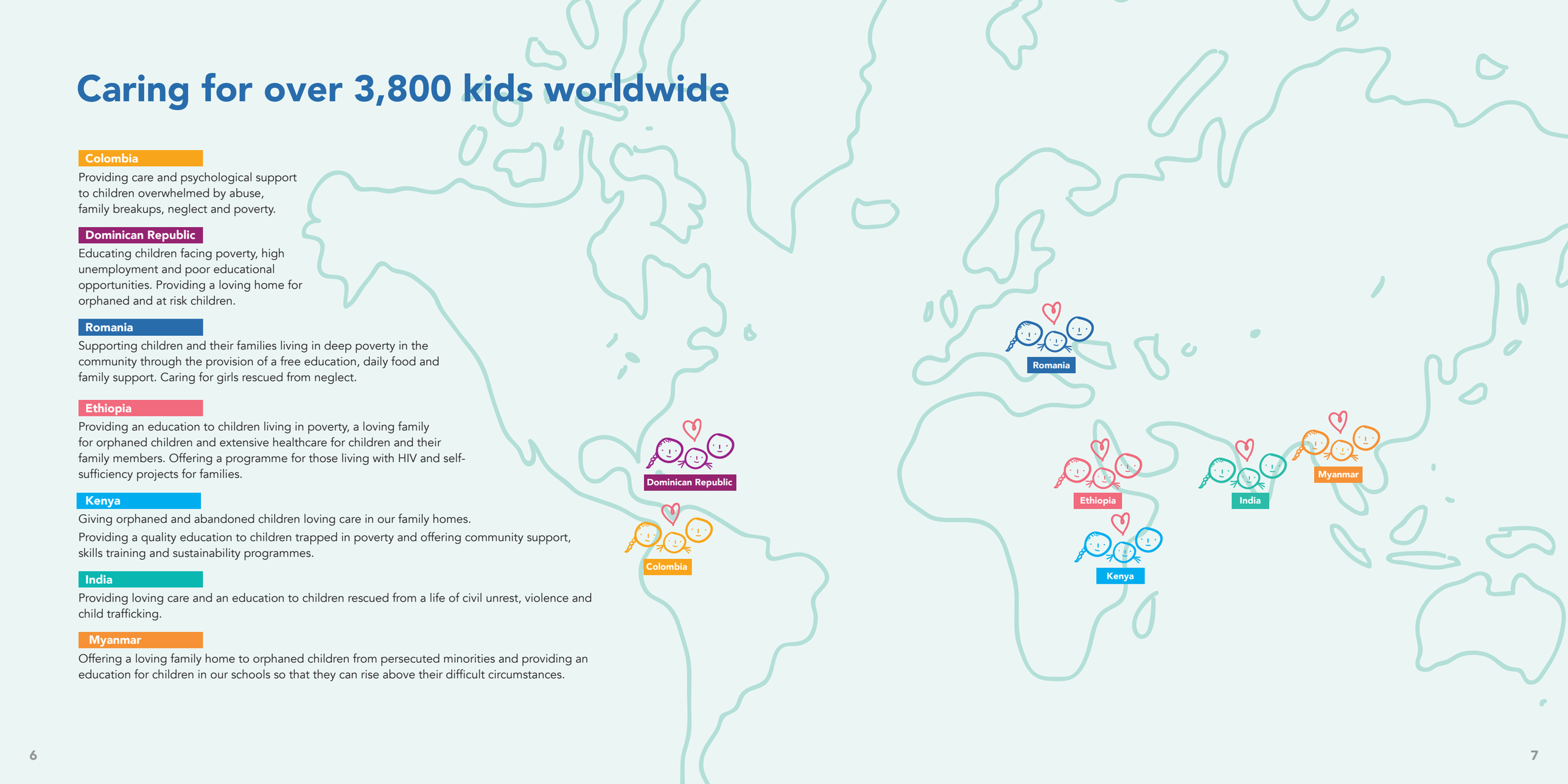
Providing a quality education to children trapped in poverty and offering community support, skills training and sustainability programmes.

India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.





Our impact

Colombia

A safe environment to be a child

Growing up in a forgotten town surrounded by dense banana plantation, our kids in Colombia come from terrible backgrounds. Alongside the challenges of living in poverty, many children lack love and care at home and contend with the emotional and psychological effects of neglect and abuse.

But despite the heartbreaking challenges, we see hope. Our Emmanuel Care Centre is a hub exploding with colour, full of laughter and run by committed staff who provide children with the daily support, food, education and counselling they need. Knowing what they experience at home, we believe it is incredibly important that children like Shayra have a safe haven where they can be a child and experience hope.

12-year-old **Shayra** lives with her mum and younger brother. Each day, she wakes up in her small house and helps her mum with the chores, like sweeping, cleaning dishes and walking to the river to wash her clothes.



At the centre she receives additional educational support from her dedicated teachers and has access to clean water, nutritious meals and, if needed, the support of a psychologist to help her through life's toughest times.

Shayra loves attending the centre where she laughs and plays with her friends, knowing she is loved and special. Thanks to this life-changing support, Shayra dreams for the future and hopes to one day study psychology at university.

The dedication of our incredible staff is transforming lives and this year we welcomed 30 grade 1 children into the centre. The excited five and six-year-olds are now receiving loving care and experiencing a safe environment to enjoy their childhood, just like Shayra.





Ethiopia

The best start to education

This year at our Bethany School and Abdi Academy in Ethiopia, we watched the excitement build as our youngest kids lined up outside waiting to see the **incredible transformation of their classrooms.** For the last couple of years, *Stand by Me* has worked with a small team of teachers from Northern Ireland, alongside our Ethiopian staff, to provide better resources for our kindergarten students.

There was a smile on every child's face as they explored their new classrooms. The team of teachers delivered five days of training, helping our nine staff members from Bethany School and Abdi Academy to understand how to best use these wonderful resources. Together, they discovered the value of play-based learning and focused on how the new resources would support children's learning in numeracy, literacy, imaginative role play, construction and outdoor play.

These resources will impact the education of our youngest kids for generations to come. It's thanks to the generosity of our incredible supporters, the skills of the fantastic teaching team and the determination of our Bethany School and Abdi Academy teachers that our children in Ethiopia will now have the best possible start to their education and a foundation from which we hope they will continue to flourish and reach their potential.



Kenya

Restoring hope for children and their families

When **Darius** was only eight years old, his mother passed away. Since then, **Selina**, his grandmother, has been caring for him and his brother. Selina's age made it difficult to provide for them and there were many days when the family went without food.

Three years ago, we welcomed Darius into our Open Arms Academy where he now gets an education and all his needs are taken care of: breakfast and lunch, a smart school uniform, comfortable school shoes and healthcare. Darius enjoys his lessons and has discovered his talent in the school's new workshop, opened this year to provide technical and vocational skills to children. Selina is overjoyed that Darius is now receiving these opportunities.

"It is thanks to Open Arms Academy that Darius has food, he gets fruit and has a balanced diet. That was my biggest worry. I couldn't feed my grandson well. I have also seen that he has a talent in sculpting and making things using his hands. He is very happy these days. He smiles more and I had missed seeing that since his mother died."

Selina is also finding hope through the SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) programme which is helping her find financial stability and dream of a better future for her grandson.

"My dream is to see my grandson own his own house and be successful in his life. I want a better life for him than what I have. The SILC training has helped me a lot. I was quite hopeless but it has given me a new lease of hope."

The impact of our work in Kenya is providing children like Darius with the opportunity to learn and empowering parents and grandparents like Selina to improve their lives and find renewed hope.



Myanmar

Rescuing children into our schools

Myanmar continues to be ravaged by war. In the north, where fighting is fierce, villages have been burned down and families have been devastated by loss, many have had to flee to nearby towns or cities for refuge. Not only are our staff diligently doing all they can to protect our children, but they are also welcoming children who have lost everything into our homes and schools.

At our Lois School, the classrooms were temporarily opened to provide a place to sleep for children and families who had fled from their burned villages and urgently needed shelter. When summer school began, the same children were welcomed to come along and enjoy free education, activities and lunch each day. As the children had fun taking part in painting, learning English and playing in the playground, they were able to feel safe.

Knowing these children wouldn't otherwise be able to receive an education, our Lois School made room for them to join the school. As a result, **this academic year started with over 1,000 students, more than 70 of them children who had fled their villages due to the war.** The classrooms are full and fit to burst but our wonderful teachers are helping to bear the children's fear and help them know they are loved, cared for and have a hope for the future.







"I thank Stand by Me for providing this school building that we could not only educate many needy children but also could provide shelter to people in need. I would like to thank all the sponsors, supporters for your faithful support and generosity, because of your gift many of the people found safety, refuge, hope, education, love and know the love of God."

Ciang, Lois School Headteacher.

Romania

25 years of caring for children -

Cami, Romania Director



On June 1st, we celebrated a momentous milestone: 25 years since the inception of our child-focused initiatives in Romania. This quarter-century has been filled with profound meaning, hard work and numerous challenges.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this journey has been witnessing the diverse gifts each person has brought to our mission. From the volunteers who physically work alongside us, bringing their compassion and energy, to those who provide their expertise in education, healthcare and counselling, every individual's unique contribution has been invaluable.

We have been blessed with talented caregivers, teachers and psychologists who have nurtured the children's minds, helping them achieve academic success and inspiring a love of learning. Our healthcare professionals have ensured the children remain healthy and strong, addressing both their physical and emotional needs with dedication and care.

Moreover, there are the countless supporters and sponsors who, throughout the years, have helped from afar in many ways, contributing their financial support, providing spiritual support through their prayers or offering emotional support through heartfelt messages of encouragement, lifting the spirits of both the children and our staff during challenging times.

As we mark this 25th anniversary, we are deeply aware of the importance of all these individuals, whether well-known to us or not. Each person's unique gifts and contributions have woven a rich tapestry of support that has sustained us. **We wish to extend our heartfelt tribute and gratitude to everyone who has become part of the larger *Stand by Me* family here in Romania.**



Myanmar

Excelling in talents through adversity

Last year our Agape Home family had been forced to leave their home due to extreme flooding. But now having returned to the home, rising conflicts in Myanmar have continued to disrupt normal life. The uncertainty of the future, however, has not stopped our children from doing what they love.The children at the home have been pursuing their hobbies by dancing together, an activity that has been a light amidst dark times.

"We are overjoyed to pursue our passion for dancing, and we hope for more opportunities in the future. Your prayers mean the world to us and we're thrilled to be doing what we love" said 16-year-old **Ngua**, also known as 'dancer' amongst his peers. He was one of the seven children at our Agape Home who participated in a regional dance competition.

The children arrived at the competition both nervous and full of excitement. They had spent a month preparing to perform, giving up their Saturdays to diligently practice together, and it was now their chance to show off what they had been training for. They would be competing against 50 other children from the region in front of an audience of over 350 people.

The dancers were awarded third place in the competition, an achievement both the children and the staff were incredibly proud of. After their first performance the Agape Home went on to participate in further competitions, with even more children joining in.

The competitions have given the children a deeper passion for dancing which has brought them closer together. In the midst of the civil war in Myanmar, the chance for our children to pursue their passions provides a small relief and brings them much joy.





Ethiopia

A second chance at success

Six students in our Bethany Project passed their university remedial programme exam and are now continuing their education at university.

The university remedial programme includes extra study and additional courses, giving students who narrowly miss the university pass marks another opportunity to join university. Having succeeded in these recent exams **Ashenafi, Elshaddai, Elias, Serkalem, Danie**l and **Tadesse** now have a second chance to pursue their dreams.

22-year-old **Ashenafi** was one of the highest achieving students all throughout his education, even passing his Grade 8 exams top of the class. He had been welcomed into our Bethany Project in 2008, his mother's single wage as a labourer barely covering the family's basic needs and not enough to send him to school. Ashenafi had worked hard all throughout his primary and high school education but when the university entrance exam came along he struggled:

"My entrance exam result and my class performance were vastly different. I was among the top students in class, and my university entrance result was unexpected. Thanks to the remedial programme, I could work to my full potential and now expect a brighter future ahead."

The six will start their freshman year and are aspiring high: **Daniel wants to study Law, Elshaddai and Serkalem are considering pursuing Management and Ashenafi and Tadesse hope to study Computer Science. Elias wants to pursue psychiatry, a career path that very few in Ethiopia choose.**

The amazing achievement not only shows what our kids are capable of, but also that in the small, poor town where our Bethany Project stands, second chances are never wasted.



How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.



Lunch time at Bethany School, Ethiopia.

Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia.



Child Sponsorship

We are grateful that this year a further 343 people provided a child with an extended family by becoming a sponsor. We are thankful for all our wonderful child sponsors who have made our children feel so loved, **sending a total of 4,130 emails,1,001 letters and monetary gifts totalling £75,392 to their sponsored children.**

Child Sponsorship is a fantastic way to impact a child's life. It's so much more than a monthly donation providing for a child's food, clothes, medical care and education; it means a child feels loved, cared for and part of a family. The commitment and encouragement means the world to our children, a sentiment expressed so well by Than who recently wrote to his sponsor Pete:

"I hope you are doing well. As I prepare to leave Agape Home and begin a new journey, I want to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude for everything you have done for me. Your kindness, generosity and prayers have meant so much to me, and I will always cherish the way you have supported me throughout these years.

You have been more than just a sponsor and you have been a blessing and a guiding light in my life. Your encouragement and care have given me strength and hope and I am truly thankful for the love you have shown me. Through your support, I have been able to grow, learn and become the person I am today.

Thank you for believing in me, for walking alongside me in this journey and for being a part of my life in such a meaningful way.

With heartfelt gratitude and love"

Than

Appeals

Our appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our Colombia Appeal raised an incredible **£76,334.14** enabling us to provide essential psychologist support for children facing trauma, neglect and abuse at the safe haven of our **Emmanuel Care Centre**.

On behalf of all the staff, Bibiana, our Colombia Director, shared the impact of this generosity:

"Through interventions in both individual sessions and group workshops, a safe space is provided and children and young people are taught strategies to resolve conflicts peacefully, the importance of communication and about the issue of sexual abuse. Families are more prepared to create healthy and safe environments, reducing the risk of emotional problems such as depression and promoting lasting wellbeing free of violence for their children."

Bibiana, Colombia Director



This year, our **Christmas Appeal** raised funds to Keep Families Together raising an amazing **£41,803.37** which enabled us to provide **234 families** the security and support they needed to stay together over Christmas and to start the year. These donations meant that children could focus on their education instead of dangerous work and parents could access vital medical care, helping entire families like Chaltu's look forward to a future filled with dignity and hope.

14-year-old Chaltu (below left) attends our Bethany School in Ethiopia where she receives an excellent education, daily food and healthcare. Her mother is raising a large family on her own and has faced many challenges in providing for her children. She shared how the keeping families together support has transformed their lives:

"I was working as a cook in someone's house to support my children, but when I suddenly became ill and needed surgery I could no longer afford to pay the rent. I was terrified that we would become homeless and be forced to live on the streets. However, as soon as I received the 'Keeping Families Together' support, I felt a breath of hope for myself and my children. The support has given us stability and the chance to rebuild our lives. I am deeply grateful to the Stand by Me project which saved us from homelessness and restored my hope, allowing me to live and appreciate life once again."





Alternative Gifts

Our **Alternative Gift Catalogue** raised a fantastic **£33,923.91** from our supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters regularly, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.

India Agape Home.





22 *Deiner and his siblings on their new bed, Colombia.*

Fundraising

Amazing fundraisers take on ambitious challenges to raise money for our children around the world. Whether they are running a marathon or sleeping on the floor, their motivation to make a difference is inspiring and raises essential funds to support our kids.

This year our annual February on the Floor fundraising event raised **£72,769.86** to help **1,517** children around the world pursue their dreams. The impact has been felt by our kids around the world as they have received new uniforms, enjoyed their daily breakfasts and families, like Deiner's in Colombia, have received the wonderful gift of a bed. Deiner used to have to share one bed with his siblings, but thanks to February on the Floor, he received a new bed so they all each have room to get the rest they need.

FEBRUARY on the FLOOR

Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to *Stand by Me* mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting and far reaching improvements in children's lives.

Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

Trusts

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.

Open Arms Academy, Kenya.

Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



Whilst I only had the privilege to join the *Stand by Me* Board during 2024 and became Chairman recently I have, over the years of my involvement, been delighted to see a shining example of faith being demonstrated in practice. I have been greatly encouraged by God's provision and the collective resolve and dedication of our staff, both in the UK and overseas.

The stories and successes contained within this report are just a few examples of what has been accomplished during 2024 but I would like to highlight the strong emphasis that is placed on encouraging stable family life and supporting individual child development. Above all we strive to provide a safe, nurturing and Christian setting within which children can grow, contribute to their communities, and, as they progress through our schools, graduate and make a meaningful impact at all levels of society.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our donors and volunteers. The Board, staff, children and families that we serve, extend heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generosity and willingness to share in our mission. We are acutely aware that we are stewards of your gifts and we continue to pray for God's guidance to ensure these resources are managed wisely and with integrity.

On behalf of the Board I also wish to express our sincere thanks to Ahmad for his dedicated leadership, and to all our overseas and UK staff for their commitment to the work of *Stand by Me*.

Looking ahead, the needs within our communities continue to evolve, and so must our response and with this in mind I hope you are encouraged by the content of this report and continue with us in our journey of investing in the lives of those we serve.

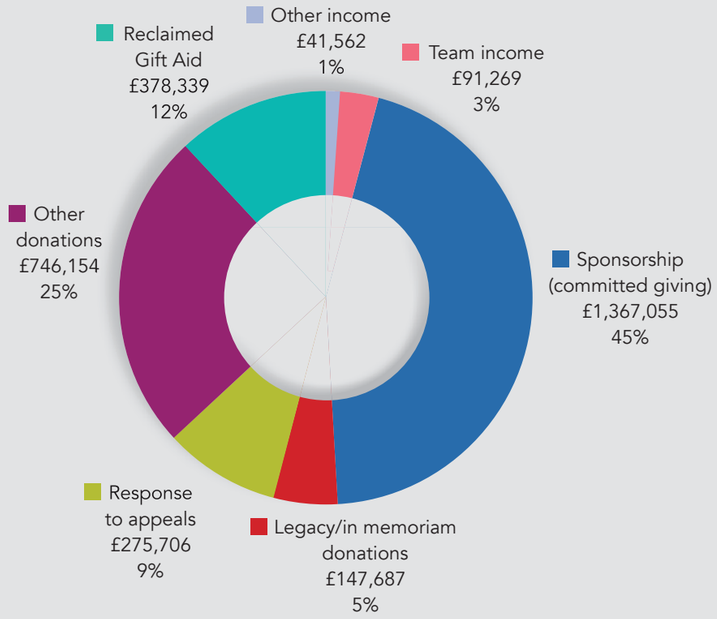
Gordon Haynes
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Financial Summary

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children. But we're not here just to run a charity, we're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then to reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives. Our trusted staff use money wisely to provide the best care possible for our children and through our annual budgets, audits and frequent monitoring visits, we make sure that the money is spent prudently.

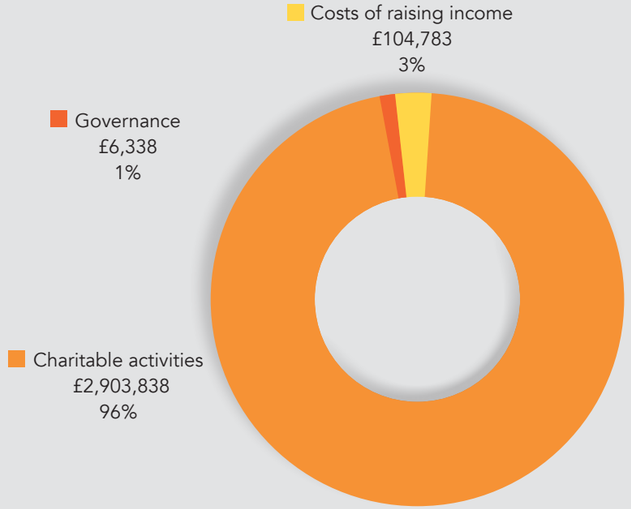
Income 2024

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the past year enabling us to raise £3,047,772.

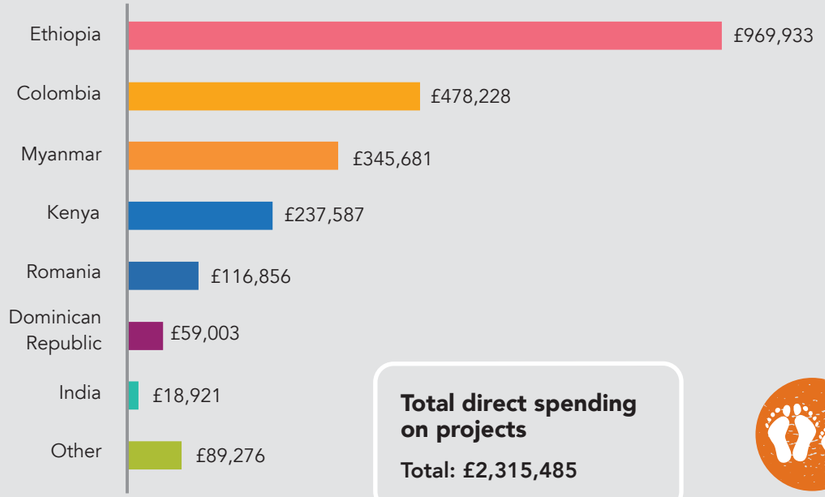


Expenditure 2024

Total expenditure in the year was £3,014,959.
96% of expenditure was spent of charitable activities with fundraising and governance costing just 4%.



What we spent directly on our projects in 2024



Total direct spending on projects

Total: £2,315,485

STAND BY me

Looking forward

As we celebrate all we have achieved over 2024, we also look forward to all we hope to achieve in 2025, continuing to rescue children from terrible circumstances and doing all we can to provide them with nutritious food, essential healthcare, family support and a life-changing education. Here are our main aims for transforming children's lives in 2025.

Education

To provide a safe and supportive place for our high school students to study in Ethiopia, we will equip and open our High School Centre to ensure our older children can transition well and safely into independence and be in the best position to thrive as an adult and reach their potential.

Quality Care

Last year, our Agape Home in Myanmar was flooded and our 37 children were forced to evacuate by canoe. Although the family was able to return home, monsoon rains become more severe and the home is at risk of flooding again. Next year, we will launch an appeal to raise funds to build our Agape Home children a new floodproof home, ensuring they are comfortable, secure and protected from the elements.

Stand by Me is dedicated to furthering our commitment to the highest standards of care for the children we look after. A significant area of focus will be the continued development of our child safeguarding protocols and practices. We recognise the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in our care and, as such, we will be conducting thorough audits of our current safeguarding procedures to identify area for improvement and enhancement.

Alongside this we are dedicated to providing ongoing training and development opportunities for our overseas staff, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to uphold our safeguarding standards. Over the course of this 18-month development project, we will be implementing necessary changes at our projects to strengthen our safeguarding framework.

Celebrating milestones

After working closely with Open Arms International in the USA, they will become *Stand by Me USA* at the beginning of 2025, enabling our work and the stories of our children to be shared in the USA in the hope of providing opportunities for many more people to support *Stand by Me*.

To celebrate *Stand by Me*'s 30th anniversary we will host special 30th celebration events in Northern Ireland and Essex. This will be an opportunity to reflect on our journey so far, thanking supporters for the role they have played, inspiring our audience with our vision for the future and, most importantly, thanking God for his faithfulness, miracles and provision.



Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia.

Structure, governance and management

Registered Charity

Stand by Me is a registered charity in England and Wales. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 2nd September 2019. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is responsible for approving strategic decisions having taken advice from the Executive team.

Going concern

After appropriate research, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements..

Method of appointment & training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the Board and approved at a meeting of the Trustees. *Stand by Me* Trustees are expected to be pro-active in supporting the work of the charity. Trustee recruitment is achieved through a blend of professional associations, local networks and prospective members being individually identified and approached. A periodic review of existing skills and expertise is undertaken and an assessment made as to what is required to meet the strategic needs of the charity. This shapes the recruitment and selection of prospective Trustees along with evidence of their motivation and support for the vision and mission of the charity.

Remuneration policy

Pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by the Board of Trustees and reviewed annually. Terms and benefits are set with reference to average pay in the sector and competencies required of the role. Remuneration for the Leadership Team is set by the Chief Executive Officer, with the agreement from the Board of Trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and continue to be satisfied the charity is acting in the public benefit, as stated in our objectives, and believe this report contains the explanation of the significant activities undertaken during the year which confirms this.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees considers the key measure of sustainability for *Stand by Me* to be current and future liquidity cover, rather than the surplus or deficit accounting position. Consequently Trustees have set an appropriate reserves policy which is reviewed annually relating to liquidity, based on the relationship between readily realisable assets and the cash required to meet agreed obligations to ministries overseas in respect of monies that cover their regular support outgoings. Reserves are also required to sustain the charity's operations in England and Northern Ireland.



Sophia Academy, Myanmar.

Trustees have decided that *Stand by Me* should at all times maintain cash and readily realisable assets, being regarded as restricted funds, sufficient to fund between not less than 3 and not more than 12 months of budgeted regular support outgoings in relation to overseas ministries. At 31 December 2024 that liquidity cover stands at **7.9 months.** Alongside this, Trustees have also decided that, at all times, cash and realisable assets should be maintained to finance a minimum of 3 months and not more than 12 months of budgeted operating costs. At 31 December 2024 that liquidity cover stands at **3.4 months.**

This Reserves Policy, which was agreed by Trustees at a meeting on 26 April 2023, updates and refines the earlier policy by linking solvency awareness in relation to funds for ministries overseas very specifically to monitoring liquidity cover for regular support outgoings. Also the assessment of solvency has been standardised as not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months for both restricted and unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund in accordance with the Reserves Policy set by the Trustees. *Stand by Me* aims to hold sufficient balances in all funds to cover 25 – 100% of budgeted regular support outgoings, plus any donations previously received for specific projects scheduled to take place in the subsequent years. At the end of the period total restricted funds were £1.02m (at 31 December 2023 £1.04m) all of which is earmarked for agreed regular support payments and specific projects. For each fund, *Stand by Me*'s assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Our objective is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security. To achieve this *Stand by Me* invests with institutions with a high security rating in fixed-term or call deposits. During the year *Stand by Me*'s sterling deposits achieved an average rate of interest of 3.6% (2023: 2.9%) compared with average bank base rate for the same period of 5.11% (2023: 4.68%).

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal risks considered can be categorised as follows:

- Financial risks – potential reduction in the level of public voluntary donations leading to inadequate reserves.
- External risks – (a) poor public perception, albeit that Trustees consider this to be an extremely low risk, with consequent damage to the charity's reputation and (b) turbulent economic or political environment.
- Safeguarding risks – failure to adequately protect our beneficiaries and staff around the world.

There are four basic strategies that can be applied to manage an identified risk:

- Transferring the financial consequences to third parties, or sharing it, usually through insurance or outsourcing;
- Avoiding completely the activity giving rise to the risk, for example by not taking up a contract or stopping a particular activity or service;
- Management or mitigation of risk;
- Accepting or assessing it as a risk that cannot be avoided if the activity is to continue i.e. where the Trustees recognise that a core activity carries a risk but take steps to mitigate it.

Our reputation as a world class child care organisation is intertwined with our most important concern and the area we constantly monitor i.e. the protection of our children. Our comprehensive Child Care Policy and Safeguarding Policy are our global standards for all the charity's projects which includes policies common to all our work around the world, is how we manage this risk. Also each member of staff is given our Staff Handbook which has, as its first section, the highest standards of behaviour expected in all dealings with children and fellow members of staff.

Another key strategic risk identified was our additional funding needs. This is due to the fluctuation of sterling in political and economic uncertainty, combined with meeting the costs of the increasing number of our children attending further education. To mitigate this, we will maximise our key strengths and look to diversify our fundraising portfolio.

Overseas monitoring

Our Overseas Development Team regularly visit the projects and work with our in-country boards as they report against objectives and abide by policies set out for each of our homes, care centres and schools.



Denisa Care Centre, Romania.

Each country we work in has at least one director who is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day work taking place and they have regular meetings with the Chief Executive Director to discuss how the projects are progressing and any current issues that need addressing.

On an individual child level, we monitor the progress of every child, physically, emotionally and academically throughout the year to meet any needs as they arise and ensure they are able to do well.

By having teams visit regularly, many with professional members such as doctors, dentists and teachers, we encourage them to provide professional reports to aid our work as we seek to improve our effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of future challenges.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board of Trustees meets every two months, subject to travel commitments, and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive Director has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the charity, implementing strategy and providing overall leadership to ensure that the core values of the charity are maintained. The Board has reserved to itself certain important decisions including changes to the charity's governing document and approval of the long-term objectives and strategy. The key responsibilities of Trustees are set out in the statement on page 37.

Fundraising ethos

Whether a long-standing supporter or someone hearing about *Stand by Me* for the first time, we endeavour to inspire people to get involved in rescuing children from extreme circumstances and providing the opportunities they need to thrive.

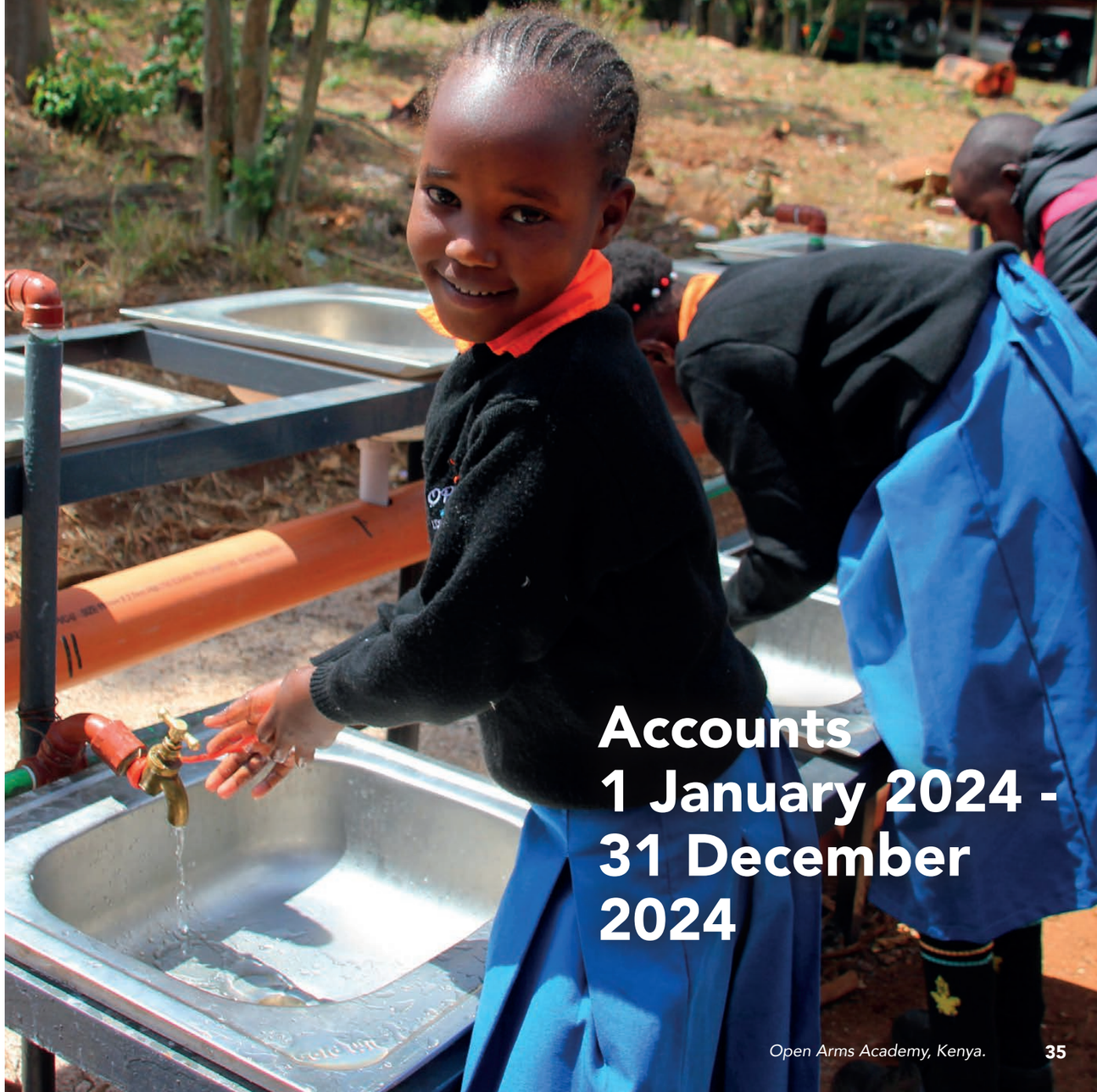
In our 29 year history we have always focused on building long term relationships with our supporters, exemplified by the foundation of regular sponsors and donors who know the tangible difference their support is making.

We allow our supporters to choose the ways in which they wish to be involved as well as where they would like their money used, as we understand how important ownership and choice can be for our supporters.

The following principles guide our fundraising strategy and operations:

- We aim to inspire people to donate or raise money for *Stand by Me.*
- We thank supporters appropriately and demonstrate the tangible difference their money is making to the children around the world.
- When we contact our supporters it's because we think they will be interested to hear how our children are thriving through their support. We listen to supporters and act on their communication requests.
- We keep our supporters' data secure and never pass their personal information on to any other company or charity and we don't buy or sell data.
- Fundraising and marketing is only carried out by our staff so that we are in control of the standards employed. This ensures that supporters and the wider public do not feel pressured to give and are treated with respect at all times, with a particular focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Stand by Me's fundraising activities and compliance with fundraising regulations and best practice are closely scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.



Accounts 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

Open Arms Academy, Kenya.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of *Stand by Me* (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Trustees confirm the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements which are contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

Trustees
Gordon Haynes (appointed Trustee 11 July 2024, appointed Chairman 28 May 2025)
Mark Clayden (Chairman, resigned 28 May 2025)
Edward Carpenter (Treasurer)
Nathania MacGregor (resigned 9 May 2024)
Alan Ramsay (appointed 14 March 2024, resigned 29 May 2025)
Sharon Seymour (resigned 31 March 2025)
Greg Smith (appointed 22 April 2024)
Elizabeth Staniforth
John Tillett (resigned 31 May 2025)

Minutes Secretary
Fay Garrett

Chief Executive Director
Ahmad Ayoubi

Charity registered number
1185124

Independent auditor
Robert J Baxter FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Cooper & Co
9 Palmers Avenue
Grays
Essex
RM17 5TX

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Romford
Essex
RM1 3AA

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Offices
England Office
630 Upper Brentwood Road
Romford
Essex
RM2 6HS

Ireland Office
16 West Street
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7AR

www.standby.me

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 15th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Gordon Haynes
Trustee



Edward Carpenter
Trustee

Stand by Me
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Stand by Me

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of *Stand By Me* (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert J Baxter FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Cooper & Co, 9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5TX

Date: 17th October 2025

Robert J Baxter FCCA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	**675,681**	**2,331,014**	**3,006,695**	*2,748,895*
Investments	3	**41,077**	**-**	**41,077**	*33,080*
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		**716,758**	**2,331,014**	**3,047,772**	*2,781,975*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	**104,783**	**-**	**104,783**	*98,768*
Governance costs	7	**6,338**	**-**	**6,338**	*6,282*
Other charitable activities		**795,641**	**2,108,197**	**2,903,838**	*2,943,298*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**906,762**	**2,108,197**	**3,014,959**	*3,048,348*
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(190,004)**	**222,817**	**32,813**	*(266,373)*
Transfers between Funds	16	**244,813**	**(244,813)**	**-**	*-*
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**54,809**	**(21,996)**	**32,813**	*(266,373)*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**54,809**	**(21,996)**	**32,813**	*(266,373)*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**913,268**	**1,040,696**	**1,953,964**	*2,220,337*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**968,077**	**1,018,700**	**1,986,777**	*1,953,964*

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		**793,280**		*801,630*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**253,357**		*250,336*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,118,534**		*1,133,312*	
		1,371,891		*1,383,648*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(78,394)**		*(81,314)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,293,497**		*1,302,334*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,086,777**		*2,103,964*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		**(100,000)**		*(150,000)*
NET ASSETS			**1,986,777**		*1,953,964*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds			**1,018,700**		*1,040,696*
Unrestricted funds			**968,077**		*913,268*
TOTAL FUNDS			**1,986,777**		*1,953,964*

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Gordon Haynes
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Statement of Cash Flows for year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	18	**(14,778)**	*(324,777)*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(14,778)**	*(324,777)*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**1,133,312**	*1,458,089*
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		**1,118,534**	*1,133,312*

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.



Open Arms Village, Kenya.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011..

Stand By Me constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.s.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property: 1% of cost on a straight line basis

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Income from supporters	**205,588**	**2,331,014**	**2,536,602**	*2,375,133*
Gift aid tax recovered	**378,339**	**-**	**378,339**	*301,385*
Exchange rate differences	**485**	**-**	**485**	*(1,519)*
Income from teams	**91,269**	**-**	**91,269**	*73,896*
Total donations and legacies	**675,681**	**2,331,014**	**3,006,695**	*2,748,895*
Total 2023	*524,158*	*2,224,737*	*2,748,895*	

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Rental income	**14,375**	**-**	**14,375**	*9,951*
Bank interest received	**26,702**	**-**	**26,702**	*23,129*
	41,077	**-**	**41,077**	*33,080*
Total 2023	*33,080*	-	*33,080*	

4. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Marketing - website	**15,230**	**-**	**15,230**	*8,970*
Marketing - fundraising costs	**12,847**	**-**	**12,847**	*14,443*
Marketing - consultancy	**3,225**	**-**	**3,225**	*2,550*
Marketing - publications	**4,778**	**-**	**4,778**	*6,402*
Fundraising staff costs	**68,703**	**-**	**68,703**	*66,403*
	104,783	**-**	**104,783**	*98,768*

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Travel, field visits and volunteer costs	**15,581**	**15,581**	*15,300*
Funds and resources sent to ministries	**2,193,318**	**2,193,318**	*2,262,788*
Team expenses	**38,465**	**38,465**	*52,989*
Wages and salaries	**68,121**	**68,121**	*67,289*
	2,315,485	**2,315,485**	*2,398,366*

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Sundry office expenses	**3,554**	**3,554**	*3,899*
Communications costs	**3,916**	**3,916**	*3,945*
Computer costs	**39,577**	**39,577**	*31,180*
Printing, postage and stationery	**32,584**	**32,584**	*29,163*
Insurance	**2,819**	**2,819**	*2,223*
Bank charges	**23,070**	**23,070**	*20,787*
Light, heat and services	**12,846**	**12,846**	*14,303*
Rent and rates	**6,558**	**6,558**	*6,446*
Office equipment and leasing	**856**	**856**	*2,234*
Building maintenance	**1,092**	**1,092**	*1,662*
Landlord costs	**84**	**84**	*1,650*
Travel	**9,594**	**9,594**	*6,468*
Wages and salaries	**354,854**	**354,854**	*333,442*
National insurance	**45,036**	**45,036**	*42,530*
Pension cost	**43,563**	**43,563**	*36,650*
Depreciation	**8,350**	**8,350**	*8,350*
	588,353	**588,353**	*544,932*

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Auditor's remuneration	**5,940**	**-**	**5,940**	*5,685*
Legal fees	**398**	**-**	**398**	*597*
	6,338	**-**	**6,338**	*6,282*

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2024 £	Depreciation 2024 £	Other costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	**68,703**	**-**	**36,080**	**104,783**	*98,768*
Costs of raising funds	**68,703**	**-**	**36,080**	**104,783**	*98,768*
Charitable Activities	**511,574**	**8,350**	**2,383,914**	**2,903,838**	*2,943,298*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**6,338**	**6,338**	*6,282*
	580,277	**8,350**	**2,426,332**	**3,014,959**	*3,048,348*
Total 2023	*546,314*	*8,350*	*2,493,684*	*3,048,348*	

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**8,350**	*8,350*
Auditor's remuneration - audit	**5,940**	*5,685*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration *(2023 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind *(2023 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (*2023 - £95*).

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £5,940 (*2023 - £5,685*)

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Wages and salaries	**491,678**	*467,134*
Social security costs	**45,036**	*42,530*
Other pension costs	**43,563**	*36,650*
	580,277	*546,314*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	*203 No.*
Management	**3**	*3*
Administration and support	**11**	*11*
	14	*14*

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2024	*2023*
	No.	*No.*
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	*1*

The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel were £149,735 (*2023: £147,819*). One employee received remuneration over £60,000 in 2024 (*2023:1*). The charity Trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year and no trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity. During the year no Trustee expenses were inucurred (*2023 - £95*).

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property
	£
Cost	
At 1 January, 2024 and 31 December 2024	**835,030**
Depreciation	
At 1 January, 2024	**33,400**
Charge for the year	**8,350**
At 31 December, 2024	**41,750**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	**793,280**
At 31 December 2023	*801,630*

13. DEBTORS

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Other debtors	**252,869**	*249,962*
Prepayments and accrued income	**488**	*374*
	253,357	*250,336*

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**50,000**	*50,000*
Trade creditors	**8,794**	*11,036*
Other taxation and social security	**12,082**	*13,083*
Other creditors	**1,578**	*1,615*
Accruals and deferred income	**5,940**	*5,580*
	78,394	*81,314*

Other loans relates to an interest free loan of £400,000 given to *Stand by Me* in September 2019 which the charity is repaying over a number of years.

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**100,000**	*150,000*

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**913,268**	**716,758**	**(906,762)**	**244,813**	**968,077**
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	**1,040,696**	**2,331,014**	**(2,108,197)**	**(244,813)**	**1,018,700**
Total of funds	**1,953,964**	**3,047,772**	**(3,014,959)**	**-**	**1,986,777**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 December 2023 £*
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*1,024,418*	*557,238*	*(876,228)*	*207,840*	*913,268*
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	*1,195,919*	*2,224,737*	*(2,172,120)*	*(207,840)*	*1,040,696*
Total of funds	*2,220,337*	*2,781,975*	*(3,048,348)*	-	*1,953,964*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	**793,280**	**-**	**793,280**
Current assets	**353,191**	**1,018,700**	**1,371,891**
Creditors due within one year	**(78,394)**	**-**	**(78,394)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**(100,000)**	**-**	**(100,000)**
	968,077	**1,018,700**	**1,986,777**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	*Restricted Funds 2023 £*	*Total Funds 2023 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*801,630*	-	*801,630*
Current assets	*342,952*	*1,040,696*	*1,383,648*
Creditors due within one year	*(81,314)*	-	*(81,314)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*(150,000)*	-	*(150,000)*
	913,268	*1,040,696*	*1,953,964*

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	*2023* £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**32,813**	*(266,373)*
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	**8,350**	*8,350*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(3,021)**	*3,639*
Decrease in creditors	**(52,920)**	*(70,393)*
Net cash used in operating activities	**(14,778)**	*(324,777)*

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £43,563 (*2023: £36,650*).

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.



Denisa Care Centre, Romania.



STAND BY me

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Romford, Essex, RM2 6HS
Tel: 01708 442271

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16 West Street,
Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim, BT38 7AR
Tel: 028 9335 0009

Stand By Me is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK (No. 1185124)

www.standby.me

STAND BY ME

England & Wales - Charity number 1185124

Accounts



STAND BY me

Annual Report & Accounts 2023



Stand by Me's **mission is to rescue kids from terrible circumstances. Then do whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive.**

A message from the director

I am delighted to share with you our most recent Annual Report & Accounts which celebrates our children's achievements in 2023, acknowledges God's faithfulness and your incredible support in transforming the lives of thousands of children around the world.

It has been a year of huge trials, not least in Myanmar where our children have experienced flooding, food insecurity and have been living amid a civil war unlike anything they have experienced before. Despite the fear that has gripped Myanmar, our extraordinary staff, full of compassion and courage, continued to risk their lives by sharing food, aid and the love of God to those most in need. Throughout these challenging times, our staff have been uplifted and encouraged by our supporters' generosity and commitment to prayer through the Christmas Myanmar Appeal.

This year, a significant milestone for *Stand by Me* was the news from our Bethany School, where the top five national exam results were achieved by our girls. As I reflect on my first visit to Ethiopia in 2005, when there wasn't even a school, just an empty field, children could not read or write, many were starving and some even dying from preventable diseases. Back then, the possibility of a quality education seemed impossible. As a father of two girls, my hope has always been for our girls in Ethiopia to be liberated from oppressive social shackles and to realise their intrinsic worth. This year, thanks to our incredible staff, we saw this dream become a reality and our girls are now reaching their full potential.



I am incredibly thankful for God's provision and for you, our generous supporters, who, through your commitment, enabled us to raise revenues of £2.78m in 2023, the highest income in our history. However, the impact of inflation on our projects worldwide has meant the cost of providing essential care for our kids has increased significantly, resulting in a deficit of £267,000. There will be difficult decisions to be made in 2024, but for now, let us celebrate all that we have achieved together in 2023.

On behalf of the 3,800 children in our care, thank you for all your love and faithful support.



Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director

Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated by Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.

Our child-centred care



Loving care
We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Strong families
We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



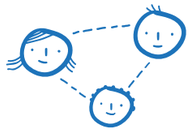
Great education
Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



Access to healthcare
We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



A reason for hope
It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



Caring relationships
Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.



Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.



Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



Emmanuel Care Centre Colombia.

Caring for over 3,800 kids worldwide

Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic

Educating children facing poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of a free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

Kenya

Giving orphaned and abandoned children loving care in our family homes.

Providing a quality education to children trapped in poverty and offering community support, skills training and sustainability programmes.

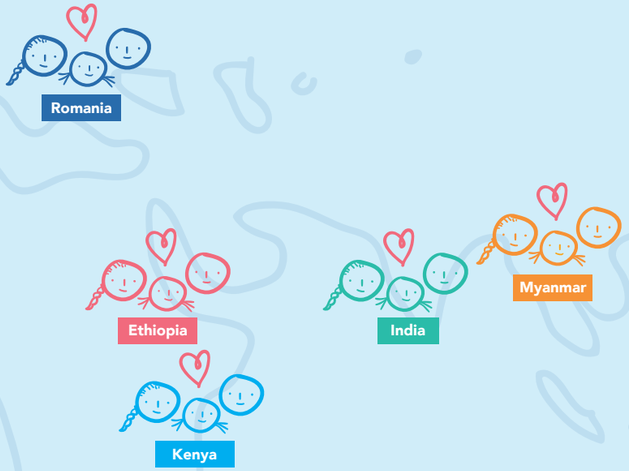
India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.





Our impact

295 children join the *Stand by Me* family

We welcomed 295 children around the world into the *Stand by Me* family during 2023. Although they are only embarking on their journey, we are confident that as we meet their individual needs, they can go far.

Seven-year-old **Jane*** and her four-year-old sister **Valerie*** were two of our newest children at our **Open Arms Academy** in Kenya. Their grandmother rescued the sisters from an unsafe home where they lacked protection and they have lived with her ever since.



"I felt completely helpless and hopeless. I brought them to my house. I had no idea how I would be able to provide for their school. But God heard my prayers. After a few months, I was informed that they had received a place to study at the Open Arms Academy. That was the happiest day of my life."

Jane and Valerie's grandmother

Now, every morning, Jane and Valerie make their way through the dusty streets toward school, always cheerful and always sticking together.

The school provides so much more than the chance of an education for Jane and Valerie, it is a safe haven for children who have experienced some of the worst situations. Jane and Valerie have teachers who show them they are loved and safe every day. This care is transforming their lives and the lives of many children like them.

"I have seen my girls happier each day. I know their journey is long, but I now have confidence that I will be able to help them. For the first time in a very long time, I am hopeful for their future."

Jane and Valerie's grandmother

Jane and Valerie.
** Names changed for child protection.*



Taking a stand for our girls in Ethiopia

This year, we embarked on one of our most ambitious projects yet, to build a **High School Centre** in Ethiopia to provide a safe and supportive place for our students to learn.

When children succeed at Grade 8 and finish at our Bethany Primary School, they can progress on to high school. But the government high school is a challenging place to learn where girls face discrimination, prejudice and gender inequality. As a result, girls are too afraid to seek the support they need.

To ensure that both boys and girls can fulfil their potential at high school, we're now building a High School Centre where our students can receive additional support and the teaching, guidance and encouragement they need to achieve.

We know our girls are more than worth this investment as this year, for the first time ever, the top five Grade 8 students at our Bethany School were girls. One of the five is **Tigist** who joined our Bethany School in 2013 when her mother, a family cook, couldn't afford to send her to school. Her older brothers, unable to go to school, worked as general labourers to support the family and if it were not for the chance of an education at our Bethany School, Tigist may have followed in the footsteps of her siblings.

When Tigist started school, she struggled with her maths and English. But thanks to the support of her sponsors and teachers, she has made amazing progress, finishing second in Grade 8.

Not only did Tigist succeed, but we are immensely proud to share that every Grade 8 student at the Bethany School graduated successfully. These kids have come from the most difficult backgrounds, facing many obstacles along the way and so this is a huge achievement. This wonderful news spurs us on to complete the construction of our High School Centre, which is progressing well, as soon as possible. This will enable our students to continue to thrive as they receive supportive tutoring in a safe environment by teachers committed to equality.



Tigist with her certificate.

Construction of the new High School Centre.

Providing hope in disaster in Myanmar

Our children in Myanmar are living in the midst of a vicious civil war. Every day, our children in the north hear the terrifying sounds of bombs and gunfire. Hundreds of villages across the country have been left in ashes, many people have died and thousands are constantly on the move, fleeing for shelter.

In the south, our children also faced the devastation of flooding. Heavy rain and thunderstorms resulted in a cracked dam flooding acres of land and submerging our **Myanmar Agape Home** waist-deep in water. Our 45 children had to evacuate during the night and travel by canoe to the safety of temporary accommodation. After assessing the extent of the damage, we discovered furniture and many of our children's possessions had been destroyed and the home was in need of significant repairs.

Our rice crop, which we were relying on to provide food security for our children was also completely destroyed. This devastating news came at the worst possible time as inflation has caused rice prices to skyrocket from £15 to £55 per bag, bringing concerns for our ability to feed our 2,000 children.

Our generous supporters joined with us to bring hope to Myanmar through our **Christmas Appeal** by providing vital food and essential repairs. This outpouring of love, kindness and prayers showed our children they are loved and were a huge encouragement to our children and staff who are living through adversity.

Thanks to the provision of the Myanmar Christmas Appeal, we were able to ensure our children have sufficient food, keeping them fed and healthy. Also, our Myanmar Agape Home family were able to move back into the home with a new fridge, furniture and vital repairs to the home.

In a heart-warming gesture, Myanmar Agape Home distributed rice and oil to 100 neighbouring houses, accompanied by a Christmas message. This act of kindness brought not just material support but also a sense of community and shared joy. Many of our homes around Myanmar continue to deliver aid to their community.



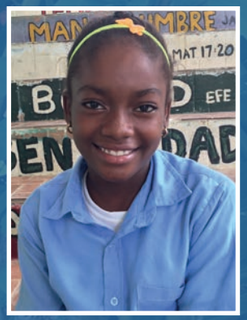
Our children's flooded bedrooms.



Unloading rice for 100 houses at Christmas.



Growing in knowledge and character



Long lasting care in a family and our commitment to our kids doesn't only impact our kids education but transforms every aspect of their lives.

Estefany is originally from Haiti but was brought to the Dominican Republic when she was only young. Not long after, she was rescued from an abusive home by the police and brought to **The Casa Children's Village**, becoming part of our *Stand by Me* family.

Over the years she grew and thrived thanks to the excellent care provided by her home parents and the loving support of her sponsors, receiving regular nutritious meals, access to healthcare and the opportunity to receive an education.

Estefany took advantage of every moment to learn. When she arrived, she hardly spoke any Spanish, speaking only Creole. Determined, she made everyone proud by learning to read and write in Spanish, learning to knit, cook and take care of herself.

This year, Estefany turned 18 and graduated from Grade 9, her final grade at school, which is a wonderful achievement. She is a natural leader and her kind and respectful character set a great example both at the children's home and at school. As well as an excellent student, she also found time to help at her church.

Now an adult, we are excited for Estefany's future, for her to reach her many dreams and goals. The foundation she has received at *Stand by Me* has given her the knowledge, skills and character needed to succeed and have a bright future.

Community Empowerment groups bring hope in Kenya

A new community empowerment programme is supporting the families of our kids in Kenya to improve their livelihoods. Parents and guardians of our children meet regularly with Winnie, our community empowerment programme leader. Winnie has a deep understanding of each family and of the community and is committed to seeing them flourish.

The families meet regularly in groups to receive vital parenting training, pastoral support and business coaching to help them start a life-changing business and raise a strong and stable family.

Grace was one of the first mums to join the programme. For years, Grace worked as a day labourer and she struggled to afford to send her children to school, buy medication when needed and some days she even was unable to provide food for them.

Grace's son, eight-year-old **Clifford**, was welcomed into our school and, soon after, Grace, due to her positive attitude and determination, was invited to join one of the new savings groups.

Grace had always wanted to raise chickens like her mother had done when she was just a girl, but she never had enough resources to get started. After attending the training and starting to put what she had learned into practice, it wasn't long before Grace began to believe that she and her family could have a new life. She took a business loan from her savings group and bought her first chickens!



Grace and Clifford.

Today, Grace's chicken rearing business is enabling her to feed her children and send her daughter to high school.

"In November when my daughter did her class 8 exam, I didn't know if I would be able to take her to high school, but then my business grew and she is now in school."

Grace is experiencing hope as Clifford receives a fantastic education and she is now feeling empowered and working hard to improve the security of her family.

Transforming early years education in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia we celebrated the momentous occasion of the arrival of a shipping container brimming with donated uniforms, books, bags, football kits and classroom resources and furniture specifically designed for early years education.

School in a Bag provided a school bag and educational resources for every child at the Bethany School, enriching our children's experience of learning. **KitAid's** donation of football kits has allowed the Bethany School football teams to train and compete with greater identity and purpose.

Generous *Stand by Me* supporters funded the new early years educational resources within the container, enabling us to enhance our youngest children's education at its most formative stage. This included everything our four classrooms need from tables and chairs, toys, books, reading corners and even outdoor learning equipment to make learning engaging and fun.

"With the aid of the items in the container, I am fully confident that by next year, our kindergarten students will experience substantial academic growth. They will demonstrate enhanced cognitive abilities, critical thinking skills and a genuine passion for learning. By providing them with the appropriate resources and opportunities, we are empowering our kindergarten students to reach their full potential, ensuring they are well-prepared and ready for success in Grade 1 and their academic journey moving forward."

Brook, Bethany Project Director



Early years children.

To ensure that these resources are put to the best possible use, in spring 2024, a team of passionate and experienced teachers from Northern Ireland will be travelling to Ethiopia to provide comprehensive training on how to effectively utilise these wonderful resources in the classroom.

Through the impact of the uniforms, bags, kits and educational resources we hope our children in Ethiopia will have the best start to their education and a more promising future.

How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.



Denisa Care Centre, Romania.

Bethany School, Ethiopia.

Child Sponsorship

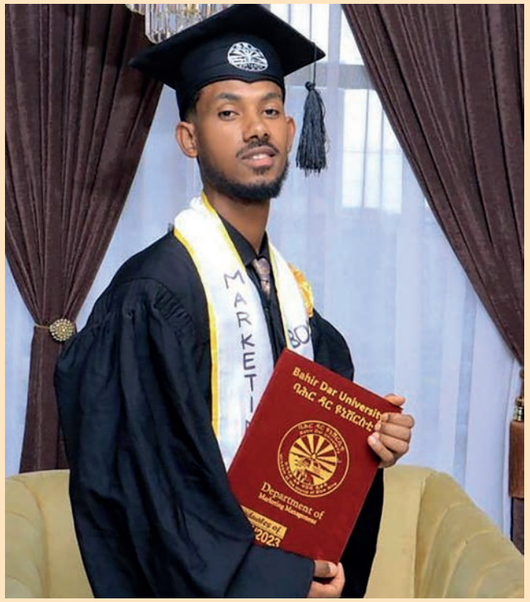
We are grateful that this year that a further 286 people provided a child with an extended worldwide family by becoming a sponsor. We are thankful for all our wonderful child sponsors who have made our children feel so loved, sending a total of 4,159 emails and 5,076 monetary gifts to their sponsored children.

Child Sponsorship is a fantastic way to impact a child's life. It's so much more than a monthly donation providing for a child's food, clothes, medical care and education; it means a child feels loved, cared for and part of a family. The commitment and encouragement means the world to our children, no one expresses this better than **Esayas** who recently wrote to his sponsor Rose, on the occasion of starting his first job after graduating university.

"Dear Rose, I'm writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude for all the support and love you have shown me throughout my life. You have been my family, my friend and my mentor. You have been there for me in every step of my journey since you started to sponsor me.

You have provided me with everything I needed to continue my education without any worries. You gave me food, clothes, shoes, learning materials and most importantly, your love and care. You supported me through the years at Bethany and you continued your support when I went to secondary school and university, and I was able to graduate with a BA degree in marketing management.

Thanks to God and your help, I was able to get a job and make my dream come true. You have been



Esayas at his graduation.

my second family and stood by me in my ups and downs. Your financial and emotional support has been invaluable to me.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for me. You have played a significant role in shaping who I am today.

I will always keep you in my heart and respect what you did for me.

May God bless you all, and I love you all."

Esayas, Ethiopia

We thank our sponsors who make it possible for us to continue to provide outstanding childcare. It has been an extremely challenging year for many of our children around the world, particularly for our children in **Myanmar** who faced a brutal civil war, food insecurity and flooding. Even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances our children know they are loved, thanks to the support of sponsors. One of our incredible directors in Myanmar, shared a message which wonderfully expresses the gratitude and appreciation our staff feel to our sponsors.





"Your partnership with us has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of the children. We have witnessed incredible growth, transformation and hope in the eyes of these remarkable children. It is your generosity, prayers and belief in our mission that have ignited this journey of love and compassion. I am deeply moved by the sense of family and community that we have cultivated together. Your support not only provides for the basic needs of these children but also opens doors to education, healthcare, and opportunities they might have never dreamed of. Our commitment to you is persistent. We pledge to continue nurturing, educating, and empowering these young lives with the same dedication and love that you have shown us. Together, we will walk hand in hand with them on their journey towards a brighter future."

The Director of our Myanmar Agape Home

Appeals

Our appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our **High School Centre Appeal** raised an incredible £91,473.64 enabling us to provide a safe and supportive environment for high school students in Ethiopia.

"I can't wait for the High School Centre to be completed because there will be people around me who will encourage me to be courageous and work hard. There will be good teachers who will teach us properly at our tutorial classes."

Mihiret, Ethiopia.



Mihiret, Ethiopia

This year, due to the challenges our children are facing in Myanmar, the focus of our **Christmas Appeal** was to raise funds to provide food and repairs in Myanmar. Our Christmas Appeal raised a fantastic £118,589 which enabled us to bless our children and their families throughout Myanmar, bringing hope to those caught up in this forgotten war.

"I would like to give thanks to God for you, since the children under our care are safe and fed marvellously by God's people around the world."

North Myanmar Director.



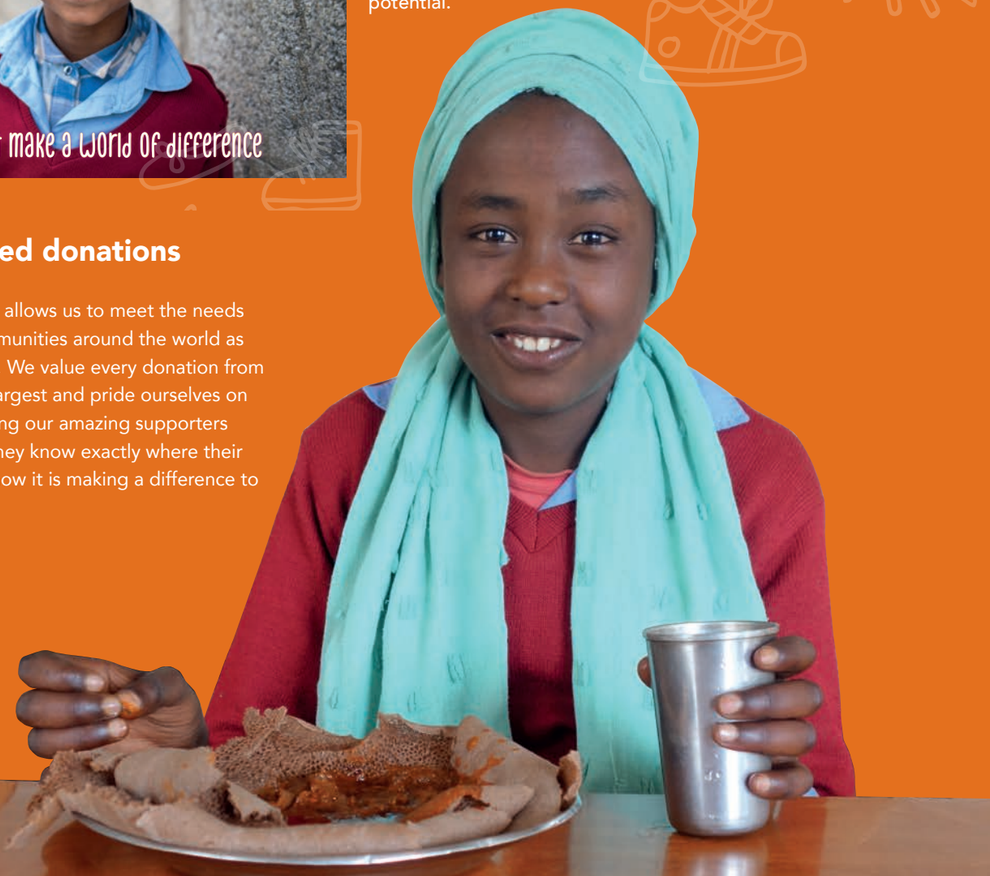


Alternative Gifts

Our **Alternative Gift Catalogue** raised a fantastic £33,246 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters regularly, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.



Lunch at the Bethany School, Ethiopia.



Lunch at the Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia.

Fundraising

Amazing fundraisers take on ambitious challenges to raise money for our children around the world. Whether they are running a marathon or sleeping on the floor, their motivation to make a difference is inspiring and raises essential funds to support our kids. This year our annual **February on the Floor** fundraising event raised **£55,855** to provide the best start to their day for **391** children around the world.

Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to *Stand by Me* mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting and far reaching improvements in children's lives.

Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

Trusts

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.



Open Arms Project in Kenya.

Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



I find it a real privilege to draft a short note on behalf of the *Stand by Me* Board to thank all of you, our supporters, who give freely of your time, money or both. Your unwavering support and gracious giving are never taken for granted and we think very hard and seek God's guidance before any of it is spent.

The thanks doesn't just come from the *Stand by Me* Board and staff, but also from all of the children and families that we are able to support because of your graciousness. It comes from Jane and Valerie's grandmother who felt completely helpless and hopeless and had no idea how she would support the girls who needed a safe home. They are now in our Open Arms Academy. It comes from all the girls who will now be able to study safely in our Ethiopian High School Centre. Also, from all our children and staff in Myanmar for their replaced furniture and food after the floods and for your continued love during the terrible civil war. The faces of all the children standing next to the container of kindergarten supplies just shout gratitude and thanks. Finally, Esayas' letter of thanks to his sponsor after his graduation sums up in his terms exactly what your support means.

Our Northern Myanmar Director succinctly wrote, "I would like to give thanks to God for you, since the children under our care are safe and fed marvellously by God's people around the world."

Looking forward, with your help and God's provision and guidance we will continue to improve how we deliver education, love and care to our children around the world so they can become what God wants them to be.

Lastly, but by no means least, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Ahmad and all his UK and overseas staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

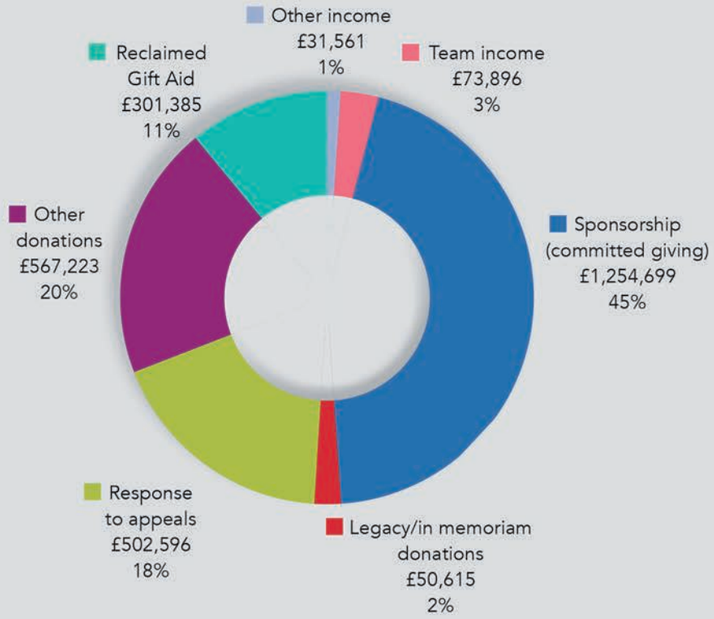
Mark Clayden
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Financial Summary

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children. But we're not here to just run a charity, we're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then to reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives. Our trusted staff use money wisely to provide the best care possible for our children and through our annual budgets, audits and frequent monitoring visits, we make sure that the money is spent prudently.

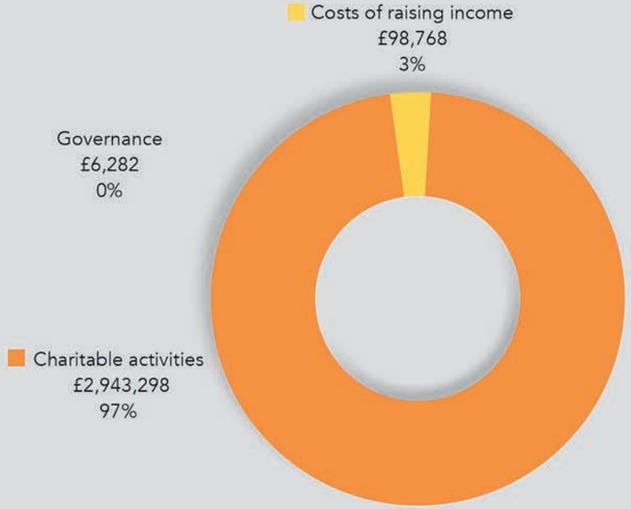
Income 2023

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the past year enabling us to raise £2,781,975.

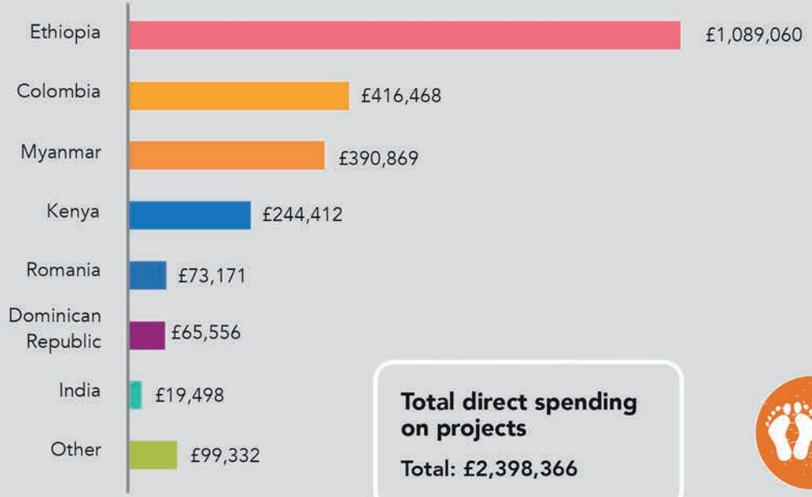


Expenditure 2023

Total expenditure in the year was £3,048,348.
97% of expenditure was spent on charitable activities with fundraising and governance costing just 3%.



What we spent directly on our projects in 2023



Total direct spending on projects

Total: £2,398,366

STAND BY me

Looking forward

As we celebrate all we have achieved over 2023, we also look forward to all we hope to achieve in 2024. As we continue to rescue children from terrible circumstances and do all we can to provide them with nutritious food, essential healthcare, family support and a life-changing education, we know their lives will be transformed. Here are our main aims for 2024:

Education

We are providing an excellent education in all our schools around the world. To ensure our children get the most out of the opportunity of an education and have the best start to their time at school, we will enhance our Kindergarten (early years) education, providing the resources to help staff enrich the learning environment with a team of early years specialists visiting Ethiopia to train our staff.

To provide a safe and supportive place for our high school students to study in Ethiopia, we will complete our High School Centre and look forward to equipping and opening this quality facility to ensure our older children can transition well and safely into independence and be in the best position to thrive as an adult and reach their potential. We will also introduce and resource a quality IT lab at our Abdi Academy in Ethiopia to provide our students with essential IT skills.

To enhance the educational opportunities of our children in Kenya, our Open Arms Academy will add a workshop and Technical Drawing Office to provide technical and vocational skills to children, opening up employment opportunities for them.

Sustainability and Stability

We will continue to meet the complex needs of our children, particularly in Colombia where many of the children in our care lack love in their home environments and are in need of counselling. We will seek additional support for the project to fund further intervention in their lives by loving staff.

Regular support is incredibly important to us as a charity as it allows us to plan with confidence for the year ahead. Alongside child sponsorship, we will encourage regular support through four options: feeding a child, supporting a family, providing further education for a student and supporting an entire class.

This year we will work closely with Open Arms International with the aim they will become *Stand by Me* at the beginning of 2025. Having taken responsibility for the project in Kenya two years ago, this is the final part of the plan which will enable the work of *Stand by Me* to be shared in the USA. We hope this will result in many more people supporting our amazing children for the first time.

Quality Care

Stand by Me is dedicated to furthering our commitment to the highest standards of care for the children we look after. A significant area of focus will be the continued development of our child safeguarding protocols and practices. We recognise the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in our care, and as such, we will be conducting thorough audits of our current safeguarding procedures to identify areas for improvement and enhancement.

Alongside this we are dedicated to providing ongoing training and development opportunities for our overseas staff, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to uphold our safeguarding standards. Over the course of this 18-month development project, we will be implementing necessary changes at our projects to strengthen our safeguarding framework.



Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia.

Structure, governance and management

Registered Charity

Stand by Me is a registered charity in England and Wales. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 2nd September 2019. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is responsible for approving strategic decisions having taken advice from the Executive team.

Going concern

After appropriate research, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements..

Method of appointment & training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the Board and approved at a meeting of the Trustees. Stand by Me Trustees are expected to be pro-active in supporting the work of the charity. Trustee recruitment is achieved through a blend of professional associations, local networks and prospective members being individually identified and approached. A periodic review of existing skills and expertise is undertaken and an assessment made as to what is required to meet the strategic needs of the charity. This shapes the recruitment and selection of prospective Trustees along with evidence of their motivation and support for the vision and mission of the charity.

Remuneration policy

The Board of Trustees annually reviews the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel. The Board is well aware that these individuals are paid below the benchmark criteria or "norm" for other similar charities and are therefore grateful that the current staff, conscious of the great needs of our children, are satisfied with their present level of remuneration.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and continue to be satisfied the charity is acting in the public benefit, as stated in our objectives, and believe this report contains the explanation of the significant activities undertaken during the year which confirms this.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees considers the key measure of sustainability for *Stand by Me* to be current and future liquidity cover, rather than the surplus or deficit accounting position. Consequently Trustees have set an appropriate reserves policy which is reviewed annually relating to liquidity, based on the relationship between readily realisable assets and the cash required to meet agreed obligations to ministries overseas in respect of monies that cover their regular support outgoings. Reserves are also required to sustain the charity's operations in England and Northern Ireland.



Denisa Day Care Centre, Romania.

Trustees have decided that *Stand by Me* should at all times maintain cash and readily realisable assets, being regarded as restricted funds, sufficient to fund between not less than 3 and not more than 12 months of budgeted regular support outgoings in relation to overseas ministries. At 31 December 2023 that liquidity cover stands at **7.1 months.** Alongside this, Trustees have also decided that, at all times, cash and realisable assets should be maintained to finance a minimum of 3 months and not more than 12 months of budgeted operating costs. At 31 December 2023 that liquidity cover stands at **3.7 months.**

This Reserves Policy, which was agreed by Trustees at a meeting on 26 April 2023, updates and refines the earlier policy by linking solvency awareness in relation to funds for ministries overseas very specifically to monitoring liquidity cover for regular support outgoings. Also the assessment of solvency has been standardised as not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months for both restricted and unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund in accordance with the Reserves Policy set by the Trustees. *Stand by Me* aims to hold sufficient balances in all funds to cover 25 – 100% of budgeted regular support outgoings, plus any donations previously received for specific projects scheduled to take place in the subsequent years. At the end of the period total restricted funds were £1.04m (at 31 December 2022 £1.196m) all of which is earmarked for agreed regular support payments and specific projects. For each fund, *Stand by Me*'s assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Our objective is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security. To achieve this Stand by Me invests with institutions with a high security rating in fixed-term or call deposits. During the year *Stand by Me*'s sterling deposits achieved an average rate of interest of 2.9% (2022: 0.93%) compared with average bank base rate for the same period of 4.68% (2022: 1.47%).

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal risks considered can be categorised as follows:

- Financial risks – potential reduction in the level of public voluntary donations leading to inadequate reserves.

- External risks – (a) poor public perception, albeit that Trustees consider this to be an extremely low risk, with consequent damage to the charity's reputation and (b) turbulent economic or political environment.

- Safeguarding risks – failure to adequately protect our beneficiaries and staff around the world.

There are four basic strategies that can be applied to manage an identified risk:

- Transferring the financial consequences to third parties, or sharing it, usually through insurance or outsourcing;

- Avoiding completely the activity giving rise to the risk, for example by not taking up a contract or stopping a particular activity or service;

- Management or mitigation of risk;

- Accepting or assessing it as a risk that cannot be avoided if the activity is to continue i.e. where the Trustees recognise that a core activity carries a risk but take steps to mitigate it.

Our reputation as a world class child care organisation is intertwined with our most important concern and the area we constantly monitor i.e. the protection of our children. Our comprehensive Child Care Standard document is our global standard for all the charity's projects which includes policies common to all our work around the world, is how we manage this risk. Also each member of staff is given our Staff Handbook which has, as its first section, the highest standards of behaviour expected in all dealings with children and fellow members of staff.

Another key strategic risk identified was our additional funding needs. This is due to the fluctuation of sterling in political and economic uncertainty, combined with meeting the costs of the increasing number of our children attending further education. To mitigate this, we will maximise our key strengths and look to diversify our fundraising portfolio.

Overseas monitoring

Our Executive Director and Founding Director regularly visit the projects and work with our in-country boards as they report against objectives and abide by policies set out for each of our homes, care centres and schools.



Lois School, Myanmar.

Each country we work in has at least one director who is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day work taking place and they have regular meetings with the Executive Director to discuss how the projects are progressing and any current issues that need addressing.

On an individual child level, we monitor the progress of every child, physically, emotionally and academically throughout the year to meet any needs as they arise and ensure they are able to do well.

By having teams visit regularly, many with professional members such as doctors, dentists and teachers, we encourage them to provide professional reports to aid our work as we seek to improve our effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of future challenges.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board of Trustees meets every two months, subject to travel commitments, and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Executive Director has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the charity, implementing strategy and providing overall leadership to ensure that the core values of the charity are maintained. The Board has reserved to itself certain important decisions including changes to the charity's governing document and approval of the long-term objectives and strategy. The key responsibilities of Trustees are set out in the statement on page 37.

Fundraising ethos

Whether a long-standing supporter or someone hearing about Stand by Me for the first time, we endeavour to inspire people to get involved in rescuing children from extreme circumstances and providing the opportunities they need to thrive.

In our 27 year history we have always focused on building long term relationships with our supporters, exemplified by the foundation of regular sponsors and donors who know the tangible difference their support is making.

We allow our supporters to choose the ways in which they wish to be involved as well as where they would like their money used, as we understand how important ownership and choice can be for our supporters.

The following principles guide our fundraising strategy and operations:

- We aim to inspire people to donate or raise money for *Stand by Me*.
- We thank supporters appropriately and demonstrate the tangible difference their money is making to the children around the world.
- When we contact our supporters it's because we think they will be interested to hear how our children are thriving through their support. We listen to supporters and act on their communication requests.
- We keep our supporters' data secure and never pass their personal information on to any other company or charity and we don't buy or sell data.
- Fundraising and marketing is only carried out by our staff so that we are in control of the standards employed. This ensures that supporters and the wider public do not feel pressured to give and are treated with respect at all times, with a particular focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Stand by Me's fundraising activities and compliance with fundraising regulations and best practice are closely scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.



Accounts 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of *Stand by Me* (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Trustees confirm the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements which are contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

Trustees
Mark Clayden, Chairman
Edward Carpenter, Treasurer
Jo Clark (resigned 8 March 2023)
Gordon Haynes (appointed 11 July 2024)
Nathania MacGregor (resigned 9 May 2024)
Alan Ramsay (appointed 14 March 2024)
Sharon Seymour
Greg Smith (appointed 22 April 2024)
Elizabeth Staniforth
John Tillett

Minutes Secretary
Fay Garrett

Executive Director
Ahmad Ayoubi

Charity registered number
1185124

Independent auditor
Robert J Baxter FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Cooper & Co
9 Palmers Avenue
Grays
Essex
RM17 5TX

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Romford
Essex
RM1 3AA

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Offices
England Office
630 Upper Brentwood Road
Romford
Essex
RM2 6HS

Ireland Office
16 West Street
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7AR

www.standby.me

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mark Clayden
Trustee



Edward Carpenter
Trustee

Stand by Me
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Stand by Me

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of *Stand By Me* (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert J Baxter FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Cooper & Co, 9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5TX

Date: 21 October 2024

Robert J Baxter FCCA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	**524,158**	**2,224,737**	**2,748,895**	*2,581,797*
Investments	3	**33,080**	**-**	**33,080**	*20,440*
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		**557,238**	**2,224,737**	**2,781,975**	*2,602,237*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	**98,768**	**-**	**98,768**	*114,761*
Governance costs	7	**6,282**	**-**	**6,282**	*5,599*
Other charitable activities		**771,178**	**2,172,120**	**2,943,298**	*2,709,416*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**876,228**	**2,172,120**	**3,048,348**	*2,829,776*
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(318,990)**	**52,617**	**(266,373)**	*(227,539)*
Transfers between Funds	16	**207,840**	**(207,840)**	**-**	-
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**(111,150)**	**(155,223)**	**(266,373)**	*(227,539)*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(111,150)**	**(155,223)**	**(266,373)**	*(227,539)*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**1,024,418**	**1,195,919**	**2,220,337**	*2,447,876*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**913,268**	**1,040,696**	**1,953,964**	*2,220,337*

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	*2022 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		**801,630**		*809,980*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**250,336**		*253,975*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,133,312**		*1,458,089*	
		1,383,648		*1,712,064*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(81,314)**		*(101,707)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,302,334**		*1,610,357*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,103,964**		*2,420,337*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		**(150,000)**		*(200,000)*
NET ASSETS			**1,953,964**		*2,220,337*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		**1,040,696**		*1,195,919*
Unrestricted funds	16		**913,268**		*1,024,418*
TOTAL FUNDS			**1,953,964**		*2,220,337*

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Statement of Cash Flows for year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	*2022 £*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	18	**(324,777)**	*(226,049)*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(324,777)**	*(226,049)*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**1,458,089**	*1,684,138*
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		**1,133,312**	*1,458,089*

The notes on pages 45 to 58 form part of these financial statements.



1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) updated in January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Stand By Me constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of raising funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities are costs incurred on the charity's overseas operations and administrative support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property:	1% of cost on a straight line basis

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Income from supporters	**150,396**	**2,224,737**	**2,375,133**	*2,266,932*
Gift aid tax recovered	**301,385**	**-**	**301,385**	*308,988*
Exchange rate differences	**(1,519)**	**-**	**(1,519)**	*3,152*
Income from teams	**73,896**	**-**	**73,896**	*2,725*
Total donations and legacies	**524,158**	**2,224,737**	**2,748,895**	*2,581,797*
Total 2022	*597,661*	*1,984,136*	*2,581,797*	

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Rental income	**9,951**	**-**	**9,951**	*10,700*
Bank interest & cash investments	**23,129**	**-**	**23,129**	*9,740*
	33,080	**-**	**33,080**	*20,440*
Total 2022	*20,440*	*-*	*20,440*	

4. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Marketing - website	**8,970**	**-**	**8,970**	*19,421*
Marketing - fundraising costs	**14,443**	**-**	**14,443**	*21,817*
Marketing - consultancy	**2,550**	**-**	**2,550**	*3,710*
Marketing - publications	**6,402**	**-**	**6,402**	*6,425*
Fundraising staff costs	**66,403**	**-**	**66,403**	*63,388*
	98,768	**-**	**98,768**	*114,761*

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Travel, field visits and volunteer costs	**15,300**	**15,300**	*17,537*
Funds and resources sent to ministries	**2,262,788**	**2,262,788**	*2,062,631*
Team expenses	**52,989**	**52,989**	*1,142*
Wages and salaries	**67,289**	**67,289**	*65,909*
	2,398,366	**2,398,366**	*2,147,219*

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Sundry office expenses	**3,899**	**3,899**	*2,500*
Communications costs	**3,945**	**3,945**	*4,471*
Computer costs	**31,180**	**31,180**	*47,735*
Printing, postage and stationery	**29,163**	**29,163**	*28,333*
Insurance	**2,223**	**2,223**	*1,990*
Bank charges	**20,787**	**20,787**	*19,798*
Light, heat and services	**14,303**	**14,303**	*8,536*
Rent and rates	**6,446**	**6,446**	*6,362*
Office equipment and leasing	**2,234**	**2,234**	*2,809*
Building maintenance	**1,662**	**1,662**	*8,310*
Landlord costs	**1,650**	**1,650**	*994*
Travel	**6,468**	**6,468**	*7,871*
Wages and salaries	**333,442**	**333,442**	*337,006*
National insurance	**42,530**	**42,530**	*44,096*
Pension cost	**36,650**	**36,650**	*33,036*
Depreciation	**8,350**	**8,350**	*8,350*
	544,932	**544,932**	*562,197*

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Auditor's remuneration	**5,685**	**-**	**5,685**	*5,405*
Legal fees	**597**	**-**	**597**	*194*
	6,282	**-**	**6,282**	*5,599*

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2023 £	Depreciation 2023 £	Other costs 2023 £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	**66,403**	**-**	**32,365**	**98,768**	*114,761*
Costs of raising funds	**66,403**	**-**	**32,365**	**98,768**	*114,761*
Charitable Activities	**479,911**	**8,350**	**2,455,037**	**2,943,298**	*2,709,416*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**6,282**	**6,282**	*5,599*
	546,314	**8,350**	**2,493,684**	**3,048,348**	*2,829,776*
Total 2022	*543,435*	*8,350*	*2,277,991*	*2,829,776*	

9. NET INCOME

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**8,350**	*8,350*
Auditor's remuneration - audit	**5,685**	*5,405*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration *(2022- £NIL).*
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind *(2022- £NIL).*
1 Trustee received reimbursement of expenses amounting to £95 in the current year, *(2022 - £NIL).*

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £5,685 *(2022 - £5,405)*

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Wages and salaries	**467,134**	*466,303*
Social security costs	**42,530**	*44,096*
Other pension costs	**36,650**	*33,036*
	546,314	*543,435*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	*2022 No.*
Management	**3**	*3*
Administration and support	**11**	*11*
	14	*14*

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2023 No.	*2022 No.*
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	*1*

The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel were £147,819 (*2022: £131,213*). One employee received remuneration over £60,000 in 2023 (*2022:1*). The charity Trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year and no trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity. During the year Trustee expenses totalling £95 were incurred (*2022 - £NIL*).

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £
Cost	
At 1 January, 2023 and 31 December 2023	**835,030**
Depreciation	
At 1 January, 2023	**25,050**
Charge for the year	**8,350**
At 31 December, 2023	**33,400**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	**801,630**
At 31 December 2022	*809,980*

13. DEBTORS

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Other debtors	**249,962**	*253,633*
Prepayments and accrued income	**374**	*342*
	250,336	*253,975*

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Other loans	**50,000**	*50,000*
Trade creditors	**11,036**	*32,512*
Other taxation and social security	**13,083**	*12,280*
Other creditors	**1,615**	*1,575*
Accruals and deferred income	**5,580**	*5,340*
	81,314	*101,707*

Other loans relates to an interest free loan of £400,000 given to *Stand by Me* in September 2019 which the charity is repaying over a number of years.

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Other loans	**150,000**	*200,000*

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**1,024,418**	**557,238**	**(876,228)**	**207,840**	**913,268**
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	**1,195,919**	**2,224,737**	**(2,172,120)**	**(207,840)**	**1,040,696**
Total of funds	**2,220,337**	**2,781,975**	**(3,048,348)**	**-**	**1,953,964**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 December 2022 £*
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*1,129,479*	*618,101*	*(890,329)*	*167,167*	*1,024,418*
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	*1,318,397*	*1,984,136*	*(1,939,447)*	*(167,167)*	*1,195,919*
Total of funds	*2,447,876*	*2,602,237*	*(2,829,776)*	-	*2,220,337*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	**801,630**	**-**	**801,630**
Current assets	**342,952**	**1,040,696**	**1,383,648**
Creditors due within one year	**(81,314)**	**-**	**(81,314)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**(150,000)**	**-**	**(150,000)**
	913,268	**1,040,696**	**1,953,964**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	*Restricted Funds 2022 £*	*Total Funds 2022 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*809,980*	-	*809,980*
Current assets	*516,146*	*1,195,919*	*1,712,065*
Creditors due within one year	*(101,708)*	-	*(101,708)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*(200,000)*	-	*(200,000)*
	1,024,418	*1,195,919*	*2,220,337*

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 **£**	*2022* *£*
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**(266,373)**	*(227,539)*
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	**8,350**	*8,350*
Decrease in debtors	**3,639**	*18,976*
Decrease in creditors	**(70,393)**	*(25,836)*
Net cash used in operating activities	**(324,777)**	*(226,049)*

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £36,650 (*2022: £33,036*).

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.



Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia



STAND BY me

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Stand By Me is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK (No. 1185124)

www.standby.me

STAND BY ME

England & Wales - Charity number 1185124

Accounts



STAND BY me

Annual Report & Accounts 2022

Stand by Me's mission is to rescue kids from terrible circumstances. Then do whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive.



Keith and Favour, Kenya.

I am delighted to share with you our most recent Annual Report & Accounts which looks back over 2022 and celebrates both our work and our children's achievements. Like most parents, I am proud of our children's accomplishments. I am also incredibly grateful to you for your partnership with us, which has enabled us to stay true to our mission, in rescuing children from crisis and doing whatever it takes to enable them to thrive.

Despite 2022 being our most challenging year ever, I recognise God's protection and faithfulness in enabling us to overcome tremendous challenges, such as reopening our schools in Myanmar, despite the ongoing civil war that continues to ravage the country. I am grateful to our staff worldwide who have continued to stand in the gap, helping our children overcome trauma suffered during many months of lockdown, whilst always endeavouring to offer the best quality care and education possible.

Perhaps our greatest achievement was welcoming 330 Kenyan children into the *Stand by Me* family. The global financial downturn did suggest, humanly speaking at least, that 2022 was not the best time to adopt more children. However, we took a courageous step of faith, trusted God, and invited many of you to stand with us as we endeavour to share the love of God with our new kids in Kenya. Today, I am delighted that our children in Kenya are walking tall, proud to be *Stand by Me* children, and are on their way to becoming everything God intends them to be.



Although we are in the midst of a global financial crisis, our income for 2022 was over **£2.6 million** which is a wonderful answer to prayer. I have never been so thankful to God for faithfully sustaining *Stand by Me*, or as grateful to you, our generous supporters, for your kindness and compassion for our children.

I trust that as you read this report you will be greatly encouraged and full of hope for the future, that together, with God's provision, we can continue to transform the lives of our 3,800 children and their communities. Thank you for your faithful support and partnership.



Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director

Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated to follow Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.

Our child-centred care



Loving care
We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Strong families
We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



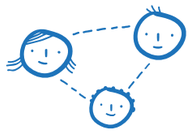
Great education
Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



Access to healthcare
We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



A reason for hope
It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



Caring relationships
Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.





Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.

Our kids in Dominican Republic.

Caring for over 3,800 kids worldwide

Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic

Educating children exposed to poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of a free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

Kenya

Giving orphaned and abandoned children loving care in our family homes.
Providing a quality education to children trapped in poverty and offering community support, skills training and sustainability programmes.

India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

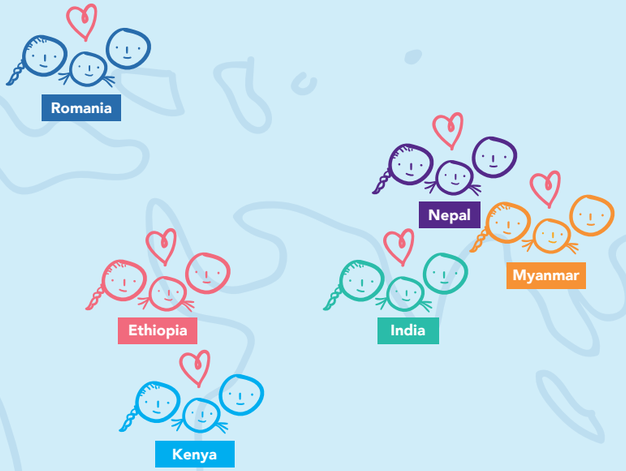
Nepal

Providing a loving family environment to children excluded from society while bringing education to children isolated in the remote mountainous region and supporting their families.

Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.





Our impact

Growing the Stand by Me family

When we see a child in need, we don't walk past them, we respond. We rescue them, pick them up and welcome them into our care.

In 2022, after seeing the tremendous needs of children in Kenya, we took a huge step of faith and adopted the Open Arms Project into our *Stand by Me* family. This grew our *Stand by Me* family by 330 children, one of which is 12-year-old Rahab.

Rahab used to dread waking up early to collect water from the borehole and start her busy day of caring for her little brother and grandmother. From the age of nine, Rahab would work washing clothes and cleaning so she could help to feed her family.

But on the 19th of April, 12-year-old Rahab woke up with a smile on her face. It was her first day at our Open Arms Academy where she and her brother Patrick now receive a free quality education. As Rahab and Patrick settled into school, she told us:

"I like this school. I have my own books and a bag. My brother and I were given school uniforms and we have very nice food. I want to work hard so that those who help me can be proud of me."

Welcoming children like Rahab into our care gives them renewed hope for a better life. In 2022, we rescued a total of 492 children around the world and we have been delighted to meet their individual needs. By standing by them for the long term, we know we can change the course of their lives.

Rahab (left).

Giving children a foundation for the future

When we welcome children into our care, we don't know what they'll become. But we're always so proud to see them become everything they were born to be thanks to God's love and the support of their sponsors. This year, we have seen many of our kids grow into young adults and take their place in the world.

Aye Buing and her sisters grew up in a rural area of Myanmar. After they sadly lost their father, their mother moved away to find work and so Aye Buing's oldest sister supported the three of them as they fended for themselves.



Aye Buing (left) with her sisters.

Thankfully, we welcomed the three young girls into the *Stand by Me* family where Aye Buing grew in confidence and we got to know her polite and kind character. She worked hard in her education and grew a passion to become a makeup artist. Motivated to reach her dream, she completed her education and joined a training course.

This year, Aye Buing started working at a beauty salon and we are so proud of her determination to achieve her dreams. She hopes to start her own beauty salon in the future.

"I want to start my own shop to look after my family. I want to give back to God from the profit that I make from my job. As Stand by Me has helped me I also want to help someone else like me who is in need of help."

We're excited to see what the future holds for Aye Buing and all our kids as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. The foundation they have received as *Stand by Me* kids has given them the knowledge, tools and character needed for a bright future and, most importantly, has shown them they are loved.



Aye Buing.



Thanksgiving service for rice harvest.

Sustaining our projects through difficulty

In Myanmar, sending funds to our projects is a challenge due to the military regime. This year, we sought ways to make our projects more sustainable and purchased 21 acres of rice fields.

The rice fields are located in areas where we will be able to transport the harvest to our projects around Myanmar where we care for a total of 2,000 children. As the rice fields become more productive over the years, this will enable our children's homes to have food security that is not dependent on funding routes, bringing relief and hope to our staff.

This November we received our first harvest, providing rice to sustain one of our children's villages. There was joy and excitement as the rice arrived, ready to be stored and enjoyed as part of our children's daily meals. Our Myanmar Director David shared:

"Having our own paddy fields and harvesting rice really give us security for our lovely children. In Myanmar, if you have rice, it is like you have enough food. This year we harvested enough for our children for a year. Right now all the prices go up almost every month, but because of this rice we have peace for our children."

We know that rice provides essential nutrition for our kids' growth and development. The assurance that they will never go hungry is a huge reason to celebrate.

As our children around the world face turbulent times, it is essential that we continue to adapt and do all we can to give them security and sustainability. Thanks to our supporters and God's help, we will be able to continue to rescue children, even in the face of adversity, and give them hope.



Achieving against the odds

We believe that an education is essential to helping our children gain the skills and confidence they need to change their futures.

Our children in Ethiopia come from families trapped in poverty. Each day, they go home to mud huts with no electricity. It's almost impossible to study in the darkness, usually without a table or desk. Our kids' parents rarely have any education that is beyond grade 3 and their illiteracy prevents them from helping their children with schoolwork. But against all odds, our children are achieving high grades at our Bethany School.

This year, our Grade 8 students received the fantastic news that they had all passed their national exams. We're proud of our hardworking students including Bacha, who scored 99.95%, the highest mark in the town.

Bacha had joined our Bethany School in 2019 where he received daily food, a quality education and we provided his father with medical care and support. At school, Bacha thrived academically and flourished in his character and confidence.

"Before, I used to think a lot about the problems we have at home during my study time. As soon as I began thinking about the problems at home, I got emotional and struggled to concentrate. But thanks to the unwavering support from Stand by Me, sending my father to get medical attention and monthly support to pay the house rent took the burden off my shoulders. Now I can focus and concentrate and achieve the best grade."

It has always been our hope that each of our kids will reach the milestone of passing Grade 8 as it equips them to get a good job or allows them to progress to high school. We are so proud of all that our Grade 8 students achieved thanks to the comprehensive care received at our schools.

Bacha.

Reaching out to the poorest in the community

Stand by Me goes to where the need is and ensures the children who require our care the most can receive support.

After many production line delays, our Denisa Care Centre in Romania was ecstatic to receive a van in September 2022 to make our centre more accessible to the poorest children in the community.

The town we work in spans six miles and so many children who were desperately in need of support, could not attend our care centre due to living too far away. The new van is enabling our staff to safely transport children who have long, difficult or dangerous journeys, particularly during the cold and wet winter.

Our staff have been picking up and dropping off the children from their homes each day. Parents are very pleased to know their kids are safe and the children enjoy the excitement of the ride. Thanks to the new transport we had 18 new kids join our care centre.



Our Director, Cami, is incredibly grateful for the bus and believes the reliable transport will help the number of children who are able to access our vital support to steadily grow.

"We have 53 kids now enrolled at Denisa altogether. We plan to open the programme to other villages as well. I am very grateful to Philip Anderson and everyone at Portadown CE, and Henry Bell who supported this van. I sure hope they can visit us, so they can take a ride in the van together with our happy kids."

Today, children who are living in inadequate housing and whose parents are trapped in illiteracy and poverty are now coming to the care centre with big smiles on their faces, happy and grateful for the chance to have a better education and a better life.

The new minibus.



The wonder of a brand-new bed

Over the last three years, February on the Floor has impacted thousands of children's lives as they received the gift of a bed, giving them a good night's sleep. In 2022, our supporters amazed us yet again and came together to support our kids.

Throughout February, individuals, families, schools and youth groups gave up their beds so that children around the world could get a good night's sleep.

Thanks to their sacrifice and the generosity of their friends and family, we raised enough to provide 714 children with a bed!

We were excited to be able to bless so many children from Colombia, Romania and our newest project in Kenya. Our staff delivered the beds to overjoyed children who are now sleeping well at night and waking up bright and refreshed.

For many children like Sammy, the bed will bless the whole family. Sammy slept with his three brothers with only a single mattress and blanket shared between them, whilst his mother shared a single bed with his three sisters.

Sammy watched our staff with wonder as they assembled a new single bed and bunk beds with soft pillows and cosy blankets. He was especially intrigued with how the pieces were assembled to form a huge bed. He even wanted to help with the assembly!

When it was finished, Sammy was so excited since he had never slept on a proper bed.

February on the Floor has enabled us to ensure our children can get a good night's sleep. Sammy, his siblings and many kids like them are now sleeping well in comfy beds. This is an incredible achievement and is ensuring they are rested and energised to learn.



Sammy's old bed was a shared mattress on the floor.



Sammy's new bunk bed.

Strengthening and supporting families

Stand by Me is committed to seeing lasting change in our children's lives and so we support the families of our most vulnerable children with food, housing and medical assistance as well as vital training.

In 2022, our Emmanuel Care Centre in Colombia helped 25 families every month with food parcels. These parcels provided essential nutrition for families who live in the most deprived conditions and whose income doesn't allow them to meet the basic needs of their families.

As well as meeting their basic needs, the centre provided training for parents and guardians. With family breakups having a negative impact on children's wellbeing, the centre staff and counsellors give parents time to spend together and train them on how to strengthen the foundation of their families. This training has a huge impact on our kids' wellbeing as it equips their parents and guardians to be present in their lives, encourage them in their education and provide a stable home environment.

For single parent families, a special event was held to support parents who have the responsibility of taking care of the family on their own, the majority of whom are women. Leonor is the mother of Neileth, Sharen and Neilith who attend our care centre, supporting them on her own is a huge challenge. The family support provided by the care centre has assured Leonor that she is not alone:

"With these events, women who are heads of households are encouraged to continue in the battle of raising our children."

Not only do the parents feel supported in raising children and running a household, the local community also starts to change as they are strengthened.

Leonor and her family.



How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time, to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.



Godwin, Kenya.

Child Sponsorship

We are grateful this year that a further 290 people provided a child with a wider family around the world by becoming a sponsor. We are thankful for all our wonderful child sponsors who have made our children feel so loved this year, including sending a total of 3,821 emails to their children and giving £61,292 to purchase gifts for their sponsored children.

Child Sponsorship is a fantastic way to impact a child's life. It's so much more than a monthly donation providing for a child's food, clothes, medical care and education; it means a child feels loved, cared for and part of a family.

We thank our sponsors who make it possible for us to continue to provide world-class childcare and the wonderful people who sponsored our 82 newest children in Kenya this year.

"Children are happy to know that there is someone, even though they live far away, who wanted to be their sponsor. They like to receive the letters and gifts that their sponsors send them and they are happy when they see the photos and read the letters that their sponsors send them. They understand that they are important, valued and loved. They love to tell their sponsors about themselves and they treasure every detail they receive from their sponsors. Sponsorship leaves beautiful traces in the lives of our children."

Bibiana, Colombia Director



Jeferson, Colombia.

Appeals

Our appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our **Kenya Appeal** raised an amazing £66,413 and thanks to a wonderful supporter, who generously matched funded £50,000, this resulted in a fantastic total of £116,413 which enabled us to provide food and education for our 330 kids in Kenya.





Our **Shoe Appeal** raised a fantastic £33,094 to help us reach our goal of providing a new pair of shoes for every child in our care, protecting their feet from harm and restoring their confidence. Our kids were so excited to receive their brand-new shoes at Christmas!

"With new shoes,
I will walk to school happy!"

Borifan, Ethiopia.





Alternative Gifts

Our alternative gifts were available online and through our Alternative Gift Catalogue. They raised a fantastic £35,477 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Greatest Need

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.



Kids in Kenya.

Fundraising

Amazing fundraisers take on ambitious challenges to raise money for our children around the world. Whether they are rowing, cycling, dyeing their hair or sleeping on the floor, their motivation to make a difference is inspiring and raises essential funds to support our kids. This year our annual February on the Floor fundraising event raised £102,601 to provide beds for our children around the world.



Lynda dyed her hair pink for rice fields in Myanmar.



The Marchmont team ran, cycled and canoed for our kids in Ethiopia.



Polly, Millie and Freddie sleeping on the floor.

"As a family, we learnt a lot through our week on the floor and had lots of conversations about what life is like for people living in poverty. I was delighted to see the impact our efforts had in helping to change children's lives and also by the huge impact the experience had on my children."

FEBRUARY on the FLOOR

PROVIDING 714 BEDS



Pringle Homes organised a Dragon Boat race for Kenya.

Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to *Stand by Me* mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting improvements in children's lives.

Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

This year we were excited to launch our church youth programme **Born to Be** – exploring God's Word and *Stand by Me* stories to discover who we are born to be, the choices we make and the impact our lives can make when we live for God's Kingdom.



Trusts

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.

We are incredibly grateful to the many generous individuals who have contributed financially to our work throughout the year, who, for privacy reasons, are not mentioned by name here.

Students at the Abdi Academy.

Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



As I look back and reflect on 2022, with Covid seemingly under control, I am reminded that there are not many things that stay constant. The UK had three prime ministers in just two months, we lost the world's longest reigning monarch who reigned for more than 70 years, economic instability plagued the UK and Russia's invasion of Ukraine resulted in energy prices and inflation sky rocketing. These facts have only served to increase economic hardship and many more refugees and orphans looking to escape persecution, conflict and violence worldwide.

In all this turmoil, it is true to say that the one thing we can rely on is God. As well as this, your continued giving of love and financial resources to *Stand by Me* has allowed us to further God's work all around the world, easing suffering and hardship, and raising an incredible income of over £2.6 million. Whether through fundraising for beds, providing 714 beds to children, some of whom had never slept on a bed before, or through donating towards shoes, food, education and medical supplies, we are so thankful.

The *Stand by Me* message is one of hope and enabling our children to be all that God wants them to be. Bacha's story on page 12 is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when our children are given a chance to shine. Thanks to your giving, he was able to stop worrying about how his family might cope and concentrate on his studies. In his exams he scored 99.95% - the highest mark in his town in Ethiopia!

We continue to look for God's leading and guiding hand as we move *Stand by Me* forward and look to further integrate the Open Arms project in Kenya.

The dedication of Ahmad and our teams around the world to provide outstanding care for over 3,800 children is only possible thanks to our faithful supporters. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you all for your continued generosity, love and concern for the children.

Mark Clayden
Chair of the Board of Trustees

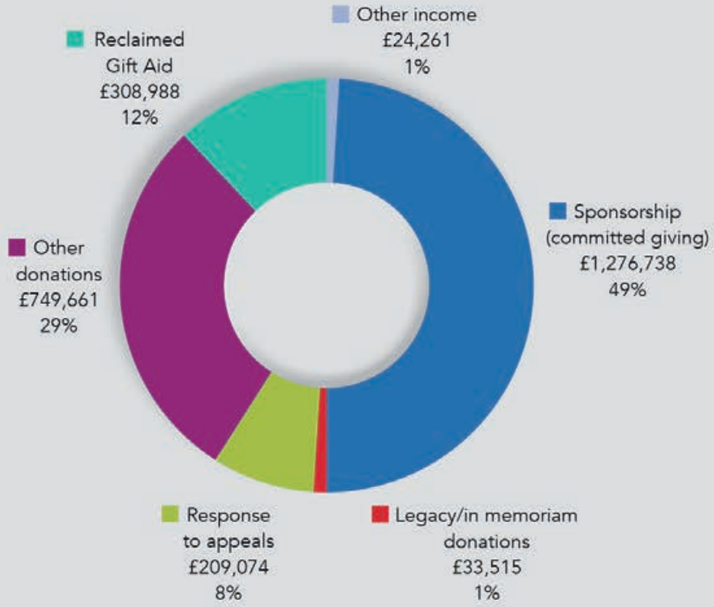
Open Arms Academy, Kenya.

Financial Summary

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children. But we're not here to just run a charity, we're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then to reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives. Our trusted staff use money wisely to provide the best care possible for our children and through our annual budgets, audits and frequent monitoring visits, we make sure that the money is spent prudently.

Income 2022

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the past year enabling us to raise £2,602,237.

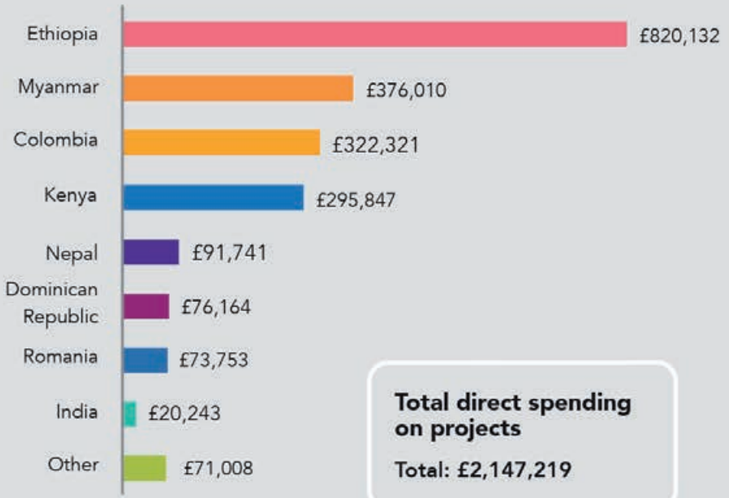


Expenditure 2022

Total expenditure in the year was £2,829,776.
96% of expenditure was spent on charitable activities with fundraising and governance costing just 4%.



What we spent directly on our projects in 2022



Total direct spending on projects

Total: £2,147,219

STAND BY me

Looking forward

As we celebrate all we have achieved over 2022, we also look forward to all we hope to achieve in 2023. As we continue to rescue children from terrible circumstances and do all we can to provide them with nutritious food, essential healthcare, family support and a life-changing education, we know their lives will be transformed. Here are our three main aims for 2023:

Enabling our children to succeed

We are providing an excellent education in our schools around the world. To ensure our children get the most out of the opportunity of an education and have the best start to their time at school, we will enhance our **Kindergarten** (early years) education, providing the resources to help staff enrich the learning environment.

We are reaching our target of educating children to Grade 8 in Ethiopia, giving them an excellent foundation to enter employment or high school. For those who aspire to further education, we wish to see every one of them complete their high school education successfully and reach their full potential. To do this, we will build a **High School Centre** in Ethiopia so as to provide a hub for high school students to come to for their regular food, healthcare, support and study. This will ensure our older children can transition well into independence and be in the best position to thrive as an adult, equipping them with relevant life skills. We will also introduce and resource a quality IT lab at our Abdi Academy in Ethiopia to provide our students with vital IT skills.

The number of children applying to our schools in Myanmar has reached unprecedented levels due to the need caused by the civil unrest. With so many children in the local community missing out on a life-changing education, we hope to **expand our schools in Myanmar** to offer these children the hope of an education and a different future.

To enhance the educational opportunities of our children in Kenya, our **Open Arms Academy in Kenya will extend** to educate children to junior high school level, allowing students to remain studying at our project for the next stage in their education.

Making our projects more sustainable

We will continue to meet the complex needs of our children who remain living with their family. This coming year in Kenya, we will continue to offer **sustainability projects and training** to the families of our children, providing them with the tools they need to increase their income, giving them **dignity and improving their lives for the long term**. To do this and continue to change the lives of our 330 Kenyan children, we will increase the financial sustainability of our Open Arms project by finding child sponsors to stand by our kids and provide them with love and encouragement

Quality Care

It is always our priority to deliver the **best childcare possible** for all the children in our care. We will continue to provide excellent care to the highest standard throughout our projects worldwide whilst seeking to address every obstacle in the way of them reaching their potential. To achieve this goal, we will employ the best quality, most compassionate staff in our projects and ensure they adhere to our childcare standards and governance policies.

For the children in our care who are at risk of abuse and neglect in Colombia, we aim to begin work to **expand our care programme** to offer a safe haven with loving carers where children can receive counselling and a place to heal.

To further improve the wellbeing of our children who live with their families, our **February on the Floor** fundraising event will aim to provide our children with new underwear and uniforms, school bags full of resources and a daily breakfast to ensure our children have the best start to their day for an entire year.



Ionut, Romania.

Structure, governance and management

Registered Charity

Stand by Me is a registered charity in England and Wales. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 2nd September 2019. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is responsible for approving strategic decisions having taken advice from the Executive team.

Going concern

After appropriate research, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements..

Method of appointment & training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the Board and approved at a meeting of the Trustees. Stand by Me Trustees are expected to be pro-active in supporting the work of the charity. Trustee recruitment is achieved through a blend of professional associations, local networks and prospective members being individually identified and approached. A periodic review of existing skills and expertise is undertaken and an assessment made as to what is required to meet the strategic needs of the charity. This shapes the recruitment and selection of prospective Trustees along with evidence of their motivation and support for the vision and mission of the charity.

Remuneration policy

The Board of Trustees annually reviews the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel. The Board is well aware that these individuals are paid below the benchmark criteria or "norm" for other similar charities and are therefore grateful that the current staff, conscious of the great needs of our children, are satisfied with their present level of remuneration.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and continue to be satisfied the charity is acting in the public benefit, as stated in our objectives, and believe this report contains the explanation of the significant activities undertaken during the year which confirms this.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees considers the key measure of sustainability for *Stand by Me* to be current and future liquidity cover, rather than the surplus or deficit accounting position. Consequently Trustees have set an appropriate reserves policy which is reviewed annually relating to liquidity, based on the relationship between readily realisable assets and the cash required to meet agreed obligations to ministries overseas in respect of monies that cover their regular support outgoings. Reserves are also required to sustain the charity's operations in England and Northern Ireland.



Bethany School, Ethiopia.

Trustees have decided that *Stand by Me* should at all times maintain cash and readily realisable assets, being regarded as restricted funds, sufficient to fund between not less than 3 and not more than 12 months of budgeted regular support outgoings in relation to overseas ministries. At 31 December 2022 that liquidity cover stands at **8.6 months.** Alongside this, Trustees have also decided that, at all times, cash and realisable assets should be maintained to finance a minimum of 3 months and not more than 12 months of budgeted operating costs. At 31 December 2022 that liquidity cover stands at **5.7 months.**

This Reserves Policy, which was agreed by Trustees at a meeting on 26 April 2023, updates and refines the earlier policy by linking solvency awareness in relation to funds for ministries overseas very specifically to monitoring liquidity cover for regular support outgoings. Also the assessment of solvency has been standardised as not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months for both restricted and unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund in accordance with the Reserves Policy set by the Trustees. *Stand by Me* aims to hold sufficient balances in all funds to cover 25 – 100% of budgeted regular support outgoings, plus any donations previously received for specific projects scheduled to take place in the subsequent years. At the end of the period total restricted funds were £1.196m (at 31 December 2021 £1.318m) all of which is earmarked for agreed regular support payments and specific projects. For each fund, *Stand by Me*'s assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Our objective is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security. To achieve this Stand by Me invests with institutions with a high security rating in fixed-term or call deposits. During the year *Stand by Me*'s sterling deposits achieved an average rate of interest of 0.93% (2021: 0.65%) compared with average bank base rate for the same period of 1.47% (2021: 0.11%)

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal risks considered can be categorised as follows:

- Financial risks – potential reduction in the level of public voluntary donations leading to inadequate reserves.
- External risks – (a) poor public perception, albeit that Trustees consider this to be an extremely low risk, with consequent damage to the charity's reputation and (b) turbulent economic or political environment.
- Safeguarding risks – failure to adequately protect our beneficiaries and staff around the world.

There are four basic strategies that can be applied to manage an identified risk:

- Transferring the financial consequences to third parties, or sharing it, usually through insurance or outsourcing;
- Avoiding completely the activity giving rise to the risk, for example by not taking up a contract or stopping a particular activity or service;
- Management or mitigation of risk;
- Accepting or assessing it as a risk that cannot be avoided if the activity is to continue i.e. where the Trustees recognise that a core activity carries a risk but take steps to mitigate it.

Our reputation as a world class child care organisation is intertwined with our most important concern and the area we constantly monitor i.e. the protection of our children. Our comprehensive Child Care Standard document is our global standard for all the charity's projects which includes policies common to all our work around the world, is how we manage this risk. Also each member of staff is given our Staff Handbook which has, as its first section, the highest standards of behaviour expected in all dealings with children and fellow members of staff.

Another key strategic risk identified was our additional funding needs. This is due to the fluctuation of sterling in political and economic uncertainty, combined with meeting the costs of the increasing number of our children attending further education. To mitigate this, we will maximise our key strengths and look to diversify our fundraising portfolio.

Overseas monitoring

Our Executive Director and Founding Director regularly visit the projects and work with our in-country boards as they report against objectives and abide by policies set out for each of our homes, care centres and schools.



Aktanda, Kenya.

Each country we work in has at least one director who is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day work taking place and they have regular meetings with the Executive Director to discuss how the projects are progressing and any current issues that need addressing.

On an individual child level, we monitor the progress of every child, physically, emotionally and academically throughout the year to meet any needs as they arise and ensure they are able to do well.

By having teams visit regularly, many with professional members such as doctors, dentists and teachers, we encourage them to provide professional reports to aid our work as we seek to improve our effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of future challenges.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board of Trustees meets monthly, subject to travel commitments, and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Executive Director has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the charity, implementing strategy and providing overall leadership to ensure that the core values of the charity are maintained. The Board has reserved to itself certain important decisions including changes to the charity's governing document and approval of the long-term objectives and strategy. The key responsibilities of Trustees are set out in the statement on page 37.

Fundraising ethos

Whether a long-standing supporter or someone hearing about Stand by Me for the first time, we endeavour to inspire people to get involved in rescuing children from extreme circumstances and providing the opportunities they need to thrive.

In our 27 year history we have always focused on building long term relationships with our supporters, exemplified by the foundation of regular sponsors and donors who know the tangible difference their support is making.

We allow our supporters to choose the ways in which they wish to be involved as well as where they would like their money used, as we understand how important ownership and choice can be for our supporters.

The following principles guide our fundraising strategy and operations:

- We aim to inspire people to donate or raise money for *Stand by Me*.
- We thank supporters appropriately and demonstrate the tangible difference their money is making to the children around the world.
- When we contact our supporters it's because we think they will be interested to hear how our children are thriving through their support. We listen to supporters and act on their communication requests.
- We keep our supporters' data secure and never pass their personal information on to any other company or charity and we don't buy or sell data.
- Fundraising and marketing is only carried out by our staff so that we are in control of the standards employed. This ensures that supporters and the wider public do not feel pressured to give and are treated with respect at all times, with a particular focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Stand by Me's fundraising activities and compliance with fundraising regulations and best practice are closely scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.



Accounts 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

Gam, Myanmar

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of *Stand by Me* (the charity) for the 12 month period ended 31 December 2022.

The Trustees confirm the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements which are contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

Trustees
Mark Clayden, Chairman
Edward Carpenter, Treasurer
Jo Clark (appointed 13 January 2022, resigned 8 March 2023)
Nathania MacGregor, Secretary
Sharon Seymour
Elizabeth Staniforth
John Tillett

Minutes Secretary
Fay Garrett

Executive Director
Ahmad Ayoubi

Charity registered number
1185124

Independent auditor
Robert J Baxter FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Cooper & Co
9 Palmers Avenue
Grays
Essex
RM17 5TX

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Romford
Essex
RM1 3AA

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Offices
England Office
630 Upper Brentwood Road
Romford
Essex
RM2 6HS

Ireland Office
16 West Street
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7AR

www.standby.me

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 19th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

Stand by Me
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Stand by Me

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Stand By Me (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert J Baxter FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Cooper & Co, 9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5TX

Date: 19th October 2023

Robert J Baxter FCCA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	**597,661**	**1,984,136**	**2,581,797**	*2,599,303*
Investments	3	**20,440**	**-**	**20,440**	*18,741*
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		**618,101**	**1,984,136**	**2,602,237**	*2,618,044*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	**114,761**	**-**	**114,761**	*89,984*
Governance costs	7	**5,599**	**-**	**5,599**	*6,080*
Other charitable activities		**769,969**	**1,939,447**	**2,709,416**	*2,275,211*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**890,329**	**1,939,447**	**2,829,776**	*2,371,275*
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(272,228)**	**44,689**	**(227,539)**	*246,769*
Transfers between Funds	16	**167,167**	**(167,167)**	**-**	*-*
NET INCOME BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**(105,061)**	**(122,478)**	**(227,539)**	*246,769*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(105,061)**	**(122,478)**	**(227,539)**	*246,769*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**1,129,479**	**1,318,397**	**2,447,876**	*2,201,107*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,024,418**	**1,195,919**	**2,220,337**	*2,447,876*

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	*2021 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		**809,980**		*818,330*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**253,975**		*272,951*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,458,089**		*1,684,138*	
		1,712,064		*1,957,089*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(101,707)**		*(77,543)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,610,357**		*1,879,546*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,420,337**		*2,697,876*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		**(200,000)**		*(250,000)*
NET ASSETS			**2,220,337**		*2,447,876*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		**1,195,919**		*1,318,397*
Unrestricted funds	16		**1,024,418**		*1,129,479*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,220,337**		*2,447,876*

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

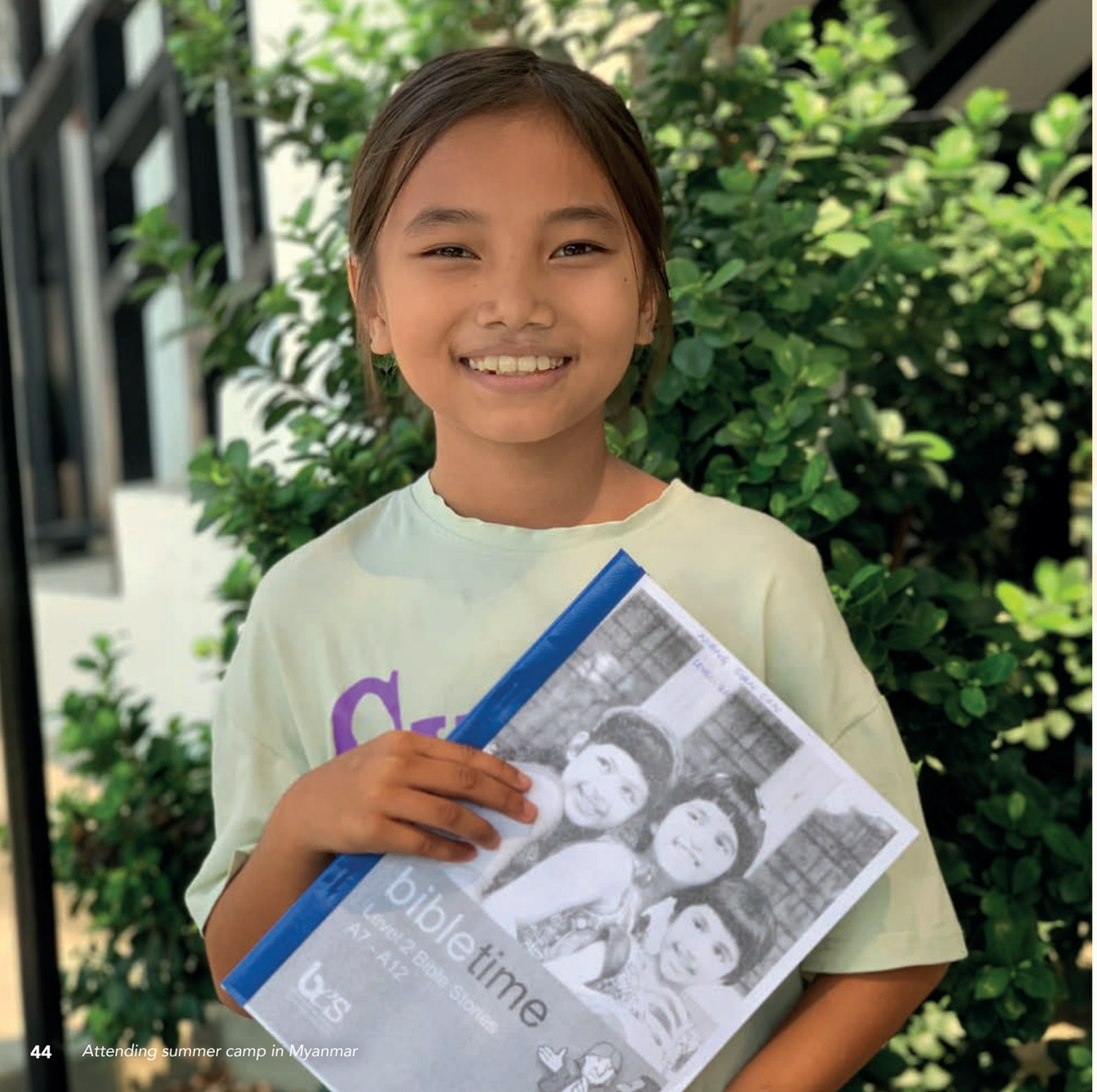
Edward Carpenter
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Statement of Cash Flows for year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	*2021 £*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	18	**(226,049)**	*270,260*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(226,049)**	*270,260*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**1,684,138**	*1,413,878*
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	19	**1,458,089**	*1,684,138*

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.



 Attending summer camp in Myanmar

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) updated in January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Stand By Me constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	1% of cost on a straight line basis

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method..

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Income from supporters	**282,796**	**1,984,136**	**2,266,932**	*2,261,754*
Gift aid tax recovered	**308,988**	**-**	**308,988**	*339,171*
Exchange rate differences	**3,152**	**-**	**3,152**	*53*
Income from teams	**2,725**	**-**	**2,725**	*(1,675)*
Total donations and legacies	**597,661**	**1,984,136**	**2,581,797**	*2,599,303*
Total 2021	*517,494*	*2,081,809*	*2,599,303*	

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Investment income - local investment properties	**10,700**	**-**	**10,700**	*12,840*
Investment income - local cash	**9,740**	**-**	**9,740**	*5,901*
	20,440	**-**	**20,440**	*18,741*
Total 2021	*18,741*	*-*	*18,741*	

4. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Marketing - website	**19,421**	**-**	**19,421**	*7,920*
Marketing - fundraising costs	**21,817**	**-**	**21,817**	*16,921*
Marketing - consultancy	**3,710**	**-**	**3,710**	*1,900*
Marketing - publications	**6,425**	**-**	**6,425**	*5,070*
Fundraising staff costs	**63,388**	**-**	**63,388**	*58,173*
	114,761	**-**	**114,761**	*89,984*

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Travel, field visits and volunteer costs	**17,537**	**17,537**	*2,862*
Funds and resources sent to ministries	**2,062,631**	**2,062,631**	*1,801,488*
Team expenses	**1,142**	**1,142**	**-**
Wages and salaries	**65,909**	**65,909**	*41,426*
	2,147,219	**2,147,219**	*1,845,776*

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Sundry office expenses	**2,500**	**2,500**	*213*
Communications costs	**4,471**	**4,471**	*4,120*
Computer costs	**47,735**	**47,735**	*33,295*
Printing, postage and stationery	**28,333**	**28,333**	*28,291*
Training	**0**	**0**	*122*
Insurance	**1,990**	**1,990**	*1,647*
Bank charges	**19,798**	**19,798**	*18,680*
Light, heat and services	**8,536**	**8,536**	*9,063*
Rent and rates	**6,362**	**6,362**	*6,120*
Office equipment and leasing	**2,809**	**2,809**	*3,782*
Building maintenance	**8,310**	**8,310**	*2,650*
Landlord costs	**994**	**994**	*864*
Travel	**7,871**	**7,871**	**-**
Wages and salaries	**337,006**	**337,006**	*261,924*
National insurance	**44,096**	**44,096**	*31,324*
Pension cost	**33,036**	**33,036**	*18,990*
Depreciation	**8,350**	**8,350**	*8,350*
	562,197	**562,197**	429,435

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the charity incurred the following Governance costs:

£NIL *(2021 - £NIL)* included within the table above in respect of Charitable Activities

£NIL (2021 - £NIL) included within the table above in respect of Investment Income.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Auditors' remuneration	**5,405**	**-**	**5,405**	*5,794*
Legal fees	**194**	**-**	**194**	*286*
	5,599	**-**	**5,599**	*6,080*

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2022 £	Depreciation 2022	Other costs 2022 £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	**63,388**	**-**	**51,373**	**114,761**	*89,984*
Costs of raising funds	**63,388**	**-**	**51,373**	**114,761**	*89,984*
Charitable Activities	**480,047**	**8,350**	**2,221,019**	**2,709,416**	*2,275,211*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**5,599**	**5,599**	*6,080*
	543,435	**8,350**	**2,277,991**	**2,829,776**	*2,371,275*
Total 2021	*411,837*	*8,350*	*1,951,088*	*2,371,275*	

9. NET INCOME

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**8,350**	*8,350*
Auditor's remuneration - audit	**5,405**	*5,794*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration *(2021 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind *(2021 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses *(2021 - £186)*.

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £5,405 *(2021 - £5,794)*

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Wages and salaries	**466,303**	*361,523*
Social security costs	**44,096**	*31,324*
Other pension costs	**33,036**	*18,990*
	543,435	*411,837*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	*2021 No.*
Management	**3**	*3*
Administration and support	**11**	*9*
	14	*12*

The number of higher paid employees was:

	2022 No.	*2021 No.*
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	*0*

The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel were £131,213 (2021: £119,069). One employee received remuneration over £60,000 in 2022 (2021: 0).

The charity Trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year and no trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.
During the year no Trustee expenses were incurred (2021: £186)

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £
Cost	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	**835,030**
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2022	**16,700**
Charge for the year	**8,350**
At 31 December 2022	**25,050**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	**809,980**
At 31 December 2021	*818,330*

13. DEBTORS

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Other debtors	**253,633**	*272,674*
Prepayments and accrued income	**342**	*277*
	253,975	*272,951*

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Other loans	**50,000**	*50,000*
Trade creditors	**32,512**	*9,871*
Other taxation and social security	**12,280**	*10,118*
Other creditors	**1,575**	*1,760*
Accruals and deferred income	**5,340**	*5,794*
	101,707	*77,543*

Other loans relates to an interest free loan of £400,000 given to *Stand By Me* in September 2019, from which the Charity is being released over a number of years.

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Other loans	**200,000**	*250,000*

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**1,129,479**	**618,101**	**(890,329)**	**167,167**	**1,024,418**
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	**1,318,397**	**1,984,136**	**(1,939,447)**	**(167,167)**	**1,195,919**
Total of funds	**2,447,876**	**2,602,237**	**(2,829,776)**	**-**	**2,220,337**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 December 2021 £*
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*1,046,061*	*536,235*	*(618,170)*	*165,353*	*1,129,479*
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	*1,155,046*	*2,081,809*	*(1,753,105)*	*(165,353)*	*1,318,397*
Total of funds	*2,201,107*	*2,618,044*	*(2,371,275)*	-	*2,447,876*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	**809,980**	**-**	**809,980**
Current assets	**516,146**	**1,195,919**	**1,712,065**
Creditors due within one year	**(101,708)**	**-**	**(101,708)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**(200,000)**	**-**	**(200,000)**
	1,024,418	**1,195,919**	**2,220,337**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	*Restricted Funds 2021 £*	*Total Funds 2021 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*818,330*	-	*818,330*
Current assets	*638,692*	*1,318,397*	*1,957,089*
Creditors due within one year	*(77,543)*	-	*(77,543)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*(250,000)*	-	*(250,000)*
	1,129,479	*1,318,397*	*2,447,876*

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**(227,539)**	*246,769*
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	**8,350**	*8,350*
Decrease in debtors	**18,976**	*62,438*
(Decrease) in creditors	**(25,836)**	*(47,297)*
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**(226,049)**	*270,260*

19. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Cash in hand	**1,458,089**	*1,684,138*
Total	**1,458,089**	*1,684,138*

20. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £33,036 (12 mths to Dec 2021- £18,990).

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.



STAND BY me

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630 Upper Brentwood Road,
Romford, Essex, RM2 6HS
Tel: 01708 442271

Ireland Office
16 West Street,
Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim, BT38 7AR
Tel: 028 9335 0009

Stand By Me is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK (No. 1185124)

www.standby.me

STAND BY ME

England & Wales - Charity number 1185124

Accounts



STAND BY me

Annual Report & Accounts 2021

Our mission

"We rescue kids, then we do whatever it takes to provide the care love and attention they need to thrive"



Sumnima, Nepal.

I am delighted to share with you our 2021 Annual Report and Accounts, which highlights some of what we have achieved together in bringing love and care to over 4000 children around the world.

In 2021, we rescued even more children and as we learnt of their stories, we cried with them and then helped them realise that they are loved and belong.

Despite our kids' difficult starts in life, they are amazing and are full of potential. Like all parents, we are proud of our kids and are thrilled to share with you some of their accomplishments. It's their stories of hope that bring home the impact of our work and serve to motivate us as we continue our mission to rescue and help our kids become everything that God created them to be.

Our staff, through their dedication, expertise and sacrifice, continue to exemplify the highest standards of care to our children in some of the most challenging circumstances. Every staff member deserves praise, but none more so than our staff in Myanmar, who, despite danger to their personal safety, overcame the challenges of Covid and civil war whilst providing emergency food parcels to over 2000 families throughout the year.

As you read this report, I hope you will be encouraged, as without your generosity, the hard work of our staff and the faithfulness of God, the impact seen in this report would not have been possible.



Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director



Ahmad in Kenya.

Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated to follow Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.

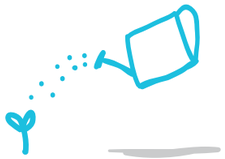
Our child-centred care



Loving care
We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Strong families
We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



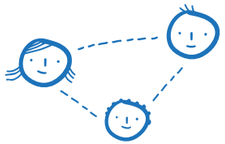
Great education
Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



Access to healthcare
We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



A reason for hope
It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



Caring relationships
Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



24 Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



7 Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



6 Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.



Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.



Caring for over 4,000 kids worldwide

Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic

Educating children exposed to poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

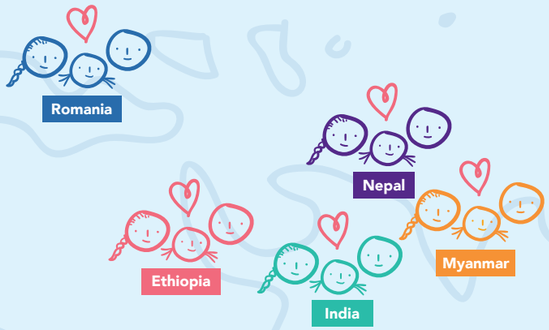
Nepal

Providing a loving family environment to children excluded from society while bringing education to children isolated in the remote mountainous region and supporting their families.

Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.







Kenya

Our work around the world is expanding and as of January 2022 we now work in Kenya, adopting 250 children at the Open Arms project

Our impact

Rescuing children and meeting their individual needs

At *Stand by Me* our heart is to provide our kids with whatever they need including regular food, healthcare and a great education. For some children we need to go one step further and provide them with a place to call home.

We met Sintayehyu at the start of 2021 in Ethiopia, he was just four years old. Sintayehyu was found by the local authorities living in the grounds of a cemetery, surviving by begging for food. He was an only child who had been living with his mum, but his mum was suffering from serious health issues and had sadly passed away.

Knowing the risks he faced without a parent to care for him, Sintayehyu needed a family, a home, and a lot of love and care, and so we have welcomed him into the family at our Bethany Children's Village.

Sintayehyu now has a place to call home and is much healthier and happier thanks to daily meals, healthcare, and most importantly the love of a family at the children's village. And when Sintayehyu is old enough he will start at our school, where he will learn, grow and dream for the future.

Like Sintayehyu, we want to give all of our kids the childhood they deserve and the love and acceptance they need. In 2021, we rescued 149 children and welcomed them into our care. Where once they may have felt alone, today they know they have us standing by their side.



Sintayehyu.

Sintayeyhu (middle) at the Children's Village.

Providing the opportunity of a quality education

Essential to seeing our kids' lives transformed is the provision of a quality education. Our schools and educational programmes are equipping our kids with the skills and knowledge needed for them to rise above their circumstances and do great things.

In Nepal, our children faced prolonged school closures due to Covid. With the help of our staff at our children's homes, our children continued to study hard, including Aanggelu.

When we first met Aanggelu, he was being cared for by his uncle who struggled to provide for his needs. We welcomed Aanggelu into our *Stand by Me* family at our children's home in 2011 where he received the care he needed including a great education.

In 2021, Aanggelu took his SEE examinations which are the equivalent to GCSEs. He had worked hard and, despite the challenges of online learning, he achieved the top honour in his results. We are so proud of his hard work and dedication to his studies. He is now at college and would like to train as a chef for trekking expeditions in his home district.

Thanks to a life-changing education and their hard work, our kids are overcoming obstacles and looking forward to bright futures. Children like Aanggelu who once had no educational opportunities are today one step closer to achieving their dreams.



Aanggelu.

Responding with emergency aid

In February 2021, a military coup spiralled Myanmar into civil unrest, violence and insecurity. The combined impact of Covid and civil unrest, amid rising unemployment and food prices, forced millions of people into abject poverty.

We launched our Myanmar Appeal to respond to the needs of our children, their families and the communities around them. Despite the personal risks to our staff, and thanks to your support, we delivered food parcels to thousands of families facing starvation, some who have lost loved ones and other who have fled their homes to escape violence.

One of the families who received a food parcel was U Man's. He let us know how important this food parcel was for his family:

"This is the worst time in my life, to live with Covid and the military forces. My wife was seriously suffering from Covid and my daughter suffered from dengue fever. They recovered. We are struggling for life. We are short of money. We have no food. We are very glad to receive a food parcel from Stand by Me. It is wonderful to receive such a big present from the people whom I do not know."

U Man

U Man's story is just one of the thousands of stories from grateful families who now can survive another month. The love and generosity they have received has helped to lift them out of despair and given them hope for a better future.



U Man and his family.

Removing obstacles for our children

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn and so we do all we can to provide our kids with a quality education, particularly when circumstances are difficult.

In Myanmar, as unrest erupted throughout the country, it became unsafe for our children to attend school. To continue their education, we purchased tablets to allow them to have access to education despite the chaos around them. These tablets enabled our kids to access learning materials and engage with our staff.

Along with each tablet, we also provided internet access and headphones to enable our kids to participate in their online lessons. Our children engaged with their teachers, asking questions and receiving tutoring. These tablets are a lifeline for our children, one of whom is eight year old Mang:

"I am so thankful for my tablet and the online classes I attend. I can see my teachers and friends from Zoom and I communicate with my teachers and send my homework through email. I've learned how to use email and ask questions to my teachers. I am so blessed."

Mang

Ensuring our children can access a great education has never been more important. The provision of tablets, headphones, internet access and online classes run by our amazing teachers are helping our children learn and thrive.





Mang.

Standing by families

We are committed to responding to our children and their families' immediate needs. When emergencies arrive, we must act quickly in order to help them overcome challenges.

When a storm caused extensive flooding in the region where we work in Colombia, our care centre was flooded along with the homes of the children in our care, causing damage to their belongings and furniture. Some houses suffered more serious structural damage and were in desperate need of repair.

Thanks to donations to our Colombia Flood Appeal, we were able to provide repairs to homes and replace possessions destroyed by the flood as well as help repair our Emmanuel Care Centre.

Families were overjoyed as they received replacements for the belongings lost such as clothing, kitchen utensils, appliances and furniture. Joxelis' family was affected by the flood, her mum shared:

"Thanks to the Care Centre for being aware of the affected families, especially ours, I hope that God continues to multiply everything they do, we needed this help."

Joxelis' mum

The support provided by the Emmanuel Care Centre has not only provided our children with an education, food and medical care, it has also shown families that they have *Stand by Me*'s lasting support and has restored hope.

By responding to urgent needs, we are able to show our children and their families that they are not alone and demonstrate God's love to the communities we work in.



Joxelis and her mum.

Lifting kids off the floor and into their first bed

We believe that every child deserves a good night's sleep and so each year we run February on the Floor to provide children in our care with a bed.

In 2021, an amazing 85 individuals, families, schools and youth groups gave up their bed for a week and raised sponsorship in order to help provide families with a bed to raise them off the floor and improve their circumstances. **Thanks to them and everyone who generously donated, we were able to provide a bed for 907 of our kids!**

This amazing total enabled us to reach our dream in Ethiopia, where the majority of our children were sleeping on the floor, ensuring that every child there now has a bed. One of the children who received a bed was Birtukan. Her mum shared with our staff how much a new bed meant to her family after so long sleeping on the floor:

"Today we are going to get the sleep we have always dreamed of. We used to sleep on the floor, but this has passed, now we own a nice bed with bed materials thanks to those who are the reason this happened."

Birtukan's mum

Birtukan is just one of 907 children who now know the comfort of a bed. The new beds will make an enormous difference to our children, helping restore their sleep, giving them the energy to pursue their dreams.

FEBRUARY on the FLOOR



Birtukan and her mum.



Helping children reach their potential

Our hope at *Stand by Me* is for our children to reach their full potential, stand on their own two feet and go on to use their skills, talents and unique personalities to change their life, their families lives and their communities.

Lidiya joined our Bethany School in Ethiopia when she was seven years old. With the opportunity of an education, the right care, the support of her sponsors and her dedication to learn, she graduated from university and is now working as an accountant for a charity.

"After I joined this school everything that was hard in my life became easier for me because all my basic needs were fulfilled through Stand by Me, including food, school uniform and exercise books. I continued my education with much hope, joy and with a bright future.

After four years at university, I graduated with honours. I am currently working in an office run by a charity that helps children in need. I am very proud to work in this office because there is nothing more exciting than helping people. Finally, I would like to thank Stand by Me for loving me and teaching me. I am here today in this place because of the support and help I have received."

Lidiya

We couldn't be more proud of all our children who have overcome huge obstacles and are reaching their potential. We know that thanks to life-changing care, the many hundreds of children in our schools, homes and care centres can dream big and have a bright future too.



Lidiya.

A family across the world

Our amazing child sponsors are ensuing our children receive the best care possible and have the encouragement and love that every child needs to thrive through their regular financial support, letters and emails

We are grateful that a further 424 individuals have stood by a child in 2021 through our child sponsorship programme. These individuals along with all our sponsors are helping to meet our children's needs, providing for their food, clothes, medical care and education. But so much more than that, they are also helping our children feel loved, cared for and part of a family.







Rosa.

"I thank God and my sponsors who gave me two gifts; one of them for my birthday. I am very happy because my sponsors always remember me. My mum also thanks Stand by Me because we are blessed by the things that my sponsors give us."

Rosa, Colombia

Our kids love to receive letters, photos and small gifts from their sponsors. These things quickly become treasured possessions and let our children know that they are loved and cared for. As our children exchange communication with their sponsors, they build a personal relationship, know they have their lasting support and can fulfil their potential.

How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.





Shoe Appeal

Our Shoe Appeal raised a fantastic £43,875 to help us reach our goal of providing a new pair of shoes for every child in our care, protecting their feet from harm and restoring their confidence. Our kids were so excited to receive their brand new shoes at Christmas!

"I am so happy and thank the donors who have given us money for the new shoes."

Zemem





Zemem.

Alternative Gift Catalogue

Our Gift Catalogue raised a fantastic £34,342 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Emergency Appeal

Emergency appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our Myanmar Appeal raised an incredible £244,011 helping us provide life-saving food parcels to families facing starvation. Our Colombia Flood Appeal raised £6,860 to help families recover from the floods, bringing hope to despair.

Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.

"This food parcel arrived at the moment when I needed it most. Thank you very much, God bless the lives of you and the sponsors. It has been a great blessing for me to have my son in this project"

Darwin's Mum



Darwin's family.



Sophia Home, Myanmar.

Fundraising

Amazing fundraisers take on ambitious challenges to raise money for our children around the world. Whether they are running, cycling, cutting their hair or shaving off their beard, their motivation to make a difference to our kids' lives is inspiring and raises essential funds to support our kids. This year our annual February on the Floor fundraising event raised £126,980 to provide beds for children who were sleeping on the floor.



Saira.

Mike's cycle ride



Mike cycled all the way from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising a whopping £5,000 for our Bethany School in Ethiopia.

"Two years ago, I had the privilege of volunteering at the Bethany School in Ethiopia. Knowing that many of the children and families we met there will benefit from our ride, in such difficult times, is the best reward of all." *Mike*

Ethan's *Stand by Me* birthday



11 year old Ethan gave up his birthday presents to raise money for Stand by Me after learning about our work through school. He raised enough to provide over 1,100 school meals for our kids in Ethiopia.

"The stories my school told about the children made me want to help. I thought I didn't need presents but it was a good idea to ask my friends to give money so we could donate to Stand by Me instead." *Ethan*

Sarah's February on the Floor



Sarah, along with her children Thomas, Anna and Matthew, were some of the many people who took on February on the Floor in 2021, raising money to provide our *Stand by Me* kids with a bed.

"This was a challenging experience for us all- and that was only one week on a relatively comfortable floor! The children learned a valuable lesson, indeed one they will never forget, about the needs of other children around the world." *Sarah*

Saira's lockdown locks



When Saira turned 50, she reflected on what truly mattered. She decided to cut her long hair off and donate it to children who needed wigs. At the same time, she raised over £3000 to help *Stand by Me* families who needed food parcels.

"I am so overwhelmed by everyone's generosity! Together we have made a difference helping Stand by Me to provide vital food parcels to families who need them. God is great and I'm truly blessed!" *Saira*



Denisa Care Centre, Romania.

Legacy and in memoriam gifts



Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to *Stand by Me* mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting improvements in children's lives.

Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year, often online or through video. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

Trusts

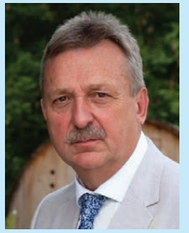
We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.

We are incredibly grateful to the many generous individuals who have contributed financially to our work throughout the year, who, for privacy reasons, are not mentioned by name here.



Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Nepal Children's Home.



At the end of 2021, we look back and see a world possibly changed forever as people have had to re-evaluate what is important in their lives as a consequence of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

It's been a time when the importance of family has been emphasised as is shared love and concern for those who are alone, suffering, sick or in need. Once more, the *Stand by Me* family who sponsor, donate and give in so many ways has stood firm in these challenging times.

As supporters of *Stand by Me*, you have allowed us to achieve many wonderful things this year from rescuing little four-year-old Sintayehyu who was living in a cemetery and who now lives in our Bethany Village, to providing almost 1,000 beds for children by sleeping on the floor yourselves! I must also mention the amazing achievement of Lidiya who also joined our Bethany School aged seven and subsequently qualified as an accountant after four years study at university and graduating with an honours degree.

A massive thank you from the *Stand by Me* Board for your continuing support and fundraising efforts. Even in these challenging times you have stayed faithful to the God given vision of rescuing children from danger and hardship and helping them become what they are born to be, enabling us to raise £2,618,044 - our largest income ever.

We have felt with God's guidance that this important work should grow and develop and consequently we are welcoming a further 250 children from Open Arms Village in Kenya into our family in January 2022.

I thanked you all earlier for your unstinting giving in difficult times, but as Chairman of the Board I am not sure I can thank you enough on behalf of all the children you have helped us to rescue.

On behalf of the *Stand by Me* Board I would also like to thank Ahmad and the *Stand by Me* staff who through long hours and hard work have shown your love and concern for the children in our care.

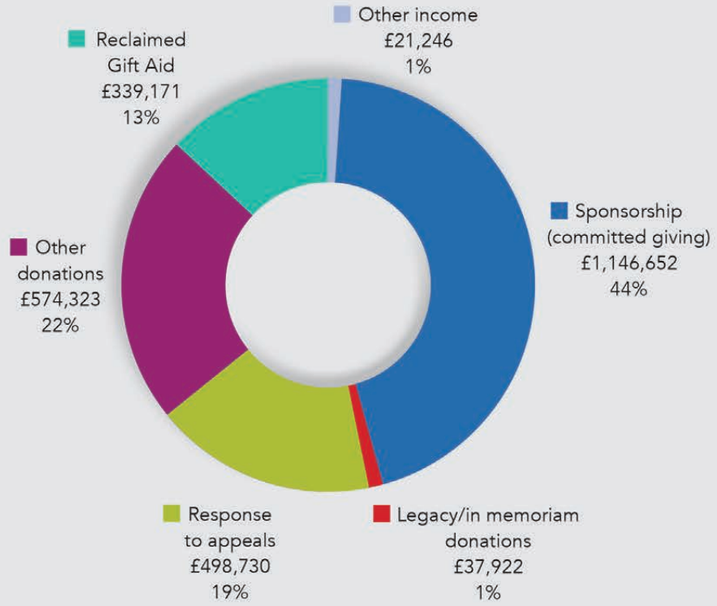
Mark Clayden
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Financial Summary

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children, but we're not here to just run a charity. We're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then we reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives. Our trusted staff use money wisely to provide the best care possible for our children and through our annual budgets, audits and frequent monitoring visits, we make sure that the money is spent prudently.

Income 2021

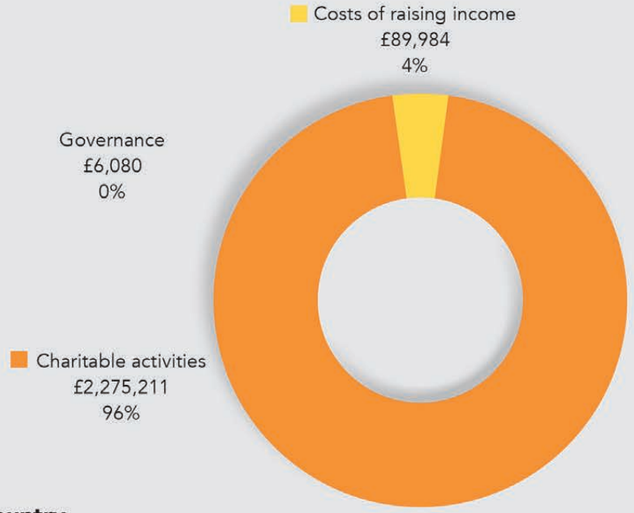
We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the past year enabling us to raise £2,618,044, our largest income to date.



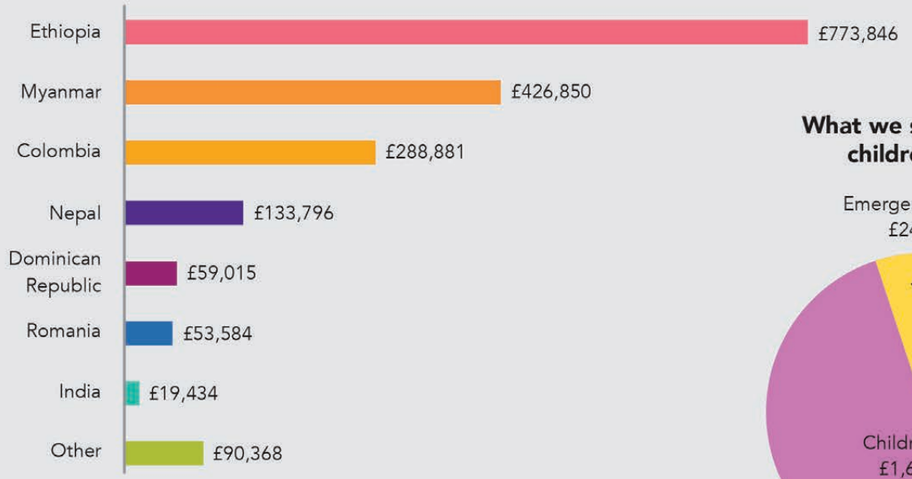
STAND BY me

Expenditure 2021

Total expenditure in the year was £2,371,275.
96% of expenditure was on charitable activities with fundraising and governance costing just 4%.

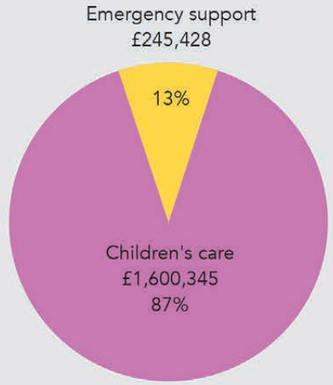


What we spent directly on each country



Total: £1,845,773

What we spent on our children's care



Looking forward

Around the world our children have grown healthier thanks to regular meals and medical care. They have learned new skills and many have progressed into the next stage of school, college or university. All of our children know they are loved, accepted and are part of a family that cares for them and this love is transforming their lives.

As we celebrate all this, we are also aware that our *Stand by Me* projects face tremendous challenges around the world due to civil war, political unrest and the increasing cost of living. But we continue to be committed to bringing life-changing care to our children and as a result we have bold plans to invest further in our projects. As we continue to deliver world-class child care, we hope to achieve three key aims in 2022:

- **We continue to be a faith led organisation and are excited to be taking a step of faith by welcoming a further 250 children into our care at the Open Arms project in Kenya. It is always a privilege to grow our family and to have the opportunity to reach out into a new community. We will also rescue a further 100 children who need support from the surrounding community.**

- **Education is always at the forefront of Stand by Me's work and this year we will build on our 15 year foundation at our Bethany Project in Ethiopia by establishing a high school centre. This centre will enhance our children's lives further by providing a hub for high school students to come to for their food, healthcare and educational support.**

- **In Myanmar, sending funds continues to be a challenge due to the military regime. We are thankful to have found alternative funding routes, however; we are seeking ways to make our projects more sustainable through the purchase of rice fields. This will enable our children's homes to have food security that is not dependent on funding routes. In the face of extreme adversity, with God's help, we know that we can continue to rescue children and help them become all they were born to be.**

As we look to the future we are confident that with your support, encouragement and prayers, and as we follow God's leading, we can impact many more children.



Structure, governance and management

Registered Charity

Stand by Me is a registered charity in England and Wales. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 2nd September 2019. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is responsible for approving strategic decisions having taken advice from the Executive team.

Going concern

After appropriate research, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Method of appointment & training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the Board and approved at a meeting of the Trustees. *Stand by Me* Trustees are expected to be pro-active in supporting the work of the charity. Trustee recruitment is achieved through a blend of professional associations, local networks and prospective members being individually identified and approached. A periodic review of existing skills and expertise is undertaken and an assessment made as to what is required to meet the strategic needs of the charity. This shapes the recruitment and selection of prospective Trustees along with evidence of their motivation and support for the vision and mission of the charity.

Remuneration policy

The Board of Trustees annually reviews the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel. The Board is well aware that these individuals are paid below the benchmark criteria or "norm" for other similar charities and are therefore grateful that the current staff, conscious of the great needs of our children, are satisfied with their present level of remuneration.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and continue to be satisfied the charity is acting in the public benefit, as stated in our objectives, and believe this report contains the explanation of the significant activities undertaken during the year which confirms this.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees considers the key measure of sustainability for *Stand by Me* to be current and future liquidity cover, rather than the surplus or deficit accounting position. Consequently Trustees have set an appropriate reserves policy which is reviewed annually relating to liquidity, based on the relationship between readily realisable assets and the cash required to meet obligations to ministries overseas and sustain the charity's operations in England and Northern Ireland.

Trustees have decided that *Stand by Me* should at all times maintain



Jean Carlos, Colombia.

cash and readily realisable assets (being regarded as restricted funds) sufficient to fund between not less than 6 and not more than 12 months of forecast cash outflow directed towards overseas ministries. At 31 December 2021 that liquidity cover stands at 6 months. Alongside this, Trustees have also decided that, at all times, cash and realisable assets should be maintained to finance a minimum of 3 months and not more than 12 months of forecast operating costs. At 31 December 2021 that liquidity cover stands at 4 months.

This reserves policy, which focuses on liquidity, represents a revision of the policy agreed by the trustees of the former unincorporated trust.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. In accordance with the Reserves Policy set by the Trustees, *Stand by Me* aims to hold sufficient balances in all funds to cover 50-100% of budgeted expenditure in the year ahead, plus any donations previously received for specific projects scheduled to take place in the subsequent years. At the end of the period total restricted funds were £1.318m (at 31 December 2020: £1.155m) all of which is dedicated to specific projects. For each fund, *Stand by Me*'s assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Our objective is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security. To achieve this *Stand by Me* invests with institutions with a high security rating in fixed-term or call deposits. During the year *Stand by Me*'s sterling deposits achieved an average rate of interest of 0.65% (2020: 1.3%) compared with an average bank base rate for the same period of 0.11% (2020: 0.22%) .

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal risks considered can be categorised as follows:-

- Financial risks – potential reduction in the level of public voluntary donations leading to inadequate reserves.

- External risks – (a) poor public perception, albeit that Trustees consider this to be an extremely low risk, with consequent damage to the charity's reputation and (b) turbulent economic or political environment.

- Safeguarding risks – failure to adequately protect our beneficiaries and staff around the world.

There are four basic strategies that can be applied to manage an identified risk:

- Transferring the financial consequences to third parties, or sharing it, usually through insurance or outsourcing;

- Avoiding completely the activity giving rise to the risk, for example by not taking up a contract or stopping a particular activity or service;

- Management or mitigation of risk;

- Accepting or assessing it as a risk that cannot be avoided if the activity is to continue i.e. where the Trustees recognise that a core activity carries a risk but take steps to mitigate it.

Our reputation as a world class child care organisation is intertwined with our most important concern and the area we constantly monitor i.e. the protection of our children. Our comprehensive Child Care Standard document is our global standard for all the charity's projects which includes policies common to all our work around the world, is how we manage this risk. Also each member of staff is given our Staff Handbook which has, as its first section, the highest standards of behaviour expected in all dealings with children and fellow members of staff.

Another key strategic risk identified was our additional funding needs. This is due to the fluctuation of sterling in political and economic uncertainty, combined with meeting the costs of the increasing number of our children attending further education. To mitigate this we will maximise our key strengths and look to diversify our fundraising portfolio.

Overseas monitoring

Our Executive Director and Founding Director regularly visit the projects and work with our in-country boards as they report against objectives and abide by policies set out for each of our homes, care centres and schools. Each country we work in has at least one director who is responsible for overseeing the day to day work



Denisa Care Centre, Romania.

taking place and they have regular meetings with the Executive Director to discuss how the projects are progressing and any current issues that need addressing.

On an individual child level we monitor the progress of every child, physically, emotionally and academically throughout the year to meet any needs as they arise and ensure they are able to do well.

By having teams visit regularly, many with professional members such as doctors, dentists and teachers, we encourage them to provide professional reports to aid our work as we seek to improve our effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of future challenges

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly, subject to travel commitments, and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Executive Director has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the charity, implementing strategy and providing overall leadership to ensure that the core values of the charity are maintained. The Board has reserved to itself certain important decisions including changes to the charity's governing document and approval of the long term objectives and strategy.

The key responsibilities of Trustees are set out in the statement on page 37.

Fundraising ethos

Whether a long standing supporter or someone hearing about *Stand by Me* for the first time, we endeavour to inspire people to get involved in rescuing children from extreme circumstances and providing the opportunities they need to thrive.

In our 26 year history we have always focused on building long term relationships with our supporters, exemplified by the foundation of regular sponsors and donors who know the tangible difference their support is making.

We allow our supporters to choose the ways in which they wish to be involved as well as where they would like their money used, as we understand how important ownership and choice can be for our supporters.

The following principles guide our fundraising strategy and operations:

- We aim to inspire people to donate or raise money for *Stand by Me*.
- We thank supporters appropriately and demonstrate the tangible difference their money is making to the children around the world.
- When we contact our supporters it's because we think they will be interested to hear how our children are thriving through their support. We listen to supporters and act on their communication requests.
- We keep our supporters' data secure and never pass their personal information on to any other company or charity and we don't buy or sell data.
- Fundraising and marketing is only carried out by our staff so that we are in control of the standards employed. This ensures that supporters and the wider public do not feel pressured to give and are treated with respect at all times, with a particular focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Stand by Me's fundraising activities and compliance with fundraising regulations and best practice are closely scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.



Accounts 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Emmanuel Care Centre, Colombia.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the year ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of *Stand by Me* (the charity) for the 12 month period ended 31 December 2021.

The Trustees confirm the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements which are contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

Trustees
Mark Clayden, Chairman
Edward Carpenter, Treasurer
Jo Clark (appointed 13 January 2022)
James Laing (resigned 13 October 2021)
Nathania MacGregor, Secretary
Sharon Seymour
Elizabeth Staniforth
John Tillett

Minutes Secretary
Fay Garrett

Executive Director
Ahmad Ayoubi

Charity registered number
1185124

Independent auditor
Robert J Baxter FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Cooper & Co
9 Palmers Avenue
Grays
Essex
RM17 5TX

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Romford
Essex
RM1 3AA

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Offices
England Office
630 Upper Brentwood Road
Romford
Essex
RM2 6HS

Ireland Office
16 West Street
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7AR

www.standby.me

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

Stand by Me
Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Stand by Me

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of *Stand By Me* (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at December 31, 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: *www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities*. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert J Baxter FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Cooper & Co, 9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5TX

Date: 21 October 2022

Robert J Baxter FCCA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	**517,494**	**2,081,809**	**2,599,303**	*2,427,725*
Investments	3	**18,741**	**-**	**18,741**	*25,345*
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		**536,235**	**2,081,809**	**2,618,044**	*2,453,070*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	**89,984**	**-**	**89,984**	*94,682*
Governance costs	7	**6,080**	**-**	**6,080**	*5,292*
Other charitable activities		**522,106**	**1,753,105**	**2,275.211**	*1,836,634*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**618,170**	**1,753,105**	**2,371,275**	*1,936,608*
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(81,935)**	**328,704**	**246,769**	*516,462*
Transfers between Funds	16	**165,353**	**(165,353)**	**-**	**-**
NET INCOME BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**83,418**	**163,351**	**246,769**	*516,462*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**83,418**	**163,351**	**246,769**	*516,462*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**1,046,061**	**1,155,046**	**2,201,107**	*1,684,645*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,129,479**	**1,318,397**	**2,447,876**	*2,201,107*

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		**818,330**		*826,680*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**272,951**		*335,389*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,684,138**		*1,413,878*	
		1,957,089		*1,749,267*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(77,543)**		*(74,840)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,879,546**		*1,674,427*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,697,876**		*2,501,107*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		**(250,000)**		*(300,000)*
NET ASSETS			**2,447,876**		*2,201,107*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		**1,318,397**		*1,155,046*
Unrestricted funds	16		**1,129,479**		*1,046,061*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,447,876**		*2,201,107*

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Statement of Cash Flows for year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	**270,260**	1,122,131
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**-**	*(835,030)*
Net cash used in investing activities		**-**	*(835,030)*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**270,260**	*287,101*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**1,413,878**	*1,126,777*
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	19	**1,684,138**	*1,413,878*

The notes on pages 45 to 59 form part of these financial statements.



Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) updated in January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) updated in January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Stand By Me constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	1% of cost on a straight line basis

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method..

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Income from supporters	**179,945**	**2,081,809**	**2,261,754**	*2,080,643*
Gift aid tax recovered	**339,171**	**-**	**339,171**	*324,153*
Exchange rate differences	**53**	**-**	**53**	*(65)*
Income from teams	**(1,675)**	**-**	**(1,675)**	*22,995*
Total donations and legacies	**517,494**	**2,081,809**	**2,599,303**	*2,427,725*
Total 2020	*732,791*	*1,694,934*	*2,427,725*	

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Investment income - local investment properties	**12,840**	**-**	**12,840**	*15,956*
Investment income - local cash	**5,901**	**-**	**5,901**	*9,389*
	18,741	**-**	**18,741**	*25,345*

4. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Marketing - website	**7,920**	**-**	**7,920**	*8,070*
Marketing - merchandise	**-**	**-**	**-**	*1,099*
Marketing - fundraising costs	**16,921**	**-**	**16,921**	*23,060*
Marketing - consultancy	**1,900**	**-**	**1,900**	*1,139*
Marketing - publications	**5,070**	**-**	**5,070**	*5,161*
Fundraising staff costs	**58,173**	**-**	**58,173**	*56,153*
	89,984	**-**	**89,984**	*94,682*

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Travel, field visits and volunteer costs	**2,862**	**2,862**	*2,983*
Funds and resources sent to ministries	**1,801,488**	**1,801,488**	*1,443,793*
Team expenses	**-**	**-**	*(2,793)*
Wages and salaries	**41,426**	**41,426**	*40,813*
	1,845,776	**1,845,776**	*1,484,796*

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Sundry office expenses	**213**	**213**	*153*
Communications costs	**4,120**	**4,120**	*3,254*
Computer costs	**33,295**	**33,295**	*32,495*
Printing, postage and stationery	**28,291**	**28,291**	*26,169*
Training	**122**	**122**	*60*
Insurance	**1,647**	**1,647**	*1,627*
Bank charges	**18,680**	**18,680**	*13,592*
Light, heat and services	**9,063**	**9,063**	*8,727*
Rent and rates	**6,120**	**6,120**	*5,196*
Office equipment and leasing	**3,782**	**3,782**	*8,740*
Building maintenance	**3,514**	**3,514**	*4,916*
Wages and salaries	**261,924**	**261,924**	*200,369*
National insurance	**31,324**	**31,324**	*24,788*
Pension cost	**18,990**	**18,990**	*13,402*
Depreciation	**8,350**	**8,350**	*8,350*
	429,435	**429,435**	*351,838*

During the year ended December 31, 2021, the charity incurred the following Governance costs:

£NIL *(2020 - £NIL)* included within the table above in respect of Charitable Activities

£NIL (2020 - £NIL) included within the table above in respect of Investment Income.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Auditors' remuneration	**5,794**	**-**	**5,794**	*4,620*
Legal fees	**286**	**-**	**286**	*672*
	6,080	**-**	**6,080**	*5,292*

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2021 £	Depreciation 2021	Other costs 2021 £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	**58,173**	**-**	**31,811**	**89,984**	*94,682*
Costs of raising funds	**58,173**	**-**	**31,811**	**89,984**	*94,682*
Charitable Activities	**353,664**	**8,350**	**1,913,197**	**2,275,211**	*1,836,632*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**6,080**	**6,080**	*5,292*
	411,837	**8,350**	**1,951,088**	**2,371,275**	*1,936,606*
Total 2020	*335,523*	*8,350*	*1,592,733*	*1,936,606*	

9. NET INCOME

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**8,350**	*8,350*
Auditor's remuneration - audit	**5,794**	*4,620*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration *(2020 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind *(2020- £NIL)*.
During the year, Trustees received reimbursement of expenses totalling £186 *(2020 - £NIL)*.

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £5,794 *(2020 - £4,620)*

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Wages and salaries	**361,523**	*297,334*
Social security costs	**31,324**	*24,788*
Other pension costs	**18,990**	*13,401*
	411,837	*335,523*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	*2020 No.*
Management	**3**	*3*
Administration and support	**9**	*9*
	12	*12*

The total employee benefits of the Key Management Personnel were £119,069 (2020: £116,028). No employees received remuneration above £60,000 in either year.

The charity Trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year and no trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity. During the year Trustee expenses incurred were £186 (2020: £0)

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021	**835,030**
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2021	**8,350**
Charge for the year	**8,350**
At 31 December 2021	**16,700**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	**818,330**
At 31 December 2020	*826,680*

13. DEBTORS

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Other debtors	**272,674**	*334,746*
Prepayments and accrued income	**277**	*643*
	272,951	*335,389*

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**50,000**	*50,000*
Trade creditors	**9,871**	*5,455*
Other taxation and social security	**10,118**	*7,881*
Other creditors	**1,760**	*2,984*
Accruals and deferred income	**5,794**	*8,520*
	77,543	*74,840*

Other loans relates to an interest free loan of £400,000 given to Stand By Me in September 2019, from which the Charity is being released over a number of years.

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**250,000**	*300,000*

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**1,046,061**	**536,235**	**(618,170)**	**165,353**	**1,129,479**
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	**1,155,046**	**2,081,809**	**(1,753,105)**	**(165,353)**	**1,318,397**
Total of funds	**2,201,107**	**2,618,044**	**(2,371,275)**	**-**	**2,447,876**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 December 2020 £*
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*716,592*	*758,136*	*(599,327)*	*170,660*	*1,046,061*
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	*968,053*	*1,694,934*	*(1,337,281)*	*(170,660)*	*1,155,046*
Total of funds	*1,684,645*	*2,453,070*	*(1,936,608)*	-	*2,201,107*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	**818,330**	**-**	**818,330**
Current assets	**638,692**	**1,318,397**	**1,957,089**
Creditors due within one year	**(77,543)**	**-**	**(77,543)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**(250,000)**	**-**	**(250,000)**
	1,129,479	**1,318,397**	**2,447,876**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	*Restricted Funds 2020 £*	*Total Funds 2020 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*826,680*	-	*826,680*
Current assets	*594,221*	*1,155,046*	*1,749,267*
Creditors due within one year	*(74,840)*	-	*(74,840)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*(300,000)*	-	*(300,000)*
	1,046,061	*1,155,046*	*2,201,107*

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**246,769**	*516,462*
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	**8,350**	*8,350*
Decrease in debtors	**62,438**	*639,314*
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(47,297)**	*(41,995)*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**270,260**	*1,122,131*

19. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Cash in hand	**1,684,138**	*1,413,878*
Total	**1,684,138**	*1,413,878*

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

20. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £18,990 *(12 months to Dec 2020 - £13,401).*

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

STAND BY me

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630 Upper Brentwood Road,
Romford, Essex, RM2 6HS
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Ireland Office
16 West Street,
Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim, BT38 7AR
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Stand By Me is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK (No. 1185124)

www.standby.me



STAND BY ME

England & Wales - Charity number 1185124

Accounts



STAND BY me

Annual Report & Accounts

December 2020



Ahmad and Grace.

Message from the Executive Director

When I look back over 2020 and reflect on the many challenges faced by *Stand by Me*, I am astounded by all that we have achieved together, and I am delighted to share with you our Annual Report and Financial Accounts for 2020. The Annual Report is small testimony to the transformation our kids have experienced thanks to God's faithfulness and the generosity of our supporters.

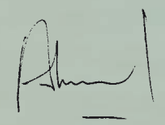
In March, the Covid pandemic hit and our children were ordered to stay home to stop the spread of the virus whilst here in the UK, fear spread across the nation as we experienced the worst economic recession in living memory. In the middle of uncertainty, what weighed heavily on my mind was that our children, without being able to attend our schools for their daily meals, could starve.

So we turned to God in prayer, knowing that what we faced was beyond our comprehension, but not beyond His. We could never let our children go hungry, so in faith we sent money. Encouraged by our commitment, our amazing staff around the world mobilised teams who, despite the worry of the virus, made sure that every family in our care had access to food, soap and sanitiser.

Despite the bleak news of financial downturn, we have been able to provide over 1500 families with essential food during their time of need. Amazingly, we've also provided 295 beds for our children through "February on the Floor", received incredible Grade 8 exam results in Ethiopia and also celebrated a huge milestone of rescuing and caring for children for 25 years.

None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our supporters and sponsors whose kindness has enabled us to have our largest annual income ever of £2,453,070. This amazing sum has enabled our children to receive the care they need to thrive and it is impossible to put into words the gratitude I feel towards each and every one of you.

As we marvel at how God has sustained *Stand by Me* this year, we cannot forget the amazing protection he has provided to our staff and our children. Although the challenges ahead are huge, we walk into 2021 knowing that we have a faithful God whose provision will sustain us.



Ahmad Ayoubi
Executive Director

Bosu, Ethiopia.

What we do

We are a child care charity motivated to follow Jesus' example to rescue kids from terrible circumstances. We then do whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive.

Rescuing and raising kids

We care for over 4000 kids across the world, from Myanmar to Colombia to Ethiopia. No two are the same so we take care to understand and meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We help them reach their full potential, stand on their own two feet and change their futures. Over the last 25 years we've transformed thousands of kids' lives, and we are only just getting started.

Helping society's most disadvantaged

Our kids come from terrible backgrounds. Some are orphaned, some abused and some abandoned – the things you never want for your children, or anyone's children. They were born into the poorest communities, written off by society. But beyond their sadness we see their potential. We don't walk past them; we pick them up, dust them off and help them get on their feet. We stand by them.



Lomi, Ethiopia.

Our child-centred care

We tackle each and every obstacle our kids face, enabling them to access a life-changing education. We're in no rush; we're in this for the long term, to help them become everything God intended them to be. We know our approach works because we've seen our kids succeed time and time again.



Loving care

We get to know each child – their hopes, history, needs and dreams. We delight in our children and want the best for them. We invest our time, love and attention raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



Tailored healthcare

We go the extra mile to make sure no disability or illness prevents our kids from enjoying their childhood or getting a great education.



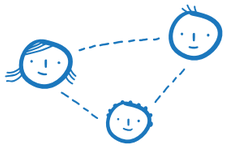
Great education

We build schools and run education programmes to equip kids with the skills they need to rise above their circumstances and change their communities.



Dedicated, loving staff

Our local experts allow us to respond to challenges in an effective and culturally appropriate way, giving us unparalleled levels of child care where we work.



Caring relationships

It's incredibly important to each child's sense of value and stability that they're raised by parents and teachers who care about them. Child sponsorship supports this further by giving our kids a relationship with a sponsor who loves them and helps them feel part of a wider family.



Strong families

We work hard to keep families together and reduce dependency on child labour. In the absence of a stable family, we provide children with loving parents.



Love and acceptance, regardless of belief

It is our aim to make lasting improvements to children's lives, caring for them as Jesus would, but we are not here to impose religion on children. We respect our children's identity and we will never coerce them to change their beliefs. We take this very seriously. We are here to care for children who need our help, no matter what their belief, ethnicity and social status.

Caring for over 4000 kids worldwide

Colombia Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

Dominican Republic Educating children exposed to poverty, high unemployment and poor educational opportunities. Providing a loving home for orphaned and at risk children.

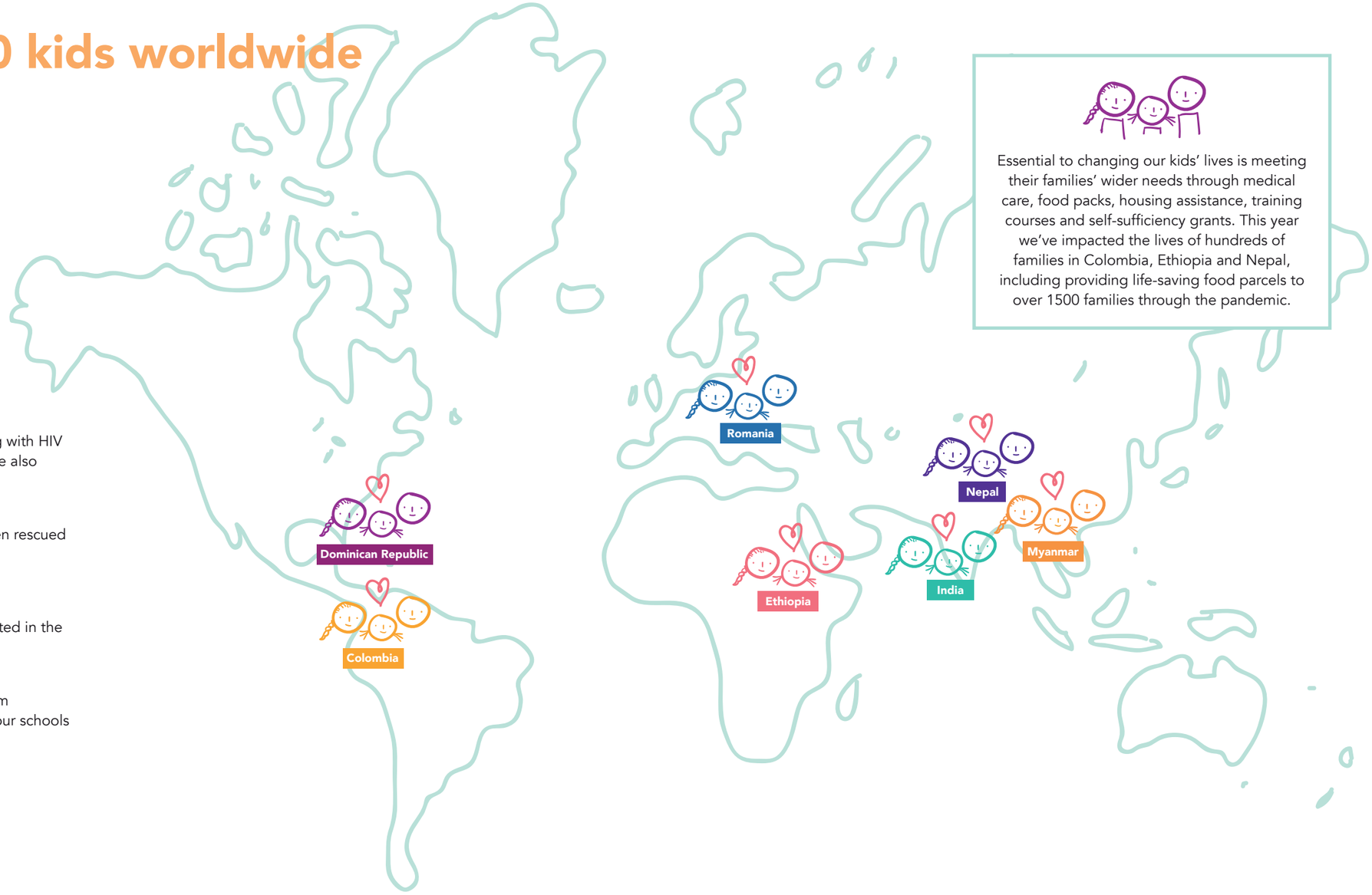
Romania Supporting those children and their families living in overwhelming poverty in the community through the provision of free education, daily food and family support. Caring for girls rescued from neglect.

Ethiopia Offering an education to children living in poverty, loving families for orphaned children, a programme for those living with HIV and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. We also have self-sufficiency projects for families.

India Providing loving care and an education to 'forgotten' children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

Nepal Providing a loving family environment to children deemed 'untouchable' by society while bringing education to children isolated in the remote mountainous region and supporting their families.

Myanmar Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities, and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.



Essential to changing our kids' lives is meeting their families' wider needs through medical care, food packs, housing assistance, training courses and self-sufficiency grants. This year we've impacted the lives of hundreds of families in Colombia, Ethiopia and Nepal, including providing life-saving food parcels to over 1500 families through the pandemic.



Ruai, Myanmar.

Our programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love. Our house parents love our kids like they are their own children, giving them all the support they need to thrive. As they grow we equip them to become independent young adults. But even when they do grow up and leave our homes, they will always be our kids.



Schools

Our schools provide a quality education for children from our homes and the surrounding communities. Children who once had no educational opportunities are today transforming communities and achieving great things.



Care Centres

Our care centres bridge the gap for children who have families but need extra love and care. We provide children with tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and a safe place to build relationships and have fun. We offer counselling for children with troubled backgrounds and help their parents through parenting courses and skills training.



Family Support

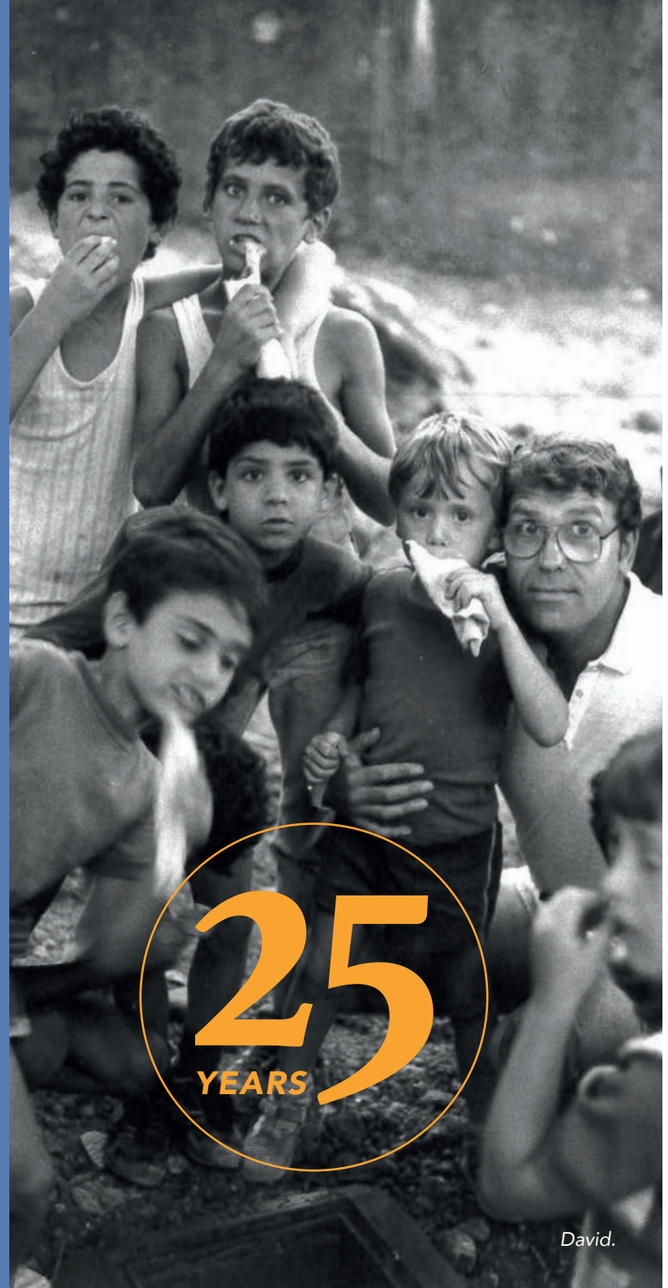
We know that providing children with an education without tackling social, medical and family needs is futile. To help reduce parents' dependency on child labour, we provide families with food packs, help with rent, medical care and small business grants, enabling them to stand on their own feet and in time, rise out of poverty.

Building local and investing in communities

We've achieved high standards of care in our schools, homes and care centres, established at the centre of needy areas. We employ skilled and dedicated local people as we know they are the most motivated to transform their communities. This allowed us to respond to challenges in a quick and culturally appropriate way, giving us unparalleled levels of child care wherever we work.

Our Impact and Key Achievements

In our projects around the world, our kids are growing healthier, thanks to regular food and medical care, and learning new skills, thanks to a great education. This year we have welcomed 272 new children into our family worldwide. From Colombia, to Ethiopia, to Myanmar, we're bringing loving care and life-changing support to over 4000 kids.



David.

Celebrating 25 years of rescuing and caring for kids

This year *Stand by Me* celebrated its 25th birthday. Over 1000 of our amazing supporters joined us for a special online event where we reflected on the amazing generosity of our supporters over the years and shared our stories of hope, of God's intervention and of real transformation in our children's lives.

We looked back to see how far we have come since the remarkable story of how *Stand by Me* started with one man, David Spurdle, who took a dangerous but life-altering trip to Beirut during the Lebanon civil war.

"It was July 1983 when I first visited war torn Lebanon as the leader of a relief team, intent on caring for 60 boys in an orphanage. The children were traumatised by war, violence, neglect and abandonment, but we were determined to share with them the love of Jesus.

Danger lurked on every corner as the different factions fought each other, violence continued unabated and even our minibus took a direct hit, yet I had peace knowing this was where God wanted me to be.

On my return home, I assumed I would continue with my teaching career, but I was restless after witnessing the tremendous needs. Over the next few years and numerous trips to Lebanon, in 1995, I took a step of faith, committed to finding a sponsor for each of the boys, resigned my position of Head Teacher and started *Stand by Me* in my garden shed.

"25 years ago I never imagined that today we would be caring for thousands of kids in 7 countries. God has taken us into places no one wanted to go, and yet we have known his blessing on our work and on the children and families who we support. It's been an amazing 25 years walking step by step with a faithful God who I believe will continue to bless this work into the future."
David Spurdle, Founding Director

Since our small beginnings in a shed in David's garden, a lot has changed. But today we still have the same values and the same mission to change the lives of children and reach out and rescue more. Over the past 25 years, many small steps of faith have led to thousands of children being rescued and countless lives transformed.



David in Lebanon.

Watch our 25th celebration www.standby.me/25years



Beirut.

Meeting our kids' individual needs

All our kids have had a difficult start to life, born into the poorest communities and written off by society. So we tackle each and every obstacle they face in order to help them reach their potential. Through tailored healthcare, daily nutritious food as well as ensuring every child has a family to care for them, we are enabling our children to become who they were created to be.

Khup's story

Khup was barely old enough to remember losing his father. Without her husband, Khup's mum had to move her family from their home in the town to live with her elderly parents. But for Khup, life wasn't any easier living with his four siblings, mother and grandparents in the isolated village surrounded by rice fields, crammed into one basic hut, washing in the nearest stream and cooking on a wood fire.

Khup's mother worked hard in the fields from dawn until dusk but it was never enough. She felt sad when her children were hungry and even more hopeless that they couldn't attend school.

But she heard about a better life for her children – the *Stand by Me* Children's Village. A place where her children could live with good food every day, comfortable beds and even toys and books for them to enjoy. Best of all, they would receive an education and have a future full of opportunity.



Watch Khup's film www.standby.me/khup

Khup and his siblings moved to the children's village where their lives have changed drastically. At first the home felt strange, it was a different world full of everything they had ever dreamed of, an enormous contrast from the bamboo hut in their village. At school Khup and his siblings have learnt quickly and love their lessons.

As Khup plays football at the children's village, shouts of joy erupt from him and his siblings. Like all children who have had a tough start, they can now thrive through the support of child-centred care.

Khup, Myanmar.

Lifting our kids off the floor and into their first bed

We want the best for our children and do all we can to improve their circumstances. But many of them remain living in difficult conditions and go home to sleep on the cold ground every night.

FEBRUARY on the FLOOR

PROVIDING 295 BEDS

This year we launched "February on the Floor", a fundraising event with the goal of making a huge difference to the lives of our amazing *Stand by Me* children and their families.

In February 2020, 30 supporters signed up to sleep on the floor for a week and raise funds through sponsorship in order to help lift our children and their families off the floor and into their very own first bed!

Our first ever "February on the Floor" was a phenomenal success and raised sufficient funds to purchase 295 beds with mattresses, duvets and pillows. Children as young as 3 years old to adults in their seventies all joined in, enabling our staff the joy of delivering 295 beds to delighted families bringing happiness, a sense of worth and improved health.



Family sleeping on the floor.

Gemechu's story

Gemechu lives in a small makeshift mud hut home which provides little cover from the elements and at the end of each day he would lie down on a sack filled with grass to sleep. But without a bed, Gemechu's sleep was disrupted and uncomfortable.

Gemechu now has a bed which provides him and his family with somewhere comfortable to sit and also a place to complete his homework. He now knows that he will be safe and warm, able to enjoy an incredible night's sleep every night.

A good night's sleep makes a huge difference for Gemechu and ensures that when he arrives at school the next day, he is refreshed and ready to learn.

Not only will these beds help our kids be better prepared for a day of learning but also gives them dignity and greatly improved health.

This year, thanks to our amazing fundraisers and all who generously donated to "February on the Floor", there are 295 children like Gemechu and their families who are no longer sleeping on the floor but instead are being tucked up into a warm, cosy bed.



Watch Gemechu's film www.standby.me/beds

Gemechu.

Providing life-saving food parcels

In March 2020 we received the news that Covid-19 had arrived in the towns and villages where we work. On advice from the authorities we closed our schools to safeguard our kids and their families, many of whom have underlying health issues.

But we knew that without our schools, our kids would go without food for days on end and face malnutrition and even starvation. We knew that we had to act. So we sent money in faith for our staff on the ground to buy food to ensure that no child went hungry.

The provision of food parcels has been life-saving, providing regular meals for families who would struggle to scrape by even at the best of times. Consisting of pasta, oil, flour, eggs, vegetables and other essentials, the food parcels have sustained families through the toughest months, each one showing God's love in action from Colombia, to Romania to Ethiopia.

Yolinder's story

For families like Yolinder's in Colombia the food parcels have been vital. Yolinder has been cared for by her older sister since the death of their parents, Yolinder's sister shared with us what the food parcels meant to her:

"The day that the people from the Care Centre called us to give us the voucher to receive the food parcel we had nothing to eat. I was worried, thinking what I was going to do to solve the food for that day and for those days ahead, my husband works but his salary is very little and with this coronavirus, prices have risen and the money received is not enough to buy food. Thank you for this benefit, thank you for having welcomed my sister in this programme, I feel happy and grateful to all of you".
Yolinder's sister

We have heard firsthand the anxiety that our families have been facing but have also heard their thankfulness to God for sending people to support them in their hour of need. The food parcels have brought health, security and joy to hundreds of vulnerable families and we will continue to stand by them for as long as they need us.

Yolinder and her family.





Food parcels in Ethiopia.

The opportunity for an excellent education

We care for over 1000 children in Ethiopia, where we equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to reach their potential.

This September, at the Bethany School and the Abdi Academy, our Grade 8 students sat their national exams. These exams determine if they are able to progress on to High School and we are immensely proud to announce that all students passed, a 100% pass rate!

Along with many schools around the world, our schools were closed for much of the year due to Covid. Studying at home was a particular challenge for our students as they do not have the internet to access online resources, most of their parents did not reach this level of education and so cannot help with home schooling, and, in many cases, a lack of electricity for lighting limits their ability to study. For every Grade 8 student to pass their exams despite these obstacles and, during such an uncertain year, is a huge achievement and we cannot be more proud of them for their hard work and determination.

On top of this fantastic news, five of our students received very high marks and were able to apply to an advanced school. One of these students is Mohammed who has always been a bright and hardworking student.

Mohammed's story

Sadly, after losing his father at just 14 years old, Mohammed felt responsible for his sister and he considered leaving school to work in order to support her.

To keep Mohammed in school and give him and his sister a bright future, we supported them with the costs of their daily food and rent. With the security of a home and food, Mohammed and his sister could continue their schooling and pursue their dreams.

This year, Mohammed passed his exams with a score of 88%, placing him in the top 99.3 percentile of the country and allowing him to attend one of Ethiopia's advanced schools. Mohammed's hard work combined with the support and care of *Stand by Me* and the love of his sponsors is enabling him to move one step closer to his dream of becoming a doctor.

Our kids are overcoming obstacles and working hard at their education. Children like Mohammed, who once had no educational opportunities, are today on their way to becoming doctors, nurses, pastors, engineers, teachers and everything that God created them to be.

Watch our Grade 8 film www.standby.me/grade8

Grade 8s studying.





Mohammed, Ethiopia.

How did we do it?

In our 25 years we have experienced amazing growth, not only in the number of children we care for, but also in the involvement of committed people who have joined us to meet our kids' complex needs. Even though the challenges are vast and our office team is small, we are encouraged and excited about the future because we are supported by incredible like-minded people who share their skills, resources and time to change the lives of desperately needy kids worldwide.

A family in the UK

We are grateful this year that a further 538 individuals became proud parents to our kids through our sponsorship programme. Child Sponsorship is a fantastic way to impact a child's life. It's so much more than a monthly donation providing for a child's food, clothes, medical care and education; it means a child feels loved, cared for and part of a family.

The generosity of sponsors also meant that a total of £62,415 was donated to purchase gifts for our children.

Regular sponsorship donations make up 43% of *Stand by Me*'s income. This committed giving allows us to commit to the children, plan ahead, budget and reach out and rescue more. We thank our sponsors who make it possible for us to continue to provide world-class childcare.

Visiting our kids

Stand by Me organised volunteer team trips, allowing supporters to pack up their belongings along with their unique skill sets, love and talents to make a lasting impact and play a key role in encouraging and supporting our staff to provide the best care possible for our children. Despite being unable to send teams for the majority of the year due to Covid, 36 individuals were able to go on team trips during the first quarter of 2020 and in total they raised £14,731 in addition to trip costs which they donated to the projects, greatly benefitting the children.

Emergency Appeal

Emergency appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our Emergency Covid Food Appeal raised an incredible £280,745 helping us provide life-saving food parcels to our children and their families. We are incredibly thankful to our supporters who responded so generously to enable us to stand by families during the pandemic.

Shoe Appeal

Our Shoe Appeal raised a fantastic £42,231 to help us reach our goal of providing a new pair of shoes for every child in our care, protecting their feet from harm and restoring their confidence.

Alternative Gift Catalogue

Our Gift Catalogue raised a fantastic £46,791 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting improvements in children's lives.

Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.

Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year, often online or through video. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools and churches resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations.

Fundraising

We introduced a new fundraising event, "February on the Floor", which raised an amazing £41,601 to provide beds for children who were sleeping on the floor. "February on the Floor" was also shortlisted in the category of Fundraising Event of the Year at the National Fundraising Awards 2020.

Trusts

We would like to thank the 17 Charitable Trusts who have together contributed to our projects this year.

We are incredibly grateful to the many generous individuals who have contributed financially to our work throughout the year, who, for privacy reasons, are not mentioned by name here.



New shoes.



Food parcel.



Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



When I reflect on 2020, I see things happening previously unprecedented in our time. After the world as we know was impacted by Covid-19, on March 23rd UK businesses were ordered to become shuttered for what turned out to be an undefined period. Most of what happened next will pass into history, but what is without question an astonishing testament to the love, care and support you give *Stand by Me* is that we received our largest ever income in our history. This has enabled our amazing team to continue to provide comprehensive care for our children including essential food during the crisis, 295 new beds to raise children off the floor and an excellent education with some great results in Ethiopia.

As sponsors and supporters of *Stand by Me*, together we can transform the lives of children like Mohammed who attends the Bethany School and achieved fantastic results in his Grade 8 national exams. Sadly, Mohammed lost both parents and consequently felt responsible to support his sister. *Stand by Me* has helped them both which has meant he has been able to continue his studies, achieve such great grades and now wants to become a doctor. This is just one of the amazing stories of love and support which you, with God's grace, have made possible.

As we look towards an uncertain future as the world continues to wrestle with Covid, we must also look back at how many lives have been changed over the last 25 years and thank God for the vision He gave to David Spurdle all those years ago and to His faithfulness towards the work of *Stand by Me*. We look for God's guidance into the future as *Stand by Me* continues to grow and develop.

As Chairman of *Stand by Me*, I want to thank you for your constant generosity and loyalty to the children in our care at a time when I am sure many of you have had your own pressures and financial challenges. I am sure with your continued support and God's goodness, *Stand by Me* can go from strength to strength in 2021.

Lastly, as Chairman and on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Ahmad, the team in the UK and also the family of *Stand by Me* staff worldwide for all your hard work, long hours and the love you show for the children in your care.



Mark Clayden
Chair of the Board of Trustees

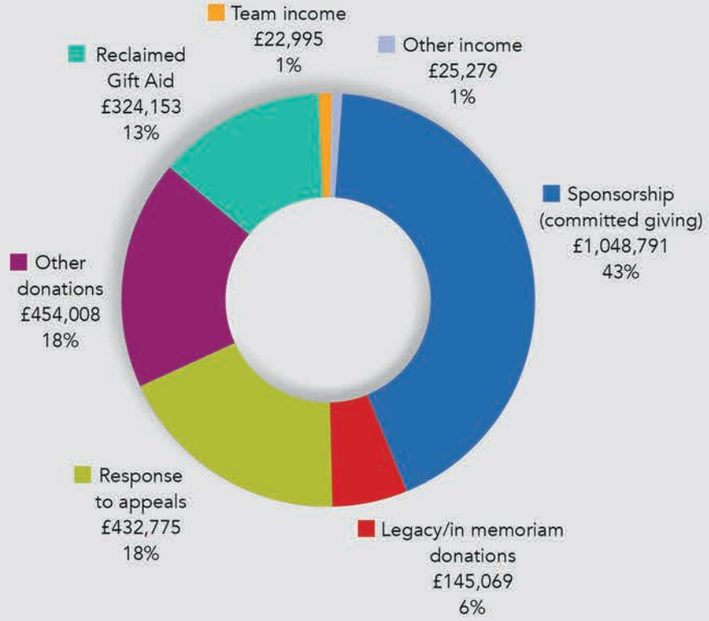
Hawani, Ethiopia.

Financial Summary

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children, but we're not here to just run a charity. We're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then we reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives. Our trusted staff use money wisely to provide the best care possible for our children and through our annual budgets, audits and frequent monitoring visits, we make sure that the money is spent prudently.

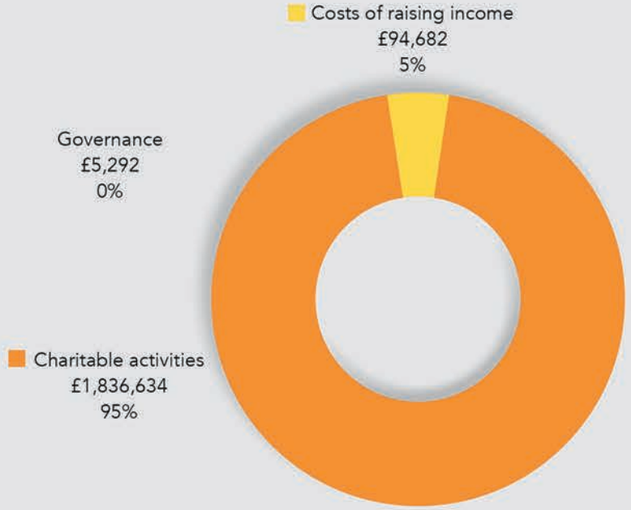
Income 2020

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the past year enabling us to raise £2,453,070 our largest income to date.

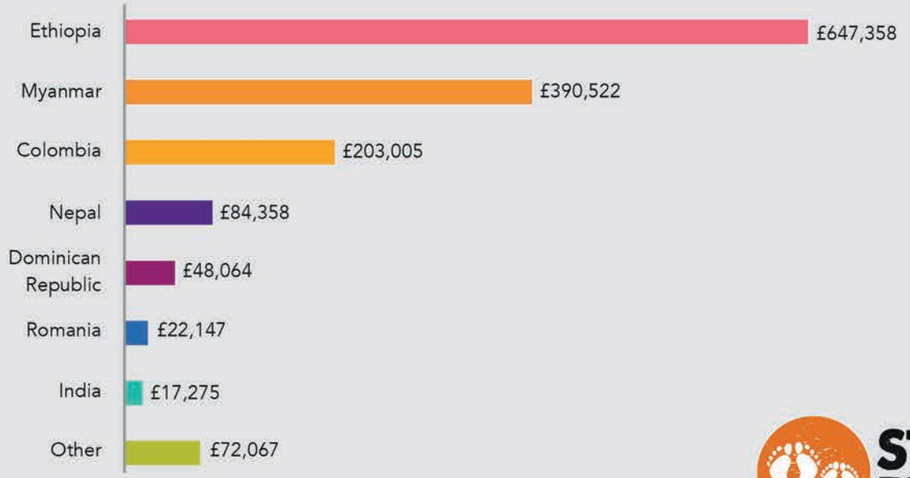


Expenditure 2020

Total expenditure delivered in year was £1,936,608. 95% of expenditure was on charitable activities with fundraising and governance costing just 5%.



What we spent directly on each country



Total: £1,484,796

STAND BY me

Looking forward

Aims overseas

- **Rescuing children:** We will rescue more children who need support by increasing the capacity of our projects around the world. In addition, we will begin to look to further increase the number of children in our care by exploring the possibility of adopting the projects of likeminded organisations.

- **Quality care:** We will continue to deliver the highest standard of child care possible for all the children in our care whilst addressing every obstacle hindering them reaching their potential. We will improve and enhance the way we respond to complex challenges in meeting children's needs and adapt our care to meet the changing needs of children as a result of the Covid pandemic. Key to achieving this goal is employing the best quality, most compassionate staff in our projects and ensuring they adhere to our child care standards and governance policies.

- **Training, skills and expertise:** To ensure our local staff work efficiently and effectively we will continue to provide regular management and skills training. This will include online training by specialists, skilled professionals and *Stand by Me* staff to ensure the highest standards of care in our projects around the world. In addition to regular training, staff will receive additional training to ensure our projects are Covid secure.

- **Education:** We are providing an excellent education in our schools around the world. To ensure our children get the most out of the opportunity of an education and have the best start to their time at school, we will review our Kindergarten (early years) education and improve the resources to help staff enrich the learning environment.

  We are reaching our target of educating children to High School level and wish to see every one of them complete their High School education successfully. As our children exceed expectations and achieve high standards in their education, we wish to provide longer term care for more children and support more children at University, so that they can fulfil their potential.

  In Ethiopia, to ensure our older children can transition well into independence and be in the best position to thrive as an adult, we will begin to develop a "Finishing Well" programme, ensuring they have a good foundation for adult life whilst equipping them with relevant Life Skills.

- **Improved infrastructure and resources:** In order to continue to provide excellent standards of care, safety, security and facilities we will improve our project sites around the world. In the next 2 years we plan to build a High School centre at one of our sites in Ethiopia so as to provide a hub for High School students to come to for their regular food, healthcare, support and private study. We will also begin work on team accommodation and two children's homes at our second project in Ethiopia in order to meet the needs for a safe family home for orphaned and abandoned children and hence greatly enhance the project.

- **Community support:** We will continue to meet the complex needs of our children who remain living with their family through housing assistance, income generating grants and medical help. In Ethiopia, we will continue to fund home repairs for the families of our children, making vital renovations to the poorest housing.

  Our current focus is to continue to help our children's families throughout the pandemic to ensure all of our children around the world have sufficient food and care at home. In 2021 we will continue to provide vital food parcels to families, giving them the nutrition and security they need to stay safe and healthy throughout the pandemic and beyond.

  To further improve the living conditions of children and families who continue to sleep on the floor. This we will do by building on the success of 2020's "February on the Floor" which enabled us to purchase 295 beds for families in Ethiopia. Our aim in 2021 through "February on the Floor" is to raise sufficient funds for every one of our families in Ethiopia to have a bed.

Grace, Ethiopia.

Aims in the UK

- **Adapting to the current climate:** We will continue to adapt to the current challenges of the pandemic, this includes assessing new income sources to replace areas that are currently not viable such as team trips and speaking engagements. Our focus to bring new child sponsors remains and we will ensure we maintain a high standard in all our communications making sure our current supporters are kept informed on the incredible difference they are making in children's lives.

- **Online Profile:** To continue to increase our online profile through digital advertising by maximising existing areas and testing new areas to reach new audiences across the UK leading to an increase in new sponsors and supporters. We will make improvements to our Child Sponsorship webpage to make it more effective in communicating who we are, sharing our children's stories and encouraging new sponsors.

- **New database:** Introduce a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database to enable greater efficiency as an organisation.

- **Fundraising:** To build on the success of "February on the Floor" and grow the number of participants in the challenge and increase awareness of *Stand by Me*'s brand to a new audience.

- **Policies:** As part of our review of policies, this year we will review our Child Protection Policy, Communications Policy and Child Sponsorship processes to ensure the highest standards of safeguarding in all of *Stand by Me*'s work.

- **Expanding our team:** We will look to expand the *Stand by Me* team in our Northern Ireland office and our England office to bring additional skills and capacity in the areas of Schools, Churches, Advocates and Sponsorship.

- **School and Church resources:** To create engaging resources for Schools and Churches to use to inform their audiences about the work of *Stand by Me*, the circumstances of our children and how they can impact our kids' lives.

Structure, governance and management

Registered Charity

Stand by Me is a registered charity in England and Wales. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its governing document is a Constitution dated 2nd September 2019. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is responsible for approving strategic decisions having taken advice from the Executive team.

Going concern

After appropriate research, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Method of appointment & training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the Board and approved at a meeting of the Trustees. *Stand by Me* Trustees are expected to be pro-active in supporting the work of the charity. Trustee recruitment is achieved through a blend of professional associations, local networks and prospective members being individually identified and approached. A periodic review of existing skills and expertise is undertaken and an assessment made as to what is required to meet the strategic needs of the charity. This shapes the recruitment and selection of prospective Trustees along with evidence of their motivation and support for the vision and mission of the charity.

Remuneration policy

The Board of Trustees annually reviews the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel. The Board is well aware that these individuals are paid below the benchmark criteria or "norm" for other similar charities and are therefore grateful that the current staff, conscious of the great needs of our children, are satisfied with their present level of remuneration.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and continue to be satisfied the charity is acting in the public benefit, as stated in our objectives, and believe this report contains the explanation of the significant activities undertaken during the year which confirms this.

Reserves

The Board of Trustees considers the key measure of sustainability for *Stand by Me* to be current and future liquidity cover, rather than the surplus or deficit accounting position. Consequently Trustees have set an appropriate reserves policy which is reviewed annually relating to liquidity, based on the relationship between readily realisable assets and the cash required to meet obligations to ministries overseas and sustain the charity's operations in England and Northern Ireland.

Trustees have decided that *Stand by Me* should at all times maintain



Children at the Denisa Care Centre, Romania.

cash and readily realisable assets (being regarded as restricted funds) sufficient to fund between not less than 6 and not more than 12 months of forecast cash outflow directed towards overseas ministries. At 31 December 2020 that liquidity cover stands at 6 months. Alongside this, Trustees have also decided that, at all times, cash and realisable assets should be maintained to finance a minimum of 3 months and not more than 12 months of forecast operating costs. At 31 December 2020 that liquidity cover stands at 4 months.

This reserves policy, which focuses on liquidity, represents a revision of the policy agreed by the trustees of the former unincorporated trust.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. In accordance with the Reserves Policy set by the Trustees, *Stand by Me* aims to hold sufficient balances in all funds to cover 50-100% of budgeted expenditure in the year ahead, plus any donations previously received for specific projects scheduled to take place in the subsequent years. At the end of the period total restricted funds were £1.155m (at 31 December 2019: £968k) all of which is dedicated to specific projects. For each fund, *Stand by Me*'s assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Our objective is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security. To achieve this *Stand by Me* invests with institutions with a high security rating in fixed-term or call deposits. During the year *Stand by Me*'s sterling deposits achieved an average rate of interest of 1.3 percent (2019: 1 percent) compared with an average bank base rate for the same period of 0.22 percent (2019: 0.67 percent).

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal risks considered can be categorised as follows:-

- Financial risks – potential reduction in the level of public voluntary donations leading to inadequate reserves.

- External risks – (a) poor public perception, albeit that Trustees consider this to be an extremely low risk, with consequent damage to the charity's reputation and (b) turbulent economic or political environment.

- Safeguarding risks – failure to adequately protect our beneficiaries and staff around the world.

There are four basic strategies that can be applied to manage an identified risk:

- Transferring the financial consequences to third parties, or sharing it, usually through insurance or outsourcing;

- Avoiding completely the activity giving rise to the risk, for example by not taking up a contract or stopping a particular activity or service;

- Management or mitigation of risk;

- Accepting or assessing it as a risk that cannot be avoided if the activity is to continue i.e. where the Trustees recognise that a core activity carries a risk but take steps to mitigate it.

Our reputation as a world class child care organisation is intertwined with our most important concern and the area we constantly monitor i.e. the protection of our children. Our comprehensive Child Care Standard document is our global standard for all the charity's projects which includes policies common to all our work around the world, is how we manage this risk. Also each member of staff is given our Staff Handbook which has, as its first section, the highest standards of behaviour expected in all dealings with children and fellow members of staff.

Another key strategic risk identified was our additional funding needs. This is due to the fluctuation of sterling in political and economic uncertainty, combined with meeting the costs of the increasing number of our children attending further education. To mitigate this we will maximise our key strengths and look to diversify our fundraising portfolio.

Overseas monitoring

Our Executive Director and Founding Director regularly visit the projects and work with our in-country boards as they report against objectives and abide by policies set out for each of our homes, care centres and schools. Each country we work in has at least one director who is responsible for overseeing the day to day work



Pramila, Nepal.

taking place and they have regular meetings with the Executive Director to discuss how the projects are progressing and any current issues that need addressing.

On an individual child level we monitor the progress of every child, physically, emotionally and academically throughout the year to meet any needs as they arise and ensure they are able to do well.

By having teams visit regularly, many with professional members such as doctors, dentists and teachers, we encourage them to provide professional reports to aid our work as we seek to improve our effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of future challenges

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly, subject to travel commitments, and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Executive Director has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of the charity, implementing strategy and providing overall leadership to ensure that the core values of the charity are maintained. The Board has reserved to itself certain important decisions including changes to the charity's governing document and approval of the long term objectives and strategy.

The key responsibilities of Trustees are set out in the statement on page 33.

Fundraising ethos

Whether a long standing supporter or someone hearing about *Stand by Me* for the first time, we endeavour to inspire people to get involved in rescuing children from extreme circumstances and providing the opportunities they need to thrive.

In our 25 year history we have always focused on building long term relationships with our supporters, exemplified by the foundation of regular sponsors and donors who know the tangible difference their support is making.

We allow our supporters to choose the ways in which they wish to be involved as well as where they would like their money used, as we understand how important ownership and choice can be for our supporters.

The following principles guide our fundraising strategy and operations:

- We aim to inspire people to donate or raise money for *Stand by Me*.
- We thank supporters appropriately and demonstrate the tangible difference their money is making to the children around the world.
- When we contact our supporters it's because we think they will be interested to hear how our children are thriving through their support. We listen to supporters and act on their communication requests.
- We keep our supporters' data secure and never pass their personal information on to any other company or charity and we don't buy or sell data.
- Fundraising and marketing is only carried out by our staff so that we are in control of the standards employed. This ensures that supporters and the wider public do not feel pressured to give and are treated with respect at all times, with a particular focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Stand by Me's fundraising activities and compliance with fundraising regulations and best practice are closely scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.

STAND BY me



Accounts 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Children at the Bethany School, Ethiopia.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the 16 month period ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present their report together with the audited financial statements of *Stand by Me* (the charity) for the 16 month period ended 31 December 2020.

The Trustees confirm the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements which are contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014.

Trustees
Mark Clayden, Chairman
Edward Carpenter
James Laing
Nathania MacGregor
Sharon Seymour
Elizabeth Staniforth,
John Tillett

Secretary to the Trustees
Fay Garrett

Executive Director
Ahmad Ayoubi

Founding Director
David Spurdle

Charity registered number
1185124

Independent auditor
Robert J Baxter FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Cooper & Co
9 Palmers Avenue
Grays
Essex
RM17 5TX

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Romford
Essex
RM1 3AA

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Offices
England Office
630 Upper Brentwood Road
Romford
Essex
RM2 6HS

Ireland Office
16 West Street
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 7AR

www.standby.me

Stand by Me (Charity Registered number 1185124)
Trustees' Report for the 16 month period ended 31 December 2020

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of *Stand By Me* (the 'charity') for the 16 month period ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert J Baxter FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Cooper & Co, 9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5TX

Date: 21 October 2021

Robert J Baxter FCCA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 16 mths to 31 Dec 2020 £	*Total funds 9 mths to 31 Dec 2019 £*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	**732,791**	**1,694,934**	**2,427,725**	*1,613,737*
Investments	3	**25,345**	**-**	**25,345**	*12,654*
TOTAL INCOME		**758,136**	**1,694,934**	**2,453,070**	*1,626,391*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	**94,682**	**-**	**94,682**	*63,218*
Other charitable activities		**499,353**	**1,337,281**	**1,836,634**	*1,427,931*
Governance costs	7	**5,292**	**-**	**5,292**	*4,020*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**599,327**	**1,337,281**	**1,936,608**	*1,495,169*
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**158,809**	**357,653**	**516,462**	*131,222*
Transfers between Funds	16	**170,660**	**(170,660)**	**-**	*-*
NET INCOME BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**329,469**	**186,993**	**516,462**	*131,222*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**329,469**	**186,993**	**516,462**	*131,222*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**716,592**	**968,053**	**1,684,645**	*1,553,423*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,046,061**	**1,155,046**	**2,201,107**	*1,684,645*

The notes on pages 41 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12		**826,680**
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	**335,389**	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,413,878**	
		1,749,267	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(74,840)**	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**1,674,427**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,501,107**
CREDITORS: amounts falling due in more than one year	15		**(300,000)**
NET ASSETS			**2,201,107**
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	16		**1,155,046**
Unrestricted funds	16		**1,046,061**
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,201,107**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Clayden
Trustee

Edward Carpenter
Trustee

The notes on pages 41 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Stand by Me
Statement of Cash Flows for the 16 months ended 31 December 2020

	Note	16 months to 31 December 2020 £	*9 months to 31 December 2019* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18	**1,122,131**	*(228,286)*
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(835,030)**	-
Net cash used in investing activities		**(835,030)**	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**287,101**	*(228,286)*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**1,126,777**	*1,355,063*
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	19	**1,413,878**	*1,126,777*

The notes on pages 41 to 55 form part of these financial statements.



 Children at GCEC School, Myanmar.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the 16 months ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Stand By Me constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the 16 months ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	1% of cost on a straight line basis

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the 16 months ended 31 December 2020

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Income from supporters	**385,708**	**1,694,934**	**2,080,642**	*1,273,669*
Gift aid tax recovered	**324,153**	**-**	**324,153**	*193,230*
Exchange rate differences	**(65)**	**-**	**(65)**	*(743)*
Income from teams	**22,995**	**-**	**22,995**	*147,581*
Total donations and legacies	**732,791**	**1,694,934**	**2,427,725**	*1,613,737*
Total 2019	*573,915*	*1,039,822*	*1,613,737*	

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Investment income - local investment properties	**15,956**	**-**	**15,956**	-
Investment income - local cash	**9,389**	**-**	**9,389**	*12,654*
	25,345	**-**	**25,345**	*12,654*
Total 2019	*12,654*	-	*12,654*	

4. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Marketing - website	**8,070**	**-**	**8,070**	*3,708*
Marketing - merchandise	**1,099**	**-**	**1,099**	*1,532*
Marketing - fundraising costs	**23,060**	**-**	**23,060**	*13,634*
Marketing - consultancy	**1,139**	**-**	**1,139**	*810*
Marketing - publications	**5,161**	**-**	**5,161**	*2,088*
Fundraising staff costs	**56,153**	**-**	**56,153**	*41,446*
	94,682	**-**	**94,682**	*63,218*

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 2020 £	*Total 2019 £*
Travel, field visits and volunteer costs	**2,983**	**2,983**	*22,450*
Funds and resources sent to ministries	**1,443,793**	**1,443,793**	*1,059,420*
Team expenses	**(2,793)**	**(2,793)**	*96,036*
Wages and salaries	**40,813**	**40,813**	*27,407*
	1,484,796	**1,484,796**	*1,205,313*

Stand by Me
Notes to the Financial Statements for the 16 months ended 31 December 2020

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable Activities £	Total 16 mths to 31 Dec 2020 £	*Total 9 mths to 31 Dec 2019 £*
Sundry office expenses	**153**	**153**	*-*
Communications costs	**3,254**	**3,254**	*1,779*
Computer costs	**32,495**	**32,495**	*12,098*
Printing, postage and stationery	**26,169**	**26,169**	*16,977*
Training	**60**	**60**	*68*
Insurance	**1,627**	**1,627**	*847*
Bank charges	**13,592**	**13,592**	*6,162*
Light, heat and services	**8,727**	**8,727**	*2,231*
Rent and rates	**5,196**	**5,196**	*2,880*
Office equipment and leasing	**8,740**	**8,740**	*1,554*
Building maintenance	**4,916**	**4,916**	*110*
Wages and salaries	**200,369**	**200,369**	*150,623*
National insurance	**24,788**	**24,788**	*17,416*
Pension cost	**13,402**	**13,402**	*9,873*
Depreciation	**8,350**	**8,350**	*-*
	351,838	**351,838**	*222,618*

During the year ended 31 December 2020, the charity incurred the following Governance costs

£NIL *(2019 - £NIL)* included within the table above in respect of Charitable Activities

£NIL (2019 - £NIL) included within the table above in respect of Investment Income.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Auditors' remuneration	**4,620**	**-**	**4,620**	*3,900*
Legal fees	**672**	**-**	**672**	*120*
	5,292	**-**	**5,292**	*4,020*

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2020 £	Depreciation 2020	Other costs 2020 £	Total 2020 £	*Total 2019 £*
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	**56,153**	**-**	**38,529**	**94,682**	*63,218*
Costs of raising funds	**56,153**	**-**	**38,529**	**94,682**	*63,218*
Charitable Activities	**279,370**	**8,350**	**1,548,912**	**1,836,632**	*1,427,931*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**5,292**	**5,292**	*4,020*
	335,523	**8,350**	**1,592,733**	**1,936,606**	*1,495,169*
Total 2019	*246,765*	*-*	*1,248,404*	*1,495,169*	

9. NET INCOME

This is stated after charging:

	16 months to 31 December 2020 £	*9 months to 31 December 2019 £*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**8,350**	*-*
Auditor's remuneration - audit	**4,620**	*3,900*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration *(2019 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind *(2019 - £NIL)*.
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses *(2019 - £NIL)*.

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The Auditor's remuneration amounts to an Audit fee of £4,620 *(2019 - £3,900)*.

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	16 months to 31 December 2020 £	*9 months to 31 December 2019 £*
Wages and salaries	**297,334**	*219,476*
Social security costs	**24,788**	*17,416*
Other pension costs	**13,401**	*9,873*
	335,523	246,765

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	16 months to 31 December 2020 No.	*9 months to 31 December 2019 No.*
Management	**3**	*3*
Administration and support	**9**	*8*
	12	*11*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property
	£
Cost	
Additions	**835,030**
At 31 December 2020	**835,030**
Depreciation	
Charge for the year	**8,350**
At 31 December 2020	**8,350**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	**826,680**

13. DEBTORS

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Other debtors	**334,746**	*974,536*
Prepayments and accrued income	**643**	*168*
	335,389	*974,704*

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**50,000**	*50,000*
Trade creditors	**5,455**	*-*
Other taxation and social security	**7,881**	*7,528*
Other creditors	**2,984**	*-*
Accruals and deferred income	**8,520**	*9,308*
	74,840	*66,836*

Other loans relate to an interest free loan of £400,000 given to Stand By Me in September 2019, from which the Charity is being released over a number of years.

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due in more than one year

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Other loans	**300,000**	*350,000*

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**716,592**	**758,136**	**(599,327)**	**170,660**	**1,046,061**
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	**968,053**	**1,694,934**	**(1,337,281)**	**(170,660)**	**1,155,046**
Total of funds	**1,684,645**	**2,453,070**	**(1,936,608)**	**-**	**2,201,107**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Balance at 31 December 2019 £*
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*666,803*	*586,569*	*(534,225)*	*(2,555)*	*716,592*
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds - all funds	*886,620*	*1,039,822*	*(960,944)*	*2,555*	*968,053*
Total of funds	*1,553,423*	*1,626,391*	*(1,495,169)*	*-*	*1,684,645*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	**826,680**	**-**	**826,680**
Current assets	**594,221**	**1,155,046**	**1,749,267**
Creditors due within one year	**(74,840)**	**-**	**(74,840)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**(300,000)**	**-**	**(300,000)**
	1,046,061	**1,155,046**	**2,201,107**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	*Restricted Funds 2019 £*	*Total Funds 2019 £*
Current assets	*1,133,427*	*968,053*	*2,101,480*
Creditors due within one year	*(66,835)*	*-*	*(66,835)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*(350,000)*	*-*	*(350,000)*
	716,592	*968,053*	*1,684,645*

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31 December 2020 £	*9 months to 31 December 2019 £*
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**516,462**	*131,222*
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	**8,350**	-
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**639,315**	*(763,831)*
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(41,996)**	*404,323*
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**1,122,131**	*(228,286)*

19. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31 December 2020 £	*31 December 2019 £*
Cash in hand	**1,413,878**	*1,126,777*
Total	**1,413,878**	*1,126,777*

20. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £13,402 *(9 months to Dec 2019 - £9,873)*.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

22. TRANSFER FROM UNINCORPORATED CHARITY TO CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

In 1995, *Stand by Me* was established as a Charitable Trust with a Declaration of Trust as a governing document. The advantages of a Charitable Trust is its simplicity to set up as a charity and to administer. The principle disadvantage is that a Charitable Trust is not recognised as a corporate body meaning it does not have the protection of limited liability. A particular shortcoming is that any property, contracts and agreements must be held personally by the Charity Trustees.

The trustees took the view at the beginning of 2019, because the Hornchurch office lease was due to expire in May 2020, that the Charity needed to have a change of structure in order to have the opportunity of entering into contracts – specifically relating to property. The trustees decided that *Stand by Me* should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

To achieve this objective, the following steps were taken:

- *Stand by Me* as a UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation No.1185124 was established on 2nd September 2019.
- *Stand by Me* Charitable Trust Charity No 1045430 was wound up and its assets transferred to the CIO on 31 December 2019.

The income and expenses reported for 16 months to 31 December 2020 therefore all relates to the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

STAND BY me

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Stand By Me is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK (No. 1185124)

