



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/1/2023 Period start date To 31/12/2023

Period end date

Charity name: **Surgical teams Working in Africa Together for Safer Surgery**

Charity registration number: **1186564**

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<b>The purpose of the Charity is, for the public benefit, the advancement of health and the saving of lives, in particular (not not limited to) by facilitating improvements in surgical care in Africa and elsewhere.</b>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<b>The main activity of the charity is to offer training for surgical teams to improve services and provide better and safer surgical care. We do this in such a way as to achieve longlasting, locally driven sustainable change.</b>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<b>The trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</b>

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	

Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b>The Charity's flagship project is the Affordable Mesh Hernia Initiative (formerly the Tanzania Mesh Hernia Project). Hernia surgery is the most common general surgical procedure performed worldwide. , The burden in Africa is great, with an estimated 800,000 hernias currently requiring treatment in Tanzania (for example). The morbidity rate is very high due to a lack of resources, training and inadequate procedures. The Project adopts a well-established procedure using mesh for hernia repair, rather than a traditional suture plication technique.</b></p> <p><b>Phase 1 of the Project was undertaken in March 2020, when 72 surgeons (of all grades) and 5 centres were involved. Feedback and results were again very encouraging. The centres continue to use the Mesh technique and as of December 2022, 320 surgical procedures had been performed with no recurrences.</b></p> <p><b>Progress slowed during the Covid-19 pandemic, but the relationship with the Tanzanian surgical community continued to flourish. Furthermore, the successes seen in Tanzania led to significant interest from countries.</b></p> <p><b>In 2023 ongoing expansion included inductions in Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Ghana.</b></p> <p><b>In total, 3 countries are involved, with 95 surgeons inducted across 12 centres. 790 hernia operations have been carried out in programme.</b></p> <p><b>We have a number of other workstreams including improving quality improvement practices and research skills. We have worked collaboratively</b></p>

		<b>with other partners including the University of Winchester.</b>
--	--	--

### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## **Financial Review**

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<b>For this year, the Charity received income from donations only was minimal spend due to Covid-19 pandemic.</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>Currently, the reserves are -£6332.04. Expenditure covered Admin and travel costs associated with a trips to Tanzania in May 2023 and November</b>

		<b>2023, Sierra Leone in May/June 2023 and Ghana in December 2023</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>-£6332.04</b>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the Charities ability to raise awareness of the Charity and to raise money, mainly because the main grant holders have diverted their funds to address COVID-19 challenges.</b>

#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>Our governing document is a trust deed.</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>CIO.</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Clause 10 in the CIO constitution, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Surgical teams Working in Africa Together for Safer Surgery
Other name the charity uses	SWIFTSS
Registered charity number	1186564
Charity's principal address	6 Balniel Gate, London, SW1V 3SD

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mark Szymankiewicz			
2	Katharine Szymankiewicz			
3	Karen Nugent			
4	Christian Wakefield			
5	Helena Kelly	Secretary		
6	Jonathan Linton			
7	Richard Constant	Chair		
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

## Other optional information

--

## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Helena Kelly	
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Secretary	
<b>Date</b>		

# SWIFTSS

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
Fixed Asset	
<b>Total Fixed Asset</b>	
Cash at bank and in hand	
Charity Bank account	9,715.86
Foreign Cash	129.00
<b>Total Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>£9,844.86</b>
Debtors	
Debtors	0.00
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£9,844.86</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Trade Creditors	
Creditors	1,176.90
<b>Total Trade Creditors</b>	<b>£1,176.90</b>
Current Liabilities	
Mark Shim	0.00
Richard C Loan	15,000.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>
<b>Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>£16,176.90</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>£ -6,332.04</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£ -6,332.04</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>£ -6,332.04</b>
Charity funds	
Retained Earnings	15,542.43
Surplus/(Deficit)	-21,874.47
<b>Total Charity funds</b>	<b>£ -6,332.04</b>