



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/1/2025 Period start date To 31/12/2025

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 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 long-lasting, 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 of untreated hernia in Africa remains substantial, with an estimated 1,000,000 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. We provide centres with a supply of suitable mesh, a means to sterilise it and ensuring that all the necessary surgical and supporting skills are in place.</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.</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 2024 ongoing expansion included further centre enrolment in Tanzania and Sierra Leone.</b></p> <p><b>As of December 2025 3 countries are involved, with 130 surgeons inducted across 17 centres. 1,600 hernia operations have been carried out in programme.</b></p> <p><b>The mesh programme is a vector for a number of other workstreams including; Basic Surgical Skills Training; Safer Surgery Training; antibiotic</b></p>

		<p><b>stewardship; quality assurance and improvement methodology; research skills; mentorship and networking.</b></p> <p><b>We also engage in laparoscopic surgical skills training and other educational events (eg speaking at training courses).</b></p> <p><b>We have a strong quality assurance workstream across our activity and are engaged in research.</b></p>
--	--	--

### **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.</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>Currently, the reserves are £4,224.66. Expenditure covered Admin and travel costs associated with only 1 trips to Tanzania in June 2025.</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>£4,224.66.</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>Following the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine War the ability for the charity to raise funds has been significantly hindered. Reductions in Governmental Overseas Aid spending has been cut dramatically, other fund holders have narrowed their support and the cost of living has generally reduced the availability of money into this area.</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	Medical Director		
2	Katharine Szymankiewicz			
3	Karen Nugent			
4	Christian Wakefield			
5	Helena Kelly	Secretary		
6	Jonathan Linton			
7	Richard Constant	Chair		
8	Lesley Hunt			
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>		

# Statement of Financial Position

## SWIFTSS

As of 31 December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Cash at bank and in hand	
Charity Bank account	4,856.38
Foreign Cash	129.00
<b>Total for Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>£4,985.38</b>
Debtors	
Debtors	0.00
<b>Total for Debtors</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£4,985.38</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Trade Creditors	
Creditors	760.72
<b>Total for Trade Creditors</b>	<b>£760.72</b>
Current Liabilities	
Mark Shim	0.00
Richard C Loan	0.00
<b>Total for Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total for Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>£760.72</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>£4,224.66</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£4,224.66</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>£4,224.66</b>
Capital and Reserves	
Retained Earnings	-16,372.99
Net Income	20,597.65
<b>Total for Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>£4,224.66</b>

Accrual Basis Monday, 02 March 2026 07:59 PM GMTZ

# Statement of Activity

## SWIFTSS

January-December, 2025

Distribution account	Total
Income	
Donations and legacies	20,273.56
Other Income (Gift Aid etc)	5,000.00
<b>Total for Income</b>	<b>£25,273.56</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>£25,273.56</b>
Expenses	

Accounting/Project Management	490.00
Advertising/Promotional	48.00
Bank charges	18.01
Computer Costs	376.19
Legal & Professional fees	35.00
Travel and Accommodation	619.50
T&S	3,089.21
<b>Total for Travel and Accommodation</b>	<b>£3,708.71</b>
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>£4,675.91</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>£20,597.65</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>£20,597.65</b>

Accrual Basis Monday, 02 March 2026 08:03 PM GMTZ



NALDRETT ACCOUNTANTS

Spindle Cottage  
2 Back Lane,  
Sydling St Nicholas,  
Dorchester,  
Dorset DT2 9TP

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of SWIFTSS**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the SWIFTSS (*'Surgical teams Working in aFrica Together for Safer Surgery'*) charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination that would give me cause to believe that in any material respect that:

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

>>CONT>>>



>> CONT>>

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

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake this examination by virtue of relevant professional qualification as:

**FELLOW OF THE CHARTERED GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE**

Name: **JENNIFER ADAMS FCG TEP ATT (Fellow)**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

**NALDRETT ACCOUNTANTS**

**2 Back Lane,**

**Sydling St Nicholas**

**Dorchester,**

**Dorset. DT2 9TP**