

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period beginning: 1 January 2022

Ending: 31 December 2022

Ref: TRTP-TAP-3

Charity name THE ROAD TO PARITY

Registered charity number 1187425

Charity's principal address Office 4, Westminster Chambers

106 Lord St

Southport

PR8 1LF

Email: steps@theroadtoparity.org

Website: www.theroadtoparity.org

TRUSTEES

No.	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jonathan Hill	Founder & Chair		
2	Richard Owens	Secretary		
3	Margaret Evison			

ADVISORS

Type of adviser	Name	Address
India partner representative	Sudeep Dube	Learning Links Foundation, Allied House, 2nd Floor, Near B-7 Post office, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070
India partner representative	Rashmi Mishra	Learning Links Foundation, Allied House, 2nd Floor, Near B-7 Post office, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070
India partner representative	Rashid Siddiqui	Learning Links Foundation, Allied House, 2nd Floor, Near B-7 Post office, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070

Structure, governance and management

Trusts

Type of governing document	The charity is governed by a constitution document, dated 27 November 2019.
How the charity is constituted	The Road to Parity was initially set up as a community organisation. In January 2020, the Charities Commission for England and Wales granted the organisation registered charity status – as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
Trustee selection methods	Trustees to date have been appointed. However, the charity welcomes approaches from people not connected to existing trustees.

Additional governance

The Road to Parity works with an overseas partner. Learning Links Foundation in India provides on the ground support and has been engaged through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU specifies the nature of the partnership, responsibilities, expected outcomes and monies involved.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in governing document

To relieve poverty in developing countries through the provision of micro grants to enable beneficiaries to participate in the local economy and sustain themselves and their families in a manner that would otherwise be beyond their reach.

Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to objects

The Road to Parity currently runs a poverty alleviation initiative in India called Project Unnati. It is run in conjunction with partner, Learning Links Foundation.

Under Project Unnati, people in extreme poverty are given the opportunity to start a business with the help of a micro grant.

Using a strict screening and monitoring process, entrepreneurs are provided with the equipment and supplies necessary to begin trading.

Unlike many similar initiatives in developing nations, the small grant available through Project Unnati is not a loan and does not need to be repaid. TRTP believes people in extreme poverty have suffered enough.

The project was named *Unnati* (meaning progress) after one of the first beneficiaries said she felt her new business would bring prosperity to her family after years of desperate poverty.

While TRTP is currently focusing on its programme in India, the longer-term plan is to expand into other developing nations.

Additional details of objectives and activities

Project Unnati takes a three-pronged approach:

Identifying and selecting beneficiaries:

Slum and street market areas of the Indian capital, Delhi, are visited to identify aspiring entrepreneurs among the slum and pavement dwellers. Details of prospective beneficiaries are captured in a pre-defined format. Once the details are captured, a screening process starts.

Beneficiaries are screened using a strict points system. At its core is identifying people in extreme poverty – households who have been scraping an existence on around £10 or less, per person, per month.

Other factors considered include helping the poorly educated, sole breadwinners supporting large families, the physically and mentally challenged, women, victims of domestic violence, and young men struggling on unstable labouring income while supporting families - effectively trapping them in extreme poverty.

Finalise business needs and secure required equipment/stock:

Once a beneficiary has been identified, a discussion takes place on the equipment, supplies and stock that are required to get the business off the ground. With the agreement of the entrepreneur, the necessary items are sourced and procured. This supervised process is eased for recurrent business themes, such as the popular vegetable carts and boiled egg stalls. Normally, the grant awarded is around £50.

Three months 'hand holding' support:

Each beneficiary receives support to ensure their fledgling enterprise succeeds, such as guidance on record keeping, negotiation skills, dealing with customers and marketing. This three-month period of support helps overcome initial challenges and provides a path for success.

It is made clear from the start that the grant is one-off assistance and there is no coming back for more money.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements during the year

The Road to Parity made further progress in 2022 with Project Unnati, its programme to transform the lives of people in extreme poverty through entrepreneurship.

At the same time, Covid and rising food prices pushed millions more people globally into extreme poverty (those who live on less than \$1.90 per day.) Global poverty had been in decline when Covid struck.

Throughout the year, 26 new enterprises were established with the help of partner organisation Learning Links Foundation. This brought the total number of businesses started under the initiative to 86. All have been set up in the slums of Delhi.

Although the number of new enterprises represented an increase of 30% on 2021, it fell slightly short of the overall target of 90 businesses by the end of 2022. This was due to issues with international transactions.

The businesses established in 2022 included stalls selling a range of goods, such as warm clothes, school bags, scarves, hosiery items,

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements during the year cont'd

cosmetics, and tea. Tailoring was also among the businesses - a popular choice among beneficiaries - and for the first time under Project Unnati, a beauty and cosmetics parlour.

Farida Khatoon's story

Farida comes from a very poor family where six people had been trying to survive on £8.32 each per month. Her husband's meagre labouring salary was trapping them in financial misery.



Farida is illiterate but knew how to sew and thought she might be able to bring some more money into the house by doing some home-based tailoring.

After discussing her idea with the Project Unnati outreach team, the 20-year-old was supported with a new business kit. Farida is now earning up to 5,000 Rupees a month, which has doubled the household income. "I'm doing much better now. I'm so happy," she says. "I've been able to buy some tailoring material to help expand the business."

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements during the year cont'd

Project Unnati started funding businesses in the months before Covid struck, and there have been business casualties along the way.

Out of the 86 businesses supported so far, 72 are still trading or 84%. None have failed since Covid restrictions were lifted in India. However, the challenges beneficiaries face on a personal level go far deeper than the impact of the virus.

In addition to being in extreme poverty, many of the beneficiaries are illiterate, while others have been victims of domestic violence, or are mentally and physically challenged – making the success stories even more remarkable.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

As the charity provides only one-off grants, there are no ongoing programme costs in the field. Once the businesses have been set up, they operate on a commercial basis and are self-sustaining. This minimises the necessity for reserves.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There has not been a financial deficit since TRTP was set up in November 2018.

Further financial review details

The charity opened fund raising channels in July 2020, once the programme model had been tested in the field with positive results.

The main source of funds in 2022 was donations from members of the public. These donations were encouraged by content through the charity's communication platforms; theroadtoparity.org website, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

Other income came from gift aid claims and affiliate marketing activity through Amazon, ebay, and easyfundraising.

Expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity by addressing poverty in developing countries by enabling beneficiaries to become self-sustaining in the local economy.

The main expenses for the year – aside from issuing grants – were field expenses, including 70% of an outreach salary. This is to secure the time of an individual who is otherwise committed to projects through his principal employer, Learning Links Foundation. All other staff involved with the charity work on a voluntary basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the charity's financial position. Trustees ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity Commission's SORP 2005.

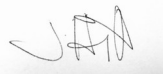
Not all funds could be dispersed to beneficiaries in 2022 mainly due to the international transaction issues. There was a balance of £809 on 31 December 2022.

Total income	£1,913
Total expenditure (including grant provision)	£1,104
Bank balance as of 31 December 2022	£809

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Jonathan Hill	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	31 October 2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THE ROAD TO PARITY

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1/1/2022

To

12/31/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
DONATIONS	1,913	-	-	1,913	3,723
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,913	-	-	1,913	3,723
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,913	-	-	1,913	3,723
A3 Payments					
DONATIONS	1,104	-	-	1,104	2,901
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,104	-	-	1,104	2,901
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,104	-	-	1,104	2,901
Net of receipts/(payments)	809	-	-	809	828
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	809	-	-	809	828

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

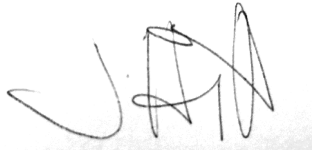
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	BANK	809	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	809	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	J HILL	10/27/2023