SOS AFRICA

England & Wales · Charity number 1188705

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2020-03-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	44 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AS
Phone	01749344197
Email	info@sosafrica.com
Website	https://www.sosafrica.com/

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 WHO ARE RESIDENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, BY PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUCH OTHER FACILITIES AS THE CIO DEEMS FIT WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: SOS Africa invests 100% of the funds it raises into holistic education, training and learning support programmes for disadvantaged African children and youth. This grassroots approach enables them to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential. Since 2003 SOS Africa has established 4 education centres supporting hundreds of children with many graduates at university or in employment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1188705

Geography

- South Africa

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£313,306	£308,394	-	-
2024-03-31	£334,574	£299,567	-	-
2023-03-31	£324,290	£489,953	-	-
2022-03-31	£477,522	£520,297	-	-
2021-03-31	£712,987	£577,680	£329,053	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies	Chair	2020-03-23
Alexandre Dyer		2021-04-01
Gavin Austin Thompson		2022-04-01
Kim Williams		2020-03-23

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1188705

SOS AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1188705

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MAR 2025

SOS AFRICA

Registered Charity No: 1188705

Summary of the Purposes of the Charity

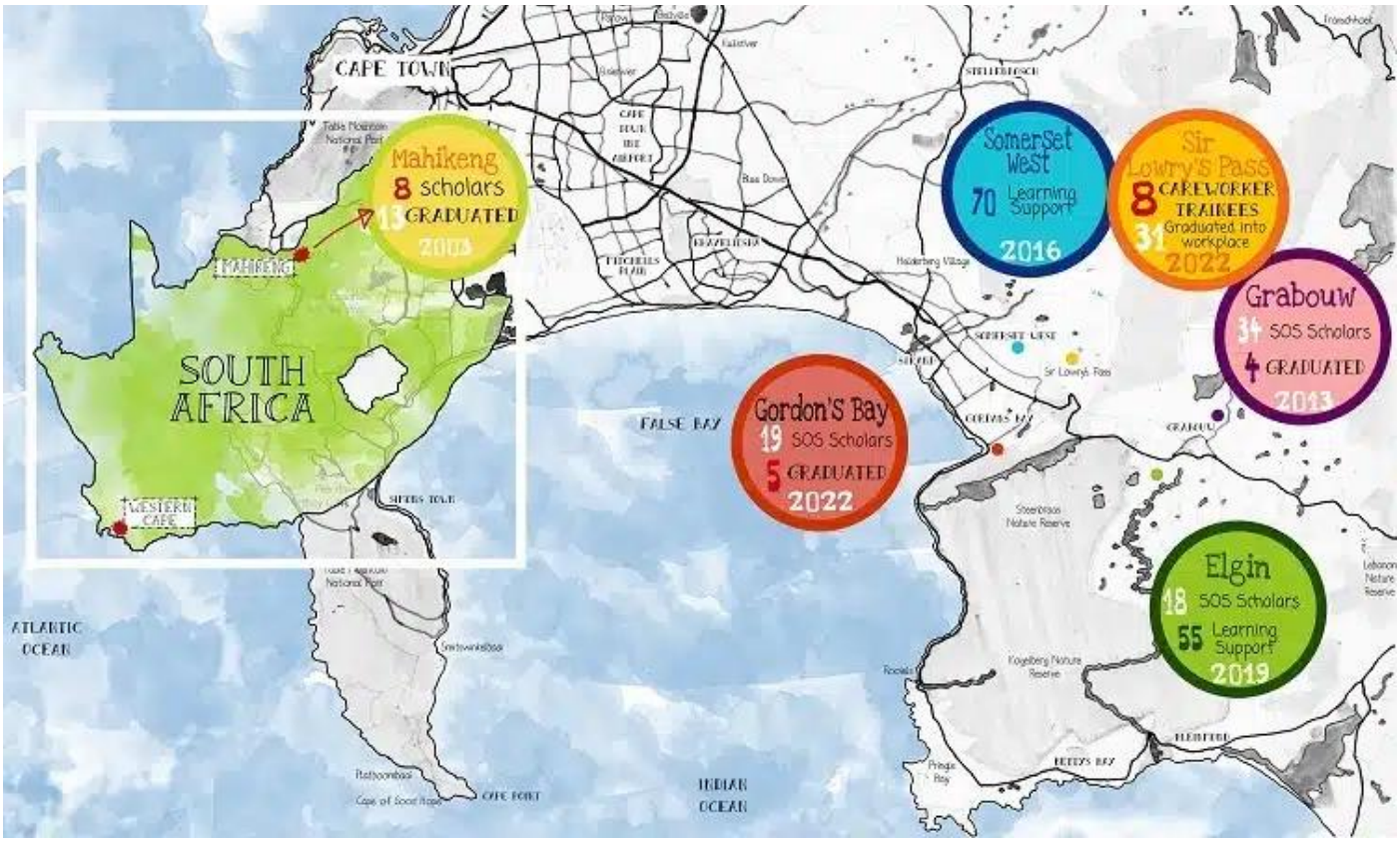
Sponsored children from SOS Africa Elgin

SOS Africa is a small UK based grassroots child sponsorship organisation which funds the education and care of underprivileged South African children from the poorest regions of South Africa. Since 2003 the charity has provided disadvantaged children, from Grades 1 to 12, with a personal education programme or learning support scheme tailored specifically to their needs. This holistic approach enables children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity provides:

- **A Personal Approach** – Originally founded by a family from Somerset in the UK, SOS Africa provides a personal approach to charitable giving. Now in its 21st year of operation, the charity is still managed by its original founders under the direction of an experienced panel of passionate trustees.
- **A Holistic Education Programme** – SOS Africa provides each of the children in its care with school tuition, after-school care, learning support, holiday workshops, mentoring, counselling, transport, clothing and stationery. SOS Africa's Education Programmes are tailored to the needs of the children in the charity's care.
- **Regular Progress Reports** – SOS Africa maintains strong lines of communication between child, organisation and sponsor by providing regular updates including school reports, photo albums, updates via the SOS Africa Children's Blog and correspondence via email. Sponsors also have the option of visiting sponsored children throughout the process.
- **Minimal Charity Expenses** – Prioritising transparency, SOS Africa guarantees that 100% of donations are invested in the education and care of its children; all UK expenses are covered by Gift Aid. This is possible because the charity only employs one full-time staff member in the UK and invests all resources into its education programmes in South Africa.

Summary of the Charity's Main Activities



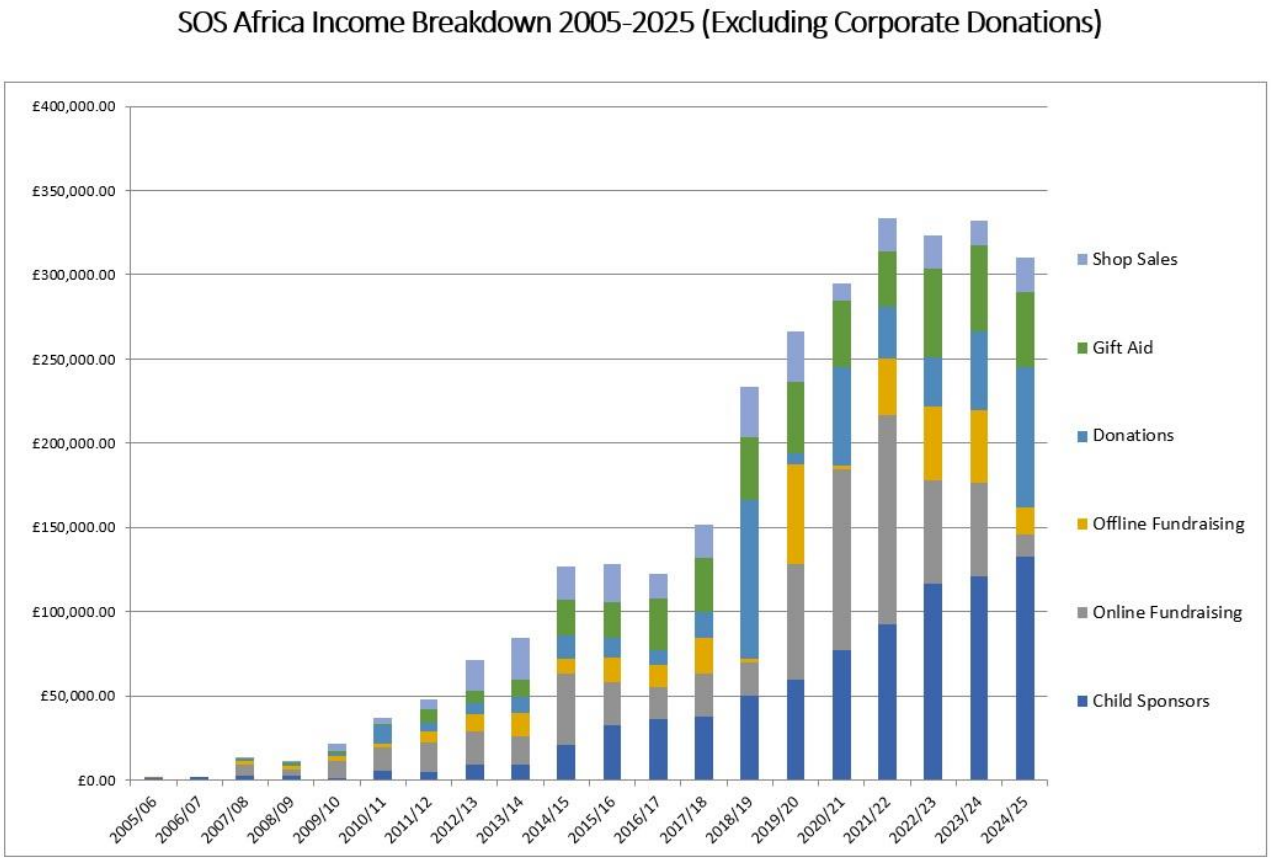
SOS Africa currently operates in two of the poorest regions of South Africa; Mahikeng (North-West Province) and Western Cape. The charity provides underprivileged children from these areas with the following support:

- A high standard of education and care within Preparatory, Primary and High Schools with a good reputation throughout local communities.
- Safe transportation to and from school.
- School uniform and stationery to eliminate potential inequalities and barriers to learning.
- After-school care at SOS Africa Aftercare Centres where the children receive lunch, homework assistance, tutoring and extra lessons. SOS Africa also provides each child with a mentor, with whom they can consult about any day-to-day problems which they may encounter.
- SOS Africa's Western Cape Education Centres also provide learning support for students with learning difficulties. This is essential in combating illiteracy among Primary School children (currently 78% of South African Primary School children between Grades 1 to 4 are unable to read with comprehension).
- Extra-curricular activities which include swimming lessons, kung fu and yoga, plus holiday workshops to supplement their education and keep the children safe outside of school hours.

All activities carried out by the SOS Africa Charity fulfil the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements. The SOS Africa Trustees confirm that all the charity's operations benefit and empower South African township children through the provision of a high standard of education and care enabling them to break the poverty cycle.

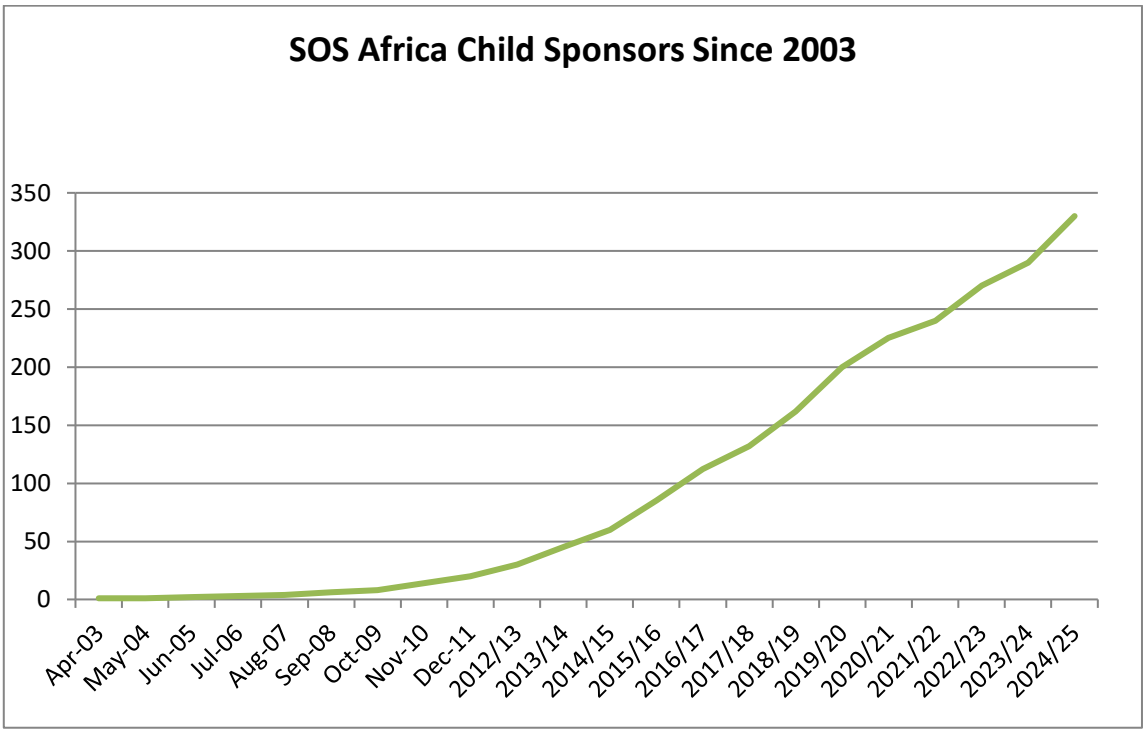
Summary of the Charity's 2024/25 Fundraising Achievements

- During the 2024/25 financial year SOS Africa achieved an annual income of £313,306.37. This represents a slight drop in funds raised from the previous financial year. This can be attributed to a reduced fundraising event programme as the charity prioritised the launch of a new website. Aside from a smaller income from events, throughout this 12-month period, the charity experienced an increase in child sponsors, donations, charity shop profits and as a consequence, Gift Aid claims.



- In June 2024, SOS Africa partnered with Shepton Mallet Prison and opens its gates not to confine, but to liberate, as it hosted a unique charity abseil experience. Set against the backdrop of the closed prison's 400-year history, the event offered participants the opportunity to abseil from the roof of the prison's workshop building, all in the spirit of raising funds for the SOS Africa children's charity. Once the final abseiler had completed the challenge, £6000 had been raised for the SOS Africa children.

- Since relocating to 44 High St, Shepton Mallet in September 2023, The SOS Africa Charity Shop has thrived. Thanks to increased numbers of staff, volunteers and customers, the new shop has consistently broken previous daily takings records and generated sustainable income for the organisation. The SOS Africa Trustees would like to thank Ann, Lin and the small army of loyal and committed staff members for their dedication to our cause.



- During the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa continued to experience an increase in recruitment of child sponsors from across the globe. SOS Africa's 330 long-term sponsors generated an annual income of approximately £145,000 for our organisation. This sustainable sponsorship enables SOS Africa to safeguard the long-term education and care of the SOS Africa children.

- The 2024/25 financial year saw a continued increase in independent fundraising events by individuals and groups across the world. Special mention to long term supporter Shaz Woodman for completing her first half marathon and 10-year-old James and Sam for completing their 15-mile sponsored walk. Following the completion of their events, fundraisers received personalised messages from the SOS Africa children to thank them for their efforts in support of our cause.

- During the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa's 120 Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Volunteers attended the festival and kept the Pyramid Stage Field free of litter to help protect the local environment and raise invaluable funds for our cause. In addition to raising over £20,000 (over £120,000 since 2013), many of the team members also sponsor SOS Africa children and carry out independent fundraising initiatives.

- During the 2024/25 financial year SOS Africa launched a brand-new website courtesy of Waters Creative. 6 months in the making, the new-look site features new menu bars and layouts, fresh graphics and is designed to showcase SOS Africa's personal and holistic approach to education sponsorship. Having been live for only 4 months, by the end of the financial year, the new site had already attracted an increase in child sponsors, fundraisers and long-term donors. The SOS Africa Trustees would like to thank Graphic Designer Claudia Titley and the talented team at Waters Creative.
- Following on from the fundraising successes of the 2023/24 financial year, this year The SOS Africa Trustees were able to claim Gift Aid equating to £45,000. This income is vital as it covers UK expenses and guarantees that 100% of all initial funds raised/donated are invested in the charity's education projects in South Africa.

On behalf of the SOS Africa staff and children, the CEO and Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all SOS Africa sponsors, fundraisers and donors for your incredible support and generosity over the past 12 months.

2024/25 Achievements in South Africa

Children and young adults supported by SOS Africa throughout 2024/25:

	Scholarship Scheme	Learning Support	Graduated/Left
Mahikeng	5	N/A	17
Grabouw	38	50	9
Somerset West	0	70	0
Gordon's Bay	21	0	8
Elgin	20	55	3
Care Worker Training	18	N/A	34
TOTAL	**102**	**175**	**71**

SOS Africa Education Programme Formats:

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

The SOS Africa Charity Scholarship Scheme funds the holistic education and care of underprivileged children from the townships of South Africa, providing each child with the following support:

- **School tuition** at a school partnered with SOS Africa.
- **Transport** to and from school each day.
- **School clothing, stationery and equipment**.
- Attendance at an SOS Africa Education Centre (1.30pm–4pm each afternoon). The **SOS Africa Aftercare Programme** provides each child with the following:
    - **Nutrition** – home cooked food funded by SOS provided and cooked by staff members. This ensures that the children are receiving a healthy balanced meal every day.
    - **Homework support** – including the introduction of reading and maths apps to further support the children who continue to struggle.
    - **Student mentoring** – one-on-one support.
    - Access to an **SOS Africa Library** and other learning resources.
    - **Life skills tools and education** – Brain Gym / Yoga sessions / Mindfully me (meditation tools) / Occupational Therapy / workshops led by our Educational Psychologist on matters such as 'personal safety', bullying etc.
    - **Individual support / therapy** given to children in each Education Centre who we consider to be 'at risk' or not coping in school or at home.
    - **Guest speakers** – Police / Heroes in the community.
    - **Holiday programmes** aimed at bringing everyone together (staff and children) having some creative fun time outside school. This year we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
    - **Provision of a safe space for parents and teachers** to meet and discuss progress or intervention plans for children at risk. We have had to facilitate meetings with the school and parents where plans need to be put into place to best support the children.

Children sponsored by SOS Africa's Scholarship Scheme in Grabouw

SOS Africa Learning Support Scheme (8.30am–12.30pm each day):

Impact of SOS Africa Education Programmes:

Over the last five years SOS Africa has developed the Learning Support Programme offered to the Foundation Phase (Grades 1 to 3) children of our partnering schools. Our staff received excellent basic training and assessment tools through the WORDWORKS “Ready, Steady, Read, Write” Programme which has been adapted to ensure we meet the needs of each partnering school.

For the most part, each of our tutors work with 6 to 8 children per 30-minute session. These children attend Learning Support four days a week. Every week we follow the same programme of activities but with a new story.

After our 5-minute warm up of Brain Gym; a series of exercises designed to engage learning through movement; the children are relaxed and ready to absorb new lessons.

With each new story the lessons then follow these four predetermined steps:

- Reading the new story.
- Having discussions about the story highlighting new sounds and words.
- Writing or drawing something based on the story.
- Playing letter and sound games.

These include playdough (and other tangible materials) to physically shape letters. We also have “Letter Boxes” filled with a random assortment of items; the aim is for the child to pick out the item that begins with the letter on the box. These and many other games are developed to help the child learn through a process of playing and therefore greater understanding.

At the start and end of each term we test the children to assess their development. Each child needs to advance through three levels of reading proficiency and comprehension before leaving our programme and returning to their classroom having caught up to the level of their fellow classmates. Our staff provide regular progress updates to the teachers and we all work together for the betterment of each child’s development.

Ultimately, the aim is not only to teach the children to simply read or write but also to comprehend, to question the story and form their own opinions. In Grades 1-3 one learns to read but from Grade 4 onwards one reads in order to learn. If children are not properly prepared in the foundation of their education, with these fundamental yet basic skills, then the rest of the educational development is thwarted.

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa Gordon's Bay

SOS Africa St Michael's Elgin

SOS Africa Mahikeng

2024/25 Education Programme Highlights:

SOS Africa 21st Birthday Celebrations

One of the highlights of the 2024/25 financial year had to be the organisation's 21st birthday celebrations! SOS Africa marked this milestone by hosting a 21st birthday party to remember at its recently opened Gordon's Bay Education Centre, Cape Town. Its VIP guests were staff and children from the charity's 4 education centres from across the region. From the 6 matric students just weeks away from graduation to the Grade R students who started in January, all joined together to celebrate.

100% Matric Pass Rate

Since first joining SOS Africa's Education Programmes, the charity's 2024 graduates have given it their all; in spite of the many obstacles and challenges in their way, they have remained focused on hugely challenging missions of their own, now at last fully accomplished. After completing their final Matric examinations in November 2024, SOS Africa's very first Western Cape graduates received the long-awaited news that they had all passed Matric! The SOS Africa Trustees are exceptionally proud of this diligent and hardworking group of students and wish them all the very best for their bright futures.

New Additions to the SOS Africa Family

In March 2025 SOS Africa welcomed an additional 7 children to its Gordon's Bay and Elgin Education Programmes. A very warm welcome to Angelique, Bronwin and Chady (Gordon's Bay) and Aurora, Chante, Tiara and Taylor. They have already settled in well and become established and popular members of the SOS Africa family.

Partnership with Girls and Boys Town

In March 2025, SOS Africa was delighted to announce a new collaboration with Girls and Boys Town Macassar. This new partnership will secure educational sponsorship for disadvantaged children with potential, currently in the care of the youth development centre. Wasting no time to make this impact, the first sponsored children from Girls and Boys Town Macassar started Mondeor Eco School in Term 2. The beneficiaries now attend lessons with class sizes of 20 children, taught by experienced and teachers.

Scholarships

Throughout the course of the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa proudly announced that graduate Elvino was awarded a full rugby scholarship to Durban High and Grade 8 student Henwhill a rugby scholarship to Drostdy Technical School. The Trustees wish them well and cannot wait to follow their progress.

SOS Africa 2024 Showcase

2024 was also a year which will be remembered for SOS Africa's Showcase! From dance routines and vocal performances to poem and piano recitals, as part of an exciting climax to the 2024 school year, SOS Africa's Western Cape staff and children put on a talent show to remember.

The audience were blown away by these incredible performances and couldn't help but get involved in the dancing to celebrate the end of the charity's 21st year. The Trustees would like to congratulate Operations Manager Li-andi Claassen who, for the past 6 months, has been working alongside our staff and children practising for the big night. She is an inspiration to us all!

Leaders of Tomorrow

The SOS Africa staff and trustees were delighted to share the exciting news that an SOS Africa sponsored child was appointed as Head Boy of Grabouw High for the 2025 academic year! It was the first time that such an honour has been bestowed upon an SOS Africa sponsored child and sent a ripple of excitement throughout the charity's education programmes. The worthy recipient, Ameleo was a member of the very first group of Grade 1 children sponsored by SOS Africa back in 2014.

SOS Africa's Care Work Training Scheme

In partnership with The Village Collaboration, this year SOS Africa funded training for more care workers than ever before. By the time of the last graduation ceremony, 52 care worker trainees had graduated from the programme and are now employed by local residential homes.

The SOS Africa Trustees would like to thank The Village Collaboration founder Lorraine Emery for her dedication to training the disadvantaged youth of Sir Lowry's Pass Village. They are extremely proud of SOS Africa's partnership with her thriving organisation.

Grabouw Pre-Primary School Launch

In May 2024, SOS Africa Charity Founder Matt Crowcombe was given the great honour of cutting the ribbon at the official launch of a pre-primary school campus at HS Grabouw in the Western Cape. As part of this ambitious project, SOS Africa purchased 2 new classrooms and fencing thanks to funds raised by last year's King Alfred's Tower Charity Abseil. The brand-new facility will provide both Grade R English and Afrikaans language teaching at the school for the very first time.

The SOS Africa Trustees are extremely proud of our partner schools and will continue to fund additional education projects to support them in the future. They are currently looking into funding the renovation of the Grabouw High School Swimming Pool during the 2025/26 financial year.

SOS Africa in the News

In March 2025, Matt, Li-andi and the team were thrilled to welcome Chelsea Ogilvie from News24 to SOS Africa's Gordon's Bay Education Centre. The purpose of her visit was to showcase the charity's exciting new nutritional programme, courtesy of Claudia Titley and Chef Jesca Murombedzi. After a tour of the Education Centre, Chelsea spent time interviewing the pioneers of the charity's nutritional programme to gain an insight into why the organisation places such importance on the role played by nutrition when breaking the cycle of poverty.

Chelsea also filmed Chef Jesca in action, as she prepared a feast in time for the arrival of the SOS Africa children, hungry after a busy morning at the schools they are sponsored to attend across the Helderberg Basin. With great excitement, it was not long before they were tucking into the delicious lunch, savouring every bite. A mission accomplished for Chef Jesca, as even those children who initially declared their dislike of vegetables, now savour them without complaint.

Work Experience Placements

As part of the Mondeor Eco School of Skills Education Programme, throughout the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa's Gideon and Quinroy participated in work experience placements organised by local businesses. Although part of the school's education programme, if the placements go well, the Trustees hope that there may be a possibility of employment opportunities within these companies in the future.

Holiday Workshops

Academic achievements have also been bolstered by holiday workshops hosted by the SOS Africa staff during the June and September holidays…

Women's empowerment workshops hosted by SOS Africa Grabouw

IT skills workshops hosted by facilitator Moira Daniels

Extra-Curricular Activities

Throughout the past 12 months, SOS Africa sponsored children have also participated in a wide range of extra-curricular activities from drummies tournaments and cricket coaching sessions to art festivals, self-defence classes and even driving lessons provided for Matric Students…

SOS Africa children starring at regional drummies tournaments

Cricket coaching sessions in Gordon's Bay

Selfdefence coaching at SOS Africa Gordon's Bay

Driving lessons for Matric Students

SOS Africa Students at Klein Karoo Arts Festival

Outings

The SOS Africa staff also arrange outings to local attractions to broaden the horizons of the children in their care and open their eyes to opportunities and experiences around them.

This year's trips included a special primary school outing to Intaka Island in Cape Town and high school trip to the Gordon's Bay Naval Yard for a Careers Open Day.

Sponsor Visits

Through the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa received more visits from more overseas sponsors and supporters than ever before.

The SOS Africa staff and children love hosting sponsors; it is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and demonstrate the life-changing impact made by their generosity:

"After visiting SOS Africa's Western Cape Projects, I am struck especially by two things; firstly, how happy the children seem to be when they are in the educational centres. Secondly, I am very impressed by all the staff I have met. They are so friendly and the enormous dedication they show every day to the children is crucial to the success of SOS Africa." **Ian Swindale (SOS Africa Child Sponsor)**

Health and Wellbeing

This year SOS Africa formed a partnership with local opticians Michele Hlava to provide optical care for all children sponsored by the charity in the Western Cape. This represented a significant step towards promoting the long-term health and wellbeing of the children in our care.

Parent Meetings

It is also essential to maintain parental involvement through the sponsorship process. This year the SOS Africa staff hosted regular parent meetings at all centres to update parents and provide additional support.

Concluding Thoughts

As we celebrate SOS Africa's 21st Birthday, we are so proud of the dedication of the SOS Africa staff, the many achievements of the children in their care and of the extraordinary generosity of the sponsors who make it possible. When the very first SOS Africa sponsored child attended school back in January 2003, who could have predicted that this moment represented the birth of an organisation which would grow to empower many hundreds more deserving children through education?

The 2024/25 financial year has, without a doubt, been a year of milestones and celebrations! From celebrating the 100% pass rate of our first matric graduates and sports scholarship awards to the appointment of our very first head boy, these are just a few examples of the unwavering determination of our sponsored children to succeed against the odds. The SOS Africa Trustees are extremely proud of their many achievements; if they continue on their current trajectory, their futures will surely be bright. We will continue to support them on their journey through education to ensure that they achieve their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

These past 12 months have also seen the development of exciting new projects and partnerships. The collaboration between our organisation and Girls and Boys Town, Macassar will provide wonderful opportunities for many disadvantaged children currently without access to quality education. The launch of Grabouw Primary School Reception, fully funded by SOS Africa, is also cause for celebration. Teaching in English as well as Afrikaans promotes diversity by making the high standard of education provided by schools accessible to children from different cultures and backgrounds.

The SOS Africa Trustees are also extremely proud of how the charity's pre-existing education programmes have continued to evolve and develop, with more extra-curricular activities available to our sponsored students than ever before. The 2024 Showcase provided a great example of how the SOS Africa Children take full advantage of these opportunities; throughout the unforgettable evening, proud family members were treated to an extraordinary display of talent and ability which will, no doubt, live long in their collective memories.

The final word though has to go to SOS Africa's sponsors, fundraisers and volunteers across the world; their remarkable generosity and dedication to this vital cause enables us all to dream big and broaden our scope of support to long forgotten communities in desperate need. We only wish that we could introduce them all to the beneficiaries of their kindness to show them the impact made by their invaluable support. On behalf of the SOS Africa Staff and Children, thank you for playing an invaluable part in what has been a remarkable 12 months for our grassroots organisation.

SOS Africa CEO Dr Matt Crowcombe with UK Trustees Prof Matthew Davies (Chair), Alex Dyer, Kim Williams and Gavin Thompson

Financial Review

Review of SOS Africa's Financial Position

At the close of the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa is in a strong financial position after another consistent year of fundraising, and an increase in donors and child sponsors.

Whilst investing this income in both new and existing SOS Africa Education Programmes, funding has also been kept in reserve to secure the long-term educational development of the children supported by the charity.

Throughout the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa has also maintained its pledge of investing 100% of all funds raised and donated in our education projects in Africa; the £66,009.22 of UK expenditure was comfortably covered by the £44,961.74 claimed in Gift Aid, the £20,000 raised by the SOS Africa Charity Shop and £3305.19 generated in bank interest.

Policy for Holding Reserves

Each year SOS Africa holds reserves to ensure that the charity can guarantee the long-term education of all the children within its care, in line with the charity's policy never to remove a child from schooling for financial reasons.

Amount of Reserves Held

Following the close of the 2024/25 financial year, SOS Africa held £160,535.37 in reserve. Including funds currently held in SOS Africa savings accounts in South Africa, this is enough funding to safeguard all SOS Africa's Education Programmes for a further year. During the current unstable financial climate, it is essential to keep funds in reserve to protect the long-term financial security of the charity.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	New SOS Africa Trustees are appointed by resolution of the current trustees. For example, if one trustee resigns, the remaining trustees will appoint a replacement.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	SOS Africa
Registered charity number	1188705
Charity's principal address	SOS Africa 44 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AS

Names of Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted**	**Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)**
Matthew Davies	Chair of Trustees	N/A	N/A
Gavin Thompson	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex Dyer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Names of Chief Executive or Names of Senior Staff Members

SOS Africa CEO: Matthew Crowcombe

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	
Full Name	Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies
Position	Chair of Trustees, SOS Africa
Date	5th November 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SOS Africa	1188705

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April 2024	To	31st March 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Child Sponsorship	-	132,583	-	132,583	120,973
Offline Fundraising	-	1,516	-	1,516	1,230
Online Fundraising & Donations	-	13,576	-	13,576	55,266
Bank Interest	3,305	-	-	3,305	2,324
Donations	-	83,055	-	83,055	47,060
Gift Aid	44,962	-	-	44,962	50,721
Shop Sales	20,000	-	-	20,000	15,000
Glastobury		14,310	-	14,310	42,000
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	68,267	245,039	-	313,306	334,574
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	68,267	245,039	-	313,306	334,574
A3 Payments					
Education Programme in South Africa	-	218,385	-	218,385	213,782
Website Fees	8,474	-	-	8,474	2,485
Bank Charges / Just Giving Fees	720	-	-	720	698
Tax / National Insurance Payments	7,960	-	-	7,960	9,167
Wages / Pension	43,157	-	-	43,157	38,893
Printing / Travel	4,077	-	-	4,077	1,547
Event Expenses	1,080	-	-	1,080	1,056
Funds Raised for Other Charities	-	-	-	-	9,631
Accounts / Prof Fees	541	-	-	541	307
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits		24,000	-	24,000	22,000
Sub total	66,009	242,385	-	308,394	299,567
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	66,009	242,385	-	308,394	299,567
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,258	2,655	-	4,912	35,007
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,987	135,636	-	155,623	-
Cash funds this year end	22,245	138,290	-	160,535	35,007

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	SOS Africa UK HSBC ACCOUNT	22,245	138,290	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	22,245	138,290	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

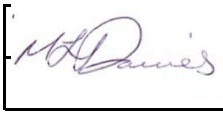
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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
	Matthew Lloyd Davies	5th Nov 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of SOS AFRICA

On accounts for the year ended 31 - 03 - 2025 **Charity no (if any)** 1188705

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.* CIMA.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 21 - 7 - 25

Name: NATALIE FROUD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body 1-IYQN -ACMA CGMA - CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

(if any):	
Address:	61 ROBINS LANE FROME SOMERSET BA11 3ET

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

SOS AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1188705

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MAR 2024

SOS AFRICA

Registered Charity No: 1188705

Summary of the Purposes of the Charity

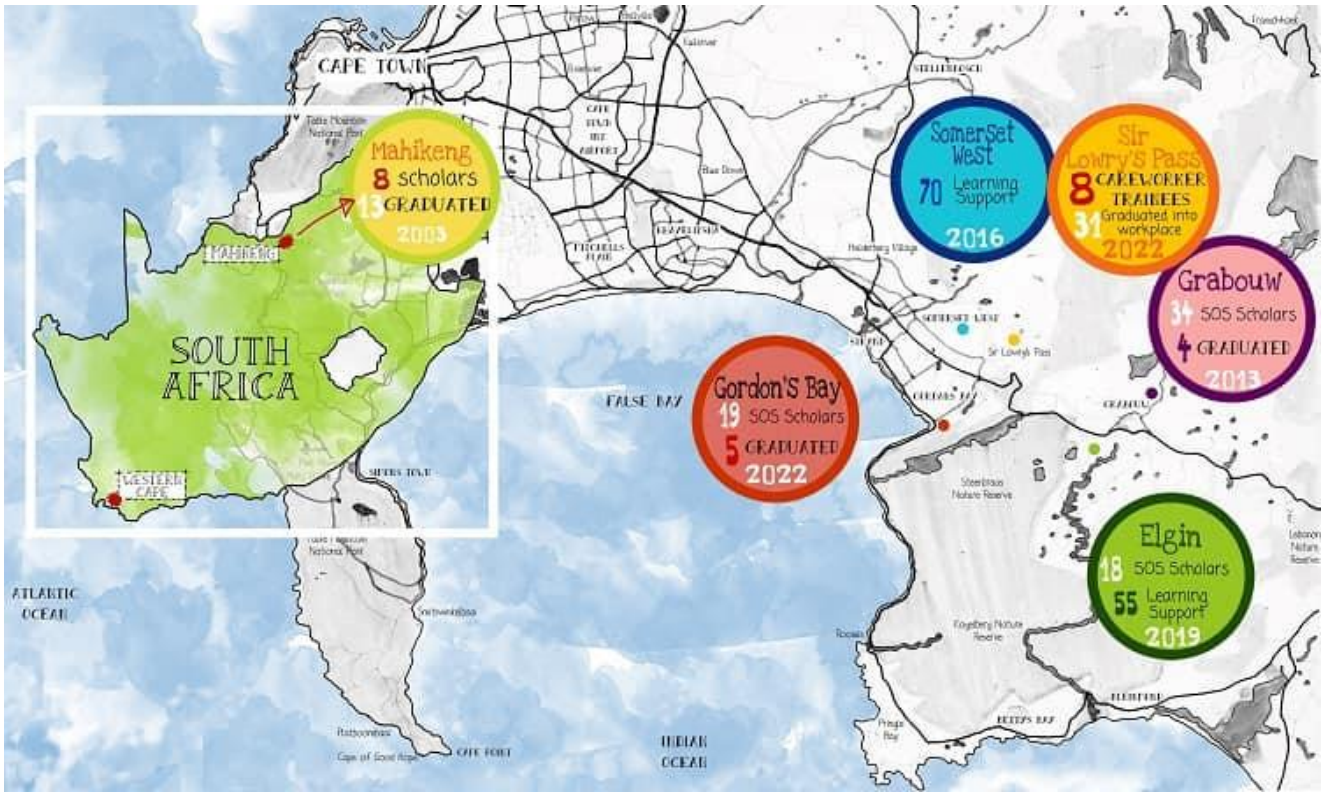
Teacher Sinazo and Enzokhule from SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa is a small UK based grassroots child sponsorship organisation which funds the education and care of underprivileged South African children from the poorest regions of South Africa. Since 2003 the charity has provided disadvantaged children, from Grades 1 to 12, with a personal education programme or learning support scheme tailored specifically to their needs. This holistic approach enables children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity provides:

- **A Personal Approach** – Originally founded by a family from Somerset in the UK, SOS Africa provides a personal approach to charitable giving. Now in its 21st year of operation, the charity is still managed by its original founders under the direction of an experienced panel of passionate trustees.
- **A Holistic Education Programme** – SOS Africa provides each of the children in its care with school tuition, after-school care, learning support, holiday workshops, mentoring, counselling, transport, clothing and stationery. SOS Africa's Education Programmes are tailored to the needs of the children in the charity's care.
- **Regular Progress Reports** – SOS Africa maintains strong lines of communication between child, organisation and sponsor by providing regular updates including school reports, photo albums, updates via the SOS Africa Children's Blog and correspondence via email. Sponsors also have the option of visiting sponsored children throughout the process.
- **Minimal Charity Expenses** – Prioritising transparency, SOS Africa guarantees that 100% of donations are invested in the education and care of its children; all UK expenses are covered by Gift Aid. This is possible because the charity only employs one full-time staff member in the UK and invests all resources into its education programmes in South Africa.

Summary of the Charity's Main Activities



SOS Africa currently operates in two of the poorest regions of South Africa; Mahikeng (North-West Province) and Western Cape. The charity provides underprivileged children from these areas with the following support:

- A high standard of education and care within Preparatory, Primary and High Schools with a good reputation throughout local communities.
- Safe transportation to and from school.
- School uniform and stationery to eliminate potential inequalities and barriers to learning.
- After-school care at SOS Africa Aftercare Centres where the children receive lunch, homework assistance, tutoring and extra lessons. SOS Africa also provides each child with a mentor, with whom they can consult about any day-to-day problems which they may encounter.
- SOS Africa's Western Cape Education Centres also provide learning support for students with learning difficulties. This is essential in combating illiteracy among Primary School children (currently 78% of South African Primary School children between Grades 1 to 4 are unable to read with comprehension).
- Extra-curricular activities which include swimming lessons, kung fu and yoga, plus holiday workshops to supplement their education and keep the children safe outside of school hours.

All activities carried out by the SOS Africa Charity fulfil the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements. The SOS Africa Trustees confirm that all the charity's operations benefit and empower South African township children through the provision of a high standard of education and care enabling them to break the poverty cycle.

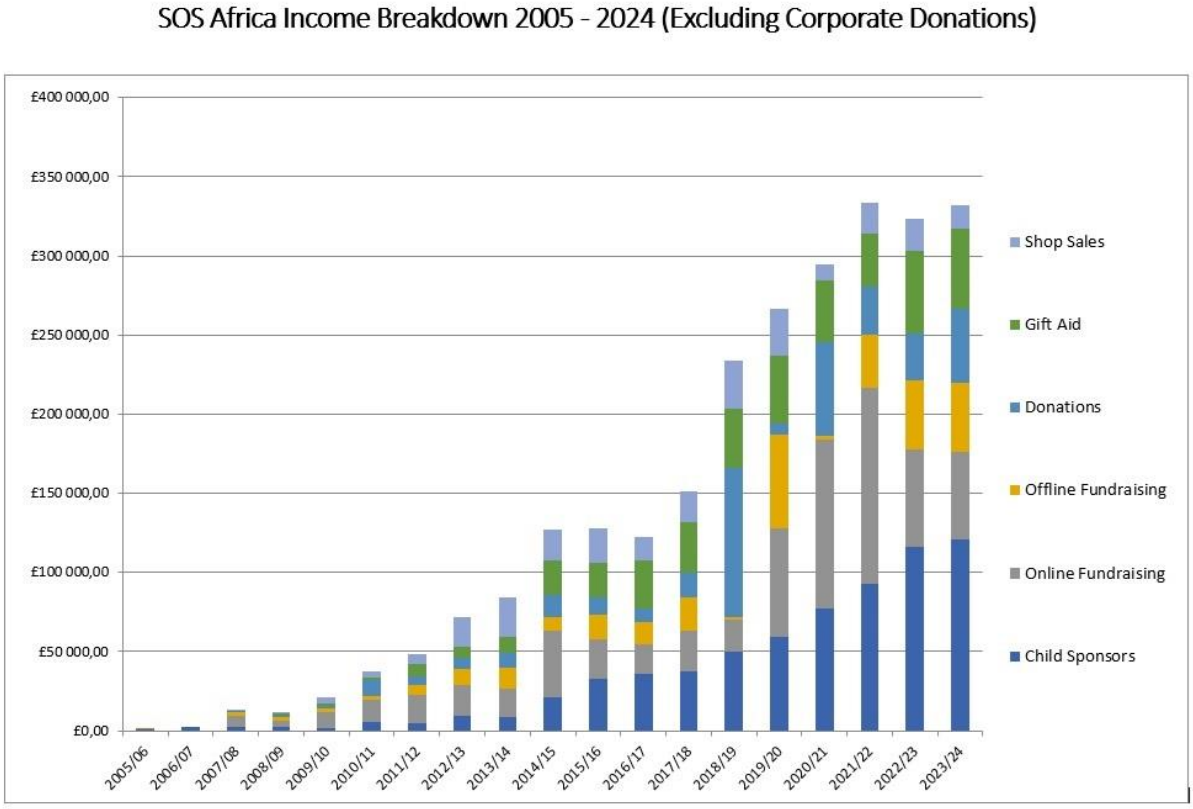
Summary of the Charity's 2023/24 Fundraising Achievements

"My heartfelt gratitude to the entire team for orchestrating this remarkable day. From the warm meet and greet, to Matt's unwavering support as he guided each team to the summit of King Alfred's Tower, and to the caring abseiling team who provided reassurance when my legs were ready to give in. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the generous donors, and last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to all the SOS Africa children who were with us in spirit, inspiring me to conquer my fear of heights."
Clem Cavoli (King Alfred's Tower Abseil 2023)

"As I say goodbye to Matt at the Gordon's Bay centre and Sive drives me to my hotel in Cape Town, I think back about everything I have seen during the last few days. I am struck especially by two things; firstly, how happy the children seem to be when they are in the educational centres. I do not doubt they would like to spend more time there. Secondly, I am very impressed by all the staff I have met. They are so friendly and the enormous dedication they show every day to the children is crucial to the success of SOS Africa."
Ian Swindale (SOS Africa Child Sponsor)

"*With the first graduates that came through the scheme now in university or in full-time employment, SOS Africa is the perfect partner for the K2 Foundation. Their work directly improves both the current lives of children as well as their future prospects through education. This approach and ethos resonate entirely with the aims of the K2 Foundation*." **Natasha Wannenburg (Relocation Manager, K2 - SOS Africa Corporate Sponsor)**

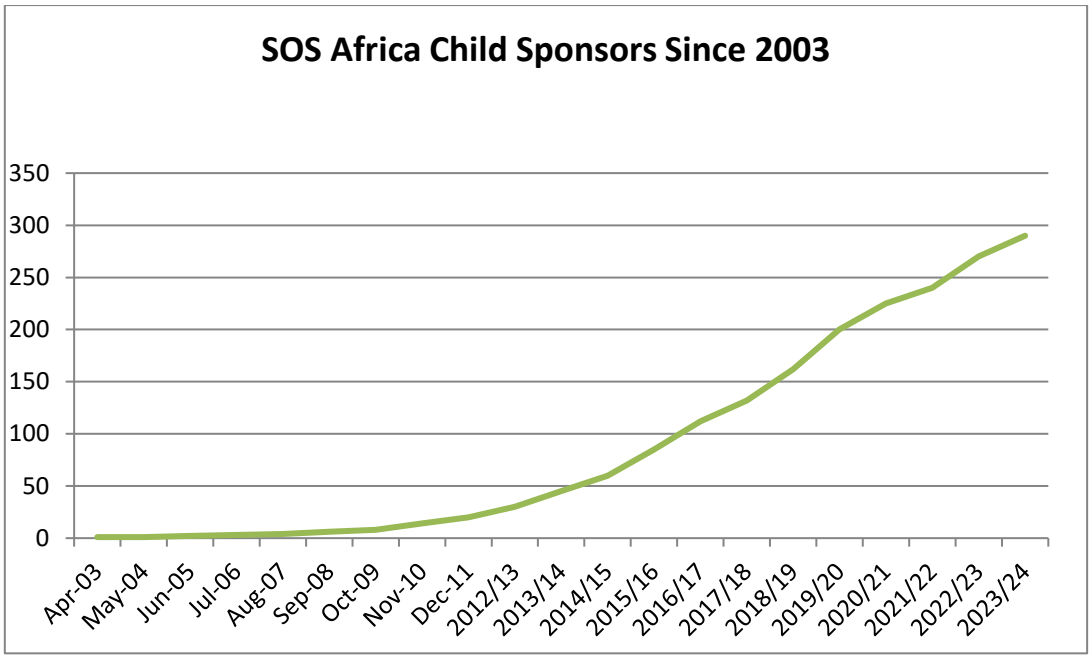
"This was my very first Glastonbury - and what a fantastic way to do it! Joining the SOS Africa team was an absolute honour, and a particularly meaningful way to experience the festival. To kick off each morning restoring the Pyramid field to its former glory for the day ahead was so rewarding. Just knowing I'd done my bit. I made some friends for life, and we laughed until we cried and left feeling both exhausted and enriched in equal measure. I'm already looking forward to returning in 2024 to do it all over again!"
Emma Sankey (SOS Africa Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Team)



- During the 2023/24 financial year SOS Africa achieved an annual income of £334,574. This represents a £10,000 increase in funds raised from the previous financial year. This can be attributed to an increase in child sponsorship plus offline and individual donations. Throughout these 12 months there was a decline in the amount of funds raised by the SOS Africa Charity Shop due to its relocation and consequent temporary closure as well as an increase in online fundraising and gift aid claims; the latter due to a slight shift from UK based to international sponsorship and donations.

- In September 2023, SOS Africa hosted a charity abseil from the historic King Alfred's Tower. During the 4-day event, 270 brave fundraisers abseiled from the 200ft folly to raise an incredible £41,000 for SOS Africa and the National Trust. The funds raised for SOS Africa were invested in the purchase of 2 new Grade R classrooms at partnering school HS Grabouw. The Trustees congratulate everyone involved in this fundraiser for another memorable event and fantastic fundraising achievement.

- Exactly 13 years on from the opening of its first charity shop in Shepton Mallet, in September 2023 the trustees officially opened to SOS Africa's new charity shop at 44 High Street to a fantastic reception from the local community. The shop was officially declared open by long-term SOS Africa supporter and friend Fiona Case and generated £15,000 in profits for SOS Africa from September 2023 to April 2024. The Trustees would like to congratulate Lin and her team for the early successes of the exciting new shop and wish them well for the forthcoming year.



- During the 2023/24 financial year, SOS Africa continued to experience an increase in recruitment of child sponsors from across the globe. SOS Africa's 290 long-term sponsors generated an annual income of approximately £135,000 for our organisation. This sustainable sponsorship enables SOS Africa to safeguard the long-term education and care of the SOS Africa children.

- The 2023/24 financial year saw a continued increase in independent fundraising events including skydives, Everest climbs and marathon runs, each raising invaluable funds for our cause.

- During the 2023/24 financial year, SOS Africa's Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Volunteers also hit another significant milestone, raising over £100,000 for the SOS Africa children. Each year, 120 SOS Africa volunteers attend the festival and keep the festival's Pyramid Stage Field free of litter to help protect the local environment and raise invaluable funds for our cause. The trustees would like to congratulate them for their dedication and wish them well for the 2024 festival.

- The 2023/24 financial year also saw an increase in individual donations including extremely generous donations from long-term SOS Africa sponsor Ian Swindale who sponsored both the salaries of 2 new SOS Africa Charity Staff and funded a new 7-seater vehicle to transport the SOS Africa children between education centres and to important appointments.

- Lastly, following on from the fundraising successes of the 2022/23 financial year, the SOS Africa Trustees were able to claim Gift Aid equating to £51,000. This income is vital as it covers UK expenses and guarantees that 100% of all initial funds raised/donated are invested in the charity's education projects in South Africa.

On behalf of the SOS Africa staff and children, the CEO and Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all SOS Africa sponsors, fundraisers and donors for your incredible support and generosity over the past 12 months.

2023/24 Achievements in South Africa

Children and young adults supported by SOS Africa throughout 2023/24:

	Scholarship Scheme	Learning Support	Graduated/Left
Mahikeng	8	N/A	14
Grabouw	33	N/A	6
Somerset West	0	70	0
Gordon's Bay	19	0	5
Elgin	18	55	3
Care Worker Training	6	N/A	37
TOTAL	**84**	**125**	**65**

SOS Africa Education Programme Formats:

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

The SOS Africa Charity Scholarship Scheme funds the holistic education and care of underprivileged children from the townships of South Africa, providing each child with the following support:

- **School tuition** at a school partnered with SOS Africa.
- **Transport** to and from school each day.
- **School clothing, stationery and equipment**.
- Attendance at an SOS Africa Education Centre (1.30pm–4pm each afternoon). The **SOS Africa Aftercare Programme** provides each child with the following:
    - **Nutrition** – home cooked food funded by SOS provided and cooked by staff members. This ensures that the children are receiving a healthy balanced meal every day.

- **Homework support** – including the introduction of reading and maths apps to further support the children who continue to struggle.
- **Student mentoring** – one-on-one support.
- Access to an **SOS Africa Library** and other learning resources.
- **Life skills tools and education** – Brain Gym / Yoga sessions / Mindfully me (meditation tools) / Occupational Therapy / workshops led by our Educational Psychologist on matters such as 'personal safety', bullying etc.
- **Individual support / therapy** given to children in each Education Centre who we consider to be 'at risk' or not coping in school or at home.
- **Guest speakers** – Police / Heroes in the community.
- **Holiday programmes** aimed at bringing everyone together (staff and children) having some creative fun time outside school. This year we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
- **Provision of a safe space for parents and teachers** to meet and discuss progress or intervention plans for children at risk. We have had to facilitate meetings with the school and parents where plans need to be put into place to best support the children.

Children sponsored by SOS Africa's Scholarship Scheme in Grabouw

SOS Africa Learning Support Scheme (8.30am–12.30pm each day):

Impact of SOS Africa Education Programmes:

Over the last five years SOS Africa has developed the Learning Support Programme offered to the Foundation Phase (Grades 1 to 3) children of our partnering schools. Our staff received excellent basic training and assessment tools through the WORDWORKS "Ready, Steady, Read, Write" Programme which has been adapted to ensure we meet the needs of each partnering school.

For the most part, each of our tutors work with 6 or 8 children per 30-minute session. These children attend Learning Support four days a week. Every week we follow the same programme of activities but with a new story.

After our 5-minute warm up of Brain Gym; a series of exercises designed to engage learning through movement; the children are relaxed and ready to absorb new lessons.

With each new story the lessons then follow these four predetermined steps:

- Reading the new story.
- Having discussions about the story highlighting new sounds and words.
- Writing or drawing something based on the story.
- Playing letter and sound games.

These include playdough (and other tangible materials) to physically shape letters. We also have "Letter Boxes" filled with a random assortment of items; the aim is for the child to pick out the item that begins with the letter on the box. These and many other games are developed to help the child learn through a process of playing and therefore greater understanding.

At the start and end of each term we test the children to assess their progress. Each child needs to progress through three levels of reading proficiency and comprehension before leaving our programme and returning to their classroom having caught up to the level of their fellow classmates. Our staff provide regular progress updates to the teachers and we all work together for the betterment of each child's development.

Ultimately, the aim is not only to teach the children to simply read or write but also to comprehend, to question the story and form their own opinions. In Grades 1-3 you learn to read but from Grade 4 onwards you have to read in order to learn. If children are not properly prepared in the foundation of their education, with these fundamental yet basic skills, then the rest of the educational development is thwarted.

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa Gordon's Bay

SOS Africa St Michael's Elgin

SOS Africa Mahikeng

2023/24 Education Programme Highlights:

SOS Africa Completes Build and Launches Rejuvenated Gordon's Bay Education Centre

It was a poignant milestone and an unforgettable moment 3 years in the waiting, when the SOS Africa children moved into the fully renovated Gordon's Bay Education Centre in March 2024. But as Project Architect Claudia showed them around their new home, it's fair to say that their awestruck expressions and contagious excitement made the whole process worthwhile!

The SOS Africa Trustees purchased 18 Blue Gum Avenue, Gordon's Bay in early 2021 thanks to a generous corporate donation and a remarkable Minecraft Livestream fundraising effort; the latter providing us with the funding required to transform the house into a fully operational education centre. However, due to a prolonged planning application process, the refurbishment and launch date for the new facility was repeatedly delayed until the Mayor of Cape Town gave the project the green light in May last year.

Wasting no further time, within a few weeks the builders finally broke ground and the transformation was underway. The full-scale renovations which followed were made possible by the collective efforts of builders and artisans from across the region, skilfully led by Grant from Dunkley Construction. Their unrelenting dedication to the project was truly inspiring; many of the crew members live in the same communities as our children and understand the incredible opportunities the new centre will provide.

Now complete, the charity's 5th education centre and headquarters in the region will facilitate supplementary education and holistic aftercare activities each weekday afternoon for children residing in local disadvantaged communities. In addition to the many indoor and outdoor study spaces which will host homework support and tutoring, the exciting new facility will also provide gardening, art, carpentry, cookery, swimming, music lessons and much more. The Trustees are delighted with the completion of the charity's flagship education centre which is a product of 21 years of experience and evolution and look forward to its official opening ceremony in November 2024.

New Additions to the SOS Africa Family

In January 2024, the Trustees were delighted to welcome 7 new sponsored children who joined SOS Africa's Grabouw Education Programme in Grade R. This represented a significant milestone as it was the first time that the school had facilitated Grade R Learning in both English and Afrikaans mediums.

As a consequence, for the first time SOS Africa was able to recruit scholarship scheme children from Grabouw's Xhosa Speaking communities as they are easily able to adjust to English language teaching. In preparation, SOS Africa also appointed a Xhosa speaking staff member to provide tutoring for the children prior to their enrolment. Having now attended the school for 4 months, the new children have settled in well both at school and aftercare, with very bright futures ahead of them.

The SOS Africa Trustees are delighted that the Western Cape Education Programmes have been able to grow and adapt to promote cultural diversity and inclusivity.

SOS Africa's Care Work Training Scheme

By March 2024, SOS Africa and The Village Collaboration's Care Worker Training Scheme had been in operation for 18 months and has fully trained 37 care workers with another 6 on track to graduate by April 2024. The impact this programme has had on the lives of the young people of Sir Lowry's Pass Village Community has been profound and the SOS Africa Trustees could not be prouder of its progress.

An Increase in Partner Schools

The 2023/24 financial year saw SOS Africa's educational assistance extended to support 12 schools across the Western Cape, including Daniel Academy, Milkwood and Temperance Town in Gordon's Bay. This assistance ranges from funding the tuition fees of SOS Africa children attending these institutions to funding classrooms, teaching resources and providing teacher training or additional educational support.

The SOS Africa Trustees are extremely proud of the widespread impact made by its education programmes across so many diverse educational institutions. These partnerships play an integral role in making quality education accessible to disadvantaged children from across the region and they look forward to exploring new collaborations in the future.

Improved Academic Performances

Throughout the course of the 2023/24 financial year, the SOS Africa Trustees were delighted with the improved academic performance of the SOS Africa children across all our education centres. By the close of the 2023 academic year, the majority of our students achieved improved grades, with many also receiving accolades in both academia and sport.

The credit for these sucesses should not only go to the children themselves but also SOS Africa's Education Centre staff who have worked tirelesly to ensure that they have the support they require to succeed. This involves not only assisting directly but regularly communicating with their teachers, parents and arranging extra lessons and tutoring when necessary. More often than not, academic achievements go hand-in-hand with our children's health and wellbeing. The emotional support provided by our staff with interventions by our Educational Psycologist when necessary ensure that our children are happy and well both at home and in the classroom.

The SOS Africa Trustees commend all the aforementioned role players for the positive impact they continue to have upon the health, wellbeing and performance of the SOS Africa children.

Holiday Workshops

Academic achievements have also been bolstered by holiday workshops hosted by the SOS Africa staff during the June and September holidays. To inspire the children to consider life beyond high school graduation, the SOS Africa staff hosted a series of careers workshops including visiting speakers, outings and mock job interviews. The Trustees greatly appreciate the efforts made by both the staff and visiting professionals.

In preparation for the all-important end of year exams, in September 2023, in addition to her twice weekly tutoring sessions, SOS Africa's Lelanie Roberts facilitated comprehensive study skills workshops focusing on revision techniques and planning to ensure that the children were able to cope with exam pressure.

Learning Support Strategies

Another exciting new addition to SOS Africa's holistic education programmes throughout the 2023/24 financial year was the introduction of special needs testing and one-on-one support provided by Learning Support Consultant Almarie Coetzee.

As part of this process, using school reports and feedback from schoolteachers, the SOS Africa staff identified 6 candidates for special needs assessments. Using the comprehensive test results, Learning Support Consultant Almarie developed holistic learning plans and strategies to be implemented with each child under the supervision of Almarie, SOS Africa staff, partnering schools and parents. It is hoped that this collective approach will enable us to break down barriers to learning for children facing these challenges. The SOS Africa Trustees commend this approach and look forward to reading Almarie's monthly progress reports and updates.

Sporting Successes

Throughout the past 12 months, many SOS Africa sponsored children have also excelled in the sporting arena. From the netball courts, to the rugby fields and provincial drummies tournaments, sporting colours and medals have been awarded to very proud recipients throughout both Mahikeng and the Western Cape. SOS Africa Elgin's Henwhill has also been selected to play rugby for the Boland regional side.

Staff Training

The SOS Africa Trustees strongly believe in the importance of career development. They know that training and upskilling our staff will ensure that they are able to provide the best possible education and care for the SOS Africa children.

Last year they were delighted to be able to enrol SOS Africa's Juanita and Sharnice onto ECD Level 4 Training Courses hosted by Elgin Community College Grabouw. Completing this course will qualify them to facilitate early childhood development services for children from different cultures and backgrounds.

Training in Level 2 First Aid and Fire Safety was also provided to all SOS Africa staff by FD Fire Safety Consultants to ensure that they have the knowledge and confidence they require to cope in the event of a fire or injury to an SOS Africa child or colleague.

SOS Africa Operations Manager Li-andi was also enrolled on a Management Training Course. As part of this qualification, she facilitated a comprehensive training workshop for her colleagues.

Appointment of School Prefects

At the start of the 2024 academic year, SOS Africa's Ameleo was chosen to be part of the school's governing body committee for the students. As a consequence, he attended a leadership training camp which includes students from 20 different schools across the Western Cape. He and one other learner were chosen out of all the Grabouw High School prefects to attend this camp.

Congratulations also to SOS Africa's Olivia, Daniel and David for being appointed as school prefects and to Henwhill who had the honour of being Deputy Head Boy at St Michael's Primary School.

Sponsor Visits

Last year, SOS Africa received more visits from more overseas supporters than ever before. In June 2023 we had the honour of hosting staff and students from SOS Africa sponsors The Maynard School, all the way from Exeter in the UK. This philanthropic group have been SOS Africa child sponsors since 2018 and each year organise a range of fundraising activities to support our organisation.

Tours of our Western Cape education centres were also arranged for Alfred's Tower Abseiler Paul Myles, and UK child sponsors Louise, Kevin, John and Karen.

In early 2024, SOS Africa Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Volunteers Matt and Georgina visited our Elgin Education Centre and relished an afternoon of fun and games with the SOS Africa children there.

Lastly, we had the honour of hosting SOS Africa UK Chair of Trustees Matthew Davies and his wife Laura. Whilst Matthew spent time visiting our projects and meeting many of the SOS Africa staff and kids for the very first time, Laura facilitated engaging workshops which explored themes relating to Global Citizenship. As part of these discussions, our older students were asked to consider the challenges faced by their societies and how possible solutions could be found at an individual, community and government level.

Alumni News

Having just completed his 1-year internship at TFD Manufacturing, the Trustees were delighted to learn that SOS Africa's first Western Cape graduate signed a contract to start a full-time role at the company from 1st June 2023! They would like to congratulate Andrew and thank Ian from TFD for this fantastic opportunity.

With many SOS Africa graduates in their final years at university and 9 current SOS Africa sponsored students graduating this year, The SOS Africa Trustees are very excited to follow their progress throughout the 2024/25 financial year and wish them well with their studies.

Concluding Thoughts

Writing a Trustees Annual Report is always a great opportunity to reflect on the collective journey our Trustees, staff, volunteers and children have been on over the previous 12 months. As the charity celebrates its 21st year, the Trustees are extremely proud of so many aspects of the organisation's operations both in the UK and across South Africa.

On the fundraising front, they are delighted that the charity's exciting fundraising challenges continue to attract the support of fearless fundraisers from across the southwest. These events not only provide invaluable funding but also the opportunity to introduce our cause to new and enthusiastic supporters from different parts of the region; SOS Africa's King Alfred's Tower Abseil was by no means an exception, recruiting over 200 first-time abseilers and raising over £41,000 for our cause. After a period of enforced closure, the trustees are also delighted that SOS Africa's Shepton Mallet Charity Shop is back open at its new and vastly improved premises further up the high street. The new shop is a credit to Lin and her team and continues to smash daily taking records and attract more customers and volunteers than ever before. The Trustees would also like to thank our loyal child sponsors who continue to grow in number each year; their unending generosity provides vital sustainable income and stability for our organisation, enabling us to grow at a steady rate without fear of running into financial difficulty.

This steady growth is reflected across all the charity's education programmes, both in terms of the numbers of children and young adults supported and the quality of holistic education provided. The completion and launch of SOS Africa's Gordon's Bay Education Centre was without doubt the highlight of the 2023/24 financial year. After a long and exhausting planning application battle and the devastating loss of Western Cape Trustee and the project architect Byron Russell, the Trustees are so proud of everyone involved in this life-changing project for their perseverance in the face of adversity. They know that Byron will be extremely proud of what has been achieved and the impact the flagship centre will make upon the lives of so many. The official launch of 'The Byron Russell Education Centre' in November promises to be another memorable milestone in the charity's 21-year history.

Elsewhere in the Western Cape, the numbers of children supported by the well-established Grabouw and Elgin Education Programmes continues to increase. The funds raised by the King Alfred's Tower Abseil have enabled our partnering school HS Grabouw to introduce Grade R English language teaching for the very first time providing a solid educational foundation to the disadvantaged communities of Grabouw. The 7 new Xhosa children who joined SOS Africa Grabouw in January 2024 are already benefitting from this new initiative, as will many more for generations to come. Likewise, the new Gordon's Bay Education Centre will begin recruiting greater numbers of disadvantaged children from local township communities in the immediate future. The SOS Africa Trustees would like to pay tribute to SOS Africa's Western Cape staff ably led by CEO Matt Crowcombe and Operations Manager Li-andi Claassen for always going the extra mile for the children in their care; it is hardly surprising the SOS Africa children are thriving both in and out of the classroom with the unconditional and unlimited care and support they receive from our staff each afternoon. Special mention also goes to Admin and Finance Manager Rae Morris who tirelessly works away in the background providing invaluable support to those on the frontline.

Likewise, in Mahikeng, the charity's inaugural education project continues to empower its beneficiaries with a personal programme tailored to their needs. With Operations Manager Jenny Matthews nearing retirement, the 21-year-old education programme now supports 8 students, 3 of whom will join the 14 already graduated at the end of the 2024 academic year. Jenny and her team will continue to support the remaining scholars until their completion of high school and have the sincere thanks of the SOS Africa Trustees and supporters.

The Trustees are also extremely proud of SOS Africa's Care Worker Training Programme in partnership with Sir Lowry's Pass Village Community. As each graduation ceremony is held and new job opportunities

celebrated, they are truly grateful to be able to empower those who dropped out of South Africa's often overwhelmed education system and provide them with the second chance which they all truly deserve.

The trustees would like to give their final word to the 9 matric students who will graduate from SOS Africa's Mahikeng and Western Cape Education Programmes at the end of the 2024 academic year. They are so proud of each of these inspiring individuals for their journeys they have been on and wish them all the very best of luck as they fly the SOS Africa nest. The Trustees cannot wait to follow their progress as they embark on their bright and exciting futures.

SOS Africa CEO Dr Matt Crowcombe with UK Trustees Prof Matthew Davies (Chair), Alex Dyer, Kim Williams and Gavin Thompson

Financial Review

Review of SOS Africa's Financial Position

At the close of the 2023/24 financial year, SOS Africa is in a strong financial position after another consistent year of fundraising, and an increase in donors and child sponsors.

Whilst investing this income in both new and existing SOS Africa Education Programmes, funding has also been kept in reserve to secure the long-term educational development of the children supported by the charity.

Throughout the 2023/24 financial year, SOS Africa has also maintained its pledge of invested 100% of all funds raised and donated in our education projects in Africa; the £54153.15 of UK expenditure was comfortably covered by the £50720.64 claimed in Gift Aid and the £15,000 raised by the SOS Africa Charity Shop.

Policy for Holding Reserves

Each year SOS Africa holds reserves to ensure that the charity can guarantee the long-term education of all the children within its care, in line with the charity's policy never to remove a child from schooling for financial reasons.

Amount of Reserves Held

Following the close of the 2023/24 financial year, SOS Africa held £155622.89 in reserve. Including funds currently held in SOS Africa savings accounts in South Africa, this is enough funding to safeguard all SOS Africa's Education Programmes for a further year. During the current unstable financial climate, it is essential to keep funds in reserve to protect the long-term financial security of the charity.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	New SOS Africa Trustees are appointed by resolution of the current trustees. For example, if one trustee resigns, the remaining trustees will appoint a replacement.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	SOS Africa
Registered charity number	1188705
Charity's principal address	SOS Africa 44 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AS

Names of Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Davies	Chair of Trustees	N/A	N/A
Gavin Thompson	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex Dyer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Names of Chief Executive or Names of Senior Staff Members

SOS Africa CEO: Matthew Crowcombe

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	
Full Name	Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies
Position	Chair of Trustees, SOS Africa
Date	20/06/2024

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SOS Africa	1188705

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April2023	To	31st March 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Child Sponsorship	-	120,973	-	120,973	116,434
Offline Fundraising	-	1,230	-	1,230	4,590
Online Fundraising & Donations	-	55,266	-	55,266	61,514
Bank Interest	2,324	-	-	2,324	761
Donations	-	47,060	-	47,060	29,082
Gift Aid	50,721		-	50,721	52,790
Shop Sales	15,000	-	-	15,000	20,000
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	42,000	-	42,000	39,120
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	68,045	266,529	-	334,574	324,290
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	68,045	266,529	-	334,574	324,290
A3 Payments					
Education Programme in South Africa	-	213,782	-	213,782	407,185
Website Fees	2,485	-	-	2,485	1,549
Bank Charges / Just Giving Fees	698	-	-	698	721
Tax / National Insurance Payments	9,167	-	-	9,167	11,766
Wages / Pension	38,893	-	-	38,893	37,679
Printing / Travel	1,547	-	-	1,547	3,110
Event Expenses	1,056	-	-	1,056	12,540
Funds Raised for Other Charities	-	9,631	-	9,631	14,772
Accounts / Prof Fees	307	-	-	307	451
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	22,000	-	22,000	180
Sub total	54,153	245,413	-	299,567	489,953
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	54,153	245,413	-	299,567	489,953
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,891	21,116	-	35,007	- 165,663
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,096	114,519	-	120,615	286,278
Cash funds this year end	19,987	135,635	-	155,623	120,615

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	SOS Africa UK HSBC ACCOUNT	19,987	135,635	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**19,987**	**135,635**	**-**
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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
	Matthew Lloyd Davies	20/06/2024

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: SOS AFRICA

On accounts for the year ended 31 - 03 - 2024 **Charity no (if any)** 1188705

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

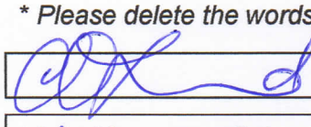
[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  **Date:** 7-6-24

Name: NATALIE FROUD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body 1-IYQN-ACMA-CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF

(if any):	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS
Address:	61 ROBINS LANE
	FROME
	SOMERSET BA11 3ET

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

SOS AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1188705

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MAR 2023

SOS AFRICA

Registered Charity No: 1188705

Summary of the Purposes of the Charity

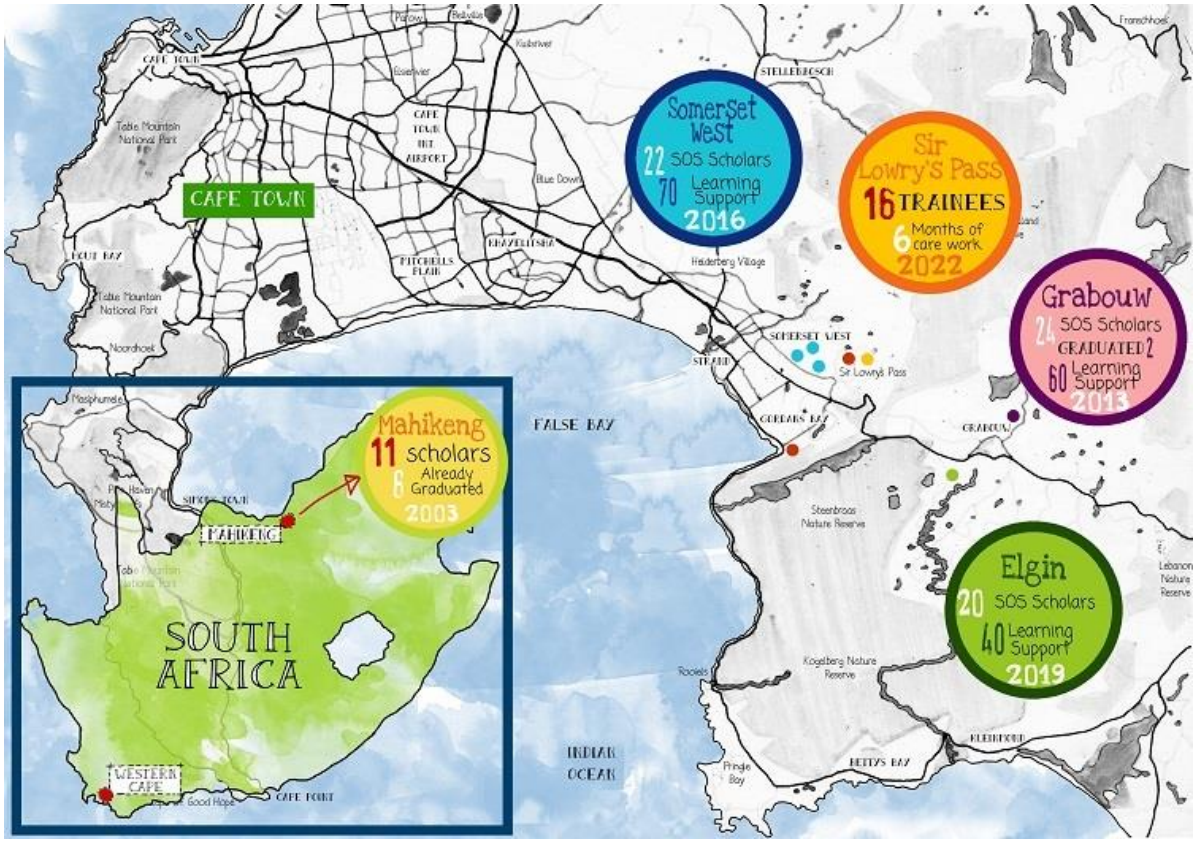
Children Sponsored by SOS Africa's Elgin Education Programme

SOS Africa is a small UK based grassroots child sponsorship organisation which funds the education and care of underprivileged South African children from the poorest regions of South Africa. Since 2003 the charity has provided disadvantaged children, from grades 1 to 12, with a personal education programme or learning support scheme tailored specifically to their needs. This holistic approach enables children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity provides:

- **A Personal Approach** – Originally founded by a family from Somerset in the UK, SOS Africa provides a personal approach to charitable giving. Now in its 20th year of operation, the charity is still managed by its original founders under the direction of an experienced panel of passionate trustees.
- **A Holistic Education Programme** – SOS Africa provides each of the children in its care with school tuition, after-school care, learning support, holiday workshops, mentoring, counselling, transport, clothing and stationery. SOS Africa's Education Programmes are tailored to the needs of the children in the charity's care.
- **Regular Progress Reports** – SOS Africa maintains strong lines of communication between child, organisation and sponsor by providing regular updates including school reports, photo albums, updates via the SOS Africa Children's Blog and correspondence via email. Sponsors also have the option of visiting sponsored children throughout the process.
- **Minimal Charity Expenses** – Prioritising transparency, SOS Africa guarantees that 100% of donations are invested in the education and care of its children; all UK expenses are covered by Gift Aid. This is possible because the charity only employs one full-time staff member in the UK and invests all resources into its education programmes in South Africa.

Summary of the Charity's Main Activities



SOS Africa currently operates in two of the poorest regions of South Africa; Mahikeng (North-West Province) and Western Cape. The charity provides underprivileged children from these areas with the following support:

- A high standard of education and care within Preparatory, Primary and High Schools with a good reputation throughout local communities.
- Safe transportation to and from school.
- School uniform and stationery to eliminate potential inequalities and barriers to learning.
- After-school care at SOS Africa Aftercare Centres where the children receive lunch, homework assistance, tutoring and extra lessons. SOS Africa also provides each child with a mentor, with whom they can consult about any day-to-day problems which they may encounter.
- SOS Africa's Western Cape Education Centres also provide learning support for students with learning difficulties. This is essential in combating illiteracy among Primary School children (currently 78% of South African Primary School Children between grades 1-4 are unable to read with comprehension).
- Extra-curricular activities which include swimming lessons, kung fu and yoga, plus holiday workshops to supplement their education and keep the children safe outside of school hours.

All activities carried out by the SOS Africa Charity fulfil the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements. The SOS Africa Trustees confirm that all the charity's operations benefit and empower South African township children through the provision of a high standard of education and care enabling them to break the poverty cycle.

Summary of the Charity's 2022/23 Fundraising Achievements

"At BOF we understand everything we do has an environmental and social impact. SOS Africa Charity gives us the opportunity to contribute directly to the education and support for disadvantaged African Children. The charity aligns with our business initiatives, their determination and vision we can without a doubt say is outstanding."

Jessica Marshall, BOF (SOS Africa Corporate Sponsor)

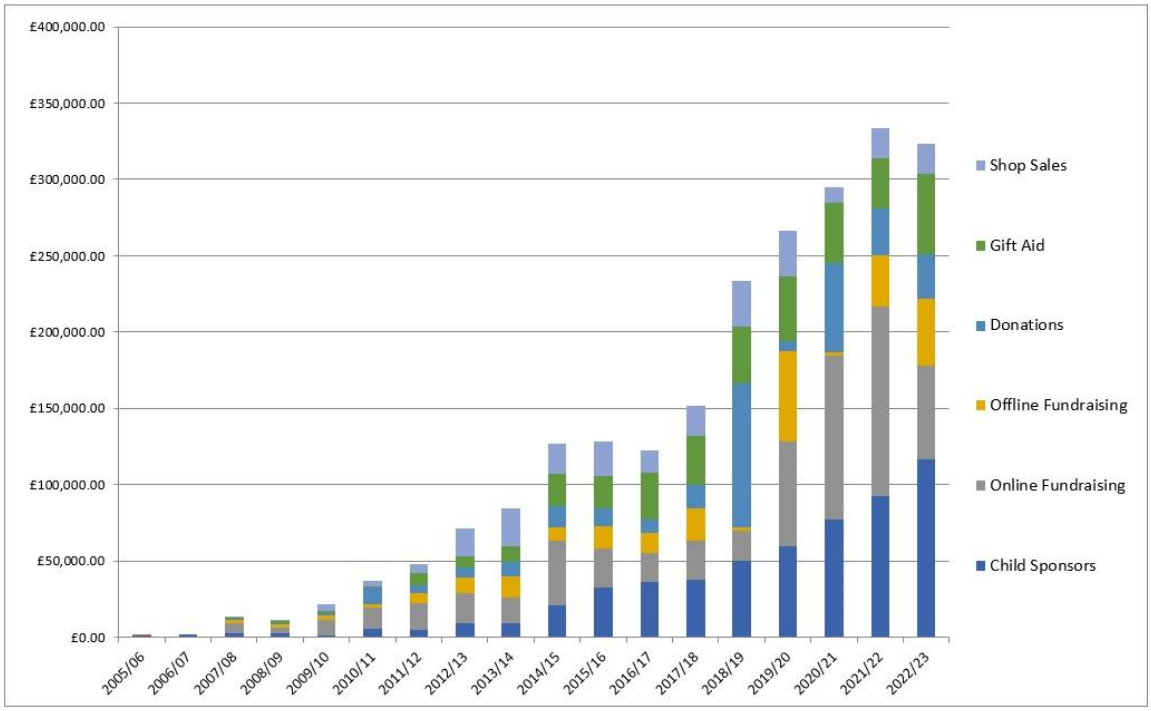
"After a year of route planning and working out the timeline, it's all finally come together for us to complete a trip of a lifetime. Most of our crew haven't been to Africa yet, let alone a 4x4 mission through 6 countries in 21 days. We are so proud to have come across SOS Africa, they work hard to ensure children get the education and care. We're really excited to see if we can make an impact with our fundraising efforts alongside this charity."

Jaime-Li Roux (SOS Africa Fundraiser)

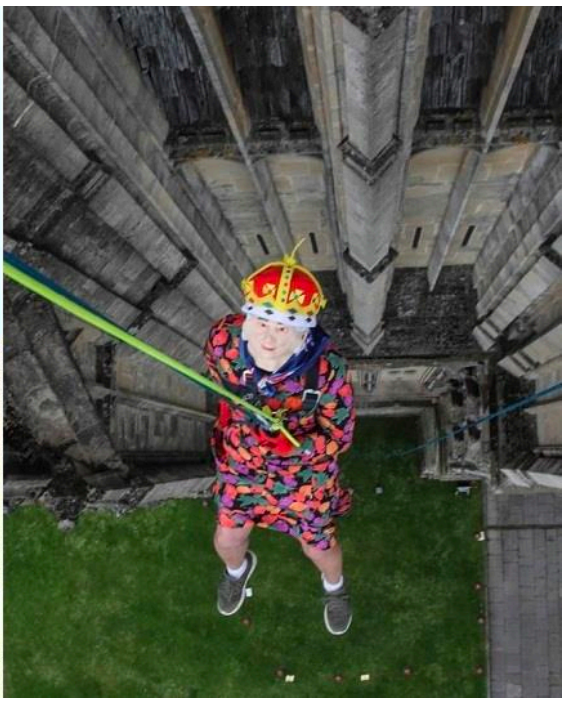
"The organisation of the event was outstanding, with thoughtful touches to enhance our experience including thank you letters from the children in the bell room and a caring support team to coach and cheer on those of us who were a little bit more anxious. We are delighted to have been able to take part and raise over £2,700 across our two teams. We all applaud the hard work obviously put into arranging such an epic event, so from all of us at Cooper and Tanner we thank you sincerely for this and hope that the event will allow the important work of the charities supported do to continue."

Freya Webb, Cooper and Tanner (Wells Cathedral Abseil Team)

SOS Africa Income Breakdown 2005 - 2023 (Excluding Corporate Donations)

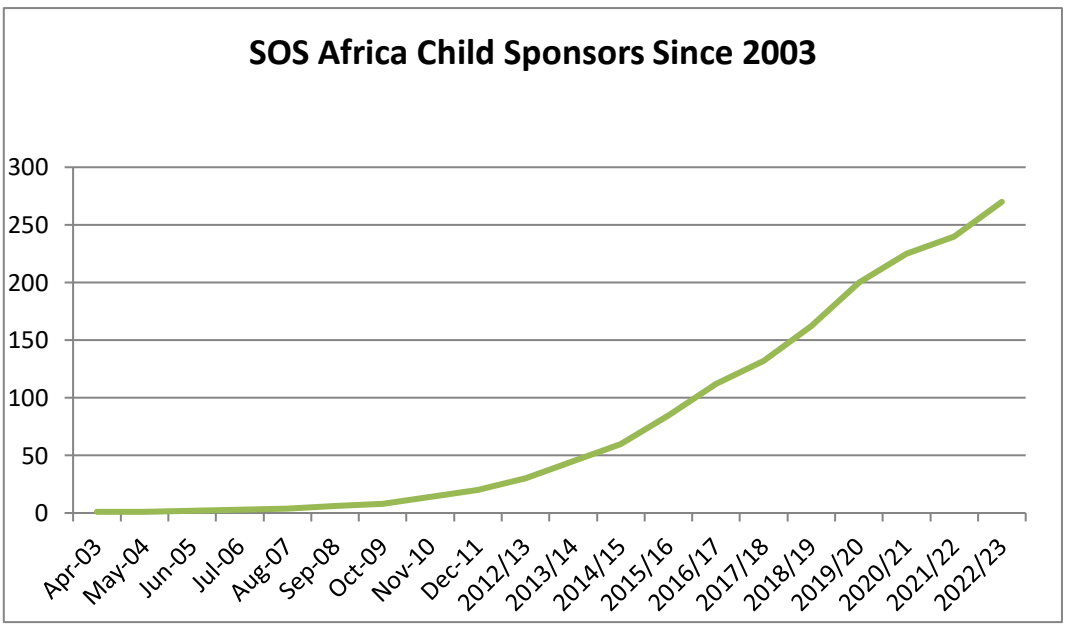


- During the 2022/23 financial year SOS Africa achieved an income of £324290. Although this represents a drop from the £334043 (excluding corporate donations) raised during the previous financial year, this can be attributed to the record-breaking Livestream Minecraft Online Fundraising Event which took place in May 2021 raising an astonishing £111,000 for SOS Africa's Gordon's Bay Education Centre Development Project. Excluding this contribution, SOS Africa's annual income actually increased in 2022/23. During this period, only 21% of SOS Africa's income funded the charity's UK running costs, all of which was covered by Gift Aid and the Charity Shop.



- In June 2022, SOS Africa hosted a charity abseil from Wells Cathedral in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. During the 4-day event, 320 brave fundraisers abseiled from the 124ft North-West Tower to raise an incredible £53,750 for SOS Africa, Wells Cathedral and RUH Bath. Shortly after, SOS Africa received the exciting news that our organisation has been voted 'Charity of the Year' by teacher recruitment company Teacher Horizons. The company also agreed to sponsor tutoring for SOS Africa Charity students in the Western Cape.

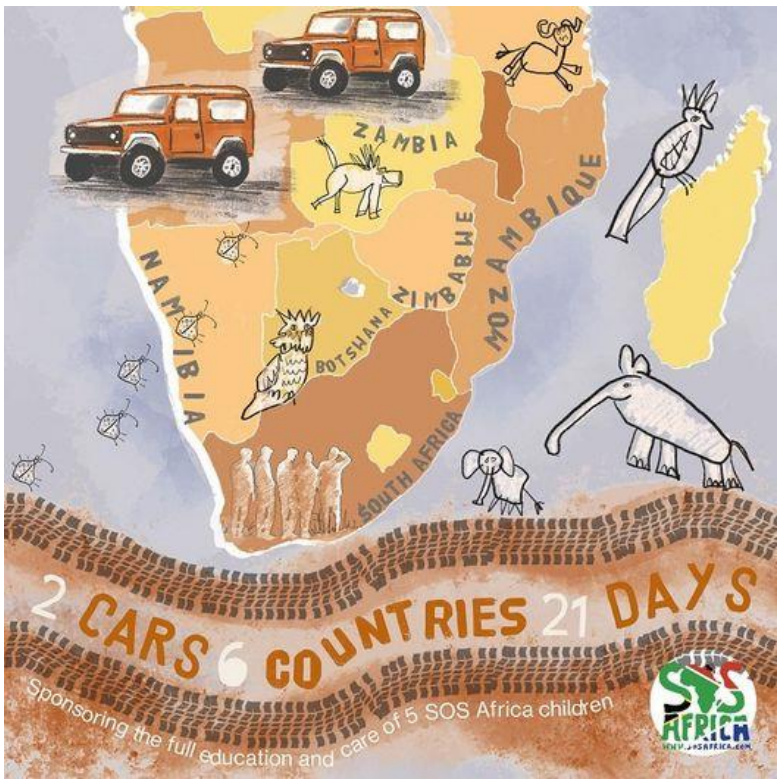
- During the 2022/23 financial year, SOS Africa continued to experience an increase in recruitment of child sponsors from across the globe. By the end of the financial year, SOS Africa's 270 long-term sponsors generated an annual income of approximately £130,000 for our organisation. This sustainable sponsorship enables SOS Africa to safeguard the long-term education and care of the SOS Africa Children.



- The 2022/23 financial year saw a continued increase in takings by the SOS Africa Charity Shop in Shepton Mallet. Towards the end of the year the SOS Africa staff, trustees and customers celebrated the shop's 10th anniversary by funding an IT laboratory which will give computer access to hundreds of children across Grabouw. Huge congratulations to everyone who has been part of this life-changing initiative over the past decade; the impact of SOS Africa's Shepton Mallet Charity Shop will be felt for generations.

- The trustees would also like to give special mention to SOS Africa's Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Team. After the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 festivals, the charity recruited a team of 120 litter picking volunteers ready for Glastonbury 2022. After the final can was recycled and piece of litter collected at the very end of the festival, the team had raised an event record of £20,000 for the SOS Africa Children!

- The 2022/23 financial year also saw an increase in independent fundraising as the threat of COVID-19 dissipated. Philanthropists from around the world contacted our organisation and organised their own events to raise invaluable funds for our cause.



Of all the events organised, 2 of the best had to be a 4x4 adventure across Southern Africa which raised over £3000 and a successful climb to the base camp of Mount Kilimanjaro raising £500 for the SOS Africa Children. Congratulations to Jamie, Glenn and all our supports for their incredible fundraising feats over the past 12 months!

- Throughout the 2022/23 financial year, preparations were also being made for SOS Africa's next annual fundraising event. The Trustees were delighted to announce the granting of permission to host a 160ft charity abseil from the iconic King Alfred's Tower in Somerset. By the end the financial year, with 4 months to go, the event had been launched, over £2000 raised and 150 abseilers already recruited.

- During the 2022/23 financial year, SOS Africa also received sad news of the passing of long-term child sponsor Jane Dornan. Jane began supporting SOS Africa's Kabelo back in 2014 during his early years of Primary School and proudly followed his progress ever since. She was often in touch with words of encouragement which Kabelo greatly appreciated. Thanks to her support, Kabelo is now in Grade 11 and less than 2 years away from graduation.

We know that Jane will be dearly missed by her family and friends; the SOS Africa Trustees, staff and children are thinking of them all during this difficult time. They also want to say a heartfelt thank you to them for collecting funds at Jane's funeral, all of which will help support Kabelo through his remaining years of schooling.

- Lastly, following on from the fundraising successes of the 2021/22 financial year, the SOS Africa Trustees were able to claim Gift Aid equating to £52,790, a charity record. This income is vital as it covers UK expenses and guarantees that 100% of all initial funds raised/donated are invested in the charity's education projects in South Africa.

  On behalf of the SOS Africa Staff and Children, the CEO and Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all SOS Africa Sponsors, fundraisers and donors for your incredible support and generosity over the past 12 months:

  "After a troubling few years, the past 12 months have re-energised the charity sector! With lock-down rules eased, staff, volunteers and fundraisers alike have had the freedom to join together and support their favourite causes. We have been moved by the support and generosity of both new and returning fundraisers. As our income graph demonstrates, we have seen a healthy increase in fundraising events and child sponsors enabling us to expand the scope of our support in South Africa. We greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in making the vital work of our organisation possible." **Dr Matt Crowcombe (CEO, SOS Africa)**

2022/23 Achievements in South Africa

Children and young adults supported by SOS Africa throughout 2022/23:

	Scholarship Scheme	Learning Support	Graduated/Left
Mahikeng	10	N/A	12
Grabouw	24	60	4
Somerset West	20	70	4
Elgin	20	40	3
Care Worker Training	7	N/A	17
TOTAL	**81**	**130**	**40**

SOS Africa Education Programme Formats:

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

The SOS Africa Charity Scholarship Scheme funds the holistic education and care of underprivileged children from the townships of South Africa, providing each child with the following support:

- **School tuition** at a school partnered with SOS Africa.
- **Transport** to and from school each day.
- **School clothing, stationery and equipment**.

- Attendance at an SOS Africa Education Centre (1.30pm – 4pm each afternoon). The **SOS Africa Aftercare Programme** provides each child with the following:
    - **Nutrition** – home cooked food funded by SOS provided and cooked by staff members. This ensures that the children are receiving a healthy balanced meal every day.
    - **Homework support** – including the introduction of reading and maths apps to further support the children who continue to struggle.
    - **Student mentoring** – one-on-one support.
    - Access to an **SOS Africa Library** and other learning resources.
    - **Life skills tools and education** – Brain Gym / Yoga sessions / Mindfully me (meditation tools) / Occupational Therapy / workshops led by our Educational Psychologist on matters such as 'personal safety', bullying etc.
    - **Individual support / therapy** given to children in each Education Centre who we consider to be 'at risk' or not coping in school or at home.
    - **Guest speakers** – Police / Heroes in the community.
    - **Holiday programmes** aimed at bringing everyone together (staff and children) having some creative fun time outside school. This year we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
    - **Provision of a safe space for parents and teachers** to meet and discuss progress or intervention plans for children at risk. We have had to facilitate meetings with the school and parents where plans need to be put into place to best support the children.

Children sponsored by SOS Africa's Scholarship Scheme in Grabouw

SOS Africa Learning Support Scheme (8.30am – 12.30pm each day):

Impact of SOS Africa Education Programmes:

Over the last four years SOS Africa has developed the Learning Support Programme offered to the Foundation Phase (grades 1-3) children of our partnering schools. Our staff received excellent basic training and assessment tools through the WORDWORKS "Ready, Steady, Read, Write" Programme which has been adapted to ensure we meet the needs of each partnering school.

For the most part, each of our tutors work with 2 or 3 children per 40-minute session. These children attend Learning Support four days a week. Every week we follow the same programme of activities but with a new story.

After our 5-minute warm up of Brain Gym; a series of exercises designed to engage learning through movement; the children are relaxed and ready to absorb new lessons.

With each new story the lessons then follow these four predetermined steps:

- Reading the new story.
- Having discussions about the story highlighting new sounds and words.
- Writing or drawing something based on the story.
- Playing letter and sound games.

These include playdough (and other tangible materials) to physically shape letters. We also have “Letter Boxes” filled with a random assortment of items; the aim is for the child to pick out the item that begins with the letter on the box. These and many other games are developed to help the child learn through a process of playing and therefore greater understanding.

At the start and end of each term we test the children to assess their progress. Each child needs to progress through three levels of reading proficiency and comprehension before leaving our programme and returning to their classroom having caught up to the level of their fellow classmates. Our staff provide regular progress updates to the teachers and we all work together for the betterment of each child’s development.

Ultimately, the aim is not only to teach the children to simply read or write but also to comprehend, to question the story and form their own opinions. In grades 1-3 you learn to read but from grades 4 onwards you have to read in order to learn. If children are not properly prepared in the foundation of their education, with these fundamental yet basic skills, then the rest of the educational development is thwarted.

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa Somerset West

SOS Africa St Michael's Elgin

SOS Africa Mahikeng

"Throughout 2022 our staff put a lot of effort into supporting developmental growth, parental involvement, and the connection between our team and our partnering schools. The key components of our development programmes were to instil our students with computer skills, personal development, and critical thinking. We conducted parenting workshops that gave parents the tools they needed to improve their relationships with their kids. We also conducted a teambuilding workshop for our staff members, which emphasised on relationships, communication, and professional development. If it weren't for the generosity of our incredible sponsors, trustees, and volunteers, none of this would be possible. We are appreciative and fortunate to have such a wonderful support network."

Li-andi Claassen (Operations Manager, SOS Africa Western Cape)

2022/23 Education Programme Highlights:

SOS Africa's First Western Cape Graduate Begins Internship at TFD Manufacturing

In April SOS Africa announced the exciting news that the charity's first Western Cape graduate Andrew had been accepted onto an internship programme at steel manufacturing company TFD. Over the past 8 months Andrew has really grown into the role and if he continues to progress will be employed full-time by the company in May 2023.

17 Graduate from SOS Africa's Care Work Training Scheme

Early in 2022 SOS Africa announced the launch of an ambitious new care worker training programme, aiming to change the devastating effects of the lack of youth and adult education in Sir Lowry's Pass Village Community in the Western Cape. After the completion of two 3-month courses, we were delighted to announce the graduation of 17 fully qualified care workers ready to begin their new careers.

SOS Africa's Holistic Education Programmes Continue to Grow

2022/23 was also a year in which SOS Africa expanded the holistic support it provided the SOS Africa Children. It is the belief of our staff and trustees that it is vital to help the children in our care find a passion outside of the classroom to inspire them and motivation them throughout their education. SOS Africa and our partnering schools now offer a range of extra-curricular activities including sports, martial arts, gardening, cookery and much more.

In early 2023 we also received the wonderful news that Jessie-Leigh and Mari-Lee from SOS Africa St Michael's Primary had been awarded National Colours for Drummies. This is the highest honour in the sport and testament to their commitment and dedication.

SOS Africa Outings

Throughout the past 12 months SOS Africa also arranged a wide range of outings to broaden the horizons of the SOS Africa Children including trips to local rugby and cricket sporting fixtures and cultural experiences including Cape Town's infamous Graffiti Festival.

Improved Academic Performances throughout 2022

2022/23 was also a year in which SOS Africa invested in experienced tutors to provide additional academic support to our sponsored children. These academic interventions have already borne fruit as academic performance across all our Western Centres has improved throughout the year. Not only have 100% of our Western Cape children passed the year, but many even finished in the Top 5 of their respective grades and received both sporting and academic awards at school prizegiving ceremonies.

End of Year Parties

And what better way to celebrate the formidable achievements of the staff and children than by treating them to actioned-packed outings? To reward them for their endeavours, the younger children were taken on a trip to Familier Farm where the SOS kids enjoyed a festive feast, met and fed some of the farm animals (including the cutest little bunny rabbits), played sports and games, made Christmas trees and listened to Christmas stories.

Meanwhile, for the High School Christmas Outings SOS Africa partnered with local sailing therapy charity The Little Optimist. This inspirational organisation aims to use sailing as a means to facilitate mental and physical healing for disadvantaged children to enhance their wellbeing and quality of life. Little Optimistic Founder Greg and his team put together an action-packed itinerary which included sailing Little Optimist boats, learning about our oceans, award ceremonies, a festive feast and an exciting trip to the Two Oceans Aquarium for an interactive lesson and tour.

Holiday and Parental Workshops

School holidays are the times when the SOS Africa Children are most vulnerable, away from the safety of our Education Centres and often alone at home whilst their parents or guardians are at work. Last year the SOS Africa Staff arranged more holiday workshops than ever before, providing vital supplementary support for both our children and their parents.

Whilst IT Training Skills Workshops were organised for SOS Africa's High School Children; Parent Workshops were also arranged to provide professional advice and guidance to parents struggling to cope with the many challenges of parenting within disadvantaged communities.

A New School Year Begins…

The start of the new school year is exciting for so many reasons and 2023 was by no means an exception. Whilst the staff were thrilled to be reunited with the SOS Africa Children after the long school holidays, the first few days are always filled with the sharing of stories of memorable experiences from the Christmas break. It was also a time for new beginnings as the SOS Africa Children began different grades with new teachers and classmates.

Among the many highlights of January 2023, the graduation of the first SOS Africa child from St Michael's Primary to Grabouw High School had to be near the top. There were also many new additions to SOS Africa's growing family who received a warm welcome by our staff.

Staff Training and Support

The SOS Africa Trustees have also prioritised the health and wellbeing of the staff. Last year they provided more team building, staff training and mentoring than ever before and even set up a staff savings scheme to provide them with long-term financial security.

The SOS Africa Trustees are also firm believers in the importance of career development. They know that training and upskilling our staff will ensure that they are able to provide the best possible education and care for the SOS Africa Children. Last year they were delighted to be able to enrol SOS Africa's Juanita and Sharnice onto ECD Level 4 Training Courses hosted by Elgin Community College Grabouw. Completing this course will qualify them to facilitate early childhood development services for children from different cultures and backgrounds. Furthermore, SOS Africa Operations Manager Li-andi has also just begun an online Management Course to provide additional training for her ever-expanding role.

SOS Africa Launches Alumni News Feature

20 years on from the sponsorship of the very first SOS Africa child, each year the trustees, staff and children celebrate the success stories of more graduates as our sponsored children 'fly the nest' and head on to further education or embark on exciting new careers. To celebrate these successes, a new Alumni News Feature was added to the SOS Africa Website.

Among the many alumni success stories, leading the way has to be SOS Africa Mahikeng's Olebogeng. In March 2023, Mr Olebogeng Tshele BA officially became the charity's first university graduate and was awarded a degree in Organisational Psychology from NWU. The SOS Africa Trustees are so proud of this inspirational young lad and wish him all the very best with the start of his exciting new career!

In Loving Memory of Byron Russell by Claudia Titley

"In April 2022 it was with very heavy hearts and great sadness that the trustees shared the devastating news of the passing of Byron Russell; Western Cape Charity Trustee, architect, friend and generally one of the most loving humans you could have the pleasure of knowing.

We will never forget the first time we met Byron. Matt and I sat opposite him at a picnic table at St. Michael's school in Elgin. Our meeting was to discuss the upcoming design and build of the Porta Romana sponsored Education Centre. Within half an hour of speaking to him, Matt and I were overwhelmed by his enthusiastic willingness to help and care for other people. It was at the same meeting that we decided to ask him to become a Western Cape Charity Trustee. Byron accepted with the exuberant joy and honour that he continued to show in every task the charity required of him.

During the past year he visited our family regularly to work on the current design proposal for our Gordon's Bay Education Centre. Our son Teddy bonded so much with him that we asked him to become Teddy's godfather, a request he accepted immediately and unconditionally.

I learnt so much from working so closely with him, not just in terms of architecture but how to be a better human being. Here are three of the most important things I learnt from B. Every time he opened his laptop to start work I'd notice this tiny piece of paper stuck to the bottom right of the screen, "forgive easily". Oh boy he did! If anything, life had dealt him too many people who he had had to forgive. I hope everyone has the opportunity in their life to meet someone who shows as much love as Byron did... to EVERYONE. With complete and utter disregard for ANY kind of prejudice, Byron just showed love. Finally, the one that has helped us the most in our grief... "waves and trees". This was what Byron believed was his life mantra and it's where he found his grounding and sought his solace, in the waves and the trees. It is now where we find his spirit.

SOS Africa will be holding its own little memorial for our dear friend. We will plant a tree at the Porta Romana Education Centre, outside the box window seat that fell out of budget but that Byron insisted on paying for himself."

Concluding Thoughts

Writing a Trustees Annual Report is always a great opportunity to reflect on the collective journey our trustees, staff, volunteers and children have been on over the previous 12 months. After the often-overwhelming challenges of the previous few years, reflecting on the past 12 months has been extremely encouraging as both the charity's UK based fundraising activities and education projects in South Africa have not only returned to full strength but broadened their scope of support and impact.

On the fundraising front, it has been great to see the reinvigoration of fundraising activities after the easing of social distancing and lockdown restrictions. As well as marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, SOS Africa's Wells Cathedral Abseil also felt like a celebration of the return to normality as over 300 fearless fundraisers joined together to raise an incredible £53,750 for charitable causes. The trustees have also been greatly inspired by the innovative and adventurous fundraising events organised independently to raise funds for our cause. The trustees would also like to extend their appreciation to the dedicated staff and volunteers who help run the charity's Shepton Mallet Charity Shop – it is so great to see the shop flourishing once again! The Trustees are also greatly encouraged by the continued increase in child sponsors; their long-term support safeguards our pledge to sponsor the education and care of children from Grade 1 all the way through to high school graduation. The Trustees would also like to wish Matt, Ian and the team all the very best of luck for their upcoming 160ft abseil from King Alfred's Tower – they are delighted that the early uptake has been so encouraging and look forward to supporting the event in September 2023.

As a consequence of this invaluable support, this report has hopefully demonstrated how SOS Africa's wonderful team of staff and volunteers in South Africa have been able to expand their projects to support more young adults and children than ever before. In Mahikeng, the charity's inaugural education project continues to empower its beneficiaries with a personal programme tailored to their needs. The impact of the efforts of Jenny and her team are plain to see, as we all celebrate the charity's first university graduation with a further 3 more SOS Africa Alumni set to complete their university degrees at the end of 2023.

In the Western Cape, the charity's 3 Education Centres are thriving demonstrated by a 100% pass rate at the end of the 2022 academic year. More important than academic results, the SOS Africa Children are clearly happier than they have ever been thanks to the support provided by our dedicated team of staff. The SOS kids as they are affectionately known, now benefit from a more substantial and varied holistic education programme than ever before including a more diverse timetable of activities, increased tutoring hours and a significant increase in holiday workshops and outings. The SOS Africa staff are also hosting a 3-day careers workshop in June 2023 to inspire our high school children when making career choices.

Furthermore, our charity now provides more training, career development and financial support to our staff than ever before; as a consequence the group is not only closer but their work output unprecedented. The Trustees are also extremely proud of the increased support which has also been provided to our parents to help them cope with the often-overwhelming challenges they face when raising children within disadvantaged communities; to provide an authentic holistic education, a collaboration between charity staff, partnering schools and parents is essential.

The trustees are also extremely proud that they have been able to expand SOS Africa's scope of support to assist young adults within the Sir Lowry's Pass Village Community and are extremely grateful to The Village Collaboration for this impactful partnership. Thanks to this combined effort, 17 young adults are now in gainful employment within the care worker sector, with another 7 students expected to graduate in September 2023.

Furthermore, the trustees are also delighted to share the exciting news that planning permission has now been granted for building work to proceed on our Gordon's Bay Education Centre, ready for completion and use by the end of 2023! They cannot wait to follow updates on the SOS Africa website as the project progresses.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of CEO Matt Crowcombe, Operations Managers Li-andi and Jenny, and their incredible team of staff and volunteers. Working tirelessly behind the scenes, Admin and Finance Manager Rae also deserves a huge amount of credit for streamlining the organisation's policies and protocols over the past 12 months, making the organisation more efficient and impactful. The trustees would like to congratulate them all for the life-changing difference their efforts make to the lives of so many!

Although the trustees and indeed everyone involved with SOS Africa are still adapting to the devasting loss of Western Cape Trustee Byron Russell, we know that he will be extremely proud of the efforts made by every member of the SOS Africa family; we wouldn't be where we are today without his support; our success stories are his legacy.

Lasty, the trustees would like to welcome newly inaugurated Western Cape Trustee Marja Reid. As our consultant Educational Psychologist, Marja has dedicated the past 5 years of her life to providing vital therapy for the SOS Africa Children. We look forward to working her and her fellow trustees, in ensuring that the charity continues its success and growth in delivering holistic learning support to disadvantaged children across South Africa, providing empowerment through education to break the cycle of poverty.

Financial Review

Review of SOS Africa's Financial Position

At the close of the 2022/23 financial year, SOS Africa is in a strong financial position. As previously demonstrated, this has resulted from the relaxation of COVID-19 lockdown measures. Consequently, there has been an increase in child sponsors, online and offline fundraising, charity shop revenue and Gift Aid claims.

Whilst investing this income in both new and existing SOS Africa Education Programmes, funding has also been kept in reserve to secure the long-term educational development of the children supported by the charity.

As previously mentioned, only 21% of SOS Africa's 2022/23 annual income was required to cover the charity's UK running costs. These expenses were easily covered by SOS Africa's Gift Aid claims and charity shop takings.

Policy for Holding Reserves

Each year SOS Africa holds reserves to ensure that the charity can guarantee the long-term education of all the children within its care, in line with the charity's policy never to remove a child from schooling for financial reasons.

Amount of Reserves Held

Following the close of the 2022/23 financial year, SOS Africa held £120615.49 in reserve. Including funds currently held in SOS Africa savings accounts in South Africa, this is enough funding to safeguard all SOS Africa's Education Programmes for a further year. If we have learnt anything from COVID-19, it is the importance of keeping funds in reserve to protect the long-term financial security of the charity during timings of political, social and economic instability.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	New SOS Africa Trustees are appointed by resolution of the current trustees. For example, if one trustee resigns, the remaining trustees will appoint a replacement.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	SOS Africa
Registered charity number	1188705
Charity's principal address	SOS Africa 21 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AA

Names of Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Davies	Chair of Trustees	N/A	N/A
Gavin Thompson	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex Dyer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Names of Chief Executive or Names of Senior Staff Members

SOS Africa CEO: Matthew Crowcombe

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	
Full Name	Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies
Position	Chair of Trustees, SOS Africa
Date	14/07/2023

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SOS Africa	1188705

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April2022	To	31st March 2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Child Sponsorship	-	116,434	-	116,434	92,769
Offline Fundraising	-	4,590	-	4,590	172
Online Fundraising & Donations	-	61,514	-	61,514	123,742
Bank Interest	761	-	-	761	226
Donations	-	29,082	-	29,082	173,849
Gift Aid	52,790		-	52,790	33,165
Shop Sales	20,000	-	-	20,000	20,000
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	39,120	-	39,120	33,600
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	73,551	250,739	-	324,290	477,522
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	73,551	250,739	-	324,290	477,522
A3 Payments					
Education Programme in South Africa	-	407,185	-	407,185	433,668
Website Fees	1,549	-	-	1,549	323
Bank Charges / Just Giving Fees	721	-	-	721	798
Tax / National Insurance Payments	11,766	-	-	11,766	9,457
Wages / Pension	37,679	-	-	37,679	36,164
Printing / Travel	3,110	-	-	3,110	4,480
Event Expenses	12,540	-	-	12,540	1,500
Funds Raised for Other Charities	-	14,772	-	14,772	-
Accounts / Prof Fees	451	-	-	451	307
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	180	-	180	33,600
Sub total	67,817	422,136	-	489,953	520,297
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	67,817	422,136	-	489,953	520,297
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,734	- 171,397	-	- 165,663	- 42,775
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	362	285,916	-	286,278	329,053
Cash funds this year end	6,096	114,519	-	120,615	286,278

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	SOS Africa UK HSBC ACCOUNT	6,096	114,519	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,096	114,519	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M H Davies	MATTHEW DAVIES	24/08/23

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Charity Name: SOS AFRICA

On accounts for the year ended 31-03-2023 **Charity no (if any)** 1188705.

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 8-6-23

Name: NATALIE FROUD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body I-IYQN, ACMA, CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF

(if any):	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS
Address:	61 ROBINS LANE
	FROME
	SOMERSET BA11 3ET.

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

SOS AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1188705

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MAR 2022

SOS AFRICA

Registered Charity No: 1188705

Summary of the Purposes of the Charity

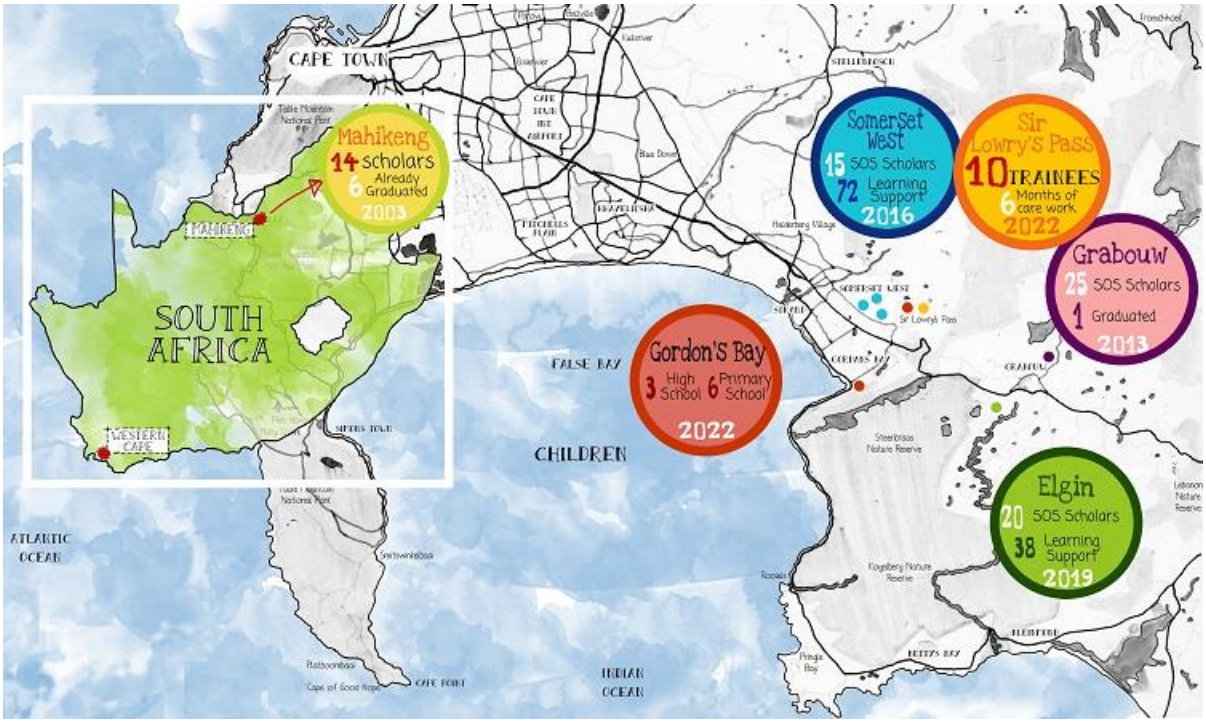
SOS Africa Western Cape Staff and Children

SOS Africa is a small UK based grassroots child sponsorship organisation which funds the education and care of underprivileged South African children from the poorest regions of South Africa. Since 2003 the charity has provided disadvantaged children, from grades 1 to 12, with a personal education programme or learning support scheme tailored specifically to their needs. This holistic approach enables children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity provides:

- **A Personal Approach** – Originally founded by a family from Somerset in the UK, SOS Africa provides a personal approach to charitable giving. Now in its 20th year of operation, the charity is still managed by its original founders under the direction of an experienced panel of passionate trustees.
- **A Holistic Education Programme** – SOS Africa provides each of the children in its care with school tuition, after-school care, learning support, holiday workshops, mentoring, counselling, transport, clothing and stationery. SOS Africa's Education Programmes are tailored to the needs of the children in the charity's care.
- **Regular Progress Reports** – SOS Africa maintains strong lines of communication between child, organisation and sponsor by providing regular updates including school reports, photo albums, updates via the SOS Africa Children's Blog and correspondence via email. Sponsors also have the option of visiting sponsored children throughout the process.
- **Minimal Charity Expenses** – Prioritising transparency, SOS Africa guarantees that 100% of donations are invested in the education and care of its children; all UK expenses are covered by Gift Aid. This is possible because the charity only employs one full-time staff member in the UK and invests all resources into its education programmes in South Africa.

Summary of the Charity's Main Activities



SOS Africa currently operates in two of the poorest regions of South Africa; Mahikeng (North-West Province) and Western Cape. The charity provides underprivileged children from these areas with the following support:

- A high standard of education and care within Preparatory, Primary and High Schools with a good reputation throughout local communities.
- Safe transportation to and from school.
- School uniform and stationery to eliminate potential inequalities and barriers to learning.
- After-school care at SOS Africa Aftercare Centres where the children receive lunch, homework assistance, tutoring and extra lessons. SOS Africa also provides each child with a mentor, with whom they can consult about any day-to-day problems which they may encounter.
- SOS Africa's Western Cape Education Centres also provide learning support for students with learning difficulties. This is essential in combating illiteracy among Primary School children (currently 78% of South African Primary School Children between grades 1-4 are unable to read with comprehension).
- Extra-curricular activities which include swimming lessons, kung fu and yoga, plus holiday workshops to supplement their education and keep the children safe outside of school hours.

All activities carried out by the SOS Africa Charity fulfil the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements. The SOS Africa Trustees confirm that all the charity's operations benefit and empower South African township children through the provision of a high standard of education and care enabling them to break the poverty cycle.

Summary of the Charity's Main Achievements

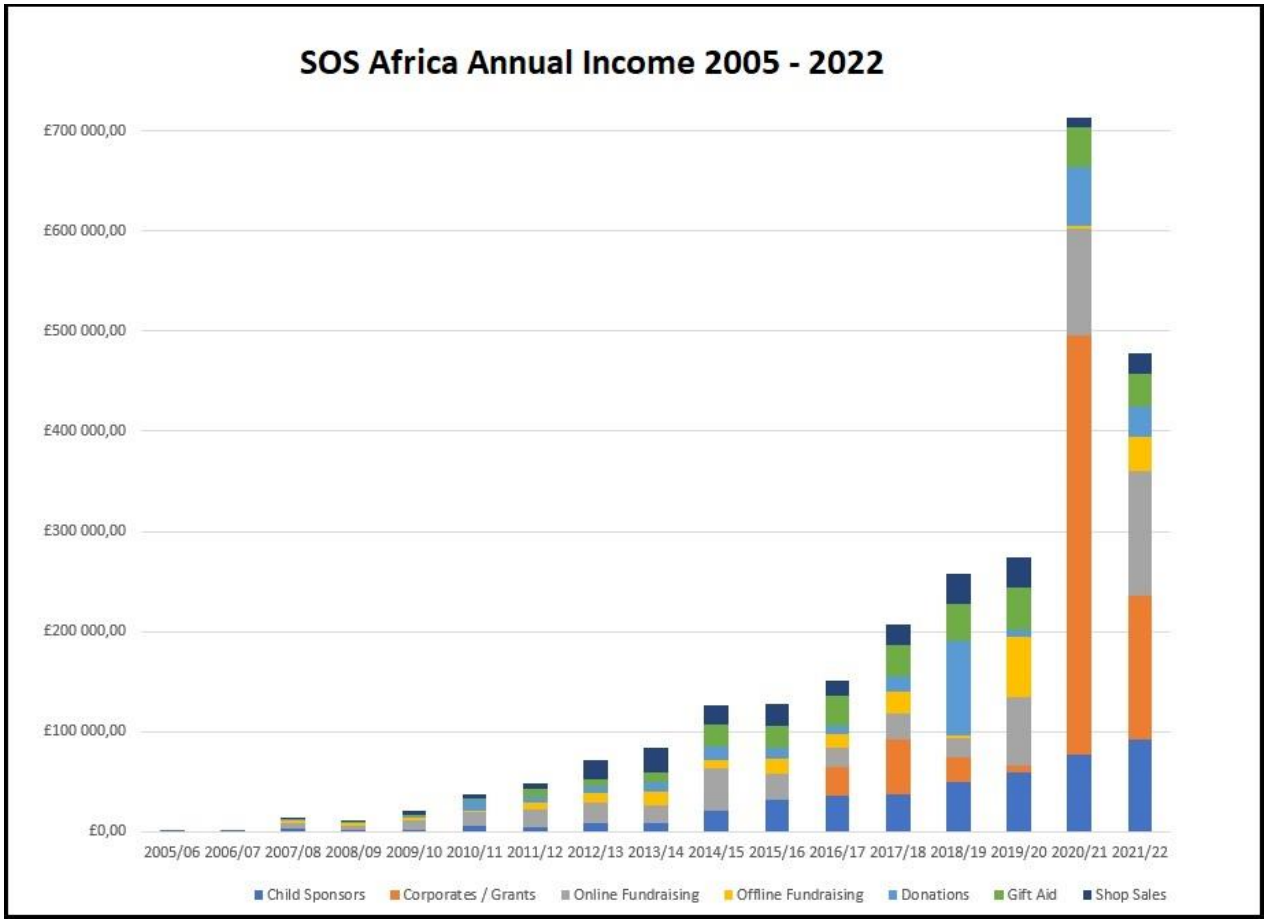
2021/22 Fundraising Achievements

"SOS Africa seemed like the best fit for us as they ensure all the money goes to the children who need it the most. We hope that our small contribution goes some way to giving a bright future to these children who deserve it just as much as the children we educate here in the UK. The staff and our families are looking forward to hearing of their wonderful achievements and accomplishments." **Gavin Paul (Solid Rock and Treetops Owner)**

"We are delighted with our community's choice to support SOS Africa as our charity partner this year for their work supporting underprivileged African children. We believe that there is much more to these partnerships than just our financial donation - we aim to promote the work of the organisations we partner with and help them get exposure and build connections. We look forward to sharing SOS Africa's highlights and achievements over the months ahead." **Alex Reynolds (CEO, Teacher Horizons).**

"Seeing Matt and the team with the kids left us feeling positive about their future. It can be all too easy to despair of making a difference, but they are driven and ambitious. Whilst there is a very real drive and determination there, it is tempered by an essential appreciation of the challenges, combined with warmth, humour, pragmatism and flexibility. We have no doubt that this is just the start of our own relationship with them."
Kevin and Louise Studd (SOS Africa Child Sponsors)

Kevin and Louise Studd visiting their sponsored children in Grabouw



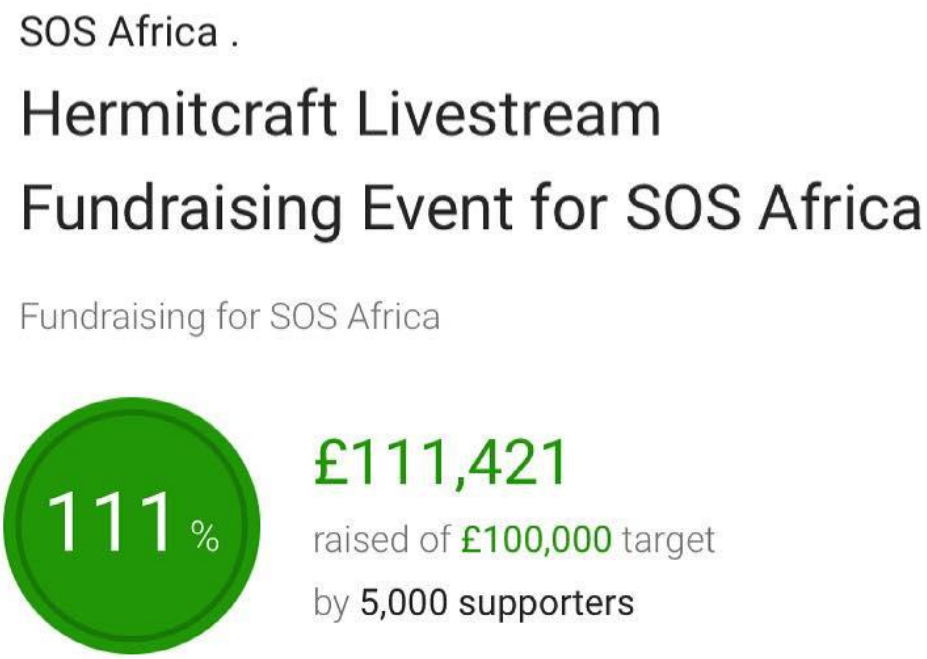
- During the 2021/22 financial year SOS Africa achieved an income of £477,500. Although this represents a drop from the £713,000 raised during the previous financial year, this can be attributed to the one-off COVID-19 corporate donations generated throughout 2020/21. Excluding these contributions, SOS Africa's annual income actually increased in 2021/22.

- During this period, only 11% of SOS Africa's income funded the charity's UK running costs, all of which was covered by Gift Aid and the SOS Africa Charity Shop.

- Throughout the early stages of the 2021/22 financial year, SOS Africa continued to receive donations towards its COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief Appeal to support residents of disadvantaged communities during the 3rd wave of the pandemic.

- In addition to donations from SOS Africa charity sponsors and supporters, in October 2021, SOS Africa received a generous corporate donation of £143,000 to support both ongoing education programmes and COVID relief projects. This enabled us to continue funding feeding schemes and food parcel delivery initiatives throughout the Western Cape to ensure that nutritional support was given to those who needed it the most.

- In early May 2021, Hermitcraft celebrities Rendog, Grian, Scar and Bdubs hosted another livestream Minecraft fundraising event and invited thousands of fans to raise funds for the renovation and construction of SOS Africa's Gordon's Bay Education Centre. The fundraising target was set at an extremely ambitious £100,000; enough to fund the entire project.



Over the course of a 5 hour live-stream event, over 5000 sponsors from across the world donated in excess of £111,000 – a new SOS Africa fundraising record surpassing the £80,000 raised by Rendog and Grian in May 2020. The SOS Africa Trustees would like to thank Rendog, Grian, Scar, Bdubs and their supporters for their incredible generosity and look forward to updating them on the progress of the building project throughout 2022.

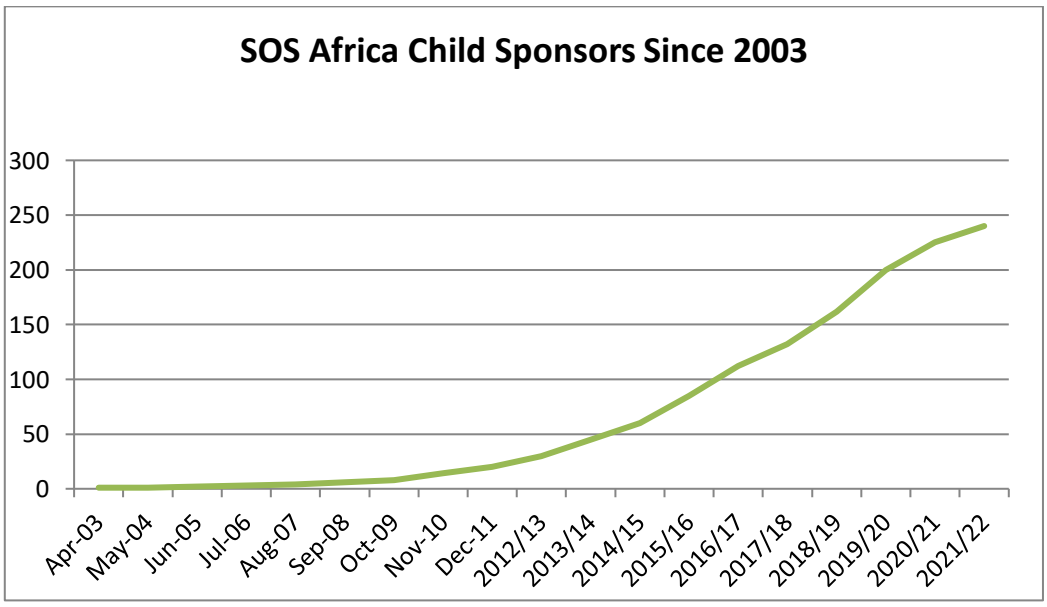
- In November 2021, SOS Africa formed a partnership with a group of pre-schools in Horsham, West Sussex. As part of the exciting new collaboration, the school owner agreed to sponsor the school tuition of 25 SOS Africa Children. The SOS Africa Trustees are extremely appreciative of the support provided by Treetop, Solid Rock and all SOS Africa's school sponsors.

The new partnership will fund tutoring sessions for SOS Africa's High School Children.

- In early 2022, SOS Africa was voted as Teacher Horizons "Charity of the Year" by their network of supporters across the world. Following the announcement, the Teacher Horizons team decided that it would like to invest its support in tutoring sessions for the SOS Africa children. The SOS Africa Trustees are very excited by this new partnership and look forward to working with the Teacher Horizons Team over the coming months.

- Following the postponement of SOS Africa's COVID Heroes Wells Cathedral Abseil due to a surge in pandemic infections, the event was rescheduled for June 2022. "The Wells Cathedral Jubilee Charity Abseil" will take place on the 4th, 5th, 10th and 12th June 2022 in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- During the 2021/22 financial year, SOS Africa continued to experience a surge in the recruitment of child sponsors from across the globe. By the end of the financial year, SOS Africa's 240 long-term sponsors generated an annual income of approximately £115,000 for our organisation. This sustainable sponsorship enables SOS Africa to safeguard the long-term education and care of the SOS Africa children.



- The 2021/22 financial year saw a resurgence of SOS Africa's Shepton Mallet Charity Shop takings in the absence of COVID-19 lockdown measures. Whilst many other high street shops closed indefinitely, thanks to the dedication and determination of Shop Manager Lin and her assistants and volunteers, the shop survived the economic downturn and has bounced back as strong as ever. Throughout this 12-month period, the shop managed to generate £20,000 in profits which will be invested in SOS Africa's 2022 Education Programmes. The trustees would like to thank Lin and her team for all their efforts throughout this challenging time.

- The trustees would also like to give special mention to SOS Africa's Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Team. After the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 festivals, the charity now has a team of 120 litter picking volunteers ready for Glastonbury 2022. If successful, they will raise in excess of £12,000 for the SOS Africa Charity children.

- Lastly, following on from the fundraising successes of the 2020/21 financial year, the SOS Africa Trustees were able to claim Gift Aid equating to £33,164. Although £6000 less than the previous claim, due to the postponement of offline fundraising events during the 3rd wave of the pandemic, this income is vital as it covers UK expenses and guarantees that 100% of all initial funds raised/donated are invested in the charity's education projects in South Africa.

  On behalf of the SOS Africa Staff and Children, the CEO and Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all SOS Africa Sponsors, fundraisers and donors for your incredible support and generosity over the past 12 months:

  "It has not been an easy 12 months as the world battles to recover from the long-term socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the exception of COVID-19 related corporate sponsorship, SOS Africa's income has increased in almost all other areas. This success is down to the hard work of our staff and volunteers and the generosity of our fundraisers, sponsors and supports; we cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support!"
  (Matt Crowcombe, CEO SOS Africa)

2021/22 Achievements in South Africa

Children supported by SOS Africa Education Programmes throughout 2021/22:

	Scholarship Scheme	Learning Support	Graduated
Mahikeng	11	N/A	8
Grabouw	25	20	1
Somerset West	15	72	
Elgin	20	38	
Gordon's Bay	4		
Sir Lowry's Pass	3		
TOTAL	**78**	**130**	**9**

SOS Africa Education Programme Formats:

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

The SOS Africa Charity Scholarship Scheme funds the holistic education and care of underprivileged children from the townships of South Africa, providing each child with the following support:

- **School tuition** at a school partnered with SOS Africa.
- **Transport** to and from school each day.
- **School clothing, stationery and equipment**.

- Attendance at an SOS Africa Education Centre (1.30pm – 4pm each afternoon). The **SOS Africa Aftercare Programme** provides each child with the following:
    - **Nutrition** – home cooked food funded by SOS provided and cooked by staff members. This ensures that the children are receiving a healthy balanced meal every day.
    - **Homework support** – including the introduction of reading and maths apps to further support the children who continue to struggle.
    - **Student mentoring** – one-on-one support.
    - Access to an **SOS Africa Library** and other learning resources.
    - **Life skills tools and education** – Brain Gym / Yoga sessions / Mindfully me (meditation tools) / Occupational Therapy / workshops led by our Educational Psychologist on matters such as 'personal safety', bullying etc.
    - **Individual support / therapy** given to children in each centre who we consider to be 'at risk' or not coping in school or at home.
    - **Guest speakers** – Police / Heroes in the community.
    - **Holiday programmes** aimed at bringing everyone together (staff and children) having some creative fun time outside school. This year we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
    - **Provision of a safe space for parents and teachers** to meet and discuss progress or intervention plans for children at risk. We have had to facilitate meetings with the school and parents where plans need to be put into place to best support the children.

SOS Africa Learning Support Scheme (8.30am – 12.30pm each day):

Impact of SOS Africa Education Programmes:

Over the last four years SOS Africa has developed the Learning Support Programme offered to the Foundation Phase (grades 1-3) children of our partnering schools. Our staff received excellent basic training and assessment tools through the WORDWORKS "Ready, Steady, Read, Write" Programme which has been adapted to ensure we meet the needs of each partnering school.

For the most part, each of our tutors work with 2 or 3 children per 40-minute session. These children attend Learning Support four days a week. Every week we follow the same programme of activities but with a new story.

After our 5-minute warm up of Brain Gym; a series of exercises designed to engage learning through movement; the children are relaxed and ready to absorb new lessons.

With each new story the lessons then follow these four predetermined steps:

- Reading the new story.
- Having discussions about the story highlighting new sounds and words.
- Writing or drawing something based on the story.
- Playing letter and sound games.

These include playdough (and other tangible materials) to physically shape letters. We also have “Letter Boxes” filled with a random assortment of items; the aim is for the child to pick out the item that begins with the letter on the box. These and many other games are developed to help the child learn through a process of playing and therefore greater understanding.

At the start and end of each term we test the children to assess their progress. Each child needs to progress through three levels of reading proficiency and comprehension before leaving our programme and returning to their classroom having caught up to the level of their

fellow classmates. Our staff provide regular progress updates to the teachers and we all work together for the betterment of each child's development.

Ultimately, the aim is not only to teach the children to simply read or write but also to comprehend, to question the story and form their own opinions. In grades 1-3 you learn to read but from grades 4 onwards you have to read in order to learn. If children are not properly prepared in the foundation of their education, with these fundamental yet basic skills, then the rest of the educational development is thwarted.

SOS Africa Western Cape Scholarship Schemes

SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa Somerset West

SOS Africa St Michael's Elgin

SOS Africa Gordon's Bay

"As the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021, we worked hard to ensure that there was a sense of 'normal' for our children. In the midst of this pandemic, many struggled financially, and emotionally, and lost so much. With the help of sponsors, volunteers, trustees, and staff members, we were able to bring light to a dire situation. Not only did we support our children and their families, but we also took the initiative to reach out to the broader disadvantaged communities that needed assistance. We are grateful beyond measure for all the love, care, and support constantly provided to us and many others in our communities."

Li-andi Claassen (Operations Manager, SOS Africa Western Cape)

Here are some of the highlights of the last year:

SOS Africa Launches Gordon's Bay Education Programme as 20th Year Begins

The start of the new school year is exciting for so many reasons… Our staff are reunited with the SOS kids after the long school holidays while the first few days are always filled with the sharing of stories of memorable experiences from the Christmas break. It is also a time for new beginnings as our children begin different grades with new teachers and classmates. But last January had added excitement for our staff and sponsors as our children's charity launched its new Gordon's Bay Education Programme.

Following the founding of a new partnership with Sir Lowry's Pass Village Primary School in late 2021, this new initiative will provide holistic education and care to children from the Sir Lowry's Pass community every weekday afternoon.

Currently in the planning phase, next year the charity's Gordon's Bay premises will also undergo a complete transformation as the pre-existing property is developed to provide holistic education and care to children across a broad scope of age ranges from the area.

In the meantime, the premises are currently permitted to host up to 6 children at any one time and programme facilitator Teacher Anuska is taking full advantage of this opportunity:

"The children are very excited to be here and throughout the first week we organised fun activities such as painting, sandpit play and gardening to get a sense of how they will work both individually and together as a group." **(Anuska Kroutz, SOS Africa Gordon's Bay)**

Meanwhile, SOS Africa's other Western Cape Education Programmes continue to grow and develop: the charity's 4 education centres now provide holistic education and care for 78 children, in partnership with 7 schools across 2 regions. The SOS Africa staff are also trained to provide reading and scribe services and learning support to hundreds of children in attendance at partnering schools.

"I am very excited for the year ahead and wish our team and wonderful children all the best for 2022 – may we all reach for the stars and fulfil our true potential. To our amazing sponsors, we are truly blessed and honoured with the faith you have in us and the limitless support you provide – we couldn't do it without you!" (**SOS Africa Western Cape Operations Manager, Li-andi Claassen**)

Mondeor Eco School Partnership

With the number of good high schools available to disadvantaged students in the Western Cape extremely limited, in December 2021 SOS Africa formed a new partnership with Mondeor Eco School. Mondeor is a private school based on the outskirts of Somerset West which provides a high standard of education with small class sizes and excellent facilities.

After offering guaranteed places for reduced fees, the SOS Africa staff enrolled 5 of our Somerset West Methodist School graduates to start at Mondeor High School in January 2022. The children, their families and sponsors were thrilled with this opportunity. The SOS Africa staff and trustees look forward to watching them progress over the coming months.

New Additions to the SOS Africa Family

The Trustees are also delighted to introduce the newest members of SOS Africa's Western Cape Family, Amoelang, Mpho, Daniel, David, Hayley and Fastlita. These 6 wonderful children all reside with their families on Elgin Orchards Farm and joined SOS Africa's Elgin Education Programme at St Michael's Primary school in early 2022.

They have settled in well and already made significant progress at school, thanks to the extra support they receive from The Porta Romana Education Centre staff. As well as wishing the children a warm welcome, The Trustees would also like to thank Educational Psychologist Marja Reid for overseeing SOS Africa's extremely thorough child selection process.

Tutoring and Mentoring

The SOS Africa Trustees would also like to welcome newly appointed tutor, retired teacher David Mason. David provides invaluable academic support and mentorship to SOS Africa's High School children in Elgin and Grabouw.

COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief

When the pandemic first hit South Africa in March 2020 and the country entered its first national lockdown, it quickly became clear that the short-term impact of these extreme measures would be devastating for 'those without'. In response, SOS Africa launched its Emergency Food Relief Appeal in the hope of raising vital funding to ease the suffering of these communities.

Initially, the Emergency Food Relief Appeal enabled the SOS Africa Staff to supply comprehensive and nutritious monthly food parcels to the families of the SOS Africa children. This enabled us to ensure that our children would be well-nourished during the weeks and months that they were unable to access our education centres. The generosity of our sponsors has enabled us to continue this support throughout the national lockdowns. In partnership with local farms and companies including Emdee Food Group and Econo Foods, SOS Africa's Claudia has organised locally sourced, healthy food parcels which we still distribute to this day.

Since the outbreak of the 1st wave of COVID-19 in South Africa, SOS Africa has also partnered with community-based soup kitchens and feeding schemes, enabling them to provide emergency food relief to individuals and families desperately in need of support. 15 months on, this support is still going strong, and we continue to be inspired by the dedication of those providing these vital services.

"SOS Africa purchases food items that allow us to tailor make food parcels to 185 elderly people in desperate situations. In addition, approximately 150 families receive food parcels bi-weekly and the fresh vegetables, fruit and bulk dry goods are distributed to three very busy soup kitchens where 600 meals are prepared each day. Without this incredibly generous contribution, it would be near impossible to reach the numbers that we do. Thank you again Matt and the incredible team at SOS Africa. We love working with you!"
(Lorraine Emery, The Village Collaboration)

Supporting Local Schools and Education Initiatives

In addition to funding its own education programmes, SOS Africa also provides financial assistance to local schools and education projects. The significant increase in funding generated by the charity's COVID Relief Appeal has enabled the Trustees to provide additional support to many institutions and groups directly affected by the pandemic…

Funding of tables & chairs for 4THE1 Education Charity

Funding of essential sanitation facilities at SLP Primary School

Funding of learning resources for St Michael's Primary School

Funding of pathway at St Michael's Primary School

Mental Health Awareness

The COVID-19 Pandemic has not only had a significant impact on physical health, but also mental wellbeing. During this time the SOS Africa Trustees have funded vital social worker support at Grabouw High School and St Michael's Primary School.

SOS Africa Operations Manager Li-andi Claasseen and Social Worker Gershon Witbooi have also organised group mentoring sessions with the SOS Africa children covering important subjects such as identity, bullying, gangsterism, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Over the past 12 months, the SOS Africa children have also benefitted from a vast array of extra-curricular activities including…

Occupational Therapy

Yoga Classes

Kung Fu with Sifu Andre

Swimming lessons at Gordon's Bay with new Instructor Cailin

Rugby – Springbok hopeful Elvino continues to thrive at Drostdy

Gardening field trips hosted by Hannes from Real Fresh Veg

Pottery painting trips to The Pottery House in Gordon's Bay

Parent Meetings

Throughout the past 12 months the SOS Africa staff have also hosted termly meetings with the parents of the SOS Africa children. Parents and guardians play a critical role in their child's education process; if the parent believes in the process then they are more likely to motivate their child and encourage them when the going gets tough and priorities shift.

Health and Wellbeing

Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the children in their care is also a priority for the SOS Africa Trustees. Hygiene packs were distributed to every SOS Africa child this year.

Staff Training

As part of the charity's holistic training schedule, all SOS Africa staff receive regular first aid training. Further training courses have been planned for the 2022/23 year; upskilling staff is not only important for career development but will ultimately benefit the SOS Africa children.

Sponsorship of Sir Lowry's Pass High School Students

With all SOS Africa's current children fully sponsored, The SOS Africa CEO recommended the launch of a new high school sponsorship programme in Sir Lowry's Pass Village. This would fund tuition fees and tutoring for students with academic potentional and in early 2022 the first students were enrolled on the programme.

'The Saints Award 2021'

After a busy 12 months during which the scope of SOS Africa's support futher broadened to provide essential assistance not just to the children in our care, but also to our partnering schools, SOS Africa Founder Matt Crowcombe was presented with 'The Saints Award 2021.'

The trustees are hugely proud of the charity's education intiatives and extremely grateful to SOS Africa's many sponsors for empowering them with the means to make such a broad lasting impact.

End of Year Party

What better way to mark the end of a successful year than by hosting an unforgettable End of Year Party? In early December SOS Africa's Western Cape staff and children embarked on an adventure to Villiera Wildlife Sanctuary. The purpose of the outing was not just to celebrate the year just gone but also to get excited for the year to come.

Throughout the day, the wonderful Villiera staff took the children on game drives across their beautiful estate. In the meantime, they gave the staff free use of the gardens for what turned out to be very competitive cricket matches.

For lunch they made burgers for the children made by a local regenerative farm. Added to this feast was fresh fruit juice and delicious ice lollies made purely from fruit. They also hosted a hotly contested prize giving ceremony where awards were presented to staff and children across all 3 centres.

The trustees would like to thank event organiser Claudia Titley for arranging this end of year party which was thoroughly enjoyed by both the charity's staff and children! The bar has now definitely been set for next year's event!

SOS Africa Western Cape Staff and Trustees

At this point, the UK trustees would like to congratulate SOS Africa's formidable team of Western Cape staff and trustees. Particular mention goes to SOS Africa Western Cape Operations Manager Li-andi Claassen and Admin & Finance Manager Rae Morris for working tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything possible.

Mahikeng Scholarship Scheme

SOS Africa's Mahikeng Education Programme was first established in January 2003. It began by providing education and care to one child and has grown to support 11 children with eight children having already graduated and now attending further education.

Each morning the children sponsored by SOS Africa's Mahikeng Scholarship Scheme are transported in the charity's bus to 3 different partnering schools across the town; Mahikeng High School, Curro Academy School and Golf View High School where they receive a good standard of school tuition. In the afternoons they are collected from the schools and attend SOS Africa's Mahikeng Education Centre which is based at a residential property at the International School of South Africa. The programme is run by Jenny Matthews and her assistants Elisa, Olebogeng and Othusitse.

Mahikeng is a struggling town surrounded by growing numbers of rural township communities. The town has high unemployment, minimal public services and under-resourced state-funded schools. As a consequence, the barriers to learning faced by the SOS Africa children are significant. SOS Africa's after-school programme plays a critical role in ensuring that these children receive the holistic care and support they need to beat the odds and succeed. As part of this programme they receive a nutritious lunch, homework support, tutoring and mentoring.

One of the strengths of the programme is the invaluable support provided by our Aftercare Assistants, 2 of which are graduates of the programme. Olebogeng and Othusitse graduated in 2018 and are currently continuing their studies at local varsities. In the afternoons they return to the centre to tutor and mentor the SOS Africa children; they are excellent role models for the younger children who aspire to follow closely in their footsteps.

Feedback from SOS Africa Mahikeng Operations Manager Jenny Matthews:

Mafikeng High School

"The children in Mafikeng settled in quickly to the new school year and are all doing well. After the disappointing results from a few of the children at the end of last year I am pleased with their efforts this year; they have really turned things around recently."

"On the sports field I must congratulate Dimpho for all the trophies and medals she won at the interschool athletics earlier in the year. She won the trophy for being the best U19 athlete. Congratulations as well to Boitshepo and Girly who were selected for the Curro first netball team. Ofentse was selected as Goalie for the U16 Curro soccer team."

"The three Grade 10s, Kabelo, Kelebogile and Dimpho had very pleasing reports in the first term this year. Dimpho also did very well in term 2. I am especially pleased with Ofentse's term 2 report. He is repeating Grade 8 and has been struggling with concentration and was not doing his homework. We started a system whereby he must get the teacher to sign a homework book and comment about behaviour in class and if homework was done. Olebogeng senior has been mentoring him and helping him with homework. This system is definitely working which we can see in his improvement last term. I must also commend Dimpho, Boitshepo and Lele for putting in the extra effort with their schoolwork by coming to Aftercare on a Saturday."

"Our Alumni are also all doing well. Obu, Othu and Olebogeng are all in their third year at University and doing very well. Othu and Olebogeng are also tutoring our students in the afternoon. Mavis has just registered for her final module in her Business Management Degree and will complete this next year. She had a baby earlier this year. Kgalalelo has been upgrading her matric results and has been entering a few beauty pageants where she has done very well. Kelebogile has a little girl that is now three years old and she is studying psychology through UNISA."

"On a sad note, Johanna Pienaar our previous trustee passed away. She taught most of our children in Grade 2. She will be missed by the children.

I would like to thank Matt, the SOS Africa Trustees and their sponsors for their support over the past 12 months and hope that we will continue to make you all proud."

Concluding Thoughts

Writing a Trustees Annual Report is always a great opportunity to reflect on the collective journey our trustees, staff, volunteers and children have been on over the previous 12 months. At the beginning of the year, the restrictions imposed on the daily lives of South Africans and indeed on the state school system remained in place, impacting heavily on our operations. In spite of these hurdles the trustees are incredibly proud of how everyone has adapted to ensure that the SOS Africa children continue to receive the best possible education and care.

On the fundraising front, the remarkable fact of the matter is that, during the pandemic, instead of stagnation, the charity's fundraising efforts continue to bear fruit. Thanks to unprecedented corporate sponsorship, a record-breaking online fundraiser and a significant increase in the numbers of child sponsors recruited, our organisation ends the 2021/22 year in a strong financial position. The trustees would like to wholeheartedly thank all our donors, fundraisers and sponsors for their incredible generosity over this period.

As a consequence of this invaluable support, this document has hopefully demonstrated how the scope of our charity's support has also grown over this time, to provide vital assistance to more people than ever before. Not only have the numbers of sponsored children increased to 78, with 9 children having already graduated, SOS Africa's Education Centres are now providing learning support to more children than previously. The trustees are also extremely proud of the impact made by our Covid Relief Fund which continues to provide vital assistance to those directly affected by the pandemic. And perhaps most significantly of all, the young adults who have completed our education programmes have taken full advantage of the opportunities now available to them and are even 'paying it forward' by assisting other impressionable and ambitious children following closely in their footsteps.

And indeed, it is not only the future of our high school graduates that looks bright, with more growth and development on the horizon including plans to assist young adults who have not benefitted from an education, early on in the 2022/23 financial year (watch this space).

None of this would be possible without the dedication of CEO Matt Crowcombe, Operations Managers Li-andi and Jenny and their incredible team of staff and volunteers. The trustees would like to congratulate them all for the life-changing difference their efforts make to the lives of so many!

Lasty, the trustees would like to welcome Gavin Thompson to the UK board of trustees and thank Richard Long for his service after stepping down from his role this year. We look forward to working with Gavin, and all trustees, in ensuring that the charity continues its success and growth in delivering holistic learning support to disadvantaged children across South Africa, providing empowerment through education to break the cycle of poverty.

Financial Review

Review of SOS Africa's Financial Position

At the close of the 2021/22 financial year, SOS Africa is in a strong financial position. As previously demonstrated, this has resulted from the successes of SOS Africa's Emergency Food Relief Appeal, donations from corporate sponsors, foundations and community groups, increases in child sponsors, online and offline fundraising and Gift Aid claims.

Whilst investing this income in both new and existing SOS Africa Education Programmes, funding has also been kept in reserve to secure the long-term educational development of the children supported by the charity.

As previously mentioned, only 18% of SOS Africa's 2021/22 annual income was required to cover the charity's UK running costs. These expenses were easily covered by SOS Africa's Gift Aid claims and charity shop takings.

Policy for Holding Reserves

Each year SOS Africa holds reserves to ensure that the charity can guarantee the long-term education of all the children within its care, in line with the charity's policy never to remove a child from schooling for financial reasons.

Amount of Reserves Held

Following the close of the 2021/22 financial year, SOS Africa held £286278.49 in reserve. This is enough funding to safeguard all SOS Africa's Education Programmes for a further year. This is particularly important given that the COVID-19 Pandemic is likely to impact the health and wellbeing of the adults and children in our care and continue to disrupt SOS Africa's fundraising activities throughout the 2022/23 financial year.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	New SOS Africa trustees are appointed by resolution of the current trustees. For example, if one trustee resigns, the remaining trustees will appoint a replacement.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	SOS Africa
Registered charity number	1188705
Charity's principal address	SOS Africa 21 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AA

Names of Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Davies	Chair of Trustees	N/A	N/A
Gavin Thompson	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex Dyer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Names of Chief Executive or Names of Senior Staff Members

SOS Africa CEO: Matthew Crowcombe

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	M L Davies
Full Name	Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies
Position	Chair of Trustees, SOS Africa
Date	27/09/2022

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SOS Africa	1188705

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April2021	To	31st March 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Child Sponsorship	-	92 769	-	92 769	77 086
Offline Fundraising	-	172	-	172	2 136
Online Fundraising & Donations	-	123 742	-	123 742	107 162
Bank Interest	226	-	-	226	105
Donations	-	173 849	-	173 849	477 264
Gift Aid	33 165	-	-	33 165	39 234
Shop Sales	20 000	-	-	20 000	10 000
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	33 600	-	33 600	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	53 391	424 131	-	477 522	712 987
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	53 391	424 131	-	477 522	712 987
A3 Payments					
Education Programme in South Africa	-	433 668	-	433 668	529 279
Website Fees	323	-	-	323	390
Bank Charges / Just Giving Fees	798	-	-	798	562
Tax / National Insurance Payments	9 457	-	-	9 457	9 334
Wages / Pension	36 164	-	-	36 164	34 684
Printing / Travel	4 480	-	-	4 480	3 197
Event Expenses	1 500	-	-	1 500	-
Funds Raised for Other Charities	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts / Prof Fees	307	-	-	307	235
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	33 600	-	33 600	-
Sub total	53 029	467 268	-	520 297	577 680
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	53 029	467 268	-	520 297	577 680
Net of receipts/(payments)	362	- 43 137	-	- 42 775	135 308
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	329 053	-	329 053	193 745
Cash funds this year end	362	285 916	-	286 278	329 053

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	SOS Africa UK HSBC ACCOUNT	362	285 916	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	362	285 916	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M L Davies	Matthew Lloyd Davies	27/09/2022

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: SOS AFRICA

On accounts for the year ended 31 MARCH 2022

Charity no (if any) 1188705

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ~~[insert name of applicable listed body]]~~. ~~*Delete [ ] if not applicable*~~. CIMA

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature]

Date: 12-05-2022

Name: NATALIE

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body ACMA CGMA

(if any):	
Address:	61 ROBINS LANE FROME SOMERSET BA11 3ET

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

SOS AFRICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1188705

Accounts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MAR 2021

SOS AFRICA

Registered Charity No: 1188705

Summary of the Purposes of the Charity

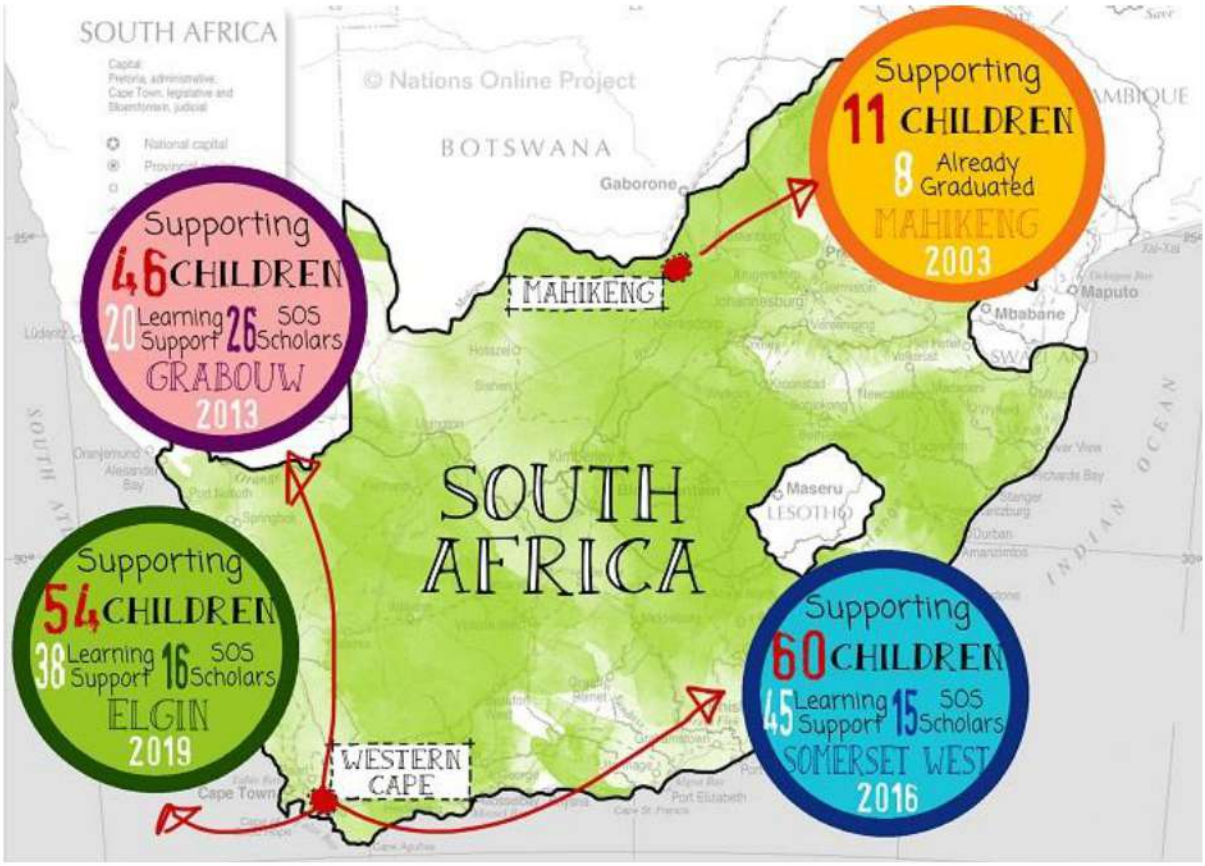
SOS Africa Grabouw's New Grade 1 Children

SOS Africa is a small UK based grassroots child sponsorship organisation which funds the education and care of underprivileged South African children from the poorest regions of South Africa. Since 2003 the charity has provided disadvantaged children, from grades 1 to 12, with a personal education programme or learning support scheme tailored specifically to their needs. This holistic approach enables children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

The SOS Africa Children's Charity provides:

- **A Personal Approach** – Originally founded by a family from Somerset in the UK, SOS Africa provides a personal approach to charitable giving. Now in its 17th year of operation, the charity is still managed by its original founders under the direction of an experienced panel of passionate trustees.
- **A Holistic Education Programme** – SOS Africa provides each of the children in its care with school tuition, after-school care, learning support, holiday workshops, mentoring, counselling, transport, clothing and stationery. SOS Africa's Education Programmes are tailored to the needs of the children in the charity's care.
- **Regular Progress Reports** – SOS Africa maintains strong lines of communication between child, organisation and sponsor by providing regular updates including school reports, photo albums, updates via the SOS Africa Children's Blog and correspondence via email. Sponsors also have the option of visiting sponsored children throughout the process.
- **Minimal Charity Expenses** – Prioritising transparency, SOS Africa guarantees that 100% of donations are invested in the education & care of its children; all UK expenses are covered by Gift Aid. This is possible because the charity only employs one full-time staff member in the UK and invests all resources into its education programmes in South Africa.

Summary of the Charity's Main Activities



SOS Africa currently operates in two of the poorest regions of South Africa; Mahikeng (North-West Province) and Western Cape. The charity provides underprivileged children from these areas with the following support:

- A high standard of education and care within Preparatory, Primary and High Schools with a good reputation throughout local communities.
- Safe transportation to and from school.
- School uniform and stationery to eliminate potential inequalities and barriers to learning.
- After-school care at SOS Africa Aftercare Centres where the children receive lunch, homework assistance, tutoring and extra lessons. SOS Africa also provides each child with a mentor, with whom they can consult about any day-to-day problems which they may encounter.
- SOS Africa's Western Cape Education Centres also provide learning support for students with learning difficulties. This is essential in combating illiteracy among Primary School children (currently 78% of South African Primary School Children between grades 1-4 are unable to read).
- Extra-curricular activities including swimming lessons, kung fu and yoga, and holiday workshops to supplement their education and keep the children safe outside of school hours.

All activities carried out by the SOS Africa Charity fulfil the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements. The SOS Africa Trustees confirm that all the charity's operations benefit and empower South African township children through the provision of a high standard of education and care enabling them to break the poverty cycle.

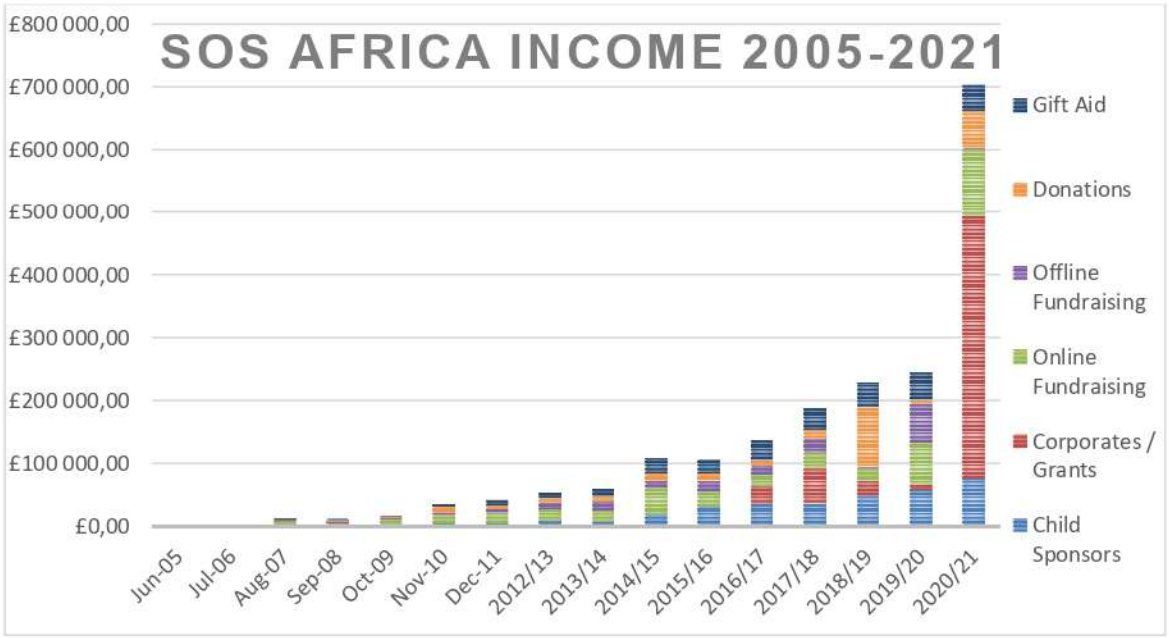
Summary of the Charity's Main Achievements

2020/21 Fundraising Achievements

"We raised 1.7 million Rand tonight. I cannot thank you enough on behalf of my own country and fellow South Africans… South Africa gave me everything… I hope this is something I can give back to the beautiful country that made me the person I am today." Rendog North, Minecraft Livestream Fundraising Event Organiser.

"We hope that, with the help of the extremely dedicated SOS Africa team, our sponsored child will be aware of the possibilities for her future and be equipped to follow her dreams. SOS Africa provides a very personal sponsorship experience, and it is a pleasure to receive regular pictures and reports on our sponsored child's progress." Anne Nesbit, Child Sponsor.

"Having been involved with SOS Africa as a supporter for many years, it was a great honour to be asked to become a trustee. SOS Africa does such incredible work for the children and the communities in which they live. Seeing the careful consideration put into every decision, I know they will be a force for good for many years to come."
Alex Dyer, SOS Africa Trustee.

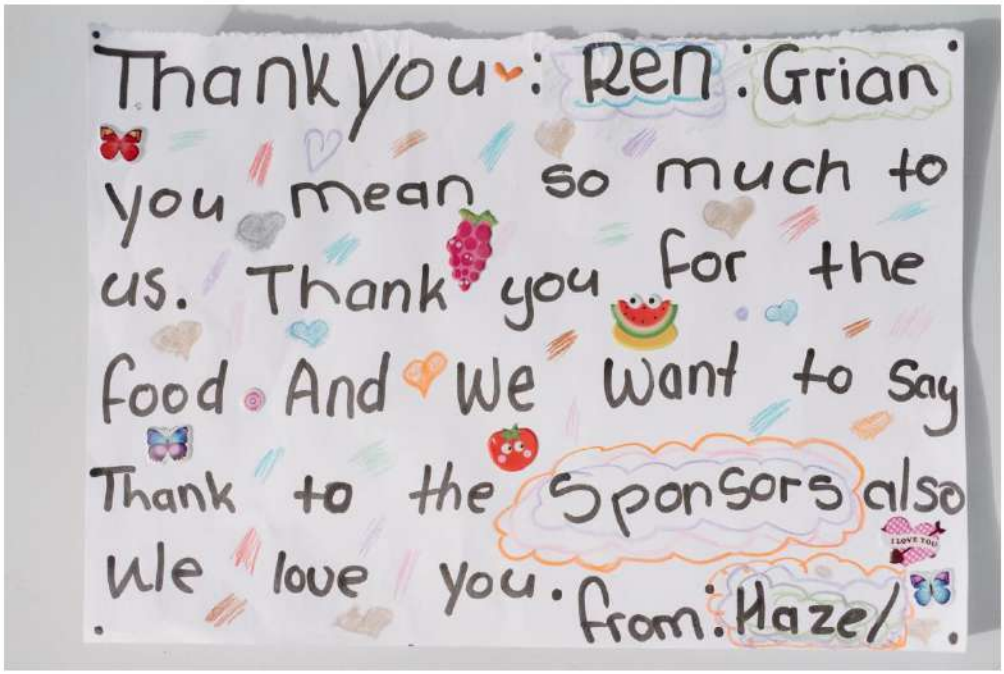


- During the 2019/20 financial year SOS Africa achieved an unprecedented period of growth increasing the charity's overall annual income from £273,000 to £713,000. This represents the charity's highest annual income to date.
- During this period, only 6% of SOS Africa's income funded the charity's UK running costs, all of which was covered by Gift Aid and the SOS Africa Charity Shop.
- In April 2020, the UK and many nations across the world entered a long period of lockdown due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus. Consequently, SOS Africa's UK fundraising events were cancelled. After initial concern that this would have an adverse effect on the organisation's fundraising capabilities, instead, the severe impact of the virus on the poorest communities in Africa raised the profile of SOS Africa's grassroots community-based projects. Almost from the outset, international philanthropists sought to come to the aid of those most effected by the pandemic.

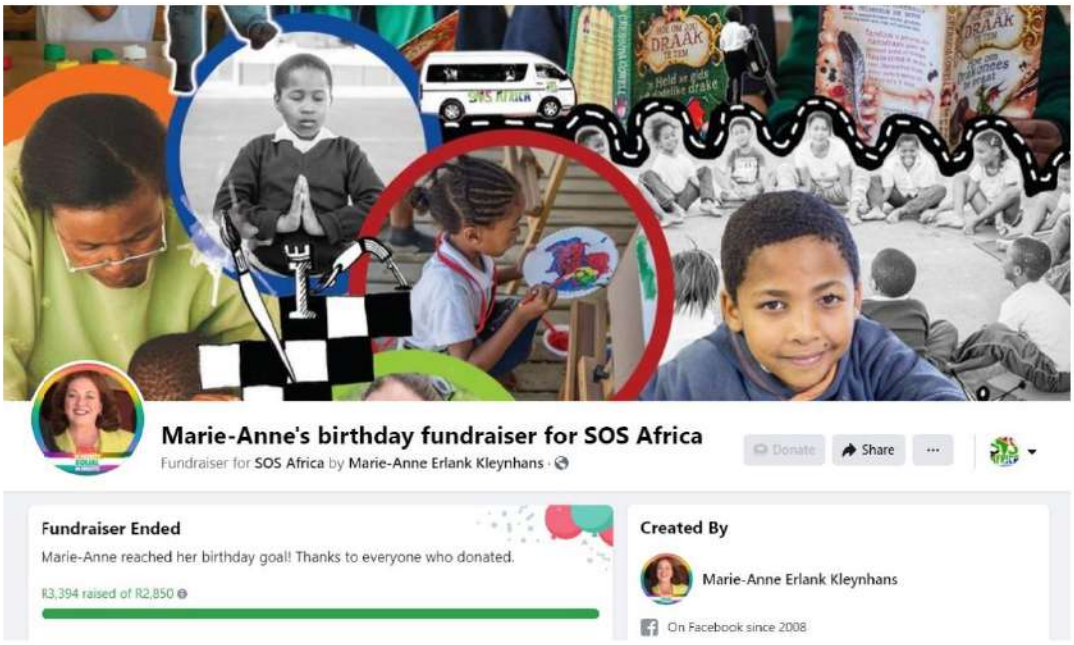
- On 26th March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that South Africa would enter a period of lockdown to slow the spread of the virus. The impact on the poorer communities, including the SOS Africa children and their families was immediate; unemployment surged as lower income jobs were lost and the restriction of movement made food and supplies scarce and often unobtainable. In response, the trustees decided to expand the scope of SOS Africa's fundraising remit to include the introduction of an Emergency Food Relief Fund. Within hours of establishing this appeal, SOS Africa received an influx of support from loyal sponsors, raising enough to fund basic food parcels for the families of our children to help provide them with basic food and supplies during the first few months of the pandemic.

- As news of the charity's Emergency Food Relief Fund spread, more and more sponsors began contributing, enabling us to expand the reach of our support. To boost the fantastic amount of funds already raised by the appeal, SOS Africa child sponsor Rendog teamed up with fellow streamer Grian, a hugely popular British YouTube streamer with 5.26m subscribers, to host the charity's first ever livestream fundraising event. What resulted was the most successful fundraising initiative in the charity's 17-year history, raising £75,000 over the course of the 3-hour online broadcast.

- The successes of the Emergency Food Appeal did not end there. In July SOS Africa was contacted by a London-based company who agreed to donate a percentage of their profits towards the initiative. The unprecedented £122,000 donation increased the total amount raised by our fund to an astonishing £207,000, enabling us to fund soup kitchens and feeding schemes throughout the Western Cape and Gauteng.

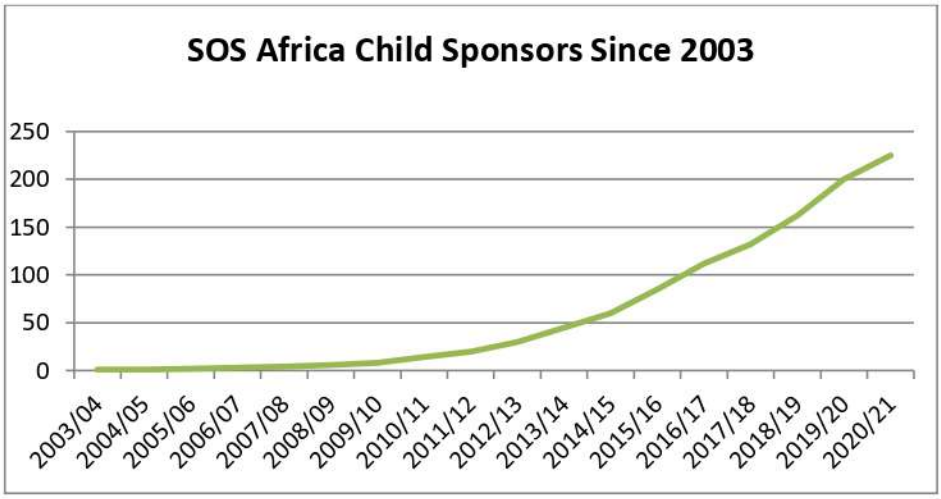


- Alongside the influx of support received by the new appeal, SOS Africa also experienced an increase in independent fundraising support. The dawn of a new "virtual fundraising" era encouraged philanthropists, young and old, to think up original fundraising events which they could host from their own houses and gardens. By completing hundreds of laps of her garden, 14-year-old Chloe raised £200 for SOS Africa. When lockdown measures were eased, these initiatives spread throughout the country. Keen to take advantage of their newfound freedom, Lailah and Sophie walked over 100km and raised over £500 for our education programmes. The SOS Africa Trustees would like to thank Chloe, Lailah, Sophie and all our independent fundraisers for their invaluable support during this time.



- Throughout this period, SOS Africa also experienced a surge in support from online fundraising via JustGiving, CAF and Facebook. Literally hundreds of members of the Facebook Community alone set up birthday fundraising pages, raising thousands of pounds for our education projects in South Africa.

- During the 2020/21 financial year, SOS Africa experienced a surge in the recruitment of child sponsors from across the globe. By the end of March SOS Africa's 225 long-term sponsors generated an annual income of approximately £100,000 for our organisation. This sustainable sponsorship enables SOS Africa to safeguard the long-term education and care of the SOS Africa children.

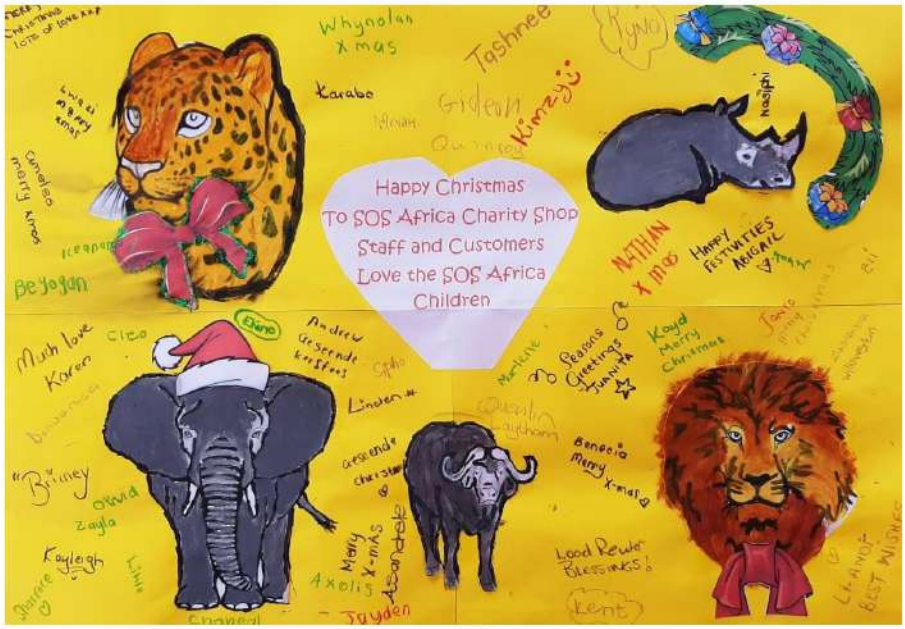


- Over the past 12 months, SOS Africa also received an unprecedented amount of support from corporate sponsors, foundations and community groups. In November 2020, we received the largest corporate donation in our history. The incredible £297,000 donation made by an international bank was met with huge excitement by the charity's trustees, staff and volunteers and will enable SOS Africa to significantly increase the growth of its education programmes over the coming years.

The SOS Africa Trustees would also like to thank the outgoing trustees of the recently closed Norton Down Africa Fund, for donating their remaining funds to our organisation. They would like to congratulate them on their achievements and the educational support they have provided to the poorest communities of Uganda.

SOS Africa also received a £27,000 donation from the Mordaunt Foundation after appealing to them for funding to build new toilet blocks and classrooms at partnering school, St Michael's Primary School in Elgin. The trustees would like to thank Sharon and her team for this generous donation for the continued sponsorship they have provided the SOS Africa children in recent years.

- The 2020/21 financial year was a difficult time for SOS Africa's Shepton Mallet Charity Shop. Over the course of the 12 months, the restrictions imposed by the 3 national lockdowns forced the shop to close for most of the year. Fortunately, the financial support provided by the local authority ensured that the shop's bills were paid, and staff supported throughout this difficult time. The trustees would like to thank Shop Manager Lin and her newly appointed Assistant Karen for restocking and re-opening the charity shop when possible, over this challenging time.



- The trustees would also like to give special mention to SOS Africa's Glastonbury Festival Litter Picking Team. After the cancellation of the 2020 Festival, the 120 group of volunteers each donated £50 to the charity, enabling us to purchase vital PPE for our staff and equipment for our centres in South Africa.

- Lastly, following on from the fundraising successes of the 2018/19 financial year and the unprecedented amount of funds raised online throughout the current financial year, the SOS Africa Trustees were able to claim **Gift Aid** equating to £39,234. This income is vital as it covers UK expenses and guarantees that 100% of all initial funds raised/donated are invested in the charity's education projects in South Africa.

  On behalf of the SOS Africa Staff and Children, the CEO and Trustees would like to say a big thank you to all SOS Africa Sponsors, fundraisers and donors for your incredible support and generosity over the past 12 months:

  "This year most of us have faced challenges and hardships far beyond our expectations. Yet during this difficult time the unlimited generosity of our supporters has enabled us to provide vital support to our children and their families in their hour of need. For this altruism and considerable kindness, we are sincerely grateful."
  (Matt Crowcombe, CEO SOS Africa)

2020/21 Achievements in South Africa

Children supported by SOS Africa Education Programmes throughout 2020/21:

	Scholarship Scheme	Learning Support	Graduated
Mahikeng	11	N/A	8
Grabouw	26	20	
Somerset West	15	45	
Elgin	16	38	
TOTAL	**68**	**103**	**8**

SOS Africa Education Programme Formats:

SOS Africa Scholarship Schemes

The SOS Africa Charity Scholarship Scheme funds the holistic education and care of underprivileged children from the townships of South Africa, providing each child with the following support:

- **School tuition** at a school partnered with SOS Africa.
- **Transport** to and from school each day.
- **School clothing, stationery and equipment**.
- Attendance at an SOS Africa Education Centre (1.30pm – 4pm each afternoon). The **SOS Africa Aftercare Programme** Provides each child with the following:
  - **Nutrition** – home cooked food funded by SOS provided and cooked by team members. This ensures that the children are receiving a healthy balanced meal every day.
  - **Homework support** – including the introduction of reading and maths apps to further support the children who continue to struggle.
  - **Student mentoring** – one-on-one support.

- Access to an **SOS Africa Library** and other learning resources.
- **Life skills tools and education** – Brain Gym / Yoga sessions / Mindfully me (meditation tools) / Occupational Therapy / workshops led by our Educational Psychologist on matters such as 'personal safety', bullying etc.
- **Individual support / therapy** given to children in the club who we consider to be 'at risk' or not coping in school or at home.
- **Guest speakers** – Police / Heroes in the community.
- **Holiday programmes** - aimed at bringing everyone together (team and children) having some creative fun time outside school. This year we visited the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
- **Provision of a safe space for parents and teachers** to meet and discuss progress or intervention plans for children at risk. We have had to facilitate meetings with the school and parents where plans need to be put into place to best support the children.

SOS Africa Learning Support Scheme (8.30am – 12.30pm each day):

Impact of SOS Africa Education Programmes:

Over the last four years SOS Africa has developed the Learning Support Programme offered to the Foundation Phase (grades 1-3) children of our partnering schools. Our staff received excellent basic training and assessment tools through the WORDWORKS "Ready, Steady Read Write" Programme which has been adapted to ensure we meet the needs of each partnering school.

For the most part, each of our tutors work with 2 or 3 children per 40-minute session. These children attend Learning Support four days a week. Every week we follow the same programme of activities but with a new story.

After our 5-minute warm up of Brain Gym; a series of exercises designed to engage learning through movement; the children are relaxed and ready to absorb new lessons.

With each new story the lessons then follow these four predetermined steps:

- Reading the new story.
- Having discussions about the story highlighting new sounds and words.
- Writing or drawing something based on the story.
- Playing letter and sound games.

These include playdough (and other tangible materials) to physically shape letters. We also have "Letter Boxes" filled with a random assortment of items; the aim is for the child to pick out the item that begins with the letter on the box. These and many other games are developed to help the child learn through a process of playing and therefore greater understanding.

At the start and end of each term we test the children to assess their progress. Each child needs to progress through three levels of reading proficiency and comprehension before leaving our programme and returning to their classroom having caught up to the level of their fellow classmates. Our staff provide regular progress updates to the teachers and we all work together for the betterment of each child's development.

Ultimately, the aim is not only to teach the children to simply read or write but also to comprehend, to question the story and form their own opinions. In grades 1-3 you learn to read but from grades 4 onwards you have to read in order to learn. If children are not properly prepared in the foundation of their education, with these fundamental yet basic skills, then the rest of the educational development is thwarted.

SOS Africa Western Cape Scholarship Schemes

SOS Africa Grabouw

SOS Africa Somerset West

SOS Africa St Michael's Elgin

"It has been an extremely challenging 12 months during which we have all faced difficult and unexpected circumstances which have tested our resolve. During these times I believe that we must all come together and support those among us who are struggling the most. I could not be prouder of everyone involved in SOS Africa for the way in which they have responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Not only have we ensured that the children in our care continue to receive the best possible education and support, but we have also broadened our remit to assist the most disadvantaged and vulnerable from the Western Cape's township communities. On behalf of the many thousands of beneficiaries I would like to thank the SOS Africa supporters, sponsors, trustees, staff and volunteers for empowering us with the tools, training and resources required to assist those most in need of our support!"

Karen Damon (Operations Manager, SOS Africa Western Cape)

Here are some of the highlights of the last year:

Record Numbers of Children Supported by Western Cape Education Programmes

As a result of the unprecedented financial support received from the charity's sponsors across the globe, throughout the 2020/21 financial year SOS Africa has been able to support record numbers of children in the Western Cape.

In SOS Africa Grabouw, our team walked eight new scholarship scheme children through the Grabouw Primary School gates for the first time. They are proud to welcome Edgar, Melito, Pascal, Quinton, Shekina, Sibahle, Charisna and Tatum-Rose to the SOS Africa family. This increases the number of children supported by the Grabouw Education Programme to 26.

Meanwhile, SOS Africa's Nasiphi, Melray, Lwazi, Zusakhe, Asandele and Linden started Grabouw High School. Seeing them dressed in their smart new school shirts and ties for the very first time was truly a proud moment for their families.

Further afield, our oldest Western Cape child Andrew began his final year at West Cliff School of Skills, one step closer to fulfilling his ambition of becoming a deep-sea welder.

Meanwhile, SOS Africa's Elvino proudly began the next chapter of his school life at Drostdy Technical School, after being awarded a sports scholarship late last year.

A shining example to the rest of the SOS Africa children, Elvino has shown that any dream is achievable with the correct amount of hard work and dedication. The trustees follow his progress with great anticipation and excitement.

In Somerset West, SOS Africa's Ryno, Gideon, Quinroy, Sipho, Marlene and Meyah all began their final year at Primary School, soon to follow in the footsteps of Kim, Laytham and Quentin who were promoted to Grade 9 at Hottentots Holland High School.

Meanwhile at the charity's newest Education Programme in Elgin, 14 of SOS Africa's scholarship scheme children began new grades and more children than ever before joined the charity's Learning Support Programmes.

COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief

SOS Africa's Emergency Food Relief Appeal was initially created to raise funds for the families of charity's scholarship scheme. Not long after the 1st national lockdown was initiated, many of the parents lost their jobs and with little or no state support, were unable to provide basic food and supplies for their families. On 5th May 2020, in partnership with Taste & See, SOS Africa distributed its first food parcels to the families of the SOS Africa children.

The SOS Africa team were immediately inundated with appreciative messages from relieved parents, many of them clearly distressed that they would otherwise have been unable to provide for their children.

Following the record-breaking livestream fundraising event and corporate sponsorship, the SOS Africa Trustees decided to expand this life-changing support to assist local community-based soup kitchens and feeding schemes throughout the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Over the course of the first few lockdowns, these initiatives were able to provide hundreds of thousands of hot meals and food parcels directly to those most effected by the pandemic.

"I cried all the way home, mainly out of happiness because in that moment of receiving their food, everything was okay; they have a meal and it is such a blessing to know that the children and families of that community will have full tummies today." (Helena Krige, SA Trustee)

The trustees would like to thank Operations Manager Karen Damon for spearheading this life-changing initiative; they are extremely proud that our organisation was able to provide a lifeline for these extremely vulnerable communities in their hour of need.

Safe Transport for the SOS Africa Children

Thanks to the generosity of the charity's corporate sponsors, in September 2020 SOS Africa purchased two 23-seater minibuses to expand its food relief efforts and provide transportation for the charity's Western Cape Education Programmes.

With escalating taxi prices and frequent regional social unrest, transporting food supplies and the SOS Africa children to and from school safely each day through volatile township communities has become increasingly challenging. The new buses have not only provided the Food Relief Appeal and the SOS Africa children with safe and reliable travel, but also saved the charity in the region of R250,000 each year in transport costs. They have also enabled the staff to arrange more frequent school outings and extracurricular activities.

New Staff Members

The SOS Africa Trustees would like to welcome new Western Cape staff members Anuska and Luzelle to the charity's Grabouw Education Programme. These energetic and motivated ladies have already settled in well and are very popular among both our staff and children.

The trustees would also like to welcome the charity's first Western Cape bus drivers, Lood (Somerset West) and Davedeen (Grabouw). Navigating dangerous townships roads safely and in good time during the early hours of the day is not an easy task and the children are lucky to have such experienced drivers to guarantee their safety and wellbeing.

Increased Academic Support

Always looking at ways in which they can support the educational development of the children in their care, during the 2020/21 financial year, the SOS Africa staff recruited tutors to provide extra maths and English lessons where required.

The trustees welcome Alastair and Jenna, varsity students from Stellenbosch University, who take time out of their busy schedules twice a week to provide this invaluable support.

Online Staff Training

During the national lockdown and consequent closure of South African public schools, the SOS Africa staff were enrolled onto online training courses to strengthen their IT, planning and management skillsets.

Upon completion of these courses, they were awarded certificates and asked to put together reports and presentations to demonstrate the impact of these training programmes.

Dental Care

As part of the charity's mission to eliminate barriers to learning impacting children from disadvantaged communities, the SOS Africa Trustees identified health and hygiene as a fundamental priority moving forward. Oral health care is essential in preventing infections and gum disease.

The trustees were therefore delighted to be approached by Swiss-based company RoseBlanc and offered sponsorship to cover ongoing dental treatment for the SOS Africa children. The first beneficiaries of this support, SOS Africa's Gideon and Karabo, attended their first ever dental appointment to receive a full check-up followed by a filling and a tooth extraction.

The relatively quick and painless procedures carried out by dental practitioner Dr Richard Young, have immediately eradicated discomfort felt by the children for some time.

Beach Clean Up

Unfortunately, protecting the environment often falls far down the priority lists of developing countries. Recognising the importance of raising awareness of the devastating effects of plastic waste ending up in South Africa's beautiful oceans, in November the SOS Africa staff organised a 'Beach Clean Up Day' at Strand Beach.

The trustees would like to thank the 80-strong team of SOS Africa staff, parents and children for a seriously effective clean up operation. By the end of the afternoon there was not a trace of litter to be seen on the entire beach. Most importantly, the legacy of this memorable trip lives on; the children are often seen collecting litter around school campuses during breaktime.

St Michael's School Building Projects

After securing the required funding from the Mordaunt Foundation, throughout the 2020/21 financial year, SOS Africa carried out a series of building projects at partnering school, St Michael's Elgin. With large class sizes and limited teaching spaces, for some time St Michael's School Principal Rehard Smith had been looking to expand the numbers of classrooms and renovate the school's ageing toilet blocks. As well as significantly improving the quality of education and care available to the students, these initiatives have also assisted hygiene and social distancing measures which are essential in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

With the school due to re-open after the easing of lockdown measures, the SOS Africa staff wasted no time in putting plans in place to completely renovate the existing sanitation facilities. With damaged asbestos roofing, broken toilets and leaking pipes, both toilet blocks would require complete renovation. Building work commenced on the 8th May 2020 and in less than a month, work on both blocks had been completed, just in time for the re-opening of the school.

In September 2020, SOS Africa purchased two new classrooms which enabled the school to reduce their Grade 1 class sizes from 78 to 39 children per class.

The immediate impact of these fantastic facilities has not only enabled the school to halve its Grade 1 and Grade 4 class sizes, but also provide a safe learning environment for these children during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Most importantly, the beneficiaries of the new classrooms have been inspired by the transformation and are now receiving a much higher standard of education at the school.

It was a proud moment for Principal Rehard Smith when his students cut the ribbon at the opening of the new facilities:

"It is hard to find the words to describe the difference the new toilets and classrooms will make to our school – the toilets provide clean, hygienic facilities to ensure handwashing and allow our learners and educators dignity which is important for their self-esteem and well-being. Without the new classrooms we cannot begin to provide learners and educators the space required for social distancing and an environment within which to learn, develop and grow."

The SOS Africa Trustees are delighted that the charity has been able to provide this invaluable support to partnering schools to help them deal with the challenges of the pandemic. St Michael's School in particular, should be commended for being one of the only schools in the region to be able to accommodate nearly all its students during this time.

Christmas Party

As is tradition at the end of the academic year, in December the SOS Africa staff hosted an end of year party for the SOS Africa children. The children chose 'Superheroes' as the theme and it could not have been more apt as they really have been superheroes this year.

It had been an unpredictable and challenging year for everyone, especially children, who had their schooling and socialising altered and interrupted. Yet, through it all they maintained joyful spirits and showed kindness to one another - the true markings of a superhero!

At this point, the UK trustees would also like to bid farewell to outgoing Western Cape staff members Deseree Davids and Abigail Snyders and thank them for their many years of service.

They would like to congratulate SOS Africa's formidable team of Western Cape Staff and Trustees, not least SOS Africa Western Cape Operations Manager Karen Damon and Admin & Finance Manager Rae Morris. Their passion and dedication has guided our organisation through by far and away its most challenging year.

The trustees are particularly proud that, in the face of adversity, our Western Cape Operations have not just survived but thrived, broadening its original scope of support to reach remote and vulnerable communities with no one else to turn to.

Mahikeng Scholarship Scheme

SOS Africa's Mahikeng Education Programme was first established in January 2003. It began by providing education and care to one child and has grown to support 11 children with eight children having already graduated and now attending further education.

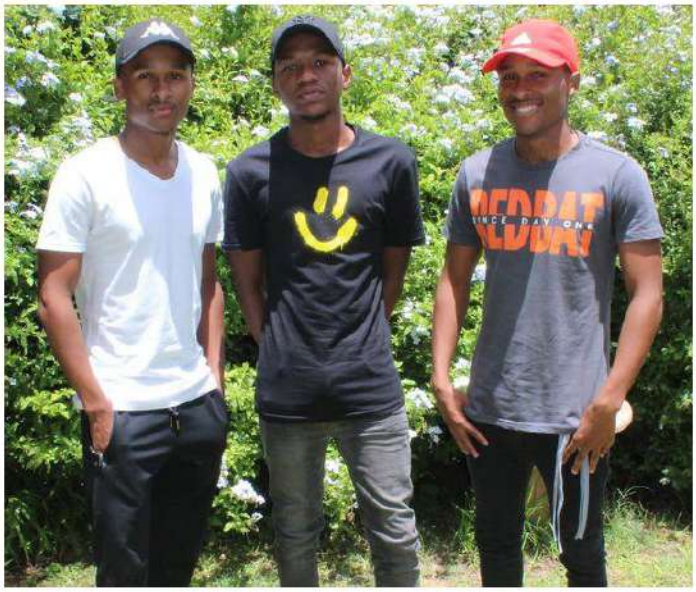
During a recent report from SOS Africa's Mahikeng Operations Manager Jenny Matthews, the trustees were informed that the children have adapted well to the challenges they have faced during the pandemic:

"This last year has been a challenging one for us all but despite this the children have adapted extremely well to the challenges they have faced adapting to the new norm. They have also had to cope with many disruptions to their schooling but have continued working hard and striving to do their best. I must also thank our past students Olebogeng, Obu and Othu who, whilst coping with adapting to online learning, have taken time to help our children with extra lessons. Even though their first year at university was challenging they coped well, and all passed with distinctions at the end of their first year. We are so proud of them and the example they have set for the younger children. I would like to thank all our sponsors who I know are also facing the challenges and hardships of the pandemic but have continued to support our children. We at SOS Mahikeng are most grateful for the support from the sponsors and trustees and especially to Matt who is always there willing to help us."

Jenny Matthews (Operations Manager, SOS Africa Mahikeng)

Some of the achievements included in Jenny's report are highlighted below:

SOS Africa Graduates Achieve Distinctions at University



Last year the trustees were pleased to share the exciting news that SOS Africa Mahikeng Graduates Obu, Othu and Olebogeng had been accepted by North-West and Pretoria Universities. This year they are delighted to share the news that Obu has now achieved distinctions in Biological and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria and his twin brother Othu and fellow SOS graduate Olebogeng have achieved distinctions in their Computer Science, Mathematics and Organisational Psychology courses at North-West University. These exemplary students continue to be excellent role models for the rest of the SOS Africa children.

Academic Achievements

The trustees are also delighted to announce that Mathapelo and Tlotlo both passed their matric exams and will soon begin IT and nursing college courses. They are extremely proud of their achievements and wish them well as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

Following closely in the footsteps of the graduates, this year SOS Africa Mahikeng's Girly, Ofentse and Thato attended their first days at Mahikeng High School.

Meanwhile, all the children supported by the charity in the region passed their end of year examinations and were promoted to new grades.

These commendable results are testament to the dedication of our Mahikeng staff who have continued to provide our children with a high standard of education and care throughout the pandemic.

In many cases, our Mahikeng children have received special commendations for their hard work and achievements over the past 12 months. The trustees also appreciate the hands-on approach of our partnering schools in tackling important issues which both directly and indirectly impact the lives of our children.

Student Mentoring

These successes can also be attributed to SOS Africa's personal and holistic approach to the education process; our dedicated staff provide mentoring for each of the children in our care. Facing more challenges and barriers to learning than ever before, they feel that it is vital that each child has someone who they respect, feel comfortable with and can turn to for guidance and support during these uncertain times.

The trustees would like to give special thanks to graduates Othu and Olebogeng who return to SOS Africa Education Centre each afternoon to provide additional tutoring and mentorship for the children.

End of Year Party

In celebration of the completion of SOS Africa Mahikeng's 17th year of operation, the staff and children were treated to an afternoon of go-karting followed by our traditional end of year party.

Many congratulations to Jenny, her dedicated staff and the SOS Africa children for their hard work throughout a very challenging year. The SOS Africa Trustees and sponsors are extremely proud all achievements over the past 12 months.

Concluding Thoughts

The past year has proven to be exceptionally challenging for everyone. In these difficult circumstances, the SOS Africa Trustees are extremely proud of the way the charity has reacted to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the SOS Africa Family. A special note of thanks has to go to the staff and volunteers in South Africa, of whom we are extremely proud, who reacted to ensure that education and care of the children in Western Cape and Mahikeng could continue. The progress made by the charity despite the ongoing challenges is testament to the hard-work, determination, love and care of the team. The trustees would like to wholeheartedly thank our sponsors, fundraisers and donors all over the world who stepped up to the challenge in ensuring the SOS children and their families would not go hungry, and their education would not suffer, during this incredibly difficult time. This also gives us security moving into the future, continuing to grow and to ensure that children are afforded education and learning support to maximise their potential, and that the poorest in society are not left behind. We remain determined in our mission to transform the lives of disadvantaged children across South Africa for generations to come.

The past year has also offered hope. Despite challenges of traditional fundraising during the pandemic, SOS Africa has been able to offer more support and to more children than ever, with 68 currently on the scholarship scheme and a further 103 receiving learning support. Our food relief programme and safe transport programmes have meant that children do not go hungry and their education doesn't stop. Our new classrooms have helped schools react to the pandemic and teach in a safe environment with lower student numbers, helping ensure a high standard of education. We are also inspired by the success and progress of the SOS children who have continued to make the most of their education and support showing great resilience, determination and hard work to progress in their studies. We look forward to sharing success of the children we welcomed this year and reiterate our pride for those who have graduated, well done!

Lasty, the trustees would like to welcome Alex Dyer to the UK board of trustees and thank Amy Holloway for her service after stepping down from her role this year. We look forward to working with Alex, and all trustees, in ensuring that the charity continues its' success and growth in delivering holistic learning support to disadvantaged children across South Africa, providing empowerment through education to break the cycle of poverty.

Financial Review

Review of SOS Africa's Financial Position

At the close of the 2020/21 financial year, SOS Africa is in a strong financial position following its most successful year of fundraising to date. As previously demonstrated, this increased growth resulted from the successes of SOS Africa's Emergency Food Relief Appeal, significant increases in donations from corporate sponsors, foundations and community groups, increases in child sponsors, online and offline fundraising and consequent increases in Gift Aid claims.

Whilst investing this income in both new and existing SOS Africa Education Programmes, funding has also been kept in reserve to secure the long-term educational development of the children supported by the charity.

As previously mentioned, only 6% of SOS Africa's 2020/21 annual income was required to cover the charity's UK running costs. These expenses were easily covered by SOS Africa's Gift Aid claims and charity shop takings.

Policy for Holding Reserves

Each year SOS Africa holds reserves to ensure that the charity can guarantee the long-term education of all the children within its care, in line with the charity's policy never to remove a child from schooling for financial reasons.

Amount of Reserves Held

Following the close of the 2020/21 financial year, SOS Africa held £328,115 in reserve. This is enough funding to safeguard all SOS Africa's Education Programmes and Emergency Food Relief Projects for a further year. This is particularly important given that the COVID-19 Pandemic is likely to impact the health and wellbeing of the adults and children in our care and continue to disrupt SOS Africa's fundraising activities throughout the 2021/22 financial year.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	New SOS Africa trustees are appointed by resolution of the current trustees. For example, if one trustee resigns, the remaining trustees will appoint a replacement.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	SOS Africa
Registered charity number	1188705
Charity's principal address	SOS Africa 21 High Street Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 5AA

Names of Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Davies	Chair of Trustees	N/A	N/A
Richard Long	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kim Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alex Dyer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Names of Chief Executive or Names of Senior Staff Members

SOS Africa CEO: Matthew Crowcombe

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Signature	M L Davies
Full Name	Dr Matthew Lloyd Davies
Position	Chair of Trustees, SOS Africa
Date	14 / 07 / 2021

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SOS Africa	1188705

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st April2020	To	31st March 2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Child Sponsorship	-	77 086	-	77 086	59 670
Offline Fundraising	-	2 136	-	2 136	28 072
Online Fundraising & Donations	-	107 162	-	107 162	68 319
Bank Interest	105	-	-	105	477
Donations	-	477 264	-	477 264	14 187
Gift Aid	39 234	-	-	39 234	42 309
Shop Sales	10 000	-	-	10 000	30 000
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	-	-	-	31 200
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	49 339	663 648	-	712 987	274 233
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	49 339	663 648	-	712 987	274 233
A3 Payments					
Education Programme in South Africa	-	529 279	-	529 279	183 230
Website Fees	390	-	-	390	180
Bank Charges / Just Giving Fees	562	-	-	562	599
Tax / National Insurance Payments	9 334	-	-	9 334	9 015
Wages / Pension	34 684	-	-	34 684	31 499
Printing / Travel	3 197	-	-	3 197	3 297
Event Expenses	-	-	-	-	13 140
Funds Raised for Other Charities	-	-	-	-	9 667
Accounts / Prof Fees	235	-	-	235	187
Glastonbury Litterpicking Deposits	-	-	-	-	31 200
Sub total	48 401	529 279	-	577 680	282 015
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	48 401	529 279	-	577 680	282 015
Net of receipts/(payments)	938	134 369	-	135 308	- 7 782
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	193 745	-	193 745	201 527
Cash funds this year end	938	328 115	-	329 053	193 745

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	SOS Africa UK HSBC ACCOUNT	938	328 115	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	938	328 115	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M L Davies	MATTHEW LLOYD DAVIES	20/07/2021

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: Charity Name: SOS AFRICA

On accounts for the year ended: 31 MARCH 2021 | **Charity no (if any)**: 1188705

Set out on pages: 1-2. (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ~~[insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*~~ CIMA

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 29-5-21

Name: NATALIE FROUD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: ACMA CGMA

(if any):	
Address:	61 ROBINS LANE FROME SOMERSET BA11 3ET

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	