

LIFE SKILL PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales · Charity number 1190482

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-07-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PAKISTAN AMONG WOMEN FROM SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF BASIC LITERACY AND SEWING SKILLS TRAINING WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING THEIR EMPLOYABILITY, STANDARD OF LIVING AND LIFE CHANCES.

Activities: The charity provides literacy education and training in sewing skills to young women and girls in Pakistan.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** OVERSEAS
- Pakistan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,764	£4,179	-	-
2023-12-31	£5,268	£3,010	-	-
2022-12-31	£3,807	£4,566	-	-
2021-12-31	£3,299	£4,039	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mussarat Javaid Iqbal	Chair	2019-10-12
George Masih		2019-10-12
LANGLEY SHEILA ELIZABETH		2019-10-12
Rev Carol Rashid		2024-01-28
Rev Jacqueline Bullen		2019-10-12
Rev Javaid Iqbal		2019-10-12
Rev NEIL GEOFFREY OSBORNE BULLEN		2020-07-25
Stephen Mark Gamble		2019-10-12
Suzanne Gamble		2019-10-12

LIFE SKILL PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1190482

Accounts

Life Skill Project International Annual Report 2024

LSPI Trustees continued to be committed to running two sewing and literacy centres. Tatlley and Jaaman, centres completed the two-year course in September 2024. While visiting the family, Mussarat Iqbal, the Founder and Chair of LSPI, was able to attend the closing certificate awarding ceremonies for both centres. By the grace of God, since LSPI became operational in 2011, a total of 242 girls have been trained in 9 centres.

Two new centres were also opened at the same time, one in Jaaman with the fresh batch of girls, where 22 girls started, and the other in Liliyani, towards the southeast of Lahore, with 21 girls. The opening of the Liliyani centre was a special moment, as one of our former students, who had married and moved to Liliyani, became the teacher, running the centre in her own home.

Trustees are grateful to God for providing us with a hardworking and committed team in Lahore, which, along with the dedicated and passionate Board of Trustees, has enabled us to achieve such success. Together, we continue to implement our vision and carry out plans, enabling us to help disadvantaged, underprivileged, marginalised, and poor girls gain skills and basic literacy, empowering them to become independent and employable. We hope that in 2025, we will be able to continue the excellent work of making a positive difference to create a respectful society where women play a vital and equal role. The LSPI has finally created the chain to fulfil its vision of enabling girls to be independent, pass on their skills and mindsets, and bring about a positive change in society. The trustees look ahead with hope that God's gracious providence and the generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the good work in the years to come.

By God's gracious providence and the generosity of our donors, fundraising in 2024 exceeded expectations, which facilitated the purchase of new sewing machines for the two new centres opened in 2024. The Lahore team has been using their own motorbike to travel to the centres. Travelling in extreme heat in the summer, through rainy monsoon seasons, and in cold winter conditions is challenging for our team in Lahore. Therefore, the trustees have been raising funds for a vehicle. This has resulted in a higher than usual end of the year bank account balance for 2024. The accounts prepared by the LSPI treasurer, the Rev Jacqueline Bullen, and independently examined by Yvette Magri, show the end balance of £6,073.09. However, as a small charity, it may take us some time to raise enough funds for a vehicle.

Mrs Mussarat Iqbal, our founder and chair and The Rev Jackie Bullen, our treasurer, thanked the trustees and donors for their commitment, passion, hard work and support for Like Skill Project International, which enables us to help the disadvantaged, underprivileged, marginalised and poor girls gain skills and basic literacy to empower them to be independent and employable. We look ahead to 2024 with the hope that God's gracious providence and the generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the excellent work of making a positive difference to create a respectful society where women play a vital and equal role.

In 2024, the Board of Trustees welcomed the Rev. Carol Rashid. There are currently nine trusts, reflecting the diversity of gender and ethnicity. We continue to use social media for publicity and to promote our charity. The Life Skills Project International website, accessible at www.lifeskillprojectinternational.org provides the necessary information, as well as links to the Charity Commission UK website.

LSPI continue to seek to register as a charitable organisation in Pakistan, which has been proving challenging. We hope our efforts will prove fruitful in 2025.

<u>Accounts Summary</u>					
Balance Brought forward 1st January 2024					4,488.53
<u>Receipts</u>					
Regular Donations			2,467.00		
Individual Donations			1,380.98		
Fundraising			1,864.32		
Sale of bags			52.00		
Scarves			0.00	5,764.30	
<u>Payments</u>					
Centre Exp			-	4,084.94	-
Other costs				94.80	4,179.74
Balance as at 31st December 2024			-		<u>6,073.09</u>
Balance per bank statement 31st December 2024			-		<u>6,073.09</u>

The accounts were prepared by Jacqueline Bullen

Independently examined by Yvette Magri

21/02/2025

LIFE SKILL PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1190482

Accounts

Life Skill Project International Annual Report 2023

We continued to run two sewing and literacy centres in Talley near village Hair and Jaaman, which started in 2022 and will complete the two-year course in October 2024. The centres have received a grant demand and support from the local Muslim community, and one centre has 1/3 and the other 2/3 Muslim girls. Currently, a total of 55 girls are attending in two centres. When these girls complete their training next year, a total of 242 girls will have been trained in 9 centres since 2011, when the first centre was opened. We are grateful to our dedicated and hardworking staff in Pakistan, without whom this success was not impossible, and praise God for giving us such a passionate team and trustees who carry out our vision and plans.

In March 2023, while on a family visit to Lahore, the LSPI Chair and Founder, Mrs Mussarat Iqbal, was able to visit and inspect the centres. She was taken to a house in Tatley and was delighted to meet a lady who was trained in our first-ever centre in Tatley. Mussarat learnt that this lady was now running her own sewing business from home and teaching others. It was an emotional encounter for her to realise that LSPI had finally started to fulfil its vision of enabling girls to be independent, pass on their skills and mindsets, and set up a chain of change in society. The trustees look ahead with hope that God's gracious providence and generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the good work as in previous years.

The fundraising in 2023 was better than expected, and the generosity of one particular church through their harvest festival raised enough funds for the new sewing machines when the new centres are to be opened in 2024. Mrs Mussarat Iqbal, our founder and chair and The Rev Jackie Bullen, our treasurer, thanked the trustees and donors for their commitment, passion, hard work and support for Like Skill Project International, which enables us to help the disadvantaged, underprivileged, marginalised and poor girls gain skills and basic literacy to empower them to be independent and employable. We look ahead to 2024 with the hope that God's gracious providence and generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the excellent work of making a positive difference to create a respectful society where women play a vital and equal role.

In 2023, we said farewell to our longstanding trustees, Mr Javed Inayat and Mrs Riffat Zamuard, who both resigned for personal reasons. The chair and the board of trustees are thankful for their faithful service and commitment to LSPI and its aims and objectives. Their resignations have created up to four vacancies on the board, so we will be looking for new trustees to serve alongside the eight serving trustees.

We continue to use social media for publicity and to promote our charity. The Life Skills Project International website was launched in 2022 and can be accessed at www.lifeprojectinternational.org and provides the necessary information along with the Charity Commission UK website.

Life Skill Project International

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Accounts Summary 2023					
Balance Brought forward 1st January 2023					2,229.95
Receipts					
Regular Donations				1,919.00	
Individual Donations				1,867.32	
Fundraising				1,030.47	
Sale of bags				452.00	5,268.79
Payments					
Centre Exp					2,966.53
Other costs					43.68
					3,010.21
Balance as at 31st December 2023					<u>4,488.53</u>
Balance per bank statement 31st December 2023					<u>4,488.53</u>

Accounts prepared by Jacqueline Bullen

Independently examined by Yvette Magri

LIFE SKILL PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1190482

Accounts

Life Skill Project International Annual Report 2022

2022 continued to be a challenging year, just like 2021. The slow recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis in the UK made fundraising activities difficult and less productive. The volatility of the political system in Pakistan compounded the situation. Furthermore, the IMF saved Pakistan from becoming a financial defaulter, raising inflation by over 30%, which meant low income and high expenses, bringing LSPI to its all-time economic low. Yet, by the grace of God, the generosity of our donors and the efforts of our fundraisers, we were able to continue to provide all that our students and staff needed to continue the learning.

Both of our currently running centres were due to complete two years of training and closed with a certificate award ceremony in late 2021. But, because of the lack of face-to-face contact in 2021, the practical nature of the training and the lack of online facilities and equipment, it was not possible to offer online classes; the students could not complete the whole syllabus, so the length of the course duration had to be extended by six months to allow the students to finish their entire two years. Both centres (Village Sehansra Goraya Sark Waly Basti Gujranwala and Village Ghwand near the Pak-Indian Border) completed the training course and held the certificate ceremonies in September 2022.

LSPI Trustees had already received proposals for a couple of new centres in village Gamman, which is on the Pak-Indian border and from village Hair, where we started our first-ever centre in 2011. The trustees considered if they could financially support the two centres in the future and, despite the challenges, felt confident to be able to do so. The board of trustees decided not to have a gap between centres and opening new ones as a delay might mean we lose good staff. They recognised that it would be wise to continue with two centres, but this meant more successful fundraising was needed. The great need also influenced the decision because the families were very keen and were already asking when the next centres would be opened, and their daughters could attend.

It was hoped that 2023 would bring new fundraising opportunities as things returned to normal after the challenges of the last three years. We continue to use social media for publicity and to promote our charity, and the Life Skill Project International website (www.lifeskillprojectinternational.org) is also a source of our online presence.

Mrs Mussarat Iqbal, our founder and chair and The Rev Jackie Bullen, our treasurer, thanked the trustees and donors for their commitment, passion, hard work and support for Like Skill Project International, which enables us to help the disadvantaged, underprivileged, marginalised and poor girls gain skills and basic literacy to empower them to be independent and employable. 187 girls and young women have completed the training in 7 centres (Hair, Chathan Wala, Tatlay, Ghawind, Asal Guruke, and twice in Sehansra Gorraya Gujranwala), some of whom now have their own home-based small business. A further 55 girls are attending in two centres (Gaman and Hair). We are grateful to our dedicated and hardworking staff in Pakistan, without whom this success is impossible, and praise God for giving us such a passionate team who carry out our vision and plans.

We look ahead to 2023 with the hope that God's gracious providence and generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the excellent work of making a positive difference to create a respectful society where women play a vital and equal role.

Life Skill Project International

Accounts Summary 2022

Balance Brought forward 1st January 2022			2,988.63
Add: Receipts			
Regular Donations	1,832.00		
Individual Donations	570.00		
Fundraising	<u>1,405.86</u>	3,807.86	
Less: Payments			
Centre Exp	4,096.94		
Other costs	<u>469.60</u>	4,566.54	
Balance as at 31st December 2022			<u>2,229.95</u>
Balance per bank statement 31st December 2022			<u>2,229.95</u>

Prepared by Jackie Bullen

Independent examiner Jackie Last

LIFE SKILL PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

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Accounts

Life Skill Project International Annual Report 2021

The year 2021 was a challenging year. As in the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions made it hard to continue regular activities. Due to the Covid restrictions in Pakistan, both our skills centres, near Lahore and Gujranwala, had to be closed for some time. Even when we were allowed to open, strict Covid protocols had to be followed, which increased pressure on our staff and monthly expenditure. Our leadership team ensured that the government guidance was followed to keep our students and staff safe.

Both of our currently running centres were due to complete two years of training and closed with a certificate award ceremony in late 2021. Because of the face-to-face and practical nature of the training and the lack of online facilities and equipment, it was not possible to offer online classes. But due to Covid, the students could not complete the whole syllabus, so the length of the course duration had to be extended by six months to allow the students to finish their entire two years.

At the end of 2021, both Centres had been running smoothly since Covid restrictions had been lifted. The families were very keen and are already asking when the next centres would be opened and when daughters would be able to attend. If possible, the board of trustees plan not to have a gap between closing one centre and opening another as a delay might mean we lose good staff. They recognised that it would be wise to continue with two centres, but it all depends on successful fundraising.

Our treasurer reported that finances were holding steady, although the end-of-year balance was lower than at the start of 2021, which was expected due to covid. Regular donations had dropped slightly, fundraising was challenging, and one-off events, which usually raise half of our income, could not be held. Regular donations are needed to remain at the current level or increase if we are to continue our long-term commitment to enable the charity to look forward with confidence. It was hoped that 2022 would bring new fundraising opportunities as things returned to normal.

We continue to use social media for publicity and to promote our charity; however, we could do better. Thanks to a willing volunteer, the life Skill Project International website has been launched and is now active and can be accessed at www.lifeskillprojectinternational.org

The chair, Mussarat Iqbal, thanked the trustees and our donors for their commitment and support for Like Skill Project International. The passion and hard work of the trustees enable us to help the disadvantaged and poor girls gain skills and basic literacy; empower and release them to be independent and employable. We look ahead to 2022, hoping that God's gracious providence and generosity of our donors will enable us to continue the good work as in previous years.

<u>Accounts Summary 2021</u>			
Balance Brought forward			3728.66
<u>Receipts</u>			
Regular Donations		1821.00	
Individual Donations		650.00	
Fundraising		828.64	3299.64
<u>Payments</u>			
Centre Exp		4039.67	4039.67
Balance as at 31st August 2021			<u>2988.63</u>
Represented by:			
Balance per bank statement 31st December 2021			<u>2988.63</u>