

Annual report
23/12/2024



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

DETAILS

Antivenom Foundation	Reg: 1204543
Period start	31/08/2023
Period end	23/12/2024

INTRODUCTION

Over 6bn people live with venomous snakes and with ever increasing levels of deforestation and encroachment into their natural habitat, snakebites are inevitable. Every year 5 million people are bitten by venomous snakes, resulting in 80,000-140,000 deaths, and leaving 400,000 with life changing disabilities including amputations and organ failure. Snakebite is a fact of life for rural and indigenous communities and is an occupational hazard for the farmers who grow our coffee, chocolate and other commodities we consume every day. Because the population most affected are young (5-40 years old) and the consequences are severe, the impact of snakebite is disproportionate, with a combined burden of 6-8 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost. This is a toll comparable to diseases such as prostate cancer, cervical cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, viral hepatitis and upper respiratory tract infections.

The tragedy is that treatments for snakebite exist and are highly effective. Antivenom prevents over 90% of morbidity and mortality and is listed as an essential medicine by the WHO, but the supply is in crisis. Less than 30% of the antivenom needed is produced, and 40% of species have no specific treatment. These problems are concentrated in low- and middle-income countries where the import of fake or inappropriate antivenoms means that in some cases up to 90% of the available antivenom is known not to work.

The Antivenom Foundation is a start-up charity with a big ambition: to create the worlds' first international antivenom stockpile. In doing so we hope to enable access to effective antivenoms through procurement mechanisms from vetted suppliers, with wrap around support from our extensive global network of expert volunteers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of charity purpose

The primary aim of the Antivenom Foundation is to establish the world's first international antivenom stockpile mechanism to provide effective treatments that prevent death and disability from the bites and stings of venomous animals. In pursuit of this primary goal the Antivenom Foundation has scope to provide support to patients, physicians and local organisations, and to further research, education and awareness on the issue of animal envenomations.



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Summary of main activities

The goal of the Antivenom foundation is incredibly ambitious and the trustees are under no illusions as to the long and hard road ahead. In this first year of activity the trustees have focused on setting up the charity and connecting with experts and community leaders.

Due to the international outlook of the charity, we faced significant difficulties in opening a bank account and registering for gift aid. The very lengthy delays and uncertainty we experienced on this front impaired fundraising activity during the period. The trustees applied to several small grant schemes, however, as a start-up charity with an international outlook it has become clear that there do not appear to be any seed funding schemes in the UK that are willing to take a risk with such an early-stage initiative. Going forward the antivenom foundation is going to focus on raising funds from donations to enable the first proof of concept delivery project. Despite the challenges on the set-up and fundraising side, the Antivenom Foundation has had some success through our network of expert volunteers who have had a direct impact on the ground (see achievements and performance).

Statement on Charity commission guidance on public benefit

The Trustees confirm that, in exercising their powers and duties, they have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's activities have been carried out in a manner that aligns with the public benefit requirement set out in the Charity Commission's guidelines.

In making decisions, the Trustees have considered both the aims and the activities of the charity, ensuring that they are for the public benefit and that the charity's resources are used effectively to further its charitable purposes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of main achievements

Our main achievements in this period have come from the ability of the foundation to draw on our network of international expert volunteers providing small but meaningful contributions that have made a significant difference on the ground.

South Africa and Eswatini had experienced ongoing issues with the supply of effective antivenoms leading to shortages. At the request of officials from the local regulatory authorities (SAHPRA) and local organisations, the Antivenom Foundation provided experts to compile and review the available evidence for alternative antivenoms. This led to the emergency approval (under section 21) of 2 antivenoms. Thanks to this work in obtaining emergency approval, one of these antivenoms was procured and extensively used by local organisations in Eswatini, which in November 2024 [reported their first ever snakebite season with no deaths](#).

Kenya like many countries has a substantial burden of snakebites and unequal access to effective antivenoms. Through our network of contacts, the Antivenom foundation was able to facilitate a



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donation of 600 vials (aproximatly 100-150 treatments) of antivenom by connecting suppliers to the ministry of health in Baringo county, with logistical support for the donation provided by MSF.

Lebanon has long had issues with antivenom availability and suitability. Working with toxicologists at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Antivenom Foundation has fostered a collaboration with antivenom experts at the University of Costa Rica to develop an effective antivenom for the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. This effort led to a new reformulated antivenom which is due to enter phase 1 safety studies in Lebanon under the supervision of AUB.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of financial position

The Antivenom Foundation is still a start-up charity in the process of setting up, it therefore has not undertaken any substantial fundraising or activities that incurred any expense. In the process of establishing the charity we encountered substantial difficulties in opening a bank account, having been refused a bank account by all the major banks, despite having duly followed their lengthy process. A number of grant applications were made; however, these were all unsuccessful. A modest sum of £157 was raised, primarily from online donation "cashback" platforms. The sums raised are not sufficient to undertake any activities related to the primary aim of the charity to supply antivenom and have therefore been held in reserve.

Reserves policy

To date the foundation has not raised any significant funds and does not incur any overheads so does not have a formal reserves policy. Should this position change in the future then the trustees will develop a reserves policy as appropriate.

Going concerns

The current economic environment has been challenging for the charity sector. As a start-up charity there are very limited opportunities to obtain grant funding, which are further diminished by our international outlook and focus on neglected diseases. Antivenom is expensive; substantial sums will therefore need to be raised before the foundation can start to fulfil its primary objective of providing antivenom to those in need. Nonetheless, the foundation does not currently incur any expenses and provides a valuable nucleus that connects local organisations to experts. Despite the difficulties raising funds, the foundation is supported by dedicated volunteers who are in it for the long term and prepared for a difficult road ahead. The trustees are therefore not concerned about the ability of the charity to continue.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Antivenom Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by constitution. Trustees are appointed for a term of 3 years by majority resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.



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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Antivenom Foundation (AVF) Reg: 1204543

Address 11 Spring Grove
Godalming
GU7 3SS

Trustees	Active from	Term
Faisa Price	31/8/2023	4 years
Steven Swallow	31/8/2023	3 Years
Alessia Cacioni	7/01/2024	3 years

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

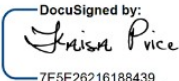
Not applicable

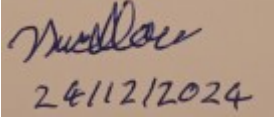
DECLARATIONS

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

Trustee: Faisa Price

Trustee: Steven Swallow

Signed: 
7E5E26216188439...
12/23/2024

Signed: 
24/12/2024





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Antivenom Foundation	1204543
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	31/8/2023	To	23/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	157	-	-	157	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	157	-	-	157	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	157	-	-	157	-
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	157	-	-	157	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	157	-	-	157	-

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	Donations	157	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	157	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<div>DocuSigned by: Faiza Price 7E5E26216188439...</div>	Faiza Price	23/12/2024	