

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AID FOR VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA  
Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The Charity is an unincorporated association established in June 1965 as the Medical Aid Committee for Vietnam and is registered with the Charity Commission No. 252906. The Charity's name was changed to Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia when aid was also sent to Laos and Cambodia. A new constitution based on the Charity Commission's model was formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting in July 2010. Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, is also known by its abbreviated form of MSAVLC.

Trustees are elected on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting of the Charity; new Trustees are inducted fully on all the charity's projects and given appropriate literature. All new Trustees are required to be prepared to take on a specific role in the running of the charity. Trustees can be co-opted onto the Committee, if necessary, to fulfil a role.

The Trustees during the year were:

Mr Peter Lidgard	Chairman
Mrs Mary Lidgard	Honorary Secretary
Mr John Firth	Honorary Treasurer
Mrs Lynn Firth	
Mrs Susmita Ghosh	
Ms Jenny Gold	

The Honorary Officers of the Charity are:

President of the Charity:	Vice-Presidents:	Medical & Scientific Advisor:
Dame Judi Dench DBE	Sir George Howarth	Dr. Stewart Benzie
	Lord Balfe of Dulwich	
	Honorary Legal Advisor:	
	Simon Mumford BA	

The Principal Address of the Charity is: Anchor Cottage, 3, Horsefair Street, Charlton Kings, CHELTENHAM, Gloucestershire, GL53 8JF

### Objects of the Charity

The objects of the charity are:-

The relief of sickness, the promotion of good health and the advance of medical research in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Charity shall have power

- a) To send medical, scientific and food aid, supplies, equipment and literature to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
- b) To further, and to assist in the furtherance of, medical research provided that the useful results of such research shall be disseminated.
- c) To foster the exchange between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and Britain and other nations medical, scientific and technological information and personnel.



### **Organisation, Governance and Activities**

The control of the charity is vested in the Trustees and supporters who meet annually to elect Honorary Officers, to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the previous year, and to elect the Trustees for the following year. The day-to-day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who aim to meet three or four times per year and correspond with each other regularly via email and telephone during the year.

Detailed project proposals from our Project Directors are submitted for approval by the Trustees, and decisions regarding disbursements are taken by the Trustees at their meetings. New and existing projects are reviewed regularly, and accounts, reports and outcomes are provided. It is the aim of the Trustees to send a delegation to visit all funded projects at regular intervals, ideally every two years. During these visits receipts and invoices are checked and the outcomes and impact of projects recorded. New proposals are received, to be discussed and approved by the Trustees.

The charity has considered that the risk of accidents or ill health may occur during the Trustees' visits to projects, and all Trustees are advised to take appropriate measures in the form of insurance and medications.

A Safeguarding Policy is held by the charity and is reviewed every two years.

Donations are received mainly as a result of publicity campaigns, chiefly the publication of the news Bulletin three or four times per year, from leaflets, and by notifications in Facebook and on our website. From time-to-time fund-raising activities are organised. Donations sent for a specific project, or specified purpose are recorded as Restricted Income and are only used for that specified purpose. All other donations are recorded as Unrestricted Income.

Complete detailed records of Income and Expenditure are maintained by the Honorary Treasurer, and a Financial Statement is prepared at the end of each month for the approval by the Trustees.

The Honorary Treasurer's Report is included within the Trustees' Annual Report.

The Charity financially supported during the year:

- Sponsorship of children at New Hope Children's Home, Poipet, Cambodia.  
The project helped the Home provide shelter and stability for orphaned and abandoned children. The children receive loving care, education, health, and welfare support.
- Continuation of the First Aid Project at New Hope Children's Home and in nearby villages.  
This project provides first aid to vulnerable children where no other care is available.
- The start of a new two-year Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Rehabilitation Project (PQR Project) run by the Disability Development Services Program (DDSP) in Pursat Province, Cambodia.  
The project has improved the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families, through access to health, rehabilitation, livelihood, and social inclusion.
- A qualified medical doctor to work at the All Ears Cambodia Clinic in Phnom Penh.  
The doctor was employed to enhance and promote AEC clinical services in Phnom Penh and at outreach level. He combined clinical and teaching skills with direct patient care.
- The Start of a two-year Hearing Screening Project for babies and school children in eastern Cambodia, run by All Ears Cambodia, (AEC).  
The project combined screening of school children for chronic otitis media, the leading cause of hearing loss globally, with a neonatal hearing screening service to detect congenital hearing loss.
- The continuation of a Health and Wellness Project at 'Daughters of Cambodia,' until its completion at the end of September 2024, and a new programme started to run until September 2025.  
The project helped young women and men in Cambodia escape the horrors of sex trafficking and start sustainable new lives for themselves. It provided skills and training, paired with vital health and support services needed to aid their physical, psychological, and social recovery.



- Wheelchairs for The Vietnamese Association for Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA).  
Wheelchairs were provided to assist the victims of Agent Orange to become mobile and more self-sufficient.
- Start-up Businesses for victims of Agent Orange.  
This enabled disabled victims to become economically self-sufficient, thus enhancing their health and wellbeing.
- The Joan McMichael prize for staff excellence at the British Friendship Hospital, Ky Anh, Vietnam.  
This prize encouraged good medical care for the patients at the hospital.
- The Blue Dragon Children's Foundation.  
Money was sent to this organisation to assist with the emergency aid, medical care and rehabilitation of people suffering from the effects of Typhoon Yagi.

Further details of clients benefitting directly or indirectly from the charity's funding is provided in the 'Projects' section of the charity's website ([www.msavlc.org](http://www.msavlc.org)), in the quarterly Bulletins and on our Facebook page. The Trustees believe that all of the funding for the projects supported in 2024 was for the public benefit, as set out in the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

### **Review of Objectives, Progress and Achievements during 2024**

As well as conducting their respective executive roles, Peter Lidgard compiled and edited the Bulletin, Mary Lidgard liaised regularly with all project directors, and managed all emails sent to the website contact address, and John Firth maintained the charity's mailing list.

Lynn Firth was responsible for the distribution of the Bulletin by post and email, each quarter, and for compliance with General Data Protection Regulations.

Susmita Ghosh managed the MSAVLC Facebook page.

Jenny Gold liaised with New Hope Children's Home for the welfare of our children there.

The Trustees held meetings three times during 2024, and were in touch regularly by telephone and email, when necessary.

### **A meeting of the Trustees took place in January 2024.**

The main points from that meeting follow:

The signatory for MSAVLC was to be changed from Deborah Dainton to Jenny Gold.

Money had been sent to Daughters of Cambodia to cover a further Health and Wellness Project and a vaccination program.

A half-yearly report had been received from All Ears Cambodia and a financial report from Daughters of Cambodia from 2022 to 2023, along with an Autumn News Bulletin. All reports were examined and found to be satisfactory.

The Vietnamese Association for Victims of Agent Orange had sent us a report and photographs of the wheelchairs that had been purchased by MSAVLC in 2023.

The Director of the Disability Development Services Program in Pursat Province, Cambodia (DDSP), had been chosen to attend a conference in Vienna to explain the work of DDSP to a delegation from many other countries and organisations. It was hoped that this would promote the work of DDSP and maybe encourage more sponsors.

Fundraising money had been received via Facebook appeals, and from the sale of books at the Farm Shop in Cirencester.

It was reported that the First Aid Project was still running at New Hope Children's Home, and this project had been visited by Trustees on their last evaluation visit in 2023.

The Trustees were saddened to hear of the death of John Pilger, one of our Vice-Presidents. He was a great man and one of our first and most loyal supporters.

The Annual General Meeting was arranged to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.



**A meeting of the Trustees** took place in May 2024.

The main points from that meeting follow:

The remaining money from the Joan McMichael fund had been sent to the British Friendship Hospital in Ky Anh, Vietnam.

The final term report of the 2023 projects had been received from All Ears Cambodia, and they proved satisfactory.

Daughters of Cambodia's Spring Report was forwarded to the Trustees in May, this was satisfactory.

The Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Hoang Long was returning to Vietnam as he had completed his three year posting.

More money had been donated to us by David Smethurst from the sale of second-hand books at the farm shop.

The charities annual accounts had now been signed off.

A satisfactory report had been received from New Hope Children's Home and it was agreed to cover care of the children for the next six months. The last instalment to be sent off in six months' time if all is well.

MSAVLC's Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and renewed for a further two years. Peter Lidgard agreed to remain as the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

**A meeting of the Trustees** took place in November 2024.

The main points from that meeting follow:

More photos of the recipients of wheelchairs sent in 2023 had now been received from VAVA and forwarded to the Trustees.

Mr Do Minh Hung had been appointed as the new Vietnamese Ambassador.

The venue for the AGM had been changed from the Vietnamese Embassy to The Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington. The meeting was a great success and attended both by supporters and Vietnam officials. An illustrated account of the Trustees last visit to S.E. Asia was presented.

Following the AGM the Annual Report was submitted to the Charity Commission.

Three proposals for funding had been received, from All Ears Cambodia, Daughters of Cambodia and the Disability Development Services Program in Pursat Province, Cambodia and all were approved.

By agreement of the Trustees £5,000 had been sent to the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation to help the suffering of the people caused by the effects of Typhoon Yagi.

A Newsletter had been received from Daughters of Cambodia and a Narrative and Financial report from DDSP. Both were satisfactory.

Lynn Firth was compiling a Data Protection Policy for MSAVLC and she would submit it to the Trustees for approval in due course.

John Firth was to sort out a secure database password.

It was agreed to send the final payment to Rostitus at the New Hope Children's Home for his care of the remaining six children. It was noted that all the children in his care had been given a good education and Christian upbringing, and all their medical care had been taken care of. The Trustees were delighted that they had been able to help in this way.

A request was received from VAVA to supply more wheelchairs for Agent Orange victims, and this was approved.

The Trustees were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Geoffrey Hill, one of our long term supporters, but very thankful that he had made a bequest to MSAVLC in his will.

**During 2024**

Three Trustees meetings took place.

Satisfactory reports were received from all our project leaders, and regular contact made with them all.

Funding was agreed, where requested, for our present projects in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Bulletin was published in February, May, August and November, and circulated to all our supporters by post or email.



The Annual General Meeting took place in June at The Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington.

The MSAVLC Safeguarding Policy had been renewed.

Mr. Do Minh Hung had succeeded Mr Nguyen Hoang Long as Ambassador of Vietnam to the UK.

### **Future Plans and Key Objectives**

The Trustees aim to meet regularly during 2025 and consult with all the project leaders of the projects which we are currently supporting.

We will make arrangements to carry out a monitoring and evaluation visit to all our current projects in 2026.

We aim to keep our Website, Facebook, Mailing List and Policies up to date, and to publish our Bulletin three or four times a year, in order to inform our donors and supporters of the charity's activities.

We will support fund-raising activities where appropriate.

### **Finances**

The attached Financial Statements show the state of the charity's finances on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.

The Charity's main bankers are:

The Cooperative Bank plc  
25 Islington High Street  
London N1 9LQ

The Charity's Independent Examiner is:

Mrs Nicola Hewlett MAAT  
43, West Street,  
Minehead, TA24 5EJ.



## Financial review of year ending 31 December 2024

**1. Financial position** In the absence of any significant and dramatic increase in the level of grants made to beneficiaries, the trustees have not identified any factors that would adversely affect our financial position.

**2. Investments** (a) Our investments are held in the "COIF Ethical Fund" managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd, leaders in the field of managing investments on behalf of charities. We rely on their proven expertise in both growing capital and generating income.

(b) The trustees acknowledge the risk of a reduction in capital in the event of a market correction or 'crash', but are confident in the skills of their investment managers to mitigate such risk via active stock selection and diversification.

(c) We currently hold 88.7% of our total assets in the investment fund. The trustees will regularly review this ratio and are prepared to sell some of our investment holding, if we consider it necessary to boost the level of our cash on deposit. During 2024, we did not sell any of our investment units.

(d) In the event of a shortage of funds for grant-making, our investments in the COIF Ethical Fund are readily available and can be sold in whole or in part with one working day's notice.

**3. Fundraising** (a) Our primary method of fundraising is through the publication of quarterly news bulletins. The trustees report a 25.8% increase in the level of donations received: to £29,383 in 2024 from £23,357 in 2023. It should be noted that most of the increase was due to a single large donation from one of our generous supporters.

(b) In addition, our investment income remains robust and accounted for 40% of our total income (excluding legacies).

**4. Restricted funds** We held no restricted funds at the end of the year and there were no material amounts designated or otherwise committed.

**5. Reserves** The overall reserves of the charity – effectively our total assets (in the absence of any non-financial assets) – remain in excess of £1 million and, in the opinion of the trustees, put the charity in a very strong position, which guarantees our financial stability for many years to come.

**6. Expenditure** (a) Our expenditure continues to fluctuate widely. In 2024 it was £166,221 (comprising grants of £163,573 and non-project expenses of £2,648). Project spending was up by 56% year-on-year, but as always the level of our project spending is entirely dependent on the applications received.

(b) We made a small one-off grant of £5,000 to Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in response to an emergency appeal in the wake of Typhoon Yagi. No other new grantees were added to our existing list of regular beneficiaries, all of whom are long-established.

**Non-project expenditure** remains very low indeed at £2,648 which includes fundraising costs of £1,171. The trustees are justifiably proud of the extremely low level of our charity's running costs: 1.6% of total spending in 2024, which reduces to a meagre 0.9% if we exclude fundraising costs (printing and distribution of our quarterly bulletin).





**Report to the trustees of** Medical & Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 December 2024	<b>Charity number</b>	252906
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**Set out on pages** 8 and 9

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust").

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Signed:**

**Date:**

23/3/25

**Name:**

Mrs Nicola Hewlett

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

MAAT

**Address:**

43 West Street

Minehead

Somerset TA24 5EJ



	notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 total £	2023 total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Donations not gift-aided</b>					
single payments	2	14,836	0	14,836	10,427
regular payments	3	2,791	0	2,791	2,798
<b>Donations gift-aided</b>					
single payments	2	5,599	250	5,849	4,263
regular payments	3	5,907	0	5,907	5,869
<b>Legacies</b>	4	55,375	0	55,375	0
<b>Gift aid - tax reclaimed</b>	5	3,035	63	3,097	2,524
<b>Interest received</b>		6,679	0	6,679	3,557
<b>Investment income</b>		25,921	0	25,921	28,555
<b>Other income</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>Total received (A)</b>		<b>120,142</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>120,454</b>	<b>57,993</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Project expenditure</b>					
<b>Projects in Vietnam, Laos &amp; Carr</b>	6	162,918	654	163,573	102,240
<b>Project assessment visit</b>	7	0		0	2,235
<b>Non-project expenditure</b>					
<b>Bulletins</b>	8	1,171		1,171	1,030
<b>General administration</b>					
accounting costs	9	100		100	100
travel		471		471	49
postage		39		39	35
admin	9a	725		725	109
copying		0		0	29
bank charges	6	110		110	124
stationery		33		33	81
<b>Total spent (B)</b>		<b>165,567</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>166,221</b>	<b>106,033</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT (A - B = C)</b>		<b>-45,425</b>	<b>-342</b>	<b>-45,767</b>	<b>-48,040</b>
<b>ADJUSTMENTS &amp; TRANSFERS</b>					
revaluation of investments		24,413	0	24,413	81,997
<b>Total adjustments &amp; transfers (D)</b>		<b>24,413</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,413</b>	<b>81,997</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (C + D = E)</b>		<b>-21,012</b>	<b>-342</b>	<b>-21,353</b>	<b>33,957</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
		(b/f from 2023)	(b/f from 2023)	(b/f from 2023)	(b/f from 2022)
brought forward from previous year (F)		1,051,016	342	1,051,358	1,017,401
<b>carried forward to next year (E + F)</b>		<b>1,030,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,030,005</b>	<b>1,051,358</b>



# Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

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	notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 total £	2023 total £
<b>ASSETS</b>	10				
<b>Cash funds</b>					
Co-op Bank current account		23,580	0	23,580	17,307
Santander current account	11	0	0	0	701
Paypal account	12	1,544	0	1,544	483
COIF deposit fund	13	90,831	0	90,831	143,232
		115,955	0	115,955	161,722
<b>Investment funds</b>					
COIF ethical investment fund		914,049	0	914,049	889,636
<b>Other monetary assets</b>					
		0	0	0	0
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,030,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,030,005</b>	<b>1,051,358</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	10				
<b>Committed funds held</b>	13				
Joan McMichael prize fund	14	0	0	0	307
New Hope Children's Home		0	0	0	34
		0	0	0	342

## Notes to the accounts

- 1 These accounts have been prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Charity Commission.
- 2 Single payments received by cash, cheque or BACS transfer into our Co-op Bank account, and by direct transfer or debit/credit card into our PayPal account.
- 3 Regular payments received by standing order into our Co-op Bank and PayPal accounts.
- 4 From the estate of Geoffrey Hill deceased.
- 5 As at 31 Dec 2024 we had reclaimed tax on all gift-aided donations received prior to 1 Dec 2024.
- 6 See back page for projects. Charges incurred in transferring money overseas are classed as project expenditure.
- 7 Cost of sending trustees to Vietnam and Cambodia to review supported projects.
- 8 'Bulletins' item includes all associated postage, printing and stationery costs.
- 9 Includes cost of gift to independent examiner; financial report (year ending 31 Dec 2023) examined free of charge.
- 9a 'Admin' is mainly hire of hall for AGM, but also includes cost of gift to our website manager, who charges no fee.
- 10 The charity owns no property, has no employees, no borrowings and no debts.
- 11 Santander account charged 30p monthly solely to receive a £2 monthly standing order. Account closed Jan 2024.
- 12 The Paypal account mainly receives donations made through our website and five monthly standing orders.
- 13 All restricted funds are committed to the project or purpose specified by the donors.
- 14 The Joan McMichael prize was awarded annually at Ky Anh Hospital. The final award was in January 2024.



## MSAVLC - 2024 PROJECT EXPENDITURE

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25/01/2024	British Friendship Hospital - final Joan McMichael award	£	326.17
28/03/2024	New Hope Children's Home - first-aid project (three years: 2024-2027)	£	7,676.42
13/05/2024	New Hope Children's Home - sponsor 8 children for 6 months	£	1,268.13
31/07/2024	DDSP - PQR project (two years: 2024-2026)	£	48,673.84
10/09/2024	All Ears Cambodia - screening of babies & children (year 1 of 2)	£	15,205.00
10/09/2024	All Ears Cambodia - sponsorship of doctor (year 1 of 2)	£	8,442.00
23/09/2024	Blue Dragon Children's Foundation - Typhoon Yagi appeal	£	5,000.00
11/10/2024	Daughters - Health & Wellness project	£	26,000.00
06/11/2024	New Hope Children's Home - sponsor 6 children for 6 months	£	918.93
06/12/2024	VAVA - wheelchairs	£	50,062.09
			<hr/>
			£ 163,572.58