



**Report of the Directors and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023**

Contents

02	03	04
Company Information	Message from our Chair	Message from our CEO
06	16	25
Our Africa Programme	Our UK Programme	Resourcing our Work
29	32	36
Treasurer's Review and Policies	Independent Auditors Report	Statement of Financial Activities
37	38	39
Balance Sheet	Cash Flow Statement	Notes to the Financial Statements

Company Information	
Directors	<p>Ms Linda Hansford – Chair and Treasurer</p> <p>Ms J Scott</p> <p>Ms Caroline Pinder</p> <p>Ms Sarah Dickins</p> <p>Dr Kathy Higgins Elected (21st October 2023)</p> <p>Mr David Fletcher Elected (21st October 2023)</p> <p>Ms M Tarrant Resigned (21st October 2023)</p>
Chief Executive Officer	Ms S L Ingleby
Registered Office	<p>Netley Marsh Workshop</p> <p>Ringwood Road</p> <p>Southampton</p> <p>Hampshire</p> <p>SO40 7GY</p>
Registered Company Number	01487630 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity Number	280437
Accountants and auditors	<p>Morris Crocker</p> <p>Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Station House</p> <p>50 North Street</p> <p>Havant</p> <p>PO9 1QU</p>
Principal Bankers	HSBC – Southampton
Website	www.tfsr.org

Front page photo: Mavis – Tailoring Graduate (T A Crusade Uganda)

Message from our Chair

It is my pleasure to present the Tools for Self Reliance Annual Report and review of activities for 2023, including the financial statements of the company.

Over the past few years, there has been a huge amount of change and challenge to our organisation from the impact of global upheaval manifesting in new economic, environmental and political constraints. We have been facing these challenges by remaining innovative and flexible, evolving programmes to fit the changing environment. 2023 saw many of these changes coming into play.



In our partner countries we extended our activities in “Transition to Work” initiatives and increased wider community activities around our projects. We continued to promote and extend training for women, adopted technological solutions for the creation of small start-up businesses, and supported sustainable small agricultural projects.

Operationally we adopted new technology in our “MEAL” (Monitoring Evaluation and Learning) platform that is now systematically capturing information from our project partners and trainees in Africa.

In the UK we focussed on the social value created for our volunteers alongside the economic value they provide through building tool kits and tool refurbishment, and as the demand for traditional tool kits in our partner countries becomes uneconomic or locally regulated, we are turning attention to new opportunities for our volunteers’ skills and production in the UK.

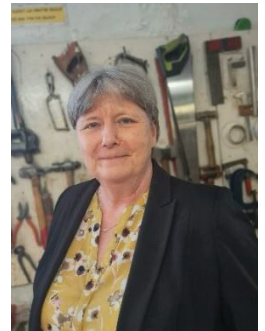
The funding environment is tough and increasingly competitive with the withdrawal of public funding across the whole sector; however, we remain grateful to those funders who are able to continue support to both the Africa and UK programmes.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to both thank and congratulate Sarah and her Operations team, as well as all our volunteers, supporters, funders, and partners on rising to the challenges driven by these “interesting” times.



Message from our Chief Executive Officer

I would like to open this report with a huge thank you to our funders, supporters and volunteers for your constant commitment to the charity as we continue to navigate our way through what feels like an unending period of instability. In spite of the challenges this has created I am pleased to say that this report highlights a number of significant achievements, key areas of progress, the positive outcomes and the impact achieved in projects delivered by our partner and the contributions of our volunteers during the course of 2023.



In line with our strategy, we continued to prioritise support for trainees and graduates, ensuring equity and access across our projects. We worked with partners to identify trades that female participants felt would give them better pathways to success when moving from training into work, and embedded adapted training programmes to accommodate participant's family responsibilities and other specific needs.

We also delivered projects providing start up grants and ongoing mentoring for new graduates, and projects supporting established businesses to upskill and access additional tools. We remain extremely grateful for the commitment of our partners to deliver meaningful solutions which build a resilient future for participants and their communities

Another highlight of 2023 was the progress made in setting up our new monitoring and evaluation system. A significant amount of work has gone in to honing the tools, systems and platforms needed and we were delighted to be able to share these with partners at training workshops in Zambia, Ghana, and Uganda. We are now well placed to build a robust range of data to demonstrate impact and provide key learning which we can use to review and develop new projects.

Tools for Self Reliance has a rich history of providing tools and equipment for projects. However, one of the impacts of the volatility and uncertainty of the global economy has been the rising costs for shipping and refurbishing, and we have had to review this part of our work. Our partners are now able to procure trade tools locally at an equivalent or lower cost and as such any ongoing provision needs to be done in the most cost effective way possible. To make best use of the tools donated and the time and expertise of our volunteers, we are also exploring how we might support trainees and graduates of training in the UK through our UK Kits Programme.

In closing I would like to once again thank all those who support our work and also thank our trustees and amazing staff team for all of their hard work and dedication. Together we will move forward with resilience and determination to maximise all opportunities to achieve our mission.

Sarah Ingleby

Our vision:

A world free of poverty where people can use their skills and energies to meet their needs and aspirations.

Our mission:

Tools for Self Reliance supports people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to build resilient livelihoods and thriving communities.

OUR AFRICA PROGRAMME STRATEGY

GOAL 1

We will continue to work with and through partners in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia, supporting training projects that promote income generation and build more resilient livelihoods.

GOAL 2

Our project design will be built upon principles of equity and access. Alongside our core training programme, we will:

- Explore new trades which offer women a pathway to success
- Breakdown barriers to inclusive training, adapting training models to embrace the widest pool of trainees and welcoming those excluded from formal training opportunities.

GOAL 3

In collaboration with our local partners, we will implement activities which complement our core training model, to engage and benefit hosting communities and deliver on our commitment to poverty reduction, quality education, decent work, and economic growth.

GOAL 4

We will develop a more effective and robust monitoring, evaluation, and shared learning system so we can better test, assess and improve our ways of working and evidence the impact of the projects delivered.

GOAL 5

We will build our capacity and that of our partners to achieve financial sustainability and to ensure quality control and standardised best practice in all project design and implementation.

GOAL 6

Our projects will systematically evaluate their climate impact, educate trainees on their trade's environmental cost, and work to optimise climate resilience within local communities.

Our Africa Programme

Over the course of 2023 partners faced the same cost of living crisis we have seen in the UK, driven on by global insecurity. These high inflation rates were exacerbated by devalued currencies, shortages in materials and in a number of cases the impact of natural disasters, such as Cyclone Freddy which devastated Malawi in March. Yet despite these difficulties, they continue to provide high quality training, encouraging, and supporting a wide range of trainees to consistently attend and complete their courses.

Vocational Training Projects and Participants

Country	Number of projects by country		Number of training participants by country					
	Start 22 Ending 23	Starting 23 Ending 24						
Ghana	2	2	Total	120	Male	30	Female	90
Malawi	3	5	Total	608	Male	262	Female	346
Sierra Leone	1	1	Total	120	Male	44	Female	76
Uganda	2	1	Total	203	Male	80	Female	123
Zambia	2	2	Total	152	Male	73	Female	79
Total	10	11	Total	1,203	Male	489	Female	714

Eliashib Restoration Centre, Zambia

Transition to Work Project

As part of supporting recent graduates to transition to work, Eliashib invited former tailoring trainees to their centre to make the most of an opportunity to share knowledge and help build a sense of community within the tailoring program.



The seasoned trainees who qualified from as far back as 2010 shared their experiences, techniques, and tips with the newcomers, fostering a supportive learning environment. Sharing both the challenges faced during their training and the success stories afterwards, provided valuable insights for the new trainees. It demonstrated that overcoming obstacles is part of the learning process and that persistence pays off in the end.

As well as the traditional vocational and business development training programmes, partner activities this year have included the new transition to work projects and we have seen some very exciting results. Graduates starting their businesses have received grants to support their business plans, complemented by regular on-site visits for mentoring and troubleshooting. The resulting package has led to three-fold increases in income for many young people, a significant rise in customer numbers, and clear improvements in financial and client record keeping. This injection of financial support and tailored guidance is helping fledgling businesses navigate the first difficult months of trading, putting our new graduates on the right footing for confident and successful business practice.

Our Africa Programme

We have also been supporting partners as they welcome more women into their projects, looking at ways to adapt training schedules and to offer a wider range of trades with a track record of success for women. Crucially, this support has also included securing funds for childcare, so women are able to fully engage in their learning.

From the Dragon's Den project in Malawi where women were trained to pitch their business plans to win an investment grant, to the wrap around support which provides accommodation, food, and a training package for street connected women in Ghana, our bespoke and comprehensive projects put women at the centre of the design and the results already speak for themselves.

Our partner representatives have also taken centre stage in running the Africa Partner Council this year, with a meeting chaired each quarter by one of the partners to discuss strategic and operational issues. This forum provides a voice for all partners and a platform for consultation and input into the Tools For Self Reliance plans and operations.



Dragon's Den participants



Street Girls Aid trainees

We continued to embed quality control into our projects, working with partners to ensure all training programmes are monitored and assessed by accredited systems in country. At completion of training, all successful graduates should now receive a nationally recognised certificate which open doors to additional clients and provides an objective measure of high training standards. Our new training manual for Sexual and Reproductive Health is being pilot tested with our partners in Ghana, and we will complete training materials for business skills in the coming year.

Shipments sent in 2023 included kits for our partners in Uganda, Ghana and Zambia and we ended the year with a shipment to Malawi which will arrive in February 2024. While the provision of start-up tool kits remains a core element of all our training programmes, we have been reviewing shipping and clearing costs which have increased significantly over the past few years and also been working with partners to explore what tools are available in country. We aim to be the best stewards of our hard-earned resources and with escalating shipping costs and complex and costly import regulations into many partner countries, we are seeking the most efficient ways to achieve this, whilst still respecting the tradition and heart of the Tools for Self Reliance ethos.

Our Africa Programme – Spotlight on our projects	
Partner	Norsaac
Location	Karaga, Ghana
Project	Transition to Work
Graduates	40

This six-month Transition to Work (T2W) project supported and empowered 40 young people providing a unique opportunity for them work together in small business groups, to identify innovative products which would be new to the market in their respective communities.

The business groups shared experiences and ideas to boost their incomes and learn new business development activities. Ongoing support was offered through the Business Advisory Centre which guided graduates through their business ideas and each of the graduate business group received a start-up grant of £170 to capitalise their business ventures. For the most part graduates used their grants to buy materials, but some used these funds to rent and set up their workspaces.

The grants, combined with the additional business skills and shared learning opportunities allowed graduates to focus on business activities such as growing their customer base and improving their business management.

There have been some outstanding outcomes from this project, with some groups doubling the initial investment, showcasing the remarkable success they have achieved.

Some of the implemented ideas and activities included:

- production of ultra-modern beds and wooden doors, glass centred tables for sale
- a retail outlet for motor bike spare parts such as tires and tubes, gear leavers, wheels, and oil for sale within repair shop
- purchase of construction equipment and tools to rent out for a regular income
- a retail outlet for sewing materials such as cloths, zips, and needles

To enable ongoing networking, ideas sharing and peer support, a digital space was created for participants to connect both professionally and socially. This was in the form of WhatsApp groups set up in the two districts the business groups are operating in. These digital connections also served as marketing platforms for some groups to display their products.

At the outset, there were around fifteen graduates who could not afford smart phone but, as a result of profits made from the small grants, five of them were able to afford a smart phone during the project and joined the WhatsApp platforms.

**Musah Amina – Transition to Work
Karaga, Ghana**

“Thanks to this project, I have had the privilege of receiving invaluable support and a set of essential tools to enhance my sewing skills.

What's even more remarkable is that I had the chance to gain knowledge ahead of my peers, even without external assistance. I diligently practiced using these tools in the comfort of my home, and I soon became quite proficient in sewing, outpacing my fellow apprentices. As a result, I successfully completed my apprenticeship ahead of schedule.”

“Today, I proudly hold the title of "master" and have established my own sewing workshop, where I am currently mentoring three talented apprentices. Moreover, my journey has been further enriched through collaborative endeavours facilitated by the Transition to Work (T2W) ventures concept. This initiative has not only allowed me to learn from my peers but has also provided me with additional support to elevate my income-generating activities and expand my business.”



Our Africa Programme – Spotlight on our projects	
Partner	FESODEV (Foundation for Education and Social Development)
Location	Lilongwe, Malawi
Project	Vocational Training
Trainees	55

Women face many barriers when they seek to build sustainable livelihoods through vocational training. With lower literacy levels, they are often barred from joining courses and childcare or housework responsibilities infringe on the time needed to commit to training. For those who can stay the course, starting a business with newly established skills is hampered by social and legal exclusion from financial services.

Working with FESODEV, we launched a pilot project in August 2022 designed to tackle the barriers faced by single mothers, widows, and female early school leavers, living in Chankhungu. The project offered popular women’s trades, an adapted training schedule to maximise attendance and an on-site creche which gave trainees a safe and supported environment to leave their children. Alongside the skills and business training, women were introduced to the Village Savings and Loans Methodology, which is designed to build capacity and confidence in financial management as the groups grow their savings and offers access to loan facilities as the members start their businesses.

By August 2023, all 55 trainees had completed a nine-month practical training programme in hairdressing, tailoring or catering and a three-month work placement. This on-the-job training with expert trainers was followed by the graduates receiving their new start up tool kit, transitioning into work, and setting up new businesses.

Data collected shows there was a 100% completion rate with consistent attendance from all trainees, a real testament to the enabling environment achieved through the project design. Data and feedback from the graduates also shows there were significant improvements in wellbeing and financial security. Forty five trainees had successfully set up a business and ten trainees had secured formal employment. Most compellingly, every graduate told us they could now buy food “all or most of the time” at the end of the project, with over a third now adding meat to their diet at least once a week, an impossibility for all before the training began.

The tailoring graduates reported that their weekly income had risen to £40, a threefold increase in earnings. Women who before training had hovered barely above the poverty line, were now confidently earning three times this level, with all graduates reporting that they were working and all able to save weekly. This increased income had a significant impact on family wellbeing; at the outset of the project less than 10% of trainees reported that they were able to pay medical bills or school fees “all or most of the time”, whilst this was possible for all as the project ended.

The project graduates reported a significant increase in income, but importantly, thanks to the business skills training and their participation in Village Savings and Loans Associations, the women are continuing to invest in their businesses with an eye to long term transformative changes in their household financial status. The women have also left the training, better equipped to run their business, or achieve success through employment by learning business skills such as marketing, book-keeping, understanding profit and loss and growth strategies, as well as reporting an improvement in their basic literacy and financial ability.

Eniya and Sabina – tailoring graduates **Lilongwe, Malawi**

Eniya and Sabina were amongst the successful trainees who completed their training in tailoring. Both women were new to tailoring and enjoyed learning the new skill, but their training really came to life during the three-month work placement at Mr. Nkwere's tailoring shop in the nearby trading centre where they interacted with customers, seeing work in the real world.

With this package of hard-earned skills, Sabina is confident that she will earn enough to pay all school fees and buy fertiliser to farm as well as investing further in her new business.”



Our Africa Programme – Community Investment Activities

All projects implemented by Tools for Self Reliance and our partners include investments in the local community. These activities are designed to showcase trainee skills, open opportunities for a future client base, build infrastructure and services in hosting communities and strengthen the working relationship with local government and neighbouring households.

Country	Thematic Approach	Total beneficiaries
Malawi	Re-usable pads	100
Malawi	School uniforms	50
Malawi	VSLA groups	55
Malawi	Community baking training	100
Malawi	Community manure production	500
Malawi	Fruit trees planted at schools	10,655
Uganda	Re-usable pads	650
Uganda	Latrines	1,020
Uganda	Changing facilities	360
Totals		13,490*
*This total includes 1,315 female participants		

Here are some examples of activities undertaken by trainees during the course of 2023

Partner: T A Crusade

Location: Mukono Uganda

In August 2023, our partner T A Crusade completed a vocational training project in Nakifuma, about 30 miles east of Kampala. 125 young people completed their training in 7 different trades. Trainees on the construction and tailoring courses applied their new skills to activities agreed with local leaders and neighbouring schools.

Construction trainees constructed new latrines in Kayunga Junior School, improving access to quality sanitation for 2,600 pupils. Tailoring trainees learned how to make reusable sanitary pads which were distributed to 650 rural schoolgirls in Kayunga to manage menstrual hygiene and to support their continued consistent attendance at school.



Partner: Lilongwe Youth Organisation (LYO)

Location: Lilongwe Malawi

LYO implement vocational training projects in Kauma, a peri urban area of Lilongwe. In 2021 they launched a new pilot activity - sustainable agriculture and healthy nutrition.

The results were impressive, participant farmers reported that through using their new skills they were able to achieve bumper harvests and had a clear and effective strategy for marketing their crops thanks to their business training.



The success of the pilot activity, and the significant impact on household income, led to high demand from the community for further training.

So, in 2023, LYO designed a follow up training project in consultation with the Permaculture Paradise Institute and village leaders who guided many aspects of the project design, sharing knowledge on local sustainable farming practices, and woodlot management.

Local families farm on poor quality soils and have low levels of productivity but cannot afford to purchase fertiliser. Ahead of the 2023/4 growing season, with the help of local church elders and village chiefs, project staff and trainees facilitated free training on composite manure production in their communities. 500 of the farmers who attended the training session reported that they had applied the new techniques and are awaiting their upcoming harvest with great anticipation.



Lastly, with the input and support of the trainees, 347 fruit trees were planted in three schools in neighbouring communities which will benefit the 10,655 pupils and staff. Ongoing support will be given in the care of these trees, so they are able to provide a regular source of fruit for the schools.

Our Africa Programme Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

During 2023, the Africa Programme made good progress with this priority activity. By the end of the year, partners in four of our programme countries had completed their training on the new MEAL platform, with workshops held in Ghana and Uganda and a joint workshop held in Lusaka for all Zambian and Malawian partners. At the end of training, tablets were given to all participants to continue their familiarisation on the new system, and as new projects have started up, data is being uploaded and analysed on the Makerble platform.



Zambia and Malawi Partner Workshop



Uganda Partner Workshop

We have already been able to trace progress of trainees as they complete their training, capturing impact data which reflects improving income and tangible changes in wellbeing as well as individual stories. This combination of project-level data which gives an overview of progress, complemented by case study details and graduate stories provides a compelling picture of our work which we can share with all stakeholders, and which will underpin our learning pathway to improved project design and implementation.

Alongside the training workshops, the team visited partners in all countries to meet with staff, trainees and their local leaders and communities, to observe projects in progress, evaluate and assess the impact of those completed and to discuss new opportunities for future work. The opportunity for face-to-face discussions, the chance to walk around community developments, sit with trainees in their classrooms and workshops and see new businesses as they start to trade is so important in understanding how we are succeeding as well as seeing at first hand the operational challenges partners face.

Our Africa Programme – Key activities for 2024

- We will undertake a mid-point strategic review of the Africa Programme, to assess progress, identify and embed learning and to adapt the broader organisational strategy to reflect changes in the way we are working
- We will continue to work with partners to maximise opportunities to effectively gather data and evidence of impact to inform our work and enable the development of targeted interventions.
- We will continue to develop our In Country Officer role in Zambia, with a specific focus on formal registration of the charity in the country so as to better support our partners, to open up new avenues for local funding, to ensure operational excellence through constant review and feedback, and improve opportunities to design and deliver projects directly in communities.
- We will review how we work in partnership so as to ensure these working relationships make best use of resources available and achieve the greatest sustainable impact.
This will include examining the countries of operations, and future programming in each of those countries. We will also examine different project models which align to our partner's areas of expertise and provide opportunities to increase project impact.
- We will work with partners to explore opportunities to develop projects working with marginalised groups such as prisoners, ex-offenders, and refugees.
- We will continue to develop projects which embrace increased inclusion of other marginalised groups, such as young and / or single mothers and people with disability.
- We will examine how the charity and our partners can link in with academic institutions to assess the environmental impact of the vocational trades delivered through our training projects.

In collaboration with these institutions, we will begin developing mitigation strategies alongside our local partners so that these might be taught in tandem with the vocational training allowing participants to make informed choices about how they operate once they graduate.

Our UK Programme

OUR UK PROGRAMME STRATEGY

GOAL 1

We will support our existing volunteers and groups across the UK, ensuring we understand and optimise the impact of our volunteering opportunities.

GOAL 2

We will continue to seek support from volunteers in the collection, refurbishment and upcycling of quality second-hand tools and equipment.

GOAL 3

We will develop a range of opportunities for volunteering beyond tool refurbishing, including fundraising and profile-raising activities.

GOAL 4

We will meet the needs of the existing and the broadened range of trades supported through provision of tools and equipment for projects in Africa where this is needed, and it is cost effective to do so.

GOAL 5

We will explore opportunities to work with organisations and training providers in the UK and to offer the tools and equipment needed for trades people.

Working with Volunteers

Our volunteers and Support Groups have given another year of fantastic support to the charity. Their much-appreciated time and enthusiasm ensures that Tools for Self Reliance is represented in local communities across the UK and the wide range of volunteering activities they undertake plays a key role in enabling us to continue our work.

Across the UK we have over 30 Support Groups, some of which were set up right back when the charity started over 40 years ago. The average length of support from our support groups is a remarkable 25 years. Within our Support Groups and including volunteers at our headquarters, we have 400 volunteers.

In a year of change and transition we are grateful that our volunteers have been patient and understanding as we adapt to new ways of working and changes to the provision of tools and equipment for our projects. Looking forward, we are confident that they will remain committed to supporting us to navigate challenges and to seize new opportunities.

We are also incredibly grateful to all our individual volunteer collectors across the UK. These supporters give their time, petrol, and the boot space of their car to collect tool donations in their area and deliver them to us directly at HQ, or via their nearest Support Group.

Our UK Programme – working with and supporting our volunteers

Recognising long service



Phil Haynes – 30 years



***Martin Fletcher – 20 years
Geraint Own – 15 years***

Each year we recognise the contributions of our volunteers, awarding long service certificates ranging from 10 to 40 years. Across our volunteer community, the average length of service is 13 years. In 2023 certificates were awarded to sixty volunteers who reached long service milestones, with their contribution representing over 1,000 years of volunteering! Congratulations and thanks go out to all these volunteers for their amazing commitment to our work.

Meet our Support Groups - Bakewell

Nestled in the lovely backdrop of the Peak District, the Bakewell volunteer group has been supporting Tools for Self Reliance since 1983.



In that time the group have sent thousands of tools and hundreds of sewing machines with haberdashery, and recently reached their landmark 600th box of tools.

Alongside this refurbishing work, the group have also raised £11,000 for Tools for Self Reliance since 2010 - through car boots, charity stalls, auctions, and scrap. In 2023 the group received a cheque from Better Derbyshire Dales as part of their Celebrating People Award.

Until 2019, the group were located in 'The Crypt' underneath a local church (their fourth workshop). However, after it was declared unsafe, they had to find a replacement. Finding rent-free premises is obviously difficult, particularly in a popular town where any potential buildings are often turned into holiday cottages. The pandemic then slowed the process even further.

Eventually the District Council found them a disused toilet block situated in an agricultural business centre. Now, after a flood risk assessment, successful planning permission, building estimates, fundraising and alterations – the group and its seven members are now happily in a new workshop that bears little clue to its former life (except for the working loo it boasts).

Many volunteers have given their time and support with the group across the years – but there has been one constant throughout - Mary Pope, who has kept the group going for over forty years and, more recently helped bring the group back after a four-year gap.

Meet our volunteers

Mary Pope



Mary started supporting Tools for Self Reliance through the Bakewell volunteer group in 1985, after seeing a poster in the local library. Having previously taught woodwork and metal work, the idea of refurbishing tools was immediately attractive, and she felt it was something practical and useful she could turn her hand to.

After speaking with one of the Trustees, Mary quickly realised the importance and responsibility the charity had for supplying good quality tools that could be depended on for years. After that Mary helped maintain the group's quality with (as another group member described) her "quiet determination and gimlet eye" for quality control.

It is this same determination that helped the group reemerge recently after four years without a workshop, having lost their previous premises in 2019. Mary's drive and determination ensured that, despite difficulties finding a suitable alternative during a global pandemic and then securing the required funds and building permission, the group are now able to continue their amazing work.

Mary herself highlights that it is the group's collective drive to keep going that has brought them through their ups and downs and that **"being useful in good company is a strong incentive, it's what holds the group together"**.

Meet our volunteers

Nikki Field



Nikki volunteers in our sewing machine workshop, restoring machines to go out to our projects.

“I chose to take early retirement in March 2020 to go travelling – just as Covid hit, which halted all my plans. This left me with plenty of time on my hands, and during a break in lockdown I spotted a dilapidated treadle Singer sewing machine for sale locally, and decided I needed a project to keep me busy so

decided to take it on. While scouring the internet for helpful videos and advice on how to tackle the restoration, I came across the BBC documentary about the Clydebank Singer factory which featured our very own Alan Busher demonstrating how these sewing machines are still being used today by the charity for their overseas projects.

Once restrictions were over, I contacted Tools for Self Reliance to ask if my newly learned skills could be put to good use, and Alan himself took me under his wing. It's nearly three years now since I joined the sewing machine workshop, and now I thoroughly enjoy my one day a week, always learning something new from the established volunteers who are a veritable mine of useful information. Their support has been invaluable, especially now that I am working on the electric machines which are also needed for projects.

Aware that the charity is desperately in need of funds to support their projects, I have also recently been providing a sewing machine servicing facility to people in my local area, using the skills Tools for Self Reliance has taught me. This has proved very popular and has helped to raise over £700 so far.

“I love my volunteer days at Tools for Self Reliance! The staff and volunteers are always so welcoming, and I really enjoy the ‘tea break natters’ as well as the practical workshop tasks; it is incredibly satisfying to pack up a completed machine, knowing it is now working beautifully and will go on to support someone to have a better future”.

Our UK Programme – working with and supporting our volunteers

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Ben Riley, hit the road again throughout 2023 for his annual group visit trips. As always, each group provided a warm welcome and valued the opportunity to have an update on the charity's operations in the UK and Africa.



South Birmingham Support Group



Sutton Support Group



Bridgend Support Group

Our UK Programme – provision of tools and equipment

As already mentioned in this report, there have been a number of changes to the ways we work with our partners and also a number of external factors which have made the shipping of tools from the UK to our projects more difficult or unviable.

This has inevitably impacted on the number of kits shipped; however, we are most grateful to all of our volunteers and support groups who collected, refurbished, and packed tools for shipments during the year. In total they provided 53 completed kits for the shipments sent.



Liverpool Support Group

Country	No. of tools	Replacement value *
Ghana	3,606	£5,142
Malawi	5,767	£3,520
Zambia	1,239	£1,043
Totals	10,612	£9,705

Our 2024 Shipments

It is important to acknowledge the ongoing value and need for tools to support training and equip graduates so they can start their own small business. So, we will continue to provide tools and equipment to our projects where it is cost effective to do so and where in-country importation legislation and customs charges do not negatively impact this.

Given how these changes affects one of the core areas of support provided by our dedicated volunteers and to ensure we are able to continue to make the best possible use of their time, skills, and ongoing commitment, during the year we began exploring other opportunities and outlets for the tools and equipment donated to the charity.

One of the new initiatives we will progress in the coming year is the provision of kits and tools to UK organisations which provide vocational training, and which run transition to work projects – such as those for army personnel who are leaving the services. We will look to provide the kits and tools they need for their work at an affordable cost, using funds generated to support our work in the UK and our projects in Africa.

We will also continue to maximise opportunities to generate income from sales of excess tools and from tools and equipment which are not suitable for our projects. Our volunteers will also contribute use their skills to provide paid for services such as tool sharpening, sewing machine repair and to make products by upcycling of tools.

Our UK Programme – Volunteer Led Income Generation

Our volunteer and Support Groups right across the UK and at our headquarters have once again had another amazing year on the fundraising front. Alongside sales from workshops, garages and gardens, our volunteers have been at the forefront of setting up and staffing stands at events including the Bodgers and the Oak Fair. Across the year our Support Groups raised £44,118. Closer to our headquarters, volunteers also helped at the New Forest Show, New Forest Folk Festival, Romsey Show, and together with our three Tools and Haberdashery Sales during the year we raised £70,548.

Increasingly our volunteers have embraced new online sales outlets to boost their income generation and we aim to encourage new volunteers to join us in the coming year to increase our online presence on a range of sales platforms.



In the summer, our volunteers played their part in helping us to achieve our income target for our Tea for Tools event, playing a pivotal role in ensuring we reached £10,000 and maximised the opportunity we had to double these funds through the matched funding offered to us from the Dagleish Trust.

Malvern Support Group

Income from our volunteers and Support Groups continues to be an essential source of flexible, unrestricted income used to support our operations and importantly for funding needed for projects. During 2023 over £21,000 was allocated to projects across all of our country programmes. We were grateful at the end of 2023 to receive a donation of £5,000 from our sister charity Tools for Self Reliance Milton Keynes. This donation has been allocated to a Transition to Work project in Uganda which started at the end of 2023.

At the end of the year our Support Groups also stepped up to help with our Big Give match funding campaign, contributing £10,265. A huge thank you goes to the Groups that helped to make this campaign such a big success and ensured that we have now secured funds for our 2024 project with Mobility Sierra Leone.

We would also like to acknowledge in-memory and legacy donations we have received from volunteers we have sadly lost during the year. We would like to extend our sympathies to the families of those individuals, as well as our thanks, and hope some comfort is found in the knowledge that these donations have gone to a good cause and have a positive impact.

Our UK Programme – Fundraising

Fundraising events



Bodgers



Oak Fair



Romsey Show



Tea for Tools

Our Craft to Craft Group

In 2023 our Craft to Craft group continued to deliver workshops and to sell craft items produced by the group members. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate them on reaching a milestone of raising £1,000 in the year, a key contribution to our fundraising efforts.



Craft to Craft Group



Craft workshop in October

The success of the charity relies on a strong portfolio of income streams. We are extremely thankful for the commitment and efforts our volunteers have put into such a wide range of fundraising activities across the year. The hard work, generosity and enthusiasm shown by our volunteers has made such a difference at a time when securing funds is a real challenge.

Our UK Programme – Key activities for 2024

- We will provide ongoing support to our volunteers and Support Groups – providing regular updates through Ebulletins and quarterly Zoom volunteer meetings. We will also hold a Volunteer Open Day at our HQ.
- We will continue to work with our volunteers and Support Groups to collect and refurbish the tools and equipment needed to fulfil the kit requirements for our projects in Africa.

This will include kits for projects in Sierra Leone and Zambia

- We will explore and develop opportunities to work with organisations and colleges requiring tools for training schemes in the UK.
- We will identify specific role requirements and recruit new volunteers to support our work in the UK and in our income generating and grants fundraising work.
- We will undertake work on our HQ site to ensure we are able to maintain regular income from rented units, whilst also refurbishing other property that can be used to generate income.

Resourcing our work

Our Programme Strategies

RESOURCING OUR WORK

GOAL 1

We will continue to invest and build on our robust organisational structure to effectively resource the delivery of our programmes and activities.

This will involve:

- working with funders and institutions to secure a balanced and sustainable range of income sources
- growing our supporter base to bring on board individuals with an interest in supporting our work and programmes
- maximising opportunities to generate income from sales, events, and rent

GOAL 2

We will use an integrated communications approach, making best use of traditional and digital platforms to share data and evidence of the impact our work, sharing success stories and lessons learned that enable us to shape our work to achieve the best possible outcomes and impact.

GOAL 3

We will invest in our team to ensure they have the skills, training and resources needed to achieve operational excellence and maximise the impact of our work.

Responsibility for income generation lies primarily with the Fundraising Team. No fundraising activities are undertaken by external paid fundraisers or by any commercial participator. We do not receive statutory grants or donations from the Government or their departments, allowing us the flexibility to run our projects in partnerships as we best see fit.

Tools for Self Reliance is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and has a robust Fundraising Policy in place, underpinned by an Ethical Giving Policy and Refusal and Acceptance of Donations Policy.

During 2023 we received no complaints regarding our fundraising activities and responded immediately to any requests made through the Fundraising Preferences Service.

Resourcing our work

Tools for Self Reliance continues to be supported by a loyal group of individual donors, some of whom have been supporting us since the charity started. Our work is also funded through a mixture of charitable grants, donations, legacies, and funds raised through rents and events income.

As we set out at the start of 2023, we were keenly aware that the global and national issues that came to the forefront in 2022 would inevitably impact on our work and fundraising efforts. Ongoing increases in inflation and the cost of living and global unrest provided a persistent challenge to fundraising and income generation activities throughout the year. These increases significantly impacted operational and project costs and shaped a challenging environment for securing donations, and funds from Trusts and Foundations who also faced challenges maintaining their giving capacity. Credit goes to our fundraising team who worked hard to meet fundraising goals across a portfolio of income streams.

A strong and diverse funding base remains crucial, so we are most grateful for all those who made donations to the charity – thank you all for enabling us to deliver our work in the UK and through our partners in Africa. Below is an overview of just some of the successful activities and campaigns we delivered during the year.

Our work with funders and institutions

Throughout the year, efforts focussed on securing funds needed to enable the delivery of projects by our partners. The majority of funds for our projects comes from trusts and foundations and we are very grateful for their ongoing commitment to our work. In order to achieve improved continuity of support for projects, we looked to identify funders able to provide multi-year funding. We were delighted to secure a donation of just under £500,000 for one of our partners in Ghana to enable them to continue delivery of both vocational training and Transition to Work projects up to 2028.

As we look ahead to 2024, we will continue to make use of the increasing impact data produced by the Makerble platform, partner reports and feedback from trainees and graduates, alongside statistics, global reports, and case studies, to strengthen new applications and give ourselves the best possible chance of securing the funds needed to fulfil our commitments to projects.

At the end of 2023 we were pleased to be successful in securing support for a funded 12-month secondment from the John Lewis Golden Jubilee Award programme and look forward to welcoming our new volunteer in February. She will work closely with our Fundraising and UK Teams offering administrative support and community prospecting for our UK Kits programme.

Resourcing our work

Communications

During the year we made a number of changes to our website to improve navigation and to ensure the site was as accessible as possible for those with visual impairments. We also updated news from our projects, sharing success stories and feedback from our trainees and graduates.

We also used our regular publication, Forging Links and our Ebulletin to promote our events and share more news on our Africa and UK programme activities. These news updates benefitted from time spent by one of our fundraising team in Ghana, visiting partners and meeting trainees and graduates and getting to hear their stories first hand.

Income Generating Activities

During the course of the year, we held a number of events for the public to raise funds, including our Big Spring Quiz and Christmas Quiz. We attracted a loyal band of supporters to these events with tickets purchases supporting our work in the UK and Africa.



Moving towards the summer, we achieved a very successful outcome from our Tea for Tools event, which was match-funded by the Dalgleish Trust. This enabled us to both increase our funds raised and attract new supporters to the charity. We ended the year with a successful Christmas crafting workshop raising over £1,000.

At the end of 2023 we also achieved the target we set for donations as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge, in which donations are matched by champions. We raised over £19,000 to support a project with our partner Mobility Sierra Leone, to support people living with

disabilities, or have dependents living with a disability. This project will begin in the Spring of 2024 and will deliver training programmes in tailoring, hairdressing and cosmetology.

As the climate for fundraising for international development continues to increase in difficulty and the competition for grants through trust and foundations is fiercer than ever, we look to 2024 to diversify our income streams with the launch of a lottery and other giving opportunities, such as legacy and in-memory giving.

Fundraising and Communications – Key activities for 2024

- We will complete recruitment for a new role in the Fundraising Team, completing this by autumn 2024.
- We will look to expand volunteer support for our fundraising team, offering roles in prospecting and research, bid writing and communications.
- We will continue to ensure we maintain and develop a mixed portfolio of donors and funders to achieve both restricted and unrestricted income targets.
- We will identify new opportunities and funders to support our programmes. In particular, we will seek funding from trusts and donors with interest in supporting more vulnerable target groups such as young and / or single mothers, ex-offenders and those living in refugee settings.
- We will continue to promote in memory giving programmes to supporters who may be looking to leave a legacy or donation to the charity.
- We will work with an external management provider to launch a Lottery Programme to generate income through subscribers, with income from this activity helping to boost our unrestricted income and in turn contribute to the delivery of our work in Africa and the UK.
- We will continue to use our publications, Ebulletins and social media platforms to update existing supporters on our work and the outcomes of projects delivered by our partners, whilst maximising opportunities to attract and engage with new supporters and subscribers.

Treasurer's Review of Financial Position

2023 saw us generally maintain our healthy financial position as operating expenses increased with inflation but remained tightly controlled, and despite a downturn in individual giving, that was offset by an increase in legacies.

Programme driven income and expenditure was slightly lower than the previous year which had seen us catch up on post pandemic projects, and which inevitably fluctuates with project timing and funding.

We continue to maintain a prudent approach to operating cash reserves which exceeded our reserving policy of 2 to 3 months core operating expenses at the year end.

Governance

Tools for Self Reliance is a company limited by guarantee. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission. Membership of the company is open to all those who fulfil the criteria and is subject to approval by the directors. Members have a limited liability of £1.

Directors and Trustees

For the purposes of Charity Law and throughout this report, the trustees of the Charity are collectively referred to as the directors. Directors are elected from and by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The Directors are responsible for the overall direction of the Charity, policies, and legal compliance. Operational responsibility is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, who is assisted by a staff team at the Charity headquarters based at Netley Marsh. The Directors have a yearly meeting with the staff team to discuss the current and future strategic direction of the Charity. They also meet with staff as required as part of their work on the Board sub-committees.

Charitable Operations

The Directors confirm they have complied with their responsibilities in pursuance of the Charity's public benefit objective in terms of Section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act, having due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Tools for Self Reliance's charitable objective is:

"The relief of poverty amongst the people in developing areas in the world by the provision of hand and other tools and equipment, together with training in their use, business skills and livelihood skills."

In addition, the Charity provides facilities in the UK for the personal development of individuals with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The Charity carries out these objects by:

- supporting the delivery of livelihood development projects in five Africa countries
- the collection and refurbishment of donated tools and equipment
- providing opportunities for volunteers across the UK to engage in meaningful activity in support of the work of the charity.

Statutory Policies

Risk Management

The Directors have examined the potential risks that the Charity faces. They have reviewed the risks on a regular basis and confirm that measures to minimise these risks are in place.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is set to ensure that our work is protected from the risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds, whilst at the same time ensuring that we do not retain income for longer than required. As such it is Tools for Self Reliance's policy to manage the Charity such that available cash reserves are held at a minimum level of between two- and three-months' core running costs. At the year-end we had unrestricted cash free reserves of £153,679 (2022 - £111,697), which meets this criterion. Surplus cash is placed on short term interest bearing deposits.

Other Policies

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In 2022 we continued to ensure compliance with all relevant GDPR regulations and our own Fundraising Pledge. A Privacy Policy¹ is in place and guidance has been provided to our volunteers.

Fundraising Regulator Code

The four main pillars of this code – being legal, open, honest, and respectful, are embedded into our own fundraising policy and practices. The trustees ensure compliance with the General Duties outlined in the Code and ensure that policies are reviewed in line with any changes and amendments made to the Code during the year.

An Ethical Policy and Refusal and Acceptance of Donations Policy are also in place.

Safeguarding

Tools for Self Reliance is committed to upholding its responsibility to ensure that all those working with and for the Charity are protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. To this end a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy has been put in place, which includes a Code of Conduct for all employees and volunteers.

Compliance with the Governance Code

The Board continues to uphold the principles of this voluntary code of practice; and has an action plan in place to review activities to ensure ongoing compliance. All trustees / co-opted members and members of the senior management team are required to sign.

¹ Our Privacy Policy can be found on our website: <https://www.tfsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-Privacy-Notice.pdf>

Statutory Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Tools for Self Reliance for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Morris Crocker Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Hansford - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Tools For Self Reliance (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its result, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

From discussion with management and those charged with governance information about the entity is documented to assess the activity within the organisation. We discuss management's assessment of risk in respect of irregularities, fraud and going concern.

Based on these discussions and our own assessments we determined that the key risk areas were income recognition in respect of cut off issues concerning grant, service and donation income and management override concerning the size of the organisation

We set financial statement materiality level based on the level of income. As a not for profit organisation raising income is its primary focus which is why income was used to determine the level of materiality. Our overall assessment of risk was used to determine performance materiality at an appropriate level.

Substantive audit tests were designed after assessing and testing systems and controls. The systems and controls which have been designed to act as a preventative measure against fraud and error were operating as documented. Substantive testing tested a sample of the population, representative of the population, to identify errors. The testing did not identify any material misstatements in areas tested.

Audit substantive tests concluded no material errors over the key risk areas of income recognition and management override. The audit considers the organisation is not exposed to material risk of error as a result of assessing laws and regulations that are appropriate to the organisation.

Management assessed there is no going concern risk. The audit undertook a review of budgets, management accounts and the review of board minutes and came to the same conclusion as management.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stuart Mackie (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Morris Crocker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Station House
North Street
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 1QU

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	312,756	1,888	314,643	332,081
Charitable activities					
Charitable activity	5	35,181	245,774	280,955	274,033
Other trading activities	3	91,926	250	92,176	108,907
Investment income	4	71,022	-	71,022	63,851
Total		510,884	247,910	758,796	778,872
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	162,185	-	162,185	186,874
Charitable activities					
Charitable activity	7	366,339	273,969	640,307	729,258
Total		528,523	273,969	802,492	916,132
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(17,638)	(26,058)	(43,696)	(137,260)
Transfers between funds	20	41,884	(41,884)	-	-
Net movement in funds		24,246	(67,942)	(43,696)	(137,260)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		699,290	223,210	922,500	1,059,760
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		723,536	155,268	878,804	922,500

BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	130,101	137,643
Investment property	14	<u>370,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>
		500,101	507,643
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	53,407	21,039
Cash at bank		<u>356,862</u>	<u>432,191</u>
		410,269	453,230
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(21,166)	(24,167)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>389,103</u>	<u>429,063</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		889,204	936,706
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(10,400)	(14,205)
NET ASSETS		<u>878,804</u>	<u>922,500</u>
FUNDS	20		
Unrestricted funds		339,097	304,657
Designated funds		69,756	79,950
Restricted funds		155,268	223,210
Revaluation Reserve		<u>314,683</u>	<u>314,683</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>878,804</u>	<u>922,500</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Hansford - Trustee

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations		<u>(79,177)</u>	<u>(136,960)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(79,177)</u>	<u>(136,960)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Interest received		<u>8,654</u>	<u>1,692</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>8,654</u>	<u>1,692</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Capital repayments		(4,806)	(4,686)
Cash inflows from new borrowings		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		<u>(4,806)</u>	<u>(4,686)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(75,329)	(139,954)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>432,191</u>	<u>572,145</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023		<u><u>356,862</u></u>	<u><u>432,191</u></u>

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(43,696)	(137,260)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	7,542	7,542
Gains on investments	-	-
Interest received	(8,654)	(1,692)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(32,368)	(9,211)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,000)	3,662
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(79,177)</u>	<u>(136,960)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>432,191</u>	<u>(75,329)</u>	<u>356,862</u>
	<u>432,191</u>	<u>(75,329)</u>	<u>356,862</u>
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	<u>(24,167)</u>	<u>3,001</u>	<u>(21,166)</u>
Total	<u>408,024</u>	<u>(72,328)</u>	<u>335,696</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	2% on cost
Improvements to property	2% on cost
Motor vehicles	20% on cost

Assets purchased over £2,000 will be capitalised and depreciated over the useful life.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The investment property was revalued to £370,000 by the directors on 31 December 2021. It is the policy of the charity to revalue the investment property every five years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Donated goods

Donated goods are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

On receipt, donated goods are recognised based on the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain the goods of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Financial instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis use for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Debtors and cash at bank & in hand

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit or in a current account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donated goods	61,795	80,853
Donations	161,704	229,778
Legacies	91,145	21,450
	<u>314,643</u>	<u>332,081</u>
Donated goods related to donated tools.		

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers. In accordance with FRS102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic constitution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sale of tools and scrap	71,431	74,537
Craft and other income	20,744	34,371
	<u>92,176</u>	<u>108,908</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rents Received	62,368	62,159
Deposit account interest	8,654	1,692
	<u>71,022</u>	<u>63,851</u>

All investment income is derived from assets held in the United Kingdom.

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2023	2022
		£	£
Grants and donations	Charitable activity	<u>280,955</u>	<u>274,033</u>

6. RAISING

Other trading activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other trading costs	<u>162,185</u>	<u>186,874</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable activity	<u>635,594</u>	<u>4,713</u>	<u>640,307</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Charitable activity	<u>4,713</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023 Charitable activity	2022 Charitable activity
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	4,713	4,760
Bond Membership/Exhibition	-	1,159
	<u>4,713</u>	<u>5,919</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	4,713	4,760
Depreciation- owned assets	7,542	7,542
	<u>12,255</u>	<u>12,302</u>

10 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

During the year, no trustees (2022: trustee) were reimbursed out of pocket expenses (2022: £92).

11 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	334,801	301,171
Social security costs	32,486	24,690
Other pension costs	31,842	30,117
	<u>399,129</u>	<u>355,978</u>

During the year, the key management personnel of the Charity comprised of the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer.

The total employee remuneration and benefits of the key management personnel of the charity was £63,589 (2022: £59,677)

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 2022

	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	260,252	71,829	332,081
Charitable activities			
Charitable activity	19,400	254,633	274,033
Other trading activities	108,907	-	108,907
Investment income	63,851	-	63,851
Total	452,410	326,462	778,872
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	186,874	-	186,874
Charitable activities			
Charitable activity	308,262	420,996	729,258
Total	495,136	420,996	916,132
Net gains on investments	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(42,726)	(94,534)	(137,260)
Transfers between funds	12,000	(12,000)	-
Net movement in funds	(30,726)	(106,534)	(137,260)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	730,016	329,744	1,059,760
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	699,290	223,210	922,500

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Motor vehicles £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST						
At 1 January 2023	106,091	130,813	14,019	51,071	24,745	326,739
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	106,091	130,813	14,019	51,071	24,745	326,739
DEPRECIATION						
At 1 January 2023	51,615	57,460	4,206	51,071	24,745	189,096
Charge for year	2,122	2,616	2,804	-	-	7,542
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	53,737	60,075	7,010	51,071	24,745	196,638
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31 December 2023	52,355	70,738	7,010	-	-	130,101
At 31 December 2022	54,477	73,354	9,813	-	-	137,643

14. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2023	370,000
Revaluation	-
At 31 December 2023	370,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	370,000
At 31 December 2022	370,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 INVESTMENT PROPERTY- continued

Fair value at 31 December 2023 is represented by:

	£
Valuation in 1997	200,000
Improvement Cost in 2008	35,886
Valuation in 2008	14,114
Improvement Cost in 2009	19,431
Valuation in 2011	30,569
Value in 2016	15,000
Value in 2021	55,000
Fair Value	<u>370,000</u>

The trustees have reviewed the valuation of the investment property, concluding £370,000 a fair valuation due to no change in rental income.

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>53,407</u>	<u>21,039</u>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 18)	4,228	5,228
Trade creditors	3,347	3,224
Social security and other taxes	4,699	5,591
Other creditors	<u>8,893</u>	<u>10,124</u>
	<u>21,166</u>	<u>24,167</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 18)	10,059	13,865
Pension contributions	<u>340</u>	<u>340</u>
	<u>10,400</u>	<u>14,205</u>

18. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given be

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand		
Bank loans	4,228	5,228
Amounts falling due after one year on demand		
Bank loans	<u>10,059</u>	<u>13,865</u>
	<u>14,288</u>	<u>19,093</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	130,101	-	130,101	137,643
Investments	370,000	-	370,000	370,000
Current assets	255,001	155,268	410,269	453,230
Current liabilities	(21,166)	-	(21,166)	(24,167)
Long term liabilities	(10,400)	-	(10,400)	(14,205)
	<u>723,536</u>	<u>155,268</u>	<u>878,804</u>	<u>922,500</u>

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	304,657	(7,444)	41,884	339,097
Designated fund	79,950	(10,194)	-	69,756
Revaluation reserve	<u>314,683</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>314,683</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	699,290	(17,638)	41,884	723,536
Restricted funds				
UK Programme	1,436	(4,566)	-	(3,130)
Africa Programme	221,774	(21,491)	(41,884)	158,398
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Restricted Funds	<u>223,210</u>	<u>(26,057)</u>	<u>(41,884)</u>	<u>155,268</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>922,500</u>	<u>(43,696)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>878,804</u>
<i>Prior year total funds</i>	<i>1,059,760</i>	<i>(137,260)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>922,500</i>

Transfers between funds- Historically, the charity allocated some unrestricted funds to 'Restricted funds- Other'. The funds are no longer required so have been repurposed.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as f

	2023			2022			
	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Movement in funds £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and Losses £	Net Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds							
General fund	498,863	(506,308)	(7,444)	442,236	(452,912)		(10,676)
Designated fund	12,021	(22,215)	(10,194)	10,174	(42,224)		(32,050)
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-		-
Total Unrestricted	510,884	(528,523)	(17,638)	452,410	(495,136)		(42,726)
Restricted funds							
UK Programme	22,200	(26,766)	(4,566)	20,600	(37,355)		(16,755)
Africa Programme:							
General	26,526	(43,895)	(17,369)	128,492	(68,223)		60,269
Ghana	79,058	(68,074)	10,984	22,240	(48,880)		(26,640)
Malawi	45,914	(71,110)	(25,195)	74,092	(56,437)		17,655
Sierra Leone	11,068	-	11,069	8,185	(54,498)		(46,313)
Uganda	10,994	(24,284)	(13,290)	60,353	(51,085)		9,268
Zambia	52,152	(39,841)	12,310	12,500	(104,518)		(92,018)
Total Africa Programme	225,712	(247,203)	(21,491)	305,862	(383,641)		(77,779)
Other	-	-	-	-	-		-
Total Restricted	247,912	(273,969)	(26,056)	326,462	(420,996)		(94,533)
TOTAL FUNDS	758,796	(802,492)	(43,695)	778,871	(916,131)		(137,259)

General fund- Unrestricted funds used in for normal business activities.

Designated fund- Unrestricted funds allocated for organisational development.

UK Restricted- Funds received specifically for UK activities, including Erasmus volunteers and UK volunteer programmes.

Africa General fund- Funds received that are restricted to use in Africa but not specified to a particular project, including funds received by TFSR Groups.

African countries- Funds that have been received for and spent on specific projects in Africa.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

21. OPERATING LEASES

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	846	687
Between one and five years	1,368	162
In more than five years	-	-
	<u>2,214</u>	<u>849</u>

21. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Tools for Self Reliance participates in The Growth Plan run by The Pensions Trust, a multi- employer scheme. There exists a potential debt that could be levied by the trustee of the Plan in the event of the employer ceasing to participate in the Plan, or the Plan winding- up.

As Tools for Self Reliance has opted to remain with the Plan and continues to offer this Plan to its employees, the likelihood of the debt crystallising is remote. Tools for Self Reliance is committed to paying deficit contributions to the Plan for seven years from 1 January 2020. The present value at the year-end is £580 (2021 - £1,074) and is included within creditors.

22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

23. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is not under the control of another entity or any one individual.