

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK)

Annual Report for the financial year 6th April 2024 – 5th April 2025

Charity registration number: 290917

Registered address: 5 Fairfield Close, Lymington SO41 3NP

Email address: enquiry@calcuttarescuefund.org.uk

Introduction

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) was established in 1984 by Dr Jack Preger to help support his humanitarian work in Kolkata, India. In 1991 Dr Preger's work was formalised by the creation of Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata), a West Bengal registered charity committed to improving the health, education and living standards of people living in poverty. Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) has supported this work by raising funds and by recruiting volunteers to share their professional skills in Kolkata.

The past year has been difficult. Since the summer of 2024 there have been escalating governance problems within Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata) and as a result, a serious decline in the functioning of the projects which have hitherto been a lifeline for patients, pupils and slum communities. A group of people, whose motives we do not understand, manoeuvred themselves into positions of power on the governing council of Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata). They proceeded to sack, or force the resignations of the professional senior management team in whom we had great trust; many other dependable staff have been similarly dismissed. We also became concerned about the use of the charity's funds. In our communications with the governing council about their actions we did not receive any reasonable or substantive explanations.

It is our duty as trustees to ensure that all donations are properly spent and it became clear that, without trusted leadership in Kolkata, this could not be guaranteed. Therefore, from December 2024 Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) paused our funding to Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata). This decision was taken with the full agreement of our founder, Dr Jack Preger and in line with Charity Commission guidance relating to the due diligence required by us of our charity partner in India. We informed our supporters of this decision.

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK), along with other overseas support groups, has maintained close contact with the former senior management team of Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata). We are all determined to continue our charitable purpose of improving the life chances of the most marginalised people in Kolkata. The former senior management team is in the process of establishing a new charitable organisation to continue this work and we are confident that this organisation will become our new charity partner in the next financial year.

Calcutta Rescue Fund' (UK)'s fundraising

In the first few months of this financial year we had some very successful fundraising events but following our suspension of donations further fundraising events have not taken place. After we informed our regular donors of the problems at Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata), most continued to support us.

In the 12 months preceding 6th April 2025, Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) had a total income of £185,606 from all sources. We received donations of £143,447 for general funding and £35,918 for restricted projects at Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata). We sent a total of £126,751 to Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata), of which £95,282 was for the charity's general funding, £29,966 for the funding of specific projects, and £1,503 in payment for handicrafts; plus £24,210 in hardship payments directly to staff when Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata) did not pay their wages for several months.

Much of Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK)'s funding comes from individual donors, both from one-off donations and from regular monthly giving. Several loyal trust funds continue to give support. We remain extremely grateful for the continued generosity and loyalty of our donors and fundraisers, both new and longstanding.

UK Volunteers with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata)

Many thanks to two medical students from Sheffield University who spent their elective experience with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata) in the summer of 2024. Their focus was on conducting audits and updating Calcutta Rescue staff.

Dr Moona Banerji, one of our trustees, volunteered in Kolkata for 6 weeks in autumn 2024 working with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata)'s medical team.

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) decided that it is not appropriate to recruit further volunteers at present.

Calcutta Rescue's work in Kolkata

Calcutta Rescue's work with marginalised communities continued to develop up until the summer of 2024. Details of that work are available in the annual report: <https://calcuttarescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AR-2023-24.pdf>

~~The long-awaited Paathshala education project~~ opened in April 2024 giving children and teachers much improved facilities. Calcutta Rescue's health team continued to work on the charity's new medical strategy and the computerised patient record system until October 2024.

Since October 2024 there has sadly been a significant decline in the charity's work, as explained above. The new governing council's approach to making changes to the running of the charity has failed to prioritise the needs of the charity's beneficiaries and there has been a serious breakdown in the services to patients, pupils and communities.

Calcutta Rescue Fund'(UK)'s communications

Until October 2024 Calcutta Rescue Fund UK maintained close contact with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata) with detailed reports of the charity's work received quarterly.

Since then, our communications with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata)'s governing council members about our serious concerns have not been met with openness or reasonable explanation of their actions which deepened our lack of trust in them and their motives. Following the crisis in the charity, we have communicated regularly with Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata)'s ex-management staff as they have confronted the upheavals and worked to find a positive way forward.

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) issued a newsletter for supporters in May 2024. Following our decision to suspend funding we informed our supporters of the ongoing problems with the charity in Kolkata and our response to this. We will continue to keep our supporters informed.

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK)'s administration and governance

Our committee meetings have been held at one or two-monthly intervals, mainly online.

In November 2023 we reviewed and updated our Trust Deed and an amendment relating to Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK)'s dissolution clause was submitted to the Charity Commission. The consent has now been given by the Commission but we have yet to ratify the amendment.

Following our decision to pause our funding to Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata), in March 2025 we informed the Charity Commission of a serious incident affecting our charity.

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) continues to review its GDPR, safeguarding and risk policies.

Our charity is run entirely by volunteers; we are careful to keep administration costs as low as possible and trustees always cover their own expenses.

Maintaining Calcutta Rescue Fund'(UK)'s work covers fundraising, administration, governance, communication, networking and other activities. Many thanks go to trustees and other supporters who contribute their time and skills so generously.

Conclusion

Calcutta Rescue Fund (UK) has experienced a very challenging year due to the significant upheavals affecting our partner charity Calcutta Rescue (Kolkata). However, we have great confidence in the team working to establish a new organisation which will adhere to the original aims and ethos of Dr Jack Preger's work. This team is strong, professional and dedicated; we will continue to support them and will be working with this new organisation as our charity partner in Kolkata in the next financial year.

Penny Nettelfield
Chair of trustees
12th November 2025

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

6th Apr 2024

To

5th Apr 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General donations	143,447	-	-	143,447	123,004
Donations for other specific CRK projects	-	35,918	-	35,918	54,457
Donations towards MPI survey volunteer stipend	-	-	-	-	2,200
Bank interest receivable	4,302	-	-	4,302	3,114
Donations towards administration/newsletter costs	-	200	-	200	-
Hasna Bibi pension fund - from Dr Jack	-	-	-	-	15,000
Hasna Bibi pension fund - returned from CRK	-	-	-	-	10,000
Payments from delegates for International Meeting 2023	-	-	-	-	425
Sales of handicrafts (CRF stock)	82	1,657	-	1,739	891
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	147,831	37,775	-	185,606	209,091

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	147,831	37,775	-	185,606	209,091

A3 Payments					
Transfer of general funds to CRKolkata	95,282	-	-	95,282	153,173
Transfers to CRK for specific projects	-	29,966	-	29,966	63,409
Transfer to CRK - payment for handicrafts bought by CRF	-	1,503	-	1,503	514
Transfer to CRK - profit on handicraft sales	-	-	-	-	196
Transfer to CRK staff - hardship payments	24,210	-	-	24,210	-
Transfer to Hasna Bibi Pension Fund	-	-	-	-	25,000
Costs of selling handicrafts from CRF stock	-	154	-	154	100
Costs of International Meeting 2023	-	-	-	-	3,087
Sponsorship of volunteers	600	-	-	600	3,020
UK admin & fundraising costs	1,604	200	-	1,804	1,065
Bank charges	135	-	-	135	160
Sub total	121,831	31,823	-	153,654	249,724

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	121,831	31,823	-	153,654	249,724

Net of receipts/(payments)	26,000	5,952	-	31,952	- 40,633
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	236,220	1,048	-	237,268	277,901
Cash funds this year end	262,220	7,000	-	269,220	237,268

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at banks - general fund	262,220	-	-
	Cash at banks - restricted donations	-	7,000	-
	Total cash funds	262,220	7,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Jerry Ken Davis
AR James

JERRY KEN DAVIS
Anthony Robin James

15.11.25
30.11.25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Calcutta Rescue Fund

On accounts for the year
ended

5 April 2025

Charity no
(if any)

290917

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **05/04/2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date: **01.11.2025**

Name: **Ruth Catty**

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

ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 8 Radnor Avenue

Harrow

HA1 1SB

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

none