

SAPHARA LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Company Registration number: NI069905

Charity Registration number: NIC104977

SAPHARA LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Pages
Officers & advisors	1
Directors' report	2 - 5
Independent Examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8 - 9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 11

**SAPHARA LIMITED
OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

Directors

Angus Spence Beck
Dominic Gerard Breen
Linda Jane Thompson
Jill Elizabeth Macdonald
Christine Burnett
Marie Bernadette Devlin
Paul McVey
Hilary Margaret McVitty

Secretary

David Neil Robinson

Registered Office

17 Grays Hill
Bangor
Co Down

Independent Examiner

David Neil Robinson
Retired Chartered Accountant
17 Grays Hill
Bangor

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Purposes and Aims

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Within Northern Ireland

Be the Change Schools programme for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools is now in its third year and has gained an excellent reputation amongst post-primary schools. Reaching across traditional social and religious boundaries, it brings together pupils from schools on both sides of the community, facilitating their development as future leaders of an inclusive Northern Ireland.

Eleven schools in cross-community teams took part in Be the Change Schools 2022-23, with 113 sixth-form students participating in the year-long programme. The programme has been developed into an Award to ensure that responsibility is taken by the students rather than their teachers. All aspects must be completed including participation in workshops, tasks and fundraising in order to achieve the Award with 86% of the students successfully completed all aspects by the end of the school year.

The climax of the Award was the Newcomer Welcome Days held during Refugee Week when the students hosted 153 children from primary schools in socially deprived areas of Belfast at affirming educational fun days at Stranmillis University College. The majority of these children were from refugee and asylum seeker families.

Another key aspect of the Award was fundraising for our Indian partner schools as well as for the Newcomer events. The young people and their eleven schools raised an amazing £43,403, exceeding their target by an impressive 50%.

Programme impact was assessed using the Saphara Cultures Questionnaire which measure attitudes towards others and response to diversity. A baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. This showed significant attitudinal change such as:

The response to *I tend to wait before forming an impression of people from other cultures* showed a 35% increase in those strongly agreed demonstrating the young people's growing confidence in taking the time to understand others.

This impact was reflected in the students' comments such:

"...being grateful and empathetic are two very key qualities that this Award has helped me grow."

“Be the Change Award gives you the ability to really embrace teamwork and increase your leadership skills.”

“it genuinely was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something good for the world around us and it made you feel like you had made a difference.”

Be the Change Colleges was equally successful, with 23 teaching students from St Mary’s and Stranmillis University Colleges hosting Newcomer Welcome Week for 68 children from St Paul’s, Falls Road and Fane Street Primary Schools, of whom 70% were from refugee families. We are grateful to the Colleges and lecturers for their support of the participating students. An excellent report on the programme was filmed by Robbie Meredith of BBC NI and Christine was interviewed by Frank Mitchell.

Within India

In India, Saphara continues to work with grassroots NGOs to support the delivery of high-quality education to marginalised children. These partnerships enable us to give strategic help with maximum impact on local communities.

Sadly, the aftermath of the pandemic continues to have an impact on the poorest families and we have therefore continued the Saphara Back to School programme which, for £100, ensures that a child can attend school for a full year, including provision of books and uniform. We are delighted that the excellent fundraising of the students on Be the Change Schools was used for this worthwhile cause.

In October 2023, Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett, accompanied by Board Chair, Mr Dominic Breen, Board member, Dr Angus Beck and Education Director, Ms Paula Stronge, travelled to India to visit each of our main partners NGOs in Uttarakhand and in Jharkhand. A strategy day was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and attended by senior leaders from Saphara’s three tribal NGO partners. This was followed by visits to schools run by PSS and Daughters of St Anne’s in rural areas of Jharkhand giving the team insights into the challenges faced by the NGOs as they seek to bring transformation to these impoverished communities. During a visit to Uttarakhand, meetings were held with leaders of long-term partners, SNEHA and MGVS. All these discussions were of great value as together we created strategies for the future.

Subsequent to these visits, the Board took the decision to focus funding primarily on the Girl Champions programme which combines menstrual and sexual health education with personal skills and resilience development. This programme has been shown to be highly effective in equipping girls to challenge gender discrimination and to flourish in education, and in reducing vulnerability to child marriage and trafficking.

A key aspect of the Girl Champions programme is to train and equip teachers from each NGO-run school as Master trainers to deliver the curriculum. Two intensive training 4-day sessions were held in Ranchi for these women in Sep/Oct 2022 and in March 2023. The course leaders were senior trainers from CorStone India together with Dr Christine Burnett. 16 Master trainers took part in the self-reflective and transformative course, bringing their knowledge back to colleagues and girls in their schools. Online mentoring was provided monthly to support effective delivery of the programme.

The health and resilience empowerment programme was delivered to 1069 adolescent girls, and we have received reports that girls are growing in self-esteem, valuing themselves more and gaining the skills and confidence to flourish.

Our ongoing partnership with Eco Femme in Tamil Nadu enables us to provide washable sanitary pads to the adolescent girls. In total, 5456 pads were provided.

We continued to honour our commitment to make a contribution to the teaching and other costs in SNEHA and MGVS, but this funding is being gradually reduced in order to re-direct funds to other priorities.

In all our work, Saphara seeks to be sensitive to the changing priorities of our NGO partners and to direct funding to the most vulnerable.

Financial Review

The total income for the year ended 30 September 2023 was £192,330 compared to £187,723 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people from schools and colleges taking part in the Be the Change programme continued to increase as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Ulster Garden Villages, Halifax, Stanfield Trust and House of Vicryn totalling £56,337. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a small deficit of £4,231, after providing total direct funding of £82,969 to support the continued education and well-being of young people in India. The direct costs of running the Be the Change Programme in Northern Ireland were £65,298, but the Directors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the NI Teaching colleges in providing accommodation, meals and transport for the Newcomer Welcome weeks.

Principle source of funding

The table below shows the source of funding in 2022/23

Fundraising by schools	22%
Fundraising by colleges	11%
Donations from trusts and legacies	29%
Gift aid received	4%
Voluntary donations	24%
College funding	10%

Spend on charitable activities

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our three main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community schools programme, holistic educational support for marginalised Indian children, especially adolescent girls, and local and global justice awareness programmes. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was approximately 4% of our total spend. We remain thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

Reserves Policy

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £130,316 (2022 £133,594) is equivalent to approximately 8 months' running costs.

Plans for Future Periods

Facing the challenges of Covid with a positive and innovative approach, Saphara has created exciting new programmes both in India and N. Ireland. Taking this forward into the future we have plans to

- Expand the Be the Change school programme to more NI schools and sixth form students.
- Expand Newcomer Welcome Week to more primary school children.
- Recruit an additional part-time staff member.
- Engage more student teachers in both Newcomer and India programmes.
- Develop Girl Champions with NGO leaders to make more relevant to tribal communities, with a focus on period dignity approach.
- Continue to support educational access for the most marginalised Indian children.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4 October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

Director Induction and Training

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This will include an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and safeguarding and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had eight directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 3 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Dr Angus Beck, Chair of Saphara Board

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2023 on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



David Neil Robinson
Retired Chartered Accountant
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

3 June 2024

SAPHARA LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

		2023	2023	2023	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	133,836	58,494	192,330	186,791
Other income - CJRS grants		0	0	0	932
Total income		133,836	58,494	192,330	187,723
Expenditure					
Cost of generating funds		4,208	0	4,208	4,604
Charitable activities	3	132,859	59,494	192,353	178,496
Furlough costs		0	0	0	932
Total expenditure		137,067	59,494	196,561	184,032
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(3,231)	(1,000)	(4,231)	3,691
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		133,547	19,000	152,547	148,856
Total funds carried forward		130,316	18,000	148,316	152,547

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the amounts above relate to continuing activities.

SAPHARA LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors		3,801	1,515
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>156,969</u>	<u>185,021</u>
		160,770	186,536
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>12,454</u>	<u>33,989</u>
Net current assets		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>
Total assets		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted		130,316	133,547
Restricted		<u>18,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>
		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this balance sheet.

SAPHARA LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

In approving these financial statement as directors of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting than an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 September 2023 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

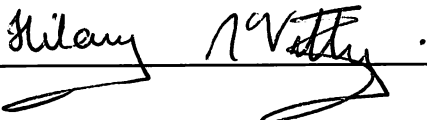
The financial statements on pages 7 to 11 were approved by the board on 3 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director:

Angus Beck



Hilary McVitty



SAPHARA LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Fund accounting

The company has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meet these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds - General

General funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

2. Donations and legacies

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Fundraising - schools	43,228	0	43,228	33,712
Fundraising - teaching colleges	20,283	0	20,283	5,160
Fundraising - women's teams	0	0	0	0
Donations from Trusts & Legacies	17,000	39,337	56,337	95,400
Grant awarded by Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Reconciliation/Anti-sectarianism funds	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid received from HMRC	7,013	0	7,013	4,654
Voluntary donations	46,312	0	46,312	43,086
Funding from teaching colleges	0	19,157	19,157	4,779
	133,836	58,494	192,330	186,791

3. Charitable activities

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Cross-community development - NI schools	46,141	19,157	65,298	51,918
Educational support for marginalised Indian Children	78,933	40,337	119,270	90,917
COVID relief	0	0	0	27,108
Justice awareness - NI & India	3,252	0	3,252	3,216
Governance costs	4,533	0	4,533	5,337
	<u>132,859</u>	<u>59,494</u>	<u>192,353</u>	<u>178,496</u>

4. Director remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, Dr Christine Burnett received a salary of £47,101 (2022 - £44,733). Pension contributions of £7,320 (2022 - £7,200) were also paid on her behalf.

5. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

6. Liability of members

Saphara Limited is a company limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.