Project Esperanza SCIO

Scotland · Charity number SC051454

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2021-12-14
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	Thorn House. 5 Rose Street. Edinburgh EH2 2PR
Website	www.projectesperanza.org.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of citizenship or community development','the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science','the promotion of equality and diversity','the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage'

What the charity does: Project Esperanza exists to support, empower, and uplift Black, migrant, and other racialised communities in Scotland. We do this by creating culturally safe spaces, providing trauma-informed wellbeing support, and strengthening community voice. Our work includes advocacy, creative and therapeutic programmes, youth and family support, men’s engagement, and specialist work with women and girls affected by inequality and gender-based harm. We combine community outreach, training, and partnership building to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and enable people to thrive with dignity, confidence, and connection.

Beneficiaries: 'People with disabilities or health problems'

Objectives: 4 The organisation’s purposes are: 1. Promotion of Equality and Diversity The organisation challenges inequalities and discrimination faced by migrant Africans, aligning with key international human rights law and declarations, as well as UK and Scottish national legislation pertaining to human rights. Specifically, our organisations work aligns with the following: - Article 1 and Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948), which guarantee equality and prohibit discrimination - The Convention Elimination Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) by advocating for migrant women and families in Edinburgh, promoting gender equality, addressing specific challenges, and ensuring their full integration and participation in society. - Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989), which protects against discrimination, particularly for women and children. - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) by actively combating racial discrimination, advocating for the rights of migrant African families, and promoting their integration into society. - The 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol, this organization affirms the right of all individuals to seek asylum, as outlined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948). We are committed to supporting asylum seekers, ensuring their protection and fair treatment, and advocating for their rights without discrimination. 3 These documents, hereafter referred to by their respective acronyms, will be discussed in greater detail throughout the remainder of the purposes section of the constitution. 2. Advancement of Citizenship By supporting the integration of migrant African families into Scottish society, the organisation promotes active citizenship in line with Article 15 of the UDHR (right to nationality) and Article 7 of the UNCRC, which protects children's right to nationality and encourages their integration. 3. Relief of Those in Need The organisation alleviates hardship by supporting vulnerable individuals facing poverty, marginalisation, and trauma resulting from migration. We prioritise support for care-experienced individuals, pregnant women, those who are homeless, people with vulnerable migration statuses such as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic abuse. Our work aligns with key human rights frameworks, including Article 25 of the UDHR, which affirms the right to an adequate standard of living, and Article 27 of the UNCRC, which guarantees the right of children to living standards adequate for their development. Additionally, we uphold Article 3 of CEDAW Convention, ensuring the full development and advancement of women, and Article 12 of ICESCR, which recognises the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Through tailored support, advocacy and integration we address the critical needs of these groups, advancing dignity, equity, and resilience. 4. Advancement of Arts, Heritage, and Culture By promoting African cultural heritage, the organisation upholds Article 27 of the UDHR, which supports cultural participation, and aligns with CEDAW (Article 13), ensuring cultural rights for women and their full participation in society. 4 5. Human Rights-Based Youth Work and Professional Training The organisation works with young people of African descent to promote human rights education, empowering them to advocate for their rights, in line with Article 2, Article 15, and Article 29 of the UDHR and the UNCRC. We also offer human rights-based and anti-racist training for professionals in the social and educational sectors, supporting Article 7 of the UDHR, CEDAW, and UNCRC provisions on equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2026-05-31	£168,912	£222,099	-	4
2025-05-31	£168,912	£222,099	-	4
2024-05-31	£263,592	£125,975	-	5
2023-05-31	£59,489	£48,293	-	4

Accounts

A Year of Growth, Healing, and Collective Strength

2024/2025 was a year defined by community resilience, cultural pride, and the power of connection. At Project Esperanza, we continued to stand alongside racialised and migrant families across Edinburgh, offering safety, belonging, and practical support during a time when many communities faced rising hostility, economic pressure, and uncertainty.

Despite these challenges, our families, young people, and volunteers showed extraordinary courage and creativity. Together, we built spaces of joy, learning, and healing. We strengthened partnerships, expanded our programmes, and deepened our commitment to culturally competent, trauma-informed practice.

This year, Project Esperanza supported **198 new families (in total we are currently supporting 674 to date)**, engaged **312 children and young people**, and delivered **1,482 volunteer hours** of community care. Behind every number is a story of hope.

Our Impact at a Glance

Supporting Families

- **198 new families** received direct support
- **64%** accessed more than one strand of support, showing the value of our holistic model
- **87%** reported improved wellbeing and confidence
- Families told us they felt *seen*, *heard*, and *understood*—often for the first time in Scotland

Empowering Children & Young People

- **312 children and young people** took part in our programmes
- Activities ranged from cultural identity workshops to creative arts, mentoring, and wellbeing sessions
- Young people reported feeling more confident, connected, and proud of their heritage

Building Community

- **11 community events** brought over 600 people together
- Events celebrated culture, food, language, and intergenerational connection
- Partnerships strengthened with schools, youth services, and migrant-led organisations

Volunteer Leadership

- **34 active volunteers**, including 11 newly trained volunteers
- **92%** said they felt valued, supported, and equipped
- Volunteers contributed **1,482 hours** of community care
- New competency-based training modules are helping volunteers grow into confident community leaders

Workforce Development

We are proud to be championing the Third Sector and Public Sector in intersectional and anti-racism workforce development, particularly in the North of Edinburgh by the expansion of training and consultancy to challenge inequalities across the workforce.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Safety remains at the heart of everything we do.

- **7 safeguarding concerns** were raised this year
- **All were responded to within 24 hours**
- No cases required escalation to statutory services

- Volunteers and staff engaged in reflective practice and ongoing training

Our safeguarding culture is rooted in dignity, cultural humility, and early intervention.

Our Financial Picture

Thanks to the generosity of funders, partners, and supporters, Project Esperanza continued to deliver high-quality, culturally competent services.

- **£168,000 total income**
- **£222,099 total expenditure**

While our core funding is secure until March 2026, demand continues to rise. Strengthening our sustainability remains a key priority for the coming year.

What Families Told Us

Families shared that Project Esperanza is:

- "A place where my children feel proud of who they are."
- "Support that understands our culture and our struggles."
- "A community that feels like home."

Young people told us they want more creative, cultural, and leadership opportunities and we are committed to expanding these spaces.

Volunteers described Project Esperanza as:

- "A place where I can develop my skills."
- "A team that understands and values my lived experience."
- "A community that supports me as much as I support others."

Strengthening Our Organisation

This year we:

- Developed a new Monitoring & Evaluation dashboard
- Improved data segmentation by age, ethnicity, and programme strand
- Refreshed our safeguarding policy
- Strengthened governance and Board development
- Began designing a three-year sustainability plan
- Prepared for new Board recruitment focused on finance, safeguarding, and lived experience leadership

Looking Ahead: Our Vision for 2025/2026

As we move into the next year, our priorities are clear:

- Expand culturally competent programmes for children, young people, and families
- Strengthen volunteer leadership pathways
- Build long-term financial sustainability
- Deepen partnerships across Edinburgh
- Continue standing firmly against racism, xenophobia, and all forms of oppression
- Create more spaces of joy, healing, and cultural pride

Project Esperanza remains committed to co-creating futures where racialised and migrant families feel safe, valued, and empowered.

A Message of Gratitude

To every family who trusted us, every volunteer who showed up, every partner who collaborated, and every funder who believed in our vision **thank you**.

Your support makes this work possible. Your courage inspires us. Your stories shape our mission.

Together, we are building a Scotland where every child, every family, and every community can thrive.

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER SC052857
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER CSOO6530

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025
Project Esperanza SCIO

Project Esperanza SCIO

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

Project Esperanza SCIO

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

The trustees who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity was granted charitable status on in December 2021.

Objectives and aims

The aim of the charity is the advancement of citizenship or community development, the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science, the promotion of equality and diversity and the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

We are very proud of our services and the fact our offering continues to diversify to support those who need us most.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The charity is a womanist initiative based in North Edinburgh, dedicated to offering practical, emotional, and integration support primarily to families of African heritage while also supporting a broad spectrum of individuals from multi-ethnic backgrounds. Our work is rooted in promoting inclusion, empowerment, and cultural preservation and we have had a remarkable track record since 2021.

Our Vision is to advance citizenship through integration services and activities, alleviate needs arising from age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, and other disadvantages, and promote African culture and heritage through creative, nutrition, beauty, and wellness arts

Our Mission

We are committed to making a positive impact through empowerment and inclusion, inspiring opportunities for action that foster an unbiased environment. This enables individuals to build meaningful lives and positive relationships within the wider community.

Achievements

We have a track record of collaborating with partners and professionals who prioritise diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of racial oppression. Our efforts aim to advance racial harmony in the community by encouraging acceptance of newly arrived families and aiding their integration into the Edinburgh community. Our role has been to advocate for social change for Black and African Communities throughout Scotland and we have had the privilege of earning respect on the Third sector landscape in that regard. This annual report sets out our successes in supporting communities and the workforce across Scotland. It evidences our value on the systems change arena in Scotland.

Since we started to date, we continue to work alongside people with lived experience of racism, racial and migration trauma, NRPF, homelessness, restitution, education inequalities, mental health support and inequalities, poverty and food insecurity, social isolation/disconnection, income inequalities and chronic health. These experiences have provided information and learning opportunities for us to navigate the cost-of-living crisis that is evidenced in the increase in use of foodbanks, pantries and community meals; as well as challenge unsafe, hostile and discriminatory work practices to influence systems and policy change. Since we embarked on our mission, we have also explored health inequalities in women's health, with particular focus on Black maternal Health Experiences, as well as whole family wellbeing.

Throughout 2023 to 2025 we have focused on bias in the child protection system working with Children and families that have experienced The Scottish Care System. In all areas of our work, we have always questioned systems, challenged inequalities, challenged racism and addressed racial trauma; and we have emphasised greatly on culturally nuanced and trauma-informed support across all services within Project Esperanza. That said we have also chosen our partnerships by ensuring that the services we work with are aligned with how we work internally as an organisation to address the intersections of Deprivation and The Migrant Experience.

We've grown significantly and quickly since we first started our work. Despite the hostile political climate in this country and the lack of sustainable funding within the third sector, the pressures for the people continue to escalate and the demand for our support continues to increase, it must be noted that we are a maturing organisation with all of the benefits and challenges that come with that.

We have produced a more detailed Annual Report which can be obtained by request.

Future Plans

The next three years will be dedicated to empowering Black African communities through a **vision** that depicts Black individuals and communities thrive, free from discrimination and systemic barriers and a **mission** that empowers Black communities through education and community development.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial overview

Overall reserves have reduced by £53,187 during the year to 31 May 2025. (2024: Increased by £137,637) Total income in the year was £168,912 (2024: £263,592) a decrease on the prior year of £94,680 (2024: an increase on the prior year of £204,103). Unrestricted reserves increased from £397 to £35,352

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain a reserve of unrestricted funds, which is sufficient to meet 3 months' running costs for the charity, with an aspiration to hold 6 months' running costs.

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.

At 31 May 2025, unrestricted reserves totalled £35,342 (2024: £397).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANACE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The registered Company number is CS006530 and Registered Charity number is SC052857

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) registered on **27 September 2023**.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Tijan Jasseh

Maria Sena (resigned in December 2024)

Judith Saidi

Mickey Darenvil (resigned in December 2024)

The Trustees of the charity meet regularly to discuss and review the progress of the charity. Trustees will be elected at the annual general meeting.

Independent Examiner

Sheila Fazal, CA

Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC

Clyde Offices, 2nd Floor, 48 West George Street,

Glasgow, G2 1BP

Key management personnel

Victoria Nyanga-Ndiaye is the CEO

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD ON 2 April 2026

Signed by:

EE12438856DA418...

Tijan Jasseh

Director

Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Project Esperanza SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st May 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 12

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe

1. that in any material respect the requirements:

a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: DocuSigned by: Sheila Fazal F556EFD9032446B...
Name: **Sheila Fazal**
Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: **ICAS**

Address: **Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC, Clyde Offices, 2nd Floor, 48 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 1BP**

Date: 2 April 2026

Project Esperanza SCIO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	84,665	84,247	168,912	262,512
Charitable activities	3	0	0	0	1,080
Other income		0	0	0	0
Total		**84,665**	**84,247**	**168,912**	**263,592**
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds					0
Charitable activities	4	157,988	64,111	222,099	124,475
Other	5	3,849			1,500
Total		**161,837**	**64,111**	**222,099**	**125,975**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		-77,172	20,136	-53,187	137,617
Transfer between funds	13	112,117	-112,117	0	0
Net movement in funds		34,945	-91,981	-53,187	137,617
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		397	147,416	147,813	11,196
Prior year adjustment 2023	14				-1,000
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**35,342**	**55,435**	**90,777**	**147,813**

The notes form part of these financial statements

Project Esperanza SCIO
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	9,708	1,286
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		0	0
Debtors	10	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand		84,785	151,285
		84,785	151,285
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	3,716	4,758
NET CURRENT ASSETS		81,069	146,527
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		90,777	147,813
NET ASSETS		90,777	147,813
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		35,342	397
Restricted funds - prior year adjustments	14		-2,003
Restricted funds		55,435	55,435
TOTAL FUNDS		90,777	53,829

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 on 2 April 2026
and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
EE12438856DA418...

Tijan Jassen
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Meeting Centres Scotland
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

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 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.
The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£).

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which the trustees believe to be appropriate for the reasons set out in the Trustee's Report. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.
Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The company considers on an annual basis the judgements that are made by management when applying significant accounting policies that would have the most significant effect on amounts that are recognised in the financial statements. The trustees consider there are no such significant judgements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, 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.
Charitable activities
Costs of charitable activities are incurred on the charity's core operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.
Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33.33% on cost

Motor vehicles - 25% on cost

Office equipment - 25% on cost

Fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

No assets with a gross value of less than £100 are capitalised. These items have been treated as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Impairment of tangible fixed assets

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. When the carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

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

Restricted funds

They 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.

Transfers between funds

With regard to the use of both restricted and designated funds, the release represents an amount which matches the expenditure incurred in the year in respect of the relevant purpose of each fund. Transfers are made between funds for identified internal transactions such as staff training where funds are moved from unrestricted core income to a designated training fund.

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

Financial instruments

The charity only enters into financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.
Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year. Typically trade debtors or trade creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.
Financial assets measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for evidence of impairment and if found, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Cash and cash equivalent includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other financial institutions.

Leasing commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme . The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The amount charged against the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Donated assets

Donated assets received by the charity are capitalised and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are received.
The basis of valuation is the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for goods of equivalent utility.

VAT

The company is not registered for VAT. Expenses are therefore shown inclusive of VAT in the financial statements.

Project Esperanza SCIO
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 May 2025

	2025	2024
2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	£	£
Donations	45	4,190
Fundraising	0	80
Legacies	0	0
Grants	168,867	258,242
	168,912	262,512

	2025	2024
Grants received, included in the above are as follows:	£	£
Capital City Partnership	15,000	20,000
Muirhead Housing	0	0
National Lottery	56,047	0
The Robertson Trust	0	22,500
National Gallery	0	0
The Corra Foundation	83,000	187,325
EVOC	0	10,760
Edinburgh City Council	5,000	11257
One City Trust	0	6000
Arnold Clark	2,500	0
Foundation Scotland	5,700	0
RS Macdonald	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,620	400
Grants	**168,867**	**258,242**

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Activity - Supporting Integration of African Community	**0**	**1,080**

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Project Delivery Costs	32,560	81,640
Wages, staff and sub-contractor costs	130,689	42,193
Travel expenditure	5,108	0
Storage rent and venue hire	10,765	0
Vehicle insurance, repairs and other vehicle costs	2,637	0
Subsistence	1,936	0
Printing	4,069	0
Consultancy	20,659	0
Computer software costs	4,119	0
Telephone	3,286	0
Depreciation	3,945	642
General expenses	2,326	0
	222,099	124,475

5 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Legal fees	2,135	0
Accounting software, payroll and accountancy costs	1,714	1,500
	3,849	1,500

6 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Trustee expenses

During the year there was an amount of £160 for which trustees were reimbursed for expenses. and one trustee was paid £600 for delivering services (2024: £nil)

7 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	118,464	42,099
Other pension costs	1,709	94
	120,173	42,193

The average monthly number of employees during the year was a follows:		
Administrative	5	3
Management	1	1
	6	4

In the year to 31 May 2025, no salaries above £60,000 were paid. (2024: None)

8 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	4,190	0	4,190
Grants	0	258,242	258,242
Fundraising activities	80	0	80
Charitable activities	1,080	0	1,080
Other income			0
Total Income	5,350	258,242	263,592
EXPENDITURE ON			
Fundraising	0	0	0
Charitable activities	4,780	119,695	124,475
Governance costs	1500	0	1,500
Total Expenditure	6,280	119,695	125,975
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	**-930**	**138,547**	**137,617**
Prior year adjustments	-1,000	0	-1,000
Net movement in funds	-1,930	138,547	136,617
Transfer between funds	2,302	-2,302	0
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	25	11,171	11,196
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**397**	**147,416**	**147,813**

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Motor Vehicles	TOTAL
COST	£	£	£
At 1 June 2024	1,928	0	1,928
Additions	2,532	9,835	12,367
Disposals	0	0	0
At 31 May 2025	4,460	9,835	14,295
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 June 2024	642	0	642
Charge for the year	1,486	2,459	3,945
Eliminated on disposal	0	0	0
At 31 May 2025	2,128	2,459	4,587
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 May 2025	**2,332**	**7,376**	**9,708**
At 31 May 2024	**1,286**	**0**	**1,286**

10 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	0	0
Prepayments	0	0
	0	0

11 CREDITORS:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	0	0
Social security and other taxes	1,415	3,038
Pension creditor	312	0
Other creditors	489	220
Accruals and deferred income	1,500	1,500
	3,716	4,758

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,723	7,985	9,708	1,286
Current assets	37,335	47,450	84,785	151,285
Current liabilities	-3,716	0	-3,716	-4,758
	35,342	55,435	90,777	147,813

13 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Funds balances transferred result from reclassification of grants from restricted to unrestricted from previous years, using legal definitions.

14 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

As previous year was prepared on a cash basis, need to restate prior year figures to include accruals
Net Book Value at 31 May 2023 restated for prior year

Increased accruals for accounting fee	£1,000
Reducing Reserves due to increase in expenses by	£1,000

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER SC051454

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER CS005516

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

FOR

PROJECT ESPERANZA SCIO

PROJECT ESPERANZA SCIO
CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

The trustees who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) for the first time.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Project Esperanza SCIO was granted charitable status in December 2021.

Objectives and aims

The aim of the charity is the advancement of citizenship or community development, the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science, the promotion of equality and diversity and the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

We operate two main projects in order to achieve this aim:

Over the years we have

We are very proud of our services and the fact our offering continues to diversify to support those who need us most.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The charity is a womanist initiative based in North Edinburgh, dedicated to offering practical, emotional, and integration support primarily to families of African heritage while also supporting a broad spectrum of individuals from multi-ethnic backgrounds. Our work is rooted in promoting inclusion, empowerment, and cultural preservation and we have had a remarkable track record since 2021.

Our Vision is to advance citizenship through integration services and activities, alleviate needs arising from age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, and other disadvantages, and promote African culture and heritage through creative, nutrition, beauty, and wellness arts.

Our Mission We are committed to making a positive impact through empowerment and inclusion, inspiring opportunities for action that foster an unbiased environment. This enables individuals to build meaningful lives and positive relationships within the wider community.

Achievements

We have a track record of collaborating with partners and professionals who prioritise diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of racial oppression. Our efforts aim to advance racial harmony in the community by encouraging acceptance of newly arrived families and aiding their integration into the Edinburgh community. Our role has been to advocate for social change for Black and African Communities throughout Scotland and we have had the privilege of earning respect on the Third sector landscape in that regard. This annual report sets out our successes in supporting communities and the workforce across Scotland. It evidences our value on the systems change arena in Scotland.

Since we started to date, we continue to work alongside people with lived experience of racism, racial and migration trauma, NRPF, homelessness, restitution, education inequalities, mental health support and inequalities, poverty and food insecurity, social isolation/disconnection, income inequalities and chronic health. These experiences have provided information and learning opportunities for us to navigate the cost of living crisis that is evidenced in the increase in use of foodbanks, pantries and community meals; as well as challenge unsafe, hostile and discriminatory work practices to influence systems and policy change. Since we embarked on our mission, we have also explored health inequalities in women's health, with particular focus on Black maternal Health Experiences, as well as whole family wellbeing.

Throughout 2023 to 2025 we have focused on bias in the child protection system working with Children and families that have experienced The Scottish Care System. In all areas of our work, we have always questioned systems, challenged inequalities, challenged racism and addressed racial trauma; and we have emphasised greatly on culturally nuanced and trauma-informed support across all services within Project Esperanza. That said we have also chosen our partnerships by ensuring that the services we work with are aligned with how we work internally as an organisation to address the intersections of Deprivation and The Migrant Experience.

We've grown significantly and quickly since we first started our work. Despite the hostile political climate in this country and the lack of sustainable funding within the third sector, the pressures for the people continue to escalate and the demand for our support continues to increase, it must be noted that we are a maturing organisation with all of the benefits and challenges that come with that.

We have produced a more detailed Annual Report which can be obtained by request.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial overview
Overall reserves have increased by £136,622 during the year to 31 May 2024. Total income in the year was £263,592 an increase on the prior year of £204,103.

Reserves policy
The Trustees recognise the need for the charity to have reserves (that is, those funds that are freely available), which will enable it to cope with unexpected fluctuations in income and expenditure, to take advantage of development opportunities that might otherwise cause cash flow problems and to act as responsible employers in the event of termination of specific funding of the organisation.
The trustees' policy is to retain 3 months' worth of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure. The Trustees are looking for wats to increase the unrestricted reserves for the future. At 31 May 2024, unrestricted reserves totalled £397.

Future plans

The next three years will be dedicated to empowering Black African communities through a **vision** that depicts Black individuals and communities thrive, free from discrimination and systemic barriers and a **mission** that empowers Black communities through education and community development.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANACE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Project Esperanza is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in it's current legal form on 14 December 2021. It's registered Company number is CS005516 and Registered Charity number is SC051454. It operates from its registered office Thorn House. 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PR.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Trustees of the charity meet regularly to discuss and review the progress of the charity. Trustees will be elected at the annual general meeting.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

The following Board Members Served during the Year 2023/2024

[redacted]

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD ON 28 February 2025

[redacted]

Examiner's Report to the Trustees of PROJECT ESPERANZA SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 16

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

[redacted]

PROJECT ESPERANZA SCIO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**2024 Total funds**	**2023 Total funds**
		£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	4,270	258,242	262,512	59,489
Charitable activities	3	1,080	0	1,080	0
Other income			0	0	0
Total		**5,350**	**258,242**	**263,592**	**59,489**
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	4	4,780	119,695	124,475	48,293
Other	5	1,500	0	1,500	0
Total		**6,280**	**119,695**	**125,975**	**150,358**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(930)	138,547	137,617	11,196
Transfer between funds		2,302	(2,302)	0	0
Net movement in funds		1,372	136,245	137,617	0
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		25	11,171	11,196	0
Prior year adjustment 2023	13	(1,000)		(1,000)	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**397**	**147,416**	**147,813**	**11,196**

The notes form part of these financial statements

PROJECT ESPERANZA SCIO
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 May 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	1,286	0
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		0	0
Debtors	10	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand		151,285	11,196
		151,285	11,196
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	4,758	1,000
NET CURRENT ASSETS		146,527	10,196
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		147,813	10,196
NET ASSETS		147,813	10,196
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		397	25
Unrestricted funds - prior year adjustments	13		(1,000)
Restricted funds		147,416	11,171
TOTAL FUNDS		147,813	10,196

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 on 28 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

[redacted]

The notes form part of these financial statements

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 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£).

Change in accounting policies and prior year adjustments

The company has adopted the Charities SORP for the first time this year, as income has exceeded £250,000. Prior year financial statements were prepared on a receipts basis. Accordingly, no accrual for accounting services was included, resulting an adjustment to reserves brought forward of £1,000. There were no fixed assets or other creditors at 31 May 2023.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which the trustees believe to be appropriate for the reasons set out in the Trustee's Report. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The company considers on an annual basis the judgements that are made by management when applying significant accounting policies that would have the most significant effect on amounts that are recognised in the financial statements. The trustees consider there are no such significant judgements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, 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.

Charitable activities
Costs of charitable activities are incurred on the charity's core operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	33.33% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Office equipment	25% on cost

Fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

No assets with a gross value of less than £500 are capitalised. These items have been treated as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Impairment of tangible fixed assets
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. When the carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds
They 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.

Transfers between funds
With regard to the use of both restricted and designated funds, the release represents an amount which matches the expenditure incurred in the year in respect of the relevant purpose of each fund. Transfers are made between funds for identified internal transactions such as staff training where funds are moved from unrestricted core income to a designated training fund.
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

The charity only enters into financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year. Typically trade debtors or trade creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

Financial assets measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for evidence of impairment and if found, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Cash and cash equivalent includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other financial institutions.

Leasing commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred over the term of the lease.

Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme . The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The amount charged against the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Donated assets

Donated assets received by the charity are capitalised and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are received.
The basis of valuation is the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for goods of equivalent utility.

VAT

The company is exempt from VAT. Expenses are therefore shown inclusive of VAT in the financial statements.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations	4,190	2,366
Fundraising	80	107
Legacies	0	0
Grants	258,242	57,016
	262,512	59,489

Grants received, included in the above are as follows:	2024 £	2023 £
Capital City Partnership	20,000	6,000
Muirhead Housing	0	5,000
The Robertson Trust	22,500	2,500
National Lottery	0	10,000
National Gallery	0	6,350
The Corra Foundation	187,325	5,250
EVOC	10,760	17,790
Edinburgh City Council	11,257	0
One City Trust	6,000	0
Miscellaneous	400	4,126
Grants	258,242	**57,016**

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2024 £	2023 £
Supporting Integration of African Community	Type	1,080	0

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Supporting Integration of African Community	124,475	48,293
	124,475	48,293

5 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy fee and accounting software	1,500	1,000

6 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

In the year to 31 May 2024, a salary of £21,117 including pension contribution was paid to the chief executive. They also received payments for consultancy work totalling £12,634 (2023: No salary received during 2023, only work for consultancy)

This was the only key management personnel.

There were no other trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 May 2024 nor for the year ended 31 May 2023

Trustee expenses

During the year no trustees were reimbursed any expenses. (2023: £nil)

7 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	42,099	0
Other pension costs	94	0
	42,193	0

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

Administrative	3	0
Management	1	1
	4	1

None of the employees benefits exceed £60,000

8 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	2,366	0	2,366
Grants	3,500	53,516	57,016
Fundraising activities	107	0	107
Charitable activities	0	0	0
Miscellaneous income	0	0	0
Other income	0	0	0
Total	5,973	53,516	59,489
EXPENDITURE ON			
Fundraising	0	0	0
Charitable activities	5,948	42,345	48,293
Governance costs		0	0
Total	5,948	42,345	48,293
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	25	11,171	11,196
Net movement in funds	0	0	0
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	25	11,171	11,196

		Computer Equipment
9	**TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**	
	COST	**£**
	At 1 June 2023	0
	Additions	1,928
	Disposals	0
	At 31 May 2024	1,928
	DEPRECIATION	
	At 1 June 2023	0
	Charge for the year	642
	Eliminated on disposal	0
	At 30 November 2020	642
	NET BOOK VALUE	
	At 31 May 2024	1,286
	At 31 May 2023	0

		2024	2023
10	**DEBTORS**	**£**	**£**
	Other debtors	0	0
	Prepayments	0	0
		0	0

		2024	2023
11	**CREDITORS:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**	**£**	**£**
	Trade creditors	0	0
	Social security and other taxes	3,038	0
	Pension creditor	0	0
	Other creditors	220	0
	Accruals and deferred income	1,500	1,000
		4,758	1,000

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
12	**ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
	Fixed assets	0	1,286	1,286	0
	Current assets	397	150,888	151,285	11,196
	Current liabilities	0	(4,758)	(4,758)	(1,000)
		397	147416	147,813	10,196

13 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

Include accrual for accountancy fee in 2023 year end accounts

Increased governance expenditure	£1,000
Decreased Reserves by	£1,000