

**CATARACTS ARE CURABLE - THE GAMBIAN PROJECT
DIRECTORS'/TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST January 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Cataracts are Curable – The Gambian Project, also known as Cataracts Are Curable, was incorporated on 30th April 2019 and achieved registration with the Charity Commission on 1st June 2020.
Company registration number: 11971279 - Charity registration number 118727

The registered and principal address is 1 Royston Drive, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1HL.

The Directors, who are also Trustees, who have served throughout the year were:

Violet Phillips – Chair
James Phillip – Treasurer
Alice Bailey – Secretary

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Cataracts are Curable - The Gambian Project is a Company Limited by Guarantee, which does not have a share capital and pays no dividends. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is a public benefit entity.

All administration is carried out by the Trustees, who receive no remuneration. Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees.

Cataracts are Curable has no employees.

The Trustees have structured the charity to avoid risk. As a public benefit entity, all administrative and governance costs are kept to a minimum and donations and grants only made when sufficient donations have been received.

The Trustees consider the greatest risk is from corruption in The Gambia and consequently maintain the utmost vigilance. Grants are given to the Gambian National Eye Health Programme (NEHP), a department of the Gambian Health Service, who are responsible for organising 'Cataract Camps' and ensuring that satisfactory clinical care standards are maintained. After each 'camp', Cataracts are Curable receive a detailed clinical report including photographs. Furthermore, the Trustees endeavour to attend cataract camps when they are able.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are to improve the health of the poor of The Gambia by, in particular but not exclusively:

- (1) The funding of operations to remove and replace cataracts.
- (2) The provision of equipment for ophthalmic medical procedures.

Having due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission, the Trustees have determined that carrying out the following activities enables the charity to achieve its objectives:

- (1) The funding of 'Cataract Camps'.
- (2) The provision of ophthalmic equipment.
- (3) The funding of eye health screening of Gambian communities.
- (4) The provision of humanitarian aid to prevent suffering.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

The Trustees are delighted to report that 2021 has been a very successful year for the charity. This is despite the fact that the whole of 2021 has been overshadowed by the continuing COVID19 pandemic. Restrictions on travel and gatherings were imposed in The Gambia as well as the UK. These had an impact on the conduct of eye health surveys and cataract operations in The Gambia and on fund raising in the UK.

In March 2020, the first UK lockdown was imposed and all tourists in The Gambia went home within a few days.

This had an instantaneous and catastrophic effect on the Gambian economy resulting in much hardship for those dependent on the tourist trade.

This remains the current state of affairs. During a visit in January 2022 by Jim and Violet Phillips, it was found that there were no tourist flights from Scandinavia, the Baltic or the Low Countries. Hotel occupancy was typically a mere 10%. Some hotels are due to shut in February instead of in April as is usual.

In these exceptional circumstances, the trustees have continued to support to the people of the Gambia with funds for food aid.

Fund raising has been curtailed during the pandemic.

Presentations to groups such as Rotary Clubs in person have not been possible. Presentations via Zoom are a poor substitute. Fundraising has largely been confined to applying to funding charities but competition from other charities is fierce.

Despite these difficulties in raising money, much has been achieved.

Until the latter half of 2020, cataract camps comprised advertising on the radio for people to come forward, initial assessment, pre-operative assessment, operation and post operative care nearly always carried out at one location in a short period.

In December 2020, an eye health survey was held in the area around Sambang which had not received attention of this sort for over four years. Candidates for cataract operations were identified and more tractable ailments were treated during the survey. This was followed in January by a cataract camp at which 52 operations were carried out.

This new approach has been an unqualified success: by screening out those patients with less serious ailments during the survey, the time to assess patients at the ensuing camp was drastically reduced. Overall, the combined cost of the survey and camp was the same as the cost of a "standard" 50 patient camp.

Since then, two more surveys have been carried out; one in the North Bank East district followed by 182 cataract operations and one in the Central River Region followed by 75 operations with more to follow.

In August 2021, Mariama Mendy, our new volunteer visited the SZRECC. It was drawn to her attention that there were cataract patients who had been assessed but not been treated for one or even two years because of lack of money to pay for the operation. It was decided to provide funds for 10 operations for poor patients selected on the basis of need by the cataract surgeon. This has also proved to be successful and good value for money. Another 10 operations were funded in this way. It is intended that this should be an ongoing activity.

In 2021 a total of 329 cataract operations were funded by the charity.

This brings the total number of cataract operations funded by the charity since its formation to 511.

The charity also provides ophthalmic equipment and supports its servicing and repair.

The only qualified bio-technician, Muchtarr Fofana, is responsible for equipment at the SZRECC (the main eye hospital in Kanifing) and at the eight Secondary Eye Centres.

In April 2021, the charity funded Mughtarr to travel the length of the country to survey, service, repair and report on the condition of the equipment at each location. His report is an excellent piece of work. Its main recommendation is for regular inspection and maintenance of NEHP equipment throughout the country.

This recommendation has been adopted by the Ministry of Health.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Details of the charity's income and expenditure, including accounting policies are given in the attached financial statements.

It is the aim of the Trustees to keep costs to a minimum in order to provide funds for as many cataract operations as possible. Money is raised in advance and as soon as sufficient funds have been acquired for a particular project, a grant is made or donation given to an independent organisation in The Gambia. No commitment is made without sufficient funds being available; consequently, it is the opinion of the Trustees that there is no need for a reserve fund to be maintained.

Income in 2021 was £17.5k in cash donations, an increase of £10.0k over the previous year. Every penny (and a bit more) was spent; there is no shortage of cataract patients and the staff of the NEHP use the money to fund operations as soon as they receive it.

Income in kind amounted to £7,212. All equipment is deployed to where is needed as soon as it arrives in The Gambia.

Administrative costs in 2021 were £814 compared with £762 in 2020. This amounts to 3.4% of turnover compared with 9.75% in 2020.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4th April 2022
And signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Violet Phillips". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Violet Phillips, Chair

CATARACTS ARE CURABLE- THE GAMBIAN PROJECT					
BALANCE SHEET					
At 31 DECEMBER 2021					
				2021	2020
				£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
	Bank & Cash Balances			2,342	4,061
	Debtors			1,908	473
				<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,534</u>
NET ASSETS				<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,534</u>
represented by :-					
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
	Unrestricted Funds			<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,534</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 31 December 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2021 in accordance with s476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for :

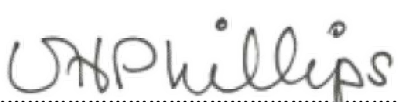
(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with s386 and s387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with s394 and s395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on accounting and reporting by charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 4th April 2022

and signed on their behalf by



Violet Phillips, Chair

CATARACTS ARE CURABLE - THE GAMBIAN PROJECT						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES including INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT						
FOR THE PERIOD YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021						
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
		Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
			£	£	£	£
INCOME		1c				
	Donations	2a	23,293	-	23,293	7,158
	Gift Aid		1,458		1,458	658
			24,751	-	24,751	7,816
EXPENDITURE		1d				
	Raising Funds		307	-	307	118
	Charitable Activities	3a	24,729	-	24,729	6,422
			25,036	-	25,036	6,540
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) for the period			(284)	-	(284)	1,276
FUNDS brought forward			4,534	-	4,534	3,258
FUNDS Carried forward			4,250	-	4,250	4,534

CATARACTS ARE CURABLE- THE GAMBIAN PROJECT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that the charity is a public benefit entity.

1b Currency

Currency transactions are recorded at the rate of exchange received when the transaction takes place. No foreign currency funds are held.

1c Income

Income, including donations and gift aid, is accounted for on a receivable basis, when the charity can be reasonably certain of the charity's legal entitlement.

Donations in kind have been included at estimated market value. Volunteer time has not been included.

1d Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis including irrecoverable VAT.

Costs have been directly allocated to an activity where possible. Support costs have been allocated as a proportion of total expenditure on charitable activities.

1e Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds can be used for any of the charity's purposes.

Restricted Funds have been given to the charity for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

2	ANALYSIS OF INCOME				2021	2020
2a	Donations & Legacies				£	
	Donations from individuals				10,081	5,158
	Donations from partner organisations				2,000	2,000
	Donations from funding charities				4,000	-
	Donations of equipment				7,212	-
					<u>23,293</u>	<u>7,158</u>
3	ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE					
3a	ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
	Activity	Donations	Grants	Support Costs	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	
	Cataract Operations		13,479	742	14,221	4,095
	Provision of Ophthalmic Equipment	9,858		139	9,997	2,047
	Humanitarian Aid	464		46	510	
		<u>10,322</u>	<u>13,479</u>	<u>927</u>	<u>24,729</u>	<u>6,142</u>
	All donations and grants have been made to the NEHP (National Eye Health Program) in The Gambia.					
	Grants are given to fund Cataract Camps carrying out operations in rural areas of The Gambia.					
	Humanitarian Aid has been distributed in The Gambia to relieve the suffering caused by COVID 19.					
3b	ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS					
		Cataract Operations	Ophthalmic Equipment	Humanitarian Aid	Total	Total
		£	£		£	£
	Administration	474	89	30	593	96
	Governance	90	17	6	113	-
	Finance	177	33	11	221	37
		<u>742</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>927</u>	<u>133</u>
	Support costs have been allocated: Cataract Operations 80%, Ophthalmic Equipment 15%, Humanitarian 5%.					