

**CATARACTS ARE CURABLE - THE GAMBIAN PROJECT
DIRECTORS'/TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1ST January 2022 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

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 'Community Screening' and 'Cataract Camps'.

The NEHP is responsible for ensuring that satisfactory clinical care standards are maintained.

After each 'Community Screening' and 'Cataract 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 objective of the charity is to improve the health of the poor of The Gambia by, in particular but not exclusively, the funding of low-cost ophthalmic care.

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

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

The Trustees are delighted to report that 2022 has been a very successful year for the charity. This is despite the fact that the 2022 has continued to be overshadowed by the COVID19 pandemic which has 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%. In January 2023, hotel occupancy had risen to 50%, still far below the norm.

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.

Community Screening and Cataract Operations

As was explained in the last annual report, CAC now funds eye health surveys (aka Community Screenings) in addition to cataract camps.

Funding is required for medication, transport, advertising and subsistence.

These surveys cover quite large areas, up to forty miles from end to end and many villages.

(It should be noted here that a Gambian village is much bigger than the average village in England.)

It is apparent that these surveys have many beneficial effects.

The primary aims are:

- (a) To identify and treat, whenever possible, patients with a range of eye ailments.
Patients are not charged.
- (b) To refer more serious cases for surgery at a cataract camp
- (c) To refer the most serious cases to the main eye hospital in Kanifing

There are, however, other important benefits.

Many of the communities screened have not seen any health professionals for years on end, let alone eye health professionals. These communities feel abandoned by the Ministry of Health and will often resort to "traditional medicine", sometimes with disastrous results. The presence of a National Eye health Programme (NEHP) screening team goes some way to restore faith in the system.

The NEHP team also provides instruction in good eye care and general hygiene.

Four such surveys were carried out in 2022.

A total of 312 cataract patients received treatment at the four ensuing camps.

Three more surveys are to take place in early 2023.

In addition to the surveys and camps held in rural areas, the charity continues to fund treatment for the urban poor. These are cataract patients who have presented themselves to the eye hospital in Kanifing, received a diagnosis but have been unable to pay for the operation. Patients are selected on the basis of

need by the cataract surgeon.
Many of these are widows, who have little or no family support.
The cataract operation rescues them from the most abject poverty.

The charity funded operations on sixty such patients in 2022.

As of 31st December 2022, a total of 851 cataract operations had been funded by Cataracts Are Curable.
At the time of writing, this total has risen to 933. We have every confidence that this number will exceed 1,000 by the middle of 2023.

Equipment

The charity continues to receive donations of ophthalmic equipment which is shipped to The Gambia.
Usually this comprises slit lamp microscopes and ophthalmoscopes.

In January 2022, we were asked by the NEHP technician to supply a selection of small hand tools for himself and his two assistants. He was told that the charity could not afford to meet his request.
However, **Tool Aid Ringwood** donated a substantial selection of tools which was sent to the NEHP in April 2022.

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 surveys and cataract operations as possible. Money is raised 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.

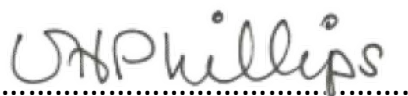
Income in 2022 was £18,146 in cash donations, an increase of £2,065 over the previous year.
Many, many thanks to the Kitchen Table Charities Trust and the Castellan African Trust for their large donations.

Unlike 2021, 2022 ended with the charity holding significant funds but not for long. By December, there were already plans for a large camp at Soma.

Income in kind amounted to £2,209; only lighter items were shipped. The rest be sent by sea when enough is gathered to warrant sending a shipment by sea.
All equipment is deployed to where is needed as soon as it arrives in The Gambia.

Support costs and the cost of raising funds in 2022 amounted to £844.
Income was £21,398 leaving £20,544 (or 96.1%) to be used for the benefit of poor people in The Gambia.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4th April 2023
And signed on their behalf by



Violet Phillips, Chair

CATARACTS ARE CURABLE- THE GAMBIAN PROJECT					
BALANCE SHEET					
At 31 DECEMBER 2022					
				2022	2021
				£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
	Bank & Cash Balances			6,706	2,342
	Equipment			1,830	-
	Debtors			973	1,908
				<u>9,508</u>	<u>4,250</u>
NET ASSETS				<u>9,508</u>	<u>4,250</u>
represented by :-					
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
	Unrestricted Funds			<u>9,508</u>	<u>4,250</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 31 December 2022.

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 :

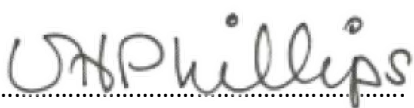
(a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with s386 and s387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(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 2022						
		Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2021 Total
			£	£	£	£
INCOME		1c				
	Donations	2a	20,855	-	20,855	23,293
	Gift Aid		1,043		1,043	1,458
			21,898	-	21,898	24,751
EXPENDITURE		1d				
	Raising Funds		403	-	403	307
	Charitable Activities	3a	16,237	-	16,237	24,729
			16,639	-	16,639	25,036
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) for the period			5,259	-	5,259	(284)
FUNDS brought forward			4,250	-	4,250	4,534
FUNDS Carried forward			9,508	-	9,508	4,250

CATARACTS ARE CURABLE- THE GAMBIAN PROJECT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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.

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				2022	2021	
	2a	Donations & Legacies			£	£	
		Donations from individuals			5,646	10,081	
		Donations from partner organisations			4,000	2,000	
		Donations from funding charities			9,000	4,000	
		Donations of equipment			2,209	7,212	
					<u>20,855</u>	<u>23,293</u>	
3	ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE						
	3a	ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES					
		Activity	Donations	Grants	Support Costs	Total	Total
			£	£	£	£	£
		Surveys & Cataract Operations	-	15,003	333	15,336	14,221
		Provision of Equipment	864		37	901	9,997
		Humanitarian Aid	-		-	-	510
			<u>864</u>	<u>15,003</u>	<u>371</u>	<u>16,238</u>	<u>24,729</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	159	18	-	177	593
		Governance	12	1	-	13	113
		Finance	162	18	-	180	221
			<u>333</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>371</u>	<u>927</u>
		Support costs have been allocated: Cataract Operations 90%, Ophthalmic Equipment 10%, Humanitarian 0%.					