



# CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

## *Annual Report 2023 -2024*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 2024

# CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE STATEMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>FUTURE PLANS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>SAFEGUARDING</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>REFERENCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION DETAILS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE</b>	<b>27</b>
Statement of Financial Activities	30
Balance Sheet	31
Cash Flow Statement	32
Notes to the Financial Statements	33



OUR TEACHER TRAINERS ARE ENSURING SUSTAINABLE EARLY YEARS EDUCATION FOR CONGOLESE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN UGANDA

# ACTIVITIES

*Throughout the past year, we worked to provide education and protection to 17,000 children living in some of the toughest situations around the world.*

Working alongside local partners in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, we co-designed and delivered programmes that address the specific needs of each community.



In **Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, Uganda**, thousands of Congolese 3-6 year olds are missing out on education at the most crucial stage of their development. This year, alongside the refugee communities we:

- **Codified and scaled up our Cluster Learning Model** ensuring over 5,280 children received quality, sustainable Early Childhood Education (ECE), in small groups close to their homes.
- **Developed a new play based learning approach and observational child assessment tool** to address the prevalence of rote learning, gaps in teacher training and the lack of suitable assessment tools for the refugee context. Rather than a clinical focus on numbers and letters, these methods aim to foster a lifelong love of learning; nurturing imagination, creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills.
- **Created an illustrated children's safeguarding book** entitled 'Dembe's story' to help children understand that their bodies are their own and the different ways to keep safe. This was created in the absence of children's literature appropriate for the context.
- **Strengthened community ownership and sustainability** through training 'Trainer of Teachers' (ToTs), introducing 'Parent Wednesdays', establishing Community Action Groups, strengthening our participatory approach for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), and forming local savings groups.



# EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

Children on the Edge envisions a world in which every child thrives regardless of their geography, ethnicity, gender, or caste. For over three decades we've been working with some of the most marginalised children, in the toughest situations around the world.

Last year, we replicated some of our tried and tested education models to open up learning for thousands more refugee children, and this year, we've gone further still.

**"If you do things well, do them better.  
Be daring, be first, be different, be just."**

This quote from our co-founder, the late Dame Anita Roddick, has shaped our approach from the start, and is wholly reflected in this year's endeavours.

After our Cluster Learning Model took early learning opportunities to the doorsteps of Congolese refugee children, we discovered their development was still being stalled by traditional rote learning practices. By piloting new play based methods, refugee communities are transforming learning, assessment and wellbeing.

After our groundbreaking digital education programme enabled Rohingya refugee children to finally understand lessons through dubbed and visual media, we saw they still had no option to read and write in their own language.

For the first time ever, we gained permission to pilot a learning programme using the 'Hanifi' script and have already begun to see children read and write in their mother tongue.

We dedicate our time and your funds to doing better, being daring, being first, different and just. When we say 'we', everyone is included. From local partners, staff, teachers, parents to the children themselves, each person has ownership of the work and the impact it creates. Community ownership is not a tick box or buzzword for us, it is at the core of who we are and everything we do.

None of this could happen without the incredible support of faithful trusts, foundations, businesses and generous individuals. By choosing a small, agile organisation that continues to search out those children that are most overlooked, you are daring to be different and creating change where it is needed the most. We cannot thank you enough.

**Rachel Bentley OBE**  
Founder and CEO

**Stuart Gallimore**  
Chair of Trustees

# OBJECTIVES

*Children living in conflict, fleeing war, or facing caste discrimination and poverty are cut off from the education and protection that every child deserves.*

We work alongside local communities in refugee crises, war zones and slums to create conditions in which every marginalised child can thrive, irrespective of where they live and the challenging circumstances they face.

**In the past year, our objectives were:**



1. Creating access to **quality primary and early years education** for children who are cut off from learning.



2. Strengthening **child protection** at the community and family level in highly volatile situations.



3. Supporting children in remote, oppressive and barren environments **to play, create, express themselves** and **simply be children**.



4. Working for **sustainability** and dedicating ourselves to **genuine community ownership**. No tokens or tick boxes.

“Community ownership is at the heart of Children on the Edge Africa, making our interventions sustainable.

When I hear the saying ‘Give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day, teach him how to fish and he’ll eat forever’, I see it in the communities we work with, in the holistic development of thousands of children and in the restoration of hope and dignity.

Bravo everyone for successfully walking through 2023/2024 and all the best for 2024/2025.”

**Winnie Biira**

**CEO - Children on the Edge Africa**



“Last year we made **bold moves to make education accessible**, jumping into work with new language scripts and curriculums and helping children to take big steps forward.

I’ve loved creating remarkable moments with the children. **They all have different stories, but they all belong.”**

**Tanusri Das**

Content Translation Officer  
Mukti Cox’s Bazar



In **Bangladesh**, our learning centres in Kutupalong camp, Bhasan Char island and host community areas provided 8,000 Rohingya refugee and slum dwelling children with access to daily digital education, play, health and nutritional support and creative opportunities. This year we:

- Doubled the number of classrooms on Bhasan Char**, while reducing numbers in Kutupalong to focus on our digital curriculum. Our team produced over 500 dubbed Myanmar curriculum video lessons.
- Connected our Moja Kids platform with new international partners** and, through five new green screen studios, supported children to produce and enjoy a huge variety of immersive experiences, from space travel to flying on broomsticks over their home villages in Myanmar.
- Began piloting using the ‘Hanifi script’** to enable Rohingya refugees to read and write in their own language for the very first time. Despite our video lessons addressing some language barriers, students currently lack the ability to read and write in their own Rohingya language. Launched in January 2024 the pilot conducted baseline assessments with 1,600 children, and will continue translation of lessons and learning trials, with the goal of demonstrating effectiveness and securing approval for expansion by June 2024.

**“Video lessons have helped us realise we are not the only refugees**; there are thousands and millions of refugees in different countries.

I feel I must do something good for my family, for my nation and for myself, so that everyone understands that Rohingya people may be in a helpless situation but if they don’t access education they cannot win the war of life”.

**Morijan**  
Kutupalong camp  
Bangladesh





**In Uganda** we continued to support six Child Protection Teams, three Child Rights Clubs and 150 early years children in the slums surrounding Jinja, whilst replicating this model in Karamoja in northern Uganda. In Karamoja's remote settlements identified issues include violence against children, hunger, trafficking and violent attacks by cattle raiders. We trained and resourced six Child Protection Teams who provided more than 60 workshops for local communities, engaging thousands of people in strengthening protective environments for their children.

**In India**, deep rooted caste discrimination against the 'untouchable' Dalit minority causes children to be ostracised from education and denied their rights. In Bihar State, we supported a rights-based supplementary learning programme for 1,108 children, strengthening our digital programme that was replicated from Bangladesh. Throughout the year, a number of our learning centres were destroyed in illegal clearance raids by the authorities, so we rebuilt in a way that enables them to be easily dismantled and moved should there be another threat.

**In Myanmar**, hundreds of thousands of Kachin people have been displaced by decades of brutal civil war, taking refuge in remote camps, high in the mountains along the China border. We resourced local communities to ensure vital early learning opportunities for 460 displaced young children, providing warm clothes, food and teacher training. One village we work in was completely destroyed by an artillery attack in October. One of our learning centres was flattened and two young students were killed. We responded with humanitarian aid and support and will rebuild the learning centre when safe to do so.

As the civil war intensified in Myanmar this year, we extended our work to the Karenni people in Kayah State, who have been subjected to regular airstrikes. Our support included the provision of emergency assistance to 8,960 internally displaced people along with Early Childhood Development support for 245 children in the camps.

With over a million girls cut off from education by the Taliban, we supported a dynamic educator from **Afghanistan**, along with her team of volunteer teachers, to provide an online school for over 800 children. Learning is not only made available for girls, but for boys too, to counter misogyny in the Taliban curriculum. We provided operational and mentoring support, to help shape and structure this growing initiative.

**In Romania and Moldova**, as the media spotlight moved on from the Ukraine crisis, we continued to support a well-used community hub for the refugee community in Iasi and ensure 43 orphaned refugee children had safety and care.

**In Lebanon** we supported our local partners to improve their monitoring and evaluation as they transition to independence in their provision of education for 229 Syrian refugee children.

**In Syria** we supported partners in bordering countries to provide a safe space near Damascus that ensures high quality, holistic, supplementary education for over 500 internally displaced children.



"Watching the play elements of the Kyaka programme grow from theory into practise has been a highlight for me."

**Amy Rook**  
International Communications Officer  
**Children on the Edge, UK**



"The genuinely inventive thinking and efforts of Children on the Edge are what makes so many amazing and captivating teaching strategies feasible. Education is something that cannot be taken away. I find working with Children on the Edge to be a blessing."

**Sudeb Rudra**  
Programme Manager  
**Mukti Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**



"For me the highlight of this past year that brings a smile to my face is seeing the [Syrian refugee] girls engage in carpentry classes. I'm seeing them grow in confidence in trying something new."

**Bethany Lanier**  
School Principal  
**Triumphant Mercy, Lebanon**



"This year, one of my highlights was the publication and roll out of our new Early Childhood Education and Care guidelines, which we worked alongside Kachin Women's Organisation to produce. Also, displaced communities are living in crisis, so being able to provide supplementary food and nurturing care means children have the best chance to learn and grow happily, even in a conflict situation."

**Gyung Nan Zatang**  
ECD Project Manager  
**Kachin Development Group, Myanmar**

"The idea of forming local teacher and parents saving groups was brilliant. These have not only improved their quality of life, but provided safe space for teachers, parents and community members to build relationships, discuss their financial challenges and find workable solutions amongst themselves.

The impact of the livelihood approach has gone well beyond what we had aimed for."

**Marble Kagoya**  
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer  
**Children on the Edge Africa, Uganda**







"The Cluster Learning Approach is a beautiful innovation that offers quality Early Childhood Development in a creative, effective, and brilliant manner. Because the people we serve are less privileged, we are still able to provide quality education to them using local materials, which is amazing."

**Kauthara Giibwa**  
Programme Officer for ECD  
**Children on the Edge Africa, Uganda**



"My highlight this year is Moja Kids. Through these digital newsletters I have seen the improvement of my own creative talents and the growing expression of the children's creativity too. I can work well with the children and they really enjoy watching the videos, so I know my work is worthwhile."

**Sujay**  
Programme Manager  
**Mukti Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**



"My highlight this year is seeing just how every data point we gather helps to tell a really rich story of the impact of our work."

**Ben Mumford**  
Data Officer  
**Children on the Edge UK**



"When I go to school, seeing the children fills my heart. I don't think of them as 'Rohingya children', I always just teach them as my own. The contribution of this organisation cannot be expressed in words. Coming to work here has been a beacon of hope for me. Now there is no such thing as giving up in my life."

**Pushpa**  
Teacher in Kutupalong refugee camp  
**Muki Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

Since the Taliban offensive in August 2021, the world has witnessed the suffering of people in Afghanistan. In response to thousands of girls being cut off from education, Herat Online School was formed. Out of all the groups offering support, Children on the Edge was the most reliable, and shared the goals I have for my homeland. It has been a highlight for me to work together on these shared goals. I am very happy Children on the Edge is with us and look forward to our work together growing stronger every year.

**Angela Ghayour**  
Founder  
**Afghanistan Education Action**





# PERFORMANCE & ACHIEVEMENTS

“We can see new skills coming through. As a result of the changes, we are now providing higher quality education. Visitors are noticing the improvement and parents are very happy to see it. Our centres are really well attended across the board which is an area other agencies struggle with.”

**Rebeka Khatun**

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer  
Mukti Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



## EDUCATION FOR **ROHINGYA REFUGEE** AND **SLUM DWELLING CHILDREN** IN **BANGLADESH**

- Digital lessons increased class attendance to 95% across all areas and significantly improved the learning progress of the children. Out of 160 applicants, our Digital Education Programme was selected by HundrED and EdTech Hub as one of 15 impactful and scalable educational technology innovations in South and Southeast Asia.
- 4,500 children, parents, teachers and community members were engaged to monitor progress and shape the programme. 100% of parent and teacher groups reported positive change in the children including behaviour, motivation, cleanliness, helpfulness, creativity, language skills, and happiness. They noted how our education provision was a higher standard than other schools, with digital lessons enhancing children's learning and broadening horizons. Classroom observations received 'good' or 'excellent' ratings for every assessed metric, including the quality of the classroom environment, teaching and learning.
- By the close of the year, Moja Kids had produced its 86th video newsletter. New green screens, translators, artists, and technicians provided a platform for children to freely express themselves, resulting in much more diverse and imaginative content.
- Gaining permission from the Bangladesh authorities to run the Hanifi education pilot was a milestone achievement, marking the *first time ever* formal approval has been given to write the Rohingya language in either Bangladesh or Myanmar. Developing the use of this script has the potential to not only revolutionise learning for Rohingya children, but open up endless possibilities regarding the use of the Rohingya language by the wider Rohingya refugee community.



“I can see a lot of change in me. I am now studying in Grade 3 and wish to study to higher grades. I am confident I can do it. Through learning here, my confidence has increased a lot.” - **Morina**, Kutupalong camp, **Bangladesh**



“We registered a bigger number of learners than we’ve ever enrolled in the past three years. The impact Children on the Edge Africa has created is huge and unexpected. **The quality of learners is different.** They are very active and interested in learning compared to previous years.

**The Cluster Learning Approach coupled with teacher training is a game changer!”**

**Primary Headteacher**

Kyaka II Refugee Settlement  
Uganda

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR CONGOLESE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN UGANDA**

- This year we achieved 71% coverage of early learning needs in five of the 10 zones of the Kyaka II refugee settlement, reaching over 5,000 children. This is up from 13% coverage when we were first invited to support education here in 2019.
- Over 500 ‘top class’ learners transitioned to primary school and regular feedback has shown us that they are engaged, skilled, confident and out performing many of the older children at their schools.
- A pilot of our new play-based child assessment tool indicated some areas needing improvement in our curriculum and pedagogy and also showed that 54% of children were working towards their developmental goals, 40% were on track and 1% were exceeding expectations.

This can be observed each day in the children’s purposeful playing, extra motivation to attend and learn, and their improved behaviour and interactions.

- Investment in sustainability and community ownership has paid off, with new Community Action Groups creating a sense of empowerment, ‘Teaching and Learning Observations’ (TALOs) reflecting strong performance from our Trainer of Teachers across all activities and a holistic, effective learning environment. Feedback from Focus Group Discussions revealed an increase in involvement from parents and the community in sustaining education for their children.
- Our programme was recognised by the National Education Response Plan (led by the Ministry of Education and Sports and UNHCR) for our ‘tremendous work’ training early years teachers and the role our Cluster Learning Model has had in decongesting overcrowded learning centres and increasing access to early years education.



**In Karamoja** we saw a rise in engagement with Child Protection Team workshops, from an average of 400 to 1,150 attendees per workshop. As a result of this training, over 140 child protection cases are being managed in the communities each quarter and there is an increase in parents sending children to school. Many communities also now conduct weekly cleaning; sweeping communal areas and burning rubbish, vastly improving sanitation levels. By August, communities had built 304 pit latrines, more than triple the amount in the previous six months, significantly decreasing open defecation and improving health in these areas. To counter hunger for children, in every parish we work in, gardens are planted, and in some areas 70 - 90% of residents are now growing food.

“In Uganda, many people know the Karamojong as people who are hostile and resistant to change, so I believed the same until I started working with them. Through forming effective Child Protection Teams and Child Rights Clubs, community volunteers have put in work and seen change in their lives and the lives of others. Parents have positively changed, enrolment in school has increased, open defecation has reduced with newly constructed latrines and at least 30% of the children in this sub county know their rights and how to protect them.”

**Babra Nandawula**  
Social Worker  
Children on the Edge Africa



**In India**, despite regular bulldozing of our learning centres in the most marginalised slums, 209 children transitioned to mainstream education. Significantly, we have also now received full accreditation from the country’s National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) so we will be able to provide credentials on par with those of government schools. Our pilot NIOS programme has seen several students become the first people in their communities to ever complete secondary school, so we are excited to see the potential of the scheme as it is rolled out next year.

**In Myanmar**, the two areas where we operate (Kachin and Karenni State) have seen some of the most intense fighting in the entire country over the past twelve months. With the front lines of the conflict moving constantly and civilian areas being regularly targeted by the central government, operating our Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme has required a great deal of adaptability and perseverance. We are proud to be one of very few agencies able to continue to provide support for children in these war-torn communities.

**In Lebanon**, Syrian refugee children achieved a 98.5 % pass rate in end of year exams, with 15 also passing secondary school exams in Syria and 75% of children interviewed describing how they frequently use their learning outside school.

**77% of the children we reached this year were from refugee or displacement situations.**

PERFORMANCE & ACHIEVEMENTS *Highlights*



"We've challenged the norm in Uganda, by working together and listening to others."

**Sarah Ndlovu**  
International Education Officer  
**Children on the Edge, UK**



Children on the Edge Africa's contribution to skills development in the education sector, particularly Early Childhood Development, is unmatched. The training given to our teachers is of such a high standard that it often attracts other organisations to hire them."

**Isaac Matagala**  
Loans Officer  
**Children on the Edge Africa, Uganda**



"Our collaboration with Children on the Edge has been profoundly rewarding. I have seen the impact of our efforts in empowering marginalised children through innovative education projects, which has been truly inspiring. One highlight was witnessing the strength of our local engagement and parent meetings. This shows the transformative power of our partnership in creating positive change and resilience within communities."

**Rebeka Khatun**  
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer - Kutupalong  
**Mukti Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**



"The programme's impact is evident among students, who are more interested in attending school due to the good lighting and ventilation, superior seating provision, and the digital learning system which we are the first to provide in the camp."

**Jewel Kumar Dhar Arjan**  
Programme Officer - Kutupalong  
**Mukti Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

"The greatest joy for me this year was breaking down the age-old cycle of illiteracy in one of the most marginalised Musahar villages we support. As a result of our work, 32 children from this community entered mainstream school and 12 finished their 10th grade, opening up opportunities for higher education for the first time ever. This Musahari village is now becoming literate and we now believe that change is possible."

**Small steps lead to great success in life. We need to dream big."**

**Sister Veena Jacob**  
Director  
**NESWSD, India**





“Children on the Edge are helping refugee children see a world outside the camps, driving their aspirations and giving them a collection of childhood memories they can treasure.”

**Tanusri Das**  
Content Translation Officer  
Mukti Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh



“Our work this year has impacted the lives of very many people. Cluster learning especially has given the hope of receiving formal education at an early age which would have otherwise been missed. The most important thing is that the approach offers quality, affordable education.”

**Henry Balaba**  
Community Programme Officer  
Children on the Edge Africa, Uganda



“Starting the Hanifi script trial in Bangladesh is a wonderful sign of hope for change in the future.”

**Ben Wilkes**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Children on the Edge, UK



“I work in this remarkable programme, bringing education to countless Rohingya children. I love that we have created an environment for digital learning where children can not only learn but also grow in confidence.”

**Bristy Dey**  
Programme Officer - Kutupalong  
Mukti Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

**"Cluster learning is changing the game in education!"**

It brings communities to actively engage, contribute together, making learning affordable and top-notch. Say goodbye to dependency and hello to community ownership! It breaks the cycle of dependency, offering an innovative solution to untangle from approaches where handouts are the order of the day.

Plus, it's freeing up crowded learning centres, inspiring change across Kyaka II refugee settlement, as it's been adopted by some primary schools. By addressing health, child protection, and early stimulation, it's not just about education; it's about holistic child development and empowerment.”

**Solomon Mutumba**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Children on the Edge Africa, Uganda





RAGANI SHOWS US HER DRAWING AT HER LEARNING CENTRE IN PATNA, INDIA



# FUTURE PLANS *Looking ahead to 2024/25*



In **Bangladesh** we will:

- Apply for formal permission to use the Hanifi script for Rohingya language education in June 2024. This will open the door for 6,300 refugee students to read and write in their own language for the first time, beginning in the new academic year in July 2024. If this proves successful, we will invite all other Education Sector partners to join us in this initiative, potentially reaching around 338,000 Rohingya refugee students in the longer term.
- Having completed over 500 video lessons covering all approved textbooks from Grades 1-3, we will make these materials available for all Education Sector partners to augment education and create learning materials (both physical and digital) to help students and adults learn to read and write the Rohingya language using the Hanifi script
- Include content from new countries in our Moja Kids videos, whilst translating and sharing dozens of educational, Rohingya-language videos with thousands of students and parents in the camps to provide a wider view of the world.

In **Uganda** - with a focus on teacher training, we will be looking to expand our Cluster Learning Model and child assessment tools to the final five zones of the Kyaka II refugee settlement. We will continue to support our established Child Protection Team programme in Jinja, and consolidate the use of the Child Protection Team model in Karamoja,

introducing Child Rights Clubs and small business loans, with a view to introduce this work into further sub districts in the coming years.

In **India**, in place of our own curriculum, we now have permission to deliver government-recognised education to over a thousand Dalit children, who are ostracised from state schools due to their caste status. More than 400 children will receive certified education credentials which will allow them to then enter mainstream schools, all the way up to the university level.

In **Myanmar**, we will continue to support 21 Early Childhood Development centres, enabling 750 young children in both Kachin and Karenni war zones to play, rest and express themselves, and receive critically-needed nutritional support. This will require continual diligence to ensure the safety of all our staff and students.

In **Romania**, we will focus our work for Ukrainian refugees on supporting the orphaned children now staying in Iasi. This will include social workers and psychologists working daily with the children as well as the provision of extra food, clothing and materials the Romanian authorities are unable to provide.

For online students in **Afghanistan**, we will work alongside the visionary leader of the Afghan Education Action programme and her team. We will continue to provide operational and mentoring support, specifically resourcing her to establish an independent, officially registered organisation.

In **Lebanon** and **Syria**, since equipping partners with resources to expand and diversify their fundraising, monitoring and evaluation, we will provide advice and support as they transition to independence.

# FUNDRAISING

*It is thanks to our generous community of supporters and donors that we can continue to support children 'on the edge'.*



SIONED, GWYN AND MABLI GETTING THEIR STEPS IN WITH OUR **SUMMER STEPS CHALLENGE**

## OUR APPROACH

Our income profile is broad and designed to deeply engage with the donors, individuals and businesses who offer their support. We employ a salaried, professional fundraising team to manage and develop our income stream and to ensure we meet the statutory obligations of the Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator.

We do not engage the services of 'professional fundraising' businesses; all our fundraising activity is delivered by our own fundraising team. We do work with commercial participants; when doing so, conducting due diligence and reviewing agreements annually.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator, and held an online lottery licence with the Gambling Commission from November 2021 - November 2023. The charity maintains strong governance practices and remains compliant with the associated organisational codes of practice.

All fundraising staff receive training relating to the relevant Code of Practice during induction, and relevant implementation policies (e.g. Finance policy, Fundraising Complaints policy) are reviewed each year with the fundraising team.

The charity takes any opportunities to improve supporter care very seriously. Any complaints that our fundraising activities may generate are recorded and investigated by the Fundraising Manager and reviewed by the Chief Operating Officer. No complaints were received in 2023/24.

### How we protect vulnerable people

We are signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We do not produce mass mailings with donation asks, any fundraising campaigns are led through email newsletters where there is a clear process to opt out of future newsletters. Our policies and teams follow the guidance outlined by the Fundraising Regulator to protect vulnerable people.

## FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Our work with refugee children continues to inspire many children and schools in the UK to fundraise for Children on the Edge. We worked with a growing number of primary schools this year; delivering assemblies, supporting fundraising runs and walks and launching our Read-a-thon.

With some amazing donations, from Montezuma's and The Body Shop at Home, we held two events in the autumn raising £31,000 from limited edition Beauty Bundles. We are so thankful to our incredible team of volunteers who donated many days of their time to pack up over 2,500 bundles in our warehouse!

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to take part in an event for Children on the Edge. A fantastic team of runners took on the London Landmarks event in April, raising over £6,000. Many others took part in our own events; The Big October Cake Bake and our Summer Steps Challenge.

We loved gathering again with the fantastic Planet K2 for their annual day of inspiring talks and were so thankful that Planet K2's Kelly Brooks also took part in the London Marathon to support Children on the Edge, raising over £4,000.

Our Big Give campaign in December raised awareness and support for our work with Congolese refugee children in Uganda. With thanks to The Big Give and matching funders Chris Cole, Pacific Star Charitable Trust and The Coles-Medlock Foundation, we were able to connect with new donors, inspire 135 donations and raise an incredible £114,715.

We are also thankful to so many other grant makers, organisations and individuals who have so generously supported our work this year; including Charles Jacob Charitable Trust,

Choose Love, Educational Opportunity Foundation, Lenovo, Ping and Amy Chao Foundation and Transparent Fish Fund, The Body Shop at Home, The Roddick Foundation and Vitol Foundation.

"Children on the Edge has the ability to roll their sleeves up and get straight into some of the muckiest, trickiest circumstances that children are living in worldwide. Whether they are working in conflict settings, areas hit by natural disasters or with young people suffering persecution, the impact that they achieve in such situations is remarkable. This is why EOF considers Children on the Edge to be one of our most trusted partners."

**Ashley Kuchanny**  
Grants Manager  
**Educational Opportunity Foundation**

"I still remember hearing about how Children on the Edge finds, supports and works with those children who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the mainstream support systems and that feels really important. They are a small charity, brilliantly run and who make sure that the maximum amount of the money they raise goes to where it's needed the most – to the children and to the communities in which they live. The whole team at PlanetK2 are proud to partner with COTE, not just because of what they do but also because of who they are and how they work."

**Keith Hatter**  
Founder  
**PlanetK2**

"Children on the Edge reaches children and marginalised communities and works with them in an empowering, enabling way which is both effective and inspiring. We love supporting this charity and are delighted to be able to contribute to the difference they make."

**Jacky Burden**  
Trustee  
**The Charles Jacob Charitable Trust**

"Seeing the tenacity and commitment of supporters like Kelly who ran the London Marathon and London Landmarks, how they train and run in all weather for months is really inspiring."

**Eloise Armstrong** - Fundraising Manager  
**Children on the Edge, UK**



# FINANCE

*The financial performance for 2023-2024 was as forecast and the resulting deficit ensured some of the surplus funds gained during COVID were allocated to projects. This also ensured we ended the year with reduced reserves as had been planned.*



*Total income: £1,945,912*



*Total expenditure: £2,383,727*

## INCOME

Income saw a reduction from the previous year mainly due to less incoming funds for our Ukraine response and one major funder not renewing their support for the year, although this has since been reinstated.

COTE hold US\$ and GBP currency balances and fluctuations in exchange rates saw an effective reduction in our overall valuations of £52,225.

The closure of The Body Shop at Home in January 2024 was sad news given our long history together. The impact will be more in 2024-2025 and represents a loss of approximately 10% of income. Whilst unexpected, our broad income streams and sufficient reserves means we are well placed to adapt to this change.

## EXPENDITURE

Expenditure also fell as our initial response to the Ukraine war was reduced as well as other programmes spending less due to changing needs.

Work with refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) currently accounts for 77% of our total expenditure on programmes.

**The success of the programmes is due to the kindness and generosity of all of our donors and we appreciate everyone's support during these times of great need in the world.**

**Thank you.**

**"Shooting for the stars and achieving our target during The Big Give was made possible because of our team collaboration."**

**Annie Whillians**  
Fundraising Officer  
Children on the Edge UK



## RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted funds balance has reduced slightly from £418,063 to £349,852. This is predominantly due to the transferral of all restricted funds for our Ukraine refugee response.

We currently hold restricted balances for our work in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Myanmar and supporting work helping children in Afghanistan. The largest of these restrictions applies to our work with the Rohingya in Bangladesh (balance of £295,557). We do not foresee any problems in reducing these to zero over the coming years.

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Unrestricted funds are required to ensure the continued smooth operation of the charity, to cope with any unexpected eventualities and to enable any one-off expenditure that is deemed appropriate. The trustees have agreed that unrestricted funds will be divided between designated funds and free reserves.

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

We continue to designate funds to programme locations and the UK office to maintain both sustainability and commitment. The level of designation considers any restricted balance, the volatility of a situation and potential funding sources. Generally designations are between 3 and 9 months of the forecast annual expenditure.

At present, given the uncertainty of the global economic and political situation, the trustees have agreed to designate 9 months of UK, Uganda and Bangladesh costs and 6 months of other programmes, equal to £1,182,208.

## RESERVES POLICY

If funds are available in addition to the designated funds, the free reserve balance should ideally be between 0 and 25% of the coming year's forecast expenditure. This ensures total funds do not rise above one year of forecast expenditure.

## FREE RESERVES

The current level of free reserves is £205,527 equivalent to 9% of the 2023-2024 forecast expenditure.

## FUND BALANCES AS OF 29/02/2024

Restricted Funds:	£ 349,852
Designated Funds:	£1,182,208
Free Reserves:	£ 205,527
Total Funds:	£1,737,587

Fund balances are discussed at every trustee meeting to ensure we strike the balance between meeting the needs of the situations we work in, with maintaining a sustainable organisation.

## INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

In 2023-2024 the charity achieved an income of £18,438 from its deposit account interest. In general, any fund balances are kept in instant access accounts so they are always available to be utilised should the need arise.

When balances allow, or where funds are restricted to specific projects, it may be necessary to hold them for longer periods of time. In these cases, the management and trustees of Children on the Edge may decide to invest a portion of these funds in fixed term bonds in banks protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

"In times of financial pressure the strengths of relationships with our donors has been fantastic and carried us through."

**Ben Wilkes**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Children on the Edge UK



# SAFEGUARDING

*Safeguarding is central to the child-centred approach of our programmes. We recognise that we need to work collaboratively with our partner organisations to safeguard children, developing their capacity to protect all those at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.*



To implement effective Safeguarding we:

- Promote a shared and a consistent approach to safeguarding partnerships.

With regular programme visits and by sharing best practice, Children on the Edge works with project partners to provide support and cohesive safeguarding approaches, helping to integrate safeguarding into all aspects of the programmes, including safer recruitment, child safety, and staff awareness.

We work with partners to ensure all of their staff are trained on their safeguarding policy with highly trained safeguarding leads in each location, clear and effective reporting mechanisms, and a clear code of conduct understood by all involved in each programme. We sign clear agreements with our partner organisations to this effect.

- Deliver a holistic, contextually relevant, child centred approach across all programmes, ensuring children are taught their rights and how and where to report any incidents or concerns.
- Ensure all our partners maintain a child safeguarding register or 'register of concern' so records are kept including any referrals to external agencies.

The Children on the Edge Safeguarding Policy details our practices regarding safeguarding and complies with all sector obligations.

It was last reviewed in November 2023 and is part of a suite of 17 supplementary and supporting documents which can be supplied upon request.

Before retirement, our current Chair of Trustees was Director of Children's Services, East Sussex, consequently contributing much valuable Safeguarding expertise and experience. He works with our CEO and Operations Manager (Safeguarding lead) to ensure we have a robust Safeguarding Policy, with extensive training and implementation procedures in place.

## SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTS

During the year there were no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission.

# REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER**

4996130 (England and Wales)

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER**

1101441

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

5 The Victoria, 25 St Pancras, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 7LT

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Rachel Bentley

**COMPANY SECRETARY**

Ben Wilkes

**TRUSTEES**

Mr Stuart Gallimore - Chair

Mrs Helen Pattinson

Mr Paul Suter

Ms Sarah Wickens

Mr William (Walter) Jones

**AUDITORS**

Scott Vevers Ltd, 65 East Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3LB

**BANKERS**

CAF Bank, PO Box 289, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Barclays Bank, 74/75 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1HR

**CONTACT**

[www.childrenontheedge.org](http://www.childrenontheedge.org)

01243 538530



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Children on the Edge is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 December 2003, company registration No. 4996130, Charity Registration No. 1101441. The company was established under the Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The trustees who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have prepared their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 29th February 2024 to meet all statutory requirements, including the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

They have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

## **RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES**

The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow for no less than three trustees to be appointed. Trustees all serve for a period of three years at which point the Articles of Association require them to resign as a trustee and seek re-election if they wish to continue to act. New trustees are nominated by members of the board of trustees, interviewed and appointed where they are found to have the necessary skills to contribute to the charity's management and development.

When new trustees are appointed they are given an introduction to the work of the charity and provided with an information pack. This includes information about the role of trustees and charity law.

## **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Each trustee takes responsibility for monitoring the charity's activities, and where appropriate the trustees form sub committees for specific operational areas. The main sub committee is the finance and governance committee, which meets at least twice a year.

This committee reports action points to Board meetings, which are also held at least twice a year. The charity's Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the charity and manages the staff of the charity on behalf of the trustees.

Main Board meetings receive regular and direct reports from implementing partners and international staff via video calls as well as in person where possible.



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

## **WIDER NETWORK**

The charity's head office is in Chichester, with an overseas office in Thailand. The charity has a number of principal partner organisations with whom it cooperates to deliver its programmes. These organisations are laid out in the Programmes section of this document.

## **PAY POLICY FOR SENIOR STAFF**

The Board of Directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the organisation on a day to day basis. All trustees give their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other charities of a similar size. The remuneration benchmark is the midpoint of the range paid for similar roles. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past, a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees actively review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions.

The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks that the charity faces and confirmed the establishment of systems to mitigate these, should they occur.

In our international programme locations, the most likely risk is travel disruption, potentially due to civil unrest or vehicle accident in country. We adhere to all UK government travel advice as well as consult local information sources. We also have strong policies with regards to driving in programme locations and have regular checks to ensure adherence to these.

The risk of the impact of the departure of key staff is mitigated through creating a strong working culture and environment as well as succession planning and engaging all staff in the vision, strategy and plans.

Our budget and regularly reviewed fundraising plans, as well as reserves ensure we have adequate funding. Strict policies and controls help reduce the risk of any financial fraud or mismanagement in project locations.

# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## **STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware. Each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee, in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

## **AUDITORS**

The auditors, Scott Vevers, will be proposed for re-appointment in accordance with Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board:



Stuart Gallimore, Chair of Trustees  
Date: 12 June 2024

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Children on the Edge for the year ended 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 set out on pages 30 to 40. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Annual Report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, taxation legislation and data protection, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHILDREN ON THE EDGE

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Scott Vevers Ltd*

Scott Vevers Ltd  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
65 East Street  
Bridport  
Dorset DT6 3LB

Date: **18 June 2024**

Scott Vevers Ltd is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Children on the Edge**  
Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 29 February 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	471,263	716,874	1,188,137	1,483,751
Charitable activities	3	47,300	738,074	785,374	1,165,051
Other trading activities	4	1,188	-	1,188	14,882
Investments: deposit account interest		18,438	-	18,438	3,795
Other income	5	(47,225)	-	(47,225)	72,446
<b>Total income</b>		<u>490,964</u>	<u>1,454,948</u>	<u>1,945,912</u>	<u>2,739,925</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Cost of generating voluntary income	6	262,999	-	262,999	296,644
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Provision of services to vulnerable children	7	597,569	1,523,159	2,120,728	2,495,124
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>860,568</u>	<u>1,523,159</u>	<u>2,383,727</u>	<u>2,791,768</u>
Net deficit		(369,604)	(68,211)	(437,815)	(51,843)
Gross transfers between funds	14	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		(369,604)	(68,211)	(437,815)	(51,843)
Total funds:					
Brought forward		1,757,339	418,063	2,175,402	2,227,245
Carried forward		<u>1,387,735</u>	<u>349,852</u>	<u>1,737,587</u>	<u>2,175,402</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 40 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Company Registration No. 4996130

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	35,469		20,611	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,740,471		2,206,459	
		<u>1,775,940</u>		<u>2,227,070</u>	
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(38,353)</u>		<u>(51,668)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,737,587</u>		<u>2,175,402</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,737,587</u>		<u>2,175,402</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted funds	14		349,852		418,063
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>1,387,735</u>		<u>1,757,339</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>1,737,587</u>		<u>2,175,402</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

Whilst the company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the members have not required the company to obtain an audit under section 476 of the Act, the company is subject to audit under the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

*Stuart Gallimore*

.....  
Stuart Gallimore - Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 33 to 40 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Children on the Edge**  
Statement of Cash Flows  
as at 29 February 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	16		(484,426)		(37,041)
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>					
Interest received		<u>18,438</u>		<u>3,795</u>	
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>			18,438		3,795
<b>Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			<u>(465,988)</u>		<u>(33,246)</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 March 2023</b>			2,206,459		2,239,705
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 29 February 2024</b>			<u><u>1,740,471</u></u>		<u><u>2,206,459</u></u>

The notes on pages 33 to 40 form an integral part of these financial statements.



**1 General information**

Children On The Edge is a company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The address of the registered office is provided in Reference and administrative details. Details of the charity's operations are provided in the Report of the Trustees.

**Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**Basis of preparation**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and 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), (Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102)), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donated assets and services are included at the value of essential expenditure that has been saved as a result of that gift.

**Classification of expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual agreements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services as supplied. Other grant payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Assets costing less than £1000 are written off in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows:

Plant and machinery - 33% on cost

**Fund accounting**

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds 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.

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

**Foreign currencies**

Profit and loss account transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the closing rates at the balance sheet date and the exchange differences are included in the profit and loss account.

**Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**Pensions**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)****Financial instruments***Classification*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangement entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

*Recognition and measurement*

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transactions. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for similar debt instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

**2 Donations and legacies**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gifts from individuals	706,048	698,518
Corporate fundraising activity	482,089	783,033
Gifts and services in kind	-	2,200
	<u>1,188,137</u>	<u>1,483,751</u>

Voluntary income includes monies raised through business activity from our corporate partners where a donation or an advertised amount from the sale of certain goods is donated to the charity.

Gifts and services in kind represent good and services donated by supporters.

**3 Income from charitable activities**

		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grants	Provision of services to vulnerable children	785,374	1,161,477
Volunteer fees	Provision of services to vulnerable children	-	3,574
		<u>785,374</u>	<u>1,165,051</u>

**4 Other trading activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising events	1,075	14,635
Sale of merchandise	113	247
	<u>1,188</u>	<u>14,882</u>

**5 Other income**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Employers relief	5,000	5,000
Impact of Covid	-	200
Foreign currency gains / (losses)	<u>(52,225)</u>	<u>67,246</u>
	<u>(47,225)</u>	<u>72,446</u>

**6 Costs of raising funds**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising costs	20,507	33,296
Staff costs	230,223	251,500
Support costs	<u>12,269</u>	<u>11,848</u>
	<u>262,999</u>	<u>296,644</u>

**7 Charitable activities costs**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Provision of services to vulnerable children		
Direct costs	506,947	732,210
Grant funded activities (see below)	1,117,232	1,284,682
Staff costs (including travel)	312,587	324,428
Support costs	164,016	132,684
Governance costs	<u>19,946</u>	<u>21,120</u>
	<u>2,120,728</u>	<u>2,495,124</u>

The functional split of support costs is as follows:

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Communications	5,460	4,823
Staff costs	101,537	69,796
Accommodation costs	31,573	28,631
Office costs	15,087	19,098
Insurance	3,514	2,502
Accountancy	23,204	23,632
Apportioned to fundraising and governance costs	<u>(16,359)</u>	<u>(15,798)</u>
	<u>164,016</u>	<u>132,684</u>

The functional split of governance costs is as follows:

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	7,793	8,308
Support costs	4,090	3,949
Legal costs	509	2,269
Auditor's remuneration	<u>7,554</u>	<u>6,594</u>
	<u>19,946</u>	<u>21,120</u>

**8 Grants payable**

The grants payable to organisations working with vulnerable children during the year were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Mukti (Bangladesh)	635,427	581,902
Mukti (Bangladesh) - Equipment grant	12,677	-
Navjeevan Educational and Social Welfare Society (India)	121,865	110,841
Navjeevan Educational and Social Welfare Society (India) - Equipment grant	953	-
Triumphant Mercy (Lebanon)	-	190,960
Kachin Development Group (Myanmar)	60,252	77,972
Miscellaneous grants (Myanmar)	21,324	-
Miscellaneous grants (Thailand)	15,628	32,226
Haileybury Youth Trust (HYT) (Uganda)	-	5,527
Asociatia Aproape De Oameni (Ukraine)	196,880	189,993
Speranta (Ukraine)	52,226	95,261
	<u>1,117,232</u>	<u>1,284,682</u>

**9 Resources expended**

Operating profit is stated after charging:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other operating leases	17,880	17,880
The audit of the company's annual accounts	7,554	6,594

**10 Staff costs**

No remuneration or expenses were paid to trustees during the year. The costs of the remaining staff were:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	432,756	423,797
Social security costs	42,276	44,213
Pension costs	65,748	58,439
Overseas staff costs	84,401	94,049
Grant funded overseas staff costs	118,339	120,164
	<u>743,520</u>	<u>740,662</u>

During the year 1 (2023: 1) employee earned more than £60,000.

The full time equivalent number of staff employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Projects	3.71	3.45
Fundraising and publicity	5.82	6.22
Support	2.27	1.43
Governance	0.10	0.10
Overseas	16.50	14.40
	<u>28.40</u>	<u>25.60</u>

The gross number of staff employed in UK (Headcount)

<u>13.50</u>	<u>13.00</u>
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**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Plant &amp; machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 1 March 2023	13,378	11,232	24,610
Disposals	<u>(2,987)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,987)</u>
As at 29 February 2024	<u>10,391</u>	<u>11,232</u>	<u>21,623</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 1 March 2023	13,378	11,232	24,610
Eliminated on disposals	<u>(2,987)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,987)</u>
As at 29 February 2024	<u>10,391</u>	<u>11,232</u>	<u>21,623</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 29 February 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
As at 28 February 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**12 Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments	2,912	2,506
Other debtors	<u>32,557</u>	<u>18,105</u>
	<u>35,469</u>	<u>20,611</u>

**13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	4,481	4,581
Social security and other taxes	10,375	9,843
Other creditors and accruals	<u>23,497</u>	<u>37,244</u>
	<u>38,353</u>	<u>51,668</u>

## 14 Movement in funds

	At 01.03.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 29.02.24 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Afghanistan	-	15,416	-	15,416
Bangladesh	287,331	8,226	-	295,557
India	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	2,128	-	2,128
Myanmar	32,609	1,923	-	34,532
Uganda	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	98,123	(95,904)	-	2,219
	<u>418,063</u>	<u>(68,211)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>349,852</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Afghanistan	24,188	-	9,699	33,887
Bangladesh	310,256	-	(187,216)	123,040
India	150,110	-	(89,232)	60,878
Lebanon	24,423	-	(24,423)	-
Myanmar	52,864	-	(46,893)	5,971
Uganda	506,038	-	108,598	614,636
Ukraine	207,445	-	(207,445)	-
UK based costs	151,350	-	192,446	343,796
	<u>1,426,674</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(244,466)</u>	<u>1,182,208</u>
General fund	330,665	(369,604)	244,466	205,527
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>1,757,339</u>	<u>(369,604)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,387,735</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,175,402</u>	<u>(437,815)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,737,587</u>
<b>2023</b>	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
<i>Afghanistan</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Bangladesh</i>	280,901	6,430	-	287,331
<i>India</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Lebanon</i>	82,586	(82,586)	-	-
<i>Myanmar</i>	62,054	(29,445)	-	32,609
<i>Uganda</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Ukraine</i>	-	98,123	-	98,123
	<u>425,541</u>	<u>(7,478)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>418,063</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
<i>Afghanistan</i>	-	-	24,188	24,188
<i>Bangladesh</i>	243,004	-	67,252	310,256
<i>India</i>	149,817	-	293	150,110
<i>Lebanon</i>	-	-	24,423	24,423
<i>Myanmar</i>	-	-	52,864	52,864
<i>Uganda</i>	400,271	-	105,767	506,038
<i>Ukraine</i>	200,000	-	7,445	207,445
<i>UK based costs</i>	579,391	-	(428,041)	151,350
	<u>1,572,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(145,809)</u>	<u>1,426,674</u>
General fund	229,221	(44,365)	145,809	330,665
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>1,801,704</u>	<u>(44,365)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,757,339</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,227,245</u>	<u>(51,843)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,175,402</u>

**14 Movement in funds (continued)**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Movement in funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Afghanistan	84,173	68,757	15,416
Bangladesh	765,544	757,318	8,226
India	46,279	46,279	-
Lebanon	2,196	68	2,128
Myanmar	112,425	110,502	1,923
Uganda	244,488	244,488	-
Ukraine	199,843	295,747	(95,904)
	<u>1,454,948</u>	<u>1,523,159</u>	<u>(68,211)</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>			
General fund	490,964	860,568	(369,604)
	<u>1,945,912</u>	<u>2,383,727</u>	<u>(437,815)</u>
<b>2023</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
<i>Afghanistan</i>	-	-	-
<i>Bangladesh</i>	716,224	709,794	6,430
<i>India</i>	68,909	68,909	-
<i>Lebanon</i>	115,044	197,630	(82,586)
<i>Myanmar</i>	68,043	97,488	(29,445)
<i>Uganda</i>	390,870	390,870	-
<i>Ukraine</i>	418,927	320,804	98,123
	<u>1,778,017</u>	<u>1,785,495</u>	<u>(7,478)</u>
<b>Unrestricted fund</b>			
<i>General fund</i>	961,908	1,006,273	(44,365)
	<u>2,739,925</u>	<u>2,791,768</u>	<u>(51,843)</u>

Where money is given for a specific geographic area or project, a separate fund is created and expenditure incurred in the area allocated against the income. An allocation of support costs is made where there are sufficient fund balances.

Funds are designated by the trustees in particular areas to maintain the sustainability and commitment to programmes as detailed in the Trustees' Report.

**15 Analysis of fund balances between net assets**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	349,852	1,182,208	243,880	1,775,940
Creditors	-	-	(38,353)	(38,353)
Total funds	<u>349,852</u>	<u>1,182,208</u>	<u>205,527</u>	<u>1,737,587</u>
<b>2023</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Fixed assets</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Current assets</i>	418,063	1,426,674	382,333	2,227,070
<i>Creditors</i>	-	-	(51,668)	(51,668)
<i>Total funds</i>	<u>418,063</u>	<u>1,426,674</u>	<u>330,665</u>	<u>2,175,402</u>

**16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net loss for the year	(437,815)	(51,843)
Interest receivable	(18,438)	(3,795)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(14,858)	(4,082)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(13,315)	22,679
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(484,426)</u>	<u>(37,041)</u>

**17 Gross obligations under operating leasing agreements**

As at 29 February 2024 the charity had future minimum lease commitments as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Not later than 1 year	10,430	17,880
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	10,430
	<u>10,430</u>	<u>28,310</u>

**18 Financial instruments**

Categorisation of financial instruments

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Financial assets that are debt instrument measured at amortised cost	<u>1,773,028</u>	<u>2,224,564</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>38,353</u>	<u>51,668</u>

**Items of income, expense, gains or losses**

The total interest income for financial assets not measured at fair value through profit or loss is £18,438 (2023: £3,795).

**19 Related party transactions**

Donations totalling £2,704 were made to the charity by three trustees during the year.

**20 Defined contribution pension scheme**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £65,748 (2023: £58,439).