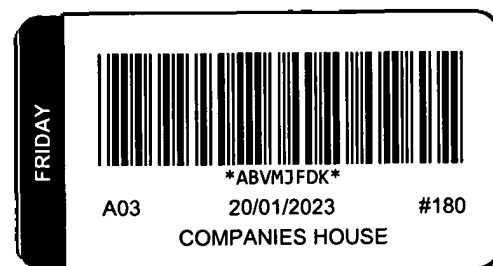


CHARITY PROJECTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS



2021-2022



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CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been a challenging year.

Challenging for people in the UK and across Africa who started to emerge from two years of Covid restrictions to find food and fuel bills shooting up and having to make unenviable trade-offs about what essentials to go without.


We have seen the impact of rising inflation in the UK with the poorest suffering higher inflation than others and millions being dragged into poverty. Millions of Ukrainians are approaching winter with no fuel or electricity while The United Nations reports "hundreds of thousands of people are already facing starvation in Somalia with staggering levels of malnutrition expected amongst the under-fives".

And challenging for charities across the UK whose income has been under pressure as companies and individuals cut back for understandable reasons.

Against this backdrop, Comic Relief has set out to renew itself to ensure that we are able to have maximum impact in the communities in which we operate and that we deliver value for money for people and organisations who donate their money and partner with us. Under the leadership of Samir Patel, we have developed a new strategy which is clearer about how we drive social impact and the role we can play, more focused on what we fund and more ambitious about raising money in new ways and outside Red Nose Day. Project wise we've strengthened our focus on daily poverty and how our funding can create the most impact with essentials like food, shelter, safety, and vital mental health assistance

Remaining agile and future fit and ensuring value for money for our donors has also meant cost cutting internally and a different way of working and with it the loss of a number of valuable and talented colleagues who we thank for their years of contribution.

We were delighted to be able to contribute to Disaster Emergency Committee's Ukraine, appeal. And as importantly we delivered extra support to our wider project partners working in and around the Ukraine borders as well as to UK based refugee projects welcoming people into the UK. As part of this work, we partnered with Sainsburys to raise over £3.5m to help fund our response.



In March our flagship Red Nose Day fundraising campaign went into full swing with supporters across the UK participating in fun fundraising activities. The nation needed something to smile about, and our campaign certainly provided it. The fantastic Night of TV included a special segment dedicated to Ukraine and refugees fleeing conflict across the world. The show raised over £42m. Whilst this was a smaller amount than the previous years it was a great achievement amidst the cost of living and wider pressures. I am so grateful to the thousands of school children who wore their red noses and took part in activities and every single person who donated. The outstanding support from our corporate partners - who included but were not limited to British Airways, Sainsburys and TK Maxx – was unparalleled – with creative merchandise and fundraising initiatives that helped us fund hundreds of vital projects.

Comic Relief continues to occupy a unique place in the UK and beyond. We engage with the public through humour and sport in a way that no one else does or can and our influence extends far beyond the money we raise and spend.

Continuing to do so and raising our ambition remains our goal. We could not do so without the contribution of so many - the amazing British public whose generosity is unmatched, Comic Relief staff whose creativity and dedication are a joy to behold, corporate partners who partner with us with passion and a range of people and organisations (trustees, ambassadors, independent committee members, talented creative artists, BBC management and staff) who give of their time freely and generously.

Thank you to all of you



Eric

CEO'S REPORT


The one thing you can say about Comic Relief is that we're not standing still. It's been an eventful year, with change all around – change from within, change that is intentional, and change forced upon us. All whilst developing a new strategic vision within the backdrop of an unstable financial climate and major world events.

We're on a journey, and we're at the beginning. Our DNA has always been to harness the power of entertainment and popular culture to engage people to support and create real change and impact. To keep doing this effectively, we need to keep refreshing what we do, keep listening to and learning from our audiences and stakeholders, and keep collaborating with those we work with to save and improve lives. We are charting our path ahead, updating our skill sets, and trying new approaches.

This year was the first time Red Nose Day was filmed live in BBC's Manchester studio, the first time Sport Relief changed from a bi-annual event to a year-round campaign, and our first dedicated Pop Culture Fund that purely exists to fund organisations using popular culture to create social change.

Our Red Nose Day campaign launched during the start of the devastating war in Ukraine. Our charity has a long and rich history of helping people who are displaced, and we knew we wanted to help projects working across the Ukrainian borders and welcoming people into the UK. We were able to work with our fantastic corporate partners to turn this around quickly and with the help of public donations, support the crisis appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee, as well as our own funded partners who are doing very relevant work on the ground.

The challenging financial climate at the start of this year both across society and the charity sector has taken a toll on our fundraising efforts this year, leaving us with a significant decrease in income compared to last year. I am incredibly grateful to the public and our partners that amidst the challenging period in March we raised £42m for Red Nose Day. Whilst that number is lower than previous years, it's still a significant amount that will impact many lives. But the reduction in income also reinforces that Comic Relief needs to try new things and refresh our case or support, something we are very excited by.



Our experiences this year have made us more committed than ever to find new ways to engage audiences and raise income to help fund vital projects. I have spent the past year working with colleagues to strengthen our focus on tackling poverty and ensure our programmes reflect our most pressing current challenges from food poverty to climate change. To effectively achieve our objectives, we have made sure we identify the right skill sets needed to work in new ways and test new ideas. And we must ensure we are future fit as an organisation, able to navigate through the economic uncertainty ahead. This year we developed the 2022-2027 organisational strategy to help us continue to tackle poverty, make even more impact, and engage the public to care and donate.

We are busy working on fantastic new projects and plans for Comic Relief. From mass participation events to exciting developments on our Red Nose product to dynamic new partnerships that will help us address daily poverty, there is plenty to come from Comic Relief!

Thank you to all our partners, our employees and every single person that supports our vision of a just world free from poverty. Together, we can change lives.



Samir Patel

OUR VISION, STRATEGY AND VALUES

Comic Relief has a vision of a Just World, Free From Poverty.

Our mission is to use the power of humour and popular culture to engage people to help others, and to raise money to support organisations working towards a just world free from poverty.

Our 2017-2022 organisational strategy had four strategic goals that we used to focus our work and against which we set the following annual objectives:

- Increasing our impact
 - 2021-22 priority: progress towards social change
- Increasing our engagement and income
 - 2021-22 priority: strengthen the diversification of our income
 - 2021-22 priority: transition to be relevant to audiences and attuned to more public engagement, testing and learning
- Creating a future-fit organisation
 - 2021-22 objective: operate as an efficient, data-driven charity with a focus on long term sustainability
- Enabling focussed growth
 - 2021-22 objective: continue to advance Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in our organisation and our work.

Our values are:

HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR, ALWAYS

Even if we're facing adversity or fighting for change we can raise a smile.

INSPIRE A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Through unique relationships with schools, the public, and fundraising.

BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

By being brave, acting in solidarity, and standing up for what is right.

MAKE MEANINGFUL CHANGE

Putting people with experience of the issues we care about at the heart of decision making.

WALK THE WALK

Giving respect and positivity to the work of Comic Relief internally and externally.

SHARE THE STAGE

Enabling people to tell their own stories on our platforms. And listening.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

We celebrate diversity of experience as our greatest resource and strength.



STRATEGIC REPORT

PROGRESS AGAINST OUR 2021-22 PRIORITIES

Below is a summary of progress made towards each of our priority areas.

2021-22 Strategic Priority Progress	Progress
Progress towards social change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Refresh our approach to social change to focus our resources on the best way to tackle poverty, injustice, and the social change we desire ■ Ensure our different audiences are engaged in our social change work through our storytelling and campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Made 145 grants to organisations who are community led and tackling poverty and injustice ■ Finalised a new impact model as part of our 2022-2027 strategy and reviewed our projects and programmes to ensure poverty and injustice are at the heart of everything we fund ■ Evolved our storytelling through appeal and creative films to ensure wider audiences are engaged in our work. We ensured local people remain at the heart of our story telling and that our international films are filmed by local directors and crew to provide an authentic representation of the projects with which we partner.
Strengthen the diversification of our income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase income throughout the year with new initiatives including digital fundraising ■ Strengthen and expand corporate, trust and foundation partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Launched some exciting new partnerships to diversify our income including collaborating on our first Art for Change auction with Philip's that included art donated by world renowned artists such as Tracey Emin Caroline Walker, Michael Armitage, and Anthony Gormley ■ Our Winter Campaign utilised digital marketing activity alongside a BBC Christmas Pantomime broadcast. ■ We began a new partnership with LEGO which will help us support our shared ambition to support childhood development and the importance of learning through play.

2021-22 Strategic Priority Progress	Progress
<p>Transition to be more relevant to audiences and built for more public engagement, testing and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Optimise Red Nose Day ■ Deliver a new brand strategy that reflects the changing world and has entertainment for social change at its core. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 2022 Red Nose Day campaign strategically aimed to engage different audiences by partnering with a wider range of BBC Shows especially focusing on BBC3 and its youth audiences. An example of this was our partnership with BBC's 'Glow Up' and our Jordan North challenge. Additionally, we worked with a range of diverse celebrities using Tik Tok and wider social media to create new interest and awareness of Comic Relief ■ We ran a digital test and learn pilot, to understand how our email channel can be most engaging to our supporters.
<p>Operate as an efficient, data-driven charity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update our business model to ensure we operate in a financially sustainable manner ■ Increase our data maturity ■ Expand internal training and staff development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Across the organisation we delivered a management training programme aimed at equipping everyone, either managers or aspiring managers, to excel in leadership ■ We started implementation of a new finance system to streamline processes and replace two systems with one. This will enhance connectivity across internal systems enabling Comic Relief to adapt easily in the future ■ We started work on a multi-year programme to increase our data capabilities, and have delivered new proof of concepts and management information to enable our teams to better serve our audiences.

2021-22 Strategic Priority Progress	Progress
<p>Continue to advance (EDI) in our organisation and our work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) led EDI Steering Group ■ Implement a 3-year roadmap of EDI strategy delivery and advancement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We employed an EDI Senior Manager who is refreshing our EDI strategy and ensuring our policies are strong and inclusive ■ We delivered the most diverse Red Nose Day celebrity line-up to date, both in front of and behind the cameras ■ We adopted inclusive recruitment practices using the Be Applied recruitment system and encouraged applicants from underrepresented groups in our job adverts.

This report provides an overview of how our values and strategy have equipped us to respond in an exceptional way to a challenging year. It provides an overview of our work in four core sections and what we have to look forward to next year.

- Our Impact – how we have distributed our funding and influenced wider change.
- Engagement and Income – how we have entertained and engaged the public, both through our own fundraising and in partnership with others.
- Finance and Resources – how we have managed our charity and how we continue to create a future-fit organisation.
- Governance – how we have governed our charity, including how we have managed and mitigated our key risks and uncertainties.

LOOKING AHEAD

In July 2022 the Trustees signed off our strategy for the period 2022 – 2027. In the five years since our last strategy was set, the world has changed significantly. There is an accelerating climate crisis and cost of living crisis, fundraising is challenging across the sector, and the need for the projects we fund is greater than ever. This makes our 2022- 2027 strategy not only necessary but urgent and vital.

Our strategy sets out how we're changing in a changing world:

- We'll inspire people not just to give, but to imagine and unlock a better future
- We'll release poverty's grip, and we'll strive to end the injustices holding people in poverty
- We'll give voice and support to people and organisations on the frontline of poverty and social change.

Vision

A just world free from poverty

We believe everyone should be able to have a decent standard of living. To live life with dignity and respect.

Mission

We use the power of humour and popular culture to engage people to help others, and we raise money to support organisations working towards a just world free from poverty.

Our mission combines Comic and Relief. We believe that helping others can be easy and fun, even in the face of the grave issues around us. We believe this because we've seen the power of people coming together to create change, through big campaigns and small everyday acts, over our 30+ year history.

We know that a better world is possible. We provide funding to organisations tackling poverty and injustice, who are closest to the communities who can make change happen.

Where we'll focus

We're honing in on three vital impact programmes - all stemming from our vision of a just world free from poverty:

Alleviating consequences of poverty

- Reduce the impact of poverty on daily lives
- Reduce stigmatisation of people living in poverty

Tackling injustices that cause poverty

- Reduce structural barriers that hold people in poverty
- Raise awareness and change attitudes towards the barriers that hold people back because of who they are or where they are from

Addressing the impact of climate change on poverty

- Increase participation and engagement of poor and minoritised communities in achieving climate justice
- Increase awareness of the link between climate justice and poverty.

We'll increase our focus on people and places that are locked out and left behind, in the UK and around the world. We know we have more impact when we work with others. So, we're boosting community-led solutions to unlock people's power and potential. We'll step up the funds we direct to communities and services on the ground. We'll partner with schools, community spaces, and the charities keeping people afloat.

We are committed to listening to and working with those closest to the issues – people with direct experience and those working alongside them – as well as those studying the issues. We'll support our partners to tell powerful, dignified stories that reveal the reality of poverty and the impact of the climate crisis - as well as the solutions. We'll seek to break the cycle of stigma and shame that isolates and harms so many.

We'll also be prepared to step in if and when a crisis hits, raising awareness, raising funds, or re-directing funding.

What we'll do

Guided by our mission, we'll work across four key areas:

Public engagement

We will raise awareness and build understanding. We're helping to highlight and uncover the reality of the challenges we face in the UK and around the world - and, crucially, the potential for change and the path to a better world. We will inspire belief in a just world free from poverty. This includes working with schools to engage and educate young people.

Fundraising

We will create experiences, content and popular culture that reach people in their homes and on their news feeds throughout the year. We'll inspire more people to invest in a just world free from poverty because we know that our ability to change the world relies on us raising money. We will create national moments for change and deliver fundraising campaigns for different audiences that connect donors with the impact of their contribution.

Funding

We will provide funding to organisations who are tackling the causes and consequences of poverty. We fund organisations, not just projects, so that our partners have firm foundations and healthy operations. We will support organisations to provide vital support, to tell stories and to thrive in the digital age.

Convening

We will use our profile and connections – our brand power - to bring people and organisations together. We will nourish and support healthy ecosystems where organisations and groups can share the insights, resources, and solutions we need to create a just world free from poverty. We will bring community voices closer to those that hold power.

Changes we need to make to deliver on our strategy

To deliver our strategy, we needed to rethink our ways of working, our structure and our skills needed to deliver. Sadly, this meant in July 2022 we announced a new organisational structure that saw several staff leave the organisation through redundancy in September 2022. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff for their valuable contribution to Comic Relief.

Next year will see us focus on embedding our new structure and setting up new ways of working to support the strategy to 2027.

Further define and operationalise our impact model

We will develop clear theories of change tied to our three impact programmes. The three programmes will give us greater focus, and we will identify partners to collaborate with for funding, and to deliver funding. Focus areas for the year will also include building a team to deliver the programmes and allocating our existing portfolio to the new strategic programmes.

Deliver multiple campaigns through the year

Our goal is to provide more touchpoints with more audiences and deliver more fundraising campaigns in addition to our signature Red Nose Day campaign. Alongside this campaign will be year-round fundraising streams for digital and regular giving.

Increase our data maturity to develop better supporter relationships

We will increase our data maturity so that we can make more data-led decisions and use data to both grow income and deepen our supporter relationships.

OUR IMPACT

KEY NUMBERS

£25.2m

Grants awarded (after cancellations)

145

Number of grants awarded

54%

Grants awarded in UK

46%

Grants awarded internationally

How we have distributed our funding and influenced wider change

We have delivered impact this year through £25.2m grants awarded to organisations doing incredible work towards enabling a just world free from poverty, in the UK and internationally. We recognise this is a reduction from the previous last year, reflecting this year as a transformational year in which we are changing the way we work and deliver impact. We also recognise that in the comparative year, we awarded an exceptional amount of grants in the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Driving Social Change

In line with our focus on the best ways to contribute to social change, this past year has seen us work with more people closest to the issues we seek to fund. People with a range of lived and practical experience have joined us as "Experts by Experience" and supported us with fund design, shortlisting, assessments, and decision-making panels. They have offered unique and invaluable insights that have strengthened our funding processes in the UK and internationally.

Mounting evidence through feedback and listening made it clear we needed to reform the way in which we designed and delivered funding, so that we work in a way that is power-aware and less burdensome to the organisations.

In a crucial first step to addressing this we updated our programmes design and application process. This was achieved collaboratively with sector professionals participating in the UK and internationally. The process involved an initial consultation phase with existing Comic Relief funded partners and sector experts, and then a co-design phase where, via an open recruitment process, we invited eleven people to join a Funding Review Crew.

Making the case through storytelling

On our UK and international storytelling, we worked exclusively with production partners based in those countries to co-create films and photograph contributors. We centered first person narratives and continued to evolve our practice to uphold the highest standards of safeguarding and ethical storytelling.

This year we worked with production partners in India, South Africa, and the UK to create compelling stories around improving mental health, creating safe spaces for mentoring and growth, and using sport to engage young people living with a disability.

Our key issue areas and highlighted projects

We worked primarily by funding organisations through grants, social investments, or partnerships. Our work focused on a range of areas (Gender Justice, Global Mental Health, A Safe Place to Be, Children Survive and Thrive, and multi-themed programmes as well as two approaches which cut across these themes: Social Tech and Sport for Change).

Focus area	Number of grants	Value of grants
A Safe Place to Be	29	£3.7m
Children Survive and Thrive	17	£3.0m
Gender Justice	48	£4.3m
Global Mental Health	36	£4.5m
Multi-themed	15	£10.4m
Total	145	£25.9m

Note: figures in the table above include £659k cancelled grants. Total grants awarded after cancellations is £25.2m.

We've highlighted below some of our work in each focus area:

A Safe Place to Be

Routes to Safety for Refugees is a Comic Relief programme that supported organisations and partnerships that worked to help refugees find a place of safety. Over the last 3 years funded partners have been working to provide direct support to people on the move through grassroots approaches, advocating for changes to policy and legislation and aiming to shift public attitudes towards migration.

In June 2022 we launched a six-part podcast, 'The Journey', in collaboration with the Worldwide Tribe. Various organisations and people supported by our Across Borders partners were interviewed highlighting experiences of people on the move. The aim of this collaboration was to bring to life the individual stories and experiences of people on the move, told in their own words.

Some highlights from the Across Borders programme include:

- Stop the Traffik successfully set up a partnership with Western Union in Greece, to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking
- Good Chance Theatre successfully delivered 'The Walk' in 2021 – an eleven-foot puppet of a Syrian refugee girl named Little Amal who walked from Turkey to the UK, highlighting the issues of forced migration and delivering arts programmes along the way. This reached tens of thousands of members of the public across countries, including an audience with the Pope!

Mobilising resources towards the Ukraine crisis

In response to the devastating war in Ukraine we mobilised funds quickly thanks to our partnership with Sainsbury's and our wider fundraising. In March we committed £1.5 million in emergency funding to organisations we already work with who are working in the bordering countries as well as inside Ukraine in response to the ongoing crisis. We also committed £1 million to the Disasters Emergency Committee crisis appeal.

Children Survive and Thrive

Rise & Shine is Comic Relief's flagship programme to support the comprehensive development of children during their early years. The programme supported funded partners to deliver projects in Kenya, Malawi, and the UK - most of whom have experienced the perfect storm of increased demand, reduced staff capacity due to Covid-19 and withdrawal of funding and fundraising opportunities.

Despite the challenges, the different country cohorts worked together around collective learning and organisational strengthening:

- In Kenya, the cohort came together to collate their learnings on what has worked to encourage male involvement in early childhood development releasing a well-received report sharing key findings, which were then presented at the Early Childhood Development Network conference in November
- In the UK, Comic Relief convened workers embedded within communities to share their challenges and learnings and provide peer support cohort – building connections across communities has really helped reduce a sense of isolation amongst workers under a great deal of pressure.

Gender Justice

This year, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office, our Gender Justice fund aimed to rapidly strengthen funded partners' digital capability and infrastructure to underpin critical advocacy work and service provision. The programme made several observations and recommendations about the opportunities that investing in digital can have for the sector - which can be found in Making Impact Matter's report, *Dialling Up Digital: The Next Level – Learning from the Ministry of Justice Specialist Fund (2021-22)*.

Meanwhile, our flagship Gender Justice programme, Power Up, has continued to thrive over the last four years. Not only do the 17 funded partners continue to achieve success across service provision and wider movement building, but the cohort have released several collective learning outputs around developing power and collective movement building.

Global Mental Health

In the UK, several of our funded partners contributed to the UK Government's consultation on the future of mental health services, whilst the UK cohort of Ahead of the Game continued to deliver innovative new programmes to blend mental health support into sports provision.

- Empire Fighting Chance's Boxing Therapy continued to successfully support young people with mental health conditions. They received referrals from local Children's and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and other charities and provided mentoring/counselling as well as boxing
- Football Beyond Borders were supported to pilot and then scale up their Therapists in Tracksuits concept - a therapeutic offering to the most at-risk participants embedded into their existing long-term, intensive group-based social and emotional classroom and football curriculum.

Meanwhile, in Kenya, our specialist mental health programme achieved great success in tackling stigma and discrimination associated with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities and improve access to quality mental health services in line with human rights approaches, for people living with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities.

- Basic Needs Basic Rights (BNBR) worked to replicate the highly successful Time to Change programme from the UK to reduce mental health related stigma. They are working with community champions and health care workers to contextualise mental health resources in Kenya and then scale these throughout community health provision.
- Health Rights Advocacy Forum (HERAF) worked to influence the reform of the health legal framework and strengthen mental health systems in Kenya with the aim of improved access to quality mental health. So far, HERAF have been able to support local governments to develop mental health work plans, establish technical working groups and train health care workers on community mental health.

Multi-themed - Tackling racial injustices - The Global Majority Fund

In our emergency response to the disproportionate effect Covid-19 had on Black and minoritised communities across the UK, Comic Relief joined forces with the National Emergencies Trust, Barclays, and the Clothworkers Foundation, investing in Intermediary Partners who in turn funded grassroots organisations 'led by and for' Black and minoritised communities.

The first phase of the programme showed that our funded partners supported groups including women and girls, children and young people, Asylum seekers and Refugees, and the LGBTQ+ community. Support was offered in areas such as access to quality services, mental health and wellbeing support, awareness raising, domestic abuse support, education and vocational skills and financial and material poverty support.

Many grassroots organisations reported wider benefits than the funding itself:

"The funds have enabled us not only to help improve the living conditions of the community we serve but also it has enabled us to create partnerships and connections to other organisations and sources of funds. This has made our operations more efficient and timely specifically due to the communication network we keep with other organisations."

Agnieszka Tomaszewska

Social Investing - Red Shed

Red Shed is Comic Relief's Social Investment vehicle which invested in social enterprises and trading charities and collaborates with other funders in investment bonds and funds. Red Shed provides repayable finance and aimed to make social investment more inclusive and accessible, particularly for enterprises and entrepreneurs that face systemic barriers.

Red Shed made five new investments in the year, including a follow-on investment with RefuAid, which provided interest-free loans to refugee health workers to enable them to requalify to work in the NHS; diverse-led social enterprises with the Sumerian Foundation, which included a catering business employing people affected by homelessness, a creative college for neurodivergent young people and a Northern Irish enterprise led by people with lived experience offering innovative mental health support.

ENGAGEMENT AND INCOME

How we have entertained and engaged the public, through our own fundraising and in partnership with others

Against the backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis we generated £50m, an incredible amount and a reminder of the generosity of our donors, even in financially challenging times. This was a drop from prior years, although was not entirely unexpected given current macro-economic conditions. One of the major factors was the Ukraine crisis, and the extraordinary public donation response to that which came in the immediate weeks before our Red Nose Day Campaign.

Red Nose Day would not have been possible without the amazing support of our fundraisers, trusts, foundations and corporate partners, including: Sainsbury's, TK Maxx, British Airways, KFC Foundation, Walkers, Premier League, Maltesers, Babybel, PayPal, AWS, Worldpay, Acast, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Scottish Government, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, National Emergency Trust, Ministry of Justice, Oak Foundation, The Health Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy.

Across the UK, schools, nurseries, community groups, families and individuals fundraised in all kinds of funny, safe, and inspiring ways. Whether our income is up or down in any given year, we will always be grateful for every donation that comes in. The support we had from the public is the reason we can continue our mission to create a just world free from poverty.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Red Nose Day

It felt important more than ever this year to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives.

Across the UK, people sprang into action, buying our plastic-free Noses, supporting some of the nation's favourite faces as they took on epic fundraising challenges, or watching and giving during our Night of TV.

On the night, our evening of top entertainment raised an amazing £42m. Some campaign highlights included:

- Over 10,000 schools participated in Red Nose Day across the UK
- We achieved our most diverse and representative talent line-up ever
- Local film makers delivered all international appeal films
- 30+ hours of broadcast BBC TV coverage across driver shows hitting a range of audiences from Glow Up on BBC Three to Countryfile on BBC One.

Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming

Our 2022 'hero' documentary challenge saw Olympic Legend Tom Daley row, cycle, swim and run his way from the Aquatics Centre in London – where he won his first Olympic medal – back to his hometown of Plymouth. The live challenge garnered huge media interest and raised £1.1million.

Rowing Home with Jordan North

Radio 1 DJ Jordan North embarked on the journey of a lifetime, 'Rowing Home' from London to Burnley covering 100 miles of the English canal network in a sea skull rowing boat. The public were behind Jordan every step of the way, raising £0.8million over the course of the challenge, fantastically supported by the Radio 1 family.

The One Show Red Nose & Spoon Race

The Red Nose and Spoon Race returned with presenters Owain Wyn Evans and Angellica Bell leading two teams of beneficiaries from Comic Relief funded projects in a 4-day endurance event, trekking through the Lake District and taking on a different physical challenge each day. The overall income total raised was £0.3million.

Partnerships

Sainsbury's amazing Red Nose Day support included selling our iconic Noses and a wide variety of merchandise. They also offered customers the option to donate at the till or through Nectar. Throughout stores customers could hear voice overs from Sir Lenny Henry describing the work of Comic Relief.

Walkers and Comic Relief launched a mental wellbeing fund called The Smiles Fund. The fund supports early intervention and community-based approaches which use arts and comedy to help mental wellbeing.

One of our new partners this year was LEGO. The amazing Trent Infant Nursery School won the LEGO Red Nose Habitat competition, judged by the BBC Radio 1 DJ Melvin Odoom. As part of their prize, they received £2,500 worth of LEGO for their school and a zoom call with Melvin Odoom and a LEGO play agent.

Diversifying income

Our Winter Campaign encompassed digital fundraising activity led by our strategic partners and, following on from the success of the previous year, our very own Comic Relief Beauty and the Beast pantomime, broadcast on BBC1 in December 2021.

OUR FUNDRAISING APPROACH

Comic Relief is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. As a member, we adhered to the Fundraising Promise, which commits us to the highest standards of fundraising, ensuring that our fundraising is legal, open, honest, and respectful. We are also committed to following the Code of Fundraising Practice, which outlines the standards expected of all charitable fundraising organisations across the UK.

We did not use professional fundraisers during the year. We are consistently assessing and evaluating our processes and fundraising agreements to strengthen how we monitor our fundraising activities. We prioritise the rigour and support we provide to our fundraisers to ensure they have the necessary tools to execute their activity.

Comic Relief is a member of the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), the body responsible for driving high standards in direct marketing through self-regulation. As a member of the DMA, we adhered to the Direct Marketing Code of Practice. This commitment to the highest standards of marketing and best practice, included recognising and taking care when dealing with children and vulnerable people, ensuring that our advertising and marketing is responsible, reliable, and respectful.

Safety during fundraising activities

The safety of everyone during fundraising activities is an absolute priority for us. We are particularly concerned to safeguard the welfare of any children or vulnerable people who may be involved. We have created safeguarding guidelines for anyone hosting an event. This information is posted on our website and is also shared with individuals or groups seeking advice.

Helping our supporters

Our supporters were able to contact us by phone, email, or post if they had a query or needed guidance. As a result, we handled 5,279 enquiries from the public.

Throughout the Red Nose Day 2022 campaign we addressed 236 complaints (2021: 333). We take every complaint very seriously, and our aim is always for our supporters to have a high-quality experience with us. We acknowledged receipt of each complaint within two working days, then investigated and aimed to advise of our findings within 30 days of acknowledgement.

We responded to every complaint individually and took great pride in listening to what our supporters have to say about us, whether negative or positive, as all feedback is key to us continuously improving our supporter care. We had no unresolved complaints and did not need to make referrals to the Fundraising Regulator for any complaint during the year.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES

How we have managed our charity and how we continue to create a future-fit organisation

The past 18 months have been challenging for fundraising due to the volatile financial markets and the changing habits of our supporters. Despite the continued generosity of the UK public, the dedication of our fundraising staff and the ongoing support of our amazing partners, our income has declined during the year, at a time when the need for our support is greater than ever.

In response, we worked hard to control our costs, manage our cash and investments and sadly, took the difficult decision to restructure with a reduction of several roles.

In 2021-22 we prepared to transition into new ways of working, which mean it is an exceptional year in terms of comparison to the previous year.

Leadership and governance

The CEO and Executive Leadership team have spent the year working with the Board to agree a strategy for the period to 2027. There has been a strong focus on diversifying and strengthening income and delivering long term impact. The skills, processes and supporting systems required to support the strategy have also been reviewed and agreed.

Ways of working

We continued to work as a hybrid organisation with staff coming into the office at least two days a week for collaboration and teamwork. This has worked successfully and we have therefore taken the decision to downsize our office footprint when our lease renews in the summer of 2023. We undertook a full needs analysis on the future purpose of the office and will take the opportunity to design an inclusive and collaborative workplace reflecting the changing needs of a hybrid organisation.

People

There was a significant focus on investing in our people, culture, values, learning, and development during the year. We continued to prioritise our efforts to become a more inclusive and diverse organisation. This will enable us to transition to the culture and capability we will require.

Processes and systems

During the year we selected a new finance system to replace our existing end-of-life system. We carried out a robust selection process and our aim is to use the introduction of a new system to drive process and cost efficiencies and continue our journey to best in class financial processes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our total income for the year was £50m compared to £74m in the previous year. The reduction in income reflects the challenging fundraising environment driven by many factors including the economic fallout of the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis. It also reflects a transitional year for Comic Relief as we move towards new ways of raising money.

Our total expenditure was £44m compared to £86m in the previous year resulting in an operating surplus of £5.7m (2021: operating deficit of £12m). This was predominantly due to reduced grant commitments as we take stock and work with partners to reassess longer-term priorities in line with our new strategy. This includes our 10-year flagship programme with the FCDO for which we are holding £18m in designated reserves to commit in the next financial year, and £8m for other new strategic programmes. Comparatively, last year was an exceptional year due to high levels of emergency funding awarded in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021-22, 72% of our total spend was on charitable activity with £31m (2021: £72m) spent on grants and the cost of making those grants and £1.3m (2021: £1.5m) spent on raising global awareness, education, and social change. Whilst fundraising costs reduced from £13m to £12m this represented a higher proportion of our total costs than in the previous year. Net assets of the group on 31 July 2022 were £94m compared to £91m on 31 July 2021.

How the money is raised

Red Nose Day 2022 and our annual Night of TV raised £42m thanks to generous donations from the public and their fundraising activities, and the continued support of our institutional and corporate partners. We also raised £4.5m from year-round fundraising including a winter appeal and digital giving and a further £3.5m from gift aid and other income.

We generated income from investing the funds we have raised prior to them being distributed as funding to other organisations. This income contributed to funding our operating costs which enabled us to give more money to good causes. The investment market was particularly volatile in the period to 31 July 2022, and we ended the financial year with an unrealised loss of £2.4m (2021: unrealised gains of £7.4m) which is a 4.4% loss against our target gain of 5.4%.

How the money is spent

At Comic Relief we are hugely aware of the generosity of the public in supporting our work. In addition, through the match-funding we secure from our many private, public, and voluntary sector partners, we can leverage every £ that is donated by the public.

In this financial year, we increased every £1 donated by the public to £1.44 through gift aid, partnerships, and match-funding.

For every £1 raised, Comic Relief spent 72 pence on charitable activity as follows:

- 57 pence was spent to help thousands of vital projects supporting vulnerable people in the UK and internationally
- 12 pence was spent ensuring that we allocate our funding as effectively as possible, ensuring it reaches amazing projects, and monitoring how it is spent
- 3 pence was spent on raising awareness of the work we support to tackle poverty and injustice.

The remaining 28 pence was invested in raising funds which will be used to support vital work under our new strategy.

Our designated funds include £18m match funding for our Shifting the Power Programme with FCDO, and £8m for our new strategic programmes which will be committed next year. These are intentional reserves and had they been committed in 2021-22, our pence in the pound spent on vital projects would be consistent with the prior year. These designated amounts are in addition to our other planned grant-making activities.

Staff costs are our largest operating expense, totalling £10.1m in 2022 (2021: £10.7m), excluding redundancy costs. This is a 7% reduction year on year, after absorbing a 3% pay rise to all staff excluding the Senior Leadership Team.

In response to our 2022-2027 strategy, and to bring new skills to deliver income growth and revise our approach to grant making, we have included a provision of £500k for a reduction in roles across the organisation due to the redundancy program.

The Comic Relief group held total reserves amounting to £94m as of 31 July 2022 (2021: £91m), broken down into restricted, designated, and other unrestricted funds as follows:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds (2022: £0.6m; 2021: (£0.1m)) can only be used for purposes as specified by the donor. Individual funds can be in deficit because the costs are recognised in full when the award is made, whereas the related income is recognised only when Comic Relief is entitled to receive the funds from funding partners, which will typically be in stage payments over several years. Further details are given in note 19.

Unrestricted designated funds

At year end £46m (2021: £49m) of unrestricted funds were designated for specific purposes by the Trustees. This includes match funding commitments, including those referred to above, and other funds designated for grant making. Further details are given in note 18.

General fund

The remaining balance of unrestricted funds, the General Fund (2022 £41m; 2021 £42m) is monitored regularly in accordance with Comic Relief's reserves policy (detailed below). The General Fund is used to cover all costs of the organisation that are not related to funding allocation or management.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been considered and approved by the Board and there have been no changes to the prior year.

Our current reserves policy requires us to hold free reserves of an amount equivalent to:

- 30% of the value of the investment portfolio; and
- Twelve months of operating costs

The reserves policy reflects the key risks identified with respect to the reserves balance as a drop in the value of our investment portfolio and the cancellation of our flagship fundraising event, Red Nose Day, due to unforeseen circumstances. Trustees have considered the high proportion of equities (70%) in our investment portfolio and the uncertain economic climate as part of this reserves policy.

General free reserves as at 31 July 2022 are £41m (2021: £42m), in line with target. The target is calculated as 30% of our investment portfolio (£20m) plus twelve months operating costs which includes all spend other than grants (£21m).

Designated funds as at 31 July 2022 are £49m which includes:

- £19m designated for the grants and the costs of making, managing, and monitoring grants but is not yet committed. All funds are committed within two years of receipt
- £19m designated for match funding commitments for co-funding joint programmes with key funding partners. Funds will be spent in line with funding agreements
- £7.7m designated for Red Shed investments, £3.8m of which has been committed. This fund can only be realised by disposing of Red Shed investments
- £2m from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the development of new and existing income streams, advance our digital platforms and engage new audiences. This is likely to be spent in FY22/23
- £0.4m fixed asset reserve which can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Investments

The majority of income was between March and July following Red Nose Day, and we aim to award these funds to projects over the subsequent two years. Most funding awards are multi-year, often for three years but sometimes for five years or more. Funding commitments are scheduled for payment across the period of the funding in instalments to ensure the money is being spent as agreed and delivering the intended impact. Until cash is required for funding it is invested to provide a return, outlined in the investment approach below.

Sufficient cash or cash equivalents are held to cover nine months' worth of funding commitments and six months' worth of operating costs based on a 12-month average forecast, with a monthly minimum balance equal to three months' needs, reflecting the fact that most of the cash inflows occur in March – July each year. Six months of budgeted operating costs will always be available immediately and none of the cash holdings will be placed with maturity of more than one year. Beyond the sums to be held in cash there is, therefore, core capital which can prudently be held in longer term assets to achieve an enhanced level of return over the longer term.

Investment approach and policy

The overall objective of the investment policy is to maintain the value of the portfolio. In addition, we aim to maximise the return from the portfolio but only within an acceptable level of risk and in accordance with our principles with respect to ethical investment.

We do not invest in companies which manufacture armaments or tobacco products or whose primary business is adult entertainment, the manufacture of alcohol products or the extraction or processing of fossil fuels.

In 2014, we signed up to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), an international network of over 4,000 investors working towards putting environmental, social and governance issues at the centre of their investing approach. The self-assessment for 2022 has been delayed by UNPRI, however, we achieved an overall ESG Quality Score of 7.1 in 2021, which exceeded the peer median score of 5.9.

Trustees delegate oversight and management to the Investment Advisory Group (which reports to the Finance and Fundraising Committee) for the investment portfolio and the Finance and Fundraising Committee for the cash portfolio.

Investment performance

The opening value of the investment portfolio was £57m. Divestment from Fundsmith totalling £5m, completed in December 2021 was reinvested into Generation Fund, a new fund in our portfolio. A £10m 18-month fixed term deposit with Lloyds was opened in April 2022. The portfolio closing value was £65m after a £2.4m unrealised loss on the funds. The Trustees adopted a nominal total return target of 5.4% after costs, annualised over a rolling five-year period. Based on figures independently calculated by our advisors, total returns over the last five years have been as follows:

- 1 year return to 31 July 2022: -4.4%
- 5-year annualised return to 31 July 2022: +6.4%.

Whilst we did not meet our investment return for the year, the long-term projection for annualised return over 5 years meets our targets. We are committed to a long-term return on investment and will continue to proactively manage our investment portfolio within the wider economic context.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have reviewed the level of reserves and available liquid resources in the context of operating and spending plans over the next 12 months, the cash flow forecast, the three-year business plan, and the organisational risk assessment.

With consideration of the financial risks associated with the organisational risks, scenarios have been modelled for worst case scenarios in respect of public income decline and significant movement on the investment portfolio. For all scenarios, Comic Relief would have sufficient reserves to cover costs over the next 12 months.

Trustees consider that Comic Relief has sufficient financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and that the group is well placed to manage its operating risks successfully and that no material uncertainty exists. The following factors provide additional assurance of Comic Relief's going concern:

- We have a comparatively high level of reserves to mitigate against volatility in the market and movement in our fundraising income
- We have processes in place to mitigate against the risk of our investment portfolio dropping in value, as well as the availability of cash (in line with our cash policy) in the event of a significant short-term hit to income.

The Trustees have not identified any material uncertainties relating to going concern. The Trustees have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

ENERGY AND CARBON USE

In line with the Companies (Director's Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018, we are required to report on our energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the year ended 31 July 2022.

In accordance with the Environmental Reporting Guidelines (March 2019), we are reporting on our UK energy use and carbon emissions in relation to purchased electricity and gas usage within our office premises as well as qualifying transport activity.

Energy Source 21/22

Energy Source	Consumption	Energy Intensity	Carbon Emissions	Carbon Intensity
Units	Consumption kWh	Consumption/ SQM	TCO2e	TCO2e/SQM
Electricity (kWh)	178,435	90	34.506	0.0174
Natural Gas (kWh)	247,969	125	44.634	0.0225
Transport	7,920	4	1.819	0.0009
Total	434,324	219	80.96	0.04089

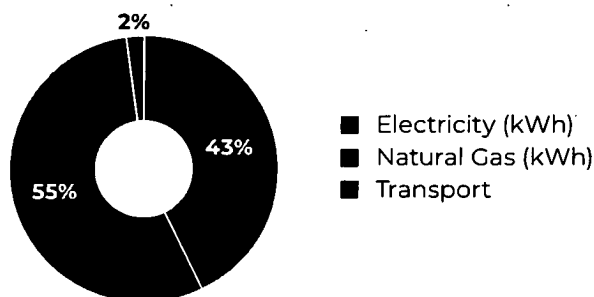
Energy Source 20/21

Energy Source	Consumption	Energy Intensity	Carbon Emissions	Carbon Intensity
Units	Consumption kWh	Consumption/ SQM	TCO2e	TCO2e/SQM
Electricity (kWh)	153,019	77.4	35.38	0.0179
Natural Gas (kWh)	335,371	169.6	61.42	0.0310
Transport	-	-	-	-
Total	488,390	247	96.8	0.0489

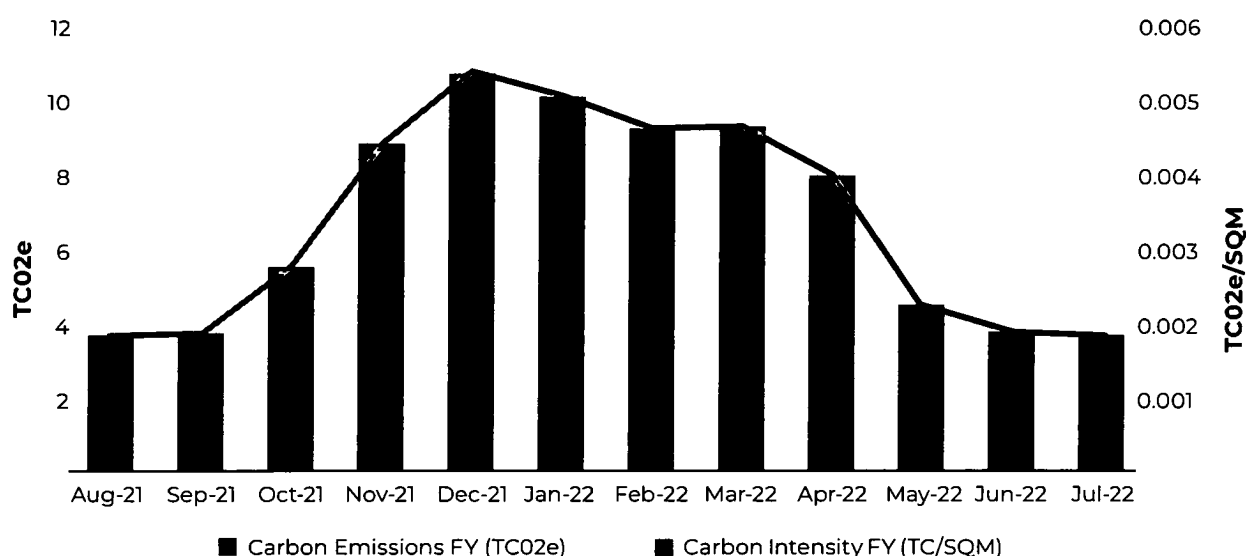
We have continued our commitment to allow staff to work flexibly and where needed, remotely. This, alongside several practical energy reducing measures has seen our carbon emissions relating to office use fall from 96.8 TCO2e to 80.96 TCO2e. Our reported energy consumption for the year has also fallen from 488,390 kWh to an estimated 434,324 kWh. In 21/22 we took energy efficiency initiatives such as adjusting heating times according to the season and repaired our air conditioning.

In the last year, we have also taken several steps to allow us to report on energy use and carbon emissions relating to qualifying transport activity, with this equating to 2% of our total carbon emissions.

Carbon emissions by energy source



Carbon emissions



(As part of this graphic, we have assumed that transport activity has accrued evenly through the year)

Methodology and estimates

For 2021/22, the methodology used to calculate total energy consumption relating to Electricity and Natural Gas had been extracted from information provided by our building management. Electricity had been calculated using sub-meter readings. As gas was (and still is) supplied to the whole building, our estimate of gas use is based on the percentage of space that we occupy. We have calculated our energy consumption and carbon emissions for qualifying transport activity using data present within our finance system to identify the amount of fuel procured and mileage undertaken.

Energy and fuel consumption had been converted to carbon (TCO2e) using 2022 DEFRA published conversion factors. We then used this information to calculate our carbon footprint.

We have used floor space as a means of calculating our intensity factors to allow for direct comparison with data reported in previous years. Floor space is also a practical measure of how we are introducing energy saving initiatives within our office location. Our floor space (1980 SQM) for 2021/22 has not changed in the last year.

Further Action

In the summer of 2022, we completed an 'Energy Savings' audit which concluded Comic Relief's energy management was "good" with the recommendation to consider office space and energy consumption in relation to this as an opportunity for improvement. A task and finish group has been established to oversee delivery of this over the forthcoming year.

REMUNERATION

Responsibility for overseeing our pay policy, setting CEO and Executive Director pay, and agreeing on the level of annual staff pay increases, lies with the People and Culture Committee - this is a Committee of the Board of Trustees, attended by the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The Committee takes external benchmarking advice to inform its decisions. Meetings are held at least three times a year with senior Comic Relief staff and supported by external HR experts who attend in an advisory capacity.

We are committed to the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment for all employees. We are a Disability Confident employer, have a clear policy for paying employees equally for the same or equivalent work, and have signed the pledge to Show the Salary for all advertised roles.

For all staff, including the CEO and Executive Directors, pay is reviewed on an annual basis and our salaries reflect the knowledge, skills, responsibilities, and attributes required for the performance of each position. We do not pay bonuses.

Ratios

We have actively tried to manage the differential of pay between the highest paid person and others. Our ratio of top pay to median pay is 3.7:1. Our ratio of top pay to lowest pay is 8:1 (2021: 7.9:1).

We are proud to be a Living Wage employer and all our London-based staff are paid at least £11.05 per hour in line with guidance from the Living Wage Foundation.

Gender pay gap

The median pay gap is the difference between the midpoints in the ranges of hourly earnings of men and women and the mean gender pay gap is the difference between the average hourly earnings of men and women.

At the snapshot date of 5 April 2022, our mean gender pay gap had increased from 7.7% in 2021 to 11.84% in 2022 and our median gender pay gap was 9.96% (2021: 8.1%). This increase is primarily due to the departure of a female CEO part way through 2021 and their replacement with a male CEO, but despite this the current pay gap is still below the gap of 12.46% in 2019.

71% of our organisation is female with high female representation throughout the organisation particularly at the manager and head of department levels.

The pay quartiles by gender table below shows that across all quartiles, there are proportionately more females than males in line with the overall makeup of the organisation. In the last 12 months, 36% of applicants who submitted a completed job application were male, 51% women and 13% identifying as non-binary or choosing not to disclose their gender identity. Of the successful applicants, 22% were men, 64% women and 14% identified as non-binary or chose not to disclose their gender identity.

Quartile %	Males	Females
Upper	45	55
Upper middle	27	73
Lower middle	9	91
Lower	34	66

Ethnicity pay gap

We are measuring our ethnicity pay gap for the third time this year, ahead of any requirement or formal guidance on how to do so and are therefore using the same methodology we do for gender at the snapshot date of 5 April 2022. Some staff have chosen not to disclose their ethnicity, so the data is representative only.

The ethnicity pay gap looks at the distribution of white employees compared with ethnic minority employees across all job levels. The pay quartiles by ethnicity table below shows the distribution of white and ethnic minority employees by quartile. A review of the recruitment process is being completed in 2022/23 to ensure attraction of candidates from ethnic minorities and inclusivity throughout the hiring process.

Our mean ethnicity pay gap is 7.83% in favour of ethnic minority employees (compared to 8.17% in favour of ethnic minority employees in 2021). Our median ethnicity pay gap is 8.21% in favour of white employees (compared to 3.3% in favour of ethnic minority employees in 2021).

Quartiles %	White	Ethnic	Not Declared
Upper	57	33	10
Upper middle	76	20	4
Lower middle	70	22	8
Lower	68	30	2

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

We try to balance the expectations of our supporters and beneficiaries, who trust us to use their money effectively, with the requirement to recruit and retain the best people. We know that our staff are attracted to working for us because of the opportunity it gives them to have a positive impact on the lives of others. A key driver for attracting and retaining talent is our commitment to family-friendly policies and flexible working practices that help staff achieve a good work/life balance. Our investment in training, development and well-being is an added incentive.

Our application tracking system enhances our efforts to eliminate bias from the recruitment process as far as possible, using role-specific selection criteria and name-blind shortlisting, and the provision of data that allows us to interrogate the stages of the process at which we are losing certain groups of candidates, and trends by department and seniority, and address accordingly.

RESOURCING

We also benefit from and are thankful for the incredible efforts of our family of volunteers who help us to achieve our fundraising goals. Their support enables our core staff team to focus on delivering ground-breaking campaigns, coordinating fundraising efforts, and helping to ensure that the money raised is distributed fairly, efficiently, and usefully both in the UK and internationally. We also accept pro bono work and gifts-in-kind from commercial partners wherever appropriate, to enable us to operate as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

Staff engagement is very important to us. We conducted an annual staff survey and held monthly staff and 'open house' meetings where staff set the agenda and ask questions of management. All employees were kept up to date on news and events through regular messages and updates on our internal network (Workplace) and monthly team meetings. Our CEO and Executive Directors have 'open door policies' to encourage staff comments directly, and Staff Voice sessions enable direct staff access to Trustees. We are continually looking for innovative ways to communicate with our staff to create a sustained culture of engagement and openness, and to flexibly collect employee feedback, helping us to drive strategic, tactical, and operational decisions based on data.

A Wellbeing Programme of events and services and ongoing support to promote everyone's health and wellbeing inside and outside work includes skills, tips, and tools to better manage personal, physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing.

Comic Relief has been keen to embrace hybrid working, and we aim to give our staff as much control and flexibility as possible. There has been significant investment in technology and in management skills relating to remote and hybrid teams as we have transitioned to a hybrid working model.

GOVERNANCE

How we have governed our charity including how we have mitigated our key risks and uncertainties

STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Comic Relief was founded in 1985, when Richard Curtis, Jane Tewson and friends came up with the idea to use comedy to raise money and change lives in Africa and the UK. The Comic Relief Group is comprised of Charity Projects, Comic Relief Limited and Brand Relief Limited.

- Charity Projects is a company limited by guarantee and a charity registered with the Charity Commission and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Charitable activity is undertaken through this entity and Comic Relief is the operating name of this entity.
- Comic Relief Limited is a private company limited by shares and a wholly owned trading subsidiary.
- Brand Relief Limited is a private company limited by shares and wholly owned dormant subsidiary.
- Charity Projects is governed in accordance with its Articles of Association which set out the following charitable objects:
 - the relief of poverty
 - the advancement of education by means of the encouragement of the arts for the public the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare provided that such facilities are for the public benefit; and
 - the promotion of any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the public.

Charity Projects is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (SC039730) and raises funds from our Scottish supporters and makes grants to Scottish organisations. During the year under review £1.4m or 2.7% of our fundraised revenue was generated in Scotland. We currently have 48 active grants in Scotland.

TRUSTEES

Ultimate control of Comic Relief is vested in the Trustees, who give their time, experience, and expertise for free. For the period from 1 August 2021 and up to the date of signing this Report the following people served as Trustees and as Directors of the charitable company:

Eric Salama

Chair of Trustees and member of the People and Culture Committee from 22 September 2021.

Dr Sue Black OBE

Member of the Finance and Fundraising Committee.

Fiona Campbell

Chair of the Creative Advisory Group since September 2021.

Jenny Hodgson

Chair of the Social Impact Committee.

Matt Hyde OBE

Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Charlotte Moar

Treasurer, Chair of the Finance and Fundraising Committee and member of the Investment Advisory Group and Audit and Risk Committee.

Rupert Morley

Chair of the Investment Advisory Group, member of the Finance and Fundraising Committee and Social Impact Committee since September 2021.

Chair and Director of Comic Relief Limited.

Tessy Ojo CBE

Member of Audit and Risk Committee until September 2021. Member of People and Culture Committee since September 2021, and Trustee responsible for Safeguarding.

Jacqueline Onalo

Chair of the People and Culture Committee.

Tom Shropshire

Senior Independent Trustee
Director of Comic Relief Limited

Saul Klein OBE

Stepped down as a Trustee on 25 April 2022

Gautam Raju

Stepped down as a Trustee on 1 May 2022

TRUSTEE LIABILITY

Each Trustee is a member of the charity and, in the event of the charity being wound up, is liable to contribute a maximum of £1.

Indemnity insurance costing £24,886 (2021: £17,280) for the year was purchased on behalf of the Trustees and Committee Members.

TRUSTEE TENURE AND CODE

New Trustees are selected and appointed by the Trustee Board through an open recruitment process taking into the account the need to maintain an appropriate balance of skills, experience and our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Trustees are given a comprehensive and tailored programme of induction which includes safeguarding training. Additional development and training are available when required and relevant.

Trustees consider the principles set out in the Charity Governance Code, refreshed at the end of 2020, when carrying out their duties. The Code is designed as a tool to support continuous improvement and we evaluate our progress against the Code's principles and recommended practices on an annual basis. The evaluation shows that the Code's recommended good practices are applied in Comic Relief with the aim of continual improvement. This year, as part of developing the new strategy we have set up key metrics and KPI's for the Board to monitor effective and sustainable delivery of the new strategy, which has aligned our practices with the governance code.

In addition, Trustees are made aware of changes to Charity Commission guidance and updates as well as developments in the sector and applied practice.

Trustees serve on the Board's Committees, as denoted above. During the year, the Committees and the Advisory Group met regularly in accordance with the annual meeting schedule and annual schedules of work. The Committees and Advisory Group benefit from the specialist expertise of independent members selected to complement the skills and experience of Trustees.

Committee Members are subject to the same recruitment process and good practice as Trustees. The Trustees continue to be very grateful to all Committee and Advisory Group members for their advice, work and time committed during the year.

GOVERNANCE CHANGES

Throughout the year we have implemented several changes to our governance framework in line with Charity Governance Code's recommendations and best practice.

- The Remunerations & Nominations Committee's name was changed to People and Culture Committee to better reflect its duties and remit. People and Culture is discussed at each Board meeting and is reflected in the Chair's work (for example, in Trustee and CEO recruitment /appraisal, and in Trustee Board and Committee Meetings).
- Trustees have completed training on unconscious bias.
- A new anonymous system of meeting evaluation was implemented for Board, Committee and Advisory Group meetings. Surveys capture feedback from attendees which is used to drive improvements to ways of working.

During the past year as the organisational strategy was being developed, the Board met more frequently to oversee the development of the 2022-2027 strategy.

CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the CEO - appointed by the Trustees - and the Executive Directors who are responsible for areas of the charity as listed below. Decisions of the Trustees are implemented by the CEO and the Executive Directors.

The CEO reports to the Chair of Trustees. Key management personnel constitute the Trustees, CEO, Executive Directors, the General Counsel and Company Secretary. This year was a transition year which saw change in Executive Directors. New senior positions are being recruited to successfully and as a matter of priority. For the period from 1 August 2021 and up to the date of signing this Report, the following people served as Executive Directors:

Samir Patel

Chief Executive Officer

Alex Botha

Chief Operating Officer
(until 30 September 2022)

Georgina Persson

Executive Director of Operations
(from 1 November 2022)

Fatima Ribeiro

Executive Director of Fundraising and Creative (until 9 September 2022)

Aleema Shivji

Executive Director of Impact and Investment (until 9 September 2022)

Andrew Broadbent

Chief Technology Officer
(until 9 September 2022)

Jaime Bertuello

General Counsel
(until 1 April 2022)

Rebecca Scott

General Counsel
(until 25 August 2022)

Salma Daneshmand

General Counsel
(from 1 September 2022)

STAKEHOLDER CONSIDERATIONS

As a company limited by guarantee, we are required to report on how our Trustees have discharged their duty to promote our best interests, while having regard to the matters set out in section 172 (1) (a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006. In doing so, regard (amongst other matters) must be given to:

- The likely long-term consequences of any decision;
- The interests of employees;
- Fostering relationships with key stakeholders;
- The impact of operations on our communities and environment;
- Maintenance of our reputation for the highest standards of conduct; and
- The need to act fairly as between members of the company.

The Board recognises that our relationship with stakeholders is critical to success. Our charitable objectives, scale and impact are achieved in large part through relationships across public, private, and voluntary sectors.

The table that follows sets out our key stakeholder groups, the key considerations of each group and how we engage with them. Board discussions consider the potential impact of our decisions on each stakeholder group and consider their needs and concerns.

Stakeholder group	Key considerations	How we engage
Funded partners	<p>Comic Relief delivers social impact predominantly through funding frontline organisations working to tackle poverty and injustice. Considerations in relation to our funded partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensuring we have transparent and effective application processes, clearly advertised to potential partners ■ Ensuring clear and effective decision-making processes that include both staff and Board members to determine selection of partners ■ Ensuring communication with and requirements of funded partners are reasonable and mutually beneficial. Clear criteria, guidance and processes for applications published on our website. 	<p>Direct communication to all applicants to inform them of our decision.</p> <p>Detailed feedback to unsuccessful applicants.</p> <p>Clear Conditions of Funding to determine the parameters of the relationship with those who are funded by Comic Relief.</p> <p>Convening partners to learn and share with and from each other.</p> <p>Communication on our website and at sector events to demonstrate thought leadership and share our learning and expertise.</p> <p>Centre for Effective Philanthropy's (CEP) Grantee Perception Report is completed every 2 years.</p>
Beneficiaries	<p>Ultimately Comic Relief exists to improve the lives of those facing poverty and injustice. As we are not an operational charity, our reach to beneficiaries is mainly via our funded partners.</p> <p>Our key consideration in relation to beneficiaries is therefore how the priorities, voices, and perspectives of beneficiaries are heard in our decision-making about which partners we fund.</p> <p>We also consider part of the charity sector/ other funders/ civil society organisations/ schools and other groups as beneficiaries who we engage by providing evaluations, reports, and storytelling which share our learnings and experience with the wider sector.</p>	<p>We engage directly with beneficiaries of our work in two key ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We ensure that our decision-making processes in relation to funded partners include those with direct lived experience of the issues we are seeking to address ■ Meeting and interviewing individual beneficiaries as part of our storytelling, ensuring that they have agency over the way in which their story is captured and told. <p>For our broader beneficiaries our engagement is primarily through the Comic Relief website, sector conferences and fora, as well as through films and school packs.</p>

Stakeholder group	Key considerations	How we engage
BBC	<p>The BBC is our major broadcast partner and is central to our success providing us with a powerful platform, access to talent, and also incredible reach. Key considerations in relation to BBC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Editorial impartiality and standards ■ Relevance of our content to the BBC audience ■ Specific reporting requirements of BBC Appeals Advisory Committee (AAC) ■ Exclusivity of content for BBC channels versus other broadcast or social media outlets ■ Relationship with other BBC- supported charities, specifically BBC Children in Need and the Disasters Emergency Committee. 	<p>A BBC Controller joined our board in 2020, ensuring they play a role in our governance.</p> <p>An annual meeting was held with a formal report produced for BBC AAC.</p> <p>There are strong and close working relationships between the Fundraising and Creative teams at Comic Relief and the production teams at BBC and BBC Studios as we co-create the annual campaign. Frequency of meetings varies through the year but during the peak period of January to March, these are weekly.</p>
Regulators	<p>Comic Relief strives to be best in class in terms of our compliance with all regulatory requirements and best practice guidance.</p>	<p>Timely submission of all required reports and paperwork.</p> <p>Proactive and open engagement with regulators when appropriate, including self-reporting.</p> <p>Prompt and comprehensive responses to all requests for information.</p>

The table below sets out the key decisions taken by the Comic Relief Board in 2021/22 and how the interests of our stakeholders and the wider factors set out in section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 were considered. The Trustees have carefully balanced the sometimes conflicting, needs of all our stakeholder groups to ensure we drive through the necessary changes to secure the continued financial stability of Comic Relief and deliver on our vision of a just world free from poverty.

Decision	Narrative	Key considerations
Approval of the Organisational Strategy	The Board adopted a strategy, for the next 5 years, that includes six key strategic aims. This strategy makes it clear that we are driven by our vision and mission, that our impact model needs to clearly connect to our vision, and that our ability to have impact is dependent upon our ability to raise money.	Additional consideration was given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Operationalising the strategy ■ Creating the cultural conditions for success including having a safe and enabling environment, offering development, and learning opportunities, and a more diverse range of experiences within the staff body ■ Continuing to support our existing funded partners ■ Delivering maximum impact ■ Widening our creative collaborations with the BBC.
Approval of the organisational restructure.	Ensuring the organisation structure is aligned with the organisational strategy and approval of an Organisational Change Policy and creating a future proof "fit for purpose" organisation in terms of size and skills.	Consideration given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensuring all roles are aligned to our vision ■ Minimising job losses ■ Delivering on our existing contractual commitments.
Approved the reappointment of four Trustees to the Board.	Undertook a review of the skills and performance of the Board/Trustees and Committees.	Took the changing financial climate into consideration to ensure that the skills and experience of the Board reflect the new challenges facing Comic Relief.

KEY RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

RISK OVERVIEW

Risk is inherent in all our activities, from fundraising to grant making. Our current strategy and future strategy are designed to mitigate the key risks we face and to maximise new opportunities.

Comic Relief has a risk management framework and a comprehensive suite of policies to identify and manage risk. We consider internal and external risks, and although we are unable to control external factors such as the cost-of-living crisis, we aim to take appropriate steps to mitigate their potential impact.

RISK FRAMEWORK AND CONTROLS

Under our risk management framework, risk discussions are held with directorate representatives, Executive Directors, Independent Committee Members and Trustees to ensure we identify and manage risks at all levels. Risk discussions allow us to identify emerging risks, put in place mitigations and plan future actions to ensure that risks are managed in line with our risk appetite.

Our risk registers are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they stay relevant and reflect the changing nature of risks that Comic Relief faces. Risks are scored in terms of likelihood and impact, with identification of current controls in place and any future actions for further mitigation. The risk register and risk discussions are reviewed periodically at all levels so that risk is part of all areas of the organisation and its operations and to ensure risks are identified and being managed appropriately, with oversight from the Audit and Risk Committee.

Our wider assurance framework includes compliance procedures and incident reporting protocols, which help us to identify incidents and risks, and monitor compliance with our legal and regulatory duties. We have proactive measures in place to prevent fraud, corruption (including bribery), mismanagement or misconduct in relation to our staff, suppliers, or partners, and we investigate any allegations that we receive through our formal Reporting Concerns process.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that risks are managed effectively across the Comic Relief group. This includes monitoring and challenging risk management processes, internal control frameworks and the work of our assurance function. The Board reviews and approves the overall risk management framework and receives updates on how these risks are being managed, as well as reviewing any new significant risks at Board meetings throughout the year. The Board is supported by the Audit and Risk and Finance and Fundraising Committees, who provide the Board and Executive with regular in-year review and oversight of our strategic and operational risks.

RISK APPETITE

Trustees and management have articulated a risk appetite statement to help frame and inform our organisational risk management:

Comic Relief has a bold vision, a passion, and eagerness to drive social change in innovative ways. This means that it generally operates with a medium to high-risk appetite in how it seeks to achieve impact and in finding new and innovative ways of raising funds for our beneficiaries. We work with people across the world in poverty or where there is vulnerability, and to deliver our mission means we do have to take some risk; however, we seek to reduce to an absolute minimum the risk to the safety of our beneficiaries, employees, trustees, volunteers, contributors, and partners. Our appetite is low when considering compliance and regulatory matters, with a marginally higher risk appetite towards our strategic, reporting, and operational matters including our trust-based investment funding approach.

KEY STRATEGIC RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

The following table sets out our strategic risks and the steps taken to reduce our risk exposure in line with our risk appetite/ tolerances.

Risk	Mitigations in place and actions planned
<p>Financial</p> <p>That we are unable to achieve our income targets, or the desired mix of unrestricted and restricted funding, limiting us to achieve desired social change. External risks to our fundraising include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The cost-of-living crisis, which challenges the ability of the public to donate; and ■ Changes to how the public consume entertainment, including an ongoing decline in linear television viewing. 	<p>Under our governance structure, the Board and the Finance and Fundraising Committee oversee and scrutinise our financial performance and assess external economic factors (such as the cost-of-living crisis) and their impact on our operations.</p> <p>The 2022-2027 strategy aims to address income challenges by diversifying fundraising initiatives; exploring new income streams opportunities; and maximising unrestricted income. We will increase our use of audience insight analysis to ensure our propositions continue to excite our supporters.</p>
<p>Reputational</p> <p>With consideration of the organisational restructure, macro environmental factors such as recession and the cost-of-living crisis, there is a risk that the public lose confidence in Comic Relief and our brand, and we lose relevance with our audiences.</p>	<p>We are working to increase our year-round engagement with a range of audiences and the public who are facing hardship and look towards Comic Relief for support.</p>
<p>People</p> <p>That we are unable to retain and attract high performing staff.</p>	<p>Mechanisms are in place to proactively identify retention risks, including support from HR Business Partners, exit interviews, onboarding surveys and reporting through our new management information systems.</p> <p>We are developing an internal talent pipeline to improve internal resilience and retain our top talent. We have launched an internal Management Development Programme and we use an internal recruitment process to offer career opportunities to internal talent.</p>

Risk	Mitigations in place and actions planned
<p>Culture</p> <p>That organisational changes and an unclear direction will lead to low levels of staff engagement and trust..</p>	<p>A range of communication and feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure staff concerns are heard by management and addressed quickly. Communication with staff was prioritised during the rollout of the 2022-2027 strategy and the proposed organisational restructure.</p> <p>Staff camaraderie and connection to the organisation has increased with the reopening of the office, whilst our flexible working policy accommodates individual needs.</p> <p>We signed up to the Time to Change pledge, and our Mental Health First Aiders provide our staff with further support and signposting.</p> <p>The 2022-2027 strategy will provide staff with clarity over the organisation's future direction. It also aims to address inefficiencies, blockers, and workload pressures that staff face, impacting morale.</p>
<p>Fraud and Data Management</p> <p>That our fraud and data management and analysis practices are ineffective, leading to inefficiencies in process, missed income opportunities and compliance risks. This could result in poor decisions, operational disruption, reputational damage, and fines.</p>	<p>The 2022-2027 strategy includes transformation of processes, data, and systems.</p> <p>A data maturity roadmap has been developed and is being actioned, with proof of concepts delivered.</p> <p>The Technology team is responsible for information security, including cyber security, and ensures that technical and user measures are in place and regularly reviewed and tested. We've completed Cyber Essential accreditation, with Cyber Essentials Plus underway.</p> <p>We've established a business change steering group whose responsibility includes oversight of data transformation and implementation of the new finance system.</p> <p>Our Information Governance Steering Group has been refreshed and our Information Governance practices are under review with a review of our Information Security completed by Internal Audit.</p> <p>New mandatory data protection training and a refreshed suite of Information Governance Policies have been launched.</p>

Risk	Mitigations in place and actions planned
<p>Operational</p> <p>There is a risk that the control environment suffers due to high transition in staff.</p> <p>There is also a risk that we do not deliver operationally on the strategy.</p>	<p>We have streamlined our systems and processes to deliver efficiencies.</p> <p>We have engaged a Transition Lead to support the operational delivery of the strategy.</p>

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have approved the Trustees' Annual Report, incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report, which provides an analysis of the Group's performance, its financial position and an insight into our objectives and the risks and uncertainties we face. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Group's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting policies. The Trustees believe they have demonstrated their compliance with the requirements set out in the Charity regulators' guidance and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator's guidance in preparing this report and the accounts.

There is a qualifying indemnity provision in place for the benefit of Trustees.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report, incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the situation of the group and charity and of the application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

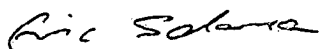
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial statements are published on the Charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements, which may vary from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The maintenance and integrity of the Charity's website is the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trustees' responsibility also extends to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have also done everything they should have done, as a Trustee, to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure the Charity's auditors are aware of it.

The Trustees' report, incorporating the Strategic Report and the Reference and Administrative details was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf on 7 December 2022.



Eric Salama

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chief Executive Officer
Samir Patel

Company Secretary
Alex Botha
(until 30 September 2022)

Registered Office and Principal Address:
1st Floor
89 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TP

Statutory Auditor
BDO LLP
55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Internal Auditor
RSM Risk Assurance
Services LLP
6th floor, 25
Farringdon St.
London
EC4A 4AB

Honorary Accountants
EY LLP
1 More London Place
London
SE1 2AF

Bankers
National Westminster
Bank plc
P.O. Box 158
214 High Holborn
London

WC1V 7BX

Investment Advisors
Tilney Asset Management
6 New Street Square New
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London
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Cambridge Associates
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International Limited SS&C
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Basildon
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SS15 5FS
US Bank Global Fund
Services
24-26 City Quay
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Link Fund Solutions Limited
6th Floor
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London
EC2V 7NQ
BNY Mellon
160 Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4LA

Northern Trust Fiduciary
Services (Ireland) Georges
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Dublin D02 R156
Ireland

Solicitors
Bates Wells LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Harbottle and Lewis LLP
Hanover House
14 Hanover Square
London
W1S 1HP

Honorary Solicitors
CMS Cameron McKenna LLP
Cannon Place
78 Cannon Street
London
EC4N 6AF
Linklaters LLP
One Silk Street
London
EC2Y 8HQ

Company Numbers
Charity Projects: 1806414
Comic Relief Ltd: 01967154
Brand Relief Ltd: 06808703

Charity Numbers
Charity Projects: 326568
(England and Wales)
SC039730 (Scotland)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the Parent Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, as amended in 2010.

We have audited the financial statements of Charity Projects ("the Parent Charitable Company") and its subsidiaries ("the Group") for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Balance sheets (consolidated and parent), the Consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remain independent of the Group and the Parent Charitable Company in accordance with the ethical requirements 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.

Conclusions related 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 Group and the Parent 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 Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The other information comprises: the Annual Report. 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. 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.

Other Companies Act 2006 reporting

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic report prepared for the purposes of Company Law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic report and the Directors' Report, which are included in the Trustees' Report, have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Group and the Parent Charitable Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatement in the Strategic report or the Trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion;

- proper and adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Parent Charitable Company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the Parent Charitable Company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, 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 determines 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 Group's and the Parent Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the Parent 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 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

Based on our understanding of the Charitable Company and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements to be the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and relevant tax legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition the Charitable Company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation.

We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: Employment Law, Health & Safety Legislation and Data Protection. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence if any.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it. Audit procedures capable of detecting irregularities including fraud performed by the engagement team included:

- Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud. Areas of identified risk are then tested substantively;
- Discussions with management, including consideration of any performance incentives and remuneration arrangements, known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; internal audit reports, reviewing correspondence with regulatory bodies and from legal advisors to identify indications of non-compliance with laws and regulations or any potential weaknesses in internal control which could result in fraud susceptibility;
- Reviewing items included in the Group's fraud and theft database as well as the results of internal audit's investigation into these matters;
- Assessing the design and implementation of the control environment to identify areas of material weakness to focus the design of our audit testing;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Enquiries as to whether there have been any serious incident reports or correspondence with the Charity Regulators and reviewing and assessing the impact of any reports or correspondence;
- Review of a sample of Gift Aid claims and ensuring these have been made in accordance with the regulations;
- Challenging assumptions made by management in their significant accounting estimates in particular the valuation of the Gift Aid accrual, valuation of gifts in kind and valuation of social investments;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments in particular any journals posted by senior management; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud in income recognition we considered management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements and designed specific audit tests to respond to this risk, in particular, tests to address the completeness of income risk.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Financial Reporting Council's ("FRC's") website at:

<https://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 Charitable Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the Charitable Company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charitable Company's members and 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 Charitable Company, the Charitable Company's members as a body and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

Fiona Condron

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Fiona Condron

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of BDO LLP, statutory auditor London, UK

Date: 16 January 2022

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(incorporating a Consolidated income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 July 2022

			2022	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	(2)	25,363	18,580	43,943
Trading activities	(2/3)	5,744	-	5,744
Investments	(2/4)	304	-	304
Total Income	(2)	31,411	18,580	49,991
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		12,238	30	12,268
Charitable activities				
Tackling poverty and social injustice:				
UK		5,674	11,374	17,048
International		6,960	6,625	13,585
Global awareness, education and social change		1,366	-	1,366
		14,000	17,999	31,999
Total Expenditure	(5a)	26,238	18,029	44,267
Operating Surplus		5,173	551	5,724
Losses on investments	(4/12)	(2,353)	-	(2,353)
Net Income		2,820	551	3,371
Transfers between funds		(172)	172	-
Net movement in funds		2,648	723	3,371
Funds brought forward at 1 August 2021	(19/20)	90,825	(105)	90,720
Funds carried forward at 31 July 2022	(19/20)	93,473	618	94,091

All amounts relate to the continuing activities of the group. The reference to the notes, which form part of these financial statements, is shown on each line as appropriate. The notes are shown on pages 59 to 87.

The group has taken advantage of the exemption under s408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not prepared a separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity. The net income for Charity Projects in the year was £3.4m (2021: net expenditure of £4.7m).

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
(incorporating a Consolidated income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 July 2021

			2021	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Notes	Funds	Funds	Funds
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	(2)	35,369	30,559	65,928
Trading activities	(2/3)	6,871	57	6,928
Investments	(2/4)	1,223	-	1,223
Total Income	(2)	43,463	30,616	74,079
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		12,911	56	12,967
Charitable activities				
Tackling poverty and social injustice:				
UK		20,633	24,555	45,188
International		11,595	14,929	26,524
Global awareness, education and social change		1,518	-	1,518
		33,746	39,484	73,230
Total Expenditure	(5a)	46,657	39,540	86,197
Operating Deficit		(3,194)	(8,924)	(12,118)
Gains on investments	(4/12)	7,432	-	7,432
Net Income / (Expenditure)		4,238	(8,924)	(4,686)
Transfers between funds		415	(415)	-
Net movement in funds		4,653	(9,339)	(4,686)
Funds brought forward at 1 August 2020	(19/20)	86,172	9,234	95,406
Funds carried forward at 31 July 2021	(19/20)	90,825	(105)	90,720

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (Charity Projects company number 01806414)
As at 31 July 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	(10)	132	14	136	-
Tangible assets	(11)	218	218	362	362
Investments	(12a)	64,639	64,639	56,992	56,992
Social investments	(13)	1,704	1,704	1,209	1,209
		66,693	66,575	58,699	58,563
Current assets					
Debtors	(14)	13,530	16,428	22,000	25,115
Cash at bank and in hand		74,285	70,085	96,425	93,215
		87,815	86,513	118,425	118,330
Provisions	(16)	(1,029)	(1,029)	(491)	(491)
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(15a)	(43,480)	(42,210)	(55,960)	(55,879)
		(44,509)	(43,239)	(56,451)	(56,370)
Net current assets		43,306	43,274	61,974	61,960
Total assets less current liabilities		109,999	109,849	120,673	120,523
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(15b)	(15,908)	(15,908)	(29,953)	(29,953)
Net assets	(18)	94,091	93,941	90,720	90,570
Funds					
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Designated funds	(19)	52,036	52,036	49,274	49,228
General fund	(19)	41,437	41,287	41,551	41,447
Total unrestricted funds		93,473	93,323	90,825	90,675
<i>Restricted funds</i>	(20)	618	618	(105)	(105)
Total funds		94,091	93,941	90,720	90,570

Approved by the Trustees signed and authorised for issue on their behalf by:

Eric Salama

Eric Salama Chair
of Trustees

Date: Dec 20, 2022

Charlotte Moar
Charlotte Moar (Dec 20, 2022 13:28 GMT)

Charlotte Moar
Treasurer

Date: Dec 20, 2022

The notes on pages 59 to 87 form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			Restated
Net cash used in operating activities	A	(12,360)	(19,589)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest	(4)	304	1,223
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(11)	(47)	(31)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(10)	(37)	(10)
Additions of fixed asset investments	(12b)	(15,000)	(24,464)
Proceeds on disposal of fixed asset investments	(12b)	5,000	24,464
Net cash (used in)/ provided by investing activities		(9,780)	1,182
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	B	(22,140)	(18,406)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		96,425	114,831
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		74,285	96,425
A. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow used in operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period		3,370	(4,686)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation charges	(5a)	233	271
Losses/(gains) on investments	(12)	2,353	(7,432)
Dividends and interest	(4)	(304)	(1,223)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(13)/(14)	7,975	(1,824)
(Decrease) in creditors	(15)/(16)	(25,987)	(4,760)
Decrease in inventory		-	65
Net cash used in operating activities		(12,360)	(19,589)

The charity held no borrowings, related derivatives or obligations under finance leases during the year and therefore a net debt reconciliation is not provided.

B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 Aug 2021	Movement	At 31 July 2022
Cash at bank and in hand	96,425	(22,140)	74,285
Total cash and cash equivalents	96,425	(22,140)	74,285

The notes on pages 59 to 87 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

1. Accounting policies

Charity Projects is a public benefit entity constituted as a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number 1806414) and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number 326568) and registered as a charity in Scotland (charity number SC039730). The address of the registered office is 1st Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP and the charity operates from the same address.

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), the Charities SORP (FRS102) Second Edition applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019. The Group's functional currency is GBP.

Going Concern

The accounting policies below have been adopted for material items. No material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern have been identified by the Trustees. The considerations made in this assertion include review of the current and future operations and plans of the Group, review of our cash and investment holdings and our reserves levels through to the end of December 2023. A number of scenarios were modeled to assess their impact on cash and reserves and even in a worst case scenario, the charity has sufficient cash and reserves to cover costs and continue to operate.

Trustees consider that Comic Relief has sufficient financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and that the group is well placed to manage its operating risks successfully and that no material uncertainty exists. The following factors provide additional assurance of Comic Relief's going concern:

- We have a comparatively high level of reserves to mitigate against volatility in the market and movement in our fundraising income

- We have processes in place to mitigate against the risk of our investment portfolio dropping in value

- We are holding approximately £9m more than our cash policy, meaning our cash position could withstand significant hit to income.

Trustees have not identified any material uncertainties relating to going concern. Trustees have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

b) Consolidation

These financial statements represent the consolidated results and net assets of Charity Projects and its subsidiaries up to 31 July 2022. All members of the Charity Projects Group are listed on page 34.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in S408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to publish a charity only Income and Expenditure Account. The net income of the charity for the financial year was £3.4m (2021: net expenditure of £4.7m).

c) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described below, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Gift aid accrual

At year end unclaimed gift aid predominantly relates to the current year, with a small amount accrued for prior year activity. Accrual is based on prepared and verified claim data.

Dilapidations provision

The provision for dilapidations is based on professional estimates for the work that would be required to restore the property to its original state as required by the lease.

Redundancy provision

A redundancy provision has been recognised based on a formal plan and commitment to termination of employment affecting specific teams within the organisation, being in place in advance of the year end.

Donated goods and services

Where the charity receives donations of goods and services in kind and where there is a measurable value to the charity, which can be ascertained with reliability, they are included as both income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donated goods and services are included within contributions to operating costs. Our night of TV relies on the generosity of the BBC in providing support to the preparation and broadcast of the annual television show. In addition, content, promotional support and coverage of activities is provided by local and national BBC television and radio, both on the day and in the lead up to the appeal night. The value of each of these elements is very difficult to quantify as they are not discrete activities but embedded, partly as newsworthy and entertainment content, within the operations and business of the BBC. Red Nose Day and Sport Relief provide valuable content which attracts a large audience, and without this the BBC would have to produce alternative content. As such, the support provided by the BBC has not been included in the Charity's Statement of Financial Activities as it is not possible to meaningfully quantify it.

Comic Relief is also grateful to other organisations which provide valuable support across a wide of activities including, but not limited to, advertising space, creative content, technology partners and consultancy work.

Grant liabilities

Grant liabilities are initially recognised at the amounts awarded and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Carrying value of social investments

Social investments are programme related investments valued at a cash basis less provision for doubtful debt. The majority of this balance is comprised of loans therefore this valuation method is appropriate. The recoverability of the investments are reviewed annually. Red Shed has an investment portfolio of £4.3m with an amount drawn down to date of £1.7m.

Support costs

All support costs are allocated on the basis of headcount as a proxy for staff time.

In the view of the Trustees, no other critical judgements have been necessary in the preparation of the financial statements and no significant estimation uncertainty or assumptions concerning the future affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Financial instruments

Charity Projects has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. With the exception of the fixed asset investments, basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at the present value of the future cash flows unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial. Financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with current asset investments, other debtors, accrued income and social investment loans. Financial liabilities comprise grants payable, other creditors and accrued expenditure.

Fixed asset investments, held as part of the investment portfolio, are reported at fair value using the closing market bid price at the balance sheet date, with gains and losses being recognised within income and expenditure. Investments in subsidiary undertakings are held at cost less impairment.

e) Fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost and amortisation is provided on all intangible fixed assets on a straight-line basis. Trademarks are written down over the length of period for which they are valid. Technology assets are capitalised software development costs and these are written off over their useful economic life. Amortisation rates are as follows:

Trademarks	10% straight-line basis
Software	20% - 33 ⅓ % straight-line basis

Assets are assessed at least annually for impairment. Any impairment value is recognised immediately in the statement of financial activities. Individually purchased software is written off in the year of acquisition.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost, less accumulated depreciation and any recognised impairment loss.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixture and fittings	25% straight-line basis
Computer Equipment	33 ⅓ % straight-line basis
Office premises (refurbishment)	20% straight-line basis

Refurbishment assets are depreciated over 3 years due to the length of the building lease. Residual values and useful economic lives are reviewed annually by the Financial Controller. Any impairment in value is charged to the statement of financial activities.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

g) Debtors/Creditors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at transaction price and subsequently adjusted, where necessary, for bad and doubtful debts. Similarly, trade and other creditors are recognised at transaction price. These are subsequently revalued at amortised cost.

h) Income

Income is accrued and included in the statement of financial activities when the Group is entitled to the income, it can be quantified with reasonable certainty and it is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the transaction or gift will flow to the charity.

Donation income represents monies received by the charity from charitable donations, fundraising events and grants. Donation income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period that it is received unless there is an unequivocal obligation to donate, in which case it is recognised in the period in which it falls due. Where a donation is made with a valid Gift Aid declaration, the Gift Aid is recognised in the period in which the original donation was made.

Grant income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the year in which this becomes receivable and when any conditions for receipt have been met.

Legacies are accounted for as income once the receipt of the legacy becomes more probable than not and quantifiable. For pecuniary legacies this will generally be at the point probate is granted. For residuary legacies this will generally be on the earlier of cash receipt or once confirmation has been received from the representatives of the estates that payment of the legacy will be made or property transferred once all conditions attached to the legacy have been fulfilled.

Trading income is derived from the activities of the charity's subsidiary Comic Relief Limited (and historically Brand Relief Limited).

Income from licensing, events, trading activities and sponsorship is recognised in the period in which the event or campaign occurs.

Rights and royalty income are recognised on an accruals basis provided it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity, and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. Otherwise the income is recognised on a cash basis.

Investment income is recognised when the cash is received for dividend payments or when interest is receivable.

i) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Where expenditure does not fall clearly into one category, it is allocated to appropriate headings on the basis of headcount in each cost area.

Expenditure on Raising Funds comprises the costs of generating voluntary income (primarily fundraising and event costs) and trading and other costs associated with the expenditure of the charity's trading subsidiaries.

Charitable activities represents the grants awarded, staff and other direct costs associated with grant making and awareness raising activities including international poverty, fair trade campaigns and education projects.

Support costs represent overhead costs which have been apportioned to each expenditure heading on the basis of staff costs as a proxy for headcount as detailed in note 5b.

Governance comprises costs in relation to statutory and regulatory compliance.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

j) Grants payable

Grants are recognised in the statement of financial activities when they have been approved by the Trustees and notified to the beneficiaries, and are apportioned between amounts due within one year and after more than one year based on the expected payment profile. The charity monitors the usage to which a grant is put and reports are required from beneficiaries before the next instalment is paid. However, the beneficiary would have a valid expectation that they will receive the grant as offered and accepted. Cancelled grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when the cancellation has been approved. Circumstances in which a grant may be cancelled include adverse performance issues, a breach of the conditions of the grant, the grantee no longer being able to accept the grant, or there being an underspend on the project which would lead to a partial cancellation.

Grant liabilities are initially recognised at the amounts awarded and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

k) Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

l) General fund

The general fund is used to cover fundraising and running costs in the year. Income that is credited to this fund includes sponsorship and corporate support, gift aid, investment income, investment gains/losses, interest and unrestricted donations.

m) Designated funds

These unrestricted funds have been designated by the trustees for specific purposes and are listed in note 19.

n) Restricted funds

These funds can only be used for purposes as specified by the donor and are listed in note 20.

o) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction (interbank rate using Oanda). Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the surplus/deficit for the year.

p) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the principal areas of costs in which it has been incurred.

q) Contingent Liabilities

Contingent liabilities is the match funding recognised when a contract is signed, with the exception of multi-year contracts in which case this is noted in the agreement.

2. Total Income - Group

	Notes	2022			2021		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds £'000	Funds £'000	£'000	Funds £'000	Funds £'000	£'000
Donations and legacies							
Fundraising events		22,702	7,275	29,977	31,547	7,136	38,683
Grant income (2a)		-	11,305	11,305	341	22,988	23,329
Other donations		232	-	232	32	-	32
Gift Aid		2,140	-	2,140	3,306	435	3,741
Contributions to operating costs		289	-	289	143	-	143
		25,363	18,580	43,943	35,369	30,559	65,928
Trading activities							
Trading income (3)		5,744	-	5,744	6,871	57	6,928
Investments (4)		304	-	304	1,223	-	1,223
		31,411	18,580	49,991	43,463	30,616	74,079

Fundraising events include income raised through our campaigns. In line with the previous year, Red Nose Day was our main campaign in 2022. However, 2021 was an exceptional year comparatively due to our COVID fundraiser.

Trading activities comprise the turnover of Comic Relief Limited, a trading subsidiary of Charity Projects less any intercompany charges eliminated on consolidation. Trading income consists of income from merchandising and royalties totalling £3.7m, (2021: £4.8m), and income from licensing activities and sponsorship totalling £2.0m (2021: £2.1m).

Brand Relief Limited had no trading activity in the year (2021: nil turnover).

2. (a) Grant Income

Grant income was comprised of:

Name of funder	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	275	275
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	-	552	552	-	7,683	7,683
Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation	-	51	51	-	1,381	1,381
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	-	4,504	4,504	-	4,244	4,244
Founder's Pledge	-	-	-	-	250	250
Government Grant - Furlough	-	-	-	41	-	41
Greater London Authority Mayors Fund	-	248	248	-	525	525
Ministry of Justice	-	698	698	-	1,588	1,588
National Emergencies Trust	-	1,178	1,178	-	2,049	2,049
Oak Foundation	-	150	150	-	-	-
Prince of Wales Charitable Fund	-	-	-	-	38	38
Scottish Government	-	467	467	-	592	592
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	-	2,147	2,147	-	1,543	1,543
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	-	-	-	200	200
The Health Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
The Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	100	100	-	496	496
Unbound Philanthropy	-	210	210	-	-	-
World Bank	-	-	-	-	2,159	2,159
Other Funders	-	-	-	300	(35)	265
Total grant income	-	11,305	11,305	341	22,988	23,329

3. Comic Relief Limited and Brand Relief Limited

The results for Comic Relief Limited, a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Charity Projects, were as follows:

	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Turnover	5,743	6,938
Overhead expenditure	(1,335)	(1,491)
Operating profit	4,408	5,447
Interest receivable	2	1
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	4,410	5,448
Taxation	-	-
Qualifying charitable donation	(4,410)	(5,448)
Current year tax credit	-	-
Change in shareholders' funds	-	-

Assets and liabilities	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Intangible fixed assets	118	136
Current assets	7,911	6,794
Current liabilities	(7,879)	(6,780)
Net current assets	32	14
Net assets	150	150

Brand Relief Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Charity Projects, had no trading activity in the year and there are no plans for further trading activities in this company in the foreseeable future.

4. Investment income – Group

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Dividends	137	1,058
Other interest receivable	167	165
Gross investment income	304	1,223

Investment income is split between returns from the investment portfolio and from cash holdings as follows:

a) Investment portfolio

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Dividends	137	1,058
(Losses)/Gains on investments	(2,353)	7,432
Gross investment return	(2,216)	8,490
Less portfolio management costs	(192)	(321)
Net investment return	(2,408)	8,169

b) Income from cash holdings

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Interest receivable	166	165
Less cash management charges	(20)	(6)
Net return from cash holdings	146	159

5. (a) Analysis of expenditure – Group

	Grant Costs (note 6) £'000	Staff Costs (note 7) £'000	Support Costs (note 5b) £'000	Other Direct Costs £'000	2022 Total £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
Costs of generating donations and legacies	-	5,457	1,470	3,814	10,741
Fundraising trading and other costs	-	848	227	260	1,335
Investment management costs	-	-	192	-	192
	-	6,305	1,889	4,074	12,268
Charitable activities					
Tackling poverty and social injustice:					
UK	13,704	1,964	513	867	17,048
International	11,537	1,202	314	532	13,585
Global awareness, education and social change	-	1,079	287	-	1,366
	25,241	4,245	1,114	1,399	31,999
Total expenditure	25,241	10,550	3,003	5,473	44,267

5. (a) Analysis of expenditure – Group (continued)

	Grant Costs (note 6) £'000	Staff Costs (note 7) £'000	Support Costs (note 5b) £'000	Other Direct Costs £'000	2021 Total £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
Costs of generating donations and legacies	-	5,720	1,898	3,510	11,128
Fundraising trading and other costs	-	749	233	536	1,518
Investment management costs	-	-	321	-	321
	-	6,469	2,452	4,046	12,967
Charitable activities					
Tackling poverty and social injustice:					
UK	41,558	1,935	608	1,087	45,188
International	24,242	1,216	382	684	26,524
Global awareness, education and social change	-	1,146	372	-	1,518
	65,800	4,297	1,362	1,771	73,230
Total expenditure	65,800	10,766	3,814	5,817	86,197

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Expenditure includes:		
Auditor's remuneration: audit of these financial statements - charity	47	47
Amounts receivable by auditors and their associates in respect of:		
■ Audit of financial statements of subsidiaries pursuant to legislation	21	20
■ Other services relating to taxation	6	23
■ Other financial services	-	7
Operating lease rentals - land and buildings, and other	764	774
Depreciation and amortisation	232	271
Governance costs	118	150

5. (b) Analysis of support costs – Group

	Premises	Depreciation	IT & Office	HR, finance & management	2022 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs of raising funds					
Costs of generating donations and legacies	578	121	644	127	1,470
Fundraising, trading and other costs	89	19	100	19	227
Investment management costs	-	-	-	192	192
	667	140	744	338	1,889
Charitable activities					
Tackling poverty and social injustice:					
UK grant making	202	42	225	44	513
International grant making	123	26	138	27	314
Global awareness, education and social change	112	24	126	25	287
	437	92	489	96	1,114
Total support costs	1,104	232	1,233	434	3,003

5. (b) Analysis of support costs – Group (continued)

	Premises	Depreciation	IT & Office	HR, finance & management	2021 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Costs of raising funds					
Costs of generating donations and legacies	621	147	622	508	1,898
Fundraising, trading and other costs	76	19	76	62	233
Investment management costs	-	-	-	321	321
	697	166	698	891	2,452
Charitable activities					
Tackling poverty and social injustice:					
UK grant making	199	47	199	163	608
International grant making	125	30	125	102	382
Global awareness, education and social change	122	28	122	100	372
	446	105	446	365	1,362
Total support costs	1,143	271	1,144	1,256	3,814

All support costs are allocated on the basis of headcount as a proxy for staff time, except for investment management costs which are allocated directly.

6. Charitable activities: grants Group & Charity

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000
Tackling Poverty and Social Injustice - UK						
A safe place to be	195	611	806	1,877	4,003	5,880
Children survive and thrive	149	451	600	1,155	1,567	2,722
Gender justice	448	1,822	2,270	1,051	2,686	3,737
Global mental health	517	2,390	2,907	695	4,885	5,580
Multi themed	2,909	4,492	7,401	13,809	9,830	23,639
Total grants allocated	4,218	9,766	13,984	18,587	22,971	41,558
UK cancelled grants	(236)	(44)	(280)	-	-	-
Total UK grant costs (note 5a)	3,982	9,722	13,704	18,587	22,971	41,558

6. Charitable activities: grants Group & Charity (continued)

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000	Unrestricted £'000	Restricted £'000	Total £'000
Tackling Poverty and Social Injustice - International						
A safe place to be	1,734	1,179	2,913	49	49	98
Children survive and thrive	1,222	1,146	2,368	328	41	369
Gender justice	995	1,070	2,065	1,697	3,330	5,027
Global mental health	770	792	1,562	1,497	153	1,650
Multi themed	1,618	1,390	3,008	8,350	11,181	19,531
Total grants allocated	6,339	5,577	11,916	11,921	14,754	26,675
International cancelled grants	(415)	36	(379)	(1,613)	(820)	(2,433)
Total International grant costs (note 5a)	5,924	5,613	11,537	10,308	13,934	24,242
Total grant costs (note 5a)	9,906	15,335	25,241	28,895	36,905	65,800

Total funding awarded in the year to tackle poverty and social injustice was £25.9m (2021: £68.2m), excluding cancelled grants totalling £659k. All grants are paid to institutions.

Circumstances in which a grant may be cancelled include adverse performance issues, a breach of the conditions of the grant, the grantee no longer being able to accept the grant, or there being an underspend on the project which would lead to a partial cancellation.

All funding is awarded to charitable organisations. A breakdown of the awards is available from Comic Relief, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP.

7. Staff – Group

The average weekly number of persons employed by the group during the year was:

Fundraising

Operations

Events, Production and Licencing

Grant making and management

2022 No.	2021 No.
33	44
59	55
58	62
38	42
188	203

Staff costs for the above persons comprised:-

Wages and salaries

Redundancy costs

Social security costs

Pension costs

Agency staff

Total staff costs

2022 £'000	2021 £'000
7,841	8,534
471	26
951	992
913	979
10,176	10,531
374	235
10,550	10,766

7. Staff – Group (continued)

The number of employees earning over £60,000 per annum, including taxable benefits but excluding employer's pensions and employer's national insurance, was:

	2022	2021
£60,001 - £70,000	7	11
£70,001 - £80,000	4	5
£80,001 - £90,000	4	3
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
£140,001 - £150,000	-	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	-
	19	21

The total remuneration during the year, including pension and employer's national insurance, for the Chief Executive position was £189k (2021: £229k). Remuneration in the prior year related to two people, the outgoing and incoming CEOs in 2021.

Key management personnel constitute the Trustees, Chief Executive, Executive Directors, the General Counsel and Company Secretary. Total remuneration received by the key management personnel was £769k (2021: £955k).

Total redundancy costs during the year were £471k (2021: £26k) which relate to the organisational restructure which was announced in July 2022.

8. Trustees

Trustees received £nil remuneration in the year (2021: £nil). No costs were incurred in relation to travel, or accommodation in relation to trustee duties (2021: nil). £126 was spent on subsistence (2021:nil), £259 was spent on meeting expenses (2021: £777) and £1,530 was spent on training (2021: nil). One trustee was reimbursed directly for expense claims totalling £202 (2021: £311) for travel and subsistence.

Indemnity insurance costing £24,886 (2021: £17,280) was purchased on behalf of the trustees..

9. Taxation

Comic Relief is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes. The charity's trading subsidiaries donate to Charity Projects an amount equal to any taxable profits as a qualifying charitable donation. Consequently there is no taxation charge for the year (2021: £nil).

10. Intangible fixed assets – Group

	Trademarks £'000	Software £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 August 2021	568	-	568
Additions	23	14	37
At 31 July 2022	591	14	605
Amortisation			
At 1 August 2021	432	-	432
Charged in the year	41	-	41
At 31 July 2022	473	-	473
Net book value			
At 31 July 2022	118	14	132
At 31 July 2021	136	-	136

There was no impairment in the value of trademark intangible assets as at 31 July 2022 (2021: £nil).

11. Tangible fixed assets – Group and charity

	Premises and Fixtures £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 August 2021	1,805	710	2,515
Additions	3	44	47
At 31 July 2022	1,808	754	2,562
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2021	1,515	638	2,153
Charged in the year	138	53	191
	1,653	691	2,344
Net book value			
At 31 July 2022	155	63	218
At 31 July 2021	290	72	362

12. Fixed asset investments – Group and charity

a) The investment portfolio is held in a range of segregated and pooled, managed funds:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Segregated global equities		
Fundsmith LLP	21,085	25,922
Leadenhall Value Fund	145	255
Trojan Ethical Fund	16,345	16,257
Baillie Gifford	3,134	4,229
Ownership Capital	7,864	9,093
Generation	4,253	-
Private equity		
Schroders Private Equity Fund of Funds III	1,072	1,018
Cash	10,741	218
Total Group & charity	64,639	56,992

All investments are over 5% of the total portfolio, except for Leadenhall Value Fund and Schroders Private Equity Fund of Funds III.

b) Reconciliation of opening and closing market value:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
		Restated
Market value at 1 August	56,992	49,560
Purchases	15,000	24,464
Disposals	(5,000)	(24,464)
Net investment (losses)/gains	(2,353)	7,432
Market value of portfolio at 31 July	64,639	56,992
Historic cost of investments at 31 July	50,438	36,664

12. Fixed asset investments – Group and charity (continued)

c) The charity holds unlisted investments costing £3 (2021: £3) in the following subsidiary undertakings:

Subsidiary undertakings	Cost £	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Class of shares	Share capital held
Comic Relief Limited (Company number: 01967154) (note 3)	£2	England	Trading	Ordinary £1	100%
Brand Relief Limited (Company number: 06808703) (note 3)	£1	England	Dormant	Ordinary £1	100%

13. Social Investments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Value at 1 August	1,209	1,322
Investments	574	(140)*
Repayments	(86)	-
Interest	7	27
Value of portfolio at 31 July	1,704	1,209

*Prior year - new investments (£572k), repayments (£488k), write offs (£197k).

14. Debtors

	2022		2021	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
<i>(a) Amounts falling due within one year</i>				
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	6,586	-	6,700
Other debtors*	5,766	3,622	4,984	3,518
Taxation and social security	126	148	466	178
Prepayments and accrued income	7,639	6,072	16,550	14,719
	13,531	16,428	22,000	25,115

There are no amounts falling due after more than one year.

*Other debtors mainly consists of trade debtors (2022: £5.7m, 2021: £4.9m)

15. Creditors

	2022		2021	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<i>(a) Amounts falling due within one year:</i>				
Grants approved not yet paid	40,571	40,571	54,437	54,437
Other creditors	424	424	371	334
Taxation and social security	310	310	323	323
Accrued expenditure & deferred income	2,175	905	829	785
	43,480	42,210	55,960	55,879
<i>(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year</i>				
Grants approved not yet paid	15,908	15,908	29,953	29,953

16. Provisions

	2022		2021	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Dilapidations provision	526	526	479	479
Restructure provision	503	503	12	12
	1,029	1,029	491	491

16a. Provision Movement

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Opening Balance	491	1,156
Additions	546	13
Amounts charged against the provision	(8)	(678)
Closing Balance at 31 July	1,029	491

The provision for dilapidations is based on professional estimates for the work that would be required to restore the property to its original state as required by the lease. A redundancy provision has been recognised based on a formal plan and commitment to termination of employment affecting specific teams within the organisation, being in place in advance of the year end.

17. Members' liability

The charity does not have a share capital and is limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the maximum amount which each member is liable to contribute is £1. There were 10 members at 31 July 2022 (2021:12).

18. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds £'000	Funds £'000		Funds £'000	Funds £'000	
Fixed assets	66,693	-	66,693	58,699	-	58,699
Current assets	64,605	23,210	87,815	88,648	29,777	118,425
Current liabilities	(27,506)	(17,003)	(44,509)	(37,206)	(19,245)	(56,451)
Liabilities due after one year	(10,319)	(5,589)	(15,908)	(19,316)	(10,637)	(29,953)
Group net assets	93,473	618	94,091	90,825	(105)	90,720

19. Unrestricted funds

	Balance 1 Aug 2021	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Investment Movements £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 31 July 2022
	£'000					£'000
Group and Charity Designated funds						
Social Change Fund	19,314	190	(6,526)	-	7,060	20,038
Match funding commitments	19,518	-	(4,419)	-	7,376	22,475
DEC Ukraine	-	-	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	2,223	-	(88)	-	-	2,135
Red Shed	7,721	29	(712)	-	-	7,038
Fixed Asset Reserve	498	-	-	-	(148)	350
Total designated funds	49,274	219	(12,745)	-	15,288	52,036
Group general fund	41,551	31,192	(13,493)	(2,353)	(15,460)	41,437
Total group funds	90,825	31,411	(26,238)	(2,353)	(172)	93,473
Total charity funds	90,675	30,075	(24,902)	(2,353)	(172)	93,323

19. Unrestricted funds (continued)

	Balance 1 Aug 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Investment Movements £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 31 July 2021 £'000
Group and Charity Designated funds						
Social Change Fund	23,214	(37)	(15,646)	-	11,783	19,314
Match funding commitments	16,062	-	(16,434)	-	19,890	19,518
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	2,223	-	-	-	-	2,223
Red Shed	7,727	346	(352)	-	-	7,721
Fixed Asset Reserve	729	-	-	-	(231)	498
Total designated funds	49,955	309	(32,432)	-	31,442	49,274
Group general fund	36,217	43,154	(14,225)	7,432	(31,027)	41,551
Total group funds	86,172	43,463	(46,657)	7,432	415	90,825
Total charity funds	86,022	41,970	(45,164)	7,432	415	90,675

Social Change Fund

Unrestricted income that has been designated for grants and the costs of making, managing and monitoring grants but is not yet committed. We commit all funds within two years of receipt.

Match funding commitments

The funds that the Trustees have designated to co-fund joint programmes with key funding partners.

DEC Ukraine

A designation of funds to the Disasters Emergency Committee to respond to the crisis in Ukraine, in line with our Social Change Strategy and our work on Safe Place To Be. This fund enables existing Funded Partners to respond flexibly to the emerging situation in Ukraine.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

A grant that has been designated by the Trustees of Comic Relief to drive the development of new and existing income streams, advance our digital platforms and engage new audiences. This is separate to the Bill & Melinda Gates restricted fund in note 20.

Red Shed

A designation of funds to create, catalyse and pilot innovative and new ways to tackle the relief of poverty and social injustice in the UK and internationally by individuals and new enterprises.

Fixed Asset Reserve

A designation of funds equal to the net book value of the intangible and tangible fixed assets.

20. Restricted funds – Group and Charity

	Balance 1 Aug 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 31 July 2022 £'000
Emergency funds raised in response to COVID-19	3,034	90	(3,109)	432	447
GSK Malaria fund	492	-	(209)	-	283
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office grants	(7,251)	4,504	(1,423)	-	(4,170)
Department for Culture, Media and Sport grants	(571)	834	(444)	100	(81)
Impetus Youth Endowment Fund	3,997	-	(4,000)	3	-
Corporate partner funds	2,181	7,034	(4,765)	(378)	4,072
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	(4,755)	2,147	-	-	(2,608)
Global Majority Fund	103	1,678	(97)	97	1,781
Other Restricted funds	2,665	2,293	(3,982)	(82)	894
Total restricted funds	(105)	18,580	(18,029)	172	618

	Balance 1 Aug 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 31 July 2021 £'000
Emergency funds raised in response to COVID-19	10,052	3,442	(10,460)	-	3,034
GSK Malaria fund	979	850	(922)	(415)	492
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office grants	(8,889)	4,244	(2,606)	-	(7,251)
Department for Culture, Media and Sports grants	13	7,561	(8,145)	-	(571)
Impetus Youth Endowment Fund	4,000	-	(3)	-	3,997
Corporate partner funds	1,253	4,169	(3,241)	-	2,181
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	-	1,543	(6,298)	-	(4,755)
Global Majority Fund	-	2,349	(2,246)	-	103
Other Restricted Funds	1,826	6,458	(5,619)	-	2,665
Total restricted funds	9,234	30,616	(39,540)	(415)	(105)

20. Restricted funds: Group and Charity (continued)

These restricted balances will be used to support future projects in accordance with Comic Relief's funding principles and the wishes of the respective donors. Grant costs are recognised in full when the funding is awarded whereas the related income is recognised only when it becomes receivable and when any conditions for receipt have been met. This can result in negative balances on some funds which will be covered by future income received against those funds.

Emergency funds raised in response to COVID-19

This fund is to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with £3.1m of BNI funds awarded to international NGO's in this financial year.

GSK Malaria fund

GSK Malaria fund is a 6 year collaboration between GlaxoSmithKline and Comic Relief to improve health in malaria endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This £17m partnership began in 2016 and we have received all the contracted income.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office grants

This fund is made up of a number of multi-year, match-funded grants with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Grant costs are recognised in full when the funding is awarded whereas the related income is recognised only when the cash is received or it becomes receivable and when any conditions for receipt have been met, therefore this fund is in a negative balance which will be covered by future income. The most recent match-funded grant is Shifting the Power, which is a ten year grant of £30 million, with Comic Relief matching pound for pound (up to £30m), to fund local organisations in Ghana, Malawi, and Zambia to invest in their own organisational development, generate resources locally and better respond to the priorities of local people.

Other funds in this portfolio include:

- Global Mental Health Matters: a £4.7m co-funding arrangement, £2.1m of which is from FCDO, created as part of Red Nose Day 2019 with all funds being allocated to mental health projects in Kenya. This year, we received £599k and spent £351k
- All in All learning: a £26.7m co-funding arrangement, £15.6m of which is from FCDO, created as part of Red Nose Day 2015 with all funds allocated towards education in sub-Saharan Africa. This year we received £2m and spent £393k
- Maanda Initiative: a £39.2m co-funding arrangement, £21.9m of which is from FCDO, created as part of Red Nose Day 2013 which Comic Relief will allocate towards improving the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. This year we received £1.6m and spent £395k
- Trade & Enterprise Initiative: a £21m co-funding arrangement, £10.5m of which is from FCDO, created as part of Sport Relief 2014 where all funds will be allocated towards supporting income generation and enterprise growth across sub-Saharan Africa. There is no income or spend in the year.

Department for Media, Culture and Sports grants

We have received three Tampon Tax grants totalling £5.6m funded by The Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS). These are co-funded grants to fund UK organisations supporting women and girls facing multiple disadvantage, specifically gender-based violence and abuse, in addition to mental ill-health and substance misuse. Two of these programmes closed for which we received £28k and spent £144k within the year, and for the remaining programme we received £806k and spent £300k.

Impetus Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund is a 3 year partnership between Comic Relief and Impetus. In this £6m co-funded programme, Comic Relief have co-designed a grant fund addressing serious youth violence in the UK, with plans to deliver the grants over the next 18 months. This year we committed £4m of partner funds to The Youth Endowment Fund. Please note this isn't an endowment fund per trust law.

Corporate Partner Funds

We have a number of corporate partners that have raised funds for us this year including Sainsbury's (£4.3m), Walkers (£1m), KFC Foundation (£992k) and Mars (£500k).

This year Sainsbury's committed to donate £3.5m to support those impacted by the Ukraine Crisis. From this fund, we awarded £1.5m in grants to our partners Choose Love, Refugee Trauma Initiative and Lumos who are working on the ground in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. We also received additional funds relating to the co-funded Fair Development programme, and a new food poverty initiative.

The KFC Foundation has committed to donate £3m to Comic Relief across a 4 year programme. These funds support projects focusing on helping young people fulfil their potential.

Partnering with Walkers, we have launched a new mental health and well-being fund called The Smiles Fund, designed to support organisations working to reduce the stigma associated with poor mental wellbeing, as well as promote positive social connections and help people build resilience to tackle life's everyday challenges.

Mars has committed to donate £1m as part of the Maltesers/Comic Relief campaign to support maternal mental health.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation agreed a new partnership of £12.6m in 2021 with us, to attract, manage and disburse additional resources to make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death, thereby mitigating the impact caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need and contributing to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations. This is separate to the Bill & Melinda Gates designated fund in note 19.

Global Majority Fund

Last year we entered into a partnership with the National Emergencies Trust, together with Barclays, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Clothworkers' Foundation to provide funding to partners working on racial injustice who had the ability, expertise, networks and knowledge to distribute rapid funding to a diverse range of locally led and focused organisations across the UK. This year a new phase of the fund was agreed and we have received additional funds from National Emergencies Fund and the Health Foundation.

Other restricted funds

We have received a further £2.28m towards new and existing programmes. This includes £250k from TK Maxx which was raised through their 2021 Christmas appeal and a total of £610k from our new Pop Culture Fund. In addition we have received further funds from Greater London Authority (£248k), The Scottish Government (£467k) and Ministry of Justice (£698k).

21. Contingent Assets

As at 31 July 2022, the Charity has entered into funding agreements where the Trustees have concluded that not all conditions for recognition of the grant income have been met. The Trustees expect that the conditions in these agreements will be fulfilled over the course of the next five years. The unrecognised value of these agreements is up to £39.1m (2021: £50.1m)

22. Contingent Liabilities

"Comic Relief is committed to providing match funding of £30m over the next 8 years against future grant income; £18m has already been designated in the accounts with a further £12m to be designated in future years.

Comic Relief is committed to £4.3m in Red Shed investments, of which £1.7m has been drawn down to date, resulting in a contingent liability of £2.6m.

23. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 July 2022, the group had a total value of minimum future lease payments as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Payments due		
Land and buildings: within one year	707	707
Land and buildings: between 1 and 5 years	696	1,403
Plant and equipment : within one year	7	7
Plant and equipment : between 1 and 5 years	12	19
	1,422	2,136

24. Related parties

Comic Relief Inc.

Comic Relief Incorporated (Comic Relief Inc. previously known as America Gives Back Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organisation registered in the United States in 2007.

Richard Curtis is the co-founder of Charity Projects and was a Trustee until November 2019; Richard is Vice President of the Board of Comic Relief Inc. Kevin Cahill is Honorary Life President of Charity Projects and a Board Member of Comic Relief Inc. The remaining Trustees of Comic Relief Inc. are independent of Charity Projects.

In May 2022, the seventh Red Nose Day USA was produced by Comic Relief Inc. in partnership with NBC Universal under licence from Charity Projects. A licence fee of £50k (2021: £50k) was charged by Comic Relief Limited.

Other related parties

Charity Projects charges Comic Relief Limited a management fee for shared staff, premises, depreciation and other support costs. The charge is based on the ratio of income for each entity. For 2022 the fee was £1.1m (2021: £0.9m).

Comic Relief Limited transfers its total net taxable profit to Charity Projects at the end of each year as a qualifying charitable donation. For the year ended 31 July 2022 this was £4.4m (2021: £5.4m).

At 31 July 2022 Comic Relief Limited owed £6.6m (2021: £6.7m) to Charity Projects.

During the year Trustees and key management personnel made personal donations totalling £790 (2021: £1.2k).

A number of related party transactions were undertaken in the year during the normal course of business which were subject to our normal rigorous procedures.

Tessy Ojo, one of our trustees, was a member of the BBC Studios Charity Advisory Committee until December 2021. Payments totalling £190k (2021: £72k) were made by Comic Relief to BBC Studios for production, with £23k due to the BBC as at 31 July 2022 (2021: nil). During 2021/22 production fees and royalties of £392k (2021: £14k) were paid from BBC Studios to Comic Relief Limited. During 2021/22 Comic Relief Ltd is due co-production fees and reimbursed expenditure of £211k (2021: £250k) from BBC, all of which is outstanding as at 31 July 2022.

Fiona Campbell, one of our Trustees, was also an Advisory Board Member at Bologna Centre, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. During 2021/22, £1.8m was paid to Johns Hopkins University. Fiona Campbell was appointed as a Trustee on 11 September 2020 and was not a Trustee of Charity Projects when this funding was committed in November 2019.

25. Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no post balance sheet events to disclose up to 7 December 2022.

26. Prior Year Adjustment

The financial statements have been restated to correct an error where investment additions and disposals were incorrectly netted off for the year ended 31 July 2021 within the cash flow statement (investing activities) and the investment note. This change does not impact the net result or the opening/closing fund balance as it is a reclassification within the cash flow statement and the investment note only.

	2021 £'000 Previously reported	2021 £'000 Restatement	2021 £'000 Restated
Net proceeds from sale/purchase of fixed asset investments	-	-	-
Additions of fixed asset investments	-	(24,464)	(24,464)
Proceeds on disposal of fixed asset investments	-	24,464	24,464
	-	-	-
Note 12b - Reconciliation of opening and closing market value			
Market value at 1 August	49,560	-	49,560
Net disposals / purchases	-	-	-
Purchases	-	24,464	24,464
Disposals	-	(24,464)	(24,464)
Net investment gains	7,432	-	7,432
	56,992	-	56,992

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Comic Relief is the operating name of Charity Projects, a registered charity.
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