



Vision Aid Overseas

(Incorporating OPTOMETRY GIVING SIGHT in the UK)

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31 March 2018



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Name: Nurhusei

Occupation: Clothes Merchant

Country: Ethiopia

Before Nurhusei was seen by Vision Aid Overseas, he had never had an eye test before or worn glasses. He had been struggling to see clearly especially when using his sewing machines and taking measurements.

Thanks to supporters like you, at a cost of £5 Nurhusei received an eye test and a pair of glasses which meant he could once again see clearly to work and earn a living to support his family.

A welcome from the Chair and Chief Executive Officer



Dear friends of Vision Aid Overseas, it is a pleasure to invite you to read this annual report for Vision Aid Overseas for the year ending 31 March 2018. It has been a successful year for the charity both financially and programmatically.

We were able to further develop and expand our programmes during the year. We've been engaged in setting up a new consortium for Ghana with the charities Vision for a Nation and Operation Eyesight Universal, to eliminate avoidable blindness and visual impairment in the country, starting with a pilot in the Central Region. In Sierra Leone, we made good progress in the final year of our Clothworkers' Foundation grant and we are hugely grateful to Clothworkers' for its support in the past 5 years. Funded by L'Occitane,

we concluded our work in Burkina Faso in supporting 2 Vision Centres and training Ophthalmic Nurses in dispensing and glazing.

With continued support from Specsavers, we ran the first Low Vision workshop in Zambia, with great success and laid the foundations with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education to start a new school eye health pilot programme, for eventual national scale-up. We did a programme review for Ethiopia, with exciting new programmes under development.

A total of 91 professional volunteers supported all of these programmes by going on assignments focused on training, capacity building and adding strength to local outreach services.

We did further work on defining our Strategic Ambition to 2021. This includes strengthening and expanding our programme work in our 'core' countries of Zambia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Ghana and starting programmes in two

new countries by 2021; enhancing our contribution to Our Children's Vision by increasing school eye health and school screening in Zambia, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia and increasing our role in advocacy; further piloting the Social Enterprise model of Vision Centres to ensure affordable eye care is provided; strengthening our monitoring and evaluation; and establishing new partnerships to achieve greater impact; and grow our income to over £2m. We strengthened our organisational capacity to deliver on this exciting programme with two new staff positions – a Partnerships and Funding Manager and a Programme Development Adviser to support all programme development, in particular in the area of school eye health. We also had a new Finance Director, a new Country Director in Ghana and a new Fundraising Officer start in the year.

With the support of Henry Smith, MP for Crawley and with sponsorship from our Corporate Partners Specsavers and Essilor, we hosted an event "Vision Matters: Leave No-One Behind", in March 2018 at the House of Commons to ask Governments, development partners and stakeholders in all countries to act to support Universal Eye Health coverage by 2020, to allocate the necessary resources within global, regional and national budgets and for all stakeholders to form innovative partnerships to enable Universal Eye Health. Over 100 MPs, International Development charities, the private sector, donors and High Commissioners attended and went away with a very clear message about what needs to be done.

Total income for the year rose by 6% to £1,411k with over £53k coming from our Spring and Christmas Appeals, an individual major donor contributing

almost £60k as a shares donation, over £50k from the Specsavers team taking part in the Great Ethiopian Run in November and legacies totalling £236k during the period. We are very grateful to all of our supporters, corporate and individual.

This is David's final year of reporting to you as Chair of Vision Aid Overseas, after 6 years in the role. David states;

"I believe the charity is in a good place to continue playing its vital role in eliminating unnecessary sight loss and I look forward to watching its continued progress under Nicola Chevis and new Chair Designate Professor Nora Colton. Once again, I want to express my thanks to our very talented staff team and for the enormous contribution made by our Professional Volunteers."

David Scott-Ralphs
Chair

Nicola Chevis
Chief Executive Officer



Vision Aid Overseas' Vision, Mission and Objects

Our Objects: The charity's objects are defined in the Memorandum of Association as:

"The preservation and protection of eye health and treatment of eye defects among poor people overseas, in particular in providing or assisting in the provision of optometric and optical eye services, eye surgery and other related facilities".

Vision Aid Overseas' Vision, Mission and Principles

During this year Vision Aid Overseas continued to implement its new five year Strategic Framework 2016-2021, which was launched late 2015 with a new Vision, Mission and set of Principles.

The Vision: No one lives in poverty because of poor eyesight; no one lives with poor eyesight because of poverty.

The Mission: To enable people living in poverty to access affordable spectacles and eye care.

Vision Aid Overseas' Strategic Principles

1

We strive to reach out to the poorest communities.

2

Our focus is on primary eye care and uncorrected refractive error.

3

Professional Volunteers are central to our work.

4

With the right resources and support, individuals, communities and organisations can develop their own solutions.

5

We seek to work in partnership with local, national and international agencies.



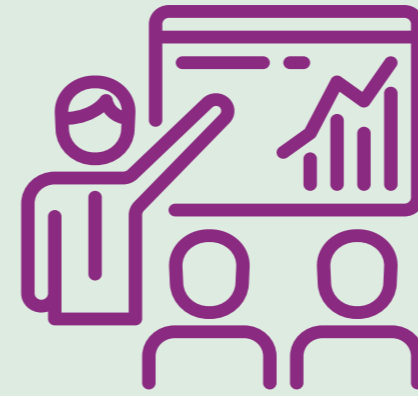
The year in Numbers



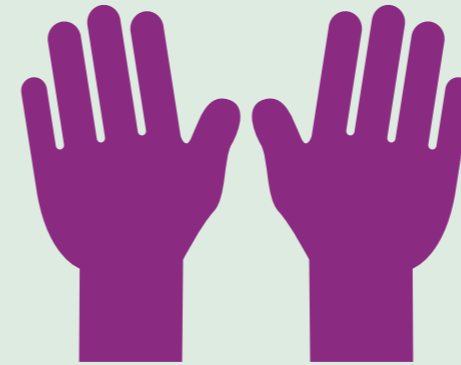
210,000+
people screened for eye conditions



5
countries in Africa



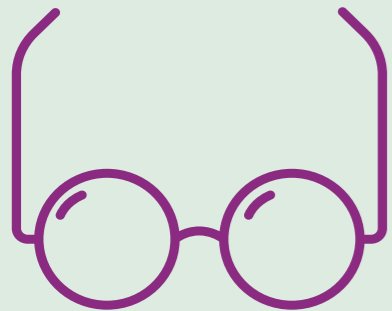
212
Professional eye care workers & eye care students received training



91
Volunteers



2,382
Training hours delivered by professional volunteers



32,222
people received glasses



18
Vision Centres supported



865
Days of volunteer service overseas



53,805
Eye tests & refractions received



21
Volunteer-led assignments



PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR STRATEGIC GOALS 2016– 2021

This is the second year of working towards the goals set out in our new strategic framework for 2016 – 2021.

We have continued to strengthen and expand our work in 4 “core programme” countries of Zambia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Ghana, successfully delivering on the restricted grants we have for these programmes and exploring new opportunities for growth. Our work in Burkina Faso, supported by a grant from Fondation L’Occitane came to an end this year, but we remain engaged with the government to explore further opportunities of support in the future.

We have identified a number of strategic milestones to grow the organisation in the next few years including

1. Growth in our programmes
2. Increase our work to two new countries
3. Develop school based eye health programmes in Zambia, Ethiopia, Ghana and Sierra Leone
4. Continue to develop and invest in greater partnerships to maximise impact

Our programmes are centred around addressing the problem of Uncorrected Refractive Error (URE) in our target countries. The strategy for this falls under five main areas of work:

Capacity building through training and education:

The critical shortage of health workers is now widely recognised as one of the most fundamental constraints to achieving progress on health and achieving wider development goals. Vision Aid Overseas supports the IAPB Human Resources for Eye Health (HREH) strategic plan, whose goal is to ensure eye health workers are integrated at all levels as part of an efficient and effective health system. This includes working to narrow the gap in the Vision2020 targets, and making access to eye health more equitable across the board.

Professional Volunteers provide teaching and training which is tailored to the requirements of each country, institution and individual. This ranges from teaching clinical skills to student optometrists and developing expertise in working away from the hospital or clinic (Outreach), to providing practical training for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) such as dispensing opticians and technicians. Working within National Eye Health Plans, we also train ophthalmic nurses (ON) and ophthalmic clinical officers (OCO) in refraction and eye health. We work with local partners to develop new capabilities through grant funded training, mentoring and continuous professional development. Education and training is critical if we are to achieve our aim of developing sustainable systems.

To ensure that our training materials are contemporary and aligned to international best practice, last year we commenced a review into our education and training packages. This is a significant piece of work that continued this year and will conclude in 2018, by which time we will have the new materials in circulation.

This year, Vision Aid Overseas supported the training of 156 students undertaking professional courses at University or other training institutions. Over the course of the year 2,382 hours of training were delivered by our Professional Volunteers. 91 volunteers gave up their time to share their skills and expertise, equating to 865 days of service .

Vision Aid Overseas has continued to support national Optometrists through mentoring and incorporating them into Professional Volunteer assignments. This provides an excellent platform for skills sharing and professional development for both the national Optometrists and the Professional Volunteers. In Sierra Leone and Zambia, a total of thirteen local professionals benefited from this on-the-job training, giving them valuable practice under supervision, and a chance to learn about the value and importance of outreach programmes as a way of bringing eyecare services to the rural communities.

Infrastructure development through the provision of Vision Centres:

Vision Aid Overseas is committed to establishing locally based eye care services. One major contribution is the development of Vision Centres where patients can receive a walk-in eye examination, purchase an affordable pair of spectacles and be referred for further specialist care if necessary. To operate effectively, Vision Centres have trained personnel, facilities for conducting eye tests, and most have an optical laboratory where spectacles can be glazed. Vision Centres also act as a base from which to run outreach and they are hubs for trained eye health workers in community health posts to refer patients where no such facility for eye testing exists in their immediate locality. This year, Vision Aid Overseas provided direct support to 18 Vision Centres; 9 in Zambia, 4 in Sierra Leone, 2 in Ethiopia, 2 in Burkina Faso and 1 in Ghana. Through these Vision Centres, over 34,000 people were refracted and over 18,800 of them received a pair of spectacles.



Kenema Vision Centre part of the Kenema Government Hospital in Sierra Leone.



Margaret a State Community Health Nurse performing screening.

Providing additional capacity through outreach:

Whilst the primary focus of the work of Vision Aid Overseas is to build long-term sustainable systems for eye health services, we recognise that there are still a large number of communities who remain out of reach of the current services, often due to their remote locations. Providing short-term relief to communities to support their health workers and deliver eye care services to the community can have a huge impact on people's lives. It also helps to raise awareness about the importance of eye health and the services that are available within that country. Vision Aid Overseas continues to support outreach programmes, directly to communities, when the local health systems are inadequate or non-existent, particularly in the most remote areas. This year, over 66,000 people were screened at outreach clinics, and over 7,000 pairs of glasses distributed directly to people in these remote communities, with many more receiving bespoke spectacles made up at vision centres and delivered to them in a repeat visit. The outreach service complements and supports any local service and is supported by the nearest Vision Centre. These are run by local eye health teams, and are sometimes supported by Vision Aid Overseas' Professional Volunteers. By using Professional Volunteers to support these services we can ensure that even more people benefit from treatment whilst providing practical training opportunities for local eye care personnel.

Supporting research:

With our partners, Vision Aid Overseas takes an active part in the development of policy around addressing uncorrected refractive error, ensuring it is underpinned by research and evidence. As part of our internal research, we have continued with our education and training review, which is due for completion in 2018. As part of the development of the new Ghana programme, we delivered an assessment of eyecare in Central Region, commissioned by Vision for a Nation. The purpose of the assessment was to answer specific research questions that would help to inform the design of an integrated eye care pilot programme in Central Region, implemented through a consortium consisting of Vision Aid Overseas, Vision for a Nation Foundation (VFANF) and Operation Eyesight Universal (OEU). We are also exploring how examples of social enterprise will be used to inform the development of a new Vision Centre model, to be trialled in Ghana in the coming year and built in to our ongoing Vision Centre review.

Supporting advocacy:

At the House of Commons in March 2018, Vision Aid Overseas held a call to action "Vision Matters: Leave No-One Behind" to "ask Governments, development partners and stakeholders in all countries to act to support Universal Eye Health coverage by 2020; to allocate the necessary resources within global, regional and national budgets and for all stakeholders to form innovative partnerships to enable Universal Eye Health Coverage". This very clear message was given to over 100 MPs, International Development charities, the private sector, donors and High Commissioners, and the timing was perfect as a pre-runner to the

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held the following month in London. Vision Aid Overseas supported Rupert Bourne from the Vision Loss Expert Group of the International Agency to Prevent Blindness (IAPB) to present the latest data on vision as well as Kovin Naidoo, CEO of the Brian Holden Vision Institute (BHVI) to present Our Children's Vision Campaign, which Vision Aid Overseas will be playing a greater role to Champion in the UK, going forward.

With our partners, Vision Aid Overseas continued to take an active part in UK Advocacy as a member of the CLEARLY Campaign and as part of the Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Trust's push for vision to be prioritised by the CHOGM meeting in April 2018.

Thanks to the commitment of everyone involved in Vision for the Commonwealth, on Friday 20 April, Commonwealth governments agreed to take action towards achieving access to quality eye care for all Commonwealth citizens.



Name: Linda

Occupation: Aspiring Student

Country: Sierra Leone

Meet 19-year-old Linda, an aspiring student living in Kamakwie, North of Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, there was nothing we could do for Linda as the nerves in both of her eyes are damaged which means she is permanently blind.

Our Optical Technicians come across so many cases like Linda's, where a simple eye test could have helped Linda to seek further medical attention sooner to avoid blindness.

By supporting the work of Vision Aid Overseas, you are helping us to provide vital eye tests to people who do not have the means to reach an eye clinic so that they do not leave it too late and end up permanently blind like Linda.



Strategic Goal 1

We will build a sustainable core country programme portfolio, which supports the IAPB strategy for Africa and delivers quality programmes underpinned by research and based on a mix of training, education and livelihoods development

Burkina Faso

This year we saw the successful conclusion of a two-year grant from L'Occitane Foundation in Burkina Faso. The project was able to establish two sustainable Vision Centres as well as training 5 Ophthalmic Nurses in refraction, dispensing and glazing.

Over the course of the project, over 22,000 people were screened for eye diseases. 4,000 of these received a refraction, and over 2,700 of those received a pair of low cost spectacles to correct their vision.

The Vision Centres now operate fully within the government hospitals, strengthening the services available to the public and allowing quality and affordable eyecare to the population.

Due to increased security threats in the country we scaled back the volunteer involvement in the training, but through taking extra safety precautions we were still able to deliver 30 hours of skills

enhancement training to the Ophthalmic nurses and technicians during the final year to ensure they have the skills to keep the centre working effectively.

Ethiopia

This year we continued our support to the Ethiopian NGO, Grarbet Tehadiso Mahber (GTM), with Essilor providing a much-needed stock of lenses and frames to support the two Vision Centres at Butajira and Batu. Over 127,000 people were screened for eye diseases under this project, either at one of the two Vision Centres, or on the locally run outreach that targets communities that currently have no access to eyecare services.

Over 10,000 patients received spectacles under this project in the last year.

We also continued our support to the Universities of Gondar and Hawassa with their Optometry degree programme, helping to provide top-quality teaching to the students, with a special focus on developing the students' clinical skills. Fifty-six students benefited from the 876 hours of training were delivered over two assignments. With the students, the teams were able to screen over 4000 patients and dispense spectacles to over 1600.

Our Ethiopia programme benefitted from the support of 22 volunteers who gave their time to take part in assignments focused on training, capacity building and adding strength to locally-run outreach services. They delivered over 630 hours of training to local students and eye health professionals.

There remains a huge need for optometry

services across Ethiopia, with most services being restricted to the urban centres and very little provision beyond this. In view of this, we commissioned a review of opportunities to address URE in the country, and have identified some exciting new opportunities to develop and expand our programme, including the development of a school eye health programme. Discussions are underway to take forward next year.

Ghana

We have continued our support to the University of Cape Coast (UCC) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), with their Optometry degree programmes through providing teams of professional volunteers to deliver skills enhancement training, focussing primarily on their clinical skills. This year, fifteen volunteers went on three assignments to support the universities, delivering almost 900 hours of skills-training to the students.

Korle Bu Optical services, established in collaboration with Moorfields eye hospital and Korle Bu Lions Trust, is now fully integrated into, and managed by, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. Through the sale of spectacles, it generates a significant revenue that is reinvested into the eye department, ensuring the services will be sustained going forward.

Vision Aid Overseas has completed registration as an international organisation (NGO) in Ghana, and we have begun the initial process of forming a consortium with two other eyecare NGOs; Vision for a Nation and Operation Eyesight Universal. As a consortium, we are developing a comprehensive programme to tackle avoidable blindness and visual impairment

in Ghana. The programme will commence with a pilot in the central region of Ghana in 2018, with the aim of becoming a national programme backed by policy from the Ministry of Health and established as a core service across the health system of Ghana. Bringing together the unique expertise of these organisations, and working in close collaboration with the Ghana Health Service (GHS), we seek to significantly increase the impact and reach of eyecare services across the country in the coming years.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone has one of the worst health worker-to-population ratios in the world, and as such, there is a dire need for more qualified eye care professionals to support the needs of the population.

This year over 41,000 people were screened for eye diseases through our programme in Sierra Leone. Of these patients screened, over 9,000 had refraction, and 3,788 received a pair of glasses.

All four vision centers in Eastern and Northern Provinces now have optometry technicians trained by Vision Aid Overseas' scholarships working at them. Integration and financing of optometry positions remains a challenge, and we continue to engage with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) to seek a long-term solution.

Our programme in the Northern Province has continued to go from strength to strength thanks to the support of the Maitri Trust grant. This year, one student completed

a one-year Optometry Technician training course in the Gambia. This takes the total number trained under the grant to three who will eventually support the Northern Province Eyecare Programme. The final student has commenced the training and will graduate next year.

This year saw the conclusion of a five-year grant from Clothworkers' Foundation, which supported the development of eyecare services in the Eastern Province. Prior to the implementation of this project, there were no trained Optometry Technicians in the Eastern region, and as such, there were no optical services in an area covering a population of 1.6 million. Under this grant, three Vision Centres were established; one in each of the three districts, and eleven Optometry Technicians have now been trained and deployed to the three Vision Centres. Over 50,000 people have been examined under the project (2013-2018), either at the Vision Centres or on outreach visits to communities and schools. The training of Optometry Technicians which took place at the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre (SZRECC) in the Gambia has not only increased access to optical care in the Eastern region but has also helped to address the issue of low human resources for eye health in Sierra Leone at large.

Both the Eastern Province and Northern Province projects benefitted from volunteer assignments this year, with fifteen volunteers supporting three assignments, increasing the capacity of the local eyecare teams to reach the most underserved areas whilst also providing on-the-job training and mentoring to the newly qualified Optometry Technicians.

Zambia

Our programme in Zambia has continued to grow thanks to continued support from Specsavers.

Twenty eye health professionals received training in low vision and were provided with low vision equipment to support patients. This was a first in the country, and the feedback from the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders has been extremely encouraging.

We delivered another 6-week refraction training course, which 20 OCOs/ONs completed. Trainees were selected or nominated from hospitals around the country that currently have no refraction services, meaning thousands of patients will benefit from this enhanced skills training.

The network of Vision Centres that Vision Aid Overseas established at regional hospitals across the country have now been fully integrated into hospital management within the Ministry of Health. This is a significant step towards achieving government-run quality, affordable and integrated eyecare services across the country. The 11th Vision Centre will be supported by Vision Aid Overseas for a further year but is on track towards being self-sustaining.

Approval was obtained from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of General Education for Vision Aid Overseas to support a national programme for school eye health. Both ministries demonstrated

commitment to the programme by attending a week-long workshop in April 2018 to develop a joint protocol for a national school eye health programme. A pilot of this programme will commence in September 2018, led by Vision Aid Overseas.

World sight day activities were a big success this year in Zambia, with all the eyecare NGOs coming together with local businesses to deliver outreach services and raise awareness of eye health amongst the communities.

We also received generous support from PALA, who have continued to provide support to the latest vision centre and have generously donated equipment to enable local eye care professionals to detect early signs of glaucoma. Previously patients had to travel distances of up to 800 kilometres for such services.



Strategic Goal 2

We will deliver appropriate and effective intervention opportunities for Professional Volunteers, outside of our core programme work, providing support to individuals and communities in need, where national health systems are non-existent or ineffective



This year we sent a second team of volunteers to support Nekemte eye clinic in Ethiopia. Nekemte is a town of approximately 110,000 in the Oromia region of Ethiopia that has very little in the way of eye health services. In August 2016, a team of Vision Aid Overseas volunteers visited Nekemte to assess the eyecare services available in the town and to provide some skills training, however due to civil unrest during the visit, the assignment was curtailed. They were, however, able to provide useful information regarding areas of need for future support. Finally, this year in October 2017, a follow up team consisting of five Optometrists and one Dispensing Optician, embarked on a two-week assignment hosted by Nekemte Eye Clinic. Funding had been assisted by Exeter-Ethiopia Link [EEL].

Their mission was to provide training and extra capacity to the staff at the Nekemte Eye Clinic which is run by DASSC - the Development and Social Service Commission of the Mekane Yesus Church [EECMY] Central Synod.

The primary aims of this visit were to provide eye examination and spectacles for local people at the eye clinic; conduct outreach clinics to test pre-screened

schoolchildren in the surrounding rural areas; provide workshop training to the optical technicians and a stock of additional frames and lenses; deliver refraction training to the eye care workers and training on specialised optical instruments. Thanks to enhanced capacity at the Vision Centre, 840 people were examined during the two-week period, and 570 received spectacles. In addition to this, outreach clinics were arranged to follow up on cases of children that had been pre-screened, thanks to Ethiopia Exeter Link's Inclusive Education Project [IEP]. During this project, 516 patients were examined on outreach, and 111 of them received spectacles to correct their vision.

In Sierra Leone, thanks to the generous support of some volunteers, the Vision Centres of Makeni, Koidu and Kailahun in Sierra Leone were equipped with a slit lamp, and additional tonometers. One of these volunteers went out to install them and train the teams in how to use and maintain them.

Connaught hospital optical unit in Freetown benefited from brand new workshop and refraction equipment thanks to a successful Christmas 2016 appeal. This donation was delivered by two volunteers who also did a week of training with the eyecare team at Connaught.



Name: Omarou
Occupation: Student
Country: Burkina Faso

Meet Omarou, a student at the Polytechnique in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Omarou Kabore has always enjoyed football and is a keen fan of Barcelona FC. Before Omarou was seen by Vision Aid Overseas he struggled to read the blackboard, so he had to sit at the front of the classroom to learn.

Fortunately, Omarou lives very close to Kossodo Hospital, where we established a Vision Centre in 2014. The centre provides free eye examinations and low-cost glasses which are made on site.

Thanks to your support Omarou can now see clearly to learn at school.

Omarou told us;

“My new glasses make such a difference! I can see the scores on the television and I can now sit further away. Everything looks so much clearer.”



Strategic Goal 3

We will develop a diverse portfolio of income sources to build financial resilience, provide sustainability for planning and achieve our Mission

Total income 2017/18 was £1,411k a rise of 6% on 2016/17. Some of our fundraising highlights included a team from Specsavers UK taking part in the Great Ethiopian Run in November 2017 raising over £50k in addition to Specsavers UK continued grant support of £173k for the Vision Aid Overseas programme in Zambia and the joint sponsorship of the "Vision Matters – Leave no One Behind" event at the House of Commons event in March 2018.

Over £53k was raised from our Spring Appeal for Ethiopia and the 'Big Give' Christmas Appeal for Sierra Leone during 2017/18. The 'Big Give' Christmas Appeal for Sierra Leone was a particular success with many donations doubled via generous 'Big Give pledgers' and many new donors recruited via digital promotion.

For the second year running an individual major donor has provided significant funding contributing almost £60k as a shares donation in late 2017. Plans to develop further major donor support for our work will be developed in the coming year.

The charities new website, which went 'live' in October 2016, is working very

well with over 365,000 visits to the site in 2017/18. Income via the website rose from £45k over the previous 12 months to over £106k during the year.

Essilor agreed to renew support for GTM in Ethiopia by supplying all the frames and lenses required by the programme for the next three years along with support and transportation costs and were also joint sponsors of the "Vision Matters – Leave no One Behind" event at the House of Commons event in March 2018.

A new post of Partnerships and Funding Manager was created, commencing October 2017, to provide additional capacity to pursue funding from grant making trusts & foundations, institutional grant makers and corporations. Grant funding proposals are developed in co-operation with the Programmes Team based on core programme strategic plans and an annual rolling time-table of proposed grant applications is in place aimed at raising significant new funding for overseas programmes in the coming years.

Three significant legacies totalling £236k during the year were especially welcome after several years of lower legacy income. Some of these funds have been specifically designated to support new programme work in Ghana and Sierra Leone. During 2018/19 we will be continuing to develop our legacy promotion strategy to encourage supporters to remember Vision Aid Overseas in their wills.

Optical Technicians receiving refraction training in Zambia.



Strategic Goal 4

We will grow and retain our numbers of professional volunteers and members through improving our engagement with them

This year we held 3 Volunteer Development Programmes (VDP); two in London and one in Birmingham, with a total of 74 people successfully completing the training course. This was slightly fewer than the previous year, but this can be attributed to offering one less course, as well as adverse weather conditions in March which led to a number of cancellations on the day. Despite this we were able to fill all our volunteer assignments without trouble and those that had to cancel have been transferred onto the next course.

We held two Team Leader Development Programmes; one in London and one in Birmingham, with a total of 15 people completing the course. As with the VDP, we had a number of cancellations due to snow over that weekend. These courses are possible thanks to the support of a dedicated group of volunteers who help to facilitate the events, sharing their knowledge and expertise with the new volunteers.

During the course of the year, 91 professional volunteers took part in 20 assignments to 5 countries. The main focus was on the delivery of training, however during the assignments the volunteers still managed to refract in excess of

9,400 patients, and dispense spectacles to 5,925 to those that needed them.

We continue to explore ways to encourage people within the eyecare profession to become Vision Aid Overseas volunteers, and in the coming year will be looking at ways to diversify the roles available, in order to continue to address the needs of the countries in which we work. The number of members rose by 9% from 700 to 765 during the year. Income from membership rose by 11% from £36k to £39k.

Strategic Goal 5



We will continuously improve the way we work, ensuring that processes and systems evolve and remain fit for purpose as the organisation grows, ensuring that Vision Aid Overseas is a great place to work and employer of choice.



During the year Vision Aid Overseas fleshed out it's ambition to 2021, which was agreed by the Board and presented to Members at the Annual General Meeting in October 2017. Several important milestones are:

- To research, develop and start implementation of 1-2 new programmes in new countries by 2021
- Develop, roll-out and implement the Vision Aid Overseas' Theory of Change and programme Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Implement an ambitious Philanthropy/ Major Donor Strategy
- Reach £2m turnover by the end of our strategy in 2021

We continued to invest in our programmes and staff with the recruitment of two new positions, a Partnerships and Funding Manager and a Programme Development Adviser, as well as welcoming new colleagues into existing positions of Fundraising Officer, Finance Programme Officer, Director of Finance and Administration and Country Director for Ghana.

The Vision Aid Overseas Board of Trustees was strengthened with two new trustees recruited, with strong academic and programming and advocacy backgrounds.

Vision Aid Overseas' policies on safeguarding were reviewed with three new additional policies approved and embedded; Recruitment of ex-offenders; Misconduct and Harassment; and Whistleblowing.

Vision Aid Overseas took on Peninsula to oversee and provide guidance on Health and Safety compliance and in addition trained two staff in First Aid.





Legal and Administrative information

[Note: the Directors are hereafter called "Trustees"]

Directors and Trustees

- David Scott-Ralphs (Chair) - Resigning September 2018
- Peter Corbett (Treasurer)
- Geoffrey Ballantine*
- Laura Bennett*
- Vera Wilton*
- Juan Carlos Aragon (Resigned 21st March 2018)
- Lucy Carter
- Ian Waller (Resigned 22nd October 2017)
- Peter Beverley – Smith*
- Kajal Shah (Appointed 22nd October 2017)*
- Ronnie Graham* (Co-opted 24th January 2018)

*Registered with the General Optical Council

Chief Executive Officer: Nicola Chevis

Registered Office:

12 The Bell Centre
Newton Road
Manor Royal
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9FZ

Auditors

Richard Place Dobson Services Ltd

Chartered Accountants

1-7 Station Road

Crawley

RH10 1HT

Company Number: 4027804 (England & Wales)

Charity Number: 1081695 (England & Wales)



Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2018

Governing Documents

The Governing Documents are the Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association dated 2000 as amended in 2006 and in 2017.

Membership

Membership of Vision Aid Overseas is open to anyone on payment of an annual subscription. Members have the right to attend the AGM and vote on those matters specified in the Articles.

Trustees

The Articles state that the Board should consist of 5 to 12 Trustees (currently 9) who are elected by the members at the AGM. Trustees may be co-opted to the Board but they are required to stand for election at the next AGM. The Board seeks future Trustees by public advertisement and notification to members, and all candidates are interviewed, with selection being made against a list of key skills. All new Trustees go through a process of induction during which their responsibilities are explained. Periodically, Trustees receive training in selected aspects of their duties.

The Board is responsible for governance, policy direction, decision-making and fiduciary obligations.

In 2000 Vision Aid Overseas was reconstituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and re-registered as a charity. Since 2000 the Trustees of the Charity have also been Directors of the Company.

Management

Nicola Chevis joined as the Chief Executive Officer from 1st March 2017. The Board delegates all aspects of strategy implementation and the management of Vision Aid Overseas to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer is supported by the Director of Fundraising and Communications, the Director of Finance and Administration and the Director of Programmes. These three positions with the CEO form the Senior Management Team of Vision Aid Overseas. The overseas programme is led by the Director of Programmes working with a small programme management team, including Country Directors who plan the programmes, monitor progress and deal with operational issues.

The Board deals with the overall pay and reward of the Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Senior Management Team, all of which fall within a formal salary policy.

The Board recognises the contributions made by all the Vision Aid Overseas staff and Professional Volunteers and wishes to thank them accordingly.



Financial Report

Key Performance Indicators

Vision Aid Overseas has developed a comprehensive programme monitoring and evaluation framework which will be used in the Financial Year 2018/19, it incorporates some of the current main key programme performance indicators that we currently collect data on.

Some of these programme indicators are:

- Number of vision centres supported
- Number of patients refracted
- Number of prescriptions issued
- Number of spectacles dispensed
- Number of eye health professionals trained
- Number of training hours delivered

In addition, VAO monitors the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Income and expenditure
- Number of Members of VAO

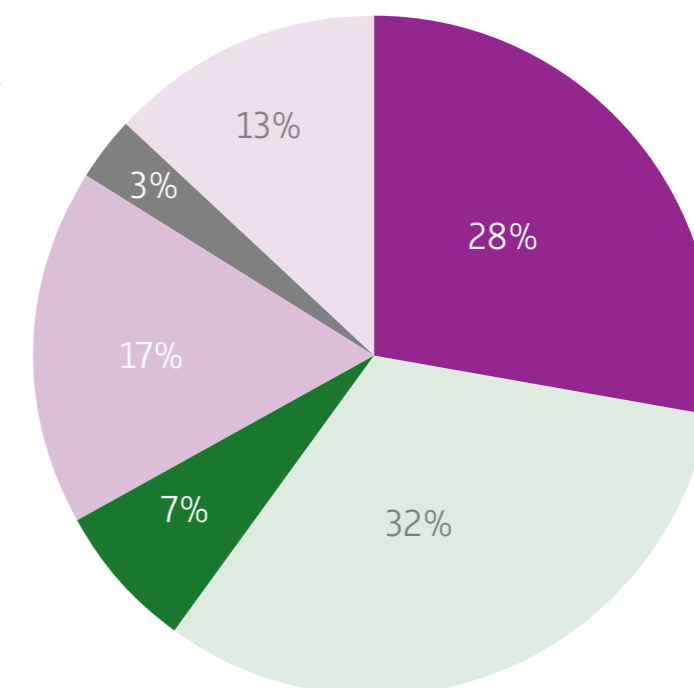
The Year in Figures

Income sources:

Vision Aid Overseas derives its income from a variety of sources. These range from voluntary income from members and supporters through individual or regular giving, sponsored events, community fundraising, appeals, major donors as well as grants and donations from Foundations and Corporate partners.

- Corporate Fundraising and Grants
- Individual Donations
- Recycling
- Legacy and other
- Membership
- Professional Donated hours

Source of income FY17/18



Corporate fundraising and grants along with individual donations remain the largest sources of funding for Vision Aid Overseas in its fight to enable people living in poverty to access affordable spectacles and eye care.

We also received legacy income of £236k this year and a major share donation of almost £60k in late 2017 (which is included within our individual donations).

We are thankful to our donors/ funders for their continued financial support and for supporting our cause during the year.

Liquidity

Our cash balances reflect the balance of funds held over for various projects as well as reserves earmarked as a result of surpluses generated from operations. Funds are sometimes received from donors at the commencement of the projects and these funds are used to meet the project based expenses when required.

There was a 36% increase in our cash balances held at the end of 2017/18 financial year, from £362k (2016/17) to £493k in 2017/18. This is mainly due to the growth in legacy income this year.

Review of Financial Position

Vision Aid Overseas invested in two new roles in 2017/18 a Partnerships and Funding Manager and a Programme Development Adviser. These roles will support us in our aim to diversify our funding sources and grow our income to our target of £2m by 2021.

It has been a successful year, we recorded a surplus of £150k. This gives us a strong basis to work to fulfil our strategic ambitions strengthening and expanding our programme work in our 'core countries of Zambia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Ghana and establishing programmes in two new countries by 2021.

Both management and the Board will continue to take a prudent approach to

new investments and cost control. We ended the year with a surplus from unrestricted operations of £138k, we designated £142k of our unrestricted funds to planned programme activity in the next financial year.

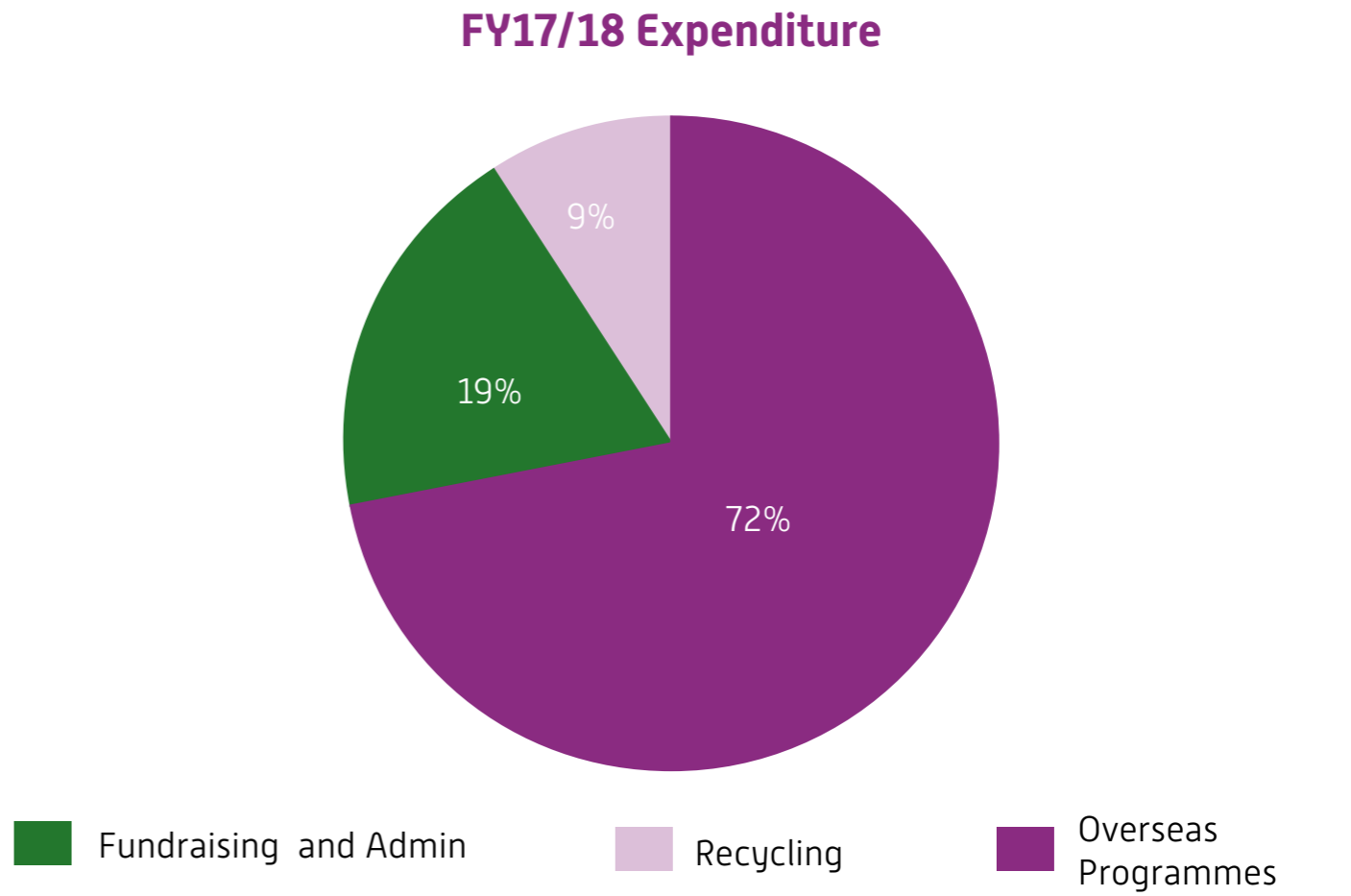
Our restricted funds show a net movement of £11k surplus.

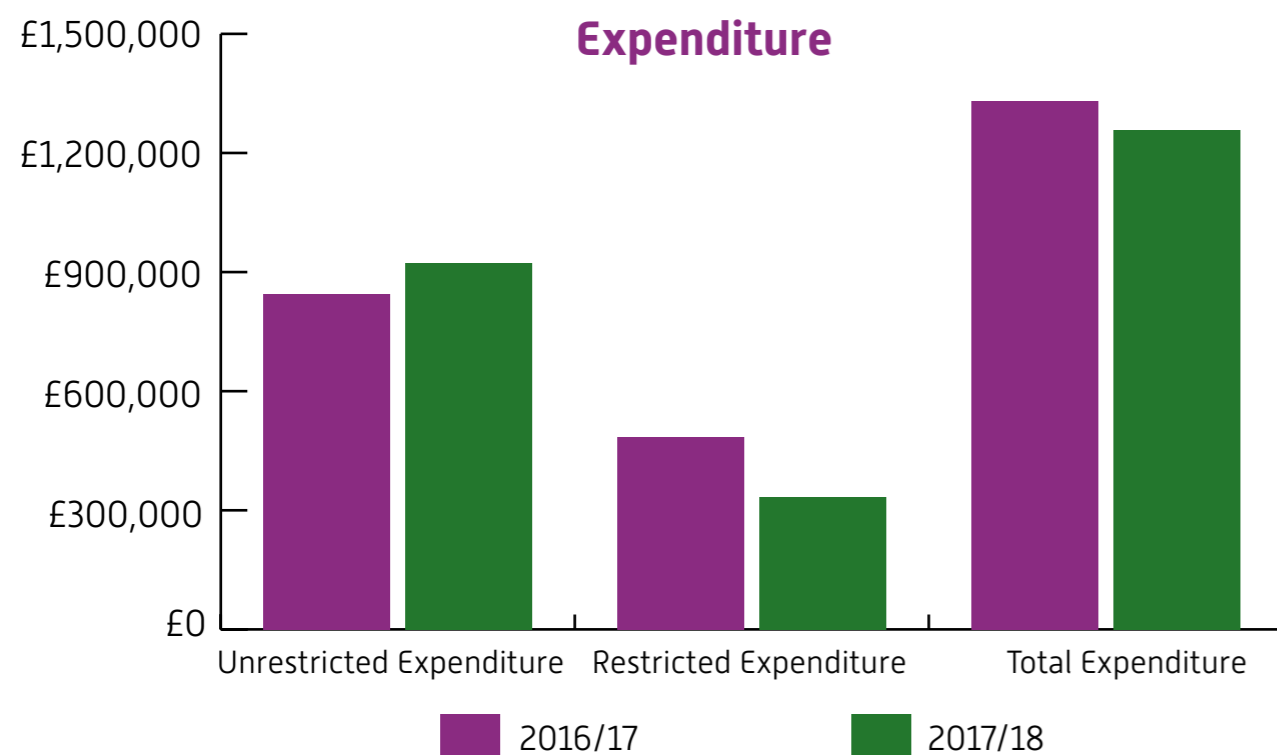
Total income increased by 6% from £1.327k in 2016/17 to £1.411k in 2017/18, largely due to higher legacy income and a large donation of shares offsetting a fall in restricted income.

Income from individual donors and community fundraising is a major income this year, achieving a 10% year on year

increase. The Big Give appeal at Christmas raised over £44k of restricted income for Sierra Leone. We will be carrying out a similar appeal next financial year as well as trialling a number of new initiatives including digital collecting tins and recycling envelopes to support this important income stream. Unrestricted income from Corporate Fundraising and Grants increased by 25%.

We continue to recycle glasses, earning income from the precious metal content and the sale of retro and vintage glasses on e-bay and to specialist buyers. Net income (after direct costs) earned from this operation this year was £20k. (2016/17 £17k).





Restricted funding has fallen this year by £153k as our Programme in Ethiopia came to an end. We continue to support Ethiopia through our unrestricted funds as we work to establish a new programme and new restricted funding. We aim to raise significant new restricted funding for overseas programmes in the coming years.

Expenditure

Total expenditure decreased by 5% from £1,330k in 2016/17 to £1,258k in 2017/18. This was largely due to our programme in Ethiopia funded from restricted grants coming to an end.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the organisation faces and believe that safeguarding our reserves, combined with an annual review of the controls over key systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of

adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate them. Outside of the programmed review, all new major commitments or new risks are reviewed and monitored by the Board. This year the Senior Management team and two Trustees held a Crisis Management scenario meeting and as a result of this are preparing a business continuity plan and country crisis management plan.

We have also reviewed, updated and ensured all our safeguarding policies are embedded within our organisation.

Investment Policy

The current policy is to minimise risks to the Charity's assets, any surplus funds are therefore held in short term interest bearing deposit accounts, rather than investments. We were given a major donation of shares this financial year currently valued at £59k. We will sell these in the near future to fund our activities.

Restricted Funds

Within the income and expenditure described above, restricted income received in the year was £346k against an expenditure of £335k. At 31 March 2018, we held a balance of £100k due to the opening balance carried over in restricted reserves and the additional funds received in the year, all of which we expect to spend in 2018/19.

Voluntary Contributions

The attached accounts reflect the financial transactions of the charity, but in any analysis of Vision Aid Overseas' operations it is important to appreciate the vital and essential contribution made by our Professional Volunteers and Members, without whose efforts Vision Aid Overseas would not be able to operate at the current level of activity.

Vision Aid Overseas' Professional Volunteers give up holidays and make voluntary contributions to the work of the organisation. Professional Volunteers provided 865 days of service to the charity. This is equivalent to £186k in monetary value, this value is now included in the accounts.

Reserves Policy

The Board has adopted a policy of maintaining reserves to enable the organisation to deal with unexpected difficulties and interruptions to the flow of income without a significant impact on our operations and programme activity in the short-term.

To meet this policy, the Board considers that reserves are required to enable us to

support normal operations for three to six months. The charity was operating within this band at year end.

The Board will continue to review the Reserves Policy on a regular basis.

Fundraising

Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 statement

Fundraising approach

Vision Aid Overseas relies on several different fundraising approaches to raise funds cost-effectively from a range of sources, raising awareness of our work and allowing supporters to contribute in ways that are most appropriate for them. This includes: fundraising through digital and online campaigns, emails, letters and press advertising; from legacies, events and community fundraising; from philanthropists, trusts, foundations and corporate partners, and from our members and other regular supporters.

Fundraising standards

Vision Aid Overseas is a member of the Institute of Fundraising and the Fundraising Regulator, and as such abides by the Code of Fundraising Practice. We abide by the Fundraising Regulator's Fundraising promise, and strive to ensure our fundraising is open, honest, legal and respectful. We are registered with the Fundraising Preference Service which enables members of the public to control the nature and frequency of direct marketing approaches that they receive, including fundraising communications. Through the Fundraising Preference Service website, members of the public

can choose to stop email, telephone, post and/or text messages from a selected charity. During the financial year 2017/18 no member of the public has opted out of contact from Vision Aid Overseas via the Fundraising Preference Service.

Fundraising on our behalf

Vision Aid Overseas requires any professional fundraising agencies working on our behalf to adhere to our fundraising standards and this is specified in our contracts with them.

We work with several corporate partners who support our work through financial and non-financial donations, as well as employee and customer fundraising. We also receive one-off support from companies. Some of our corporate partners sell goods or services and donate a proportion of the sale price to us. For example, we have Commercial Agreements with several eyewear companies who donate a specified portion of their sales to Vision Aid Overseas. These agreements are governed by legal agreements in line with current consumer and charitable law.

Monitoring of fundraising activities and protecting people in vulnerable circumstances

Vision Aid Overseas is committed to ensuring that we always treat the public sensitively and respectfully, taking special care to protect people who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.

Complaints

Vision aid Overseas has an established complaints procedure. In 2017/18 we did not receive any complaints from members of the public about our fundraising

activities. This does not include expressions of dissatisfaction relating to our use of specific fundraising methods.

Statement of Public Benefit

Vision Aid Overseas is committed to those living in poverty and with limited access to affordable eye care, ensuring increased access to eye tests and properly dispensed spectacles. In doing so, we enable people to work and children to attend and be successful at school.

We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The principal charitable aim of Vision Aid Overseas is to fight poverty by transforming access to eye care in developing countries, through working in partnership with and under the direction of the countries' national eye care plans. Vision Aid Overseas is fully committed to sustainability in each of the countries within which we work.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Vision Aid Overseas for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.) Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state

of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming/outgoing resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

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

SORP 2015

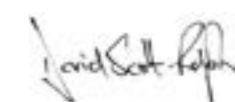
The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Approval of this Report
This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on the 25th July 2018.

Signed by order of the Board



Peter Corbett
Treasurer



David Scott-Ralphs
Chairman



Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Vision Aid Overseas

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Vision Aid Overseas (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are

independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you were:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions

that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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

charitable company's trustees as a body,
for our audit work, for this report, or for
the opinions we have formed.

Richard Place Dobson

Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
1 – 7 Station Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1HT

30th August 2018

Date

*Richard Place Dobson Services Limited
is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of
section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.*





Vision Aid Overseas'

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2018



Vision Aid Overseas'

Balance Sheet- at 31 March 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	31.03.18 Total funds	31.03.17 restated Total funds (note 17)
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	737,597	-	-	737,597	506,310
Charitable activities	3	39,481	-	345,989	385,470	532,354
Other trading activities (recycling)		101,326	-	-	101,326	106,039
Investments		209	-	-	209	66
Professional donated hours	2	185,975	-	-	185,975	180,600
Other		-	-	-	-	1,767
Total		1,064,588	-	345,989	1,410,577	1,327,136
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		323,703	-		323,703	316,366
Charitable activities					-	
Overseas projects	2,4	577,513	-	334,645	912,158	984,360
Membership subscriptions	4	1,512		-	1,512	3,649
Raising awareness		20,222			20,222	25,508
Total		922,950	-	334,645	1,257,595	1,329,883
Net income/(expenditure)		141,638	-	11,344	152,982	[2,747]
Devaluation of investments		[3,188]			[3,188]	
Transfers between funds		[142,000]	142,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		[3,550]	142,000	11,344	149,794	[2,747]
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		362,483	-	88,746	451,229	453,976
Total funds carried forward		358,933	142,000	100,090	601,023	451,229

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Fixed assets:

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	31.03.18 funds	31.03.17 funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	8	4,706	-	18,479	23,185	26,814
Total fixed assets		4,706	-	18,479	23,185	26,814

Current assets:

Debtors and prepayments	9	61,929	-	53,250	115,179	148,777
Cash at bank		287,039	142,000	63,791	492,830	361,530
Investments	10	59,625	-	-	59,625	
Total current assets		408,593	142,000	117,041	667,634	510,307

Liabilities:

Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	11	[54,366]	-	[35,430]	[89,796]	[85,892]
Net current assets		354,227	142,000	81,611	577,838	424,415

Total assets less current liabilities

Total net assets		358,933	142,000	100,090	601,023	451,229
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The funds of the charity:	14					
Restricted funds					100,090	88,746
Unrestricted funds						
General funds					358,933	362,483
Designated funds					142,000	

Total unrestricted funds					500,933	362,483
Total charity funds					601,023	451,229

* The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2018, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the


Companies Act 2006.

* The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on **25th July 2018**.

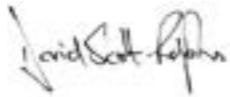
and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Peter Corbett

Treasurer

Company Number: 4027804


.....

David Scott-Ralphs

Chairman

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.



Vision Aid Overseas' Cash Flow Statement

Statement of cash flows

	31.03.18 funds	31.03.17 funds
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	150,947	(71,948)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	209	66
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(19,856)	(6,876)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(19,647)	(6,810)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	131,300	(78,757)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	361,530	440,287
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	492,830	361,530

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

	31.3.18	31.3.18
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	152,982	(2,747)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	23,485	15,685
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(209)	(66)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	1,080
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	33,598	(27,716)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	3,904	(58,184)
Non Cash Donations	(59,625)	-
(Increase)/decrease in current asset investment value	(3,188)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	150,947	(71,948)

The notes on pages 30 to 36 form part of these accounts.



Vision Aid Overseas'

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

1. Status

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up during the time that they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1. The company registered address is 12 The Bell Centre, Newton Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 9FZ.

2. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Companies Act 2006.

Vision Aid Overseas meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially

recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The accounts are rounded to the nearest £.

b) Change of accounting policy

The Statement of Financial Activity reflects a change in accounting policy. The value of donated professional hours has been recognised in the SOFA as this value can now be estimated reliably. This change has the impact of increasing income and expenditure by the market value of the donated hours. This change has been applied retrospectively by adjusting comparative amounts for 2017 as if the new policy had always been applied. (Note 2 para I)

c) Going concern

The charity reported a cash inflow of £151k for the year. The trustees are of the view that the focus in the year to identify and develop new sources of sustainable unrestricted funding and to further develop our restricted funding have secured the immediate future of the charity for the next three years and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

d) Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income

have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executors to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable

that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from other trading activities includes income earned from both trading activities to raise funds for the charity and income from fundraising events.

e) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure which is directly attributable to specific activities has been included in these cost categories. Where costs are attributable to more than

one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of these resources and time spent thereon as follows:

	2018	2017
Recycling costs	11%	11%
Costs of Generating Funds	25%	25%
Charitable Activities	64%	64%

Restricted fund costs consist of those directly attributable to specific activities only.

f) Tangible assets and depreciation

Assets in excess of £1,000 intended to be of ongoing use to Vision Aid Overseas in carrying out its activities are capitalised as fixed assets.

Depreciation is charged, on a straight-line basis, as follows;

Short leasehold buildings: 10 years

Computer equipment: 3 years

Office equipment: 3 years

Optical equipment: 4 years

Vehicle: 4 years

Programme assets:

Limited to the life of the programme if lower than stated above.

g) Employee benefits (including pension costs)

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity.

h) Operating Leases

Rental income and expenditure applicable to operating leases are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis, in the period to which the cost or income relates.

l) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are included at current market value where their value is ascertainable and material. The estimated valuation of gifts in kind is based on the value of the contribution to the charity, or the valuation the charity would have had to pay to acquire the assets.

Donated professional services and

donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, their receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. Professional volunteer hours have been recognised in the SOFA this year for the first time. Its economic value can be reliably measured, and it calculated as hours worked multiplied by market value of the services provided. The 2017 SOFA has been restated accordingly.

j) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

k) Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recorded in the SOFA.

l) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to

spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for areas of the charity's work or for specific projects undertaken by the charity.

m) Basic Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at the settlement value, with the exception of bank loans, which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

n) Debtors

All debtors are measured and included in the accounts on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Creditors & provisions

All creditors are measured and included in the accounts on the basis of their settlement amount where Vision Aid Overseas has an obligation to transfer to third party and the amount due.

p) Cash

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less

from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

q) Critical judgements & estimations of uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, 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 value of professional volunteer time is estimated in the SOFA as hours worked multiplied by the estimated market value for services provided.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going 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 of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

3. Income and endowment

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies				
Individual Donations and Community Fundraising	410,938	-	410,938	388,548
Corporate Fundraising	53,653	-	53,653	11,665
Grants	22,929	-	22,929	49,557
Donations in kind	14,081	-	14,081	27,896
Legacies	235,996	-	235,996	28,644
Total	737,597	-	737,597	506,310

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Individual Donations and Community Fundraising	-	44,232	44,232	26,365
Corporate Fundraising	-	194,640	194,640	213,826
Grants	-	107,117	107,117	256,552
Members’ donations	39,481	-	39,481	35,611
Total	39,481	345,989	385,470	532,354

4. Expenditure

a) Total Resources expended	Direct costs	Staff costs	Support costs [note 4b]	2018	2017 restated
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and sponsorship	69,234	101,389	63,174	233,797	228,839
Recycling	31,875	49,889	28,364	110,128	113,035
Overseas projects	495,900	251,232	165,026	912,158	984,360
Membership subscriptions	223	-	1,289	1,512	3,649
	597,232	402,510	257,853	1,257,595	1,329,883

b) Support costs

	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Staff costs (note 7)	115,127	107,165
Recruitment costs	3,519	3,755
Premises costs	47,286	47,187
Printing, postage and stationery	3,557	2,891
Telephone and Internet	6,445	6,640
Accounting	-	1,358
Office expenditure	20,662	11,041
Depreciation	23,484	15,364
Governance (note c)	37,773	26,378
	257,853	221,779

c) Governance

	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Legal and professional fees	24,082	14,387
Audit fees	6,360	6,800
Cost of AGM and meetings	4,994	3,793
Trustee costs and expenses	1,858	1,291
Trustee recruitment costs	479	107
	37,773	26,378

Trustees are not entitled to, and did not receive, any remuneration in respect of their services throughout the year.

Trustees’ total reimbursed expenses were £1,858 (2017: £1,291).

5. Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax as all its activities are Charitable Activities.

6. Net incoming resources for the period

	2018 £	2017 £
Operating Surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	23,485	15,685
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	1,080
Auditors remuneration	6,360	6,800
Foreign exchange [gains] / losses	-	69

7. Staff Costs

	2018	2017
	£	£
Salaries and wages	471,361	448,514
Social security costs	34,971	35,096
Pension costs	11,305	2,746
	517,637	486,356

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 per annum (including taxable benefits) during the year (2016: one)

Key management remuneration in the year is £185,000 (2017: £195,000)

	31.03.18	31.03.17
	No.	No.
Programme	5	5
Finance & Admin	3	3
Recycling	2	2
Fundraising & Communication	4	3
	14	13

Headcount is for UK contracted staff only. In addition we have 9 International staff, based overseas in our programme countries. International staff costs are funded from restricted and unrestricted funds.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Optical & Training Equipment	Vehicle	Furniture & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2017	51,535	29,217	33,810	20,328	51,126	186,016
Additions	-	-	19,856	-	-	19,856
Disposals/transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2018	51,535	29,217	53,666	20,328	51,126	205,872

Depreciation						
At 1 April 2017	45,834	29,217	19,909	20,328	43,914	159,202
Charge for the year	5,102	-	15,278	-	3,105	23,485
Disposals/transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2018	50,936	29,217	35,187	20,328	47,019	182,687

Net book values						
At 31 March 2018	599	-	18,479	-	4,107	23,185
At 31 March 2017	5,701	-	13,901	-	7,212	26,814

9. Debtors and Prepayments

	31.03.18	31.03.17
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	112,186	144,291
Taxation Recoverable – Gift Aid	2,993	4,486
	115,179	148,777

10. Current Asset Investments

	31.03.18	31.03.17
	£	£
Additions	62,813	-
Change in market value	[3,188]	-
Closing value at 31.3.18	59,625	-

The following investments represent over 5% of the total investments held.

Llyods Banking Group Plc 9.25% Non-Cum Irrd pref shares GBP 0.25 (100%)

Historical cost of investments	62,813	-
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11. Creditors

	31.03.18	31.03.17
	£	£
Trade creditors	17,245	13,535
Accruals and deferred income	61,092	58,535
Social Security Costs	9,815	12,132
Pension Contribution	1,644	1,690
	89,796	85,892

12. Operating Lease Commitments

As at 31 March 2017 the charity had full commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within 1 Year	-	30,000	-	-
Between 2 and 5 Years	93,333	-	6,992	9,248
After more than 5 years	-	-	-	-
	93,333	30,000	6,992	9,248

13. Related-party Transactions

There were no transactions with other related parties in the year.

14. Statement of Funds

	Balance 1 Apr 2017	Incoming resources	Resources used	Transfers	Revaluation of Investments	Balance 31 Mar 2018
	£	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted Income Funds						
General funds	362,483	1,064,588	(922,950)	(142,000)	(3,188)	358,933
Designated funds (note 16)	-	-	-	142,000		142,000
Total unrestricted funds	362,483	1,064,588	(922,950)	-	(3,188)	500,933
Restricted Income Funds						
Restricted income funds (Note 15)	88,746	345,989	(334,645)	-	-	100,090
	451,229	1,410,577	(1,257,595)	-	(3,188)	601,023

Statement of funds movements: 2017 (Restated)

		Restated	Restated		
	Balance 1 Apr 2016	Incoming resources	Resources used	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Income Funds					
General funds	260,138	828,626	(844,874)	118,593	362,483
Designated funds	150,000	-	(31,407)	(118,593)	-
Total unrestricted funds	410,138	828,626	(876,281)	-	362,483
Restricted Income Funds					
Restricted income funds	43,838	498,510	(453,602)	-	88,746
	453,976	1,327,136	(1,329,883)	-	451,229

15. Last year comparative SoFA breakdown (Restated)

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	506,310	-	-	506,310
Charitable activities	35,611	-	496,743	532,354
Other trading activities	106,039	-	-	106,039
Professional Donated Hours	180,600	-	-	180,600
Investments	66	-	-	66
Other	-	-	1,767	1,767
Total	828,626	-	498,510	1,327,136
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	316,366	-	-	316,366
Charitable activities				-
Overseas projects	499,351	31,407	453,602	984,360
Membership subscriptions	3,649	-	-	3,649
Raising awareness	25,508	-	-	25,508
Total	844,874	31,407	453,602	1,329,883
Net income/(expenditure)	(16,248)	(31,407)	44,908	(2,747)
Transfers between funds	118,593	(118,593)	-	-
Net movement in funds	102,345	(150,000)	44,908	(2,747)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	260,138	150,000	43,838	453,976
Total funds carried forward	362,483	-	88,746	451,229

16. Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 Apr 2017	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 Mar 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Zambia					
Specsavers	-	173,038	144,688	-	28,350
PALA	4,579	1,602	6,346	-	[165]
Sierra Leone					
The Clothworkers’ Foundation	19	53,200	53,219	-	-
Laing Foundation	-	5,000	4,504	-	496
Maitri	53,277	33,955	74,703	-	12,529
Big give	-	44,194	4,740	-	39,454
Xmas 2016 Appeal	11,674	-	11,672	-	2
Burkina Faso					
Foundation L’Occitane	1,776	20,000	21,776	-	-
Xmas 2015 Appeal	13,000	-	1,256	-	11,744
Ethiopia					
Essilor	4,421	-	4,421	-	-
Ghana					
Steel Charitable Trust	-	15,000	7,320	-	7,680
	88,746	345,989	334,645	-	100,090

Restricted Funds 2017	Balance at 1 Apr 2016	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 Mar 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Zambia					
Specsavers	[2,710]	129,000	126,290	-	-
PALA	-	29,245	24,666	-	4,579
Sierra Leone					
The Clothworkers’ Foundation	23,768	86,700	110,449	-	19
Laing Foundation	[362]	5,000	4,638	-	-
Maitri	17,736	84,885	49,344	-	53,277
Spectacles Makers	-	5,375	5,375	-	-
Xmas 2016 Appeal	-	13,365	1,691	-	11,674
Burkina Faso					
Foundation L’Occitane	792	29,083	28,099	-	1,776
Xmas 2015 Appeal	-	13,000	-		13,000
Ethiopia					
UK DFID (GPAF)	-	74,592	74,592	-	-
Essilor	3,926	28,265	27,770	-	4,421
Botswana					
Addenbrooke’s Abroad/ Seeing is Believing	688	-	688	-	-
	43,838	498,510	453,602	-	88,746

Purpose of funding

Specsavers

Provide funding for vision centres, education, training & support outreach programmes in Zambia.

PALA

Provision of a Tonometer for Chinsali Vision Centre in Zambia

The Clothworkers' Foundation

Establish & equip vision centres in the three districts of the eastern province of Sierra Leone.

Laing Foundation

Fund the purchase of a vehicle and four years of vehicle maintenance and driver salary in eastern province of Sierra Leone.

Maitri

Increase access to eye care services in Bombali district of Sierra Leone

Big Give Christmas Appeal

Funds to support the continuation of the programme in Eastern Province, Sierra Leone.

Xmas 2016 Appeal

Funds for the full re-equipping, installation and staff training for the Vision Centre at Connaught Hospital, Freedom, Sierra Leone.

Fondation L'Occitane

Improve refractive error in the centre

west region of Burkina Faso.
Xmas 2015 Appeal

Funds for refraction equipment and training of Eye Care Nurses in 8 regions of Burkina Faso.

Essilor

Provision of spectacles and support for Ethiopia.

Steel Trust

Funded Volunteer Assignments to Ghana.

17. Designated funds

These are funds, identified by the Trustees, allocated for future development.

	£
Transfer to Designated Funds 31.03.18	142,000
Balance Designated Funds 31.03.18	142,000

The designated funds will fund the following future projects;

1. Working in consortium with Vision For a Nation and Operation Eyesight Universal to develop an integrated eye care programme in Central Region, Ghana which addresses the availability, accessibility and quality of eye care service from primary through to tertiary levels.
2. Developing a Philanthropy/Major Donor programme. We will contract outside expertise in this area to develop research, proposals and engagement with high net worth individuals with the objective of achieving significant additional funding for our work overseas.
3. Support for the initial costs of rolling out the Recycling Pack should current testing prove cost effective. The pack has been designed to engage financial support from members of the public visiting the VAO website to find out how to recycle their unwanted specs.
4. Support Our Children’s Vision Campaign in the UK to mobilise partners and

increase advocacy for school based eye health.

5. Supporting Optometry Technicians in Sierra Leone.

18. Prior Year adjustment

The Statement of Financial Activity 2017 column has been restated to reflect the change in accounting policy (see note 2b). This change has the impact of increasing income and expenditure by the market value of the donated hours.



Honorary Life Members, Vice Presidents, Institutions, Trusts and Foundations and Corporates Partners

Our Honorary Vice Presidents are:

Sir Trevor Mc Donald OBE
Fiona Bruce
Dame Mary Perkins DBE
Brian Ellis MBE

Our Honorary Life Members are:

Brian Ellis MBE
Professor Rachel North
Wendy Dick
Philip Heal
Clive Williams
Frank Norville
Tym Marsh
Felicity Harding
Ruth Davies
Peter Mills
David Parkins
Michele de Vaal
Kath Stott
Karen Sparrow
Jeremy Jalie
Vera Wilton



Institutions, Trusts and Foundations



The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers

The Laing Foundation

The Steel Charitable Trust

The Maitri Trust

Corporate Partners



Vision Aid Overseas supports





SPORT



Vision Aid Overseas

(Incorporating OPTOMETRY GIVING SIGHT in the UK)

Thank you