Friends of Sick Children in Malawi

FRIENDS OF SICK CHILDREN IN MALAWI

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Number 1140578

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Trust Deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name: Friends of Sick Children in Malawi

Registered Charity Number: 1140578

Principal Address: c/o Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Rutland House
148 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2JR

Website address: www.friendsofsickchildreninmalawi.com

e-mail address: info@foscim.org

Trustees who have acted during the year:

Alexis Cowie
Gordon Cowie MBE
Professor Elizabeth Molyneux OBE
Stuart Reynolds

Bankers to the Charity: HSBC
PO Box 68
130 New Street
Birmingham B2 4JU

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

'Friends of Sick Children in Malawi' (also known as 'FOSCiM') is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 22 December 2009 as amended (with the prior consent of the Charity Commission) by a Deed of Amendment dated 5th April 2016. The objects of the charity are:
"to preserve, protect and advance all or any aspects of the health of children in Malawi by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities; to advance the education of the public in children's health by the dissemination of health information; and to advance and promote knowledge and education in children's medicine by paying or contributing to the costs of training and education of healthcare workers."

Organisational Structure

The Charity does not employ any staff or pay for offices. The board of trustees comprise the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. By making use of modern technology wherever possible, costs of running the Charity are kept to an absolute minimum.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the continuing or surviving Trustees. The Trustees seek to appoint trustees with skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity. All Trustees served throughout the year.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The overriding objective of FOSCiM is to preserve, protect and advance all or any aspects of the health of children in Malawi. The Trustees regard as essential the continued development of paediatrics in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, and aim to support the professionals working in Malawi in this objective.

They do this by raising funds:

- to help pay for resources necessary to treat some of the poorest children in the world;
- to contribute to relevant training and staff development;
- to buy medical and other supplies and equipment; and
- to provide for the manufacture of wheelchairs, home chairs and other orthotic devices for children with severe mobility issues.

The Charity donates money to Friends of Sick Children ('FOSC'), a Malawi children's charity with similar objectives and which operates from The Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital ('QECH'), Blantyre, Malawi, and to the Orthopaedic Department workshop at the same hospital. From time to time it also helps purchase medical and other supplies and arranges shipment to Malawi.
The health needs of children in Malawi continue to be a pressing issue. Children aged under 18 years of age represent roughly half of the total population yet specialist paediatric health provision in Malawi is still developing. The under-5 mortality rate has improved dramatically over the past 25 years, but is still several times more than the equivalent UK figure. More than half of these deaths are due to preventable disease and many are associated with malnutrition. Malaria, malnutrition and HIV are common in Malawian mothers and contribute to a high proportion of infants weighing less than 2.5kg at birth. Simple interventions have been shown to have major benefits in health outcomes and relatively modest contributions (by Western standards) from outside Malawi can make tangible differences to outcomes for sick children in Malawi.

Grants from FOSCiM to FOSC are of particular help in allowing the Children's Department of the QECH to invest in human and physical resources, acquire equipment and supplies, and develop their services for children.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when carrying out their grant making activities during the year.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In Malawi

The development of paediatrics, paediatricians and specialist paediatric staff and the development of paediatric facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) continued in the year.

What has been achieved since we started our work in Malawi:

- Substantial renovation of the Paediatric Special Care Ward
- Installation of a piped oxygen system at the Nursery Ward
- A major revamp of the Children's Accident & Emergency centre.
- Creation of a High Dependency Unit for Children.
- Renovation of Children's Outpatients and Medical Bay.
- 25 years ago hospital in-patient child mortality rates were 20%; today they are less than 5%.
- Infant and maternal mortality rates have reduced substantially but are still high compared to most nations.
- Malawians studying at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences and graduating and practising paediatrics in *their own* nation. As a result there are more General and Specialist Malawian Paediatric Consultants and Registrars at work in Malawi.
- Malawians studying at The Kamuzu College of Nursing and graduating and practising paediatric nursing in *their own* nation.
- Malawian nurses supported in 4 year BSc (Paediatrics and Child Health) degree courses at Mzuzu University.
- Various other medical personnel supported in their further development so as to be important parts of driving forward sustainable paediatric healthcare in Malawi.
- Malawian postgraduate BSc Clinical Officers and students supported in training.
- The neonatal intensive care and Kangaroo Care unit that was built is one of the best facilities of its type on the continent of Africa.
- In collaboration with RICE University of Texas, first prize won in the first ever *Glaxo Smith Kline-Save the Children Global Award for Innovation in Child Healthcare*.
- The first ever One Stop Centre for abused women and children in Malawi built.
- The creation of a paediatric surgical unit with theatres and intensive care facilities.
- Collaboration with the QECH Orthopaedic Department and workshop completed its 12th year and continues to successfully help children with severe mobility issues by manufacturing and fitting wheelchairs, home chairs for very young children, and making various orthotic devices.

Fundraising

To be in a position to make grants or to deliver charitable benefits in Malawi, the Charity needs to raise funds. Thanks to our loyal supporters, in 2025 we were able to continue our efforts in this regard.

Trustees greatly appreciate all the support the Charity receives each year – support which comes from a variety of people, organisations and places; support which ranges from goodwill and encouragement, through making and donating knitted and other goods, to the all important and essential financial donations, large and small.

As disclosed elsewhere in this Report, we incur minimal costs so that almost all of every donation is applied at the frontline of needs in Malawi. Every donation received, whatever the monetary size, is greatly valued and appreciated All our donors know how much they are appreciated and they are kept informed of how their generosity is applied in Malawi.

Non-monetary donations include the ***Independent Examination*** of these accounts.

Grantmaking

In 2025 the Charity made grants and purchased items for the benefit of sick children in Malawi totalling £224,233 (2024: £97,840).

Grantmaking increased significantly in 2025 as, amongst other needs, the Paediatric Special Care Ward was renovated and piped oxygen supply was introduced to some of the wards.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Trustees will continue to do their best to support the work of healthcare professionals and others in Malawi whose objectives are in line with FOSCiM.

Every step forward in Malawi seems to be accompanied by new challenges but with the help of our supporters we continue to be able to forge forwards. Currently our **three areas of focus** are:

- **Education and further development of human resources in paediatrics**
  Training and development of Malawian healthcare professionals, nurses, clinical officers and post-graduates is an essential focus and there are a number of funding needs here. **A particular need is for stipends for registrars**. In the face of Public Sector remuneration falling well short of covering even basic living costs, we have no option but to find funds for stipends so that there can be sufficient, appropriately remunerated registrars to maintain the level of healthcare necessary throughout the wards and facilities. This could become a regular need unless Public Sector funding increases.
- **Facilities and infrastructure**
  Overall, the infrastructure throughout the various paediatric departments, wards and facilities needs upgrading to improve healthcare delivery and better enable delivery of specialist services. **The Paediatric Special Care Ward was a *priority*** in this regard and was the subject of major renovations in 2025. In addition, piped oxygen was installed, a huge benefit to areas such as The Nursery Ward.

All teams would benefit from better access to scanning/ultra sound equipment. Access routes between some wards and facilities need improvement, including overhead cover in some cases, and improved floor surfaces and corridors around many others.

Included under 'Facilities' is medical equipment. There is a continuing need for essential equipment.

- **Drugs and Medical Consumables**
  The Central Government supply of essential drugs continues to be erratic and unpredictable. We are fortunate in having a supporter who makes a substantial monthly donation to help in this regard and to have supporters who come to the rescue at times of outages.

  Special thanks in this regard to Mai Aisha Trust and to a West Midlands of England family who wish to remain anonymous.

The Charity's costs will continue to be kept to an absolute minimum. For 2025, 99.2p of every £1 raised and spent by FOSCiM delivered charitable benefit in Malawi (2024 - 98.7p). Overhead costs were mostly confined to unavoidable charges, such as payment processing and online donation fees.

The more the Charity is able to raise the greater the amount that will directly benefit sick children in Malawi.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

It has been the policy of Trustees to retain only the minimum reserves necessary to cover known and anticipated costs and to spend the remaining available resources to benefit the children of Malawi.

Where donations have been received that are designated for a particular purpose (for example the purchase of equipment) they may be retained whilst suitable equipment is identified and sufficient additional funds have been raised. The Government of Malawi mandates that foreign currency transfers to Malawi must be converted to local currency on receipt. In order to protect the purchasing power of our grants we retain donations in the UK in Sterling until our partners in Malawi require funds for their immediate cashflow.

Donations totalling £334,493 held at the year end (2024: £415,575) have been designated for various purposes including education, facilities and wheelchair production as detailed below:

Fund	**2025**	**2024**
Duddy Legacy - Education & Facilities	233,488	383,986
A&E	41,911	396
Facilities	22,555	11,866
Paediatric Special Care Ward	16,828	-
Wheelchairs etc. manufacture	11,903	8,682
Other designated funds	6,742	2,340
Education	981	2,875
Drugs	85	5,430
Totals	**334,493**	**415,575**

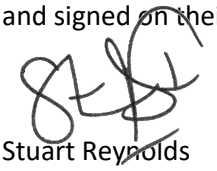
Statement of Financial Activities

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income			
- Donations	58,518	**58,518**	68,277
- Grants	12,500	**12,500**	21,000
- Fundraising by supporters	67,358	**67,358**	20,162
- Legacies	-	**-**	382,835
- Bank Interest	6,766	**6,766**	1,156
Total Income	145,142	**145,142**	493,430
Expenditure			
- Online Transaction Charges	1,515	**1,515**	909
- Telephone & Postage Costs	66	**66**	60
- Bank Account Charges	115	**115**	146
- Website	60	**60**	90
- Governance	90	**90**	98
Expenditure on charitable activities			
- Grants	207,171	**207,171**	80,235
- Orthopaedic Centre	8,723	**8,723**	15,750
- Equipment	4,912	**4,912**	1,855
- Education	3,427	**3,427**	-
Total Expenditure	226,079	**226,079**	99,143
Net income/(expenditure)	(80,937)	**(80,937)**	394,287
Total Funds Brought Forward	423,385	**423,385**	29,098
Total Funds Carried Forward	342,448	**342,448**	423,385

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Prior Year 2024 £
Current Assets			
- Debtors	8,549	**8,549**	9,596
- Cash at Bank	333,899	**333,899**	413,789
Total Current Assets	342,448	**342,448**	423,385
Liabilities			
- Creditors falling due within one year	-	**-**	-
Net Current Assets	342,448	**342,448**	423,385
Net Assets	342,448	**342,448**	423,385
Funds of the Charity			
- Unrestricted income funds	342,448	**342,448**	423,385
Total Charity Funds	342,448	**342,448**	423,385

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by



Stuart Reynolds
Trustee
5 October 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Funds structure

FOSCiM does not have any endowed funds, so all of its capital and income is available to be spent on charitable activities. There are no restricted funds, only unrestricted income funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Trust has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor of the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a reasonable degree of accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

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.

(d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty as to the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

(e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(f) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities include grants made and directly attributable support costs.

2. CHARITABLE STATUS

The Trust is recognised by HMRC as having charitable status and was registered by the Charity Commission on 24 February 2011 once the minimum income threshold for registration could be demonstrated.

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

No remuneration was paid or payable in respect of the year out of the funds of the Charity either directly or indirectly to any Trustee. £135.87 was reimbursed to Trustees in 2025 for amounts they paid on behalf of the Charity (2024 - £129.29).

4. EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

No fees were paid or are payable for the independent examination of the accounts.

5. EMPLOYEES

The Charity had no full or part time employees during the year.

6. GRANTS AND SUPPORT COSTS

The Charity delivers its charitable benefits by making grants to a Malawi charity, Friends of Sick Children (FOSC), which has similar aims and objects to the Charity, and by direct purchase of equipment and facilities for the Children's Department and The Orthopaedic Centre of the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi. An analysis of charitable expenditure and associated support costs in this and the previous year is as follows:

2025	Direct charitable expenditure	Bank charges	Other Costs	**Total 2025**
Grants	207,032	139	0	**207,171**
Orthopaedic Centre	8,706	17	0	**8,723**
Equipment & Education	7,545	-	794	**8,339**
Support & Governance	0	1,414	432	**1,846**
	223,283	1,570	1,226	**226,079**

2024	Direct charitable expenditure	Bank charges	Other Costs	**Total 2024**
Grants	80,074	161	0	**80,235**
Orthopaedic Centre	15,716	34	0	**15,750**
Medical Equipment	961	17	877	**1,855**
Support & Governance	0	608	695	**1,303**
	96,751	820	1,572	**99,143**

£794 was paid to transport purchased and donated items to Malawi [£877 was paid in 2024]

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity made grants to FOSC, a Malawi charity of which one of the Trustees, Professor Molyneux, is also a Trustee. The other Trustees value the expertise that Professor Molyneux is able to bring to the Charity and her particular knowledge and understanding of where charitable support can make the biggest difference to sick children in Malawi.

The Charity had no transactions with any Trustee or (with the exception of FOSC) with any connected or related party of any Trustee, and no Trustee received any benefit, direct or indirect, from the Charity.

8. CONTROL RELATIONSHIP

The Charity is under the control of the Trustees.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Sick Children in Malawi

I report on the accounts of the Friends of Sick Children in Malawi for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

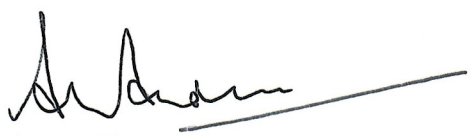
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



AN Andrews FCA
15 Wentworth Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2SD

5 October 2026