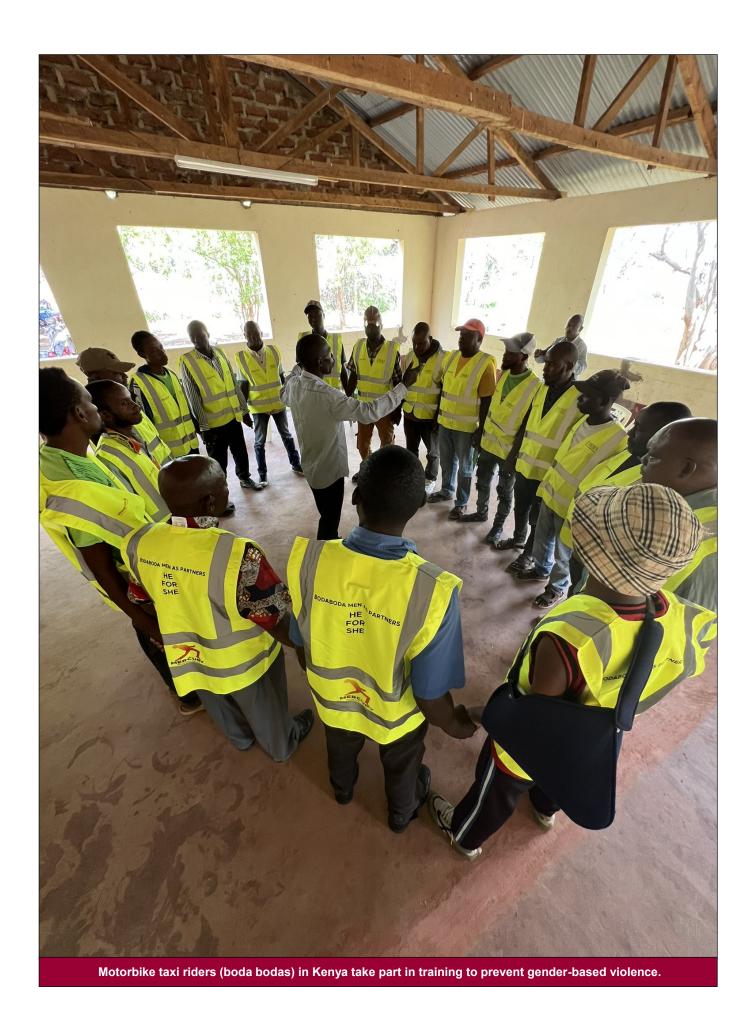




Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 July 2024



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Acronyms used

ACA Associated Chartered Accountant
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 2019
FRS Financial Reporting Standard
EFPA Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism
GBV Gender-based violence
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMRC His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAAD International Albinism Awareness Day
ICAEW Institute of Chartered Acountants in England and Wales
KDPO Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation
KISE Kenya Institute of Special Education
MWDG Migori Women with Disabilities Group
SNUPA Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism
SORP Statement of Recommended Practice
SPAU Single Parents' Association of Uganda
STI Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Front cover: Small livestock rearer Rose with grand-daughter Katie.

Rear cover: The Muthani family celebrate the completion of their new house.

Trustee-Directors' Report

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Charity and Company Information

Trustee-Directors:	Christopher Chapman (joined September 2024) Pratima Dattani Mandy Smith Carole Holloway Alice Gathoni
Patrons:	Martyn Joseph Jon Snow
Company Secretary:	Andrew Betts - Executive Director
Governing Document:	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 2002
Company Registration Number:	04388034
Charity Registration Number:	1092719
Registered Office:	9 High Street Olney Buckinghamshire MK46 4EB
Telephone: Email: Website:	01234 711005 information@advantageafrica.org www.advantageafrica.org
Independent Examiner:	Susan Plumb ACA Haines Watts Old Station House Newport Street Swindon Wilts SN1 3DU
Bankers:	HSBC plc

19 Midsummer Place

Milton Keynes MK9 3GB

Introduction

This Report and Accounts outlines how Advantage Africa helped improve the lives of several thousand vulnerable people in Kenya and Uganda and used our resources to fulfil that purpose.

We're most grateful to our inspirational partner organisations and our generous and committed supporters who made the achievements in this Report possible and brought joy and hope into poor communities across East Africa. Thank you for making a difference.

Governance

Advantage Africa's governance is described in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustee-Directors and the current Board is shown on page two. New candidates are considered by the existing Trustee-Directors according to the match of their skills and experience to our identified needs and are given an induction during their first few meetings.

Advantage Africa's organisational policies cover all aspects of its operation including finance, employment, safeguarding and professional practice and we have a schedule for their periodic review e.g. our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually.

The Trustee-Directors delegate day-to-day management of the charity to its Director Andrew Betts. They appoint staff and set appropriate salaries against a set of principles including objectivity and affordability. Reference is also made to the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales which are commonly used in the voluntary sector. The Board meets three times a year to oversee Advantage Africa's activities and monitor progress against the objectives of our Strategic Plan. At each meeting the Trustee-Directors reviewed our impact in Kenya and Uganda, financial performance, fundraising, risk and organisational policies.

Objects of the Charity

Advantage Africa's objects, as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6th March 2002 and amended by special resolution 31st May 2002, are 'The relief of need, poverty, hardship and distress and the advancement of education amongst people in Africa, in particular by supporting and working with local people to develop sustainable initiatives within their own region'.

In practice, Advantage Africa supports people affected by poverty, disability, albinism and HIV to improve their education, health and incomes. Our partnerships with local organisations in Kenya and Uganda help vulnerable people to help themselves and build a better future for their families and communities. Advantage Africa provides its partners with resources, advice and training as well as links to other sources of knowledge, skills and funds.

Review of Activities

Oversight

The Trustee-Directors have planned and overseen the activities of the charity with regard to the Charity Commission's Good Governance Code, their guidance on 'Public Benefit', and 'Working Internationally' as well as HMRC's recommendations on 'Payments to Overseas Bodies'. Advantage Africa is also a member of the Fundraising Regulator.

Vision and Strategy

Many millions of people in East Africa continue to live in relentless poverty, excluded from the benefits of economic growth. They have been disproportionately affected by global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Among the most vulnerable people of all are those affected by disability and HIV, often stigmatised and denied their basic human rights, causing them to lack self-worth, opportunity and hope.

Advantage Africa's vision is for such vulnerable children, women and men to be respected as equals, free from poverty, discrimination and fear, and to have appropriate education, good health and sustainable livelihoods. To this end, our current strategic goal is 'better lives for the most vulnerable children and adults in East Africa' and our objectives, around which our future plans are also based, are to:

- (1) Support the most vulnerable and excluded children, women and men to overcome poverty and meet their needs in a sustainable way.
- (2) Contribute to changing the conditions, attitudes, policies and practices that keep them in poverty.
- (3) Create a more resilient and sustainable charity.

Advantage Africa's team of three staff in the UK comprises Director Andrew Betts and Programme Managers Rob Aley (Kenya) and Jane Betts (Uganda) who all worked to fulfil these objectives.

This Review outlines some of the activities carried out and impact achieved in 2023/24. Names of some beneficiaries have been changed to protect privacy.

Towards our first objective, supporting the most vulnerable people to overcome poverty, Advantage Africa's Strategic Plan aims for us to support at least eight partner organisations to provide essential services to improve the education, health and incomes of vulnerable people.

We achieved this aim in another successful year, actually supporting ten partners to work across these themes, namely Thinu and Mitaboni Primary Schools; Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE); Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG); Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation (KDPO); Dyslexia Organisation Kenya (DOK), Autism Society of Kenya (ASK), Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS; Single Parents' Association of Uganda (SPAU) and Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA).



Special education teachers at KISE show their certificates after completing their training in school-leaver transitions.

Summary

Highlights of Advantage Africa's 2023/24 included:

- 192 children and youths in education or training.
- 40 special needs teachers trained.
- 17 youths with disabilities assisted to successfully transition from school to home and community.
- 710 people had HIV testing and counselling.
- 1,000+ people with albinism protected from skin cancer and 17 received life-saving surgery.
- 94 people received wheelchairs or appliances.
- 64 families affected by epilepsy supported.
- 14 women helped to recover from violence.
- 165 vulnerable families started enterprises.
- 1,000 people protected from malaria.
- 1,600+ people accessed safe water and sanitation.
- 5,000+ reached at rallies on health and rights.

Education

Education for Children with Disabilities (Kenya)

In partnership with the Kenya Institute for Special Education (KISE) our efforts to improve life opportunities for school-leavers with disabilities gained significant momentum. We trained two groups of 20 special education teachers; one group completed their third and final training module, while the other enthusiastically began their training. Evaluation consistently highlighted the programme's success in equipping teachers with the skills and confidence to help young people make successful transitions from school to home and community.

The experienced group shared inspiring success stories of applying their new skills and integrating the transition programme into their schools with the new intake. Collectively, they successfully supported 17 students aged 19–27 to transition from school and start productive, independent lives in their communities. With grants towards their enterprises, these school-leavers started livestock rearing, vegetable farming, carpentry, hairdressing and other initiatives to contribute to their families' income.

Florence Ombongi a vocational class teacher from Kaimusi Special School says; 'My eyes have been opened to the real-life opportunities for our school-leavers. I have to say that before this training we had very few ideas about how to graduate our students in a meaningful way, but now I'm confident. The knowledge is actually very empowering for me'.



Teacher Florence applied her new knowledge to enable 24 year-old Oscar to make a successful transition from school and start cow rearing with his family at home.

Most children with disabilities in East Africa remain excluded from education. As part of our commitment to change this situation we supported the special education units (that we helped establish) at Mitaboni and Thinu as well as the nursery school for orphaned or otherwise vulnerable children in Kalulini, Kenya.

Our assistance included monthly allowances for teachers, house mothers, groundskeepers, and cooks, teaching and play resources to enhance learning as well as grants to help older students graduate and begin income-generating activities. We also supported teachers and staff from both units to visit Nile Special School in Nairobi, one of Kenya's leading special schools. They observed innovative methods for supporting students with learning disabilities and gained valuable insights from its vocational training.

Ben, a teacher from Mitaboni, said, 'The tour was incredibly informative. I'm excited to bring fresh ideas to our vocational training.'

We were encouraged by the growing interest in the special units which brought in funding from the local MPs' Community Development Funds towards refurbishing buildings and installing a water supply.

In Uganda, our education work focused on a new initiative funded by the Educational Opportunity Foundation in Nakivale Refugee Settlement to improve the education of children with albinism excluded from school because of poverty and stigma. We produced a manual and held training for 25 teachers in the settlement to address myths and misunderstanding about albinism and equip pupils to reach their potential. The SNUPA team reported: 'The training was a complete revelation for the teachers. Many had never known any information about albinism or how to support students.'



The training was complemented by skin and eye clinics and provision of school fees to further increase educational access. The SNUPA team reported that that '25 refugee children with albinism are now regularly attending school, allowed to wear long-sleeved uniforms and wide-brimmed hats and using their spectacles to study'. Their morale, confidence and prospects have been transformed.

Vocational Training for Young People (Uganda)

With support from the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, 79 young people in Nsonga, mostly in their mid to late teens, started a one year's vocational training in a skill of their choice towards a Government certificate. All had faced enormous challenges in their young lives and dropped out of education permanently following Uganda's two-year COVID-19 lockdowns.

12 opted to learn welding, 12 tailoring, 15 hairdressing, 20 motorcycle mechanics and 20 brickmaking. Learning together under the patient guidance of their trainers, the young people soon grew in confidence and formed strong friendships.

The trainees received their own tools, including sewing machines, safety equipment and practice materials. Their growing skills will equip them to earn a reliable income. For example, Sarah, Project Manager of SPAU reported 'The welding trainees have progressed in making doors, stoves and windows and paint finished products professionally.'



Tony has a congenital impairment which means he has no left hand or forearm. He is transforming attitudes to disability in Nsonga through his hard work and determination to learn motorcycle mechanics. He and his fellow trainees are finding new purpose and hope as they work towards the Government's Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) certification and they've all been trained in business management and record-keeping by local entrepreneurs.

register of tailoring trainees' attendance.



Tony, motorcycle mechanic trainee.

Rehabilitation, Health and Welfare

Emergency and Welfare Support (Kenya and Uganda)

Severe flooding in the Lake Victoria basin was among the extreme weather experienced in the region this year. We enabled Migori Women with Disabilities Group (MWDG) to support their members with disabilities made homeless overnight as flood water engulfed and destroyed their homes. Sheila Adoyo and Rodah Tembo of MWDG undertook a precarious journey to visit the displaced families and found them desperate, without food, shelter or any external assistance.

Sheila Adoyo Coordinator of MWDG said 'These vulnerable people are stranded without food or shelter. They are frustrated and discriminated against because of their disabilities, no one wants to accommodate them, it's so painful. They are in a terrible condition. They need urgent support.'

Thanks to a much appreciated grant from The Souter Charitable Trust, we acted swiftly to provide emergency support to 150 people in 30 families. This included food, sanitary pads, bedding, cooking equipment, and temporary accommodation, alongside psychological and spiritual support to help them rebuild their lives.



Rodah (left) and Sheila prepare to deliver to families displaced by the floods in western Kenya.

Our other individually targeted support for the most vulnerable families in Kenya included 20 food parcels, hygiene kits, medical treatment, allowances for domestic caregivers, house repairs and the completion of a new home for a family in desperate circumstances in eastern Kenya (see back cover).

Through our 'Severe Hardship Funds' we provided swift, targeted support to people in urgent need. In Uganda this included health and nutritional support for housebound people with disabilities living in chronic poverty, palliative care for people with inoperable skin cancer, and facilitating surgery for three young people with extensive burns and scarring sustained in accidents during epileptic seizures.

Across both countries, our welfare support reached more than 500 people in nearly 100 families.

Reducing the Spread and Impact of HIV (Kenya)

Rescue Team's trusted HIV testing, counselling and treatment referral programme saw another year of significant impact, with 710 people tested, 73% of whom were female. Testing took place at Rescue Team's walk-in facility and at outreach events, including UN World AIDS Day in December. 14 women and 5 men (2.6%) tested positive. Sadly, two were severely sick and died, but the other 17 where referred and are now on ARV therapy.

Violence against Women and Girls (Kenya)

Advantage Africa and Rescue Team's ambition to engage men in preventing violence against women and HIV became reality in January 2024 with generous support from The Mercury Phoenix Trust. The project in eastern Kenya targeted motorbike taxi riders (boda bodas) because of the industry's notorious reputation with regard to sexual violence.

We trained 60 men on gender equality and the consequences and prevention of gender-based violence and HIV. Early project monitoring indicates a significant positive impact within a short timeframe. Men who attended the training (see picture on inside front cover) not only increased their knowledge and understanding but also reassessed their own attitudes and behaviours. They demonstrated an unexpectedly high level of interest, engagement, and commitment to tackling gender-based violence and were keen to become community champions. This entailed pledging to initiate change within their families, workplaces, and communities. They showed their commitment by helping to secure the convictions of two male perpetrators in Kibwezi.



Burgwin Muthoka, Coordinator of Rescue Team says 'I'm delighted with the enthusiasm and dedication of the men. I anticipated strong participation, but they have completely exceeded my expectations!'

Advantage Africa and KDPO have been steadfastly pursuing justice for a young woman survivor of severe, debilitating violence inflicted by her husband. The two-year legal process was fraught with delays, but despite significant personal risk, the unwavering determination of our local partners in this work helped secure a conviction and prison sentence.

This case is just one of 14 harrowing instances of violence against women, many with disabilities, that our partners in Kibwezi and Migori have bravely tackled. In addition to providing survivors with comprehensive therapeutic and legal support, we have cultivated strong relationships with key local stakeholders, including hospitals, police and government officials. Many of these collaborators have been trained by our partners to enhance their responses to GBV. Among the initiatives this year was training organised by KDPO for 40 women with disabilities and local duty bearers on preventing and responding to violence.

Rehabilitation Services (Kenya)

Advantage Africa provided KDPO with essential materials for its established rehabilitation workshop and upgraded its tools and equipment. We also funded monthly allowances for technicians Nguli Mutisya and Mike Muthama. The team successfully designed, made and fitted over 40 disability appliances including standing frames, callipers, and supportive seating. Additionally, they supplied and fitted 14 durable wheelchairs, completing the final distribution of a consignment of 200 from our international partner Motivation. Beneficiaries were followed up in their homes to ensure the appliances were working for them and being effectively maintained.



Rehabilitation technician Nguli Mutisya at work in the KDPO workshop.

Through our growing partnership with MWDG and Nyabondo Rehabilitation Centre, we also assisted more people with disabilities to access assistive devices than ever before. 40 clients were assessed and fitted with appliances including 23 wheelchairs. These efforts have transformed the lives of vulnerable individuals who would otherwise have no access to such essential equipment, helping them gain improved mobility, confidence, social inclusion and independence. We're grateful to The Green Hall Foundation for their vital support for this work.

Epilepsy (Uganda)

Our support to people with epilepsy focused on three villages in Muwanga parish, Uganda where we provided 64 families affected with small enterprise training and loans to meet their basic needs. Many of these people affected by epilepsy had previously led isolated lives with little hope for change. The peer support they found by meeting others in similar circumstances through these savings and loans groups encouraged them enormously.

Living in isolated rural communities, the families had been barely subsisting by growing vegetables on small plots next to their homes. With their grants and new business skills, some bought seeds and fertilisers to increase their vegetable yields for sale in local markets. Others started shoe and clothing enterprises or chose to rear small livestock.

Sarah of SPAU reports that as well as having formed strong friendships and grown in confidence: 'They are now earning a steady income. For the first time in a long time they have been able to take their children to school. Those growing crops keep some for their own families' nutrition. They can pay for medication and look after their health better.'

Safe Water (Kenya and Uganda)

We were grateful to Wilmslow Wells for Africa who awarded a grant towards a sustainable community water supply in Kalulini, rural eastern Kenya. The rainwater harvesting system, utilising school roofs and storage tanks made safe water accessible to the entire community via a water vending kiosk.

The project launch was celebrated by 300 community members and leaders, raising awareness about safe water, sanitation and hygiene. As well as improving health, the new water supply greatly reduces the time and effort women and children spend collecting water from distant sources, enabling them to focus on education and other productive activities.



Members of the local community come to fill jerry cans with clean water on the project launch day.

In the lakeside community of Nsonga, Uganda, we trained 52 people on preventing water-related diseases before rehabilitating existing public latrines. Paul, SPAU's Director said 'The situation of the old toilet was alarming! The latrines were blocked, full to overflowing and unusable.' A community committee was formed to oversee the restored and disinfected toilets and collect fees from users to pay a local caretaker to maintain them who said 'We will make sure of proper use of the toilets and that people no longer throw bottles, pads and nappies into them!'

With help from the community, we then constructed new community toilets, complete with a rainwater tank to provide water for handwashing. Villagers helped in the construction, unloaded materials and brought drinks to the engineers throughout.



The new accessible toilet block in Nsonga.

Following further training on water management, the first of two boreholes to provide safe water for the Nsonga community was dug. This borehole is now used by 100 families daily as well as 400 children and staff from the local primary school for drinking, washing and cooking. A water committee, elected during the training, oversees the borehole and users pay a small fee to cover maintenance.



Opening of the first Nsonga borehole.

Preventing Malaria (Uganda)

As rainy seasons become more unpredictable and intense in Uganda due to climate change, mosquitoes proliferate and treated nets are more crucial than ever to prevent life-threatening malaria.

In the communities of Kyabiiri and Nsonga we supported 1,000 children and adults in 200 of the most vulnerable households to receive comprehensive malaria prevention training and treated mosquito nets to keep them safe from this debilitating and destructive disease.



Families in Kyabiiri receive their mosquito nets.

Improving the Health of People with Albinism (Uganda)

In 2023/24, we supported our partner SNUPA to hold 45 skin clinics across Uganda's Busoga sub-region to protect children and adults with albinism from skin cancer. District clinics were held every four months for people with albinism to receive skin checks from our dermatologist Dr. Ngobi. Participants also received high sun protection factor sunscreen, lip protection and wide-brimmed hats and cryotherapy to remove pre-cancerous lesions as required. Most of our clinics were held in health centres and hospitals so that their medical staff could learn how to check the skin of people with albinism, spot pre-cancerous lesions and administer cryotherapy.



Dr Ngobi shows a medical officer in Iganga how to administer cryotherapy.



Altogether Dr. Ngobi and his assistants provided 1,069 comprehensive skin checks and 571 cryotherapy treatments.

Thanks to regular attendance at skin clinics and daily use of hats and sunscreen, skin cancer among people with albinism is reducing. We were most grateful for a new consignment from Ultrasun UK of 2,126 units of sunscreen and 744 tubes of lip protection, which coincidentally reached the SNUPA team on World Cancer Day, 4th February 2024.

New people from across Uganda with extensive skin cancer frequently turn up at our clinics. The majority are young, with skin in desperate condition, suffering from poor mental health, and often out of school, because of the pain and appearance of their lesions. We enable them to have life-saving surgery whenever resources allow and this year we funded 17 such operations, four for children aged 11-16.

Ramsey is one young boy who received skin cancer surgery to save his life. His operation went well and he is now cancer-free and back in school. Advantage Africa has also provided him with photo-chromatic spectacles to assist in his studies and he is working hard towards his dream of becoming an engineer.



Ramsey was one of 33 young people with albinism in the Busoga sub-region who received eye checks and photo-chromatic spectacles to improve their vision and ensure they could take part fully in school.



Beyond the Busoga region, our support to refugees with albinism in the Nakivale and Rwamwanja Settlements included five skin clinics and much needed food supplies (maize and beans) and soap.

Improved Incomes

Sustainable Enterprises for Vulnerable Families (Kenya and Uganda)

Families with disabilities consistently ask Advantage Africa and our partner KDPO to help them to earn their own income and become economically self-reliant. To this end, and with the valued support of Scott Bader Commonwealth, we began a new project to provide training, livestock and equipment for 300 people in 60 families to start goat rearing and rainwater collection at their homes.



Duncan (left) is enjoying his new goat rearing enterprise under the guidance of his father.

Goat rearing provides families with improved nutrition and income from milk and meat while rainwater catchment ensures better health from safer, more abundant water supplies. The project will also empower women and children by reducing the burden of water collection, and foster a sense of togetherness and peer support which is especially valuable for families with disabilities who often face stigma and discrimination.



Our tailoring enterprise for women with disabilities in Migori, western Kenya, made significant progress this year as on-the-job training continued.

We expanded the number and variety of machines available, enabling the women entrepreneurs to enhance their skills to a level where they can now produce and sell school and hotel uniforms in the local market. This initiative is not only providing a sustainable source of income for the six trainees, who previously lacked such opportunities, but as a collective enterprise, it also addresses the social isolation and rejection often experienced by women with disabilities in East Africa.

Alongside the educational support we provided to children with albinism in Refugee Settlements, 35 refugee families affected by albinism were assisted to start enterprises, including livestock rearing and market selling (sugar cane, silverfish and eggs). Fazira of SNUPA reported 'Some enterprises are faring better than others but all are doing their best. Families have been so happy to be able to buy their children books and pens together with some lunch items so they're not trying to learn on empty stomachs'. SNUPA have advised the parents that their children can help with the enterprises—but not when they should be at school!

Also in Uganda, in the rural community of Kyabiiri, we supported 15 single parents to rear poultry to boost their families' nutrition and self-reliance. Three days' training covered poultry housing, feeding, disease prevention and production. Then each parent received 40 chicks, feeders, drinkers, feed and vaccinations. Florence (see inside back cover), single carer of six children, told us the training 'was well explained and not difficult'. With light, feed and care, her chickens will each lay up to 300 eggs in the first year. After meeting her family needs, Florence sells a tray of 30 eggs locally for about £2.20. The regular income has paid for her children to attend school.

A further 35 single parents were trained in rearing pigs and provided with two piglets and feed. Augustine, father of three young children, found the training 'eye opening' and commented that pigs' requirements for dry shelter, nutritious food and cleanliness 'are the same as our own!' He takes good care of his sows and has passed on some of the piglets from their litters to other families in need.



Building Partners' Resilience, Capacity and Sustainability

As well as the constant support they provided by phone and video communications in reviewing partners' progress against project and strategic plans and monitoring impact, our Programme Managers Rob Aley and Jane Betts made three support trips to partners between them.



Programme Manager Rob Aley with a family in Kenya.

Some of the specific support provided included helping MWDG to develop their soap-making and tailoring businesses to improve organisational self-reliance, Rescue Team to grow their income from water vending and KDPO to improve their office equipment and use.

Skill sharing is a two-way process and this work continually fed our learning of the daily challenges faced by people living in poverty.

Alongside partners' monthly allowances we assisted them in accessing training opportunities. This included courses in assessment and fitting of wheelchair clients for KDPO, in ARVs for Rescue Team and in skin and vision clinics (to Standing Voice in Tanzania) for SNUPA. This was an invaluable visit of mutual learning and encouragement, with a primary focus on data collection and analysis to help SNUPA improve the monitoring, evaluation and future development of our skin and eye care activities.



SNUPA staff training during their visit to Tanzania.

Our support to partners' physical and mental health included short breaks, loans, appliances, medical and security needs to enable them to work effectively unhindered by personal burdens and stress.

Advantage Africa ensured that the SNUPA team can keep their Jinja office open as their base for outreach and a key focal point for support for people with albinism in Uganda. We also supported them to continue the empowerment of other albinism associations, particularly Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism (EFPA) to meet the skin protection needs of people with albinism across the region and outside of SNUPA's own area.

In addition, the ongoing replacement, care and maintenance of our partners' vehicles and equipment ensured they could undertake their work effectively and safely. Provision of improved smartphones, laptops and tablets all assisted with their project management, monitoring and reporting.

Changing Attitudes, Policies and Practices

Advantage Africa's strategic plan outlines our goal to 'change the attitudes, policies and practices that keep the most vulnerable women, men and children in East Africa in poverty'.

To this end our Kenya partners advocated for equal rights for people with disabilities and HIV. Agnes Musembi of KDPO, now a prominent disability campaigner in Kenya, contributed towards Makueni County's first ever Disability Policy, one of the country's first. She also helped review disability inclusion in the Kenya National Constitution and formulate amendments to the Kenya Disability Act.

Partners also participated in regional celebrations of World AIDS Day and International Day for Persons with Disabilities. As always, KDPO's theatre group Twaweza highlighted inclusion through their thought provoking and interactive performances.

Our Nairobi 'Showcase' meeting with senior government and NGO representatives highlighted the success of our training for special needs teachers in Kenya. We also advocated for this training to be adopted in the national special education syllabus and received strong support for this from KISE.

Two research projects in Kenya started in earnest this year. In collaboration with the Dyslexia Organisation of Kenya, we conducted 50+ interviews with school teachers and teacher trainers to assess their awareness and understanding of dyslexia. Preliminary analysis revealed an alarmingly low level of knowledge of the condition, which affects 7-10% of the general population.

In partnership with the Autism Society of Kenya, we launched a similar study on the educational experiences of children with autism. Our data collection workshop with young people with autism and their parents uncovered profound insights into the extreme stigma and challenges they face in accessing appropriate education.

The findings from both studies, the first of their kind in Kenya, will be published in 2025, along with recommendations aimed at addressing the critical gaps in educational provision for children with dyslexia and autism in Kenya. Our goal is to design practical interventions that significantly improve the current inadequate systems and offer affected children the support they desperately need.

563 children and adults with albinism, as well as several thousand members of the general public, attended our commemoration of the 10th International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) in Jinja on 13th June. As ever, it was an inspiring day of solidarity and friendship for all who enjoyed the march through Jinja, food, dancing and speeches. Peter, Director of SNUPA told us, *'For people with albinism in Uganda, this is their Christmas Day!'*



SNUPA appealed to the Ugandan government to support for people with albinism in health centres and their messages were shared on television and radio to several million people across the country.

Advocacy is built into all SNUPA's work. For example, in the Refugee Settlements, the team share evidence with the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR to highlight gaps in support and lobby for better educational, livelihood and healthcare support for people with albinism. SNUPA's advocacy this year also contributed to the inclusion of albinism genetics in the national biology curriculum. The next generation will learn the facts about albinism rather than believing in ingrained myths and misinformation.

SNUPA's Director Peter Ogik also represented the needs of people with albinism at international level, giving presentations at the African Union and African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Creating a more Resilient and Sustainable Organisation

Through this objective we aim for Advantage Africa to help vulnerable people in East Africa for many years to come. The continued challenging environment for small charities again made progress against this objective difficult. However, we managed to bring in over £150k of unrestricted funding (42% of total income) and make progress towards finding an outsourced finance manager. Furthermore, our partnerships with Beyond Suncare, Ultrasun UK, Salmon and Lancaster University are all positive steps towards the charity's resilience and sustainability. Together with the hard work of our three UK staff in fundraising and our committed and generous supporters, we were able to increase income, impact and reach on the previous year.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the achievements described in this report possible including many individual and organisational supporters, who helped us achieve our goal of 'better lives for the most vulnerable people in East Africa'.



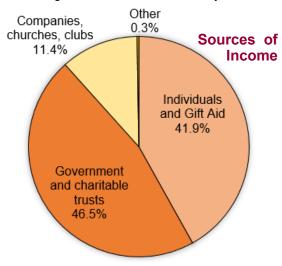
biology curriculum.

Financial Review

Income

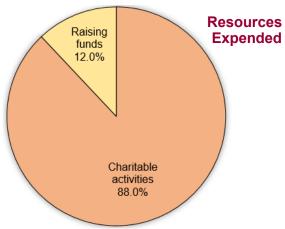
Income in 2023/24 was £341k (£333k in 2022/23). Donations from individuals reduced to £143k (£156k in 2022/23) and from companies and churches to £39k (£46k in 2022/23). These falls were offset, building on the 75% increase in the previous year, by further 21% growth in grant income from £131k in 2022/23 to £159k.

We are most grateful to everyone who supported us in the year, including 138 individuals who donated monthly (136 in 2022/23). We also extend our thanks to the following organisations who donated £5k and above: Barry and Martin's Trust, The Souter Charitable Trust, Educational Opportunity Foundation, The Mercury Phoenix Trust, Scott Bader Commonwealth and Ultrasun UK. It is the policy of some organisations to remain anonymous.



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2023/24 was £346k (£304k in 2022/23) resulting in a net movement of £5k. Expenditure on charitable activities increased by 23% from £260k in 2022/23 to £305k this year. Despite our increased income, fundraising expenditure, at £42k, was 4% less than last year.



Reserves remained within our policy throughout the year, which closed with unrestricted reserves at £61k and restricted £58k (£78k and £46k in 2022/23).

Reserves Policy

In order to meet commitments to partners in Africa, the Trustee-Directors aim to maintain a level of reserves that will protect the charity against any dramatic fall in unrestricted income or unexpected rise in expenditure. As such, our policy is for Advantage Africa's reserves to be maintained at between three to six months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure with provision for projected partner costs. Free reserves of £61k were within this range (estimated at £47k - £94k) and therefore compliant with the policy at the year end.

Risk Management

The Trustee-Directors have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating in Africa with few employees is exposed. Monthly Financial Reports and Risk Registers are used to monitor these.

Internal Controls

Advantage Africa's documented systems of internal financial controls protect against errors or loss. The controls include the delegation of financial authority amongst the staff and Trustee-Directors.

Trustee-Directors' Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as Trustee-Directors to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and income and expenditure by:

- 1. Selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently.
- 2. Making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- 3. Stating whether the applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
- Preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operating.

We are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustee-Directors on 13th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719 Company number 04388034

Independent Examiner's Report

to the Trustees of Advantage Africa

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Susan Plumb ACA, ICAEW Haines Watts Old Station House Station Approach Newport Street Swindon SN1 3DU

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023/24 £	Total Funds 2022/23 £
Income from:					
Donations and grants	2	145,278	195,398	340,676	331,859
Trading activities	3	304	-	304	1,122
Investments	4	563	-	563	191
Total Income	_	146,145	195,398	341,543	333,172
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	41,588	-	41,588	43,266
Charitable activities	6	120,261	184,311	304,572	260,436
Total Expenditure	_	161,849	184,311	346,160	303,702
Net income / expenditure		(15,703)	11,087	(4,617)	29,470
Transfers between funds		(1,162)	1,162	_	-
Net Movement in Funds	_	(16,865)	12,248	(4,617)	29,470
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		78,266	46,089	124,355	94,885
Fund Balances at 31 July 2024	_	61,401	58,338	119,738	124,355

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31st July 2024 £	31st July 2023 £
Fixed Assets					-
Tangible assets	8	486	-	486	-
Total		486	-	486	-
Current Assets					
Stocks	9	-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	13,777	11,225	25,002	22,311
Cash at bank and in hand	11	50,857	68,044	118,901	110,960
Total		64,634	79,269	143,903	133,271
Current Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	3,720	20,931	24,651	8,916
Net current assets		60,915	58,338	119,252	124,355
Net Assets		61,400	58,338	119,738	124,355
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted funds: general funds	13	61,401	-	61,401	78,266
Restricted funds	13	-	58,338	58,338	46,089
Total funds		61,401	58,338	119,738	124,355

For the year ended 31 July 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of Trustee-Directors:

- a. The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- b. The Trustee-Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

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

Approved by the Trustee-Directors on 13 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Holloway, Treasurer

Charity number 1092719 Company Number 04388034

The notes on pages 17-24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention (as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities). The 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 (the Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The global financial crisis have caused significant uncertainty and made it difficult to assess the potential impact of the wider economy on the charity's operations, funding and suppliers. In particular the Trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. They have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and when reviewing the charity's financial situation in February 2025 regarded it as reasonably strong. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The following accounting policies were applied in dealing with material items:-

a) Donated and Grant Income

Donated income and grants receivable are taken into account when received by the charity. Income from donations includes recoverable Gift Aid which is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift Aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (as estimated and agreed with the donor).

b) Stocks

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock.

c) Other Income

Investment income represents income generated by bank interest. The charity relies on volunteers to carry out some of its activities, however, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured. Income from charitable activities represents income received from consultancy which was undertaken in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is accounted for when incurred by the charity, regardless of when payment is made. Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred in the strategic management of the charity. Support costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity have been allocated on the basis of the percentage of staff time spent on fundraising, general community development, advocacy and campaigning and Trustee-Directors' activities.

d) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee-Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors.

e) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets acquired for use by the company are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated useful life unless they cost less than £500 when they are written off on purchase. The depreciation period for equipment and IT is four years.

f) Pension Costs

The company offers an auto-enrolled defined contribution scheme for employees..

g) Taxation

The company as a registered charity is not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax because its income falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

h) Cash Flow Statement

The company has not prepared a Cash Flow Statement for the year, in line with the exemption provided by the FRS 102 SORP.

2. Income from Donations and Grants

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Individuals and associated Gift Aid	122,365	20,781	143,146	135,264	20,414	155,678
Government donors and charitable trusts	9,034	149,617	158,651	40,832	89,755	130,587
Companies, churches, clubs and schools	13,879	25,000	38,879	14,206	31,388	45,594
Total	145,278	195,398	340,676	190,302	141,557	331,859

3. Income from Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2023/24 Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Restricted Funds £	Total £
Sales of crafts and donated goods etc	56	-	56	451	-	451
Other, including raffles and admission fees	248	-	248	671	-	671
Total	304	-	304	1,122	-	1,122

4. Investment Income

	2023/24			2022/23		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Interest	563	-	563	191	-	191
Total	563	-	563	191	-	191

The increased investment income this year was due to an improved interest rate and ability to make transfers gained from transferring our deposits to a different bank.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	2023/24 Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Restricted Funds £	Total £
Events	3	-	3	164	-	164
Appeals & newsletters	-	-	-	30	-	30
Staff costs	35,440	-	35,440	36,191	-	36,191
Other direct costs	2,793	-	2,793	3,709	-	3,709
Support costs	3,352	-	3,352	3,172	-	3,172
Total	41,588	-	41,588	43,266	-	43,266

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

		2023/24		2	2022/23	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total £	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total £
DIRECT CHARITABLE COSTS	£	£		£	£	
Community development in Africa						
Staff costs	64,822	5,104	69,926	66,162	1,838	68,000
Other direct costs	3,168	4,311	7,479	3,735	762	4,497
Grants payable*	32,708	174,896	207,604	49,187	119,941	169,128
Support costs	7,970	-	7,970	6,596	-	6,596
Total	108,668	184,311	292,979	125,680	122,541	248,221
Governance costs						
Staff costs	3,651	-	3,651	3,833	-	3,833
Accounts and examination	1,500	-	1,500	1,573	-	1,573
Other direct costs	23	-	23	226	-	226
Support costs	-	-	-	-	-	_
Total	5,174	-	5,174	5,632	-	5,632
Advocacy/campaigns/developmen	t education					
Staff costs	5,469	-	5,469	5,589	-	5,589
Other direct costs	414	-	414	491	-	491
Support costs	536	-	536	503	-	503
Total	6,419	-	6,419	6,583	-	6,583
Total Charitable Activities	120,261	184,311	304,572	137,895	122,541	260,436

^{*}Grants are given towards partner organisations once their work has been identified as falling within the objects and activities of Advantage Africa, and when a partnership has been built between Advantage Africa and both the partner and the beneficiary community through visits and detailed project planning. The aims and activities of the project are then defined in a formal agreement which is written, approved and signed by the partner organisation's committee and Advantage Africa's Trustee-Directors and which forms the basis for monitoring. A breakdown of grants payable is shown overleaf.

Advantage Africa 19 Notes to the Accounts

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS PAYABLE		2023/24			2022/23	
	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £	Project Costs £	Allowances £	Total Grants £
Kenya						
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation	16,089	4,368	20,457	8,276	5,186	13,462
Kenya Institute for Special Education and Partner Schools	8,412	-	8,412	4,418	-	4,418
Mitaboni Special Education Project	5	2,484	2,489	131	2,168	2,299
Thinu Special Education Project	154	2,193	2,347	10	1,763	1,773
Rescue Team for HIV & Aids	14,023	5,281	19,304	8,794	5,536	14,330
Autism Society / Dyslexia Organisation (Disability Research)	6,846	-	6,846	-	-	-
Migori Women with Disabilities Group	14,102	2,899	17,001	11,010	2,971	13,981
Subtotal	59,631	17,225	76,856	32,639	17,624	50,263
Uganda						
Single Parents' Association of Uganda	54,698	6,752	61,450	36,443	5,812	42,255
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism	56,570	12,728	69,298	64,314	12,296	76,610
Subtotal _	111,268	19,480	130,748	100,757	18,108	118,865
Total _	170,899	36,705	207,604	133,396	35,732	169,128

7. Staff and Trustee-Directors

Remuneration paid to key management personnel was £47k (2023: £45k). No remuneration or travel and expenses were paid to Trustees or any person connected to them in either period apart from Alice Gathoni was paid £400 for autism research work following an appropriate selection process and due diligence by the Trustee-Directors with recourse to Charity Commission guidelines.

A total of £26,261 (£17,551 in 2022/23) was donated without conditions by Trustees-Directors, key management personnel and their close families.

We are grateful for the assistance of approximately 10 volunteers (2023:10) who contributed their time freely towards our work.

No fees (2022/23: Nil) were payable to Haines Watts, other than for the Independent Examination.

Staff costs (excluding outsourced Finance Manager)		
were as follows:	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Gross Salaries	92,137	95,234
Employer's National Insurance	3,766	4,177
Pension	4,607	4,608
Recruitment costs	-	
Total	100,510	104,019
No. of staff	3	4

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60k or more in either period.

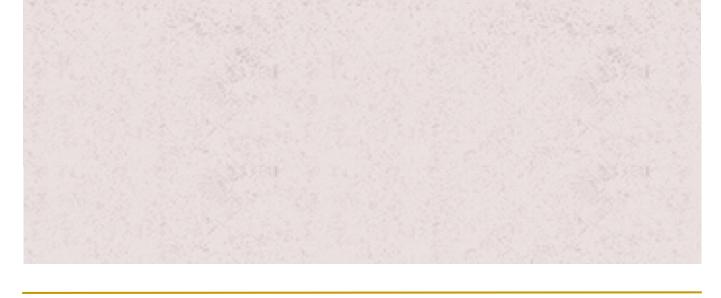
8. Tangible Assets

	Equipment and IT Total £
COST	
At 1st August 2023	5,615
Additions	598
Disposals	
At 31st July 2024	6,213
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1st August 2023	5,615
Depreciation in year	112
Less: Depreciation on disposals	
At 31st July 2024	5,727
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st July 2024	486
At 31st July 2023	

9. Stock

Sunscreen was donated by Ultrasun UK for SNUPA to distribute to people with albinism to prevent skin cancer. We have revised the nominal unit value from £0.50 to £0.10 this year in line with export values.

		Opening Stock 1st August 2023	Received during the year	Distributed during the year	Closing Stock 31st July 2024
Sunscreen	Value (£)	-	213	(213)	-
	Units (150ml)	-	2,126	(2,126)	-
Lip protection	Value (£)	-	74	(74)	-
	Units (4.8g)	_	744	(744)	-



10. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade Debtors	10,448	6,009
Prepayments	1,114	-
Other debtors	18	23
Deposit	500	500
Concessionary loans	302	701
Tax receivable	12,620	15,078
Total	25,002	22,311

11. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Bank operating accounts - UK	29,477	49,930
Bank operating accounts - Africa	4,023	3,249
Bank deposits	85,059	57,496
Petty cash	342	285
Total	118,901	110,960

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Trade Creditors	22,138	6,022
Taxation & Social Security	-	-
Accruals	2,513	2,894
Total	24,651	8,916

Advantage Africa's five-year lease of its UK office premises with rent payable of £500 per month began on 18th June 2023 and includes a break clause after two years.

Advantage Africa 22 Notes to the Accounts

13. Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening balance 1 Aug 2023 £	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2024 £
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	10,389	9,911	(14,621)	-	5,680
Kibwezi Disabled Persons' Organisation, Kenya	-	30000	(11,398)		18,602
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	7	21,760	(15,893)	-	5,874
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	4,183	8,190	(11,438)	-	935
Disability Research, Kenya	5,000	8,023	(8,211)	-	4,812
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	12,864	54,329	(56,963)	1,214	11,444
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	9,339	58,994	(60,951)	-	7,382
Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya	4,306	4,191	(4,836)	(52)	3,609
Total Restricted Funds	46,089	195,398	(184,311)	1,162	58,338
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Unrestricted Funds	78,266	146,145	(161,849)	(1,162)	61,401
Total Funds	124,355	341,543	(346,160)	-	119,738
The equivalent figures for 2022/23 were as follows:	Opening balance 1 Aug 2022	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/out £	Closing balance 31 July 2023
Disability Transition Project, Kenya	-	17,407	(7,018)	-	10,389
Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS, Kenya	7,125	-	(7,118)	-	7
Migori Women with Disabilities Group, Kenya	3,525	4,000	(3,342)	-	4,183
Disability Research, Kenya	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Single Parents' Association, Uganda	1,519	47,905	(36,733)	173	12,864
Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism, Uganda	14,555	61,298	(66,690)	176	9,339
Disabled children's education, including Mitaboni & Thinu schools, Kenya		5,947	(1,641)	-	4,306
Total Restricted Funds	26,724	141,557	(122,542)	349	46,089
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Unrestricted Funds	68,161	191,615	(181,160)	(349)	78,266
Total Funds	94,885	333,172	(303,702)	-	124,355

14. Net Analysis of Assets

The assets and liabilities represented by the various funds are as follows:

	2023/24				2022/23			
	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets £	Total £	Fixed assets £	Bank & cash balances £	Other net assets/ (liabilities) £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	68,044	(9,707)	58,338	-	42,295	3,794	46,089
Unrestricted funds	486	50,857	10,057	61,400	-	68,665	9,601	78,266
Total	486	118,901	351	119,738	-	110,960	13,395	124,355

15. Members

Each member of the company commits to contribute an amount of £10 if the charity is wound up.



