

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Mary's Meals

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity number: SC022140

Company number: SC265941

A young child with dark skin and braided hair is smiling broadly, showing their teeth. They are wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt under a patterned vest. The vest has a large star graphic with the words 'WELL DONE' inside. The child is holding a small piece of food in their right hand, and a large metal bowl filled with white rice and some dark beans is in the foreground. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a clear sky.

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

Contents

3	Legal and administrative information
4	Who we are
5	Our year in numbers
6	A message from the Chair and Executive Director
8	Trustees' annual report (including the strategic report)
17	Statement of trustees' responsibilities
18	Independent auditor's report to the trustees and members
20	Statement of financial activities
21	Balance sheet
22	Statement of cash flows
23	Notes to financial statements

A note on organisation names

This annual report and set of financial statements relate to the work of the organisation which raises awareness and funds in the United Kingdom for Mary's Meals' programmes. The legal name of this entity is 'Mary's Meals'.

However, since the term 'Mary's Meals' is reasonably used in practice to refer to the work of the entire Mary's Meals movement around the world, we will – for the purposes of clarity – refer to the organisation, in this document, as 'Mary's Meals UK' or 'MMUK'.

Mary's Meals UK is part of a global network of Mary's Meals entities, all working together to provide hungry children with a daily meal in school. 'Mary's Meals International Organisation' is the legal name for the entity which coordinates this network. In practice, this is often referred to simply as 'Mary's Meals International' or 'MMI'.

Legal and administrative information

Charity number

SC022140

Company registration number

SC265941

Business address

Craig Lodge
Dalmally
Argyll, PA33 1AR

Registered office

Craig Lodge
Dalmally
Argyll, PA33 1AR

Directors

Angela Duffy Thompson (resigned 3 December 2024)
Michael Ferguson (appointed 5 March 2025)
John Fulton
Clare Hunter
David Leslie
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow
Robert Main
Fr Frank Mulgrew
Dr Graham Paterson
Ellen Rafferty

Secretary

Suzanne Harley (appointed 16 January 2024)
Javaid Latif (resigned 16 January 2024)

Executive Director

Marie Doyle (appointed 17 March 2025)
Matthew Barlow (resigned 23 September 2024)

Independent auditors

RSM UK Audit LLP
3rd Floor
2 Semple Street
Edinburgh, EH3 8BL

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
88 Main Street
Glasgow, G73 2JA

Bank of Scotland
167-201 Argyle Street
Glasgow, G2 8BU

Nationwide Building Society
Nationwide House
Pipers Way
Swindon, SN3 1TX

Solicitors

Ropes and Gray
60 Ludgate Hill
London, EC4M 7AW

MacArthur Legal
Boswell House, Argyll Square, Oban
Argyll, PA34 4BD



Who we are

In 2002, our Founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a time of terrible famine and met Emma, a mother of six young children, who was tragically dying of AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: “To have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day.”

And so, inspired by Edward’s moving words, Mary’s Meals was born; in that first year we provided nutritious meals to a group of 200 children every day they attended school in Malawi.

Since then, we have witnessed the amazing impact that school meals can have on entire communities. The children who eat Mary’s Meals can grow up happy and healthy, to provide for their own families, communities and countries.

More than 20 years since that first meal was lovingly served, we are now feeding around 2.6 million hungry children every school day in 16 of the world’s poorest countries, including Malawi, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Syria and Yemen.

As a volunteer-centred organisation, we partner with local communities to attract children into school with the promise of a nutritious meal. This means that, instead of begging, working or searching for food, children can concentrate on their lessons and look towards a future free from poverty.

In schools where Mary’s Meals are served, research shows that hunger is reduced, enrolment increases, attendance improves, drop-out rates fall, absences dwindle, parents are less anxious, and children are happier.

As this annual report demonstrates, our work simply would not be possible without the kindness and generosity of people in the UK who share our belief in the transformative power of a meal at school.

Vision, mission, values

Our vision

Our vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.

Our mission

Our mission is to enable people to offer their money, goods, skills, time, or prayer, and through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world’s poorest communities.

Our values

- We have confidence in the innate goodness of people.
- We respect the dignity of every human being and family life.
- We believe in good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

Our charitable objectives

- To provide a daily meal, in a place of education, for children in the world’s poorest communities.
- To provide relief for those suffering, in any part of the world, as a result of humanitarian crises or poverty; to help people escape poverty; and to provide care for orphaned, abandoned, and vulnerable children.
- To raise awareness in the UK and worldwide of poverty issues through education.

Our year in numbers

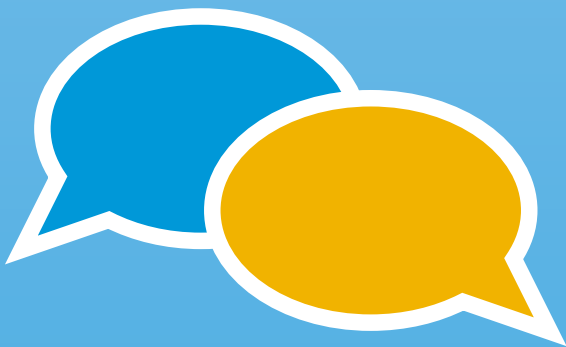


2,594,868 children
were receiving Mary's Meals
by the end of 2024.

Together we raised a total
of **£19,926,026** to feed hungry
children around the world.

Active Grassroots
volunteers:

776



1,955 talks
about our work
took place across
the country



93% of donations
were spent on our
charitable activities.

A message from the Chair and Executive Director



Dr Graham Paterson
Chair of Trustees



Marie Doyle
Executive Director

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate the incredible efforts of all our volunteers and fundraisers around the UK who, together in 2024, helped us to generate almost £20 million to feed hungry children around the world.

Because of our low-cost approach, with a meal for a hungry child costing just 10p, our supporters' efforts continue to make a big impact no matter the size of their donation.

The current economic climate continues to adversely impact charitable giving here in the UK, which presented key challenges for our fundraising in 2024.

As with many UK charities, we continued to feel the impact of the cost of living crisis. Our supporters' ability to donate, as well as the amount they could afford to give, was understandably affected.

In addition, 2023 was a year where we saw incredible income growth of 24% to £24 million, driven by a number of exceptional high value donations, including one for £4 million. As a result of these factors, our income for 2024 is behind 2023. We are so grateful to everyone who chose to join us on this mission, to help us keep our promise to the children we feed, and reach the next child waiting.

We are especially delighted to see increased generosity from community-based fundraisers, such as churches and schools and continue to value grassroots fundraising as the bedrock of our support here in the UK.

In addition to donating funds, in 2024 people supported Mary's Meals in many other incredible ways, such as praying, donating skills, joining our mailing

list, or attending an event – we are grateful for all the many little acts of love we see every day from people who believe in our mission.

Looking further afield, high living costs also continued to affect the day-to-day lives of the communities we serve around the world, with other factors such as conflict and climate change creating huge challenges for people.

As a result, it has never been more important for Mary's Meals to keep our promise to the hungry children we serve in 16 countries, while striving to reach the next child waiting for our meals.

Therefore, we are delighted to share that in 2024 Mary's Meals expanded existing programmes to reach more children with our school meals in countries including South Sudan, Ethiopia and Haiti and began feeding children in Mozambique for the first time. This means that by the end of 2024 we were feeding 2,594,868 children around the world thanks to the generosity of supporters globally, including within the UK.

As ever, Mary's Meals responded to emergency situations in countries where we already work. In Tigray, Ethiopia, a new humanitarian emergency emerged as drought and the aftermath of conflict decimated livelihoods and created widespread hunger.



At the time of launching our Crisis In Ethiopia appeal we were serving our school meals to 30,000 children in Tigray. Thanks to the generous response of our supporters, at the end of 2024 our programme had expanded to feed more than 110,000 children in over 200 schools every day.

In 2024, we ran two established match funding campaigns – Double The Love and Mega Match May, with a funding pot provided by a number of generous supporters, and we were heartened to see the response to these activities. For the first time we offered payroll givers the chance to match their donations too.

A generous donor offered to match fund all new regular gifts to Mary's Meals in 2024. In tandem with this, we expanded our focus on regular giving as a distinct way to support Mary's Meals' long-term planning. This meant launching a new community for regular donors called Promise Pledgers and widening our promotion of regular giving through marketing and community engagement.

We continued to innovate through new activities such as our Meal Deal fundraising campaign, a refreshed Sponsor A School offering, and the BBC Radio 4 Appeal. Meanwhile annual campaigns such as Pray In May and Small Change, Big Impact continued to thrive. All these activities allowed us to reach new audiences while engaging existing supporters.

We know that every donation entrusted to us is precious – for the children that we serve, and to the people who have chosen to help us feed those hungry children.

This is why we remain determined to meet the innate goodness of our supporters with good stewardship. Therefore, we stand by our commitment to our low-cost approach which means that we can feed a child for just 10p per meal, or £19.15 for a whole school year. Our promise to keep our running costs low is only possible because of the many thousands of volunteers who give their time so freely to Mary's Meals and we are grateful for the time and commitment they make to the charity every day.

Towards the end of 2024, Marie Doyle became Interim Executive Director, following the departure of Matt Barlow – we thank him wholeheartedly for sharing his time and skills in leading the charity. Marie was appointed permanently to Executive Director on 17 March 2025. We also launched our new strategic plan for 2025 to 2027, Growing Our Promise, which sets out how MMUK plans to grow to feed even more hungry children waiting for our school meals. It focuses on how we can amplify our voice, share our mission, and inspire generosity with greater impact, while staying true to our values and good stewardship.

Dr Graham Paterson
Chair of Trustees

Marie Doyle
Executive Director

Date: 9 May 2025

Trustees' annual report

(including the strategic report)

Strategic report

The trustees of Mary's Meals, who are also the directors of the charitable company, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees who served during the period covered are set out on page 3.

Overview

As ever, when we reflect on a year at Mary's Meals UK, we are struck by the incredible generosity of our supporters. 2024 was not an easy year for many people in the UK, as the cost of living crisis continued to bite and there were many conflicting priorities for people's generosity.

Despite this challenging landscape, our supporters found ways to spread the word about our work and to inspire generosity in thousands of people. That support has taken the form of donations, creative fundraising events and prayers for our work, as well as people giving their precious skills and time to further our movement. We are truly grateful to all those who took part in this mission of ours in 2024, whether they were new to the Mary's Meals family or long-standing members.

Although our income decreased year on year by 16% in 2024, we were able to transfer £16,866,391 to Mary's Meals International to deliver our programmes. It warms our hearts to know that we have made this contribution to feeding around 2.6 million hungry children who depend on our life-changing school meals.

We have been encouraged by some real highlights of the year. In particular, the generosity of our supporters in their response to our Crisis In Ethiopia appeal demonstrated that even under-reported situations can move people to kindness.

The following sections highlight the ways in which we were able to raise funds and awareness here in the UK.

Raising awareness

Our ability to raise awareness of the need for our work is a key driver for acquiring new supporters and continually engaging with those who have already joined our movement. In 2024 we achieved this through a variety of opportunities.

The Crisis In Ethiopia appeal gave us an opportunity to raise awareness about this situation, which was alarmingly under-reported.

By pitching bespoke media pieces to a variety of outlets, we were able to secure coverage on the appeal in The Independent, ITN's News podcast, The Herald and The Telegraph, amongst other top tier publications. We also took a journalist from The Daily Express to Tigray to see the extent of the crisis. This led to a content series in the Express which raised more than £10,000 for the appeal.

Towards the end of the year we undertook a media trip to Zimbabwe to provide a series of articles for The Herald and My Weekly magazine.



Celebrities are important for us in reaching new audiences. In 2024 we enjoyed support from a range of high profile individuals. We were delighted that Deborah Meaden agreed to support our Sponsor A School campaign in May. Actress Sophie Thompson has supported us a number of times in the past and this

year did an incredible job presenting our BBC Radio 4 appeal. We were also pleased to be supported by Gary Maclean, Giuseppe Dell'Anno as well as Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond over the course of the year.

Match funding continues to be an extremely effective way of fundraising for us and in 2024 we once again ran Mega Match May (to encourage new regular gifts) and Double The Love.

People who connect to Mary's Meals through their faith are a key audience for us and we deepened our connections with this group through a successful Pray In May campaign, as well as almost 2,000 church talks, and regular features in faith media.

We are always seeking to innovate in the ways that we raise awareness and this year saw us trial two new projects as well as a renewed approach to our Sponsor A School initiative. Our Meal Deal campaign, was designed to appeal to new, younger audiences, primarily through digital marketing; and our Christmas Trees of Hope appeal, allowed supporters to virtually decorate an online tree and make a donation for hungry children.



We continued to expand our online digital marketing work in 2024, including testing new channels such as TikTok and YouTube – overall we saw an increase in donations year on year through this work. We also had a particular focus on generating new sign-ups to our mailing list through various multi-channel campaigns, such as our online Pledge and Small Change Big Impact campaign. The online shop continued to go from strength to strength driving higher revenue than 2023, with very positive results particularly over the Christmas period.

Reaching out to our community

It takes thousands of volunteers around the world to make our work possible. Here in the UK, our number of active volunteers increased from 679 to 776 in 2024, and the number of talks delivered by this group increased by 39% year on year to 1,955, which is an incredible result.

As an addition to our fundraising activities for the Crisis In Ethiopia appeal, the Grassroots team ran a series of film screenings over the summer, in which we shared the Mary's Meals film, Zero Hunger. These events were a great way of raising awareness of the dire situation in Tigray, as well as opening up new audiences to our work.

Following the success of our Christmas events in 2023, we once again ran a Christmas market event in Glasgow which was really well attended and raised both awareness and funds. This was also boosted by communications activity in Glasgow around this time, including a localised door drop mailer and local media coverage. In Manchester, we hosted 'A Very Gospel Christmas' concert, including stalls and a talk about our work. The team innovated with new 'pop up' bucket collections at strategic public transport hubs in London.

Working in partnership

We continued to develop our portfolio of trusts and foundations and government grants, maintaining positive relationships with key partners. While funding from the

UK and Scottish Governments has come to an end, we value our ongoing collaboration with these funders and hope to continue working closely with them in the future.

We are grateful for the generous support of key supporters such as the People's Postcode Lottery, Moondance Foundation, Oak Foundation, Band Aid, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Souter Trust. In addition, we have placed a strong focus on corporate outreach and networking, which we hope will continue to grow the number of major funders who give each year to support our work.

This year also saw a continued partnership with Farewill, the UK's largest will writer, offering a free will-writing service. We hope this will encourage supporters to help future generations of children by leaving a gift to Mary's Meals.

A dedicated team

Our board and Strategic Leadership Team continue to work closely together to ensure the careful stewardship of every gift entrusted to us. In December 2024, Angela Duffy Thompson resigned her position on the board.

After 16 years of dedicated service to the charity Javaid Latif retired from Mary's Meals, meaning that he also resigned his role as Secretary in January 2024 and was replaced by Suzanne Harley.

In September, Matt Barlow resigned from his position as Executive Director and was replaced by Marie Doyle, who has held the position of Director of Supporter Engagement for the past three years. We thank Matt for his passion and leadership and we also thank Marie for stepping into the role of Executive Director and ensuring a smooth transition at a strategically important time.

Our plans for the future

Our purpose within Mary's Meals UK is to work towards our vision, raising the money needed to enable us to keep our promise to the children we feed, and to reach more children, doing so by motivating the people of the UK to join our movement, while being the strongest, most effective organisation we can be. Our ambition is to grow at a rate that allows Mary's Meals to not only keep our promise to children already served by our programmes, but to rapidly reach many more.

Mary's Meals UK will contribute to the wider Mary's Meals family strategy by focusing on the below strategic priorities:

- 1) **Amplifying our visibility and voice**
- 2) **Inspiring generosity, sustaining hope**
- 3) **Mobilising our volunteer networks**
- 4) **Strengthening our organisation**





“Our ambition is to grow at a rate that allows Mary’s Meals to not only keep our promise to children already served by our programmes, but to rapidly reach many more.”



Our financial performance

Financial review

For the year to 31 December 2024, the total income of the charity was £19,926,026. This is a decrease of 16% when compared to the previous period. Voluntary income, in the form of donations, grants and Gift Aid, was responsible for 99% of the total income.

The total expenditure for the same period was £20,300,550 – or £20,282,193 excluding trading expenditure. We spent £18,794,941 on our charitable activities, equalling 93% of every £1 of total expenditure (excluding trading costs).

During the year to 31 December 2024 there was a net deficit of £374,672. The deficit arose from timing differences associated with accrued income at the end of the year.

The debtors balance as at 31 December 2024 was £1,081,198, a decrease of £527,555 compared to £1,608,753 in the prior year. This reduction is attributed to lower levels of accrued income as at the year-end. The cash balance as at 31 December 2024 was £1,829,340, an increase of £350,966 from £1,478,374 in the prior year. This increase was the result of a higher level of income remaining in the bank at year-end and transferred to MMI as programme expenditure at the beginning of 2025. The creditors balance as at 31 December 2024 was £870,835, an increase of £176,848 compared to £693,988 in the prior year. The increase is due to a higher amount of programme expenditure accrued at the year-end and transferred to MMI from the bank at the beginning of 2025.

Reserves policy and going concern

The reserves policy of the charity at 31 December 2024 was to retain sufficient funds required to meet three months' running costs. On this basis, the charity would expect to hold minimum reserves of £885,569 plus any accrued income yet to be received. The total reserves at 31 December 2024 were £2,064,618, which included £1,042,004 of accrued income yet to be received and working capital. The reserves held at year end were all unrestricted and meet the reserves policy.

The accrued income will be transferred to Mary's Meals International, as it is received, to support programme delivery. At the year-end, actual reserves held, continued maintenance of the reserves policy, and future business planning forecast including cash flow are used to confirm that the going concern principle applies for at least 12 months from the date that the statutory accounts are approved by the board.

Volunteers

Consistent with previous years, Mary's Meals has benefited tremendously from the contribution of many volunteers who have given willingly of their time to help realise our vision. Across the UK and the wider global movement, volunteers are engaged every day in fundraising activities, promoting awareness of our work, and delivering our programmes. While the financial impact of this support cannot be easily quantified, the selfless contribution of so many volunteers has a huge impact on the success of Mary's Meals and will continue to be a key part of our work in future.







Our structure, governance and management

Governance

The charity is governed by the Articles of Association and is a company limited by guarantee. In November 2018, the Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector was introduced (updated in 2022/23). It sets out the core principles and key elements of good governance for the boards of charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises in Scotland. It is the first code to be produced specifically for Scotland's third sector, recognising the need for the sector to have its own principles of governance.

The code sets out five core principles aimed at encouraging third sector organisations to look at and improve their governance.

Although the code is not mandatory, Mary's Meals board members have agreed to adopt it as a general governance standard and use it as a benchmark to ensure the board continues to challenge and strengthen its governance of the organisation.

Principles	Purpose
Organisational purpose	A well-run board is clear about the purpose and values of the organisation and how it will achieve its aims.
Leadership	A well-run board is clear about its role and responsibilities and provides strategic direction in line with the organisation's purpose, vision and values.
Board behaviour	A well-run board, both collectively and individually, embraces and demonstrates mutual respect, integrity, openness and accountability.
Control	A well-run board will develop and implement appropriate controls to direct and oversee progress and performance of the organisation.
Effectiveness	A well-run board understands its role, powers and duties and works collectively and proactively, to achieve its organisational purpose.

Leadership of the charity

The charity is governed by the board of directors, which meets on a quarterly basis. The composition of the board is monitored regularly to ensure that members have the necessary skills, expertise and shared vision to govern the charity. A budget is set annually and submitted to the board directors for approval.

The Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee, which was established as a sub-committee of the board in 2017, meets quarterly to assess the risks to which the organisation has exposure.

An Executive Director is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Executive Director has delegated authority from the trustees.

The organisation's senior team provides leadership across the following functions:

- **Communications:** raising mass awareness of our work in order to bring more people to the movement and raise funds, and overseeing all communications with supporters and the wider public in the UK.
- **Supporter Engagement:** growing our volunteer networks, fundraising, and stewarding supporter relationships to enable people to support the organisation in line with our vision, mission and values.
- **Finance and Operations:** providing support and ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the organisation, with responsibility for financial leadership, data, information technology, facilities and administration.
- **People:** providing human resources expertise, which enables the organisation to recruit, retain and empower our people – both staff and volunteers – to play their part in our mission.

A Safeguarding Committee reports directly to the Senior Leadership Team and ultimately to the Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee. The committee, which meets quarterly, is a key part of the framework which ensures Mary's Meals continues to meet its commitments towards the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Our directors/trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the maximum number and minimum number of board directors may be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution (a majority vote of board trustees). This means there is no maximum number of directors and the minimum number of directors is three. New directors are thoroughly vetted prior to any appointment. Every person who expresses an interest in becoming a board member submits an application for membership, with the directors approving any appointment.

Board members are briefed on their legal responsibilities and supplied with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. They are also made aware of external training opportunities. Board members commit to uphold the aims, vision, mission and values of the organisation. A list of directors who served during the financial year ending 31 December 2024 is included on page 3 of this report.

Approach to remuneration

The board members consider the board of directors and the Senior Leadership Team to be the key leadership personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The pay and remuneration for all employees of the charity is reviewed annually and governed by the Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee, which consists of three members of the Mary's Meals board.

Benchmarking shows that Mary's Meals pays significantly less than the market rate for senior roles compared with other similar organisations. This reflects our long-standing commitment to pay restraint at senior levels in the organisation. MMUK maintains a 4:1 pay ratio which dictates that the highest paid member of staff is paid no more than four times the salary for the lowest paid member of staff. Recognising the difference in pay compared with other organisations, Mary's Meals is committed to being a great place to work and offering an attractive package of non-financial benefits, such as flexible working and access to an employee assistance programme.

Related parties

None of the trustees received remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

As permitted by the Articles of Association, the directors have the benefit of an indemnity, which is a qualifying third-party indemnity provision as defined by Section 284 of the Companies Act 2006. The indemnity was in force throughout the last financial year and is currently still in force. The company also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its directors and officers throughout the financial year.

Risk management

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that Mary's Meals has assessed the major risks to which it is exposed and has a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A quarterly review of the principal risks that the charity faces.
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the quarterly review.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Current key risks and high-level mitigation strategies are outlined below.

Potential risks	Mitigation strategies
Inability to recruit and retain the right people most suited to furthering the mission.	Continue to strengthen organisational culture, based on authentically living our values, and offer a compelling package of non-financial benefits.
Failure to manage our finances effectively and sustainably.	Maintain robust accounting processes and financial controls, and preserve our rigorous approach to budget planning and forecasting.
Loss of key leaders the organisation depends upon, who cannot be replaced easily.	Ensure sufficient emphasis is placed on knowledge-sharing and succession planning throughout the organisation.
Inability to adapt to local, national or international political or economic changes.	Uphold and communicate clearly Mary's Meals' values and approach in the UK environment and, globally, work with Mary's Meals International colleagues to select, in so far as is possible, stable programme environments.
Failure to build on or maintain the confidence, satisfaction and trust of stakeholders.	Continue to focus on building meaningful, long-term relationships with our supporters, and deliver on our promise to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.
Inability to identify and maximise opportunities for sustainable growth and increased awareness.	Maintain our primary focus on growing grassroots support, holding true to the Mary's Meals fundraising model, while also allowing space for innovation which is in-keeping with our principles.
Failure to effectively protect, promote and manage Mary's Meals' identity and message.	Regulate use of our brand, key messages and values to ensure consistency and accuracy in all UK communications.
Failure to ensure effective and transparent governance arrangements are in place.	Promote a responsible, accountable and transparent organisation that meets the requirements of internal and external stakeholders.



Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Mary's Meals for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report (including the strategic report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure 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 Statement of Recommended Practice (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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable auditor is unaware.
- The trustees have each taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees approve the trustees' annual report (including the strategic report) in their capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the board,

Dr Graham Paterson
Chair of Trustees

Date: 9 May 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees and members of Mary's Meals

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Mary's Meals (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 December 2024 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other

information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law and included within the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report, included within the trustees' annual report, have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report or the strategic report, included within the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 17, 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

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to Data Protection and GDPR. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these laws and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and revenue recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed, in relation to management override of controls, included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to any significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business. Audit procedures performed, in relation to revenue recognition, included but were not limited to testing a sample of income to source documentation and receipt.

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

Use of our report

This report is made exclusively to the members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members and the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity, its members as a body, and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christopher Sliman CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Third Floor
2 Semple Street
EH3 8BL

Date: 9 May 2025

RSM UK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating the income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	15,802,784	4,000,625	19,803,409	17,407,059	5,880,838	23,287,897
Other income	5	662	-	662	5,029	-	5,029
Other trading activities	6	88,447	-	88,447	400,688	-	400,688
Investments		33,508	-	33,508	38,962	-	38,962
Total income		15,925,401	4,000,625	19,926,026	17,851,738	5,880,838	23,732,576
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	(1,505,609)	-	(1,505,609)	(1,695,347)	-	(1,695,347)
Charitable activities	8-9	(14,794,316)	(4,000,625)	(18,794,941)	(16,977,122)	(5,880,838)	(22,857,960)
Total expenditure		(16,299,925)	(4,000,625)	(20,300,550)	(18,672,469)	(5,880,838)	(24,553,307)
Net (expenditure)		(374,524)	-	(374,524)	(820,731)	-	(820,731)
Other recognised gains							
Other (losses)/gains		(148)	-	(148)	257	-	257
Net movement in funds		(374,672)	-	(374,672)	(820,474)	-	(820,474)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	18	2,439,290	-	2,439,290	3,259,764	-	3,259,764
Total funds carried forward	18	2,064,618	-	2,064,618	2,439,290	-	2,439,290

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

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

The notes on pages 23-37 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	24,915	46,151
Current assets			
Debtors	15	1,081,198	1,608,753
Cash at bank and in hand		1,829,340	1,478,374
Total current assets		2,910,538	3,087,127
Liabilities			
Creditors: falling due within one year	16	(870,835)	(693,988)
Net current assets		2,039,703	2,393,139
Total assets less current liabilities	17	2,064,618	2,439,290
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds	18-19	2,064,618	2,439,290
Total charity funds		2,064,618	2,439,290

The financial statements on pages 20-37 were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 9 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Graham Paterson
Chair of Trustees

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	320,460	(1,037,603)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income	33,508	38,962
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	662	4,191
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,516)	(22,297)
Net cash provided by investing activities	30,654	20,856
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	351,114	(1,016,747)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	1,478,374	2,494,864
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	(148)	257
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,829,340	1,478,374

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flows from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the reporting period	(374,524)	(820,731)
Decrease in debtors	527,555	20,833
Investment income	(33,508)	(38,962)
Depreciation charge	24,165	73,390
Impairment of fixed assets	-	36,109
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	(662)	(4,191)
Gain on sale of fixed assets	587	4,145
Increase/(decrease) in creditors/accruals	176,847	(308,196)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	320,460	(1,037,603)

Analysis of changes in net debt movement

	At 1 Jan 2024	Cash flows	Foreign exchange	At 31 Dec 2024
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	1,478,374	351,114	(148)	1,829,340

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. General information

Mary's Meals UK is part of an international movement which, as its principal activity, sets up community-run school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest countries, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

Our idea is a simple one that works. We provide one daily meal in a place of learning to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

Mary's Meals UK supports the international school feeding programmes by transferring funds to Mary's Meals International to feed children. In order to fulfil this commitment, Mary's Meals UK carries out fundraising and awareness-raising activities across the UK. Mary's Meals has two offices, but as a remote first organisation, has staff and volunteers all around the UK.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity in Scotland. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity.

All amounts are presented in Pounds Sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

2. 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 financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

3. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

3.1. Going concern

Mary's Meals generated net outgoing resources of £374,672 (2023: deficit £820,474) for the year and at 31 December 2024 had net assets of £2,064,618 (2023: £2,439,290). As at 31 December 2024 it had net current assets of £2,039,703 (2023: £2,393,139).

The trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern status of the charity and consider that the organisation is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current economic climate.

In line with its business plan, which covers 18 months from the date that the accounts are approved by the board, the charity projects to maintain a good level of cash reserves in line with its reserve policy.

The directors therefore believe it is appropriate that the going concern basis of accounting continues to be adopted in preparing the annual financial statements.

The Audit, Risk and Remuneration Committee will continue to review the long-term financial future of the charity as well as ongoing management accounts, forecasts and cash flow forecasts.

3.2. Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income includes:

Donations and legacies

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 executor(s) to the trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. Donations are recognised when receivable.

Grant income

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific conditions and is recognised as earned when the conditions are met and is deferred when not. Grant funding included in this category provides funding to support activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Government grant income

Income from charitable activities includes income received in the form of government grants where there were no performance-related conditions and is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income

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. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Donated services

The value of donated services provided to the charity is recognised as income at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable and where the benefit can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities except where the donated services are fixed assets. In this case, the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life of the asset in accordance with the tangible fixed asset and depreciation policy.

Donated goods

Donated goods were received by the charity as goods for resale through the charity's shops in 2023. The income generated from goods donated for resale through the charity shops is recognised as 'income from other trading activities'. Due to the closure of the charity shops in 2023, income in 'income from other trading activities' in 2024 relates to the online shop only.

3.3. Expenditure on raising funds and charitable activities

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. Any costs directly attributable to specific categories have been included in those cost categories in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). Other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion attributable. The charity is registered for VAT and all expenditure is shown inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT applicable.

Expenditure on raising funds includes fundraising costs and trading costs. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Trading costs are costs related to running the charity's shops.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes raising awareness costs, governance costs, support costs, and programme expenditure.

Raising awareness costs include the dissemination of information in support of charitable activities.

Governance costs are those incurred directly in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, together with a proportion of salary costs relating solely to the strategic management of the charity.

Programme expenditure relates to the transfer of free funds to Mary's Meals International for the running of the school feeding programmes.

3.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. Rates are as follows:

Leasehold properties	Straight line over the life of the lease
Plant and machinery	15 - 33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	15 - 33% straight line
Computer equipment	25 - 33% straight line

3.5. Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102, in full, to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provision of the instrument and are offset only when the charity has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets

Trade debtors

Trade debtors which are receivable within one year and which do not constitute a financing transaction, are initially measured at the transaction price. Trade debtors are subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price, less any amounts settled and any impairment losses. Where the arrangement with a debtor constitutes a financing transaction, the debtor is initially and subsequently measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand.

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors

Trade creditors payable within one year that do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled.

3.6. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.7. Reserves accounting

The policy of the charity as at 31 December 2024 was to retain sufficient funds required to meet three months' running costs in respect of salaries, premises, costs, etc. Unrestricted funds are used for general purposes and restricted funds are used for a specific purpose in line with donors' wishes.

3.8. Defined contribution pension schemes

The charity has in place a group pension scheme to make available pension provision to all UK national employees who have been continuously employed for three months. Contributions in respect of the company's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end.

3.9. Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at an appropriate rate of exchange. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

3.10. Operating leases

Operating leases held relate to the rental lease for the Claremont Centre Office and the charity shops. These are accounted for in the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

4. Donations and legacies

Summary financial performance of the charity:

Total donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Donations	9,814,727	1,803,789	11,618,516	12,178,182	1,740,957	13,919,139
Legacies	1,714,731	193,492	1,908,223	2,271,575	-	2,271,575
Grants and trusts	2,928,201	2,003,344	4,931,545	1,703,112	4,139,881	5,842,993
Tax reclaimed on Gift Aid	1,345,125	-	1,345,125	1,254,190	-	1,254,190
Totals	15,802,784	4,000,625	19,803,409	17,407,059	5,880,838	23,287,897

Donations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Unrestricted	9,814,727	-	9,814,727	12,178,182	-	12,178,182
Malawi	-	770,382	770,382	-	743,114	743,114
Ethiopia	-	616,638	616,638	-	60,870	60,870
Zambia	-	271,359	271,359	-	129,262	129,262
Liberia	-	73,083	73,083	-	144,366	144,366
South Sudan	-	24,595	24,595	-	36,719	36,719
Haiti	-	14,654	14,654	-	12,116	12,116
Romania Homes	-	13,106	13,106	-	14,711	14,711
Syria	-	6,388	6,388	-	537,756	537,756
Kenya	-	3,697	3,697	-	12,097	12,097
India	-	3,638	3,638	-	6,553	6,553
Lebanon	-	2,882	2,882	-	460	460
Yemen	-	1,798	1,798	-	42,683	42,683
Madagascar	-	693	693	-	200	200
Benin	-	333	333	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	333	333	-	50	50
Mozambique	-	200	200	-	-	-
Niger	-	10	10	-	-	-
Totals	9,814,727	1,803,789	11,618,516	12,178,182	1,740,957	13,919,139

4. Donations and legacies (continued)

Legacies	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Unrestricted	1,714,731	-	1,714,731	2,271,575	-	2,271,575
Malawi	-	159,788	159,788	-	-	-
Ethiopia	-	26,993	26,993	-	-	-
India	-	6,711	6,711	-	-	-
Totals	1,714,731	193,492	1,908,223	2,271,575	-	2,271,575

Grants and trusts	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Unrestricted	2,928,201	-	2,928,201	1,703,112	-	1,703,112
Ethiopia	-	899,167	899,167	-	206,666	206,666
Liberia FCDO grant	-	705,125	705,125	-	737,541	737,541
Malawi	-	188,334	188,334	-	1,165,003	1,165,003
Kenya	-	163,480	163,480	-	346,701	346,701
Zambia	-	33,549	33,549	-	141,837	141,837
Liberia	-	12,739	12,739	-	116,740	116,740
Mozambique	-	750	750	-	-	-
Syria	-	200	200	-	24,500	24,500
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	1,095,504	1,095,504
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	135,000	135,000
South Sudan	-	-	-	-	78,666	78,666
Haiti	-	-	-	-	72,252	72,252
Zambia FCDO grant	-	-	-	-	10,452	10,452
Uganda	-	-	-	-	9,000	9,000
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	19	19
Totals	2,928,201	2,003,344	4,931,545	1,703,112	4,139,881	5,842,993

5. Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Income from sale of asset	662	-	662	4,191	-	4,191
Capital Grant Income	-	-	-	838	-	838
Totals	662	-	662	5,029	-	5,029

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Shops	42,478	-	42,478	345,593	-	345,593
Recycling	156	-	156	12,294	-	12,294
Value of donated van lease	-	-	-	4,082	-	4,082
Miscellaneous	45,813	-	45,813	38,719	-	38,719
Totals	88,447	-	88,447	400,688	-	400,688

7. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Fundraising	1,487,252	-	1,487,252	1,254,005	-	1,254,005
Trading	18,357	-	18,357	441,342	-	441,342
Totals	1,505,609	-	1,505,609	1,695,347	-	1,695,347
Fundraising analysis by cost						
Employee costs	1,109,323	-	1,109,323	961,576	-	961,576
Property costs	15,546	-	15,546	36,120	-	36,120
Travel costs	26,515	-	26,515	17,512	-	17,512
Administration	325,103	-	325,103	199,839	-	199,839
Loss on sale of asset	253	-	253	296	-	296
Impairment of assets	-	-	-	15,586	-	15,586
Depreciation	10,512	-	10,512	23,076	-	23,076
Totals	1,487,252	-	1,487,252	1,254,005	-	1,254,005
Trading analysis by cost						
Employee costs	-	-	-	281,418	-	281,418
Property costs	8,422	-	8,422	94,229	-	94,229
Travel costs	-	-	-	13,852	-	13,852
Administration	124	-	124	14,600	-	14,600
Purchases for resale	9,811	-	9,811	14,239	-	14,239
Loss on sale of asset	-	-	-	2,803	-	2,803
Depreciation	-	-	-	20,201	-	20,201
Totals	18,357	-	18,357	441,342	-	441,342

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Raising awareness	1,831,550	-	1,831,550	1,562,096	-	1,562,096
Governance	97,000	-	97,000	85,423	-	85,423
Backpacks and shipped aid	-	-	-	763	-	763
Programme expenditure	12,865,766	4,000,625	16,866,391	15,328,840	5,880,838	21,209,678
Total charitable activities	14,794,316	4,000,625	18,794,941	16,977,122	5,880,838	22,857,960

Raising awareness analysis by cost						
Employee costs	1,608,976	-	1,608,976	1,292,276	-	1,292,276
Property costs	21,887	-	21,887	47,855	-	47,855
Travel costs	34,813	-	34,813	30,028	-	30,028
Administration	152,082	-	152,082	141,065	-	141,065
Loss on sale of asset	335	-	335	393	-	393
Impairment of assets	-	-	-	20,523	-	20,523
Depreciation	13,457	-	13,457	29,956	-	29,956
Totals	1,831,550	-	1,831,550	1,562,096	-	1,562,096

Governance analysis by cost						
Employee costs	64,973	-	64,973	50,639	-	50,639
Travel costs	1,303	-	1,303	491	-	491
Office costs	667	-	667	224	-	224
Administration	3,047	-	3,047	2,081	-	2,081
Auditor's remuneration	19,920	-	19,920	23,661	-	23,661
Legal fees	-	-	-	495	-	495
Bank charges	4,278	-	4,278	6,276	-	6,276
Governance costs	2,617	-	2,617	1,508	-	1,508
Depreciation	195	-	195	48	-	48
Totals	97,000	-	97,000	85,423	-	85,423

9. Analysis of support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 totals £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 totals £
Loss on disposal of asset	-	-	-	654	-	654
Depreciation	-	-	-	109	-	109
Totals	-	-	-	763	-	763

Support costs are allocated to shipped aid as direct costs of staff involved and running costs of the aid warehouse.

10. Total resources expended through the year included the following:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	24,165	109,499
Operating lease rentals	11,281	89,745
Auditor's remuneration	20,352	19,200

11. Employees

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,355,630	2,201,177
Social security costs	213,500	197,871
Other pension costs	177,926	165,538
Totals	2,747,056	2,564,586

Number of employees	2024	2023
Monthly average	Number	Number
Fundraising	25	23
Trading	-	7
Raising awareness	35	30
Governance	1	1
Totals	61	61

There were three staff redundancies in 2024 (2023: Eight staff redundancies). The redundancy payments in the year totalled £25,926 (2023: £42,323) of which £25,926 has been paid during the year with £Nil (2023: Nil) accrued at the end of the year.

Key management compensation

Key management compensation includes the Executive Director role and five senior directors, collectively known as the Senior Leadership Team. The compensation paid to key management for employee services is shown below:

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	327,546	242,071
Social security costs	38,355	28,782
Other pension costs	25,862	18,423
Totals	391,763	289,276

The number of employees whose emoluments excluding pension contributions and employers' national insurance were in excess of £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000-£70,000	2	2
£70,000-£80,000	1	-

The reduced number of employees in this bracket is accounted for by the timing of leadership recruitment in 2023.

12. Pension costs

The organisation operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £177,926 (2023: £165,538). At 31 December 2024, an amount of £Nil was accrued in the financial statements (2023: Nil).

13. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these financial statements.

14. Tangible assets

	Long leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
Cost					
At January 2024	87,634	36,328	47,667	147,902	319,531
Additions	-	225	-	3,291	3,516
Disposals	(87,634)	(21,960)	(39,090)	(41,628)	(190,312)
At 31 December 2024	-	14,593	8,577	109,565	132,735
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2024	87,634	30,050	43,490	112,206	273,380
Charge for the year	-	2,184	1,376	20,605	24,165
Released on disposal	(87,634)	(21,960)	(38,503)	(41,628)	(189,725)
At 31 December 2024	-	10,274	6,363	91,183	107,820
Net book value					
At 31 December 2024	-	4,319	2,214	18,382	24,915
At 31 December 2023	-	6,278	4,177	35,696	46,151

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	1,071,141	1,602,322
Other debtors	10,057	6,431
Totals	1,081,198	1,608,753

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	14,449	32,644
Taxation and social security	76,508	58,040
Accruals and deferred income	766,860	594,827
Other creditors	13,018	8,477
Totals	870,835	693,988

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 total funds £	2023 total funds £
Tangible assets	24,915	-	24,915	46,151
Current assets	2,910,538	-	2,910,538	3,087,127
Current liabilities	(870,835)	-	(870,835)	(693,988)
Totals	2,064,618	-	2,064,618	2,439,290

18. Unrestricted and restricted funds

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Gain on currency revaluation £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Unrestricted funds	2,439,290	15,925,401	(16,299,925)	(148)	2,064,618
Restricted funds	-	4,000,625	(4,000,625)	-	-
Totals	2,439,290	19,926,026	(20,300,550)	(148)	2,064,618

19. Restricted funds

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
Ethiopia	-	1,542,799	(1,542,799)	-
Malawi	-	1,118,504	(1,118,504)	-
Liberia FCDO grant	-	705,125	(705,125)	-
Zambia	-	304,908	(304,908)	-
Kenya	-	167,177	(167,177)	-
Liberia	-	85,821	(85,821)	-
South Sudan	-	24,595	(24,595)	-
Haiti	-	14,654	(14,654)	-
Romania Homes	-	13,106	(13,106)	-
India	-	10,349	(10,349)	-
Syria	-	6,588	(6,588)	-
Lebanon	-	2,882	(2,882)	-
Yemen	-	1,798	(1,798)	-
Mozambique	-	950	(950)	-
Madagascar	-	693	(693)	-
Benin	-	333	(333)	-
Zimbabwe	-	333	(333)	-
Niger	-	10	(10)	-
Totals	-	4,000,625	(4,000,625)	-

Donations are received by Mary's Meals as restricted donations for specific country programmes. Restricted income can only be used for the specific purpose for which it was donated.

20. Financial commitments

At 31 December 2024 the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Rental leases	2024 £	2023 £
Expiry date		
Within one year	-	9,467
Between one and five years	-	-
In more than five years	-	-
Totals	-	9,467

21. General commitments

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The annual pension commitment under this scheme is for contributions of £177,926 (2023: £165,538). At 31 December 2024, an amount of £Nil was accrued in the financial statements (2023: Nil).

22. Committed resources

Mary's Meals has a reserves policy such that three months' operating expenses are maintained within reserves. Based on the approved budget for the 2024 financial year, budgeted reserves are £885,569. The income raised by Mary's Meals UK's fundraising activities are remitted to Mary's Meals International Organisation, which is responsible for the delivery of the programmes.

23. Trustees and related parties

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, directors may only receive remuneration for services undertaken in the administration of the charity provided that it is authorised by the board, is within the limits laid down, and as long as a majority of the board members are acting without remuneration. No directors received remuneration for services from the charity in the year ended 31 December 2024.

A total of £234 was paid for accommodation and subsistence expenses for five directors in 2024. (2023: a total of £108 was paid for travel expenses for six directors.)

24. Company limited by guarantee

Mary's Meals is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Mary's Meals

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity number: SC022140

Company number: SC265941

marysmeals.org.uk

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger