

Charity number: 1143797

Syria Relief
Trustees' report and audited financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016

Syria Relief

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Legal and administrative Information

Charity number 1143797

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Syria Relief

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 29 February 2016**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2016. The trustees adopted the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16/07/14 (SORP 2015) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the above named charity. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust, which is a recognised charity (Charity no 1143797), is operated under the rules of its Trust Deed dated 22nd August 2011. The responsibility for the management of the Trust rests solely with the Trustees, who are selected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust Deed. One Trustee was appointed and there was no resignation during this financial period. Trustees are not remunerated for their trusteeship. Details of the trustees' expenses and any related party transactions are disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

The Board comprises members from diverse backgrounds. Trustees are identified and selected on the basis of their skills, experience and networks, in accordance with the needs of the Charity. The power of appointing new Trustees is vested in the Board, and there are procedures in place for the induction and training of new Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend relevant briefings and courses. The Board of Trustees deals with issues of corporate strategy, key strategic objectives and targets, major decisions including the use of financial and other resources (including the agreement of budgets for projects and operations), the ongoing viability of projects, and certain personnel issues such as senior staff appointments.

Capitalizing on the growth that has been achieved last year, Syria Relief continued to strengthen its brand, expanding its various humanitarian work divisions, and creating a uniform, clearly defined, and consolidated corporate identity. This was evident in the diversity of the activities which include education, orphan support, food & food security, water and sanitation, non-food items and healthcare programmes. This programme expansion was underpinned by expansion of staff pool in Turkey operational office as well as inside Syria.

Along with the growth of a skilled staff team locally, in Turkey and in Syria, culminating in the appointment of Mr Ajmal Ramzan as a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in August 2014, a capacity building and training programme has been underway to help develop the skill level of existing staff to manage the increased level of work efficiently and diligently. In addition in the Turkey Office, a Country Director, Mr Yarub Al Shiraida, was appointed in February 2015 to ensure good management of the Turkey and Syria Offices. The new Country Director was expected to meet and co-ordinate with international NGOs and donor meetings, and to establish links and relationships with other Syrian NGOs. Mr Shiraida is a Canadian National with numerous years of experience in the humanitarian sector including working with the United Nations in conflict zones.

The CEO has delegated authority, within terms approved by the Board of Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and other performance related activities. The day-to-day running of the Trust activities have been carried out by a team of dedicated staff who have the responsibility to implement corporate strategy, and the authority to make decisions, respond to consultations, allocate resources and commit expenditure. They are supervised and directed by their line managers led by the CEO, in line of the strategies set by the Board.

Staff are invited to give their feedback and advice on policies and developing relationships with other organisations. In addition, and upon instructions of the Board, members of staff would represent the Trust in other official meetings and events. Within their individual job scope staff have the responsibility to implement corporate strategy, and the authority to make decisions, respond to consultations, allocate resources and commit expenditure.

Staff are required to continuously progress the aims and objectives of Syria Relief and to enhance its operational management and development under the Board's control. Staff continuously research and prepare a stock of potential proposals in different sectors for implementing projects addressing the immediate needs mainly inside and also outside Syria.

This is done in anticipation of establishing new donor links, in the UK and in Turkey, to raise the profile of the charity and the awareness of the huge need in Syria. The aim is to put these proposals forward according to the preference of the potential donor taking in consideration where their interest lies e.g. Education, Health, WASH and in accordance with the Trust's aims and objectives.

Furthermore, professional co-ordinators were co-opted to promote Syria Relief, expand our community links and to arrange events with renowned artists and dignitaries to draw crowds from outside of the Syrian community as well as from within it. Each event with its fees and expenses were agreed and specific emergency projects setup for which the funds raised were earmarked so that the immediate needs could be fulfilled. This proved to be beneficial in raising the profile of Syria Relief accumulating more income and building our volunteer base.

Objectives and activities

Our invaluable volunteer network on the ground across Syria places Syria Relief as one of few charities in a prime position to facilitate the fastest and most direct distribution of aid to the hardest to reach places. We maintain close links with other reputable international charitable organisations including those working within the region in order to ensure maximum coordination and to avoid duplication.

The objectives of the Charity as indicated in our Trust deed are as follows:

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- The relief of financial hardship among people in Syria, and throughout the world as the trustees see fit, by providing such persons with goods and services which they could not otherwise afford through lack of means.
- The relief of sickness and the preservation of health among people in Syria, and throughout the world as the Trustees see fit.
- The advancement of education for the public benefit of people in Syria, and throughout the world as the Trustees see fit.

When making decisions to support certain projects, the Board and the CEO will take into consideration a multitude of factors, including the needs assessment carried out by our front-line staff on the ground, the impact on local communities, and the availability of similar services or projects in that particular locality. In addition, while the Board is keen to ensure that we continue to provide the required services in hard-to-reach areas inside Syria, it is imperative that the Board and the CEO give utmost consideration to issues of safety and security of our staff on the ground.

The Trustees and the CEO regularly monitor the achievement and performance of the work of the Charity, to ensure that it reflects the aims and objectives of the Charity. Trustees have also given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit, when setting future objectives and planning future activities. This is done by re-examining the Charity's core aims, expanding its services, and widening the scope of the Charity's beneficiaries (where possible). The aim is to make sure that public benefit is maintained as a catalyst for their strategic thinking to deliver the objectives that they aspire to achieve.

Achievements and performance

Syria is still the world's most complex humanitarian crisis and the largest internal displacement crisis, with millions internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and a minimum of 5 million people have already migrated towards neighbouring countries. The UN repeatedly described the countless and blatant violations of the basic tenets of international humanitarian and human rights law (IHL). Sadly, hundreds of thousands of people have so far been killed; thousands of people suffer conflict-related trauma injuries every month, some of whom develop permanent disabilities. In some instances, attacks appear to directly target civilians and civilian infrastructure, are indiscriminate, or breach other IHL rules protecting civilians. Hospitals, markets and bakeries have been targeted, and scores of civilian deaths and injuries were reported almost on a daily basis. The medical team who work to save the civilians have become a target too due to the escalation of the ground fighting and airstrikes. This crisis and the continued unrest have unfortunately forced millions of Syrian into extreme poverty with few or no places to turn for help to feed their families, obtain medicine and find support during immensely difficult times.

Financial review

A. Income

The principal source of funding remains to be funds given for specific projects by our national and international partners, followed by individual donations. Further funds were generated from fundraising events and donations through our PayPal account. The headlines below demonstrate where the money came from:

1. Individual donation - (£1,246,086 - 9.67 % of the total income)
2. Partnerships with other organisations - (£8,448,776 - 65.55 % of the total income)
3. Fundraising events - (£115,866 - 0.90 % of the total income)
4. Digital donations (£918,227 - 7.12 % of the total income)
5. Gifts in Kind - (£2,160,183 - 16.76 % of the total income)

B. Expenditure:

Syria Relief spent nearly £11.69 million pounds to help needy families and individuals inside and outside Syria. The headlines below demonstrate where the money was spent on:

1. Charitable Activities - (£11,357,078 - 97.13% of the total expenditure)
2. Fundraising - (£323,318 - 2.77% of the total expenditure)
3. Governance - (£11,700 - 0.10% of the total expenditure)

The charitable activities spent can be summarised as follows:

1. Medical - £2,081,549
2. Food, shelter and humanitarian aid and clothing - £3,410,321
3. Education - £1,152,860
4. Orphans programme - £999,578
5. Donations in kind - £2,160,183
6. Social and cultural - £324,531
7. Donations £160,549
8. Support costs - £1,079,207 (including governance cost)

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Corporation and Partnerships

Syria Relief is proud with the continuation of excellent working relationship with some well-known reputable national and international charitable organisations. In addition, further relationship were also forged during this period. Some of our partners included the following:

1. Save the Children International
2. Ummah Welfare Trust
3. The Sald Foundation
4. Islamic Aid
5. International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
6. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
7. Tahdul Relief Trust
8. International Alert

These partnerships have enabled us to take our work much further afield, ensure maximum efficiency and avoid duplications.

Areas of work

Though sadly the future remains uncertain for Syrians, we are however proud to say that we have continued to develop our capacity to help those most in need through our permanent established offices in Syria and Turkey and adhoc settlements in Jordan and Lebanon.

Projects and campaigns

Besieged Area Update:

The besieged areas of Syria were becoming more difficult to reach each day. Madaya, once a popular holiday town near Damascus, has suffered the worst among these. Around 70 residents died from starvation in a short space of time. Almost 600 have died in other besieged areas. Starvation, toxins from ingesting dirty foods and plants, as well as lack of access to medical treatment is some of the reasons for the unnecessary deaths. Worst affected were infants and the elderly.

Major parts of the city of Aleppo have also been blockaded, entrapping over 300,000 residents. Other besieged cities with large populations in Damascus suburbs include Douma, Daraya, Ghouta and Moadamiya. Our dedicated staff were on the ground in all these areas. Staff worked very hard to send food and keep our essential programmes running. Thanks to our donors' generosity, we have been able to set up a mobile kitchen in "Madaya". This has been used to feed over 150 people daily, who would otherwise face certain starvation. As fuel for cooking was scarce, our kitchen was open to residents who needed facilities to cook food. Syria Relief also distributed firewood to households to allow them to cook and keep warm.

Food Security, Livelihood & Non-Food Items:

Our work is still primarily inside Syria, where we have aid programmes throughout the country. We also have small-scale operations in Lebanon and Jordan. Hundreds of thousands of families fled their areas with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Our teams, in readiness for the harsh winter, diligently worked to aid thousands of families, providing those in need with hygiene kits, blankets, mattresses, winter clothing, stoves, fuel and other non-food items.

In addition, Syria Relief provided food packages to displaced communities across Syria and in neighbouring countries (e.g. in Eرسال, Lebanon). Each package would contain supplies of staple food, enough to feed an average family for a period of one month. Also, in addition to distributing flour to families and bakeries, we contributed to food security in the communities by building bakeries, and helping refurbish many that were destroyed as a result of the continuation of this conflict.

This was done in collaboration with several organisations like Save the Children and Ummah Welfare trust. Nearly 250,000 benefited from these projects.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene):

Lack of clean water and sanitation facilities is a major cause of waterborne diseases in many areas around Syria. This was particularly relevant for those living in temporary shelters.

Syria Relief, in conjunction with other local and international NGOs, worked hard in many areas to ensure that safe water systems are in place. The work included pumping off existing wells, drilling new wells, and providing storage tanks, generators, pumps and chlorination plants. Projects include waste disposal and distribution of garbage bins in Idlib (Maarat Misrin), water trucking, fuel for pumps, medicines for water purification and rehabilitation of sewerage system.

Water distribution by tankers is being maintained at Idlib, and Aleppo, and in only a limited number of occasions, water bottles are being distributed to IDPs.

These projects meant that over 20,000 people received clean water and improved sanitation facilities during this year.

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Waste Disposal:

During the years of this conflict there has been a huge amount of household and commercial waste dumped in areas surrounding civilian dwellings. These unofficial waste tips have become health risks, as well as being an eyesore. We have been clearing waste, as part of our Water & Sanitation programme, in the city of Marat Massreen in north-western Syria during March 2015. Tons of rubbish which had accumulated along the main road into the town has been cleared. We also ordered a large number of metal bins to be made at local metal works, providing an income to local workers.

Health and Medical Care:

The continuous destruction of the local health care infrastructure unfortunately made it extremely difficult for the local population and the IDPs to seek healthcare and thus placed an impossible burden on the remaining facilities to cater for the excessive number of patients.

It was evident that local households are deprived of food diversity and fresh produce, relying just on basic grains for daily consumption. On average, each family member consumes only 37% of the minimum calorie intake required for a healthy diet, affecting the mental and physical growth of infants and children.

Scarcity of fuel remained a major concern for the running of generators in hospitals and of ambulances. Syria Relief was able to respond to two priorities:

1. Increasing access to local communities and IDPs with mobile clinics and
2. Additional supplies to primary and secondary health facilities and supporting health referral networks such as hospital and ambulance referral systems.

These projects were done in collaborations with other reputable international charitable organisations. Thousands were assisted by providing Primary Health Centre (PHC), medical and hygiene kits, specialist clinics, psychological trauma centre and more

Syria Relief has in operation a total of five PHCs, based on the British NHS model. These centres offer treatment to patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, breast cancer and asthma, and acute illnesses such as infections and diarrhoea. Over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and prescription drugs are provided at the centres - items which are otherwise nearly impossible to source with the present situation in Syria. On average each centre receives 2500-3000 monthly patients. Each centre also has a nutrition clinic. Syria Relief also operates a number of mobile clinics which travel to areas where new displaced communities have settled, offering basic medical care, vaccinations and advice.

Moreover, in a study carried out on 1,500 Syrian schoolchildren by the National Centre for Mental Health (NCMH), a staggering 96% of 5-16 yr. olds were found to be displaying one or more symptoms of mental trauma. To help deal with this growing concern, Syria Relief continued to sponsor three mental health clinics across Syria. One of our largest clinics is in "Reyhanli", a Turkish town close to the border with Syria - an area with a high volume of Syrian refugees. In addition, our child mental health clinics inside Syria is helping children overcome psychological issues through play and sports as well as other activities. An average of 1000 benefited from these services on monthly basis.

Syria Relief also runs a prosthetic limb project in Turkey with the displaced communities to help them overcome the trauma of the conflict which they have witnessed. The demand for prosthetic limbs sadly continued to rise, with the increase in indiscriminate barrel bombing in Syria. Our two fixed Prosthetic Limb clinics continued to offer lower limb prostheses, and are now offering the more complex upper limb prostheses. These prosthetic limbs, which are provided free of charge to recipients, cost about £300 for a below knee prosthesis, around £450 for an above knee prosthesis, and about £360 for an upper limb prosthesis. Providing a prosthetic limb to an amputee would not only give them back freedom of movement, Independence, and self-worth, but also the ability to work, thus helping a whole family to become self-sufficient.

In response to the demand for these prosthetic limbs, we have launched a mobile prosthetic limb clinic. This mobile clinic provides services throughout the northern and central parts of Syria, to help those patients who are unable to travel to our two fixed clinics in southern Turkey. We have also launched a mobile dental clinic to provide the necessary services for those who are unable to travel.

The commitment and courage of the doctors and nurses who were earnestly trying to help those affected back to life, physically and mentally is evident. Together, they were emblematic of their country and people - broken in so many ways but still desperately and defiantly struggling to hold on to life.

We felt immensely proud and privileged when Charity Commission approached us and provided total funds of £23,865 to Syria Relief Charity to support some of our existing projects. Following discussions with the Charity Commission, the funds were used to support prosthetic limbs programme.

Bab Al Hawa Hospital:

Funded by Syria Relief for the third consecutive year with other partners, Bab Al Hawa Hospital (BHH) is the largest and busiest hospital in northern Syria. It is situated on the Turkey-Syria border, an area which used to be a bustling part of the region's tourist circuit.

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BHH specialises in treating emergency cases; a considerable number of patients enter as a result of the frequent air-strikes or barrel bomb attacks in populated areas. Many patients are children and the 90 child beds help us to cope with such incidents. The hospital offers patients a safe and clean place to convalesce, operating with similar hygiene standards to an NHS hospital in the UK. On average, 11,000 patients/month are treated at BHH. Facilities at this impressive hospital include an intensive care unit, six operating theatres, two treatment rooms, a blood bank and a CT scanner. The hospital specialises in: orthopaedic, general, vascular, ENT, maxillofacial, ophthalmic and thoracic surgeries. The Hospital Blood Bank and Transfusion Unit provide services to other hospitals in the area. In February 2015, Syria relief opened Maternity Clinic, offering expert childbirth care and advice to pregnant women, newborns and their mothers.

In addition, Bab Al Hawa Hospital houses a medical training centre, funded by the charities running the Hospital. A wide variety of courses are run by teaching faculties from the UK, the US, Canada and Continental Europe, providing essential and advanced training to doctors and healthcare workers. Syria Relief contributes around £85,000 a month to cover the running costs such as staff salaries (medical and non-medical), equipment and consumables. We constantly monitor and evaluate the quality of care, treatment and facilities at the hospital.

Nutrition Centre:

Syria Relief launched its new nutrition centres in April 2015, in the province of Idlib, catering for the needs of around 250,000 residents. This is a unique and welcome facility in the area. Young children and pregnant women are amongst the most vulnerable group, lacking access to appropriate primary healthcare and emergency services for maternal and new-born care. Our Nutrition Centre promotes and looks after the needs of the children and mothers of babies, providing them with complimentary nutritional foods to support optimal growth and development. Our centres also provide psychological support to their caretakers to improve child feeding as often there are issues of mental trauma as a result of long-term food deprivation.

Education:

No school day is ordinary for the few Syrian children still in education. In Syria, sadly it is all too common for the sound of children chatting and laughing to be disrupted by sudden deafening explosions. The escalation of the bombing and shelling, together with the frequent need to use school buildings for collective shelter, left a quarter of the schools in Syria unusable and nearly three million children are out of the education system. This ongoing struggle is having a grave impact on children, damaging their psychological wellbeing, and hampering their future potential to be well-rounded citizens who can contribute to their society.

Syria Relief is working tirelessly, with specific aims to:

1. Re-open closed schools or restore and refurbish old school buildings.
2. Provide school meals and equipment to facilitate education, as well as granting rewards and prizes to boost pupils' morale.
3. Provide "field education centres" for displaced communities.
4. Provide professionally trained psychological support staff at our sponsored schools.

We continued to improve access to education for children through school rehabilitation and rebuilding programmes. The Education Programme also includes distributing educational materials and teacher training. In addition, teachers received training in child protection, psychological child support and first aid.

Syria Relief extended sponsorship to over 55 schools (21% increase from the previous year) and children centres inside Syria, providing education for over 16,000 children. Student uniforms, classroom equipment and school meals are also provided.

The Kidz4Kidz campaign, sponsored by our charity partner "Ummah Welfare Trust" launched its annual fundraising event in March 2015. Children across the UK were encouraged to raise funds and pack a gift box for children in less privileged areas and those affected by the Syrian conflicts. Thanks to the efforts and contributions from children in UK, "K4K" distributed a total of 6636 gift kits in April 2015, containing clothing, shoes, toys, books and stationery to the children in Syria.

Many of our schools still operate double shifts to accommodate the overwhelming demand. A number of our schools cater for children with learning difficulties including children with hearing impairments. We taught around 1,500 school children with special needs (last year round 700 school children). We also had twenty Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) (four CFS in 2015) which provided over 6,000 children with psychosocial support daily. Gifts and toys were also given to children to help them cope with their daily life.

We are confident that these efforts, despite their limited capacity in relation to the scale of displacement and infrastructure destruction, will undoubtedly make a significant contribution towards ensuring that children are able to take on the responsibility in the future to building a new Syria where all can live in peace and harmony. This was done in collaboration with several renowned organisations like Save the Children International, Tauheedul Relief Trust and Ummah Welfare Trust. We are forever grateful to these collaborations in this vital area of humanitarian work.

Social & Seasonal Programme:

Syria Relief continued to run a number of social programmes to support orphans and families as well as providing special food packages throughout the year, including special projects during the holy and festive seasons for all the Syrian communities inside Syria.

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Gifts and/ or food parcels during all festive seasons were distributed to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people. To that end, funds were spent on a number of such projects, in partnership with other organisations including Ummah Welfare Trust during Ramadan (June 2015), Eld Ul Fitr (Itrana / July 2015), and Udhiya (Qurbani) Project in September 2015 as well as gifts parcels that were extended during Christmas 2015.

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our donors, we distributed aid to almost 250,000 people via our food parcels, community Ifars, Eid and Christmas gifts. Our staff and volunteers were humbled by the joyful and warm responses of our beneficiaries, as well as our donors who continue to give in the face of what seems like a hopeless situation.

Orphans:

Children in Syria have endured almost five years of deprivation and despair, many growing up never having experienced anything other than war - a daily battle for survival, be it from external threats or a search for basic necessities.

Syria Relief aim to provide the vital support that would make a profound difference to the lives of thousands of orphaned children. We are determined to make sure that children are not the ones paying the price for this adult conflict. Syria Relief's Orphan Sponsorship package covers all aspects of essential care including food, clothing, healthcare and education. We regularly assess the well-being of our sponsored orphans, through direct contact with them and their careers, as well as via regular communications with their school teachers.

Over 2500 vulnerable orphans across Syria benefited from such service. There was an increase of 25% from the previous year as 2000 orphans benefited from such service last year.

Refugees Crisis in Europe:

The images of the plight of the Syrian refugees had greatly moved the international community during September and October 2015, leaving many of us wondering how we can help. Every day, around 6,000 Syrians put the lives of their families, including babies and young children at high risk, taking a dangerous and life threatening journey in unsafe boats on the Mediterranean, to flee the internal conflict and devastation inside Syria.

Syria Relief chose to help in the small town of "Idomeni" on the Greece-Macedonia border, which is a converging point for refugees coming from two different ports in Greece, from where they cross over to Macedonia on foot and make their journey onwards towards Austria and Germany. Realising the true extent of the crisis, Syria Relief launched its Refugee Relief appeal here in the UK and we were overwhelmed by the passionate and widespread support shown by the British people.

To name but a few, we had support from: Stockport Council, People of Preston, Wimbledon Everyday Church, The Boston Tea Party, Creative Collection for Refugees, The Common Good Collective, Mums Walk for Syria, Windsor Appeal for Refugees, all of whom donated tonnes of essential clothing, hygiene and food items. So many donations that Syria Relief's resources were stretched to the limits in managing the logistics of all the donated items.

Journey to "Idomeni-Greece":

Thanks to the help of its donors and supporters, Syria Relief managed to send 17 full 40ft container loads of aid to "Idomeni" and Lesbos. The 1st Syria Relief convoy embarked on its journey to Idomeni on 10th September 2015, comprising four vans and a 40ft lorry load of essential goods. Upon arrival in "Kilkis", the convoy was greeted and briefed by the local volunteer group, and aid distribution work began immediately. Syria Relief secured the use of a large warehouse in Kilkis, where the containers were unloaded and goods categorised and made ready for distribution on a daily basis. We are honoured by the widespread media attention that our refugee work has received from local and national media, including both ITV & BBC. ITV reporter "Victoria Grimes" and cameraman "Dave Brown" accompanied Syria Relief team for three days as we delivered the vital aid to the Northern Greece border of "Idomeni". We are pleased that for the first time, Syria Relief's shipments have been leaving from all areas of the UK, in addition to our Manchester-based warehouse. Much credit for the hard work of packing, sorting and loading containers must go to the generous communities of Surrey, Barrow and London, amongst many others.

With refugees still arriving into Europe daily in their thousands, our work in this area will not stop. Our shipments left from Wales and London, heading towards "Lesbos, Greece" - an area which is was experiencing the highest level of refugee arrivals. Sadly, the world continues to hear reports of dead bodies washing up ashore on a daily basis, highlighting that the desperate situation remained. Syria Relief also collaborated with another group of volunteers from Oldham, "Aid 4 Refugees" to ship four container loads of aid destined for "Lesbos". The containers arrived in Lesbos on 9th November 2015. Our staff and volunteers flew there to meet the containers and organised distribution.

Strategic liaison and communications:

Trustees and Senior Staff continued to promote the aims and objectives of Syria Relief through liaising with international NGOs such as UN OCHA and others, and governmental bodies such as MPs and DFID. In addition, Syria Relief undertook a number of activities, aimed at raising its profile as an active, reliable and trustworthy charity. These included:

- a) Raising the profile of Syria Relief amongst a diverse range of communities, through regular appearances on local and national TV stations, press releases and mailing campaigns especially throughout the month of Ramadan (June 2015).

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- b) A number of talks and presentations by Trustees and senior staff at various academic institutions, House of Parliament and with the police, highlighting the plight of the Syrian people and the role that Syria Relief plays in relief efforts.
- c) A pioneering venture in collaboration with Greater Manchester Police, to provide youths and interested volunteers with a means to help and participate in relief efforts in Syria, through doing voluntary work at our warehouse in New Smithfield Market, Manchester, which was granted to Syria Relief, free of charge, by GMP. It was hoped that this facility would provide youths with a safe and legal alternative, dissuading them from any thought of travel to Syria. The warehouse continued to be a vibrant hub of activity, and the centre of our "Gifts in Kind" programme, where stuff donated by the public would be sorted and separated, then loaded into containers, prior to shipping to Syria via Turkey. This programme was designed to achieve other outcomes such as involvement in volunteering and neighbourhood social cohesion, and has been deemed very successful.

Plans for future periods:

The Trust intends to continue the projects detailed above and to expand them as required by needs on the ground, and determined by the limits of our capacity. In addition, we will continue to consider other projects, within the funds and staff capacity available, and based on comprehensive and up-to-date need assessments.

Furthermore, Trustees will continue to closely monitor the progress of the various projects and to analyse the challenges facing them. A number of issues have already been identified, including:

1. Participating and sharing the learning from the INGOs and the UN cluster groups.
2. Increase donations and secure autonomy in financial resources.
3. Building and strengthening links with all relevant stakeholders reflecting our holistic resilience focus.
4. The need to further promote our work efficiently and professionally, through improvement of our online presence and better utilisation of social media networking.
5. More capacity building measures and a long-term recruitment strategy are still needed. This will include the possible venture of expanding our work to have a new base in Jordan.
6. With the conflict escalating out of control, we recognise that addressing the need on the ground goes far beyond the abilities of any individual charity, NGO or governmental organisation. Nevertheless, we will continue to strive to do our bit for the people of Syria in the coming years. We will continue to do all we can to foster stronger co-operation between all INGOs and government-sponsored aid agencies for a robust, comprehensive and co-ordinated response to this ongoing and escalating human catastrophe.
7. Skills training and livelihood programmes: Lack of regular income and employment for households resulted in many families relying on debt to meet their basic needs or becoming permanently dependent on support from aid agencies for food and shelter. Hence, these projects (where possible) will ensure that individuals can have access to basic necessities and the skills needed to generate an income. These programmes aim at empowering individuals to take control of their lives, and develop the skills and resources to become financially independent and self-sufficient.
8. Develop platforms that will improve the links across the Syrian people (livelihood programmes), creating win-win relationships between producers, processors and buyers.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level sufficient to cover unforeseen expenditure and/or shortfalls in income. This is calculated as two months' employment and living expenses. The Trustees remain confident in their ability to raise the necessary funds, thereby adhering to the maintenance of a balanced budget.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees have a general power of investment and so enjoy freedom to invest where they see fit. The Trust sometimes needs to react very quickly to particular emergencies and may consider investing surplus liquid funds in the future on long or short-term deposit if needed. However, no funds were invested during this period.

Risk management

All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review as part of the initial activity assessment and implementation. Major risks are identified and ranked in terms of their potential impact and likelihood. Major risks, for this purpose, are those that may have a significant effect on:

1. Operational performance, including risks to our personnel, volunteers and the continuation of projects delivery;
2. Financial stability, including stability and security of income;
3. Meeting the expectations of our donors, beneficiaries, supporters and other organisations that we partner with.

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The Trustees actively review these risks on a regular basis and satisfy themselves along with the CEO and the senior staff that adequate systems and procedures are in place to manage and minimise our exposure to the risks identified.

Vote of thanks and gratitude

The Trustees would once again sincerely like to record their best gratitude and thanks to:

1. Their staff in the UK, Turkey and most importantly in Syria and all the volunteers for their dedication and commitment in working hard round the clock in promoting our aims and objectives and for being compassionate;
2. The UK Charity Commission for their continued guidance and assistance;
3. Those that worked tirelessly for raising funds or by just giving time or advice;
4. All those that have sent their donation in kind such like clothes, medical supplies, food and toys;
5. The British Syrian and other Communities for their marvellous and unconditional assistance round the UK and Europe for being good fundraisers and ambassadors for promoting "Syria Relief" both nationally and internationally;
6. Schools, Colleges, Places of worship, individuals and private businesses for their continued donations and support;
7. All charities and NGOs that have either collaborated with us or assisted us implementing our projects;
8. The staff at the RBS Bank including Chorlton and Withington branches for their professional and helpful attitudes;
9. The public at large.

We truly value all types of assistance and support including moral, financial, and advice rendered to us, for the tremendous efforts in furthering Syria Relief's development in meeting its aspirations.

We are determined to accelerate our progress in saving lives and giving every possible life in Syria the chance to fulfil their potential, especially the children of Syria. But we know this cannot be done alone. That is why we are working in partnership with a huge range of people and organisations - from worldwide global brands to our dedicated volunteers.

Finally, we have a great cause but we also want a great organisation. Therefore, our promise is that you will see how we have driven hard to lift our performance in every way. Our targets are ambitious but achievable. Simply, this is our commitment to continue delivering what we have promised to undertake.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

In accordance with the law, as trustees, we certify that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the report of trustees and the financial statements for each financial year in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during that year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity (where applicable) and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

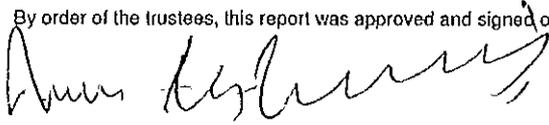
Syria Relief

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 29 February 2016**

Auditors

Riley Moss Audit LLP were re-appointed as our auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

By order of the trustees, this report was approved and signed on their behalf.



**Mr. Tamim Estwani
Treasurer/Trustee**

Date: 15/12/16

Syria Relief

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Syria Relief

We have audited the financial statements of Syria Relief for the year ended 29 February 2016 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and the regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to 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 and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications of our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 29 February 2016 and of incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statement; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Riley Moss Audit LLP
Statutory Auditors

Chartered Accountants
First Floor
184 Cheetham Hill Road
Manchester

Date: 16/12/16

Riley Moss Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Syria Relief

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 29 February 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Voluntary income: Donations	2	798,439	12,090,699	12,889,138	10,957,759
Total income and endowments		<u>798,439</u>	<u>12,090,699</u>	<u>12,889,138</u>	<u>10,957,759</u>
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on raising funds	3	24,061	299,257	323,318	323,425
Expenditure on charitable activities	4	263,696	11,105,082	11,368,778	10,612,500
Total expenditure		<u>287,757</u>	<u>11,404,339</u>	<u>11,692,096</u>	<u>10,935,925</u>
Net incoming resources before transfers		510,682	686,360	1,197,042	21,834
Transfer between funds		(162,358)	162,358	-	-
Net income for the year		<u>348,324</u>	<u>848,718</u>	<u>1,197,042</u>	<u>21,834</u>
Total funds brought forward		521,677	57,365	579,042	557,208
Total funds carried forward		<u>870,001</u>	<u>906,083</u>	<u>1,776,084</u>	<u>579,042</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Syria Relief

Balance sheet
as at 29 February 2016

	Notes	2016		2015	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		38,873		38,010
Current assets					
Debtors	9	61,150		46,291	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,718,756		536,576	
		<u>1,779,906</u>		<u>582,867</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(42,895)</u>		<u>(41,835)</u>	
Net current assets			1,737,211		541,032
Net assets			<u>1,776,084</u>		<u>579,042</u>
Funds	11				
Restricted income funds			906,083		57,365
Unrestricted Income funds			870,001		521,677
Total funds			<u>1,776,084</u>		<u>579,042</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Mr Mounir Hakimi
Vice Chairman / Trustee

Date: 15/12/16



Mr Tamim Estwani
Treasurer / Trustee

Date: 15/12/16

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016**

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16/07/14 (SORP 2015) and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Gifts in kind for distribution are included in the accounts as incoming resources and resources expended when they are distributed at their approximate market value at the date of distribution.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income tax recoverable under the Gift Aid Scheme is recognised where there is an entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.3. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management. Support costs include governance costs. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

1.4. Foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currency are transferred at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate prevailing at the year end. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

1.5. 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, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line

Syria Relief

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016

2. Income and endowments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations and similar incoming resources	798,439	9,930,516	10,728,955	6,356,776
Donations in kind	-	2,160,183	2,160,183	4,600,983
	<u>798,439</u>	<u>12,090,699</u>	<u>12,889,138</u>	<u>10,957,759</u>

3. Expenditure on raising funds

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
		£	£	£	£
Advertising, exhibitions, events and publications		5,295	65,851	71,146	89,204
Support costs	5	18,766	233,406	252,172	234,221
		<u>24,061</u>	<u>299,257</u>	<u>323,318</u>	<u>323,425</u>

4. Expenditure on charitable activities - by fund type and by activity

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
		£	£	£	£
Activities undertaken directly					
Medical		22,833	2,058,716	2,081,549	2,384,413
Food, shelter and humanitarian aid and clothing		-	3,410,321	3,410,321	1,692,458
Social and cultural		-	324,531	324,531	343,718
Education programme		-	1,152,860	1,152,860	873,077
Orphan's Sponsorships		-	999,578	999,578	139,552
Donations in kind		-	2,160,183	2,160,183	4,600,983
Donations		160,549	-	160,549	155,000
Support costs					
Support costs	5	80,314	998,893	1,079,207	423,299
		<u>263,696</u>	<u>11,105,082</u>	<u>11,368,778</u>	<u>10,612,500</u>

Syria Relief

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016

5. Analysis of support costs

The breakdown of support costs and how these were allocated between Expenditure on raising funds and Expenditure on charitable activities is shown in the table below:

	Basis of allocation	Expenditure on raising funds £	Expenditure on charitable activities £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
Staff costs	Staff time	215,959	154,204	370,163	253,284
Overseas contractors	Usage	-	668,271	668,271	153,783
Rent	Usage	14,058	85,998	100,054	44,169
Light and heat	Usage	58	6,117	6,175	1,212
Repairs and maintenance	Usage	429	14,835	15,264	22,659
Insurance and freight	Usage	-	5,481	5,481	11,839
Motor and travelling costs	Usage	-	37,222	37,222	34,917
Accountancy	Usage	-	4,200	4,200	17,146
Audit	Usage	-	7,500	7,500	6,600
Legal and professional fees	Usage	450	21,967	22,417	32,839
Communication and IT	Usage	6,847	14,315	20,962	26,262
Printing, postage and stationery	Usage	4,469	15,377	19,846	16,326
Depreciation and impairment	Usage	10,102	10,102	20,204	14,937
Exchange (gains)/losses	Usage	-	33,621	33,621	21,547
		<u>252,172</u>	<u>1,079,207</u>	<u>1,331,379</u>	<u>657,520</u>

6. Employees

Employment costs	2016 £	2015 £
Wages and salaries	361,998	247,138
Social security costs	8,165	6,146
	<u>370,163</u>	<u>253,284</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2015 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2016 Number	2015 Number
Management and administration of charity - UK	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

7. Trustees' emoluments

Trustees received no remuneration (2015: None). The charity reimbursed travelling and connected expenses amounting to £nil (2015: £nil) to trustees.

Syria Relief

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016

8. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 March 2015	59,750	59,750
Additions	21,067	21,067
At 29 February 2016	<u>80,817</u>	<u>80,817</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2015	21,740	21,740
Charge for the year	20,204	20,204
At 29 February 2016	<u>41,944</u>	<u>41,944</u>
Net book values		
At 29 February 2016	<u>38,873</u>	<u>38,873</u>
At 28 February 2015	<u>38,010</u>	<u>38,010</u>

9. Debtors	2016 £	2015 £
Other debtors	40,542	44,001
Prepayments and accrued income	20,608	2,290
	<u>61,150</u>	<u>46,291</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2016 £	2015 £
Other taxes and social security	6,083	11,871
Accruals and deferred income	36,612	29,964
	<u>42,695</u>	<u>41,835</u>

Syria Relief

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 29 February 2016

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 29 February 2016 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	38,873	-	38,873
Current assets	873,823	906,083	1,779,906
Current liabilities	(42,695)	-	(42,695)
	<u>870,001</u>	<u>906,083</u>	<u>1,776,084</u>

12. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 March 2015 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 29 February 2016 £
Unrestricted Fund	<u>521,677</u>	<u>798,439</u>	<u>(287,757)</u>	<u>(162,358)</u>	<u>870,001</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

The trustees are free to use general funds in accordance with charitable objectives.

13. Restricted funds

	At 1 March 2015 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 29 February 2016 £
Syria Humanitarian	<u>57,365</u>	<u>12,090,699</u>	<u>(11,404,339)</u>	<u>162,358</u>	<u>906,083</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

All restricted funds are for specific humanitarian projects supporting Syrian civilians inside Syria and surrounding region. The restricted funds are categorised by projects. The charity reviewed the movement of the restricted funds from commencement to the year ended 29 February 2016.

14. Related party transactions

SRIC Ltd (previously known as Syria Relief Ltd), an incorporated charity, is connected by virtue of common trustees with Syria Relief. During the year Syria Relief made donations of £160,549 (2015: £155,000) to SRIC Ltd.