The Beatrice Project

‘Restoring dignity and opportunity
to
young women in Zimbabwe’

Trustees’ Annual Report
for the period
1 November 2024- 31 October 2025

Principal address: 23, Rockleigh Road, Southampton, SO16 7AQ

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This report has been produced to satisfy the requirements of the Charities Commission and to provide information to the supporters of the Beatrice Project.

1.2 Scope

This report covers the period November 2024 to 31 October 2025. It provides a narrative on the developments of the Beatrice Project (BP) during this period along with the associated finances.

1.3 The Beatrice Project

The Beatrice Project (BP) is a small UK based charity supporting the work of Ntombi Nto (NN), a Zimbabwean registered trust. Ntombi Nto means 'a wholesome, confident young woman'. The BP began life when it was formally launched by Mrs Joy Khumalo in Zimbabwe in 2015 in partnership with Susan Hutchinson in the UK. This was in response to the concerns of local community and church leaders in the rural areas south of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, about girls dropping out of school because of a lack of affordable sanitary protection.

The objectives of the BP are:

To advance in life, and relieve the needs of, girls and young women by providing help, advice and resources as a means of:

a) developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
b) enabling them to continue in their education;
c) providing education on reproductive health and psychosocial issues;
d) supporting locally led child protection measures.

2 General Overview of the Year

Throughout the first half of the reporting year, The Beatrice Project (BP), continued to increase its efforts in fundraising to support the work in Zimbabwe. The Ntombi Nto (NN) team continued to apply enthusiasm and dedication to the work and we saw some encouraging growth. Email and phone communication, continued as and when poor wifi connectivity and the availability of Mrs. Khumalo, director of NN, allowed.

The political situation in Zimbabwe and the instability of the currency brought continued price rises and a variety of attendant administrative challenges. Despite the problems this created, NN continued implementing the programme and appeared to be making good progress and, encouraged by the BP team, pursuing links with other agencies in the country and growing in stature.

Progress in the Gweru region was maintained and the sense of ownership of the project by community leaders, both men and women, in the rural settlements continued to be hugely helpful to the growth of the work.

The shared ambition of BP and NN remains to enable underprivileged girls from these rural communities to maximise their potential through completing their education, finding work and contributing to their communities.

The scheduled visit to Zimbabwe by two of the BP trustees was postponed. In May 2025 the trustees became aware that a large sum of money ($11.5K) sent to Zimbabwe for the second quarter of the year had been misappropriated. At the same time the Zimbabwe government had begun implementing their new rules, requiring trusts and charities funded from overseas to register as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO). The misappropriation of funds caused, amongst other things, changes to the leadership of BP’s partner organisation (NN) and the promotion of three part timers to full time employment. The BP trustees went to great lengths to address the issues raised by the misappropriation of funds but the matter became increasingly complicated because of the lack of cooperation by some members of the wider NN team and the intervention of other seemingly interested parties. The trustees were unable to retrieve any of the charity’s assets or to resolve matters satisfactorily and the relationship between NN and the BP was considered to have broken down.

3 Events of the Last Year

The visit took place in Sept/Oct 2025, in an attempt to try to redeem the situation. However, despite largely successful and encouraging meetings, the results were ultimately disappointing and the trustees were forced to consider the closing of the BP charity. The Trustees tried hard to find another partner organisation to continue the work of the charity but, after a long search, and seeking legal advice, they decided in January 2026 that the Charity should close. Since then, all liabilities have been settled and assets disbursed in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission.

4 Statement of Financial Activities for FYE 31 Oct 2025

Income and Fund Raising

As a charity, we have been very fortunate to be supported by regular donors, on whose committed giving we rely for a known amount each month. Regular updates to supporters give information on the activities, needs and plans of the Trustees and the charity, and these often prompt further giving.

We are grateful to St James' Place for their interest and support, and to ETCH from whom we receive assistance in terms of advice and finance.

We are further indebted to the Bright Future Trust whose continued commitment to our work has enabled NN to maintain and use the NN Project vehicle.

All money received or raised by BP is used to support the work of NN. Because of the events of 2025, all fundraising was halted in early 2026.

Risk Mitigation Reserves

As a result of the decision to close the charity, no reserves will be necessary.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (The Beatrice Project) for the year ended 31 /10 / 2025

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

The charity's gross income exceeded £25,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

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

Simon Wield

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

21/08/2026

Income and Expenditure	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income (note 2)				
Donations and legacies	51,008	-	51,008	67,236
Charitable activities	383	-	383	643
Grants received	1,107	13,675	14,782	38,625
Total	52,498	13,675	66,173	106,504
Expenditure (note 3)				
Charitable activities	43,941	10,953	54,894	60,109
Administrative costs	9,916		9,916	2,024
Total	53,857	10,953	64,810	62,133
Net income for the reporting period	(1,359)	2,722	1,363	44,371
Interest income	947	-	947	547
Net movement in funds	**(412)**	**2,722**	**2,310**	**44,918**
Reconciliation of fund:				
Total funds brought forward	£46,751	£11,019	£57,770	12,852
Total funds carried forward	**£46,339**	**£13,741**	**£60,080**	**£57,770**

Balance Sheet	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total this year	Total last year
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	48.484	13,741	62,225	66,747
Total	48.484	13,741	62,225	66,747
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (note 4)	2,145	-	2,145	8,977
Net current assets	46,339	13,741	60,080	57,770
Total net assets	**£46,339**	**£13,741**	**£60,080**	**£57,770**
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted funds	-	13,741	13,741	11,019
Unrestricted funds	46,339	-	46,339	46,751
Total	**£46,339**	**£13,741**	**£60,080**	**£57,770**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

S B Hutchinson

Name
S. B Hutchinson

Date of approval
27.08.26

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

a. **Basis of preparation.** The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

b. **Funds structure.** Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There are two restricted funds. One is the vehicle fund which is restricted to funding the costs of a motor vehicle essential to carrying out the work of the charity. The other is for provisions of training and the construction of a school sewing room. Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

c. **Income recognition.** All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, and it is received. In the case of performance related grants, income is only recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services, as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts. Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

e. **Expenditure recognition.** Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

2. Income

	2025	**2024**
Unrestricted funds		
Donations	44,532	57,803
Gift aid	6,476	4,433
Events	383	643
Grants	1,107	1,250
Total	**£52,498**	**£64,129**
Restricted funds		
Grant for vehicle purchase and running costs	8.925	37,375
Donation for sewing rooms and sanitary supplies	£4,750	5,000
Total	**£13,675**	**£42,375**

3. Expenditure

	2025	2024
Unrestricted funds		
Grants to Ntombi Nto Trust	19,273	15,674
Employment costs in Zimbabwe	24,217	12,627
Sanitary supplies	452	50
Overseas travel	6,675	-
Legal fees	2,385	-
Administration	822	1,982
Bank charges	33	43
Total	**£53,857**	**£30,376**
Restricted funds		
Grants for vehicle purchase and expenses	10,221	31,757
Grants for sewing room build and sanitary supplies	732	-
Total	**£10,953**	**£31,757**

In May 2025 we became aware that some grant money sent to Ntombi Nto Trust had been misappropriated after receipt. The amount involved was approximately £8,950. After that no further funds were sent to the Trust. The amount is deemed to be irrecoverable.

4. Creditors

	2025	2024
Grant income received in advance	-	8,925
Accrued expenses	-	52
Accrued staff redundancy	2,003	-
Accrued travel costs	142	-
Total	**£2,145**	**£8,977**

5. Trustee and Related Party Transactions

Two Trustees had direct expenses reimbursed during the year totalling £7,418. These expenses related to travel and event expenses reimbursed at cost. (2024 – £1,290).

6. Post Balance Sheet Events

Further to the misappropriation of funds in Note 3 above, the Trustees tried to find another partner organisation to continue the work of the charity. However, after a long search, and seeking legal advice, the Trustees decided in January 2026 that the Charity should close. Since then, all liabilities have been settled and assets disbursed in accordance with the rules of the Charity Commission.