

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark hair in braids, wearing a school uniform (white shirt, green and yellow striped tie, and a dark sweater). She is looking through a phoropter, a device used by opticians to determine the correct prescription for eyeglasses. A hand is visible on the left, adjusting the device. The background is a warm, out-of-focus red. A yellow rectangular frame is overlaid on the image, partially enclosing the girl's face and the text below.

# **UK annual report and financial statements 2019**





# Changing the way the world sees

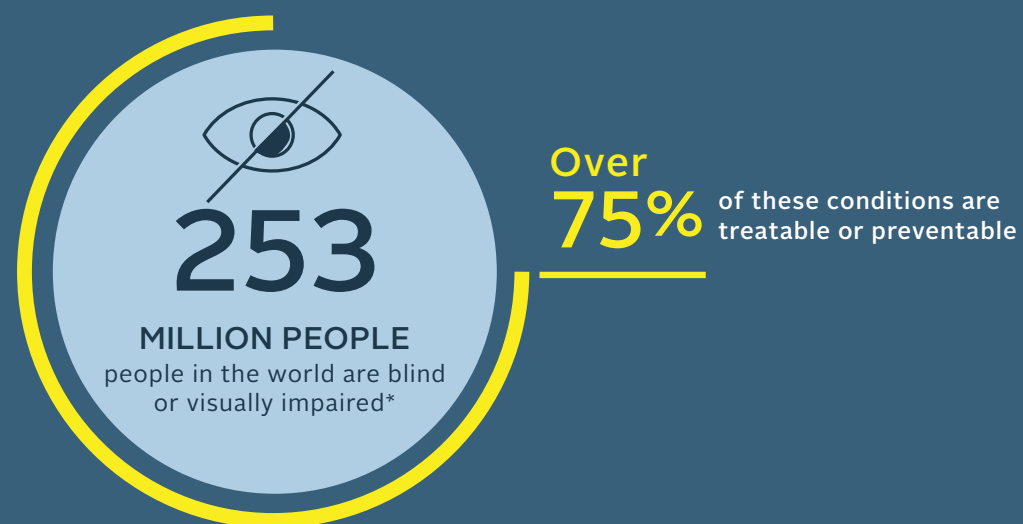
A member of a women's group in Konso, Ethiopia. Women's groups' sing songs and dance to educate their communities about blinding trachoma.

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# Who we are and what we do

Orbis is an international charity that has been transforming lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness for nearly four decades.



## Our work changes the way the world sees:



We provide specialist training and equipment for doctors, nurses and local eye care teams.



We carry out screening and treatment programmes and support the distribution of antibiotics for trachoma control.



We raise awareness and inspire communities about the importance of eye health.



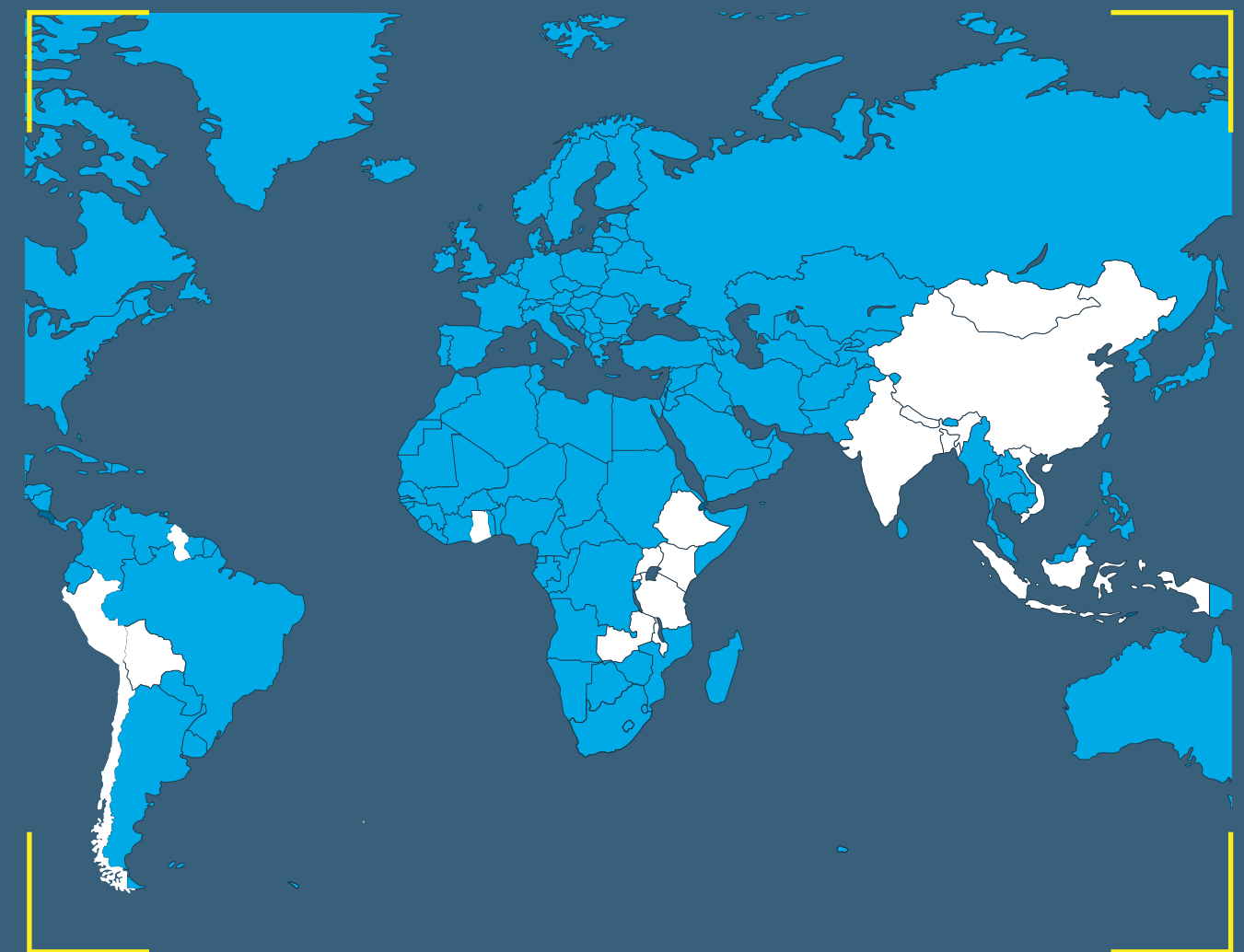
We strengthen and improve eye health services by partnering with local hospitals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments.

With our network of partners, we mentor, train and inspire entire local eye care teams – from health workers in rural clinics to eye surgeons in urban centres – so they can work together to save and restore vision, ensuring no-one has to face a life of avoidable blindness.

\* [www.iapb.org/vision-2020/who-facts/](http://www.iapb.org/vision-2020/who-facts/) [Accessed May 2020]. Figure refers to visual impairment that prevents people seeing well at distance.

## Our global reach

The vast majority of people who are blind and visually impaired live in developing countries. Older people, women and those living in rural and disadvantaged communities are particularly affected. We focus on where the need is greatest: in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.



Eliminating avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective ways of fighting poverty. Orbis works to ensure everyone has sustainable access to quality eye care, no matter where they live.



# Chair and CEO welcome

## A very warm welcome to the 2019 Orbis UK annual report.

**This year has been about building on strong foundations. We're proud to have overachieved against all our 2019 programme targets – but we know that success comes from having developed effective and enduring partner relationships over the years.**

Working on projects over the long-term helps deepen, strengthen and quicken the skills of local eye care teams, greatly improving the eye health of the communities they serve. Of the 27 projects we supported in 2019, 21 had been started in 2018 or earlier. In total, we supported the delivery of almost 9.8 million doses of antibiotics in the fight against infectious trachoma, nearly 1.9 million eye screenings, more than 158,000 treatments, and almost 55,000 training sessions. We also raised more than £8.4 million, which is nearly £1 million more than in 2018.

Successes like these strengthen our influence on eye health services in developing countries. Like those in Ethiopia and Bangladesh, where this year we continued to help oversee national blindness surveys. Recognition of our expert work led to expansion on the ground too. In Cox's Bazar, South East Bangladesh, we opened two new vision centres for the local population, which has grown significantly since the Rohingya refugee crisis. And in Ethiopia, having already contributed to the reduction of trachoma in 14 districts, this year we secured funding to work in 36 more.

One of our proudest achievements was the £652,425 raised by individual donors during our 'See My Future' campaign. It was matched by the UK government, giving us a total of nearly £1.4 million to spend on our sight-saving work worldwide. As you'll see in our special feature, the government grant helped us set up a new childhood blindness project in Nepal. And thanks to the local children there, we made quite an impression.

As usual, it's often the youngest who have the best stories to tell. We particularly enjoyed meeting two-year-old Hakeema from Accra, Ghana, whose enthusiasm for singing 'Old MacDonald' knows no bounds. Thanks to corrective surgery on her squint during a visit from the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital this year, she now has a whole new audience to entertain at her local nursery.

It's on behalf of children like Hakeema that we'd like to thank you, our remarkable supporters, for continuing to support our fight against avoidable blindness around the world. We'd also like to thank Sir Michael Arthur, Kit Braden and Bruce Buck, who stood down as trustees in 2019, for their outstanding contributions over several years. We wish them well. Rob Pinchbeck, appointed deputy chairman in 2019, will succeed Peter Hickson as chairman in 2020 as Peter retires as chairman and trustee.

At the time of writing, we're living with the uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic. You can read more about our response on pages 39 and 57. We are only beginning to comprehend the far-reaching effects of coronavirus. But, rest assured, we are doing everything in our power to ensure we can bring you more remarkable sight-saving stories in 2020.



*Rebecca Cronin*

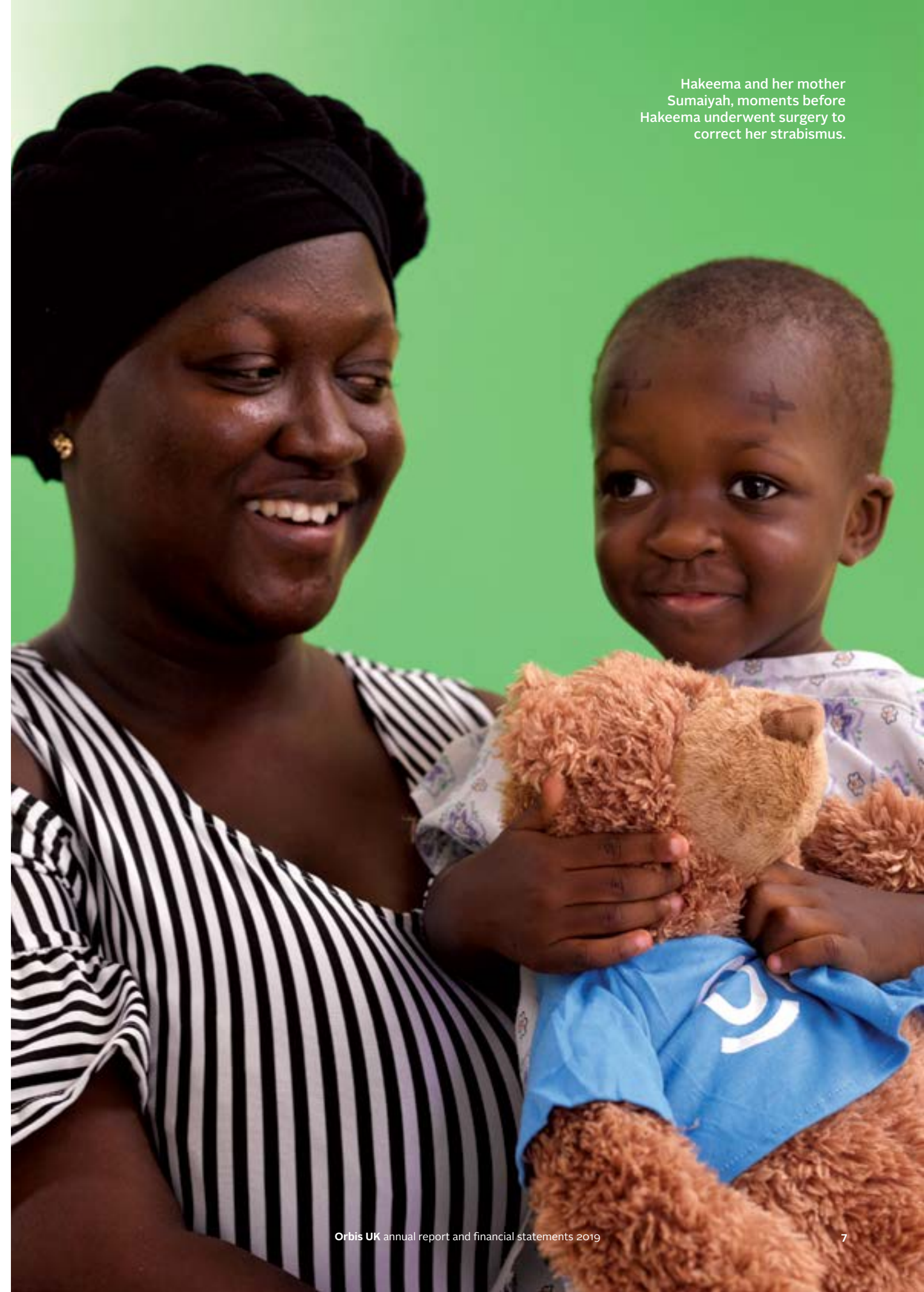
**Rebecca Cronin,**  
Chief Executive



*Peter Hickson*

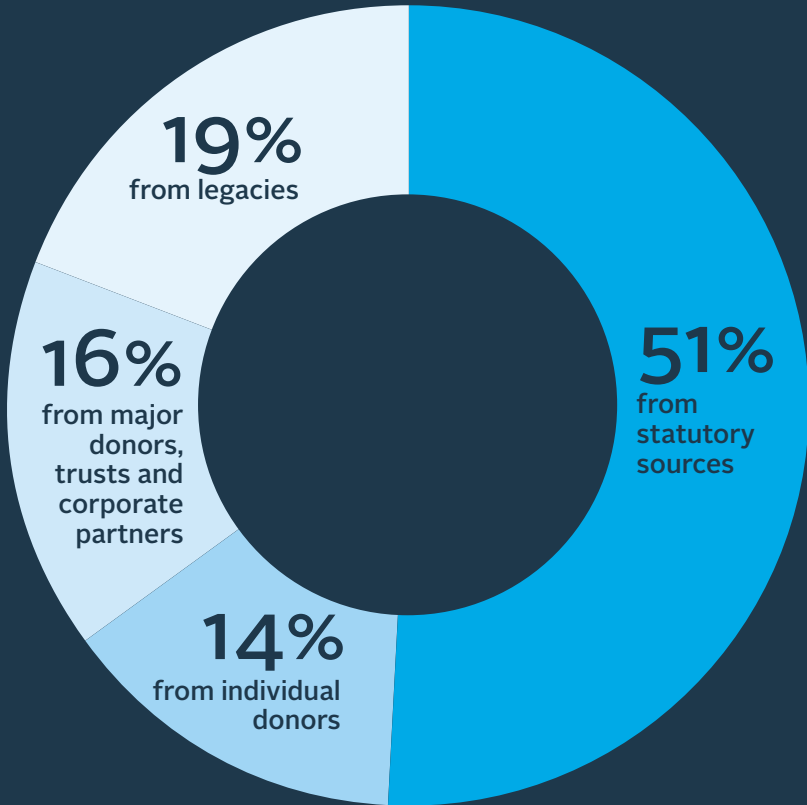
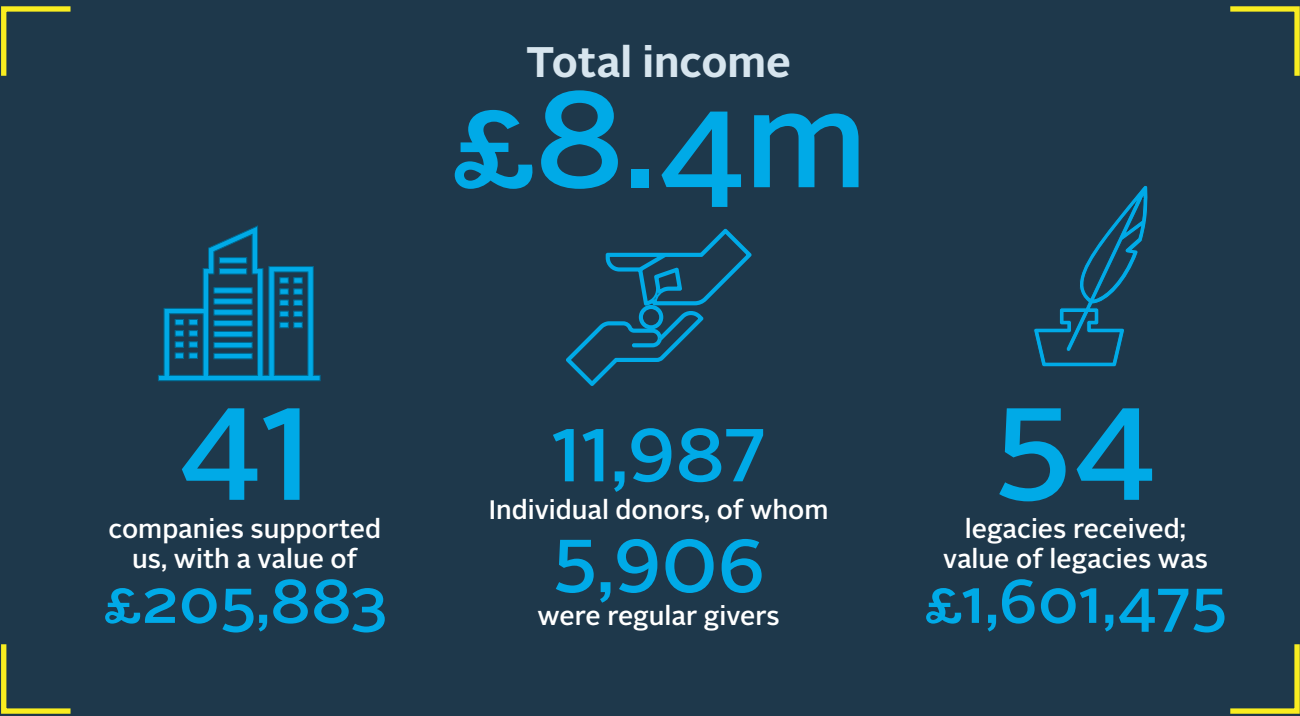
**Peter Hickson,**  
Chairman

Hakeema and her mother Sumaiyah, moments before Hakeema underwent surgery to correct her strabismus.

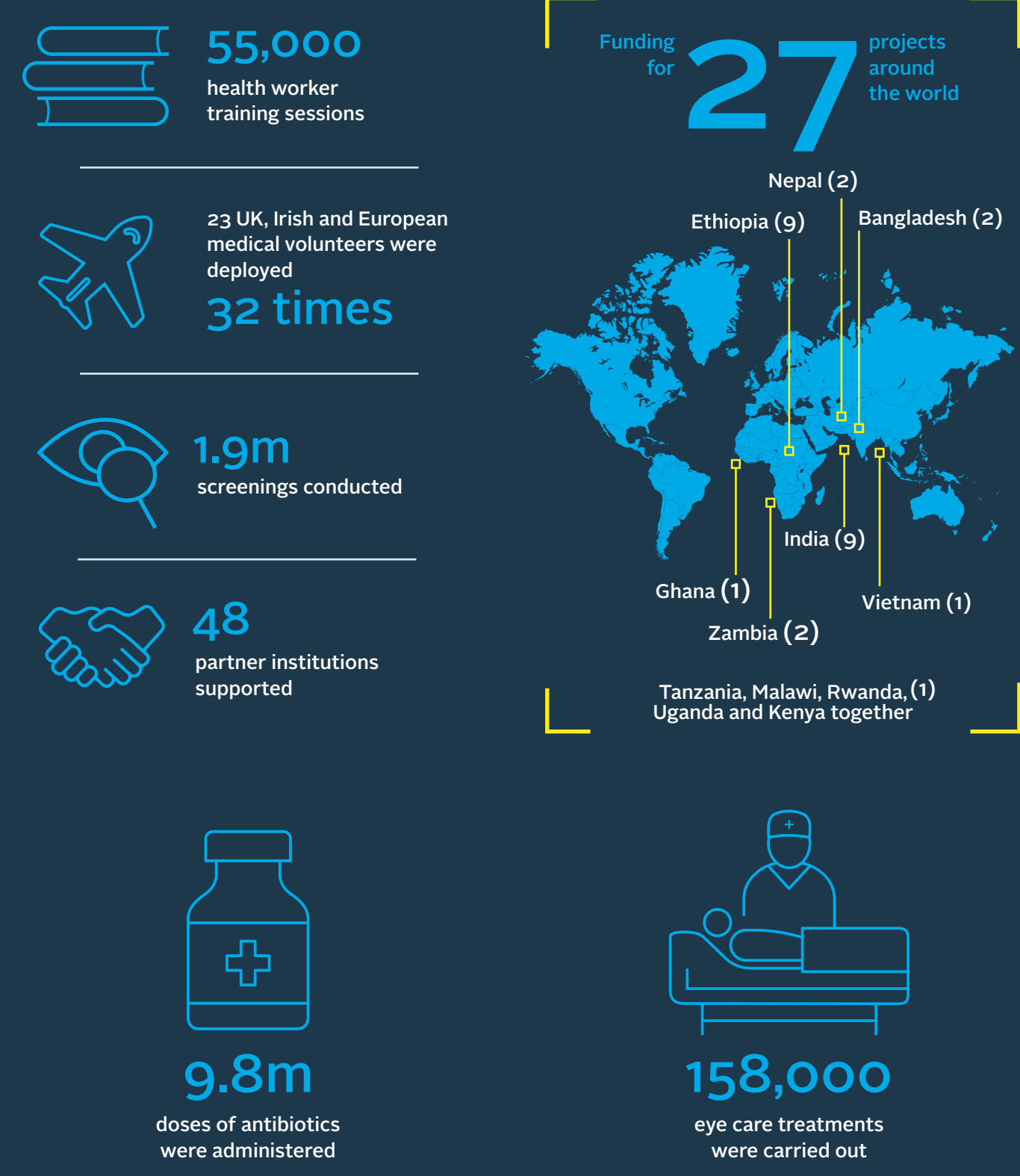


# 2019 at a glance

## Income



## Impact





## Making sure everyone, everywhere, has access to the eye care they need.

### Comprehensive eye care means raising awareness, building partnerships and carrying out our sight-saving work in even the hardest-to-reach places.

In 2019, our coverage levels for trachoma ‘mass drug administration’ (MDA) reached new heights – routinely more than 90%, compared to the 80% minimum recommended by the World Health Organization – significantly helping to reduce the prevalence of blinding trachoma in Ethiopia. We also continued our work aimed at improving the eye health of the displaced Rohingya population in Bangladesh.

### Ethiopia

2019 saw the end of our five-year SAFE (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvement) programme in the Hadiya and Sidama zones and Yem special district of southern Ethiopia. In partnership with Sightsavers, we’ve supported the administration of more than 18.5 million doses of antibiotics since 2014. Across all projects, 9.5 million doses were delivered in 2019, contributing to the reduction of trachoma in 14 of the 30 districts surveyed.

Next, we want to continue our work across the region, so ultimately we can help to rid Ethiopia altogether of this blinding and avoidable eye condition. We have lots more work to do, but having secured funding this year to cover 36 new districts with MDA, we’re well on the way.

### Going the extra mile

Distributing antibiotics to whole communities is challenging work – training local eye care workers, raising awareness, organising everyone on the day, making sure the right dose is administered in the right form. In remote areas, the challenges are even greater. This year, special mention goes to the eye care teams who really did go out of their way to deliver quality eye care – the remarkable individuals who went tirelessly house-to-house to identify patients who needed surgery. And those who took long journeys by boat and on foot to reach people living remotely – often administering drugs to farmers while out in their fields, grazing animals.



### Influencing matters

The better the eye care we provide, the better value we give to our donors – whether they’re individual supporters, corporations or governments. We were delighted this year when the UK government Department for International Development (DFID) praised our value for money and ability to adapt in our Gedeo zone project. They also commended the proportion of women we reached – 77% of surgery recipients in the project’s first year. This figure is significant because women are more likely to be blind or visually impaired than men, and they often face greater difficulties in accessing eye care.

Public recognition of our work is crucial because it enables us to influence regional eye care structures and services. This year, we continued to play a key role in the Ethiopian government’s upcoming National Blindness Survey. We’ll lead the coordination of all stakeholders, including government departments and non-government organisations (NGOs), ultimately overseeing the publishing of vital data and analysis to improve the way eye care is delivered.

### Bangladesh

In 2018, we became the first eye care organisation to establish services for the Rohingya refugees and the existing local community in Cox’s Bazar, South East Bangladesh. Last year, we opened two new vision centres, which enable people to access free eye tests, medicine, and glasses or referrals if they need them. This extra capacity is critical for the Cox’s Bazar Baitush Sharaf hospital, which has seen its catchment population grow by more 900,000.

As a result of our growing presence in Bangladesh, just as in Ethiopia, the government has asked us to join the advisory committee for its next national survey on blindness. We’re looking forward to helping shape its policy and further develop our work bringing quality eye care to the region.



### World Sight Day

As always, World Sight Day in October was one of the year’s highlights. We promoted eye health awareness in communities around the world, especially across Africa and Asia. In Bangladesh, through our Qatar Creating Vision initiative, we took part in activities ranging from street theatre and a ‘wall magazine’ to free eye screenings and an expert panel discussion.



Malate, waiting to undergo Orbis-supported trachomatous trachiasis surgery.



## Malate's story

**Meet Malate. For years she suffered from trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.**

Like many Ethiopians, her trachoma had advanced to 'trachomatous trichiasis' (TT), which meant her eyelids turned inwards and her eyelashes scratched her eyeball every time she blinked. "It started with tearing, then throbbing pain ... it was excruciating" she explained.

Malate imagined that any prospect of going to the hospital for treatment would be beyond her. A single mother, unable to work because of her sight problems, Malate and her two children were supported by her parents, who are farmers. They certainly couldn't stretch to medical bills.

But Malate's life was turned around when she met Abiyot, an Orbis-trained integrated eye care worker (IECW). Abiyot spotted her during a community outreach programme and urged her to come to the health centre. "I was very happy when Abiyot told me the surgery was going to be free. I couldn't believe I was going to get my sight back."



After being treated successfully, Malate was overjoyed. She's now returning to work picking grass, wood and weaving clothes to sell in the market. She's planning to plant potato and barley to sell too. "I'm really excited to start this new chapter", she told us, "I'd like to thank Orbis, the government and everybody for helping me have this surgery for free".

*"I'd like to thank Orbis, the government and everybody for helping me have this surgery for free".*



## Ensuring children's healthy visual development in those crucial first few years.

**Screening for and treating eye conditions in children has life-long effects. With healthy eyes, children can go to school, socialise and engage fully in family life – giving them a better chance of a brighter future.**

Since 2016, we've been working with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) on 'Qatar Creating Vision', an initiative to screen and treat children for refractive error and train local staff in India and Bangladesh. In that time, more than 6 million children have been screened. And across all our projects in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, 1.2 million were screened in 2019 alone.

We've also been working to strengthen children's eye health training and services in Zambia, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

### Refractive Error Among Children (REACH)

REACH is a model that identifies children with refractive error and provides glasses where necessary. It also captures screening data on a bespoke database called REACHSoft, which enables more accurate treatment and follow-up. REACH has been so effective in our Indian partner hospitals this year that another hospital has adopted it too.

We also saw our success rewarded in Nepal, where the UK Department for International Development (DFID) granted us £652,425 to extend REACH into a second project (take a peek at page 18 to find out more). In the first project, our screening of teachers had been doubly successful. Not only did we provide a quarter of a community's teachers with the glasses they needed, but by wearing them, they encouraged pupils to wear theirs too. It turns out teachers are more influential role models than they thought.

More positive influence came from the staff at Nepal's Mechi Eye Hospital, where the team administered both screenings and dietary advice. Encouraging children to eat more vitamin A-rich food means better eye health for our younger generation – and a welcome holistic message from our partners.

### The Vision Van

Not quite your ordinary school bus, the Biratnagar Eye Hospital's 'Vision Van' has been flying the flag for children's eye health in Nepal this year. Clearly, an incredibly useful mobile centre for secondary eye screening wasn't enough for these staff. No, they spotted an opportunity to raise vital awareness and advertise hospital services in a uniquely colourful and eye-catching way too.



### Zambia

Our 'Vision for Zambia' project, supporting the development of surgical skills and community referrals at the Kitwe Eye Hospital, has reached nearly 100,000 children since it began in 2016. Following a successful public fundraising appeal, matched by a grant from the UK government, we've beaten all our targets, trained 850 health professionals and achieved a 98% referral completion rate amongst patients sampled. Our grant ended in 2019, but we're continuing to use the remaining public funds into 2020. We're also continuing to work with the Zambian government, lobbying for better-integrated eye services for under-5s and improved supplies of essential medicines to eye clinics.

### Ethiopia and Vietnam

Wet-lab simulation training gives local eye health workers the chance to practice their skills on artificial, or animal, eyes. It's a hugely effective training method, and we were pleased this year to introduce it to ophthalmologists in training at tertiary eye care units at Hawassa University Hospital and Gondar University Hospital, both in Ethiopia.

In Vietnam, our 2018 project at Binh Dinh Eye Hospital fell just short of completion, in part due to staff maternity leave. So we pressed on into 2019 with incredibly pleasing results. We screened nearly 36,000 children and adults and supported 1,200 child surgeries – a ninefold increase on the previous year.

### Screening premature babies

If a baby is born early, they may develop retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a condition of abnormal development of the retina that can lead to permanent blindness. So it's vital that all premature babies are screened. At the Dr K Zaman BNSB hospital in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, we support the only ROP service outside the capital, Dhaka. Last year 1,141 babies were screened, 61 of whom needed treatment. Since the project started, we've supported 2,041 screenings, exceeding our target of 2,000. We're now continuing to raise awareness and build the skills of local maternity staff and communities to help provide for even more Bangladeshi premature babies.





Kisan and Shashant, young brothers from Nepal who both received glasses through Orbis's REACH programme.

## Kisan and Shashant's story

**Meet Kisan, aged 10, future scientist. And his brother, Shashant, aged 12, future doctor. As you may have noticed, they're both sporting exceptionally cool-looking glasses. "I liked the colour", Kisan explains, modestly.**

For too long, however, Kisan and Shashant's future ambitions looked to be thwarted. They wanted to do well at school, but problems with their eyes were holding them back. Neither of the brothers could see their teacher's blackboard properly. Things were tough at home too, as Shashant describes, "When my mother says to bring something, I cannot bring it".

Fortunately, the boys were screened at their local school as part of a visiting Orbis Refractive Error Among Children (REACH) programme. According to the senior optometrist that dealt with their case, Kisan and Shashant would be classified blind by the World Health Organization. Little wonder they'd been struggling.

*"All the difficulties I had before, like reading or playing with my mother, these are no longer difficulties."*

The relief they felt once they'd been successfully prescribed with glasses was palpable, as Kisan explains, "All the difficulties I had before, like reading or playing with my mother, these are no longer difficulties." Just as important, he's now better able to play cricket with his friends – a somewhat hazardous activity beforehand!

Back at school, their teacher is happy to report both brothers showing much more interest and enthusiasm than before. In a few years time, perhaps they'll be the ones making the diagnoses.





# Special feature: *See My Future*

'See My Future' was our campaign to raise awareness about how visual impairment affects children's education in Nepal – and to raise funds to find solutions. Between March and June, the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID) agreed to match every single pound we raised from individuals. So we went all out to make the biggest splash we possibly could.



## A right royal launch

We were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex as our guest of honour at our launch event in the Barber Surgeons Hall in London. Having visited Orbis Flying Eye Hospital programmes in India and Bangladesh in 2013 and 2017, she was excited to learn about our bold new plans for Nepal. She also helped get our appeal off to a flying start with national press coverage including *The Daily Mail Online*.



## Doing it digitally



**£106,000**  
raised online



**32,000**  
website visitors



**47%**  
increase on visits  
to webpages



## The word on the street...

...and in the magazine, and online. We went big with our clear and compelling promotional campaign, taking full advantage of free and discounted media space wherever we could find it – from leaflets in *The Telegraph* to adverts in *The Oldie* – and web banners on our partners' websites. Not to mention 250 billboard sites across England.

## Leading roles

Of course, the real stars of the show were the Nepalese children we met along the way. We supported them by providing the glasses they needed. And they gave us a hand by featuring in our promotional films and supporter appeals.



## A sprinkle of stardust

See My Future's profile was raised considerably by the efforts of some well-known supporters. Mary Killen, journalist, Gogglebox contributor and Orbis Ambassador, wrote fantastic articles for *The Lady* and *The Oldie* magazines. And actress Pearl Mackie – of Dr Who fame – promoted the appeal to her 90,000 followers on Instagram.

## What a result!

Almost  
**208m**  
opportunities to see  
our campaign.

More than  
**£650,000**  
raised & matched by  
the UK government.

Nearly  
**£1.4m**  
towards fighting  
avoidable blindness.

## Thank you

A massive thank you to all the remarkable supporters that donated to the appeal. And to our communication partners, who shared our message in editorial content, on websites, in newsletters, and on social media.



**Together, we've helped Nepalese children and thousands more people around the world see their future in a new light.**



## Bringing the highest standards *of clinical excellence to the whole eye care team.*

**The best thing about our specialist training is the ripple effect it creates. For every eye care worker that we train, many more benefit from the skills and knowledge that are passed on.**

It all begins with our amazing medical volunteers, who work with ophthalmologists, anaesthetists, nurses, biomedical engineers and others in the fight against avoidable blindness. This year, 23 volunteers from the UK, Ireland and Europe trained eye care workers on board the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital and in local hospitals in seven countries.

### The Orbis Flying Eye Hospital

Once again, the Orbis International one-of-a-kind, customised MD-10 aircraft travelled around the globe in 2019. Its visit to Chile represented a real landmark – our first-ever simulation-only training programme. Using the very latest technology, our volunteers took advantage of the controlled environment to train eye care professionals in complex surgical skills. We were particularly pleased to welcome junior doctors from neighbouring Bolivia and Peru too.

But we didn't stop there. We carried out return visits to Vietnam and Myanmar, building on our vital work with local eye care teams there. In Ghana, just 90 ophthalmologists are serving a population of 28 million – and four out of five Ghanaians' blindness is avoidable. We spent two weeks in Accra boosting surgical skills for childhood strabismus, cataract, glaucoma and other conditions. And in the Caribbean, where more than 1.1 million people are blind or visually impaired, we went to Jamaica, training 44 ophthalmologists, nurses, technicians and ophthalmic assistants.

Jamaica played host to another Orbis landmark too – our first ever all-female flight crew. With more than 80 years flying experience between them, pilots Cyndhi Berwyn and Cheryl Pitzer came together to take our Flying Eye Hospital from Kingston back to the USA. Cyndhi and Cheryl were quick to point out that there's nothing unusual in seeing women pilots these days. But they also agreed that the flight was something to celebrate – the more exposure they get, the more likely that young girls will feel able to become pilots themselves.



### “An audacious idea”

That's how Dr Imran Yusuf, specialist registrar in ophthalmology and PhD student at Oxford University, described the notion of putting an operating theatre on a plane. Dr Yusuf was one of three young ophthalmologists sponsored by the European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) to attend our Flying Eye Hospital programme in Myanmar, in 2019. Most impressive was the Alcon Ngenuity 3D viewing system, which allows viewers to see surgery from the surgeon's point of view.

Dr Yusuf gave lectures on the plane and gained invaluable experience, not just of the technology, but the vital training work it does in places with limited eye health resources. We wish him and all the young eye care professionals we support every success in their commitment to high-quality eye care.



Dr Yusuf using the Alcon Ngenuity viewing system.

### Human Resources for Eye Health

Alongside the wonderful work of the Flying Eye Hospital, we also help boost eye health provision on the ground. Our Human Resources for Eye Health programme strengthens facilities and capacity in five training institutions in East Africa.

In Malawi, there is only one paediatric ophthalmologist – and nearly 7 million children. So, in 2019, at the Lions Sight First Eye Hospital in Blantyre, we trained five junior ophthalmologists with no experience of paediatric glaucoma surgery. Describing the programme as a 'breakthrough in local service delivery', they went on to perform successful surgeries themselves later that month.

Thanks to the expert support we received from Orbis volunteer Dr William Dean, we were also delighted to procure equipment for two wet-lab training facilities in Rwanda and Uganda, enabling us to plan further training for 2020.



Hakeema and her mother, Sumaiya. Hakeema was treated for squint on an Orbis Flying Eye Hospital visit to Ghana this year.

## Hakeema's story

**Two-year-old Hakeema is quite the character. When we went to interview her in Accra, Ghana, we could hardly get a word in due to her fondness for singing 'Old MacDonald' – very loud, on repeat. So it was especially tragic that her eye condition prevented her from going to nursery as a toddler.**

Hakeema was just one month old when her mother, Sumaiyah, noticed her squint. She rushed her to hospital, but the contact lenses they prescribed had little effect. Soon Hakeema could barely cope with any sort of light. The family were devastated.

Despite her eye problems, Hakeema was desperate to go to nursery, like her older sister. Every day, she would cry and ask her mother if she could go. But Sumaiyah was too worried to let her – not only out of concern for how she would cope but also because she feared being judged by other parents. There's a myth in their community that childhood squint is the fault of the mother, who might have done something wrong during her pregnancy.



*There's a myth in their community that childhood squint is the fault of the mother, who might have done something wrong during her pregnancy.*

Just as Sumaiyah was beginning to despair, she heard about an Orbis Flying Eye Hospital visit to the area. Our medical volunteers met Hakeema and recommended surgery. We caught up with the family soon after her treatment, although you wouldn't have known it to hear Hakeema sing.

Now, Sumaiyah's happily preparing her for nursery, just as soon as the scarring has healed. At last, Hakeema can join her sister. We just hope the school knows what it's letting itself in for.





# Trust, transparency and accountability

## Fundraising statement

We simply would not be able to deliver our vital work of preventing and treating avoidable blindness around the world without the remarkable generosity of our supporters. And we value our relationship with each and every one of them. So, in every aspect of our fundraising activity, we make sure we act with the greatest care, transparency and accountability.

We do this by having the right policies and controls in place to ensure we raise money in the most considerate and responsible way. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and follow their code of practice:

- We are transparent about how we raise funds
- We treat donors and supporters respectfully and fairly
- We explain clearly how to opt out of receiving fundraising communications
- We adhere to data protection laws and explain clearly how we use, store and secure personal details
- We take all reasonable steps to protect vulnerable people from persistent requests to donate

To ensure our compliance with the code, senior fundraising staff monitor all our activities. We also make sure all Orbis UK staff and volunteers involved in fundraising are properly trained, and that they adhere to the standards and procedures outlined above. We have robust systems in place for responding quickly and efficiently to resolve any complaints we receive. In 2019, we received three complaints about our fundraising.

Finally, in autumn this year, we established a Fundraising and Communications trustee sub-committee with the remit of maximising fundraising and communications initiatives in line with the organisation's strategic objectives. It meets quarterly and reports back to the full trustee board.

## The Orbis Supporter Promise

We value our supporters' contributions enormously, but above all, we value their trust.

- We spend their money effectively
- We contact them only in ways which have been agreed
- We listen when they change their mind
- We respect the privacy of their data

To find out more about our Supporter Promise and our policies on privacy and dealing with vulnerable supporters, please visit: [gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1](https://gbr.orbis.org/en/our-promise-1)

## Safeguarding

Orbis UK is committed to protecting people from harm, providing safe and effective care, and ensuring all our staff, contractors and volunteers follow a strict ethical code of practice.

In 2019, we took a number of important steps to review and build upon our safeguarding policies and processes. We have worked to ensure they are robust, fit for purpose, and that they reflect current best practice, making our programmes as safe as possible for our beneficiaries.

We also convened a 'Safeguarding Management Group'. Chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, the group meets eight times a year to review all aspects of safeguarding.

Having undertaken an independent appraisal of our policies and materials, we have strengthened our practices and better-understood how to provide safe, appropriate reporting mechanisms for everyone who comes into contact with Orbis.

We refined and enhanced the safeguarding policy suite to encompass whistleblowing, grievance, bullying and harassment, and a new code of conduct. The updated policies align with best practice and the DFID Enhanced Safeguarding Standard.

All staff participated in a safeguarding briefing in 2019, which will be refreshed annually, and a session for trustees will take place in 2020.

There were no safeguarding incidents to report in 2019.

Safeguarding will continue to be a focus for us in 2020. We are planning a number of consultations with communities to ensure everyone we work with, in whatever context, feels able to report safeguarding incidents easily, confidently and confidentially.

## Transparency

We are committed to full financial accountability and transparency. To find out about our participation in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), please visit [gbr.orbis.org/en/about-us/transparency](https://gbr.orbis.org/en/about-us/transparency)

The Charity Governance Code, designed as a tool to support improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated, was published in 2017. The Orbis UK board is mindful of its guidance and is committed to periodic review of our relevant practices.



Obito, who was treated for blinding trachoma, sits with her family outside their home in Ethiopia.



# How we did in 2019

## Optimise our resources to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness

**We exceeded all of the targets we set  
for programme outputs this year.**

- We supported 48 partner organisations across Asia and Africa, including hospitals and training institutions
- We provided almost 9.8 million doses of antibiotics to support trachoma elimination – over one million more than in 2018
- We conducted nearly 1.9 million eye screenings, of which 86% were for children
- We supported the delivery of over 158,000 eye care treatments, including cataract and trachomatous trichiasis surgeries
- We delivered almost 55,000 training sessions for doctors, nurses, community health workers and teachers

## Generating income

**Thanks to our remarkable supporters and partners, we raised more than £8.4 million – £945,000 more than in 2018.**

- Our 'See My Future' appeal (25th March-23rd June) raised a total of nearly £1.4m. All public donations were matched by the UK government's Aid Match scheme
- We were supported by 56 trusts and foundations, who donated £328,654, and 41 companies, who contributed £205,883
- 11,987 remarkable individuals gave money, ran the London marathon, or held a fundraising event for us
- 54 generous supporters left us gifts in their Wills
- We raised over £186,870 in online income – an increase of 150% on 2018. We also launched our new virtual gifts platform: [eyegive.orbis.org](https://eyegive.orbis.org)

## Develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management

**We have improved our operational systems  
and processes and reviewed our structures  
of governance.**

- We developed an internal training programme for all staff, promoted the use of e-learning, and adapted appraisals to encourage staff to develop their own training plans
- We enhanced our internal controls – in particular, we've improved our income processing to ensure we bank income efficiently and securely
- We established a 'Safeguarding Management Group', chaired by the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, to oversee the work we're doing to ensure a safe environment for everyone we work with
- We continued to monitor our internal processes that ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements – including taking external advice, as necessary, to ensure we are adhering to relevant current legislation

## Increase targeted brand awareness in the UK, Europe and the Middle East

**We continued to increase our brand awareness,  
with a particular focus on audiences with a  
personal or professional connection to eye health  
or aviation.**

- Our 'See My Future' appeal PR campaign, in collaboration with 13 communications partners, achieved 208m 'opportunities to view'
- We generated a total of 310 pieces of media coverage. These included high profile pieces in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail Online*, *Hello!* magazine and *The Spectator*, as well as in specialist publications, *The Ophthalmologist*, *Airliner World*, *Gransnet* and *The Oldie*.
- Traffic to our website grew 49% compared to 2018
- Our improved promotion and targeting delivered over 9,800 sign-ups for our regular e-newsletter



# Looking ahead to 2020

## Goal 1: Use a wide range of resources to deliver the optimal impact to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of blindness

We will work with Orbis International to monitor the performance of our grants and the projects we fund, continuously seeking to improve delivery, reporting and impact. Given the end of some major grants in 2019, this will mean supporting 20 partner institutions in Asia and Africa to:

- distribute 4.2m doses of antibiotics for trachoma elimination
- conduct 590,000 patient screenings
- deliver 58,000 eye treatments
- provide 7,800 training sessions for health workers

We will endeavour to secure our current pipeline funding and seek new funding opportunities in the UK, Europe and the Middle East to help expand our impact.

## Goal 2: Generate income

We will increase funds raised year-on-year to reach £3,870k unrestricted income, and £4,183k restricted income by 2022, in the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

- In 2020, the fundraising aims can be broken down as follows: UK voluntary £3.94 million; Middle East £2.36 million; and statutory £1.42 million
- We will apply to the Department for International Development (DFID) and other statutory sources for grants to support our work in developing countries
- The Qatar Fund for Development has pledged to keep on supporting our work from 2020, enabling us to expand our Qatar Creating Vision initiative further across Africa and Asia
- We will continue our 'digital transformation' – which means optimising our online and social media presence to generate income among a broader legacy, individual, philanthropy and partnership supporter base

## Goal 3: Build and increase brand awareness amongst the four key target audiences in the UK, Europe and the Middle East

We'll aim to raise our profile, building a community of supporters with an understanding and appreciation of our work. We will also continue to respectfully tell our beneficiaries' stories by producing sensitive and engaging written and visual content.

- We will deliver at least 350 mentions in the media
- We will increase traffic to our website by 20%
- We will grow our number of social media followers by 15%
- We will attract 15,000 new email subscribers

## Goal 4: Develop and strengthen our governance and organisational management and nurture talent

We will continue to improve our financial and governance processes, increasing efficiencies through becoming 'digital by design', ensuring value for money, and being an exemplary employer. Specifically, we will:

- Commence the work of the 'Fundraising and Communications' sub-committee
- Continue to upgrade our systems and software
- Improve and refine our recruitment processes
- Invest and improve in staff learning and development

*Please note: These goals were set before the rapid spread of coronavirus, which will now clearly affect our activities in 2020. For our response at the time of writing, see page 39, 'Risk management'.*



# Thank you

Our sight-saving work wouldn't be possible without our remarkable supporters, partners and volunteers.

## Generous individuals, charitable trusts and foundations (gifts of £5,000 or more)

Kit J Braden  
Lena Carter  
Philip Chan  
Joy and Richard Desmond  
Julian and Pat Heslop  
Peter and Rosemary Hickson  
Hodge Foundation  
John Ramplin Charitable Trust  
Professor Johnnie Johnson  
Gary Lee-Richards  
Mactaggart Third Fund  
Robin and Bridget Pinchbeck  
R U B White Charitable Trust  
Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners Charitable Foundation Ltd  
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust  
Stanley Grundy Foundation  
The Beatrice Laing Trust  
The Bhim Ruia Foundation  
The Bliss Family Charity  
The Carpenter Charitable Trust  
The Clothworkers Foundation  
The Hamead Trust  
The Headley Trust  
The Sandhu Charitable Foundation  
The Valentine Charitable Trust  
Ulverscroft Foundation  
David and Helen Watson  
Peter Williams

We also want to thank the high value donors who wished to remain anonymous. We are especially grateful to all supporters who generously made a gift in their Will to Orbis during 2019.

## Statutory funders

Department for International Development (DFID)  
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission  
Sightsavers  
The Qatar Fund for Development

## Global corporate partners

Alcon Foundation  
Collins Aerospace  
FedEx  
Jebsen  
OMEGA  
Pfizer  
Standard Chartered  
The Boeing Company  
UTC Aerospace Systems

## UK, European and Middle East corporate partners (gifts over £1,000)

A Nelson and Co Limited  
ACS International Schools  
Aerospares 2000 Ltd  
Airliner1  
Airport Operators Association  
Aviation Logistics Network (ALN)  
Aviation News  
BCG Digital Ventures  
Clyde & Co  
Cubitts  
Daily Mail and General Trust (DMGT)  
DVB Bank  
European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)  
European Society of Retina Specialists (EURETINA)  
Go SideMount  
Industrial Optimizers  
Iolla Limited  
Notice Films

Merkle  
PHB Ethical Beauty Ltd  
Qatar Airways  
Qatar British Business Forum  
Reed Exhibitions Limited  
Reed Smith Richards Butler LLP  
Storm Interface  
Suneez  
TD Tom Davies  
The Aviation Club  
The Aviation Festival Europe / Terrapinn Holdings Limited  
World Aviation Festival

## Institutional partners

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)  
International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH)  
International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC)  
UK Coalition against Neglected Tropical Diseases (UKCNTD)

## 'See My Future' communications partners

ACS International schools  
Altomed  
B&M stores  
Belledorm  
Clifford Chance  
ConnectJets  
Flightworx  
Glenmuir  
Gransnet  
Iolla  
Missguided.com  
Sock Shop  
The Ophthalmologist

## Special thanks

HRH The Countess of Wessex  
British Embassy Doha  
Embassy of the State of Qatar, UK  
Hamad Medical City  
Qatar Ministry of Public Health

## UK, Ireland and Europe volunteers, 2019

George Appasamy  
Bazil Ateleanu  
Lawrence Azavedo  
Glenda Bajar  
Donal Brosnahan  
John Brookes  
Irma Casale  
Maria "Belén Calahorro" Cardoso  
Fiona Dean  
Mairead English  
John Ferris  
Violeta Filipova  
Ian Fleming  
Nadine Grant-McKenzie  
Philippa Anne Jones  
Michelle Le Cheminant  
Jonathan Lord  
Tony McAleer  
Ghalib Mukadam  
Thomas Nea  
Manish Raval  
Sanjay Saikia  
Sathish Srinivasan

## Office volunteers, 2019

Polly Holt

## UK ambassadors, 2019

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Ian Fleming  
Mary Killen  
Brian Little  
Rob Pinchbeck  
Sunil Ruia  
Emad Turkman MBE  
Henry Wyndham  
Toby Young

## Co-opted sub-committee members

Ann-Marie Ablett  
Chris Bentley  
Donal Brosnahan  
Tim Bucher



# Board of trustees

## Chairman

### **Peter Hickson MA FCA, Chairman, UK**

Peter Hickson has been chairman of Orbis UK since 2015, having joined the board in 2008. For three years he was also a board member and treasurer of Orbis International in New York. During an extensive international business career, he has been a director of over a dozen international public companies, four of them as chairman. Major roles have included finance director of Powergen from 1996–2002 and chairman of Anglian Water until 2009.

He is also a trustee of Sonoro Music.

## Trustees

### **Sir Michael Arthur**

Sir Michael Arthur was a career diplomat until 2010 in roles including three years as British Ambassador to Germany, four years as High Commissioner in India, and time in Washington, Paris, Kinshasa and Brussels. His time in India deepened his interest in development issues. He is now the President of Boeing Europe, overseeing and running operations across the UK and the continent.

Michael joined the Orbis UK board in 2011 and stood down in March 2019.

### **Larry Benjamin FRCS (Ed), FRCOphth, DO, Programme Committee Chair, UK**

Larry Benjamin was a consultant ophthalmologist at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire for 30 years (recently retired) and has been an Orbis medical volunteer since 2004. With special interests in cataract and diabetic retinopathy management, he has also served on the ophthalmic committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, published a number of scientific papers and two books. He was, until December 2018, chair of the microsurgical skills committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and is the immediate past-president of the United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He is the president-elect of the ophthalmic section of the Royal Society of Medicine. In March 2016, Larry received the Care Service Provider trophy at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his work improving access to eye care services across the globe.

Larry joined the Orbis UK board in 2008.

### **Michael Boyd**

Michael Boyd holds a degree in commerce from University College Dublin and is a barrister-at-law. He has also studied at the Harvard and London Business Schools. Most of his working life has been spent providing economic advice to developing countries in the field of international trade.

Michael joined the Orbis UK board in 2010, and he also sits on the board of Orbis Ireland.

### **Christopher (Kit) Braden**

Kit Braden is chair of L'Occitane Limited and a director of L'Occitane Group. Since starting his business career with De La Rue in the 1960s, he has developed a number of privately held manufacturing businesses with factories in Europe, Asia and USA. Kit has supported Orbis projects, through the L'Occitane Foundation, for over 12 years.

Kit joined the Orbis UK board in 2013 and stood down in June 2019.

### **Bruce Buck**

Bruce Buck is chair of Chelsea FC plc and its wholly owned subsidiary Chelsea Football Club Limited. He is a director of Globalworth Real Estate Limited. Previously, he was managing partner for Europe for the international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and responsible for a broad array of transactions in the corporate and financial areas. He has been practicing law in Europe since 1983.

Bruce joined the Orbis UK board in 1997 and stepped down in October 2019.

### **Tony Cowles**

Tony Cowles has served in senior managerial positions for a number of airlines and travel services companies. He is a freeman of the City of London and a liveryman with the Worshipful Company of Marketors.

Tony joined the Orbis UK board in 2002.

### **Yvette Dunne, Designated Trustee for Safeguarding, UK**

Yvette Dunne graduated in mathematics and computation from St Hugh's College, Oxford, and then trained and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. After 15 years in financial management roles in the banking and recruitment industries, Yvette spent 10 years as a CFO in the not-for-profit sector, most recently at St John's School, an independent school charity. She currently advises schools and charities on compliance and risk management.

Yvette joined the Orbis UK Board in December 2017.

### **Nicola Floyd**

Nicola worked in investment banking in London, Hong Kong, Bangkok and New York for more than 10 years. She worked as a consultant to Operation Fistula for two years. She is currently CEO of Water Harvest and also sits on the board of the Edenbeg Charitable Trust. She has a degree in economic history from Edinburgh University, is a CFA charter holder, and holds other financial and regulatory qualifications.

Nicola joined the Orbis UK Board in September 2017.

### **Patricia Moller**

Following a highly awarded 25+ year career with the US Department of State, Patricia ended her government service to return to the private sector. Through her consultancy, Moller Global LLC, she has advised Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, IFIs and governments. Presently, Patricia chairs the board of West Africa LNG Group and The Baara Hospital. She also serves on a number of other boards.

Patricia joined the board of Orbis UK in November of 2017. She also sits on the board of Orbis International.



## **Rob Pinchbeck, Deputy Chairman, UK**

Rob has 40 years of international experience in the oil industry, principally in BP and Petrofac, where, in 2002, he founded and led the Operations Services division. He has previously served as a trustee of UK medical research charity RAFT and as non-executive director on a number of private company boards. He holds degrees in engineering (Imperial College, London) and business (Stanford, California).

Rob joined the board of Orbis UK in July 2017.

## **Christine Tomkins, BSc(Hons), MBChB(Hons), DO, FRCS, FRCOphth, MBA, FFFLM, FRCP**

Christine Tomkins is the chief executive of the Medical Defence Union (MDU) and has been a registered medical practitioner for 40 years. She has a proven record of sustained leadership and achievement. Dr Tomkins was a trustee of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity until 2010, and she was chair from 2004 to 2009.

Christine joined the Orbis UK board in 2011.

## **Charles Vyvyan**

After Oxford University, Charles Vyvyan spent 35 years in the army in a variety of operational command and staff appointments throughout the world. Since he retired in 2000, he has worked as a strategic adviser to a number of government and commercial organisations.

Charles joined the Orbis UK board in 2008 and also sits on the board of Orbis International.

## **Catharina Waller**

Catharina Waller is a senior trademark and patent attorney at the law firm Bates Wells and has over 10 years' experience working in the intellectual property (IP) law sector. She frequently works with both charities and commercial companies on IP matters. She has a degree in chemical engineering from Imperial College, as well as a degree in intellectual property management.

Catharina joined the Orbis UK Board in July 2017.

## **Robert F Walters FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FRCOphth.**

Rob Walters is a consultant ophthalmologist, working in the National Health Service (NHS) for over 30 years, and an Orbis medical volunteer since 1994. Rob has played key roles in numerous UK eye health organisations and authored three books on the causes and treatment of blindness.

Rob joined the Orbis UK board in June 2003 and served as chair from 2008-2015. In 2014, he was honoured with the title 'Trustee of the Year' at the Charity Staff and Volunteer Awards for his dedication to improving eye health globally. Rob also served as chairman of the boards of Orbis International in New York and Orbis Africa, and he remains an emeritus member of both these boards.

## **Nigel Young, Audit Committee Chair, UK**

Nigel Young trained with KPMG in London and has been a finance director of several UK public companies. In addition to a degree in economics from the University of Birmingham, he also holds a masters degree in environmental science. Nigel is also currently a non-executive chairman of P2i Limited.

Nigel joined the Orbis UK board in 2012.

# Financial statements



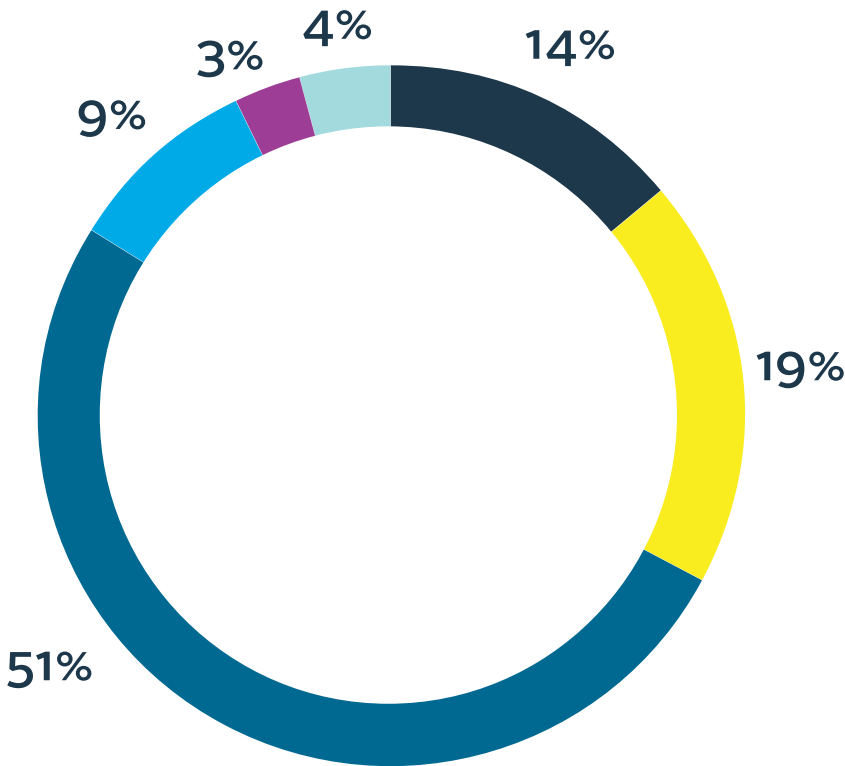
Ganga, hard at work at her school in Nepal, wearing glasses provided as part of the Orbis REACH programme.



# 2019 Financial summary

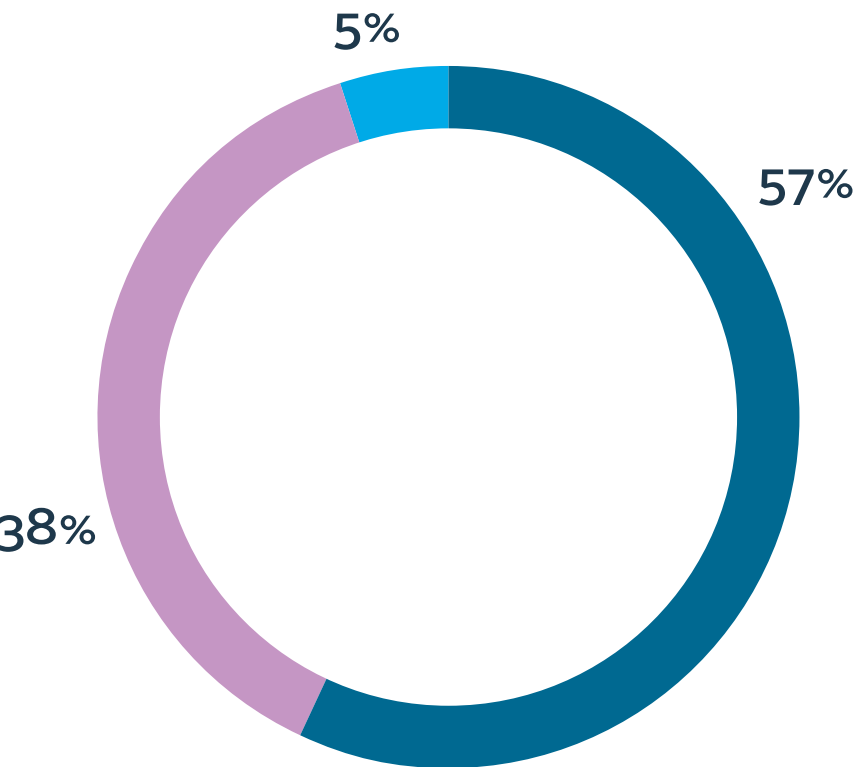
## Income 2019

- Individual supporters
- Legacies
- Statutory
- Major donors
- Corporate
- Trusts



## Charitable activities 2019

- Comprehensive eye care
- Childhood blindness
- Specialist training



The cost of fundraising was 17.3% of our income in 2019.

# Reference and administrative details

Orbis Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 1061352) and a company limited by guarantee (No 3303689). The Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that the liability of each member is limited to £1 in the event of the company being wound up. Orbis UK’s address, the names of trustees, the name of the Chief Executive and other senior management and information on advisers are detailed on the last page of the financial statements.

Orbis UK is an affiliate of Project Orbis International, a non-profit global development organisation established under the laws of the State of New York.

The two organisations work collaboratively, sharing a common vision to transform lives through the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness, and share a common mission to mentor, train and inspire local teams so they can save sight in their communities.

Orbis UK engages in fundraising, branding, communications, grant management, donor stewardship and relationship management. Orbis International is responsible for all programme activities world-wide, it designs and manages programmes, and determines the global medical and programme strategy.

This relationship, and those with other affiliated organisations, Orbis Ireland and Orbis Africa, are described in further detail in Note 19 (Related parties).

## Objectives and principal activities of the charity

Orbis UK’s Memorandum of Association states that the objects for the public benefit for which it is established are:

- a. The relief of persons suffering from blindness and the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling
- b. The conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies and the publication of the useful results of that research for the public benefit

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when considering Orbis UK’s objectives and activities. Orbis UK provides funds to Orbis International to enable project implementation by grants funding to partners, who include government, local non-governmental and community-based organisations. When selecting the geographical project area, we consider the level of government commitment to eye care to ensure that our work is integrated sustainably in the national or provincial health system. More information on what Orbis UK does, our work, how we performed in 2019, and our four key goals for 2020, can be found in the front section of this report.

## Financial review and results for the year

In 2019, income generated and expenditure on charitable activities were the highest in Orbis UK’s history. There remained a wide diversity of income from different sources, with no reliance on one single source of income.

Income from donations and legacies, excluding grants, was £4,103k, a small decrease of 1.0% compared to 2018. Broken down, this included an increase in legacy income of 6.7% and a fall in donations of 5.3%: both compared to 2018. The steady growth in legacy income is forecast to continue. Income from the public fell slightly due to challenges in growing the supporter database. Corporate income increased by 9.9% with generous donations from the Daily Mail, General Trust and Qatar Airways. Major Donor income increased by 36.4%, owing to the successful Department for International Development (DFID) ‘See My Future’ Aid Match appeal for Nepal. Trust income fell by



49.8% due to the receipt of two large donations in 2018 not repeated in 2019. Grant income was increased by £964k (29.1%) in 2019 due to increased funding for the trachoma elimination programme in Ethiopia.

Overall expenditure increased by £621k (7.5%) compared to 2018.

Fundraising expenditure increased by £268k compared to 2018. The increase was due to the investment in Orbis UK's digital transformation, including additional staff, increased online products and online advertising designed to secure Orbis UK's future income. The cost of raising funds in 2019 was 17.1% of income (2018: 15.9%), which is well below the trustees' target range of 25-30%.

Expenditure on charitable activities increased by £353k (5.0%) in 2019 compared to 2018.

Programme expenditure on the Comprehensive Eye Care programme increased by £520k (13.9%), which was the largest programme expenditure increase, due to increased funding from Sightsavers for the trachoma elimination programmes in Ethiopia and Zambia. Spending on Childhood Blindness increased by 1.5%, with continued funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) for the Qatar Creating Vision programme. Expenditure on Specialist Training increased by £36k (11.1%). Funding for Our Influence was discontinued as it was no longer a strategic priority for Orbis International.

The unrestricted funds at the end of December 2018 were higher than the trustees' reserves target. The trustees agreed that the excess reserve funds would be directed towards programme expenditure in 2019; this resulted in a significant decrease in the excess reserves at the end of 2019, though it was still higher than the targeted level by £155k.

We are extremely grateful to those who help prevent and treat blindness in the developing world through their generous donations.

## Structure, governance and management

Orbis UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association amended on 29 September 1997 and also on 22 December 2005. The board of trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the charity. It makes decisions on the strategic direction and policies of Orbis UK and delegates

day-to-day management and implementation of these decisions to the chief executive.

Orbis UK adheres to Orbis International's global policies relating to project selection and approval; all other policies are approved by the trustees to comply with UK legal requirements and good business practice. In addition, Orbis UK and Orbis International collaborate on the content of global policies, e.g. safeguarding policies. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees as additions to the existing board or to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death. The trustees are members and directors for Companies Act purposes. Larry Benjamin, Michael Boyd and Nigel Young are the longest-serving trustees and will retire at the next AGM. The retirees may offer themselves for re-election. The Charity Governance Code recommends that the maximum term of office for a trustee should be nine years. The trustees have agreed to adopt this recommendation and will implement it over the coming years.

Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan also serve as directors of Orbis International. Michael Boyd serves as a director of Orbis Ireland.

On appointment to the board, trustees receive a trustee handbook that includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission and good governance information, trustee job descriptions, terms of reference for sub-committees, and programme information. They receive inductions from the chief executive and the senior management team. At board meetings, presentations are made on relevant topics to keep trustees up to date with developments within Orbis and the charity sector generally.

Normally, the board meets four times a year and delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the charity as set out below. Three sub-committees report to the board, each with specific terms of reference and functions delegated by the board.

## Charity Governance Code

The Charity Governance Code was revised in 2017. It is designed as a tool to support continuous improvement in the governance of charity boards and recognised as a standard against which performance can be evaluated. Seven principles make up the code: organisational purpose; leadership; integrity; decision-making, risk and control; board effectiveness; diversity; openness

and accountability. In relation to each principle, the code sets out the rationale, key outcomes for trustee boards, and a list of recommended practices to achieve these outcomes. The Orbis UK board is mindful of its guidance and is committed to periodic review of our relevant practices.

In 2019, the board agreed to review and revise the Memorandum and Articles of Association; these will be adopted in 2020.

## Audit committee

The audit committee comprises trustees who are responsible for reviewing the management accounts throughout the year, monitoring Orbis UK's internal controls, recommending the appointment of auditors, reviewing the management letter submitted by the auditors, risk assessment, and financial management of the charity.

## Programme committee

The programme committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for ensuring that Orbis UK maintains a high standard in project selection, development, implementation and monitoring. Many of them have an ophthalmic background.

## Fundraising and communications committee

The fundraising and communications committee comprises trustees and co-opted members who are responsible for supporting the Orbis UK senior management team to maximise fundraising and communications initiatives in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

## Chief executive and senior management team

The chief executive is responsible for the management of Orbis UK's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the trustees. The chief executive is supported by the senior management team. The senior management team comprises key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing, controlling and operating Orbis UK on a day-to-day basis.

## Remuneration of personnel

The pay of all staff, including the senior management team, is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with the cost of living. A benchmarking exercise is carried out every three years for comparable roles within the public

and not-for-profit sector in Central London to set market pay levels for Orbis UK staff. No ex-gratia payments were made in the year.

## Risk management

The trustees are committed to maintaining a robust risk management framework to manage risk appropriately. The audit committee considers Orbis UK's strategic and operational risks and the mitigations for risks at each meeting. Once a year, the board formally reviews the risk policy, the risk register and approach to risk management.

The trustees have identified the impact of Covid-19 as the principal risk. They have considered the impact on the charity's future plans and budgeting processes, assessing that the effect of the outbreak will be a significant risk into the December 2020 year-end. The high level of free reserves at the end of December 2019 and significant receipts of unrestricted income received in early 2020 will mitigate against an expected downturn in income in the remainder of 2020. It is also anticipated that there will be a slowdown in programme expenditure. The effect on this year's financial statements has been considered in Note 20 (Post balance sheet events) of the financial statements.

A further risk is the decline in active donors and challenges in recruiting new supporters, which could lead to a reduction in income and the possibility that costs may not be covered. In mitigation, a fundraising and communications strategy has been developed that includes provision for cost recovery. Another area of risk is the capacity of in-country teams to meet increased donor reporting requirements; this continues to be mitigated through the role of the Orbis UK programme support and finance teams. Finally, there is the continuing risk that international incidents may have an impact on staff, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries.

## Reserves policy

The trustees have examined Orbis UK's requirements for free reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. The risks that have been identified are: having insufficient working capital to meet outstanding commitments; that unbudgeted costs may arise; and that there may be an unexpected shortfall in income.

Having taken these risks into account, the trustees have identified a reserves target of £1,300k +/- 10% as an appropriate level of general reserves for Orbis UK to hold. At 31 December 2019, the



balance on general reserves was £1,585k which was £155k above the maximum reserves target set by the trustees; this was due to unrestricted legacy income in 2019 being higher than expected, and a high level of general reserves brought forward from 2018 (£1,621k). The trustees have set a budget for 2020 which will bring the general reserves within the target range.

In addition to the general reserve, at 31 December 2019 designated funds stood at £118k. Designated funds are funds allocated by the trustees for particular purposes. Further details are shown in Note 16.

## Grant making policy

The board of trustees approves the decision to fund specific projects following a recommendation by the programme committee, financial approval by the audit committee, and selection criteria that include:

- The size and/or priority of the targeted eye health problem
- The potential impact on preventable blindness
- Strategic alignment
- Value for money
- The fundability of the project in the UK
- The need to maintain a balanced portfolio of programme activity

All projects should fall within the Orbis International approved project portfolio. Funds are transferred to Orbis International on the basis of actual or forecast expenditure on the projects.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Orbis UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. 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 affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 SORP/FRS 102;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the 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 charity's transactions, 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 Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The trustees have applied the exemption available to small companies from preparing a strategic report. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the trustees of Orbis UK at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which Orbis UK's auditor is unaware. Each trustee has taken all of the steps that he/she should have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/ herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Orbis UK's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies.

## Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 23 June 2020 and signed on their behalf.



**Peter Hickson,**  
Chairman

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Orbis Charitable Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Orbis Charitable Trust ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 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 of 31 December 2019 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.

## Basis for opinion

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 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.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members 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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## 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. 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has 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 company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 40, 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

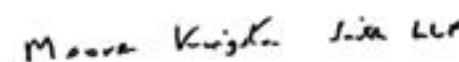
We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may

involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**Signed**  
**Neil Finlayson (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor**

Date: 25/06/2020

Devonshire House, 60 Goswell  
Road, London, EC1M 7AD



# Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2018 (£)	Restricted funds 2018 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	5	3,673,102	4,727,837	<b>8,400,939</b>	3,476,931	3,987,256	7,464,187
Investments		21,497	-	<b>21,497</b>	13,513	-	13,513
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>3,694,599</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>8,422,436</b>	<b>3,490,444</b>	<b>3,987,256</b>	<b>7,477,700</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds		1,380,238	75,000	<b>1,455,238</b>	1,187,283	-	1,187,283
Charitable activities:							
Comprehensive Eye Care		938,414	3,328,356	<b>4,266,770</b>	1,423,952	2,322,984	3,746,936
Childhood Blindness		1,162,448	1,652,491	<b>2,814,939</b>	775,730	1,997,757	2,773,487
Specialist Training		187,252	172,358	<b>359,610</b>	230,808	92,752	323,561
Our Influence		-	-	-	243,851	-	243,851
Total expenditure on charitable activities		2,288,114	5,153,205	<b>7,441,319</b>	2,674,342	4,413,493	7,087,835
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,668,352</b>	<b>5,228,205</b>	<b>8,896,557</b>	<b>3,861,624</b>	<b>4,413,493</b>	<b>8,275,118</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(558)	-	<b>(558)</b>	(2,012)	-	(2,012)
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>25,689</b>	<b>(500,368)</b>	<b>(474,679)</b>	<b>(373,192)</b>	<b>(426,237)</b>	<b>(799,429)</b>
Transfers between funds	16	(28,079)	28,079	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(2,390)</b>	<b>(472,289)</b>	<b>(474,679)</b>	<b>(373,192)</b>	<b>(426,237)</b>	<b>(799,429)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		1,705,388	1,235,615	<b>2,941,003</b>	2,078,580	1,661,852	3,740,432
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>	<b>1,705,388</b>	<b>1,235,615</b>	<b>2,941,003</b>

All operations of Orbis UK continued throughout both years. There were no gains or losses other than the deficit for the year.

# Balance sheet

as at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>			
Tangible assets	12	<b>118,005</b>	84,123
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>118,005</b>	84,123
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Investments	13	-	21,645
Debtors	14	<b>386,405</b>	1,531,671
Short term deposits		<b>2,118,362</b>	517,068
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>2,008,727</b>	2,270,701
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,513,494</b>	4,341,085
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<b>(2,165,175)</b>	(1,484,205)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,348,319</b>	2,856,880
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,466,324</b>	2,941,003
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:</b>			
Restricted funds		<b>763,326</b>	1,235,615
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General reserve		<b>1,584,993</b>	1,621,266
Designated funds		<b>118,005</b>	84,123
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>1,702,998</b>	1,705,389
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>	2,941,003

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 23 June 2020.

Trustee:   
Peter Hickson

Trustee:   
Nigel Young



# Cash flow statement

year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	<b>1,367,945</b>	717,381
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Interest and income from investments		<b>21,497</b>	13,513
Proceeds from sale of investments		<b>47,626</b>	-
Acquisition of investments		<b>(26,539)</b>	(21,645)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<b>(71,209)</b>	(88,113)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(28,625)</b>	(96,245)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<b>1,339,320</b>	621,137
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	B	<b>2,787,769</b>	2,166,632
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	B	<b>4,127,089</b>	2,787,769

## Notes to the cash flow statement:

### A. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	<b>(474,679)</b>	(799,430)
Depreciation charges	<b>35,957</b>	19,109
(Gains) from investments	<b>558</b>	-
Interest from investments	<b>(21,497)</b>	(13,513)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	<b>1,370</b>	505
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	<b>1,145,266</b>	835,625
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	<b>680,970</b>	675,085
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED IN) BY OPERATING ACTIVIES</b>	<b>1,367,945</b>	717,381

### B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Short-term	<b>2,118,362</b>	517,068
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>2,008,727</b>	2,270,701
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,127,089</b>	2,787,769

### C. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2019 £	Cashflows £	Foreign Exchange Movements £	At 31 December 2019 £
Short-term investments	<b>517,068</b>	1,601,294	-	2,118,362
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>2,270,701</b>	(168,534)	(93,440)	2,008,727
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>2,787,769</b>	1,432,760	(93,440)	4,127,089

# Notes to the financial statements

## Statements year ended 31 December 2019

### 1. Company information

Orbis Charitable Trust (Orbis UK) is a registered charity and as such is a non-profit making organisation, limited by guarantee and therefore with no share capital. The number of members at 31 December 2019 is 13, and their liability on liquidation is limited to £1 each. Orbis UK is registered as a limited liability company in England and Wales under number 3303689, and its registered office is 6th Floor, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF. Orbis UK is a Public Benefit Entity registered with the Charity Commission under number 1061352.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015.

Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Orbis UK's key activities are the relief of persons suffering from blindness, the prevention and cure of blindness by the provision of training, education and counselling, the conduct of research into the causes and cure of blindness and sight deficiencies, and the publication of useful results of that research for the public benefit.

### 2. Key judgments and assumptions

In applying of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 4, trustees are required to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying 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 on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates

are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period. Should the revision affect current and future periods, revisions are recognised accordingly.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described in the accounting policies; they are summarised below:

Residuary legacies – The charity recognises residuary legacies when Orbis UK has an entitlement to the money (which is usually upon grant of probate) when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt; this, therefore, requires an estimation of the amount receivable.

### 3. Presentation currency

The functional currency of Orbis UK is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling.

### 4. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements, together with judgments, and key sources of estimation uncertainty, are as follows:

#### a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015. Orbis UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Having reviewed the financial position, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue



# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

### Statements year ended 31 December 2019

to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**b. Going concern**  
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Orbis UK's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Due consideration for the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak, which occurred after these financial statements were prepared but before they were signed, has been taken. The charity is largely sheltered from the financial impact of Covid-19 due to the high level of unrestricted funds at the year-end and a significant unrestricted donation in February 2020. Trustees have also revised operational plans and expenditures and have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. See Note 20 (Post balance sheet events).

**c. Fund accounting**  
Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of Orbis UK. The fund comprises the accumulated surpluses and deficits of unrestricted income and expenditure.

The trustees have designated certain funds within unrestricted funds for specified purposes (Note 16, Designated funds). Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donors or, with their authority, by the terms of an appeal, but still within the objects of Orbis UK.

**d. Income**  
Donations are recognised in the financial statements when received. Legacies are recognised once the charity becomes entitled to the legacy, is certain of receipt, and can measure the amount of the legacy with reasonable accuracy; this is usually upon grant of probate, when it is measurable and when there is a probability of receipt. Grants are recognised when received or receivable.

**e. Gifts in kind and donated services**  
Medical supplies and other items and services received are included as income at value to the charity and as resources expended at the same value when distributed, where the value in the year is £1,000 or more per annum from the donor.

**f. Expenditure**  
Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

The cost of raising funds comprises fundraising costs associated with generating voluntary income.

Charitable activities comprise all expenditure on activities directly relating to the objects of Orbis UK, including the payments of grants, direct programme expenditure, and the costs of supporting charitable activities.

Support costs comprise staff involvement with Orbis UK programmes and central costs (including management, finance, IT, governance and other support costs). They are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time or another basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs are those expenses incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Payments in foreign currency are translated at the actual rate on the date of the transaction.

**g. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**  
Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost and include any incidental expenses of acquisition. Assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

- Computer equipment – 20–25 per cent straight-line, depending on the date of purchase
- Office equipment – 20 per cent straight-line
- Leasehold improvements – over the remaining length of the lease, which has been taken as the date of the break option of 10 May 2023 even though the lease expires on 10 May 2028

# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

### Statements year ended 31 December 2019

**h. Debtors**  
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the transaction price. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**i. Investments**  
Listed investments are included in the balance sheet at market value. Donated investments are sold shortly after receipt and therefore included in current assets.

**j. Short term deposits**  
Short term deposits and cash at bank are split based on a working capital requirement of three months expenditure.

**k. Cash at bank and in hand**  
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**l. Creditors**  
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and in such cases that the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Short-term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price.

**m. Pension costs**  
During the year, the charity contributed to a defined contribution group personal pension plan. The contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred.

**n. Operating leases**  
Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**o. Liabilities**  
Grants are recognised in the accounts once a legal or constructive obligation has been created.

**p. Financial instruments**  
Orbis UK has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise bank loans and overdrafts, trade and other creditors. At the balance sheet date the charity held financial assets at amortised cost of £4,448k (2018 £4,197k) and financial liabilities at amortised cost of £2,047k (2018 £1,428k).

**q. Foreign exchange**  
Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction except for Orbis International programme expenditure which is recognised at either the monthly average exchange rate or, in the case of the Sightsavers contract, the quarterly average exchange rate. All non-pounds sterling current assets and liabilities are translated into pounds sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities.

### 5. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2018 (£)	Restricted funds 2018 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
Donations	2,071,627	430,302	2,501,929	1,976,455	665,887	2,642,343
Legacies	1,601,475	-	1,601,475	1,500,475	-	1,500,475
Grants	-	4,297,535	4,297,535	-	3,321,369	3,321,369
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,673,102</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>8,400,939</b>	<b>3,476,931</b>	<b>3,987,256</b>	<b>7,464,187</b>



# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

### 6. Income from grants

		Total 2019 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
Sightsavers	Ethiopia	2,392,588	1,082,847
		2,392,588	1,082,847
Qatar Fund for Development	Qatar Creating Vision	1,136,958	1,446,389
		1,136,958	1,446,389
UK government: Department for International Development	Ethiopia	386,078	212,080
	Vision for Zambia	134,474	286,915
	Nepal	10,864	-
		531,416	498,995
Government of Jersey	Ethiopia	136,573	136,573
	Human Resources for Eye Health in Africa	100,000	100,000
	Ghana	-	16,565
		236,573	253,138
Government of Guernsey	Ethiopia	-	40,000
		-	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,297,535</b>	<b>3,321,369</b>

All income from grants is restricted income.

### 7. Gifts in kind and donated services

The following gifts in kind and donated services were received:

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Google grant advert	18,000	18,000
Flights	17,629	12,222
Programme support in the form of frames	10,300	9,630
Stand at aviation festival	9,330	5,000
Legal advice	6,523	-
Aviation festival tickets	6,290	-
Fundraising product development	1,500	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,572</b>	<b>44,852</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

### 8. Net incoming resources is stated after charging:

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Payments under operating leases	119,773	99,170
Depreciation	35,956	19,110
Fees paid to the auditor:		
• Audit fees	12,800	12,370
• Tax advisory services	910	880

### 9. Total resources expended

	Activities undertaken directly 2019 (£)	Grant funding 2019 (£)	Support costs 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)	Activities undertaken directly 2018 (£)	Grant funding 2018 (£)	Support costs 2018 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Raising funds	1,245,053	-	210,185	1,455,238	1,041,406	-	145,877	1,187,283
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	398,479	3,711,967	156,324	4,266,770	410,846	3,196,856	139,234	3,746,936
Childhood Blindness	600,310	1,980,143	234,486	2,814,939	411,311	2,222,942	139,234	2,773,487
Specialist Training	111,956	221,600	26,054	359,610	79,488	220,867	23,206	323,561
Our Influence	-	-	-	-	138,180	82,465	23,206	243,851
	1,110,745	5,913,710	416,864	7,441,319	1,039,825	5,723,130	324,880	7,087,835
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,355,798</b>	<b>5,913,710</b>	<b>627,049</b>	<b>8,896,557</b>	<b>2,081,231</b>	<b>5,723,130</b>	<b>470,757</b>	<b>8,275,118</b>

**GRANTS PAYABLE** Grants of £5,913,710 (2018: £5,723,130) were made during the year for projects managed by Orbis International. £4,946,398 (2018: £4,175,260) represents the expenditure of restricted donations received from donors for specific projects, details of these projects are given in Note 16 under Restricted Funds. The balance of £967,312 (2018: £1,547,871) was directed to projects in Ethiopia, Southern and Western Africa, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and India and the Flying Eye Hospital on specific projects identified by the trustees. Total support costs allocated to grant making activities totalled £416,864 (2018: £324,880).



# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

## 10. Total resources expended

	Support staff costs 2019 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2019 (£)	Governance 2019 (£)	Total 2019 (£)	Support staff costs 2018 (£)	Facilities depreciation 2018 (£)	Governance 2018 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
<b>COST OF RAISING FUNDS</b>								
Cost of raising funds	-	202,945	7,240	<b>210,185</b>	-	139,160	6,717	145,877
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>								
Comprehensive Eye Care	48,144	104,454	3,726	<b>156,324</b>	46,948	88,036	4,250	139,234
Childhood Blindness	72,216	156,681	5,589	<b>234,486</b>	46,948	88,036	4,250	139,234
Specialist Training	7,442	17,991	621	<b>26,054</b>	7,243	15,255	708	23,206
Our Influence	-	-	-	-	7,825	14,673	708	23,206
	<b>127,801</b>	<b>279,127</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>416,864</b>	<b>108,964</b>	<b>206,000</b>	<b>9,916</b>	<b>324,880</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,801</b>	<b>482,072</b>	<b>17,176</b>	<b>627,049</b>	<b>108,964</b>	<b>345,160</b>	<b>16,633</b>	<b>470,757</b>

Support staff costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff time in each area of charitable activity. Facilities and depreciation costs have been allocated on the basis of staff time in each area across fundraising and charitable activities.

## 11. Staff costs

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Wages and salaries	<b>1,389,451</b>	1,344,636
Social security costs	<b>147,562</b>	145,982
Pension costs	<b>89,941</b>	75,073
Employment settlement agreement	<b>15,000</b>	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,641,954</b>	1,565,691

Number of full time equivalent employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000:

£60,000 - £70,000	<b>1</b>	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	<b>2</b>	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	<b>1</b>	-

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

## 11. Staff costs (continued)

	2019 headcount	2019 FTE	2018 headcount	2018 FTE
Fundraising	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	19	19
Finance and administration	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	9	8
Programme support	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	32	31

Orbis UK provides life assurance cover at four times annual gross salary for qualifying staff, the cost is approximately £184 (2018: £201) per person per annum.

Expenses reimbursed to one trustee amounted to £3,449 (2018: two trustees totalling £2,922) in respect of travel, accommodation, and entertainment. Neither the trustees nor any person connected with them have received any remuneration.

## 12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment (£)	Computer equipment (£)	Leasehold improvements (£)	Total (£)
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 2019	91,235	39,145	62,707	193,087
Additions	2,262	68,947	-	71,209
Disposals	(2,558)	(22,298)	-	(24,856)
<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	<b>90,939</b>	<b>85,794</b>	<b>62,707</b>	<b>239,440</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 2019	70,945	31,552	6,467	108,964
Charge for year	5,460	17,519	12,978	35,957
Disposals	(2,558)	(20,928)	-	(23,486)
<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	<b>73,847</b>	<b>28,143</b>	<b>19,445</b>	<b>121,435</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2019</b>	<b>17,092</b>	<b>57,651</b>	<b>43,262</b>	<b>118,005</b>
At 31 December 2018	20,290	7,593	56,240	84,123

## 13. Investments

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Listed investments	-	21,645

A donation of shares was received in September 2018 and sold in April 2019. A further donation of shares was received in July 2019 and sold in August 2019.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

## 14. Debtors

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Accrued income	302,404	492,970
Prepayments	65,681	68,141
Other debtors	18,320	898,160
Gift Aid	-	72,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>386,405</b>	<b>1,531,671</b>

Other debtors included cash transferred to Orbis International where Qatar Fund for Development and Sightsavers have provided funding in advance of programme expenditure for projects. These amounts totalled £nil (2018: £828,644).

## 15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Grants payable	1,953,378	1,285,430
Other creditors	118,280	55,831
Tax and social security	45,035	46,122
Trade creditors	32,207	30,992
Accruals	16,275	65,830
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,165,175</b>	<b>1,484,205</b>

Movement in recognised provisions and funding commitments during the year.

	Grant commitments accrued (£)
Grant commitments recognised as at 1 January 2019	1,285,430
New grant commitments charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in year	5,913,710
Grants paid during the year	(5,245,762)
<b>Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>1,953,378</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

## 16. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 Jan 2019 (£)	Income 2019 (£)	Expenditure 2019 (£)	Transfers 2019 (£)	Gains and losses 2019 (£)	Balance 31 Dec 2019 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General reserves	1,621,266	3,694,599	(3,702,234)	(28,079)	(558)	<b>1,584,993</b>
Fixed assets	84,123	-	33,882	-	-	<b>118,005</b>
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,705,389</b>	<b>3,694,599</b>	<b>(3,668,352)</b>	<b>(28,079)</b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive Eye Care	220,759	3,364,235	(3,525,247)	1,828	-	<b>61,575</b>
Childhood Blindness	974,159	1,067,471	(1,432,162)	26,251	-	<b>635,719</b>
Specialist Training	22,197	196,131	(170,796)	18,500	-	<b>66,032</b>
Our Influence	18,500	-	-	(18,500)	-	-
Digital Transformation Project	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,235,615</b>	<b>4,727,837</b>	<b>(5,228,205)</b>	<b>28,079</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>763,326</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2,941,003</b>	<b>8,422,436</b>	<b>(8,896,557)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>

	Balance 1 Jan 2018 (£)	Income 2018 (£)	Expenditure 2018 (£)	Transfers 2018 (£)	Gains and losses 2018 (£)	Balance 31 December 2018 (£)
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Reserves	2,062,956	3,490,444	(3,930,123)	-	(2,012)	1,621,266
Fixed assets	15,624	-	68,499	-	-	84,123
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2,078,580</b>	<b>3,490,444</b>	<b>(3,861,624)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,012)</b>	<b>1,705,389</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
Grant funding:						
Comprehensive Eye Care	435,108	2,108,635	(2,322,984)	-	-	220,759
Childhood Blindness	1,230,295	1,741,621	(1,997,757)	-	-	974,159
Specialist Training	(3,551)	118,500	(92,752)	-	-	22,197
Our Influence	-	18,500	-	-	-	18,500
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,661,852</b>	<b>3,987,256</b>	<b>(4,413,493)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,235,615</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>3,740,432</b>	<b>7,477,700</b>	<b>(8,275,118)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,012)</b>	<b>2,941,003</b>



# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

### 16. Statement of funds (continued)

#### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Designated funds are held for the following purpose:

Fixed assets – £118,005 – this fund is the value of assets held as fixed assets which are not readily accessible as free reserves.

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are held for the following purposes:

Comprehensive Eye Care — £61,575 — Orbis projects focussing on adult eye health or both adult and child eye health, including rural eye care and trachoma elimination.

Child eye health — £635,719 — Orbis projects focussing on child eye health.

Specialist Training — £66,032 — Orbis projects focussing on strengthening health systems.

Our Influence — £nil — Orbis projects focussing on promoting eye health.

**TRANSFERS FROM UNRESTRICTED FUNDS TO RESTRICTED** – The transfer of funds represents funds expended before 2019 which were allocated as restricted expenditure but which were not charged to donors.

**TRANSFERS BETWEEN RESTRICTED FUNDS** – The transfer of funds between restricted funds represents funding of the Flying Eye Hospital which was split 50:50 between Specialist Training and Our Influence in 2018 but is now charged 100% to Specialist Training.

### 17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2019 (£)	Restricted funds 2019 (£)	Total funds 2019 (£)	Unrestricted funds 2018 (£)	Restricted funds 2018 (£)	Total Funds 2018 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	118,005	-	118,005	84,123	-	84,123
Current assets	2,294,124	2,219,370	4,513,494	2,769,520	1,571,565	4,341,085
Grants payable	(497,334)	(1,456,044)	(1,953,378)	(949,480)	(335,950)	(1,285,430)
Other current liabilities	(211,797)	-	(211,797)	(198,775)	-	(198,775)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,702,998</b>	<b>763,326</b>	<b>2,466,324</b>	<b>1,705,388</b>	<b>1,235,615</b>	<b>2,941,003</b>

### 18. Financial commitments

At 31 December Orbis UK had annual commitments under an operating lease with a break clause in May 2023 as follows:

	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Within one year	119,786	118,665
Between one to five years	276,960	332,171
	396,746	450,836

In 2019 £119,773 (2018: £99,170) was paid under operating leases. Orbis UK had no capital commitments at the end of the year (2018: none).

# Notes to the financial statements

## (continued)

Statements year ended 31 December 2019

### 19. Related parties

a. Orbis UK is an affiliate of and has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Project Orbis International Inc, a not for profit organisation registered in New York. The MoU includes the use of the trademark and how the two organisations will work together. Patricia Moller and Charles Vyvyan served as Directors of Orbis International.

The expenditure incurred during 2019 with respect to Orbis International projects amounted to £5,913,710 (2018: £5,723,131) and covers grants payable for programmatic work in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Zambia, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Rwanda and the Flying Eye Hospital. The outstanding balance due from Orbis International at 31st December 2019 was £1,953,378 (2018: £1,350,714, due to Orbis International).

b. Orbis Africa, a non profit company with public benefit organisation status was registered in South Africa in April 2012. Robert Walters stepped down as a director in December 2018. No financial transactions have taken place between the two organisations in 2019.

c. Orbis Ireland is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland in 2005, Michael Boyd is a Director of Orbis Ireland. No financial transactions have taken place between the two organisations in 2019.

d. Donations were received from six trustees amounting to £34,752 (2017: six trustees totalling £33,443).

### 20. Post balance sheet events

Orbis UK has given due consideration for the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak, which occurred before these financial statements were signed. The charity is largely sheltered from the expected effects of this due to the high level of unrestricted funds at the year end and a significant unrestricted donation in February 2020. The planned visit of the Flying Eye Hospital to Farnborough International Airshow 2020 has been cancelled. This will have a negative effect on income from corporate donors but this is offset by a reduction in expenditure on the airshow and the net effect is not expected to be significant.

# Trustees and officers

Year ended 31 December 2019

Listed below are the current and past trustees who served during the year, together with the names of the chief executive, senior management team and external advisers.

## Trustees

Peter Hickson (Chairman)  
Sir Michael Arthur  
(resigned March 2019)  
Larry Benjamin  
Michael Boyd  
Kit Braden  
(resigned June 2019)  
Bruce Buck  
(resigned October 2019)  
Anthony Cowles  
Yvette Dunne  
Nicola Floyd  
Nick Fox  
(appointed January 2020)  
Patricia Moller  
Rob Pinchbeck  
Christine Tomkins  
(resigned February 2020)  
Charles Vyvyan  
Catharina Waller  
Robert Walters  
Nigel Young

## Chief executive

Rebecca Cronin

## Senior management

Kath Backhouse  
David Bennett  
Andrew Jones  
(from January 2020)  
Jennifer Sheils  
(until March 2019)  
Allan Thompson  
(until December 2019)

## Registered office

6th Floor,  
10 Lower Thames Street,  
London.  
EC3R 6AF

## Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
Devonshire House,  
60 Goswell Road, London.  
EC1M 7AD

## Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC  
Hatton Garden, London.  
EC1N 8DN

## Solicitors

Bates Wells  
10 Queen Street Place,  
London.  
EC4R 1BE

Irma Casale, volunteer scrub nurse, on board the Flying Eye Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



# Preventing and treating avoidable blindness





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Polly Braden and Ben Stevens.