

**BAAG (BRITISH AND IRISH
AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**for the year ended
31st March 2015**

**Company Registration Number 6880188
Charity Number 1135700**

BAAG (BRITISH AND IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

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**BAAG (BRITISH AND IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Members of the Board and Professional Advisers

Registered charity name	BAAG (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group)
Charity number	1135700
Company registration number	6880188
Registered office	55 Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7JB
Trustees	Bruce Clark Tamar Ghosh Alison Kelly Frederick Lyons David Woodbine Tareck Safi Ai Choo Bennett
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 24 Nicholas Street Chester CH1 2AU
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

BAAG (BRITISH AND IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31st March 2015

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the company during the period were as follows:

Frederick Lyons (Chairman)
Bruce Clark
Tamar Ghosh
Alison Kelly
Tareck Safi
David Woodbine
Ai Choo Bennett

David Woodbine resigned as Trustee and Treasurer on 5 February 2015.

Ai Choo Bennett joined as Trustee and Treasurer on 13 May 2015.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The company was incorporated on 17 April 2009 and commenced operating on 1 May 2009. Its activities and staff were transferred from the British Refugee Council (charity number 1014576). It was registered as a charity on 28 April 2010. The company is limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. At 31 March 2015 there were 26 members of the company with voting rights and 2 observer members.

Reference and administrative details

The information set out on page 1 forms an integral part of this report. The financial statements comply with the current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the charity are also its directors for the purpose of company law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees or the Board.

The Articles of Association provide for at least three Trustees. There is no maximum provided in the Articles. New Trustees have induction through visits to the charity's office, discussions with employees and management and meetings with other trustees. They are provided with past accounts and board papers. The Trustees are experienced. There is no formal training policy for Trustees, but training will be provided if a gap in skill or experience becomes apparent.

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Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

David Woodbine resigned from the Board on 5 February 2015. During the year, one new Trustee was appointed in line with BAAG's membership and Articles of Association. Ai Choo Bennett was appointed on 13 May 2015 as Trustee and Treasurer. Ai Choo holds an engineering degree from the University of Nottingham and is a qualified ACCA accountant. She has spent the last 15 years in global corporations, specialising in accounting and compliance in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Governance and management

The Board meets four times a year and is responsible for overall policy, annual budgets, financial and professional probity. The Board has delegated day-to-day decision making to the Director.

BAAG's Membership

BAAG is a membership organisation comprised of 26 British and Irish Non-Governmental Organisations that support humanitarian and development programmes in Afghanistan and 2 observer members. BAAG's membership increased in the financial year 2014-15 with five new members: Friends of Aschiana UK, HealthProm, Human Rights Watch, International Rescue Committee UK, and Linda Norgrove Foundation. One organisation dropped membership: ActionAid.

Current members are: Afghanaid, Afghan Action, Afghan Connection, CAFOD, CARE International UK, Children in Crisis, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide UK, Friends of Aschiana UK, Global Witness, HealthProm, Human Rights Watch, International Rescue Committee UK, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Khorasan, Linda Norgrove Foundation, Marie Stopes International, Mercy Corps, Muslim Hands, Organisation of Human Welfare, Oxfam GB, Support for Afghan Further Education, Tearfund, War Child UK, Womankind Worldwide and World Vision. BAAG's observer members are Amnesty International UK and The British Red Cross.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of BAAG are the advancement of any charitable purposes for the relief of poverty, distress and hardship among the people of Afghanistan and refugees from Afghanistan, in particular by promoting the effectiveness and efficiency of the voluntary sector organisations and other institutions that are involved in the delivery of humanitarian and development aid.

Vision

BAAG's vision is for a just and peaceful Afghanistan where all citizens are able to fulfil their potential, enjoy economic and social rights, and play an active part in the development and governance of their country.

Identity

BAAG is an umbrella organisation deriving its mandate from its British and Irish member agencies engaged in work in Afghanistan.

Mission

BAAG works with member agencies and others to contribute to an environment where Afghans can take control of their own development and bring about a just and peaceful society.

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Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

Principles

BAAG is committed to the principles of:

- Primacy of Afghan ownership
- Rights-based and pro-poor policy and programmes
- Working in partnership with counterparts in the UK, Europe and Afghanistan
- Evidence-based policy and good practice
- Independence and impartiality
- Accountability and transparency

Approach

In order to fulfil its mission, BAAG is committed to excellence in:

- Listening to all Afghan voices, including women and the marginalised, and ensuring these perspectives are heard
- Delivering informed analysis of the current context, debate and thinking on key development issues facing Afghans
- Engaging with key donors based on a sound awareness of their policies
- Networking with the wider relief and development community in the UK, Ireland and internationally
- Identifying and influencing key decision-makers, including parliamentarians, government and international agency officials, to shape pro-poor policy
- Strengthening the capacity of members and Afghan civil society to play an increased role in influencing policies and decisions relating to Afghanistan
- Delivering high quality research of key development issues
- Raising the profile of development issues as they relate to Afghanistan with the public, policy makers and the media
- Encouraging informed media coverage of the situation in Afghanistan
- Acting as a focal point for the network of BAAG member agencies
- Providing quality briefings, induction and other information services
- Facilitating learning and exchange of information and experiences to promote strong advocacy, development and humanitarian work
- Promoting adherence to recognised codes of conduct (such as the Red Cross Code of Conduct, SPHERE, etc)
- Managing its resources well in order to maximise its impact.

To this end BAAG's core activities are focused on:

- Facilitating discussion over policy and good practice issues in relation to the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance in Afghanistan;
- Facilitating the sharing and provision of information and analysis about Afghanistan, in particular the political, economic situation and acting as a focal point for the network of BAAG member agencies;
- Raising the profile of Afghanistan with policy makers, donors and the public.

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Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

Public benefit

In shaping BAAG's objectives for the year and planning its activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance and are confident that the organisation has provided public benefit to the citizens of Afghanistan and refugees from Afghanistan, as detailed below.

Background: The Situation in Afghanistan, 2014/15

Political Context

From April 2014 to March 2015, Afghanistan witnessed political, military and economic transitions in Afghanistan. The Presidential and Provincial Council elections were held on 5th April 2014 during which an estimated 60% of registered voters cast their vote, 36% of whom were women. As a result, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani made it to the run-off, having secured 45% and 31.6% of the vote, respectively.

The June run-off was marred by accusations of fraud. Abdullah Abdullah accused the Independent Elections Commission of siding with Ashraf Ghani and threatened to establish his own parallel government. In July 2014, after US Secretary of State John Kerry intervened, the contestants agreed to a UN-led international audit of all votes. They also agreed to form a National Unity Government (NUG), whatever the results of the audit might be. The NUG was established in September 2014, though the majority of cabinet positions were not filled until March 2015.

As newly-elected President, Ashraf Ghani mended ties with Western countries and improved relations with some regional powers. On his second day in office, his government signed the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US Government and the Status of Force Agreement with NATO. These were long-standing issues of contention between NATO countries and the previous Karzai administration.

Upon taking office, President Ghani emphasised the role of Saudi Arabia in peace talks with the Taliban. He also improved ties with China and was able to attract Chinese attention to the Afghan peace and development process. In October 2014, China promised to give \$327 million in development aid to Afghanistan through 2017 and to train 3,000 Afghan professionals over the next five years.

Security

This year also saw the completion of a security transition, as Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) took complete control over managing and responding to security issues. In October, the UK's war in Afghanistan officially came to an end after 13 years and the control of Camp Bastion in Helmand was handed over to Afghan troops. NATO's Resolute Support Mission – the programme which trains, advises and assists the Afghan security forces – started in 2015. The 9,800 American troops remaining in Afghanistan will stay until at least the end of the year.

The presidential elections brought with them an increase in violence. In the first round of elections, security officials reported that they stopped 65 suicide attacks. In the run-off, election-related violence claimed around 60 lives and resulted in many more injuries.

During this period, the Taliban's offensive was the highest it has been in years in Afghanistan. All regions of the country, including the Northern provinces and hitherto safer provinces such as Panjsher, came under attack by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs). Armed clashes, suicide attacks in public places, roadside bombs, truck bombs, the murder of aid workers and other forms of violence increased.

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Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

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For example, in October alone, Kabul witnessed six suicide attacks, two roadside bomb explosions and two rocket attacks. In another major incident, a suicide attack in the Orgun market in Paktika killed 89 civilians in July 2014. Fears about the emergence of Islamic State (IS) also increased in the Southern and Eastern provinces.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said that 2014 saw the highest level of civilian casualties in Afghanistan since 2008. With 10,548 casualties (3,699 deaths and 6,849 injured), this was a 22% increase compared to the previous year. 72% of casualties were attributed to AOGs, 14% to Government forces and 2% to international forces.

The new wave of terror in 2014/15 included AOG's deliberate attacks on civilians, and especially on minorities. AOGs deliberately shot 16 labourers, killing twelve and injuring four in the Qala-Kah district of Farah. In February 2015, masked gunmen speaking an 'unknown foreign language' stopped two buses on the Kandahar-Kabul highway and kidnapped 30 members of the Hazara community. In July, an AOG halted three minibuses in Ghor, lined up and shot dead 14 Hazara travellers.

In some cases, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) demonstrated an increased capability to curtail the Taliban. In February, Afghan forces started the Zulfiqar Operations against the Taliban in Sangeen and northern districts of Helmand. ANSF officials criticised former President Karzai for having freed so many Taliban prisoners. They found that freed prisoners were re-joining the war and in July 2014, security officials reported to parliament that 80% of freed prisoners went back to war. Frustrated ANSF officials in Kandahar and Baghlan announced that they would no longer take Taliban as prisoners, opting instead to shoot all of them dead.

Peace

Although 2014/15 was not a peaceful period for Afghanistan, following the establishment of the NUG, there was renewed hope for peace talks. In January 2015, CEO Abdullah announced that the Government would soon re-open peace talks with the Taliban. The Taliban also confirmed that a seven-member delegation had been authorised, purportedly by Mullah Omar, for the talks in Doha. The Chinese Foreign Minister announced that China would help in mediating between the Afghan Taliban and the Government. This optimism was reinforced by an apparent willingness on the part of Pakistan to support the peace process.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan improved in February 2015, with both countries agreeing to conduct joint military operations against their common enemies. This raised some concerns among Afghan political leaders. In February, former MP and Majaheed leader Sayyaf warned that a peace policy change by the Afghan Government without consulting the Majaheed would face opposition by Afghans. Former President Karzai has also been openly suspicious of Pakistan's intentions.

Humanitarian and Development

The London Conference on Afghanistan was held in December 2014 to discuss Afghanistan's development priorities. The international donors reiterated their commitment to Afghan-led reform and development efforts. The 7-month delay in the NUG appointing its cabinet slowed development projects across the country. The 2015 Afghan Budget totalling \$7.6 billion (\$4.9 billion regular and \$2.7 development budget), was approved with the majority of the money coming from international aid. With the establishment of the NUG, greater political will was brought to bear on fighting against corruption. In his first week in office, President Ghani ordered the re-opening of the Kabul Bank corruption case. The \$900 million fraud case took place in 2010 and involved several key bank shareholders including the brothers of the then President and Vice President. In February, President

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Ghani took actions against alleged corruption in the Ministry of Defence's fuel contracts. He suspended the procurement officials and ordered a full investigation into contracts worth \$800 million. Eight other contracts are also under review. In some cases, a large number of public servants were sacked because of corruption allegations. In October 2014, the Supreme Court announced that 200 judges and 600 employees in the judiciary had been fired on account of bribery and abuse of power.

However, widespread corruption continued. In October 2014, watchdog Publish What You Fund claimed that 60% of some 1,000 construction projects in 30 districts of Afghanistan were incomplete and their financial resources embezzled. Another report by TOLO news found that members of the Independent Election Commission used the organisation's budget to fund family members' medical care in India and approved questionable expenditures for personal use and enjoyed unnecessary housing benefits.

There were several destructive natural disasters in 2014/15. Flash floods, landslides and avalanches hit the Northern, Central and Eastern provinces, killing and displacing thousands of people. In May 2014, Afghanistan was hit by the worst natural disaster in a decade. Two landslides in the Argo district of Badakhshan buried hundreds of homes and villagers, adding to the displacement and damage caused by floods in April. UNOCHA confirmed on the 6th of May that 506 people died and 1,000 families were displaced or otherwise affected. In February 2015, avalanches took at least 280 lives and destroyed at least 1,250 homes. Panjshir, where at least 195 people died, was hardest hit. The other affected provinces were Badakhshan, Nuristan, Bamiyan, Laghman and Nangarhar.

Afghanistan saw a large influx of refugees from North Waziristan, crossing the border to Afghanistan owing to Pakistani military operations against Pakistani Taliban. They settled in Khost, Paktika and Paktika provinces. In May 2014, the Afghan authorities announced that in the previous month some 6,452 people from Pakistan fled the troubled North Waziristan into Eastern Afghanistan. In May 2014, the UN estimated that the number of cross-border movement from Pakistan was roughly 95,411 (14,615 families).

Repatriation and internal displacement increased in 2014/15. In March 2015, the repatriation crisis deepened with an estimated 52,000 Afghans returning from Pakistan in 10 weeks alone. Mass movements from Pakistan followed the introduction of Pakistan's new anti-terrorism plan which placed increased pressure on Afghans to leave. Meanwhile, the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation was forced to cut its budget down to a mere \$250,000 for the financial year. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council's Global Overview 2014 Afghanistan ranked 11th for new displacements in 2013. 80% of these were attributed to armed conflict and associated violence.

While healthcare facilities have increased in Afghanistan, 2014/15 saw a rise in Afghans travelling abroad for health-related issues. In August 2014, media reports suggested a 21% increase in Afghans seeking medical treatment abroad.

In addition to Afghanistan's status as one of the worst countries for maternal health, 2014/15 HelpAge International ranked Afghanistan as the worst country to live in as an elderly person for the second time. Another study pointed out that more Afghans commit suicide annually than are killed by a combination of conflict and nationwide homicides.

Rights

There were notable challenges to human rights in Afghanistan in 2014/15. Reports of women's rights violations came from all provinces in Afghanistan. According to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission's (AIHRC) February 2015 report, 4,250 cases of violence against women were registered

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in the previous nine months. Showing a steady increase, these cases include 50 murders and 18 child marriages. Other forms of media-reported violence included sexual abuse, rape, torture and murder of women by their family, criminal groups and AOGs. In few cases the perpetrators were prosecuted.

One event that shocked the national conscience was the lynching of a woman named Farkhunda in March 2015. The 27 year old was brutally murdered by a mob outside of Shah-e-Do Shamshera Mosque in Kabul. She was falsely accused of burning a Quran. Bystanders captured and shared on social media the footage and photos of attackers violently beating Farkhunda, setting her on fire, and throwing her body into the Kabul River. This tragic incident shook Afghans at home and abroad, inspiring protests in all major Afghan cities. In response, the government arrested at least 46 suspects, including 19 police personnel.

In another case, four women were gang raped in Kabul in August 2014. After the report became public through the social media, various arrests were made. People launched large protests around the country demanding justice. Social media played an effective role in organising these protests. Under public pressure, the Afghan Government executed the five men convicted of the rape. However, this was criticised by the UN and international rights organisations.

There were also reports about the violation of men and boys' rights in 2014/15. In an August 2014 report, AIHRC discussed the causes and consequences of "bacha bazi". This form of sexual abuse and exploitation suffered by young boys is not explicitly outlawed as a crime. The AIHRC reaffirmed its recommendation that the practice be criminalised.

Reports of torture by the Afghan and international forces continued this year. In May 2014, an Afghan Government fact-finding commission accused the US and British military of operating six detention centres against Afghan law. Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused international forces of torture and reported that Afghan officials linked to the police, intelligence and militia forces were responsible for gross violations of human rights. Among the most notable were Atta Mohammad Noor, the Governor of Balkh and Lt. Gen. Abdul Raziq, Kandahar Police Chief.

According to Nai, a local media watchdog, 2014 was the most violent year on record for journalists in Afghanistan, with attacks up by 64% from 2013. Violence levels are expected to decrease after the eminent enforcement of the Right to Information Act. However, failure to enforce the rule of law will mean that journalists continue to suffer from atrocities by state and non-state actors.

Economy

With the political and military transition under way in Afghanistan, the economy faced an extended period of volatility. World Bank data suggests that GDP growth fell sharply in 2013 and 2014, to 2.0% and 1.3% respectively. But there are signs that recovery is under way with GDP growing once again, albeit more slowly than before 2012.

The World Bank's October 2014 report says that Afghanistan has become a better place for investment, but it still remains one of the most unfriendly countries to do business. In the list of unfriendly countries for investment, Afghanistan now ranks 7th - an improvement from last year's 4th position. That said, after the formation of the NUG, economic prospects appeared to improve. President Ghani made several regional trips to conclude strategic trade cooperation agreements. In January 2015, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries announced that its survey of 1,209 firms reveals a 31% increase in optimism among the business community.

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2014/15 saw a decrease in international aid to Afghanistan, mainly caused by the drawdown of international security forces and the economic projects they were funding. For most of the year, the government faced a cash crisis, with the government's treasury running perilously low. Officials blamed the drawn-out election process as the cause of \$5bn in losses to the economy, and even more lost in international investment. The signing of the BSA was expected to ease the country's economic gridlock.

This year the country's new Mining Law was approved. While the Afghan Government hopes that mining activity will gradually provide a \$1 trillion boost to the economy, some experts fear that the current state of the proposed law does not adequately protect against corruption, cronyism or the involvement of militias in mining.

Culture and People

Despite a difficult year, Afghans continued to advance in culture, sports and some aspects of their lives. 2014 saw the graduation of the first batch of students who completed all their twelve years of schooling after Taliban rule. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was a female student Shohra Qaderi, who topped the public university entrance examination sat by 225,000. In another positive development for Afghan women, Captain Nilofar Rahmani, the first female fixed-wing pilot in the Afghan Air Force, received the International Women of Courage award. She was awarded this US Department of State prize for defying Taliban and family threats to inspire more women to join the air force.

Afghanistan's cricket team made its debut in the One Day International World Cup, something that seemed a dream only five years ago. The team returned home with one victory over Scotland, and with many new lessons learned. Afghan bowler Hamid Hasan became the fastest associate nation's bowler to take 50 wickets, which was another sign of the quick development of the Afghan team.

Kabul and other major cities saw many art-related exhibitions. In October, Kabul hosted its first music awards ceremony, the Rumi Awards. The red carpet was rolled out in the Babur Gardens for a glamorous array of pop stars, film stars and journalists. Nessar Bahaduri, one of the organisers, said that the ceremony was designed 'to show a different face of Afghanistan to the world'. In July an exhibition of political cartoons at the French Institute in Kabul proved popular. Caricaturist Mohammad Erfani's drawings include depictions of the elections, power struggles between warlords and the humour of every-day Afghan life.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year 2014/15, BAAG continued to facilitate collective actions by its members and the wider relief and development community; engage with policy makers in Afghanistan, UK, the US and Europe; and enable and support Afghan civil society's input into policy debate and formulation. BAAG's three main areas of operation were information sharing, policy and advocacy, and coordination and networking. The following paragraphs outline what has been achieved between April 2014 and March 2015.

Policy and Advocacy activities

BAAG organised quarterly Contact Group Meetings (CGM) between the members, wider relief community and senior figures from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and Ministry of Defense. In addition it organized two London Conference-focused CGMs between members and DFID, to keep both sides informed of advocacy and media plans for the Conference. CGMs were instrumental in keeping the various government and

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non-government bodies updated about each other's work and provided an opportunity for them to engage with one another at the strategic level.

As part of its parliamentary engagement, BAAG continued the secretariat role of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Afghanistan this year. Two meetings were held during the period in which guest speakers discussed policy and advocacy issues with parliamentarians. BAAG facilitated an APPG in May 2014 with guest speaker Thomas Ruttig from the Afghanistan Analysts Network. Mr. Ruttig covered the Afghan elections and IRC gave a presentation on its new report *What Next for Afghanistan?* In December BAAG hosted a joint meeting with the APPG for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), bringing three speakers from within our Ayenda Conference delegation to discuss the UK's support of the WPS agenda in Afghanistan. In addition, in June BAAG sent letters to our APPG members with copies of Oxford University's Forced Migration Review, which that month was an edition specifically focused on Afghanistan.

BAAG launched its *Afghanistan in the British Print Media* report in Parliament in June 2014. Speakers included Mark Bowden (Deputy SR for the SG in Afghanistan), Hameed Hakimi (Afghanistan Project Coordinator, Chatham House) and Samira Hamidi (Programme Director, Afghan Women's Network). They discussed how Afghanistan is portrayed in the British media. Attendees included BBC's David Loyn, Sir Robert Smith MP, and various members of NGO and diaspora communities.

BAAG's Director met with Secretary of State Justine Greening regarding plans for the July 2014 Girl Summit in London. In addition he attended the Diaspora Youth Summit, supported EMDAD – a new collaboration between the diaspora to financially assist relief efforts of the May 2014 Badakhshan landslide, and provided guidance to DFID and the FCO on potential participants for the June 2014 Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

BAAG's major policy and advocacy activity during this period was the London Conference on Afghanistan, and our associated event, the Ayenda Civil Society conference. Discussions with DFID regarding BAAG's role and funding resulted in a programme of activities and a grant being agreed in July. Programme activities had already started in April, with BAAG consulting a wide range of actors and organisations involved in previous civil society events in order to compile lessons learnt. The consolidated lessons learnt document was shared with DFID and other networks, and publically online.

BAAG staff travelled to Afghanistan three times ahead of the December conference, each time to provide support to Afghan civil society in its preparation of position papers, selection of London delegates and media relations. During these visits BAAG met with representatives of DFID, UNAMA and the Afghan government, though the latter was made difficult by the prolonged election process. Additionally BAAG worked with its partners ACBAR, ENNA and with its members.

In early October BAAG took the lead in writing a letter to President Ashraf Ghani, PM David Cameron and Secretaries of State Justine Greening and Philip Hammond, calling for a firm focus on the protection of human rights and the inclusion of civil society in the Conference decision making and future programme implementation.

Against a target of 15-20 Afghan civil society delegates participating in the LCA, 61 were invited and 53 participated in the Ayenda Conference, the civil society associate event of the LCA. This large group – the largest civil society delegation to any Afghanistan donor conference – attracted significant attention from country delegations and raised the profile of the civil society event so that over 250 people attended the half-day Ayenda Conference, against a target of 200. Three Afghan civil society delegates presented speeches in the LCA ministerial event, against a target of two, whilst ten Afghan delegates and five INGO representatives directly discussed development priorities with the Secretary of

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State for International Development, the CEO of Afghanistan and representatives of the main partner countries of Afghanistan. An additional six Afghan delegates and two INGO representatives discussed women's rights issues with the Secretary of State for International Development. Two Afghan civil society speakers met Prime Minister David Cameron. Three delegates spoke to a number of MPs at a joint meeting of the APPGs Afghanistan and Women, Peace & Security, whilst a number provided their development recommendations in a meeting of USAID representatives. Over the course of a week 23 different international media outlets wrote or broadcast at least one news piece highlighting the importance of Afghan and international civil society's role in the LCA, reaching an estimated 7 million people.

The increased scale of the Ayenda programme required additional funding. This was secured from USAID, via Counterpart International in Kabul, the European Commission and from the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR).

Following their return to Afghanistan, the delegates increased their engagement with the new Government of Afghanistan: 18 civil society representatives met with CEO Abdullah at his request and discussed governance issues- a meeting with President Ghani was held in February; the National Security Council arranged consultations with civil society regarding the Peaceful Demonstrations policy; a number of ministries signed MOUs with civil society organisations; and 2 delegates were offered high-level positions in the new administration. In post-conference interviews with BAAG's Director, delegates stated that the Ayenda Conference and London Conference strengthened their ability to engage with the Afghan government.

In November, BAAG was present at the Oslo Symposium on Advancing Women's Rights & Empowerment in Afghanistan, to ensure that messaging and recommendations from that event were reflected in the London Conference.

In addition to the above, BAAG continued its Members Advocacy meetings throughout this period. These monthly meetings allow BAAG and its members to raise shared or priority advocacy needs and work collectively to address them. An Advocacy Planning Workshop was held in June to identify BAAG's priority advocacy initiatives.

Coordination and Networking

As a founding member and Steering Committee member of the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA), BAAG has actively contributed to ENNA's work. During the period BAAG staff attended various ENNA members and Steering Committee meetings and contributed to joint advocacy activities.

BAAG also worked closely with ACBAR, particularly in the Ayenda Conference plans, and with Tawanmandi (The British Council civil society support project in Afghanistan). Both organisations were hosted by BAAG during the London Conference on Afghanistan.

BAAG also continued its support of, and discussions with, the Afghan Women Support Forum UK and Gender Action for Peace and Security. BAAG provided advice to these entities, invited them to events and consulted them on potential joint projects.

BAAG staff participated in various events during the period, which served both as networking and information sharing opportunities.

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The Director spoke at the Conservative Party Conference in September and spoke and moderated a session at Afghanaid's Changing the Narrative event on shaping Afghanistan's future. The team have further supported and worked with the NGO Military Contact Group (NMCG).

During staff trips to Afghanistan and Brussels BAAG held meetings with UNAMA, the EU and staff of the British Embassy in Kabul.

Information Sharing

To ensure effective information sharing and networking between Afghan civil society organisations (ACSOs), member agencies and other INGOs, BAAG conducted Members' Meetings in London and Kabul. The themes of these meetings covered a variety of major Afghan humanitarian and development issues.

BAAG continued to improve its website and Twitter following as effective ways of disseminating information online. Publishing pieces on Afghanistan that included 24 original news stories, its own reports and resource documents from numerous other professional sources, audio and video interviews and 15 blogs, BAAG's website continued to attract greater number of visitors. During this period there were 47,580 sessions recorded, by a total of 37,755 users. These represent a 69% increase for both counts on the previous period. 78% of users were new to the site.

BAAG's Twitter and Facebook followers increased significantly during this period. BAAG's media presence during the period was significantly increased due to media activities aligned to the London Conference on Afghanistan (see Policy & Advocacy activities); over the course of that week in November at least 23 different international media outlets wrote or broadcast at least one news piece highlighting the importance of Afghan and international civil society's role in the LCA and many name-checking BAAG. These reached an estimated 7 million people.

In addition, BAAG's Director appeared on the Voice of America television programme and BBC Persian radio on the topic of the Afghanistan elections, and participated on the panel of Bond's event on national advocacy strategies for which other coordinating bodies were in attendance.

BAAG published 21 reports on its website during this period, the majority of which were also emailed to various policymakers in the UK, Europe and further. Alongside nine 'Afghanistan this Month' reports, BAAG published the research results of its LSE student consultants on British print media's coverage of Afghanistan, a lessons learnt report on previous Afghanistan donor conferences; the report of its March 2014 Getting it Right Gender conference; a welcome letter to new President Ashraf Ghani and to British Prime Minister David Cameron; a synthesis of the various civil society papers prepared for the London Conference, and a summary report and full report of its Ayenda Conference. BAAG also published joint papers and letters with ENNA (Women's security in Afghanistan - Recommendations to NATO, NATO's response to that), GAPS UK (Women's Rights in the Future Development Framework) and published the five position papers prepared by ACBAR for the London Conference.

Organisational development

In December through to February BAAG conducted consultations with members about its strategic plan following recommendations that it do so 4-6 months after the election of the new Afghan government. This feedback will be used as an opportunity to discuss with each member how BAAG can support their work as well as how they can support BAAG financially.

In September the Admin & Finance Officer post became a full-time position. As per organisational

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

policy, a sector-wide salary review was undertaken by the Trustees in July 2014. This resulted in a 2% salary increase for the Director, the Programme & Communications Coordinator and the Administration & Finance Officer posts.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income rose this year by 23% from £219,304 to £269,202. BAAG received the majority of its financial support - £165,267 – from the Department for International Development with additional contributions during the London Conference on Afghanistan amounting to £44,607. Members provided a further £22,535 and a gift in kind from CAFOD in relation to the provision for office space, contributed towards the balance.

The increase in income was broadly mirrored by an increase in the overall level of charitable activities. Whilst the funding from the Department for International Development funded much of our core costs, unrestricted funds covered 20% of total core costs. There was an unrestricted surplus of £5,661 at the end of the fiscal year.

The deficit in restricted funds is due to reserves brought forward from 2013/14 spent in 2014/15. As shown in Note 14, all funds were still in surplus at year end.

Reserves policy

BAAG has historically aimed to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months of core costs.

Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2015 amounted to £46,670 which represented approximately two months of core costs. The Trustees will review BAAG's reserve policy in the 2015/16 fiscal year in light of funding challenges and the need to ensure the organisation will always be in a position to meet its legal obligations.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Policy Discussions

BAAG will continue to serve as the secretariat of All-Party Parliamentary Group Afghanistan (APPG). The 2015 British General Elections are likely to result in the re-establishment of the APPG. BAAG will identify members, re-establish the APPG and engage MPs in key Afghan issues, including security and rights.

BAAG will continue to serve as a platform for Afghan voices in the UK, Ireland and Europe. BAAG will also consult its member agencies, other International NGOs and stakeholders on matters that will affect the lives of Afghans during the 'transformation decade'.

BAAG will identify key advocacy events including international conferences on Afghanistan and aim to incorporate the views of Afghan and international civil society in them. Working with Afghan and international partners, BAAG will develop evidence-based policy positions on issues including provision of services, good governance, human rights, women's rights and humanitarian issues.

BAAG will also work with other UK-based advocacy partners such as BOND and Gender Alliance for Peace and Security (GAPS) to inform the new MPs and government ministers about priority Afghan policy issues.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

Through BAAG's Policy and Advocacy Group, yearly advocacy priorities will be identified. BAAG will continue to engage with the British Government through regular Contact Group Meetings as well as through ad hoc face to face meetings and other forums.

Recognising that Afghan rights activists will need continued support, BAAG will work with partners in the UK and Afghanistan to support Human Rights Defenders. BAAG will strive to understand their needs and support the implementation of practical protection measures.

Coordination and Networking

BAAG will continue to maintain and expand its network of partners. BAAG will maintain its board membership in the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA) and maintain its MOU with ACBAR, Tawanmandi and other partners. BAAG will work with think-tank and research institutions such as Chatham House, Overseas Development Institute and Royal United Services Institute.

BAAG will also work with members and thematic networks such as Afghan Women Support Forum UK, GAPS and Afghanistan-based civil society networks. Recognising the important role of the Afghan diaspora, BAAG will work with networks such as Afghan Professionals Network, Afghan Advisory Board, EMDAD and Afghan students' bodies. BAAG will use its online network and website to promote events about Afghanistan.

Information sharing

BAAG will continue to facilitate meetings with ACSOs, Afghan civil society actors and INGOs in the UK, Afghanistan and Europe. The meetings will be used to share information and provide strategic opportunities to influence current issues related to Afghanistan such as human rights, peacebuilding, economic development and sustaining engagement with Afghanistan in the 'transformation decade'. In addition, BAAG will disseminate regular online updates to members and partners.

The website and social media will be used to promote the voices of Afghan civil society. The Views and Voices page of BAAG's website will be used to publish blogs from Afghan civil society activists including the youth. Useful resources about key Afghan issues will also be uploaded in the website.

BAAG recognises that British and Irish citizens are comparatively more aware about the development and humanitarian issues of Afghanistan and other developing nations. Nonetheless, there is still a considerable need to provide impartial and balanced information. BAAG will continue to develop its monthly round-up of key Afghan issues and share it widely with policymakers, media partners and participants of our public events.

Recognising that the rich culture and positive developments of Afghanistan are overshadowed by the negative news of terrorist attacks, drug cultivation, and corruption, BAAG will try to hold celebratory events such as a Nowruz celebration and promote the positive aspects of Afghan culture.

Fundraising

BAAG will continue to seek additional income from institutional donors, trusts and foundation and high-net-worth individuals, aiming for a more sustainable balance of restricted and unrestricted income and a diverse funding base. BAAG will do so with independent and joint applications to donors who share BAAG's strategic objectives.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of BAAG (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and 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;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

AUDITOR

Following the transfer of the business of Mitchell Charlesworth to Mitchell Charlesworth LLP on 1 June 2014, and having expressed a willingness to continue in office, a resolution for the appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

**BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

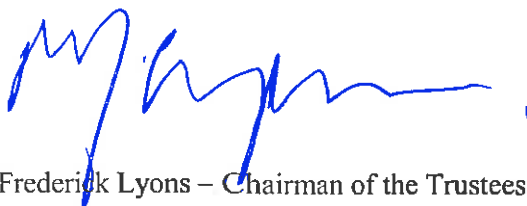
Year ended 31st March 2015

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Registered office:
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7JB

Signed by order of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frederick Lyons', is written over the printed name.

Frederick Lyons – Chairman of the Trustees

...24/12/15.....

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants
24 Nicholas Street Chester CH1 2AU

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of BAAG (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group)

Year ended 31st March 2015

We have audited the financial statements of BAAG (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group) for the year ended 31st March 2015 on pages 19 to 27. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 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 anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Annual Report, 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants
24 Nicholas Street Chester CH1 2AU

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of BAAG (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group) *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2015

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at year ended 31st March 2015 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTER PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion 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.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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.



24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

Mr Robert Hall
MITCHELL CHARLESWORTH LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
24/12/15.....

**BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31st March 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	18,508	228,015	246,523	196,525
Investment income	3	143	-	143	99
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	22,536	-	22,536	22,680
Total incoming resources		<u>41,187</u>	<u>228,015</u>	<u>269,202</u>	<u>219,304</u>
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	-	-	-	(116)
Charitable activities	6/7	(18,669)	(247,348)	(266,017)	(215,307)
Governance costs	8	(16,857)	(1,990)	(18,847)	(15,364)
Total resources expended		<u>(35,526)</u>	<u>(249,338)</u>	<u>(284,864)</u>	<u>(230,787)</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	5,661	(21,323)	(15,662)	(11,483)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>41,009</u>	<u>33,257</u>	<u>74,266</u>	<u>85,749</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>46,670</u>	<u>11,934</u>	<u>58,604</u>	<u>74,266</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 21 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

**BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Balance Sheet

31st March 2015

	Note	2015 £	£	2014 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	7,288		11,653	
Cash at bank and in hand		94,258		90,584	
		<u>101,546</u>		<u>102,237</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(42,942)</u>		<u>(27,971)</u>	
Net current assets			58,604		74,266
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>58,604</u>		<u>74,266</u>
Net assets			<u>58,604</u>		<u>74,266</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		11,934		33,257
Unrestricted income funds	15		46,670		41,009
Total funds			<u>58,604</u>		<u>74,266</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the 24/12/15 and are signed on their behalf by:



Ai Choo Bennett

Company Registration Number: 6880188

The notes on pages 21 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2. Fund accounting

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund that is expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. This fund may be held in order to finance both capital investment and working capital.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the Board of Trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grants received and specified by the donor as relating to specific accounting periods are deferred on an accruals basis to the period to which they relate. Such deferrals are shown as creditors in the accounts.

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

Income from conferences is included in the period in which the conference takes place.

Membership subscriptions are accounted for in the year in which they are due.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Expenditure incurred at the balance sheet date that relates to events taking place after the balance sheet date is carried forward as deferred expenditure.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 33% straight line

Expenditure of a capital nature of less than £200 is not capitalised.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Donations				
Donations	8,668	-	8,668	12,017
Gifts in kind	9,840	-	9,840	-
Grants receivable				
Grants receivable	-	228,015	228,015	184,508
	<u>18,508</u>	<u>228,015</u>	<u>246,523</u>	<u>196,525</u>

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>143</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>99</u>

4. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Membership subscriptions	<u>22,536</u>	<u>22,536</u>	<u>22,680</u>
	<u>22,536</u>	<u>22,536</u>	<u>22,680</u>

5. Costs of generating voluntary income

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Direct fundraising costs	-	-	116
Support costs	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116</u>

**BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

6. Costs of charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Total	<u>18,669</u>	<u>247,348</u>	<u>266,017</u>	<u>215,307</u>

7. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

Activity	Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 31 March 2015 £	Total 31 March 2014 £
Policy work and Information Sharing	49,029	47,166	3,996	100,191	80,198
Raising the profile of the needs and aspirations of Afghans, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable	54,797	43,797	1,808	100,402	81,386
Membership Activity and Networking	<u>40,377</u>	<u>21,337</u>	<u>3,710</u>	<u>65,424</u>	<u>53,723</u>
Total	<u>144,203</u>	<u>112,300</u>	<u>9,514</u>	<u>266,017</u>	<u>215,307</u>

The costs of charitable activities are apportioned according to the percentage of time spent on each of BAAG's main areas of operation. This equates to 41% of staff time on policy work and information sharing, 38% on raising the profile of the needs and aspirations of Afghans and 21% on membership activity.

8. Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Audit and accountancy	2,960	-	2,960	2,472
Board expenses	-	-	-	44
Sundries	335	1,307	1,642	2,664
Support costs	9,449	683	10,132	10,184
Bad debts	<u>4,113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,113</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>16,857</u>	<u>1,990</u>	<u>18,847</u>	<u>15,364</u>

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

9. Support costs

Cost	Charitable activities	Fundraising costs	Governance costs	Total 31 March 2015	Total 31 March 2014
	£	£	£	£	£
Rent	-	-	9,175	9,175	9,012
Website and IT	5,314	-	-	5,314	9,126
Telephone and fax	1,013	-	-	1,013	1,122
Postage and stationery	2,194	-	-	2,194	3,464
Insurance	558	-	-	558	510
Recruitment	-	-	400	400	752
Membership fees	431	-	-	431	1,931
Training	-	-	557	557	420
Bank Charges	4	-	-	4	-
Total	9,514	-	10,132	19,646	26,337

Expenditure incurred in respect of a particular activity is allocated to it. Where expenditure cannot be attributed to specific activities, it is apportioned on the basis of the time spent on the various activities.

10. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Auditors' fees	2,960	2,472

11. Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Wages and salaries	136,502	143,944
Social security costs	7,701	7,734
	144,203	151,678

Particulars of employees:

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

2015	2014
No	No
3	3

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2013 - Nil).

**BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP)
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

12. Debtors

	2015	2014
	£	£
Membership receivable	3,359	8,815
Other debtors	638	2,838
Grants receivable	3,291	-
	<u>7,288</u>	<u>11,653</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade creditors	252	-
PAYE and social security	2,754	2,255
Other creditors	39,936	25,716
	<u>42,942</u>	<u>27,971</u>

14. Restricted income funds

Fund	Balance 1 April 2014	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31 March 2015
	£	£	£	£
ACBAR	-	6,813	(6,813)	-
CPI	-	15,758	(14,635)	1,123
Department for International Development	22,502	165,267	(183,362)	4,407
EU	-	23,662	(23,641)	21
Media4Development	-	16,515	(12,163)	4,352
Public Campaign	10,812	-	(8,724)	2,088
ENGI Campaign	(57)	-	-	(57)
Total	<u>33,257</u>	<u>228,015</u>	<u>(249,338)</u>	<u>11,934</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

1. DFID granted BAAG a three year accountable grant arrangement for an Afghanistan-Civil Society Partnership project in January 2011. The grant, which was dedicated to BAAG's work with Afghan civil society partners, was invaluable in assisting BAAG to ensure that Afghan civil society organisations and activists from across Afghanistan had the opportunity to contribute actively to policy making on development and aid effectiveness at a national and international level. On 31 March 2014 the grant ended. DFID extended the grant for a further 2 months as part of a no-cost extension. This allowed £24,197 in under-spend (of which £22,502 was from fiscal period 2013/14) to be used in the 2014/15 fiscal period. The funds were used for the planning and preparation of Afghan civil society's input into the London Conference on Afghanistan.
2. Ayenda Conference: Four donors provided funds to BAAG for the preparation and organisation of the Ayenda Conference - an associated civil society side-event to the London Conference on Afghanistan.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

The Ayenda Conference provided a platform for Afghan civil society to raise their voices before, during, and beyond the international conference. DFID, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development (ABCAR), Counterpart International (CPI), and the European Commission provided BAAG with £165,043, £6,813, £15,757, £25,328 respectively.

3. Media4Development: BAAG is one of eight organisations¹ to whom the European Commission is providing a 3-year grant for the period January 2015 – December 2017. The grant supports development journalism in New Member States and enhances BAAG's work providing opportunities for policy makers to discuss the challenges and benefits of development assistance, so that their governments may effectively contribute to efforts to tackle global poverty and inequality. BAAG receives a total of €245,051 over the 3 years and funds are dispersed every 6-months.
4. Public Campaign: three of BAAG's member agencies, Christian Aid, CAFOD, and CARE International UK provided BAAG with £19,167, £14,702, and £10,000 respectively to develop and carry out public campaign work on Afghanistan in the financial years 2010-2012. In 2014 CAFOD contributed an additional £2,000 towards BAAG's public campaign work. On 25 March 2015 CAFOD approved a request for the use of unspent public campaigns funds, totalling £7,674, to be used towards advocacy activities during the London Conference on Afghanistan.

15. Unrestricted income funds

Fund	Balance 1 April 2014 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance 31 March 2015 £
Unrestricted fund	41,009	41,187	(35,526)	46,670

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Net current assets	46,670	11,934	58,604

17. Related party transactions

The Trustees were not paid any remuneration. The Trustees were paid a total of £nil (2013 - £nil) in expenses during the year to cover travel and postage.

¹ Others in the consortium are Mondo, Estonian Public Broadcasting Company, People in Need, MVRO, Green Liberty, House of Europe, and VIKES.

BAAG (BRITISH & IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2015

18. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no corporation tax charge in these accounts. Value added tax is not recoverable by the charity and it is therefore included in the resources expended figures in the SOFA.

19. Company limited by guarantee

BAAG is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member. At 31 March 2015 there were 27 members of the company and 2 observer members.

