

WALKABOUT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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ABOUT US

LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Walkabout Community,

2023 was another remarkable year for Walkabout Foundation. We distributed over 2,700 wheelchairs, provided vital rehabilitation to 100 children, and funded another \$100,000 in ground-breaking medical research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis.

In Kenya, we continued assembling, distributing, and custom-fitting wheelchairs at our Centre, along with conducting outreach distributions across the country. As part of our programmes, we continued to provide vital rehabilitation services for children in need and expanded our *Reusable Diaper Project*.

We completed another major distribution in Uganda and continued our *Monitoring, Evaluation & Repairs Project* together with our local partners, following-up with past beneficiaries and addressing service gaps.

In Haiti, despite the ongoing unrest, we continued supporting people with mobility disabilities, distributing wheelchairs across the country with the help of 45 local partners. In 2023, we also travelled to Ghana thanks to the support of a generous corporate partner, to deliver 175 wheelchairs to those in need.

Every day, we are reminded of the collective effort that makes our mission possible. None of what we have achieved would be possible without our incredible UK and Kenya teams, our suppliers and partners around the world, and, of course, the generosity of supporters like you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for continuing on this life-changing journey with us.

Carolina and Luis Gonzalez-Bunster
Walkabout Foundation Co-Founders



THE NEED

EVERY 60 MINUTES

SOMEONE IS SPINAL CORD INJURED IN THE U.S.

EVERY 15 MINUTES

SOMEONE IS SPINAL CORD INJURED IN INDIA

2%

OF THE U.S.
POPULATION IS
PARALYSED - THAT IS

1 IN 50

PEOPLE

100 MILLION

PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NEED A WHEELCHAIR

65 MILLION

PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD ONE

OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO RESTORE DIGNITY,
FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE BY PROVIDING

WHEELCHAIRS

AND

REHABILITATION

IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WHILE FUNDING

RESEARCH

TO FIND A CURE FOR PARALYSIS



GLOBAL IMPACT



27,944

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



26

COUNTRIES REACHED



73,500

LIVES IMPACTED



\$1.9M

GIVEN TO RESEARCH



2023 AT A GLANCE

MARCH

Started our first *Rehab Outreach Programme* in Kenya, providing rehabilitation to 10 children, as well as training and home therapy programmes for parents and caregivers

APRIL

Three Walkabout Heroes, Warren, Jordon and Philip ran the 2023 London Marathon, fundraising over £11,000

MAY

Organised the first-ever *Walkabout Flower Show* fundraising event in London, raising £25,000

JUNE

Held our annual *Walkabout Closet Sale* in London, raising over £58,000

AUGUST

Distributed 320 wheelchairs and 50 trikes in Uganda, together with Hope Health Action

SEPTEMBER

Two Walkabout Heroes, Casey and Andy, ran the 2023 Berlin Marathon in our honour

OCTOBER

Received two Free Wheelchair Mission containers of 976 wheelchairs in Haiti

NOVEMBER

Sent 50 wheelchairs from Uganda to South Sudan, together with Hope Health Action

MAY

Travelled to Ghana to distribute and custom-fit 175 wheelchairs to people in need

JUNE

Travelled to Uganda to visit Hope Health Action

JUNE

Distributed 200 wheelchairs in Kenya; the local team travelled to Kitui and Machakos counties to fit every wheelchair

SEPTEMBER

Distributed 200 wheelchairs in Kisii and Kitui counties, Kenya

OCTOBER

Started following-up with the beneficiaries who received our wheelchairs at the 2021 distribution in the Dominican Republic

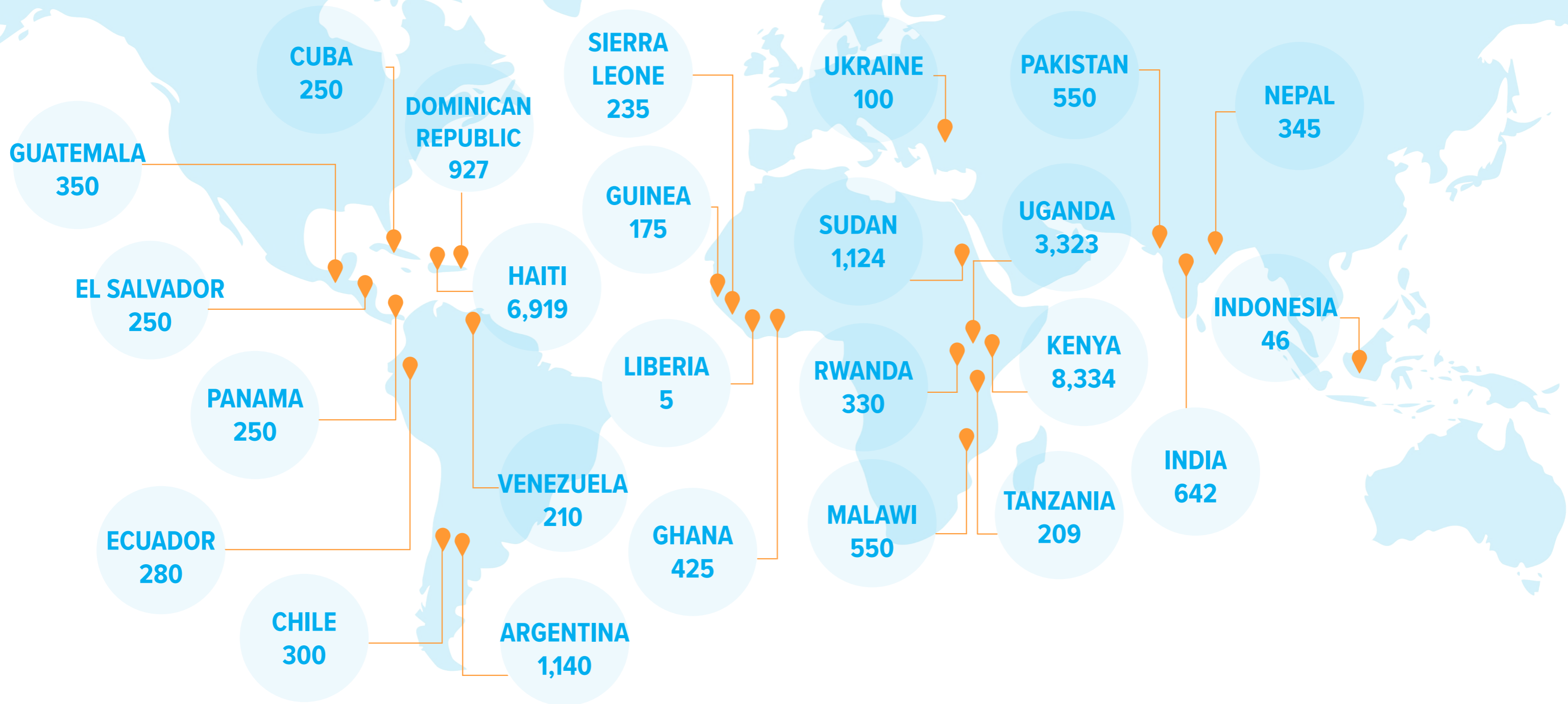
OCTOBER

Partnered with Tory Burch to host a private event at their flagship store in London, with 20% of the proceeds going to Walkabout

MARCH

Distributed 200 wheelchairs in Kenya, as a part of our outreach programme

OUR WHEELCHAIR FOOTPRINT



SINCE INCEPTION...



27,944

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



73,500

LIVES IMPACTED



26

COUNTRIES REACHED

IN 2023...



2,710

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



8,700

LIVES IMPACTED



5

COUNTRIES REACHED



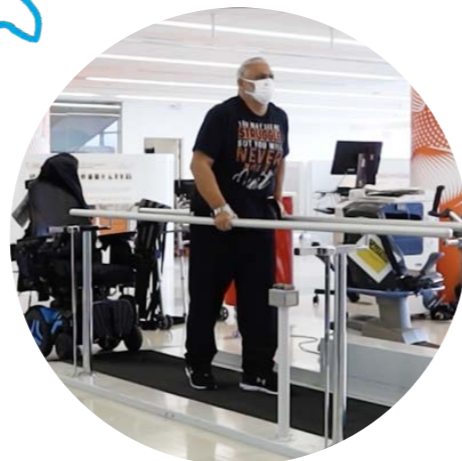
RESEARCH

THE SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB

Since inception, Walkabout Foundation has been a part of some of the biggest breakthroughs in the field of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) research. Finding a cure for paralysis remains at the heart of our mission. Since 2010, we have been dedicated to advancing cutting-edge SCI research and have proudly contributed over **\$1.9 million** to support these ground-breaking efforts.

In 2023, we strengthened our commitment by continuing our partnership with the *Shirley Ryan AbilityLab*, disbursing another \$100,000 to support their research study, “*Functional Restoration after Spinal Cord Injury by Hebbian and Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation*”. This study involves 15 participants with SCI and uses Hebbian and transcutaneous stimulation techniques combined with exercise, to promote the recovery of function. We are proud to support this innovative work that brings us one step closer to achieving our ultimate goal.

The outcomes of the study have been nothing short of extraordinary. Participants have shown remarkable progress, with several reporting improved motor function and some even regaining the ability to walk unaided. This research is not only paves the way for groundbreaking advancements in Spinal Cord Injury treatment, but also instills renewed hope in individuals affected by SCI, reaffirming our belief in the possibility of finding a cure for paralysis.





WHEELCHAIRS & REHABILITATION

KENYA



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED

1,578

CHILDREN IN
REHABILITATION

100

DIAPERS
DISTRIBUTED

250

In 2023, we distributed over 1,570 wheelchairs from our *Wheelchair Assembly & Repair Centre* in Nanyuki, Kenya. This included one container of wheelchairs to Ghana, Uganda, and three outreach distributions across Kenya.

At our Centre, we continue to provide vital rehabilitation for up to **100 children**, alongside training for their parents and caregivers. Our Occupational Therapists equip caregivers with crucial home care skills, covering everything from feeding techniques to sleep positioning and exercise, aiming to ensure that every child has the best chance at a higher quality of life.

We expanded our *Rehabilitation Programme*, extending our services to a second location and scaling up our *Reusable Diaper Project*, having produced over **250 diapers and 300 sanitary pads**.

Our team manufactures these products locally at our Centre and provides them during outreach distributions and to individuals visiting the Centre. In addition, we held several workshops for caregivers, teaching them how to make their own diapers and pads, empowering them with sustainable solutions.



CHANE'S STORY

Chane is a 5-year-old boy from Kenya. He has Spina Bifida and has never been able to move around independently.

In 2023, Chane visited our Centre in Nanyuki, where he was fitted with his first-ever paediatric wheelchair, designed to provide postural support. Thanks to his new chair, he finally has the dignity, freedom and independence that every child deserves. He can now move around with ease and he's very excited to go to school and play with his toys using the tray attached to the chair.



STEFANIE'S STORY

Stefanie is an 11-year-old girl from Kenya. She lives in rescue housing, where she receives rehabilitation support. Before Walkabout's donation, she didn't have a wheelchair of her own and had to share one with the other children at the home.

Our local team gave Stefanie her own wheelchair, custom-fitted to her needs. Now, she can be a lot more independent, continue going to school easily, make new friends and be a part of the local community.



UGANDA



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED **320**

TRIKES
DISTRIBUTED **50**

In 2023, we delivered a container of 320 mixed wheelchairs and 50 tricycles together with our partner, Hope Health Action (HHA). These wheelchairs were distributed from HHA's Centre in Bidi Bidi, northern Uganda. In collaboration with HHA, we also sent 50 wheelchairs from Uganda to South Sudan.

Since Walkabout's first distribution in Uganda in 2014, we have provided over **3,300 wheelchairs and tricycles** throughout the country. We have expanded our impact in Uganda beyond distributions, adopting a more holistic approach. As a part of our *Monitoring, Evaluation & Repairs Programme*, we are following up with previous beneficiaries and providing necessary adjustments and repairs, increasing the lifespan of our chairs and the sustainability of our projects.



UGANDA

MONITORING, EVALUATION & REPAIRS PROGRAMME

What began as a single distribution, has turned into a holistic, sustainable programme that continues to change hundreds of lives every year. We assess the impact of our wheelchairs and trikes, gathering data on quality of life, social inclusion, education and employment. This approach is amplifying our impact and creating lasting change in the communities we serve.



Our partner, Hope Health Action, carrying out repairs in Uganda

AGNES' STORY

Agnes lives in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda. She is one of many people displaced from neighbouring South Sudan due to the civil war. She has hydrocephalus, and therefore is unable to walk.

We provided Agnes with her first-ever wheelchair, and it has transformed her life. Thanks to her new chair, Agnes can finally attend school, go to the hospital for treatment, and travel around her community. Her brother helps push her home from school, and they can now navigate their surroundings with ease.



GHANA



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
175

In May 2023, the Walkabout Team returned to Ghana for the first time since 2012 to distribute **175 custom-fitted wheelchairs** to people with mobility disabilities. For this distribution, we worked together with our local partners, Orthopaedic Training Centre (OTC) and Kabaka Foundation. This wheelchair distribution wouldn't be possible without the support of Tullow Ghana Limited.

We would like to thank our donors and our local partners, for helping us change so many lives and restore dignity, freedom and independence to people with mobility disabilities in Ghana.

AFIYA'S STORY

Afiya is a 42-year-old woman from Ghana. She contracted Polio at the age of one, which left her unable to walk. Before receiving her new wheelchair from Walkabout, Afiya had been using an old broken one, which made it difficult for her to move around.

As a petty trader, Afiya now finds her work much easier, as she can go to the market independently to gather the supplies she needs. Beyond her work, she is excited to be able to attend social gatherings with friends and go to church more easily, bringing her a renewed sense of freedom and connection to her community.



HAITI



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
1,216

We distributed 1,216 wheelchairs from our *HHA Walkabout Wheelchair Distribution Centre* in 2023, impacting 3,100 lives. We worked with over 40 local partners to deliver wheelchairs from our Centre to people with mobility disabilities across the country. Since establishing new partnerships with organisations such as Partners in Health and Médecins Sans Frontiers, we have been able to increase the number of wheelchairs distributed across the country.

Despite the challenges in Haiti, we remain committed to continue supporting people with mobility disabilities in the region.

HENRY'S STORY

Henry is a 40-year-old man from Haiti. He lives with his sister, who takes care of him. Prior to receiving a wheelchair, he used a plastic chair as a walker. Henry's mobility was limited, which meant he was unable to go to school or get a job.

The local team in Haiti gave Henry his first-ever wheelchair from our Centre. The chair not only changed Henry's life, but also his sister's, as he no longer has to rely on her to do daily tasks, reducing her caregiving responsibilities. Thanks to his new chair, Henry can move around his home with ease and explore his neighbourhood with a renewed sense of freedom and independence.



INDIA



CHILDREN IN PROGRAMME
40

We continued to provide rehabilitation, education and care to **40 children** with mobility disabilities at our *JJ Walkabout Centre* in Varanasi. Our services include physiotherapy sessions, skills training and education. We also continued our *Mother Training Programme*, designed to support mothers of children with disabilities and equip them with the necessary tools and knowledge, ensuring that the kids enrolled in our rehabilitation programme continue making progress in their development.



NANDHINI'S STORY

Nandhini is a 9-year-old girl from India. She was diagnosed with spastic Cerebral Palsy at a young age.

Before joining our Centre in 2017, she was unable to sit and had limited hand function. Since then, her progress has been remarkable! Today, she can sit and stand without support, and has developed the ability to grasp and hold different objects. Nandhini now performs her daily activities with minimal support, marking significant improvements in her independence.



UKRAINE



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED

100

In 2022, we launched our *#Walkabout4Ukraine* campaign to raise funds for sending a container of **100 wheelchairs** and mobility assistive devices to Lviv. Working together with our partner, Momentum Wheels for Humanity, we aimed to provide support to people affected by the war in Ukraine. Given the logistical complexities, the container arrived in 2023. Thanks to the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies and our community fundraising, we were able to help dozens of Ukrainian families and support a nation in need.

ARTEM'S STORY

Artem is an 8-year-old boy from Brovary, Kyiv. He has Cerebral Palsy, and therefore has never been able to walk. After being forced to evacuate due to the ongoing conflict, his family struggled with the lack of support for Artem's disability.

In March 2023 Artem received a paediatric wheelchair specially tailored to his needs. His new wheelchair allows Artem to sit comfortably and helps him maintain proper posture. His family has enrolled him in a rehabilitation programme, and Artem can finally start school.





FUNDRAISING

CORPORATES

In 2023, we received support from several corporate partners, including Euromonitor International, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Tullow Oil. Through these partnerships, we have been able to create a lasting impact, transforming countless lives of people with mobility disabilities across the globe.



Euromonitor International has been supporting us as their Headline Charity Partner since 2017. Two of Euromonitor's employees, Philip Bush and Jordon Crimmins, ran the 2023 London Marathon in honour of Walkabout, fundraising to provide mobility to those in need. Thanks to their efforts, and Euromonitor's matched funding, they raised enough for 34 life-changing wheelchairs.

With Euromonitor's support, we have been able to expand our impact in Uganda, going beyond wheelchair distributions to follow up with previous beneficiaries and provide essential repairs. Together, we have changed countless lives in Uganda.



We are deeply grateful to **Bloomberg Philanthropies** for their generous donation towards our projects in East Africa. Their support has been vital in advancing our work, improving the lives of individuals with mobility disabilities and creating a meaningful impact in the region.



Thanks to our generous corporate donor, **Tullow Oil**, we were able to return to Ghana in 2023 to distribute 175 custom-fitted wheelchairs to adults and kids with mobility disabilities in collaboration with our partners, OTC Ghana and Kabaka Foundation.

EVENTS: FLOWER SHOW

In May, we hosted the inaugural *Walkabout Flower Show*. This event was organised by our board member and long-standing supporter, Adriana Chryssicopoulos, at her home. Throughout the day, Monica Gonzalez-Bunster, mother of our co-founders, sold her handmade silk flower napkin rings and donated 100% of the profits to Walkabout. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, the event raised **£25,000!**



CLOSET TREASURE SALE

In June, we held our annual *Walkabout Closet Sale*. This week-long pop-up sale took place on King's Road, and featured a curated selection of pre-loved and designer clothing, shoes and accessories, all generously donated by our supporters. The sale was a tremendous success, raising over **£58,000** for our projects!

ART OF THE TREASURE HUNT

In June, we were honoured to be the designated charity for the *Art of the Treasure Hunt*, an extraordinary event curated by its founder, Luziah Hennessy. This unique experience offered the participants a rare opportunity to visit private art collections, foundations, and wineries, all focusing on contemporary art throughout Italy. The event raised over **£35,000**.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FAIR

In November, Walkabout Foundation was the nominated charity at the *2023 Christmas Shopping Fair*. This event was organised by our long-standing supporter, Patricia Cobiella. Thanks to a raffle featuring various prizes donated by the participating brands, we raised over **£1,300** for our global projects.



BRANDS: TORY BURCH

In October, we partnered with **Tory Burch**, to host a private breakfast at their flagship store on Regent Street, showcasing the brand's new holiday collection. With 20% of the sales donated to Walkabout, the event raised around **£4,000** for our projects.



LUNA CAFE

Since 2020, we've proudly partnered with **Luna Cafe**, an independent American coffee shop that created their own special Walkabout coffee blend. For every pack sold, Luna Cafe donates **\$5** directly to Walkabout Foundation, supporting our mission to provide mobility to people in need.



Some of the beneficiaries whose lives they've helped us change!



WALKABOUT HEROES

WALKABOUT
HEROES

5

RAISED OVER

£13,400

In 2023, 5 incredible #WalkaboutHeroes raised over £13,400 for our wheelchair, rehabilitation and research projects by taking part in the London and Berlin Marathons.



Two fundraisers from our corporate partner, Euromonitor International, **Jordon Crimmins** and **Philip Bush** ran the London Marathon in honour of Walkabout. They raised over £8,600, the equivalent of 34 wheelchairs!



Warren Handley ran for those who can't at the London Marathon and raised over £3,000!



Our #WalkaboutHeroes, **Andy Garcia** and **Casey Pherson**, who travelled from the US to take part in the Berlin Marathon, fundraising to bring mobility to people in need.



WALKABOUT AMBASSADORS

In 2023, our #WalkaboutHero, **Edoardo Bonelli**, continued his fundraising campaign in honour of Walkabout. Partnering with Dr. Maria Amedeo, author of *'Golf, specchio dell'anima'*, they hosted book sales in Italy, with 100% of the proceeds going to our cause. To date, the campaign has raised over **\$39,000**, and continues to make an incredible impact!





OUR FAMILY

OUR BOARD



CAROLINA GONZALEZ-BUNSTER
CO-FOUNDER,
CO-CHAIR



LUIS GONZALEZ-BUNSTER
CO-FOUNDER



ADRIANA CHRYSSICOPOULOS



ALEXANDER VAN HOLK



FADI ABUALI



ROLANDO GONZALEZ-BUNSTER



STEFANO BONFIGLIO



ZEINA NASSIF

OUR TEAM



MARINA NAKANO
CEO



NINA PIGORINI
PROGRAMMES
MANAGER



MARIA PYATAKOVA
MARKETING & DONOR
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



MARIA GABRIELA GELPI
EVENTS & OPERATIONS
ASSOCIATE



HENRIQUE SERUCA
PHOTOGRAPHY
& VIDEO



DAVID MUHORO
EAST AFRICA
DIRECTOR



PAUL MAINA
KENYA COUNTRY
MANAGER



TABITHA WANJIKU
WHEELCHAIR CENTRE
MANAGER



MAUREEN WANJIRU
WHEELCHAIR
DISTRIBUTION OFFICER



KATE NANDI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST

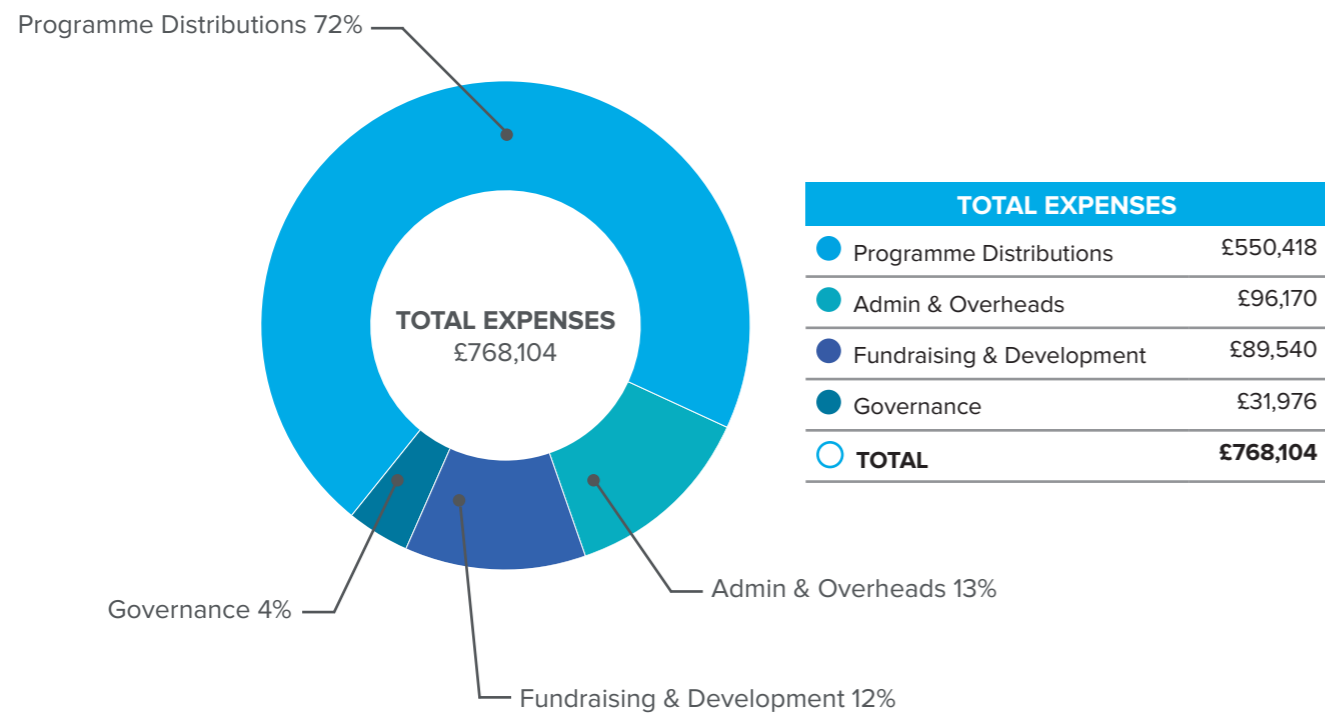
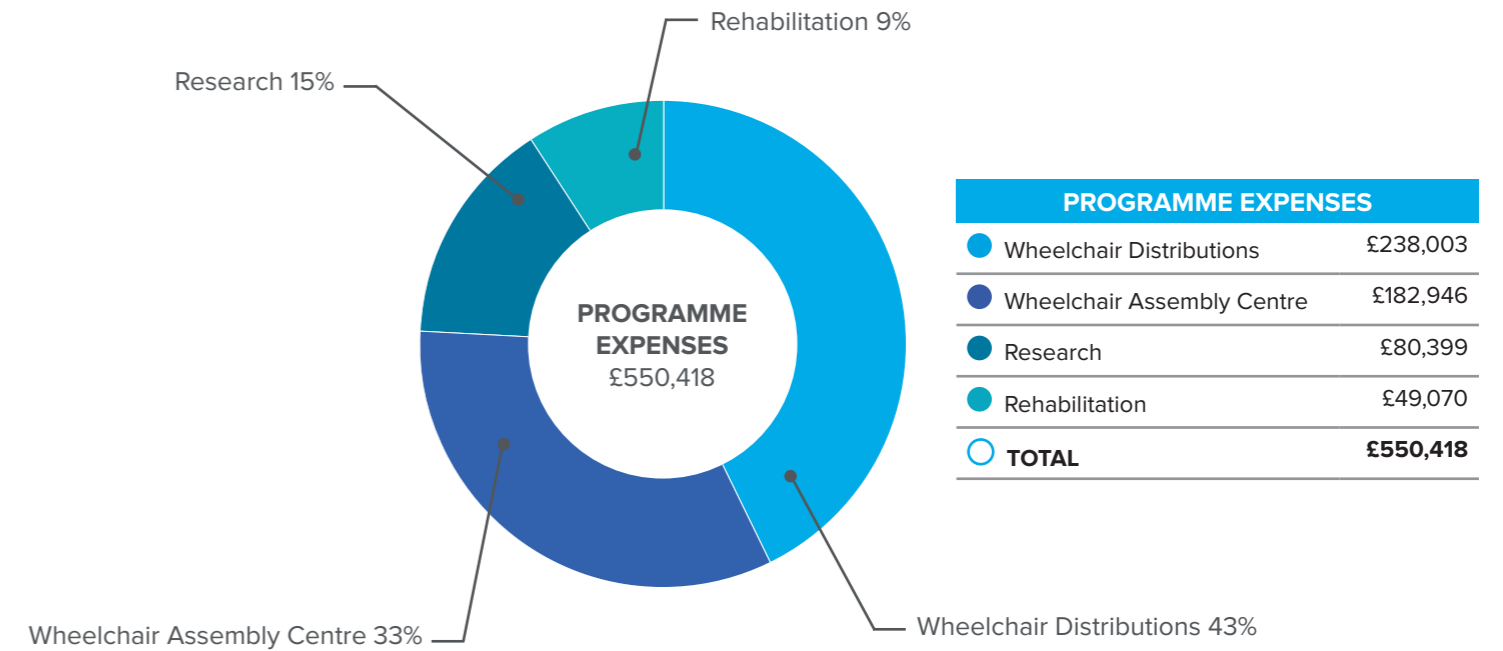
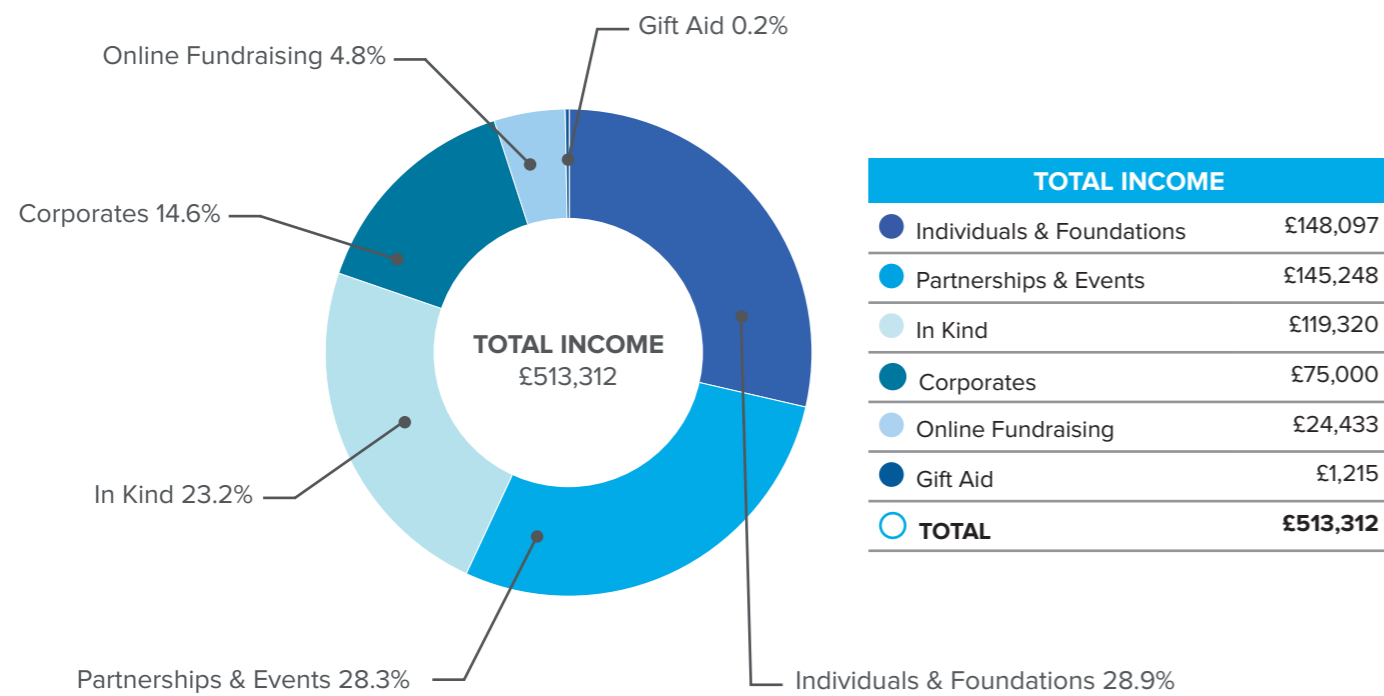


HANNAH WANGUI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSISTANT

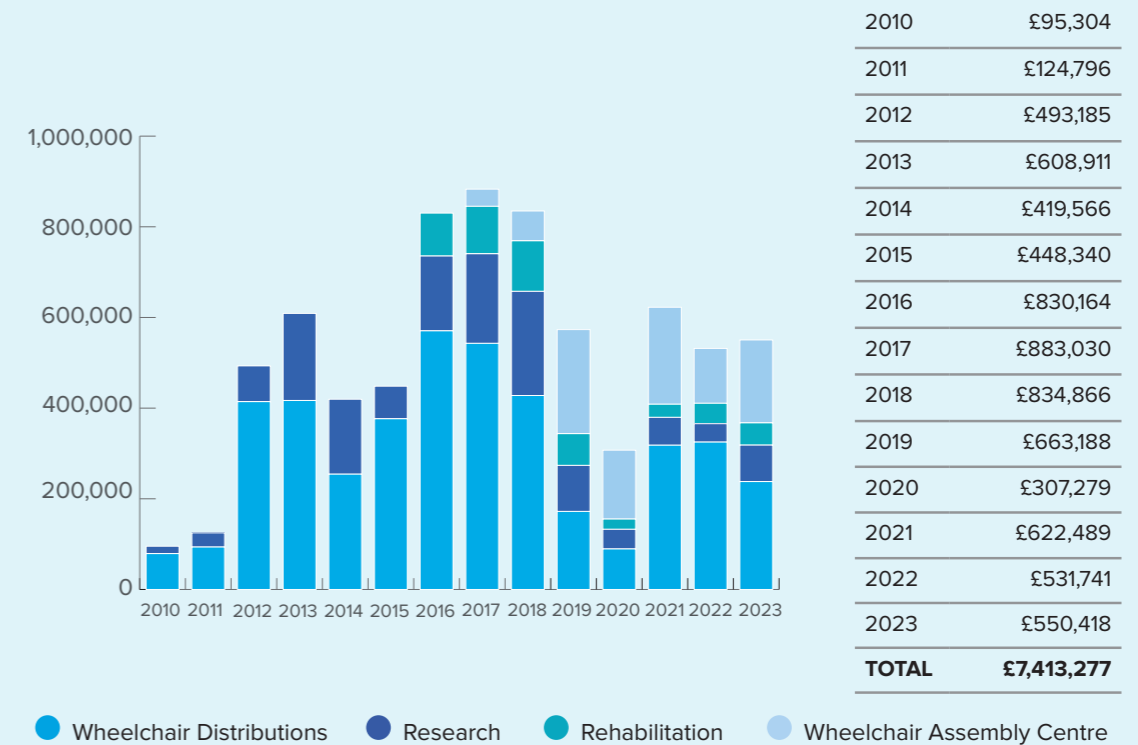


FINANCIALS

2023 FINANCIALS



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED SINCE INCEPTION









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US Registered 501(c) (3): 37-1582823

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Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.