

WALKABOUT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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ABOUT US



LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

We were able to achieve a lot in 2022. We distributed 3,503 wheelchairs, provided vital rehabilitation to 100 children and pledged another \$200,000 to a medical research study to find a cure for paralysis.

2022 was the year we were able to resume international travel, with several trips to our projects. We travelled to the Dominican Republic to distribute 228 paediatric wheelchairs to children in need and visited our Centre in Kenya.

Our Kenya Centre has been thriving throughout the year, with developments across all our projects. We were able to restart our wheelchair outreach distributions, as well as launch our first-ever rehab outreach programme and start our *Reusable Diaper Project*. We completed several major distributions in Uganda, finalised our *Digital Monitoring & Evaluation Project* and launched our first-ever *Repairs Project*. Despite the difficult economic and political environment, we were able to continue supporting people with mobility disabilities in Haiti. In response to the conflict in Ukraine, thanks to the support of our community and a generous donor, we were able to send an emergency wheelchair container to Lviv and play a pivotal role in helping a country in need.

None of this would be possible without our incredible UK and Kenyan teams, our local partners around the world and kind 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
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



25,126

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



26

COUNTRIES REACHED



66,000

LIVES IMPACTED

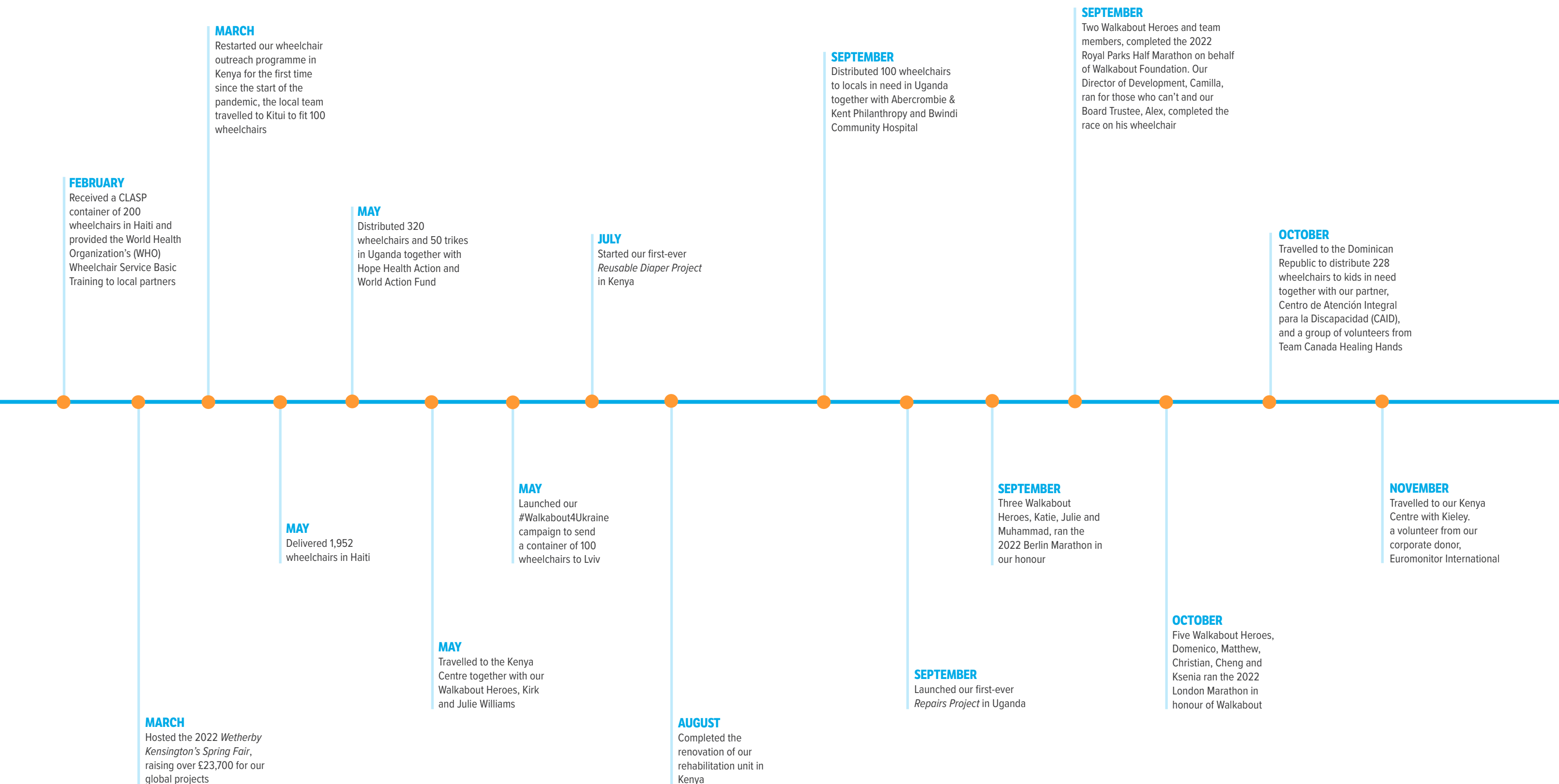


\$1.9M

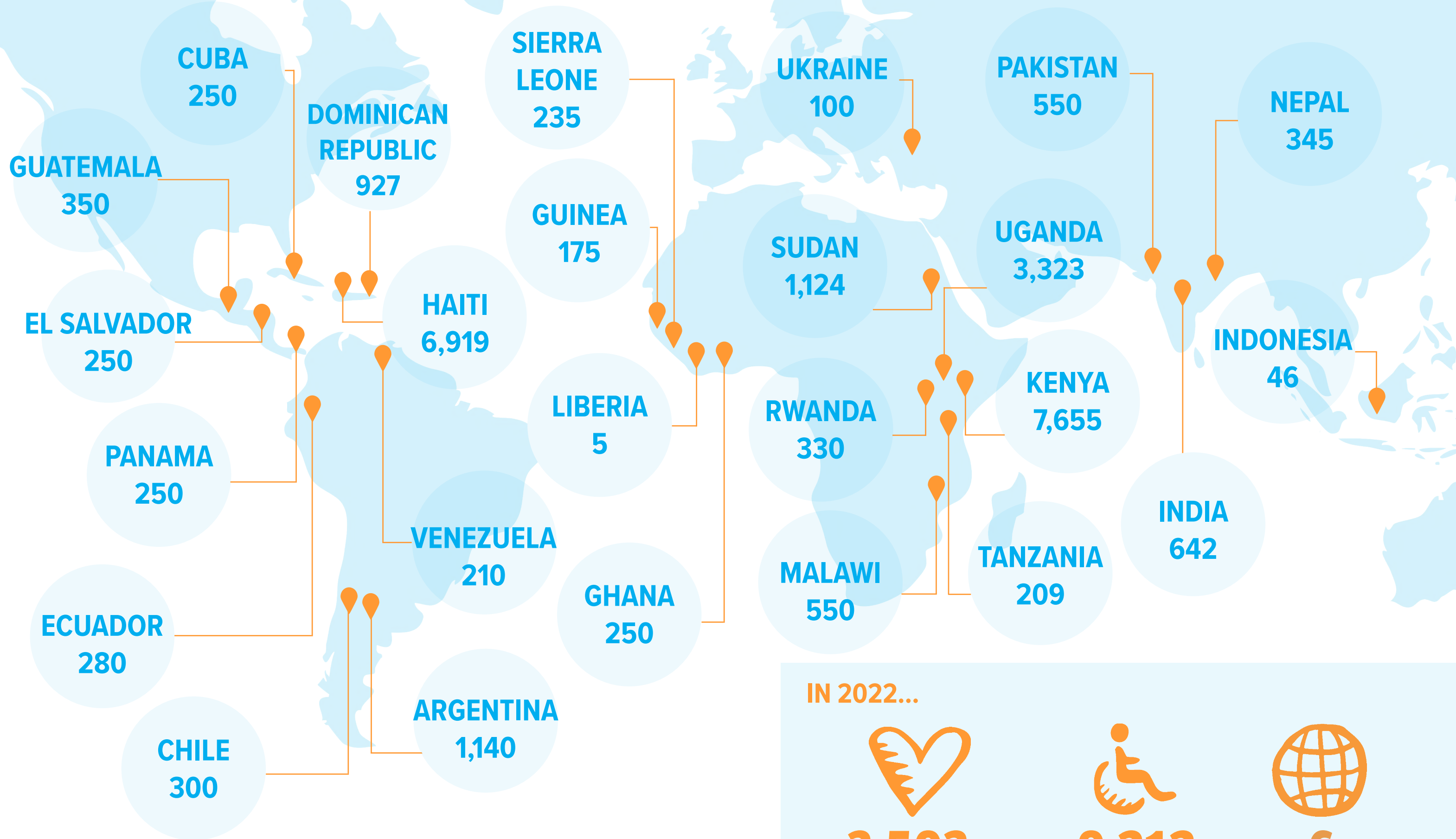
GIVEN TO RESEARCH



2022 AT A GLANCE



OUR WHEELCHAIR FOOTPRINT



IN 2022...



3,503

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



9,212

LIVES IMPACTED



6

COUNTRIES REACHED



RESEARCH

THE SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB

Finding a cure for paralysis is core to Walkabout's mission. We are committed to supporting groundbreaking Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) research efforts. Since 2010, Walkabout Foundation has been a part of some of the biggest breakthroughs in the discipline of SCI research. Over a decade later, we have funded over **\$1.9 million** in SCI research!

In 2022, we continued our partnership with the *Shirley Ryan AbilityLab* and pledged to fund \$200,000 over two years for their new Spinal Cord Injury research study, "*Functional Restoration after Spinal Cord Injury by Hebbian and Transcutaneous Spinal Stimulation*". The study is testing 15 patients with Spinal Cord Injuries, using Hebbian and transcutaneous stimulations combined with exercise in order to promote the recovery of function. The research has found that this treatment has the potential to make a significant, long-lasting difference for people with Spinal Cord Injuries.



RANDY'S STORY

Meet Randy, one of the participants of the *Shirley Ryan AbilityLab* study (pictured below). He had an incomplete cervical Spinal Cord Injury C7 ASIA D. In the beginning, Randy faced significant challenges. He walked with an EVA walker, struggled to maintain his balance and initiate a step on his own, let alone even being able to stand up from his chair without support (left photo).

After undergoing multiple rounds of stimulation, Randy is now able to walk with a regular walker without bodyweight support, stand up from his chair and even take steps on his own (right photo).





WHEELCHAIRS & REHABILITATION

KENYA



CHAIRS
ASSEMBLED

1,462

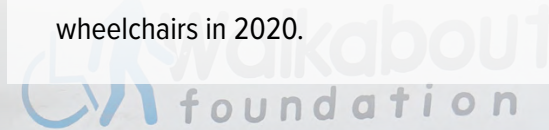
CHILDREN GIVEN
REHABILITATION

100

Since 2018, we have been operating our *Wheelchair Assembly & Repair Centre* in Nanyuki, Kenya. At our centre, we employ a local team who assemble the wheelchairs and personally fit every chair. We provide rehabilitation for up to **100 children** and training programmes to their carers. In 2022, we restarted our *Wheelchair Outreach Programme* for the first time since the pandemic. We also completed the renovations of our *Rehabilitation Centre*, expanding the rehabilitation space, installing new equipment and decorating the room to make it more fun and colourful for the children. With this new space, we can accommodate more children and provide a range of different exercises.

We started our first *Reusable Diaper Project*, having produced over **200 diapers**! Besides being reusable and sustainable, these diapers are extremely helpful for many families who cannot afford these products.

In May 2022, the Walkabout Team together with our Walkabout Heroes, Kirk and Julie Williams, visited our Centre. They went on an outreach distribution to Nyeri together with Metropolitan Sanctuary to fit 10 wheelchairs to locals in need. They also visited one of the local organisations that we work with, Cerebral Palsy Warriors, where they followed up on 10 beneficiaries who received our wheelchairs in 2020.



KENYA



ALMASI'S STORY

Almasi is a little girl from Karatina, Kenya. Before receiving her chair, she was isolated and was unable to attend school or interact with her peers.

In May 2022, the Walkabout Kenya Team fitted Almasi with her first-ever wheelchair! Now it is much easier for her to leave the house, go to school, play with her friends and be much more independent. Her caregiver's life has also changed, since she is now able to work while Almasi is at school! She feels more included in her local community and can participate in different activities.

FERUZI'S STORY

Feruzi is a little boy who lives in Kiangai, Kenya. He was born with Cerebral Palsy, and therefore has never been able to move around independently.

After receiving his wheelchair, life became so much better for Feruzi and his parents! Now, they can take him to church on Sundays, and he is much more involved in the local community. His wheelchair makes it so much easier for his parents to move him around and he can play with his toys using the tray attached to the chair!



UGANDA



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED

740

TRIKES
DISTRIBUTED

100

Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in the world, with over 1.5 million refugees residing in BidiBidi and Palorinya refugee camps.

We began working in Uganda in 2014 and to date we have distributed **3,232 wheelchairs and tricycles** throughout the country. In 2022, we completed several major distributions in Uganda, finalised our *Monitoring & Evaluation Project (M&E)* and launched our first-ever *Repairs Project*. Our *M&E* project assessed the impact of the wheelchairs on the lives of our beneficiaries, as well as identified any service gaps and need for repairs. In order to extend the lifespan of our chairs, we also started our first-ever *Repairs Project* to carry out the repairs that were identified through the *Monitoring & Evaluation Project*.



UGANDA

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROJECT

In 2022, we finalised our *Monitoring & Evaluation Project*, which showed that wheelchairs and trikes, as part of a holistic approach to disability-care provision, significantly contribute to improving the lives of people with mobility disabilities, despite the many challenges they still face. See some of the findings below.

**88%
OF ADULTS**

said their quality of life had improved after receiving a wheelchair

**64%
OF ADULTS**

said they felt more independent

**90%
OF ADULTS
AND CHILDREN**

felt more included in the community after receiving a wheelchair

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

MARIA'S STORY

Maria is an 18-year-old girl from South Sudan, who lives in the BidiBidi refugee settlement.

As a young child, Maria contracted Polio and was left immobile. When Maria and her family fled to Uganda, her parents carried her on their backs for 100km from South Sudan to the Ugandan border. Until we met, Maria never had a wheelchair and could not go to school.

In 2020, we gave Maria her first-ever wheelchair, which meant she could finally have an education. We saw Maria once again in 2022 as a part of our *Monitoring & Evaluation Project*. Maria told us that thanks to her wheelchair, she can visit her friends, have a social life, and help her family at home.



HAITI

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
2,152



In 2021, we built the *HHA Walkabout Wheelchair Distribution Centre* together with our partner, Hope Health Action. Since then, we have been working with 32 local partners to deliver wheelchairs from our Centre to locals in need all around Haiti. In 2022, we distributed over **2,000 wheelchairs** from the centre, impacting over **5,200 lives!** We also continued to train our partners, helping to build their skills, knowledge and expertise of wheelchair service provision.

In 2022, Haiti remained in a long-standing economic, political and humanitarian crises, with violent social unrest taking place around the country. Despite these difficult times, along with our local partners, we were able to continue supporting people with mobility disabilities in the region.

WIDELENE'S STORY

Widelene is an 8-year-old girl from Trou-du-Nord, Haiti. She has Cerebral Palsy, and therefore has never been able to move around independently.

Before Walkabout's donation, she never had a wheelchair, and had to rely on her family to get around the house. In order to leave home, Widelene's mother had to push her around in an old stroller.

She received her first-ever paediatric wheelchair through our local partner, Footprints of the Son. Thanks to her new chair, Widelene can finally go to school and take part in social events with her local community, such as going to church on Sundays with her family.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
228

In October 2022, we returned to the Dominican Republic to provide **228 paediatric wheelchairs** to children in need together with our partner, Centro de Atención Integral para la Discapacidad (CAID), and volunteers from Team Canada Healing Hands. We distributed wheelchairs in Santo Domingo, Santiago de los Caballeros and San Juan de la Maguana.

The majority of the kids we met never had a wheelchair before, and for them their new chair represented a world of new opportunities – to go to school, make new friends, and be independent for the very first time.

EMILIAN'S STORY

Emilian is a 3-year-old boy from the Dominican Republic. He was born prematurely at 25 weeks. After the mother's emergency C-section, the baby spent 47 days in intensive care on a ventilator because he couldn't breathe on his own. At 6 months old, he was extremely underweight, so his mother took him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy.

Emilian receives rehabilitation at our partner's centre and his mother does rehabilitation sessions at home to make sure he continues making progress in his development. Until he received his first wheelchair, Emilian had to be pushed around in a stroller.

Receiving a wheelchair not only transformed his life, but also his mother's, as she is now able to go back to work as a physical therapist and provide for herself and her son, while Emilian can finally go to school, socialize with his peers and make new friends.



TANZANIA

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
35



Since 2017, we have been working Mobility Care, an independent wheelchair producer in Arusha who uses local resources to make quality wheelchairs. With this approach, we not only invest in the local economy, but also offer assistance with product development based on our experience with a wide range of wheelchairs.

In 2022, we provided the World Health Organization Basic Wheelchair Service training for Mobility Care and two local NGOs, upskilling them in assessment and wheelchair fitting. We also distributed 35 wheelchairs together with two local NGOs in northern Tanzania.

DINA'S STORY

Meet Dina, a happy 7-year-old girl from Tanzania. She was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at a very young age, which left her immobile.

In December 2022, Dina received her first-ever wheelchair from one of our local partners in Tanzania. Thanks to her new wheelchair, Dina now has the dignity, freedom and independence that any child deserves. She can finally move around independently, go to school, interact with her peers and be a part of the local community.





At our *JJ Walkabout Centre* in Varanasi, we continued to provide rehabilitation, education and care to **40 children** with mobility disabilities, as well as offer support to their parents. Children received vital physiotherapy sessions, skills training and education, including 10 children that are part of our outreach programme. The kids have made amazing progress, some have even learnt to walk and speak for the first time! We also continued our *Mother Training Programme*, which focuses on supporting and training mothers of children with disabilities.

ARUSH'S STORY

Arush is an 8-year-old boy from India. He was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy as a young child.

Before he attended our Centre, he was unable to move around or talk. Arush joined the Centre back in 2018 at the age of three, and since then his progress has been amazing! Once he began physiotherapy and speech therapy sessions, he started to make great improvements. Arush is now able to speak and move around independently, his trunk control is improving every month and he is even able to sit up without support.



UKRAINE

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
100



In February 2022, Vladimir Putin launched a military invasion of Ukraine. A devastating humanitarian crisis continues to unfold in the country.

In May 2022, we ran our *#Walkabout4Ukraine* fundraising campaign to send a container of **100 wheelchairs** and mobility assistive devices to Lviv, together with our partner, Momentum Wheels for Humanity. Due to the nature of this crisis, the container didn't arrive until 2023. Despite the difficult times, thanks to Bloomberg Philanthropies along with the support of our community, we still managed to help dozens of Ukrainian families and play a pivotal role in helping a country in need.

ILYA'S STORY

Ilya is one of our wheelchair recipients from Ukraine. Ilya, a coal miner from Bakhmut in the Donetsk Region, was at home when a Russian missile hit his house. He survived, but the consequences of being trapped under the rubble were severe.

He had a complete Spinal Cord Injury, resulting in the loss of all sensory and motor functions in the lower half of his body. Ilya could no longer care for himself and was dependent on his mother, who never left his side while he was at the hospital.

Before receiving a wheelchair, Ilya's physical and lifestyle needs were assessed by our partner, Momentum Wheels for Humanity. He was then provided with an active-style wheelchair. Thanks to his new chair, Ilya is now more independent, capable of taking care of himself and can go outside. He's even considering opening an inclusive barbershop in Lviv.





FUNDRAISING

CORPORATES

In 2022, we were supported by several corporate partners - Euromonitor International, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Tullow Oil. These partnerships have allowed us to transform countless lives of people with mobility disabilities around the world.



Euromonitor International has been supporting us as their Headline Charity Partner since 2017. In 2022, we were honoured to host Euromonitor's volunteer, Kieley, on a special visit to our *Wheelchair Assembly & Repair Centre* in Kenya. One of Euromonitor's employees, Matthew Baxter, also ran the 2022 London Marathon in honour of Walkabout, fundraising to provide mobility to those in need. Thanks to his efforts, and Euromonitor's matched funding, he raised enough for 12 life-changing wheelchairs.

What started out in 2017 as a single wheelchair distribution in Uganda, has grown into a full-scale sustainable programme, allowing us to distribute over 2,000 wheelchairs and develop our first *Monitoring & Evaluation* and *Repairs Projects*. Together with Euromonitor International, we have been able to transform thousands of lives of people in need in Uganda.



In 2022, we were humbled by the generosity of **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. Thanks to their donation, along with our community fundraising, we were able to send an emergency container to Lviv together with our long-standing partner, Momentum Wheels For Humanity. Due to the nature of the conflict in Ukraine, the wheelchair container arrived in 2023.



Thanks to our generous corporate donor, **Tullow Oil**, we were able to secure a container of 175 wheelchairs for people in need in Ghana. In 2023, we will return to the region to distribute these chairs to locals with mobility disabilities together with our partners, OTC Ghana and Kabaka Foundation.

EVENTS

In March, we hosted the *2022 Wetherby Kensington's Spring Fair*. Together with the **Wetherby Kensington** community, we ran a fun fair, inviting the students to take part in different games, shows and activities ranging from the Lucky Loot, Sweets Trolley Stalls, to the Entrepreneurs Market - it was a fabulous day for families. The fair was a huge success, raising over £23,700 in 2022 alone, concluding our *Charity of the Year* fundraising campaign, which raised over **£40,700** since 2021.



BRAND PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2020, we have been in a partnership with **Luna Café**, an independent American coffee shop. They make their very own Walkabout coffee blend. For every pack of the blend sold, Luna Café has generously pledged to donate \$5 directly to Walkabout.



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



WALKABOUT AMBASSADORS

In 2022, several Walkabout ambassadors ran digital fundraising campaigns in support of our global projects. This year, our supporters **Kirk and Julie Williams** travelled to Kenya to visit our Centre, meet the local team and see first-hand how we assemble and deliver wheelchairs. Since Kirk first contacted Walkabout a few years ago, he has raised **\$57,000** for our wheelchair projects.

Our incredible #WalkaboutHero, **Edoardo Bonelli**, continued his fundraising campaign in honour of Walkabout. Together with Dr Maria Amedeo, the author of the *'Golf, specchio dell'anima'* book, they held book sales in Italy, with 100% of the proceeds going to Walkabout. To date, the campaign has raised over **\$30,000** and counting!



Our #WalkaboutHeroes, Kirk and Julie Williams



Our star supporter, Edoardo Bonelli



WALKABOUT HEROES

WALKABOUT
HEROES

10

RAISED OVER

£17,900

In 2022, 10 amazing #WalkaboutHeroes raised over **£17,900** for our wheelchair, rehabilitation and research projects by taking part in the London Marathon, the Berlin Marathon and the Royal Parks Half Marathon!



Christian Lane travelled from the US to raise money for Walkabout by taking part in the London Marathon! He raised over **£3,200** for people in need.



Our star supporter, Domenico Gonzalez Rossi, raised **£3,600** for his London Marathon, the equivalent of **14** wheelchairs!



Cheng Sun ran for those who can't at the 2022 London Marathon and raised **£3,000!**



Our #WalkaboutHeroes, Julie Lloyd and Katie Golding, who ran the 2022 Berlin Marathon in honour of Walkabout, fundraising to bring mobility to people in need.



Our #WalkaboutHero and Board Trustee, Alex Van Holk, completed the Royal Parks Half Marathon on his wheelchair in honour of Walkabout!



Matthew Baxter, a fundraiser from our corporate partner, Euromonitor International, ran the London Marathon in honour of Walkabout. Thanks to his efforts, and Euromonitor's matched funding, he raised over **£3,100** for people in need!



Camilla Fitzgerald, Walkabout's former Director of Development, ran in honour of those who can't at the 2022 Royal Parks Half Marathon.



OUR FAMILY

OUR BOARD



**CAROLINA
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CO-FOUNDER,
CO-CHAIR



**LUIS
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CO-FOUNDER



**ADRIANA
CHRYSSICOPOULOS**



ALEXANDER VAN HOLK
CO-CHAIR



AZIZ ALMASHAL



FADI ABUALI



**ROLANDO
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**



STEFANO BONFIGLIO



ZEINA NASSIF

OUR TEAM



MARINA NAKANO
CEO



ELLEN GAMBLE
PROGRAMMES
DIRECTOR



MARIA PYATAKOVA
MARKETING LEAD



JOSEPHINE CALDWELL
ADMIN & OPERATIONS
ASSOCIATE



HENRIQUE SERUCA
PHOTOGRAPHY
& VIDEO



DAVID MUHORO
KENYA COUNTRY
MANAGER



SR. IRENE GONSALVES
INDIA COUNTRY
MANAGER



TABITHA WANJIKU
WHEELCHAIR CENTRE
MANAGER



MAUREEN WANJIRU
WHEELCHAIR
DISTRIBUTION OFFICER



KATE NANDI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST

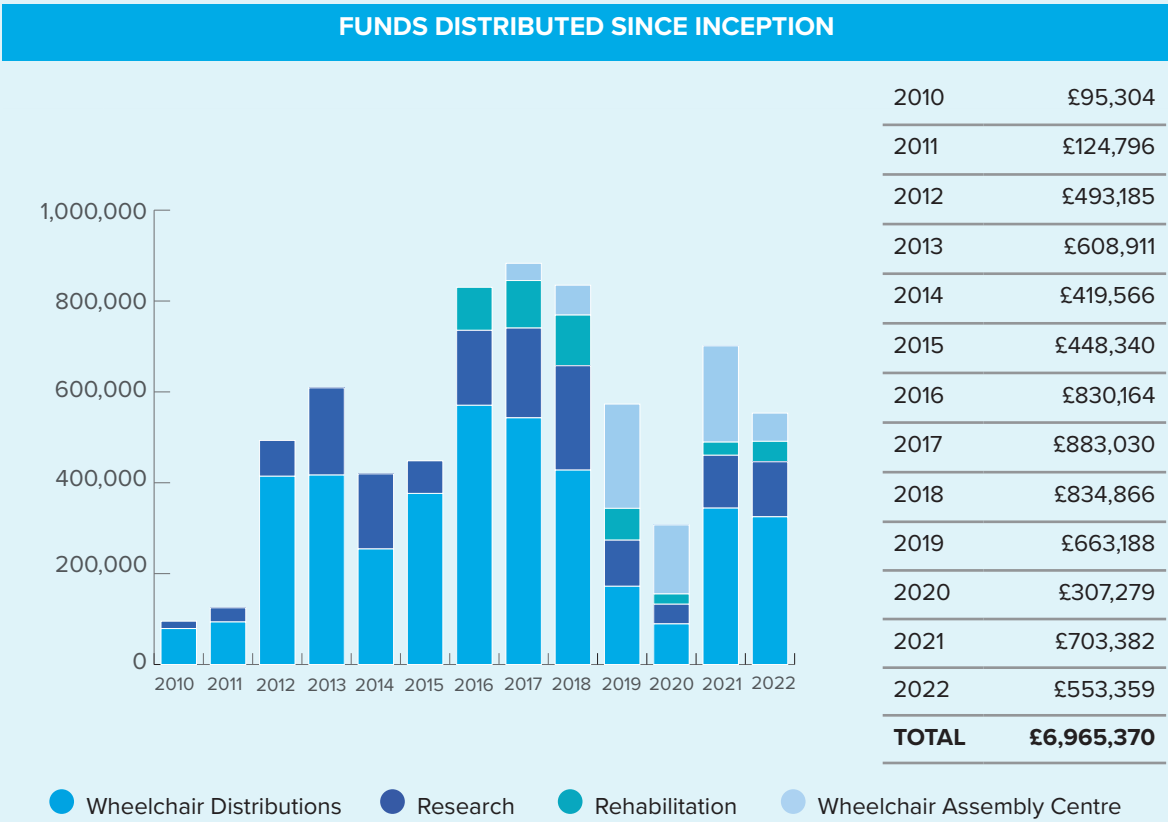
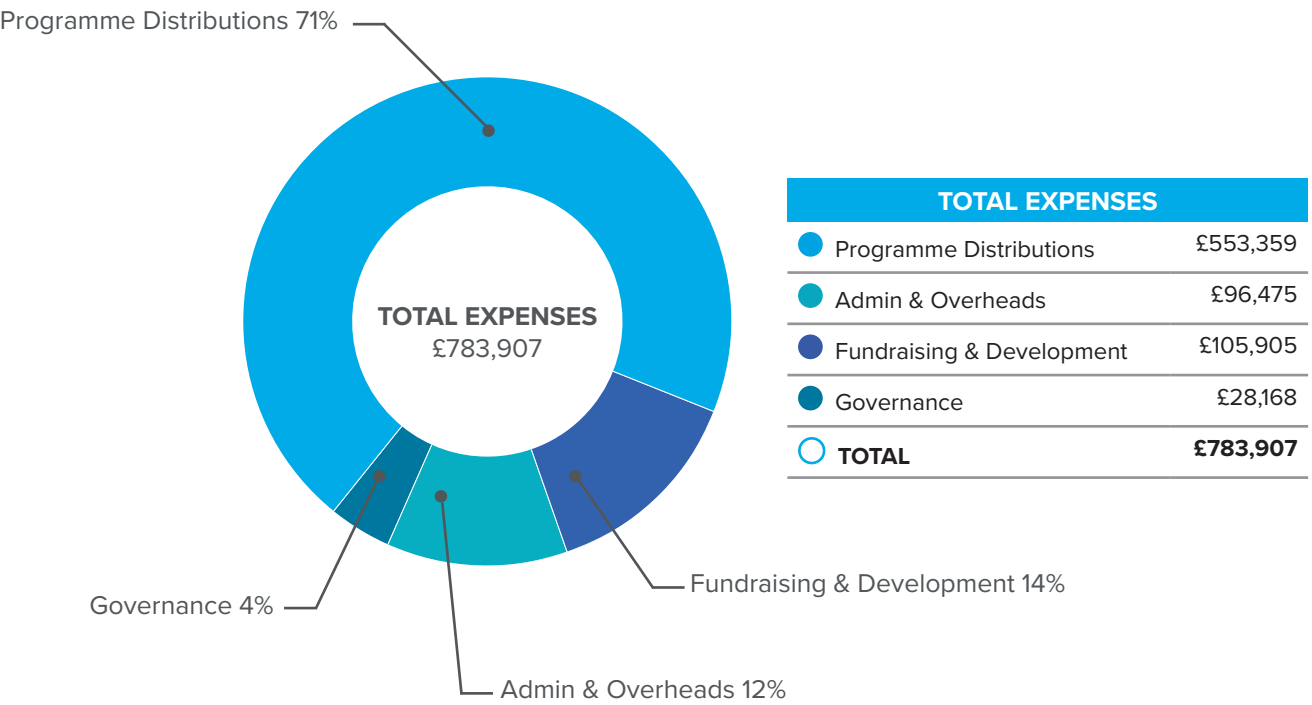
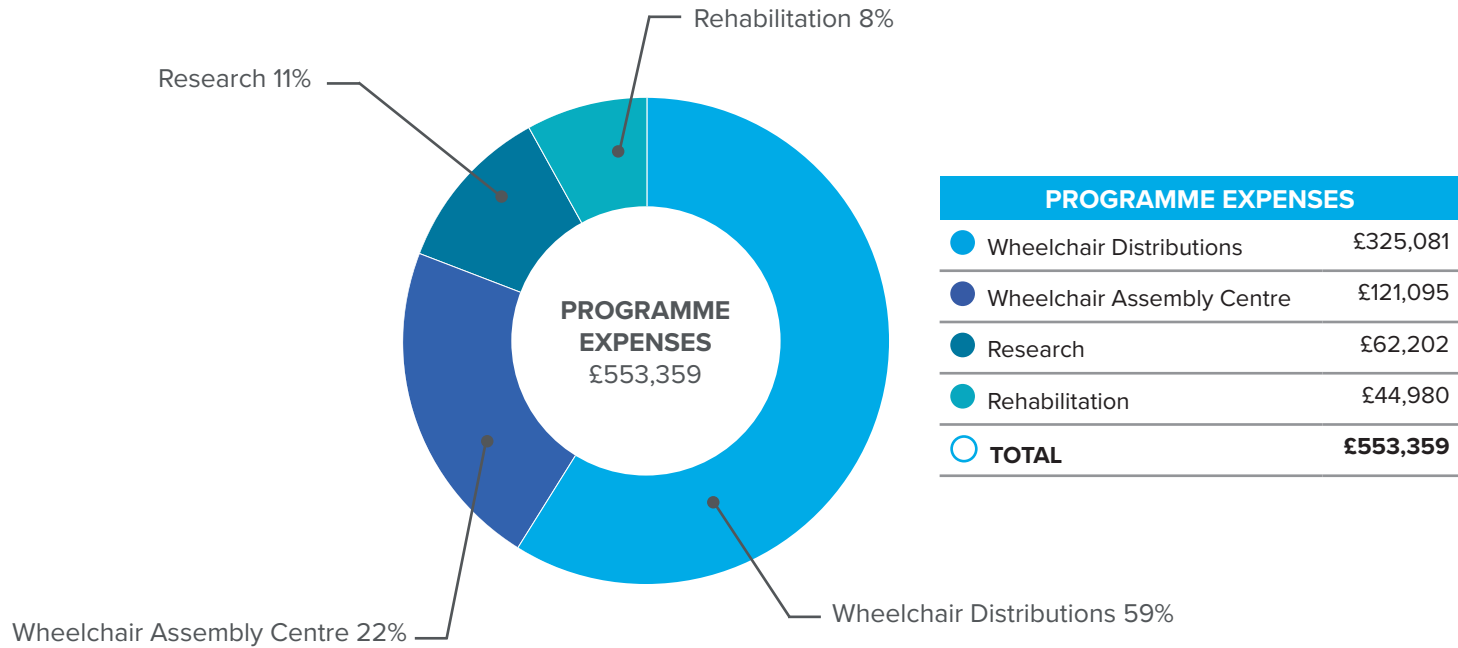
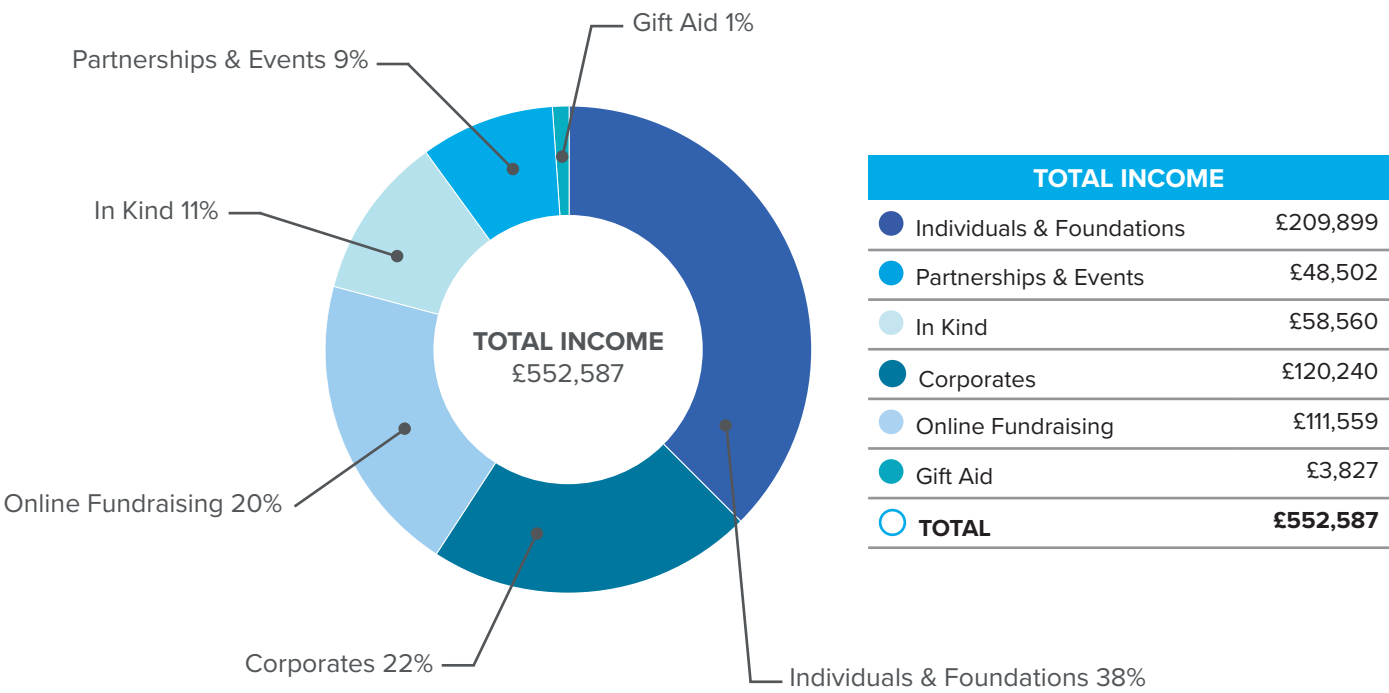


HANNAH WANGUI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSISTANT



FINANCIALS

2022 FINANCIALS







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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.