



architecture
sans frontières
UNITED KINGDOM

Annual Review 2015-2016

ASF-UK Team



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Message from our Chair

The activities and events documented in this review span the 2015-2016 year and many of our activities took place in what has become known as a tumultuous year of difficult political events, a growing sense of isolationism and perhaps for some, fear of what is different. Most alarming has been the emergence of post-truth, where facts, expertise and evidence are regarded with suspicion.

ASF-UK is rooted in education, knowledge production and building capacity for vulnerable groups to engage in the processes of urbanisation and development. I can't think of a more appropriate set of activities to be investing in during these times. Across our three core project areas we have evolved and consolidated methodologies and activities. Challenging Practice has been developed into three stages and the diversity of participants across a number of countries continues to ensure we build our reach.

Both Change by Design and Resilience by Design ran workshops – Cape Town and Cartagena - which sought to build on methodologies and partnerships. For CbD we have embarked on the first of a set of workshops where we seek to build partnership with a local partner DAG – enabling us to both build capacity long term but also seek to test our approach over a longer time frame. RbD both engaged in on the ground learning and capacity building, testing our approach to resilience, how we define it and the range of practitioners that need to engage together to deliver resilient design. CbD and RbD engaged in public events and with other professions and communities – the RIBA Designing City Resilience and the launch event of the CbD Euston report. These are critical points of engagement - advocacy is a cornerstone of ASF-UK's approach, how we share learning and ideas to build communities of practice, to discuss, debate and challenge.

It is on this last point that I wish to end this year's foreword – as I think we can all agree advocacy coupled with action is very much needed for the times ahead! Thank you to our volunteers, supporters, sponsors and partners for continuing to engage and work with us.

Rubbina Karruna
Chair, ASF-UK





1

Our Philosophy



ASF-UK's Objectives

1. Training and Capacity Building

Ensure that an understanding of the core principles behind community participation, appropriate design, urban resilience and sustainability becomes an integral part of the education and practice of built environment practitioners by: working with universities and bodies (such as RIBA) to influence the way built environment disciplines are taught; creating capacity building opportunities through independent-learning initiatives, seminars, and action learning workshops; and producing and disseminating learning resources.

2. Live Projects

Support emergency and development programmes to ensure that they lead to equitable built environment processes and outcomes, by forging relationships with the governments, civil society organisations and community groups running initiatives, and encouraging and facilitating the involvement of built environment professionals with a people-centred and participatory approach.

3. Advocacy

Influence urban policy and planning processes by mainstreaming methodologies and practices focused on democratic and resilient city-making aimed at producing more equitable and sustainable urban development processes.

ASF-UK'S Philosophy

Our philosophy as an organisation has evolved as we have defined the gap within architectural education and practice, and recognised that good intentions alone do not result in good practice!

- We believe strongly that local communities and local built environment professionals should be determining their own development, and any external players should be building capacity and helping to facilitate the change needed.
- The problems we are tackling are so complex that it needs a very clear methodology of engagement to begin to unravel constraints and opportunities for action.
- We are redefining the boundaries of our work as the typical approach to developing a building project is not appropriate in the contexts of vulnerability in which we often find ourselves.
- We prefer to develop replicable and adaptable methodologies rather than solutions to problems.
- We think that working only in teams of built environment practitioners is problematic and we need to include all sorts of additional people and disciplines in the way we work and engage.
- We work everywhere! The levels of vulnerability, marginalisation and disparity between the rich and poor is on the rise and we cannot ignore what we learn from all the contexts and how this information might be relevant to places closer to home.



2 Sponsors and Partners





In 2015 and 2016 ASF-UK has had funding and support from a number of organisations:

ASF Supporters

- ASF-International
- RIBA CPD
- University College London, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit
- University of Sheffield, School of Architecture
- University of Westminster, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment

ASF Partners

- Development Action Group (DAG)
- The East London Community Organisers (TELCO)
- Citizens-UK
- Camden Citizens
- UCL Urban Laboratory
- The Bartlett Development Planning Unit
- Fundación por la Educación Multidimensional (FEM), Colombia
- Impact Hub, Accra, Ghana.
- University of Oxford
- ASF - International

Thank you

ASF-UK would like to thank all our funders, supporters and partners for all their help in 2014 and 2015.

Sponsorship

ASF-UK welcomes sponsorship and donations to increase the impact of our work. If you would like to donate please do so on our Virgin Money page:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk.

For more information on individual membership and sponsorship opportunities for companies please contact our administrator at admin@asf-uk.org.



3

Programmes



Change By Design

Change by Design unites a series of workshops and seminars developing and disseminating a participatory design methodology with the objective to contribute to the empowerment of urban marginalised groups and communities.

The programme is concerned with advancing the thinking and practice of participatory design in ways that contribute to the democratisation of city-making and to addressing urban socio-spatial inequalities. Activities focus on contested urban sites such as informal settlements and inner city areas that have been earmarked for regeneration, both in the Global South and the UK. Through its commitment to action learning and knowledge co-production, Change by Design uses urban design and planning skills to support community groups in developing plans and strategies that foster the production of more just cities.

In 2015/2016, the Change by Design programme focussed on the development of long-term collaborations with civil society partners, with the objective to enhance the impact and sustainability of its activities. Two strategic partnership documents were produced, one focusing on activities in London with Citizens-UK, and one building on the relationship with Development Action Group in Cape Town, South Africa.



Resilience By Design

Resilience by Design is a programme that unites a series of live-projects and international workshops exploring socio-ecological issues in the context of rapid urban change, climate hazards, resource scarcities and depleted ecosystems.

It focuses on bridging local with scientific knowledge through spatial design by utilising an innovative participatory, action-learning and interdisciplinary methodology. With this approach we facilitate the formulation of integrated scenarios and concrete solutions that can facilitate long-term resilience in urban contexts, while retaining a strong pedagogical focus that allows communities and different stakeholders to understand and reflect on the complex interaction between humans and the ecosystems and territories they inhabit and transform.



Challenging Practice

Challenging Practice is an independent-learning programme that seeks to enable built environment practitioners to engage reflexively with the challenges of inclusive and sustainable urban development. The course is based on principles of active, dynamic, and action-based learning. Its pedagogical framework is grounded in theories of situated knowledge and reflective practice, and places a strong emphasis on the ethical component of engaged learning.

Challenging Practice is an ASF-International programme coordinated by ASF-UK, and it is RIBA CPD accredited (Core Curriculum).

In 2015/2016, the team undertook a programme review which led to the restructuring of the course (on-going); and it started designing a training-the-trainers initiatives that will involve ASF-international partners and others interested in implementing the course (to be started Oct. 2016).





3.1 Training and Capacity Building

Change by Design

Change by Design: Cape Town 2015 International Workshop

The CbD Cape Town workshop was implemented in partnership with Development Action Group and focused on urban regeneration processes taking place in the neighbourhood of Woodstock. Through the case of Woodstock and its connection to specific communities across Cape Town, the workshop explored the effects of market-led urban development processes, interrogating its impacts on tenure security of vulnerable groups and access to public space in Woodstock, and strategies of community mobilisation at city level. Alongside the DAG team, the workshop involved a diverse set of local stakeholders (community based organisations, support groups, academic institutions and local government representatives) to explore how inner-city urban regeneration can be re-imagined as a process that brings about more equitable and democratic city development in Cape Town.

The workshop was a catalyst for a longer-term engagement in Cape Town in the coming years, in partnership with DAG. The partnership will focus on exploring ways in which the Change by Design methodology can contribute to building the capacity of their team and their partnering community networks. ASF-UK is committed to doing this through three more workshops (2017, 2018, 2019) and an internship programme.



Change by Design: London (Ongoing)

Following on the Change by Design London workshop held in London in September 2014, the conversation with Citizens-UK continued to define a partnership strategy between the two organisations. ASF-UK assisted Citizens-UK and specifically TELCO (The East London Community Organisers) in a 1-day workshop focused on Community Land Trusts, by providing an introduction to participatory design and planning. Based on this event, ASF-UK agreed to collaborate with TELCO to deliver a short training course on community-led planning addressing Citizens-UK community members.

The course will explore the built environment challenges faced by groups in East London, and how these organisations can have a greater voice in the process of change taking place in these areas. From the perspective of Citizens-UK, ASF-UK's involvement could provide the capacity needed in key moments, in order to generate momentum around particular aspects of community mobilisations and community-based initiatives. The course will also open up opportunities to capture the learning that emerges from Citizens-UK's existing processes of engagement, and reflect on how that can inform further actions of the organisation.



Resilience by Design

Resilience by Design: Cartagena 2015

As part of the Resilience by Design partnership in Cartagena, Architecture Sans Frontières -UK was commissioned to facilitate a workshop on interdisciplinary and participatory design for building resilience, in collaboration with the Colombian NGO FEM (Foundation for Multidimensional Education) and with the support of University of Westminster and the University of Jorge Tadeo Lozano.

The workshop was focused on the Island of Tierra Bomba, which is inhabited by Afro-Colombian coastal communities constantly at risk of rising sea levels and coastal erosion. This workshop engaged 22 Colombian and international professionals that volunteered from various disciplines, including architecture, planning, agro-ecology, environmental engineering, sociology and ethnic law. The outputs of the workshop were twofold: a set of integrated design strategies and scenarios focused on the reconfiguration of the coast, environmental protection, risk management, tourism, heritage, public space, productivity, and social convergence; and a governance strategy for building resilience, based on the specific ethnic law applicable to Afro-Colombian communities. The process and outputs generated in the workshop were then adapted by FEM to produce the official Territorial Administrative Plan of Caño del Oro, finalised in January 2016.



Resilience by Design: Impact Hub, Accra, Ghana 2015

In recent years, the effect of flash floods leading to widespread displacement in central Accra has increased, in part due to rapid urbanisation and climate change. Current responses have included aggressive removal of informal settlements which does not address the root causes of the problem and has lead to increased vulnerability for communities in the affected areas.

Building on the Local Vs Global workshop in 2011 and ongoing partnerships with community organisations in Ghana, ASF-UK is exploring the potential of applying the Resilience by Design methodology to urban settings in Accra. ASF-UK organised a workshop to start developing a series of engagements with key actors (including community orgs, local built environment professionals, government and international agencies) to use tools of participatory design and planning to understand the urban resilience of Accra framed within the context of flooding and water management in the city. Through these engagements ASF-UK hopes to facilitate dialogue between different organisations from bottom up and top down processes, suggesting ways forward for more holistic DDR strategies and equitable urban development. This event brought together a number of different voices working in this field to discuss urban resilience in Accra and opportunities for participatory engagement in this context.

The afternoon was structured into an introduction of the Resilience by Design methodology, presentations from leading figures and interactive group workshops exploring this topic, all of which provided valuable ideas for the future implementation of this initiative.



Building a collective vision of urban development and resilience in the Global South: University of Oxford, MSc Sustainable Urban Development, 22 January 2016

The RbD team delivered a 4-hours workshop and lecture for the MSc Sustainable Urban Development at University of Oxford. The workshop explored the concepts and tools necessary to design integrated scenarios and a collective vision of urban development and resilience. It did so by exploring concepts of urban resilience, participation, interdisciplinarity and informality, while testing analytical and planning tools that facilitate co production and understanding of socio-ecological issues from the perspective of different stakeholders. The workshop was based on the case study and role-play profiles of Tierra baja, in Cartagena, Colombia. This case study focuses on a coastal settlement characterised by environmental hazards like sea rise and coastal erosion. Issues explored through this case study included infrastructure provision, habitability, environmental management and community participation. 16 students participated in the workshop, the grand majority being experienced professionals from different disciplines, including economists, architects, anthropologists, environmental consultants and so on.



Building a collective vision of urban development and resilience in the Global South workshop 2016 at the University of Oxford, UK.



Challenging Practice

In 2015/2016, ASF-UK ran two two-day Stage 2 seminars, in May 2015 and November 2015. The next step in the restructuring of the programme will consist in the implementation of the new module structure for Stage A, including the updating of existing modules, the termination of some, and the addition of a few new ones (e.g. Resilience, Conflicts, Natural Disasters...).

In 2015/2016, ASF-UK launched an opportunity for Challenging Practice course participants to participate in the Change by Design international workshop in Cape Town as a route to achieving certification for Stage B of the course. ASF-UK also supported 3 participants to do internships with 3 different organisations. Each participants negotiated conditions with their internship provider to suit the requirements of the Stage B learning outcomes.

ASF-UK launched Stage 4 of the Challenging Practice course in January 2015. This is now being undertaken by its first participant.



During the year, ASF-UK prepared and started to roll out the new version of Challenging Practice. The programme is now structured into 3 stages:

Stage A. Learning in Action (former Stage 1+2)

The first stage of the programme provides an overview of the knowledge required to engage with vulnerable groups in an urban context. It includes a series of readings, and a live seminar that allows participants to test their knowledge through scenario-making and role-playing exercises set in real urban contexts. *311 participants to date (inc. Stage 2 pre-2016)*



Stage B. Reflecting in Action (former Stage 3)

The second stage of the course involves learning through action in urban environments marked by inequality and vulnerability. The aim is to offer participants a live immersion into critical and participatory modes of built environment practice. *28 participants to date (inc. Stage 3 pre-2016)*



Stage C. Reflecting on Action (former Stage 4)

The final stage is designed to provoke critical reflection on both the theoretical and fieldwork components of previous stages. The focus is on post-action reflection, and the aim is to encourage participants to situate their live experience within wider theoretical debates and approaches to practice, and within their own learning paths.

3.2 Advocacy

Change by Design

Citizens HS2 Charter Launch

21 April 2015, London / with Citizens-UK

This evening event at St Mary's Church by Euston Station in London brought together a series of community groups to celebrate the Launch of Citizens-UK 'HS2 Citizens Charter', illustrating community-centred principles for urban regeneration in Euston.

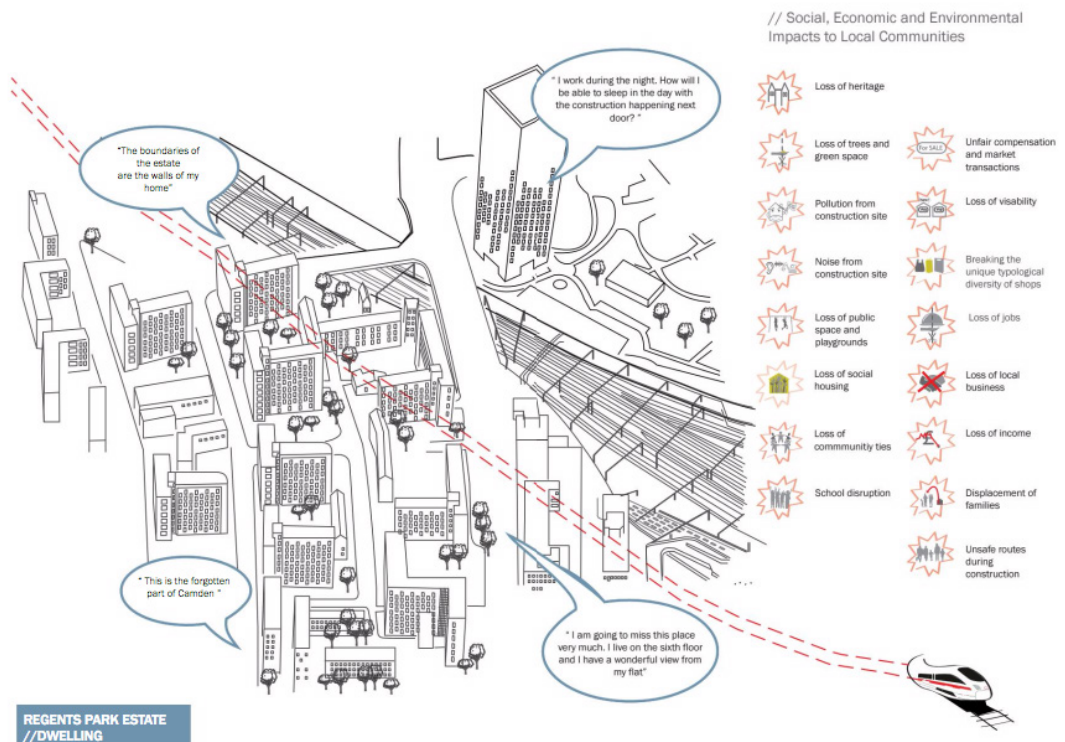
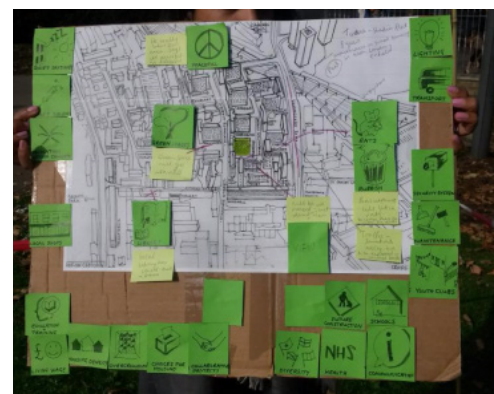
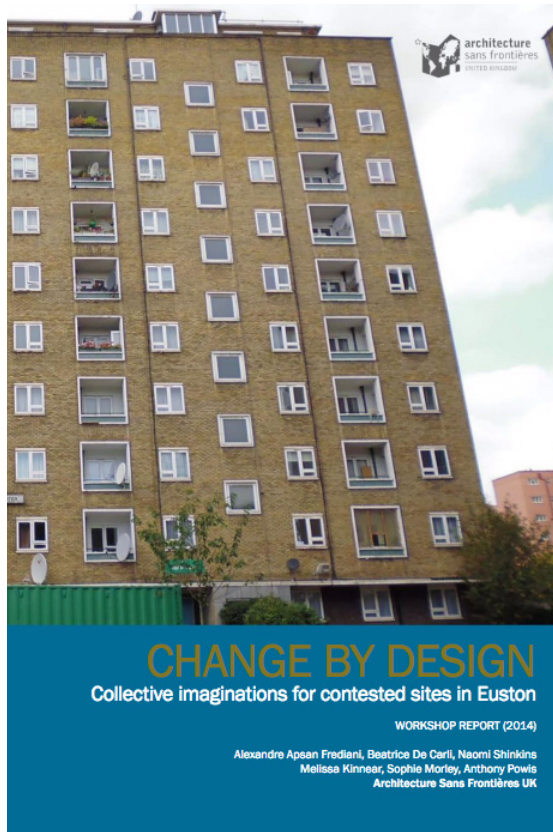
The Change by Design team contributed to the event by sharing the findings from the 2014 workshop that contributed to the development and refinement of the Charter. Together with the outputs from a number of universities that contributed in this process, ASF-UK presence supported the Charter by demonstrating the engagement activities that took place for its development.

Report publication CbD London 2014

June 2015, London

This report outlines the findings of the CbD workshop held in September 2014. The workshop aimed to strengthen the negotiation capacity of community groups in bringing about positive change to local residents in the Euston area vis-à-vis the proposed HS2 development, and to generate community-led principles that would reinforce the Citizens Charter being elaborated by Citizens-UK and Camden Citizens specifically. These principles strive to advance positive outcomes of the proposed future development, focusing on the Euston Area Plan developed by the Camden Council and the proposed HS2 rail link.

The publication and dissemination of the CbD London workshop contributed to raise awareness about the various negative impacts generated by proposed HS2 rail link project in Euston. Following its publication in June 2015, the report was shared with key stakeholders participating in the HS2 Select Committee advocating for a fairer recognition of the impacts and mitigation plan of the project, such as Camden Council and HS2 Action Group.



Report launch event for CbD London 2014 30 November 2015, London / with UCL Urban Laboratory

In November 2015, ASF-UK in partnership with UCL Urban Laboratory and The Bartlett Development Planning Unit hosted the launch of the Change by Design London Report. The evening began with an introduction to ASF-UK and a presentation of the findings from the one week ASF-UK Change by Design London workshop. The second part of the event brought together representatives from Camden Council, Citizens UK, ASF-UK and local residents to discuss and reflect on the experience of engaging with existing community participation processes in Euston. The final session invited urban participatory practitioners and organisations to engage in a wider reflection and debate about how to facilitate meaningful community participation in large-scale urban development processes.

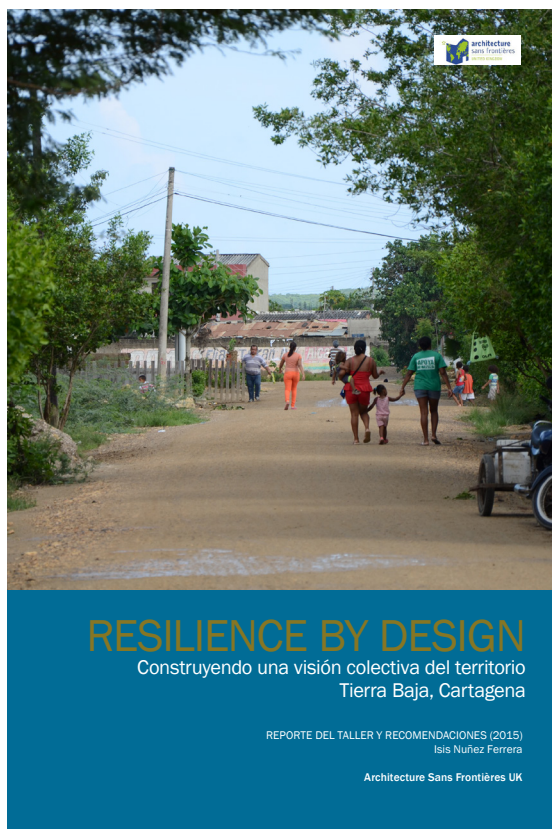


Resilience by Design

Report publication RbD Cartagena 2014

This report summarises the findings and recommendations emerging from the workshop Resilience by Design Tierra Baja 2014, implemented by Architecture Sans Frontières UK in collaboration with the Foundation for Multidimensional Education FEM. Based on a participatory and interdisciplinary design methodology, the workshop made a multidimensional diagnosis of the settlement, focusing on the co-existence of its residents with the territory, the ecosystem and the city. As a result, the workshop consolidated a collective vision for the development and resilience of Tierra Baja and provided concrete recommendations and activities for future planning and management of the territory, framing the resilience of the community within an ecological, physical, social, economic and political context, and based on the needs, aspirations and reflections expressed by its residents.

The hardcopy report was used in the recent months for the validation of the Territorial Administrative Plan of Tierra Baja, during the general assemblies organised by the community leaders, members of FEM and ASOCOC.



Expert panel at RIBA Designing City Resilience Summit, London, 16th-17th June 2015

ASF-UK contributed to an expert panel during the RIBA Designing City Resilience Conference. The two-day event brought together local and international participants and stakeholders within built environment sectors to share knowledge, learn and contribute to the establishing of a common understanding of designing resilient cities across sectors and disciplines. ASF-UK was invited to contribute to the "City Challenges" workshops held during the afternoon. The City Challenges format brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss and prototype solutions to resilience challenges faced by four cities around the world. Each group worked on an imaginary scenario modelled on the attributes and challenges based on factsheets and discussions with local experts. ASF-UK was asked to reflect on "engagement and people centric design", by sharing lessons on participatory and interdisciplinary design and planning methodologies and their role in understanding and navigating the complex challenges of building resilience in cities of the global south.



Resilience by Design 2015 presentation of resilience by design report in Cartagena, Colombia.





4

Thank You





7/ City Principles



Thank You!

ASF-UK has received a number of donations through general donations made to ASF-UK and fundraising events.

Finally, we would like to thank all ASF-UK volunteers for their time, energy and commitment to ASF-UK over the last year. The organisation remains a key player in the ongoing training and capacity building of built environment professionals and we believe that this is due largely to the great team that we currently have and the wide range of projects and focus areas that allow many different people to participate and engage with the programme and organisation at multiple levels.



Raising money for ASF-UK

If you would like to raise money for ASF-UK please contact our administrator at admin@asf-uk.org. Fundraising can be done through our Virgin money page at:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/asf-uk.

Donate to ASF-UK

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5

Financial Affairs

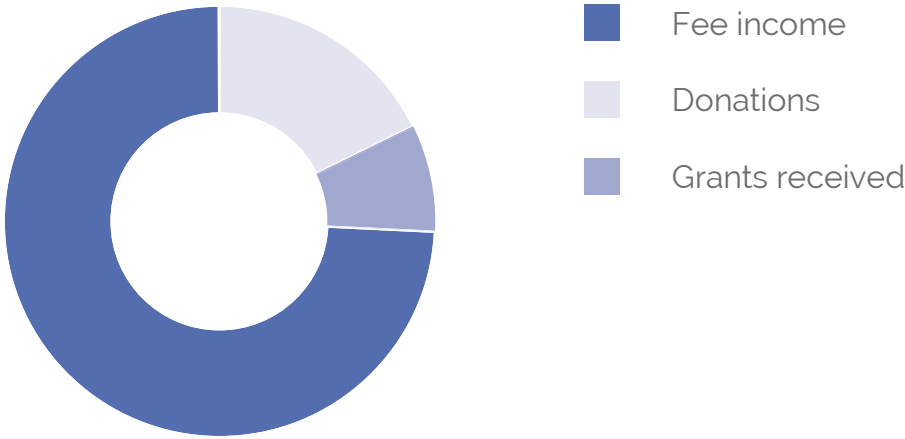


Summary of Accounts

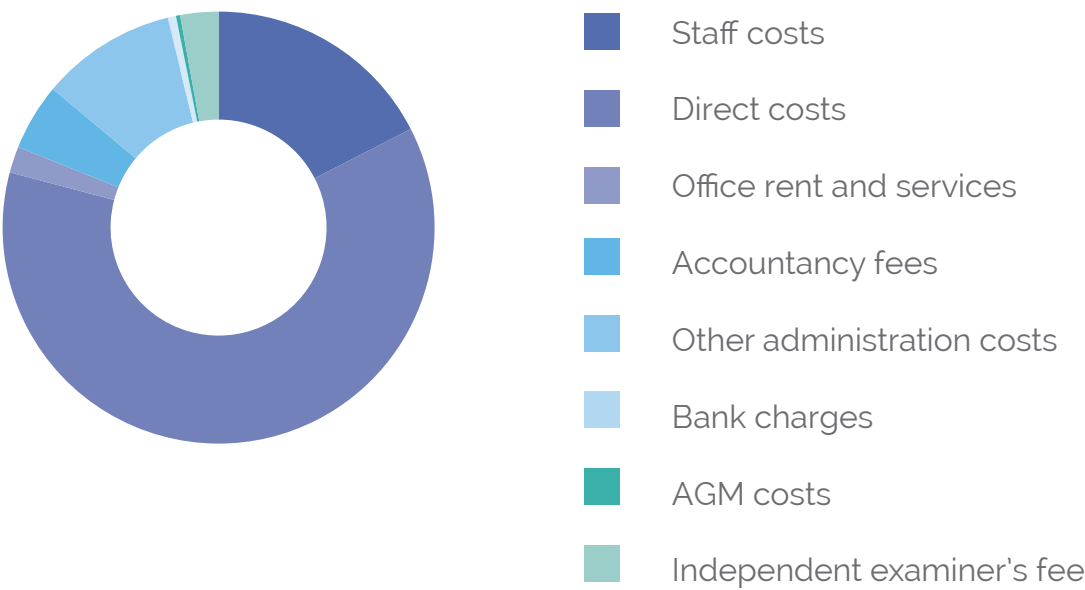
The accounts summarise information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities, providing a snapshot of ASF-UK finances over the year Mar 2015-Feb 2016. Full accounts are available on the Charity Commission website, www.charity-commission.gov.uk/.

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2016 Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	2015 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Note						
Income from:							
Donations		1,699	-	1,699	10,299	-	10,299
Charitable activities:							
Grants received	3	-	-	-	-	5,450	5,450
Fee income	4	5,124	-	5,124	45,101	-	45,101
Investment income		18	-	18	16	-	16
Total income		<u>6,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,841</u>	<u>55,416</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>60,866</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	22,244	5,450	27,694	35,526	-	35,526
Total expenditure		<u>22,244</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>27,694</u>	<u>35,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,526</u>
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	7	<u>(15,403)</u>	<u>(5,450)</u>	<u>(20,853)</u>	<u>19,890</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>25,340</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(15,403)</u>	<u>(5,450)</u>	<u>(20,853)</u>	<u>19,890</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>25,340</u>
Funds at the start of the year		<u>27,083</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>32,533</u>	<u>7,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,193</u>
Funds at the end of the year		<u>11,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,680</u>	<u>27,083</u>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>32,533</u>

Income Breakdown



Expenditure Breakdown



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