



MWAMBA CHARITY SC050784

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 30 NOVEMBER 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 30 November 2025

Introduction

2025 has been an important year of development, partnership and transition for Mwamba. Building on the foundations established over previous years, we have continued to provide culturally sensitive support to women, families and members of marginalised communities while taking significant steps towards strengthening Mwamba's longer-term sustainability.

Throughout the year, our work has continued to respond to interconnected challenges experienced by members of our community, including social isolation, poor mental health, barriers to employment, domestic and financial abuse, and inequalities affecting Black and migrant families.

At the same time, Mwamba has continued to develop its approach to systems change, climate awareness and social enterprise. A major milestone during the year was securing premises from the council to provide a new home for Mwamba and support the development of our social enterprise venture, Roots and Recipes.

Overall, Mwamba supported approximately 350 beneficiaries during the

Funding and Organisational Development

We are grateful to our funders, whose continued support has enabled Mwamba to maintain and develop its services.

During the year, Mwamba received funding from the Corra Foundation Women and Girls Fund to support work aimed at building women's confidence and addressing complex issues including female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic abuse and financial abuse. Through this work, women are offered culturally sensitive support, information and signposting to help them move towards greater independence and wellbeing. The award is £40,000 over five years.

Funding from the EVOC Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund supported Mwamba's tailored one-to-one culturally sensitive trauma and mental health support project. This remains an important part of our work, recognising that people's experiences of trauma cannot always be separated from their cultural background, migration experience, family circumstances or wider inequalities.

The Robertson Trust's three-year funding continued to contribute towards Mwamba's core overheads and organisational stability. The three-year award totals £45,000 and is now entering its final year. Our relationship with the Trust extends beyond funding. Through our CEO's partnership work with the Robertson Trust, Mwamba has contributed to discussions and co-design work connected with its Advancing Racial Justice Fund and our wider systems-change journey.

Climate Change and Zero Food Waste

An important development during 2025 was Mwamba's growing focus on climate change and environmental responsibility.

Funding through ECCAN's Greenlight Project supported Mwamba on its climate-change journey and enabled us to incorporate our Zero Food Waste Project within our community cooking activities.

The project included a six-week hands-on programme, delivered between September 2024 and March 2025, focused on the creative use of leftover food and rooted in diverse culinary traditions. Sessions covered food storage, recipe improvisation, batch cooking and zero-waste kitchen habits. Participants also documented favourite recipes and techniques, contributing to the development of a community cookbook celebrating food, culture and sustainability.

A total of 80 individual women participated. Conversation Café discussions also explored food waste and encouraged participants to apply what they had learned at home.

Participant feedback: "I have learned so much regarding food waste. It has encouraged me to do this at home."

This work has allowed Mwamba to bring together environmental responsibility, community learning and our longstanding use of food as a means of creating connection.

Community Projects and Wellbeing

Our community activities remained central to Mwamba's work during 2025. Projects included our Get Fit Project, Learn How to Paint, Conversation Cafés and activities designed to address isolation and improve social connection.

- Get Fit Project: 10 sessions involving 20 women.
- Learn How to Paint: 3 sessions involving 30 participants.
- Conversation Cafés: 45 Conversation Cafes with 495 participants.

These projects provide more than an activity in themselves. They create safe and welcoming spaces where people can meet others, develop confidence, learn new skills and build relationships.

Our Conversation Cafés continued to provide an informal environment in which members of the community could connect, exchange experiences and discuss issues that matter to them. They also provided an important space for information-sharing and conversations around wider social and environmental issues.

Our work continues to recognise that isolation can have a significant impact on people's wellbeing. Creating opportunities for people to participate, learn and belong therefore remains fundamental to Mwamba's approach.

Trauma-Informed and Culturally Sensitive Support

Mwamba continued its commitment to providing culturally sensitive and trauma-informed support.

Our one-to-one work recognise that women may be dealing with several challenges simultaneously, including poor mental health, experiences of abuse, financial insecurity, migration-related difficulties and cultural expectations.

During the reporting period, 450 face-to-face/client-engagement sessions were recorded, excluding holiday and Christmas periods. This figure includes volunteer client engagement but does not include telephone support, meaning the overall level of support provided was higher.

Where specialist assistance was required, Mwamba also provided appropriate information and signposting, helping individuals to access wider sources of support.

Beneficiary voice: "Mwamba has created a forum and opportunity to commune and fellowship with other ethnic women. I found such community isn't readily available in Edinburgh. It has also provided a rich avenue to share and learn from one another regarding varied topics that affect each of us, with an understanding of the influence culture has on us and expectations of women within the home."

"Mwamba is an anchor of hope for persons with no help when it comes to claiming their rights. For me, it is a pathway that gave me purpose to carry on in my time of need. Mwamba stood for me, which I can never forget."

Volunteers, Students and Skills Development

Our volunteers remain at the heart of Mwamba.

We were particularly proud to see four volunteers graduate from their counselling courses during the year. Their achievement represents both an important personal milestone and an increase in the skills and knowledge available within the Mwamba community.

Building on our previous engagement with students and universities, we also expanded the scope of our volunteer involvement by welcoming two students from the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Napier University. Their work supported our climate-change activities and product branding, including the Zero Food Waste Project and development of Roots and Recipes.

Mwamba had four active volunteers during the year, contributing approximately 120 volunteer hours. We will continue to explore opportunities for volunteering, learning and skills development as Mwamba grows.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Partnership working remained fundamental to our approach during 2025.

Our collaboration with Capital City Partnership supported Mwamba's systems-change work around skilled workers and the barriers to employment experienced by members of the communities we support. Many people have skills, qualifications, experience and ambitions that are not always recognised or fully utilised. Mwamba seeks not only to support individuals facing these barriers but also to contribute to wider conversations about how systems can change.

We also established collaboration with Black Promise Scotland in support of work undertaken by Passion4Fusion with parents in our community whose children have been taken into care.

Our longstanding collaborative relationship with the Heart of Newhaven continued, with further development of our intergenerational and green-spaces work. Mwamba also collaborated with Multicultural Family Base, strengthening the network of organisations with whom we work to support culturally diverse communities.

Our work with the Robertson Trust contributed to the co-design of its Racial Justice Fund for Black and migrant communities, focused on tackling systemic change. The fund was launched during the year. Through ECCAN, Mwamba also strengthened its involvement in climate-change work, with our CEO participating as a panelist at screenings of the film Emergency around Edinburgh.

These relationships allow Mwamba to extend its reach while contributing our own community knowledge and lived-experience perspective to wider partnerships.

Systems Change and Community Voice

Alongside direct support, Mwamba continues to recognise the importance of addressing the wider systems and structures that contribute to inequality.

Our systems-change work increasingly connects issues including race, migration, employment, family support and economic participation. Our partnerships provide opportunities to bring the experiences of the communities we support into conversations with organisations that can influence services and policy.

The women we support are central to shaping our skilled-worker systems-change work. Their lived experience helps identify barriers to employment and informs our partnership discussions and longer-term approach to creating fairer access to opportunity.

For Mwamba, systems change means going beyond helping an individual navigate a difficult system. It also means asking why those barriers exist and working collaboratively to make those systems fairer and more accessible.

A New Home for Mwamba

One of our most significant achievements during the year was successfully securing council premises in the Leith area in August 2025. For privacy and operational reasons, the full address is not included in this report.

This represents much more than an office. The premises provide an opportunity to create a permanent base from which Mwamba can deliver activities, strengthen our organisational infrastructure and develop our social enterprise.

The space is intended to support social-enterprise kitchen activities, create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women who face barriers to employment, reduce isolation and provide a welcoming community space for cultural connection.

Securing the premises therefore represents a major step in Mwamba's journey from a small community charity to an organisation with greater capacity and a stronger platform for future growth.

Roots and Recipes – Developing our Social Enterprise

2025 saw considerable progress towards our ambition of developing a social enterprise. Our new venture, Roots and Recipes, builds naturally upon Mwamba's experience of using food, culture and shared activity to bring people together.

Roots and Recipes remains at the planning and development stage, with planning permission awaited. As a result, there are no social-enterprise beneficiaries to report at this stage, and the report does not forecast beneficiary numbers.

Preparatory work is nevertheless progressing. Ten current Mwamba clients and volunteers have received their second Food Hygiene certificates and are due to begin COSHH training, helping to build the skills required for future activity.

Roots and Recipes aims to reduce barriers to employment by creating jobs and career opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship, reducing isolation and creating a welcoming community space. It also forms an important part of Mwamba's longer-term strategy to diversify income and reduce reliance on grant funding.

The Trustees recognise that developing a sustainable social enterprise requires careful planning, strong governance and a clear distinction between Mwamba's charitable activities and its trading activities. Development will therefore continue in a measured way, with appropriate Trustee oversight.

Governance and Organisational Development

During the year, the Board continued to provide oversight of Mwamba's activities, finances, risks and strategic development.

Mwamba currently has four charity Trustees. A further Trustee has been identified for Roots and Recipes, bringing the wider governance group to five once the relevant appointment and structure are confirmed.

Five Board meetings were held during the year, including a strategic organisational meeting. In addition, the Chair and CEO maintained regular one-to-one meetings to support oversight, communication and organisational development.

Three Trustees attended training delivered by EVOC. The Board also undertook a governance review during the year, including the development of a new Financial Governance Framework led by the Chair and agreed by the Trustees. Any required updates to OSCR records will be completed as appropriate.

As Mwamba develops its premises and social-enterprise activities, strong governance and appropriate financial oversight will remain important priorities for the Board.

Financial Review

Financial overview

The financial statements and notes are presented on pages 9-11. In summary, Mwamba had total income of £61,649 (2024: £55,887), comprising £51,649 unrestricted income and £10,000 restricted income. Total expenditure was £67,329 (2024: £60,432), comprising £59,025 unrestricted expenditure and £8,304 restricted expenditure. The resulting net movement in funds was a deficit of £5,680. On 30 November 2025, total funds were £3,145 (2024: £8,825), comprising £6,000 of restricted funds and an unrestricted fund deficit of £2,855.

2025 was a particularly challenging financial year for Mwamba. Although total income increased compared with the previous year, the charity experienced increasing demand for its services alongside continued pressure within the wider funding environment. A significant proportion of Mwamba's income was restricted to specific projects and could not therefore be used to meet general operating and core organisational costs.

During the year, unrestricted expenditure exceeded unrestricted income by £7,376. This resulted in an unrestricted fund deficit of £2,855 at 30 November 2025, compared with unrestricted funds of £4,521 brought forward at the beginning of the year. The charity nevertheless held £6,000 in restricted funds, resulting in total closing funds of £3,145.

The Trustees recognise that this position is not sustainable in the longer term and have taken steps to strengthen financial resilience. These include closer monitoring of cashflow and expenditure, strengthened financial governance and oversight, active pursuit of diversified funding opportunities, and the development of Roots and Recipes as part of Mwamba's longer-term strategy to generate additional income. The Board will continue to monitor the charity's financial position closely, with a priority of eliminating the unrestricted deficit and rebuilding free reserves towards the agreed target of £6,000.

Reserves and Going Concern

Reserves are maintained to help bridge timing differences between expenditure and receipt of income and to provide resilience against unexpected costs or reductions in funding. The Trustees have set a target of approximately eight weeks of essential operating costs, equivalent to around £6,000 in free reserves.

At 30 November 2025, Mwamba held restricted funds of £6,000 (2024: £4,304). However, unrestricted funds were in deficit by £2,855, compared with unrestricted funds of £4,521 at the previous year end. The reasons for this position are explained in the Financial Overview.

The Trustees recognise the importance of restoring the charity's unrestricted reserves and continue to monitor cashflow, expenditure and funding closely. Measures to improve the position include strengthened financial governance and oversight, diversification of funding, continued fundraising and development of Roots and Recipes as a potential source of sustainable earned income. Subject to continued funding and careful financial management, the Trustees aim to eliminate the unrestricted deficit and rebuild free reserves towards the £6,000 target by the end of the 2026 financial year.

Having considered the charity's financial position, expected income, expenditure commitments and actions being taken to manage financial risk, the Trustees consider Mwamba to be a going concern.

Looking Ahead

The progress made during 2025 provides Mwamba with a strong platform for the future. Our priorities for 2026 include:

- Continuing delivery and development of Mwamba's core projects.
- Introducing a weekday Conversation Café designed with the women who attend, alongside our health practitioner and project lead, with a particular focus on older people living with long-term health conditions and young mothers.
- Developing Roots and Recipes, including staff and volunteer development and progressing the move into our new premises.
- Further developing our Racial Justice and systems-change work focused on skilled workers and barriers to employment.
- Strengthening partnership working with the City employability partnership, supporting a five-year ambition for sustainable systems change.
- Increasing staffing capacity as resources allow.
- Continuing to develop and expand our projects in response to community need.
- Building greater organisational and financial sustainability while deepening our understanding of, and engagement with, climate change.

Financial sustainability will remain a significant priority. While grant funding remains essential to much of our work, the development of the social enterprise offers an opportunity over time to diversify Mwamba's income and build greater organisational resilience.

As we grow, we will continue to strengthen our governance, financial oversight and organisational systems to ensure that growth remains sustainable and consistent with Mwamba's charitable purposes.

Conclusion

2025 has been a year in which Mwamba has continued to support individuals while also investing in its own future. From culturally sensitive mental health and trauma support to community activities, environmental awareness, employment-focused partnerships and systems-change work, our approach continues to be shaped by the experiences and aspirations of the people we serve.

Securing our new premises and progressing Roots and Recipes represent particularly important milestones. They offer the possibility of creating not simply a physical home for Mwamba, but a community space where culture, enterprise, wellbeing and opportunity can come together.

None of this would be possible without our beneficiaries, volunteers, students, partners, funders, CEO and Trustees. We thank everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, trust and support during the year.

As we move forward, Mwamba remains committed to creating spaces in which people feel heard, supported and connected, while working towards the wider changes needed for our communities to thrive.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing the 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 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 charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all applicable legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

I hereby approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements on behalf of the Board of Trustees.



ONENGI CHARLES
CHAIR, MWAMBA 30 August 2026

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

OSCR Charity Number SC050784

Registered Office Address:

Heart of Newhaven Community
4-6 Main Street Newhaven
Edinburgh

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland
8 Hopetoun Street
Bathgate West Lothian
Depot Code 045
EH48 4EU

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of MWAMBA CHARITY

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025 which are set out on pages 9- 11, including the notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts. Furthermore, my report is based on the information provided by the Charity Trustees.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Victoria Olu-Audu

Name: Victoria Olu-Audu FCCA 0703555

Address: 85 Curlew Way KY11 1FF

Date: 30 August 2026

MWAMBA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

		UNRE- STRICTED FUNDS F01	RE- STRICTED FUNDS F02	Endow- ment Funds F03	TOTAL FUNDS F04 2024/25	PRIOR YEAR FUNDS F05 2023/24	NOTES
Incoming Resources							
Donations and legacies	S01	7629	0		7629	0	
Grant Income	S02	43000	10000		53000	51595	
Other trading activities	S03	0	0		0	0	
Investments	S04	0	0		0	0	
Separate material item of in- come	S05	0	0		0	0	
Other	S06	1020	0		1020	4292	
Total Incoming Resources	S07	51649	10000		61649	55887	Note 1
Resources expended							
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	S08	0	0		0	0	
Charitable activities	S09	57391	8304		65695	59103	
Governance	S10	1200	0		1200	1000	
Other	S11	434	0		434	329	
Total Resources Expended	S12	59025	8304		67329	60432	Note 2
Net income/(expenditure) be- fore investment gains/(losses)	S13	-7376	1696		-5680	-4545	
Net gains/ losses on invest- ments	S14	0	0		0		
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	-7376	1696		-5680	-4545	
Extraordinary items	S16	0	0		0	0	
Transfers between funds	S17	0	0		0	0	
Net movement in funds	S20	-7376	1696		-5680	-4545	
Reconciliation of funds							Note 3
Total funds brought forward	S21	4521	4304		8825	13370	
Movement in funds	S21	-7376	1696		-5680		
Total funds carried forward	S23	-2855	6000		3145	8825	

MWAMBA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS F01	RESTRICTED FUNDS F02	TOTAL FUNDS 2024/2025 F03	TOTAL PRIOR YEAR FUNDS 2023/2024 F05
Fixed Assets					
Intangible assets	B01	0	0	0	0
Tangible assets	B02	0	0	0	0
Heritage assets	B03	0	0	0	0
Investment	B04	0	0	0	0
Total fixed assets	B05	0	0	0	0
Current Assets					
Stocks	B06	0	0	0	0
Debtors	B07	0	0	0	0
Investments	B08				
Cash at bank and in hand	B09	-613	6,000	5,387	8,825
Total Current Assets	B10	-613	6,000	5,387	8,825
				0	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	B11	-2,242	0	-2,242	0
				0	
Net current assets/liabilities	B12			0	0
				0	
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	-2,855	6,000	3,145	8,825
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	B14	0	0	0	0
Provisions for liabilities	B15	0	0	0	0
Total net assets or liabilities	B16	-2,855	6,000	3,145	8,825
				0	
Funds of the Charity				0	
Restricted Funds	B18		6,000	6,000	4,304
Unrestricted Funds	B19	-2,855	0	-2,855	4,521
Revaluation reserve	B20	0	0	0	0
Total funds	B21	-2,855	6,000	3,145	8,825

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1 - Incoming Resources

Robertson Trust	£15,000
Corra Foundation	£8000
EVOC Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund	£20000
Greenlight Fund (ECCAN)	£10,000
Donations	£7629
Other Revenue	£1020
Total Income	£61649

Note 2 – Resources Expended

Charitable activities	£65695
Governance Costs	£1200
Other expenditure	£434
Total Expenditure	£67,329

Note 3 – Movement in Funds

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
Total funds brought forward	S21	4521	4304	8825
Movement in funds	S21	-7376	1696	9072
Total funds carried forward	S23	-2855	6000	3145