

Annual Review and Report 2024

For the year ended 31 December 2024



worldobesity.org



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Structure, governance and management

WORLD BESITY

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees

- Dr Bruno Halpern
 President-Elect
- Professor Louise Baur Past President
- Professor Jason Halford *Treasurer*
- Professor Karine Clement Resigned 1 March 2025
- Dr Kyoung-Kon Kim
- Dr Ada Cuevas
- Ms Amber Huett-Garcia
- Mr Stephen Odhiambo Ogweno
- Professor Dieter Kent Buse Appointed 15 February 2024
- Professor Nick Finer
 Appointed 17 July 2024
- Professor Volkan Yumuk Appointed 17 July 2024
- Professor Fábio Trujhilo
 Appointed 13 February 2025
- Professor John Wilding Past President; Resigned 17 July 2024
- Professor Caroline Apovian Treasurer; Resigned 17 July 2024
- Dr Donna Ryan Term completed 17 July 2024

- Professor Alafia Samuels Resigned 15 February 2024
- Mr Adam McCormack
 Resigned 13 February 2025
- Dr Elizabeth Parks Resigned 31 December 2024
- Ms Karen Sealey Appointed 1 March 2025

Chair

Dr Simon Barquera (President)

Secretary Mrs Johanna Ralston

CEO Mrs Johanna Ralston

Company Registered Number 03802726

Charity Registered Number 1076981

Auditors

Xeinadin Auditing Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Nightingale House, 46-48 East St, Epsom KT17 1HQ

Principal Office Address

3 Waterhouse Square 138–142 Holborn London EC1N 2SW

Principal Banker

HSBC Bank 156–157 Tottenham Court Road London W1P 9LJ

Solicitors

Penningtons Solicitors LLP da Vinci House Basing View Basingstoke Hampshire RG21 4EQ

The trustees have prepared this report and financial statements in accordance with the UK Companies Act 2006, the UK Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102).





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Welcome letter



Simon Barquera President



Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the World Obesity Federation, we are pleased to present our annual report for 2024.

The global challenge of obesity continues to demand urgent and coordinated action. Despite commitments to halt the rise in obesity, progress remains slow, and millions continue to face the health consequences of inadequate prevention and care. However, 2024 was a year of momentum one in which the collective efforts of our members, partners, and community led to meaningful progress in reshaping policies, amplifying voices, and driving evidence-based action.

Throughout the year, we advanced our mission through advocacy, research, and collaboration. World Obesity Day 2024 saw unprecedented engagement, with a campaign highlighting the intersections between obesity and broader health challenges, helping to shift narratives and encourage systemic change. Our partnerships with the WHO, UNICEF, and other global organisations reinforced the urgency of addressing obesity as a priority health issue.

The International Congress on Obesity 2024, held in São Paulo, brought together experts from around the world to share the latest science, policy strategies, and clinical approaches. The conference reinforced the need for multi-sectoral solutions and stronger integration of obesity into global health frameworks.

Our education and data initiatives expanded further, with increased participation in SCOPE training and record engagement with the Global Obesity Observatory, which now serves as a vital resource for policymakers and researchers worldwide. Visits to our Global Obesity Observatory in 2024 reached over 2.4 million and a staggering increase of over a million visits from 2023, with website users rising to over 800k, and visitors from more than 230 countries, islands and territories.

At the heart of all our work is our growing network of members. In 2024, we welcomed 12 new member organizations, bringing our total to 111 across 125 countries and territories. We also saw leadership transitions within our governance, with a new President, President-Elect, and regional representatives taking on key roles to help guide our strategy forward.

We also finalised a new contract with our publishers, Wiley, for our journal portfolio. This has secured a significant increase in guaranteed income from the journals for the organisation for the coming years.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to advancing a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to obesity that prioritises prevention, treatment, and the lived experiences of those affected. Our new three-year strategic plan, launching in January 2025, focusses on strengthening national action, addressing systemic barriers, and ensuring obesity remains a central issue on the global health agenda.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Board members, volunteers, members, and staff. Your dedication continues to drive progress and impact in our shared mission.



Aims and objectives

Legal status of the World **Obesity Federation**

World Obesity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as updated most recently on 12 July 2023. World Obesity is a registered charity (charity number 1076981) and is not empowered to make financial distributions to its members.

Strategic goals

In line with its professional membership and its charitable status, World Obesity aims to lead and drive global efforts to reduce, prevent and treat obesity. World Obesity's vision is to create and lead a global community of organisations dedicated to solving the problems of obesity.

- Convene stakeholders globally
- Train and build capacity in obesity

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The World Obesity Federation (hereinafter World Obesity) was incorporated in the United Kingdom on 8 July 1999 and is a private company limited by guarantee (company registration number 03802726).

- The strategic goals of World Obesity are:
- Lead global advocacy for obesity
- Collect and disseminate knowledge on obesity.

Activities and achievements

A wide range of activities are undertaken to support the strategic goals, including:

- Membership
- Global policy development and advocacy
- Convening leaders and experts
- World Obesity Day
- World Obesity Day Atlas
- Clinical Education (SCOPE)
- Middle East and North Africa Working Group
- Collecting and disseminating knowledge on obesity
- Journals
- Global Obesity Observatory.

Further details on each of these activity areas are provided in the following chapters of this report. They have been grouped under World Obesity's four strategic goals; however, several initiatives serve more than one goal, with wide-ranging outcomes and impacts.

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WØRLD ØBESITY

Year in numbers

MEMBERS

111

total members

12 new members (6 full, 6 associate)

Over

125

countries and territories represented

GLOBAL OBESITY OBSERVATORY

514%

increase in visitors to the Global Obesity **Observatory since 2020**

Over

2.4 million

page views in 2024 – nearly double 2023

Website visitors from



SCOPE

421 📀

SCOPE Certifications awarded

4 SCOPE Schools (São Paulo, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi and Beijing) trained over

600 **HCPs**

Awarded **Core Learning Path** scholarships to HCPs



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JOURNALS **NEW**

agreement signed

Convened over



attendees at ICO 2024 in São Paulo, from over 75 countries

Participated at the 154th session of the WHO Executive Board

WORLD **OBESITY DAY**

Visitors to WOD website from



More than 1 million people watched the World Obesity Day China Summit series



million potential global press reach

5th Annual publication of World Obesity Atlas

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Membership

As a global federation, members are vital to the work and reputation of World Obesity. Our international authority is reliant upon the incorporation of new members from all over the world, as well as the support of existing members. We work hard to represent our members and advocate for scientific approaches to obesity treatment, awareness and prevention at a worldwide level.

Members, in turn, benefit from our global network and expertise, with opportunities to sit on committees, attend special events, and enjoy discounted access to events, educational courses, and World Obesity journals.

World Obesity's membership has continued to thrive throughout 2024, with new members joining from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. We welcomed 12 new organisations in total and 2 Associate Members were upgraded to full membership

Associate Members

- South African Metabolic Medicine and Surgery Society (SAMMSS)
- Association for the Fight Against Obesity (ALCO), Costa Rica
- Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory Foundation (IBDO), Italy
- China Obesity Federation (COF)
- Bangladesh Endocrine Society (BES)
- Costa Rican Association of Metabolism (ACOMET)
- Health Care Association of Nepal (HCAN)

World Obesity Members are located in every continent and region As of 31st December 2024



Full Members

- Coalition of NGOs in Nutrition and Food Security
- Society for Korea Obesity and Metabolism Studies (SOMS)
- Healthy Weight Association, Finland
- Slovak Obesity Association
- Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS).

There are four regional organisations with affiliation to World Obesity: the Asia Oceania Association for the Study of Obesity (AOASO), the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO), the Latin American Federation of Obesity Societies (FLASO) and The Obesity Society (TOS) representing North America. Work is underway to also establish a Middle East regional association (MENA), which will also be affiliated to World Obesity.

As of the end of 2024, WOF could count on 111 member organisations over three grades (80 full members, 27 associate members, 4 regional) in more than 125 countries and territories.

Representatives of World Obesity's member organisations were actively engaged in events and opportunities promoted by World Obesity, attending workshops on World Obesity Day, participating in WHO processes, contributing towards SCOPE Schools, submitting items for publication in World Obesity's journals, newsletters and social media, speaking at events, supporting our data work, and much more.

World Obesity also helped national member organisations promote research seminars, congresses and events, or share news of policy or research achievements to global audiences.

World Obesity's representation has improved once again in the past 12 months, with notable growth areas in Africa and Latin America, as well as work towards the formation of a Middle East and North Africa Obesity Association. Nevertheless, capacity building and attracting members in underrepresented areas remains a priority for the World Obesity Membership team.





Member benefits

- Discounted registration fees to World Obesity events and the International Congress on Obesity (ICO)
- Discounted subscription rates on the World **Obesity journals**
- Scientific Excellence
- Invitation to attend our Annual General Meeting (Associate members in a non-voting capacity)
- Access to international policies, project updates and statistics on obesity via the World Obesity Data Portal

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- World Obesity's International Awards for
- 50% discount on paywalled SCOPE E-Learning courses and 25% discount on the SCOPE Accreditation fee for members as well as access to SCOPE Schools.
- Members e-newsletters and webinars
- 20% Discount on Wiley publications and 15% discount on medical books from Wisepress.com
- Invitation to bid for holding regional and international World Obesity Conferences
- Opportunities for global networking with experts in the field of obesity
- Access to and participation in various webinars, roundtables and online events throughout the year
- Ad hoc support

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Leading global advocacy for obesity

2024 has been yet another significant year for global obesity advocacy, bringing obesity to the forefront of the global health and political stage.

The road to the Fourth UN High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in 2025 is fully underway and this year we've leveraged advocacy opportunities at several UN fora to help ensure obesity is a priority in the global health agenda. Working with WHO and UNICEF, our partners in the Global Obesity Coalition, the team has convened high-level events and is helping mobilise civil society to support the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity by launching a global community of practice.

Global policy development and advocacy

World Obesity's advocacy priorities continue to be focused on the recognition of obesity as both risk factor and disease, and the need to prioritise obesity within health systems and food systems.

In our capacity as a non-state actor in official relations with WHO, World Obesity staff and members participated in a number of high-level meetings throughout 2024. This included the 153rd Meeting of the WHO Executive Board (February), 77th World Health Assembly (May) and UN General Assembly (September).



Convening leaders and experts WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly

In January, World Obesity participated in the Executive Board contributing to discussions on key agenda items, including on Universal Health Coverage and social participation to accelerate progress towards it, Maternal and infant health and nutrition, Climate change and health, and leveraging the power of sport for improved health and well-being. In addition, we also participated in a constituency statement for NCDs, as well as a joint statement for maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

The World Obesity team joined our members and fellow health organisations at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva during May to progress action on obesity. We participated in a high-level event around the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity co-hosted by the Ministers of Health from Spain and Jordan. We also co-hosted an event with partners on the digital marketing of breastmilk substitutes, which is in dire need of regulation.

To further highlight the need to address obesity and cardiometabolic disease together, we co-hosted a side event with World Heart Federation on health systems preparedness to address both global health challenges including speakers from India, Ghana and the UK.

United Nations General Assembly

World Obesity representatives attended and participated in a number of events with members and obesity stakeholders at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) held in New York this September.

We highlighted the urgency of taking collective action to stem the tide of rising NCDs as we count down to the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs and Mental Health in 2025.

We also coordinated a side event with the Global Obesity Coalition (see page 11).



WHO and World Bank

The team also took part in the International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and Mental Health, joining participants from governments, civil society, academia and philanthropies in Washington, DC in June, at the meeting co-hosted by WHO and the World Bank.



New EU project: OBCT

In 2023 we were involved in a successful bid for involvement in a new EU Horizon-funded project Obesity: Biological, Socio-Cultural, and Environmental Risk Trajectories (OBCT).

The project will advance the current understanding of obesity risks and predictors and the role of socio-economic status across the life course. It will also determine the importance of specific obesityrelated behaviours to prevent obesity at key life stages, characterise obesity-related cardio-metabolic risk profiles within representative EU countries and determine the potential impact of obesity-related policies on inequality. The goal is to provide health professionals, policymakers and the public with knowledge, maps and tools to support effective and sustainable prevention of obesity, particularly within people and communities with a low socio-economic status.

The project started in November 2023 and is expected to be completed in 2028. The key deliverable for 2024 was the preparation and distribution of the Dissemination, Exploitation

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Collecting and disseminating knowledge on obesity and Communication Strategy, Operational Plan and Standard Practices (DEC Plan) This plan was delivered in full and on time. The communications department is responsible for the social media updates and newsletter distribution.

In November 2024, over 40 participants from the OBCT Project convened at the Ministry of Health in Madrid for the inaugural General Assembly.

This two-day event brought together researchers, policymakers, and health professionals from across Europe, all united by the project's ambitious goal: tackling the complex biological, sociocultural, and environmental factors driving obesity.



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Leading global advocacy for obesity continued

World Obesity Day

The 2024 World Obesity Day (WOD) campaign set out to harness the global platform of WOD to spark wide-ranging, cross-cutting conversations under the theme: "Obesity and...". We focused on three pillars of health, youth and our world to address obesity together. This ignited conversations around hundreds of related topics - diabetes and cardiovascular disease, women and children, health systems and food systems, to name a few – and communities rallied all over the world.

The Global Advisory Group (GAG - a steering committee from diverse geographies representing organisations engaged in management, treatment and prevention, as well as patient advocates.) agreed on this theme for its message of unity and common purpose, whilst also acting as a call to action for both individuals and groups.

In the build up to WOD, we held an online interactive workshop attended by many of our members, where they shared plans, ideas and questions. World Obesity Federation also held a number of other events for World Obesity Day:

- In the lead-up to both WOD (4 March) and International Women's Day (8 March), SCOPE hosted a focused webinar on obesity and women's health. Dr. Ada Cuevas (Chile) presented on global obesity prevalence among women and its life-course impact. Over 100 international participants joined and engaged.
- The first year of 'Walk for WOD' and monument and building illuminations around the world
- Global Obesity Coalition event led by WHO and UNICEF (see page 11)
- Publication of the World Obesity Atlas and new Lancet-WHO data on obesity, estimating that over one billion people worldwide now live with obesity (see page 14).

WOD 2024 saw excellent engagement from obesity groups and, together with World Obesity's accompanying Atlas report, generated strong press coverage - achieving its goal to kickstart discussion around the world.

CAMPAIGN OUTCOMES

The World Obesity Day campaign achieved significant digital impact across multiple platforms.











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Member-led events around the world



Mexico: Case Study

In Mexico, our member, Sociedad Mexicana de Obesidad, (SMO), joined with a number of partners to carry out many activities for WOD 2024. A key highlight was SMO supporting the launch of our 'Walk for WOD' campaign with a 'Walk the Talk Mexico'. The event was aimed at the public and featured the participation of health professionals. Furthermore, it showed the importance of introducing a WOD-related activity as it raised public awareness of obesity and encouraged the public to be informed about the root causes of obesity and its risk factors.

Other activities included a virtual race; an academic session for SMO members, a webinar titled 'A call to action', and the illumination of various monuments in Mexico City: the Monument to the Revolution; the Angel of Independence; and the Fountain of Diana the Huntress.



South Africa: Case Study

A major outcome among World Obesity Day events in South Africa was the release of a powerful editorial on March 4 which compared the urgency of the obesity crisis to South Africa's HIV epidemic. Thought leadership from Dr. Nomathemba Chandiwana and Prof. Francois Venter emphasised the importance of destigmatising obesity and improving access to treatment - drawing on effective strategies from the HIV response. This unique approach, aligning the obesity epidemic with the HIV crisis, underscored the value of the theme of WOD 2024: 'Obesity and...'. The theme encourages our members and supporters to connect obesity with issues of national or regional relevance – ultimately, raising awareness of how obesity intersects with broader themes such as health, youth, and our shared environment while driving action across multiple sectors.

https://samajournals.co.za/index.php/samj/ article/view/1927/812



China: Case study

Among the events organised by our members in China, Obesity Prevention and Control Branch of the Chinese Nutrition Society (OPC-CNS), were the 2024 World Obesity Day China Summit and the Symposium of International Obesity Prevention and Treatment Strategies. These events collectively reached over 1.4million people, significantly raising awareness of the national obesity crisis and opening discussions on the challenges faced both nationally and internationally in obesity prevention and treatment. A highlight among these events was the launch of the World Obesity Day Atlas in Mandarin which was translated by our members at OPC-CNS and widely referenced during discussions of key research findings on obesity prevalence and risk.



India



Singapore

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Cameroon



Lebanon

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Convening obesity stakeholders globally

World Obesity is committed to hosting, expanding, and supporting networks that bring together diverse obesity stakeholders – including individuals with lived experience, scientific and professional bodies, governments, and the private sector. In 2024, we actively organised and took part in major sector events, leveraging our global network to share knowledge, expertise, and resources – many of which are highlighted throughout this report.

Global Obesity Coalition

This World Obesity Day on 4 March, the Global Obesity Coalition hosted a global youth-led webinar to unlock conversations around how obesity affects the lives of young people around the world and the concrete change they are both leading and demanding. Our event brought together almost 300 participants and included youth voices from Barbados, South Africa, Jordan, Philippines, USA, UK and Brazil.

The Global Obesity Coalition also co-hosted a side event at UNGA 79 in September. This focused on accelerating the response to the obesity epidemic and included an address from the Vice-Minister of Health for Kazakhstan who emphasised how the SDGs will be almost impossible to achieve if obesity is not addressed. The event brought together WHO, WOF and UNICEF senior leadership, lived experience, and innovative policies discussion from the US, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Uruguay, Nigeria, and NCD advocates from around the globe.







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International Congress on Obesity

The International Congress on Obesity is World Obesity's flagship congress, held every 2 years. This year the event took place in São Paulo, Brazil from 26–29 June. Partnering with our members, The Brazilian Association for the Study of Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome (ABESO), the gathering in São Paulo brought together over 3,000 attendees (online and in-person) from all around the world – a testament to the global recognition of obesity as a critical health challenge.

The congress stood out not only for its robust scientific programme but also for the environment it fostered – a place where experts from diverse backgrounds could easily connect, share, and learn from one another. The sessions were wide-ranging, covering everything from basic science to public health strategies, from the latest in obesity management medications to the complexities of ultra-processed foods and their impacts on health.



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Training and building capacity in obesity

In 2024, World Obesity further expanded its training and capacity-building initiatives to deepen understanding of both clinical approaches to obesity and the broader global policy landscape. World Obesity's SCOPE (Strategic Centre for Obesity Professional Education) programme continued to grow, with hundreds of annual certifications being awarded, SCOPE Schools delivered in four regions and the introduction of SCOPE Sessions enabling training to be delivered in webinar format.

Clinical Education (SCOPE)

SCOPE has solidified its position as a leader in obesity education and advocacy in 2024. Through certification, Fellowships, innovative educational formats, and expanded accessibility, we are making a tangible impact on obesity care worldwide.

9,867 new user accounts were created in 2024, of which 7,953 logged in at least once. (Note: accounts are created for all attendees of SCOPE Accredited courses, of which a portion will not subsequently engage.) A total of 508 health professionals became SCOPE Certified in 2024, highlighting the growing global recognition of SCOPE Certification as the gold standard for healthcare professionals.



SCOPE Schools

This year, our <u>SCOPE Schools</u> stood out as a highlight, bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocates across four key locations: Brazil, Australia, the UAE, and China. Each event showcased expert-led sessions on the latest advancements in obesity science and treatment.

The School in Brazil focused on evidence-based obesity policies and skill development in advocacy, while the Melbourne event provided a platform for interdisciplinary approaches to addressing the obesity crisis.

In the UAE, the event aligned with regional needs, exploring clinical approaches to obesity prevention and management. **Beijing's SCOPE School**, hosted in partnership with the China Obesity Federation and the Chinese Nutrition Society, featured a comprehensive agenda tailored to the unique challenges of obesity care in China. Beijing attracted nearly 250 participants, further underscoring the global demand for SCOPE education.

Attendee feedback in Brazil praised the event's interdisciplinary approach: "The program was perfect, and bringing in professionals from other areas enriched the event and allowed us to have a new perspective."







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SCOPE Accreditation

In 2024, SCOPE reinforced its commitment to highquality obesity education by awarding accreditation to 14 programmes globally. These courses, evaluated by the World Obesity Federation's Clinical Care Committee, represent best practices and the latest evidence in obesity management. Highlights include international congresses, master classes, and specialty courses from organisations such as the Association for the Study of Obesity, Universidad Iberoamericana, and the Singapore Association for the Study of Obesity. These accredited programmes reflect SCOPE's dedication to advancing obesity education to World Obesity members.

SCOPE Sessions

In 2024, we introduced SCOPE Sessions, a new webinar series designed to provide healthcare professionals with accessible and impactful training in obesity management. Each session contributes one SCOPE point toward certification while addressing key aspects of obesity care. Topics covered included the intersections of obesity with **sleep apnoea** and **women's health**, with upcoming sessions focusing on **cardiovascular disease**. The series has been well-received, with members of the World Obesity Federation accessing sessions for free, while non-members benefit from affordable pricing options.

Scholarships

We continued to expand access to our Core Learning Path (CLP), awarding 1,000 scholarships to healthcare professionals in countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UK, and the UAE. These scholarships allowed participants to undertake the comprehensive eight-module course, which forms the foundation of SCOPE Certification and equips practitioners with the skills and knowledge to manage obesity effectively.

SCOPE Fellowships

This year, we also honoured four exceptional healthcare professionals with SCOPE Fellowships, the programme's highest accolade. Dr Georgia Argyrakopoulou and Dr Stavros Liatis from Greece, along with Dr Sara Suliman from the UAE, were awarded International Fellowships in recognition of their exemplary contributions to obesity management on a global scale. Dr Franklin Abalos of Argentina received a National Fellowship for his significant impact within his country. These Fellowships reflect SCOPE's commitment to celebrating and advancing excellence in the field of obesity care.

Thalita Caceres attended the SCOPE School in Brazil:

This course is much more than a technical refresh: it's a firm step towards building skilled, sensitive, and evidence-based care for people living with obesity.

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I left inspired and convinced that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be: following a path that unites purpose, knowledge, and real impact on people's lives.



SCØPE

Dr Sara

Suliman









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Middle East and North Africa (MENA) working group

World Obesity has been working with obesity experts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for several years. Activities have included work on patient advocacy (including the development of the Patient Portal), several SCOPE Schools, work on the 'Gulf & Lebanon Regional Recommendations' and more recently, the creation of the MENA Working Group.

The MENA Working Group was established at the end of 2022 to oversee the development of a regional obesity association. The Working Group is chaired by Dr Sara Suliman from the UAE and co-chaired by Dr Ebaa Al Ozairi from Kuwait.

The Working Group held the first MENA conference in conjunction with the 6th UAE Obesity Conference in November 2024. The event was a success with over 600 attendees. At the conference, a planning meeting was held for 2025 activities and beyond. 2025 activities are expected to include a second MENA conference and the official registration of the association.

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Collecting and disseminating knowledge on obesity

World Obesity provides members with high-quality data, health systems information, and evidence on how to address obesity. In 2024, we made significant improvements to the Global Obesity Observatory and negotiated a significantly improved financial deal for the journals portfolio which will support future dissemination of new evidence and insights via our high-impact publications.

Journals

World Obesity publishes four scientific, peer-reviewed journals, each focusing on a different area of obesity research: systematic reviews, paediatrics, clinical treatment, and science and practice. The journals provide an excellent resource for those in the obesity field and raise the standing and reputation of World Obesity.

Throughout 2024 negotiations took place with the incumbent publisher, Wiley, to agree a new contract for the journals portfolio. This was agreed and signed by the close of 2024 which significantly improved financial terms for the Federation.

In July 2024, Nick Finer was appointed as the a new Chair for the Publications Committee.

The journal editors' reports show their continuing success in disseminating knowledge, research and skills to the ever-widening community of academics, clinicians and advocates seeking a better understanding of the disease of obesity. I look forward to working with the Editors to achieve their goals in 2025 and beyond.

The table below shows the impact of World Obesity's four journals in recent years:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Obesity Reviews (Impact Factor)	8.192	7.310	9.213	10.867	8.9	8.0
Clinical Obesity (Predicted Impact Factor to 2022*)	3.713	3.429	4.000	3.910	3.8	2.7
Clinical Obesity (Predicted Impact Factor to 2022*)	*2.6	*4.0	*2.529	*2.993	3.3	2.2
Obesity Science and Practice					2.2	1.9

N.B: in 2023 (for the 2022 IF) Clarivate made the decision to shorten the Impact Factor to just one decimal place.



Obesity Reviews continued to be the highest ranked obesity journal by Impact Factor and was the 14th highest ranked in the Endocrinology & Metabolism field, out of 187 (source: Clarivate Journal Citation Reports). Twelve standard issues of the journal were published throughout 2024, in addition to 1 supplementary issue linked to the International Congress on Obesity.



Twelve issues of **Pediatric Obesity** were published in 2024, including one Special Issue on Pediatic Obesity Treatment. Pediatric Obesity was the 38th highest-ranked journal out of 186 in the field of Pediatrics (source: Clarivate Journal Citation Reports).



Six issues of **Clinical Obesity** were published throughout the year. Clinical Obesity received its second Impact Factor in the summer of 2024 (for the year 2023), of 2.2.



Obesity Science and Practice, the open access journal co-owned with The Obesity Society, published six issues throughout the year. The journal received its second Impact factor in the summer of 2024 (for the year 2023), of 1.9.

Global Obesity Observatory

The Global Obesity Observatory is an online, interactive database of information about the prevalence and epidemiology of obesity. During 2024, the Global Obesity Observatory had several key developments and saw another significant increase in usage, with over 830,000 users and over 2.4 million page views.

- updates including obesity and comorbidities.
- Presentation maps key maps updated and available for download.
- Under 5 data added for the first time, available on the interactive map, the overview pages and presentation maps.

World Obesity Atlas 2024

Ahead of World Obesity Day, we released the sixth World Obesity Atlas, providing a data-driven snapshot of global obesity trends and projections. The report underscores that no region is unaffected, with the poorest communities hit hardest and at increasingly younger ages. It also highlights how limited access to obesity care is driving major non-communicable diseases such as cancer and diabetes, and how economic development is contributing to rising obesity rates.

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- These developments included:
- Comprehensive global data
- prevalence, obesity-related drivers

Work to update the data within the database is continuous. Over the course of 2024 the data team added hundreds of updates. Data is now available in over 230 countries, territories or Islands.



WORLD

World Obesity Atlas 2024



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2024 has demonstrated the power of collaboration, the importance of evidence-based solutions, and the urgency of centring obesity within health, development and equity agendas.

From elevating obesity on the global policy stage to expanding access to education and data, World Obesity has made meaningful strides across all four of our strategic pillars. We have strengthened our role as a trusted partner to multilateral agencies, invested in educating health professionals through SCOPE, and deepened engagement with member organisations across every continent.

The success of World Obesity Day, the impactful International Congress on Obesity in São Paulo, and the launch of new initiatives such as the OBCT project and the MENA regional association are testament to the collective momentum building within our community. Our improved journal contracts and the growing reach of the Global Obesity Observatory further reinforce our capacity to inform and inspire action at all levels. We are proud to report a financial surplus for the year and a solid recovery from previous challenges, all while safeguarding the integrity and ambition of our mission. This achievement reflects careful stewardship, strategic fundraising, and the continued relevance of our work in an evolving global health landscape.

Yet, we are acutely aware that progress is not evenly distributed. As we enter 2025, and with the next UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs on the horizon, we must work harder than ever to dismantle systemic barriers, challenge stigma, and ensure access to obesity care is a reality for all – not a privilege for some.

Our upcoming three-year strategy will guide us through this critical next phase. With it, we aim to mobilise action at national and regional levels, enhance multisectoral collaboration, and keep the voices of people living with obesity at the centre of everything we do.

To our members, partners, funders, volunteers and staff – thank you. Your dedication, insight and leadership continue to drive the global movement for better health.

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Charitable objectives of World Obesity

World Obesity is registered in the United Kingdom. World Obesity's charitable objectives are "to promote the preservation and protection of health and relief of sickness for the public benefit in the field of obesity and its related disorders by (i) promoting research, the dissemination of the results of such research, and exchange of scientific information in the field of obesity internationally, (ii) developing a deeper understanding of how to achieve and maintain a healthy bodyweight, and managing and preventing obesity and its related conditions by those engaged in the study of obesity, healthcare professionals, health related organisations, governments and the international community".

Public benefit

World Obesity's activities continue to give identifiable benefits to the public. The trustees confirm that they have complied with duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and seek to meet World Obesity's charitable purposes in following its objectives.

Structure, governance and management

The Trustees (Board of Trustees)

The directors of the company are also trustees of the charity for the purpose of charity law, and, under the Articles of Association, are also known as members of the Board of Trustees. The President-Elect is elected by the General Council to serve a term of six years in total; two years as President-Elect, two years as President and two years as Past President. The Treasurer is elected by the General Council to hold office for two years which can be renewed for further terms of two years. The Vice-Presidents for each region are elected by their respective regional bodies.

When a new trustee is appointed, the charity will provide a copy of the Trustees Pack which includes information on:

- role and responsibilities of a trustee.
- mission and objectives of the organisation.
- legal status and governance.
- organisational structure and staffing.
- finance including expense claim rules.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Charity's current Board is presently comprised of 14 members. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction and policies of the charity. The Board of Trustees holds regular meetings and teleconference calls to discuss relevant issues and make final decisions to feed back to the sub-committees and task forces. Relevant senior staff members are invited to attend certain meetings in order to facilitate operational details.

The Board of Trustees, with support from the relevant sub-committees, considers organisational risk that World Obesity may face, the strategic position and any difficulties the organisation may have in achieving its goals.

Pay for key management personnel is reviewed annually as part of the budgetary process. This is then reviewed by the board of trustees and any increases in pay are agreed upon within trustee meetings. Remuneration for key management is benchmarked against the market and increases are currently based on merit.

General Council

The Board of Trustees has the power to make rules and regulations consistent with the Articles of Association and the Companies Acts to govern the administration of the Federation. Members of World Obesity (the General Council) are entitled to send one representative per member organisation to attend the General Meetings personally or by proxy, and to vote on behalf of their organisation.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee consists of the President, the President-Elect, the Past-President and three coopted members. The Nominations Committee manages the nomination process of the President-Elect and the Treasurer. The Nominations Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee collates the yearly budgets for approval by the Board of Trustees and monitors the performance against that budget during regular meetings through the year. The Finance Committee also considers the financial risk World Obesity may encounter and recommends strategies to mitigate any identified risk. The Finance Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee manages the journal portfolio of World Obesity. The Publications Committee meets at least twice a year and focuses on increasing the impact of World Obesity's journals. The Publications Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

Clinical Care Committee

The Clinical Care Committee focuses on management of the charity's educational programmes for healthcare professionals. The Clinical Care Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

Policy and Prevention Committee

The Policy and Prevention Committee focuses on public health policy and advocacy work. It is supported in an advisory capacity by a Scientific and Technical Advisory Network (STAN) of 54 expert members, including 10 early-career professionals. The Policy and Prevention Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Scientific Programme and ICO Liaison Committee The Scientific Programme and ICO Liaison Committee is currently dormant. A working group is currently being set up in 2025 to consider a new remit for this committee.

Management

Employee participation

World Obesity is committed to employee engagement. A motivated and committed team ensures that all avenues to further the work of World Obesity are explored. World Obesity works hard to promote interaction and trust between the leadership and employees, and to promote collaborative relationships through team building, crossfunctional projects and training. World Obesity seeks to understand and appreciate different perspectives and to address employee concerns and issues. In addition, World Obesity encourages, celebrates and recognises the excellence of the team and actively solicits employee feedback and evaluates and recommends strategies for improving employee engagement.

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The day-to-day management and decision making of World Obesity is delegated by the trustees to the CEO.

Risk management

Using the risk register which is reviewed by the Trustees at each guarterly meeting, management has assessed the major risks to which World Obesity is exposed and has developed mitigating strategies to reduce their impact to an acceptable level:

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficiently diversified sources of income and the impact of losing one or more sources of income	 Reserves are held to cover one year's operating expenditure of the charity. Funding diversification programme initiated in 2023
Inadequate resourcing for major core activities e.g. ICO 26, World Obesity Day.	 'Stepped' approach that allows for scale of activities to increase if funding becomes available.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the charity's ability to continue as a going concern to assure themselves of the validity of this assumption when preparing the accounts. In making this assessment, they have taken into account all available information about the future for at least twelve months from the date the accounts are approved.

New funding has been won in 2024 and 2025 and Novo Nordisk are again supporting World Obesity Federation but to a lesser degree.

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The trustees continue to believe that the Going Concern assumption is appropriate for the following reasons:

- World Obesity is highly regarded within the field of obesity and the only obesity organisation in official relations with WHO, with strong existing relationships with many key funders within the sector. The Charity is engaging with these funders to see if they can help provide immediate financial support.
- The programme World Obesity embarked on during 2022 is now paying dividends. Costs are still being tightly controlled.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review their reserves policy annually to ensure that it reflects the changing position of the Charity and its operating context. Trustees have considered the following factors when setting their reserves level:

- World Obesity Federation is highly regarded within obesity and the only obesity organisation in official relations with WHO, with strong existing relationships with many key funders within the sector. The charity engaged with these funders to see if they could provide support.
- World Obesity had embarked in 2022 on a programme of diversifying funding and increasing overall financing from government and philanthropy for the wider obesity cause. These efforts were intensified in 2023 onwards and although this is a medium-term strategy, the trustees believed there were significant opportunities to support the organization, and this would also help to reduce future financial risk.
- An initial program of cost reduction was undertaken while maintaining delivery capacity. Trustees continued to monitor funding projections in order to contain the deficit within sustainable levels. Trustees believe that a return to scale is possible within one-two years.

Trustees believe that reserves should be set at a level sufficient to be enough to cover 1 years of the Charity's operating expenses. Based on anticipated 2025 operating expenditure of £1.35m, unrestricted reserves of £985,444 as at 31 December 2024 are not in line with this approach. In light of the disruption to a significant funding relationship in early 2023, trustees approved the temporary reduction of reserves in order to protect the Charity's operations in the short term until additional funding is secured.

Although Trustees continue to believe World Obesity is a Going Concern, in line with the Charity Commission's requirement that any Charity should be able to dissolve in an orderly fashion, they have determined that World Obesity Federation should retain a minimum level of unrestricted reserves of £350k to ensure this.

Trustees are aware that having reduced reserves below the level required by policy, there will be a period of rebuilding reserves. This may therefore have a significant impact on an organisation's unrestricted resources for future periods.

Investment policy

The trustees periodically review the policy for investing the funds of the charity. It has been decided that in the current phase of the World Obesity Federation's development, funds will be retained as cash to ensure that the activities of the federation will be adequately funded. Monies will be put on to 1 to 3 months deposit.

Fiduciary responsibilities

The trustees, who are also directors of the World Obesity Federation for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).



Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- them consistently.
- Charities SORP.
- and prudent.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for 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 charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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• Select suitable accounting policies and then apply

• Observe the methods and principles in the

• Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable

• Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

In so far as we are aware:

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

Financial Overview

At the end of the year to 31 December 2024 the total funds of the charitable group were £985,444. The overall position of the charity has changed from £861,394 in 2023 to £985,444 in 2024.

The net position for the charity was a surplus of £124,050 in 2024 compared to a deficit of £262,172 in 2023.

At the end of the year a review of our reserves was undertaken. This resulted in a total free reserve (excluding net book value of fixed assets and designated funds) of £985,444 at the year end.

The principal income sources for the charity in 2024 were as follows:

	£
European Commission and UK Government Innovate	20,126
Journals	271,684
Clinical Education (SCOPE)	702,803
Research	90,291
Membership and Donations	255,418
Events and ICO 24	748,191

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WORLD DBESITY

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of the **World Obesity Federation**

(Registered number: 03802726)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of World Obesity Federation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are

independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements. our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- · certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below: • Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional missions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

- of the company's internal control.

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• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and the related disclosures made by the directors.

• Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to event or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability

to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosure in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/ auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

H. M. Day

H M Day (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Nightingale House 46-48 East St. KT17 1HQ

Date: 4th June 2025

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WORLD DESITY

World Obesity Federation Statement Of Financial Activities Charity (Incorporating Income and Expenditure account)

For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
ncoming resources				
ncoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income				
Donations and legacies	_	205,039	205,039	68,458
Activities for generating funds				
Congress and Events	_	748,191	748,191	-
Royalties and other income	_	271,684	271,684	271,607
nvestment income				
nvestment income	-	6,899	6,899	1
ncoming resources from Charitable Activities:				
Policy	13,000	-	13,000	53,135
Education	_	702,803	702,803	235,222
Research	29,375	60,917	90,292	292,026
Membership	_	50,379	50,379	27,581
Total incoming resources	42,375	2,045,912	2,088,287	948,030
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
/oluntary income	_	364,978	364,978	346,471
	-	364,978	364,978	346,471
Charitable activities				
Policy	11,646	226,827	238,473	113,421
Membership Services	_	78,946	78,946	40,898
Education	_	1,109,807	1,109,807	339,574
Research	29,532	142,501	172,033	369,838
Total charitable expenditure	41,178	1,558,081	1,599,259	863,731
Total resources expended	41,178	1,923,059	1,964,237	1,210,202
Net incoming resources before transfers between funds	1,197	122,853	124,050	(262,172)
Transfers between funds	(1,197)	1,197	-	
Net movement in funds	-	124,050	124,050	(262,172)
Funds at 1 January	-	861,394	861,394	1,123,566
Funds at 31 December	-	985,444	985,444	861,394

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WORLD BESITY

World Obesity Federation balance Sheet

Registered Company number: 03802726

As at 31 December 2024

	2024 £		2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	570),127	646,591
Cash at bank and in hand	1,747	,037	757,210
	2,317	,164	1,403,801
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,331,	,720)	(542,407)
Net current assets	985	5,444	861,394
Net assets	985	5,444	861,394
Funds			
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds – general fund	985	5,444	861,394
	985	5,444	861,394

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of the

Trustees on 4th June 2025 and were signed below on its behalf by:

World Obesity Federation Cash flow statement

Registered Company number: 03802726 As at 31 December 2024

Jason Halford

Trustee Professor Jason Halford

Trustee Professor Simon Barquera

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	2024 £	2023 £		
Cash flows from operating activities	982,928	(502,039)		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	0	(1,114)		
Cash flows from operating activities	6,899	1		
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	989,827	(503,152)		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	757,210	1,260,362		
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,747,037	757,210		
Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	124,050	(262,172)		
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	_	8,627		
Interest received	(6,899)	1		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	76,464	(295,198)		
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	789,313	46,703		
	982,928	(502,039)		



World Obesity Federation 3 Waterhouse Square 138–142 Holborn London EC1N 2SW United Kingdom

For more information on the World Obesity Federation visit **www.worldobesity.org**

World Obesity Federation is a registered charity in England and Wales (1076981) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (03802726)

