Stichting The WePROTECT Global Alliance

Annual report 2023

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Administrative details

Registered Office and Operational Address Piustuin 20 2161 HA Lisse

Company Registration Number: 76585379

Directors Joanna Shield Stuart George Davis Iain Neil Rennisson Drennan

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is as an international public-private partnership dedicated to putting online-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse on the global agenda and mobilising a worldwide campaign to end it. We are a membership alliance that brings together people and organisations with the knowledge, experience and influence to make the digital world safer for children.

WeProtect Global Alliance is a global movement of people and organisations across governments, the private sector and civil society. Our members work together to transform the global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

Statement of the board of directors

The Alliance remained in a solid financial position over the course of the year, with the hiring of a new Head of Development to lead fundraising work and strong relationships maintained with existing donors and an active pipeline of new prospects. The majority of the 2023 budget continued to be allocated to core operating costs and salaries, with program costs focused on delivery across our four key objectives of Advocacy, Collaboration, Empowerment and Knowledge, with a new three-year strategy agreed by the Board in 2023. The team grew to eleven full time members by December 2023.

Description of Core Activities and Results 2023

The Alliance's 2023-2025 Strategy was launched in January 2023. As an Alliance, we now have a clear focus for delivery under our four key objectives, built around three lead outputs of the Global Threat Assessment, Response Frameworks and Global Summit, through which we will deliver our overall vision of a digital world designed to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

In parallel to the development of the strategy, we worked with consultants to develop a fundraising strategy to ensure we have the necessary resources in place to deliver on our commitments over the next three years. It endorses and underlines our strategic role of support and adding value for our membership.

Collaboration

Our membership strategy has continued to combine broadening the Alliance in underrepresented sectors and regions with deepening our engagement with existing members and revitalising our relationships, working closely with partners. Highlights included welcoming new government members Ecuador and Fiji, both from underrepresented regions, and The Council of Europe, which joined the Alliance in November, building on a close partnership forged since the UK ratified the Lanzarote Convention in 2018 and the Alliance gained Official Observer status at Lanzarote Committee meetings in 2020.

The Alliance played a pivotal role in shaping the World Economic Forum's Global Coalition on Digital Safety's Global Charter of Principles for Digital Safety. The principles were published in January 2023 at Davos and aim to advance digital safety in a rights-respecting way, drive multistakeholder alignment and enable positive behaviours and actions across the digital ecosystem.

Knowledge

The fourth Alliance Global Threat Assessment was launched in October 2023, the most comprehensive and wide ranging so far. New information sources from Crisp (now Resolver, a Kroll company), Economist Impact and partnership with the Special Representative to the UN

Secretary General on Violence Against Children provided new insights and broadened our engagement with the Global South and increased child and youth engagement with the threat assessment.

The Threat Assessment noted an exponential increase in the scale and nature of child sexual abuse and exploitation online since 2019, highlighting two trends driving this increase: the intensification of known forms of abuse, such as financial sexual extortion, and the emergence of new forms of abuse such as AI-generated CSAM. The profile and reach of the report were significantly higher than the last iteration in 2021, despite a very competitive news agenda, with more than 2-3 times the media coverage, social media reach and website traffic, reflecting an effective communications strategy and strong global interest in the themes of the report.

Empowerment

In March 2023 we launched a unique global mapping project to understand where and how children and survivors are involved in participatory initiatives related to tackling online-facilitated child sexual abuse and closely related issues. We asked our membership and broader networks to complete a survey, sharing information about any participation work they had engaged in involving adult survivors or children and young people. Alongside this, we conducted desk research to find activities and initiatives undertaken on related issues and outside our membership. To better analyse the different approaches to engagement with children and adult survivors, we have also developed a Participation Model.

Together with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG-VAC), we conducted a joint global consultation with children on issues related to violence online to ensure children's voices influence our future advocacy and research. We launched the consultation as discussions about online safety are mostly based only on adults' views about online safety. We aimed to centre children and young people's more accurately in discussion on effective prevention and response mechanisms, ensuring our views on what will create a safer internet for children and young people is in line with their own understanding, needs and responses. We received 650 global responses from young people 18 and under. A high-level summary of the data emphasising young views online violence was shared in the latest report to the Human Rights Council and the findings were incorporated into the Global Threat Assessment.

Advocacy

In February 2023 we were invited to make a submission to inform a report on digital harms to inform the UN Secretary-General's Bi-Annual Report. Input will be used to inform the drafting and content of the SG's report on the rights of the child itself. This will in turn be presented to the General Assembly's Third Committee and will be the basis upon which

Member States will also negotiate the 2023 General Assembly resolution on the rights of the child.

To support the case for effective and comprehensive EU legislation to tackle child sexual abuse, we have worked with Economist Impact to carry out research on the experiences of 18-year-olds in France, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands which was published in June, building on the methodology from our 2021 Global Threat Assessment. This was followed up with targeted government engagement in the relevant capitals and supporting work on a letter from the European Child Sexual Abuse Legislation Advocacy Group (ECLAG).

In November, we took part in the 2023 Paris Peace Forum, speaking alongside TikTok and Microsoft in a panel moderated by Digital Minister Barrot. This provided a further opportunity to advocate for a prevention and child centred approach and to reiterate, on a global stage, the value of effective and enforceable legislation and the ongoing need for voluntary action by companies.

The Alliance played a leading role at the Saudi-hosted Global Cyber Security Forum, building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Saudi National Cybersecurity Authority in 2022. We delivered a keynote panel discussion alongside the President of the Saudi Human Rights Commission and DQ Institute and an invitation-only briefing to senior policy-makers and industry on the findings of the GTA.

Also in November we spoke at the UK Government's AI Safety Summit side event 'Tackling child sexual abuse in the age of Artificial Intelligence', which was hosted by UK Ministers, bringing together key countries, technology organisations, academia, and civil society. The attendee joint statement for the event opened with a key judgement from the GTA on the scale of child sexual abuse online.

Going Concern

The directors have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern.

The directors have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the directors have considered the Company's forecasts and projections, included future funding from grants that have already been received, as well funds that are expected to be received. The directors have concluded there is a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, although the fundraising landscape will remain challenging, with many competing demands on philanthropy and government, our key donors

so far. The Company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Budget

As regards the 2024 budget, reserves of €1.017.219 were brought forward from 2023. Priority activities for 2024 include: the planning of our next Global Summit, to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in December 2024 (including development of research and policy papers to be launched at the event) and support for the Global Ministerial Conference on Violence Against Children in Bogotá, Colombia in November 2024. We are currently forecasting end of year reserves of €752.954.

Consolidated balance 31 December 2023

Tangible fixed assets		2.711		3.092
Current assets				
Other debtors		6.134		32.991
Project funding receivables		-		19.645
Cash at bank and in hand		1.066.073		732.222
Total assets	-	1.074.918	-	787.950
Reserves				
Other reserves		75.531		14.498
Funds				
Semi-restricted funds		9.783		18.499
Current liabilities				
Project funding liabilities	915.655		695.502	
Taxes and social security contributions	29.208		16.897	
Pensions	-		2.504	
Accounts payable	4.503		5.928	
Accrued expenses	40.238	_	34.122	
		989.604		754.953
Total liabilities and reserves	-	1.074.918	-	787.950

Consolidated statement of income and expenditure 2023

	202	3	202	22
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Income from other not for profit organisations	1.588.742		1.312.373	
Government grants		_	-	
Total incoming resources		1.588.742		1.312.373
Resources expended				
Spent on objectives	497.847		497.323	
Costs of personnel	882.566		712.672	
Depreciation and amortization	2.726		2.726	
Management and administration cost	147.614		108.015	
Total resources expended	_	1.530.753		1.320.736
		1.536.425		
Sum of income and expenditures before				
financial income and expenses		57.989		- 8.363
Financial income and expenses	-	5.672		- 10.840
Balance of income and expenditures	_	52.317		- 19.203

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

General notes

Estimates

In applying accounting policies and standards for preparing annual accounts, the Board is required to make estimates and judgments that might significantly influence the amounts disclosed in the annual accounts. If necessary for the purposes of providing the view required under Section 362(1), Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code, the nature of these estimates and judgments, including the related assumptions, are disclosed in the notes to the relevant items.

Going concern

The directors have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the directors have considered the Company's forecasts and projections, included future funding from grants that have already been received, as well funds that are expected to be received. The directors have concluded there is a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, although the fundraising landscape will remain challenging, with many competing demands on philanthropy and government, our key donors so far. The Company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Consolidation

The consolidation includes the financial information of Stichting The WePROTECT Global Alliance and the entities in which it exercises control, or whose central management it conducts. All entities in which the Stichting exercises control or whose central management it conducts are consolidated in full. Intercompany transactions, profits and balances among consolidated entities are eliminated, unless these results are realised through transactions with third parties. Unrealised losses on intercompany transactions are eliminated as well, unless such a loss qualifies as an impairment. The accounting policies of group companies and other consolidated entities have been changed where necessary in order to align them to the prevailing group accounting policies.

The consolidated entities are listed below:

- WePROTECT Global Alliance Limited, Tonbridge United Kingdom

Accounting principles for the valuation of assets and liabilities

General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions of Part 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the firm pronouncements in the Guidelines for Annual Reporting in the Netherlands as issued by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. More specifically, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Dutch Accounting Standard for small not for profit entities (RJk C1). The financial statements are prepared in Euros. Assets and liabilities are generally valued at acquisition cost, production cost or at current value. If no specific valuation method is indicated, the valuation is done at the acquisition price. References are included in the balance sheet and statement of income and expenses.

Foreign currency

The financial statements are presented in Euros, which is the presentation currency of the Stichting. Most of its income is denominated in EUR, whilst most of its costs are incurred in GBP.

Transactions in foreign currencies during the period are included in the financial statements at the exchange rate as per the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the closing rate. The exchange differences arising from the settlement and translation are credited or charged to the statement of income and expenditure. Translation differences on non-monetary assets held at cost are recognised using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Translation differences on non-monetary assets such as equities held at fair value through income or expenditure are recognised through income or expenditure as part of the fair value gain or loss.

Tangible fixed assets

IT equipment, furniture and fittings, and other assets are all valued at historical cost or manufacturing price including directly attributable expenditure, less straight line depreciation over their estimated useful lives, and impairment losses. Grants are deducted from the acquisition or manufacturing cost of the assets to which they relate.

Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at amortized cost. Allowances for doubtful debts are deducted from the carrying amount of receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash and bank balances and demand deposits falling due in less than 12 months. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at face value.

Reserves and funds

Other reserves are maintained to ensure that the Stichting can continue to carry out its mission.

Semi-restricted funds are earmarked by third-party donors for activities related to a certain topic, but not limited to specific projects.

Employee benefits

Stichting The WePROTECT Global Alliance applies the liability approach for all pension schemes. The premium payable during the financial year is charged to the result. Foreign pension plans that are similar to the way in which the Dutch pension system is designed and operates, recognition and measurement of liabilities arising from these pension schemes are carried out in accordance with the valuation of the Dutch pension schemes.

Project Funding Payables

Current liabilities include Project Funding Payables which relate to projects being carried out by the Stichting and its affiliated entity on behalf of donors. The amounts stated represent funding received in advance from donors for which the relevant work had not been carried out by the balance sheet date.

Creditors, Accrued Expenses, Taxes, and Social Security

Creditors, Accrued expenses, Taxes, and Social Security are also included under Current Liabilities. On initial recognition, current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received, taking into account premiums or discounts, less transaction costs. This usually is the nominal value.

Accounting principles for determining the Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income recognition

Income comprises of the realised income from the donor contracts after deduction of other charges like taxes levied if applicable in any country on the revenue.

Income is recognised on an accrual basis based on the costs realised up to the balance sheet date in proportion to the total of the agreed implementation income (fixed price) or subsidized costs incurred, dependent upon donor terms. Grants received but not realized are included in deferred income. Reference is made to "*Project Funding Payables*".

Gifts are recognised as income in the year in which the amount can be determined reliably.

Costs

All project costs related to the activities carried out prior to the balance sheet date are recognised as expenses in the year of its expenditure. These costs comprise direct projects costs (not including employee costs), indirect costs which can be attributable to the contract, and other costs specifically mentioned in the contract. If there is a reasonable assurance that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected project losses are recognised immediately when occurred as expenses.

Financial Income and Expenses

Financing results include realised and unrealised exchange rate differences unless hedge accounting is applied.

Costs of personnel

Salaries, wages and social security contributions are recognised in the statement of income and expenditure based on the pay and benefits package to the extent that they are payable to employees.

Contributions are recognised as employee benefit expenses as soon as they are payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised within prepayments and accrued income if they entail a refund or a reduction in future payments. Contributions payable are disclosed as liabilities in the balance sheet.

Notes to the Consolidated Balance Sheet

Tangible fixed assets		IT EQUIPMENT		
-		€	€	
		2023	2022	
Balance at 1 January				
Cost		9.683	9.683	
Accumulated depreciation		- 6.591 -	3.362	
Carrying value		3.092	6.321	
Changes				
Purchases		2.345	_	
Depreciation		- 2.726 -	3.229	
Total changes		- 381 -		
Balance at 31 December				
Cost		12.028	9.683	
Accumulated depreciation		- 9.317 -	6.591	
Carrying value		2.711	3.092	
Depreciation percentage		33,33%	33,33%	
Cash at bank and in hand			T 1	
Bank account currency	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
Euros	-	1.058.807	1.058.807	
British Pound	-	7.266	7.266	
	-	1.066.073	1.066.073	

Reserves and funds	Other reserves	Semi-restricted funds €	Total reserves and funds €
Opening balance 1 January 2023	14.498	18.499	32.997
Result for the year	61.033	- 8.716	52.317
Closing balance 31 December 2023	75.531	9.783	85.314
Reserves and funds	Other reserves	Semi-restricted funds €	Total reserves and funds €
Opening balance 1 January 2022	14.498	37.702	52.200
Result for the year	-	- 19.203	- 19.203
Closing balance 31 December 2022	14.498	18.499	32.997

Semi restricted fund

The gift from the UAE Government is semi restricted as its intention was to contribute towards the provision of issue-based workshops but there were no set reporting criteria of restriction around the associated costs.

Current liabilities

Project funding liabilities

Funding organization	Duration	Balance to be spent 31-12-2023
Stichting Benevolentia	1/1/22 - 31/12/24	62.844
EU	1/1/22 - 30/6/24	161.777
OAK Foundation	1/4/22 - 30/5/25	430.883
Together for Girls, Inc.	31/1/23 - 28/2/27	39.442
Together for Girls, Inc.	15/3/22 - 14/3/25	404
The New Venture Fund - Ignite	1/1/23 - 31/12/24	33.440
Thorn	1/4/23- 31/03/24	186.865
Grand total balances to be spent		915.655

Taxes and social security contributions

	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Payroll taxes	29.208	16.897
<u>Accrued expenses</u>		
Audit fees	34.468	17.491
Other accruals	5.770	16.631
	40.238	34.122

Off-balance sheet commitments

Grant agreement WeProtect Global Alliance Limited

In 2021 the Stichting entered into a grant agreement with WeProtect Global Alliance Limited. WeProtect Global Alliance Limited submits a yearly budget to the Stichting setting out the costs it anticipates incurring during a calendar year in carrying out activities that further the aims of the Stichting. The Stichting has agreed to provide a grant to WeProtect Global Alliance Limited to defray those costs. WeProtect Global Alliance Limited will use the Grant solely to meet costs set out in the Budget except with the prior written approval of the Stichting. If the costs incurred by WeProtect Global Alliance Limited in carrying out its activities in furtherance of the aims of the Stichting in any calendar year are less than the amount of the Grant paid during that year, the Stichting may at its discretion deduct a corresponding amount from the Grant payable for a subsequent year.

For the calendar year 2024 the Stichting agreed upon a budget of EUR 1.544.627.

Notes to the consolidated statement of income and expenditure

Income from other not for profit organisations	2023	2022
	€	€
The New Venture Fund - Ignite	34.210	3.973
OAK Foundation	553.829	449.679
Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities	49.517	-
Together for Girls, Inc.	63.590	16.797
The Children Investment Fund Grant	285.316	194.810
Stichting Benevolentia	57.094	67.014
Thorn	288.135	37.535
EU	147.222	459.726
Tides Foundation	93.324	81.392
Other	16.505	1.447
	1.588.742	1.312.373
Costs of personnel		
Salaries and wages	746.274	602.595
Social security contributions	115.748	97.912
Pension costs	20.544	12.165
	882.566	712.672
Management and administration cost		
Audit fees	32.401	30.596
Other costs	115.213	76.916
	147.614	107.512
Financial income and expenses		
Interest charges	78	- 1.245
Currency exchange loss	- 5.750	- 9.595
	- 5.672	- 10.840

Other Disclosures

Average number of employees

As per 31st December 2023, 9 (2022: 11) employees were employed on a full-time basis. Of these employees, 9 (2022: 11) were employed outside the Netherlands.

Remuneration of Managing Board

	2023 GBP	2022 GBP
Aggregate emoluments Company pension contributions	154.013 <u>6.194</u> <u>160.207</u>	237.643 <u>7.129</u> <u>244.772</u>

Related parties

The Stichting established a private limited company. The Stichting has full control in this entity and is therefore included in the consolidation. All transactions between the Stichting and WePROTECT Global Alliance Limited are in principle priced at arm's length basis. The nature of the transactions was predominantly the funding of the activities.

Subsequent events

Since 31st December 2023, further income sources have been agreed:

- €498,085 in a grant from the European Commission, agreed on 21st May 2024. The grant period is July 2024 to June 2026.
- An amendment to the 2023 grant from Together for Girls for the Safe Futures Hub (originally \$100,000 per year over 4 years), which was reduced from \$400,000 to \$100,000 following a decision that we would receive funding for years 2 to 4 directly from the donor (Swiss Philanthropy) rather then via Together for Girls (see below).
- \$430,000 in a new grant from Swiss Philanthropy for work under the Safe Futures Hub. This is comprised of three annual instalments of \$100,000 previously agreed via Together for Girls (see above). A further \$130,000 was also secured. The grant period is 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2027.
- €100,000 in a donation from Snap inc.
- €200,000 from a US-based donor-advised fund.
- \$75,000 from CIFF.

Parts of these grants are due to be received during the 2024 financial year.

Stand-alone balance 31 December 2023

	31-12-2023		31-12-2022	
	€	€	€	€
Current assets				
Other debtors			29.620	
	-		19.645	
Project funding receivables	1.322		331.817	
Group receivables Cash at bank and in hand				
Cash at bank and in hand	1.012.147	_	359.917	
Tatal accede	-	1.012.4(0	-	740.000
Total assets	=	1.013.469	=	740.999
Reserves				
Other reserves		75.531		14.498
		75.551		11,190
Funds				
Semi-restricted funds		9.783		18.499
Current liabilities				
Project funding liabilities	915.655		695.502	
Taxes and social security contributions	-		-	
Pensions	-		-	
Accrued expenses	12.500		12.500	
•		928.155		708.002
Total liabilities and reserves	-	1.013.469	-	740.999

Stand-alone statement of income and expenditure 2023

	202	23	20	22
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Income from other not for profit organisations	1.573.416		1.312.373	
Government grants	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		1.573.416		1.312.373
Resources expended				
Spent on objectives	1.520.482		1.315.752	
Depreciation and amortization	-		-	
Management and administration cost	669	_	14.579	_
Total resources expended		1.521.151		1.330.331
Sum of income and expenditures before				
financial income and expenses		52.265		- 17.958
Einensiel income and emenance		52		1 245
Financial income and expenses	-	52		- 1.245
Balance of income and expenditures	-	52.317		- 19.203
1	-			

Notes to the individual financial statements

Current assets

Other debtors

The balance in 2022, pertains a refund from vendor Apolitical in 2023, over costs incurred up until December 2022. No other debtors were recorded in 2023.

Group receivables

This relates to a current account receivable to WeProtect Global Alliance Limited. The receivable is unsecured and does not carry interest.

Cash at bank and in hand

Bank account currency	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
		31-12-2023	
Euros	-	1.004.881	1.004.881
British Pound	-	7.266	7.266
	-	1.012.147	1.012.147

Reserves and funds

The funds and reserves of WePROTECT Global Alliance Limited that is included in the consolidated financial statements amount to \notin nil. Funds and reserves in the individual balance sheet are therefore equal to the funds and reserves in the consolidated balance sheet. Reference is made to the consolidated financial statements.

Current liabilities

Project funding liabilities

Funding organization	Duration	Balance to be spent
		31-12-2023
Stichting Benevolentia	1/1/22 - 31/12/24	62.844
EU	1/1/22 - 30/6/24	161.777
OAK Foundation	1/4/22 - 30/5/25	430.883
Together for Girls, Inc.	31/1/23 - 28/2/27	39.442
Together for Girls, Inc.	15/3/22 - 14/3/25	404
The New Venture Fund - Ignite	1/1/23 - 31/12/24	33.440
Thorn	1/4/23- 31/03/24	186.865
Grand total balances to be spent		915.655

Accrued expenses

	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Audit fees	12.500	12.500
Other accruals	-	-
	12.500	12.500

Resources expended

The \notin 1.520.482 (2022: \notin 1.315.752) is provided to WeProtect Global Alliance Limited, as a sub grant contribution for carrying out activities that further the aims of the Stichting.

Other information

Provision in the constitution governing the appropriation of balances

According to article 10.3 of the constitution of the Stichting, the Management Board adopts the annual accounts. Included in the annual account is a proposal for the appropriation of positive or negative financial balances in the financial year concerned. The appropriation of the balance takes into account imposed restrictions on spending, if any, by third parties.

Approval financial statements

London, .1.3 November...... 2024

Joanna Shields

J. Shields

S.G. Davis

22/11/2024

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I.N.R. Drennan

13/11/2024

Independent auditor's report