

IMPACT *Report*



Christians transforming lives and communities
in the Balkans and Eastern Europe

Published April 2024



TRANSFORM
EUROPE
NETWORK

Welcome to our Impact Report



Welcome to our Impact Report. It is designed to be a readable report that will give you a real insight into the work of TEN and the impact our partners, your support and TEN are having in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

The last couple of years have been dominated by the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis. These challenges have had a real impact on partners as ministries have adapted to support refugees, and partners have had to adapt in the face of rising costs.

As this report makes clear, our partners' obedience to God's call means those they serve have experienced Christ's love through compassionate action and many have heard about His love through the preaching of the gospel. Together this has meant communities impacted, lives transformed, disciples growing, new leaders equipped, churches

planted, and God's Kingdom coming in the Balkans and Eastern Europe!

Thank you for reading this report and for your support, prayer, commitment and encouragement. The part you play is vital and we could not do this without the TEN family of partners, volunteers, supporters, trustees and staff team.

I hope you are encouraged and informed as you read on.



James Vaughton, CEO

TEN is unique in supporting indigenous Christian partners to expand God's kingdom today through evangelism, church planting and compassion ministries. We work with and support partners who are passionate about bringing people to Jesus, and we recognise that this same passion drives the giving of all our supporters. We are hugely grateful for this generous and sacrificial giving. We are now embarking on a new three-year strategy period and we are excited for a deepening of partnerships that we pray will reach more marginalised communities for Christ, as we also seek to provide solutions for the long-term financial sustainability and independence of our partners.

Lorenz Jorgensen, Chair of Trustees



The vision and mission of TEN

We co-work with Christian leaders within their vision, as they share and live out the gospel, transforming lives in the Balkans and Eastern Europe through compassion, evangelism and church planting.

Having reviewed our strategy and reset priorities during 2023-24, we have affirmed our commitment to **partnership in the gospel** (Phil 4:13) and believe we are called to be part of God's Kingdom work, alongside our partners. Our sense is that we are called to 'go where there is Kingdom momentum.'

Over the next few years our focus will be:

- › **Resourcing leaders:** A focus on resourcing those where there is momentum. We believe we continue to be called to invest in younger leaders and women leaders alongside those who have been long-term partners.
- › **Supporting work towards local financial sustainability:** We have reaffirmed our commitment to do what we can to enable partners to move from dependence to greater interdependence. This will involve new ways of working beyond the current funding model.
- › **Ministry among the Roma and other marginalised groups:** We recognise the great needs and Kingdom momentum among the Roma people across the region. TEN will be supporting ministries among the Roma and other marginalised groups, such as those who are homeless and people with disabilities.
- › **Communications and information:** We recognise that the Balkans and Eastern Europe is not always 'seen' by the western church and TEN is investing in strengthening our communications and information to help the UK church see the need and opportunities in the region.
- › **Fundraising:** We have seen significant momentum in funds raised during the last few years we would like to build on that so that we can continue to support partners into the future.
- › **Participation:** We see that when people get involved with TEN they get a heart for what God is doing in the Balkans and Eastern Europe and we want to grow participation of all ages, of people from the UK, in the ministry of TEN in the coming years.

Where we work

Transform Europe Network works alongside Christian partners with a focus on countries located in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

- > Albania
- > Bosnia and Herzegovina
- > Bulgaria
- > Croatia
- > Kosovo
- > Moldova
- > Montenegro
- > North Macedonia
- > Romania
- > Serbia
- > Spain

Countries in the Balkan Peninsula and Eastern Europe are often unfamiliar places to many people from the West. But the region is a fascinating melting pot of culture and history.

When Transform Europe Network began its work (as Eurovangelism), many of our partner countries were subject to regimes that did not allow, or significantly inhibited the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Under communist dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania declared itself the world's first atheist state and it became illegal to say the word, "God".

But since 1992 when both Yugoslavia and USSR ceased to exist, people have much more religious freedom.

The challenges look and feel slightly different, but there are challenges and so TEN continues its relational ministry, walking alongside our indigenous, dedicated partners. God leads our partners by his Holy Spirit, to continue the good works He prepared in advance for them to do.

As in the UK, especially after the devastating effects of the pandemic, there is poverty. When visiting the major cities, it is easy to miss the hidden poverty and to also be unaware of the needs of people in remote villages, some of which are challenging to get to.

Due to high levels of government

corruption and the scars left from the collapse of communism and socialism, there is little state support, if any, for those experiencing poverty.

Compassion ministry is key to much of our partners' outreach which is why TEN encourages donations to appeals such as Harvest for the Hungry and WinterHelp. TEN also has a strategic focus on working with the Roma; marginalised people that frequently suffer the debilitating effects of poverty and prejudice. Our partners live out a practical gospel to those God draws them to, and such a vital response to those people on the margins can be the first step towards them knowing Christ.

Despite the suppression of faith under communism and socialism, Eastern Europe and the Balkans is historically a melting pot of religions, particularly Roman Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity and Islam, and religion is entwined with national identity. To depart from one's ethnic faith can be seen as a betrayal of one's country. Because our partners belong to ministries which are evangelical and therefore a minority, they are often viewed with suspicion and frequently accused of belonging to a sect.

The ground is very tough. Despite opposition, our partners press on to lead people into a Bible-based, living relationship

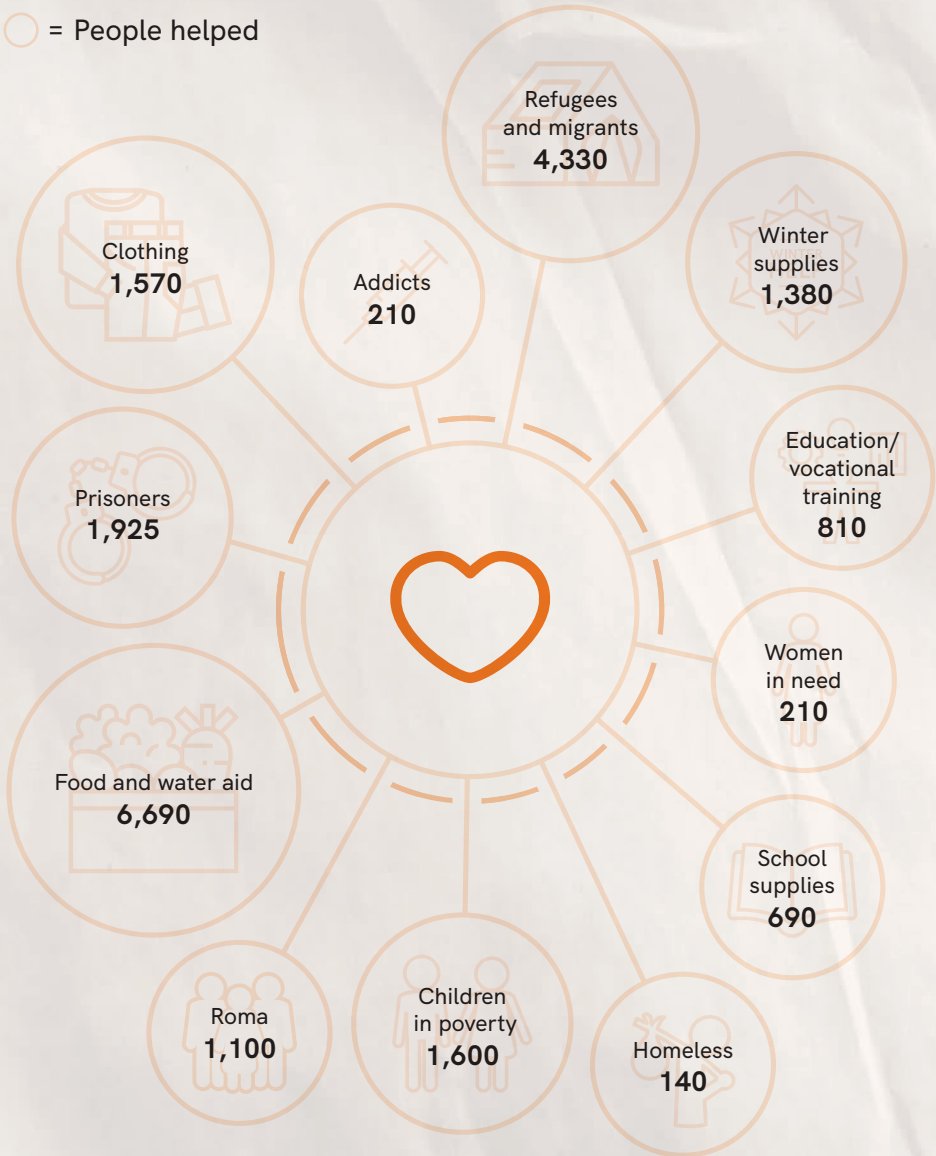
with Christ and they are seeing God's miraculous power in the hearts of the people.

Evangelical churches and small groups are small in number. A major challenge to the building up of the Church in Eastern Europe and the Balkans is migration. Partners in countries such as Albania, Moldova and Bulgaria tell us that young people and people of working age seek greater opportunities for a better life in comparatively affluent western countries. This has a direct impact on discipleship and the growth of the Church. Our partners encourage and pray for people to remain so that churches and Christian ministries can be strengthened and new churches and ministries can be planted. For them, prosperity is in the growth of God's Kingdom.



Compassion

○ = People helped



These figures are based on responses to our impact questionnaire. Not all of our partners responded and so we are aware that it is likely that there are more beneficiaries than stated.

Firewood Distribution Expresses Gods Love

Petre Petrov, North Macedonia

'The grant was used for firewood for the poor. **The most touching moment is when you see their smile, their face shines.** We had the opportunity to give to a woman who has two children. She was happy because there would be wood to warm her children in the winter; she was full of gratitude; her heart was overflowing with gratitude. **The grant was a tool for the church to show that Jesus cares for them and loves them, and that the church sees the needs of the people.'**



Food and a Safe Place in Novi Sad

Dusan Beredi, Serbia

'Branka is on our list from the beginning. She is a former ballerina who is currently without a pension or regular income. During the summer, she sells flowers in the city centre and can survive for a month. During the winter there are no flowers she can pick and no income. Winter is very difficult for her. Help with food was necessary; that food was the only thing that she had to eat. **We became a safe place,** ensured that [people] had confidence in us, and that encouraged a good number of them to come to the church for Sunday services, **which then fits into the mission of the church—to hold out a hand to the poor, the homeless, the rejected.'**

Update from Emanuel Hospice, Romania

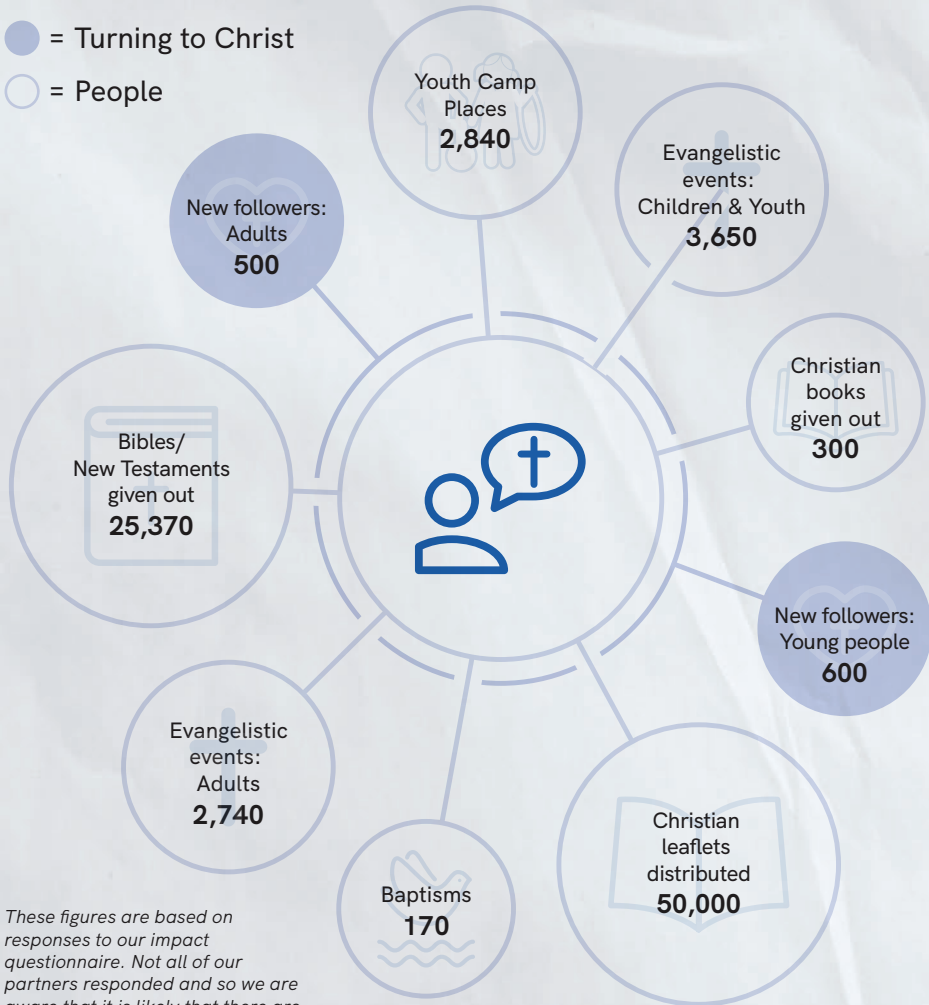
After years of waiting for permission from local authorities, Emanuel Hospice restarted the building work on their new state-of-the-art hospice centre. The centre will allow families to live together while patients receive holistic palliative care.

Reaching out to Ukraine

After Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, partners in Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria reached out to refugees and some even crossed the border into Ukraine to get aid to people in desperate need.

Thanks to generous donations to our crisis fund, TEN was able to support this work with nearly £150,000 resourcing partner ministry in response to the war. Sadly, the conflict continues with no end in sight. If you would like to donate to our Crisis Fund, please visit ten-uk.org/crisis-fund.

Evangelism



These figures are based on responses to our impact questionnaire. Not all of our partners responded and so we are aware that it is likely that there are more beneficiaries than stated.

Pray for us! Pray that God will open new doors and opportunities for us to preach the gospel and for the locals to be open to God's Word!

Valeriu Munteanu, Moldova



Christmas Outreach Event Exceeds Expectations

Vesna Puzdrelieva, North Macedonia

'The Macedonian and Albanian Evangelical churches [joined] together and organised a unique Christmas evangelism event. They made stands in the form of decorated houses and placed them on the main street in Struga. Tea and cookies were served to the people passing by, while well-known Christmas songs were sung in three languages—Macedonian, Albanian and English. We gave out almost 200 Christmas gift bags and around 400 gospel tracts. **But our biggest surprise was that people were asking for New Testaments and Children's Bibles so we had to make multiple trips to the church, bringing more literature each time. In the end, we gave out around 200 New Testaments and Children's Bibles.'**

Local Children Enjoy a Holiday Bible Club

'Through the Lord's grace, this summer we had a wonderful opportunity to organise and run another holiday Bible club. It was a beautiful and blessed time; not only did the children enjoy themselves, but we did as well. The programme was special, diverse and interesting. **The children had a lot of fun playing games, drawing, doing all sorts of sports activities—everything was based on the Scriptures. They also learned Bible verses, listened to God's Word and praised God through beautiful songs and motivating Bible messages.'**

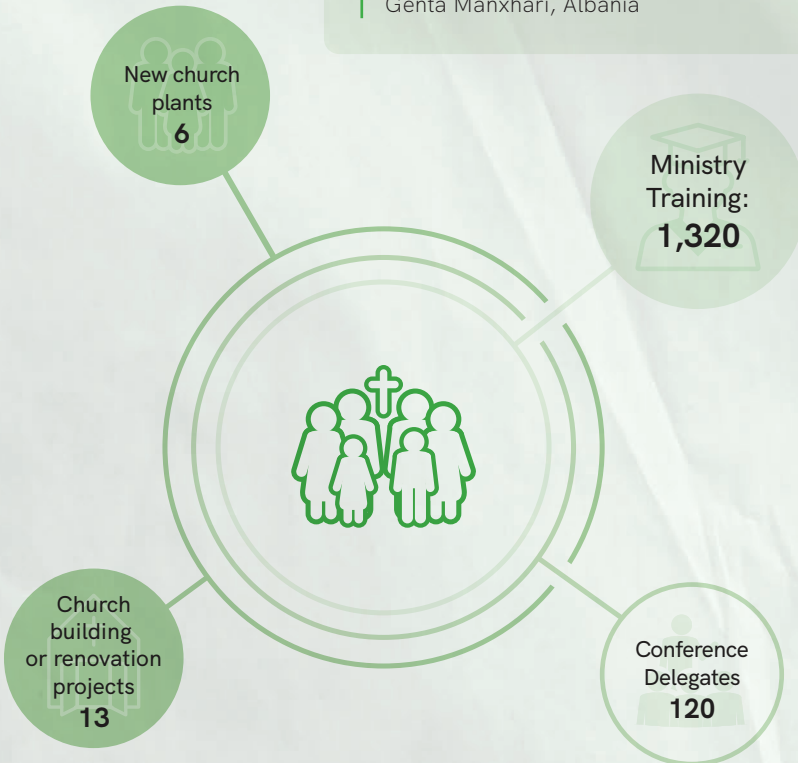


Church Planting

- = Churches
- = Outreach Events
- = Training

'Our church is a new growing church; it is a house church with 15-20 people.'

Genta Manxhari, Albania



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'We are glad that we are partnering with a missionary couple which was sent from our church to Kotor. Your help is a real blessing to us!'

Vladimir Cizmanski, Montenegro



Training the Next Generation of Church Planters

Erion Cuni, Albania

'This year I was privileged to partner again with the International School of Theology & Leadership in Tirana to teach church planting to seventeen students in their second year of studies. I love to be part of this place where I was once a student myself. **It gives me hope as every year, I see many young people come to get to know how they can serve their churches better, to be inspired to [serve] more in church or to start new churches.** As a church planter, this is the highlight of my year serving God, not only for fulfilling my call but because it gives me the heart to continue as I see the Kingdom grow and strengthen more and more.'



Passing On the Baton

Jovica Bacvanski,
formerly in Montenegro

'Last Sunday, together with two other pastors I ordained Boris Ćurčić to be an elder of our church in Podgorica and his wife Urša to be a deaconess. That was a great and significant day for our church. That is also a last step before I ordain Boris to be the pastor of Christ Gospel Church Podgorica. That will enable me and my family to finally leave Montenegro after twenty-four years of ministry in that country and start a new church in our hometown of Novi Sad, Serbia.'

Boris will be installed as the pastor in October [2023] and he will take over the church the same day. My family and I will leave for Serbia the next day.'



An update on our strategy

Over the last few years the strategic focus for TEN has had several broad themes. Our focus on these areas of ministry will continue into the next strategic cycle. Here are some examples of how we are delivering our strategy.

Develop The Financial Sustainability of Partners

Over the last few years we have supported partners through coaching, a conference on financial sustainability, funding small scale agricultural projects and the development of a loan-grant mixed funding model to help partners get small businesses off the ground.

The first project we funded this way continues to thrive. Nenad Radeka told us, 'There are even possibilities to grow. The fact that we were able to employ eighteen people in total is awesome. There are two full-time employees, two half-time and fourteen students that are able to study and work with us and get paid well. We are able to keep developing the church building, pay church bills, give donations to needy people and organisations.'

TEN has intentionally focused funding and support in enabling the development of ministry among Roma communities.

Working with supporters we have funded development, evangelism and church planting work among this most marginalised group.

Engage New Young Leaders as Partners in the Balkans

Over the last two years TEN has invited ten new partners to join the network and has funded the training of many potential leaders through ministry training schools.

Strengthening a Ministry to Strengthen The Outreach

With a TEN loan, Emil and Vesna Puzdrelievi have renovated a small apartment at the back of their church in Struga, North Macedonia. This means they can host small groups who visit to minister alongside them.

It also means they can generate some income from guests who stay in the town, which sits on the beautiful Lake Ohrid. The income raised supports the ongoing church ministry to share and demonstrate Christ's love.



**TEN has wonderful UK supporters and volunteers.
We are increasingly engaging a new generation.**

For the Nations

For the Nations is a six-session resource that offers the opportunity for small groups to understand God's heart for the nations and connect with a group from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In 2023, churches like New Life Church Northallerton, Hillview Evangelical Church and St. Barnabas Church used this resource.

TENteams

In 2023, we ran two TENteam trips - a women's trip to Albania and a children's summer camp in Croatia. In 2024, we will run these two trips again and are planning an evangelistic trip to Struga in September.

Younger Generation

We have connected with the younger generation in various ways—church visits, mission nights with Christian Unions, and at events like Christian Resources Exhibition and New Horizon.

We launched The TEN Podcast, sharing God stories from Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the UK. It is available to listen to on Spotify and Amazon Music.

Church Partnerships

Our thirteen church partnerships encourage mission in the UK and the Balkans. They cover the breadth of the UK. Partnerships support our partners through prayer, relationships and financial support.

TENteach

TENteach offers online English classes for students in the Balkans, using Bible stories. The dedicated team of five volunteer teachers offer five levels from beginners to advanced.

The first full-year courses are now completed. In January 2024, twenty new students enrolled. Students attend from Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Belgium!

Fundraising

TEN's four main strands of fundraising are regular campaigns, special fundraising events, individual fundraising and trust funds. In 2023, one individual alone raised £4,000 through regular garage sales.

Over £10,000 was raised through the special fundraising challenge Walk the Balkans, which included the *Trek Musala* event. Using the Enthuse online platform has massively increased our reach and donations. Our combined regular campaigns raised over £80,000.

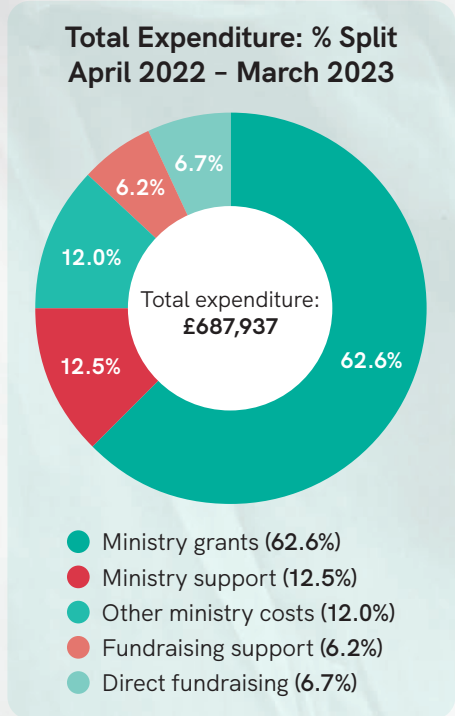


Financial support for TEN and how it is used to transform lives

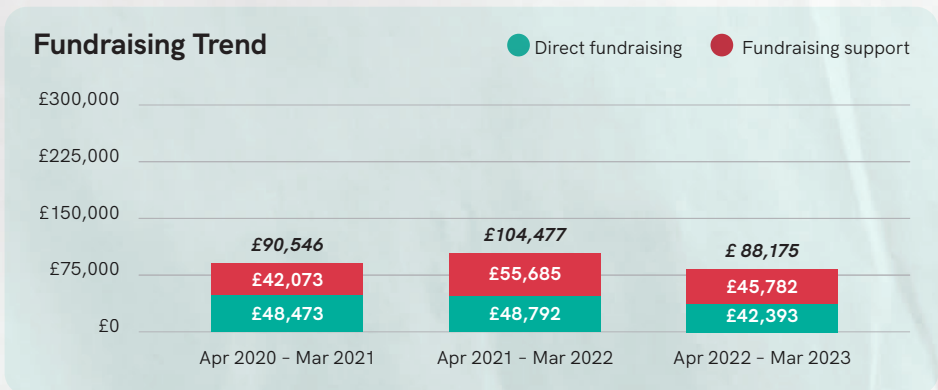
We are hugely thankful for the support that is provided to TEN by all our donors. We recognise every donation as generous and sacrificial giving.

The following summary information is intended to give a feel for the financial performance of TEN to anyone, irrespective of their familiarity with financial reporting. This summary information is taken from the relevant notes to the financial statements for each reporting period.

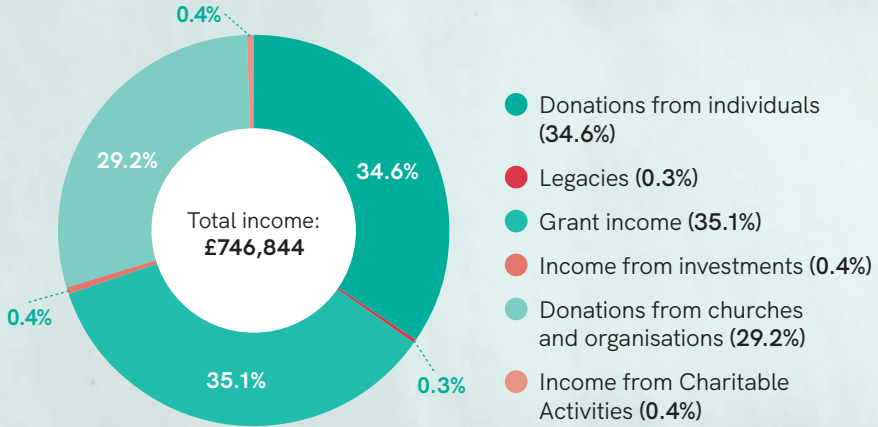
For cross-reference and a more full and comprehensive account, please refer to the accounts and trustees' annual report (TAR) for the last three financial periods. Each of these statutory reports, which have been independently examined, can be found by visiting the Charity Commission page of the gov.uk website and searching the register of charities for Eurovangelism or 1140592 (our registered charity number).



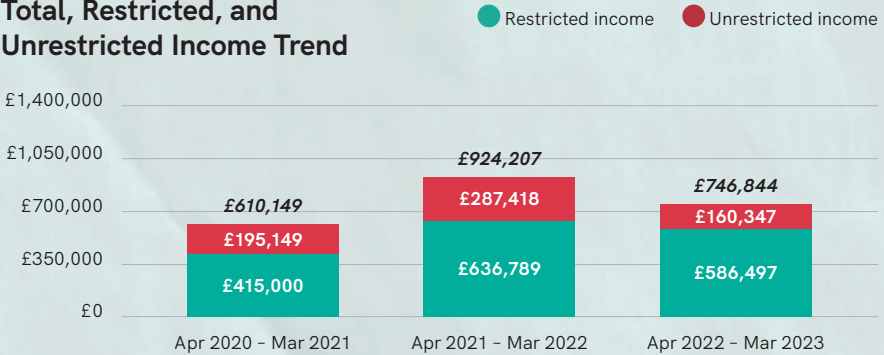
Please note, in the expenditure chart above we have used the term ministry, but the statutory reports refer to charitable activities. However, the costs shown are exactly the same.



Sources of Income: % Split April 2022 – March 2023



Total, Restricted, and Unrestricted Income Trend



The expenses shown on page 14 (be they salaries, compliance and governance costs or fundraising promotions) enable your donations to reach their ultimate goal: our partners, and thus the furthering of God's kingdom now and in the future.

We maintain a stable financial position and the strength of our balance sheet has enabled us to continue supporting partners through a difficult period of time, extending help and showing God's love to those suffering as a result of the war in Ukraine and economic uncertainty.

Thank you! Your help makes a real difference and helps transform lives in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

To find out more, subscribe to our latest news and our free quarterly Connect magazine at:
ten-uk.org/sign-up

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TEN remains committed to spending no more than 15p in every £1 of restricted income on support costs, with at least 85p spent in benefit of the partner, project or appeal.

Transform Europe Network is the operating name for Eurovangelism, registered in England and Wales as a charity (no. 1140592) and company limited by guarantee (no. 7507682) at the above address.

