



The Destitution Project (DP)

Registered Charity # 1194734

Seeking to provide a safe environment where Bolton's asylum seekers and refugees, including those who become destitute, can get practical help and information and enjoy a social space and activities each week

WELCOME TO OUR **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
FOR APR 2024 – MAR 2025

1. Welcome & Housekeeping



1. Apologies for Absence



Mayor of Bolton, Councillor David Chadwick	Richard Sylvester, Councillor
Shaheda Mangerah, DP Senior Caseworker	Shahla Holgeth, Bolton College
Keith Talbot, Gay and Keith Talbot Trust	Yasmin Qureshi, MP
Keith Armstrong, Bolton Christian Community Cohesion	Kirith Entwistle, MP
Aleksander Bucholski- IAA	Paul Martin, past DP Chair of Trustees
Bernard Pele & Dave Batchelor, DP Trustees	Noel Sharpe, Bolton at Home
Sister Savio, Sisters of the Cross & Passion	Alan Brown, Bolton Mutual Aid
Diane Hawkins, Dpt Lieutenant GM Lieutenancy	Phil Bracknell, MP

3. Errors and Omissions/Matters arising - Minutes of the last AGM – June 25th, 2024



Please refer to the minutes of last AGM as circulated via email/ available on our website: www.boltondp.org

A Bit of Background:

DP's 2 main modes of operation:

- ✓ **A Drop-in** every Wednesday at the Victoria Hall (10.00am - 3.00pm: last entry at 1:30pm)
- ✓ **Casework Services** - including for refused asylum seekers and those who have no recourse to public funds or become destitute.

All we do is free of charge!

OUR TEAM



Meet the team!

Casework Team



**Senior Caseworker
Shaheda Mangerah**



**Casework Admin Assistant Fiona Lomax
and Casework Trustee Mags**

Drop-In Assistant



Moutasim Abudigin

Started Sept
1st 2024

**Thank
You!**

Operations & Development Manager



Abdul Umary

Started May
1st 2025



Our Volunteers

Thank
You!

An average of 27 volunteers
and helpers worked each
Drop-In session giving over
8360 hours to DP during the
year



The Admin Team



Key Achievements & Performance

Apr 2024 –
Mar 2025



4. Trustee Report with Area Lead Updates

Update from our busy **FOOD ROOM** team

...where a team hands out food parcels. We have a storeroom for non-perishable food donations.

We gave food parcels to any asylum seeker who wanted one – not just the destitute! **2728 food parcels given out! (£31,372)**



Thank you to:



Donor	Donations
SVP & parish members of St Brendan's and St Johns	food and cash
United Reformed Church of St Andrew & St George	groceries
Daybreak Rotary Club	money and groceries
Oxford Grove Primary School	harvest gifts
Victoria Hall Methodist Mission members	groceries & sweets
Mount St Joseph's School	tinned goods
St Micheal's Primary School	Food parcels, harvest gifts & grub tub
Vegware	cups and plates
Soroptimists	food & clothing
Warburtons	Weekly bread donation
Numerous individuals & organisations	food/money/toiletries/ clothes etc

See more in our Annual Report



Update from our busy CLOTHES ROOM team



Update from our busy **TEACHING** team



Getting out and about in Bolton!



Update from our busy MAIN HALL

Space for:

- ✓ tea and coffee
- ✓ hot meal
- ✓ social space
- ✓ games – table tennis, snooker
- ✓ our wonderful barbers
- ✓ art table
- ✓ BHA - advice and HIV testing monthly
- ✓ visiting groups & organisations



Our wonderful volunteer barbers at work – always in high demand!



Fun and Games



Tea & Coffee



The Art & Craft table is a popular space



Bolton Mutual Aid has been with us from the start!

This local group prepares a nutritious, vegetarian meal that meets halal requirements

Thank
You!



Update from our busy **RECEPTION TEAM**



**Asylum Seekers &
Refugees**

WELCOME

TO OUR DROP-IN

Wednesdays

10am-3pm

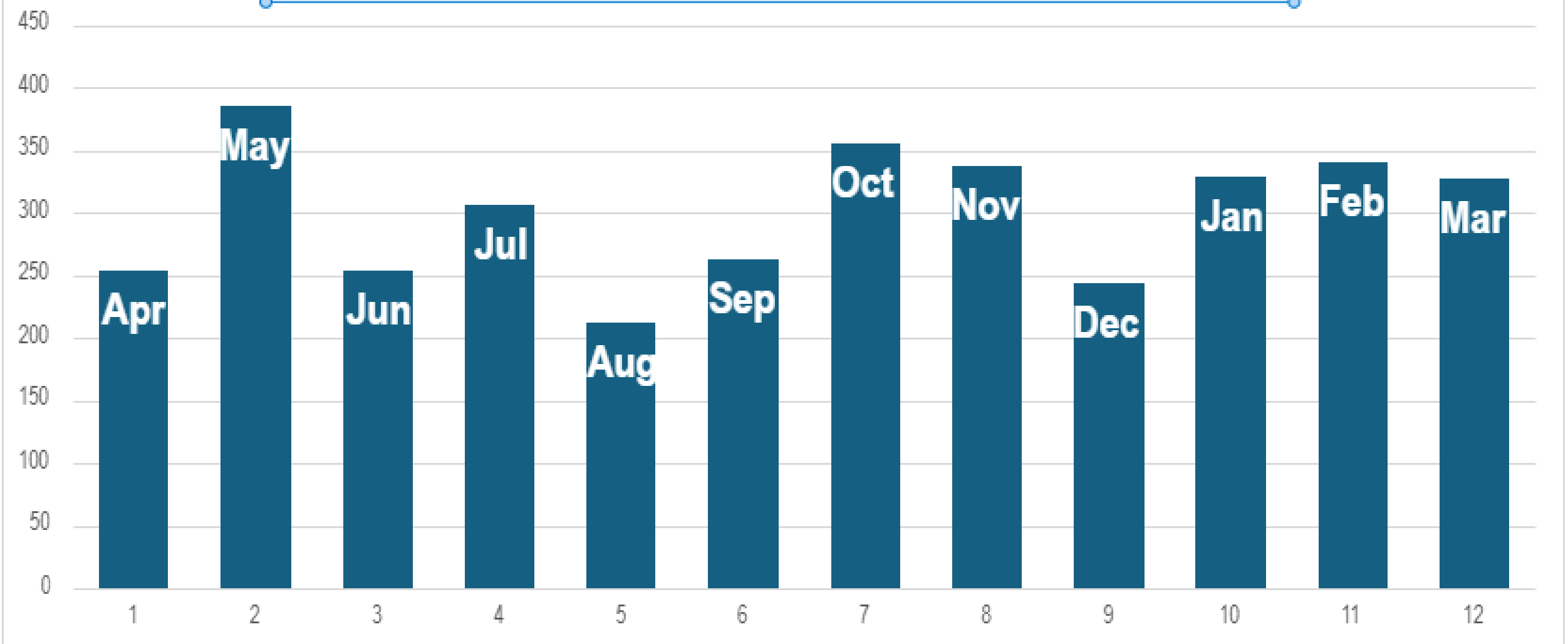
Last entry 1:30pm

THE DESTITUTION PROJECT (DP) IS A REGISTERED CHARITY

Service User Attendance at the DP Drop-in

- ❑ 3609 attendances by asylum seekers and refugees
- ❑ Average of 74 attending each Wednesday
- ❑ 24% increase compared to 2023-24!
- ❑ Recent numbers have been over 100 per session
- ❑ 12 Service Users signed up as Helpers

Service User attendance: Apr '24 - Mar '25



Special events

Refugee Week - June 2024



Service Users tell us about their home countries



Irina entertains



Student Bella visits to read her poem about Refugees



Christmas Party 2024





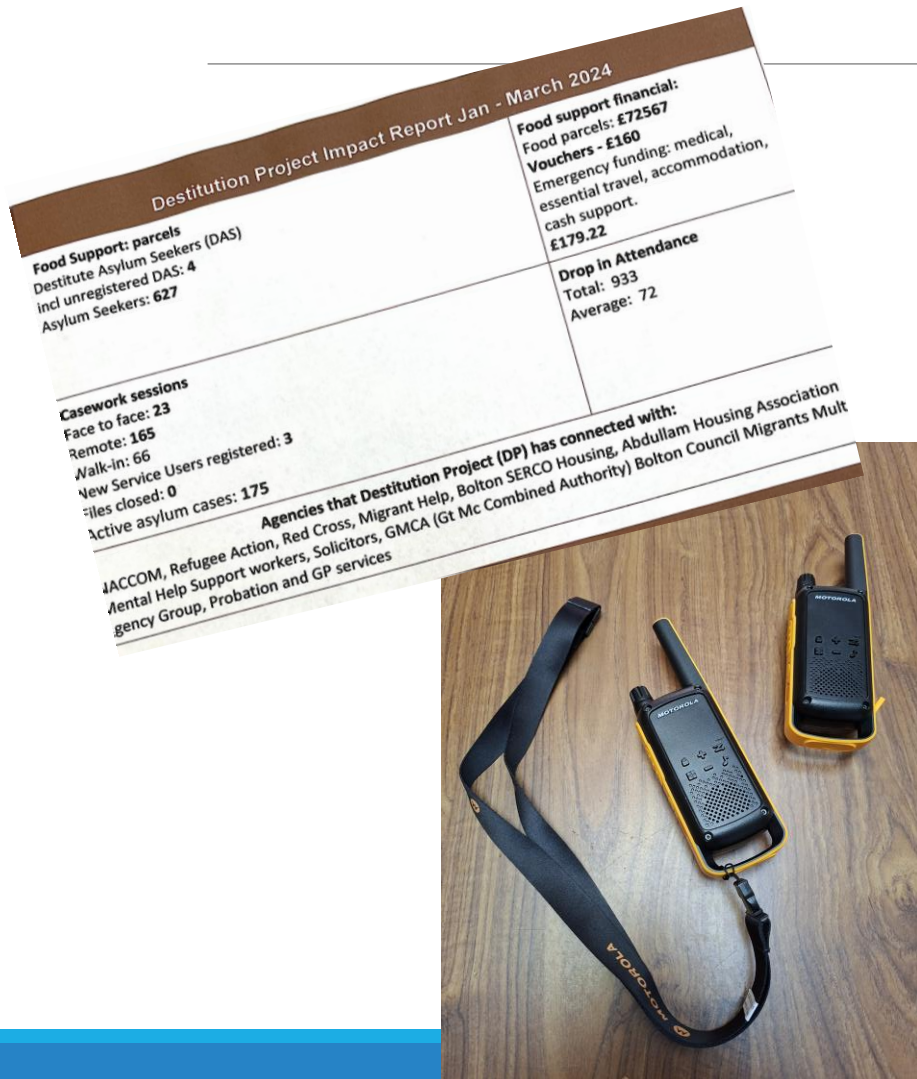
Loss of a Dear Supporter – Sister Christine Sisters of the Cross and Passion

She had been a committed supporter of the Destitution Project since its formation in January 2015.

DP TURNS 10 YEARS OLD!



Other Information for Apr 2024 - Mar2025



See our Annual Report for more on:

- ❑ Information & Publicity
- ❑ Policies and Procedures
- ❑ Health & Safety
- ❑ Safeguarding
- ❑ Training
- ❑ MS365 Project with Cranfield Trust

Casework Services Through the Year Apr 2024 to Mar 2025



Casework Report

High Demand for Casework Support Continued!

SUPPORT GIVEN - CASEWORK SERVICES - FOR APR 2024 TO MAR 2025

	Remote Casework Sessions	Face to Face Casework Appts.	Walk-Ins	Vouchers £	Cash Support £	Number of Food Parcels	New SU Reg.	Case Files Closed	Total Active Case Files	Leave to remain
TOTAL	572	58	257	200	745.70	2728	2	4	173	1

These 3 = 887

294 service users have been registered for Casework support since DP became a registered charity in 2015

Casework Support By Origin

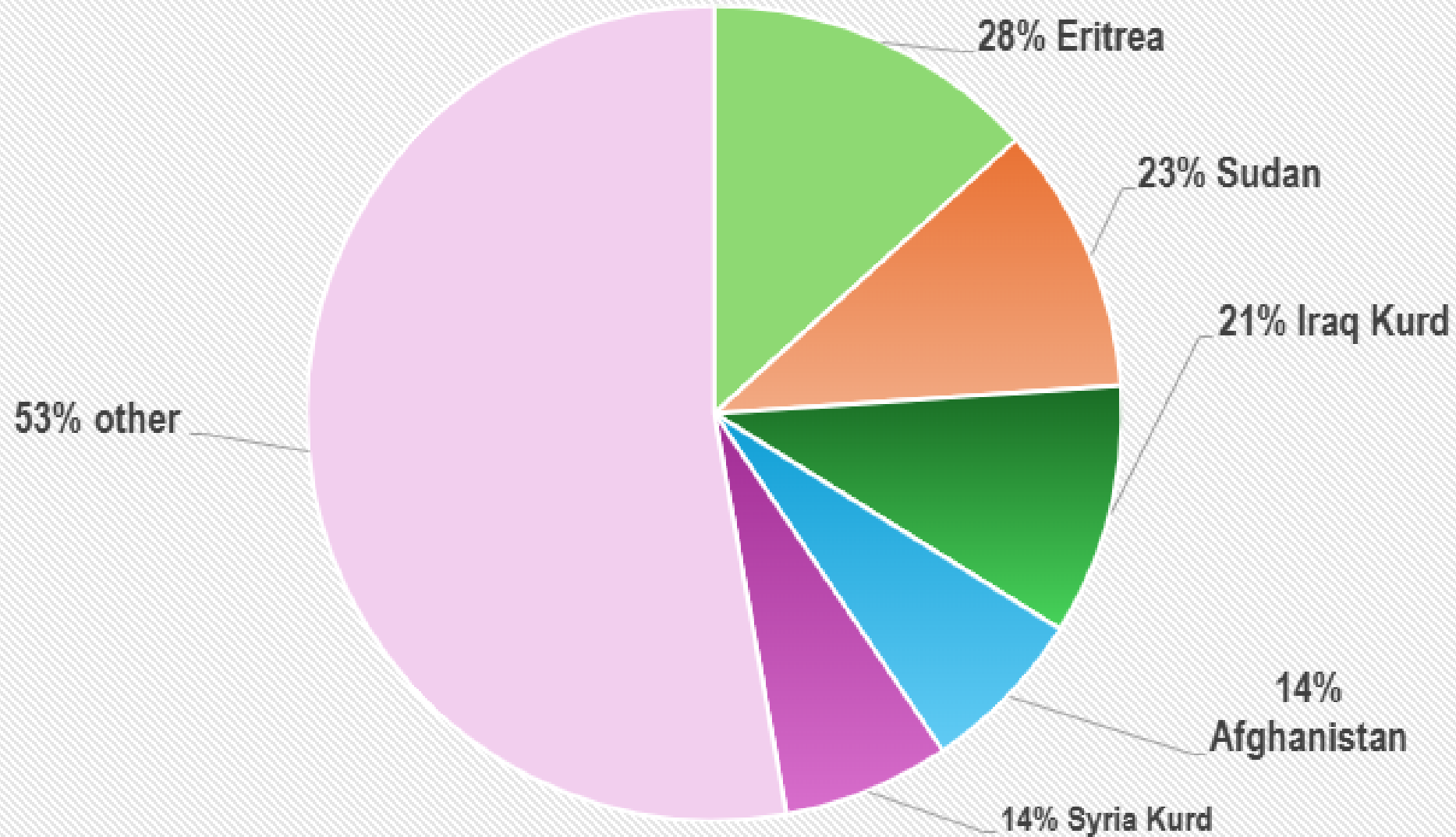
	Remote	F2F	TOTAL
India	81	9	90
Sudan	50	32	82
Iraq Kurd	49	30	79
Eritrea	25	40	65
Palestine	54	10	64
Nigeria	54	8	62
Afghanistan	32	20	52
Syria Kurd	29	20	49
Iran	19	16	35
Kuwait	14	18	32
Ethiopia	19	10	29
Pakistan	25	4	29
Egypt	19	9	28
Iran Kurd	16	9	25
Syria	9	15	24

	Remote	F2F	TOTAL
Congo/DRC	12	7	19
Russia	13	2	15
Albania	9	5	14
Algeria	9	3	12
Iraq	4	6	10
Somalia	4	3	7
Yemen	0	7	7
Namibia	1	5	6
Bangladesh	4	1	5
Kenya	4	1	5
Botswana	3	0	3
Mali	3	0	3
Ecuador	0	2	2
Jordan	2	0	2
Kazakstan	1	1	2

	Remote	F2F	TOTAL
Tanzania	2	0	2
Unspecified	1	1	2
Cameroon	1	0	1
Chad	0	1	1
Gambia	0	1	1
Ghana	1	0	1
Mauritania	0	1	1
S Sudan	0	1	1
Sierra Leone	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	1
Trinidad	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	1
Vietnam	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	1
TOTAL	572	301	873

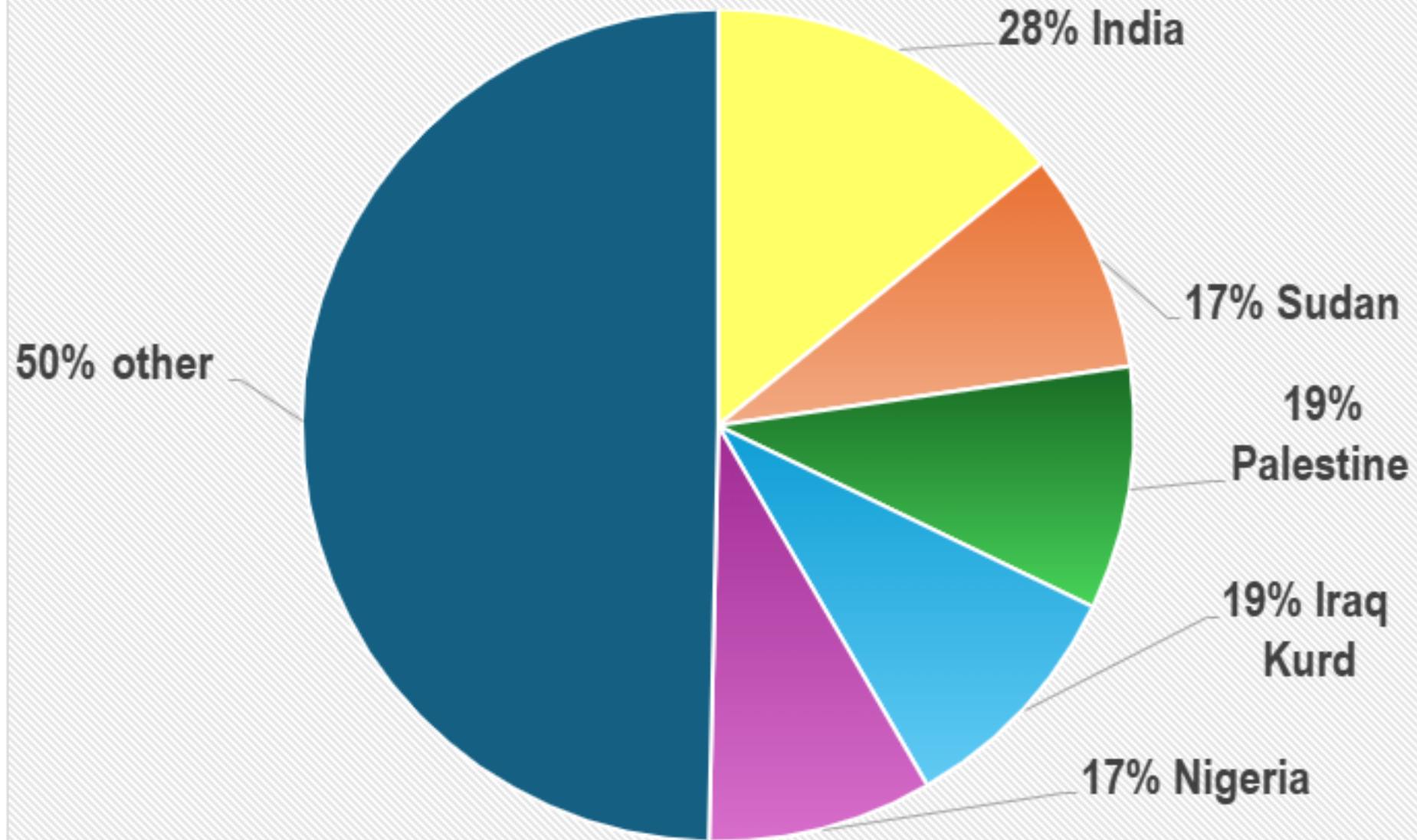
Service Users from 40 different countries

Face to Face Casework



Includes
Appointments
and Walk-ins
at the
Wednesday
Drop In

Remote Casework



Casework Update 2024-2025

- ❑ **Homeless increased** – including new refugees when ‘moving on’
- ❑ **Temporary extension for moving on period** – from 28 to 56 days
- ❑ **Legal Aid shortage** and increased risk of **asylum claims being deemed ‘withdrawn’**
- ❑ **Home Office** introduces **digital ID for refugees**
- ❑ **OISC** rebranded as **Immigration Advice Authority** - DP had to re-register
- ❑ **EFFECTIVE TEAM** - Shaheda & Fiona, internal with other teams, plus all the organisations DP Casework liaises with

SEE TRUSTEE REPORT FOR FULL CASEWORK SUMMARY

Money Matters

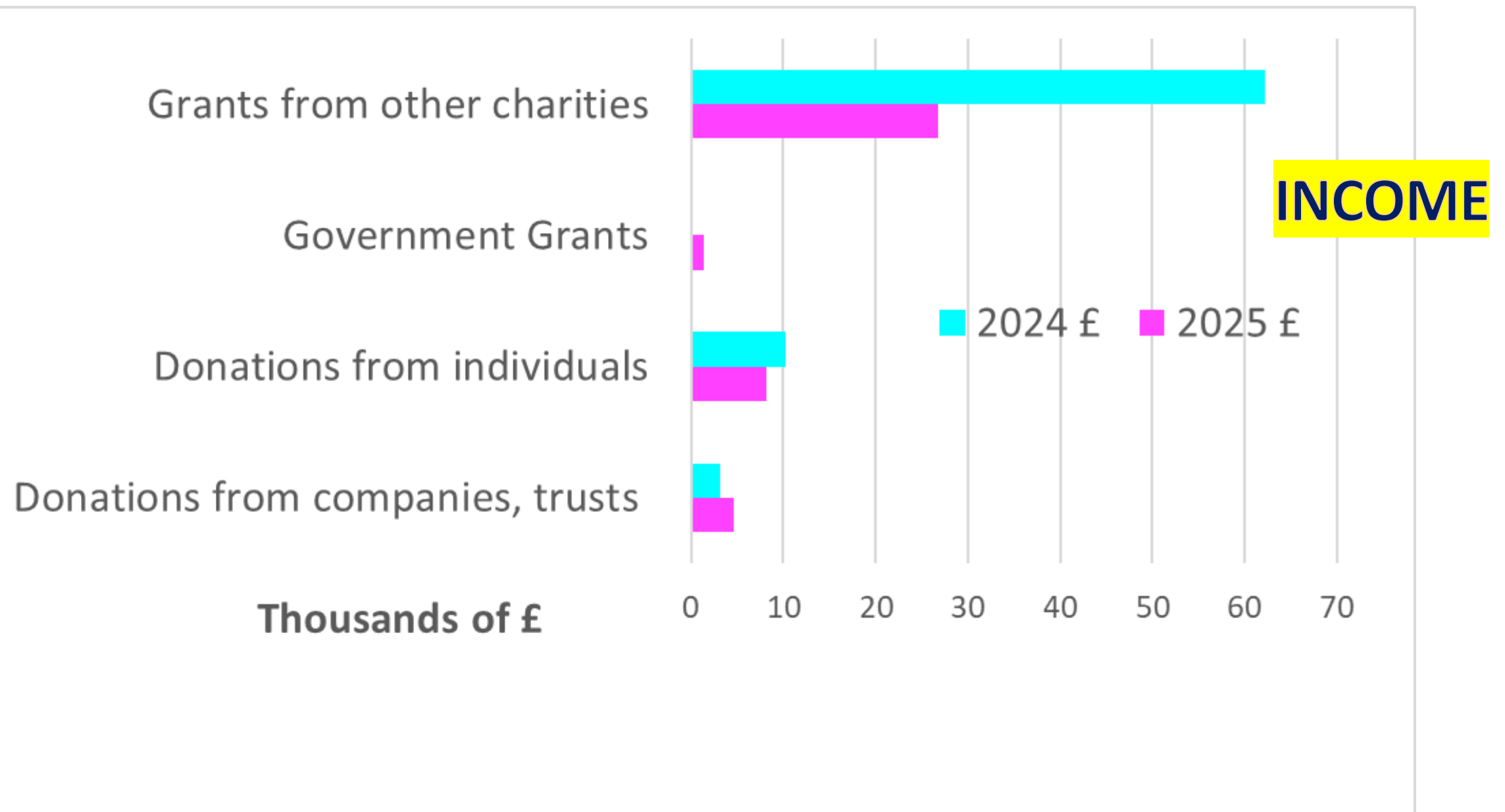


5. Financial Reports:

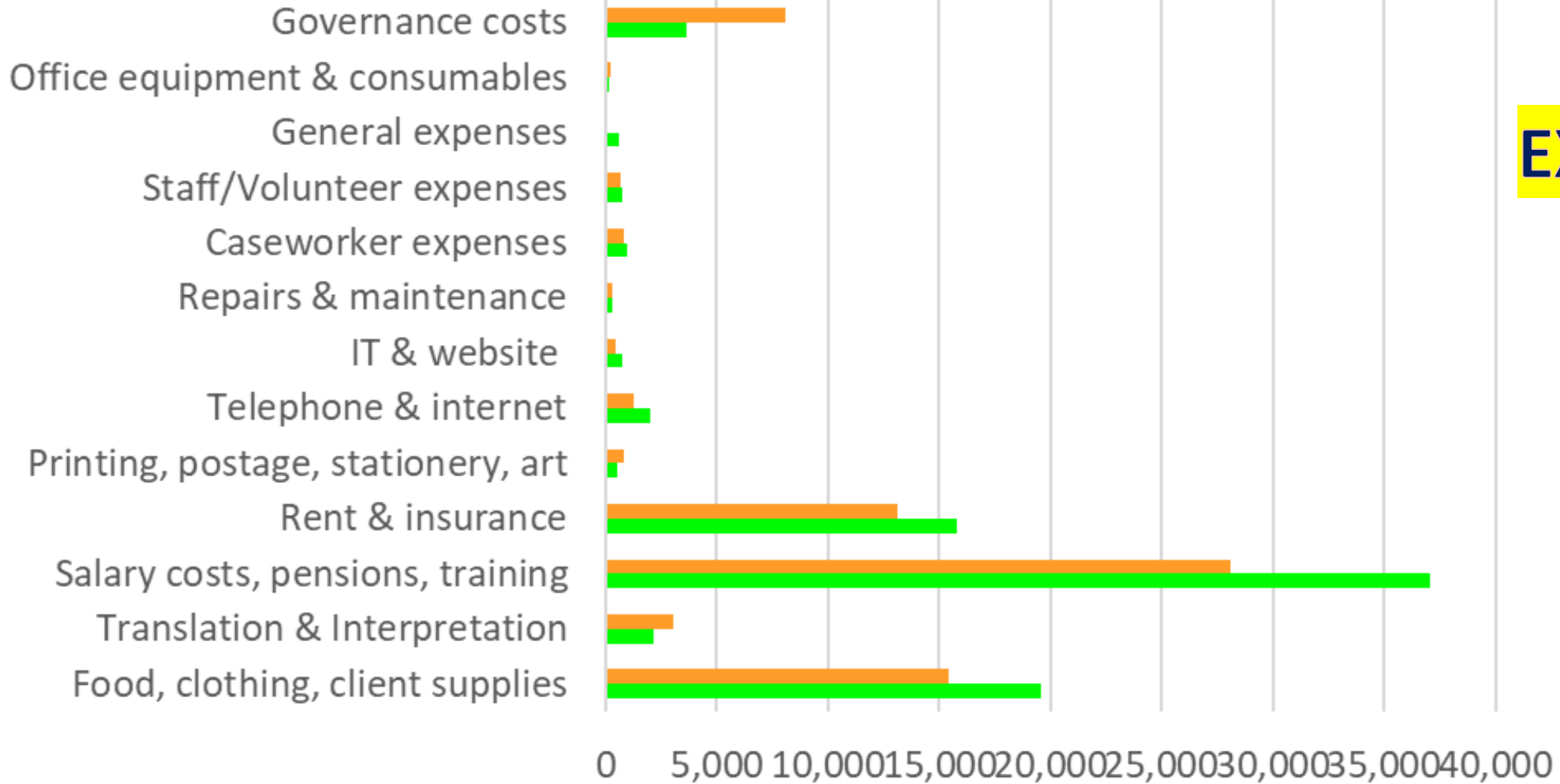
- a. Finance Officer – summary income and expenditure
- b. Moffatts Chartered Accountants – Draft Charity Accounts for Apr 2024 – Mar 2025
- c. Appointment of Auditors: 2025-2026

Summary by DP Finance Officer, Michael Isherwood

- ❑ **2024/25 Income: £41,334** (2023/24: £ 97,800)
- ❑ **2024/25 Expenditure: £84,832** (2023/24: £71,184)
- ❑ **Biggest increases** were on **food costs, salaries & rent**
- ❑ Our funding comes from **Grants & Individual donations**
- ❑ **BIG THANKS** to all our funders!



■ Total 2024 £ ■ Total 2025 £



EXPENSES

Change in Reserves Policy

- ❑ Several grant funders fed back that DP's reserves (at 9 months of annual operating costs) were high and therefore opted not to fund us
- ❑ Trustees consulted current Charity Commission guidance on reserves
- ❑ Trustees adjusted DP's reserves to reflect 3 months of current operational costs including wind down costs should the charity need to close.
- ❑ The reserve policy is now to hold £30,000 as a reserve fund

Charity Accounts ending 31 Mar 2025 - Moffatts Chartered Accountants

- ☐ **Draft Charity Accounts for Year ending 31 March 2025 – for your consideration:** as circulated ahead of meeting
- ☐ Any comments or questions?

SEE MOFFATT'S REPORT CIRCULATED PREVIOUSLY

c. Appointment of Auditors: 2025-2026



Feature Presentation by DP service users

7. Appointment of Charity Trustees -

a) Standing Trustees –

- I. Term continues for another year: Ahmed Mohamed, Dave Batchelor, David Tomlinson, Sarah George, Bernard Pele, Mags Simpson

b) Newly appointed Trustees – None

c) Retiring Trustee – None





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8. Q&A/Open Floor
 9. Any Other Business
 10. Closing



The Destitution Project (DP)

Registered Charity # 1194734

Thank You
for Attending

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APR 2024 – MAR 2025