

Charity doesn't begin at home

International aid remains the UK's most popular cause, according to the latest figures from **Charity Trends 2004**. Between 2002-03, international aid attracted 18% of donations to the top causes, one and a half times that of its closest rival, cancer.

Produced by CAF (Charities Aid Foundation), Charity Trends analyses donations to the UK's largest fundraising charities. This 25th anniversary edition presents a fully updated set of charities, changed to reflect wider developments in the sector (the rapid emergence of new charities, changes to what are considered 'charitable purposes', and new sources of income).

As a consequence, five new charities working in international aid have entered the UK's top 500. This, alongside new initiatives such as Sport Relief, saw the combined voluntary income of international aid charities reach £654 million.

Cancer represented the second most popular cause, with three cancer charities appearing in the top 15, and the merged Cancer Research UK ranking as the UK's largest charity, with a voluntary income of £244 million.

UK's top 10 most popular causes 2002-03 by voluntary income

cause	no of charities in top 500	£m voluntary income	% voluntary income of top 10 causes
International Aid	33	654	18
Cancer	21	417	12
Religious/general services	40	356	10
Heritage/Environment	28	351	10
Arts / Culture	53	341	10
Children	32	321	9
Religious Missionary	48	290	8
Animal Protection/Rescue	16	257	7
General Social Welfare	17	241	7
Disability	21	181	5
Religious International	15	152	4

Based on matched samples for 2002 and 2003, UK hospices showed the second largest real-terms increase in voluntary income at 28%. First was arts and culture which, following a rise in grants from the National Lottery, rose by 37%, with heritage and the environment third at 23%, and animal protection/rescue fourth at 19%.

According to Cathy Pharoah, Director of Research at CAF and author of Charity Trends: "Anecdotally, commentators have noted the growth in hospices over the last decade, clearly reflecting a public demand for specialised, dedicated terminal-care services. It's fair to say that levels of donations to charities are a barometer to public attitudes and changing public priorities."

Top 10 fundraising charities by total income 2002-03

Charity	ranking in 2001-02	ranking in 2002-03	voluntary income £000
Cancer Research UK	1	1	243,541
The National Trust	3	2	160,583

Oxfam	2	3	131,126
British Heart Foundation	5	4	112,015
Royal National Lifeboat Institution	4	5	95,600
Salvation Army	6	6	90,064
NSPCC	7	7	79,459
Comic Relief	15	8	73,735
Macmillan Cancer Relief	9	9	71,070
RSPCA	10	10	68,159

According to Charity Trends 2004, individual donors, trusts, and corporate donors together donated £4.6 billion to CAF's top 500 charities in 2003, which amounted to 53% of their total income of £8.6 billion.

Charity Trends 25th Edition is the most comprehensive analysis of the resources and expenditure of the UK's voluntary sector. It includes the five year growth trends in the income and expenditure of the top 500 fundraising charities; provides financial information on the top 500 corporate donors and grant-makers; and charts the growth in the top charities' income over the last 25 years.

Charity Trends 25th Edition is published by CaritasData Ltd priced £270 or £135 for charities and is available by calling Tel: 020 7566 8210.