



Innovating for a Climate Smart Future



2021 annual report



Céline Reilly
Chairperson

Chairperson's Address

Vita came through 2021 a stronger and more focused organisation with a new strategy and greater ambition and resources to deliver on our re-articulated core mission of delivering innovative, scalable models of community-led rural development in Africa. The new 2021-25 Strategy was approved in mid-2021 and is now supported by a rolling three-year business plan which will track activities and key performance indicators towards delivering the objectives set out in the strategy. Vita ended with a small financial surplus for 2021 which was a considerable achievement given Covid and given Vita's investment in a strengthened team and expansion into the UK and US. A merger with New Hope in the UK was almost complete by year end while in the US, Vita secured new funding and partnerships. These new jurisdictions will support Vita in developing a third country programme during the current strategic cycle, as well as support Vita's strategic initiatives, particularly the Irish Potato Coalition and the Green Impact Fund.

During 2021, Vita recruited a highly experienced Head of Finance and Governance whose mandate alongside enhanced governance is to introduce new systems for financial management, software, HR, and performance management. By year end, Vita had completed a year-long process of strengthening governance and was ready to confirm to the Charities Regulator that Vita was fully compliant with the Code of Governance. Policy development included new or revised policies for safeguarding, protected disclosure, complaints and conflict of interest. A new financial software will be rolled out in 2022. Board development continued with appointment of a new Chair for the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee and board meetings were well attended, structured and productive, even if conducted remotely. We are immensely proud of Vita's impact and reputation in the two programme countries, even while saddened by ongoing conflict and great challenges faced by rural communities.

Vita has some outstanding partners who have persevered with us through the Covid era. Teagasc continue to stand out with their technical assistance as well as leadership in an EU funded dairy project in Eritrea. Other knowledge partners from Irish potato, dairy and poultry industries add value to country programming. CLTS Foundation have shown full commitment to partner in the development of

community led total cookstoves and other community led development through Vita's Community Led Learning Centre in Arba Minch in Ethiopia. CO2Balance have enabled Vita to develop considerable learning around carbon finance, as well to make the pilot Green Impact Fund a great development and financial success. Vita has highly valued partners in Ireland and the U.S. in the Sisters of Mercy and Franciscan Sisters of Mercy.

Vita always highly values the programme partnership of Irish Aid including the learning afforded. The EU is an enduring partner in both Ethiopia and Eritrea and in particular has expressed their appreciation of Vita's unique role in Eritrea. Vita is looking to expand programme donor partnerships and GIZ is now well established as a third institutional donor and IFAD have shown a strong interest to follow suit. Act on Poverty (AoP) Australia are looking to expand their support in Ethiopia.

Vita has come through Covid with a healthy financial situation, and this can be expected to improve further in 2022 as Vita secures new donors and funding from overseas. We are endlessly grateful to longstanding and new supporters, with special mention to Dónal Daly, Chantal McCabe and Daragh Horgan for their exceptional contribution. Thanks indeed to everyone who makes our work worthwhile, including the brilliant teams in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Dublin.

On behalf of the Board

Céline Reilly
Chairperson





John Weakliam
CEO

Message from Vita CEO

2021 saw a continuation of the global challenge posed but thankfully, Eritrea and Ethiopia withstood the worst ravages of Covid and with Vita Ireland we were able to navigate through funding and organisational challenges. Ethiopia faced additional challenges with internal conflict, political instability and also locust infestation. In South Gondar, Vita's programme area was briefly disrupted by an invasion of rebel forces with considerable damage to households and farms but without material harm to potato and poultry programmes. In Ethiopia, the combined impact of Covid and conflict caused some delay and under-expenditure while Eritrea was less affected. This is to the great credit of Vita's country team and partners with strong remote support from Ireland.

Vita's new strategy for 2021-25, which was finalised in 2021, sets out our ambition to build on core areas of knowledge, innovation, and scaling potential, particularly around community led development, potato, and carbon finance. In 2021, Vita developed a guiding document - Climate Innovation in Africa – to articulate our approach to innovation around these core areas. The Irish Potato Coalition in Ethiopia continued to establish itself under Vita's co-ordination with membership across the government, NGO, and international domains and with an application for NGO status in progress. As potato is now a strategic crop in Ethiopia with over one million potato farmers, there is much that Vita can do to expand our community-based seed multiplication model.

The Vita Green Impact Fund generated a surplus from sales of carbon offsets to enable full repayment to loan investors and Vita is now looking to develop a new fund to scale up cookstoves and water point repairs across Ethiopia and Eritrea. During 2021, new relationships in Ireland, UK and US expanded our funding and knowledge capability for these strategic initiatives.

Vita's core programming work in Ethiopia and Eritrea is generously supported by Irish Aid and the EU. It consists mainly of community-based potato and cereal

seed, soil and forestry. The potential for scale and influence has been recognised by EU, GIZ, IFAD and local government.

While gender-sensitive programming advanced in Eritrea and Ethiopia through training and collaboration, it remains incumbent on Vita to fully optimize the unique women's empowerment characteristics of the Vita Green Impact Fund.

Total income in 2021 was €5,179,886 which was up 42% on €3,655,957 raised in 2020. This reflected an increase in carbon sales.

Fundraising income was up 13% on 2020 at €741,575. This was a very decent performance considering the cancellation of the Great Ethiopian Run and the lack of access to existing and new donors brought about by Covid restrictions. Unrestricted free reserves remained above €700,000 and this is expected to increase in 2022 with new designated reserves coming to bear from the Green Impact Fund.

Finally, and sincerely, we thank our longstanding and loyal country teams and all of our partners and supporters in Ireland and elsewhere. 2021 showed Vita's organisational resilience through multiple challenges and we are more than ever excited for the future, to deliver for our esteemed communities and partners in Ethiopia and Eritrea and beyond.

John Weakliam
CEO



About Vita



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

CEO'S REPORT

ABOUT VITA

GREEN IMPACT FUND

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA

CASE STUDY

THE BOARD

FINANCIAL REPORT



Vita has a vision!

Inspired by the principle of Climate Justice, **Vita's Vision** is Climate Smart Communities with access to services and sustainable livelihoods for all. Rural communities in Eritrea and Ethiopia continue to suffer the effects of an accelerating climate breakdown not of their making. A fragile natural resource base and limited access to services, climate-smart technologies and economic opportunities results in livelihoods being highly vulnerable to shocks and stresses. Vita stands in solidarity and support with these communities.

What is our mission?

Our Mission is to deliver innovative, scalable models of community-led rural development in Africa. To fulfil this mission, this strategy has been informed by a comprehensive appraisal of performance over the previous strategy period (2016-2022), thorough context analyses and an evolved understanding of our distinct role and relevance as an organisation that can deliver transformational change.

Innovation will be a binding theme across the organisation's work in the years ahead; innovative service delivery approaches at community level, developed and scaled up through innovative partnerships, supported by innovative models for financing international development. The scaling of innovative models will be supported by effective organisational systems for research and learning, deepening knowledge and producing evidence of impact that influences decision makers.



Our Values and Guiding Principles



Realising Africa's enormous potential:

Africa has enormous socio-economic potential and our ambition is to make a meaningful contribution.

Community-Centred Development:

The communities we partner with must drive their own development.

Respect:

We are sensitive to and respect the culture and traditions of our partner communities and staff.

Innovation:

Our focus on innovation requires courage and sometimes disruption.

Impact:

The impact of our programme is measurable, tangible and sustainable.

Accountability:

Honesty and transparency are reflected in all our programmes and fundraising. It is a privilege to play a role in development and we cherish it.



Vita Strategy 2021 - 2025



Vita will build up organizational reserves and financial capacity from 2022 with surplus funds applied to expand programming and organisational capabilities. Retained surpluses from the Vita Green Impact Fund in the strategic period will help finance organisational development, particularly in programming where Vita will focus on innovation and learning. Using rolling three-year business plans as the main management tool to deliver on the 2021-25 Strategy, Vita will focus on the following main activities during 2022:

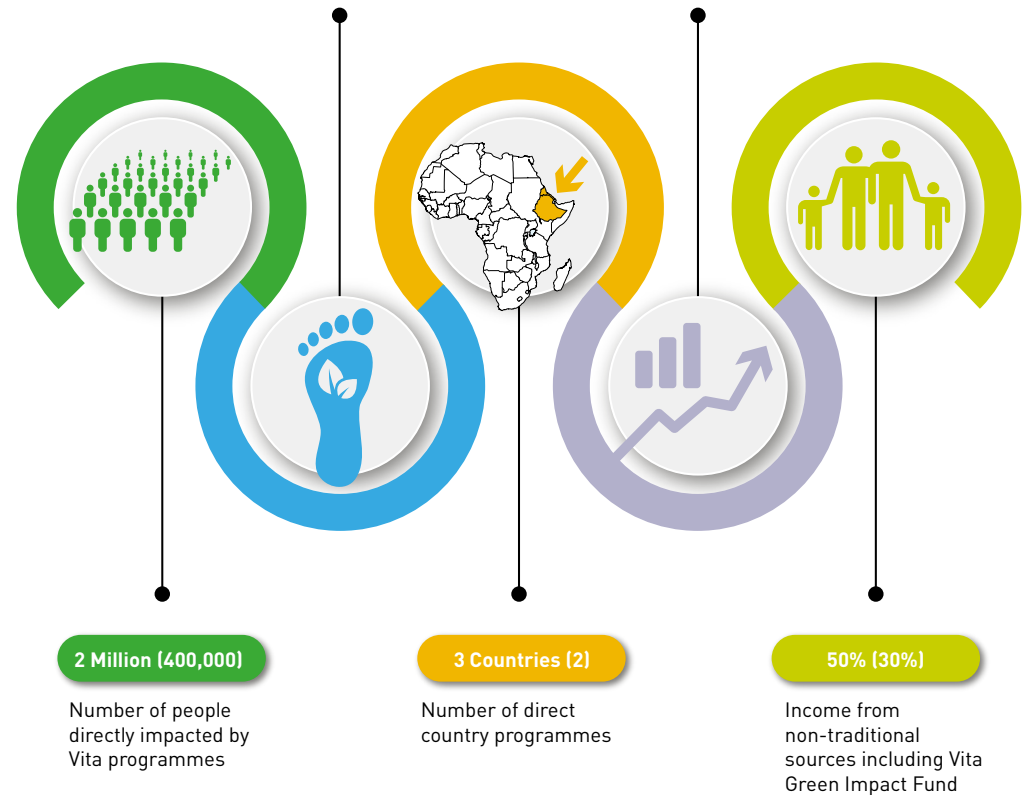
- **New Irish Aid Partnership will be focused on agriculture (seed potato and cereals)**
- **Irish Potato Coalition; building up the Irish Potato Coalition – Ethiopia, completing NGO registration, securing multi-annual core funding**
- **Carrying out screening and due diligence during 2022 and establishing a third programme country by 2024**
- **Implementing the “Climate Innovation in Africa” programme with a focus on research and learning around community led development and carbon finance**
- **Scaling up dissemination of cookstoves and water point repairs in Ethiopia using carbon finance and the new Green Impact Fund**
- **Building new institutional donor relationships with GIZ, IFAD and Penn State University**
- **Completion of the New Hope merger and growing Vita’s presence and the knowledge and funding relationships in UK and US and consolidating the Vita group structure**
- **Strengthening Vita’s systems particularly around financial software, CRM using Salesforce and digitization of Vita’s programmes**

2 Million (500,000)

€8 Million (€5 Million)

Carbon Emissions Savings
(Tonnes per annum)

Total annual income and expenditure



Vita Green Impact Fund - A Premier Impact Investment

What is Impact Investing?

Impact investments are investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Impact investments can be made in both emerging and developed markets, and target a range of returns from below market to market rate, depending on investors' strategic goals.

The impact investment market grew to approx. €2.8 trillion in 2022 and provides capital to address the world's most pressing challenges in sectors such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, conservation, microfinance, and affordable and accessible basic services including housing, healthcare, and education.

The Vita Green Impact Fund is an example of a premier impact investment. The pioneers of impact investing tend to come from faith-based investors as opposed to traditional investors. Much as Islamic investment seeks to be haram, now catholic (and other faiths) are seeking more and more to align their portfolios with the values and ambitions of Laudato Si. This is a 2015 papal encyclical from His Holiness Pope Francis that challenges all people of all or no faith to ensure that our actions simultaneously address both poverty and climate change.

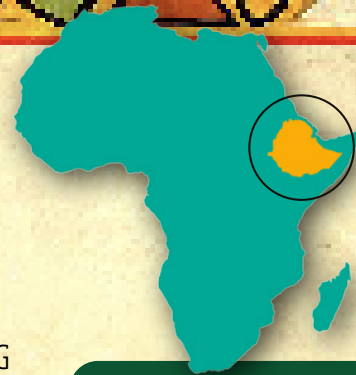
The Vita Green Impact Fund more than satisfies these criteria as it addresses not only the impacts of climate change in East Africa, but also builds in climate justice, where those most impacted through no fault of their own benefit financially from the investment. It does this by monetising the provision of clean water and energy efficient, cleaner cookstoves. These interventions at scale significantly reduce the amount of carbon emissions generated – to boil dirty water to sanitise it or to cook food on traditional, inefficient stoves. These carbon emissions savings are independently verified and accredited and then sold as carbon offsets. In a global first, the surplus from the fund is circled back into the communities that drive the emissions savings in the first place. Additionality is a critical factor in impact investing.

The Vita Green Impact Fund has significant and measurable social impacts that are instant, sustainable and life transforming. The structure of the programmes that the fund invests in ensures the narrowing of the gender gap within these communities – women and their children benefit the most through reduced drudgery and greater access to education due to significantly less time gathering sticks and fetching water. Health impacts are also noteworthy and measurable.

Dirty water is responsible for approx. four million deaths in sub-Saharan Africa each year, with a similar mortality rate from indoor air pollution (traditional cooking). The Fund aligns with at least eight of the SDG targets, which for many investors is another significant marker in the decision-making process.



Highlights of Vita's programmes



ETHIOPIA



ERITREA



COMMUNITY-LED LEARNING CENTRES

1,335 adopting efficient stoves
71% families adopted efficient stoves & growing

**BOTH COUNTRIES - 53 WATER POINTS
- SAFE WATER FOR 18,000+**



200 CLIMATE SMART FARMERS



200 YOUTHS IN NEW BUSINESS

1,020 Families increase income by **€29**



300ha RESTORED WOODLANDS

61,168 Seedlings
1,575 micro-basins constructed



200% INCREASE
In wheat yields



100+ RESEARCHERS TRAINED



PEARL MILLET
33% higher yields



GENETIC RESOURCE CENTRE ESTABLISHED



2017 - 2022 Vita & Irish Aid partnership highlights



CLIMATE BREAKDOWN & OTHER SHOCKS
Households **38%** more resilient



ETHIOPIA



ERITREA

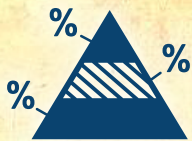
**BOTH COUNTRIES - YIELDS IN CROPS IMPROVED
BETWEEN 50 -170%**



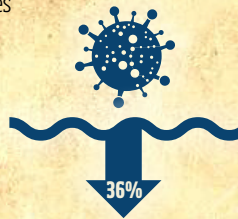
HUNGRY SEASON
Reduced from **6.5** to **2.5** months



COOKSTOVES
75% savings in fuel purchases



DIET
Diversity scores improved by **33%**



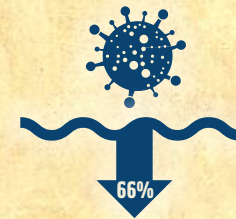
WATERBORNE DISEASE
Decrease by **35%**



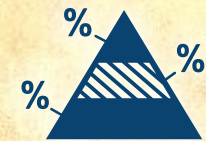
BEST PRACTISE SANITATION
Handwashing increased by **55%**



BEST PRACTISE SANITATION
Handwashing increased by **100%**



WATERBORNE DISEASE
Decrease by **65%**



DIET
Diversity scores improved by **15%**





Kassech Mekonnen

Case Study: Smallholders like Kassech Mekonnen

Smallholders like Kassech Mekonnen have limited landholding in the highlands of the Amhara region, several hundred kilometers north of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a result there is a critical need to improve land use efficiency. One way to do this is through intercropping of companion crops including maize and potato.

Kassech is a respected model farmer. She has two sons who sometimes help her on her farm after school. Her husband is retired and unwell. Five years ago, she used monoculture agricultural practices by planting only potato in her 1-hectare farm, year after year. This practice increases the risk of exposure to pests and diseases and also it causes the soil's degradation and erosion. But more importantly, because Kassech had no access to quality seed she was using her own harvest to generate the next harvest, so the seed were low quality and were worn out. Using old, worn out seeds causes low yields.

After she joined Vita's Livelihood Enhancement through Agriculture for Resilience Network (LEARN) Project, Kassech made many improvements to her farming practices, including crop rotation.

Kassech chose to rotate her potatoes with maize – it is a very important crop that gets a good price in the local markets.

"The knowledge that I have received from Vita's agronomist has enabled me to practice crop rotation on my farm. It's made me realize that growing the same crop in the same land for many years can make the land unproductive due to the loss of important minerals in the soil. Rotating crops gives the land new minerals."



The Board

Report & Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

VITA (RTI) Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Company Registration Number

152968

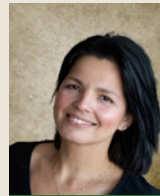
Charity Number CHY 9670

Charity Regulator Number 20024192



Céline Reilly
(Chairperson)

Appointed
30 April 2021



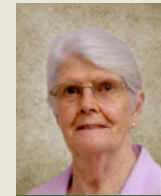
Patricia Kane

Appointed
11 March 2021



Stewart Gee

Appointed
11 March 2021



Sr Margaret
Tiernan

Appointed 10
June 2021



Niall Kelly

Appointed
9 December 2021



Deirdre
Clifford



Damien
Farren



Lance O'Brien

Dermot Byrne
(Chairperson)
Resigned 30
April 2021

Kevin Farrell
Resigned 30
April 2021

Deirdre
Hannigan
Resigned 30
April 2021

Barry Charles
Magee
Resigned 30
June 2021

Padraig
O'Ruairc
Resigned 30
April 2021



Company Information

TRUSTEES **Céline Reilly** (Appointed Chairperson 30 April 2021)

Dermot Byrne (Chair; Resigned 30 April 2021)

Kevin Farrell (Resigned 30 April 2021)

Deirdre Hannigan (Resigned 30 April 2021)

Barry Charles Magee (Resigned 30 April 2021)

Padraig O’Ruairc (Resigned 30 April 2021)

Deirdre Clifford (Resigned 21 April 2022)

Lancelot O’Brien

Damien Farren

Stewart Gee (Appointed 11 March 2021)

Patricia Kane (Appointed 11 March 2021)

Sr Margaret Tiernan (Appointed 10 June 2021)

Niall Kelly (Appointed 09 December 2021)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Neil Munday (Appointed 11 March 2021)
Judith O’Connor (Resigned 11 March 2021)

COMPANY NUMBER

152968

REVENUE CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 9670

REGISTERED CHARITY
AUTHORITY NUMBER (RCN)

20024192

AUDITORS

Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Audit Firm
16/17 College Green, Dublin 2

REGISTERED OFFICE
AND PRINCIPAL BUSINESS

Equity House, Upper Ormond Quay,
Dublin 7

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Bank of Ireland, O’Connell Street
Bank of Ireland, Drumcondra Dublin 9

SOLICITORS

Mason Hayes & Curran, Solicitors
South Bank House, Barrow Street
Dublin 4



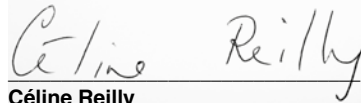
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021

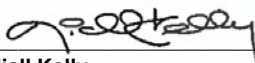
INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	Total
	2021 €	2021 €	2021 €	2020 €
Income:				
Donations and Legacies	-	701,233	701,233	532,867
Charitable activities	4,168,311	-	4,168,311	2,727,717
Other trading activities	270,000	40,342	310,342	395,373
Total income	4,438,311	741,575	5,179,886	3,655,957
Expenditure:				
Raising funds	-	222,984	222,984	212,633
Charitable activities	4,179,707	476,984	4,656,691	3,355,636
Total Expenditure	4,179,707	699,968	4,879,675	3,568,269
Net Income / (Expenditure):	258,604	41,607	300,211	87,688
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2021	355,460	702,637	1,058,097	970,409
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2021	614,064	744,244	1,358,308	1,058,097

The financial statements includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 13/10/2022 and signed on its behalf by:


Céline Reilly
Trustee

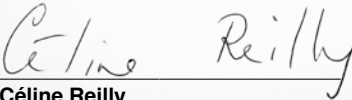

Niall Kelly
Trustee



Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Intangible assets	11,300	-
Tangible assets	2,392	2,274
	13,692	2,274
Current Assets		
Stocks	671,890	1,599,103
Debtors	898,381	897,789
Cash at bank and in hand	2,403,635	2,766,770
	3,973,906	5,263,662
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,629,290)	(3,685,839)
Net Current Assets	1,261,496	1,577,823
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,358,308	1,580,097
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	-	(522,000)
Net Assets	1,358,308	1,058,097
Funds		
Restricted Trust Funds	614,064	355,460
General fund (unrestricted)	744,244	702,637
Total funds	1,358,308	1,058,097

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 13/10/2022 and signed on its behalf by:


Céline Reilly

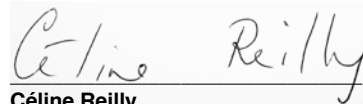

Niall Kell



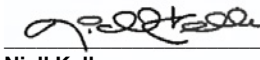
Company Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
Fixed Assets		
Intangible assets	11,300	-
Tangible assets	2,392	2,274
	13,692	2,274
Current Assets		
Stocks	671,890	1,599,103
Debtors	848,380	897,789
Cash at bank and in hand	2,370,516	2,744,004
	3,890,786	5,240,896
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(2,629,290)	(3,685,839)
Net Current Assets	1,261,496	1,555,057
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,275,188	1,577,331
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	-	(522,000)
Net Assets	1,275,188	1,035,331
Funds		
Restricted trust funds	614,064	355,460
General fund (unrestricted)	661,124	679,871
Total funds	1,275,188	1,035,331

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 13/10/2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Céline Reilly
Trustee



Niall Kelly
Trustee



Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	300,211	87,688
Adjustments for: Depreciation	2,133	1,141
	302,344	88,829
Movements in working capital		
Movement in stock	927,213	(85,858)
Movement in debtors	(591)	(21,991)
Movement in creditors	(534,366)	900,378
	392,256	792,529
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments to acquire intangible assets	(12,475)	-
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(1,076)	-
	(13,551)	-
Cash flows from financing activities		
New long term loan	(522,000)	(522,000)
New short term loan	(522,184)	522,000
	(1,044,184)	-
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(363,135)	881,358
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st January 2021	2,766,770	1,885,412
	2,403,635	2,766,770



Sources of Income

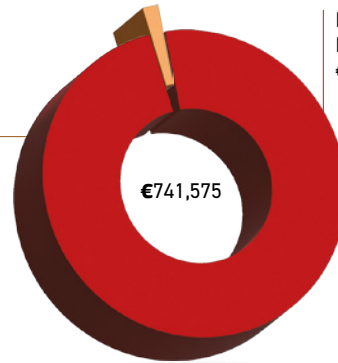
2021

2020

UNRESTRICTED

OTHER TRADING
ACTIVITIES
€40,342

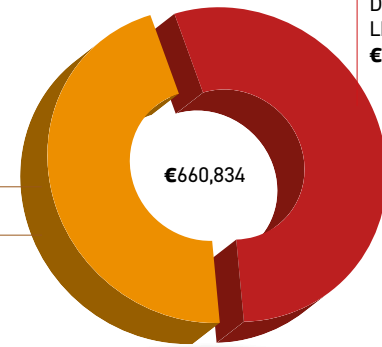
CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES
Nil



DONATIONS AND
LEGACIES
€701,233

OTHER TRADING
ACTIVITIES
€125,373

CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES
€2,594

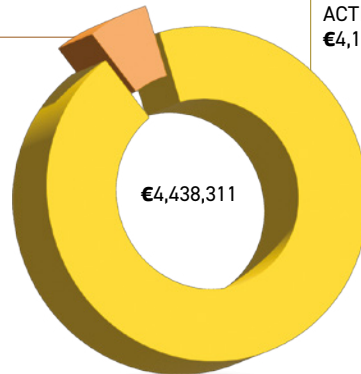


DONATIONS AND
LEGACIES
€532,867

RESTRICTED

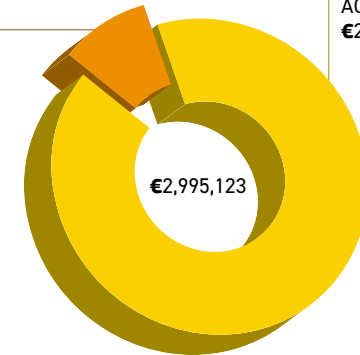
OTHER TRADING
ACTIVITIES
€270,000

CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES
€4,168,311



OTHER TRADING
ACTIVITIES
€270,000

CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES
€2,725,123



TOTAL INCOME

€5,179,886

€3,655,957





Vita 
For Climate Smart
Communities

16 -17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7. D07H7DE

Tel : (0)1 873 4303 • www.vitainpact.org • www.VitaGreenImpactFund.com

