



**ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION (EJAF)**

**SECTOR**  
NOT-FOR-PROFIT

**REGION**  
US, EUROPE

The Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), is one of the world’s foremost independent charities working to support people affected by, or at risk of, HIV or AIDS. The organisation, which has operations in both the UK and the US, is supported by many high-profile and internationally renowned patrons and trustees, from musicians like Sting and Annie Lennox, to tennis legend Billie Jean King. The fourth largest philanthropic funder of global HIV grants, as of 2018 it has raised over USD 400 million to support HIV-related programmes across Africa, Asia, the Americas and Eastern Europe. In that same year the turnover of EJAF’s combined entities was USD 28.5 million (GBP 21.5 million).

**CHALLENGE**

In 2017, after seven years working with the same auditor, and following recognised good practice, EJAF’s UK arm undertook a review and tender process. Fiona Russell, global finance director at EJAF, says, “Having worked with the same auditor for several years, and despite getting a very good service, we felt it was time to see what other networks could offer. We invited several auditors, including the incumbent firm, to submit tenders. We focused on networks that offered experience with charity accounts and grant foundations and, due to the consolidation of our UK and US operations, we wanted to find an audit partner who could offer us a global service. We did not consider one of the Big Four networks.”

**SOLUTION**

According to Fiona, the presentation by UHY Hacker Young, London audit partners, Subarna Banerjee and Daniel Hutson was extremely good. “We were impressed by the fact that UHY Hacker Young was a larger firm with more experience in giving specialist advice about VAT, not-for-profit organisations



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and other queries, plus the fact that we could use the same network to build a relationship with UHY member firms in the US for the audit of EJAF there – which is something we acted on very quickly when Subarna put us in touch with Michael Burke, audit partner at UHY LLP, New York, US.

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**RESULT**

Since their engagement in 2017, UHY Hacker Young in London and UHY LLP

in New York, have successfully carried out audits of both EJAF UK and EJAF US. They have also supported EJAF UK through the government’s Making Tax Digital programme and they offered specialist VAT advice for an event which took place in France.

Fiona says, “Working with Subarna and his team has made the year end audit efficient, smooth and straightforward. Despite the Board meeting date moving forward by a few weeks, both the US and the UK financial statements were ready in time for sign-off. Subarna, as our main contact, is always extremely helpful and responsive. We look forward to building on our already strong partnership which has a great cultural and commercial fit.”

**UHY IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR**

UHY member firms have extensive experience of working with a wide range of not-for-profit organisations including charities, educational institutions and trade unions.

We understand that the main focus of clients is on those who benefit from their services but also that they need to operate within tightly controlled finances subject to public scrutiny. With increased competition for grant funding and charitable giving and a greater burden of compliance, our member firms help ensure organisations are efficiently managed to deal with the challenges.

