

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1068123

Details

Other names DYLANA JEEVANTHE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03459486](#)

Registered 1998-02-13

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 16 Pemberton Road
London
N4 1AZ

Phone 02083419057

Email enquiries@shininglife.org

Website www.shininglife.org

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA WHO ARE IN NEED BY THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE AND CARE IN A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

Activities: To help children in Sri Lanka who are disadvantaged by poverty and vulnerability, working in partnership with local NGOs to achieve sustainable development through encouraging self-help, self-reliance and empowerment.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SRI LANKA
- Sri Lanka

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£27,372	£11,856	-	-
2023-10-31	£26,395	£20,217	-	-
2022-10-31	£23,037	£7,365	-	-
2021-10-31	£27,848	£17,800	-	-
2020-10-31	£28,210	£22,522	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JULIET CHRISTINE BROWN		
MR JAMES NEWALL		2003-03-12

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1068123

Accounts

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2024**

**Charity number: 1068123
Company number: 03459486**

Shining Life Children’s Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report & Financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2024**

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Shining Life Children's Trust
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 October 2024

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2024.

Legal and administrative information

Charity name: Shining Life Children's Trust

Charity registration number: 1068123

Company registration number: 03459486

Registered office: 1 Chestnut Lane
Amersham
Buckinghamshire
HP6 6EN

Trustees

J Brown, Secretary

J Newall, Treasurer

S Bayjoo, resigned October 2024

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

HSBC, 2 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1LS

Trustee's report

Objects and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are to relieve children in Sri Lanka who are in need by the provision of assistance and care in a family environment, education and training. The Charity's activities are to help children in Sri Lanka who are disadvantaged by poverty and vulnerability, through working in partnership with small local non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to promote child-focused development, education, health and training within a family and community context and to achieve sustainable development through encouraging self-help, self-reliance and empowerment.

The Trustees constantly review the Charity's activities to ensure that they meet the Charity's aims and objectives. The Trustees refer to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Charity's operating model is to work in partnership with local Sri Lankan aid agencies, supporting a few small projects. This approach means it is able to impart skills and expertise easily, developing its partners beyond that which a financial partnership offers. In addition the Charity ensures that the benefit of being a small, nimble charity is maximised by being able to review and refocus its resource to maximum benefit within the communities with which it is working.

In addition, the Trust's low overheads means that a much higher percentage of its funds go directly to its work in Sri Lanka than it does for a large charity.

Since the Charity's inception in 1997, it has raised a total of over £600,000.

This review looks at the achievements and outcomes of the Charity's work in the year to 31 October 2024.

How the Charity's activities deliver public benefit

The main activities and the charity's beneficiaries are described below. All charitable activities focus on community development and empowerment and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Charity had two continuing projects during the period, in Kirimetiawatte and Angunochchiya. The Charity delivers these projects in partnership with local organisations, The Women's Development Centre, WDC, for Kirimetiawatte and the Human Development Foundation, HDF, for Angunochchiya). The Charity's aim is for these projects to become self-sustaining through its contracts with the implementing organisations, so that the programmes can continue successfully without additional external support at the end of the project.

Current situation in Sri Lanka

Economic context

Since the economic crisis in 2022 an IMF Extended Fund Facility programme has helped stabilise the economy. Headline inflation has eased, usable official reserves increased, and debt-to-GDP ratio fell. However, the reforms have resulted in higher living costs and strained household budgets. Facing these pressures many households have adopted risky coping strategies including cutting human capital spending, increased borrowing and reduced nutritional food intake. Poverty rates remained alarmingly high at 24.5% in 2024 and is expected to remain above 22% until 2026. Prevalence of both stunting and malnutrition have increased and limited economic opportunities have resulted in increased outmigration of skilled workers.

Political context

In November 2024 Anura Kumara Dissanayake was elected as President in a landslide victory with his National People's Power left-leaning coalition securing a 2/3 majority in parliament. Dissanayake won on a platform pledging economic and constitutional change to address corruption and reduce poverty.

Operating model

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Sri Lanka, in common with other countries, closed its borders. Throughout 2020 the charity's Field Director stayed in Sri Lanka, directly supporting local partners and the communities. In February 2021 the Field Director returned to the UK. Visa restrictions initially meant that the Charity could not recruit a new Field Director in the UK to travel to Sri Lanka. Instead, with the use of technology – email, WhatsApp, video conferencing – the charity was able to develop a remote operating model. This has proved very successful. It builds on the existing approach of building sustainability and skills of local partners, whilst also reducing costs for the Charity. The Trustees have therefore decided to continue working in this way. The approach will be supplemented by short visits to Sri Lanka by the Trustees and others, to meet directly with partners and communities.

Project activities

Child-Focused Community Development – Implemented by WDC

This project, delivered in partnership with WDC, commenced in November 2019 and concluded in June 2024. The project was focused on three remote villages (Kirimetiya, Sriyagama and Ambalamanam) in the Central Province, about an hour's drive from Kandy city. The intended outcomes of our work in this area are:

- Strengthened early childhood development support
- Improved quality, experience and outcomes of education for children and young people
- Increased motivation for children to continue with their education
- Increased women, men, youth and child participation in community planning
- Increased capacity of community to address main issues (e.g. transport)
- Establish community groups with the capacity to protect children's rights
- Strategies identified for livelihood support, with an increase in income generation opportunities
- Increased men's engagement in the community and the family
- Programme sustainability

95% of the proposed project activities were completed and the communities we worked with were integrated with other ongoing projects WDC is operating. This includes the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) project for livelihood support and economic empowerment activities and with the Save the Children project for continuation of the children's club activities.

The only activity not completed was the building of the community hall in Ambalanmanam village due to issues with transfer of land ownership from government authorities to the community. Through the project activities and WDC efforts, community cohesion has increased with the Women's Groups in the villages working together on celebrations and activities.

Angunochchiya Gram Sevaka Division development – Implemented by HDF

This project, delivered in partnership with HDF, commenced in 2017 and ended in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this project was extended to end of 2021 with no additional costs to allow planned activities to be completed. In 2022 and 2023 1-year extensions with additional funding were approved with activities focused primarily on the children's education (tuition classes, library

books and an educational trip) and the welfare societies (additional funding for the revolving fund and training in organic farming). It was hoped the political and economic turmoil of early 2022 would stabilise and that the project would become self-sufficient. A further 1-year extension was approved in 2024 to focus on sustainability and transition.

The project is focussed on three small farming villages outside Medawachchiya in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. The overall goal that the communities are self-sufficient and able to thrive without support from Shining Life and HDF. The objectives of the follow-on funding are:

- Improve children's rights through supportive structures that enable childhood development, protection and participation.
- Improve access to education through provision of rich educational materials, resources and experiences for children and youths.
- Improve economic status and security of the communities.

The welfare societies are functioning well and have grown in strength and capacity. Membership has increased in the past 12-months and the community recognises the value of the welfare societies during difficult times. As HDF have travelled less frequently to the community, the society leaders have stepped up to coordinate activities with HDF supporting remotely. This has included reporting to the AG-office and attendance at meetings and training organised by the AG-office; as well as decision making around project activities (still with input from HDF) and oversight of the implementation of activities. The welfare societies have opened bank accounts with three signatories required for any withdrawals.

The revolving funds are well established and are offering low interest loans to society members. Loans are being repaid and the small interest payment is being reinvested in the fund. The societies have well maintained records to account for loans/repayments. HDF designed, printed and distributed among all the members a new pass books for their individual usage. The groups are well organised with a membership fee, elected members to administer the savings, loans and repayments and maintain transparency. At the moment the loans are primarily small value and used for home-gardening and farming or emergency situations. HDF would like to see the fund evolve to offer larger loans and to see more enterprise and income generation.

The tuition classes have continued to run since 2018 with the parents now contributing towards the stipends for teachers. The classes are well established and meet weekly.

The community in Maligaswewa has started a preschool that is running with three local women teaching and 25 children currently attending. The teachers have been studying for their teaching diplomas alongside working in the preschool and were due to graduate in 2024.

The community farming activities have recently started with individuals selected by the welfare societies to participate. In Angunochchiya there are 7 members, in Lena Divula there are 8 members and in Maligasesewa 6 members growing a combination of cowpea, corn, peanuts and green gram. The funds have been utilised in a revolving fund so the investment for the seeds plus 10% will be returned to the welfare society for reinvestment, and the profit split between the community farming members.

Plans for future periods

The Charity will continue to monitor the continuing project and will aim to start a new project with WDC.

Financial review

At 31 October 2024 the Charity had funds of £69,930, (2023: £54,414), an increase of £15,516 (2023: increase of £6,178). Total incoming resources were £27,372 (2023: £26,395).

There was a decrease in one-off donations to £3,882 (2023: £6,530) but this was offset by an increase in regular donations to £21,823 (2023: £17,559). These are the preferred form of fundraising as they facilitate forward planning.

The Charity did not have any income from fundraising events (2023: £Nil), because the Charity did not have a major fundraising event this year.

Total expenses were lower at £11,656 (2023: £20,217), mainly because the Charity had a decrease in payments to the projects. Total payments to projects were £10,857 (2023: £19,657). The exchange rate started the year at £1 = Lkr 419. The rate increased to a maximum of £1 = Lkr 450 in later 2023 and early 2024 and then decreased to a minimum £1 = Lkr 359 in June 2023. The rate remained at about £1 = Lkr400 for the rest of the year. In 2024, the rate has decreased slightly to about £1 = Lkr 370. The charity is benefiting from the increase in the exchange rate which helps to mitigate the fact that the inflation rate in Sri Lanka continues to be much higher than in the UK. Inflation risk is managed by holding funds in Sterling.

Fundraising

The Charity did not organise any fundraising events this year.

The Charity continued the sale of Christmas cards for Christmas 2023. Sales of Christmas of Christmas cards decreased this year. The Charity also benefitted from being able to buy cards more cheaply, so generating a higher profit per pack sold. The sale of Christmas cards also leads to additional donations from purchasers. Donations received as a result of selling Christmas cards and gifts are also included in this figure.

Gift aid

The amount of tax reclaimed directly from HMRC by the Charity continues to decline as more of the Charity's income is received via fundraising websites such as the Charities Trust which reclaim tax on donations made through them on the Charity's behalf and the Charities Aid Foundation. This reclaimed Gift Aid is therefore included in the fundraising totals.

Investment policy

The Charity's cash balances continue to be invested in the CAFCash Gold Account, keeping sufficient funds in the current account for immediate requirements.

Bank charges

The Charity's main banker, CAF Bank continues to impose a monthly charge (£5) because of the continuing low interest rates. In addition, HSBC have now implemented a monthly charge of £5. The Trustees have considered whether it is worth moving the account. The Trustees decided that it was not worth moving the account because of potential disruption and also because competitor banks do not offer such a secure system for online banking where two signatories are required.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established the level of reserves that the Charity should have. The Charity commits to work with each project for 36 months. Trustees ensure there are sufficient projected funds (based on a prudent projection) for the entire project in advance of starting a partnership. Regular donations to the Charity have remained relatively stable over recent years and the financial risk of reduced donations is lower than originally anticipated. The Trustees agreed that the reserves policy should be the total of the last three years' expenditure divided by 6 (i.e. an average of 6 months' expenditure). This gives a reserves figure of £6,540 (2023: £7,563). The actual reserves at 31 October 2024 were £69,930 (2023: £54,414).

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Charity is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 3 November 1997 and registered as a Charity on 13 February 1998. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are also directors and members of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act. Under the requirements of the Memorandum of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire at each Annual General Meeting and seek re-election. J Brown retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

The Trustees aim to maintain a broad mix of skills on the board, so that the project delivery, fundraising and governance needs of the Charity are met. When a vacancy arises, skills of a new Trustee are sought to complement the other Trustees. New Trustees are usually already known to the Charity.

In addition to general responsibilities towards the Charity each Trustee has their own area of responsibility – this ensures that all areas are covered and work is not duplicated.

Trustee induction and training

Potential new Trustees are invited to attend several Trustee meetings to see how the Charity operates. Responsibilities are explained, and information sheets from the Charities Commission and Companies House setting out legal responsibilities are given to the new Trustee. After this the potential recruit decides whether they are willing to accept the responsibilities and if they are they are proposed and voted on as a potential Trustee.

Organisation

The board of Trustees administers the Charity. The board meets approximately eight times per year. A volunteer field director is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity in Sri Lanka.

Risk management

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces. A risk log has been compiled and is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. To reduce financial risks, funds are maintained in sterling bank accounts based in the UK that require two registered signatories to withdraw or transfer funds or effect any changes.

The current security policy includes guidance provided by the FCO. The Trustees continue to monitor this advice and discuss the implications of it at each Trustee meeting. The security policy is also formally reviewed annually.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to

presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In approving these financial statements as Trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31 October 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Independent Examiner

John Meadowcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner during the course of the year.

Approved by the Trustees on 28 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Shining Life Children's Trust

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees on the unaudited financial statements of SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST for the year ended 31 October 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 15

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). As gross income for the financial year was greater than £25,000, an independent examination is mandatory.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Meadowcroft
Kingscote
Beeson
Kingsbridge TQ7 2HW

28 July 2025

Shining Life Children's Trust

Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account (unrestricted funds) for the year ended 31 October 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources			
Donations	2	25,705	24,089
Grant from Rotary Club		–	1,000
Fundraising events	3	–	–
Sale of gifts and Christmas cards	4	488	863
Income from investments	5	1,179	443
Total incoming resources		27,372	26,395
Resources expended			
Grants payable	6	(10,857)	(19,657)
UK governance		(13)	(13)
Fundraising expenditure	7	(817)	(368)
Interest and bank charges		(169)	(179)
Total resources expended		(11,856)	(20,217)
Net movement in funds		15,516	6,178
Total funds brought forward		54,414	48,236
Total funds carried forward		69,930	54,414

Shining Life Children's Trust

Balance sheet as at 31 October 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Stock		—		—	
Debtors	10	1,727		1,764	
Cash at bank and in hand		70,282		53,164	
			72,009		54,928
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	11		(2,079)		(514)
Net assets			69,930		54,414
Unrestricted Funds			69,930		54,414

There are no restricted funds. The purpose of the unrestricted fund is to provide relief to children in Sri Lanka in line with the Charity's objects.

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 October 2024:

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and
- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 28 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2024 (unrestricted funds)

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed assets at market value, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in April 2005. The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised on an accrual basis in the year in which they are incurred. Expenditure included any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in getting regular donors and one-off donations. It also includes the cost of Christmas cards and of running the website.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

UK governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Donations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income – one-off donations	3,882	6,530
Income – regular donations	21,823	17,559
	<hr/> 25,705	<hr/> 24,089

3. Fundraising events

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	–	–
	<hr/> –	<hr/> –

4. Sale of gifts and Christmas cards

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gifts and Christmas cards	488	863
	<hr/> 488	<hr/> 863

5. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income – Interest receivable	1,179	443
	<hr/> 1,179	<hr/> 443

6. Direct charitable expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants payable	–	7,662
Kirimetiyyawatte	–	7,662
Angunochchiya	10,857	11,995
	<hr/> 10,857	<hr/> 19,657

7. Fundraising expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	75	–
Christmas cards for resale etc.	427	114
General expenses	315	254
	<hr/> 817	<hr/> 368

8. Trustees' emoluments

The Charity had no employees during the year. The Trustees received no emoluments.

9. Taxation

As a charity, Shining Life Children's Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 236 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

10. Other debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid receivable direct from HMRC		
Donations	1,727	1,655
Other income	–	99
	<hr/> 1,727	<hr/> 1,764

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Project payment - AGSD	1,230	–
Project payment bank charges	25	–
Fundraising expenditure	824	514
	<hr/> 2,079	<hr/> 514

12. Share capital

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. However every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of the same being wound up whilst he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member. This contribution is in respect of payment of debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he ceases to be a member. The liability should extend to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributories amongst themselves. The amount of contribution that may be required will not exceed £10. The company has three members.

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1068123

Accounts

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2023**

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Charity registration number: 1068123

Company registration number: 03459486

Registered office: 1 Chestnut Lane
Amersham
Buckinghamshire
HP6 6EN

Trustees

J Brown, Secretary

J Newall, Treasurer

S Bayjoo

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

HSBC, 2 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1LS

Trustee's report

Objects and activities

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The Trustees constantly review the Charity's activities to ensure that they meet the Charity's aims and objectives. The Trustees refer to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities.

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In addition, the Trust's low overheads means that a much higher percentage of its funds go directly to its work in Sri Lanka than it does for a large charity.

Since the Charity's inception in 1997, it has raised a total of over £600,000.

This review looks at the achievements and outcomes of the Charity's work in the year to 31 October 2023.

How the Charity's activities deliver public benefit

The main activities and the charity's beneficiaries are described below. All charitable activities focus on community development and empowerment and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Charity had two continuing projects during the period, in Kirimetiawatte and Angunochchiya. The Charity delivers these projects in partnership with local organisations, The Women's Development Centre, WDC, for Kirimetiawatte and the Human Development Foundation, HDF, for Angunochchiya.). The Charity's aim is for these projects to become self-sustaining through its contracts with the implementing organisations, so that the programmes can continue successfully without additional external support at the end of the project.

Current situation in Sri Lanka

Economic context

Sri Lanka is recovering from its worst economic crisis since independence. The food inflation rate reached an all time high of 95% as the government defaulted on its foreign debts. This resulted in 6.2 million people becoming food insecure. The situation has stabilised somewhat in 2024 with the inflation rate in January at 6.5%, because of an extended fund facility programme with the IMF and loans from the Asia Development Bank and World Bank. Increased tourism and remittances raised foreign reserves, and after six quarters of negative growth the economy grew by 1.6% in the third quarter of 2023.

However, at the household level things are still extremely difficult. Poverty has gone from 12% to

over 25% and by December 2023, over 60% of households experienced income decline, 91% saw expenditures rise, 22% fell into debt and nearly 55% of students aged 3–21 faced adverse effects on their education. 17% of households are estimated to be food insecure. Nearly one-third of children under 5 are malnourished, and 40% of women aged 18–60 overweight or obese, which is indicative of poor dietary diversity and lack of access to nutritious food. Two-thirds of the population are adopting livelihood-based coping strategies, e.g. borrowing money or dipping into savings to feed their families.

In January 2024, the VAT rate increased from 15% to 18% and applied to 97 essential items that were previously exempt including fuel, cooking gas and fertilizer which will increase the price of these items by nearly 20%. Income tax has also increased. Tax on stationery is very high at 23% and HDF have reported 20% of children are not attending school as they cannot afford the stationary or supplies needed.

According to the national poverty line for July 2023, the minimum monthly expenditure per person required to meet basic needs is Lkr15,978, and for a family of four is approximately Lkr65,000 per month. Typical minimum monthly wages are Lkr8000–12,000 per month, depending on the employment sector (<https://www.timecamp.com/average-salary/sri-lanka/>)

Political context

A presidential election must take place in September or October 2024 and parliamentary elections before August 2025. There is some fear that the election may be postponed as the local elections in March 2023 were cancelled due to lack of funds.

Operating model

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Sri Lanka, in common with other countries, closed its borders. Throughout 2020 the charity's Field Director stayed in Sri Lanka, directly supporting local partners and the communities. In February 2021 the Field Director returned to the UK. Visa restrictions initially meant that the Charity could not recruit a new Field Director in the UK to travel to Sri Lanka. Instead, with the use of technology – email, WhatsApp, video conferencing – the charity was able to develop a remote operating model. This has proved very successful. It builds on the existing approach of building sustainability and skills of local partners, whilst also reducing costs for the Charity. The Trustees have therefore decided to continue working in this way. The approach will be supplemented by short visits to Sri Lanka by the Trustees and others, to meet directly with partners and communities.

Project activities

Child-Focused Community Development – Implemented by WDC

This project, delivered in partnership with WDC, commenced in November 2019. The project is focused on three remote villages (Kirimetiya, Sriyagama and Ambalamanam) in the Central Province, about an hour's drive from Kandy city. The intended outcomes of our work in this area are:

- Strengthened early childhood development support
- Improved quality, experience and outcomes of education for children and young people
- Increased motivation for children to continue with their education
- Increased women, men, youth and child participation in community planning
- Increased capacity of community to address main issues (e.g. transport)
- Establish community groups with the capacity to protect children's rights
- Strategies identified for livelihood support, with an increase in income generation opportunities
- Increased men's engagement in the community and the family
- Programme sustainability

Despite the difficult economic situation in Sri Lanka, significant progress has been made towards delivering these objectives. Relations with the government officers has really improved over the project period and the officers are keen to visit and engaged with the communities. WDC asked for representatives of the Women's Groups to attend progress meetings which has also helped to build strong relationships.

Children's clubs, youth clubs and parent-teacher associations are also functioning in the villages with active participation, and there has been an increase in friendly relations between the communities. In 2023 WDC brought the communities together for joint trainings and celebrations including the Children's Club trip and livelihoods training. On Women's Day in March the Women's Groups from the other villages came to visit Kirimetiya. This is a real change and strength of the project and notable change from the beginning of the project where the communities were isolated and didn't work together.

Across the three villages there are now eight self-help groups with 106 members. These groups are working to build up joint savings that can be used as a revolving fund in the future.

WDC conducted a business needs assessment to identify whether there is a viable business opportunity the communities could pursue jointly as an income generation project. It has proven difficult to identify the right opportunity and WDC continues to work with the community on this.

Selected children were provided with financial support to travel to attend tuition classes and were provided with master books to support their studies. Three children in the communities sat their O-Level exams and 1 passed their A-Levels.

Angunochchiya Gram Sevaka Division development – Implemented by HDF

This project, delivered in partnership with HDF, commenced in 2017 and ended in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this project was extended to end of 2021 with no additional costs to allow planned activities to be completed. In 2022 and 2023 1-year extensions with additional funding were approved with activities focused primarily on the children's education (tuition classes, library books and an educational trip) and the welfare societies (additional funding for the revolving fund and training in organic farming). It was hoped the political and economic turmoil of early 2022 would stabilise and that the project would become self-sufficient.

The project is focussed on three small farming villages outside Medawachchiya in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. The overall goal that the communities are self-sufficient and able to thrive without support from Shining Life and HDF. The objectives of the follow-on funding are:

- Improve children's rights through supportive structures that enable childhood development, protection and participation.
- Improve access to education through provision of rich educational materials, resources and experiences for children and youths.
- Improve economic status and security of the communities.

In 2023 the tuition classes continued with 78 children receiving additional tuition in English, Maths and art across the villages. Parental contributions are collected where possible and the hope is to increase this over the next period to ensure sustainability of the classes. Other support to the children includes 15 families with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who receive a monthly stipend to support their children's education, and support to the children's clubs. 146 children from across the villages participated in an educational visit to Kurunegala in 2023. Support was also given to the community pre-school and the libraries in the form of educational materials and books. Pre-school and Sunday School feeding programmes were also provided. In 2023 the continued impact of the

financial and political crisis were felt at community level with the increased cost of living making it difficult for many families to provide healthy, balanced meals for their children. Through this project the school feeding programmes provided nutrient rich meals for students.

The revolving fund administered by the Welfare Societies continued to grow with new members joining to access savings and loans. Across the three villages Lkr630,000 has been given in loans to members. The groups earn a small interest on each loan and there are fines for late payment on loans and membership fees for new members. The funds are reinvested in the revolving fund. Most loans are taken for farming needs (e.g. to purchase fertiliser or seeds at the beginning of the season) and the funds are repaid with income made from farming once the crops are harvested and sold. Some loans are taken out for other home-based businesses including sweet-making, sewing and peanut cultivation. There are also emergency loans available where needed. In 2023 HDF identified some issues with the revolving fund where larger loans were made to some society members which reduced the capital available. HDF worked with the Welfare Societies and communities to resolve these issues and have new processes in place to agree all loans in the society meetings to ensure greater transparency. HDF have also provided new loan books for the society members so that they track their loans and repayments better and have completed training with the society members to increase the effectiveness of the revolving fund.

A new community farming initiative was started in 2023 with individuals selected by the welfare societies to participate. These members are growing a combination of cowpea, corn, peanuts, and green gram with the funds utilised in a revolving fund mechanism whereby the investment for the seeds will be returned with a 10% interest to the welfare society for reinvestment, and the profit made from selling the crops will be split between the individuals involved in the farming.

Finally, relationships with the AG office were further strengthened with two community members supported to attend progress meetings and facilitate officers visiting the village. This has resulted in increased engagement of stakeholders including the AG office staff and police in community events.

Plans for future periods

The Charity will continue to monitor both projects, particularly in the light of the political situation in Sri Lanka. Over the coming months, the Charity will consider how it can best respond to the changing needs of the communities it has been supporting to ensure that the development can be sustained.

Financial review

At 31 October 2023 the Charity had funds of £54,414, (2022: £48,236), an increase of £6,178 (2022: increase of £15,672). Total incoming resources were £26,395 (2022: £23,037).

The main increase in income was due to an increase in one-off donations to £6530 (2022: £5174). Regular donations were up slightly to £17,559 (2022: £17,246). These are the preferred form of fundraising as they facilitate forward planning.

The Charity did not have any income from fundraising events (2022: £Nil), because the Charity did not have a major fundraising event this year.

Total expenses were higher at £20,217 (2022: £7,365), mainly because the Charity had an increase in payments to the projects. Total payments to projects were £19,657 (2022: £6,634). There were no volunteer travel and expenses (£Nil; 2022: £Nil), because of the new method of working with the partner organisations.

The exchange rate started the year at £1 = Lkr 419. The rate increased to a maximum of £1 = Lkr 450 in later 2022 and early 2024 and then decreased to a minimum £1 = Lkr 359 in June 2023.

The rate remained at about £1 = Lkr400 for the rest of the year. In 2024, the rate has decreased slightly to about £1 = Lkr 370. The charity is benefiting from the increase in the exchange rate which helps to mitigate the fact that the inflation rate in Sri Lanka continues to be much higher than in the UK. Inflation risk is managed by holding funds in Sterling.

Fundraising

The Charity did not organise any fundraising events this year.

The Charity continued the sale of Christmas cards for Christmas 2022. Sales of Christmas of Christmas cards increased this year. The Charity also benefitted from being able to buy cards more cheaply, so generating a higher profit per pack sold. The sale of Christmas cards also leads to additional donations from purchasers. Donations received as a result of selling Christmas cards and gifts are also included in this figure.

Gift aid

The amount of tax reclaimed directly from HMRC by the Charity continues to decline as more of the Charity's income is received via fundraising websites such as the Charities Trust which reclaim tax on donations made through them on the Charity's behalf and the Charities Aid Foundation. This reclaimed Gift Aid is therefore included in the fundraising totals.

Investment policy

The Charity's cash balances continue to be invested in the CAFCash Gold Account, keeping sufficient funds in the current account for immediate requirements. UK interest rates increased during the course of 2023, so the income received on the cash balances has increased about 10-fold.

Bank charges

The Charity's main banker, CAF Bank continues to impose a monthly charge (£5) because of the continuing low interest rates. In addition, HSBC have now implemented a monthly charge of £5. The Trustees have considered whether it is worth moving the account. The Trustees decided that it was not worth moving the account because of potential disruption and also because competitor banks do not offer such a secure system for online banking where two signatories are required.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established the level of reserves that the Charity should have. The Charity commits to work with each project for 36 months. Trustees ensure there are sufficient projected funds (based on a prudent projection) for the entire project in advance of starting a partnership. Regular donations to the Charity have remained relatively stable over recent years and the financial risk of reduced donations is lower than originally anticipated. The Trustees agreed that the reserves policy should be the total of the last three years' expenditure divided by 6 (i.e. an average of 6 months' expenditure). This gives a reserves figure of £7,563 (2022: £7,948). The actual reserves at 31 October 2023 were £54,414 (2022: £48,236).

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Charity is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 3 November 1997 and registered as a Charity on 13 February 1998. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are also directors and members of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire at each Annual General Meeting and seek re-election. J Brown retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

The Trustees aim to maintain a broad mix of skills on the board, so that the project delivery, fundraising and governance needs of the Charity are met. When a vacancy arises, skills of a new Trustee are sought to complement the other Trustees. New Trustees are usually already known to the Charity.

In addition to general responsibilities towards the Charity each Trustee has their own area of responsibility – this ensures that all areas are covered and work is not duplicated.

Trustee induction and training

Potential new Trustees are invited to attend several Trustee meetings to see how the Charity operates. Responsibilities are explained, and information sheets from the Charities Commission and Companies House setting out legal responsibilities are given to the new Trustee. After this the potential recruit decides whether they are willing to accept the responsibilities and if they are they are proposed and voted on as a potential Trustee.

Organisation

The board of Trustees administers the Charity. The board meets approximately eight times per year. A volunteer field director is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity in Sri Lanka.

Risk management

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces. A risk log has been compiled and is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. To reduce financial risks, funds are maintained in sterling bank accounts based in the UK that require two registered signatories to withdraw or transfer funds or effect any changes.

The current security policy includes guidance provided by the FCO. The Trustees continue to monitor this advice and discuss the implications of it at each Trustee meeting. The security policy is also formally reviewed annually.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In approving these financial statements as Trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31 October 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under

section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Independent Examiner

John Meadowcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner during the course of the year.

Approved by the Trustees on 26 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Shining Life Children's Trust

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees on the unaudited financial statements of SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST for the year ended 31 October 2023 which are set out on pages 12 to 16

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). As gross income for the financial year was greater than £25,000, an independent examination is mandatory.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Meadowcroft
Kingscote
Beeson
Kingsbridge TQ7 2HW

26 July 2024

Shining Life Children's Trust

Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account (unrestricted funds) for the year ended 31 October 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources			
Donations	2	24,089	22,420
Grant from Rotary Club		1,000	–
Fundraising events	3	–	–
Sale of gifts and Christmas cards	4	863	583
Income from investments	5	443	34
Total incoming resources		<u>26,395</u>	<u>23,037</u>
Resources expended			
Grants payable	6	(19,657)	(6,634)
Rent, rates and service charge		–	–
Volunteer travel and expenses		–	–
UK governance		(13)	(13)
Fundraising expenditure	7	(368)	(506)
Interest and bank charges		<u>(179)</u>	<u>(212)</u>
Total resources expended		<u>(20,217)</u>	<u>(7,365)</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>6,178</u>	<u>15,672</u>
Total funds brought forward		<u>48,236</u>	<u>32,564</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>54,414</u>	<u>48,236</u>

Shining Life Children's Trust

Balance sheet as at 31 October 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Stock		–		50	
Debtors	10	1,764		3,529	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,164		44,913	
			54,928		48,492
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	11		(514)		(256)
Net assets			54,414		48,236
Unrestricted Funds			54,414		48,236

There are no restricted funds. The purpose of the unrestricted fund is to provide relief to children in Sri Lanka in line with the Charity's objects.

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 October 2023:

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and
- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 14 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 26 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2023 (unrestricted funds)

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed assets at market value, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in April 2005. The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised on an accrual basis in the year in which they are incurred. Expenditure included any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in getting regular donors and one-off donations. It also includes the cost of Christmas cards and of running the website.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

UK governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Donations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income – one-off donations	6,530	5,174
Income – regular donations	17,559	17,246
	24,089	22,420

3. Fundraising events

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising events	–	–
	<hr/> –	<hr/> –

4. Sale of gifts and Christmas cards

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gifts and Christmas cards	863	583
	<hr/> 863	<hr/> 583

5. Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income – Interest receivable	443	34
	<hr/> 443	<hr/> 34

6. Direct charitable expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants payable		
Kirimetiyawatte	7,662	3,467
Angunochchiya	11,995	3,167
	<hr/> 19,657	<hr/> 6,634

7. Fundraising expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	–	48
Christmas cards for resale etc.	114	205
General expenses	254	253
	<hr/> 368	<hr/> 506

8. Trustees' emoluments

The Charity had no employees during the year. The Trustees received no emoluments.

9. Taxation

As a charity, Shining Life Children's Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 236 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

10. Other debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid receivable direct from HMRC		
Donations	1,655	3,478
Other income	99	51
	1,764	3,529

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising expenditure	514	256
	514	256

12. Share capital

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. However every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of the same being wound up whilst he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member. This contribution is in respect of payment of debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he ceases to be a member. The liability should extend to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributories amongst themselves. The amount of contribution that may be required will not exceed £10. The company has three members.

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1068123

Accounts

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2021**

**Charity number: 1068123
Company number: 03459486**

Shining Life Children's Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report & Financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2021**

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Shining Life Children's Trust
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 October 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2021.

Legal and administrative information

Charity name: Shining Life Children's Trust

Charity registration number: 1068123

Company registration number: 03459486

Registered office: 1 Chestnut Lane
Amersham
Buckinghamshire
HP6 6EN

Trustees

J Brown, Secretary

J Dean (resigned March 2022)

J Newall, Treasurer

B Rattigan (resigned January 2020)

S Bayjoo

V Beersboom (appointed July 2022)

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

HSBC, 2 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1LS

Trustee's report

Objects and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are to relieve children in Sri Lanka who are in need by the provision of assistance and care in a family environment, education and training. The Charity's activities are to help children in Sri Lanka who are disadvantaged by poverty and vulnerability, through working in partnership with small local non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to promote child-focused development, education, health and training within a family and community context and to achieve sustainable development through encouraging self-help, self-reliance and empowerment.

The Trustees constantly review the Charity's activities to ensure that they meet the Charity's aims and objectives. The Trustees refer to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Charity's operating model of a Field Director working directly with a few small projects means it is able to impart skills and expertise easily, developing its partners beyond that which a financial partnership offers. In addition the Charity ensures that the benefit of being a small, nimble charity is maximised by being able to review and refocus its resource to maximum benefit within the communities with which it is working.

In addition, the Trust's low overheads means that a much higher percentage of its funds go directly to its work in Sri Lanka than it does for a large charity.

Since the Charity's inception in 1997, it has raised a total of over £560,000.

This review looks at the achievements and outcomes of the Charity's work in the year to 31 October 2021.

How the Charity's activities deliver public benefit

The main activities and the charity's beneficiaries are described below. All charitable activities focus on community development and empowerment and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Charity had three continuing projects during the period, in Kirimetiawatte, Angunochchiya and Telwatte. The Charity delivers these projects in partnership with local organisations (the Human Development Foundation, HDF, for Angunochchiya and Telwatte, and the Women's Development Centre, WDC, for Kirimetiawatte). The Charity's aim is for these projects to become self-sustaining through its contracts with the implementing organisations, so that the programmes can continue successfully without additional external support at the end of the project.

Current situation in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is undergoing the worst political and economic crisis since independence. In June 2022 inflation was 54.6% with food inflation reaching 80.1% compared with a year ago. Mis-management of the economy, tax cuts and the impact of COVID have all contributed to the crisis which has led to food, gas and petrol shortages. The shortages have increased to the point that even essential services (including public transport and healthcare) have halted and schools have closed. Since March 2022 public resentment has risen resulting in widespread protesting and calls for the President and Prime Minister to resign and a new all party government be formed to see the country through the crisis. In April 2022 the Prime Minister resigned and in July 2022 the President fled to Singapore before tendering his resignation too. A new government is being formed and talks with multilaterals including the IMF and the World Bank are underway.

Project activities

Child-Focused Community Development – Implemented by WDC

In Kirimetiya, Ambalanmanam and Sriyagama we distributed food parcels to over 260 families with dry rations as part of WDC's COVID-19 relief efforts.

The pre-school in Kirimetiya continues to offer strength and support to the community too. It has gained recognition as the only Tamil medium preschool in the GB division and 8 children were enrolled in classes in 2021. While schools in other areas were forced to close due to COVID-19, the preschool in Kirimetiya was able to continue to operate, while adhering to strict social distancing and public health measures. A small garden was planted next to the school with support of the community and parents and the preschool children help to maintain the plants, while learning to respect the environment.

Youth clubs were also established and WDC staff were able to maintain contact with the young people using social media and online communications while travel restrictions were in place. Two youths from the youth club were able to secure good jobs as an accountant and debt collector with local companies. Previously the majority of young people were employed in manual labour and farming so this marks a very positive change and these young people are role models and positive examples for their peers. WDC have delivered training in listening skills and counselling for the teachers and youth club members. Since the training participants have reporting using the skills they developed to tackle community issues.

WDC used digital communication to maintain contact during the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. WhatsApp groups were established for the youth clubs and women's societies which allowed WDC to continue to support the groups and develop their skills. In Ambalanmanam the community participated in a talent show/cultural programme with the children demonstrating their skills in song and dance over Zoom. WDC have noted an increase in participation and enthusiasm in programmes like these in Ambalanmanam.

A parent teacher association was formed in Kirimetiya and the parents and teachers have been meeting regularly to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the children's education and to plan a WhatsApp group and online classes for the children. This year there was an improvement in the test scores of children sitting the Grade 5 scholarship exams with an increase from 50 to 80 out of 200. Education will continue to be a focus of the project and these scores demonstrate an improvement in the level and quality of education experienced by children in the community.

Self-help groups have also been established in each village. The groups have a combined membership of 92 women from low income backgrounds and savings of Lkr 9028. These groups provide additional strength and security to rural women and encourage women in leadership in the community. In Kirimetya the women's group was established earlier and they have a combined savings of Lkr 150,000 from which loans can be taken by members. The groups conduct regular meetings and ensure activities and initiatives are conducted systematically and that all processes are structured to ensure accountability. The groups in the new villages are following a similar path and hope to offer loans to their member in the future.

Awareness programmes on child rights and early childhood development have been conducted with similar programmed planned for the near future. When new members joined the children's club, the group requested the child rights programme be conducted again so the new members could also benefit, demonstrating the value of the programme.

Safety net programmes were held in Sriyagama and Ambalanmanam with participants given information on the importance of such groups, their functioning and the relevant stakeholders who should participate. Community members were also made aware of the roles and responsibilities of

government officers and the services provided by the DS office. Some issues were identified including boys and men consuming alcohol on school premises in Ambalamanam. The community, together with the local police and DS office will work together to address these.

WDC are in the midst of preparing a mid-term review of the project which will inform the priorities and activities in the next year. Education will continue to be a focus, as will supporting the women's groups, youth clubs and safety net groups to grow their membership and capacities.

AGSD Project – Implemented by HDF

The AGSD project officially finished but we have continued to support some activities to achieve the final objectives of the project. Community run tuition classes continued throughout the year. These were able to function throughout the lockdowns and the almost 18-month period that the schools were closed. The parents and students have expressed great appreciation for these classes. Classes are available for English, Maths and Science.

The revolving fund is also functioning well and loans have been taken out by members to invest in home-gardening, cultivation and dress making. The groups are well organised with loans being repaid on time and details records kept. The group members are unable to access loans from commercial banks and without the revolving fund would have no other legitimate option. The groups have requested some additional funds for the revolving fund to allow them to make larger loans in the next year.

In Maligaswewa a preschool was opened by the community in the Temple space. Three local women, all members of the welfare society are training for their teaching qualifications while running the classes Monday-Friday. The local DS office is supporting the preschool and ensuring the teachers' meet all regulations. The preschool demonstrates the increased capacity of the community to identify a need and find a solution and to operate independently.

To support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic Shining Life funded food ration packs for 325 families in Angunochchiya and 100 in Thelwatte.

Telwatte Project – Implemented by HDF

This project has also officially finished, but we have continued to monitor the community to check on progress.

Plans for future periods

The Charity will continue to monitor all three projects, particularly in the light of the political situation in Sri Lanka. Over the coming months, the Charity will consider how it can best respond to the changing needs of the communities it has been supported to ensure that the development can be sustained.

Financial review

At 31 October 2021 the Charity had funds of £32,564 (2020: £22,516), an increase of £10,048 (2020: increase of £5,688), reflecting a decrease in expenditure of £4,722. Total incoming resources were £27,848 (2020: £28,210).

Regular donations are the preferred form of fundraising as they facilitate forward planning. The donations were up significantly to £17,134 (2019: £13,071). This was due to an increase in regular monthly donations during the course of the year. One of the regular donations (£500 per month) has continued to donate at this level.

The Charity had a decrease in income from fundraising events (£1,106; 2020: £6,835), mainly because the Charity did not have a major fundraising event this year.

Total expenses were lower at £17,800 (2020: £22,522), mainly because the Charity did not have a Field Director in Sri Lanka from March 2021 onwards. Total payments to projects were £13,441 (2020: £13,735). Volunteer travel and expenses decreased to £3,635 (2021: £7,869), mainly because of the Field Director returning to the UK in March 2021 and not being replaced due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The exchange rate continued to vary throughout the year. On 1 November 2020, it was £1 = Lkr 238. The rate reached a high of £1 = Lkr 282 in May. It had dropped back slightly to £1 = Lkr 276 by the end of October 2021. At the beginning of July 2022, the rate was £1 = Lkr 430. The charity is benefiting from the increase in the exchange rate which helps to mitigate the fact that the inflation rate in Sri Lanka continues to be much higher than in the UK. Inflation risk is managed by holding funds in Sterling.

Fundraising

The Charity did not organise any fundraising events this year.

The Charity continued the sale of Christmas cards and gifts for Christmas 2020. Sales of Christmas gifts were slightly down on 2019, but sales of Christmas cards have remained buoyant, despite recent trends for a reduction of Christmas cards sent in the UK. The Charity also benefitted from being able to buy cards more cheaply, so generating a higher profit per pack sold. The sale of Christmas cards also leads to additional donations from purchasers. Donations received as a result of selling Christmas cards and gifts are also included in this figure. The sale of gifts is especially profitable for the Charity.

Gift aid

The amount of tax reclaimed directly from HMRC by the Charity continues to decline as more of the Charity's income is received via fundraising websites such as Virgin Money Giving and the Charities Trust which reclaim tax on donations made through them on the Charity's behalf. This reclaimed Gift Aid is therefore included in the fundraising totals.

Investment policy

The Charity's cash balances continue to be invested in the CAFCash Gold Account, keeping sufficient funds in the current account for immediate requirements. UK interest rates have been low since March 2009, but decreased this financial year to 0.01%. The income received on the cash balances is now significantly less than £1 per quarter.

Bank charges

The Charity's main banker, CAF Bank continues to impose a monthly charge (£5) because of the continuing low interest rates. This charge increased to £8 per month in January 2021. The Trustees have considered whether it is worth moving the account. The Trustees decided that it was not worth moving the account because of potential disruption and also because competitor banks do not offer such a secure system for online banking where two signatories are required.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established the level of reserves that the Charity should have. The Charity commits to work with each project for 36 months. Trustees ensure there are sufficient projected funds (based on a prudent projection) for the entire project in advance of starting a partnership. Regular donations to the Charity have remained relatively stable over recent years and the financial risk of reduced donations is lower than originally anticipated. The Trustees agreed that the reserves policy should be the total of the last three years' expenditure divided by 6 (i.e. an average of 6 months' expenditure). This gives a reserves figure of £11,525 (2020: £13,040). The actual reserves at 31 October 2021 were £32,564 (2020: £22,516).

Field Director

The Field Director returned to the UK in March 2021. Since that time, visa restrictions mean it has not been possible to recruit a new Field Director to travel out from the UK and be based in Sri Lanka. The charity continues to maintain close relationships with project partners, using technology to work with them directly from the UK.

The Field Director was a volunteer, with living expenses paid. The Field Director worked directly with the project partners and communities, imparting their skills and experience to advance the work of the project as well as managing and monitoring progress. Any expenses relating to the Field Director are therefore classified as direct, project expenditure.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Charity is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 3 November 1997 and registered as a Charity on 13 February 1998. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are also directors and members of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act. Under the requirements of the Memorandum of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire at each Annual General Meeting and seek re-election. As a new Trustee was appointed during the year, the Trustees agreed that only one Trustee needs to retire by rotation to meet the above requirement. J Brown retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

The Trustees aim to maintain a broad mix of skills on the board, so that the project delivery, fundraising and governance needs of the Charity are met. When a vacancy arises, skills of a new Trustee are sought to complement the other Trustees. New Trustees are usually already known to the Charity.

In addition to general responsibilities towards the Charity each Trustee has their own area of responsibility – this ensures that all areas are covered and work is not duplicated.

Trustee induction and training

Potential new Trustees are invited to attend several Trustee meetings to see how the Charity operates. Responsibilities are explained, and information sheets from the Charities Commission and Companies House setting out legal responsibilities are given to the new Trustee. After this the potential recruit decides whether they are willing to accept the responsibilities and if they are they are proposed and voted on as a potential Trustee.

Organisation

The board of Trustees administers the Charity. The board meets approximately eight times per year. A volunteer field director is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity in Sri Lanka.

Risk management

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces. A risk log has been compiled and is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. To reduce financial risks, funds are maintained in sterling bank accounts based in the UK that require two registered signatories to withdraw or transfer funds or effect any changes.

The security policy for the Charity's volunteer Field Director continued to be a standing item on the

Board meeting agenda because of the heightened security situation in Sri Lanka, which can be volatile at times. The current security policy includes guidance provided by the FCO. The Trustees continue to monitor this advice and discuss the implications of it at each Trustee meeting. The security policy is also formally reviewed annually.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Trustees acted on the security policy. The Trustees maintained regular communication with the Field Director and ensured that the Field Director's safety was paramount.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In approving these financial statements as Trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31 October 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Independent Examiner

John Meadowcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner during the course of the year.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Shining Life Children's Trust

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees on the unaudited financial statements of SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST for the year ended 31 October 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 15

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). As gross income for the financial year was greater than £25,000, an independent examination is mandatory.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Meadowcroft
Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
2 Bailey Close
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire, HP13 6QA

29 July 2022

Shining Life Children's Trust

Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account (unrestricted funds) for the year ended 31 October 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming resources			
Donations	2	25,874	20,328
Fundraising events	3	1,106	6,835
Sale of gifts and Christmas cards	4	867	1,039
Income from investments	5	1	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources		27,848	28,210
Resources expended			
Grants payable	6	(13,441)	(13,735)
Rent, rates and service charge		(1,785)	(3,169)
Volunteer travel and expenses		(1,850)	(4,700)
UK governance		(13)	(13)
Fundraising expenditure	7	(447)	(647)
Interest and bank charges		(264)	(258)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		(17,800)	(22,522)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		10,048	5,688
Total funds brought forward		<hr/> 22,516	<hr/> 16,828
Total funds carried forward		32,564	22,516

Shining Life Children's Trust

Balance sheet as at 31 October 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Stock		–		50	
Debtors	10	1,830		3,631	
Cash at bank and in hand		31,087		22,262	
			<u>32,917</u>		<u>25,943</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	11		(353)		(3,427)
Net assets			<u>32,564</u>		<u>22,516</u>
Unrestricted Funds			<u>32,564</u>		<u>22,516</u>

There are no restricted funds. The purpose of the unrestricted fund is to provide relief to children in Sri Lanka in line with the Charity's objects.

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 October 2021:

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and
- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 29 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2021 (unrestricted funds)

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed assets at market value, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in April 2005. The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised on an accrual basis in the year in which they are incurred. Expenditure included any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in getting regular donors and one-off donations. It also includes the cost of Christmas cards and of running the website.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

UK governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Donations

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income – one-off donations	8,740	7,257
Income – regular donations	17,134	13,071
	<hr/> 25,874	<hr/> 20,328

3. Fundraising events

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising events, September 2020	866	4,962
Dorset cycle ride, June 2019	–	785
Other fundraising events	240	1,088
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,106	6,835

4. Sale of gifts and Christmas cards

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gifts	80	100
Christmas cards	787	939
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	867	1,039

5. Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income – Interest receivable	1	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	8

6. Direct charitable expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants payable		
Kirimetiyawatte	4,952	7,826
Angunochchiya	3,021	5,909
HDF Covid relief	5,468	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,441	13,735

7. Fundraising expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Events	–	–
Printing, postage and stationery	73	10
Christmas cards for resale etc.	140	403
General expenses	234	234
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	447	647

8. Trustees' emoluments

The Charity had no employees during the year. The Trustees received no emoluments.

9. Taxation

As a charity, Shining Life Children's Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 236 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

10. Other debtors and prepayments

	2021	2010
	£	£
Three month's deposit on flat in Colombo	–	882
Advance to Field Director	–	500
Gift Aid receivable direct from HMRC		
Donations	1,792	1,858
Fundraising events	–	379
Other income	38	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,830	3,631

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Project expenditure	–	2,457
WDC		
Fundraising expenditure	353	632
Fundraising event	–	299
Governance	–	39
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	353	3,427

12. Share capital

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. However every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of the same being wound up whilst he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member. This contribution is in respect of payment of debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he ceases to be a member. The liability should extend to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributories amongst themselves. The amount of contribution that may be required will not exceed £10. The company has four members.

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1068123

Accounts

SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2020**

**Charity number: 1068123
Company number: 03459486**

Shining Life Children's Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report & Financial statements
for the year ended 31 October 2020**

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Shining Life Children's Trust
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 October 2020

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2020.

Legal and administrative information

Charity name: Shining Life Children's Trust

Charity registration number: 1068123
Company registration number: 03459486
Registered office: 1 Chestnut Lane
Amersham
Buckinghamshire
HP6 6EN

Trustees

J Brown, Secretary
J Dean
J Newall, Treasurer
B Rattigan (resigned January 2020)
S Bayjoo

Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
HSBC, 2 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1LS

Trustee's report

Objects and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are to relieve children in Sri Lanka who are in need by the provision of assistance and care in a family environment, education and training. The Charity's activities are to help children in Sri Lanka who are disadvantaged by poverty and vulnerability, through working in partnership with small local non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to promote child-focused development, education, health and training within a family and community context and to achieve sustainable development through encouraging self-help, self-reliance and empowerment.

The Trustees constantly review the Charity's activities to ensure that they meet the Charity's aims and objectives. The Trustees refer to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Charity's operating model of a Field Director working directly with a few small projects means it is able to impart skills and expertise easily, developing its partners beyond that which a financial partnership offers. In addition the Charity ensures that the benefit of being a small, nimble charity is maximised by being able to review and refocus its resource to maximum benefit within the communities with which it is working.

In addition, the Trust's low overheads means that a much higher percentage of its funds go directly to its work in Sri Lanka than it does for a large charity.

Since the Charity's inception in 1997, it has raised a total of over £530,000.

This review looks at the achievements and outcomes of the Charity's work in the year to 31 October 2020.

How the Charity's activities deliver public benefit

The main activities and the charity's beneficiaries are described below. All charitable activities focus on community development and empowerment and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The Charity had three continuing projects during the period, in Kirimetiawatte, Angunochchiya and Telwatte. The Charity delivers these projects in partnership with local organisations (the Human Development Foundation, HDF, for Angunochchiya and Telwatte, and the Women's Development Centre, WDC, for Kirimetiawatte). The Charity's aim is for these projects to become self-sustaining through its contracts with the implementing organisations, so that the programmes can continue successfully without additional external support at the end of the project.

Impact of COVID-19

During the first half of 2020, COVID-19 affected the charity's activities both in the UK and in Sri Lanka as Trustees risk assessed likely impact and put appropriate measures in place. There then followed a brief period where restrictions were lifted although a second wave led to restrictions being reimposed in spring 2021.

The Trustees considered the safety of the Field Director in Sri Lanka and offered to fly the Field Director back home to the UK. After weighing up all options, and bearing in mind that the Field Director was living in secure accommodation in Colombo, the Field Director elected to stay in Sri Lanka. The Trustees and Field Director review regular updates from International SOS and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Trustees continued to meet, but in online meetings. After discussion between Trustees, this was felt to be an appropriate risk mitigation approach which enabled successful management of the Trust.

Recognising that many supporters of Shining Life would be feeling unsettled and isolated, regular communication with stories of our work in Sri Lanka has been continued by email and social media.

The Charity's projects have focused on supporting the education of the children and young people. Schools were closed from the middle of March 2020 to autumn 2020 and while the Sri Lankan government promoted distance and online learning this is not accessible to most children in our project areas due to lack of computers, smart phones and internet at home. Groups meetings and training programmes over 10 people were not permitted between March and August, briefly allowed again until mid-October, but again prohibited for remainder of the reporting period due to a second wave of COVID infections. Some activities have been permitted and partners are working with communities and authorities to ensure the community needs and project objectives are met with minimal risk to staff and community members. The Shining Life Field Director completed a thorough evaluation and context analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the communities that we work with, with key points highlighted below:

Kandy: The WDC Project Officer set up WhatsApp groups to communicate with the Women's Societies and Children's Clubs and has been using these to share information and keep informed. The newly established Youth Groups were trained over WhatsApp on COVID-19 prevention practices and empowered to share this within their communities. While the preschool in Kirimetiya is closed the teacher delivers activities and materials for the students to complete at home. The preschool building is being used as a space for peer-study support with an older youth from the community working with students studying for exams scheduled to take place this year. Funds which were allocated for transport to tuition classes are being used to fund materials and past papers for these study support groups as the tuition classes are not currently running. The Charity started working in Sriyagama and Amablamanam in November 2019 and there have been more difficulties there as relationships and trust are still being built with the communities. WDC are working through the WhatsApp groups and organised donations of dry rations through a donor from the UK. The future focus will be on building relationships with the new communities and capacity building with the Women's Society and Youth Clubs to take a lead in organising activities.

Angunochchiya: This project was due to end in July 2020 but the final activities and end of project evaluations were not completed due to the lockdown. A three-month project extension was agreed to allow these activities to be completed. The Charity has agreed to extend the tuition classes (in English, Maths and Science) and educational stipends to further support the children's learning while the schools are closed. A small-grant scheme started at the beginning of the lockdown and the first loans were issued in May. With these community members have started self-employment which allow them to earn from home (sewing face-masks, making bricks and agriculture projects). Some concerns were raised by the Welfare Society around increased alcohol consumption among youths in the area and HDF are working with the PHI and police to hold a training/awareness programme as soon as group meetings are approved.

Telwatte: The global downturn in travel and tourism has impacted this project greatly. The Women's Society had secured a monthly contract with an international travel company to make tote bags for their guests and we were in the process of setting up community visits for their tour groups which were hoped to provide a sustainable, additional income to support the shop. The order is currently on-hold as the airports in Sri Lanka remain closed and many governments around the world are discouraging international travel. The Telwatte project was due to end in July but the Charity agreed an extension to allow final evaluations and ensure sustainability of the project. Part of this extension includes funding for the extended lease of the shop. A recent

meeting with the Women's Society highlighted a need to focus on engaging the local community and local market at the shop, identifying potential new contracts within Sri Lanka and reorienting the shop for the local market. . However, the way in which the programme has been working with the women has given them the skills to market their products in different ways and the women are beginning to see the positive impact of this for example a new batik contract with the big Sri Lankan department store Cargills.

Key achievements of the projects

Despite the difficulty of continuing to run the programmes through covid lockdowns and the uncertainty that the communities have faced during this time, a significant amount has been achieved and the positive impact of the work of Shining Life continues. Key achievements are highlighted here.

Community Focused Child-Development, Kandy: In November 2019 Shining Life started a new 36-month project with longstanding partner Women's Development Centre. This is a continuation of the previous project in Kirimetiawatte and aims to strengthen the existing structures already established and to incorporate two neighbouring villages, Sriyagama and Ambalamanam. The budget and agreement was signed for the initial 18 months and Shining Life and WDC intend to meet to discuss and agree the plans for the subsequent 18 months in April 2021.

The three villages are extremely isolated, around an hour's drive from Kandy over difficult terrain. There is a real lack of infrastructure, limited access to healthcare and education and very few job opportunities. Public transport serves only Sriyagama. Despite their close proximity, there are very few connections between the three communities. Community cohesion, participation and mobilisation is low in Sriyagama and Ambalamanam.

The project is focused on three outcomes:

- Ensure the sustainability of the existing structures in Kirimetiawatte.
- Establish sustainable, lasting structures within Sriyagama and Ambalamanam to ensure children's rights are protected and promoted.
- Build lasting relationships between the three communities.

In the period November 2019–October 2020 there were a number of key achievements: Sriyagama and Ambalamanam:

- Women's Societies were established with 35 members in each. WhatsApp groups have been set up to share information and keep in touch while maintaining social distancing.
- Children's Clubs were established with 25 and 55 members, respectively. Awareness sessions on the Value of Education and Importance of Reading were held for each club.
- Through the Women's Society and Children's Club in Ambalamanam four school drop-outs were identified and arrangements made to re-enrol these children.
- In January 2020 the Women's Society in Ambalamanam organised a celebration for Thai Pongol. 35 women and children participated. Both the Tamil and Sinhalese community members came together to support one and other and celebrate together.
- During the lockdown period the O Level and A Level students were unable to attend tuition classes or easily access the distance learning from schools due to lack of technology and internet access. Shining Life provided 28 past paper books in various subjects for the children to study at home.
- The baseline survey has been started with details of an initial 54 families collected and plans made to collect data from a further 25.
- Preparations have begun to re-open a preschool in Sriyagama village. A teacher has been identified within the community who already holds a teaching diploma and arrangements have been made for the classes to be conducted in the temple hall. It is anticipated that the preschool should open in January 2021.

Kirimetiya:

- In February 2020 the SuperKids Preschool in Kirimetiya moved into a purpose built, dedicated building funded by Shining Life. This is the only Tamil Medium preschool in the area and 75% of the children in the village attend. In May 2020 the Women's Society and Children's Club started work on the garden and outside space, planting trees and plants which will be maintained by the children. Learning continued throughout the lockdown with the preschool teacher delivering activities to the children's homes.
- In March 2020 an awareness programme on Early Childhood Development was held and it has been noted by the community midwife that the weight of the infants and children has normalised compared with 2 years ago. The mothers have also taken responsibility for completing and maintaining the information cards for their children (detailing their weights etc.) themselves during the clinics demonstrating both increased capacity of the women and increased confidence from the midwife.
- A Youth Club was formed with 15 members. The group was established over WhatsApp during the lockdown period and were useful in sharing information on social distancing and COVID prevention techniques. After lockdown the group have started meeting and have elected a management committee.
- During the lockdown one of the Youth Club Members who is studying at university started a peer-study support group of the school children. 24 children in the village benefitted from his support and tuition which was gratefully received as most of the children had no access to online classes or activities when the schools were closed.
- An awareness programme on Value of Education and Leadership Qualities was held for 40 members of the Children's Club. An initial meeting and training programme was held for parents and teachers at the Kirimetiawatte School on how to monitor students' progress. This will continue in the next year – with the aim of improving the relationships between the teachers and parents and a shared sense of responsibility towards the children's learning.
- The Women's Society received additional training in Home Management and Individual Family Development Plans. Improvements were noted in the group including increased savings among the group members, and members with home-based businesses, all of which increases the family income and independence. The society have also started a micro-credit programme offering low-interest loans for members and have established a Death Welfare Society with support of the men in the village.
- WDC have noted that during the lockdown period the community were able to sustain themselves with very limited material support from WDC or outside sources. With their own resources, home-gardening and their continued work in the village and with Pan Nippon (the estate management company) they were able to meet their needs. This demonstrates improved independence and capacity within the members.

Angunochchiya: A full 30-month project Angunochchiya Gram Sevaka Division (AGSD) was established in February 2018 after a successful 6-month pilot project the previous year. This project is being implemented with partner organisation Human Development Foundation across three villages in Medawachchiya. Initial research and the 6-month pilot project highlighted many issues with child development, access to safe drinking water, health and well-being and mobilization of the community. Community members are additionally at high risk of chronic kidney disease as a result of poor quality drinking water and over-use of pesticides and fertilisers.

The project has the following objectives:

- Improved rights of children through supportive structures that enable child development, protection and participation.
- Improved capacity of the community to protect and promote their own health and wellbeing.
- Improved economic status and security for the community.

The project has continued to be implemented successfully throughout the year with significant positive impact in Medawachchiya. The project was due to end in July 2020 but was extended to October 2020 to allow the final evaluations and activities to be completed.

During the period, key achievements included:

- Renovations were completed on two rooms in the temple buildings. These rooms have been set up for community use with the project donated computer, library facilities and sports equipment available for community members to use.
- IT and tuition classes continued throughout the reporting period and continued beyond the financial support of project with parents contributing to continue these. The teacher in Maligasewewa village received an additional 15 computers from a donor in Colombo and has set these up in a room in the temple grounds. The monk has established a small IT school and continues to offer low-cost tuition to the children.
- In May 2020 a small grant scheme was started with 18 initial loans granted for Welfare Society members. Loans have been taken to start home-based businesses in dress-making, brick-making, agriculture, snack-production and coir. The loans are being well managed by the societies demonstrating their increased capacities and confidence. Already these loan holders are making money from their businesses which is supplementing their household incomes.
- Awareness programmes on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights were conducted in August 2020 with 60 youths and 40 adults participating. The training was well received with requests from the Society members to repeat the training at a later date for those who had not attended.
- An awareness programme on Alcohol and Drug Prevention was held in August 2020 for 64 adults. Further programmes were scheduled for the youths and adults in Angunichchiya village but have been postponed as group meetings are again prohibited due to COVID prevention measures.
- Follow-up dress-making training was conducted for 15 participants who were trained in making bras and mosquito nets. One participant of this training is using the training and a small-grant received from the project to start a home-business making nets and another is planning to make bras to sell to the shops in the nearby town.
- HDF and the Welfare Societies have noted improved relationships between the communities and government departments and officers from whom they can seek support to address community issues. Community members are actively participating in a number of societies (farming, water management, community health, and Samurdhi) and feel confident and capable raising issues and working with these groups to address issues. These improved relationships are key to the sustainability of the project.
- From August 2020 the final evaluations of the project were completed. This information was used, with the evidence and data gathered from the baseline and on-going monitoring to produce the End of Project Evaluation and Sustainability Report (October 2020).

Telwatte: In July 2019 Shining Life and HDF agreed a new project in Telwatte, Galle District. Shining Life first worked in Telwatte in the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, working with the community for 3 years giving direct aid to support immediate recovery and undertaking a wide range of activities to help the community rebuild e.g. vocational training, establishing savings societies, supporting education, establishing a youth club.

In Summer 2018 the Shining Life founder visited the community on her trip to Sri Lanka. During her visit community members asked if Shining Life would be able to offer more support. There was a desire for more vocational training. It was also identified that the village is now close to major tourist attractions and with some support they could establish a shop and market their handicrafts, potentially greatly increasing their income.

A new 12-month project was designed to offer vocational training and the establishment of a shop within the community through which the society members could sell their products. The agreement was signed with HDF and the project started in July 2019.

The project has the following objectives:

- To improve capacity of women to promote long-term social and economic wellbeing of their families as well as communities.
- To establish a Women's Society shop where the women can sell their products.
- To equip the Women's Society with the entrepreneurship, business and financial management skills and knowledge to effectively manage the shop.

During the period, key achievements included:

- In December 2019 the group received an order from Embark (a nationwide department shop and animal welfare charity) to make 150 Batik and printed tote-bags which were sold in the Embark shops and online. This was a massive achievement for the group who were proud to see their products which a huge retailer and this brought additional income to help support the women and the shop.
- The group also secured a contract with a Sri Lankan company who promote environmentally conscious living. The group are making a few different products including Batik food covers and vegetable bags. These orders are ongoing.
- Screen-printing training was given for 10 members in February 2020 and equipment provided. Previously printing had to be done in Colombo which increased costs and wasted time. Now the group have capacity to print from the shop.
- In early 2020 Shining Life, HDF, the society members and Intrepid (an international travel company) were in discussion to start community visits where Intrepid tour groups would visit the village and shop and meet the society members. Trial visits were due to start in late-March but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic Intrepid have cancelled all tours in Sri Lanka. The group are hopeful to reconnect with Intrepid once international travel is safe and the groups return.
- Shining Life and HDF agreed a project extension to extend funding of the shop lease for a further 6 months while sustainability evaluations and plans are established. Due to some difficulties with the landlord the group moved to new premises. The new shop was opened with a small ceremony in August 2020. The new shop is also geared towards a local market with snacks, clothes, small toys and household items available.
- At a focus group discussion in August 2020, the society members identified a need to focus more on the local market. Case studies with members who participated in different activities were completed and the information, together with the focus group discussions is being used to complete the Sustainability Report for the project.

Plans for future periods

For the AGSD and Telwatte projects the focus will be on the long-term sustainability of the project outcomes and the communities. Both projects were due to finish in 2020 but due to difficulties implementing activities and additional needs of communities due to COVID-19 this has not been achieved. There are a few outstanding activities for the AGSD project which need to be completed and Shining Life is working with the community to identify any immediate concerns with the second wave of COVID infections in Sri Lanka. For the Telwatte project alternative sources of income for the shop need to be identified and links with Sri Lankan partners strengthened to ensure the shop can survive without reliance on tourism.

The project in Kandy will continue in 2021 with plans to open a new preschool in January 2021 in Sriyagama and activities to improve access to education highlighted as key. Funding for library

facilities in all villages has been agreed and Shining Life and WDC are working to identify how best to support the children's education during the on-going school closures.

Financial review

At 31 October 2020 the Charity had funds of £22,516 (2019: £16,828), an increase of £5,688 (2019: net outflow of £5,398), reflecting both a decrease in expenditure of £6,305 and an increase in income of £4,781. Total incoming resources were £28,210 (2019: £23,429).

Regular donations are the preferred form of fundraising as they facilitate forward planning. The donations were up significantly to £13,071 (2019: £9,389). This was due to an increase in regular monthly donations during the course of the year. However, one of the regular donations (£500 per month) is for a fixed period until April 2021.

The Charity had an increase in income from fundraising events (£6,835; 2019: £5,223), from running a major fundraising event this year.

Total expenses were lower at £22,522 (2019: £28,827), mainly due to a planned decrease in payments to the Charity's project partners. Total payments were £13,735 (2019: £17,499). Volunteer travel and expenses decreased to £7,869 (2019: £9,797), mainly because of travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

The exchange rate continued to vary throughout the year. On 1 November 2019, it was £1 = Lkr 234. The rate briefly reached a low of £1 = Lkr 215 in mid-March. It reached a high of £1 = Lkr 249 at the end of August and had dropped back to £1 = Lkr 234 by the end of October 2020. The charity is benefiting from the increase in the exchange rate which helps to mitigate the fact that the inflation rate in Sri Lanka continues to be much higher than in the UK. Inflation risk is managed by holding funds in Sterling.

Fundraising

The Charity organised a series of socially distanced events in September 2020. There was a cycle ride around Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire starting from Amersham. Other people cycled elsewhere in the UK to raise money for the charity, and there was a walk in Epping Forest in north-east London. The events raised just under £5,000.

The Charity continued the sale of Christmas cards and gifts for Christmas 2019. Sales of Christmas gifts were up on 2018, but sales of Christmas cards have remained buoyant, despite recent trends for a reduction of Christmas cards sent in the UK. The Charity also benefitted from being able to buy cards more cheaply, so generating a higher profit per pack sold. The sale of Christmas cards also leads to additional donations from purchasers. Donations received as a result of selling Christmas cards and gifts are also included in this figure. The sale of gifts is especially profitable for the Charity.

Gift aid

The amount of tax reclaimed directly from HMRC by the Charity continues to decline as more of the Charity's income is received via fundraising websites such as Virgin Money Giving and the Charities Trust which reclaim tax on donations made through them on the Charity's behalf. This reclaimed Gift Aid is therefore included in the fundraising totals.

Investment policy

The Charity's cash balances continue to be invested in the CAFCash Gold Account, keeping sufficient funds in the current account for immediate requirements. UK interest rates have been low since March 2009, but decreased this financial year to 0.01%. The income received on the cash balances is now significantly less than £1 per quarter.

Bank charges

The Charity's main banker, CAF Bank continues to impose a monthly charge (£5) because of the continuing low interest rates. The Trustees have considered whether it is worth moving the account. The Trustees decided that it was not worth moving the account because of potential disruption and also because competitor banks do not offer such a secure system for online banking where two signatories are required.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established the level of reserves that the Charity should have. The Charity commits to work with each project for 36 months. Trustees ensure there are sufficient projected funds (based on a prudent projection) for the entire project in advance of starting a partnership. Regular donations to the Charity have remained relatively stable over recent years and the financial risk of reduced donations is lower than originally anticipated. The Trustees agreed that the reserves policy should be the total of the last three years' expenditure divided by 6 (i.e. an average of 6 months' expenditure). This gives a reserves figure of £13,040 (2019: £14,047). The actual reserves at 31 October 2020 were £22,516 (2019: £16,828).

Field Director

The Field Director continued to work in Sri Lanka for the full year. The Field Director is a volunteer, with living expenses paid. The Field Director works directly with the project partners and communities, imparting their skills and experience to advance the work of the project as well as managing and monitoring progress. These expenses are therefore classified as direct, project expenditure.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Charity is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 3 November 1997 and registered as a Charity on 13 February 1998. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are also directors and members of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act. Under the requirements of the Memorandum of Association, one third of the Trustees are required to retire at each Annual General Meeting and seek re-election. As a new Trustee was appointed during the year, the Trustees agreed that only one Trustee needs to retire by rotation to meet the above requirement. S Bayjoo retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

The Trustees aim to maintain a broad mix of skills on the board, so that the project delivery, fundraising and governance needs of the Charity are met. When a vacancy arises, skills of a new Trustee are sought to complement the other Trustees. New Trustees are usually already known to the Charity.

In addition to general responsibilities towards the Charity each Trustee has their own area of responsibility – this ensures that all areas are covered and work is not duplicated.

Trustee induction and training

Potential new Trustees are invited to attend several Trustee meetings to see how the Charity operates. Responsibilities are explained, and information sheets from the Charities Commission and Companies House setting out legal responsibilities are given to the new Trustee. After this the potential recruit decides whether they are willing to accept the responsibilities and if they are they are proposed and voted on as a potential Trustee.

Organisation

The board of Trustees administers the Charity. The board meets approximately eight times per year. A volunteer field director is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity in Sri Lanka.

Risk management

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces. A risk log has been compiled and is reviewed at each Trustee meeting. To reduce financial risks, funds are maintained in sterling bank accounts based in the UK that require two registered signatories to withdraw or transfer funds or effect any changes.

The security policy for the Charity's volunteer Field Director continued to be a standing item on the Board meeting agenda because of the heightened security situation in Sri Lanka, which can be volatile at times. The current security policy includes guidance provided by the FCO. The Trustees continue to monitor this advice and discuss the implications of it at each Trustee meeting. The security policy is also formally reviewed annually.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Trustees acted on the security policy. The Trustees maintained regular communication with the Field Director and ensured that the Field Director's safety was paramount.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In approving these financial statements as Trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31 October 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Independent Examiner

John Meadowcroft was appointed as the Independent Examiner during the course of the year.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Shining Life Children's Trust

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees on the unaudited financial statements of SHINING LIFE CHILDREN'S TRUST for the year ended 31 October 2020 which are set out on pages 15 to 19

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). As gross income for the financial year was greater than £25,000, an independent examination is mandatory.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Meadowcroft
Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
2 Bailey Close
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire, HP13 6QA

29 July 2021

Shining Life Children's Trust

Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account (unrestricted funds) for the year ended 31 October 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Incoming resources			
Donations	2	20,328	17,263
Fundraising events	3	6,835	5,223
Sale of gifts and Christmas cards	4	1,039	926
Income from investments	5	8	17
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources		28,210	23,429
Resources expended			
Grants payable	6	(13,735)	(17,499)
Rent, rates and service charge		(3,169)	(2,839)
Volunteer travel and expenses		(4,700)	(6,958)
UK governance		(13)	(13)
Fundraising expenditure	7	(647)	(1,280)
Interest and bank charges		(258)	(238)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		(22,522)	(28,827)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		5,688	(5,398)
Total funds brought forward		16,828	22,226
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward		22,516	16,828

Shining Life Children's Trust

Balance sheet as at 31 October 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Current assets					
Stock		50		100	
Debtors	10	3,631		3,322	
Cash at bank and in hand		22,262		14,119	
			25,943		17,541
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	11		(3,427)		(713)
Net assets			22,516		16,828
Unrestricted Funds			22,516		16,828

There are no restricted funds. The purpose of the unrestricted fund is to provide relief to children in Sri Lanka in line with the Charity's objects.

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 October 2020:

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and
- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The notes on pages 17 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 29 July 2021 and signed on its behalf by

J Newall
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2020 (unrestricted funds)

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed assets at market value, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and follow the recommendations in 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' issued in April 2005. The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is a small charity.

1.2. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.
- Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised on an accrual basis in the year in which they are incurred. Expenditure included any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in getting regular donors and one-off donations. It also includes the cost of Christmas cards and of running the website.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

UK governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Donations

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income – one-off donations	7,257	7,874
Income – regular donations	13,071	9,389
	20,328	17,263

3. Fundraising events

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fundraising events, September 2020	4,962	–
Dorset cycle ride, June 2019	785	4,510
Capital Ring walk, November 2017–October 2018	–	88
Other fundraising events	1,088	625
	<hr/> 6,835	<hr/> 5,223

4. Sale of gifts and Christmas cards

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gifts	100	–
Christmas cards	939	926
	<hr/> 1,039	<hr/> 926

5. Investment income

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income – Interest receivable	8	17
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 17

6. Direct charitable expenditure

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants payable		
Kirimetiyawatte	7,826	4,984
Angunochchiya	5,909	9,833
Telwatte	–	2,682
	<hr/> 13,735	<hr/> 17,499

7. Fundraising expenditure

	2020	2019
	£	£
Events	–	639
Printing, postage and stationery	10	60
Christmas cards for resale etc.	403	400
General expenses	234	181
	<hr/> 647	<hr/> 1,280

8. Trustees' emoluments

The Charity had no employees during the year. The Trustees received no emoluments.

9. Taxation

As a charity, Shining Life Children's Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 236 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

10. Other debtors and prepayments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Three month's deposit on flat in Colombo	882	750
Advance to Field Director	500	500
Gift Aid receivable direct from HMRC		
Donations	1,858	1,804
Fundraising events	379	256
Other income	12	12
	<hr/> 3,631	<hr/> 3,322

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Project expenditure	2,457	–
WDC		
Fundraising expenditure	632	388
Fundraising event	299	299
Governance	39	26
	<hr/> 3,427	<hr/> 713

12. Share capital

The Company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. However every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of the same being wound up whilst he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member. This contribution is in respect of payment of debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he ceases to be a member. The liability should extend to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributories amongst themselves. The amount of contribution that may be required will not exceed £10. The company has six members.