

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1122290

Details

Other names BETTER LIVES

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2008-01-14

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1. THE RELIEF OF SICKNESS AND PRESERVATION OF HEALTH AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE UNDER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS SIERRA LEONE, ZAMBIA ETC.2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH CARE BY THE PROVISION OF LECTURES, FORA AND BY THE PUBLICATION OF NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO HEALTHCARE.3. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUPILS IN UNDER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR IN SIERRA LEONE AND IN ZAMBIA BY PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THEIR EDUCATION WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM.

Activities: BLF brings over 30 years experience of like minded people working to improve health and education conditions in remote areas in Sierra Leone. Our aim is to provide and improve FREE Quality Medical Care to the needy. Sponsoring Education leading to long term healthcare independence, self sufficiency and self-supportive structure. Raise standards of sanitation, hygiene and access to clean water.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ANY PART OF THE WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE UNDER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS SIERRA LEONE, ZAMBIA ETC
- India
- Sierra Leone
- Brent
- Croydon
- Wandsworth

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£166,620	£163,919	-	-
2024-03-31	£86,217	£113,996	-	-
2023-03-31	£125,121	£102,050	-	-
2022-03-31	£56,581	£53,644	-	-
2021-03-31	£60,092	£59,949	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Barry		2020-09-24
DR Michael Rafferty		2015-01-04
Hina Patel		2023-06-01
Rajesh Patel		2024-07-01

Accounts



BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2025



Better Lives Foundation

Reg Off: Suite J003, Jetta House, 15 – 16 Westfield Lane, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9ED, UK

Charity Registered in England & Wales Charity No.: 1122290

Amended 20th Feb 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Trustees of the **Better Lives Foundation (BLF)** are pleased to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2025.

Throughout the year, the Foundation has remained steadfast in its mission to deliver sustainable healthcare, education, and community development initiatives in Sierra Leone, one of the world's most economically challenged regions. With the continued commitment of our supporters, volunteers, and partners, BLF has provided essential medical services, expanded training opportunities, and strengthened local capacity to ensure long-term, sustainable impact.

A cornerstone of our work remains the dedicated support provided to the community of Yonibana. By leveraging our strong volunteer base alongside a highly capable local workforce, we continue to respond effectively to the medical, social, and educational needs of the region. Our network of local staff and international volunteers brings a broad range of skills, experience, and perspectives, united by a shared commitment to community development and resilience.

International volunteers continue to play a vital role in advancing our mission. Working closely with the team at **Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH)**, they contribute specialist expertise, mentorship, and knowledge transfer to enhance clinical practice, operational efficiency, and service delivery. Their

involvement fosters a culture of professional development, innovation, and continuous improvement within the hospital.

To support effective communication and ongoing capacity building, BLF has implemented regular virtual meetings and training sessions using platforms such as Zoom and WhatsApp. These initiatives have strengthened coordination across teams and provided structured opportunities for staff development. Training topics have included patient care protocols, advanced medical techniques, and management practices designed to optimise hospital operations and improve patient outcomes.

Our governance framework places a strong emphasis on transparency, accountability, and strategic oversight. This ensures that resources are deployed responsibly and that all programmes remain aligned with the Foundation's long-term objectives. Through this collaborative and well-governed approach, we have continued to strengthen hospital infrastructure, enhance healthcare delivery, and broaden our impact within Yonibana.

By maintaining a clear focus on effective management and robust governance, the Better Lives Foundation continues to lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and enduring success in meeting the healthcare, social, and educational needs of the communities we serve.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

BLF was established to advance healthcare and education in Sierra Leone by providing free medical treatment, supporting the training and development of healthcare professionals, and promoting overall community wellbeing.

During this reporting period, our principal objectives were to:

- Deliver accessible, high-quality healthcare services at Yonibana Sai Hospital.
- Support the professional training and continuous development of healthcare workers.
- Improve maternal and child health outcomes within the community.
- Enhance facilities and infrastructure at the hospital and partner institutions.
- Strengthen community engagement and fundraising activities to ensure long-term sustainability.



Governance and Strategic Planning

Strong governance and effective strategic oversight remain central to BLF's operations. Trustees meet regularly via online platforms to review the progress and performance of the hospital project, ensuring that decisions are informed, timely, and aligned with the Foundation's objectives. These meetings provide a transparent forum for assessing operational performance, financial management, and strategic priorities.

Informed by ongoing monitoring of the global and local economic environment, trustees actively consider challenges such as inflationary pressures in Sierra Leone and their potential impact on project costs and resource allocation. This proactive and risk-aware approach enables the Foundation to adapt its strategies as necessary, safeguarding the continuity and effectiveness of hospital services.

Through robust governance and forward-looking strategic planning, BLF remains firmly committed to advancing the development of Yonibana Sai Hospital. Our emphasis on adaptability, accountability, and long-term sustainability ensures that we continue to meet the healthcare needs of the Yonibana community effectively, even in the face of external economic challenges.

Operational and Administrative Efficiency

The hospital's Heads of Departments from the UK have delivered a highly productive year, demonstrating strong leadership, innovation, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Through proactive problem-solving, collaborative planning, and regular inter-departmental meetings, teams have strengthened coordination and ensured alignment with the hospital's mission and objectives.

Operational efficiency has been significantly enhanced through the careful control of administrative costs, ensuring that the majority of resources and donations are directed toward frontline services and hospital programmes. This disciplined approach reflects BLF's strong commitment to financial stewardship and accountability.

The adoption of digital tools and automated systems has further streamlined workflows, improved record-keeping, and optimised resource allocation, enabling staff to focus more effectively on patient care. Ongoing performance reviews and feedback mechanisms have contributed to improved service delivery, higher patient satisfaction, and more effective use of resources.

By maintaining a strategic focus on operational and administrative efficiency, BLF continues to strengthen hospital performance, uphold donor confidence, and support the long-term sustainability of high-quality healthcare services for the Yonibana community.

CHARITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Yonibana Sai Hospital remains the cornerstone of the Better Lives Foundation's mission, continuing to provide free, life-saving healthcare to thousands of patients across Yonibana and surrounding communities. As the only facility in the region offering free medical care, the hospital plays a vital role in addressing critical gaps in access to healthcare and continues to expand both the range and quality of its services.

Key achievements during the year included:

- **Oral and Dental Health Programme:**

Led by BLF's Director of Dentistry, **Dr. Bijal Sisodia-Shah**, the dental team delivered essential oral healthcare to a large number of patients suffering from long-standing dental pain and untreated conditions. This programme not only alleviated immediate suffering but also laid important foundations for the future establishment of Sierra Leone's first Dental Teaching Hospital, an initiative that will

significantly strengthen national dental capacity.

- **Surgical and Emergency Care:** The hospital provides free emergency and surgical interventions, including hernia repairs and other life-threatening procedures. These services directly save lives.
- **Maternal and Child Health:** A major milestone was achieved in September 2023 with the hospital's **first successful**



caesarean section, marking a significant step toward comprehensive maternal healthcare services. This development represents

meaningful progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in the region.

- **A Mother's Love, A Community's Care:**



Aminata, nine months pregnant and living in a remote village, faced significant risks due to limited healthcare access and poor nutrition. When labour began, her husband Amadu transported her urgently on a motorbike to Yonibana Sai Hospital. The hospital team acted swiftly, providing skilled, free medical care. Aminata safely delivered a healthy baby girl, Fatmata, and both mother and child are now thriving. This powerful story exemplifies the life-changing impact of BLF-supported healthcare in rural Sierra Leone, made possible by the generosity of our donors.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

We continue to deliver essential, zero-cost healthcare services in Sierra Leone. YSH remains the only free hospital in the country and serves as a referral centre for surrounding Peripheral Health Units (PHUs), with the nearest government hospital located approximately 4–5 hours away. The hospital provides comprehensive clinical services alongside structured training initiatives, including maternal health, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, laboratory services, education sponsorship, continuous professional development (CPD), and community outreach programmes.

Clinical Training and Skills Transfer



During the January 2025 visit of Dr Hannah Mistry and team, local clinical staff observed and participated in best practice protocols relating to clinical standards, professional etiquette, and patient safety. The visit also facilitated the introduction of new medical equipment, including an ultrasound machine for the maternity unit and a digital microscope for the laboratory. Staff received practical, hands-on training in the operation and maintenance of both devices. Early outcomes indicate improved diagnostic speed and accuracy, enabling more timely and effective patient care.

Educational Sponsorship Programme

BLF's Educational Sponsorship Programme, established in 2008, continues to play a transformative role in strengthening local capacity. To date, 86 local volunteers have been supported to pursue education from secondary school through to university level. Over 80% of beneficiaries have successfully completed their studies, with many now employed at Yonibana Sai Hospital.

The programme has contributed to a significant reduction in school dropout rates within the Yoni Chiefdom, decreasing from 60% to 30%. This investment in education is strengthening the local workforce pipeline and supporting the long-term sustainability of healthcare provision in the region.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Capacity Development

Building local capacity through targeted education and training remains central to BLF's long-term strategy for sustainable healthcare delivery. Key developments include:

- **Advanced MCH Training at Njala University:**
BLF representatives Fatmata Kanu and Esther Joy Fatorma commenced advanced training in maternal and newborn care, supported by Helping Children Worldwide. This initiative strengthens the hospital's preparedness for the full operational launch of its maternal health department and enhances clinical standards.
- **Student Engagement and Clinical Placements:**
YSH hosted eight nursing students from the Yangadie Institute of Community Health Science and Technology for a two-month post-basic clinical placement. Students gained supervised, hands-on experience in patient care, clinical procedures, and community health, contributing to workforce development while supporting service delivery at the hospital.
- **Ongoing Professional Development:**
Regular in-service training sessions were delivered covering critical topics such as postpartum haemorrhage management, antenatal care, safe delivery practices, and newborn care. These structured sessions continue to improve clinical competencies, strengthen adherence to protocols, and contribute to reductions in maternal and infant mortality.

The Maternity Camp and Education Programme further demonstrated BLF's pivotal role in delivering life-saving healthcare, strengthening local clinical capacity, and addressing urgent gaps in medical services. Collectively, these initiatives reaffirm the Foundation's commitment to providing sustainable, high-quality healthcare and education to underserved communities across Sierra Leone.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Maintaining safe and functional infrastructure remains essential to service delivery. During 2024 & 2025, the hospital faced challenges due to wear and tear, including significant roof damage that required urgent repair to ensure patient safety and continuity of care.



In January 2025, the region experienced an outbreak of M-Pox. In response, the hospital swiftly constructed an emergency isolation area, demonstrating its ability to respond effectively to public health threats and protect both patients and staff.

Sustainability and resourcefulness continue to guide infrastructure development. A fallen tree near the hospital guesthouse was repurposed into wooden benches for the patient waiting area, an example of creativity, resilience, and community collaboration in action.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

BLF remains deeply committed to community engagement, education, and social development beyond clinical care:

- **Robanka Community School:** Many pairs of shoes were donated to pupils, many of whom received footwear for the first time, symbolising a small yet meaningful step toward dignity, safety, inclusion, and opportunity.



- **Music and Mental Health Advocacy:** BLF Patron Renu Gidoomal represented the Foundation at the



House of Lords, speaking on the transformative role of music in supporting individuals living with dementia and depression.

- **Awareness and Social Change:** BLF supporters joined Devi Patel's Live Chat Podcast hosted by BLF Ambassador Alimatu Dimonokene MBE, an award-winning activist and expert on gender-based violence, who shared insights and strategies for driving meaningful social change.



FUNDRAISING, PARTNER AND SUPPORTER ENGAGEMENT

The generosity and commitment of BLF's supporters remain the driving force behind our work:

- **Easyfundraising Campaign:** Over £500 was raised through online shopping partnerships, supported by 66 donors. This continues to grow as more awareness is promoted through social media.
- **Sponsored Walks:** Community fundraising events at Richmond Park successfully raised in excess of £3,300 and awareness for hospital projects.



- **Awards and Recognition:**

BLF was nominated for Charity of the Year by The Family Network UK and won the National Recognition Business Awards 2024, recognising the Foundation's positive social impact.

- **Patron Recognition:**

Patron Renu Gidoomal received the Dharma Dubey Special Award for Community Service from IIW Inspiring Indian Women, reflecting the strength and dedication of BLF's leadership.



- **Christmas Challenge – “Save a Baby This Christmas”:**

Thanks to match funding from **The Big Give**, the campaign raised **£9,000.00** between 3rd – 10th December, with every donation doubled. This initiative provided vital support to families in need and highlighted the power of matched fundraising.

- **Hope4Smile Volunteer Visit:**

Ajay and Niyanta Shah of Hope4Smile, alongside Devi Patel and Kiran Parmar, spent two weeks in Sierra Leone witnessing BLF's work first-hand. Their visit to Yonibana Sai Hospital included sorting and distributing essential items such as books, clothing, blankets, and medical supplies. Significant improvements were made to the hospital laboratory and guesthouse, and four laptops were donated to support outreach, education, and awareness programmes in surrounding villages. These resources will enhance health, hygiene, and FGM awareness campaigns, ensuring vital information reaches local leaders in accessible formats.



Together, these partnerships and initiatives continue to make life-changing healthcare and community development possible in rural Sierra Leone.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. CHUDA KARKI



During the year, BLF mourned the loss of **Dr. Chuda Karki**, a much-loved volunteer and respected member of our medical team. Dr. Karki served with the Foundation since 2018, leaving a lasting impact through his exceptional compassion, skill, training and dedication to patient care.

His kindness touched the lives of many, both within the communities he served in Sierra Leone and among his colleagues and friends. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, **Anju**, and the entire Karki family.

Dr. Karki's legacy of selflessness and humanity continues to inspire all of us at BLF. His memory will remain an enduring reminder of the profound difference one individual's compassion can make in the lives of others.

COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS & COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Throughout the year, BLF maintained a strong and consistent presence across digital platforms, sharing impactful updates, success stories, and on-the-ground insights to strengthen engagement and transparency. Communications initiatives included monthly updates, festive campaigns, and compelling video highlights featuring volunteers and partners working directly within communities. The Christmas message from the CEO captured the essence of BLF's mission, expressing gratitude, compassion, and a collective commitment to creating sustainable, long-term change.

BLF remains steadfast in its dedication to delivering excellence across **Healthcare, Sociocare, and Educare** services. This commitment is embedded in every aspect of the foundation's work, from compassionate, patient-centred care to the implementation of innovative solutions that address complex social and educational challenges. Guided by the core principles of service, innovation, and collaboration, BLF continuously strengthens its impact through strategic partnerships with both local and international stakeholders. These collaborations enable the foundation to leverage diverse expertise and resources,

resulting in sustainable programmes tailored to the unique needs of the communities it serves. Through this unwavering focus on quality and integrity, BLF continues to drive transformative change, fostering healthier and more resilient communities in Sierra Leone and beyond.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Through the collaboration of international and local volunteers, BLF has significantly expanded the reach of Yonibana Sai Hospital, extending healthcare access from a 15 -mile radius to 51 miles. These partnerships have enhanced the hospital's capacity to deliver high-quality, accessible medical care, ensuring that even the most vulnerable populations receive essential support. Community confidence has grown steadily as BLF's message and proven results in delivering safe, reliable, and compassionate medical services reach increasingly remote areas.



This expansion reflects the growing reliance on and demand for BLF's free medical services. Communities that previously had limited or no access to

healthcare now benefit from life-saving treatments and holistic care delivered with professionalism and empathy. By continually broadening its reach and strengthening service delivery, Yonibana Sai Hospital is breaking down barriers to healthcare access and transforming lives across a wider geographical area.

ADDRESSING MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

In response to Sierra Leone's alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates, BLF has prioritised the development of critical healthcare infrastructure to address this urgent challenge. A targeted fundraising campaign has been launched to enhance the Neonatal and Maternity Wing at Yonibana Sai Hospital, ensuring access to essential medical support, life-saving equipment, baby supplies, and hygiene products. These improvements are designed to provide expectant mothers and new-borns with a safe, supportive environment for care and recovery.

A significant milestone was achieved with the successful performance of the hospital's first caesarean section. This landmark achievement marks a major advancement in the hospital's capacity to deliver comprehensive and specialised maternal healthcare services. It represents a vital step forward in improving health outcomes for mothers and infants, offering renewed hope to families who previously faced substantial risks during childbirth.

This progress underscores BLF's unwavering commitment to reducing maternal and infant mortality through enhanced infrastructure, skilled medical personnel, and community-centred care. By continuing to prioritise maternal health, the foundation is laying the groundwork for a healthier, safer, and more resilient future for communities across Sierra Leone.



APPOINTMENT OF NEW BLF AMBASSADOR – JORDAN GLOVER

We are delighted to announce that **Jordan Glover**, best-selling children's author, has joined the **BLF** as a new ambassador. Jordan, author of the acclaimed *Wonder Team* series, holds a History degree from the University of Edinburgh and a Master's with Distinction in Creative Writing from the Open University. A former primary school teacher, she has long been passionate about education and charity work.

As BLF Ambassador, Jordan will focus on advocating for **maternal health awareness**, particularly in Sierra Leone, supporting our mission to make motherhood safer and more positive for women. Her experience, creativity, and dedication make her an inspiring addition to the BLF family.



OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES & RESILIENCE

During the year under review, Better Lives Foundation (BLF) encountered a number of significant operational challenges that tested the organisation's resilience and resourcefulness. Among the most pressing were fires affecting the hospital compound, structural damage to critical hospital facilities due to high winds and a sharp increase in demand for free healthcare services at a time of limited financial resources. In addition, the foundation faced an ongoing need for consistent and sustainable funding to support staff training, maternal health programmes, and other essential initiatives.

Despite these constraints, BLF remained steadfast in its mission. Through the generosity of donors, the dedication of volunteers, and the commitment of local and international partners, the foundation continued to deliver and, in some areas, expand vital services to communities in need. These challenges reinforced the importance of long-term planning, infrastructure resilience, and diversified funding streams to ensure continuity of care.

URGENT INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Hospital Roof Damage

A major structural concern emerged at Yonibana Sai Hospital with significant damage to the roof, posing an immediate risk to patient safety and the continuity

of hospital operations. This issue became increasingly critical with the onset of the rainy season, as prolonged and heavy rainfall threatened to exacerbate the damage, potentially leading to water ingress, compromised hygiene



standards, and disruption of essential medical services.

The roof plays a fundamental role in safeguarding the hospital's infrastructure, medical equipment, staff, patients, and visitors. Without urgent repairs, there was a substantial risk of service interruptions that could have severely affected the hospital's ability to provide life-saving care to the surrounding communities. Securing emergency funding was therefore a top priority. Timely intervention enabled the hospital to stabilise the structure, prevent further deterioration, and maintain uninterrupted healthcare delivery. This response was crucial in protecting the facility's long-term functionality and ensuring continued access to essential medical services for the population it serves.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CHALLENGES

Fire Damage to the Hospital Compound

During the peak of the dry season, a series of fires broke out on neighbouring land, fuelled by extreme heat, dry vegetation, and strong winds. The fires spread rapidly beyond their point of origin, crossing into the hospital's compound with devastating consequences. All wooden fencing surrounding the property was destroyed, leaving the hospital perimeter exposed and significantly increasing security and safety risks.



In addition to the structural damage, the fires destroyed newly planted remembrance trees within the compound. These trees represented a meaningful investment of time, resources, and community involvement, intended to provide long-term shade, environmental benefits, and a space of reflection for patients, staff, and visitors. Their loss was both practical and symbolic, underscoring the vulnerability of the hospital to environmental hazards.

The aftermath of the fires required urgent clean-up, repairs, and rebuilding efforts, placing additional strain on already limited resources. Nevertheless, BLF responded with determination, prioritising safety and restoration while continuing to deliver essential healthcare services. These events highlighted the growing impact of climate-related risks and the need for improved protective measures to safeguard critical healthcare infrastructure in the future.

An ongoing vegetation clearance programme has been established in collaboration with local community members, who have generously volunteered their time and labour, particularly on weekends, to support this vital initiative. The programme focuses on systematically removing dried and highly flammable vegetation from the immediate surroundings of the hospital, guest house, solar panel installations, and the electricity and generator facilities.



This proactive effort plays a critical role in reducing fire risk, protecting essential infrastructure, and safeguarding patients, staff, volunteers, and visitors. By creating

clear buffer zones around key operational areas, the programme enhances site safety, improves accessibility, and contributes to the long-term resilience of the hospital compound, particularly during the dry season.

The strong partnership with the local community reflects a shared

commitment to protecting the hospital as a vital community asset. Their continued involvement not only strengthens preventative safety measures but also fosters local ownership, collaboration, and sustainability in maintaining a secure and functional healthcare environment.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE (2025 – 2027)

Looking ahead to 2025 – 2027, BLF has set out a clear and ambitious roadmap focused on strengthening infrastructure, expanding specialist services, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Yonibana Sai Hospital. These priorities reflect the growing healthcare needs of the communities served and BLF's commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible, and sustainable care.

Key objectives for the coming period include the completion of urgent roof repairs and broader infrastructure improvements to safeguard hospital operations and patient safety. BLF has already shipped containers in 2024 / 2025 of essential medical equipment and furniture to further enhance clinical capacity and improve patient care environments. A major strategic focus remains the expansion of the Maternal and Newborn Health Wing at Yonibana Sai Hospital, building on recent progress to address maternal and infant mortality and strengthen outcomes for mothers

and new-borns. A generous donation of 20 baby incubators and 20 infra-red lights have recently been shipped to the facility from China.



In parallel, BLF is advancing the development of Sierra Leone's first Dental Teaching Hospital, a landmark initiative designed to expand access to oral healthcare while simultaneously strengthening local training and professional development. The foundation also aims to deepen community partnerships and expand local healthcare training programmes, ensuring skills transfer, workforce development, and long-term resilience within the national health system. To support these ambitions, BLF is committed to strengthening fundraising and grant-writing capacity to secure consistent funding and ensure the sustainability of operations.

EXPANSION PLANS AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

Plans for the hospital's expansion remain under continuous review to ensure alignment with community needs, available resources, and evolving economic conditions. The proposed expansion includes the construction of new medical and training units designed to enhance service delivery across multiple specialties. Budgetary requirements for these initiatives are reassessed regularly to maintain financial prudence, adapt to changing circumstances, and ensure that each phase of development remains feasible and impactful.

Through the tireless dedication of volunteers, staff, and trustees, BLF

remains unwavering in its mission to support and strengthen Yonibana Sai Hospital. Despite ongoing global and local challenges, the foundation's focus on delivering sustainable, high-impact healthcare services to the community continues with determination and purpose.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

BLF continues to work closely with its architect, surveyors, and construction partners in Sierra Leone. A construction company based in Freetown is actively engaged in producing eco-friendly interlocking bricks and has commenced construction of the party wall as part of the next development phase. A comprehensive eco-friendly master plan has now been finalised, outlining the phased development of a Neonatal and Maternal Wing, Dental Wing, Eye Wing, Pharmacy, Radiology Centre, full Laboratory Services, and a dedicated Library to support training and research.

To ensure technical excellence and clinical relevance, individual committees for each specialist area, including Optometry, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Pharmacy, and Dental Services, meet regularly to finalise operational plans and develop structured teaching and training curricula. These committees provide consistent progress updates to the Trustees, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and strategic alignment of all fundraising efforts.

IMPACT AND GROWING DEMAND

The overarching objective of the expansion programme is to enhance community healthcare services while strengthening human resources capacity within Sierra Leone. As access to care continues to improve, demand for services has increased significantly, with

patients travelling from increasingly distant regions to seek treatment at Yonibana Sai Hospital. Reflecting this growing trust and reliance, the hospital recorded a further 18% increase in patient ailments treated compared to the previous year, further reinforcing the urgency and importance of the planned expansions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees and leadership of the Better Lives Foundation extend their deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to every individual and organisation that has supported our mission throughout the year.

Our journey has been made possible through the compassion, generosity, and steadfast commitment of our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends. Our supporters have played an indispensable role in helping us deliver free healthcare, training, and given hope to some of the most vulnerable communities in Sierra Leone.

To our **donors**, your kindness has turned challenges into opportunities. Whether through monthly contributions, fundraising efforts, or one-off gifts, you have provided the lifeblood that sustains our hospital, equips our clinics, and enables life-saving



interventions every single day. Your generosity has healed bodies and has uplifted spirits to restore dignity to countless individuals who might otherwise have been forgotten.

To our **volunteers**, both in the UK and on the ground in Sierra Leone, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Your selfless dedication, skill, and compassion exemplify the very essence of humanity. You have travelled great distances, worked long hours, and faced challenging conditions, and your commitment has never wavered. Through your actions, you have embodied the heart and soul of the Better Lives Foundation.

To our **partners and collaborators**, including medical institutions, NGOs, community leaders, and government representatives, thank you for standing with us in pursuit of a shared vision. Your guidance, expertise, and collaboration have strengthened our impact and ensured that every project we undertake is sustainable, ethical, and community-led.

To our **supporters**, those who walk beside us in spirit, share our message, and keep our mission alive through advocacy, events, and encouragement, your faith in our cause gives us the courage to keep going, even in the face of adversity.

Together, we have achieved more than we ever could alone. Every life saved, every child educated, every mother supported, and every community empowered stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when compassion is turned into action.

As we look ahead, we do so with immense gratitude and renewed hope. Your continued belief in our mission fuels our determination to build a healthier, fairer, and more compassionate world. From the depths of our hearts, thank you for walking this journey with us.



STATEMENT FROM THE CEO



This year has been one of profound compassion, resilience, and shared purpose. Despite the challenges we have faced, BLF has continued to uphold its commitment to providing accessible, high-quality healthcare and education to some of the most underserved communities in Sierra Leone.

Each milestone we have achieved, from expanding medical and dental services to training the next generation of healthcare professionals, has been made possible through the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters around the world. Their collective efforts have transformed lives, offering treatment but also hope, dignity, and a renewed sense of possibility to those who need it most.

The continued generosity of our donors and partners inspires us to persevere in our vision of a world where healthcare is a universal right, a privilege determined by circumstance. Every contribution, every act of kindness, and every hour of service brings us closer to that reality.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding training programmes, and building sustainable systems that empower communities to thrive independently. Together, we are healing individuals, we are nurturing resilience, fostering education, and creating lasting change.

On behalf of the entire Better Lives Foundation team, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. Your compassion fuels our mission, your trust sustains our work, and your belief in a better future continues to light our path forward.

Devi Patel,
Chief Executive Officer
Better Lives Foundation

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's financial position continues to be underpinned by a diverse range of income streams, primarily comprising philanthropic donations, institutional and individual grants, and volunteer-led fundraising initiatives. Donations and grants represent the largest proportion of total income, complemented by funds raised through community-based events and supporter engagement. In addition to financial contributions, the charity benefits significantly from in-kind donations, particularly medical equipment and supplies, which help to reduce procurement costs and maximise the impact of available resources.

Philanthropic support remains essential to sustaining core operations and service delivery. Funds are allocated to critical areas including the procurement of medical equipment, computers and pharmaceuticals, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) materials and the day-to-day running of Yonibana Sai Hospital. Expenditure also covers staff salaries in Sierra Leone, infrastructure development and maintenance, utilities, food provision for patients, patient transportation and any emergency needs. Transportation costs remain a significant expense, largely driven by the shipment of medical supplies and equipment from the UK. Rising global logistics and fuel costs have had a notable impact on sea freight charges during the year.

Investment in human capital continues to be a priority. The Sponsored Education Programme has expanded, enabling more students to access education and training, while continuous professional development for key medical personnel remains an ongoing commitment. These investments are critical to strengthening local capacity, improving service quality, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Strategic investments in renewable energy have delivered tangible financial benefits. The expansion of solar energy infrastructure has reduced reliance on auxiliary power sources, resulting in lower fuel consumption and improved cost efficiency. In parallel, the charity has taken proactive steps to manage financial processing costs by diversifying its banking and payment platforms. This approach has helped to reduce foreign exchange losses, minimise international remittance fees, and manage costs associated with credit and debit card transactions and digital payment services.

The Surgical Team's mission in December 2024 took place against a backdrop of economic instability and rising inflation. These conditions contributed to increased costs for essential medicines and higher travel and logistical expenses, particularly given the challenges of accessing remote medical locations. Despite these pressures, the mission was successfully delivered, reflecting careful

financial management and strong operational planning.

The trustees maintain robust financial governance and oversight, ensuring that accurate records are kept and that financial reporting complies fully with regulatory requirements. This

commitment to transparency, accountability, and prudent financial management continues to strengthen stakeholder confidence and provides a clear and reliable picture of the charity's financial health as it works toward long-term sustainability.

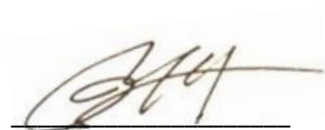
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are maintaining accurate records of the charity's income and expenditure, providing a transparent depiction of its actual financial standing in compliance with The Charities Act 1993.

ACCOUNTANT

The financial statements have been prepared by an independent accountant of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION



Dr Mike Rafferty
Trustee

18th December 2025

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2025

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Donations	94962	
Event Costs	-2235	
Grants	59854	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	13957	
Bank Deposit Interest	<u>82</u>	

166620

TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD

1770

168390

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Hospital Building Costs		23157
Charitable Activities		
Hospital Operational cost		
Medical Equipment & Accessories	12236	
Medicines & Drugs	13760	
Air & Sea Freight & Duties	27770	
Travel & Subsistence	31983	
Generator & Fuel Costs	1253	
Volunteer Wages Local	<u>23940</u>	110942
Donations to Other Charity	HFF	3371
Agricultural Funding		2171
School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs		487
Liability Insurance		355
Telephone		6568
Printing & Stationery		2313
Repairs & Maintenance		5429
Sundry Expenses		1965
Marketing Costs		3697
Subscriptions		2884
Bank Charges		<u>580</u>

163919

TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD

4471

REPRESENTED BY:-

HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT

Deposit Account	1459	
Current Account	889	
Cash In Hand	<u>2123</u>	4471

4471

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

Suryakant R. Patel
Accountant & Auditor
Jetta House, Suite J003
15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



20/02/2026

Accounts



BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31st MARCH 2024



MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

We have continued to leverage our dedicated volunteer base to provide unwavering support for the medical, social, and educational needs of Yonibana. Our robust network of local staff and international volunteers plays a pivotal role in sustaining and advancing our mission. The team brings diverse expertise and a shared commitment to community development, enabling us to address the evolving needs of the region.

International volunteers, in particular, remain integral to our efforts. They collaborate closely with the staff at Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH), sharing their skills and knowledge to enhance the hospital's operational efficiency and service delivery. Through their contributions, we continue to foster an environment of professional growth and innovation within the institution.



To ensure effective communication and continuous capacity-building, we have implemented regular virtual training sessions and meetings using Zoom and WhatsApp platforms. These sessions have facilitated seamless coordination among teams and have provided opportunities for staff development and the introduction of best practices. Topics covered include patient care protocols, advanced medical techniques, and management strategies to optimize hospital operations.

Our governance structure emphasises transparency and accountability, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and that initiatives align with our strategic objectives. This collaborative approach has enabled us to strengthen the hospital's infrastructure, improve healthcare delivery, and expand our impact in Yonibana.

By maintaining a strong focus on management and governance, we continue to build the foundation for sustainable growth and long-term success in addressing the medical, social, and educational needs of the community.

Operational and Administrative Efficiency

The Heads of Departments across all wings of the hospital have had an exceptionally productive year, marked by continuous growth, innovation, and progress. Working

closely with their teams to identify opportunities for optimisation, address challenges proactively, and implement best practices that drive measurable outcomes.

Their leadership and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in streamlining hospital operations, improving service delivery, and fostering a culture of accountability and efficiency throughout the organisation. Regular inter-departmental meetings and collaborative planning sessions have further enhanced coordination, ensuring that all teams are aligned with the hospital's mission and objectives.

A key pillar of our operational success is the rigorous control and meticulous management of administrative costs. By maintaining these costs at a minimal level, we ensure that the majority of resources and donations are efficiently channelled directly toward the hospital project and its programmes. This approach maximises the impact of contributions and demonstrates our unwavering commitment to financial stewardship and accountability.



Operational efficiency has been enhanced through the adoption of digital tools and automated systems for managing workflows, patient records, and resource allocation. These technologies have reduced redundancies, improved accuracy in record-keeping, and allowed staff to focus more on patient care, service delivery and administrative burdens.

A culture of continuous improvement is fostered through regular performance evaluations and feedback mechanisms. This has resulted in improved patient satisfaction, better utilisation of resources, and the overall strengthening of hospital operations.

By maintaining a strategic focus on operational and administrative efficiency, we uphold the trust of our donors and stakeholders and also ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of the hospital's programmes and services. This ongoing commitment enables us to deliver high-quality healthcare while building a resilient and impactful institution for the Yonibana community.

Governance and Strategic Planning

Regular trustee meetings are conducted online to evaluate the status and progress of the hospital project, ensuring that decision-making remains timely and informed. These meetings serve as a platform for transparent discussions on the hospital's operations, financial performance, and strategic direction.

Incorporating careful consideration of the dynamic global economic environment, trustees actively address challenges such as inflationary pressures in Sierra Leone and their potential impact on project costs and resource allocation. This proactive approach enables us to adjust strategies as needed, ensuring that the hospital continues to thrive despite economic uncertainties.

Through diligent governance and forward-thinking strategic planning, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the hospital's development. Our focus on adaptability and long-term sustainability ensures that we can continue to meet the healthcare needs of the Yonibana community effectively, even in the face of external challenges.

Expansion Plans and Budgetary Considerations

Plans for the hospital's expansion, aimed at enhancing services and training across various medical wings, remain under continuous review. This includes the construction of new units to better serve the community's needs. Budgetary requirements for these initiatives are reassessed regularly to adapt to evolving economic conditions and ensure feasibility.

Through the tireless efforts of our volunteers, staff, and trustees, we are steadfast in our mission to support Yonibana Sai Hospital. Despite global and local challenges, our focus on delivering sustainable and impactful healthcare services to the community remains resolute.

Collaboration with our architect, surveyors, and constructor has continued, with Construction Company in Freetown actively engaged in producing Eco-Friendly interlocking bricks and commencing the construction of the party wall. A comprehensive Eco-Friendly Concept Plan has been finalized, detailing the establishment of a Neo-natal Maternal Wing, Dental Wing, Eye Wing, Pharmacy, Radiology Centre, full Laboratory Services, and a Library.

Individual committees for each wing, including Optometry, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pharmacy, and Dental Teams, convene regularly to finalize plans and develop teaching/training curricula, consistently updating the Trustees on their progress.

The overarching goal of the expansion program is to enhance community service and bolster human resources in Sierra Leone, responding to the increasing demand for services from farther regions.

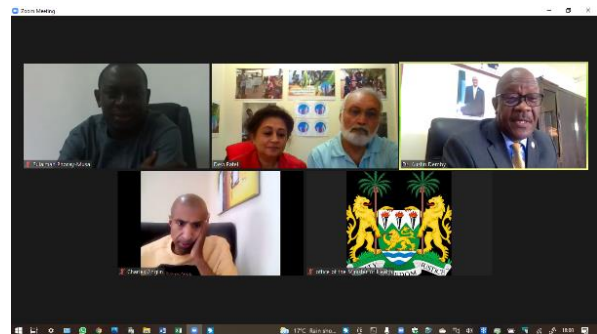
Overall our hospital saw an increase of 12% of patient ailments treated compared to the previous year.

CHARITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Unwavering Dedication to Excellence in Service

Better Lives Foundation remains resolute in its commitment to delivering the highest standards in healthcare, sociocare, and educare. This dedication is reflected in every aspect of our work, from providing compassionate, patient-centred care to implementing innovative solutions that address complex social and educational challenges.

Guided by the principles of service, innovation, and collaboration, the foundation continually seeks to enhance its impact through partnerships with local and international stakeholders. These partnerships empower us to harness diverse expertise and resources, enabling us to develop sustainable programs that meet the unique needs of the communities we serve.



Our unwavering focus on excellence drives transformative change in the lives of individuals and families, fostering healthier, more resilient communities in Sierra Leone and beyond. Through our ongoing efforts, we aim to set a benchmark for quality and integrity, ensuring that our mission of improving lives continues to be realised on a global scale.

Expanding the Reach of Healthcare

The collaboration between international and local volunteers has strengthened the hospitals reach from serving patients within 15-mile radius to 51-mile radius. These partnerships have strengthened the hospital's capacity to deliver high-quality, accessible medical care, ensuring that even the most vulnerable populations receive the support they need.

The local communities' confidence has increased steadily. BLF's message and results of offering safe, high quality medical care is reaching vulnerable communities further afield.

This remarkable growth highlights both the heightened reliance on and the increasing demand for the foundation's free medical services. Communities that once had limited access to healthcare now benefit from lifesaving treatments and holistic care, delivered with compassion and professionalism.



This expansion underscores the foundation's ongoing commitment to breaking barriers to healthcare access. By continually extending its reach and enhancing service delivery, the Yonibana Sai Hospital is transforming lives and empowering communities across a broader geographical area.

Addressing Maternal and Infant Mortality

In response to Sierra Leone's alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates, the foundation has made addressing this critical issue a top priority by focusing on the development of vital healthcare infrastructure. A targeted fundraising campaign has been launched to enhance the Neonatal and Maternity Wing at Yonibana Sai Hospital, ensuring the availability of essential medical assistance, life-saving equipment, baby supplies, and hygiene products. These upgrades aim to provide expectant mothers and new-borns with a safe, supportive environment for care and recovery.





In a monumental milestone, Yonibana Sai Hospital successfully performed its first caesarean section in September 2023. This landmark achievement highlights the hospital's growing capacity to deliver comprehensive and specialised maternal healthcare services. It represents a significant step forward in improving health outcomes for mothers and infants in the region, offering hope to families who previously faced significant risks during childbirth.



This progress reflects the foundation's unwavering commitment to reducing maternal and infant mortality through a combination of enhanced infrastructure, skilled medical personnel, and community-centred care. By continuing to prioritise maternal health, the foundation is paving the way for a healthier and more resilient future for the people of Sierra Leone.

Highlights of Achievements and Initiatives

Everest Base Camp Climb

Volunteer Usha Patel, a dedicated nurse, achieved the extraordinary feat of reaching Everest Base Camp in August 2023. Through her remarkable efforts, she raised an impressive £3,462.50, contributing significantly to the foundation's initiatives.



This incredible personal accomplishment not only showcased Usha's determination and resilience but also brought international awareness and support to the foundation's mission. Her journey served as a powerful symbol of global solidarity, inspiring others to unite in advancing healthcare, education, and social care in Sierra Leone.

Usha's achievement demonstrates how individual actions can make a profound collective impact, rallying communities around the world to support the foundation's vision of improving lives through compassion, dedication, and collaboration.

Support for Local Leadership

The foundation's sponsorship program has provided invaluable support for Dr. Foday Fofanah, enabling him to pursue advanced studies in medicine and surgery at King Ceasor University in Uganda. This investment in Dr. Fofanah's education underscores the foundation's commitment to fostering local leadership and empowering individuals to drive sustainable change in their communities.



By nurturing local talent, the foundation is not only enhancing the professional expertise of key leaders but also building the foundation for a stronger, self-sustaining healthcare system in Sierra Leone. Dr. Fofanah's ongoing development represents a critical step toward equipping the nation with the skilled professionals needed to meet its unique healthcare challenges, ensuring long-term benefits for the community.

This initiative exemplifies the foundation's broader vision of capacity-building and self-reliance, demonstrating how strategic investments in education and leadership can create lasting impacts on both individual and systemic levels.

Advocacy for Mental Health

In October 2023, at a prestigious House of Lords event titled "*The Role of Dance in Health and Wellbeing and Community Cohesion*," our Patron Renu Gidoomal delivered a heartfelt and impactful speech advocating for the transformative power of music in addressing mental health challenges, including dementia and depression.



Speaking to an audience of distinguished guests, including The Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie, on behalf of the Sanskruti Centre for Cultural Excellence, Renu emphasized music's profound ability to uplift spirits, foster emotional healing, and promote social connection. Drawing on compelling examples, she highlighted how music not only alleviates mental

health struggles but also strengthens community bonds, creating a shared sense of purpose and belonging.

Her passionate advocacy resonated deeply with attendees, garnering widespread acclaim and shining a spotlight on the critical role of creative arts in health and wellbeing. This event served as a powerful platform to advance the foundation's mission of integrating innovative approaches to mental health care and community development.

Shoe Donation to Robanka School

Thirty pairs of shoes were donated to the pupils of Robanka Community Preschool and Primary School, addressing a basic need and fostering better access to education for young learners.

Fundraising and Sustainability Efforts

Diwali Fundraising Campaign

The festive season of Diwali provided a meaningful opportunity to raise substantial funds to support medical care for underserved patients. This campaign exemplified the spirit of unity, generosity, and shared purpose, enabling the foundation to extend its reach and impact. By leveraging the cultural and communal significance of Diwali, the initiative inspired donors to contribute toward life-changing healthcare services and strengthened the foundation's connection with its supporters.

Tree Transformation Project

A towering tree near the hospital's guesthouse, which posed a safety hazard, was creatively repurposed into durable benches for the hospital's waiting area. This innovative project not only mitigated a potential risk but also exemplified the foundation's dedication to sustainability, resourcefulness, and patient comfort. The new benches have significantly enhanced the hospital environment, offering a more welcoming and practical space for patients and their families.



General Fundraising Initiatives

Supporters were encouraged to request donations in lieu of gifts for special occasions, with all funds directly channelled into life-saving treatments, surgeries, and educational programs. This initiative allowed individuals to celebrate milestones while making a meaningful impact on the lives of others. These collective efforts have made a lasting

difference, transforming the lives of countless individuals and families who benefit from the foundation's services.

Among the standout initiatives was an exceptional event hosted by Atmashpere Events at The Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan in Kensington, London, which successfully raised over £5,500. This event generated crucial funds for the foundation and offered invaluable exposure to a broader network of potential donors. Many of these new supporters have since become regular contributors, further strengthening the foundation's ability to continue its work.



In addition, our dedicated volunteers organised a sponsored walk with over 40 sponsored volunteers at Virginia Waters, which raised over £4,900. A sponsored walk was held in Richmond Park, with volunteers participating followed by a picnic. The walkers, united in their cause, completed a total distance of 10 kilometres under sunny and warm conditions, demonstrating incredible enthusiasm and community spirit. These efforts reflect the growing commitment of our volunteer base and the profound impact of grassroots fundraising activities.



Easyfundraising Partnership

Through its partnership with Easyfundraising, the foundation empowered supporters to turn everyday online shopping into meaningful donations. To date, 66 supporters have raised an impressive £513, further fuelling the foundation's life-changing projects. This initiative represents an accessible and sustainable way for supporters to contribute, seamlessly integrating philanthropy into daily routines.

The foundation strengthens its reach and builds a sustainable funding base by diversifying its fundraising efforts and engaging supporters across various regions. This approach ensures it can continue advancing BLF's mission.

Advancing Medical Care

Life-Saving Surgery

During the December Surgery Camp, Yonibana Sai Hospital successfully performed 126 surgeries, to individuals who otherwise may not have had access to essential lifesaving treatment. One of the most notable procedures was a life-saving hernia operation performed on seven-year-old Dauda, whose condition had been left untreated due to financial and logistical barriers. This surgery, along with many others, highlights the foundation's pivotal role in delivering critical healthcare to underserved communities, alleviating suffering, and restoring hope to patients and their families. These free surgeries underscore the foundation's unwavering commitment to providing high-quality medical care to those who need it most.



Dental Teaching Hospital Initiative

Led by Dr. Bijal Shah-Sisodia, the Director of Dentistry, a ground-breaking effort is underway to establish Sierra Leone's first dental teaching hospital. This initiative is a collaborative effort with King's College Hospital (London), the WHO Oral Health West Africa, and the Medical Council of Sierra Leone. The project aims to transform oral healthcare across the region by creating a sustainable model that focuses on education, capacity-building, and access to high-quality dental care. This dental teaching hospital will not only serve as a centre of excellence for oral health but also train the next generation of dental professionals in Sierra Leone, ultimately strengthening the healthcare system and improving oral health outcomes for future generations.



Dental Outreach

In addition to the establishment of Sierra Leone's first dental teaching hospital, a significant dental outreach program was launched to address urgent oral health needs within the community. This program provided free dental care to both adults and children, focusing on treating acute oral health issues such as infections, tooth extractions, and preventive care. The outreach efforts not only helped alleviate immediate pain and discomfort for patients but also raised vital awareness about the importance of oral hygiene and regular dental care. By reaching

underserved populations, the programme ensured that individuals who may have had limited access to dental services could benefit from essential care and education.

The outreach initiative also played a crucial role in preparing for the upcoming dental teaching hospital, acting as a foundation for its success. By addressing the community's immediate dental needs and fostering a culture of preventative care, the program set the stage for sustainable improvements in oral health. These efforts will have both short- and long-term benefits, as the growing emphasis on education and awareness will contribute to better oral health outcomes for future generations in Sierra Leone.



In November 2023, an international dental team consisting of three esteemed professionals, including Dr. Bijal Sisodia-Shah (Head of BLF Dental Team), Dr. Keval Shah, and Dr. Ruchika Rupchandani, visited Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH) to provide expert dental care. Over the course of five days, the team performed more than 530 extractions, helping to address the backlog of urgent dental cases in the region. Their visit was focused on direct patient care and also included strategic collaboration with the Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone. During this visit, the team liaised with the Council to gain insight and seek approval for the final dental therapy course curriculum.

In addition to their clinical work, the dental team delivered in-house training to the hospital's staff, improving their skills and providing them with the latest techniques in dental care. Staff assessments were also conducted to ensure that the hospital's dental

department is equipped to provide high-quality care moving forward. The collaboration between the international team and local healthcare providers strengthens the foundation's ongoing efforts to build a sustainable and self-sufficient dental healthcare system in Sierra Leone.



Empowering Healthcare Professionals

BLF Training Centre

BLF continued to strengthen its partnerships with Yangadie Institute of Community Health Science and Technology. Trained ten nursing students to complete a comprehensive two-month practical training programme at Yonibana Sai Hospital. This hands-on experience provided the students with access to fully functioning set of instruments and equipment giving them invaluable clinical skills. Gaining confidence in learning bed side manner when treating patients with dignity and care. By working alongside experienced professionals, they gained practical knowledge in infection control, hospital operations, record keeping and effectively preparing them for successful careers in healthcare. This programme is an integral part of the Foundation's broader efforts to build a well-trained, locally sourced healthcare workforce that can drive lasting change within the community.



Maternal Child Health Aides Training

Representatives Fatmata Kanu and Esther Joy Fartoma embarked on specialised training at Njala University, focusing on maternal and child health. This advanced training is designed to enhance their ability to deliver quality maternal care, supporting the foundation's commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes in Sierra Leone. The skills and knowledge gained through this programme will significantly strengthen the capacity of Yonibana Sai Hospital to provide dedicated, evidence-based maternal healthcare services, addressing critical needs in the region.



Training in Maternal and New-born Care

As part of their comprehensive education, Fatmata and Esther underwent rigorous training in managing postpartum haemorrhage, providing antenatal care, and implementing safe delivery practices. These critical areas of expertise are essential for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in Sierra Leone, where such conditions remain prevalent. Fatmata and Esther will bring back their knowledge to Yonibana Sai



Hospital, where they will directly apply their training to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and new-borns. Their work will play a pivotal role in ensuring that women and children receive the necessary support throughout the pregnancy, birth, and postpartum periods, addressing one of Sierra Leone's most urgent healthcare challenges.

Special Recognitions and Events

Patron Recognition

The foundation's Patron, **Renu Gidoomal**, was honoured with the Dharma Dubey Special Award for Community Service, a prestigious accolade recognizing her outstanding contributions to healthcare, education, and community welfare.

Renu's tireless advocacy for the foundation's mission, combined with her leadership and vision, has had a transformative impact on the lives of countless individuals. Her recognition with this award highlights not only her personal dedication but also the broader efforts of the foundation in addressing key community challenges. This honour is a testament to her ongoing commitment to improving lives through service, collaboration, and innovation.



In the New Year's Honours list, Our Patron **Alimatu Dimonekene** received her MBE for Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls through Equality Now and OpEd Project. She was presented the award at Buckingham Palace from Prince Of Wales, Prince William.

Alimatu is an experienced advocate with over 30 years in global human rights, specialising in gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, female genital mutilation (FGM)



advocacy, and community empowerment. Recognized with an MBE for her contributions to women's rights, her work spans multiple countries, including Sierra Leone, the UK, and the U.S. She's the Founder of A Girl At A Time, where she leads initiatives that empower young people to address violence and promote gender equality.

Charity of the Year Nomination

In 2024, the foundation received a nomination for the coveted "Charity of the Year" category at The Family Network UK's National Recognition Business Awards. This nomination is a significant achievement, acknowledging the collective efforts of our donors, volunteers, and staff who work tirelessly to transform lives and build stronger, healthier communities. It reflects the foundation's growth and impact over the years and serves as a reminder of the deep commitment shared by all those involved in advancing its mission. The nomination underscores the importance of collaboration and highlights the foundation's continued journey toward sustainable and meaningful change.



Remembrance Service



On 18th February 2024, a poignant remembrance service was held to celebrate the life and contributions of Vimlaben Patel, a beloved member of the foundation community. The service provided an opportunity for the community to come together in gratitude and reflection, honouring Vimlaben's unwavering support for the foundation's work. Her dedication to service, her compassion for others, and her efforts to improve lives left an indelible mark on the foundation's mission. The remembrance service united individuals from all walks of life, ensuring that Vimlaben's legacy of generosity and kindness continues to inspire future generations.

Urgent Needs and Challenges

Hospital Roof Damage

A significant structural issue had emerged at Yonibana Sai Hospital, with damage to the roof that posed an urgent risk to the hospital's operations and patient safety. Given the approaching rainy season, this issue had become even more pressing, as heavy rainfall could worsen the existing damage and jeopardize the hospital's ability to function. The roof's integrity is crucial not only for protecting the building but also for ensuring the safety and comfort of patients, staff, and visitors. The hospital's services could be severely disrupted if immediate repairs were not carried out. As such, securing urgent funding was critical to carry out the necessary repairs. Timely intervention helped preserve the hospital's capacity to provide uninterrupted, life-saving care, prevent further structural deterioration, and protect the facility's essential infrastructure. Without prompt action, there was a serious risk of operational setbacks, which could significantly impact the community that relies on the hospital for medical care.



Fire Damage

During the extreme dry season, a series of fires broke out on our neighbour's land, fuelled by the arid conditions and strong winds. The fire quickly spread beyond their property, sweeping across our boundaries with devastating speed. The flames consumed all our wooden fencing, leaving the perimeter of our property exposed and vulnerable. Tragically, the fire destroyed our newly planted remembrance trees, which had been a significant investment of time, effort, and resources. These trees were intended to provide shade, beauty, and ecological benefits for years to come. The damage caused by the fire has left a lasting impact, requiring extensive efforts to repair and rebuild what was lost.

CEO's Christmas Message

In her Christmas message to all the volunteers, supporters and friends, Devi Patel, the CEO of the Better Lives Foundation expressed heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors, supporters, and volunteers whose dedication has been integral to the foundation's success. Her message highlighted the tremendous impact of their collective efforts in advancing the foundation's mission across healthcare, education, and clean water initiatives. She also emphasised that the work is far from complete. The foundation continues to face significant challenges, and there is a critical need for



sustained engagement and support to fund the ongoing operations and expansions of these essential services. The CEO called for continued commitment to addressing urgent needs such as the hospital's roof repair and the sustainable development of the hospital's facilities. She reminded supporters that their contributions play a direct role in the betterment of communities, and that with their help, the foundation can continue to provide life-changing services for the vulnerable we serve. The message underscored the importance of collaboration and a long-term vision to address both immediate and future challenges.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's main sources of income include philanthropic donations, institutional, individual grants, and fundraising efforts led by volunteers. Donations and grants form the bulk of the funding, supplemented by revenue generated through community-driven events. While some medical equipment is purchased directly, a significant portion is obtained through in-kind contributions from donors and supporters.

Philanthropic support remains essential, funding various operational needs such as medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) materials. Additional expenditures cover salaries for staff in Sierra Leone, hospital infrastructure, maintenance, utilities, food supplies, and patient transportation. A large part of the transportation costs relates to shipping medical supplies and equipment from the UK, with rising global logistics expenses significantly impacting sea freight charges. The Sponsored Education Program has expanded, supporting more students, while ongoing professional development continues for key medical personnel.

Investment in solar energy infrastructure has led to notable cost savings by reducing reliance on auxiliary power sources and lowering fuel expenses. To minimize banking fees and improve foreign exchange efficiency, the charity has diversified its financial

transactions, using multiple platforms to reduce costs associated with international remittances. Financial processing costs also include fees for credit and debit card transactions, as well as digital payment services.

The Dental Team's mission to Sierra Leone in late 2023 took place amid economic instability, marked by rising inflation. This resulted in increased costs for essential medicines and higher travel expenses due to the logistical challenges of reaching remote medical sites.

The trustees uphold strong financial governance, ensuring accurate and transparent record-keeping in accordance with regulatory requirements. This commitment to accountability reinforces trust and provides a clear picture of the charity's financial health.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are maintaining accurate records of the charity's income and expenditure, providing a transparent depiction of its actual financial standing in compliance with The Charities Act 1993.

ACCOUNTANT

The financial statements have been prepared by an independent accountant of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION



Mrs. Hina Patel

Trustee

29th January 2025

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH,2024****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	77885	
Event Costs	1104	
Loans	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	7201	
Bank Deposit Interest	<u>27</u>	

86217**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD****29549****115766****RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Hospital Building Costs		10870
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Charitable Activities

Hospital Operational cost	Medical Equipment & Accessories	14714	
	Medicenes & Drugs	11066	
	Air & Sea Frieght & Duties	10302	
	Travel & Subsistence	12775	
	Generator & Fuel Costs	958	
	Volunteer Wages Local	<u>19088</u>	

68903

Agricultural Funding		1159
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School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs		22143
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Liability Insurance		262
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Telephone		2129
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Printing & Stationery		1187
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Repairs & Maintenance		2718
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Sundry Expenses		76
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Marketing Costs		0
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Subscriptins		3975
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Bank Charges		<u>574</u>
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113996**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD****1770****REPRESENTED BY:-****HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	104	
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Current Account	686	
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Cash In Hand	<u>721</u>	1511
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United Trust Bank Seira Leone		<u>259</u>
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1770

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Suryakant R.Patel
Accountant & Auditor
Jetta House, Suite J003
15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



31/01/2025

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH,2024****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	77885	
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31/01/2025

Accounts



BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

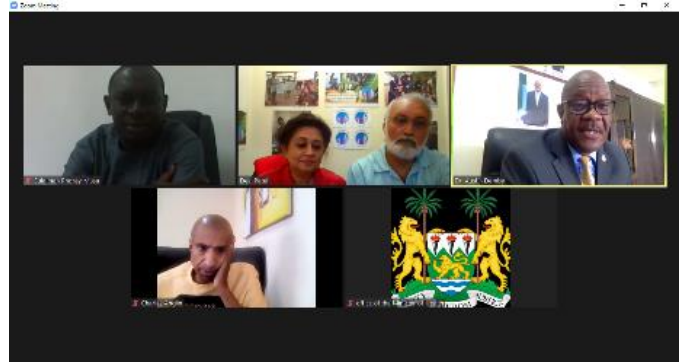
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2023



MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

In the post-Covid-19 era, we persist in utilizing our volunteer base to offer unconditional support for medical, social, and educational needs in Yonibana. The dedicated international volunteers are actively engaged with the staff at Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH) conducting regular Zoom and WhatsApp training sessions and meetings to navigate the operations of the hospital.

Throughout the year, our Head of Departments for each Wing has achieved another highly productive period, witnessing continuous growth. We exercise stringent control over administrative costs, ensuring they are kept to a minimum, and we direct received donations towards our hospital project.



Regular trustee meetings are conducted online to assess the current status of the project, considering the dynamic global economic landscape and inflationary trends in Sierra Leone. Despite these challenges, plans for expanding the hospital to enhance services and training in various medical wings, along with the construction of new units, are continuously under review, with budgetary requirements evolving every few months.



Collaboration with our architect, surveyors, and constructor is in full swing, with Mayara Trading & Construction Company in Freetown actively engaged in producing Eco-Friendly interlocking bricks and commencing the construction of the party wall. A comprehensive Eco-Friendly Concept Plan has been finalized, detailing the establishment of a Neo-natal Maternal Wing, Dental Wing, Eye Wing, Pharmacy, Radiology Centre, full Laboratory Services, and a Library.

Individual committees for each wing, including Optometry, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pharmacy, and Dental Teams, convene regularly to finalize plans and develop teaching/training curricula, consistently updating the Trustees on their progress.

The overarching goal of the expansion program is to enhance community service and bolster human resources in Sierra Leone, responding to the increasing demand for services from farther regions.

The international team visited YSH in June and November 2022 to oversee hospital expansion and staff assessment, providing services in the Eye Wing and Gynecology Wing. The team delivered in-house training and conducted staff assessments. Throughout the year, 1,088 patients received spectacles, 264 hernia operations were performed, including pediatric hernias, 3,468 patients received gynecological and pediatric consultations, 2,567 were treated for chronic and acute ailments, 269 received malnourishment packs, and 3,694 were tested for malaria.

CHARITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our dedication is unwavering in upholding the highest standards in healthcare, sociocare, and educate, providing excellent service to our community.

The collaboration between our international volunteers and the Yonibana staff continues to drive progress in our initiatives in Sierra Leone. Initially, patients were coming from within the Yoni Chiefdom, covering a 15-mile radius. However, this scope has expanded to 51 miles, highlighting a heightened demand for our free medical services.

Our primary focus remains on building the necessary infrastructure to address the increasing needs within the Yoni Chiefdom.

In this timeframe, we efficiently packed containers with crucial hospital beds and medical supplies for transport to Sierra Leone. Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and significant spikes in shipping costs, which had quadrupled, volunteers worked diligently during our packing day. To address the escalated shipping expenses, a fundraising appeal was launched. Ultimately, three 40-foot containers arrived at Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH).



Acknowledging the concerning maternal and infant mortality rates in Sierra Leone, we initiated a fundraising campaign to enhance our Neonatal and Maternity Wing, providing medical assistance, baby supplies, and hygiene items.

Grateful for the generous support from businesses, organizations, and individuals, we not only achieved but surpassed our fundraising goal. Utilizing platforms like Crowdfunder, securing corporate sponsorships, and organizing volunteer-led events like a triathlon, we successfully raised an impressive £33,500.

Eleven students sponsored by the Better Lives Foundation successfully graduated as Maternal & Child health Aids (MCHAids), with 45% returning to work at Yonibana Sai Hospital and 55% secured prominent positions at government health units.



A notable moment for the Better Lives Foundation occurred during the fundraising show in May 2022, which featured the Bollywood singing sensation Sairam Iyer. This freely accessible online event, lasting sixty minutes, presented live music and allowed listeners to make contributions to the cause. Sairam Iyer, inspired by the foundation's efforts, actively supported the event by using his distinctive dual-voice singing to raise awareness and donations. The outcome was a remarkably successful event that impacted lives from the comfort of people's homes.



In June 2022, the adoption of Ecofriendly Interlocking bricks commenced, eliminating the need for mortar between layers, except for the foundational layer. Crafted from our own soil, fine sand, binding agent, and cement, these bricks offer a sustainable alternative.



Notably, a single bag of cement yields 75 of these eco-friendly bricks, a stark contrast to the traditional method, which produces only 14 bricks per bag. Furthermore, our eco-bricks are significantly more cost-effective, priced at less than half the cost of pure cement bricks. The party wall has been successfully constructed using the eco-friendly bricks. Additionally, two new wards, a laboratory, and a new reception area have been completed.

A generous donation from Saturn Amenities Corporation FZCO provided a generator to serve hospital patients during nights when backup electricity is needed.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Kalpna Latham for diligently sourcing materials and personally delivering these bags to MacMillan



period.

Our exceptional volunteer, the incredibly talented seamstress Prafula Vadgama, pours her heart and skill into creating this beautiful handmade shoulder and drain bags. These bags are not just accessories; they are small tokens of comfort and care for patients recovering from surgery at MacMillan Cancer Support at St George's University Hospitals in Tooting, London, and some of our patients at Yonibana Sai Hospital in Sierra Leone.



Cancer Support. The involvement of several other compassionate volunteers in this initiative adds a layer of warmth and humanity to the process. It's more than just crafting bags; it's about creating a sense of security and normalcy for patients as they navigate the challenging post-surgery



These handmade bags, carefully stitched with empathy and compassion, play a significant role in boosting the confidence of patients. They serve as more than just practical carriers for drip bags; they become symbols of resilience, support, and a community coming together to make the journey to recovery a bit easier.

Throughout these months, our social media team diligently carried out awareness programs, promoting various fundraising events.

A Richmond Park Sponsored Walk involved numerous volunteers undertaking a 10Km walk through the scenic Richmond Park. Simultaneously, similar walks were organized in Bradford, Scotland, Yonibana, and Uganda by our dedicated volunteers.

Scotland also hosted a 10Km Sponsored Walk.

In Bradford, 58 ladies, ranging from 5 to 70 years old, participated in a Sponsored Walk, covering 816,640 steps through picturesque West Yorkshire.



Yonibana experienced its first-ever Sponsored Walk, organized by staff and volunteers, garnering positive feedback from the community and local businesses, fostering a deeper appreciation for BLF's impact.



Uganda saw its inaugural Sponsored Walk, led by Dr. Fofanah and numerous university students.

Dr. Foday Salam Fofanah was nominated and elected to the Director Standing Committee on Reproductive Health position by the Medical Students Association and the entire West African students in Uganda.

Dr. Foday Fofanah represented Sierra Leone and BLF at the 19th Federation Uganda Medical Student Association (FUMSA) General Assembly in October 2022, emphasizing the theme "PREVENTIVE MEDICINE A CORNERSTONE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION."

During the final quarter of 2022, our team consisted of seven members, featuring Dr. Hannah Mistry (Head Of BLF Gynae & Obstetrics Team, Consultant Gynaecologist), Dr. Ramana (Consultant Anaesthetist), Kantibhai Mistry (Head of BLF Optometry Team), Devi Patel (Managing Director), Raj Patel (Finance Director) and four additional individuals.





The ophthalmology department conducted vision tests for 176 patients, providing prescriptions and dispensing over 200 spectacles and sunglasses. The Eye Clinic was established in the recently converted ward, formerly known as the old Beret. The ward is now fully operational, accepting patient admissions.



The entire team visited Moshimba Village to officially open the school on behalf of Dr. Pamela Kaushal and the Vidya Jyoti Foundation. We were warmly welcomed with lively dancing, singing, and expressions of gratitude through speeches. Vidya Jyoti Foundation enlisted the expertise of our master builder, who successfully constructed three classrooms, an office, and a storeroom for the school, all built with our eco-friendly bricks. This served as an excellent opportunity to showcase both our sustainable bricks and the skills of our builder.



We convened a stakeholder meeting with participants from various areas and villages, including the Paramount chief, Chiefs of villages, Head Imams, Priests, Business owners, Local Radio, and social media teams. During the meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting representatives from Saturn Industries, a remarkable company currently constructing the largest Plywood factory in Africa for Miro Forestry. They have brought in 15 expat engineers from India. Delighted with our hospital facility, they have generously committed to providing us with their expertise and advice for our expansion program at no cost.



We received a visit from Dr. David Kamara, President of the Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Council, and Mr. Reynold Senesi, WHO representative for Oral Health in Sierra Leone. They expressed great satisfaction with our facility, commending the professionalism of our staff and the high standards of hygiene and cleanliness maintained in the hospital. In collaboration with Kings College Hospital in London, we are actively involved in developing the curriculum for the Dental Therapy course in Sierra Leone.

Both Dr. Kamara and Mr. Senesi provided valuable guidance on the necessary procedures to pursue in order to attain university status for our project.



Our sponsored Agriculturist, Abu Conteh, returned and initiated a nursery, experimenting with various crops. Successfully cultivating Lady Fingers, Watermelon, Cabbage, Green Peppers, Tomatoes, Chillies, Cucumber, and Irish Potatoes, he demonstrated his skill. Due to the demand for specific crops, a larger section of the nursery was dedicated to him, focusing on the growth of four crops for which he has secured buyers.



Our clinic for malnourished children operates successfully every Wednesday, catering to over 175 children monthly. Parents and grandparents attend regularly, expressing satisfaction with the noticeable progress their children have made in recovering full health and weight. Recognizing that caregivers may also face challenges, we screen parents and grandparents for conditions such as anxiety, depression, and potential nutrition deficiencies.

It's noteworthy that many mothers bringing in their children are themselves young, barely 15 or 16 years old. The mothers collectively expressed gratitude through a song, extending their thanks to BLF and all those supporting this impactful program.



Our quarterly provision of food items targeted the disabled, elderly living alone, and those facing poverty and isolation. We coordinated the delivery of food from our location, where both the local staff and the UK team assembled 108 packages. Over a two-day period, the staff and the UK Team distributed these packages. The recipients, comprising families and individuals, expressed profound gratitude for the food parcels, which included essentials such as rice, Maggie, onions, sugar, and salt.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The primary sources of funding for the charity are donations and volunteer-led fundraising initiatives and events. While some medical equipment is procured through purchases, others have been generously donated by friends and supporters of BLF.

Donations play a pivotal role in covering various expenses, encompassing the acquisition of medical equipment, medicines, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) materials, stipends, repairs and renewals, utilities, and food, as well as transportation for admitted hospital patients. The implementation of solar energy has significantly reduced daily operational costs, leading to

substantial savings. Moreover, the utilization of a backup generator and fuel costs has experienced a notable decrease compared to previous years.

To mitigate bank charges, alternative services like Western Union have been utilized, leading to considerably lower bank charges and more favorable exchange rates. These charges include processing fees for credit and debit cards, as well as fees from financial services such as InvestMyCommunity, Western Union, Ria, Remitly, and Paypal.

In addition to local initiatives, BLF dispatched three 40ft containers to Sierra Leone containing hospital equipment, fixtures, and fittings generously donated by The Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge. The expenses related to freight, release fees, and transportation to the hospital experienced a significant increase post-Covid-19, exacerbated by fuel price hikes. These additional costs were covered through specific donations earmarked for this purpose.

During the visits of the Eye and Gynaecology and Obstetrics teams in the final quarter of 2022, Sierra Leone faced a fuel shortage crisis, resulting in a quadrupling of the cost per liter. The high expenses incurred for internal travel during the team's visits to various villages and locations further contributed to the overall elevated travel costs.

The Statement of Trustees Responsibilities affirms that the trustees diligently maintain accurate records of income and expenditure, ensuring compliance with The Charities Act 1993 and providing a transparent view of the charity's actual financial standing.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are maintaining accurate records of the charity's income and expenditure, providing a transparent depiction of its actual financial standing in compliance with The Charities Act 1993.

ACCOUNTANT

The financial statements have been prepared by an independent accountant of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION



Mrs. Hina Patel
31st January 2024

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2023****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	100254	
Event Costs	11587	
Loans	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	13280	
Bank Deposit Interest	0	

125121**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD****6478****131599****RESOURCES EXPENDED****Hospital Building Costs** 12038**Charitable Activities**

Hospital Operational costs: Equipment & Accessories	2800	
Medicines & Drugs	7614	
Air Freight	29683	
Travel & Subsistence	10075	
Generator & Fuel Costs	239	
Volunteer Wages Local	<u>32548</u>	

82959

Other Charities Donations 0

School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs 2539

Liability Insurance 547

Telephone 421

Printing & Stationery 873

Repairs & Maintenance 1004

Sundry Expenses 210

Marketing Costs 1026

Subscriptions 90

Bank Charges 343**102050****TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD****29549****REPRESENTED BY:-****HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	502	
Current Account	583	
Cash In Hand	<u>15542</u>	16627
United Trust Bank Seira Leone		<u>12922</u>
		<u>29549</u>

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

Suryakant R.Patel
Accountant & Auditor
Jetta House, Suite J003
15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



31st January, 2024

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2023****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	100254	
Event Costs	11587	
Loans	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	13280	
Bank Deposit Interest	0	

125121**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD****6478****131599****RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Hospital Building Costs		12038
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Charitable Activities

Hospital Operational costs: Equipment & Accessories	2800	
Medicines & Drugs	7614	
Air Freight	29683	
Travel & Subsistence	10075	
Generator & Fuel Costs	239	
Volunteer Wages Local	<u>32548</u>	

82959

Other Charities Donations	0
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School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs	2539
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Liability Insurance	547
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Telephone	421
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Printing & Stationery	873
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Repairs & Maintenance	1004
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Sundry Expenses	210
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Marketing Costs	1026
-----------------	------

Subscriptions	90
---------------	----

Bank Charges	<u>343</u>
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102050**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD****29549****REPRESENTED BY:-****HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	502	
Current Account	583	
Cash In Hand	<u>15542</u>	16627
United Trust Bank Seira Leone		<u>12922</u>
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15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



31st January, 2024

Accounts



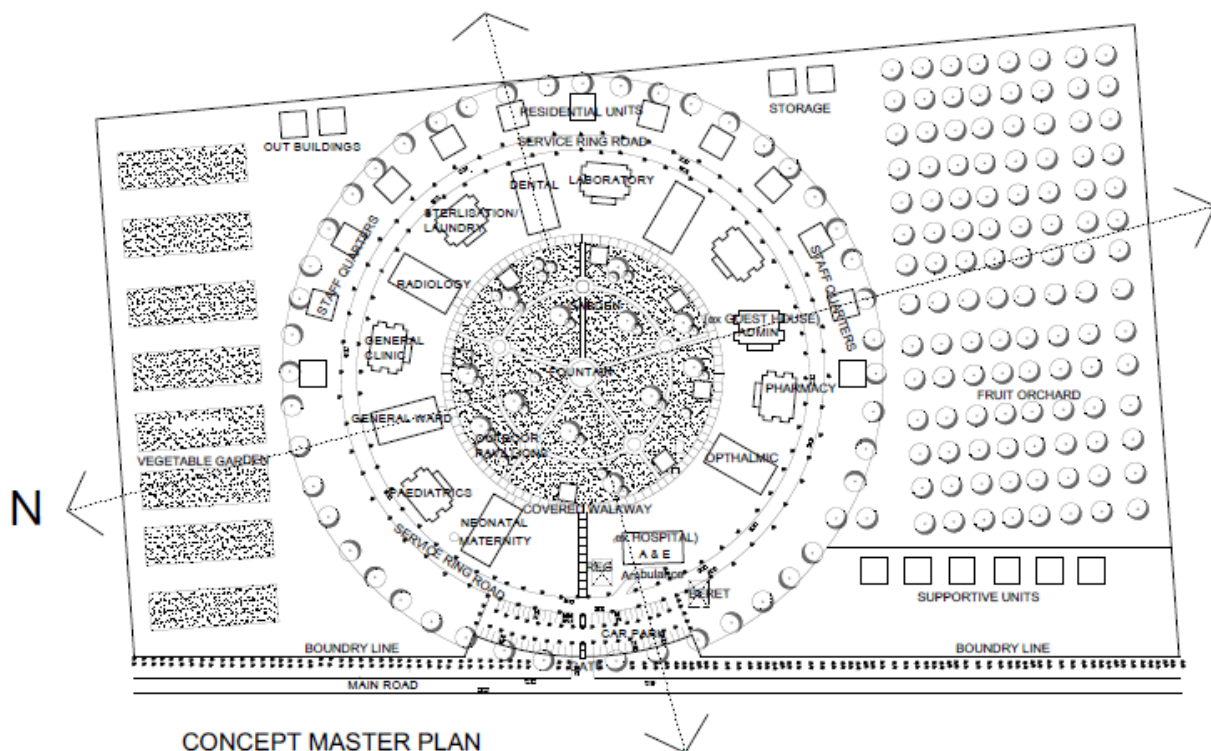
The Trustees Annual Report for the period ended 31st March 2022 continues from the previous years' Annual Report of the period ending 31st March 2021.

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Our approach with our volunteers' base is to provide support totally free of charge for medical, social and educational needs. The SARS Covid-19 Pandemic has made travel for UK volunteers to be very risky. As a result, most of the work undertaken by the staff at Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH) with regular Zoom and What's App trainings and meetings to guide them through the day to day running of the hospital.

Our international teams in each Wing grows from strength to strength and have a vast heritage and wealth of experience and happily meet their own costs. Administrative costs are minimal, and donations received are used for our hospital project.

Meetings by the Trustees continue regularly online to discuss existing projects and consider new plans for expanding the hospital to provide services and training in the various medical Wings and constructing new units for the expansion plan.



Plans and consultations with our Architect, Surveyors and Constructor are well advanced. The Construction Company, Mayara Trading & Construction Company, are on board with making the Eco-Friendly interlocking bricks and the construction of all buildings. An

overall Eco Friendly Concept Plan has been finalised which would include a Neo-natal Maternal Wing, A Dental Wing, An Eye Wing, Pharmacy, Radiology Centre, full Laboratory Services and a Library.

Committees for each Wing have been formed of volunteers to plan their Wing and teaching/training curriculum. They meet regularly and report to the Trustees.

The overall aim of the expansion program is to increase the service to the community and increase human resources within Sierra Leone. Demand continues to grow from patients arriving from further afield.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY

For the third consecutive year Better Lives Foundation has won two Yoni Excellence Awards - in the Northern part of Sierra Leone, the Tonkolili district. The awards were for:

1. Outstanding Non-Profit for The Year – Better Lives Foundation
2. Emerging Leader of the Year 2021 - Dr Foday Salam Fofanah

We continue to strive to set the highest standards in healthcare, sociocare and educare in order to maintain the highest level of service to our community.

With the commitment of our volunteers in the UK and our team in Yonibana, our work in Sierra Leone and UK continues to grow as we develop the infrastructure to manage the growing needs in Yoni Chiefdom.

April/ May 2021: A devastating fire spread through the town of Petifu Mabang, close to Yonibana. It burnt down homes, food supplies and left the residents isolated and helpless. Our Social Work team worked hard to distribute food and clothing supplies to the victims of the disaster. We are so glad to be able to help the community rebuild, and give the people a new lease of life.

- ❖ **Malnourishment** - The malnutrition crisis has been exacerbated during the pandemic due to the decline in household incomes, and insufficient availability of nutritious food. WHO estimates ~150 million of children under 5 are affected worldwide. Our Malnourishment Clinic currently supports between 14 to 17 children and babies weekly. We had a fund raising initiative on social media to get patrons involved



in getting the necessary funding for the program. For a donation of £7 per week we can help to provide nutritional and supportive care per child per week.

❖ For over a decade the BLF family has evolved and worked tirelessly to bridge the inequalities in society, healthcare and education in Sierra Leone. We had an excellent Social Media post depicting the excellent hard work and dedication of staff in Yonibana including the highlight of Dr Foday Fofanah. We are so proud of the entire BLF team, especially to Dr Foday Fofanah, whose hard work and dedication is an inspiration to all.



- ❖ Master Concept Plans for the expansion of the Hospital were agreed in Principle by all Trustees.
- ❖ An “AmazonSmile” Donate Campaign was re-run to ensure patrons and donors used the platform whilst making a difference to us as we received funds from Amazon whenever anyone bought anything from Amazon at no extra cost to them. We gave instruction so that anyone who registered us as their charity of choice, we would benefit every time they bought anything on line from Amazon.
- ❖ The various UK teams continued with their planning for the expansion program and the Optometrist, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Pharmacy & Dental Teams working using Zoom.

June/July 2021:

- ❖ Once again, our social media team was busy promoting the participation of Sierra Leonean’s during the Olympics. A boost to Country moral.
- ❖ We are overjoyed and extremely grateful to our Ophthalmology Team led by Consultant Mr Niral Karia working at Spire Wellesley Hospital in Southend-On-Sea, Essex. Spire Wellesley Hospital made the generous donation of an Operating Microscope for our Yonibana Sai Hospital in Sierra Leone. This Microscope will play a vital role in surgeries allowing individuals with eye problems to remain independent to work and provide for their families after their surgeries.



- ❖ On World Hepatitis Day, we had a huge Social Media awareness program as Hepatitis can cause irreparable damage to the liver. We took action by testing, immunising and treating patients. Those at most risk are health care workers and newborns whose mothers are infected. Worldwide it causes 1.1 million deaths and 3 million new infections per year.

August to December 2021:

- ❖ Our Social Media team continued awareness programs during the various months promoting
 - **International Youth Day** – Telling Abdul's story who was committed and enthusiastic about his studies as a Lab Technician for BLF.
 - **World Humanitarian Day** – We were asking patrons & donors to pledge their support to us and a big shout out was given to all our volunteers and team in Yonibana for the limitless efforts in creating better futures for communities in Sierra Leone.
 - **Women's Equality Day** - We know that when a girl is empowered, the welfare of her entire family and community is transformed. We encouraged donations which would continue to help us provide sustainable solutions to empower a girl with: education, clean water, health care & healthy food.
 - **Education** – A drive to get more local sponsored students.
 - **Truth Or Dare** – Campaign to get a fun way of raising funds for the charity with involvement from many of the volunteers.
 - **Mouth Cancer Awareness** – Our dentists made a superb short video of how to check yourself for Mouth Cancer. It was a fun and informative video which had many hits on our various platforms.
 - **International Students Day** - We're proud of all our 77 sponsored students. Thank you to our sponsors who have provided education to students and provided a whole community with urgent health professionals. This was an opportunity for new donors to support future students.
 - **Shocking Statistics** – Shocking statistics published by the SL Government shows the high cost of simple medical aid which is not affordable by the poor. As a Humanitarian NGO, we provide free healthcare to every single person who walks through our hospital doors in Yonibana. We cannot do this without the generosity of donors and our Volunteers.
 - **International Literacy Day** – Another campaign was started so that we could raise funds for our Education Programs and Sponsored Students.

- ❖ Some wonderful news – Foday Fofanah becomes Yonibana's first qualified Surgeon - Dr. Foday Fofanah. This is a HUGE step in Dr. Foday's career and it will prove instrumental in serving the local needs to help with saving lives in Sierra Leone. We're overjoyed and inspired with Foday's commitment through our sponsorship programme. To



earmark the historic occasion, Dr. Foday's Graduation was celebrated with more than 500 attendees and guest speakers. Dr Foday Fofanah came to us as a young boy pumping water for all our patients. Through our full sponsorship programme he is now the first surgeon to qualify in our Chiefdom



and is also leading the BLF Team as Country Director. Great dedication and achievement.

- ❖ Dr Foday and his brilliant team delivered a premature baby, weighing in at 1.89kg. After a very difficult pregnancy with previous complications, Dr. Foday successfully operated on a young mother at 33 weeks. Both baby and mother are healthy and getting stronger. Your continued support is vital and lifesaving!
- ❖ It was with great regret and sorrow that we posted a Death Announcement on 7th September 2021 of the passing of one of our Advocating Fathers of Better Lives Foundation, Chandubhai Chaturbhai Patel, husband to Vimuben, my Dad, Father-In-Law to Raj, Father to Hina and Kamlesh, granddad to Jess, Viraj, Shree and Mihir. It was his inspiration to devote his retired time and life to helping those in need. He instilled these virtues



in our family as a result of which the foundations of Better Live Foundation were laid. He was a wonderful gentle loving soul who led an exemplary life, full of love, humour, smiles and devotion to his family, friends and strangers alike. Letters of condolences were received from around the world. I miss all His encouragement, patience, enduring and loving smiles.

- ❖ We were extremely excited to participate at the Clinical Pharmacy Congress on the 23rd and 24th September 2021. The Clinical Pharmacy Congress is the largest gathering for the clinical pharmacy profession held in the UK. I, along with Nirali Sisodia, BLF Director of Pharmacy shared the BLF our story with attendees at a presentation. Many positive responses and volunteers were recruited.



- ❖ BLF were proud to announce that Nirali Sisodia, BLF Director of Pharmacy, had been recognised nationally as one of top 12 trailblazing female pharmacists in the UK!! She works so hard to make a difference for people. Her heart and intention to always do good and be the light is what makes her the amazing soul she is! She inspires others around her on a daily basis, despite the challenges life has thrown at her, she always took them as blessings and opportunities. Well done on being the amazing woman you are today! Keep on shining and inspiring. We are so grateful that platforms like this exist, that recognise women who are making such an impact in society and are role models for future generations!

- ❖ Grateful to Dr Bijal Sisodia-Shah, BLF Director of Dentistry, who successfully negotiated the donation of three complete dental chairs from Chase Side Dental Practice, Enfield. Thanks to volunteers, these were dismantled, transported, palletised and stored at our warehouse in Slough. These have now been shipped to Sierra Leone to be installed in our Dental Department which will further benefit more patients in need. A welcome contribution to the Expansion Program in Yonibana.



January to March 2022:

- ❖ Kadiatu, 34 years of age came to us with severe abdominal pain. She could not afford transport to a mainstream hospital let alone the operation fees. Kadiatu along with her family were counting on us to find a solution. Dr. Foday successfully operated on her hernia. Thanks to the generosity and support, Dr. Foday and his team are able to carry out such procedures totally free of charge to families like Kadiatu's. Another four patients; Ibrahim, Pa Sullah, Amadu and Saidu (seven-year-old) were also successfully operated on with various hernia diagnosis. Families like these count on us to relieve them of pain, distress and financial burden.
- ❖ Dr. Comfort Momoh, MBE's charity, Global Comfort, to mark Zero FGM Tolerance Day organised a sponsored walk in East Barnet, Hertfordshire. Anti FGM activists with Professionals from all walks of life, including Better Lives Foundation, A Girl At A Time - SL, Hawa Trust, Seye Paceworking and sponsors Olu Olu Foods for Slimming World and other local charities came together for the walk themed WalktheWalk to raise awareness around FGM, health and well-being. Raj Patel & I represented BLF for the walk.
- ❖ One of our volunteers (super seamstress), Prafula Vadgama, created fabulous handmade drain bags which would provide extra comfort to patient's post-surgery at MacMillan Cancer Support at St George's University Hospitals, Tooting, London. With thanks to Kalpna Latham for sourcing the materials and hand delivering the bags to The MacMillan Cancer Support. Some of our other volunteers have now got involved in this initiative, making the patients more confident to venture out after surgeries as they use the bags to house their drip bags, making it more socially acceptable.



- ❖ Dentists Who Invest Store celebrated the launch of their online store by announcing the partnership with Better Lives Foundation. They recognised our efforts in Sierra Leone and wanted to get involved in the teaching Dental Hospital. They will be supporting BLF through their Flagship Product EnviroGloves. 20% of the profit of each EnviroGloves order goes towards BLF. EnviroGloves are an Eco Friendly Non-Procedural Glove which can be used in virtually any application in the dental practice aside from clinical procedure themselves. EnviroGloves are a better value alternative to Nitriles and contain virtually none of the irritants or pollutants found in Nitriles therefore making them more holistic. They are also 2/3rds the price of standard Nitrile gloves. This would represent a saving of £150 a month on gloves for the average dental practice. They encouraged their Dentist members to buy their EnviroGloves thereby benefitting BLF directly.

- ❖ To mark **International Women's Day** a peaceful march took place in Freetown,



Sierra Leone on 8 March 2022 led by "A Girl At A Time - SL". Our social workers alongside other groups and organisations such as "Not In My Name" and "TINAP" stood in solidarity to "BreakTheBias" to end discrimination & violence against women. Chants of "My body, my right - stop FGM now" echoed on the streets. The public were invited to sign & print their hands to show their support to ban the cruel, inhuman practice of FGM. FGM is a serious concern in Sierra Leone. It's milestones like this which gives us more momentum to work harder to change lives and attitudes.

- ❖ Our brilliant Optometry & Ophthalmology Team, Gynaecology & Obstetrics Team, Dental Team & Pharmacy Team continue working hard to plan and build the first University Teaching Hospital in Sierra Leone.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funds received by the charity are mainly from donations and volunteer fund raising. Some medical equipment was purchased and some received as donations from various friends and supporters of BLF.

Donations are used mainly for the purchase of medical equipment, medicines, IPC materials, salaries for the staff in Yonibana, NASSIT payments, stipends, food and transport for all the staff, volunteers and patients treated and charges made by referral hospitals, utilities and other expenses related to the hospital. These form the majority of all expenses incurred by the charity. Solar Energy has created a tremendous savings from the generator & fuel costs compared to previous years.

Bank charges include all the processing fees for credit and debit cards, InvestMyCommunity, Western Union and Paypal charges. Competitors of Western Union were used to reduce the bank charges considerably lower and with better exchange rates.

We continue to support two other charities in India – Rama Krishna Mission and Amba Trust.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are keeping proper records of its income and expenditure which disclose the actual financial position of the charity which comply with The Charities Act 1993.

ACCOUNTANT

The financial statements have been prepared by an independent accountant of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION



Mrs. Devi Patel
17th January 2023

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2022****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	44484	
Event Costs	0	
Loans	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	12097	
Bank Deposit Interest	0	
		56581
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>3541</u>
		<u>60122</u>

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Hospital Building Costs		305
<u>Charitable Activities</u>		
Hospital Operational costs: Equipment & Accessories	7290	
Medicines & Drugs	13175	
Air Freight	768	
Travel & Subsistence	9216	
Generator & Fuel Costs	130	
Volunteer Wages Local	<u>14734</u>	
		45313
Other Charities Donations		502
School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs		2372
Liability Insurance		102
Telephone		187
Printing & Stationery		1054
Repairs & Maintenance		738
Sundry Expenses		525
Marketing Costs		1766
Subscriptions		134
Bank Charges		<u>646</u>
		<u>53644</u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</u>		<u>6478</u>

REPRESENTED BY:-**HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	1347	
Current Account	83	
Cash In Hand	<u>5048</u>	
		<u>6478</u>

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

Suryakant R.Patel
Accountant & Auditor
Jetta House, Suite J003
15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



10th January, 2023

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2022****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	44484	
Event Costs	0	
Loans	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	12097	
Bank Deposit Interest	0	
		56581
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		<u>3541</u>
		<u>60122</u>

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Hospital Building Costs		305
<u>Charitable Activities</u>		
Hospital Operational costs: Equipment & Accessories	7290	
Medicines & Drugs	13175	
Air Freight	768	
Travel & Subsistence	9216	
Generator & Fuel Costs	130	
Volunteer Wages Local	<u>14734</u>	
		45313
Other Charities Donations		502
School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs		2372
Liability Insurance		102
Telephone		187
Printing & Stationery		1054
Repairs & Maintenance		738
Sundry Expenses		525
Marketing Costs		1766
Subscriptions		134
Bank Charges		<u>646</u>
		<u>53644</u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</u>		<u>6478</u>

REPRESENTED BY:-**HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	1347	
Current Account	83	
Cash In Hand	<u>5048</u>	
		<u>6478</u>

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

Suryakant R.Patel
Accountant & Auditor
Jetta House, Suite J003
15-16 Westfield Lane
Harrow, Middlesex
HA3 9ED



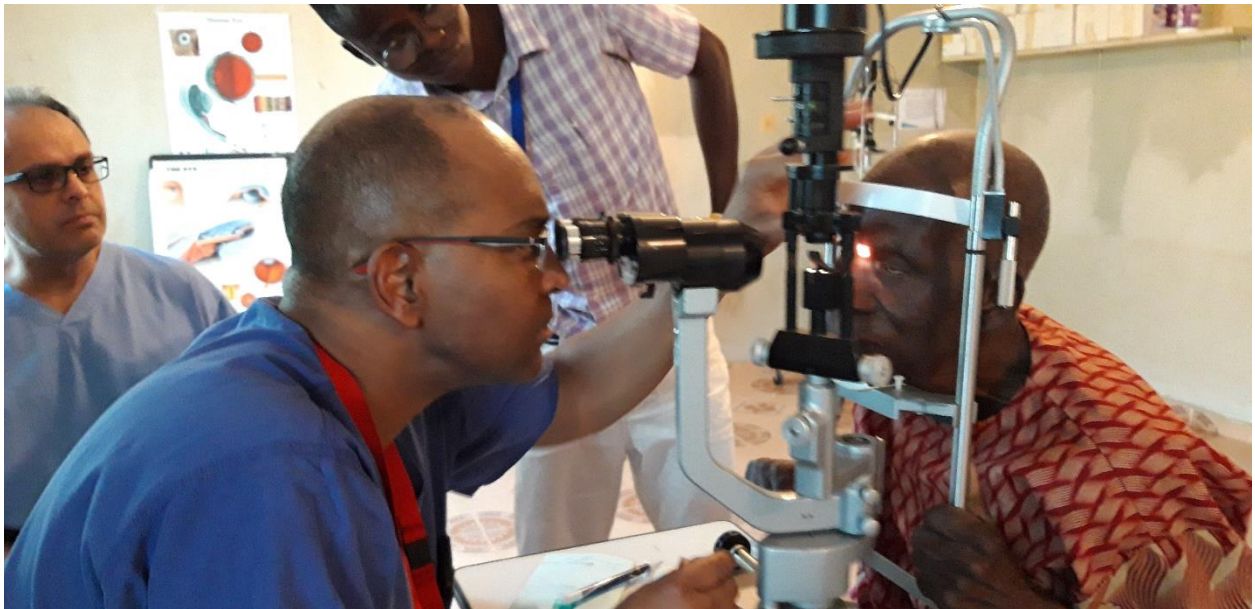
10th January, 2023

Accounts



BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2021



The Trustees Annual Report for the period ended 31st March 2021 continues from the previous years' Annual Report of the period ending 31st March 2020.

HISTORY, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

Better Lives Foundation (BLF) was established in 2006 and was registered on the 14th January 2008. Our work continues in Sierra Leone and India, with likeminded volunteers. We have been working to improve health and education conditions and our aim is:

- ❖ To provide quality medical care and education to the needy leading to long term healthcare independence
- ❖ To improve the condition of people's health
- ❖ To promote good health through education
- ❖ To work in partnership with charities, especially local organisations
- ❖ To raise standards of sanitation and hygiene
- ❖ To improve access to clean water
- ❖ To make all projects, self-sufficient, independent and self-supportive

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Since the establishment of BLF, we have achieved a number of milestones. Despite the onset of the World-Wide Pandemic and the spread of the SARS Covid-19 Virus, we have continued with our journey that has enabled us to continue developing sound trusting relationships with local communities, NGOs and government departments. We continue to attract committed volunteers and now have a large pool of human resources to manage Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH) and outreach work. Our intentions have always focused on developing sustainable projects, which support communities around Yonibana.

Our journey is a true testament of the commitment, dedication and hard work rendered by our many volunteers. Our work has enabled us to reach several milestones which are described in the report below. We have in place four main activities; medicare, sociocare, educare and agricare with long-term sustainable projects.

Medicare: BLF and Yonibana Sai Hospital (YSH) has achieved recognition from Ministry of Health & Sanitation as a referral hospital in the Yoni Chiefdom, Tonkolili District. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation have also appointed Yonibana Sai Hospital as a SARS Covid-19 Isolation Centre. Our staff received full Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC), protocols training. Fortunately, Sierra Leone has not been widely affected by the spread

of the Covid-19 Virus, especially in and around Yonibana. This has allowed us to continue rendering free medical services to all patients by our professional qualified staff.

For the second consecutive year Better Lives Foundation has won three Yoni Excellence Awards - in the Northern part of Sierra Leone, the Tonkolili district. The awards were for:

1. Special recognition award for the Yonibana Hospital
2. Young Professional of the Year 2020 (Dr Foday Salam Fofanah)
3. Male Medical Officer of the Year 2020 (Dr Foday Salam Fofanah)



We are so proud of the entire BLF team, especially to Dr Foday Fofanah, who's hard work and dedication is an inspiration to us all. BLF continues to strive to set the highest standards in healthcare, sociocare and educare in order to maintain the highest level of service to our community.

BLF continues to strive to set the highest standards in healthcare, sociocare and educare in order to maintain the highest level of service to our community.

Educare: As part of our outreach work, we have adopted schools in Yoni chiefdom to provide educational sponsorship to students from secondary to graduate level. Health and Prevention talks are conducted in the secondary school.

75 students have benefitted from our complete sponsorship programme which include fees, books, stationery and medical equipment, exam fees, various uniforms, feeding costs, accommodation and transportation. Our international volunteers continue to support continuous professional development, ranging from doctors, nurses, health workers, social workers, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, accountants, teachers and agriculturalists. 60% of the sponsored personnel are now back at Yonibana Sai Hospital working in their capacity as qualified staff.



Sociocare: Our social work outreach teams conducted IPC talks and training to support the community in the villages in the Yoni Chiefdom. To support this BLF donated IPC equipment, hand wash stations in the villages. The Ward Councilor, Section Chief, town head men, youth leader and women's wing were among the invitees during the handover of the Hand wash stations. In excess of 741 villagers including children and elderly people attended the Covid-19 Awareness briefings. All benefitted by having the hand wash sanitiser stations across the chiefdom.

Following the Covid-19 awareness programme, 108 Food parcels were also distributed to isolated families and elderly people in the villages. Hot meals also provided at YSH to the patients. Outreach teams visit the villages in rotation and refer anyone who is unwell back to YSH. Supporting communities has become a vital part of ensuring villagers are receiving holistic support and care.

Agricare: BLF Agricultural Social Enterprise Programme has empowered local community towards self-sustainability and future expansion. More than 40% of the population lives below the poverty line surviving on income of less than £1 per day. Good health begins with good nutrition – fruits and vegetables are grown to feed patients and staff around the hospital grounds. A dedicated agricultural team is in place, working on introducing different varieties of crops plus adding to the agricultural biodiversity of the region. The second rice harvest took place in 2020 - BLF Agricare boosted a harvest of over 50 bags of rice.



MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Our approach with our volunteers' base is to provide support totally free of charge for medical, social and educational needs. The SARS Covid-19 Pandemic has made travel for UK volunteers to be very risky. As a result, most of the work undertaken by the staff at YSH with regular Zoom and What's App trainings and meetings to guide them through the day to day running of the hospital. Our international teams in each department grows from strength to strength and have a vast heritage and wealth of experience and happily meet their own costs. Administrative costs are minimal, and donations received are used for our projects.

Our Trustee, Mr. Kiran Patel resigned from the charity due to personal reasons. He continues to support the Foundation as a volunteer. Mrs Anne Barry was appointed as a Trustee who brings her own specialist skills and experience in nursing to the Foundation.

Meetings by the Trustees continue regularly online to discuss existing projects and consider new plans for expanding the hospital to provide services and training in the various medical departments and constructing new units. An overall Eco Friendly Concept Plan is being drawn up which would include a Neo-natal Maternal Department, A Dental Department, An Eye Department, Pharmacy, Radiology Centre, full Laboratory Services and a Library.

Committees for each Department have been formed of volunteers to plan their department and teaching/training curriculum. They meet regularly and report to the Trustees.

The overall aim of the expansion program is to increase the service to the community and increase human resources within Sierra Leone. Demand continues to grow from patients arriving from further afield.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY

With the commitment of our volunteers in the UK and our team in Yonibana, our work in Sierra Leone and UK continues to grow as we develop the infrastructure to manage the growing needs in Yoni Chiefdom and tackle the Covid-19 crisis.

April/ May 2020:

- ❖ Phase 2 of rice farming started in April with the preparation of the fields - with ploughing in progress yielding over 50 x 50kg bags of Rice.
- ❖ 2.6 Cookies Challenge taken up in London to show our appreciation to the NHS and Frontline workers. Over 3,200 cookies were baked and distributed to St Georges Hospital, Croydon University Hospital, St Christopher's Hospice, Croydon Social Services and Croydon Family Justice Centre.



- ❖ Draft Plans were drawn up by the Architect who visited Yonibana from the UK in May 2019.
- ❖ COVID 19: 2-days training took place at Yonibana Sai Hospital. The sessions were facilitated by Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF). Our appreciations to Mr Mohammed Suma and Mr Serge, who delivered the training.



- ❖ Tragic news early May that The Sierra Leone Deputy High Commissioner, Agnes Dugba Macauley, who was the powerhouse in the UK, Sierra Leone Embassy had passed away. We lost another strong, determined and dedicated woman. She will truly be missed. Agnes was always at the end of the phone, ready to help us to progress the work of BLF. Our prayers and deepest condolences at this time of grief. May her soul rest in peace.



- ❖ A Ziffit Declutter & Donate Campaign was started as many families continued to declutter their homes during the pandemic. This was a win-win situation for everyone as we received funds from volunteers decluttering their homes.

June/July 2020:

- ❖ Our Volunteers continued with their fundraising efforts despite the lock down. Cynthia Kombe-Kauje, one of our BLF volunteers and front-line worker, took up the challenge to run 5K in under an hour and a half. Raising funds for Yonibana Sai Hospital.
- ❖ Better Lives Foundation concluded the official handing over of IPC Equipment to Yonibana communities. The Ward Councilor, Section Chief, town head men, youth leader and women's wing were among the invitees. The distribution of the donated equipment was carried out together with the Ward Councilor. Yonibana Sai Hospital Team reaching out to various villages and provided valuable support and guidance around Covid-19; following donations of the Veronica hand wash buckets and soap to 13 villages around the hospital.
- ❖ Social work teams continue to undertake outreach work, providing valuable support and guidance around Covid-19.

- ❖ Visit to Mile 88 Village ▪ Makrgbo Village ▪ Matopi Village ▪ Mabom Village ▪ Yonibana Town ▪ Mashagba Village ▪ Kulkos Village ▪ Romancha Village ▪ Market Place ▪ 3 police check points between the villages. Villagers appreciated the health talks and 85% of them had gained awareness around Covid-19.
- ❖ A further push to promote our Smile Amazon Campaign continued with funds being raised on a regular basis.



August to December:

- ❖ Yonibana Sai Hospital was given a fresh new look; cleaning and maintenance work was carried out around the compound.



- ❖ Our Engineer and the technical team were currently busy decorating and installing solar lights equipment. The compound is looking bright and secure at night, thanks to the UK team.
- ❖ BLF got more ECO Friendly. Solar panels installed to providing energy for the hospital and guest house.
- ❖ Staff and patients happy with bright lights day and night.



- ❖ LF will now be sending reports via DHIS2 (District Health Information Software) to District Medical Office, from Yonibana Sai Hospital. This marks the beginning of BLF being recognised as working with the Sierra Leone Government System.
- ❖ Sierra Leone Government has registered Yonibana Sai Hospital in the National Emergency Medical Service (NEMS). Ambulances are now bringing patients for us to admit and enabling us to transfer them to the district referral hospital.



- ❖ Over a 100 plus food parcels prepared and distributed to the most vulnerable in the surrounding villages and hot meal provided at Yonibana Sai Hospital today.



- ❖ BLF Launched the Holding Hands Project in the UK. With COVID-19 affecting all communities across the UK, we recognised the detrimental impact it has had on families, in particular children. We set up this project, which aims to:
 - Support local schools in our community
 - Provide food bank services to vulnerable children and their families
 - Heighten awareness of the need to support those without access to basic resources and necessities

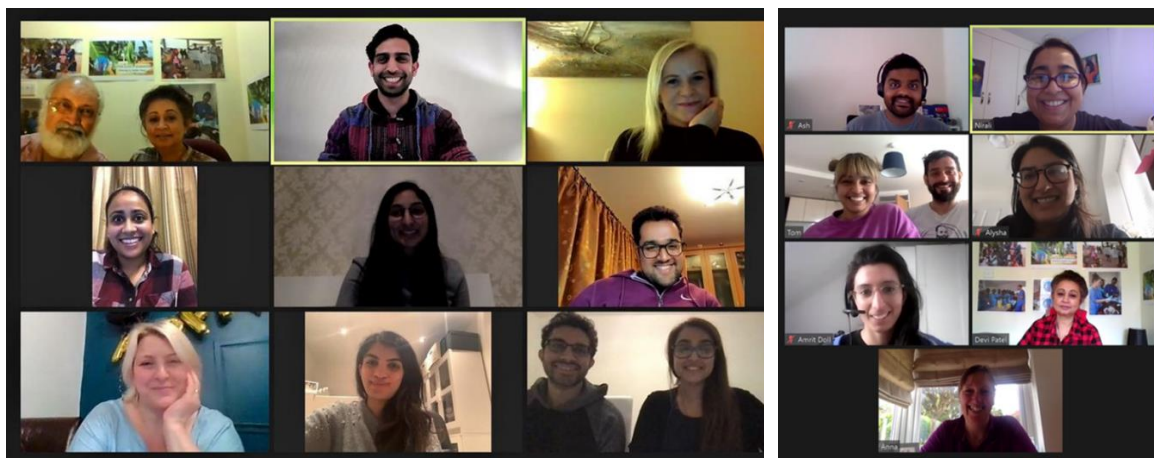
January to March 2021:

- ❖ We partnered with British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and Human Values in Action Foundation (HViAF) in the UK for a webinar. We had an illustrious team of panel members and were joined by over 500 participants. The webinar focused on different types of harmful practices; the emotional impact on individuals; the impact on health and social care; where to direct individuals for support to development of good practice.



- ❖ Our brilliant Dental Team has been working hard to plan and build the first Dental Teaching Hospital in Sierra Leone.

- ❖ BLF Pharmacy team meeting planning their building and developing a curriculum for a Pharmacy Technicians course



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funds received by the charity are mainly from donations and volunteer fund raising. Some medical equipment was received as donations from various friends and supporters of BLF.

Donations are used for the purchase of medical equipment, medicines, stipends, utilities and other expenses related to the hospital. This includes food and transport for all the volunteers and patients treated and charges made by referral hospitals. Equipment (Solar Panels and Installations Costs) and Medicines make up the majority of the costs incurred by the charity in this accounting period. Solar Energy has created a savings from the generator & fuel costs compared to last year.

We continue to support two other charities in India – Rama Krishna Mission and Amba Trust.

Bank charges include all the processing fees for credit and debit cards, Virgin Money Giving, Western Union and Paypal charges. Competitors of Western Union were used to reduce the bank charges considerably lower and with better exchange rates.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are keeping proper records of its income and expenditure which disclose the actual financial position of the charity which comply with The Charities Act 1993.

ACCOUNTANT

The financial statements have been prepared by an independent accountant of the charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Devi Patel', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mrs. Devi Patel
20th December 2021

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2021****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	50802	
Event Costs	0	
LOANS	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	9289	
Bank Deposit Interest	<u>1</u>	

60092**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD****3399****63491****RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Hospital Building Costs 908

Charitable Activities

Medical Camps-	Equipment & Accessories	15818	
	Medicines & Drugs	13032	
	Air Freight	640	
	Travel & Subsistence	6302	
	Generator & Fuel Costs	303	
	Volunteer Wages Local	<u>9978</u>	

46073

Other Charities Donations 5187

School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs 3648

Liability Insurance 102

Telephone 1333

Printing & Stationery 1359

Repairs & Maintenance 541

Sundry Expenses 416

HMRC-Payments 0

Subscriptions 202

Bank Charges 180

59949**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD****3542****REPRESENTED BY:-****HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	9	
Current Account	515	
Cash In Hand	<u>3018</u>	

3542

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

Suryakant R.Patel
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HA3 9ED



1st December, 2021

BETTER LIVES FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED****31st MARCH,2021****INCOMING RESOURCES**

Voluntary Donations	50802	
Event Costs	0	
LOANS	0	
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	9289	
Bank Deposit Interest	<u>1</u>	

60092**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD****3399****63491****RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Hospital Building Costs		908
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Charitable Activities

Medical Camps-	Equipment & Accessories	15818	
	Medicines & Drugs	13032	
	Air Freight	640	
	Travel & Subsistence	6302	
	Generator & Fuel Costs	303	
	Volunteer Wages Local	<u>9978</u>	

46073

Other Charities Donations	5187
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School Fees and Sponsored Education Costs	3648
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Liability Insurance	102
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Telephone	1333
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Printing & Stationery	1359
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Repairs & Maintenance	541
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Sundry Expenses	416
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HMRC-Payments	0
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Subscriptions	202
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Bank Charges	<u>180</u>
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59949**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD****3542****REPRESENTED BY:-****HSBC & METRO BANK ACCOUNT**

Deposit Account	9
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Current Account	515
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Cash In Hand	<u>3018</u>
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3542

The above Financial Statement have been prepared from the records and explanations and information furnished by the Trustees and are certified to be in accordance therewith.

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1st December, 2021