



**Chair's Annual Report
for the Year ending 30th September 2024
to Building Better Futures International
Annual General Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 4th December, 2024**

This Report is to the sixteenth Annual General Meeting following upon our registration as a Charity by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Our Trust Deed was signed and submitted on 17th November 2008 and a letter from the Charity Commission dated 25th November 2008 confirmed our registration as a charity in England and Wales as of that date. We have been assigned the Charity number 1126907. We are therefore duty bound to keep the Commissioners updated on any change to our details on the Central Register and to comply with all other requirements of Charity Law. Our Trustees are currently Simon Bell, Philip Brown, Jim Burgess, Andrew Crighton, Laurie Green, Gillian Hopkins and John Wilde.

Andrew Sentence resigned as a trustee during the year due to health issues. We thank him for his service to the charity. We are pleased that Andrew has agreed to revert to his role as a Patron of the charity, alongside Dr Rowan Williams who has agreed to continue to serve in that capacity.

The Trust Deed for the Charity states that the objects of our Charity are “1. the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of neglected poor people living, in particular but not exclusively, in the State of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide, primarily by providing or paying for items, services or facilities and by aiding small businesses and other activities to create sustainable incomes. 2. The advancement of the education of the public, in particular persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu South India and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide. 3. The relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, in particular but not exclusively of persons living in the State of Tamil Nadu, South India, and in such other parts of the world as the trustees may decide.”

All expenditure from our accounts has been in accordance with the aims of our Charity. All meetings have been carried out in accordance with the regulations and procedures agreed in our Trust Deed, as above.

Activities during the year ended 30th September 2024 have included the following. The Trustees have met on three occasions during the last twelve months with minutes of the proceedings being kept in the minute book. One meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom and two meetings were held in person.

We are grateful to all our officers and other trustees for their care and hard work. In particular, we wish to thank Mr Andrew Crighton for his many years of service as Secretary. This year, Mrs Maureen McPherson was elected Secretary, Mr John Wilde was elected Treasurer and Mr Philip Brown was elected as Chair. The Trustees have received regular and full reports of our financial situation and transactions. We have applied for and received Gift Aid tax rebates where applicable.

We seek to keep all our donors fully informed of our activities by means of our website at www.bbf-intl.org.uk and by continuing email and postal communication, including our occasional Newsletter.

We have continued to maintain close communications with ISARD, our partner NGO in Tamil Nadu. Trustee Jim Burgess visited projects run by our partner NGO in Tamil Nadu.

We expect strict ethical standards to be always maintained by our partner projects in India and note that they have now undertaken safeguarding training, using UK online training resources. We receive continuing reports from all our funded projects in India and are pleased to see that our donations assist in the transformation of many poor rural villages and groups.

This year has seen the Coconut Plantation operated by our partner NGO increase its production, thereby providing additional income for its activities, the replacement of equipment used in tailoring training programmes in addition to regular maintenance and further development of programmes continuing from former years. We are pleased to report that more than 110 women received tailoring training and more than 230 primary school children received educational support through evening tuition classes. We are pleased to report that some of the former pupils who attended our classes have now started university courses. During this period, the tailoring co-operative formed by women trained at one of our centres continued to expand. This co-operative has enabled the women to avoid sexual harassment from some of the agents of the smaller garment factories. Our partner NGO continued to provide sanitary product support to more than 100 women and girls as well as small rope making, milk cow and coir programs. Our partner NGO has recently started a goat rearing project, the income from which will help support its other activities.

We have fully conformed to Government Data Protection regulations and have published our Privacy Policy and a Legitimate Interest Statement. Personal data information is securely protected.

Our work continues to expand with emphasis on financially self-sustaining projects and such educational and building projects which underpin this employment-creating process. For our ongoing work we rely increasingly on the regularity of generous donations often made by Standing Order.

We continue to remain true to the distinctiveness of the work of our Charity as follows:

- We have good local access and knowledge of all the projects we fund.
- We support financially self-sustaining projects and programmes.
- When possible, we personally visit and monitor the projects, ensuring transparency
- Trustees claim no expenses and no one is employed in the UK by our Charity.
- We encourage self-help, by funding co-operative groups to build better futures - and all this in one of the poorest parts of our world

In this sixteenth year of our existence as a charity, our total giving to date is nearly £600,000. We are very pleased that so many important programmes continue to expand and look forward to the year 2024-25 greatly encouraged and with much gratitude to all our donors.

Additional to this Report is our Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year ended 30th September 2024.

Philip Brown, Chair
4th December, 2024

