

---

# The Dust Project

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Charity Registration No. 1155728

---



---

## Annual Review

The Dust Project was established as a company limited by guarantee on 20th December 2013. Ultimate responsibility for the entity rests with the Trustees. Day-to-day management is undertaken by Sarah Chisnall and Tiffany Stokely, Trustees of the charity.

### TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum of four times per year, with further ad-hoc meetings as required.

### OBJECTIVES

Our vision is to help, support, and relieve those in desperate situations of poverty, crisis or hardship, in developing countries and communities suffering the after-effects of war, natural disaster and/or economic frailty. We focus especially on the stability of family units and the safety, nourishment and education of children and vulnerable young adults by providing shelter, food, healthcare, schooling, tuition, and other such charitable services as the trustees may from time to time think fit, as need demands. We are currently focusing on communities in Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka, through the physical construction and refurbishment of a children's hostel, schools, and family homes, in addition to the support of community businesses, projects and sponsored children.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

### Website and Social Media

We are very prominent on social media (especially Facebook), with over 600 supporters. Our videos have had approximately 12,000 views. We are also on Instagram, Twitter and

---

Linkedin, and have found a wider reach of international support and sponsorship through these. Our website continues to be successful both in gaining new followers as well as directly enabling more children to be sponsored. The Child Sponsorship page allows potential sponsors to read the bios of children living in need in our focal communities in Sri Lanka — who either attend a Paalam International School in Colombo or Jaffna, live in the Paalam Children's Hostel in Jaffna, or are connected to a house build (or other project) which we have financed. Sponsors are given information about why the child needs support, along with details of his or her family and situation. We have found sponsorship to make a significant and lasting impact in a child's life, having seen and heard firsthand from carers and the children themselves the difference it makes. The children's basic needs of clothing, medical attention, primary education and nourishment are met, and they feel genuinely supported, encouraged and cared for. This can only make a positive impact on their futures.

The 'Donate to a Build' page speaks of those families in our communities who are currently living in completely sub-standard housing, or are currently or soon to be homeless. They are usually in serious need of a home, a well and a toilet.

#### Partnering with Paalam

Things are going well in our partnership with Paalam— a charity based in Sri Lanka. The charity has made a huge impact in Colombo, but even more significantly in Jaffna. Through our collaboration, they have been able to receive donations through The Dust Project's website and co-ordinate, distribute and oversee the child sponsorship program. We have had over 100 children sponsored through this program.

Since our partnership, we have been able to build or help complete over 20 houses for various families living in appalling conditions. We also continue to build wells and toilets as need demands. We are in the process of building a school in Jaffna, sponsored in part by Hiscox, London. Due to Covid, this is taking a lot longer than expected; but we hope to have it completed by Autumn 2022.

#### Fundraising

We had another quiet year in 2021 on the fundraising side, as we were unable to hold events due to Covid restrictions. However, this did not stop our amazing, generous supporters from donating to various needs through The Dust Project.

- 
- Our child sponsors continued to support children throughout the pandemic, which meant we were able to send funds to pay for food and home schooling. Every child that was sponsored through our schools received weekly school work in packs carefully prepared by our dedicated school staff. We were able to provide food parcels and medicine (as needed) for the children who are not sponsored through our schools.
  - Due to the donations of three very generous families, we were able to build a house, toilet and well for both Ruben & Randika and family, and Balasingam and family. This totaled £16,700.
  - During National lockdowns in Sri Lanka, we continued to support our teachers' salaries throughout the year, using funds from business donors.
  - Because of continued and sporadic lockdowns in Sri Lanka, many families who were already living hand-to-mouth or dependent on Tourism, daily trade, etc. for their families' income we found to be extremely deprived of even the most essential nutrition. In June 2021 - after a very successful Appeal in the UK - we were able to send £5,614.00 to support essential food packs to provide for families in our schools and larger communities who otherwise would have gone without. This was followed by a further £1,957.70 for food in September.
  - In June our sister charity, Paalam, was asked by a local hospital to raise funds to provide an extra Oxygen Machine, as they were struggling to keep up with the demands of Covid patients in critical need. As this was an urgent issue, our Trustees decided to personally fund this, so we were able to quickly send £4,500 for one machine. This was gratefully received by the hospital.
  - In August - as part of our Business Grant Initiative - we were able to fund a new business for Mr Jayaraj. We granted £825 for him to set up a shop in Jaffna selling hair salon products and barbering equipment, as well as providing a service to sharpen tools. Although niche, we felt this to be a well-researched and necessary business to provide for other local barbers and salons.
  - In December, our very generous Trustees donated £17,500 for Paalam to seize a brilliant opportunity and purchase a lovely plot of land near our base in Jaffna, in the hope that it will become a vibrant community in its own right. We now have a space for further development - to allow families to build homes for themselves, or for future charitable causes.

---

### Mission

- Sadly, due to Covid restrictions and concerns, we were unable to arrange any volunteer trips. We are still very keen to take out teams to help build houses and to help work on the school and all it entails! We hope to do this in the coming year.

### Finance

As a charity, we continued to support Paalam International School, New Living Flame Church and the Paalam Project. All three organisations are under the Paalam Charity, and in total we donated £105,578.17. The funds went toward purchasing land for building projects, building houses, toilets and wells, continuing to build the new Jaffna school, painting houses, and child sponsorship. We also helped to fund new businesses.

### The Future

We hope to complete the school build in Jaffna with a view to an official opening in the Autumn, 2022.

Our aim is to continue to provide funds for our sponsored children, raise funds to provide food, essentials or housing for families in desperate need, and hopefully take a volunteer team or two out to Sri Lanka to serve and learn from the brave hearts in our local communities.