
The Dust Project

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

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 charity rests with the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management is undertaken by Sarah Chisnall and Tiffany Stokely, who also serve as Trustees.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum of four times each year, with additional meetings held as required.

OBJECTIVES

Our vision is to help, support and relieve those living in situations of poverty, crisis and hardship, in developing countries and communities affected by war, natural disasters or economic instability. We are particularly committed to strengthening family units and improving the safety, wellbeing and education of children and vulnerable young adults.

We achieve this by providing shelter, food, healthcare, education, tuition and other charitable services as the Trustees consider appropriate in response to identified needs.

Our current focus is on communities in Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Our work includes the construction and refurbishment of children's hostels, schools and family homes, alongside support for community businesses, local projects and our child sponsorship programme.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

Website and Social Media

Our online presence continues to grow, with more than 1,200 followers across our social media platforms. During the year, our videos received approximately 15,000 views, helping us reach a wider international audience and attract new supporters and sponsors.

Our website remains an important resource for engaging supporters and facilitating child sponsorship. In 2025, we had 2,327 site visits from 1,729 unique visitors. 1,164 of these were direct links, 881 were from Google, 106 from Instagram, and the remainder from various other sources. The Child Sponsorship page enables prospective sponsors to learn about children living in vulnerable circumstances within our partner communities in Sri Lanka. These children either attend a Paalam International School in Colombo or Jaffna, are connected to one of our housing or community projects, or benefit from wider outreach programmes such as food parcel distribution.

Sponsors are provided with information about each child's circumstances and family situation, allowing them to make a meaningful connection with the child they choose to support. We have witnessed first-hand the lasting impact that sponsorship has on children's lives. It enables access to clothing, healthcare, education and nutritious food, while providing reassurance that they are valued, encouraged and cared for. These opportunities have a significant and positive impact on their future.

Our "Donate to a Build" page highlights families living in unsafe or inadequate accommodation who urgently require a home, a well and/or toilet facilities. Through the generosity of our supporters, we continue to provide life-changing housing and infrastructure projects for those most in need.

Partnering with Paalam

Our partnership with Paalam, a charity based in Sri Lanka, continues to flourish. Paalam has made a significant impact in Colombo and, even more notably, in Jaffna. Through our collaboration, donations are received via The Dust Project's website and managed locally by Paalam, who oversee the delivery of our child sponsorship programme.

To date, more than 240 children have been sponsored through this programme.

Since establishing our partnership, we have built or helped complete 35 homes for families living in extremely poor conditions. We have also continued to fund the construction of wells and toilet facilities wherever there is an identified need.

Fundraising

We remain deeply grateful to our supporters for their continued generosity. Thanks to the funds raised during 2025, we were able to:

- Support two family housing projects and contribute towards a larger housing development through the generosity of a major donor.
- Send a team of seven women to Sri Lanka in February 2025, where they raised over £7,000 and helped lay the foundations of a new home for a single mother and her three children.
- Purchase two bicycles for children participating in our sponsorship programme.
- Purchase £1,000 worth of books for our school libraries, thanks to a generous donation from Ware Rotary Club.
- Use Gift Aid income to provide medical support for elderly widows and fund 15 women's small business projects.
- Arrange 100 cataract operations through a generous £10,000 donation from Christchurch Ware, transforming the lives of many individuals by restoring their sight.
- Purchase computers for our Wattala school through funding received from Inner Wheel Ware and other generous supporters.

In addition to these projects, we launched an emergency fundraising appeal in December following severe flooding in Sri Lanka. We were able to send £3,584 of vital support to families affected by the disaster. These funds enabled us to distribute emergency food, blankets and clothing, while our teams on the ground helped families access temporary shelter and essential assistance.

Mission

In February 2025, a team of seven women, including Trustee Sarah Chisnall, travelled to Sri Lanka to begin work on a new home for Jermila and her three children.

Jermila had been living in a small shack on the edge of a sports field and had been instructed by the local authorities to leave because the land was being occupied illegally. Thankfully, a relative was able to provide temporary accommodation while The Dust Project built the family a safe and secure permanent home.

Working alongside local builders, the team cleared rubble and helped lay the foundations of the house. Collectively, they raised over £7,000, which will contribute towards

the home's completion, including electrical work, decoration, furniture and essential household items to ensure it becomes a comfortable and welcoming family home.

Finance

During 2025, we continued to support Paalam International School, New Living Flame Church, the Paalam Project and Paalam Children's Home. These organisations all operate under the Paalam Charity umbrella.

The Dust Project's total charitable spend in 2025 was £115,665, sent to support these organisations and the vital work they undertake within their communities.

The Future

In 2026, we hope to continue expanding our work by constructing additional homes, wells and toilet facilities. We currently have two housing projects planned, one of which will form part of a volunteer team visit.

A team from First Option, a company owned by Trustee, Fraser Higgs, will travel to Sri Lanka to help build a home for Mary Jasmine, a young woman from the Paalam Children's Home. The team will also include a group of nurses who will provide health checks for local families in both Wattala and Jaffna.

We also plan to continue preparing the site for our new school in Wattala. Progress has been slower than anticipated due to flooding, and work currently focuses on clearing the land, removing trees and constructing a secure perimeter wall.

Looking ahead, we hope to welcome many more sponsors into our child sponsorship programme and continue supporting the development of sustainable community businesses, helping families work towards long-term independence and financial security.