

Shivia empowers you to empower others



SHIVIA

**Directors' Report and Financial Statements
Period ended 31st March 2013**



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Message from the Chairman

Shivia's aim continues to be making a positive socio-economic impact to the lives of the poor in India and Nepal. This year has seen Shivia grow its own operations in West Bengal and enhance its Partners Programme in Gujarat and West Nepal. We now have £243,000 of funds under management and are affecting the lives of over 9,000 people directly and 50,000 indirectly.



Our focus is on training the poor in skills which will help them earn additional household income. The poultry programme, launched in 2011, has now seen 6,000 toolkits distributed to over 5,000 home-farmers in West Bengal, many of whom are returning for third or fourth toolkits since they can see the difference it is making to their lives. As you will read elsewhere in this report, we have now undertaken some initial market research and believe a business case can be made to extend the scope of our work to other agricultural enterprises.

The team in West Bengal continues to develop well and, under Mr Jogeshwar Rao, General Manager of Nirdhan, they have demonstrated their ability to run and expand the operations successfully. This continues our plan for the Indian operations to be run more locally and for the UK's role to be focused more on governance and fundraising, a particular challenge in these times of austerity. Two key targets for the next year will be ensuring that our cost base remains competitive and then raising the funding, not only for our local operations but to pay for the appropriate governance structure.

In Gujarat, we continue to work with our local partner SAATH, and are well advanced with a scheme which aims to train 500 clients per year in construction trades such as masonry, carpentry, plumbing and becoming electricians. I personally visited the training centre this February. It was most heartening to hear first-hand the difference our programme is making to the lives of the trainees. No amount of data and formal reporting can adequately capture the immense feelings of gratitude and personal achievement experienced by the trainees as a result of this programme.

As a result of the political and safety situation in Nepal, the difficult decision was taken during the year not to advance further funds to the programme until we have had the opportunity to review the outcome of our existing operations. We will then judge whether we can safely manage new activities helping the people there; these people are the poorest that we work with.

Our Board of Directors in the UK has grown this year; we have strengthened the board with the recent appointments of two new directors – Mr Christopher Langridge, a very experienced executive who will add particular focus on fundraising and finance and Mr Nishant Lalwani, who has extensive personal expertise in the Indian livelihood and development areas. Our Board now covers financial, commercial, legal, social enterprise and international development backgrounds. It provides governance and oversight to the charity, meeting at least six times per year, or more frequently if necessary. We have also strengthened governance in India with the appointment of three additional, local, external directors.

During the year, Shivia received donated, pro-bono services and gifts in kind totalling £15,000. We continue to be hugely grateful to all those who have given us their time, knowledge and skills which have made a significant contribution to the governance and charitable activities of Shivia.

I would like to thank our donors, my fellow Directors and all our managers for their efforts to fulfil our objectives, and continue increasing Shivia's reputation as a successful, transparent and ambitious organisation.


Stuart Tester