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SHIVIA NEWSLETTER

As Christmas approaches and 2018 draws to a close, it's a good time to update you on what's been happening here and in India since we published the [Annual Review](#) for 2017/18 in June.

GOVERNANCE

Firstly, we are delighted that [Yasmine Hilton](#) is firmly in the driving seat as our new Chairman since Stuart Tester's retirement in October. We have also welcomed two new directors onto the board of Nirdhan in India and plan to recruit new trustees to the UK board in 2019.

OPERATIONS IN INDIA

Our programmes in West Bengal continue to reach more and more very poor and disadvantaged families, creating positive change and a lasting impact on their lives. The team in India make us incredibly proud as they achieve greater successes every month, in remote and challenging conditions with extreme climates.

In July we launched [Poultry Development Services](#) in a new, fifth location, Krishnagar, and at the same time re-introduced our group model that allows us to distribute poultry toolkits to groups of farmers rather than individually. In the long term this will reduce our costs for the programme and encourage farmers to be independent of us.

In October, a massive cyclone hit West Bengal, wiping out acres of our farmers' crops. It was a truly devastating storm but our team of LSPs managed to galvanise all our affected AMS farmers and helped them to claim compensation from the government for all their losses.

Our goat farming programme is bearing fruit too - in the form of goat kids. We have expanded the enterprise to include 250 more families.

FIELD VISITS

Another highlight for the team was hosting our second Family Field Visit to India for representatives from our valued partner, Artemis. It was a great success despite some tricky conditions caused by heavy monsoon rains and extreme humidity. Thanks to the Artemis team for being wonderful and sporting companions, in particular to Amy, Isabelle, Dan and Oscar, four inspiring and inspired teenagers who participated so enthusiastically, helping to collect valuable impact stories from our farmers.





Two volunteers have also been on field visits this summer, conducting valuable research on our behalf - Oliver on the impact of the AMS programme and Pippa on the damaging effects of indoor air pollution caused by cooking on wood burning stoves, an important issue affecting women and children in the villages where we work and one that we will be looking into further in 2019.

FUNDRAISING

As always, fundraising takes up the majority of our time in the UK and we’ve found some new and exciting ways to reach our funding targets. We launched our 10/10 Fundraising Campaign in May to coincide with our 10th anniversary celebrations and our thanks go to everyone who has become involved and helped us raise important funds. We are also delighted to have secured a significant direct donation from within India, a goal we have been working towards for some time.

This year, Olly decided it was time to undertake a sponsorship challenge herself, having in her own words, *“watched so many other people do incredible things to raise money for Shivia over the last 10 years.”* So she joined the Shivia team of 10 runners for the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October, signing up George at the same time! They all completed the whole 13.1 miles on one of the wettest days for months (George suitably dressed in swimming trunks and his ancient tennis shoes!) and collectively raised over £10,000 to help change the lives of many more families living in poverty. We have booked 10 places for the 2019 half marathon and another 10 for a 100km night-time bike ride round London and would love you to join us for one of these challenges - please contact victoria@shivia.com for more details.

Other new fundraising initiatives this year included taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge where we raised an amazing £25,835 thanks to our generous pledgers, online donors and one anonymous Big Give Champion who chose to support us. And we were thrilled to be one of 24 charities included in Advent of Change, the new charity advent calendar that fully embraces the idea of giving to those in need at Christmas.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

Next year promises to be as busy as ever. Our plans include scaling up PDS operations at Krishnagar to full capacity with eight LSPs. And we’ll continue to scale the group model for PDS with more established poultry farmers, offering them the opportunity to expand their enterprise with confidence and more independence. With AMS, we plan to introduce another 1,100 farmers to the programme across four of our locations and continue to put our farmers into groups and link them to beneficial government schemes.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with our progress. Until then we’d like to thank you for supporting Shivia, staying in touch and giving us the financial gift we need to make a real difference in the world.

With our best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas.

The team at Shivia x