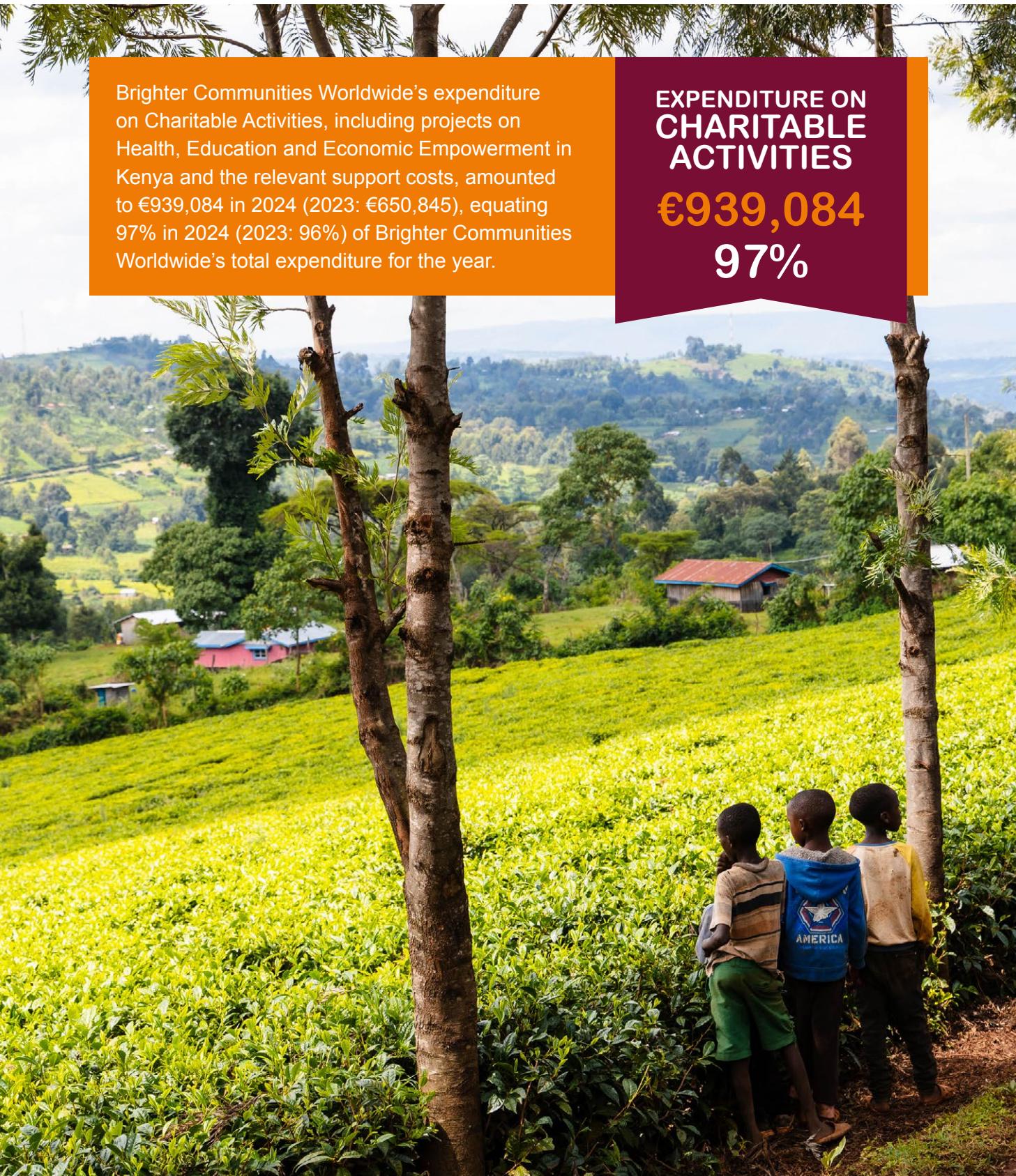


Directors' Report and Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Brighter Communities Worldwide's expenditure on Charitable Activities, including projects on Health, Education and Economic Empowerment in Kenya and the relevant support costs, amounted to €939,084 in 2024 (2023: €650,845), equating 97% in 2024 (2023: 96%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

**EXPENDITURE ON
CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES**
€939,084
97%



Directors and other information

Board of Directors

- Linden Edgell
- Andrew Bird
- Mark Cumming
- Lisa Doherty
- Catherine Donohoe
- Tom Gilligan
- Anne Healy (Retired April 2024)
- Carole Barry Kinsella
- Eileen Moore (Retired April 2024)
- Roisin O'Neill

Company Secretary: Linden Edgell (resigned 3 September 2024)

Mark Cumming (appointed 3 September 2024)

Chief Executive Officer: Martin Ballantyne

Registered office: Lower Ground Floor, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork P24 DY65

Company number: 398094

Charities regulatory authority number: 20059583

Charity number: CHY 16505

Solicitors: Charles C. Daly, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork

Bankers: Permanent TSB, Patrick Street, Cork

Auditors: Grant Thornton, Penrose One, Penrose Dock, Cork

Country of incorporation: Ireland

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

This report presents the information and disclosures required by a Directors' Report under the Companies Act 2014, together with additional information required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Who are Brighter Communities Worldwide?

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, incorporated in Ireland on 23 February 2005 under the Companies Act, registration number 398094. Brighter Communities Worldwide was initially registered as Friends of Londiani Ireland and changed its name to Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee on 22 December 2016. Brighter Communities Worldwide is one of the registered business names of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee.

As of 31 December 2024, there were 9 members whose guarantee is limited to €1 each. This guarantee continues for one year after membership ceases. The current membership is the Board of Directors.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, registered charity No: 20059583, and has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, with registered charitable taxation No: CHY 16505.

Brighter Communities Worldwide works in partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya.

The partnership is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (last signed in 2021). This report outlines our programmes in Ireland and in Kenya implemented through this partnership.

Objectives and activities

Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future.

Our **vision** is: *"A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures."*

The **mission** of Brighter Communities Worldwide is to work in partnership to build resilience, enrich lives and help create equitable and sustainable futures for individuals and their communities.

Our **values** underpin everything we do, every decision we make and also help communicate the way we work and how we do things.

- **Integrity:** We are an organisation built on integrity and good governance with a track record for delivery.
- **Passion:** We work passionately in all that we do to realise our vision across communities.
- **Togetherness:** We stand side-by-side with the communities we serve; we are committed to partnerships founded on respect and reciprocity.

The principles that shape the way we work:

Locally led, community-driven: Our programmes are community-driven and designed to put local actors in the lead, strengthen local systems and respond to needs identified by communities themselves. We believe that local actors are best placed to drive decisions on their own development.

Accountability and transparency: We are committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency in all aspects of our work

Inclusivity: We seek to promote human rights, equality and inclusion in all that we do, prioritising the weakest and most marginalised across our work.

Volunteerism: We are committed to fostering volunteerism in all areas of our work, as a strategy to drive sustainable change and to foster global citizenship

Our model: locally led, community defined

Brighter Communities Worldwide has developed a unique approach to working within communities to deliver sustainable, local development. Our model is defined by the communities we serve, reflecting their experience of what is important and their commitment to working with us to transform lives.

It is grounded in trust, driven by partnership, and built to last. We listen deeply, respond to local priorities, and walk alongside communities through both opportunities and challenges.

Our impact is best expressed in the words of those at the heart of our work. They describe BCW as a locally led, reliable, and responsive organisation that supports them across many areas of life – from healthcare to education, livelihoods to leadership. They tell us that BCW is a catalyst for change, an advocate for equality, and a true partner in building stronger, more resilient communities.

Because of this model:

- Families have better access to essential services.
- People have the knowledge and tools to improve their lives.
- Communities are more resilient and inclusive.
- Women and girls are empowered to shape their futures.

This is development as defined by the people living it – and that's what makes our model work.

Monitoring

Brighter Communities Worldwide implements programmes in Health, Education and Economic Empowerment. The impact of the work of Brighter Communities Worldwide is measured against targets using a Results Based Management System. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Policy in place that guides activities in this area. Brighter Communities Worldwide carries out monitoring and evaluation activities for two main reasons:

- To ensure that the organisation is fully accountable for the delivery of all its development activities
- To ensure that the organisation learns lessons throughout the implementation of its development activities and that this learning enables improvement and enhancement of its work on an ongoing basis.

Monitoring is carried out on a continual basis and involves collecting and recording data with information in order to track our progress towards expected results. Evaluation is an exercise that assesses systematically and objectively the relevance, performance and success of ongoing and completed programmes and projects at a key point in time for example monthly, quarterly and annually. As a learning organisation, BCW reflects on the results of evaluation and applies this knowledge to improve the effectiveness of development projects etc.

Brighter Communities Worldwide used its results framework to continually monitor all its programmes during 2024.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's expenditure on Charitable Activities, including projects on Health, Education and Economic Empowerment in Kenya and the relevant support costs, amounted to €939,084 in 2024 (2023: €650,845), equating 97% in 2024 (2023: 96%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

Achievements and performance

In 2024, Brighter Communities Worldwide supported many projects under its programme areas of Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

Between January and December 2024, **192,085 direct beneficiaries** were reached across our programmes. This includes **47,158 women, 30,251 men, 66,976 girls, and 47,600 boys**. The programmes also reached **163,838 indirect beneficiaries** indirectly including **93,591 women, 67,533 men, 1801 girls, and 913 boys**.

A selection of some of the key outcomes and results in each development programme area are outlined below.

Health Programme

Objectives:

- Community members particularly women and girls will have access to a strengthened and more effective and equitable healthcare system.
- Increased resilience of community members, especially women and girls, through improved health and hygiene knowledge and practices.

Achievements:

Performance indicator: Number of pregnant women attending at least 4 Ante-natal Care visits (ANC)

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
Increase by 5% annually	32% (12,270 mothers) Increase of 10.5%	Increase by 5% per year	32.21% (12,700 mothers) Increase of 1%	Increase by 5% per year (Cumulative 35%; 14,378 mothers)	36% (14,687 mothers) Increase of 12% Cumulative 36% (14,687 mothers)

The positive result can be attributed to the increase in functioning Community Units, increased capacity of Health Care Workers and Community Health Promoters. Brighter Communities Worldwide in partnership with the Ministry of Health continued the rollout of the ANC tracker during the year, and this has also contributed to the improved result. ANC tracker includes education, support and monitoring.

Performance indicator: % of households accessing safe water across community units

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
Increase by 5% per year	60% Households (102,722) Increase of 25.71%	Increase by 5% per year	82% Households (118,324) Increase of 36.82%	Increase by 5% per year (Cumulative 41%; 117,541)	42% Households (168,421); Increase of 43% (Cumulative: 43% 168,421)

The number of households accessing safe water has increased from 118,324 to 168,421, a 42% increase. This can be attributed to an increase in the number of Community Units, community mobilisation by Community Health Promoters (CHPs), and increased protection of springs across communities.



Performance indicator: Outreach Clinics

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
360	441 clinics held bringing health services to 26,375 (16,818F 9,557M)	360	473 Outreach Clinics were supported reaching 17,020 People (3,668F, 1,031M, 9,789G, 2,532B).	460 (360 Routine ORCs, 100 HPV ORCs)	582 Outreach Clinics were supported reaching 19,486 people (9,093F, 5,100M, 5,293G)

Outreach clinics bring health services to communities including Antenatal care, Health Education, Immunisation; Vitamin A distribution; Mother and Child Health (MCH) clinics; reproductive health clinics and malaria treatment and prevention. Outreach Clinics were also extended to schools to facilitate the rollout of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 10-14 years. A total of 571 Outreach Clinics were completed in 2024. Across communities, 13,203 Participants (4,738M, 8,465F) were reached, and the school outreaches enabled 2,109 girls to receive their HPV vaccine.

Education Programme**Objectives:**

1. Increased number of boys and girls attending school in healthy and safe environment.
2. Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
3. Communities will be proactive in addressing inequality and have zero tolerance to violence – particularly against women and girls.

Achievements:**Performance indicator:** Number of latrines/washrooms installed in schools

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/ washroom structures for girls	4 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 1,099 boys) and 4 latrine /washroom structures for girls (impacting 833 girls) were constructed in 8 schools.	4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/ washroom structures for girls	4 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 1,135 boys) and 4 latrine /washroom structures for girls (impacting 827 girls) were constructed in 8 schools.	8 latrine blocks for boys; 12 latrine/washroom structures for girls	8 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 2,196 boys) and 12 latrine /washroom structures for girls (impacting 2,912 girls) were constructed in 20 schools.

Construction projects continued in the year; including new latrines for girls and boys, water tanks, handwashing stations.

Performance indicator: Number of smokeless stoves installed in schools

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
24 Industrial Smokeless Stoves	25 smokeless stoves were installed in 25 schools impacting 6,642 students (3,270G, 3,372B) and 547 (282F, 265M) Teachers and Non-teaching staff	24 Industrial Smokeless Stoves	24 smokeless stoves were installed in 24 schools impacting 8,053 students (3,752G, 4,301B) and 394 (211F, 183M) Teachers and Non-teaching staff	34 Industrial Smokeless Stoves	34 Industrial smokeless stoves were installed in 34 schools impacting 12,860 students (6,482G, 6,378B) and (394F, 364M) Teachers and Non-teaching staff

Smokeless stoves use one third of the wood of traditional stoves, and a healthier cooking environment through a reduction in respiratory illness and burns.

Performance indicator: Number of people sensitised on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
8,000	16,133 people (8,041G, 2,310B, 4,439F 1,343M)	1,000	6,182 people (2,465G, 856B, 2,373F, 488M)	2,000	15,673 people (1,311B, 3,846G, 2,375M, 8,141F)

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Ambassadors sensitise communities about SRHR. Ambassadors create safe spaces where community members can access correct information on SRHR and discuss any SRHR issues and challenges they are facing. This knowledge enables them make positive decisions regarding their own sexual and reproductive health.

Economic Empowerment Programme**Objective:**

1. Improved standard of living across households.

Achievements:**Performance indicator:** Number of men, women and youth groups provided with resources to engage in income generation activities

2022 target	2022 achievement	2023 target	2023 achievement	2024 target	2024 achievement
20	30	Increase by 20 per year of which at least 50% are women groups	20 groups 325 participants (170F, 155M) of which 52% are women.	Increase by 46 per year of which 24% are women groups, 26% - People with Disability groups, and 33% Youths groups	46 groups with IGAs of which 23 are women and people with disability groups.

The economic empowerment programme continues to empower individuals, particularly women, to create sustainable income opportunities and enhance their economic well-being.



Department of Foreign Affairs programme

In 2024, the organisation implemented year two of a three-year Department of Foreign Affairs project *Transformed Communities, Brighter Futures* across Kericho County. The outcomes and results above contributed to the overall aim of this project which is for women and girls to reach their full potential leading healthier, more resilient and productive lives through a transformative community approach.

Global citizenship programme

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Global Citizenship programme aims to encourage people to question the inequalities of the world we live in, deepen our awareness of global justice issues and act to do something about it. Every community has problems to deal with but we live in an interconnected and interdependent world where all issues are linked and if we are to achieve sustainable development for all we need to act together.

The Global Goals aim to "leave no one behind" and have a vision of a "just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met". We promote that vision across all of our programmes in Ireland and in Kenya.

International volunteer programme

'Harambee' is the Swahili word meaning 'working together'. We have adopted it as the name for our overseas volunteer programme. Volunteers travel to Kenya to work alongside staff and local volunteers on delivery of our programmes. During 2024, 40 international volunteers travelled to Kenya.

Financial review

Results

The results for the financial year and appropriation thereof are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 34.

In 2024 total income was €927,047, an increase of 21% on 2023 income (€767,182). The increase is due to higher return on funding application while consolidating income from fundraising events.

General donations increased by €5,275 to €17,925 (2023: €12,650) and our income from Friends of Kipkelion were increased by 32% to €127,998 (2023 €97,242). Friends of Kipkelion funding increased due to more successful funding applications in period.

We continued to further develop online platforms for fundraising. The online events raised €219,075 an increase of 28% on 2023 (€170,490). Grants received from Electric Aid, Surgeon Noonan, Irish Global Health Network, SHARP, JP Mc Manus Charitable Foundation, Self Help Africa, ERM Foundation, and Sunflower Charitable Foundation were achieved during the year and contributed to the impacts on income.

Total expenditure for 2024 was €970,497 (2023: €678,839). Year on year expenses are in line due to income for the year experiencing only a slight increase. Expenditure across programmes changes based on what level of restricted funding is received. The overall deficit for 2024 was €43,450, a decrease from surplus in 2023 of €88,343.

The contract period of the Department of Foreign Affairs Civil Society Fund grant is October to October while Brighter Communities Worldwide reports on a calendar year. Department of Foreign Affairs total funding of €340,000 was received during the 2024 calendar year there was a balance of €150,262 included in the restricted funds at year end. This will be spent during the remaining of the grant period up to 30 September 2025.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is grateful for the support of all its donors and supporters.

Reserves

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Reserves Policy (last reviewed in February 2025). Brighter Communities Worldwide has determined the following reasons for Reserves which are reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Board:

- **Emergency Reserve:** This reserve is for the risk of an unforeseen emergency which may arise due to the location of Brighter Communities Worldwide work. In 2024 this is €5,000.
- **Operational Reserve:** This is the amount of money needed to keep the office going for an agreed period of time and is based on the running costs for utilities, rent and staff. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a reserve of €75,000 in 2024 to cover operational costs in Ireland.
- **Grant money received, but not spent in the current year:** Grant money is rarely received and spent in its entirety within the current financial year, and so unspent grant money will be held in reserve until the following year - for example Department of Foreign Affairs money where the grant year is 12 months from October (At the end of 2024 this was €150,262).

Cost apportionment

Brighter Communities Worldwide apportions its cost based on a time allocation basis.

Risk management

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Risk Management Policy and a Risk Management Register with Risk being a standing agenda item at each Board meeting. Discussions are held on any changes to the risk profile and mitigations put in place.

The organisation currently has 14 categories of risk including Governance, Finance & Funding, Human Resources, Operations/Infrastructure, Reputation, Programme Delivery, Law & Compliance, Technology & Business Continuity, Political, Environmental, Communication Marketing & Branding, Safeguarding, Major Disease Outbreak and GDPR/Data Protection.

BCW continually identifies and monitors risks across all categories. Each category includes a number of risks. A matrix is used to assess the impact, likelihood and effectiveness of existing controls of each risk. Each risk is scored in terms of likelihood (i.e. the probability of future occurrence, how likely the risk is that the risk will occur and how frequently it has occurred in the past.); impact (i.e. the impact on the organisation and external stakeholders if the risk occurs) and effectiveness of existing controls (i.e. given the controls which are currently in place, how effective are they at mitigating the risk.) A scale of 1 to 5 is used for Likelihood and Impact, and 1 to 3 is used for the effectiveness of existing controls.

The risk matrix outlines the risk ratings, scores and mitigation measures. Risk owners are identified for each risk and are then responsible for managing that risk.

At the end of December 2024, the top five organisational risks are outlined below:

Risk table

Definition	Category	Occurrence	Impact	Controls	Risk level	Mitigation strategies
Uncertain charitable income. The Irish fund-raising environment is challenging due to world events/crises e.g. Ukraine, Gaza	Finance & Funding	2	4	2	M	Fundraising & Funding Plan in Place and monitored at each board meeting; Income Strategy in place since July 2024. 2 new staff roles in office – Operations Coordinator (Full-time) and Fundraising & Communications Assistant (9 month). Both new roles include fundraising
Inability to deliver day to day programmes due to political context	Reputational, financial and morale.	2	5	2	M	Ongoing monitoring of political situation in Kenya (media, Irish Embassy; NGO Groups, INSO Kenya); Compliance with NGO Coordination Board in Kenya; Contingency planning built into programme planning.
Unprecedented and unpredictable world events	Political	3	4	2	M	Maintaining awareness of publications and updates across development sector (via Dóchas, Bond & Devex); Regular “environmental scan” to enable ongoing awareness and monitoring of context.
Changing context in the Horn of Africa.	Political	3	4	2	M	Continue to keep abreast of contextual situation – via NGO Forums, Media, Partners etc.; Daily/regular monitoring – INSO Kenya, Business Ireland Kenya, Kenya Irish Society, Media etc.; Linked in with NGO forums/Irish Embassy etc.
Failure to implement safeguarding policies across BCW or for staff to adopt them.	Safeguarding	2	5	1	L	Safeguarding policies in place, updated every 2 years at least; Staff trained every 2 years; Volunteer Facilitator training; Safeguarding mainstreamed across programmes in Kenya; Board member with special responsibility for safeguarding in place in Ireland and Kenya.



At the time of writing this report, a number of risks have been reviewed given the changing donor landscape and changing context in Kenya. The uncertain charitable income continues to be a medium risk, and is being monitored closely due to the unexpected and turbulent changes in the donor landscape in 2025.

Schedule of matters reserved for the Board The Delegation of Authority Policy outlines the following matters reserved for the Board

The Board of Directors:

- Has ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of Brighter Communities Worldwide, ensuring it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up.
- Is responsible for the strategic direction of Brighter Communities Worldwide. They develop, own and review the strategy of the organisation. The delivery of the strategy is delegated to the CEO.
- Provides policies to govern operational activity.
- Ensures resources are provided for the organisation.
- Must safeguard the ethos of Brighter Communities Worldwide and ensure PR material reflects that ethos.
- Is responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including money, insurance and legalities.
- Is responsible for staff appointments and management of staff.
- Agree national events and fundraising strategies.
- Is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of Brighter Communities Worldwide's Strategic Plan.
- Is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of organisation.
- Must ensure that the organisation complies with its own governing document, relevant laws, and the requirements of any regulatory bodies.
- Is responsible for the approval of the budget of the organisation.
- Are expected to represent the organisation at certain events.
- Will endeavour to comply with the Dóchas Charter in all that it does

Plans for the future

We believe that stronger people make stronger communities, and that stronger communities make a better world, with a brighter future. Our development model creates an enabling environment for communities to realise change and this will continue throughout 2025. We will leverage our learnings and achievements from 2024 to continue to work

in partnership with our partner organisation in Kenya. Our Kenyan partners will continue to address the social, health and economic challenges across Kericho County.

Brighter Communities Worldwide completed its 3-year programme with the Department of Foreign Affairs through its Civil Society Fund in October 2024. Brighter Communities Worldwide was awarded a total of €960,000 in 2021 over 3 years (€320,000 per year) to support its “*Transformed Communities, Brighter Futures*” project.

The overall aim of this project is for women and girls to reach their full potential leading healthier, more resilient and productive lives through a transformative community approach. The project aims to achieve three outcomes including: Community members especially women and girls will have better health outcomes; Healthier and safer school learning environments for students and teachers and empowered equitable communities who have the ability to bring about positive change.

A new 3-year programme with the Department of Foreign Affairs through its Civil Society Fund began in October 2024. Brighter Communities Worldwide was awarded a total of €1,020,000 in 2024 over 3 years (€340,000 per year) to support its *Equal Opportunities, Transformed Futures*.

The overall goal of this project is for women, girls and youth to reach their full potential, resulting in healthier, empowered, resilient communities; creating a just and more equitable society for all. This project aims to provide a voice, positive opportunities, strengthened capacity and better choices for a brighter future. It will address existing inequalities (gender, ability, poverty, economic, age, inclusion) exacerbated by the impacts of Covid-19, climate change, and rising costs of living. The expected outcomes of the project are: Community members, especially women and girls, have better health outcomes; Healthier and safer school learning environments for students and teachers; Empowered equitable communities have the ability to bring about positive change and more resilient communities adapt to climate change.

Friends of Kipkelion has committed to its partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide until 2030. This partnership enables both parties to implement programmes together in health, education and economic empowerment in Kenya. It includes maternal, new-born and child health; Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Abandonment; Community Health Strategy and the Healthy Schools Programme.

Strategic planning: looking back and looking forward

In 2024, Brighter Communities Worldwide completed the final year of our 2019–2024 Strategic Plan – a framework that guided our work through a period of global and local change, including the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategy focused on delivering holistic, impactful programmes, strengthening strategic partnerships, building organisational capacity, and ensuring robust governance. Following a one-year extension, we marked its close with a strong foundation of learning and progress.

As we developed our new Strategic Plan, we undertook a comprehensive review of our work over the previous five years. Key achievements included the successful expansion of our programmes across all six sub-counties of Kericho County, and our ability to respond swiftly to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events, and emergencies affecting our communities. We deepened our focus on gender equality and inclusion, engaging men and boys in new ways and promoting the participation of people living with disabilities. We also strengthened our voice in policy spaces, enhanced our communications and systems, and maintained full compliance with governance and ethical standards in both Kenya and Ireland. These learnings and successes provide a strong foundation for our next phase of work.

Simultaneously, we began an inclusive, participatory process to develop our new five-year strategy. This process, launched in July 2024, brought together diverse voices – including staff, volunteers, community members, partners, and donors – through workshops, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. The resulting strategy, launched later that year in Kericho County, reflects our continued commitment to locally led, community-driven development and will shape our work through to 2029.

Our vision for the next five years

Our new strategy sets out how we will work with communities and partners during the final stretch toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Our goal is for the communities with whom we work to reach their full potential, resulting in a healthier, empowered, resilient and more equitable society.

Over the next five years, we will work to deliver change in four key areas:

- 1. Protecting and empowering the most marginalised** – by collaborating with communities and other actors to address the root causes of inequality and discrimination.
- 2. Building community resilience** – by strengthening skills to respond to external shocks, adapt to climate change, and diversify livelihoods.
- 3. Expanding access and autonomy** – by ensuring the most vulnerable, especially women, children, and youth, have greater autonomy over their health and improved access to sustainable, quality services.
- 4. Strengthening our organisation** – by building a capable, community-driven organisation committed to partnerships, learning, and excellence.

How we will do this

BCW remains locally led, with people and communities at our core. We respond to needs in a holistic, practical way and work side-by-side with communities through both challenges and celebrations. Over the next five years, we will continue to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of our organisation to deepen our impact and support systemic change that creates lasting, equitable development.

2025 organisational strengthening

In 2024, our focus was on completing the new five-year Strategic Plan, which will guide Brighter Communities Worldwide through to 2029. While we had initially intended to review and update our Business Plan during the year, this work was intentionally deferred to allow for full alignment with the new strategy. With the Strategic Plan now in place, development of a revised Business Plan will begin in 2025 to operationalise the strategy and ensure we continue strengthening the organisation to meet evolving needs.

2025 development programmes

At the time of preparing this Annual Report, the global context is marked by growing uncertainty. Geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and the accelerating impacts of climate change are reshaping the development landscape and influencing priorities across the aid sector. In Kenya, high inflation, political and financial instability, and ongoing public protests are deepening the vulnerability of the communities we serve.

In this challenging environment, Brighter Communities Worldwide remains committed to delivering relevant,



responsive, and sustainable programmes. Guided by our new Strategic Plan, we will build on over 20 years of experience to continue reaching those furthest behind and supporting communities to navigate these complex and evolving challenges.

2024 income and 2025 outlook

In 2024, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to implement our Income Strategy, with activities guided by the fundraising plan approved by the Board. Our efforts focused on strengthening core income streams while testing new approaches to donor engagement. We ran a combination of online and in-person campaigns, participated in Global Giving opportunities, and deepened relationships with long-standing supporters.

Throughout the year, we began to see a shift in our income mix as we leveraged learnings to attract more sustainable sources of funding – including multi-year grants, institutional partnerships, and expanded donor networks. As we look to 2025, we will build on this momentum with a renewed fundraising plan that

prioritises stability, flexibility, and alignment with our new Strategic Plan. Our focus will remain on diversifying income, building long-term relationships, and ensuring that our funding base can support the continued growth and impact of our programmes.

Structure, governance and management

Organisational structure

Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by the Board of Directors who are responsible for directing the affairs of the organisation ensuring it is solvent, well-run and delivering the outcomes for which it was established to deliver. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of Brighter Communities Worldwide, safeguards the ethos of the organisation and is responsible for the audit and finance of Brighter Communities Worldwide including finance, insurance and legal requirements. The Directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of Brighter Communities Worldwide. Systems of internal control are in place which are designed to ensure compliance with 

Attendance at Board of Directors meetings and membership of sub committees

Name	Appointed	Attendance	Skills/Profile	Sub committees
Linden Edgell	2017	8/8	Social Specialist for 20+ years; Global Director of Sustainability & head of the Corporate Foundation for an international consulting firm.	Chairperson, Executive, Strategy
Andrew Bird	2020	8/8	Dairy and tillage farmer; wealth of board experience with involvement at board level across many organisations.	Finance, Audit and Risk
Anne Healy	2018	1/2	Clinical Nurse Manager 2 qualified in emergency nursing and Midwifery.	Retired April 2024
Eileen Moore	2021	2/2	Senior IT professional with 20+ years' experience in Financial Services.	Human Resources
Catherine Donohoe	2021	5/8	Hospital Manager of Mayo University Hospital; Previous Director of Nursing and Midwifery.	Retired April 2024
Roisin O'Neill	2021	3/8	Events Executive experienced in digital and virtual event management	Fundraising
Lisa Doherty	2023	8/8	Vast experience working in public service, predominantly in international development, including seven years living and working in Kenya.	Strategy
Mark Cumming	2023	8/8	Human resource management and international development professional.	Company Secretary (Appointed February 2024), Executive, HR
Thomas Gilligan	2023	8/8	Chartered Management Account; member of CIMA with a wealth of financial and management experience.	Finance, Audit and Risk
Carole Barry Kinsella	2023	8/8	Retired Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, Rotunda, and a Honorary Senior Lecturer Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.	

laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of resources, safeguard assets and maintain the integrity of financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed and regular review at Board level. The Chief Executive Officer attends Board meetings but is not a member of the Board. The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the staff team.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Board currently has eight members, 63% of whom are women. Their professional biographies are available on the Brighter Communities Worldwide [website](#). During 2024 the board met eight times (2023: seven times), with an average attendance of 88% (2023: 82%).

Appointment of Directors

A Board renewal process is in place whereby Directors are recruited through networking by the Board and supporters. Candidates for appointment to the Board are identified based on the Board's requirements for expertise to complement the existing Board member skills and any specific needs that have been identified. This begins with the board identifying the gaps and expertise needed in the board. Candidates are then identified by Board members. These candidates are invited to submit an application to the board. The Board reviews the applications, voting takes place and the Chairperson informs the new board members of the outcome.

New Directors participate in an induction programme to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and are aware of the governance requirements of the charity. Two board members retired during 2024. Continuous support is provided to Board members throughout their term including training and development related to their role on the Board. Training is provided on changes to best practice in corporate governance, charities regulation and development from time to time and where there are significant developments, these are highlighted at a board meeting. Some Board members also participate in charity and related sector networks and peak bodies to ensure the Board is abreast of new information. Throughout 2024 Board members attended several meetings, workshops and webinars hosted by Dóchas, Charities Institute Ireland, Charities Regulatory Authority among others and relevant information was circulated to Board members.

Directors are appointed to serve a three-year term of office. Each director is required to submit themselves

for re-election every three years at the Annual General Meeting. All Directors may serve a maximum of two, three-year terms, except in very exceptional circumstances when a further term can be served. At the 2024 AGM, the board approved Linden Edgell to continue for an additional year (beyond the 6 year term) due to extraordinary circumstances.

Board member portfolios

Brighter Communities Worldwide Board members are responsible for specific portfolios. These portfolios include Governance – Organisational; Governance – Compliance; Communications; Partnering; Global Citizenship Education; Volunteer; Funding; Continuous Quality Management; HR; Safeguarding; Audit and Fundraising.

Board sub committees

The Board has a number of sub committees including: Finance, Audit and Risk; Human Resources (HR); Executive and Fundraising. During 2024, a new sub-group was set up to coordinate the development of the new strategic plan. The chairperson for each of these provides an update at each Board meeting as to activities undertaken and decisions made. The term of office for members of all subcommittees is three years with an option to renew for a further three-year term.

The **Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee** formed in February 2021 following a review of the previous Audit Committee's terms of reference. The committee provides guidance on the long-term financial planning of the organisation and supports the continuous improvement of financial systems to efficiently meet organisational needs. The committee assists in the internal and external audit processes and provides oversight on the implementation and continuous improvement of risk measures and quality controls.

The **Human Resources (HR) Committee** is responsible for the Annual Review of the CEO covering both performance and remuneration. It advises on training needs for staff and deals with any HR issues that may arise. This committee also ensures that Brighter Communities Worldwide keeps up to date with changes in Irish Labour Law.

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for ensuring that Board decisions are implemented, and to deal with any urgent matters. It authorises volunteer projects and approves visits to Kenya when required. It provides oversight of resourcing matters and communicates



emerging issues to the Board – particularly important during the pandemic in the past year. The Executive Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The **Fundraising Committee** is responsible for the overall fundraising strategy, and its implementation. They propose annual draft fundraising targets for the organization to be agreed by the Board. They also make recommendations to the Board on budgets, hiring, management and oversight of fundraising staff members and provide ongoing support to fundraising staff with the assistance of external advisers where required. The fundraising committee meets at least once a month. It meets more frequently should the need arise for example the start of a new fundraising campaign. The committee includes one Board member, CEO, Operations Manager and the Communications Coordinator.

Staff and operations

Day to day operations are undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and Operations Manager. From time-to-time third-party services are provided to Brighter Communities Worldwide and these are coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors. In 2024 Brighter Communities Worldwide contracted expertise in communications (social media, marketing) to support its operations, and a consultant to support the development of our new strategic plan and to conduct an external evaluation of our Irish Aid Programme.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a strong volunteering ethos. It has a team of 40 volunteers in Ireland who support the operations including fundraising, campaigning, and administration. A Volunteer Coordinator is in place. The coordinator is responsible for overseeing volunteer activities within Brighter Communities Worldwide. Their duties include recruiting, interviewing and placing volunteers in different roles based on their qualifications, skills and interests and maintaining accurate volunteer records for the organisation.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a recruitment policy in place (last reviewed April 2025). This policy outlines its approach to recruitment in the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide includes its remuneration procedures in employees' contracts.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a performance management policy in place (last reviewed in April 2025). This policy includes performance principles, the mandatory activities of planning, developing, and

reviewing individual performance and the annual performance management timetable which are applied to all staff employed by the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide developed a new Right to Disconnect Policy which was approved in July 2025.

Networks and consortia

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a member of Dóchas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, Comhlármh Code of Good Practice, Irish Development Education Association (IDEA), Irish Global Health Network (IGHN), the CHS Alliance The Wheel, Charities Institute Ireland, Cobh Chamber of Commerce, and 2into3. Brighter Communities Worldwide leverages its membership of these organisations to advocate, gain knowledge and advice, network with other organisations and share learnings.

Governance codes

Brighter Communities Worldwide has adopted the Charities Regulatory Authority Charities Governance Code, and during 2024 it reviewed the charity's compliance across all six principles. The Board reviewed its compliance in June 2024 and agreed that the organisation is compliant across all six principles of the code. It completed the obligatory reporting to the Charities Regulatory Authority in October 2024.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a **Conflict of Interest** policy in place (last reviewed in April 2025) and all potential conflicts of interest are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Directors/Trustees and staff have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of Brighter Communities Worldwide, and in accordance with Brighter Communities Worldwide's governing documents. This policy will assist charity trustees of Brighter Communities Worldwide to effectively identify record and manage any conflicts of interest to protect the integrity of Brighter Communities Worldwide and to ensure that the charity trustees act in the best interest of their charity. Annually each Board member completes a Declaration of Interests form. The Company Secretary compiles all forms and maintains the Register of Interests. Conflict of Interests is a standing item on each Board meeting agenda to enable any Conflicts of Interest pertaining to the agenda of the board be dealt with.

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a **Conflict of Loyalty** policy in place (last reviewed April 2025) and all potential conflicts of loyalty are dealt with by the Executive Committee. Brighter Communities

Worldwide has a Code of Conduct for Directors in place, and all Directors are obliged to comply with this code.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and we operate our fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.

Charities Regulatory Authority

Brighter Communities Worldwide is compliant with the requirements of the Charities Regulatory Authority and submitted its annual report before the deadline of 31 October 2024.

Board performance

Brighter Communities Worldwide undertook a self-evaluation process during 2024. Each board member had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire on the key areas of board roles and responsibilities and this fed into ongoing board development.

Finance

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dóchas / Department of Foreign Affairs guidelines on financial reporting. Brighter Communities Worldwide publishes its Annual Accounts on line every year and these are available [on our website](#).

Directors' expenses, staff remuneration and pensions

All Brighter Communities Worldwide Board members are voluntary and do not receive payments to attend Board meetings. All expenses incurred by board members in fulfilling their duties as board members are paid according to Brighter Communities Worldwide's Expense Policy.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the HR Committee and in 2024, the Board approved an adjustment following benchmarking of the market and role specifications. The pay of other staff is reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the HR Committee. Brighter Communities Worldwide pays pension allowances for its CEO (direct contribution scheme) and has a PRSA scheme in place should any employee wish to avail of this.

Investments

Brighter Communities Worldwide does not have any investments in place.

Equality and diversity

Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to supporting the communities that we work with to achieve change in their lives that will empower them and improve the health, education and economy of their household. We believe this change happens through **valuing diversity** in communities and building programmes that give equal access according to the needs of the people. We have a policy on Equality and Diversity (last reviewed April 2025) to provide the organisation with a frame of reference to follow to ensure our equality statement is integrated into all that we do and to honour our legal responsibilities and obligations.

Communications strategy

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a communications strategy in place which is renewed annually (last reviewed in July 2025). This sets out the key messages to be used in all communications.

Dóchas Charter

Brighter Communities Worldwide are signatories to the **Dóchas Charter** which outlines what it means to be a member of Dóchas and the principles that define the relationships between Dóchas, the member organisations and the wider world. The leaders of Ireland's International development and humanitarian NGOs are committed to creating a world where justice, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights are the norm. This includes ensuring that those who work in and with our organisations, and communities and children, with whom we work, are kept safe from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. We do this through robust and effective approaches to safeguarding which, in turn, enable organisations to deliver programmes and activities of the highest standard.

Dóchas Safeguarding Code and Dóchas Leadership Safeguarding Charter

Brighter Communities Worldwide remains a committed signatory to the Dóchas Safeguarding Code, upholding the highest standards in safeguarding practice across all aspects of our work. We believe in a world rooted in justice, equality, solidarity, and respect for human rights – where everyone, especially the most vulnerable, is protected from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

In December 2024, the Dóchas Leadership Safeguarding Charter was launched, further reinforcing sector-wide accountability at the leadership level. Brighter Communities Worldwide proudly adheres to this Charter, affirming our commitment at the highest levels of governance and management to champion a culture of safety, transparency, and survivor-centred response.

Through strong policies, continuous staff and volunteer training, and community-based safeguarding approaches, we aim to ensure that everyone who works with or is reached by our programmes is treated with dignity, respect, and care.

Dóchas Guide to Ethical Communications

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory to the **Dóchas Guide to Ethical Communications**. By signing the Code, Brighter Communities Worldwide commits to implementing the four commitments of the Guide in all our communications both internal and external. These are (1) Authentic Representation; (2) Contributor-led stories and locally led content development; (3) Informed consent and (4) Upholding standards and Doing No Harm. In practice this has many applications for example – only using images and stories from individuals who have given permission with the full understanding of how their content will be used and for whom we have names and contact details. We welcome all feedback and comments on our communications through our feedback and complaints procedure on our website:

tinyurl.com/BCWcomplaints

Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP)

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a signatory of the **Comhlámh Code of Good Practice (CoGP) for Volunteer Sending Agencies** (VSAs). This is a set of values-led principles that provides organisations with a framework to reflect on, adapt, and deepen their international volunteering practice. The Code has 5 core values – Solidarity; Social Justice; Ecological Sustainability; Respect and Integrity. A revised edition of the CoGP was launched in 2024 **Code of Good Practice – Comhlámh** and we undertook the holistic annual review process with Comhlámh from which we have an action plan for key areas we want to focus on during 2025.

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

The **Core Humanitarian Standard** (CHS) sets out nine commitments that organisations involved in humanitarian and development work use to improve the quality, effectiveness, and accountability of their assistance.

Brighter Communities Worldwide submitted its first self-assessment in June 2022 under the CHS Alliance Verification Scheme and was approved by the CHS in July 2022. Since then, we have been implementing our CHS improvement plan to strengthen our systems and deepen our accountability to the communities we serve. In December 2024, an updated version of the CHS was launched in Ireland, incorporating global shifts in the aid landscape and placing renewed emphasis on localisation, participation, and equity.

At the time of writing (July 2025), Brighter Communities Worldwide has begun reviewing our compliance against the revised CHS commitments. This process will guide the continued strengthening of our quality and accountability practices across all programmes and operations.

Board initiatives during 2024

The Board has undertaken a number of activities during the year. These activities include:

- Maintain compliance with the Charities Regulator Authority Governance Code for Charities.
- Engage an external consultant to facilitate the development of our new strategic plan and conduct the evaluation of the Irish Aid programme of work which ended in 2024.
- An induction was organised in January 2024 for our new board members.
- Two board workshops were implemented during the year.

Communication with stakeholders

Brighter Communities Worldwide's stakeholders include donors, partners, supporters, volunteers, employees and the communities we work with. We communicate with these stakeholders in a number of ways including donor reports, monthly newsletters, social media updates, website updates, partnership seminars, project meetings, community meetings etc.

Internal controls

The Directors acknowledge their overall responsibility for Brighter Communities Worldwide's internal control system and for reviewing its effectiveness. The implementation of the internal control system is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer. This system includes financial controls, which enable the Board to meet its responsibilities for the integrity and accuracy of Brighter Communities Worldwide's accounting records.

Key elements of internal control systems include:

- Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Financial Management and Controls policy (last reviewed in July 2025) in place which outlines the processes for expenditure; the recording of all income; use of bank accounts; financial reporting and asset management.
- Procedures and controls systems are included in all partnership agreements/memorandum of understanding and project contracts.
- There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority.
- A detailed budget is prepared annually which is in line with the Strategic Plan and approved by the Board. At each board meeting, actual spending is compared against budget and prior year to ensure alignment with budget, tight administration control, and value for money.
- The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reports independently to the Board on all aspects of controls and risks.
- The Board maintains a reserve policy to mitigate the increasing risks of the uncertain economy and to ensure sustainability of our services.

Audit functions

Brighter Communities Worldwide uses SAGE for its management accounts system. The management accounts were reviewed by the Board a total of 3 times during 2024. Brighter Communities Worldwide is audited by Grant Thornton and financial statements and annual reports are published online after the AGM each year. Financial statements are prepared in line with SORP standards and the Companies Act 2014; a disclosure statement on senior management salaries is included. Brighter Communities Worldwide is governed by and adheres to a number of sector-wide codes of conduct. These are outlined in the Governance section of this report. Brighter Communities Worldwide remains committed to continually strengthening its transparency and accountability in order to maintain trust with the public, donors and partners.

Transparency and accountability

Brighter Communities Worldwide is satisfied that no incidence of fraud or gross financial mismanagement has occurred during the 2024 financial year.

Fundraising

Monitoring of fundraising is a responsibility of the Board of Directors whose role includes ensuring the short-

term and long-term viability of the organisation. Brighter Communities Worldwide has a fundraising sub-committee whose role feeds into this. Brighter Communities Worldwide has formally adopted and adheres to the Charities Regulator's Guidelines for charitable organisations on fundraising from the public and adheres to the standards outlined in the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are members of the Charities Institute Ireland and operate their fundraising programme to the Triple Lock Standard. This means we demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors and comply with best practice in governance and transparency.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting Brighter Communities Worldwide since the financial year end.

Going concern

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Directors and secretary

The directors and secretary that served throughout the financial year are outlined on page 3 of the financial statements.

Accounting records

The measures that the Board of Directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's business address at Lower Ground Floor, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork.

Events after the balance sheet date

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end which would impact the amounts or disclosures in these financial statements.

Statement on relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with Section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

(a) So far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
(b) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Andrew Bird, Director



Mark Cumming, Director

Date: 7 October 2025

Directors' responsibility statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and report of the directors comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Independent auditor's report

to the members of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation of the financial statements is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

In our opinion, Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, namely the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by Chartered Accountants Ireland, applied as determined to be appropriate in the circumstances for the entity. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the directors, with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

Other information comprises information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies in the financial statements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of our audit, in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on our knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

Under the Companies Act 2014, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act have not been made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including FRS102, and for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

The auditor's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), the auditor will exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

They will also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If they conclude that a material uncertainty exists, they are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify their opinion. Their conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.

The Auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that may be identified during the audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



John Murphy
for and on behalf of



Chartered Accountants
Statutory Audit Firm

Cork

Date: 10 October 2025

Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Income	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
Donations and legacies	3	187,986	-	187,986	157,328	-	157,328
Charitable activities	4	-	466,136	466,136	-	405,040	405,040
Other trading activities	5	184,241	88,684	272,925	97,937	106,877	204,814
Total income		372,227	554,820	927,047	255,265	511,917	767,182

Expenditure

Charitable activities	6	321,319	617,765	939,084	191,500	459,345	650,845
Costs of generating income	7	31,413	-	31,413	27,994	-	27,994
Total expenditure		352,732	617,765	970,497	219,494	459,345	678,839
Net surplus (deficit)		19,495	(62,945)	(43,450)	35,771	52,572	88,343

Reconciliation of funds:

Total funds brought forward	492,360	213,207	705,567	456,589	160,635	617,224
Total funds at 31 December 2024	511,855	150,262	662,117	492,360	213,207	705,567

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2024

Current Assets	Note	€	2024 €	€	2023 €
Cash at bank and in hand		677,127		709,580	
Debtors	13	9,179		6,514	
		686,306		716,094	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(24,189)		(10,527)	
Net current assets			662,117		705,567
Total assets less current liabilities			662,117		705,567

Charity Funds

Accumulated funds – unrestricted	17	431,855		412,360	
Accumulated funds – restricted	17	150,262		213,207	
Accumulated - designated	17	80,000		80,000	
			662,117		705,567

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on and signed on their behalf, by:



Andrew Bird, Director



Mark Cumming, Director

The notes on pages 62 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from charitable activities		
Net cash used by charitable activities	(32,453)	113,215
 Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the financial year	 (32,453)	 113,215
 Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	 709,580	 596,365
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	 677,127	 709,580

Notes to the financial statements

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

1. General information

Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee is a company incorporated in Ireland under the Companies Act 2014. In accordance with Section 1180(8) of the Companies Act, 2014, the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014, and with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with FRS102 ("the Charities SORP (FRS102)") ("relevant financial reporting framework").

The functional currency of company is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

As permitted by section 291(3)(4) of the Companies Act 2014, the company has varied the standard formats specified in that Act for the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP (FRS102) and are in compliance with Sections 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Company meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under FRS102. As a registered charity, the Company is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Company under section 329, Companies Act 2014.

2.2 Significant judgements and estimates

When preparing the financial statements, management makes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

Significant management judgements

The following are significant management judgements in applying the accounting policies of the company that have the most significant effect on the financial statements.

Going concern

The charity's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, show that the company will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Board has a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Estimation uncertainty

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of fair values and residual values. The directors annually review these asset lives and adjust them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of technological change, prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset lives can have significant impact on depreciation charges for the period. It is not practical to quantify the impact of changes in asset lives on an overall basis, as asset lives are individually determined, and there are a significant number of asset lives in use. The impact of any change would vary significantly depending on the individual changes in assets and the classes of assets impacted. 

2.3 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The Directors are named on page 3 whose liability along with other members of the company in respect of the guarantee is limited to €1 per member of the company in the event of the company being wound up.

2.4 Fund accounting – restricted and unrestricted

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.5 Income

(i) Income from voluntary donations is recognised when received. As with many similar charitable organisations, independent companies from time to time organise fundraising activities. However, as amounts collected in this way are outside the control of the company, they are not included in the financial statements until received by the company.

(ii) Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the financial statements in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

(iii) Grants from the government and other agencies are recognised as income when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreement. All statutory grants are treated as restricted income.

(iv) Income from legacies are recognised when the likelihood of receipt is probable, the company is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(v) Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.

(vi) Revenue refunds in respect of tax relief on voluntary donations are recognised on a receivable basis in so far as the receivable can be established with a reasonable amount of accuracy.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include multidisciplinary therapy, central nursing supports, transport, catering, administration services and payments to pensioners. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.7 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Financial assets and liabilities

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.8 Investment policy

All cash balances for planned development work are held in demand deposit accounts or short-term investment accounts at the highest interest rates available at the time of investment. Long term investments acquired by donation or through merger will not be held in the long term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

2.9 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

2.10 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from statutory and other sources, but not yet received at the year end, is included in debtors.

2.11 Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be reliably measured or estimated. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due and at their present value where the time value of money is deemed.

2.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

2.12 Reserves policy

In order to secure the long term viability of the charity and to maintain the smooth operation of the organisation, it is critical to ensure that the organisation has adequate reserves. The level of reserves is required to cover the following activities of the organisation:

- Provide funding for sustainable programmes.
- Meet contractual liabilities such as lease agreements, statutory staff payments and payments to creditors.
- Maintain a required level of funding available for overseas programmes during times of financial difficulty where fundraising income is diminished.
- To facilitate programme/project continuation especially where a partner submits a new or additional phase proposal in advance of the current activity being completed, in order to meet seasonal requirements (i.e. farming season) and prevent development gaps.
- Meet unanticipated expenses such as repairs and maintenance, currency variances and legal costs.
- Cover day to day expenditure of the company.
- Ensure there is adequate funding should any winding up costs ever arise.
- Provide for any other unanticipated expenditure of significance.

The Board may designate unrestricted reserves for specific future expenditure and any other potential future requirement(s). The Board has adopted a reserves policy based on foreseeable expenditure and in particular, long-term commitments to projects.

2.13 Taxation

No charge to tax arises due to the exempt status of the Company. Irrecoverable value added tax is expensed as incurred in these companies.

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Friends of Kipkelion	127,998	-	127,998	97,242
Corporate donations	468	-	468	5,560
General donations	17,925	-	17,925	12,650
Standing orders	25,040	-	25,040	26,897
Taxation refunds	16,554	-	16,554	14,979
	187,985	-	187,985	157,328

4. Charitable activities – Income

Charity trading income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Department of Foreign Affairs		340,000	340,000	320,000
Electric Aid	-	9,997	9,997	19,500
Surgeon Noonan	-	20,000	20,000	-
Irish Forum Global Health	-	8,000	8,000	500
SHARP	-	13,000	13,000	5,040
JP Mc Manus Charitable Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Self Help Africa	-	12,508	12,508	15,000
The Naughton Foundation	-	-	-	35,000
ERM Foundation	-	22,632	22,632	-
Sunflower Charitable Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	-
	-	466,136	466,136	405,040

5. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Walks, runs and marathons	18,095	-	18,095	9,184
Kenya Ball	35,755	-	35,755	24,174
Merchandise	-	-	35,755	966
Other fundraising events	130,391	88,684	219,075	170,490
	184,241	88,684	272,925	204,814

6. Charitable activities – Expenditure

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total costs	Total costs
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Education projects	279,559	127,567	407,126	253,197
Health including water	228,594	125,314	353,908	308,831
Economic empowerment	62,758	29,450	92,208	57,472
Development education	-	85,842	85,842	31,345
	570,911	368,173	939,084	650,845

Field programme expenditure has been incurred in the following geographic areas:

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total costs	Total costs
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Kenya	570,911	282,331	853,242	619,500
Ireland	-	85,842	85,842	31,345
	570,911	368,173	939,084	650,845

Field programme expenditure is directly incurred by Brighter Communities Worldwide (Kenya) through grant aid from Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland. Brighter Communities Worldwide in Ireland has a partnership with Brighter Communities Worldwide in Kenya which is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding. The funds are provided directly to the Kenyan entity to assist them in undertaking approved projects as a result of a detailed application process undertaken in advance of provision of funds.

7. Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	-
Supporting costs	31,413	-	31,413	27,994
	31,413	-	31,413	27,994

8. Charitable activities – Support costs

	Charitable activities - Support Costs	Raising funds - Support Costs	Total funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €
Staff salaries	97,383	18,549	115,932	104,273
Office expenses	10,533	1,571	12,104	11,633
Website & IT	11,306	942	12,248	6,532
Insurance	2,771	528	3,299	4,078
PR/Events	61,322	4,084	65,406	43,030
Governance and audit	17,657	3,770	21,427	12,500
Organisational development	23,919	-	23,919	-
Travel expenses	10,587	1,970	12,557	6,103
Global citizenship education	85,841	-	85,841	31,345
	321,319	31,413	352,732	219,494

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is the percentage of time spent by employees on each activity.

Governance and audit costs include costs for outsourcing accounts, membership fees for sector organisations and audit fees.

9. Net surplus/(deficit)

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2024 €	2023 €
Government grants	340,000	320,000
Auditors' remuneration, including expenses – Audit of the financial statements	13,100	8,750

10. Staff costs

	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	113,552	82,080
Social welfare cost	12,541	9,222
Pension costs	11,340	13,051
	137,433	104,353

Where pension costs are incurred in more than one activity, they are apportioned between the related activities based on the amount of staff cost that each activity absorbs. Approximately 84% of defined contribution pension costs are paid from restricted funds.

The average number of employees during the financial year was as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Ireland	3	2

No employee of the company acts as director. The total remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer comprised salary of €65,130 (2023: €59,131). No member of staff received remuneration in excess of €65,130 during the financial year (2023: €60,000).

11. Director remuneration and expenses

Directors are not remunerated but are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of carrying out their duties.

Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board that were reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €Nil in 2024 (2023: €Nil).

12. Key management compensation

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year amounted to €96,007- 2 staff) (2023: €91,302 – 2 staff).

13. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
Trade debtors	2,832	158
VAT receivable	6,347	6,356
	9,179	6,514

All debtors and prepayments are due within one year.

14. Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 €	2023 €
Other creditors and accruals	15,292	5,558
PAYE/PRSI liability	8,897	4,969
	24,189	10,527

15. Financial instruments

	2024 €	2023 €
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	15,292	5,558

16. Reconciliation of net deficit to net cash used in charitable activities

	2024 €	2023 €
Net expenditure for the reporting year	(43,450)	88,343
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	(2,665)	19,741
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	13,662	5,131
Net cash used in charitable activities	(32,453)	113,215

17. Statement of funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €
(i) Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds at 1 January 2024	412,360	213,207	80,000	705,567
Net surplus (deficit) for the year	19,495	(62,945)	-	(43,450)
Fund balances at 31 December 2024	431,855	150,262	80,000	662,117
(ii) Analysis of net assets between funds:				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total funds
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €
Current assets	456,044	150,262	80,000	686,306
Liabilities	(24,189)	-	-	(24,189)
Fund balances at 31 December 2024	431,855	150,262	80,000	662,117
(iii) Movement in funds:				
	Balance as at 1 Jan	Income	Expenditure	Balance as at 31 Dec
	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €	2024 €
Unrestricted funds	412,360	372,227	(352,732)	431,855
Restricted funds	213,207	554,820	(617,765)	150,262
Designated funds	80,000	-	-	80,000
Fund balances at 31 December 2024	705,567	927,047	(970,497)	662,117

Designated funds comprise of the Incident Management Reserve fund of €5,000 (2023: €5,000) and the Operational Reserve fund of €75,000 (2023: €75,000). These funds have been designated by the company for use in the case of an emergency.

Restricted funds comprise of grant income received during the year which has yet to be spent by the organisation.

The Unrestricted funds reserve represents cumulative surpluses and deficits, net of other adjustments.

18. Contingent liabilities

Grant funding received during the financial year from Department of Foreign Affairs Civil Society Fund of €340,000 may be repayable if it is determined that it was not spent on agreed purposes within twelve months of the allocation of the funds.

19. Membership

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is guaranteed by members to the extent €1 per member.

20. Related party transactions

Directors' transactions

Director's travel and motor expenses were reimbursed during the current and prior financial years. Please see note 11 for details. There were no other transactions to note during the current or prior financial year.

Other related party transactions

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the financial year totalled €96,007 (2023: €91,302).

21. Taxation

The company has been granted charitable status by the Revenue Commissioners. Therefore, no provision for taxation is necessary.

22. Post balance sheet events

No post balance sheet events occurred that are required to be disclosed under Section 32 of FRS 102.

23. Controlling party

The company is a limited company by guarantee with no share capital and is controlled by its Directors.

24. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on xxx



**Brighter
Communities
Worldwide**
CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a registered charity in Ireland CHY16505; Charity Regulatory Authority Number CRA 20059583

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a registered NGO in Kenya OP 218/051/2005/0295/3731

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