Brighter Communities Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

# Annual Report

## 2025



www.brightercommunities.org

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*Evarline and Charity "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine" – we live in each other's shelter. (November 2025)*

*Front cover: Joyce at her home in Ndubusat*

# What we stand for

## Our **vision**

A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures.

## Our **mission**

Our mission is to work in partnership to build resilience, enrich lives and help create equitable and sustainable futures for individuals and their communities.

## The **values** that guide our work

**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.



*Community elder, Mary Keter, Ndubusat (November 2025)*

# Chairperson’s message

2025 has been a challenging year for NGOs the world over, but it has demonstrated once again the strength of partnership and the importance of standing alongside communities in anticipation of the growth of these challenges in the years ahead.



*Susan McCarthy, Chairperson*

Throughout 2025, our work in Kericho County has continued to be guided by a clear principle: sustainability is strongest when it is locally-led and shaped by the priorities of the communities themselves. Working alongside community leaders, local volunteers, health workers and government partners, we continued to strengthen health and education services, build resilience, and support families to develop more secure and sustainable livelihoods. Our focus remains firmly on reaching those who are most marginalised and on strengthening the systems and relationships that enable communities to thrive.

The completion of the Living Hope Emergency and Trauma Centre at Londiani Sub-County Hospital was an incredible standout achievement for Brighter Communities Worldwide in 2025. Developed in response to the tragic loss of 52 lives at Londiani Junction in 2023, the centre represents what can be achieved when communities, health workers, government and partners come together with nothing but sheer grit and determination to build something that will save many more lives, both in the everyday and should such a horrific occurrence ever be repeated again. The building itself, the equipment and the strengthening of staff skills is an integrated part of the Londiani Sub-county Hospitals emergency response system.

At the same time, the many less visible achievements recorded throughout this report are equally important. 11 Community Units were established or strengthened; 7,375 people gained access to safe drinking water; 80 Climate Change Ambassadors were trained; and 52 Alternative Rite of Passage courses supported 2,631 girls. Across our programmes, these and many other achievements reflect the knowledge, commitment, support and leadership of people within the communities themselves.

2025 was also the first year of implementation of our Strategic Plan 2025–2029. The strategy sets out our ambition to tackle inequality, build resilience, support the most vulnerable and ensure that Brighter Communities Worldwide remains a sustainable, capable and locally led organisation for the future.

As a Board, our responsibility is to ensure that the organisation is well governed, accountable and equipped to deliver on this ambition. We recognise that strong programmes require a strong organisation behind them, and we are grateful to the Sunflower Charitable Foundation for its investment in our organisational strengthening journey during 2025.

None of this work happens alone. Our progress is built on relationships, trust, mutual respect and a shared commitment to a more equitable future.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our CEO, Martin Ballantyne, for his hard work and dedication and to the staff, volunteers, community partners, government colleagues, donors, funders and supporters in Ireland, Kenya and beyond. Your commitment enables us to continue working in partnership with communities and to build on more than two decades of shared experience.

We look forward to the years ahead with confidence and determination, continuing to learn, strengthen our partnerships and support communities to be the authors of their own sustained growth and development.

**Susan McCarthy**
Chairperson

# Who we are, where we work, what we do

Brighter Communities Worldwide is an Irish–Kenyan development organisation working in long-term partnership with communities in Kericho County, Kenya. Founded in 2002, our work is rooted in a simple belief: sustainable change is strongest when it is locally led, inclusive, and shaped by the priorities of those most affected.

We work alongside communities, local volunteers, frontline workers and government systems to strengthen access to essential services, build resilience and address the underlying drivers of inequality. Our programmes span health, education, economic empowerment and climate resilience, with a deliberate focus on reaching those furthest behind – particularly women, girls, adolescents, people with disabilities and remote households.

Rather than delivering stand-alone interventions, we take a whole-of-life, systems-strengthening approach. We invest in community capacity, support public services to function more effectively, and create pathways that link households, community structures and formal systems. Volunteers – local and international – play a supporting role within this locally led model, contributing skills, solidarity and shared learning.



## Our role is to catalyse change. This involves:

- Partnering with government institutions and service providers, facilitating their work and strengthening capacity to deliver;
- Directly implementing community-based programmes in partnership with local actors, where needs arise and gaps are identified;
- Linking institutions and individuals in Ireland and Kenya, sharing expertise and building meaningful connections around shared values;
- Testing out new approaches, catalysing development and fostering collaboration amongst local actors;
- Advocating for change, influencing systems and practices and amplifying the voices of those we work with.

# CEO’s message

As I reflect on the year gone by, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary resilience, commitment and solidarity that have defined Brighter Communities Worldwide’s work throughout 2025.



*Martin Ballantyne, CEO*

This year presented significant challenges for the communities we serve in Kericho County, Kenya. Rising living costs, climate-related disruptions, and pressures on health and social services created additional burdens for many families already facing hardship. Yet, despite these challenges, communities continued to demonstrate remarkable strength, determination and leadership.

At Brighter Communities Worldwide, we believe that sustainable development happens when communities are empowered to lead their own change. Throughout 2025, we remained committed to this locally led approach, working alongside communities, volunteers, frontline workers and government partners to strengthen health systems, improve educational opportunities, build climate resilience, advance gender equality and support economic empowerment.

The achievements outlined in this report are a testament to what can be accomplished through partnership. Together, we supported 240,642 direct beneficiaries across our programmes. We helped improve access to maternal and child healthcare, strengthened community health systems, expanded access to clean water, supported girls to remain in education, empowered communities to challenge harmful practices, and enabled families to build more resilient livelihoods.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the completion of the Living Hope Emergency and Trauma Centre at Londiani Sub-County Hospital. Born from tragedy, this facility now stands as a lasting symbol of hope, compassion and collective action, providing critical emergency care for generations to come.

Throughout the year, a phrase often came to mind: Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine – we live in each other’s shelter. This simple but powerful Irish proverb captures the spirit of our work. Progress is never achieved alone. It is built through relationships, trust, shared responsibility and a belief in our common humanity.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, community leaders, partners, donors, board members and supporters. Your generosity, expertise and commitment make this work possible. Every achievement in this report reflects your contribution and your belief that a brighter future is possible.

As we look ahead, we remain ambitious for the future. Guided by our Strategic Plan 2025–2029, we will continue to stand alongside communities, strengthen local systems, and work towards a world where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, health, education and hope.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

**Martin Ballantyne**
CEO

# Looking ahead to 2026

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.

## Organisational strengthening

During 2025 we were joined in our organisational strengthening journey by the Sunflower Charitable Foundation. We are very grateful for this partnership and investment in Brighter Communities Worldwide's ambition to become a more resilient, locally led and future-ready organisation over the next 5 years.

This investment is about more than addressing immediate needs, it reflects a shared understanding that sustained, community-led impact depends on a strong, resilient organisation behind the work – one with the leadership, systems and capacity required to navigate an increasingly complex and uncertain operating environment.

Over the past year, we have focused on four key areas, identified as part of our strategic planning process, that will strengthen our organisation – Climate Action, Programme Management, Human Resources and Finance. The work has focused on consultation, learning and design, recognising that meaningful organisational change takes time and care.

## Looking ahead to 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, we will focus on turning this groundwork into practice, embedding new structures, strengthening leadership and management capacity, formalising partnerships, and improving systems for learning, accountability and financial sustainability.




*Partnership seminar strategic plan launch with Ainamoi Sub-County (February 2025)*

Early in 2025, we launched our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan across Kericho County with community representatives, partners and key stakeholders and commenced its first year of implementation.

Through this strategy, we will work toward delivering change in four areas: (1) Tackling inequality; (2) Building resilience; (3) Supporting the most vulnerable and; (4) A sustainable organisation.

This plan focuses on four interlinked priorities:

- standing with those who are most marginalised;
- strengthening community resilience to climate and other shocks;
- ensuring women, children and young people can access quality health and essential services;
- strengthening Brighter Communities Worldwide itself so that we remain a capable, sustainable and locally led organisation for the long term.

View our strategic plan for the next five years here: tinyurl.com/BCWStrategicPlan

Over the next five years of our strategic plan we will work towards delivering change in four areas:

## 1

### Tackling inequality

Communities and other actors collaborating to protect and empower the most marginalised through actively addressing the root causes of inequality and discrimination.



*Collecting firewood Ndubusat village*

## 2

### Building resilience

Communities more skilled and resilient, responding to external shocks, adapting to climate change and diversifying their livelihoods.



*Vegetable sales business owner Sharown*

## 3

### Supporting the most vulnerable

The most vulnerable, especially women, children and youth, have greater autonomy over their health and improved access to quality, sustainable services.



*Children at Kaylet Dispensary*

## 4

### A sustainable organisation

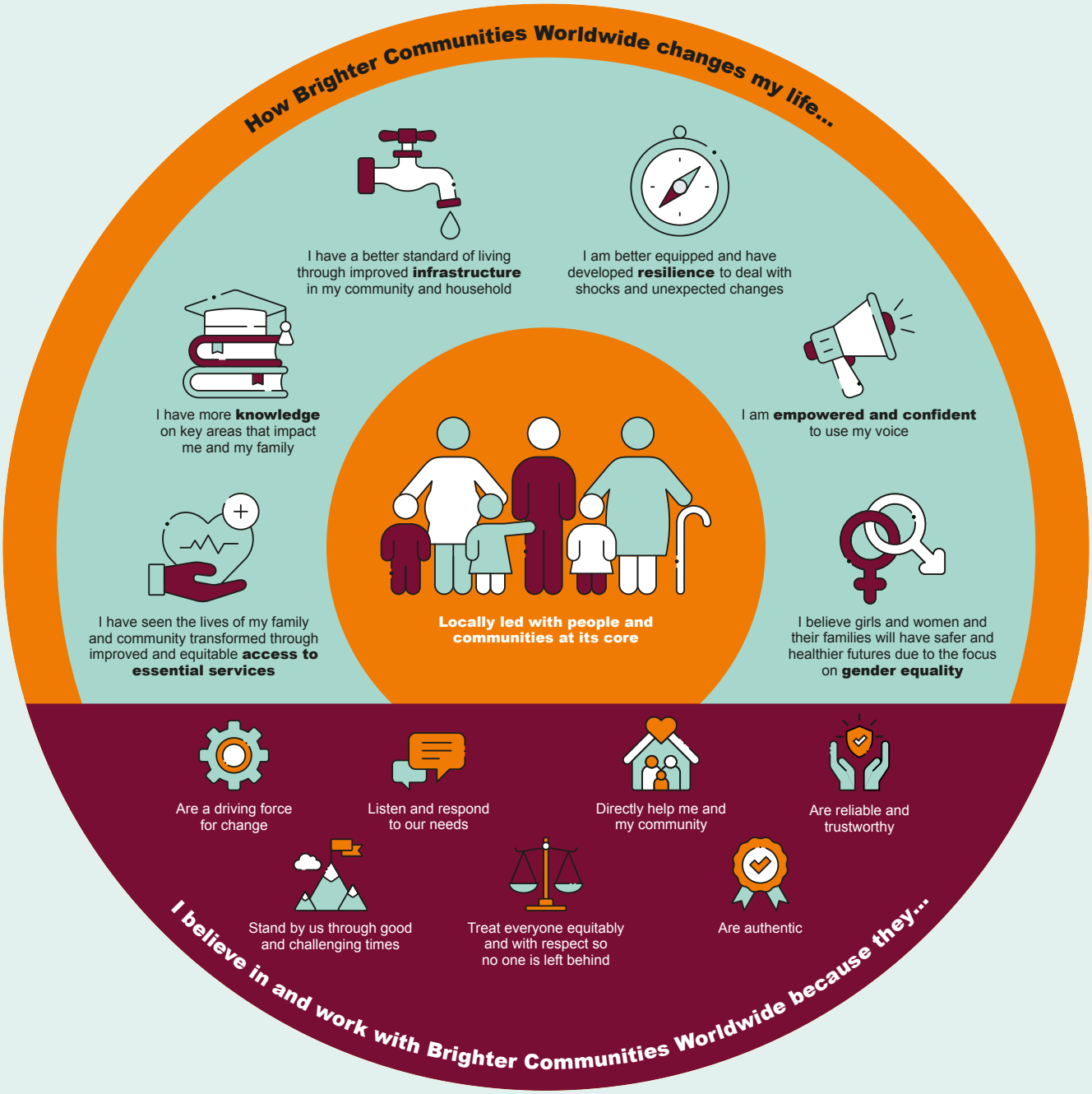
A capable and sustainable organisation that is community-driven, committed to partnerships, learning and excellence.



*Kate Walsh and Damaris Chepkemboi Ngelelei*

# Sustainable, local development

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



# Key achievements in 2025

In 2025 240,642 direct beneficiaries were reached across our programmes. This includes 40,552 men, 92,340 women, 45,218 boys and 62,532 girls. In addition, programmes reached 35,260 indirect beneficiaries – 15,904 men and 19,356 women – through community-level systems strengthening, capacity building and awareness interventions.




*Graduation, Alternative Rite of Passage (November 2025)*

## 52

**Alternative Rite of Passage**

courses were delivered to 2,631 girls across Kericho County as part of our FGM Abandonment programme.

## 310

**Outreach Clinics**

reached 16,974 people with services including ANC, immunisations, family planning and health information.

## 83%

of Business Course participants engaged in new income generating activities. Women continued to lead business start-ups at 80% and participation of people living with disabilities was strong at 28%.

## 55

income generating groups involving 1,047 members, were supported with resources to set up income generating activities including tree nurseries, equipment hire, chicken rearing and more.

## 11

**Community Units**

were established or strengthened expanding access to basic health services for 52,778 people across underserved areas.

## 7,375

people gained access to safe, clean drinking water across communities, schools and households through completion of 6 spring water source protection schemes.



*Climate Change Ambassador Christopher (September 2025)*

## 40

**Action Day events**

took place across schools in the Healthy Schools programme involving tree planting, handwashing promotion, waste management and reaching population of 9,032 men, women, girls and boys.

## 80

**Climate Change Ambassadors**

were trained and they reached 11,952 community members through awareness sessions and community activities including climate-smart practices.




*Official handover of the centre to Londiani Sub-County Hospital and the Department of Health Services (February 2026)*

# A landmark achievement

### The Living Hope Emergency and Trauma Centre

The completion of the Living Hope Emergency and Trauma Centre at Londiani Sub-County Hospital marks one of the most significant milestones in Brighter Communities Worldwide's history. The centre was established in response to the tragic road accident at Londiani Junction in June 2023, which claimed 52 lives and exposed critical gaps in emergency response capacity. For families and communities affected by that night, the loss was devastating. For health workers and responders, it revealed the urgent need for dedicated trauma and emergency care facilities.

Today, where those gaps were once painfully visible, the Living Hope Centre now stands as a place of readiness, humanity and healing. The completed facility includes:

- 10 beds dedicated to emergency and trauma care
- A fully equipped nursing station with access to diagnostic information
- An ambulance bay designed for rapid patient transfer
- Direct, sheltered linkage to the hospital's operating theatre
- Sustainable energy and water solutions

Importantly, the centre is not a stand-alone structure, but an integrated part of the hospital's emergency response system – improving patient flow, stabilisation and coordination of care during critical moments.




*Living Hope Emergency and Trauma is located in the grounds of Londiani Sub-County Hospital (November 2025)*

Alongside the construction of the centre, training for hospital staff included advanced emergency and trauma care training and Remote Emergency Care – equipping frontline responders with the skills to provide immediate, life-saving stabilisation during the critical "golden hour" before referral.

Since the accident, Brighter Communities Worldwide has been supporting 46 children orphaned by the tragedy to remain in education – across primary, secondary, and third level – recognising that the impact of such events extends far beyond the immediate loss. By ensuring continuity of education, this support helps protect children from long-term vulnerability, preserves future opportunities, and enables them to rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and hope.

The Living Hope Emergency and Trauma Centre stands as a tribute to lives lost, a commitment to safer futures, and a powerful example of what is possible when communities, health workers and partners walk together in solidarity.

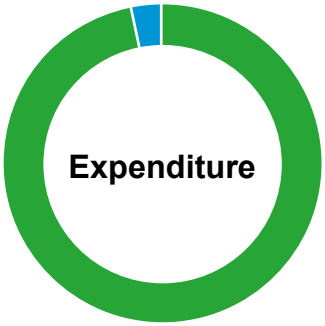
# Financial summary 2025

Our accounts are independently audited every year and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) standard and with the Dóchas and Irish Aid guidelines on financial reporting. We publish our annual accounts online every year and these are available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWFinance




- Irish Aid .....€340,000
- Donations and legacies.....€180,658
- Fundraising .....€245,038
- Other grants .....€151,794

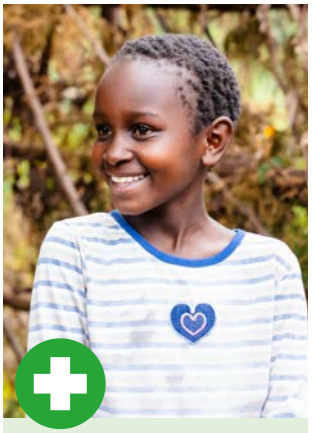
**Total**.....**€917,490**




- **Development programmes**.....**€965,080**
  - Health, Water and Sanitation .....€405,456
  - Education .....€339,281
  - Economic Empowerment .....€141,725
  - Global Citizenship Education .....€78,618
- **Raising funds** .....**€52,889**

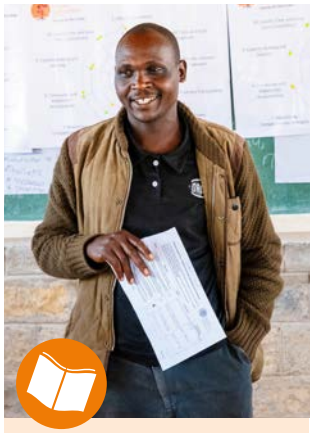
**Total**.....**€1,017,969**

## Programme expenditure 2025



**Health, Water and Sanitation**

**€405,456**



**Education**

**€339,281**



**Economic Empowerment**

**€141,725**



**Global Citizenship Education**

**€78,618**

*Every age. Every generation. A brighter future for all (Community events during 2025)*

## Health, Water and Sanitation

**2025 investment: €405,456**










# Advancing health justice

Health justice is about more than access to services. It is about dignity, readiness, and the right to timely, quality care – regardless of where you live or what resources you have.

In the past year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued its mission to strengthen health systems, improve access to care, and empower communities across Kericho County, Kenya. This work took place in a context of rising costs of living, increasing climate pressures, and ongoing inequities in access to essential health services – particularly for women, children and those living in remote communities.

Guided by a locally led, systems-based approach, Brighter Communities Worldwide worked in partnership with communities, county health authorities, and frontline health workers to deliver practical, community-driven solutions.

The programme was implemented in alignment with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Community Health strategies, addressing both preventive and curative care. Health interventions spanned maternal and child health, community health system strengthening, access to clean water, environmental health through smokeless stoves, sexual and reproductive health education, and emergency and trauma care – recognising that improving health outcomes requires action across the full continuum of care.



*Training from Response Med for Remote Emergency Care trainers (May 2025)*



## Maternal and child health

Maternal and child health remains a central priority for Brighter Communities Worldwide, as the wellbeing of mothers and children is foundational to healthy families and resilient communities. During the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide worked alongside communities, Community Health Promoters and health facilities to improve access to antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, with a particular focus on reaching women facing economic, geographic and social barriers.

Through strengthened community outreach and follow-up, more women were supported to engage with maternal health services earlier and more consistently. During 2025, 24,133 women were supported to deliver safely with skilled care. Outreach clinics played a critical role in extending services to hard-to-reach areas, reaching 15,967 women and children who might otherwise have faced significant barriers to care.

At facility level, Brighter Communities Worldwide supported improvements in the quality and responsiveness of services through targeted capacity strengthening. Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) was reinforced through EmOC mentorship for 50 healthcare workers, alongside 31 Continuous Medical Education workshops that reached over 2,000 health professionals. These efforts strengthened clinical confidence, teamwork and readiness to manage complications when they arise.

Investment in essential infrastructure further supported safe care. Solar energy systems were installed at the Londiani Sub-County Hospital Trauma Centre and Ndubusat Medical Clinic, ensuring reliable power for life-saving functions including lighting, water pumping, monitoring equipment and emergency response – particularly critical during outages and periods of extreme weather.

Across communities, awareness sessions, household follow-up by Community Health Promoters, and strengthened referral pathways helped increase uptake and continuity of care. Where distance, cost or weather made access difficult, services were localised and schedules adapted to reduce barriers, ensuring that women and children were not left behind.

Together, these combined community- and facility-level efforts contributed to safer pregnancies, more supported deliveries and improved continuity of care during a challenging year.

For many women, the difference was not only medical, but emotional – knowing that care was available, trusted and delivered with dignity.

## Strengthening community health systems

Strong community health systems are the backbone of accessible and resilient healthcare, particularly for families living far from health facilities or facing economic and social barriers. In Kenya, these systems rely on local volunteers and frontline workers – Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and Community Health Assistants (CHAs) – who form the vital link between households and formal health services. Often the first point of contact for families, they provide health education, early identification of risk, follow-up, and referral, helping ensure that care reaches those who need it most.

During the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to invest in strengthening these community-level systems so that health services could reach people where they live. Eleven Community Units were established or strengthened, expanding access to basic health services for 52,778 people across underserved areas. Alongside this expansion, 345 CHP's and CHA's received training and ongoing mentorship, equipping them with practical, life-saving knowledge and reinforcing their role within the health system.

Training focused on real-world priorities, including maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, basic emergency response, and community mobilisation. By strengthening skills and confidence at the frontline, CHPs and CHAs were better prepared to identify risk early, support timely referral, and maintain continuity of care within their communities.

Community engagement was further strengthened through 47 Action and Dialogue Days, which brought together community members, health workers and local leaders in structured, participatory forums. A total of 2,757 community members took part in these sessions, using the space to identify health challenges, share experiences and agree practical actions to improve local services. These forums helped build trust, accountability and communication between communities and service providers, reinforcing a shared responsibility for health outcomes.

In a year marked by pressure on services and household resources, strengthened community health systems played a critical role in sustaining access to care. Regular follow-up visits strengthened referral pathways and localised outreach helped ensure that women, children and vulnerable households did not fall through the gaps, even when access was disrupted by cost, distance or weather.

By investing in people, relationships and local leadership, Brighter Communities Worldwide supported communities to sustain access to care – not as passive recipients of services, but as active partners in their own health and wellbeing.



*Advanced Life Support training strengthening skills and confidence for health care workers. (June 2025)*



*Viola Chepwagen Meli with her smokeless stove in place – providing a cleaner, safer environment for all the family (June 2025)*

## Environmental health

The quality of the air that household members breathe while cooking has a direct impact on daily wellbeing – particularly for women and children who bear the greatest burden of household labour including cooking and collecting wood for burning.

Indoor air pollution remains a major but often overlooked health risk. Traditional open-fire cooking exposes families to smoke-related illness and increases demand for firewood. Brighter Communities Worldwide's smokeless stoves programme continued to deliver health, environmental and economic benefits: 1,236 smokeless stoves were installed, reaching 6,411 people reducing household firewood use by approximately 45%, improving indoor air quality, significantly lowering respiratory illness and burn-related injuries, and easing the daily burden on women and girls while contributing to environmental protection.

For many households, the stoves reduced cooking time and fuel costs, while easing the physical burden on women and girls responsible for fuel collection. Reduced firewood use also contributed to environmental conservation and climate resilience.

Together, clean water access and improved household cooking environments strengthened health outcomes while supporting dignity, time savings and resilience at household level.



## Health programme and WASH achievements

**Health programme objective:** Community members, particularly women and girls, will have access to a strengthened and more effective and equitable healthcare system.

**Performance indicator:** Number of communities in which there is a functioning community unit.

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health to establish new community units.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Form 8 new units<br><br>Strengthen 71 Community Units | 8 new units set up<br><br>Supporting 71 existing units | Form 8 new units | 8 new units set up, reaching 6,705 households<br><br>Supporting 79 existing units | Form 8 new units | 11 new community units set up<br><br>Supporting 90 existing units |

Community Units (CUs) are established within local communities and each CU serves a population of approximately 5,000 people (1,000 households). In 2025, 11 new Community Units were established with a population of 52,778.

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health to strengthen existing units in Kericho county.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Support 71 existing community units | 71 existing units supported and strengthened | Support 79 existing community units | 79 existing units supported and strengthened | Support 87 existing community units | 90 existing units supported and strengthened |

A total of 90 Community Units established by end of 2025 serving a population of 438,257 people with over 83,977 households.



*Kaboyek Secondary School rain water harvesting tank commissioning (July 2025)*

**Performance indicator:** Level of respiratory illness reported across the sub counties.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2% reduction annually | Increased by 6.5% across Kericho | 2% reduction annually | 17% reduction | 2% reduction annually | 27% reduction |

Respiratory illness reduced from 33,828 (2024) to 24,538 in 2025 a (27% reduction) across Kericho County.

**Health programme objective:** Increased resilience of community members, especially women and girls, through improved health and hygiene knowledge and practices.

**Performance indicator:** Number of homesteads with a smokeless stove installed.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| increase by 1,200 | 1,219 smokeless stoves installed | increase by 1,200 | 1,755 stoves installed | 1,150 | 1,236 stoves installed |

Smokeless stoves are built using locally available bricks, mud and a tin chimney which extracts the smoke from the kitchen providing a healthier and safer environment.

## Water and Sanitation

**Performance indicator:** Number of water tanks installed in schools.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 x 32,000 litre tanks | 8 water tanks constructed in 8 schools impacting 2,099 students and 104 teachers. | 18 x 32,000 litre tanks | 18 ferrous cement water tanks (32,000 litres) impacting 7,276 students and 427 teachers. | 8 x 32,000 litre tanks | 8 ferrous cement water tanks (32,000 litres) in 8 schools impacting 3,481 students and teachers |

Improvement of school hygiene, sanitation, water infrastructure is key to health of children in school.

# Stories of IMPACT



Nanci Mosonik

**"I am Nanci Mosonik and I am a smokeless stoves installer.** I have spent most of my time cooking for my family using traditional three-stone fire. The smoke from the fire filled my small cooking place and this caused coughing, eye irritation and sometimes breathing problems. Firewood collection was also time consuming because I went to the forest several times in a week. Since I installed this smokeless stove in my kitchen, it has no smoke and this has greatly reduced respiratory problems and eye irritations. My kitchen is now cleaner and more comfortable. I use less firewood and have more time to do household chores and help children with homework. This is also a source of income for my family because I can charge an fee to install smokeless stoves and I get some money to buy household needs. I have now become an advocate for smokeless stoves and I have encouraged more community members to adopt the smokeless stove".

**"I am Victoria Chepkemoi, a nurse from Ndubusat Dispensary.** I took part in Emergency Obstetric and Neo-Natal Care training with Brighter Communities Worldwide. I acquired more skills and knowledge on management of mother in labour, early detection of emergencies through use of partograph, management and resuscitation of newborn which is key for us since we are bit far from neighbouring facilities".




Victoria Chepkemoi

# Stories of IMPACT



Ebby Chepkurui and Catherine Cherotich

**"We are Ebby Chepkurui and Catherine Cherotich, members of Cheptembe water spring protection in Soin Sigowet.** We are very happy because we have clean and safe drinking water even during the dry season and it is closer to home which allows us more time for farming, other workshops and learning and less time needed walking for water".



Nicholas Korir

**"I am Nicholas Korir, I am a member of the Cheptembe Community Water Spring committee.** My community are happy and relieved because the water projected supported by Brighter communities has brought clean water for drinking, domestic and livestock. Thank you for your help which has brought clean water to our community, having multiple taps for collecting water has reduced queuing time and is bringing relieve. We are truly grateful".

## Education

**2025 investment: €339,281**

# Advancing education justice




*Graduates Lifeskills Course (November 2025)*

Education justice is about more than access to a classroom. It is about creating safe, supportive learning environments where children and young people – especially girls – can learn, thrive and complete their education with dignity.

For many students in the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide works alongside, barriers to education extend beyond school fees. Poor sanitation, ill health, gender inequality, harmful practices and limited access to accurate information continue to affect attendance and learning. Throughout the year, we worked with schools, communities and government partners to address these challenges through an integrated school and community-based approach.

### Healthy and safe school environments

A healthy learning environment is essential to education justice. Through the Healthy Schools programme, we continued to improve hygiene, sanitation and overall wellbeing in schools, creating environments where children can learn safely and confidently.

During the year, 40 new schools joined the Healthy Schools programme, bringing the total to 472 participating schools and extending healthier, safer learning environments to approximately 153,255 students – 79,749 girls and 73,506 boys.

Student-led HECA Clubs (Healthy Environments for Children Alliance), continued to drive change through peer education, hygiene promotion and environmental action, empowering students to become champions of health within their schools and communities.

Results from the 2025 HECA Survey across 100 schools demonstrate the programme's impact. Over 93% of teachers reported improved attendance among girls (85% for boys), while 90% reported improved retention for girls (83% for boys). Among students, 71% reported missing fewer school days and 97% said HECA had increased their likelihood of staying in school. Nearly 99% reported improved hygiene practices, while over 87% of teachers observed positive hygiene behaviours extending into students' homes, highlighting the programme's wider community impact.

## Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Access to accurate, age-appropriate information about health and rights is essential to education justice. Brighter Communities Worldwide's SRHR programme works in both schools and communities, recognising that young people's wellbeing is shaped by families, culture and community as much as by the classroom.

### SRHR in schools

During the year, SRHR clubs were established or strengthened in 47 schools, reaching 2,640 students, while 162 teachers received training to support sustainable programme delivery.

Through structured SRHR clubs and guided discussions promoting participatory learning, students explored topics including puberty, menstrual health, relationships and gender-based violence. Peer education and reusable sanitary starter kits helped reduce stigma, improve menstrual dignity and support girls to remain in school.



*Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Community workshop (August 2025)*

### SRHR in communities

Beyond the classroom, 63 SRHR Ambassadors worked alongside facilitators to reach 8,893 community members through household visits, workshops and community discussions. By creating safe spaces for dialogue, ambassadors challenged stigma around sexuality and menstrual health while promoting practical, sustainable solutions, including the making of reusable sanitary products. SRHR messages were also integrated into routine household visits by Community Health Promoters, extending the programme's reach to remote households.



*Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 2025)*

### SRHR outcomes

The 2025 SRHR School Survey confirms that the programme is delivering meaningful changes across schools and communities. More than 80% of students reported increased knowledge of SRHR, while over 83% said they now feel comfortable discussing these topics. Teachers also reported improved hygiene, greater student confidence and fewer school dropouts linked to early pregnancy.

By working simultaneously with students, teachers, families and community leaders, we are creating safer, more supportive environments where young people – particularly girls – can remain in school, make informed choices and realise their potential.

## Education justice in practice

Across schools and communities, education justice became visible in everyday moments:

- Girls attending school consistently because they have access to safe sanitation and menstrual products.
- Students leading hygiene and environmental initiatives through HECA Clubs.
- Young people speaking confidently about their health and rights.
- Communities choosing education and dignity over harmful practices.

Together, these changes create pathways for children and young people to learn, thrive and lead.




*Healthy Schools Club Awards (July 2025)*

## Education and gender justice: Lifeskills and ending harmful practices

Gender justice underpins Brighter Communities Worldwide's approach to education and community development, ensuring that girls and women are safe, informed and empowered while communities are supported to challenge harmful norms.

### Lifeskills education

Lifeskills education equips adolescents and adults with the confidence, resilience and practical skills needed to make informed, positive choices and build healthy relationships. Delivered through safe, participatory spaces, the programme enables participants to reflect on values, relationships, and wellbeing while strengthening communication, problem-solving, and self-awareness.

During the year, 43 workshops engaged 1,466 participants across Kericho County. Sessions addressed priority issues including mental health, safeguarding, HIV awareness, relationships, substance use and communication. Participants reported increased confidence, stronger communication skills and a greater ability to manage personal and family challenges, while communities benefited from stronger dialogue and peer support.

### FGM/C abandonment and Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP)

Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to work alongside families, elders and community leaders to abandon the harmful practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C).

This requires community leadership, cultural sensitivity and sustained dialogue. Through Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) courses, communities are supported to replace harmful practices with culturally appropriate ceremonies that celebrate girls' transition to adulthood without violence.

During the year, 52 ARP courses supported 2,631 girls, while 14,578 community members were reached through awareness activities across 149 communities. Encouragingly, 98.76% of participants reported increased confidence to reject FGM/C.

By combining education on health, rights and lifeskills with culturally appropriate celebration ceremonies, the FGM/C Abandonment programme provides positive alternatives that protect girls while respecting community identity. The involvement of parents, elders and community leaders is central to to legitimising change, strengthening social support, and enabling families to choose alternatives that uphold dignity, wellbeing, and the rights of girls.

## Gender justice in practice

Together, lifeskills education and ARP are helping girls remain in school, build confidence and pursue their aspirations, while strengthening communities' capacity to protect children and promote dignity and equality.

## Education programme achievements

**Education programme objective:** Communities will be proactive in addressing inequality and have zero tolerance to violence – particularly against women and girls.

**Performance indicator:** Number of girls attending Alternative Rite of Passage Trainings**.**

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,340 girls | Alternative Rite of Passage courses took place in 2023 with 2,468 girls graduating | 2,250 girls | 49 Alternative Rite of Passage courses took place in 2024 with 2,438 girls graduating | 2,600 girls | 52 Alternative Rite of Passage courses took place in 2025 with 2,631 girls graduating |

Follow-up assessments of girls who participated in the ARP programme show that the programme enhanced self-esteem, confidence, awareness of risks associated with early pregnancy and early marriage and motivation to pursue education and career goals.

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**Education programme objective:** Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**Performance indicator:** Number of SRHR ambassadors trained

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 150 | 153 | 150 | 237 participants | 59 | 63 participants |

63 new SRHR ambassadors trained who will deliver the SRHR programme across communities.

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**Education programme objective:** Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**Performance indicator:** Number of people sensitised on Menstrual Health/Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,000 | 6,182 people | 2,000 | 15,673 people | 2,000 | 8,893 people |

SRHR Ambassadors gather households and small groups of community members together, share SRHR information, and as a result increase the knowledge and awareness of SRHR across communities.

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**Education programme objective:** Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**Performance indicator:** Number and percentage of SRHR Workshop participants with improved knowledge of SRHR.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| >75% participants of which at least 50% are women | 79% of participants of which 58% are women | >75% participants of which at least 50% are women | 79% participants of which 58% are women | >75% participants of which at least 50% are girls/ women | 86% participants of which 61% are girls/women |

The target was exceeded with 2,468 participants (86%) showing improved SRHR knowledge. Women and girls accounted for 61%.

**Education programme objective:** Girls and boys have increased access to education on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**Performance indicator:** Percentage of girls and women sensitised who make their own sanitary kits.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25% | 61% of girls and 37% of women are making their own sanitary kits | 25% | 51% of girls and 44% of women sensitised are making their own sanitary kits | 25% | 40% of girls and 38% of women sensitised are making their own sanitary kits |

The target was exceeded with 2,468 participants (86%) showing improved SRHR knowledge. Women and girls accounted for 61%.




*AGC Liloch Secondary School Girls latrine commissioning (August 2025)*

# Stories of IMPACT



Amos Kimutai

**"My name is Amos Kimutai and graduated school with no job. I thank Brighter Communities Worldwide for giving me the chance to attend a five day Lifeskills course** that has enabled me to learn topics on HIV, sexuality and drug abuse among others. The training has opened my eyes to the many ways of dealing with gender based violence which has risen up in the community because of lack of information. I was once involved with testing drugs as the result of peer group influence which I never knew the impact. Now having learned the consequences, I will use the opportunity to sensitise my fellow youths and community members on effects of drugs and issues which result in teenage pregnancies".

**"I am Maureen Chebet and I have attended training on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**. Being a youth, there is a lot of information I have learned that I didn't know on SRHR e.g. making my own sanitary kits, STI's and HIV, gender-based violence, puberty and the menstrual cycle. With knowledge gained from SRHR programme from Brighter Communities Worldwide, I will be able to sensitise my village on SRHR issues. I am equipped with comprehensive information that I will be able to deliver during youth meetings in churches and seminars".




Maureen Chebet




# Building resilience

Resilience: the ability of individuals, households and communities to withstand shocks and stresses, recover from them, and adapt so they are better placed to face the next one.

Across Kericho County, resilience connects four programmes at the heart of our work: Climate Change Ambassadors, Healthy Schools, Water and Sanitation (WASH) and Economic Empowerment. Alongside Health and Education, Resilience is one of three pillars through which we describe what we do.

During 2025, work across these four programmes continued to demonstrate strong cross-cutting benefits, supporting improved household nutrition, reinforcing WASH outcomes, strengthening school environments, and building economic resilience through diversified livelihood practices.

A significant outcome this year has been an internal shift in how climate resilience is understood and applied within Brighter Communities Worldwide, integrating resilience more consistently across programmes and organisational decision-making. This has led to bringing these four programmes together under one banner, as part of a practical, organisation-wide climate and resilience implementation plan.

## Climate Change Ambassadors

Climate change is a daily reality for the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide work alongside, as well as a daily threat to health and livelihoods. Unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry periods and extreme weather events are affecting food production, water access, health and household incomes.

Our response is rooted in a principle that runs through all our work – the most powerful agents of change are the people already living with the problem. We train local community volunteers as Climate Change Ambassadors.

In 2025, 80 new Ambassadors were trained, learning the science of climate change and how it specifically affects Kericho County. They learn climate-smart agriculture, drought-resistant crops, mulching, intercropping, vertical gardens that help families grow more food in limited space. They are trained to understand climate risks, share practical adaptation strategies, and mobilise action at household and community level.

Equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead climate action from within, they reached 11,952 community members through awareness sessions and activities during the year. They delivered 42 workshops with 1,060 participants and they planted 3,362 “trees with a purpose” at household and community level. These locally led actions translated learning into practice, with communities implementing kitchen gardens, tree planting, water conservation, and climate-smart farming to strengthen resilience to climate change.

Rather than delivering one-off interventions, the programme focuses on building local knowledge, ownership and long-term resilience.



*Diana Cherotich from the Ministry of Agriculture, demonstrates proper tree planting techniques and highlights their importance (May 2025)*

The programme also strengthened links between climate action and other areas of Brighter Communities Worldwide's work. Improved household nutrition supported maternal and child health, reduced pressure on water sources strengthened improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene, and diversified livelihoods enhanced improved household income.

Most importantly, the Climate Change Ambassadors programme reaffirmed a core belief at the heart of Brighter Communities Worldwide's approach: communities are not passive victims of climate change, but active leaders in shaping their own resilience and futures.

## Water and Sanitation (WASH)

Access to clean water is fundamental to good health, dignity and resilience. Throughout the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to work in partnership with communities to improve access to safe water and reduce environmental health risks at household and community level. Reliable access to clean water plays a critical role in reducing waterborne disease, improving hygiene practices and easing the daily physical and time burden on families.

During the year, 6 water sources were protected or rehabilitated, improving access to safe drinking water for 7,375 people across communities, schools and shared facilities. Through the Healthy Schools programme, this extended into school infrastructure: 2 boys' latrines, 4 girls' latrines with washroom facilities, 8 rainwater harvesting tanks, 593 trees planted across 25 schools, and 24 smokeless stoves installed in school kitchens. Together, these investments strengthened water reliability for households and safer, healthier learning environments alike.

Community ownership was central to this work. Communities actively identified priority sites, contributed local labour and established management and maintenance structures to safeguard water sources over the long term. This locally led approach helped ensure sustainability while reinforcing shared responsibility for protecting essential resources.




*Members of Kapsingaru water project committee (July 2025)*




*Business Training participants (April 2025)*

For women and girls, improved water access translated into significant time savings and reduced physical strain, creating space for schooling, income-generating activities and household care. Together, these gains strengthened not only health outcomes, but dignity, opportunity and resilience at household and community level.

## Economic justice and livelihoods

Economic justice begins at household level. When families are able to earn a stable income, they can meet their basic needs, keep children in school, access healthcare and build resilience to shocks.

In the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide work alongside, rising living costs, climate change and limited access to capital continue to place pressure on households. Our Economic Empowerment programme focuses on strengthening skills and confidence, fostering collective action and building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

**Building entrepreneurial skills and capacity**

During 2025, 52 business skills workshops were delivered, engaging 862 participants, with women forming the majority of participants. Training focused on financial literacy, savings, project planning, income generation and record keeping. Participants reported increased confidence to manage resources, plan viable ventures, and make informed financial decisions. A strong emphasis was placed on group-based approaches, recognising that collective action enhances peer learning, accountability and resilience, particularly in resource-constrained and climate-vulnerable settings.

**Supporting income-generating activities**

Skills training was complemented by targeted start-up support, enabling learning to translate into action. 55 community groups received start-up resources, reaching 1,047 participants including youth and people living with disabilities. Supported income-generating activities reflected local opportunities and climate realities, and included poultry farming, beekeeping, crop production, equipment hire and small retail enterprises.

**Follow-up, networking and resilience**

Ongoing follow-up and peer networking were integral to sustaining progress. During the year, 47 business follow up workshops took place with 755 participants and 47 business network meetings were held with 772 participants. These sessions provided space for groups to share experiences, refine business practices, strengthen collaboration, and adapt to changing economic and climate conditions.

Importantly, the sessions also reinforced links between economic empowerment and wider programme outcomes, including improved nutrition, increased health-seeking behaviour, and strengthened climate resilience.

Across the programme, economic empowerment delivered more than income alone – it enabled dignity, choice, and opportunity, particularly for women who often shoulder the greatest economic burden within households. By strengthening skills, supporting locally appropriate enterprises, and fostering collective action, Brighter Communities Worldwide's Economic Empowerment programme helped families move from vulnerability towards greater stability, self-reliance, and resilience.

## Economic empowerment programme achievements

**Economic empowerment programme objective:** Improved standard of living across households.

**Performance indicator:** Number of business training courses held.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 26 courses 382 participants | 20 | 41 courses 617 participants | 52 | 52 courses 862 participants |

Business courses focus on equipping participants with the practical knowledge and skills necessary to establish and sustain successful income-generating activities.

**Performance indicator:** Percentage of business course participants engaging in new income generating activity.

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| > 55% of participants (of which at least 50% are women) | 76% participants engaged in new income generating activity (of which 76% are women) | > 76% of participants (of which at least 50% are women) | 84% participants engaged in new income generating activity (of which 75% are women) | > 225 (75%) of participants engage in new income generating activity of which at least 113 (50%) are women and 23 (10%) are PLWD | 250 (83%) of participants engaged in new income generating activity of which 199 (80%) are women and 69 (28%) are PLWD |

Engagement in new income-generating activities remained high at 83%, demonstrating sustained motivation and skills application among participants.

Taken together, Climate Change Ambassadors, Healthy Schools, Water and Sanitation, and Economic Empowerment build resilience in the way Brighter Communities Worldwide understands it: strengthening the ability of individuals, households and communities to withstand shocks and stresses, recover from them, and adapt so they are better placed to face the next one.

It is this resilience, alongside our work in Health and Education, that turns short-term support into lasting change.

# Stories of IMPACT



Pauline Chepngetich

**"I am Pauline Chepngetich and I was first trained as an Economic Empowerment Facilitator, after which I trained a women's group on business skills.** Together, we started an income-generating activity focused on tree seedlings and got our start up materials from Brighter Communities Worldwide. The training takes 3 days and covers a range of topics like, financial management, marketing, business planning, developing ideas and sustainable practice. Through the training and subsequent follow ups with the group, we started a merry-go-round savings scheme where members contribute small amounts and access loans at a small interest. Over time, the group has grown stronger and now has savings of over KES 100,000. Women can take loans to support their families, including paying school fees for their children. The Economic Empowerment programme has helped us build resilience as a group. Today, we can stand on our own as empowered women, with the skills and systems to sustain ourselves".

"Bringing youths together is very hard, but the approach Brighter Communities Worldwide is using has helped bring all people in the communities together, **we the Shiners group have really learnt a lot, we are more confident and are able to put into practice the knowledge and skills we gained during the business training,** especially on record keeping. We now understand our finances and we can predict the flow of how successful we are. We can mentor and motivate other youths to attend the programme."



Shiners Kiptuigo Youth Group




*Volunteers Joan O Regan, Aoife O Donnell, Michelle Barret and Rose Hennessy (BCW) at the Global Solidarity Hub, Ploughing (September 2025)*

# Our volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to every volunteer who gave their time, skills and enthusiasm to support our work throughout 2025. Volunteers remain central to our work and their generosity and commitment make an extraordinary difference to so many lives.

In Kenya, more than 2,500 local volunteers were actively involved during the year, forming the bedrock of our programmes and working alongside staff to deliver community-led health, education, climate resilience, and economic empowerment initiatives. Their passion and commitment are helping to create lasting change, and the impact of their work continues to be felt by countless individuals and families.

In Ireland and beyond, volunteers brought energy, creativity and dedication to fundraising events including the Kenya Ball, the BIG Walk and the sale of beautiful crafts from Kenya. Others supported our work behind the scenes, giving their time in our Cobh office, sharing our story with their circles or sharing professional expertise in areas such as HR and marketing. Every contribution, large or small, helped strengthen our mission, and we are deeply grateful.

## Remote emergency care training

In May, the Brighter Communities Worldwide team in Kenya along with two Irish Volunteers, joined forces with the Londiani Sub-County Hospital team and our amazing partners at Response Med for an action-packed week on the certified course of Wilderness First Aid training in Londiani.




*Volunteers Charlote Concannon and Finola Keohane with John Sawe (BCW). Remote emergency care facilitators training (May 2025)*



*Community elder Mary Keter with volunteer Ann Phelan, Ndubusat (November 2025)*

Harambee is the Swahili word meaning ‘working together’, and it is the name of our overseas volunteer programme. In 2025, we welcomed two Harambee teams to Kenya. Our June Harambee team included 14 volunteers, comprising nursing students from University of Galway, International business student from University of Limerick, sales executive, a radiographer and retired obstetrician.

In November, we welcomed a further 9 volunteers from a wide range of professional backgrounds, including nursing, midwifery, environmental science, orthopedic surgery. Working alongside our staff and local volunteers, they supported skills exchange, training, reflection and partnership building. All volunteer engagement is guided by Brighter Communities Worldwide commitment to ethical, locally led practice, ensuring that volunteering strengthens systems, relationships and community ownership.

Together, they shared their expertise, learned alongside local communities and made an invaluable contribution through their time, skills and commitment.

From March to August, we also welcomed a third-year International Development student from University College Cork, who completed a placement with us in Ireland. Throughout her placement, she gained invaluable experience while providing meaningful support to the Irish operations.

To every volunteer who shared their time, talents and passion with us during 2025 – thank you. Your commitment embodies the true spirit of Harambee – working together – and your support continues to transform lives and strengthen communities.

# Global citizenship

*Global Solidarity Hub representatives at the Ploughing Championships with Minister Neale Richmond September 2025*




Brighter Communities Worldwide promotes global citizenship by creating meaningful connections between people and communities in Ireland and Kenya, encouraging learning, partnership and shared responsibility for a more just and sustainable world.

Through volunteer programmes, university partnerships, fundraising initiatives and community engagement, people of all ages gain first-hand insight into global development, health equity and climate resilience. Participants are encouraged to learn from one another, challenge assumptions and recognise the interconnected nature of global issues.

By fostering mutual respect, cultural exchange and active participation, Brighter Communities Worldwide empowers individuals to become informed, compassionate global citizens who understand that lasting change is achieved by working together across communities and borders.

Social media can be a powerful tool in supporting global citizenship. Brighter Communities Worldwide use it to share stories of impact, raising awareness of issues and connecting communities. During 2025, we promoted several Global days of solidarity and advocacy. For example – International Women's Day striving for a gender equal world; Menstrual Hygiene Day promoting a Period Friendly World; Global Handwashing Day raising awareness of hand hygiene and the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).




*Celebrating International Womens Day Ainiamoi Sub-County March 2025*

Public events provide opportunities to share stories from our programmes in Kenya and highlight initiatives like our Climate Change Ambassador programme designed to build resilience and support sustainable livelihoods through community action.

In September, we were delighted to attend the Irish National Ploughing Championships as part of the Global Solidarity Hub. Alongside our valued partners – Dóchas, Sightsavers, Trócaire, GOAL and Self Help Africa – we showcased Ireland's commitment to international development and the positive impact of working in partnership with communities around the world.

The hub was opened by Neale Richmond, Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora, in his opening speech he confirmed Irelands' commitment to International Aid, "We are at an absolute existential crisis point when it comes to International development solidarity between the global north and global south. And I just want to make sure and reassure everyone here and pass the message on… Irelands' commitment is not wavering."

In Kenya we marked several global days with events across the county including International Women's Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day in May, World Water Day, World Cancer Day, Day of the Girl Child and the UN 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence in November and December.

# Partnerships

Partnership is at the heart of everything we do. Since 2002, Brighter Communities Worldwide has built strong, lasting relationships with local community groups, government ministries, educational institutions and other partners across Kenya, Ireland and beyond.



*Friends of Kipkelion Chairman, Michael Deriaz with graduates of business training receiving resources for income generating project (June 2025)*

We believe that lasting change is only possible when communities lead the way. By working together, sharing knowledge and building local capacity, our partnerships foster community ownership and create the foundations for sustainable development.

Our partnerships are built on shared values of respect, trust, participation, mutual accountability and a common vision for a healthier, more equitable future. Together, we are creating solutions that are community-led, locally owned and designed to deliver lasting impact.

Our Partnership Policy, which outlines the principles that guide these relationships, is available on our website: tinyurl.com/BCWPartnershipPolicy2025

## Partnership seminars

Our annual Partnership Seminars are one of the most important ways we strengthen relationships with the communities and organisations we work alongside. They provide a dedicated space for listening, learning and planning together, ensuring that community voices remain at the heart of our programmes and future direction.

Each year, representatives of local community groups, government ministries and other key stakeholders come together to reflect on our partnership, celebrate achievements, share challenges and identify priorities for the future. In advance of the seminars, participants consult with the communities and organisations they represent, gathering feedback through questionnaires and identifying local needs, opportunities and priorities to bring to the discussions.

In 2025, 6 two-day residential partnership seminars were held across the 6 sub-counties in Kericho County with 372 stakeholders attending. Together, participants reviewed organisational progress, evaluated our partnerships, shared their most significant changes over the previous year, considered changes in the external environment, reviewed local standards of living, explored the impacts of climate change and, most importantly, planned the future together.

These seminars are a vital part of our commitment to genuine partnership, mutual accountability and community-led development. They ensure that the voices of our partners continue to shape our work, strengthening local ownership and helping us achieve lasting, sustainable impact.

## Friends of Kipkelion

Friends of Kipkelion is a UK registered charity (no. 1188612) founded in 2011 by Michael Deriaz. Inspiration to set up the charity stems from time spent time in Kipkelion, Kericho County, as a student. We have worked as partners since 2011 with both organisations sharing the same aims and values and working together on programme delivery. In 2025, the cumulative total of Friends of Kipkelion's contributions since 2011 hit a milestone figure reaching over €1.5 million. We are very grateful to Michael Deriaz, Chairman of Friends of Kipkelion, their board and their donors for their continued friendship and support.

## GlobalGiving

GlobalGiving is a non-profit foundation that connects non-profits, donors and companies all over the world. As a GlobalGiving partner we have access to a variety of resources since we joined in 2020, including online fundraising tools, exposure to new potential donors, matching funds and bonus prizes that support our fundraising campaigns. During 2025, we took part in several match funding campaigns the biggest of them being Giving Tuesday in December.

## West of Ireland-Kenya Partnership

The West of Ireland–Kenya Partnership is a long-standing collaboration between Mayo University Hospital (MUH), Londiani Sub-County Hospital (LSCH), the University of Galway and Brighter Communities Worldwide. Beginning informally in 2004 and evolving into a formal hospital-to-hospital partnership in 2008, it has grown into a mature, multi-level collaboration linking community initiatives, clinical service delivery, health systems strengthening and academic exchange. Over two decades, the partnership has contributed to improvements in quality of care, emergency preparedness, leadership capability, and community engagement, while fostering deep professional and personal relationships between Ireland and Kenya.

In 2025, Brighter Communities Worldwide was awarded a Partnership Impact Grant by the Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) to evaluate the long-term impact of our health partnership. The resulting report highlights how equitable, long-term collaboration has strengthened health systems, improved health outcomes and fostered shared learning, while identifying opportunities for future development. Read the full Partnership Impact Report: tinyurl.com/BCWPartnershipImpactReport

## Thank you to all our donors and partners who have supported the communities we work with during 2025, including:

- Benevity Giving Foundation
- Cobh Credit Union
- Electric Aid
- ERM Foundation
- Friends of Kipkelion
- GlobalGiving Foundation
- Irish Aid
- Irish Global Health Network – Esther Ireland
- JP Mc Manus
- Kenya Irish Society
- Limerick City and County Council Staff Humanitarian and Benevolent Committee
- Joe and Helen O Toole Trust
- Self Help Africa
- Soroptimist International Cork
- Soroptimist International Bangor
- Surgeon Noonan UCC medical students
- Staff of HSE (Cork and Kerry) Association for the Relief of Poverty (SHARP)
- Sunflower Charitable Foundation
- Tomar Trust
- Tralee Lions Club

**2025 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES GENERATED**
**€245,038**

# The power of community – your generosity in action

Throughout 2025, individuals, community groups, hospitals, businesses and volunteers came together in countless ways to support our work. From the BIG Walk and marathon challenges to coffee mornings, fundraising events and special birthday celebrations, every effort reflected the generosity, compassion and commitment of people who believe in our mission.

Every event, every donation and every act of kindness helped us continue our work alongside communities in Kenya, providing vital support and creating opportunities for lasting change. Whether you raised funds, volunteered your time, sponsored a participant or helped spread the word, you played an important part in what we achieved together.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who organised, participated in or supported a fundraising event during the year. Your enthusiasm, creativity and generosity inspire us every day and remind us that lasting change is possible when people come together with a shared purpose.

On behalf of everyone at our Brighter Communities Worldwide, and the communities we serve, thank you for standing with us. Your support is helping to build brighter futures, strengthen communities and create lasting impact.



Aidan Ennis took on the BIG Walk challenge for a third consecutive year and walked the entire county of Waterford by coastline, river bank and mountain trail. The journey spanned 372km and took seven days and nine hours to complete all entirely on foot – walk, hiking and running. Asante Sana to Aidan and is support crew Emily and Alex.



Crafts made in Kenya were a big hit again this year and we were delighted to take part in craft fairs at the Gluckman in UCC, Ballymaloe Big Shed, Botanic Gardens in Dublin, many community craft fairs around Cork, exclusive crafts sale for the staff of Bons Secours hospital, customers of SuperValu in Tuam with thanks to staff and management of the store.

Individuals with monthly donations set up raised €25,000 and Revenue's Charitable Donation scheme allows us to claim a refund on tax paid on donations from individuals of €250 or more in a year, in 2025 we received €14,000.

Asante Sana to Eddie Conran, Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar, who ran the Mayo Athletic club 5K summer series of 5 races raising funds to support the Living Hope Trauma Centre.




The programmes we deliver are funded through grants received from various bodies including Irish Aid. These funds are tied to specific projects and most do not cover 100% of the costs. We rely on fundraising through events and donations to make up the shortfall and provide funding to respond to additional needs in any programme. During 2025, 27% of our income was generated through fundraising.

With heartfelt thanks to everyone who organised, attended and supported our fundraising events throughout 2025. We are proud to have you as part of our community and deeply grateful for your continued support.



The 2025 BIG Walk for Maria Kidney and Martin Ballantyne started on the Old Kenmare Road in Ireland, continued with a trek in the Indian Himalayas and included a climb of Table Mountain in Capetown. All in support of providing families with access to clean water which bring better health and opportunities to build a brighter, more resilient future.

The **BIG Walk** took place between June and October and raised €9,000.



Running shoes and hiking boots were swopped for heels and dancing shoes in November for the Kenya Christmas Ball. 174 guests attended and raised €25,000.



*Harambee November 2025 team*

**Harambee** volunteers in June and November fundraised a total of €31,000 as part of their volunteer experience and commitment to supporting Brighter Communities Worldwide programmes.

On Giving Tuesday in December, Eoin Keith took on a unique run from Roches Point light house, at the outer edge of Cork Harbour back to the Brighter Communities Worldwide office in the heart of his hometown of Cobh. His route took him on a very large loop around one side of Cork Harbour. Asante Sana Eoin.



We took part in 4 GlobalGiving online match funding campaigns during 2025 and raised over €56,000 including the match funds. We were especially grateful for the special September campaign supporting communities hit by the US Aid cuts.

# Our commitment to strong governance and accountability

Brighter Communities Worldwide is committed to being accountable and transparent in the management and administration of our organisations. We are accountable to the communities that we work with, as well as our donors, funders and supporters, to operate to the highest standards.

## Our governance

In Ireland, Brighter Communities Worldwide is a registered company limited by guarantee and a charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority. In Kenya, Brighter Communities Worldwide is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation and is compliant with the terms of the NGO Coordination Act of 1990 and the attendant regulations of 1992.

Both organisations are governed by a separate Board of Directors which is responsible for making sure the organisation is governed in accordance with its mission, vision and legal obligations. All our Board members (trustees) are voluntary and bring specific expertise to their governance responsibilities.

Day-to-day management is undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and the staff teams. Staff teams are supported by volunteers in both Ireland and Kenya.

## Our standards of good practice

We are signatories to the following codes and standards that promote good practice in governance, fundraising, volunteer sending, safeguarding, images and messaging and accountability to the communities we support. We review these codes each year to check our compliance and make sure we are living up to the standards we seek to achieve.

- Charities Governance Code – we undertake an annual audit to maintain full compliance and submit this to the Charity Regulator.
- Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public – as devised by the Charities Regulator.
- Comhlámh Code of Good Practice for Volunteer Sending Agencies – to ensure we deliver a volunteer programme promoting responsible international volunteering.
- Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability – a voluntary standard for humanitarian response to improve the quality and effectiveness of assistance provided.
- Dóchas Guide to Ethical Communications – ensuring we are accurately and fairly representing the communities we work with in our images and messaging.
- Dóchas Charter, outlining what it means to be a member of Dóchas – a network of international development and humanitarian organisations who have a shared vision of a just, sustainable and equal world.



*Ainamoi Sub-County Partnership Seminar participants (February 2025)*

We have been awarded the Triple Lock Standard by the Charities Institute Ireland because we operate with best practice in reporting, fundraising and governance demonstrating openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors. We submit an annual self-certification to Charities Institute Ireland to make sure we maintain our standards.

We prepare our Annual Report and Financial Statements in full compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Financial Reporting by Charities. We publish our reports online with the Charity Regulator Authority and the Companies Office and make them available on our website. We have been shortlisted by the Carmichael Good Governance Awards for the quality of our reports.

## Our safeguarding

We are committed to creating brighter futures and we believe for that to happen we have to promote justice, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights as being the norm across all that we do.

We are signatories to the Dóchas Safeguarding Code because we want to ensure that everyone working in and with our organisation is aware of the importance of safeguarding and understands their role in keeping everyone safe. We have put in place approaches to safeguarding to protect the communities and children we work with and keep them safe from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

- We have policies on child safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults.
- We have a beneficiary feedback mechanism to encourage everyone involved in the programmes we deliver to speak up and know that their voice will be heard and their opinions valued.
- We endorse the Comhlámh Put Children First: End Orphanage Care Campaign.

An Rialálaí Carthanas
Charities Regulator

dóchas

Core Humanitarian STANDARD

Code of Good Practice Comhlámh

CHARITIES INSTITUTE IRELAND
2025 TRIPLE LOCK MEMBER
*Promoting Trust*

# Directors' Report and Financial Statements

## for the financial year ended 31 December 2025



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 €965,080 in 2025 (2024: €939,084), equating 95% in 2025 (2024: 97%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

**EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

**€965,080**

**95%**

## Directors and other information

**Board of Directors**
Roisin O'Neill
Catherine Donohoe
Mark Cumming
Lisa Doherty
Carole Barry-Kinsella
Leo McHugh (Appointed 9 December 2025)
Tom Gilligan (Resigned 7 October 2025)
Andrew Bird (Resigned 17 December 2025)
Linden Edgell (Resigned 7 October 2025)
Susan McCarthy (Appointed 10 April 2025)
Naomi Muswamba Mudiay (Appointed 2 October 2025)

**Secretary:** Mark Cumming
**Chief Executuive Officer:** Martin Ballantyne
**Charity register number:** CHY 16505
**Charities regulatory authority number:** 20059583
**Company number:** 398094
**Registered address:** Lower Ground Floor, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork, P24 DY65

**Auditors:** MC2 Audit Limited t/a S&W Ireland Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit firm, Penrose Wharf, Penrose Quay, Cork
**Bankers:** Permanent TSB, Patrick Street, Cork
**Solicitors:** Charles C. Daly, 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Cork

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.
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 the 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 2025, there were 8 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 2025). 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 Brighter Communities Worldwide 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 Brighter Communities Worldwide 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, Brighter Communities Worldwide 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 2025.

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 €965,080 in 2025 (2024: €939,084), equating 95% in 2025 (2024: 97%) of Brighter Communities Worldwide's total expenditure for the year.

## Achievements and performance

In 2025, Brighter Communities Worldwide supported many projects under its programme areas of Health, Education and Economic Empowerment.

Between January and December **2025, 240,642 direct beneficiaries** were reached across our programmes, comprising **92,340 women**, **62,532 girls**, **45,218 boys** and **40,552 men**. Programmes also reached a further **35,260 indirect beneficiaries** – **19,356 women and 15,904 men** – through community-level systems strengthening, capacity building and awareness-raising interventions.

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

# Health programme

**Objectives**

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

## Achievements

**Performance indicator:** Percentage women of reproductive age receiving family planning

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increase by 2% per year | 24% of women of reproductive age received family planning (22% increase on last year)<br><br>Total women reached – 59,633 | Increase by 2% per year reaching 60,826 women | 27% of women of reproductive age received family planning (14% increase on last year)<br><br>Total women reached – 69,521 | Increase by 2% per year reaching 70,911 women | 36% of women of reproductive age received family planning (35% increase on last year)<br><br>Total women reached – 94,131 |

Family planning uptake among women of reproductive age increased from 69,521 women in 2024 to 94,131 women in 2025, a 35% increase in uptake across Kericho County. This increase reflects the combined effect of Outreach Clinics bringing services and awareness closer to women, Field Days reinforcing that awareness at community level, the Community Unit structure improving knowledge of how to access family planning, and improved quality of care following Continuing Medical Education (CME) for health care workers.

**Performance indicator:** Number of households accessing safe water across community units

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increase by 5% per year | 118,324 household (increase of 15%) | Increase by 5% per year | 168,421 households (increase of 43%) | Increase by 5% per year | 196,513 households (increase of 17%) |

The number of households accessing safe water has increased from 168,421 to 196,513, a 17% 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 cross communities.

6 small-scale water protection schemes were completed, bringing clean water to 7,375 people (1,351 women, 1,070 men, 2,686 girls, 2,268 boys).

**Performance indicator:** Outreach Clinics

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 360 | 473 Outreach Clinics were held in unserved communities reaching 17,020 people (3,668F, 1,031M, 9,789G, 2,532B) | 460 (including 360 routine Outreach Clinics and 100 HPV Vaccine Clinics) | 582 Outreach Clinics were held in unserved communities reaching 19,486 people (5,118F, 1,302M, 9,268G, 3,798B) | 150 | 310 Outreach Clinics were held in unserved communities reaching 16,974 people (5,866F, 1,591M, 5,197G, 4,320B) |

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. They also include a public health education element. In 2025, 310 outreach clinics were conducted, providing essential services (including immunisation, antenatal care and health education etc.

# 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

| 2023 target | 2023 results | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/ washroom structures for girls | 4 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 1,135 boys) and 4 latrine /washroom blocks for girls (impacting 827 girls) were constructed in 8 schools | 8 latrine blocks for boys; 12 latrine/ washroom blocks for girls | 8 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 2,196 boys) and 12 latrine / washroom blocks for girls (impacting 2,912 girls) were constructed in 20 schools | 2 latrine blocks for boys; 4 latrine/ washroom blocks for girls | 2 boys' latrine blocks (impacting 434 boys) and 4 latrine /washroom blocks for girls (impacting 591 girls) were constructed in 4 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

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 industrial smokeless stoves | 24 industrial smokeless stoves were installed in 24 schools impacting 8,053 students (4,301B, 3,752G) and 394 (183M, 211F) teachers and non-teaching staff | 34 industrial smokeless stoves | 34 industrial smokeless stoves were installed in 34 schools impacting 12,860 students (6,378B, 6,482G) and (364M, 394F) teachers and non-teaching staff | 24 industrial smokeless stoves | 24 industrial smokeless stoves were installed in 24 schools impacting 7,616 of the school population, including 7,189 students (3,697B, 3,492G) and 427 teachers and non-teaching staff (172M, 255F) |

Smokeless stoves cut firewood use significantly, reducing respiratory illness and burns among kitchen staff while also easing pressure on the local environment. Faster, safer meal preparation supports a more conducive learning environment for students.

**Performance indicator:** Number of people sensitised on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,000 | 6,182 people (2,373F, 488M, 2,465G, 856B) | 1,000 | 15,673 people (8,141F, 2,375M, 3,846G, 1,311B) | 1,000 youths and 1,000 men and women | 8,893 people (3,584 F, 1,571M, 2,657G, 1,081B) were sensitised on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) |

SRHR Ambassadors bring households and small groups of community members together to share accurate SRHR information, creating safe spaces where people can access information and discuss the issues and challenges they face. This increased knowledge and awareness enables individuals to make informed, positive decisions about 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 (IGA)

| 2023 target | 2023 achievement | 2024 target | 2024 achievement | 2025 target | 2025 achievement |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increase by 20 per year of which at least 50% are women groups | 20 groups with 325 participants (170F, 155M) of which 52% are women | Increase by 20 per year of which at least 50% are women groups | 23 groups of which 61% (14) are women groups | Increase by 46 groups with IGAs of which at least 50% are women groups and 10% are people living with disability groups | 55 groups (19 women, 4 mixed, 21 youth, 11 people living with disability groups) with IGAs reaching 1,047 group members (706F, 341M) |

The economic empowerment programme equips groups with entrepreneurship skills and resources to start income-generating businesses. Each beneficiary group identifies the specific income-generating activity it needs support with, such as agricultural inputs, equipment or materials, ensuring the support is tailored to what will most improve their livelihood.

### Department of Foreign Affairs programme

In 2025, the organisation implemented year one of a three-year Department of Foreign Affairs project *"Equal Opportunities, Transformed 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. "No community exists in isolation. In our interconnected and interdependent world, the issues we face are linked – and achieving sustainable development for all means acting 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 2025, 28 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 61.

In 2025, total income was €917,490, a decrease of 1% on 2024 income (€927,047). Growth in income from charitable activities, up 5.5% to €491,794 (2024: €466,136), was offset by a decline in income from fundraising events and other sources during the year.

Income from Friends of Kipkelion fell by 1% to €127,168 (2024: €127,998). Total income from fundraising events was €209,678, a 4% decrease from 2024 (€219,075). This was partly offset by strong growth in grant funding: income from the Sunflower Charitable Foundation increased by 67% to €50,000 (2024: €30,000), and funding from the JP McManus Charitable Foundation more than doubled to €25,000 (2024: €10,000). Brighter Communities Worldwide also secured two new funders during the year, the Joe & Helen O'Toole Trust and the Tomar Trust. Together with continued support from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Electric Aid, Surgeon Noonan, the Irish Forum Global Health, SHARP and ERM Foundation, grant income contributed significantly to this year's income and supported delivery across our thematic areas.

Total expenditure for 2025 was €1,017,969, compared to €970,497 in 2024, reflecting increased programme delivery during the year, particularly within our health programmes. As a result, Brighter Communities Worldwide recorded a net deficit of €100,479 for the year (2024: €43,450), which was met from reserves carried forward.

Brighter Communities Worldwide recorded a deficit of €100,479 in 2025 (2024: €43,450). This reflects a combination of factors. Brighter Communities Worldwide receives a significant proportion of its funding through multi-year projects and appeals, and income raised for a specific purpose is not always spent within the same financial year in which it is received. Following an accident in June 2023, Brighter Communities Worldwide launched an appeal to fund a Trauma Centre in Kenya; funds raised in the appeal's earlier years were substantially spent during 2025 as construction and delivery progressed. The Board also approved increased investment in staffing and programme delivery during 2024 and 2025, funded from reserves built up in prior years. Both deficits were met in full from reserves, do not represent an unfunded shortfall, and Brighter Communities Worldwide's reserve position remains adequate to meet its ongoing obligations. The Board continues to develop its financial planning and Income Strategy to ensure the organisation's funding base and expenditure remain well matched over time.

The contract period for the Department of Foreign Affairs Civil Society Fund grant runs from October to September, and Brighter Communities Worldwide reports to Irish Aid on this same October-to-September basis. Separately, Brighter Communities Worldwide's own financial year for its audited accounts runs from January to December.

In 2025, Brighter Communities Worldwide received a grant of €340,000 from the Department of Foreign Affairs to support Year 2 of the Equal Opportunities, Transformed Futures project, which runs from October 2025 to September 2026. At year-end, €165,498 remained in restricted funds, which will be spent during the remainder of Year 2, up to 30th September 2026.

Brighter Communities Worldwide is deeply grateful for the continued support of all its donors, partners, and supporters.

## Reserves

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a Reserves Policy (last reviewed in February 2026). 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 2026 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 2026 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 2025 this was €165,498.)

## 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.

Brighter Communities Worldwide 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 it 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.

Based on the most recent review of the Risk Register (May 2026), the top five organisational risks are outlined in the table below.

## Risk table

| Definition | Category | Occurrence | Impact | Controls | Risk level | Mitigation strategies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uncertain charitable income. The Irish fund-raising environment continues to be affected by challenging world events/crises e.g. Ukraine, Gaza, and the wider economy. | Finance and Funding | 2 | 4 | 2 | Medium | Fundraising and Funding Plan in place and monitored at each board meeting; Income Strategy in place since July 2024; new Fundraiser role recruited in the Irish office (May 2026); ongoing social media fundraising campaigns and Global Giving bonus campaigns; adherence to Charities Institute Ireland fundraising principles. Next step: turn the Income Strategy into a workable strategy with measurable indicators and timeframes once the new Fundraiser is established. |
| Inability to deliver day to day programmes due to political interference. | Programme Delivery | 2 | 4 | 2 | Medium | Ongoing monitoring of the political situation in Kenya (media, NGO groups, INSO Kenya); compliance with the NGO Coordination Board in Kenya; contingency built into programme planning, particularly around elections and Gen Z protests. The Incident Plan, Risk Register and Operational Plan were updated in May 2026 to reflect the Gen Z protests, flooding, and the Ebola threat. Continual monitoring of the political situation and continuous strengthening of partnerships will continue. |
| Change in focus of donor funding. | Political | 2 | 5 | 2 | Medium | Maintaining good communication and strong relationships with donors; focusing on non-institutional donors such as philanthropy where possible; additional donors secured during 2025/2026. Brighter Communities Worldwide continues to keep abreast of donor priorities. |
| Changing context in the Horn of Africa. | Political | 3 | 4 | 2 | Medium | Daily/regular monitoring via INSO Kenya, Business Ireland Kenya, Kenya Irish Society and media; links maintained with NGO forums and the Irish Embassy. The Incident Plan review was completed in May 2026, with the Ebola outbreak (Bundibugyo Virus Disease, DRC/Uganda, WHO-declared 17 May 2026) noted as an additional regional risk factor and added to the daily monitoring brief. This review was completed ahead of the June 2026 Harambee. |
| Recurrent strikes or industrial action within the public health system, causing temporary closure or reduced operation of health facilities and disrupting access to essential services. | Programme Delivery / Operational | 3 | 3 | 2 | Medium | Continuous coordination with County and Sub-County Health Management Teams for early alerts and joint problem-solving; reallocation of resources to community-based interventions (Community Health Promoters, outreach, education) during strike periods; flexibility built into workplans to allow rescheduling of facility-based activities; disruptions and adaptive actions documented in quarterly reviews. Early warning signs (union announcements, delayed salaries, absenteeism, reduced service uptake) are monitored, and learning is integrated into annual Theory of Change reviews. |

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 2026. We will leverage our learnings and achievements from 2025 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 is now in Year 2 of its three-year Department of Foreign Affairs Civil Society Fund project, Equal Opportunities, Transformed Futures, which runs from October 2024 to September 2027. The project aims for women, girls and youth to reach their full potential, resulting in healthier, empowered and resilient communities, and a more equitable society. During Year 2, Brighter Communities Worldwide built on the foundations established in Year 1, deepening the reach and quality of interventions across health, education and community resilience, while continuing to address the inequalities – gender, ability, poverty, economic, and age-related – that have been exacerbated by climate change and the rising cost of living. Progress against the project's three outcomes is reflected in the achievements set out earlier in this report.

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 and launched our new five-year strategy for 2025–2029, developed through an inclusive, participatory process involving staff, volunteers, community members, partners and donors. 2025 marked the first full year of implementation of this new strategy, and – guided by its four outcome areas – a significant focus of the year was strengthening the organisation itself, as outlined below.

### 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

Brighter Communities Worldwide 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

### Outcome 2 and Outcome 4: Climate resilience and organisational strengthening

In 2025, with the support of the Sunflower Charitable Foundation, Brighter Communities Worldwide advanced work under Outcome 2 (Building Community Resilience) and Outcome 4 (Strengthening our Organisation) of our Strategic Plan 2025–2029, structured around four priority areas: Climate Action, Programme Management, Human Resources and Finance. This first year was deliberately focused on foundations – clarifying direction, strengthening leadership, and establishing the processes and relationships needed to support deeper change over time.

- **Climate Action (Outcome 2)**. Brighter Communities Worldwide strengthened climate resilience as a core organisational priority during 2025. The Climate Change Ambassador (CCA) Programme, a community-led approach to household-level climate resilience, expanded to 80 Ambassadors across Kericho County, reaching 11,952 community members through awareness sessions and household visits, and supporting the planting of 1,639 trees. An external climate specialist review in October 2025 examined Brighter Communities Worldwide's climate-related work and identified opportunities to strengthen quality and long-term resilience outcomes, informing the next phase of this work. New partnerships were also established with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Forestry, and the Department of Water, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources in Kericho County.
- **Programme Management (Outcome 4)**. Work continued on strengthening programme leadership, coherence and delivery. Three Programme Coordinators completed the Dóchas–UCD Innovation Academy Creative Leadership Programme, and three senior programme staff attended the Pan-African Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Health in Nairobi. The Equity-Based School Selection Matrix, piloted within the education programme, was rolled out and is now actively informing more transparent, equitable resource allocation decisions. Initial work also began on strengthening how programme data and results are used internally, ahead of a planned specialist review of Brighter Communities Worldwide's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems.
- **Human Resources (Outcome 4)**. A structured organisational change process, supported by an external HR consultant, progressed throughout the year – including extensive staff consultation, workshops, and a week-long visit to Kenya in November 2025 to validate the emerging organisational design. This work resulted in a phased organisational structure covering the current configuration, a Phase 1 structure for 2026–2027, and a longer-term structure aligned with the Strategic Plan. A review of Brighter Communities Worldwide's performance management approach also began, and a new Board member with specific business plan development expertise was appointed in November 2025.
- **Finance (Outcome 4)**. Preparatory work was undertaken to position the organisation for a comprehensive financial systems review, including streamlining monthly accounting and audit processes. Progress also continued on the feasibility and design of a proposed Entrepreneurship Centre in Kericho County: Brighter Communities Worldwide began working with an architectural firm on initial design concepts, and the Governor of Kericho County committed to providing land for the centre.

Building on this foundation, 2026 will focus on consolidation and embedding rather than new foundation-building. Priorities for the year ahead include: completing a financial systems review across Ireland and Kenya; developing a comprehensive Business Plan aligned with the Strategic Plan; phased recruitment of key roles including a Human Resources Manager, a Resilience Programme Manager, and Programme Officers; designing and testing a revised performance management system; and continuing to advance

the Entrepreneurship Centre and diversify Brighter Communities Worldwide's funding base.

### 2026 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 24 years of experience to continue reaching those furthest behind and supporting communities to navigate these complex and evolving challenges.

### 2025 income and 2026 outlook

In 2025 Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to implement our Income Strategy through board approved plans that included fundraising activity and sustainable sources of funding. Our fundraising activity focused on strengthening donor and volunteer engagement, in-person events, digital campaigns and sales of crafts made in Kenya. Our efforts to attract grants through philanthropic and foundation sources continued to succeed and strengthen our income mix. As we look to 2026, we will build on this momentum with a renewed fundraising plan that prioritises stability, flexibility, and alignment with our 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 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, 67% of whom are women. Their professional biographies are available on the Brighter Communities Worldwide website (brightercommunities.org/our-people). During 2025 the board met seven times (2024: eight times), with an average attendance of 78% (2024: 88%). (*Table of attendance on next page*)

### 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. Three board members retired during 2025. The Board successfully managed this transition, including the election of a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the AGM, reflecting the strength of Brighter Communities Worldwide's succession planning process. 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 2025 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.

**Attendance at Board of Directors meetings and membership of sub committees**

| Name | Appointed | Attendance | Skills/Profile | Sub committees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susan Mc Carthy | 2025 | 5/5 | Committed humanitarian and community development professional with over 20 years' experience in public service, local governance and social impact leadership. | Chairperson (Elected October 2025), Executive |
| Lisa Doherty | 2023 | 7/7 | Vast experience working in public service, predominantly in international development, including seven years living and working in Kenya. | Vice Chairperson (Elected October 2025), Executive, Strategy |
| Andrew Bird | 2020 | 6/7 | Dairy and tillage farmer; wealth of board experience with involvement at board level across many organisations. | Finance, Audit and Risk (Retired December 2025) |
| Mark Cumming | 2023 | 6/7 | Human resource management and international development professional, who currently works as a Development Coordinator, and a Freelance Trainer, Facilitator and Organisational Development specialist. | Company Secretary, Executive, HR |
| Thomas Gilligan | 2023 | 3/3 | Chartered Management Account; member of CIMA with a wealth of financial and management experience. | Finance, Audit and Risk (Retired September 2025) |
| Carole Barry Kinsella | 2023 | 5/7 | Retired Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, Rotunda, and a Honorary Senior Lecturer Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. | |
| Catherine Donohoe | 2021 | 1/7 | Hospital Manager of Mayo University Hospital; Previous Director of Nursing and Midwifery. | |
| Roisin O'Neill | 2021 | 4/7 | Events Executive experienced in digital and virtual event management. | Fundraising |
| Naomi Muswamba Mudiay | 2025 | 5/5 | Communications specialist with experience across non-profit and corporate sectors in Nairobi and Dublin; passionate about using strategic storytelling and engagement to foster meaningful community development. | Communications |
| Leo Mc Hugh | 2025 | 1/1 | International business and technology leader with over 35 years' experience in the semiconductor and industrial technology sectors, including multiple senior executive roles at a large multinational company. | Fundraising |
| Linden Edgell | 2017 | 6/6 | Social Specialist for 20+ years; Global Director of Sustainability and head of the Corporate Foundation for an international consulting firm. | Chairperson, Executive, Strategy<br>Retired at AGM, October 2025 |

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 2025 AGM, the board approved Susan Mc Carthy as Chairperson and Lisa Doherty as Vice Chairperson.

## Board member portfolios

Brighter Communities Worldwide Board members are responsible for specific portfolios. These portfolios include Strategy,Governance; Communications; Partnering; Global Citizenship Education; Volunteer; Funding; Finance; Risk; 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. A subgroup also coordinates the implementation of the new strategic plan, in particular outcome 2 and outcome 4. 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 approve visits to Kenya when required. It provides oversight of resourcing matters and communicates emerging issues to the Board. 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 organisation 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 quarter. 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 3rd party services are provided to Brighter Communities Worldwide and these are coordinated by the Chief Executive Officer. These include suppliers, auditors and solicitors. In 2025 Brighter Communities Worldwide contracted expertise in Communications (Social media, Marketing) to support its operations, and two Consultants – one to support organisational development (Outcome 4) and one to support climate and resilience (Outcome 2).

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. A new policy on Safety & Security Risk Management was developed in July 2025.

### Networks and consortia

Brighter Communities Worldwide is a member of Dóchas – the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, the Comhlámh 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 2025 it reviewed the charity's compliance across all six principles. The Board reviewed its compliance in June 2025 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 2025..

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 assists 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 is a member 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 31st October 2025.

### Board performance

Brighter Communities Worldwide undertook a self-evaluation process during 2025. 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 online 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. 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). Since 1 January 2026, Ireland's new pension auto-enrolment scheme, My Future Fund, requires eligible employees not already contributing to a qualifying workplace pension to be automatically enrolled by their employer. Brighter Communities Worldwide complies with the requirements of this legislation.

### 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 is a signatory 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 Charter

Brighter Communities Worldwide remains a committed signatory to the Dóchas Safeguarding Charter, 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.

Since its launch in December 2024, the Dóchas Leadership Safeguarding Charter serves as the sector's single, unified safeguarding framework, replacing the previous Dóchas Safeguarding Code. 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. During 2025, Brighter Communities Worldwide updated its Vulnerable Adult and Child Safeguarding policies to align with the Dóchas Safeguarding Charter, with specific revisions made to the introduction and definitions sections. 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.

### 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 and as part of the holistic annual review, we focused on 2 key indicators to strengthen our approaches to ethical communications 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. At the time of writing (July 2026), 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 2025

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 external consultants to support organisational development and climate and resilience.
- An induction was organised for our new board members and held in January 2026.
- Successfully managed a significant Board leadership transition during the year, including the retirement of three long-serving members and the election of a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the AGM.

### 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; and
- 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 2025. Brighter Communities Worldwide is audited by S&W Partners Accounting, Tax & Advisory Services (Ireland) Limited 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 2025 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.

As outlined under Governance Codes above, Brighter Communities Worldwide operates its fundraising programme to the Charities Institute Ireland's Triple Lock Standard, demonstrating openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and donors.

## 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 2 of the Directors' Report.

## 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.

## Statement on relevant audit information

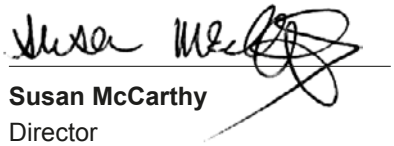
In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with Section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

(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.

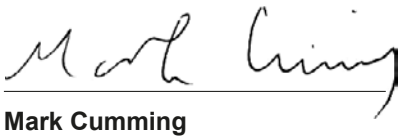
## Auditor

Grant Thornton Holdings Limited resigned as auditors during the year and the members appointed MC2 Audit Limited t/a S&W Ireland as the company's auditor and in accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, continue in office as auditor of the company.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



**Susan McCarthy**
Director



**Mark Cumming**
Director

Date: 19 October 2026

# Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

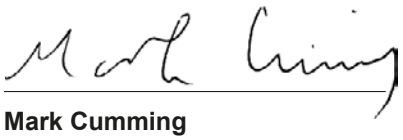
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102). 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 otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

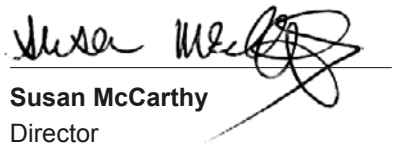
- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those 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 profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report 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.

By order of the Board of Directors



**Mark Cumming**
Director



**Susan McCarthy**
Director

Date: 19 October 2026

# Independent auditor's report

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee ('Brighter Communities Worldwide') for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Brighter Communities Worldwide as at 31 December 2025 and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, as modified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102); 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 described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Brighter Communities Worldwide in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and 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 Brighter Communities Worldwide'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

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

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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, 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.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Brighter Communities Worldwide were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

### Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is 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, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Brighter Communities Worldwide's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Brighter Communities Worldwide's 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: https://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

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.



**James Loughrey**
for and on behalf of MC2 Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm
Penrose Wharf
Penrose Quay
Cork

Date: 23 October 2026

# Statement of financial activities

**(Including income and expenditure account)**

## For the financial year ended 31 December 2025

| Income and endowments from: | Notes | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Total funds 2025 € | Unrestricted funds 2024 € | Restricted funds 2024 € | Total funds 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 180,658 | - | 180,658 | 187,986 | - | 187,986 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | - | 491,794 | 491,794 | - | 466,136 | 466,136 |
| Other income | 4 | 166,420 | 78,618 | 245,038 | 184,241 | 88,684 | 272,925 |
| **Total income** | | **347,078** | **570,412** | **917,490** | **372,227** | **554,820** | **927,047** |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 5 | 449,358 | 515,722 | 965,080 | 321,319 | 617,765 | 939,084 |
| Costs of generating income | 6 | 13,435 | 39,454 | 52,889 | 31,413 | - | 31,413 |
| | | **462,793** | **555,176** | **1,017,969** | **352,732** | **617,765** | **970,497** |
| **Net income/(expenditure) for the year** | | **(115,715)** | **15,236** | **(100,479)** | **19,495** | **(62,945)** | **(43,450)** |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2025 | | 511,855 | 150,262 | 662,117 | 492,360 | 213,207 | 705,567 |
| **Fund balances at 31 December 2025** | | **396,140** | **165,498** | **561,639** | **511,855** | **150,262** | **662,117** |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# Balance sheet

## As at 31 December 2025

| Current assets | Notes | 2025 € | € | 2024 € | € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debtors | *14* | 43,526 | | 9,179 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 539,979 | | 677,127 | |
| | | **583,505** | | **686,306** | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | *15* | (21,867) | | (24,189) | |
| **Net current assets** | | | **561,638** | | **662,117** |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | 165,498 | | 150,262 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | 316,140 | | 431,855 |
| Designated funds | | | 80,000 | | 80,000 |
| | | | **561,638** | | **662,117** |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 19 October 2026 and were authorised for issue on their behalf by:

**Mark Cumming**
Director

**Susan McCarthy**
Director

# Statement of cash flows

## For the financial year ended 31 December 2025

| | Notes | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | |
| Cash absorbed by operations | *16* | (137,148) | (32,453) |
| **Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents** | | (137,148) | (32,453) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 677,127 | 709,580 |
| **Cash and cash equivalents at end of year** | | **539,979** | **677,127** |

# Notes to the financial statements

**For the financial year ended 31 December 2025**

## 1. Accounting policies

### Charity information

Brighter Communities Worldwide Company Limited by Guarantee is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office is 2 Westbourne Place, Cobh, Co. Cork.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by 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). The Brighter Communities Worldwide is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in euros, which is the functional currency of the Brighter Communities Worldwide. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest €.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Brighter Communities Worldwide has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in currencies other than euros are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation in the period are included in profit or loss.

### 1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### 1.5 Income

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 from the company.

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.

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.

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.

Interest income is recognised on a receivable basis.

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.

### 1.6 Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in Note 3 to the financial statements.

### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

### 1.8 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

### 1.9 Financial instruments

The Brighter Communities Worldwide has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Brighter Communities Worldwide's balance sheet when the Brighter Communities Worldwide becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Brighter Communities Worldwide's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Brighter Communities Worldwide is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

### 1.11 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 1.12 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 long-term and will be disposed of within a reasonable time frame.

### 1.13 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. The designated reserves are outline in Note 17 to the financial statements.

### 1.14 Taxation

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

### 1.15 VAT compensation scheme

Income received under the VAT compensation scheme is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Amounts receivable are recognised within the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which the claim relates.

## 2. Income from donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Total funds 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Friends of Kipkelion | 127,168 | 127,998 |
| Corporate donations | 357 | 469 |
| General donations | 15,052 | 17,925 |
| Standing orders | 24,347 | 25,040 |
| Taxation refunds | 13,734 | 16,554 |
| | **180,658** | **187,986** |

## 3. Charitable activities – Income

| Charity trading income | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Department of Foreign Affairs | 340,000 | 340,000 |
| Electric Aid | 10,993 | 9,997 |
| Surgeon Noonan | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Irish Forum Global Health | 2,700 | 8,000 |
| SHARP | 10,000 | 13,000 |
| JP Mc Manus Charitable Foundation | 25,000 | 10,000 |
| Self Help Africa | - | 12,508 |
| ERM Foundation | 18,101 | 22,631 |
| Sunflower Charitable Foundation | 50,000 | 30,000 |
| Joe & Helen O'Toole Trust | 10,000 | - |
| Tomar Trust | 5,000 | - |
| | **491,794** | **466,136** |

## 4. Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Unrestricted funds 2024 € | Restricted funds 2024 € | Total 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walks, runs and marathons | 9,080 | - | 9,080 | 18,095 | - | 18,095 |
| Kenya ball | 26,280 | - | 26,280 | 35,755 | - | 35,755 |
| Other fundraising events | 131,060 | 78,618 | 209,678 | 130,391 | 88,684 | 219,075 |
| | **166,420** | **78,618** | **245,038** | **184,241** | **88,684** | **272,925** |

## 5. Charitable activities – Expenditure

| | Direct costs 2025 € | Support costs 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Direct funds 2024 € | Support costs 2024 € | Total 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Education projects | 251,463 | 87,818 | 339,281 | 279,559 | 127,567 | 407,126 |
| Health including water | 300,510 | 104,946 | 405,456 | 228,594 | 125,314 | 353,908 |
| Resilience | 105,042 | 36,683 | 141,725 | 62,758 | 29,450 | 92,208 |
| Global citizenship | - | 78,618 | 78,618 | - | 85,842 | 85,842 |
| | **657,015** | **308,065** | **965,080** | **570,911** | **368,173** | **939,084** |

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

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kenya | 657,015 | 229,447 | 886,462 | 570,911 | 282,331 | 853,242 |
| Ireland | - | 78,618 | 78,618 | - | 85,842 | 85,842 |
| | **657,015** | **308,065** | **965,080** | **570,911** | **368,173** | **939,084** |

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.

## 6. Raising funds

| | Direct costs 2025 € | Support costs 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Direct funds 2024 € | Support costs 2024 € | Total 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising expenses | 13,435 | - | 13,435 | - | - | - |
| Supporting costs | - | 39,454 | 39,454 | 31,413 | - | 31,413 |
| | **13,435** | **39,454** | **52,889** | **31,413** | **-** | **31,413** |

## 7. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

| | Restricted at start 2025 € | Grant income 2025 € | Grant spend 2025 € | Restricted at end 2025 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health projects 2024/25 | 213,207 | - | (213,207) | - |
| Health projects 2025/26 | - | 340,000 | (174,502) | 165,498 |
| | **213,207** | **340,000** | **(387,709)** | **165,498** |

| | Restricted at start 2024 € | Grant income 2024 € | Grant spend 2024 € | Restricted at end 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health projects 2023/24 | 207,275 | - | (207,275) | - |
| Health projects 2024/25 | - | 340,000 | (126,793) | 213,207 |
| | **207,275** | **340,000** | **(334,068)** | **213,207** |

Irish Aid provide support to Brighter Communities Worldwide under the Civil Society Fund (CSF). The CSF fund supports Brighter Communities Worldwide projects in health, water, education and economic empowerment. An amount of €165,498 was unspent as at the financial year end (2024: €213,207) and has been included in the restricted reserve at the financial year end.

## 8. Charitable activities – Support costs

| | Charitable activities – Support costs 2025 € | Raising funds – Support costs 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Charitable activities – Support costs 2024 € | Raising funds – Support costs 2024 € | Total 2024 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff salaries | 124,798 | 23,771 | 148,569 | 97,383 | 18,549 | 115,932 |
| Office expenses | 6,779 | 1,291 | 8,070 | 10,533 | 1,571 | 12,104 |
| Website and IT | 7,925 | 441 | 8,366 | 11,306 | 942 | 12,248 |
| Insurance | 2,821 | 537 | 3,358 | 2,771 | 528 | 3,299 |
| PR/Events | 56,604 | 10,895 | 67,499 | 61,322 | 4,084 | 65,406 |
| Governance and audit | 15,147 | 2,516 | 17,663 | 17,657 | 3,770 | 21,427 |
| Organisational development | - | - | - | 23,919 | - | 23,919 |
| Travel expenses | 15,373 | 3 | 15,376 | 10,587 | 1,970 | 12,557 |
| Global citizenship education | 78,618 | - | 78,618 | 85,841 | - | 85,841 |
| | **308,065** | **39,454** | **347,519** | **321,319** | **31,413** | **352,732** |

The basis of allocation of the support costs identified above is the percentage of time spent by employee 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):

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Government grants | 340,000 | 340,000 |
| Auditors' remuneration, including expenses - Audit of the financial statements | 13,345 | 13,100 |

## 10. Staff costs

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 123,434 | 113,552 |
| Social welfare costs | 13,795 | 12,541 |
| Pension costs | 11,340 | 11,340 |
| | **148,569** | **137,433** |

Where pension costs are incurred in more than one activity, they are apportioned between the related activities the amount of staff cost that each activity absorbs. 0% of defined contribution pension costs are paid from restricted funds.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2025 number | 2024 number |
|---|---|---|
| Ireland | 3 | 3 |

There is no employee of the company that acts as a director. The total remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer comprised salary of €76,888 (2024: €65,130). No other employee received remuneration above €60,000 in the year.

## 11. Directors' remuneration and expenses

None of the Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Brighter Communities Worldwide during the year.

Travel and accommodation expenses relating to meetings of the Board that were reimbursed to the relevant Board members amounted to €Nil in 2025 (2024: €Nil).

## 12. Key management compensation

Key management compensation is disclosed in Note 19 to the financial statements.

## 13. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | 38,123 | 2,832 |
| VAT receivable | - | 6,347 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 5,403 | - |
| | **43,526** | **9,179** |

## 14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| PAYE/PRSI/USC | 6,419 | 8,897 |
| Trade creditors | 2,716 | 2,192 |
| Accruals | 12,732 | 13,100 |
| | **21,867** | **24,189** |

## 15. Reconciliation of net deficit to net cash used in charitable activities

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Net expenditure for the reporting year | (100,479) | (43,450) |
| *Adjustments for:*<br>(Increase) in debtors | (34,347) | (2,665) |
| (Decrease)/Increase in creditors | (2,322) | 13,662 |
| **Deficit for the year** | **(137,148)** | **(32,453)** |

## 16. Statement of funds

| (i) Reconciliation of funds: | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Designated funds 2025 € | Total funds 2025 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Funds at 1 January 2025 | 431,855 | 150,262 | 80,000 | 662,117 |
| Net surplus (deficit) for the year | (115,715) | 15,236 | - | (100,479) |
| **Fund balances at 31 December 2025** | **316,140** | **165,498** | **80,000** | **561,638** |

| (ii) Analysis of net assets between funds: | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Designated funds 2025 € | Total funds 2025 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current assets | 338,007 | 165,498 | 80,000 | 583,505 |
| Liabilities | (21,867) | - | - | (21,867) |
| **Fund balances at 31 December 2025** | **316,140** | **165,498** | **80,000** | **561,638** |

| (iii) Movement in funds: | Op bal 2024 € | Income 2025 € | Expenditure 2025 € | Cl bal 2025 € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | 431,855 | 347,078 | (462,793) | 316,140 |
| Restricted funds | 150,262 | 570,412 | (555,176) | 165,498 |
| Designated funds | 80,000 | - | - | 80,000 |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **662,117** | **917,490** | **(1,017,969)** | **561,638** |

Designated funds comprise of the Incident Management Reserve fund of €5,000 (2024: €5,000) and the Operational Reserve fund of €75,000 (2024: €75,000). These funds have been designated by the company for use in 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.

## 17. Financial commitments, guarantees and 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.

Donations made by key management personnel and directors have not been disclosed as these were considered to be in the ordinary course of business.

## 18. Events after the reporting date

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

## 19. Related party transactions

**Remuneration of key management personnel**

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---|---|---|
| Aggregate compensation | 122,285 | 96,007 |

## 20. Taxation

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

## 21. 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.

## 22. Controlling party

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

## 23. Comparative information

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified/represented to conform with the current year's presentation. In addition, an immaterial error was identified in the comparative figures which has been corrected in the current year's financial statements. The correction has no material impact on the previously reported profit, net assets or equity of the company.



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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