



**Shining
Life**
Children's Trust
Working to improve the
lives of children
disadvantaged by
poverty in Sri Lanka

Dear Friends,

I travelled to Sri Lanka as the new Field Director just two weeks ago. After months of waiting for my visa, it feels good to be here and what an exciting time to be joining Shining Life Children's Trust as it enters its 20th year. We have just started a new project with the community of Kirimetiyaawatte, in central Sri Lanka and are developing plans to embark on another new project in 2017.

Last week I made my first visit to Kirimetiyaawatte and I was able to see first-hand the positive impact Shining Life and our project partners are already having on the children and their families.

As part of our work we have established a children's club and a women's support group. I was honoured to attend both groups during my visit. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of the children. In October, they had organised a day of celebrations to mark Children's Day and the purpose of the meeting I attended was to review the success of this; they showed real commitment to developing their club and their local community.



The women's group were shown how to make candles as a potential opportunity for self-employment. I also met two young women who were being supported by the project to gain a preschool teaching qualification to improve early child care development in the village.



When we started working in this village, just a few months ago, the lack of cohesion was what really stood out – to see this transformation in such a short space of time was truly inspiring and points to a bright future for our work in this area.

With Christmas approaching, it is a good time to reflect on the achievements of the past year. During 2016 Shining Life has seen the successful conclusion of two of our projects - one in Galewala and the other in Pupuressa. Both projects have made a real difference to children's welfare, access to education, income generation and employment. It is great to see these transformed communities now being self-sufficient. In a world filled with so much uncertainty and change, Shining Life continues to move forward with positive energy to help make a sustainable impact for these disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

I am looking forward to my time ahead in this exciting new role and keeping you updated on our progress. May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support that enables our work to continue in Sri Lanka.



Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a healthy & prosperous 2017.

Thank you and best wishes,

Sally

Sally Chandler
Field Director, Shining Life Children's Trust