



# Impact Report 2013



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## **Our Goals:**

To **stop the waste** of unwanted clothes in the UK by collecting them for reuse and resale. To **educate people** of all ages to treat clothes more sustainably.

To **transform unwanted clothes into funds** for projects tackling problems in the global textile supply and production chain. To **protect and improve** both the environment and people's lives through all our actions.



**Our Purpose:** TR Aid works to tackle and solve the environmental damage and social injustice caused by the waste, production and consumption of clothes. We are the only charity in the UK dedicated to the collection and reuse of unwanted clothes.

Since TR Aid launched in 1999, we have raised over **£30,000,000** to improve the environment, educate the UK public and fight global poverty, diverted over **42,000** tonnes of unwanted clothes from landfill and incineration – the equivalent of **588,000** tonnes of CO2 emissions – and our sustainable education programme has directly reached **111,880** people of all ages.

## **Message from the CEO & Chair:**

TR Aid's work to stop wearable clothes from being thrown away and reuse them instead, is a simple idea with extraordinary environmental and social benefits.

With UK landfill at bursting point, and clothes contributing disproportionately to carbon emissions, our work to find positive reuses for unwanted clothes is more relevant than ever.

TR Aid is a powerful working example of the circular economy in practice. Our network of clothes donation banks stops the unnecessary disposal of clothes while keeping wearable clothing in circulation, our charity shops provide an alternative to buying new so reducing consumption, and the money raised from our environmental work funds projects to tackle exploitation and change working practices in the global textile supply chain.

In 2013, there have been many highlights including continuing steady financial growth, expanding our clothes collection services in a challenging sector, working directly with 10,000 people of all ages to treat clothing more sustainably, incorporating embellishment from a TR Aid funded project into our in-house clothing label TR AidRemade, the launch of our new website and funding four new international development projects. All made possible by collecting, sorting and reusing the UK's unwanted clothes.

Thank you to the many local authorities, businesses and community groups across the UK which partner with us to site TR Aid's clothes donation banks - essential to our ability to fundraise. Thank you also to the hundreds of thousands of people donating their unwanted clothes to TR Aid and shopping in our charity shops.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

**Maria Chenoweth Casey, CEO.**  
**Lekha Klouda, Chair.**

# Why We Do It

**350** 

thousand tonnes go to landfill

In the UK, **350,000 tonnes of clothes** worth £140 million ends up **in landfill sites or incineration**. Most of this could be reused or recycled.

**30%** 

of our wardrobes are unworn

The average UK household spends around **£4,000 per year on clothes** but 30% of our wardrobes are unworn.

**38** 

million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

Around 1.4 million tonnes of clothes are sold on UK high streets every year which consume 1.76 million tonnes of raw materials. In total, clothes manufacturing, use and disposal in the UK is responsible for **38 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually**.



# Why We Do It

**1129** 

died in factory collapse

The collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh in 2013 **killed 1,129 garment workers**. The pressure to make clothes quickly and cheaply results in endemic exploitation across the textile supply and production chain.

**22.5** 

percent of insecticides

Cotton accounts for only 2.5% of agricultural land but uses **22.5% of the world's insecticides** and 10% of all pesticides.

**9** 

trillion litres of water consumed

Globally, we make 60 million tonnes of fabric every year consuming around **9 trillion litres of water**, which is one of our most precious natural resources.



## Our Impacts: Environment

**2617** ↻

tonnes diverted

We helped to mitigate the negative impact of waste on our environment by diverting **2617 tonnes** of unwanted clothes from UK landfill and incineration.

**93%** 📉

of donations reused

TRAID **reused 93%** of all donations made.

**37394** 🌱

tonnes of emissions stopped

TRAID's work to reclaim and reuse the UK public's unwanted clothes stopped the generation of **37,394 tonnes** of carbon emissions.



## Our Impacts:

# Environment

# 1492



clothes donation banks

We expanded our clothes donations bank network by **139 banks to 1,492.**

# 1000



home collections

We grew our free home collections service with over **1,000 pick ups** this year.

# 2



collections of TRAIIDremade

We launched **two collections** of our ethical fashion label Traidremade creating new garments from reclaimed textiles. These garments incorporated the embroidery skills of women homeworkers in India working in a co-operative established with TRAIID funding.





## Our Impacts: Education

9625 

children, young people & adults

This year, TRAIID's education team worked directly with **9,625 children, young people and adults.**

328 

educational activities

TRAIID delivered activities empowering people of all ages to **treat clothing more sustainably**. This included primary school assemblies, secondary school projects, creative workshops, up-cycling projects, youth work, talks and university lectures.

116 

thousand school children

TRAIID's education pack **Behind the Seams** reached **at least 116,000 pupils** and was used by teachers and educators to investigate the impacts of the fashion industry in the classroom.



Our Impacts:  
**International  
Development**

We committed  
**£421,000**

to four international development projects  
**tackling exploitation** in the textile supply  
and production chain.





**Where:** Tamil Nadu, India

**What:** Reducing and ending the bonded labour of girls and young women in spinning mills by putting pressure on state and national government, and by engaging with international brands about the practice.

**Who will benefit:** Up to 5,000 girls and young women will benefit with 1,000 at risk children prevented from being recruited into the scheme.

# £163,000

committed to the Dalit Solidarity Network  
in 2013 over three years



Photo: Former child bonded labourers who had worked in cotton spinning mills.  
©ICT



**Where:** Mali.

**What:** Equipping poor smallholder farmers with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to ensure organic cotton farming remains sustainable.

**Who will benefit:** 3,375 households (about 33,000 people) will benefit from better cotton yields, while 27 farmer co-operatives will receive agricultural support.

# £60,000

committed to the Kew Foundation in  
2013 over one year



Photo: Cotton farmer in Mali growing organically.  
©Kew Foundation / 2014



**Where:** Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

**What:** Working with the National Garment Workers Federation to protect workers from exploitation, work place accidents and labour rights abuses by strengthening trade unions.

**Who will benefit:** 70,500 workers (about 60% are women) will receive training, legal aid or compensation.

# £100,000

committed to War on Want in 2013  
over three years

Photo: Bangladeshi garment workers sewing in a factory.  
©War on Want



**Where:** Bangladesh, Dhaka

**What:** Providing very poor garment workers, mainly single mothers, with day care and drop in education for their children so they are not left alone and at risk of abuse and exploitation.

**Who will benefit:** 150 children aged 2–5 years, and 250 street and working children aged 6–16 years will receive nutritious food, education and vocational training.

# £98,000

committed to ChildHope in 2013  
over two years



Photo: Drawing time at the day-care centre in Dhaka.  
©Leigh McAlea / 2014

# Our Financial Statement

The success of TRAIID in 2013 saw the charity produce its strongest financial performance in its history. The context of TRAIID's financial performance is even more impressive when it is noted that the charity does not request cash donations from its stakeholders, instead reclaiming unwanted clothes and transforming 'waste' into a resource with huge social and environmental benefits.

## Income

A. Other revenue: £50,682  
B. Investment income: £36,359  
C. Education delivery: £20,934



## Expenditure

A. Governance costs: £9,700



# Thank You

Thank you to everyone donating their unwanted clothes and shoes to TR Aid, you give us the means to fundraise for fantastic causes; to the councils, businesses, community groups and schools which site our textile banks, essential to our ability to collect textiles and raise funds; to TR Aid's shop customers who support our work through their purchases; to our international development partners, successfully challenging poverty conditions in some of the world's poorest communities; and finally, to TR Aid's dedicated staff, trustees and volunteers who work so hard to wear poverty out.

## Contact Us

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TR Aid is a UK registered charity number 297489



