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The Good Sight

**CATALYST
FOR
CHANGE**



आओ हाथ धो आएं, रोग जीवाणु दूर भगायें /



सेव द चिल्ड्रेन®

2



अंगुलियों

3



दोनों हाथों के
तरह मारें

4



दोनों
तरह मारें

5



के बीच में भी
अच्छी तरह घिसें

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के बीच में भी
पानी से धोने का





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The Changemakers

Innumerable efforts are being made by individuals, groups and organisations to bring change in the society, system and individuals' lives. In this journey of change, many of them grapple with challenges that decelerate the momentum of community initiatives. This is the time when the role of catalysts comes into play—to infuse fresh energy and approach in development models.

In this e-coffee table book, we have made an attempt to bring together development agencies that are acting as catalysts in the social sector by empowering communities in different ways. These organisations have been implementing different projects to benefit people in various sectors i.e. health, education, livelihoods, empowerment and others. This e-coffee table book "Catalyst For Change" is our mark of respect to every organisation that is working relentlessly towards bettering the society.

Keep up the good work!

Editors

Asit Srivastava
Bhesaja Choudhury



Credit: WOTR

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Ram, 26, manages the HILANS outlet in Nathuakhan of Uttarakhand, India, which runs as part of the Integrated Livelihood Support Project (ILSP). "The produce we sell is much better than what you get in the market and gives livelihood to the locals. Even I get a salary managing this outlet", he says. *IFAD/2020/Ishan Tankha*



INVESTING IN RURAL PEOPLE FOR OVER FOUR DECADES

IFAD has been providing grants and low-interest loans to projects that have empowered rural people to live a better life

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, it has provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome – the UN food and agriculture hub.

India is a founding member of IFAD, and IFAD has worked in India for more than 40 years. The current country strategic opportunities programme is aligned with the government's policy framework and efforts to ensure that smallholder farmers build livelihoods that are sustainable and resilient to climate change and price shocks.



Members of dry fish FMS (fish marketing society) Semparuthi JLG (joint lending group) pose for a photograph near the fish drying facility at Singaravelanagar village of Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu, India in December 2020. One of the path-breaking interventions is the total financial inclusion of fish vending women piloted through fisher federations. With 100% on-time repayment, the women have built a strong credit history, which is encouraging banks to finance them with BDC arrangement with fisher federations. The repeat loan cycle with doubling of credit (Rs. 15,000 in the first cycle to Rs. 50,000 in the third cycle) has been mutually rewarding both for banks and the women with 100% repayment. Opening of individual savings accounts in banks was a major milestone and the women have continued to save individually in bank accounts. The insurance mechanism, where availed, has been very effective since these women are more prone to accidents and deaths. This initiative is being scaled up to town panchayats through the fisher federations. Department of Fisheries can scale up this model through the fisher federations (since standalone JLG formation and linking with banks will be time-intensive and will not be sustainable) to bring the fish vending women into the fold of community institutions. *IFAD/2020/Dhiraj Singh*



R. Mathi, a fisherman from the Small Scale Fishing Federation and member of the Fish Marketing Society (FMS) poses for a photograph on a fishing boat at Pazhaverkadu fish landing centre near the fish market in Pazhaverkadu Village, Tiruvallur District, Tamilnadu, India, in December 2020. Debt Redemption Fund (DRF) to artisanal fishers to relieve them from the clutches of traders and forming a Fish Marketing Society, which will then sell the fish catch and credit the proceeds to the fisher. Repayment of DRF will be used for further loans to the members. All the fishers were provided with iceboxes. All the FMSes were provided with buildings, which were constructed by the community themselves. Other equipment like weighing scale and larger ice box were also provided. Other infrastructures like fish drying yards, net mending sheds and fish auction halls were provided. The Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihood Programme in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu (PTSLP) came into force on 9 July 2007 and was completed on 30th June 2020. The implementing agency was the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department (RD&PR), Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN). The project has been funded by three loans, IFAD loans: 662-IN (SDR 9.95 million) and 691-IN (SDR 10.4 million) and additional financing of SDR 15.7 million (loan 2000001433). Considering the good performance of the project, additional financing was approved in December 2015, with the project area being extended from six to 12 districts and the completion date extended by three years. The original project covered a total of 109 coastal panchayats located in the six districts of Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari. The additional financing allowed expansion to a second phase with 129 coastal panchayats located in the six districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Ramnathapuram, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi. *IFAD/2020/Dhiraj Singh*



An employee working at the millet processing unit of Mugavai Traditional Crop Producer Company Ltd at Uchapuli village of Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu, India, 2020. PTSLP has facilitated sustainable credit linkages to SHGs and JLGs by making financial institutions recognise the monitoring role played by PLFs and fisher federations. As BDCs, PLFs / fisher federations earn a performance-based commission which is a major source of income for them. While financial institutions have been forging BDC arrangements with NGOs and body corporates, BDC contracts with community-owned institutions, especially PLFs (231 out of 236 PLFs have BDC arrangement) has been a path breaker. Bankers, convinced of capacity development measures of PTSLP for SHGs, JLGs and PLFs, have forged MOU with PLFs. Scaling up by banks will depend on the continuing capacity and discipline of PLFs.

IFAD/2020/Dhiraj Singh



A Mullai JLG member working at their jasmine layer nursery at Thangachimadam village of Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu, India. The goal of the project was to build self-reliant coastal communities, resilient to shocks, and able to manage their livelihood base in a sustainable manner. This would be achieved via the development objective of developing viable enterprises and resource management systems, owned and operated by poor men and women in the region affected by the tsunami, and supported by the community and other appropriate institutions. IFAD/2020/Dhiraj Singh



An exterior view of the Devbhumi SRC at Bohrakot. The deep freezer unit (far right) and a grain mill (Talla Ramgarh) have been added this year. IFAD/2020/Ishan Tankha



Hema Bisht, 60,
packing roasted gram
at their Self Reliant
Cooperative (SRC) unit
in Nathuakhan.
**IFAD/2020/Ishan
Tankha**



Trilok Singh, 49, Bohrakot village used to walk over 3 km to get water. "Farming was impossible since there was hardly any water and the rain in this region is not enough to grow. Once the Watershed Management Directive funded by IFAD was implemented, we built this water tank and our productivity has gone up," he says. The tank provides water to seven families living in the village and they manage to grow vegetables like tomatoes, green peas and green capsicum that were impossible to grow before the water tank was built in 2017. "We have also just put fish in the tank, I don't know what type of fish but some local variety. Let's see if they grow well."
IFAD/2020/Ishan Tankha



(Left) Gita Devi, 38, a resident of Dhamas village, has been a member of the Vikas Producers Group for the last five years. "I work here at the collection centre about 10 days every month packing and sealing packets and other work. It gives me an additional source of income of about Rs 2500/month," says the mother of three. She was earlier a BoD member at Ujjwal SRC.

(Right) Prerna Devi, 33, is a resident of Talal village and mother of three. Prerna is currently a board member of Ujjwal SRC and a member of the Gunjan Producers Group in her village. *IFAD/2020/Ishan Tankha*



'Development' is an ambiguous, complex term – heavily contested and containing multitudes. To me, in the simplest terms, development means bringing about economic and social change that allows people to achieve their full potential. This means thinking beyond the simple yardsticks of GDP and per capita income. Economic growth and changes in income are important, but they do not always lead to a rise in the level and quality of life for people, especially the most vulnerable. Development must expand choices, opportunities and freedoms for all people in a society; these must be equitable; and they must be sustainable. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals – which aim to end poverty and hunger, protect the planet, and improve lives and livelihoods for all by 2030 – are a good framework to measure progress and well-being, and therefore, to track development.

Ulaş Demirag
Country Director
IFAD



MEETING THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

GAIN works towards improving the food system by enhancing the quality of diets of the population, with a focus on addressing the micronutrient deficiencies

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) envisions a world free of malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 and works to improve the consumption of safe nutritious food by all people, especially the most vulnerable. GAIN is implementing large scale staple food fortification, an evidence based, complementary strategy to address micronutrient malnutrition in India. Its work on edible oil, milk and wheat flour fortification is executed in collaboration with private and public sector entities including food companies, millers, dairy cooperatives, as well as state governments and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). GAIN is working with 300 private sector players across 20 states.



Through GAIN's funding support, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) distributed 15,88,629 hot cooked meals using fortified edible oil to the vulnerable.



Launch of fortified wheat flour for Public Distribution System in Himachal Pradesh.



Sensitization of 250 Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Maharashtra on Food Fortification and Good Hygiene Practices (GHPs).



GAIN supported the Swasth Bharat Yatra, a nation-wide cyclathon, under Eat Right India movement launched by FSSAI in 2018.



Technical experts performing qualitative tests for vitamin A in fortified milk.



Distribution of fortified dry rations and fortified blended food to the vulnerable population in five districts of Karnataka.



GAIN's Large-Scale Food Fortification programme is reaching 816 million beneficiaries through one or more fortified staples (edible oil, milk and wheat flour), based on average per capita household consumption. In the post COVID world where the importance of micronutrients to boost the immunity is well recognized, these fortified staples deliver needed micronutrients such as Vitamins A and D (in edible oil and milk) and Vitamin B12, folic acid and iron (in wheat-flour) to the population, and most importantly to the poor and vulnerable communities to the extent of 25% to 30% of their required daily allowances, thereby mitigating severe consequences of micronutrient deficiency.

Tarun Vij
India Country Director
GAIN



WOTR's approach to the climate crisis seeks to develop knowledge, strategies, approaches, measures and processes that enable vulnerable communities to cope with and adapt to the impending impacts of the climate crisis.



REJUVENATING COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

WOTR's mandate is to reduce poverty through community mobilization for sustainable watershed development and integrated rural development

Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra is a globally recognized organization. It is dedicated to transforming the lives of the poor through participatory watershed development and ecosystem restoration, climate resilient sustainable agriculture, integrated water management and climate change adaptation, with a special emphasis on building resilience of vulnerable communities, farmers, and women. Established in 1993, WOTR works at the intersection of practice, knowledge and policy to ensure food, water, livelihoods and income security together with a growing quality of life to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities on a sustainable and equitable basis.

WOTR grew out of the Indo-German Watershed Development Project (IGWDP) launched in 1989 by Father Hermann Bacher, who is considered the father of the participatory watershed movement in India. WOTR has worked in 3,754 villages and has impacted over 3.8 million people cumulatively since 1993. These figures cover projects in all its areas of implementation, trainings and capacity building activities.



Conserving ecosystems and biodiversity helps in reducing social and environmental vulnerabilities by enhancing capacities and supporting equitable governance. WOTR's EbA (Ecosystem-based Adaptation) approach uses biodiversity and eco-system services as a part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.



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Access to clean drinking water, health meals and basic sanitation facilities are still major challenges in rural India. WOTR's work in this area is rooted in WOTR's approach to development as a holistic concept.



Activities like backyard poultry, bag making, shampoo and soap making help in creating additional income opportunities for the rural communities securing livelihoods.



WOTR's practices like climate-resilient agriculture and appropriate watershed management have made a difference in rainfed regions of Maharashtra. It helps farmers devise a strategy to mitigate risks, reduce the cost of cultivation, increase productivity and enhance adaptive capacities.



Water has been the recurring theme that connects every intervention that WOTR as an organisation has undertaken till date. WOTR's tools and practices like Water budgeting, groundwater mapping and aquifer management, water harvesting and conservation all align with the international framework of the sustainable development goals.



Gender equality can only be achieved when men and women are equally empowered. WOTR gives emphasis to a level-playing field, which it does in a variety of ways, including organising women into self-help groups and addressing their concerns through health, personal care and personality development.



Our idea of development is captured by the concept of Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Ecosystem-Based Adaptation, or EbA, is a nature-based and human-centric approach to adaptation. Restoring the health of the ecosystem, maintaining it through participatory governance while also contributing to improved livelihoods and better adaptive capacity of the local community is at the heart of EbA. In practice, this is a holistic approach that combines several areas of intervention such as watershed and landscape development, sustainable agriculture, locale-specific crop and weather advisories, water-use management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation at a household, farm and landscape level. We believe this approach is very well aligned with our vision and mission statements that focus on resilient communities living in sustainable ecosystems.

Prakash Keskar
Executive Director
WOTR



Camps organised at village and Gram Panchayat level for generating awareness on various Govt. schemes and also facilitate access of the eligible beneficiaries to avail these schemes and provisions.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING IS THE KEY

SRIJAN believes in the power and capacity of community collectives to sustain the developmental efforts

Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action (SRIJAN) is a grassroots NGO working for livelihoods enhancement of the poorest of the poor and marginalised sections of the society in 16 districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. SRIJAN employs over 130 team members across these locations to reach out the poor and empower them. Since its inception in 1997, SRIJAN has been striving to make rural community self-reliant and live with dignity.



Women farmers with their papaya crops promoted under the horticulture intervention in Pratapgarh district, Rajasthan.



A woman belonging to the COFE Farmer Producer Company with processed and packaged custard apple pulp ready for storage. The pulps is marketed and sold to major ice cream manufacturers.



A Pashu Sakhi administers PPR vaccine to a goat at Jatara in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh - Bundelkhand. Pashu Sakhis are being promoted as women micro-entrepreneurs who provide goat health services to the local goat rearers and charge a nominal fee thus making the model more sustainable. It therefore helps in increase the productivity of the goat rearers.



Pashu Sakhis prepare for vaccinating goats for PPR disease which is a deadly viral pandemic in goats. They work as micro-entrepreneurs and ensure disease-free and healthy goats. This makes them become self-reliant and they gain a lot of respect within their community through their work.



Women at Chindwada, Madhya Pradesh, promoting and managing the COFE Farmer Producer Company. It as an example of a women-led commercial entity that collects, processes and markets the custard apple pulp. Custard apple is readily available in the forests of Chindwada and by processing it through community-led institutions, the rural households, especially in the forest fringe villages, get a decent amount for the product.



Promotion of Organic cotton cultivation at Sausar, Chindwada, MP.



Land husbandry interventions with community participation at Koriya district of Chhattisgarh. These interventions are done in convergence with MGNREGA and other available schemes of the Government.



A women farmer learning pruning technique for her guava plantations under the horticulture based intervention. Fruits cultivation is an important source of cash income for the rural women and by adopting scientific techniques, a sizeable income can be had by selling the harvest in the local markets, generating a source of cash in a short term.



We at SRIJAN have a three- pronged approach towards initiating sustainable interventions. First is to seek solutions to development challenges through field work and engage with the target community. Second is to engage with other development actors for adoption of best practices and models developed at a larger level. And lastly, generate knowledge as contribution to the development literature and as evidence of change. In order to achieve the goals of development it is important that participatory methodologies are employed to plan for capacity development of individuals'/community institutions. We need to create synergies with institutions of local governance to create a marked impact at the household and village level.

Prasanna Khemariya
CEO
SRIJAN



Our focus to create child-friendly stations starts with the establishment of a Child Help Desk (CHD) at every station. This space is a safe place for children allowing access to basic food and water, medical aid, and a trained social worker available 24x7. The CHD is the focal point from where children are restored back home, connected with a shelter home or long-term care home, with the assistance of the Railway Police Force (RPF), Government Railway Police Force (GRPF) under the guidance of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), working collaboratively to provide access to protection services for vulnerable children.

RAILWAY
children
Fighting for street children

CREATING CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES AT RAILWAY STATIONS

Railway Children India has been working to prevent children from slipping into a life on the street

Railway Children India is a child rights organisation that works to prevent children from slipping into a life on the street, by establishing efficient child protection services in and around railway stations and working with families, communities and local administration to create child-friendly spaces. This ensures children are either restored with their families or long-term care homes, enrolled into school and have access to basic services, in addition to providing immediate care to children who arrive at railway stations.



Over the past 12 years, we have protected 1,16,682 children from immediate dangers at railway stations and have provided a host of safety and care services through our safe open shelters. From paying equal attention to their nutrition intake, health check-ups, non-formal education, psycho-social support and medical needs, we work to build homes away from home that are robust, child-friendly and safe homes for children across the country, before they are restored back with their families or referred to long-term care homes.



The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 put us face to face with new challenges in reaching children who were at risk. Our direct intervention in slum communities in and around railway stations to provide basic groceries threw up startling data on the proximity of vulnerable communities to railway stations playing a role in how they use the railway network. Children whose families had lost their livelihood had no choice but to pull children out of school, push them into work, amongst other growing child rights concerns and violations. Linking families to social security schemes, providing ration and groceries, education material for children, and creating awareness about child rights and threats to their well-being were steps we took towards strengthening communities and equipping them to protect their children better.



Every five minutes a child arrives alone and at risk at a railway station in India. Our work to reach them before they get swallowed into a life on the streets, begins the very instant a child lays foot on a platform. Be it a child from a neighbouring slum community traversing through the platform, a child abandoned at the station, a child lost or missing on a moving train or simply a child who has run away from home using the railway network. Our teams across 10 railway stations in India are equipped to identify vulnerable children and reach them before an abuser does, working to fulfil our mission – ‘a world where no child ever has to live on the streets.’



From sharing material on the spread of COVID-19, preventive measures to keep their children safe, simple facts on child rights and protection, face to face conversations on the ills of child labour, trafficking, child marriage, school dropouts, to basic tips on health and nutrition, our routine awareness programmes across 30 plus slum communities, are key components to build strong and resilient communities for children.



Families and parents have always formed the first circle of protection for children, with the most basic instinct to keep their children safe. However, distressed families have led to even more distressed children, due to the COVID-19 triggered economic crisis. Families at large have been pushed into a deeper cycle of poverty, compounded by exploitation, abuse, family discord, increased violence under lockdown, taking a toll on the physical and mental well-being of children too. Therefore, working directly with parents and building their capacity to provide care, protection and nurturing for their children was a pivotal step in preventing children from taking to street life and separating from parental care. Our family strengthening initiative is focused on family reintegration, preventing separation from families and creating safe and conducive homes for children.



As per Amartya Sen, development consists of the removal of various types of unfreedoms that leave people with little choice and little opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency. The removal of substantial unfreedoms, it is argued here, is constitutive of development. Our idea of development is closely linked to this thought, where our youngest generation has equal agency, choice and opportunity and the freedom to exercise these choices.

Navin S Sellaraju
Chief Executive Officer
Railway Children India



From providing relief distribution of groceries and nutritional kits, psychosocial support and mental health services, educational and learning material, over 17,000 children and their families were reached out to and protected to ensure that children do not drop out of school, get pushed into work or get trafficked or even get married early.



Diversification of income
at FPO level enterprise:
Oil production unit wholly
managed by women
shareholders of the FPO
Ambuliaaru Agriculture
Producer Company Ltd.,
Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.



MAKING DIFFERENCE TO LIVES, LIVELIHOODS OF POOR PEOPLE

Vrutti, livelihood impact partners, works with the vision to enhance people's well-being through knowledge, innovation and transformative actions

Vrutti, a not-for-profit organisation, strongly believes that sustainable livelihood approaches have the huge potential to bring transformative change among women, small producers, and marginalised communities through integrated ecosystem solutions. Vrutti's flagship model '3Fold' enables smallholder farmers to become wealthy, resilient, and responsible. Vrutti's portfolio includes similar models for - women-owned businesses, artisanal marine fisherfolk and people in special circumstances (sex workers, transgender). Vrutti has made a difference to the lives and livelihoods of over a million poor and marginalised since 2002.



Marigold procurement being made at farm gate. Market linkages have been done with institutional buyers through Yellampalli Farmer Producer Organisation, Bagepalli, Karnataka. Farmers get Rs 1 per kg higher than the market price with no commission and transportation cost.



Geographical indication tagged Bangalore rose onion export-output market linkages with exporters made through Yellampalli FPO enabling the farmers get a prefixed price of Rs. 2 per kg additionally at the farm gate.



Training on cattle management practices and awareness on artificial insemination being imparted to rural women in Pipariya, Madhya Pradesh.



FishMarc - Vrutti's fisheries vertical to empower and build resilience of 5,000 women fish vendors of Mumbai. Supporting women fish vendors through promotion of market and village-based groups to improve access to quality fish, new fish products/channels, financial services, and social protection schemes. Improving work conditions in markets, tackling occupational health issues and safety, and promotion of producer companies are the other highlights of the engagement.



Financial services at doorstep: Rural farmers are being provided banking services at their doorstep through FPO in Kalaburagi, Karnataka.



Solar power-based tamarind deseeding & de-hulling enterprise: A woman entrepreneur of Janadhanya All Women FPO, Kanakapura, Karnataka engaged in tamarind value addition process to improve her livelihoods.



Jayamani, a woman farmer from Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu diversified her income through cattle enterprise and generated an additional monthly income of Rs. 4,500 for her livelihoods.



Demonstration on preparation of 'Enriched Farmyard Manure' to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Enriched FYM increases micronutrients and organic carbon level in the soil and improves soil health.



Custard apple value addition through FPO has brought profitable income for the tribal farmers in Kanker, Chhattisgarh and employment opportunities for the tribal women.



We are here as there are a number of societal problems, such as poverty and inequity, marginalisation and vulnerability to diseases, disasters, etc., low capabilities and lack of voice of people, and lack of services and opportunities; and these continue to grow. Solutions exist but are usually isolated, verticalised and hardly converge to create impact or reach scale. We, as social entrepreneurs, try our best to facilitate solutions, rather than leaving it to the government or to the people themselves. We strongly believe that 'Sustainable Livelihood Approach' can be a great lever to address poverty, marginalisation and inclusive development. It is very important that these approaches are customised to address different forms of marginalisation, people's needs, aspirations and the local context. All our design and work starts with 'People-First and People at the Centre'— empathy-led designs distinct from technical/ scientific designs.

Balakrishnan S
Chief Executive Officer
Vrutti



Eye testing at the residence of the beneficiary: Through our community outreach programmes, we train local community health workers to conduct door-to-door surveys, screening patients at their homes and referring them for treatment where necessary. In 2020, we examined more than 124,000 people through these programmes in India.



ELIMINATING AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS

Operation Eyesight serves communities in 84 districts within 15 states of India, networking with more than 31 partner hospitals and 114 vision centres

Operation Eyesight India is a non-governmental organisation based in Hyderabad. It is part of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based organisation working to prevent blindness and restore sight in eight countries in South Asia and Africa. Through their flagship model of community eye health and their local partnerships, Operation Eyesight's programmes provide quality eye health care to vulnerable populations, regardless of age, gender or ability to pay. As a result, they've declared 1,057 Indian villages avoidable blindness-free.



Retinopathy of Prematurity – Eye exams to detect this condition in babies: We work with our partner hospitals to strengthen their capacities to provide specialized care, including the detection of retinopathy of prematurity – a potentially blinding eye disorder that affects infants born prematurely.



Handwashing unit placed at the entrance of the vision centre facility: We have worked with vision centres to implement infection prevention measures, including requiring visitors to wash their hands before entering the vision centre, using the hand-washing units we have provided at the entrance.



Dispensing spectacles for a patient: A pair of spectacles is a simple and inexpensive tool that can instantly create a brighter future for a child who struggles in school due to poor vision. It can help adults get back to work to provide for their families. In 2020, we dispensed almost 155,000 pairs of custom prescription spectacles in India.



Training community health workers: We train local community health workers to provide community outreach, conducting door-to-door surveys to screen residents of a village for eye health concerns, and provide health education to the community. These community health workers are respected by the members of the community as trusted experts carrying out a very important job.



Inauguration of a newly established vision centre: Vision centres are permanent eye health facilities that act as a link between communities and our partner hospitals. They provide eye examinations, dispense spectacles and refer patients to the hospital for more specialized treatment as needed. We work with communities to determine where the need is greatest to establish new vision centres like this one.



Cataract surgery for senior citizens: Many senior citizens live with vision loss that progressively worsens over time due to cataracts. A simple surgery can instantly restore their sight and their independence. We work with hospitals to ensure they have enough trained staff to provide this care to anyone who needs it. In 2020, we provided more than 118,000 cataract surgeries in India.



Vision on Wheels – Mobile eye screening unit: We recently launched our new mobile eye unit. With all the necessary equipment to provide initial primary health care, including screening for cataracts and other diseases, this van travels to remote areas to reach people who may be unable to travel to see an ophthalmologist in a hospital.



Health education at the community level: In addition to training community health workers to screen patients for eye health concerns, they are also trained to educate the community on other health topics including maternal and newborn health, immunisation and nutrition.



The Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer: This centre was established to provide comprehensive treatment for ophthalmic tumours in adults and children. Located within the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, it provides critical services to residents of India and other surrounding countries.



India is home to 21 per cent of people who suffer from blindness globally. Up to 90 per cent of these people are suffering from avoidable blindness, which means their condition can be treated or could have been prevented. Operation Eyesight's vision is the elimination of avoidable blindness. Providing access to quality eye health care and empowering people to access it is one of the most effective ways to bring communities out of poverty. We employ a community-focused model of eye health care to address these needs and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Kashinath Bhoosnurmath
President and CEO
Operation Eyesight Universal



Submission of grievances by Bala Panchayat members for school and community infrastructure improvements to Andhra Pradesh government officials as part of Spandana, a public grievance mechanism.



CREATING A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

For 60 years, Children Believe has been working to improve education, child participation and protection, health and gender equality

Children Believe works globally to empower children to dream fearlessly, stand up for what they believe in and be heard. For over 60 years, it has brought together brave young dreamers, caring supporters and partners, and unabashed idealists. It works closely with 27 local partners and more than 390 local community groups to plan and deliver its programs. Its work contributes to improvements in education, child participation and protection, health and gender equality. Children Believe is a member of the ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 12 child-focused development organizations working in 70 countries.



A member of a Bala Panchayat participating in an interface meeting, bringing stakeholders together.



Bayanna, a Chenchu Adivasi Youth and President of Bala Panchayat, sharing the ordeal he faced being a marginalised community and how Balahitha programme empowered him.



Development is a process with opportunities for growth, progress and positive changes in all dimensions and aims at improving the quality of life of children/youth/families and communities.

Amartya Sen's 'capability approach' defined development as a tool enabling people to reach the highest level of their ability through freedom of economic, social and family actions. For CB, children being an integral part of the society, promoting child-centered development where children, particularly from marginalized communities, can dream fearlessly, thrive, and be heard in a safe environment is key. 'Creating a world fit for children is a world fit for everyone' best defines development.

Nancy Anabel
Country Director, India
Children Believe



Bala Panchayat members request the education minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Adimulapu Suresh, to reopen a tribal welfare school.

BREAKING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION



Building children's agency: connecting policies with practice for social transformation

Children Believe works globally to empower children to dream fearlessly, stand up for what they believe in – and be heard. For more than 60 years, we've supported children and young people to overcome barriers to education in pursuit of their dreams and to realize their full potential.

Children belonging to marginalized communities face deep-rooted systemic barriers that denies them access to inclusive quality education, participation and decision making in matters that affect their lives and face the brunt of harmful practices like child marriage and child labour. With five decades of credible presence in India through its implementing partners, Children Believe aspires to become a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Gender and Social Inclusion.

Balahitha Program in India

Children Believe supported Social Activities for Rural Development Society (SARDS), an NGO based in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, India to implement Balahitha (well-being of children / in favour of children) program that aimed at establishing child-friendly accountability from December 2017 to March 2020 in Prakasam district. Balahitha, which literally means things which are in favour of children, is an apt name for a program which seeks to create a protective environment for children by reducing the gap between the promise and performance of policies, legislation and programs.

Methodology: Balahitha program was implemented applying Child-Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM), a methodology introduced by Child Fund Alliance. Children Believe is one of the member organizations in ChildFund Alliance (CFA). CFA launched CFAM after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the international community in September 2015 in order to contribute to the achievement of Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to ending violence against children.

“Child-friendly accountability is a process by which children are empowered and able to meaningfully participate in making certain that those charged with protecting and fulfilling children’s rights do what they are supposed to do in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, and if they do not or cannot, that children and their representatives have some recourse”.

It is essentially implemented through field-level interventions based on three pillars of the Triple ‘A’ Approach, viz., (i) Assessment, focused on knowledge building and fostering understanding; (ii) Analysis and accountability, centred on mapping and analysing the performance of the protection system; and (iii) Action for social mobilization, advocacy and corrective action on gaps and bottlenecks identified by children. The fourth pillar of capacity building is mainstreamed across the three pillars. Together, they foster social change and accountability and gradually feed into local to national-level monitoring and accountability.

Through a dynamic and cyclical process, the activities proposed under each pillar build on each other. Together they build knowledge about child rights and protection, identify the gaps in child protection, and work with duty bearers to improve the system. Reporting and accountability are continuously built from this process. Once agreed actions have been taken, the analysis phase is resumed and the cycle continues.

Under the Balahitha initiative, 240 Bala Panchayat leaders underwent a four-phased capacity building process. A total of 18 modules on the CFAM methodology were used in trainings over a period of 20 days. The modules were interspersed with sessions where the leaders shared their learnings with their members. As the methodology was designed for small batches of children, there was scope for all members to participate effectively with vigour and interest. The child-friendly accountability approach offers immense possibilities in view of the post-2015 development agenda, and the focus on bottom-up accountability for monitoring progress towards the SDG targets. Children and young people as citizens are central to this approach, which enables an effective and sustainable means by which children can hold duty-bearers and states accountable to their obligations at local and international levels.

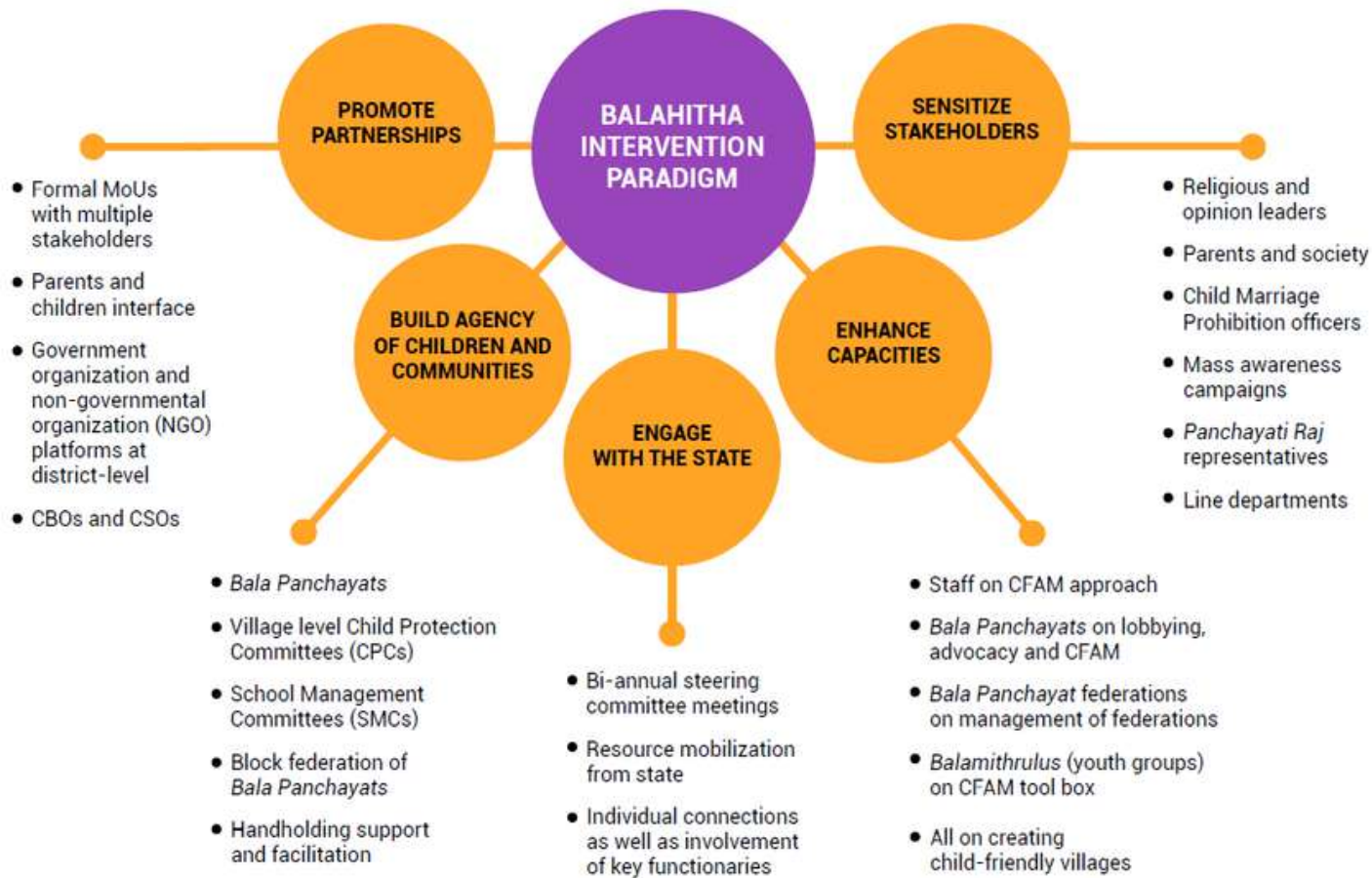
While Balahitha initiative was adapted for addressing the structural barriers to the realization of children’s rights in a specific socio-economic milieu – characterised by poverty, deprivation and social exclusion – it has all the key features of Child-Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM), viz., collaboration with children and youth, capacity development of local communities, community-based organizations (CBOs) and government authorities, participatory approaches with a focus on child rights, and the potential for replicability and scaling-up.

Five key elements of Balahitha Program

1. Building the agency of children: The context of children, especially from socially marginalized communities, does little to build and enhance their agency, leaving them passive recipients of the impact of the decisions and social practices affecting them. Implemented in 120 villages, Balahitha has used the existing model of children's collective, viz., Bala Panchayat, with girls and boys aged 13-17 years to strengthen their abilities to organize, articulate and negotiate their views. The right to education for every child through the effective participation of all children is the entry point of the Balahitha initiative. The process of forming Bala Panchayats is designed to function as a democratic platform from where children can question and challenge the underlying causes of inequities and exclusion. It does require patience, investment of time and a non-threatening questioning of these norms with the parents and village influencers. It has been observed that children are able to overcome resistance with their exuberant energies and display confidence in their activities.

2. Engagement with the State: Balahitha encourages and empowers children to engage directly with government institutions as citizens and rights holders and to seek resolution of their concerns. Having the individual and collective connect with key functionaries through a defined mechanism has worked. In their own words: "There is a value in working together" if there is an alignment of key interests, in this case the well-being and protection of children. This enables the two concerned parties to address each other directly, thereby forcing those in charge of the rights and protection of children to recognize the capacity and agency of children. Concomitantly, it builds in children a sense of responsibility and leadership, not just to speak for themselves, but also on behalf of others whom they represent before the authorities. The District Level Steering Committee on Child Protection and Development formalizes this collaborative and constructive approach. Involving key stakeholders with convening and influencing abilities has emerged as a good way to influence decisions and actions. The road to constructive engagement with the state is fraught with challenges. Child rights issues rank relatively low in the list of priority issues in districts, and government functionaries tend to respond more to formal mechanisms, such as a Memorandum of Understanding or a Government Order, which are difficult to come by amidst shrinking spaces for civil society organizations. The inclination of individual actors at the helm of affairs is critical. An interested and motivated functionary will do wonders and open doors for very constructive engagement and collaboration; but the opposite can result if this is not the case.

3. Partnerships: The implementing partner, SARDS, on behalf of the program, has entered into formal Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), Cooperation Agreements or letters of intent with several institutions and key stakeholders to facilitate an impactful delivery of the program.



Indicators	Total			Scheduled castes			Scheduled tribes		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total number of children in Bala Panchayats (13-17yrs)	2,298	1,017	1,281	1,902	1,065	837	396	174	222
Total number of children who are in leadership roles (13-17 years)	240	120	120	240	101	101	38	19	19

These include:

- Project Officer of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) to implement an inclusive quality education program;
- Mandal Education Officer to participate in government-sponsored programs related to enrolment in Anganwadis and schools and retention in schools;
- District Women and Child Development Authority for training of project resource persons and school teachers on Kishore Vikasam Programme (adolescent's empowerment program); and
- District Legal Cell Authority (DLCA) for gathering applications and petitions from tribal families.

SARDS' appointment as a member of the District Task Force Committee for implementing and monitoring the Kishori Vikasam (adolescent girls' empowerment) Phase III Program has facilitated the interactions of Bala Panchayats and Balamithrulus with local government functionaries. These local government functionaries are responsible for the campaigns and programs related to school enrolment and adolescent nutrition with the involvement of community-based organizations.

4. Capacity enhancement of Bala Panchayat members for child-led sensitisation: Children (13-17 years) are initiated as members of Bala Panchayats and empowered to participate in decisions that concern them. They are introduced to a new way of thinking so they can participate effectively in CFAM. They learn about the underlying principles, methods and tools of child-friendly accountability. Also trained for their role in CFAM – and the creation and management of child-friendly villages in intervention areas – are staff, members of Bala Panchayats, block and divisional level Federations of the Bala Panchayats, and youth volunteers in intervention villages (Balamithrulus).

5. Sensitization of multiple stakeholders by Bala Panchayat members: Once initiated in CFAM, children themselves undertook sensitization of key stakeholders. The key players in this are Bala Panchayat members and leaders, Balamithrulus, or the young people supporting them in their actions, and liaising between them and the VLCPCs. Multiple stakeholders (viz., the state and its institutions, society and family) by and large determine the experiences of children whose voices are hardly ever heard due to social beliefs that underestimate their evolving capacities. The integration of child-led sensitization components in the Balahitha design is an attempt to strike a balance between promoting children's agency and sensitization of the duty-bearers for education and child protection. Bala Panchayat members had an interface meeting with their parents every month, talking to them about their issues and needs and bringing them on board in their endeavours for child rights.

Achievements

Balahitha has strengthened the agency of children and communities, which can have a lasting impact on the well-being of children today, as well as future generations. Through the Balahitha initiative, children gained the courage, confidence and skills to emerge as leaders, irrespective of their vulnerable status. Their stories of transformation are truly astounding. nurtured boys as advocates of change.

Bayanna, aged 15, Bommilingampalli Chenchu colony is one among such influencing young leaders. He states, “I know the pain when you are treated differently – today I feel much more confident and will not accept if someone treats me indifferently. I have spoken to my teachers about how I feel. I want to see that every child in my community studies well and lives a dignified life. I am thankful to the Balahitha initiative for giving me new hope and confidence to fulfil my dream and mission by providing CFAM training, exposure and constant motivation.”

Kottalingam, aged 17, stated that “I have realized the importance of gender sensitivity and addressing gender-based violence, as well its impact on the physical, mental and emotional health of girls. I have decided to change my attitude towards girls before changing society. I am thankful to Balahitha for helping me to transform myself and enabling me to transform the attitude of people in my community including boys and men. I want to learn more about the outside world so that I can empower myself better and support the empowerment of girls.”

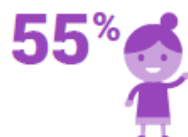
Bala Panchayats have raised 396 cases around child protection and development issues, including child marriage; child labour; child trafficking; child abuse; facilities in schools, hostels and anganwadis; community infrastructure and access to livelihood support and other entitlements under government schemes.

Bala Panchayats stopped 328 child marriages and 165 child labourers were rescued and re-admitted in schools, and 921 out of schools were re-enrolled into school. Pravallika, 16, became president of her tribal community's Bala Panchayat. Pressured to marry at age 15, she was able to convince her family to respect her aspirations and see the importance of education for girls. She cited laws and the consequences of child marriage. Shortly after, actions taken by the Bala Panchayat resulted in a resolution to stop child marriages being passed by the village-level child protection committee.

“Two years ago, Pravallika's village was widely known for its high rates of child marriage. Now, thanks to Pravallika – and other children eager, and able, to be a voice for change – there have been no child marriages for the past year. Stories like this are found across the communities where we work.



96 out of 120 project villages now qualify as 'child-friendly villages.'



55% *Bala Panchayats* are active and functional in all 120 project villages. All of the 2,298 *Bala Panchayat* members belong to *Dalit* and tribal communities, and 55 percent are girls.

VLCPCs have been formed in 120 villages and are active and functional in 96 villages.



165 child labourers were **RESCUED** and admitted to school.

Relevant government functionaries formally communicated the resolution of 1,864 cases related to child protection or development issues raised through the Civil Society Organization (CSO) partner.



1,473 **INDIVIDUALS HAVE BENEFITTED** from social protection schemes for a rough value of 5,88,37,500 Indian rupees (CAD \$1,131,490).



921 out-of-school children were placed in schools.

Bala Panchayats have raised

396 cases around **child protection**

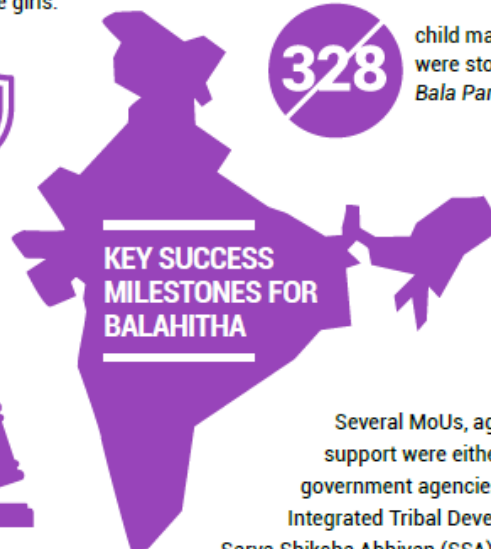
and development issues, including child marriage; child labour; child trafficking; child abuse; facilities in schools, hostels and *anganwadis*; community infrastructure and access to livelihood support and other entitlements under government schemes.



child marriages were stopped by *Bala Panchayats*.



Media have extensively covered the *Balahitha* initiative; over 50 reports and news items have appeared in print media alone.



240 children are members of VLCPCs.

Several MoUs, agreements and letters of support were either signed or sought with government agencies — such as AP-SCPCR, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) — contributing to the longevity of the approach.



Reopening of a Tribal School influenced by children and the community

In Pothannagudem, inhabited by 41 Chenchu tribal families, there were 56 school-age children. Only 17 of them studied in the tribal ashram school located 35 kilometres away, while the remaining 39 had either never been enrolled in a school or had dropped out. The out-of-school children were engaged in sibling care or as child labour in agriculture. The incidences of child marriage were very high. Most children were malnourished due to low household income, lack of Anganwadis and health facilities as well as poor outreach services through frontline health workers. When SARDS began working in the village in January 2019, the Balahitha team organized local children into Bala Panchayats and other stakeholders into the Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC). The Bala Panchayats demanded an Anganwadi and primary school at a meeting with the VLCPC. A series of meetings helped to develop an advocacy action plan towards the reopening of the local school, which was closed 10 years ago by the Andhra Pradesh government in the name of rationalization (an exercise to bring the student-teacher ratio of 1:30). Voluntary financial contributions from the families covered the costs of advocacy, especially the visits to government officials to present petitions. After a sustained engagement and follow-up with block and district level functionaries, as well as a petition to the education minister, the school was ultimately reopened in July 2019. Following the reinstatement of the school, 39 children previously out of school are now in a functional school with hope for a better future.

“The holistic value of education – improving every aspect of a child’s life – was recognized by all those involved,” said Fred Witteveen, CEO, Children Believe.

“When we look at the paradigm on children’s rights, it starts with survival, goes to development, then to protection, and then to participation. ChildFund Alliance has found that big strides have been made in terms of children’s survival, development, and even protection but the toughest has always been participation because it is linked to how cultures view children,” said Meg Gardinier, Secretary-General, ChildFund Alliance.

“I had the privilege of visiting the Balahitha program. The process gives significance to each child and sets them on an exploratory process to learn more and be more. Amidst poverty, I saw young leaders bring change and hope into their lives – and into the lives of others – and discover they are an indomitable force. With their newly found skills to dialogue and negotiate they’re able to open closed doors; inspire people at all levels of society to truly care and listen, and bring shared understanding in favour of the rights and concerns of children,” said Dr Belinda Bennet, Chief International Programs Officer, Children Believe.

The implementation of Balahitha has given insights and learning into what it takes to build a vibrant intervention model around inclusive child protection and development through the active participation of children and other stakeholders. It has also established certain principles that can be adopted and integrated into such programming elsewhere. The key learnings from the intervention are summarized as follows:

The key learnings from the intervention are

1. Recognize and respect children as key stakeholders
 2. Collaborate among stakeholders
 3. Working together with state agencies has to be the pivot and not an activity
 4. A rights-based approach rather than a central role of CSOs works better
 5. A locally rooted and inclusive implementation team is closer to the issue
 6. Communicate achievements to bring focus on the possibilities for change
- Sustainability is possible through building and institutionalizing community structures





Pratham InfoTech Foundation Co-Founder and CEO Mr Prem Yadav with Noble Laureate Mr Abhijeet Banerjee. Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT) research with the J-Pal team laid the foundation for Computer-Aided Learning Programme.



COMMITTED TO E-EDUCATION FOR ALL

Pratham InfoTech Foundation runs IT-based training, educational and community capacity building programmes in underserved schools and communities

Pratham InfoTech Foundation (PIF) is a non-profit organisation that works in India to bridge the digital divide, facilitate the adoption of information technologies (IT) in education, and equip disadvantaged youths with skills, tools and capabilities that the new global economy demands. It is an NGO that works to provide quality education to the underprivileged children of India. It runs IT-based training, educational and community capacity building programmes in underserved schools and communities. Pratham InfoTech Foundation is committed to ensuring “e-education for all” and engaged in the following activities:

- Computer-aided learning programme for K-12 and educational technology infrastructure development in schools: advising, staff training, and management.
- After-school computer and job skill training centres for youths in economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Curriculum design and localised training material (digital and printed) development in local languages.
- Fundraising and resource mobilisation through government and industry partnerships to advance the mission agenda.



Pratham InfoTech Foundation's Digital Academy students' graduation ceremony. The sky is not the limit, it is just the beginning.



A government school teacher engaging students through picture reading activity. Technology won't replace teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.



Government Vocational School Teachers being trained to initiate CAL and DLLS Programme in government schools. Learning Technology can empower teachers with new insights and new understanding that maximizes students' abilities.



Students participating in learning foundational skill through technology and activities. Access to technology helps to bridge the digital divide.



Pratham InfoTech Foundation's international partnership for Digital Academy project. Alone we can do so little but together we can do so much.



Providing career coaching, professional development guidance, on-the-job training opportunities and placement assistance to young adults. Teaching in the internet age means we must teach tomorrow's skills today.



A Pratham InfoTech Foundation's Digital Academy student successfully completed the Coding course. Opportunity leads to success.



Pratham InfoTech Foundation's Digital Technology centre's students. Learning through technology can be fun.



Together with my friends and associates, with whom I have lived and worked in my life, our motto is to provide opportunities to the underprivileged to help them achieve their maximum potential. This is why I have always preferred to invest in my grassroots level teams, build their capacity and promote them to higher positions because of my belief in their potential.

My friends, in turn, have formed a second generation of leaders in different parts of the country who will help us reach our objective which is to take 'every child' from 'Illiteracy to e-literacy'.

Prem Yadav
Co-Founder and CEO
Pratham InfoTech Foundation



Supporting Anganwadi Workers for improved and quality access to holistic ECCD in Bisrakh block of Gautam Budhha Nagar of Uttar Pradesh: “A Wholesome Bachpan” is a HCL Foundation supported project. The project aims at strengthening Aanganwadi centres for early stimulation and school readiness. Here in the picture stationery kits are being given to all 1,103 Anganwadi Workers for their official use. It consists of bags, ink removal pens, diaries and COVID-19 precaution posters.



REACHING OUT CIVIL SOCIETIES, GOVT DEPT PAN INDIA

Cohesion Foundation Trust has been implementing development programmes in the socio-economically poorer districts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

Cohesion Foundation Trust was set up in 1996 by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, who started as a support body, providing professional services to other organisations. As a strategic move in the year 2000-01, Cohesion initiated its implementation programmes, with a view to transfer the learning to the communities. It is involved in implementing development programmes in the socio-economically poorer districts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra and providing support to civil societies and government departments across India. With almost two decades of experience, it is a trusted organisation by many partners and well known for its transparency and accountability.



Women Farmers of Navsari: Cohesion has been working in tribal areas of south Gujarat since 2012 to support the tribal women and strengthen their identity as women, as tribal and as farmer. In the picture, women farmers have been engaged in a training programme to learn sustainable practices of horticulture. The project supports development through economic and social empowerment of 1,500 tribal women of UJAS Sangathan (A CBO promoted by Cohesion from 20 villages of Bansda, Chikhli and Khergam blocks of Navsari district). Cohesion has been supported by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives to achieve the outcomes of women empowerment. To achieve the outcomes related to women's rightful identity as women farmers, Wadi (fruit orchard) and Mandap (2-tier vegetable framework) with women farmers has been proposed. As the women are empowered, they will have increased access and control over resources and their rights on three axes as women, as farmers and as tribal will be strengthened. The crops proposed are naturally grown in the region and can be grown with relatively less efforts. A unit land of 0.50 acre is used in which mango trees are grown along with Mandap (bamboo frame) for vegetables in 0.15 acre (creepers & plants). As wadi (Fruit & Vegetable Orchard) project is well established and stabilized in the region, it is anticipated that the project would accomplish the desired outcomes. The project enhances the capacity of women farmers in a comprehensive manner through training-cum-workshop programmes.



Stakeholder engagement and strengthening for better outcomes in education: Community mobilisation and close involvement of community members in the implementation of secondary education is extremely critical as it fosters 'bottom-up approach' not only in effective planning and implementation of interventions in the schools but also in effective monitoring, evaluation and ownership of the government programmes by the community. In line with the above, the integrated scheme of RMSA assigns special importance to decentralised planning and implementation through the establishment of multi-member School Management and Development Committees (SDMCs). The SDMCs include representatives of local authorities, academicians, subject experts, officials, representatives of disadvantaged groups, women and parents/guardians of students. Cohesion works with these SDMCs to empower them and make them aware of their roles thus motivating them to become agents of change in education. In this picture, SDMC meeting is being carried out in Government High School, Palasava in Rapar block of Kutch. The members are being sensitised on supporting girls' education, especially in STEM subjects and the work of Cohesion.



A woman farmer in her Wadi that she has developed herself, Navsari, Gujarat: Cohesion has been working in tribal areas of south Gujarat since 2012 to support the tribal women and strengthen their identity as women, as tribal and as farmer. In the picture, a women farmer is standing in her Wadi which she has made with support from Cohesion under NABARD supported project. "Wadi" means a 'small orchard' covering one or two acres. This is a five-year project intended to promote orchard development among the tribal communities. It is envisaged as family- centric agriculture where the emphasis is on small landholdings (1-2 acres), agrobiodiversity and greater participation of women. It is a NABARD-funded Tribal Development Programme (TDP) which aims at promoting sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities and enhancing their income security, thus mainstreaming them by improving their socio-economic status. Initially, when it was started in 2010, only men farmers would come forward and start Wadi and women would support them. Now, Cohesion has been able to motivate women to become the decision maker. In many cases, it has tried to include single women and develop wadis in the land owned by them. In the process, it has also helped them to get land in their own name.

Income generation through home-based enterprise: Project Shakti is a CSR project in partnership with McCain Foods (India) Private Limited with an overall objective of improving the quality of life of rural families through farm and off-farm activities in three villages of Mehsana district. In the past two years of implementation, the project has been able to improve the livelihoods and income of women (financial empowerment) of three villages of Mehsana district. The project also seeks to balance the gender equation in the village by sensitising men, women, boys and girls equally. The capacity of women has been built through multiple trainings. The project interventions are a mix of on-farm and off-farm activities which have been carefully designed with the SHG women with support from experts in agriculture and market linkages. In this picture, a woman can be seen packing Fryums, an Indian snack supported by her husband.





Breaking Stereotypes: Girls participating in Matkiphod event in Ruvel village of Banaskantha, Gujarat. Matkiphod is a sport that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. The Matkiphod was done exclusively by girls from adolescent groups, while boys cheered them. The act has been a result of Cohesion's work with adolescent girls to strengthen their confidence, agency and life skills.



PRA an important tool to consider for a bottom-up approach in development: Cohesion, with support from HDFC Bank Parivartan, a CSR initiative, has been working in Tuljapur block of Osmanabad district of Maharashtra since July 2020. The Holistic Rural Development Programme is one of the pioneering programmes organised in the country. All set of interventions are thoroughly discussed, pondered upon, and logically matured. The key objective of the programme is to make the rural communities self-reliant by introducing initiatives in the field of agriculture, education, health and livelihood. In this picture, women from Jawalga Mesai village of Osmanabad district of Maharashtra can be seen intensively engaged in PRA exercise. The PRA exercise was carried out as part of a techno-economic feasibility study to understand project demand potential and choice of optimal technology that can be introduced for augmenting the livelihoods of the communities. The study is of utmost importance as it identifies solutions based upon the need, be it innovative or persisting and these solutions will help in promoting micro-enterprises in SHGs of the villages under consideration. This will be particularly on the basis of natural, physical, human, social and financial capital that these women possess. These are considered at the core while promoting such livelihood-based enterprises.



Receiving mobile phone as part of Mobile Library initiative to improve STEM learning of girls in Morbi district: The COVID-19 situation made the vulnerable more vulnerable and the effect was evident in education too. Education of girls was adversely affected. Cohesion is working in 29 schools of Morbi and Kutch districts of Gujarat to improve the status of STEM education in girls of secondary schools. When schools went online, the technology divide amongst boys and girls at home was observed, especially for poor families with no mobiles it meant “no mobile, no education” for their children. Cohesion started a mobile library where more than 35 mobile phones were made available which helped the students, especially girls, to continue their classes on the phones and be with their friends in their progress. In this picture, Raksha, a Class X student of Girls Government High School, Kidiyanagar in Rapar block of Kutch, can be seen receiving the mobile. She will be able to join the STEM classes every day, during a time when the schools are not functioning due to the COVID-19 crisis.



We believe in the sustainable socio-economic development of the vulnerable in under-served areas with a special focus on women. It can be achieved through prioritizing women’s role in decision-making, strengthening people’s institutions, harmony between people and the natural environment and strengthening access and control over productive resources. Identification of vulnerable and vulnerability at the micro-planning stage ensures that the needs and issues faced by communities get represented and addressed by programmes.

Rajesh Kapoor
CEO
Cohesion Foundation Trust



A total of 15 Learning Facilitators received their first in-person training for the e-Shiksha Project. LFs learned the basics of Physical Computing and Programming using Raspberry Pi Kits on Python and Scratch platforms. Many of CherYsh Trust's Learning Facilitators had never used a computer before. Despite this, the hands-on training delivered along with The PiJam Foundation helped LFs pick up quickly and experiment with what they learned. The aim is to provide this easy-to-absorb learning-teaching pedagogy in the villages. Students will also be encouraged to use their technical knowledge to create projects that will address real problems in day-to-day life.



FOCUS ON WOMEN, GIRL EMPOWERMENT

CherYsh Trust has been increasing learning opportunities for girl children and earning opportunities for resource-poor women in rural India

CherYsh Trust is a registered not-for-profit organisation that strives to enhance learning avenues for girl children and livelihood opportunities for resource-poor women in the rural and remote villages of Haliyal, Uttara Kannada District, North Karnataka. CherYsh has established 57 'Shikshas – After School Learning Centres' across 44 villages. CherYsh is now working towards transforming Shikshas into e-Shiksha Centres, providing digital education.

Under the livelihood projects, it works with women's collectives providing skills training, support to social enterprises, including agro-preneurial initiatives by women farmers. Its other programmes include scholarships, teacher training, ICT training for girls to establish online business centres.



A group of women from Mundwad village were trained in sugar bud nursery with support from EID Parry. With capacity building, accounting, business, and financial support from CherYsh and scientific inputs from EID Parry, the group successfully started the nursery. The local market has a high demand for sugar buds as Haliyal and neighbouring districts are sugarcane belt. The quality of buds produced by the group was excellent, and the group's first season was a success, with 75,000 saplings sold. With every season, the group slowly increased their production and become independent with only hand-holding support from CherYsh. Mundwad Sugarcane Budnursery is now recognised as an entirely women-led agro-enterprise by NABARD, Deshpande Foundation and other government agencies.



CherYsh Women's Kitchen Enterprise uses a solar-powered machine provided to the group by Selco Foundation. The enterprise, established in January 2021, produces North Karnataka 'kadakjowar rotti', chapatis and papads. The group has actively explored local market opportunities with support from CherYsh. Orders from the supermarket in the town centre, local festivals and weddings have proved a good start for the group.



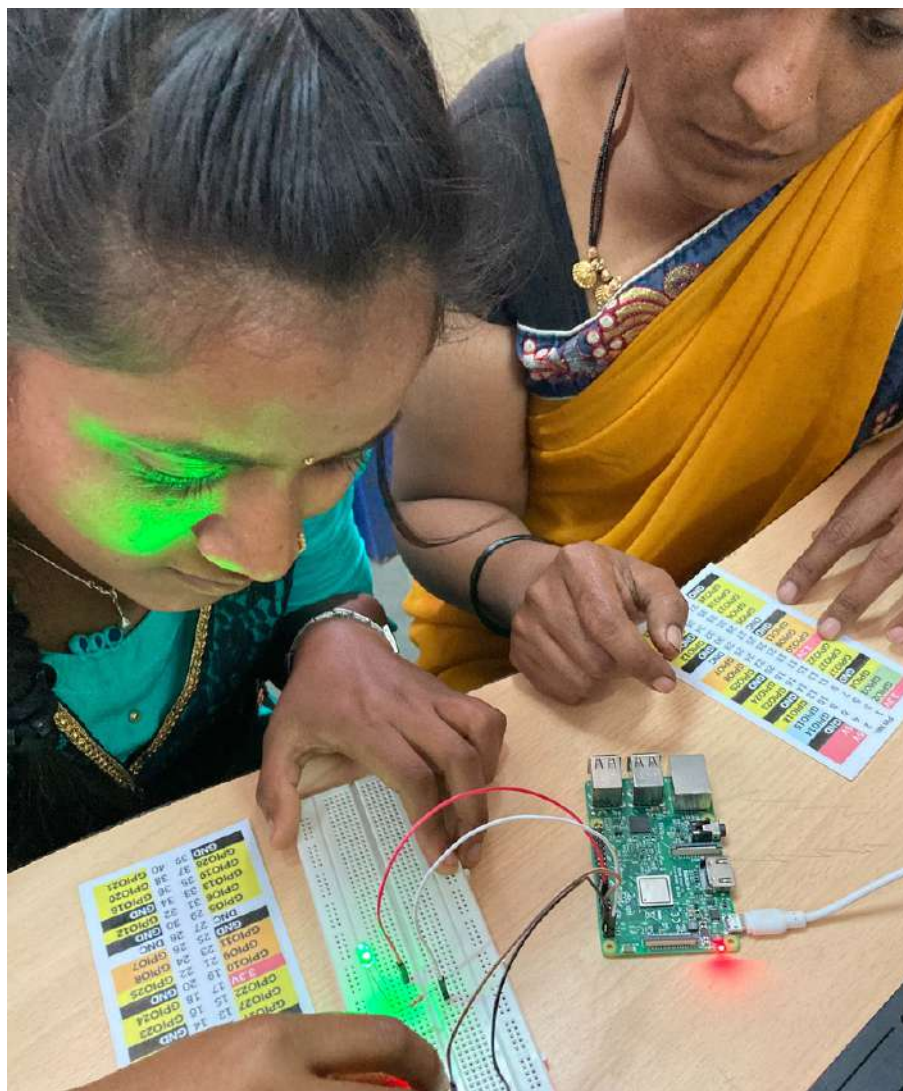
Shiksha is a learning centre in the village, held at the Learning Facilitator's home or community space. Students from grades 1 to 8 attend these Shikshas, with a focus on encouraging girl children. The English language is the main focus as students in rural areas face added barriers. The speaking and reading abilities of the students are built while also encouraging extracurriculars. One day of the week is for arts & crafts and another for sports. In the photograph, students are learning at Shiksha in Sankanakoppa village.



Mundwad shawls and stole: A women's livelihood group in Mundwad village, Haliyal. During a skill mapping exercise at Mundwad, a traditional 'killa' (nail) work skill was discovered in Shehnaz Begum. With design inputs, this skill was used to make beautiful handmade woollen shawls. Shehnaz was appointed a resource person, who then held training for 30 women in the village. These women formed a women's collective that make these beautiful shawls. The image above shows the group members with their shawls. The bottom image shows the members making a shawl using 'killa' work on wooden frames. The group showcased its products at a stall at Handmade Collective Exhibition in Bangalore, conducted by A Hundred Hands. AHH has helped the group reach the right audience and make sales both online and offline.



Learning Facilitators are the teachers who run CherYsh Trust's After-School Learning Centres: Shikshas. A woman from the village with essential education qualification like a 10th pass or PUC pass is selected. She receives continuous training in teaching and pedagogy. LFs are given a tablet that has Karnataka curriculum-aligned learning modules on the Meghshala App. Training from education experts is conducted regularly for the LFs and weekly Peer Training sessions to promote best practices.



CherYsh Trust has started a Digital Education project: e-Shiksha, in partnership with The PiJam Foundation. This project aims to develop computer and technical knowledge using Raspberry Pi and other open-source technology at the village level in Haliyal, especially among girls. e-Shiksha Centres will be set up in villages, anchored by a local woman trained by us, the Learning Facilitator. Learning Facilitators will be trained over a year with in-person and online training, assessments, and support to ensure students receive a quality education. Two LFs are pictured above, creating circuits to light LEDs. They also learned to code on Python and Scratch.



CherYsh focuses on the development and empowerment of women and girls as they are the most vulnerable, especially in rural settings. Its idea of development is to create awareness on rights, opportunities, linkages through the life cycle of a woman: For girl child, it emphasises quality education; for adolescent girls, it emphasises upskilling, confidence building, employable capacity building; and for adult women, it emphasises support required for forming group social enterprises where there is income enhancement, peer group support and networking. Thus transcending the gender barriers during the lifecycle of a girl child to womanhood and contribute towards changing the discriminating social fabric of our society and culture.

Renu Mukunda
CEO
CherYsh Trust



Dr Samir Chaudhuri
Founder and Secretary of
Child in Need Institute
with children



WORKING FOR CAUSE OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS

Child in Need Institute has developed its own method to achieve children's rights to health, nutrition, education and protection

Child in Need Institute (CINI) is an Indian non-government organisation (NGO) that has adopted a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming with children and adolescents to foster their human and social development. It works across the spectrum of children's rights aiming at achieving survival, development, protection and participation by all children, with a special focus on the most vulnerable. In addition to its critical focus on communities, it also strives to strengthen systems for children by partnering with the government, its elected administrative, service provision and judicial arms, in addition to national and international NGOs and technical agencies to promote rights-based development for and with children in the realms of capacity development; technical assistance; evidence building; and networking, advocacy and policy influencing.



A nutrition fair being organised in the community to demonstrate food diversity and emphasize the importance of nutritious food for mothers, children and adolescents.



An evaluation report done by the School of Public Health, Harvard University, on CINI's work following its right-based approach is being launched and unveiled in Kolkata Press Club by some eminent dignitaries.



Children along with adult duty-bearers discussing social issues and updating the social resource map to track the vulnerabilities of mother, adolescents and children.



Peer educators taking session of their peer group members on the basics of key components like nutrition, mental health, reproductive and sexual health, gender-based violence, substance misuse and non-communicable diseases.



Weighing of a pregnant mother being ensured at an Anganwadi centre.



With support from field facilitators and their peer leaders, children in slums assessing their vulnerabilities using the PLA method.



On-job training of Anganwadi workers being conducted at CINI training unit.



Children learning at CINI's community-based learning centre.



One of CINI's COVID-19 warriors distributing dry ration and nutrition supplement to a needy family during the lockdown period.



Adolescent girls interacting and sharing their issues with government officials like Sub Division Officer (SDO), District Project Officer (DPO) of ICDS and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) at SDO Office.



Children learning self-defence skill at CINI's shelter home.



Growth monitoring and promotion being ensured at an Anganwadi centre.



In the early seventies, as a paediatrician in Kolkata, I founded a Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) to prevent child mortality by breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition and infection. Over the nearly five decades that followed, we, at Child in Need Institute (CINI), have expanded that initial experience testing out a comprehensive approach aimed at preventing all forms of harm to children, women and adolescents before it sets in. We have developed The CINI Method to achieve the children's rights to health, nutrition, education and protection by turning into development practice the human rights principles of participation, duty-bearer accountability, convergence and prevention, all the way from the community to the policy level.

Dr Samir Chaudhuri
Founder – Secretary
Child in Need Institute (CINI)



Community Support Group: FMCH field officers regularly conduct support group meetings with women in the communities who have been actively involved in the programme as well as those who are interested in becoming a part of the support community going forward. The members work to ensure the sustainability of the support group and FMCH initiatives, which in turn ensures that all women in the community receive help as and when needed. The support group meetings usually start with an introduction about FMCH, details about our programmes, objectives of the support groups and finally an orientation on health and nutrition.



FOUNDATION FOR
MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH
INDIA

HEALTHY MOTHERS, THRIVING CHILDREN

FMCH India initiatives embrace, educate and empower mothers, children and families in their social environment to help them create unlimited possibilities for themselves

Foundation for Mother and Child Health India (FMCH) India is a non-profit organisation that works to address malnutrition in vulnerable communities. Its vision is to see healthy mothers and thriving children who can create a world of unlimited possibilities for themselves.

It is working towards this by encouraging preventive health, balanced nutrition and child developmental practices in several communities of Mumbai, Maharashtra.


Its initiatives adopt a holistic approach so as to embrace, educate and empower mothers, children and families in their social environment. Some of its programmes, such as Project Poshan and Community Nutrition Initiative, specifically focus on ensuring the well-being of pregnant women and mothers of children up to the age of two to ensure that they have the knowledge and support to pass through the critical phase of the first 1,000 days of their child's health.



Innovation during the pandemic: One of the major indirect impacts of COVID has been the disruption and inaccessibility of health services for pregnant women and children. The questions we asked ourselves was: how might we provide access to high quality, low cost, 1:1 counselling to families in underserved communities during the first 1000 days of the child's life during and after the pandemic? So we developed the NuTree App – a decision tree and data collection app – in collaboration with medical specialists, technology experts & our insights from the field.


In a nutshell, the app acts as a support system for the frontline worker for counselling – in person or remotely. Based on each family history, the app generates a schedule of visits for the first 1000 days of the child. Each visit has contextual counselling points (including food, antenatal care, postnatal care, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, local recipes, nutrition counselling, 24 hour diet recall etc.) along with relevant IEC material. The IEC materials can be sent to the families via WhatsApp. During the pandemic, families turned to us as the first point of contact – having this app has ensured we do not miss out on any family.

We now have our partners using the app for their field work as well and look forward to sharing this innovation with as many partners as possible.





FMCH NuTree App

Designscape



10 MB





Rated for 3+ 

100+

Downloads

Install

About this app

App is a digital platform for ground team to support decisions on the ground

Business

Question 8

Hand wash video Hindi

Hand wash video Hindi

PREVIOUS

PROCEED TO QUESTION 9

Regular Visit

Pregnancy (ANC)

ANC 0	Visit Completed	✓
ANC 1	Visit is closed	✗
ANC 2	Visit is closed	✗
ANC 3	Visit is closed	✗
ANC 4	Visit Completed	✓
ANC 5	Visit After: 26-Mar-2021	>
ANC 6	Visit After: 25-Apr-2021	>

Lactation (PNC)

PNC1	Visit is closed	✗
PNC2	Visit is closed	✗
PNC3	Visit is closed	✗
PNC4	Visit is closed	✗
PNC5	Visit is closed	✗

List of Cases

Kurba - AW no - 77,85,86,87,88,89

Last Synced on: 23-Mar-2021 9:40

Case Type: Aungmyethar

Infant 3 Test	Case ID: K2-19495	Last Visit: 18-Jun-2020	Follow up Date: 19-Jun-2020	1
Yasmin Mubin Shaikh	Case ID: K2-17358	Last Visit: 6-Jul-2020	Follow up Date: 21-Jul-2020	88
Phooljahaa Khan Muqeem	Case ID: K2-17428	Last Visit: 7-Jul-2020	Follow up Date: 22-Jul-2020	89
Aabed Ajruddin shaikh	Case ID: K2-18440	Last Visit: 17-Nov-2020		89
Aabish Siraj Khan	Case ID: K2-32560	Last Visit: 23-Feb-2021		86
Aafiq afaab shaikh	Case ID: K2-18406	Last Visit: 12-Feb-2021		89
Aafrin Darga mo Rafiq	Case ID: K2-17211			+

Question 2

Have you started solid food for your child

☐ Yes ☒ No

Why have you not started?

☐ Did not know when to start

☐ Mother is scared

☐ Child does not accept

☐ Family members are not allowing

Counselling points

After age six months, just breastmilk is not enough for your child to keep growing. She needs more nutrition, which comes from other foods

Recommend initiation of complementary foods through the following steps:

- Advise introduction of food groups in slow and repeat pattern
- Recommend right consistency for solids

PREVIOUS

PROCEED TO QUESTION 6



Breastfeeding Week: Every year, from August 1 to 7, FMCH celebrates global Breastfeeding Week in the communities it works with. This is done through different activities like street plays, community talks to create awareness on the importance of breastfeeding and rallies in the area. In 2020, owing to the pandemic, FMCH celebrated Breastfeeding Week virtually by building awareness around the importance of breastfeeding. Interestingly, this time it had many fathers engaging in virtual discussions and reaching out to us with questions. They even shared their experiences of the support they were able to extend to their wives during the lockdown since they were spending more time at home.



Nutrition counselling, community nutrition talks and cooking demos: The purpose of these activities is to inform mothers about the benefits of locally available seasonal food and provide hands-on training through practical demonstrations. While the talks and counselling sessions include details about the health benefits of breastfeeding for both the mother and child as well as the importance of local ingredients, the practical cooking demonstrations by FMCH field officers demonstrate how these locally available nutritious products can be used in their daily diet.

Cooking local food also proves to be low cost and time-efficient. This exercise is of importance, especially during the complementary feeding phase, where parents introduce solid foods to the infant for the first time. Appropriate complementary and weaning foods help fill in the gap of required nutrition for the infant who also continues to breastfeed. During this course, the participants also learn about the process of introducing complementary foods, the concept of food groups and the importance of diet diversity, the concept of adequate food and frequency and usage of locally available ingredients.



One-on-one counselling: This is a daily activity undertaken by the entire FMCH team (field staff and managers). Home visits may be conducted while accompanying an Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) team member during her scheduled visit or independently by the FMCH team. FMCH has developed several communication materials (flip charts/posters) along with a set of guidelines to ensure all the information provided is accurate. Based on the information filled in the NuTree app, home visits and counselling are planned. During this visit, the beneficiary is given information on nutrition, pregnancy, newborn care, food groups, importance of iron folic acid (IFA) tablets etc. based on her situation. Forms are filled in the app simultaneously. Doubts of the beneficiaries are also solved. These visits are customized based on the needs of the beneficiaries. FOs focus on behavioural change during these visits.



Community Talks: Community talks are conducted across the year by our field officers on various occasions and topics as per the need. Some topics covered in these talks are hygiene, vaccination, hand-washing techniques, good nutrition and diet among others. Over the years, we've observed that community talks have been effective in that they attract families' attention and they begin paying attention to the issue being discussed. In fact, the community now encourages FMCH field officers to conduct more such talks every month.



Anthropometry at anganwadis: Anthropometry involves the systematic measurement of the physical properties of the human body, primarily dimensional descriptors of body size and shape. Field Officers routinely conduct height and weight measurement for 0 to 24-month-old children and pregnant women at the local anganwadi (ANW) with the help and support of ANW workers. The measurements are filled in the NuTree app and the app readily displays the child's nutritional status based on its visits. The mothers and caretakers are informed about the status and are included in the process. This is done for regular growth monitoring to assess physical development of children under the age of two and weight-gain for pregnant women. The activity takes place on a monthly basis as part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) weighing day.

Saving baby Yuvansh

When an FMCH field officer (FO) first met Usha Dixit (name of beneficiary changed) during a house screening visit in Bhiwandi in January 2020, she was five-months pregnant but weighed only 42 kgs.

The FO asked Usha to visit the local anganwadi where she was counselled on nutrition. Usha was also told to visit the hospital to get the necessary blood tests done and collect iron folic acid (IFA) and calcium supplements – all of which Usha followed sincerely.

Hereafter, Usha also started attending the pregnancy club regularly. During one such session, the FO learnt that Usha lived in a joint family of 11 and had to do most of the household chores herself, leaving her with little to no time to rest.

Even though Usha was able to attend only a couple of pregnancy club sessions before the nation-wide lock down in March 2020, the FO continued to call and counsel her via phone calls. At the beginning of the eighth month, the FO told Usha to be fully prepared with some money, blood reports, contact details of an ambulance or a rickshaw driver and that of a trustworthy neighbour in case of an early delivery. And that's exactly what happened – baby Yuvansh was born in the 8th month weighing only 1.5 kgs. He had to be kept in an incubator under observation for a week.



When the mother and newborn came home, the FO counselled Usha on skin-to-skin kangaroo care to help facilitate bonding, promote breastfeeding and weight gain in her preterm infant. The FO further told her to breastfeed the child every 2 hours and that if the baby was asleep, she should tickle its soles to wake it up in order to feed it. Along with breastfeeding, the field officer also counselled the new mother on personal hygiene, type, number and time of various vaccines for the child.

With unwavering support from our field officer, and owing to Usha's endurance, baby Yuvansh is now a healthy 4-month-old, weighing nearly 5.5 kg. Usha continues to take her daily nutrition supplement and religiously takes her infant for timely vaccination. The Field Officer continues to be a constant source of support and guidance to both the mother and the child.



Pregnancy clubs: FMCH's pregnancy clubs are considered safe spaces where along with information, women also share their concerns, issues and doubts. Lactating mothers are identified in the community and encouraged to visit their local anganwadis, not only to get ration but also learn about the importance of breastfeeding among other topics. The sessions are conducted on field and also at the beneficiary's house with the help of a breast model and a doll. This helps in breaking various myths in the community.

The key objective of our pregnancy club activities is to provide tools to pregnant women to ensure a healthy baby is born and she is able to maintain a robust breastfeeding relationship with her new-born. Pregnant women sign up every month and go through a module that has been developed by experts in maternal health.



I look at development as a journey to improve the quality of all life for all life forms in a way that is dignified, sustainable and inclusive. Development is a process, and we wouldn't be fully developed till each person has the rights, access and freedom to live a life that brings out their true potential irrespective of who, how, where, when they were born or what life throws at them. It requires keeping people, planet etc in the centre, working with a systemic lens, and from the values of empathy and equity.

Shruthi Iyer
CEO
FMCH India



Women daily wage workers waiting for work at Labour Chowk in Banda District, U.P. COVID-19 lockdown has reduced availability of work in source districts. Tension and fear are visible in the community as they continue to wait for work opportunities at 11 am under the blazing sun.

Photo Credit: Sumit Singh/Jan Sahas



COLLABORATING FOR THE CAUSE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Jan Sahas' Migrants Resilience Collaborative initiative aims to support 10 million workers and their families in 100 districts and cities over the next five years

Jan Sahas means 'People's Courage'. Established in the year 2000, it is a community and survivor-centric not-for-profit organisation working intensively in 13 states of India. Over the years, the organisation has evolved a comprehensive framework of Prevention, Response, Rehabilitation and Systemic Reform (PR3) to realise its goal of societal transformation. It works with the most excluded social groups on safe migration and workers' protection; and prevention of sexual violence against women and children.



Women migrant workers from Odisha working in brick kiln sites without any safety and protection gears in Telangana. Moreover, they don't have any infrastructural support for children and family members. Often young children accompany them to these hazardous worksites. **Photo Credit: Sumit Singh/Jan Sahas**

Migrants Resilience Collaborative

More than 400 million individuals and their families are involved in the unorganised sector in India. Most of them migrate from rural parts and work as unskilled labourers in the agriculture, construction, and textile sectors. These migrant workers do not have any job security or even access to basic amenities like sanitation or clean drinking water and are often paid less in proportion to their long working hours. It needs to ensure a safety net that prevents families from repeatedly falling back into poverty, ensure safe and stable livelihoods to provide a pathway out of poverty, and ensure the basic rights and dignity of workers. In order to ensure workers' protection, it has initiated the Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC), a grassroots-led multi-stakeholder collaborative of non-profit and philanthropic organisations, private sector and central and state governments. The collaborative is India's largest non-governmental initiative dedicated to migrant workers and their families. It aims to support 10 million workers and their families in 100 districts and cities (across source and destination) over the next five years.

**MIGRANTS
RESILIENCE
COLLABORATIVE**
| A JAN SAHAS INITIATIVE |



Ashif Shaikh, Founder, Jan Sahas



Balram Kumar, a migrant worker from Chhattisgarh, lost his livelihood during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. Under the MRC initiative, he was registered by Jan Saathi in his village. He urgently needed some source of income to sustain his family. A Jan Saathi helped him and his family to receive a ration card and MGNREGA job card. He is now working in his village with a stable income and regularly receives food grains from the state government. **Photo Credit: Ashish Ramesh/Jan Sahas**



A total of 57 migrant workers of Tata Projects Limited construction site in Pune received BOCW Cards and safety gears for the worksite. Under the MRC initiative, so far 9,000 migrant workers have received BOCW cards in major metro cities in India. **Photo Credit: Vishal/Jan Sahas**



Meera Bai and her family from Katni District in Madhya Pradesh received an MGNREGA job card with support from Jan Saathi under the Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC) initiative. Similarly, more than three lakh migrant workers in 13 states across India have received MGNREGA job cards in past six months under the MRC initiative. **Photo Credit: Ashish Ramesh/Jan Sahas**



Satosh Kumar from Hazaribagh District in Jharkhand used to work in a local shop near his home town. He lost his livelihood during the COVID-19 lockdown. Jan Sahas team discovered his situation while conducting the door-to-door survey. The Jan Saathi and district team coordinated with the state government to help him receive a tricycle and has also enrolled him under the Indira Gandhi National Handicapped Pension Scheme. **Photo Credit: Ashish Ramesh/Jan Sahas**



Groups of Smart Women Farmers (Saksham Samuh) in 1,000 villages of tri-junction area are facilitating tribal families to adopt and practice Sustainable Integrated Farming System. They play a key role in sensitization of tribal farmer families in their villages for conserving quality indigenous seeds and growing traditional crops through eco-friendly practices.



DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF TRIBALS

VAAGDHARA has been working with tribal communities for creating sustainable pathways for development in 1,000 villages of MP, Rajasthan and Gujarat for the past 20 years

VAAGDHARA is a community-based organisation working with the tribal community for the last 20 years in the western part of India (in adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat). Following the Swaraj philosophy, VAAGDHARA is making efforts on True Farming (focus on food and farming sovereignty), True Childhood (community-based child protection and child rights initiatives) and True Democracy (reaching the most marginalised ensuring their entitlements and participation in the governance) through the community by the community and for the community, working with 1,00,000 tribal families in 1,000 villages of 3 States for creating sustainable pathways for development.



Empowering women farmers is a vital step as they play a lead role in sustainable development. Participation by women is ensured in various development processes. Their knowledge building and awareness generation is ensured using various tools and techniques.



True Farming 'Sacchi Kheti': The tribal community in the trijunction area practice Sustainable Integrated Farming System-SIFS, comprising 5 key components i.e. forest, livestock, soil, seeds and water with the objectives to improve household food, nutrition and livelihood security; ecological sustainability and strengthen the local economy. In SIFS, overall production, income and nutrition – both food and fodder, is enhanced and diversified both in terms of quantity and quality, incidence of risk is reduced and the system becomes energy efficient as a whole. It also integrates various techniques like soil water conservation, energy security, rainwater harvesting, cropping sequence management and multitier arrangement for better management of space and better utilization of time by increasing cropping intensity and decreasing fallow period. Practising such type of farming creates a balance in the ecosystem leading to economic growth and the well-being of the tribal community.



True Childhood 'Saccha Bachpan': True Childhood focuses on ensuring the rights of children by promoting and nurturing vibrant community-based institutions like Bal Panchayats and Village Development Child Rights Committees. These strengthened institutions' work to provide quality education for children without any gender bias and help reduce the gaps among various sections of the society moving ahead towards achieving the SDGs of quality education, gender equality and reduced inequalities. They also advocate for framing policies, addressing the four basic rights of the children viz Survival Rights, Development Rights, Participation Rights and Protection Rights. Creating all the villages in tribal areas child-friendly villages, where there is no child labour, all children receive compulsory, good quality education and their voices are heard as well as accepted by the authorities is one of the prime objectives of the organisation.





On the occasion of World Soil Day, celebrated every year on 5th December, the tribal communities worship mother earth and pledge to keep it healthy and protect it. As a practice in the tribal community, each farmer brings a handful of soil from his/her field and mix it with that of others to making it a common village soil and worship it with devotion. Every individual pledges to protect it, keep it healthy and alive as well as protect its biodiversity. After worshipping, each one takes back a handful of mixed soil and spread it in their field as a holy blessing by mother nature.



True Governance 'Saccha Swaraj': Every year in Banswara, thousands of tribal people from the tri-junction area gather in "Tribal Sovereignty Conclave" to raise and discuss their issues. This colloquium provides them a platform to voice their concerns and advocate for framing development policies. Tribal women actively participate in the conclave and raise their demands for the holistic development of their community.



Beyond our definition, indigenous Adivasi families have their own process of development with their sovereignty.

The protection of their sovereignty and the positive evolutions along with that are the true development in the tribal context. Real sovereignty is possible only with Swaraj of their culture, thoughts, and practices. They prove their distinct culture and the circular lifestyle significant in attaining several SDGs, like the eradication of poverty, food security, improved health, quality education with a climate-resilient lifestyle. Their strong gender-sensitive involvement in the dialogue of the planning process would be consequential to come up with more pragmatic solutions and the changes required in the development policies.

Jayesh Joshi
Secretary and CEO
VAAGDHARA



Kids learning alphabets at SOS Children's Village in Khajuri Kala, a home for specially-abled children.



ALTERNATIVE CARE SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN

More than 6,500 children are living in 440 family homes inside 32 SOS Children's Villages in 22 states and UTs

SOS Children's Villages of India, India's largest self-implementing childcare NGO is committed to quality care and safeguarding children without parental care or at the risk of losing one, since 1964. It provides a range of alternative care solutions customised for every child in need – provision of loving homes in children's villages, strengthening vulnerable families, facilitating quality upbringing, protecting children during emergencies and supporting the youth on their path to self-reliance. Today, more than 6,500 children are living in 440 family homes inside 32 SOS Children's Villages in 22 states/UTs. Additionally, the NGO directly touches the lives of around 28,500 children, and thousands more indirectly every year through its community interventions, ensuring that no child of any age grows up alone.



Children in the loving care of SOS mother at an SOS family home.



The SOS Children's Village in Pune.



Family Strengthening Programme Empowering women as primary caregivers of children.



Facilitating sustainable livelihoods for women from vulnerable communities as part of the Family Strengthening Programme.



Children having fun together at Children's Village Bawana.



Family Strengthening Programme
PDS and ICDS supplies being facilitated for vulnerable communities as COVID-19 response measure at Latur.



Emergency response to Uttarakhand Glacier burst 2021 Foodgrains being supplied to distressed families to safeguard their children.



A child at the child care facility set up in response to Uttarakhand Glacier Relief.



I believe that childcare must be at the heart of any development endeavour. Millions of children worldwide, including in India, continue to be left behind and their rights denied. They suffer the impacts of poverty, violence, inequality and exclusion disproportionately due to their sensitive phase of life and development. Healthy and happy childhood, quality education and psycho-social well-being are foundational not only for their holistic development but also to their capacity to contribute meaningfully to society. Only well brought up, responsible and self-reliant adults can propel sustainable development by breaking down the circle of poverty and exclusion in the forthcoming generations.

Sumanta Kar
Secretary General
SOS Children's Villages of India



Distribution of CINI Nutrimix in the urban slums of Kolkata.



TOP PRIORITY: MOTHER AND CHILD

Mother and child should be at the core of planning for development of a society or nation

CINI COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (CINCOMM) is a Section 8 not-for-profit company registered under the Companies Act 2013, India. CINCOMM works towards healthy growing of the underprivileged through solutions additionally to create social entrepreneurship opportunities for the community. CINCOMM leads an integrated solution towards proper nutrition support for the underprivileged community, especially children and women. CINI Nutrimix is an inexpensive, scientifically designed nutritional supplement made from natural indigenous products to fulfil main and supplementary diet requirements and ensures food security. Inclusion of the community is done as active participants to achieve development goals and create sustainable livelihood opportunities, especially for women.



Happy faces in the time of lockdown on account of COVID-19 as they receive the CINI Nutrimix.



A child enjoying CINI Nutrimix, an inexpensive, scientifically designed nutritional supplement made from natural indigenous products.



➔ Dry ration kit supply for families in Jharkhand in collaboration with DASRA and Child In Need Institute.



Dry ration kit supply for families in West Bengal in collaboration with The Hans Foundation and Child In Need Institute in North Bengal.



Training of workers and employees during COVID-19 lockdown to ensure their health safety.



People lining up patiently at one of the Amphan relief camps in Sundarban to receive dry ration kits.



Distribution of CINI Nutrimix in the Sundarban areas of West Bengal.



CINI Nutrimix Production unit - Women from the local community who have been trained to ensure a sustainable livelihood opportunity.



The brave hearts of CINI Nutrimix production team during COVID-19 lockdown who risked their lives to help others.



The development of a society or nation has to have the mother and child at the core, with health, nutrition and education as pivotal areas. A healthy woman and mother will lead to greater participation of women in the economic development of the country. A healthy child, brought up through proper care, nutrition and education, will ensure a healthy future of the nation and lead to long-lasting and meaningful changes.

Dr Samir N. Chaudhuri
Founder and Chairman of the Board
CINI Community Initiatives



Food, fun & frolic: The mantra to a happy childhood:- This is Akshaya Patra's impetus to ensure that India's future generation is well-nourished and well-educated. All of the Foundation's activities have been aligned with the intent of providing the required nutrition that children would need to pursue their ambitions and aspirations with zeal and cheer—to realise the dream of a nation where every child knows nothing but full bellies and a happy childhood.



WORLD'S LARGEST SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMME

Akshaya Patra Foundation believes the path to development lies in enhancing the efficacy of its public feeding programmes to address the issue of food insecurity

The Akshaya Patra Foundation is the implementing partner of the Government of India's flagship Mid-Day Meal Scheme, leveraging its Public-Private Partnership model to uphold the Right to Food and Right to Education of children in government and aided schools. From humble beginnings of serving 1,500 students in five schools in Bengaluru, the Foundation has grown to become the world's largest (not-for-profit run) school meal programme, serving freshly cooked food to over 1.8 million children in 19,039 schools across 12 States and two Union Territories.



Delicious meals for a well-nourished generation: The satisfaction on the faces of children as they enjoy their school lunch is a sight worth beholding! Akshaya Patra realises the importance of taste in mid-day meals because its beneficiaries are children from across the nation with varying local taste preferences. Thus, the food served to Akshaya Patra beneficiaries is a unique blend of taste and nutrition, with each region having palate-specific menus. For instance, in the northern states, Rotis are a staple, while in the southern states, a rice-based diet is predominant.



The effortlessness of compassion: The COVID-19 pandemic was a moment of reckoning for humanity, and through the uncertainty that gripped the nation's socio-economically challenged population, Akshaya Patra witnessed the true light of service. As the kitchen staff worked to prepare meals, individuals from varying walks of life, donors, employees and administrative authorities volunteered, standing shoulder-to-shoulder, to pack dry ration kits with essential groceries for 42/28 meals, which would be distributed to vulnerable communities.



COVID-19 relief feeding endeavour: Akshaya Patra has been committed to serving vulnerable populations affected by natural crisis. As the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic brought the country to a state of lockdown, the Foundation quickly reoriented its resources to provide much-needed nutritional aid in the form of freshly cooked meals and dry grocery kits to individuals from socio-economically challenged families. Through the collaborative efforts of volunteers, employees, donors and civic body administrations, Akshaya Patra has served over 115 million cumulative meals in 18 states and two Union Territories as of 15th February 2021.



Safeguarding the twin pillars of progress: Education and nutrition: The Akshaya Patra Foundation is driven by the mission to ensure that no child in India is deprived of education because of hunger. By upholding a child's Right to Food, the Foundation actively strives to ensure that children in schools have the requisite energy to absorb the education that they receive. By tackling the issues of classroom hunger and absenteeism, Akshaya Patra's nationwide mid-day meal initiative upholds a child's Right to Education.



COVID-19 relief feeding endeavour: Akshaya Patra has been committed to serving vulnerable populations affected by natural crisis. As the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic brought the country to a state of lockdown, the Foundation quickly reoriented its resources to provide much-needed nutritional aid in the form of freshly cooked meals and dry grocery kits to individuals from socio-economically challenged families. Through the collaborative efforts of volunteers, employees, donors and civic body administrations, Akshaya Patra has served over 115 million cumulative meals in 18 states and two Union Territories as of 15th February 2021.



Kaalai Unavu Thittam: The Breakfast Scheme:- In March 2019, Akshaya Patra commenced its Breakfast Programme in the city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in partnership with the State Government and the Greater Chennai Corporation, serving students in 18 schools. This programme aims to provide the essential nutrients to combat the issue of morning fatigue because a hungry child will not be able to focus in class during the crucial first few hours of the school day.



Prioritising safety and hygiene: Akshaya Patra's state-of-the-art centralised kitchens have been critical in achieving scalability in feeding programmes, reaching more and more children every day. On average, over 1,00,000 mid-day meals are prepared in these steam-powered, industrial-sized settings on a daily basis while ensuring strict adherence to stringent Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), 5S (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardise and Sustain) and GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) to ensure safe handling, preparation and delivery of the food.



A journey to solidarity: While Akshaya Patra's mid-day meal programme aims to nourish the minds and bodies of children, the broader aim of the school feeding programme is to create an environment of solidarity, where children from varying castes and creeds sit together to consume their meal, therefore building a sense of comradeship among the children. Akshaya Patra hopes to inculcate a sense of collective thought and harmony in them, which will help them become well-rounded citizens.



Integrity of actions and synergy of efforts
In a world that is still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Akshaya Patra believes that the path to development lies in enhancing the efficacy of our public feeding programmes to address the issue of food insecurity. By initiating collaborations at the national and global level as well as encouraging the public-private partnership (PPP) model, it is possible to not only strengthen the implementation of such endeavours but also ensure its sustainability. Our idea of development is inspired by the integrity of actions and synergy of efforts.

Shridhar Venkat
CEO
The Akshaya Patra Foundation



Children from marginalised communities benefit from education kits distributed during Kerala Floods 2018.



**Save the
Children**

ENABLING CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR LIVES


Save the Children India has impacted lives of 11 million children through its programmes to ensure welfare for underprivileged children

Save the Children works on issues related to education, health, protection and humanitarian/DRR needs of children, especially for those who are the most deprived and marginalized. Save the Children is India's leading independent child rights NGO, which works in 18 states of the country. Beginning its journey in 2008 in India, and registered as 'Bal Raksha Bharat', it has changed the lives of more than 11 million (1.1 crore) children.



Adolescent girls discussing Save the Children's SRHR (Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights) Module.



 Livelihood support for families with children after disasters - fishing boats.



Children in street situations getting identity documents.



Children in street situations getting identity documents.



Polio drop being administered to a baby in a Mobile Health Clinic operated by Save the Children.



Loading relief materials after the Nepal earthquake.



Children with education kits near a child-friendly space in Jammu after J&K floods.



An adolescent girls' group meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussions are on agency, life skills, rights.



A child attending handwashing training during the COVID-19 situation.



Development is a way of life. Our mandate is to make children and communities realise their rights and take charge of their lives.

Social change is all about embracing incremental behavioural, cultural and political shifts in our lives. And, leadership is key to setting the momentum for transformative change. Our children leaders have laid a strong foundation for us and we are here to enable them further in the hope that they will lead us into a tomorrow where organisations like ours are redundant. Development will mean children and communities owning their rights and freedom.

Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Children, India





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