

THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. VIII



HCLTech Grant is a recognition of the rise of community-led ecosystems, Non-Governmental Organizations – The Fifth Estate. The other four estates that democracy rests on are – the legislative, judiciary, executive, and free press. These estates not only define the fabric of our society but also act as potent drivers propelling India to the next level of growth and prosperity. It is imperative that the growth process that we as a nation subscribe to is inclusive, and carries forward all sections of the society across geographies. This is where the community-led ecosystems are destined to play a decisive role in building a stronger, future-ready India.



THE FIFTH ESTATE

VOL. VIII

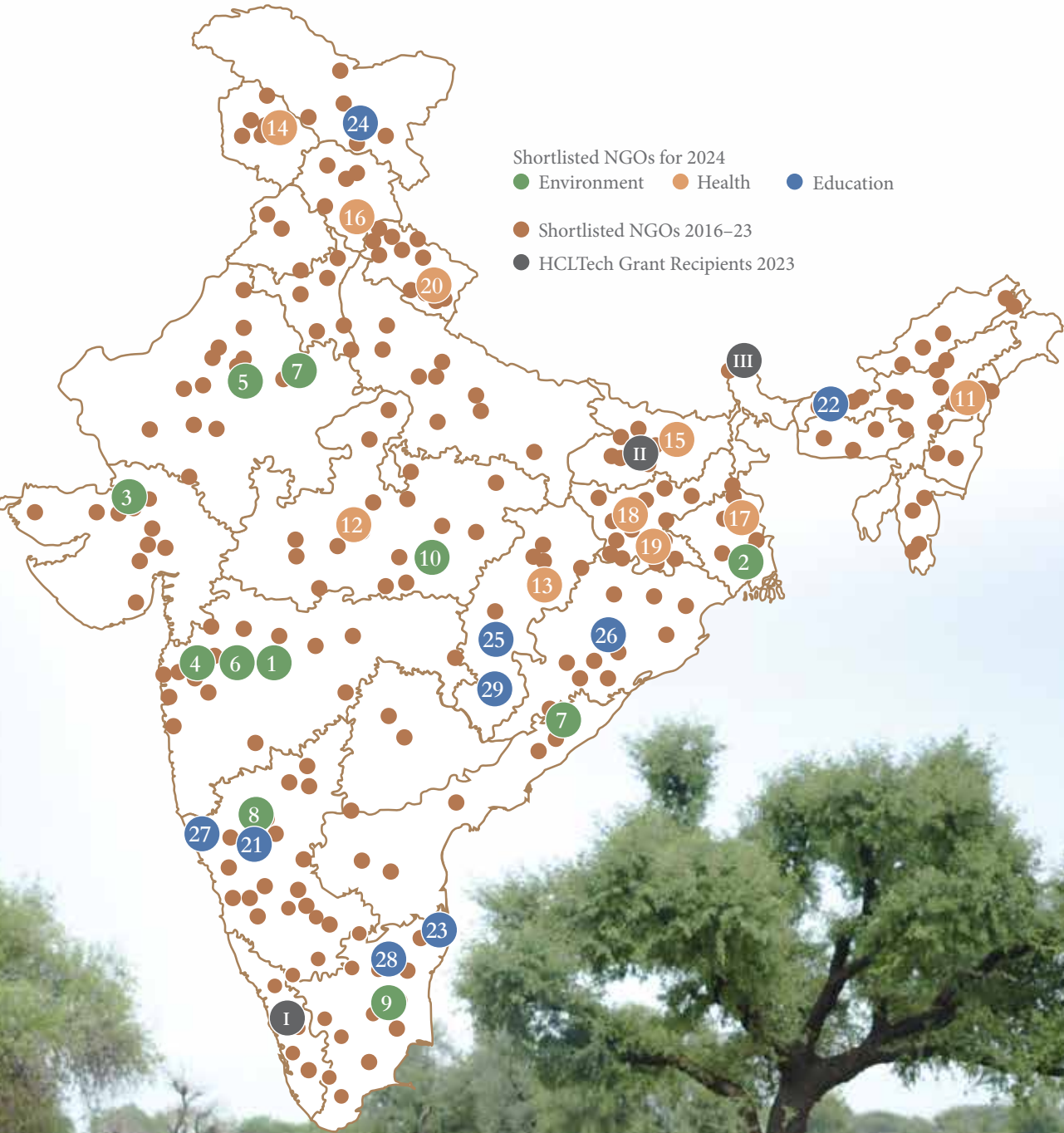
NGOs Transforming Rural India
in Environment, Health and Education



HCLTech

SHOWCASE
Roli Books

CONTENTS



Introduction and Impact Chapter 6
The HCLTech Grant Methodology 20
Jury 28

HCLTech Grant Recipients 2023

- I **ENVIRONMENT** Plan@Earth 32
- II **HEALTH** Innovators In Health (India)36
- III **EDUCATION** Meghshala Trust 40

ENVIRONMENT

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

- 1 Lokpanchayat 50
- 2 MUKTI 58
- 3 The Corbett Foundation (TCF) 66

Shortlisted 2024

- 4 Action Related to the Organization of Education Health and Nutrition (AROEHAN) 74
- 5 Arpan Seva Sansthan 78
- 6 BAIF Development Research Foundation (BAIF) 82
- 7 End Poverty 86
- 8 MANUVIKASA 90
- 9 The Covenant Centre for Development (CCD) 94
- 10 Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) 98

HEALTH

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

- 11 Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO), India 108
- 12 Sangath 116
- 13 Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal - SROUT KORBA 124

Shortlisted 2024

- 14 Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF) 132
- 15 Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) 136
- 16 eGovernments Foundation, 10BedICU Project 140
- 17 Manbhumi Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT) 144
- 18 Public Health Resource Society (PHRS) 148
- 19 Sri Someswar Nath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT) 152
- 20 The American India Foundation Trust (AIF) 156

EDUCATION

Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

- 21 Makkala Jagriti 166
- 22 Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability 174
- 23 Sri Aurobindo Society 182

Shortlisted 2024

- 24 17000 ft Foundation 190
- 25 Ahvaan Trust 194
- 26 Akshara Foundation 198
- 27 Contact Base 202
- 28 NalandaWay Foundation 206
- 29 Transforming Rural India Foundation 210

Behind the Scenes 214
Credits 216

THE BRIDGES OF TRANSFORMATION



INDIA'S GROWTH STORY is phenomenal. The \$4 trillion economy is no longer a distant projection for our nation, but a bright reality. To sustain this trajectory, we need consistent growth, and we need a foundation that is solid – so that as we reach for the sky, we also strengthen our roots through indigenous, community-led solutions. Through its flagship programme, HCLTech Grant, the HCLFoundation celebrates the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or the Fifth Estate*, that are doing the exemplary work of catalysing rural transformation tirelessly at the grassroots. The Grant recognizes that these committed NGOs are the true bridge between people and policies, the local and the global, propelling sustainable and inclusive development to supercharge India's progress.

With an investment of ₹146.95 Cr (\$17.80 million) in NGOs pan India, the HCLTech Grant has, over 9 years, empowered 2 million lives through 58 path-breaking projects in Environment, Health, and Education. Keeping the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a barometer, the Grant manifests the company's CSR vision of creating 'source codes' for socio-economic and environmental development in India. Now, the **HCLTech Grant Americas** extends its learnings and innovative programmes outwards from India through its global CSR strategy, pledging \$5 million across

*so named by Shiv Nadar, Founder-HCL; Chairman Emeritus & Strategic Advisor to the Board-HCLTech; Founder & Chairman- Shiv Nadar Foundation

5 years to impact-focused NGOs in the Americas that are combating climate change and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.

Through a rigorous, transparent and robust process comprising application, field investigation, due diligence and jury stages, NGOs have to demonstrate highly relevant, innovative, replicable and scalable, financially sound, inclusive and sustainable projects in the verticals of Environment, Health and Education, in order to be shortlisted for the Grant. They must have a proven track record of credibility and the ability to deliver impactful programmes to marginalized, remote, and underserved rural communities in the country. The selection process itself aids NGOs to clarify their vision, mission and impact through evidence-based, fool-proof data and programming. The final Grantees receive much more than funding from the Grant, which also strengthens and capacitates their governance and leadership throughout the duration of the process, leveraging resources in optimum ways to reach those who need them the most; in short, forming bridges of opportunity.

The HCLTech Grant process is supplemented by Pan India Symposiums which have become gamechangers for NGOs that are applying for the Grant, reaching out to others, clarifying the application process and encouraging more applications. This year, the 9th edition of the HCLTech Grant Symposiums, organized by HCLFoundation and CSRBOX, brought together various stakeholders including

NGOs, Subject Matter Experts consultants, government officials, corporates, and policymakers to discuss CSR and its role in nation building. A relevant topic of discussion was the role of the G20 India presidency and its role in rural development. Featuring nearly two thousand active participants, including 1850+ NGOs and 75+ speakers, the Symposiums created a platform to share experiences, best practices, and insights, on topics including poverty alleviation, sustainable economic growth, health, unemployment, and climate change. Panel discussions, workshops and talks enabled knowledge exchange, fostering dialogue and collaborative bridges for innovation, financial governance, sustainable development, and positive social impact across India.

An integral part of the G20 Summit in 2023 was the C20 engagement group (Civil 20 India 2023) which brings the voice of civil society organizations to the G20. It focuses on their significant role in sustainable development, gender equality, human rights and social, economic and climate justice. HCLTech Grant has long recognized the crucial role of these bodies, and its long-term partnership with NGOs has made transformative changes in the rural landscape a distinct reality.

At a global level, COP 28 has recognized the value of local, nature-based solutions to environmental issues, which have been scaled through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Our 2021 Grantee Saahas and its Project Paripurna has recycled 4,63,563 kg of waste and diverted 27,369 tons of waste from landfills and incineration through

the concept of the circular economy and solid waste management systems at the village level and furthering the reach of government programmes. The Manthan initiative of the Government of India promotes innovation and research in different sectors. In the health space, our 2022 Grantee, Association of People with Disability (APD) in another strong, scalable model for community-based rehabilitation of Persons with Spinal Cord Injury (PwSCI), and has invented a vehicle for them, converting a wheelchair into a transport vehicle – NEO FLY, as a step towards mainstreaming PwSCIs. And in education, one of our earliest Grantees, Meljol (2017), has created the hugely successful financial and social education programme Aflatoun, scaled to government schools, inspired by which 77 per cent girls and boys have started saving to meet their immediate and future needs.

The CSR funds available in India are exponentially increasing. HCLTech Grant over the last nine years has not only infused a substantial amount of funding into NGOs, but has also formed a valuable repository of thoroughly vetted organizations for other CSR programmes to dip into, presenting projects and areas that are diverse and deserving, beyond the education sector which receives most aid.

We laud the remarkable reach of these grassroots organizations, as they bridge and connect local communities, government schemes and policy programming. As they accomplish their goals of large scale impact through path-breaking initiatives driven by inclusivity, socio-economic empowerment, government integration and community-based institution building, HCLTech Grant supports them unequivocally. For they are the Fifth Estate: the integral bridges of transformation.



IMPACT FOR POSTERITY

HCLTech Grant's partners in action are the drivers of real transformation in rural India through their chosen projects which fulfill the criteria for selection and often go beyond their brief, leveraging their core strengths and knowledge, and the benefits of convergence with government initiatives and community organizations. Their highly relevant, remarkably innovative, and sustainable programmes are scalable and replicable anywhere, from Ladakh to Kerala, and Nagaland to Kutch. Their efforts are inherently inclusive, both in terms of the beneficiaries and the leadership. For example, in Nagaland, the massive reduction in the maternal mortality rate through 'LifeConnect' in partnership with Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS, 2018) was driven by the engine of grassroots women, and the Grant merely provides the fuel for growth. The final criteria is that of solid financial modelling, which is bedrock of the success of the programme. Under The Mango Tree Society (UTMT Society) has promoted beekeeping as a profitable income stream for small farmers in tribal communities in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Expanding awareness, innovation and training has been made possible by the Grant. UTMT Society has earned profits of nearly ₹47 lakhs from its efforts.



ENVIRONMENT

RELEVANCE

Saahas

HCLTech Grant Project: Sustainable Waste Management through Community-Owned Rural Resource Recovery Systems

India generates close to 26000 tons of plastic waste daily. In rural areas plastic waste is rising exponentially, and is usually burnt in the open as there are no recycling facilities. The Project has the goal of creating zero-waste communities, and aims to implement segregated waste collection and composting at village level; aggregation of plastic waste at Taluk level RRFs to increase recycling of plastic waste, and reducing pollution due to improper waste disposal. It has also been successful in empowering women to be the agents of social change, and extending the reach of government schemes like the Swachh Bharat Mission, MGNREGS etc



- Implementing segregated, community owned waste management systems in 143 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Karnataka
- 46% of households and shops giving segregated waste to the door-to-door collection vehicle
- 8500 kilograms of dry waste per day collected and recycled, instead of dumping in landfills and burning
- 109 GPs are collecting service fees from waste generators and have collected ₹1,08,67,177 this financial year
- Total number of direct beneficiaries is 10,20,684.



SCALABILITY/ REPLICABILITY

HCL
Grant
Recipient
Environment,
2023

Plan@Earth

HCLTech Grant Project: Recover and Recycle Plastic from Ocean and Protect Water Bodies from Water Hyacinth Infestation by Manufacturing Briquettes.



Plastics in water bodies suffocate marine animals and get entangled in fishing nets; they enter our bodies through eating fish. Water hyacinth, an invasive species, has infested water bodies including Vembanad Lake in Kerala, hampering inland water transport, and marginal fishermen's livelihood, as well growth of native marine species of flora and fauna. The DROP Project ropes in the local fisherfolk and their vessels to help with both these issues. They help remove the plastics from ocean to be recycled; and the weed can be removed too, which is then converted into briquettes to be used as solid fuel. Both these interventions can happen in any harbour and water body, and thus the Project is very replicable.

- Working in 45 villages in 4 districts of Kerala
- The income from sale of briquettes goes back into the project to run the workers' collective that operates the unit
- Converting water hyacinth to biomass briquettes is a first for India and the first time in the world on an industrial scale



SUSTAINABILITY

HCL
Grant
Recipient
Environment,
2022

PRADAN

HCLTech Grant Project: Restoring Eco-System by Promoting Nature Sensitive Endeavour – RESPONSE

Scarcity of water, soil erosion, and tough terrain mark the areas in western West Bengal where this Project is based. Due to low agricultural productivity, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are used, making the land even less viable. Subsistence farming and deforestation are rampant. The Project seeks to create a sustainable ecology development prototype to establish an alternative agricultural system that focuses on restorative and regenerative principles and practices like rainwater harvesting, increasing vegetative cover, reforestation etc., to address poverty and food insecurity. Through skilling women farmers and aligning stakeholders like government, banks, PRI and corporates to community-led development, the Project is set to be long lasting and sustainable.

- 6,500 women farmers from 617 SHGs sensitized on environmental issues, integrated natural resource management (INRM) and climate resilient agricultural practices
- 11 Bio Resource Centres initiated by women entrepreneurs to supply bio fertilizers and pesticides to each cluster
- 7,000 women farmers are trained technically on regenerative crop cultivation practices, 6,793 have adopted the same
- Demonstration of 249 water conservation & irrigation structures and 12 solar based lifting devices and replication of these with funds from government departments across the entire Jangle Mohal region



Under The Mango Tree Society

HCLTech Grant Project: Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities



Pollinators and bees are a vital part of our ecosystems – responsible not just for food security of humans but also all living beings. As IPBES reports of the UN point out, pollinators are under threat worldwide and declining due to multiple factors – use of pesticides, deforestation, commercial agriculture and unsustainable practises like honey hunting. The Project focuses on creating awareness on indigenous bees leading to not just their conservation but also creating a supportive ecosystem where they can thrive among 5190 smallholders in tribal communities in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The Project aims for increased agricultural yields for smallholders due to better pollination along with a range of supportive activities in the ecosystem.

- 4,089 farmers from tribal communities in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh sensitized on bee conservation
- 1,544 people trained in sustainable beekeeping

HEALTH

RELEVANCE

Innovators in Health (India)

HCLTech Grant Project: Universal Tuberculosis Care through Active Case Finding and Treatment Support in Rural Bihar

The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) in rural Bihar significantly lags, due to the pandemic. Only 68% (61,467) TB case notification was achieved in 2021 in the public sector, and only 45.8% patients could receive help under the government's nutritional support initiative. This Project proposes to work for TB case finding, testing and complete cascade of care from drugs, transport to reach healthcare facilities and more, to strengthen the public health system, and is working in 100% of Samastipur district with a population of 5.01 million. IIH has successfully implemented a TB project during the pandemic, drawing on more than a decade's experience running TB programs in rural Bihar.



- Screened 24,000 people for tuberculosis, with more than 50% SC & ST populations
- Trained 1167 CHWs, increasing their referrals and having an impact of 114%, more than previous year
- Training ASHAs to use 'ASHWIN', an app-based payment system for their incentives, and 'NIKSHAY IDs' for Direct Benefit Transfer for TB patients
- 2995 GeneXpert tests conducted, representing 68% of all NAAT performed in the region.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY

HCL
Grant
Recipient
Health,
2021

India Health Action Trust (IHAT)

HCLTech Grant Project: Project MANCH: Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Outcomes in Tribal Areas of Madhya Pradesh



Shahdol is a rural district with a large tribal population, and poor MNCH outcomes. The Project seeks to drive sustainable change and strengthen the quality of services at health facilities in partnership with the state government for better management of normal and complicated deliveries, strengthening the coverage and quality of ante-natal/post-natal care services at community, and especially for identification and referral of high-risk pregnancies and sick/small newborns.

- Reaching 30,000 pregnant/new mothers, 25,000 newborns, 500 frontline workers, & 235 ANMs & doctors
- A solar-powered digital ante-natal kit to identify high-risk pregnancies
- Mini-skill labs for nurses and ANMs for delivery and essential newborn care
- Digital tools for real-time capture and monitoring of programme data

INCLUSIVENESS

HCL
Grant
Recipient
Health,
2022

The Association of People with Disability (APD)

HCLTech Grant Project: Cot to Community: A comprehensive rehabilitation approach for people with Spinal Cord Injury (PwSCI)

India has 1.5 million spinal cord injury cases with 15,000 cases added annually. Sixty to seventy per cent of these are from poor villages and in between 16 and 30 years. The HCLTech Grant Project in rural Karnataka aims to provide community reintegration for poor, rural PwSCIs by optimising their functional independence through comprehensive rehabilitation including physical, psychological, social, and vocational services and creating an accessible and inclusive environment to enhance their quality of living.

- Structured rehabilitation services to 2962 PwSCIs
- Sensitization and capacity building of 33000 stakeholders



‘One day at a job site I fell from a 70-foot building, leaving me with a spinal cord injury. My future was uncertain: I lay in bed, waiting for life to fade away. A community staffer from APD told me about a specialized spinal cord rehabilitation center. At the center, not only did I grow physically stronger, but I also underwent a remarkable mental transformation. I participated in the TCS Marathon under the category of champions with disabilities. I also exercised my right to vote and obtained my UDID card. From arriving on a stretcher, I triumphantly left the rehabilitation center, walking with the assistance of a KAFO (knee-ankle-foot orthosis) and a walker. APD helped me get a job as a food delivery partner, and I am now physically and financially independent. Thanks to APD, I have moved from “cot to community.”—Harshvardhan

RELEVANCE

Learning & Language Foundation

HCLTech Grant Project: Inclusion of Children's Home Languages to Improve Foundational Learning Outcomes of Adivasi Children in Chhattisgarh



The Annual Status of Education Survey (ASER) and National Achievement Survey (NAS) reports clearly show that Chhattisgarh lags in the national average significantly in both language and mathematics. The lack of familiarity of the language used as the medium of instruction when children join school is a major factor in the low learning levels in tribal areas like Bastar. This Project is helping demonstrate a scalable model of multilingual education that improves foundational learning and supports the state government's efforts at implementing quality multilingual education throughout the state in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission.

- 'Multilingual Education' curriculum reached 200 primary schools across 134 Gram Panchayats of Bastar, Chhattisgarh
- 49% of the teachers are using children's home language and applying multilingual teaching learning practices.
- Higher participation (79%) of students in classroom activities

FINANCIAL MODELLING

Meghshala Trust

HCLTech Grant Project: Technology Enabled Teacher Capacity Building - A Case for the State of Sikkim

The North East of India is a challenging region for NGOs to create a sustainable impact due to geography, improper infrastructure and accessibility to resources. The pandemic has posed unexpected difficulties. The Project promotes technology-based education complemented by adequate training and support, and innovative solutions to bridge the learning gaps - such as voiceover lessons, and stories and activities relevant to the region. It provides pedagogical skills and works to make teachers confident in using technology in the classroom. Teachers have requested help for second and third language content in Nepali, Lepcha and Bhutia. The Project hopes to preserve these indigenous languages and promote Sikkim's unique culture.



- Number of schools has grown to 200
- Number of teachers has grown from 344 to 750
- Contextualized lessons for the SCERT curriculum from grades 1-5

Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children)

HCLTech Grant Project: Promoting Quality Education through a Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments for the Most Marginalized Children of Jammu and Kashmir



In the conflict-ridden geography of Jammu & Kashmir, children do not have peaceful and safe spaces to learn. With 'Peace Education' and 'School Safety' as key solutions to continued instability in J&K, this innovative Project uses a peace-education curriculum with 'teachers as peace champions' (NCF's 2015 mandate). Having secured J&K Education Directorate's 'Expression of Support', the Project undertakes to involve stakeholders in peace-building initiatives, safety audits, risk mapping, and child safeguarding - in classrooms, schools, and neighborhoods. The larger ambition is to mainstream peace education and school safety into the state's education system.

- Transforming 60 villages and 60 schools into 'safe, peaceful havens'
- Peace Curriculum (with Jamia University) designed and piloted across 15 schools in J&K
- Scaling up this initiative to 60 government schools in Budgam and Leh Districts, J&K
- Building capacities of 5000 children, teachers, communities (SMCs/ VECs), and state administrators (DIET/SCERT/DDMA)

Child Rights & You

HCLTech Grant Project: UDAAN – Breaking Barriers and Rebuilding the Lives of Bedia Girls



Girl children, 10-15 years old, from the Bedia community are at multiple risk and vulnerabilities as the community is engaged in commercial sex as primary source of livelihood. The Bedia community was historically a criminal-nomadic-tribe, and it has now been included amongst the denotified-nomadic-tribes. Project UDAAN has been instrumental to break the cycle denial of education, of social stigma because of the nature of their work and criminal history, and the overall deprivation of Bedia girls. The Project works at identifying, engaging and tracking vulnerable children for rights, education and social transformation in the community to save them from the commercial sex industry. The Project also encourages alternate livelihoods targeting households with vulnerable girls, building the agency of boys as well as girls through life-skill sessions, and networking and linkages with government departments.

- Scaled up from 8 villages in 4 districts to 28 villages in 6 districts
- Reached more than 500 children and identified 250 vulnerable adolescent girls who are at risk
- 437 children have been enrolled in the Child Activity Centers and Digital Education Centres

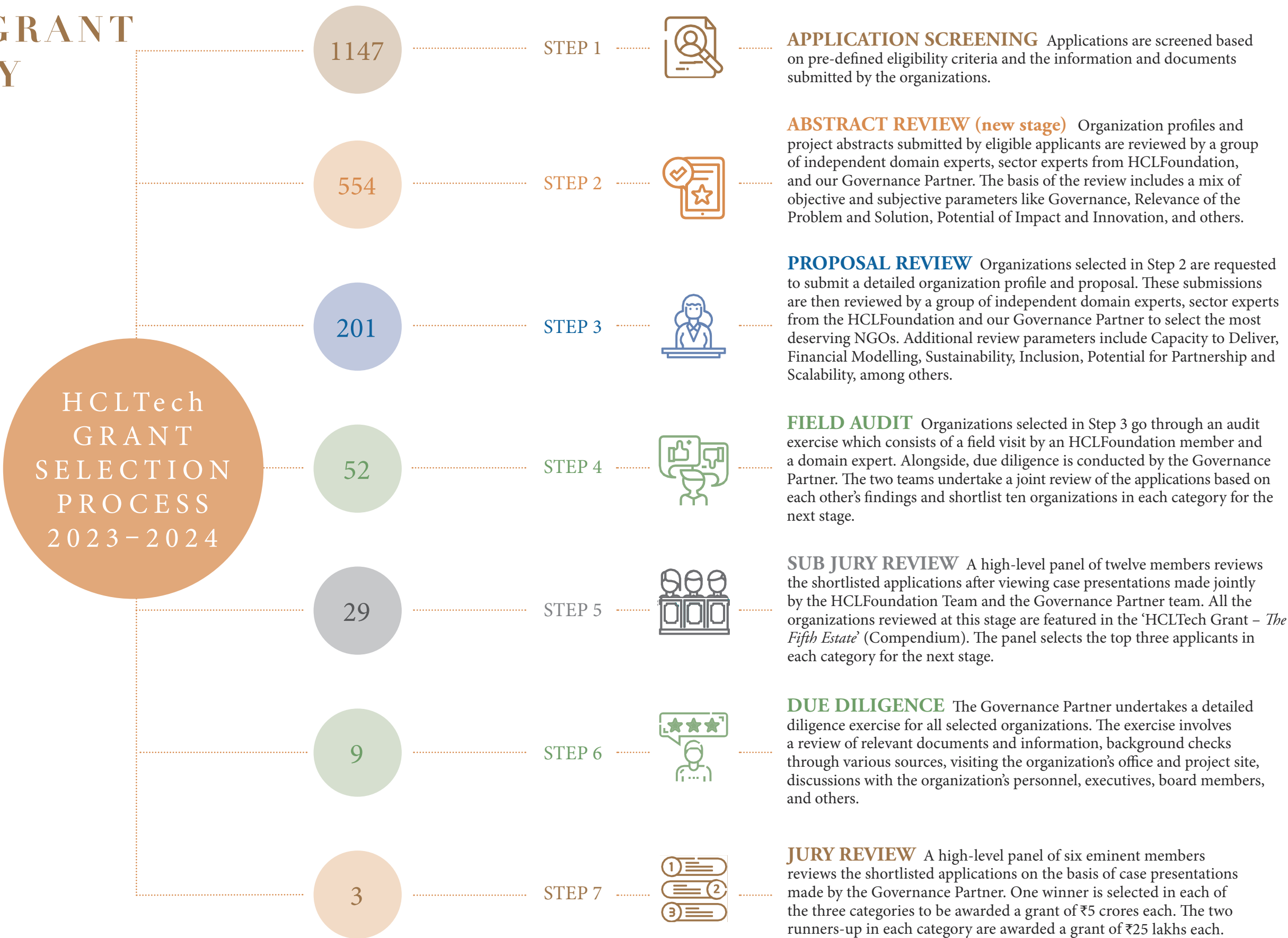
THE HCLTech GRANT METHODOLOGY



THE HCLTech GRANT IS AWARDED to NGOs that are demonstrably transforming the landscape of Environment, Health and Education in rural India. The selection of these NGOs is a complex, yet transparent process. It melds an intensive nationwide search, rigorous screening, and an application paradigm that is designed to spotlight the most innovative and committed organizations. In its 9th year, the HCLTech Grant journey has surmounted various challenges to become a beacon for igniting change at the grassroots. The screening criteria are – sustainability, relevance, innovation, replicability and scalability to assess the NGO’s project, and financial modelling and inclusion to assess the NGO itself.

Pan-India symposiums are a crucial element of the process. Held online and offline, they elucidate the application process for NGOs as well as allow networking opportunities and access to expert panels. Due diligence, field investigations and audits are integral to the process, which culminates in Sub-Jury and Jury assessments to arrive at three final recipients of the Grant.

The HCLTech Grant awards three NGOs – one in each of the categories of Environment, Health and Education – a grant of ₹5 Crore (~US\$0.65 Million) for a 4-year project. The HCLTech Grant also awards ₹25 lakhs (~US\$0.03 Million) to the other two finalists in each category for a year-long project which is mutually decided with the HCLFoundation after the final Jury meet. The total committed fund for HCLTech Grant Edition IX is ₹16.5 Crores (~US\$2.2 Million).



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
<div><div><div>1. The organization must be a registered not for profit entity in India i.e. either a Society or a Trust or a Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or any other organization (as prescribed under Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013, the CSR Rules 2014, and its amendments).</div><div>2. The organization must have registered u/s 12A of The Income-tax, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 12A certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)</div><div>3. The organization must have registered u/s 12A of The Income-tax, 1961. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application for renewal of 12A certificate, subject to further scrutiny.)</div><div>4. The organization must have registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as CSR Implementing Agency through Form No. CSR-1. (including organizations who have successfully submitted application, subject to further scrutiny)</div><div>5. The organization must have the below-mentioned functional existence (as per their registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2023:<div><div>If applying under Education, Health and Environment category – minimum 5 years or above</div></div></div><div>6. The organization must have the below mentioned average expenditure (as per income & expenditure account) for the last three financial years viz. 2019-20, 2020-21 2021-22:<div><div>If applying under Education and Health category – minimum ₹1 Crores or above</div><div>If applying under Environment category – minimum ₹0.50 Crores or above</div></div></div><div>7. The organization must be in full compliance with applicable regulatory rules and must have valid documents for registration, audited financial reports, etc. Further, the organization must have valid and timely submissions for requisite statutory and regulatory compliances (wherever applicable). These shall cover (but not limited to) income tax, employee provident fund, professional tax, minimum wages, employee state insurance, goods and service tax and FCRA and / or other relevant regulation depending on the nature of funding/donations it receives.</div></div></div>
PREREQUISITES
<div><div>APPLICANT ORGANIZATION</div><div><div>1. The applicant organization must be a registered entity and qualify the defined eligibility criteria. Further, the name on the application form must match with the registration certificate and other regulatory documents such as PAN, Audited Financials, 80G, 12A, FCRA, etc.</div><div>2. The organization must have adequate experience of working in rural areas in India.</div><div>3. The by-laws of the organization must allow it to undertake a project in the proposed thematic category.</div><div>4. The organization must have a good rapport with the local administration in the proposed project's location.</div><div>5. The organization, including its governing body members, must not have any pending litigations.</div><div>6. The organization must not be blacklisted by any government agency/department/ministry, donor, or international agency.</div><div>7. The organization must not have faced cancellation of its license/registration/membership, etc., from the regulatory and/or statutory body. These shall cover (but not be limited to) FCRA, EPF, PT, Income Tax, 12A, 80G, GST, PAN, etc.</div><div>8. The organization, including governing board members, must not have any negative media coverage or any other controversy associated with it.</div><div>9. The organization or its board members or employees must not have any political or religious affiliations.</div><div>10. The organization (if announced as winner or runners-up) must open a separate and new bank account for HCLTech Grant Funds.</div></div></div> <div><div>PROPOSED PROJECT</div><div><div>1. The proposed project must be in line with the provisions of Schedule VII of Section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013 and the CSR Rules 2014, and its amendments/clarifications.</div><div>2. The proposed project must be in rural area/s.</div><div>3. The proposed project must be designed for direct implementation by the applicant organization. Sub-granting of HCL funds is not allowed.</div><div>4. The proposed project must be designed for a grant amount of ₹5 Crores (to be received from HCLFoundation) for a period of 4 years. It can be co-funded by a suitable donor that the applicant organization can bring onboard for any additional amount. However, HCLFoundation must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organization must report the utilization, outreach, and impact explicitly achieved through the HCLTech Grant fund.</div><div>5. The Grant amount must not be used solely for infrastructure development such as construction, renovation, purchase of fixed assets like land, buildings, and vehicles, among others. Further, proposed infrastructure development costs must be spent in line with project objectives and activities defined.</div><div>6. HCLTech Grant funds can be used to scale-up an existing project or for a new project where co-funding is involved. However, HCLFoundation must be apprised of all funders and stakeholders in advance. Additionally, the organization must be able to report the utilisation, outreach and impact achieved specifically through the HCLTech Grant fund.</div></div></div>

RECIPIENTS OF THE HCLTech GRANT	
2016	GOING TO SCHOOL
2017	FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE MELJOL
2018	KEYSTONE FOUNDATION ELEUTHEROS CHRISTIAN SOCIETY ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND (SIGHTSAVERS INDIA)
2019	WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA SHE HOPE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS SRIJAN FOUNDATION
2020	UNDER THE MANGO TREE SOCIETY BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
2021	SAAHAS INDIA HEALTH ACTION TRUST CHILD RIGHTS AND YOU (CRY)
2022	PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION (PRADAN) THE ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (APD) LANGUAGE AND LEARNING FOUNDATION (LLF)
2023	PLAN@EARTH INNOVATORS IN HEALTH (INDIA) MEGHSHALA TRUST

● Environment

● Health

● Education

HCLTech GRANT 9TH EDITION PROCESS & MILESTONES



1 26 APR 2023
HCLTech Grant
Portal Live
Stage 1



2 1 MAY–
27 JUN 2023
8 Physical
Symposiums
Stage 1

Plan India Symposiums 2023 CSR for Nation Building			
Bengaluru	May 31, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Hyderabad	June 8, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Mumbai	June 8, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Ahmedabad	June 10, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Jaipur	June 16, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Chennai	June 16, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Delhi	June 23, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	
Goa	June 23, 2023	https://hcltech.grantfoundation.org/india-symposiums	

3 14 JUL–23 AUG 2023
Abstract Review
Stage 2



4 28 AUG–17 SEP 2023
Portal Live for 150 NGOs
detailed application form
Stage 3

5 3, 4 & 6 OCT 2023
Meeting with SMEs
for selecting 45+ NGOs
for field visit & Kick off
workshop
Stage 3



6 16 OCT–23 NOV 2023
Field Visits & Due Diligence
(42 days)
Stage 4



8 18, 20 &
22 DEC 2023
Sub Jury Meetings
Stage 5



7 24 NOV 2023
Closure Workshop
to select NGOs
for Sub Jury Round
Stage 4



9 1 JAN–
20 FEB 2024
Video Shoot of
9 Finalists
Stage 5



10 28 NOV 2023
–20 FEB 2024
Coffee Table Book
Stage 5

11 1 JAN–
20 FEB 2024
Due diligence
of Finalist NGOs
Stage 6



12 4 MARCH 2024
Jury and Event
Stage 7



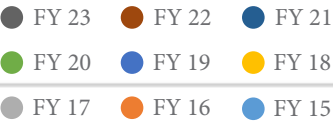
PAN-INDIA OUTREACH THROUGH MASS MEDIA
ENGAGEMENT WITH HCLTech GRANT RECIPIENT NGOs

HCLTech GRANT KEY STATS

EDITION I–IX

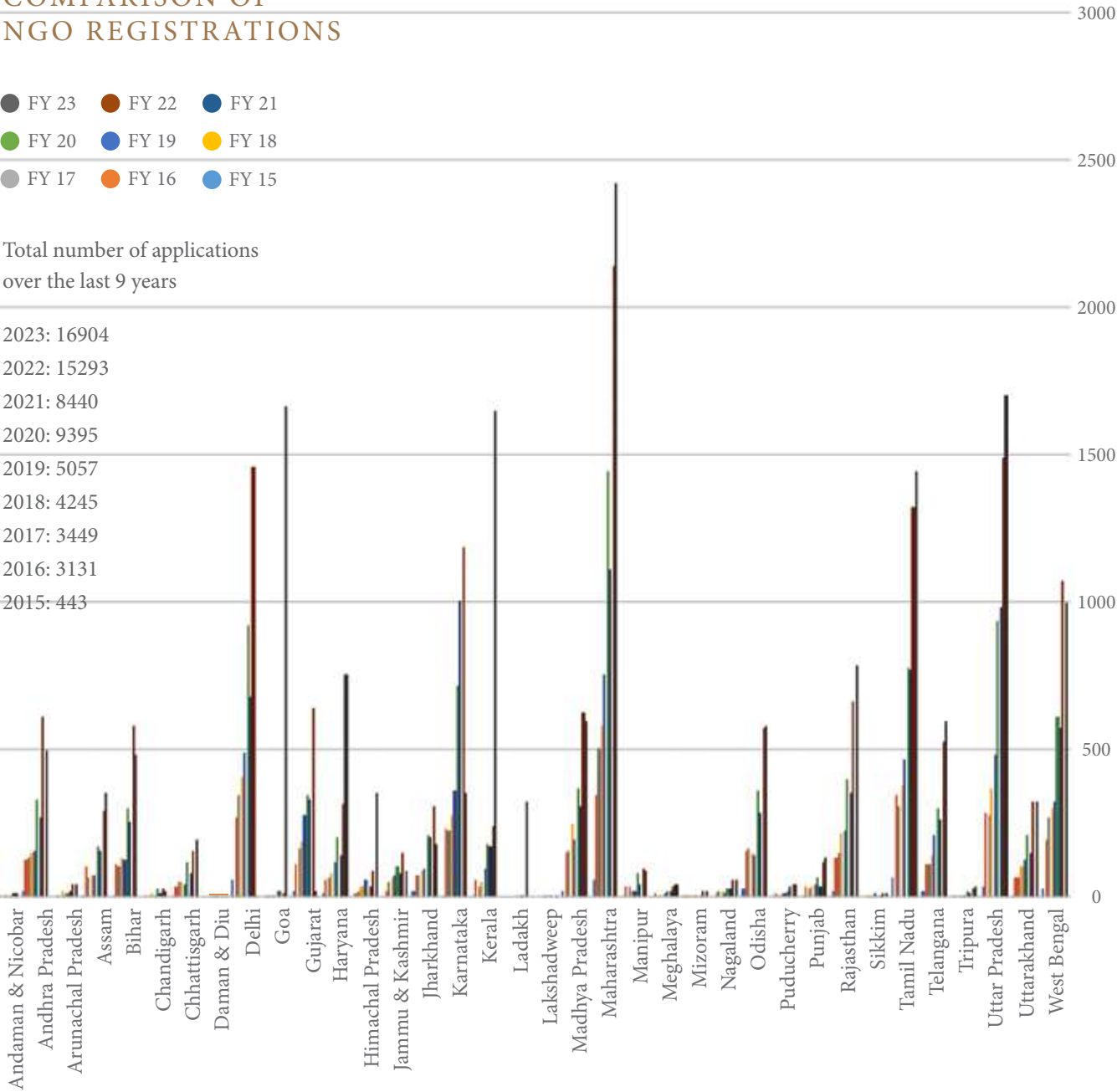


COMPARISON OF NGO REGISTRATIONS

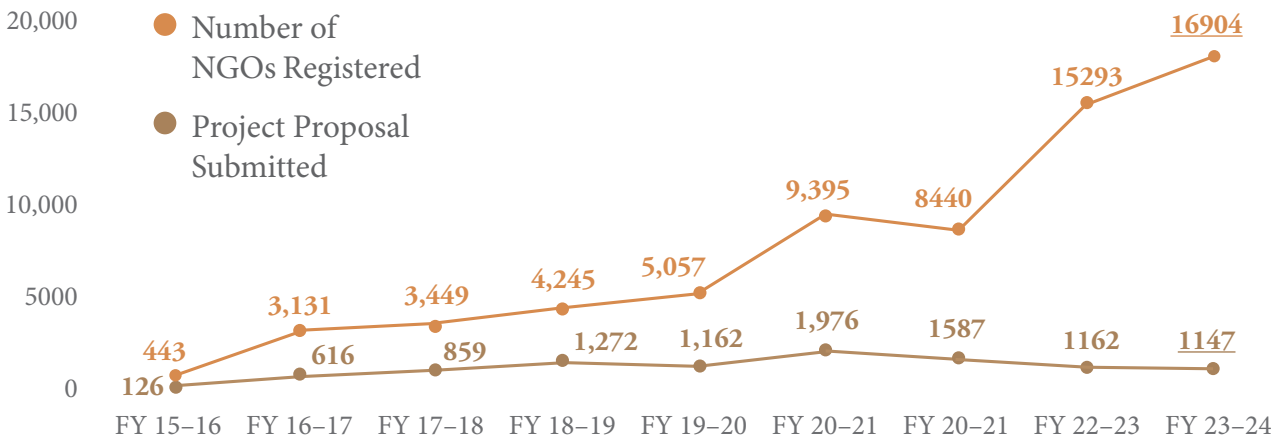


Total number of applications
over the last 9 years

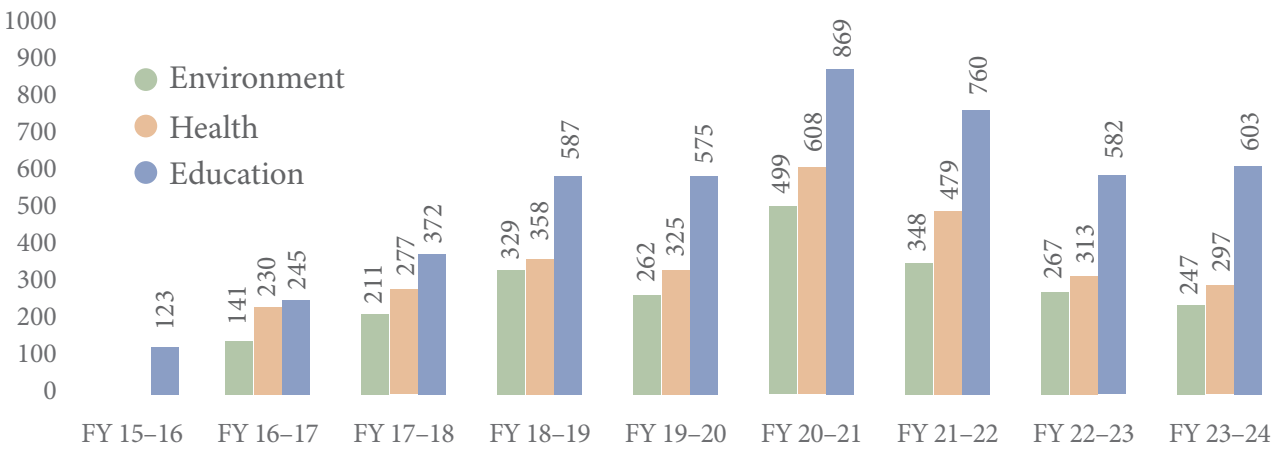
2023: 16904
2022: 15293
2021: 8440
2020: 9395
2019: 5057
2018: 4245
2017: 3449
2016: 3131
2015: 443



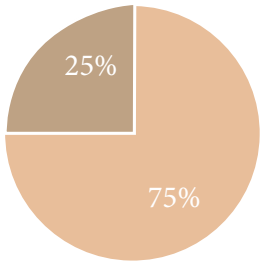
HCLTech GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS 2023- 2024



CATEGORY-WISE HCLTech GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED



TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT REGISTRATIONS FY 2023-24



JURY



ROBIN ANN ABRAMS holds both a bachelor of arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. She has been the President of Palm Computing and Senior Vice President of 3Com Corporation, and President and CEO at VeriFone. She has been President and General Manager of The Americas for Apple Computer. Prior to that she was the Vice President and General Manager of Apple Asia, where she was responsible for sales, marketing and market development in the region. Ms. Abrams spent eight years with Unisys in several senior-level positions, including a five-year stint in Asia Pacific, managing the delivery of business solutions focused on banking. The first twelve years of her career were in various management positions at Well Fargo Bank. Ms Abrams has served several US public company boards including ZiLOG, BEA Systems (until it was acquired by Oracle), OpenWave Systems and Sierra Wireless. She currently serves on the boards of HCLTech, Lattice Semiconductor and Factset Research. Mrs. Abrams was appointed to the Natcast Board (CHIPS Act for US) and serves as Interim Chair.



SURESH NARAYANAN was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé India in August 2015 and is on the Board of Directors of Nestlé India Limited. He also serves as the Chairman of CII National Committee on Food processing Industries. He is an Independent Director on the Board of Asian Paints Limited and also on the Board of Governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Under Mr. Narayanan's leadership, Nestlé India has been recognized by several media houses and industry forums. He was recognized as 'MNC in India of the year' in 2022 by All India Management Association. In 2021, he featured amongst the Top 101 Male Gender Equality Champions Globally. He was conferred CNBC-AWAAZ Best Performing

Leader for the MNC category in 2020. He was also honoured as the Entrepreneurial CEO at EY Entrepreneur of The Year™ 2020. Business Today awarded him 'Best CEO – FMCG' for two years consecutively in 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Narayanan joined Nestlé in 1999 as Executive Vice President for Sales in India. His international career commenced from Nestlé Indochina in 2003, he has also served in Philippines, Singapore and Egypt. Mr. Narayanan began his career as a Management Trainee with Hindustan Unilever.

He has participated in the Nestlé Leadership Programme of the London Business School and delivered talks at NASSCOM forums, various Corporates, NUS School of Business -Singapore, American University - Cairo, Columbia University, Army War College Mhow, Naval War College - Goa and business schools such as IIMs and ISBs in India.



BHARTENDRA SINGH BASWAN headed the Government Committee to review recruitment procedures for the higher civil services till August 2016. He has

held some of the key positions in the Government including Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie; Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India; Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India; and finally retired as Education Secretary, Government of India. Post retirement, he spent time in the Planning Commission as a Senior Consultant and later served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. He currently lectures on Public Policy Drivers in various institutions and is working on a book.



RICHARD LARIVIERE is President Emeritus of the Field Museum in Chicago since 2020. Dr. Lariviere's career in academia and business is grounded in expertise on

India. His work with the information technology industry (beginning in 1992) comprised devising

country-entry strategies for American companies wishing to have a large presence in India. Among the companies he has worked with are Deluxe Corporation, General Instrument Corporation (now part of Motorola), Cisco Systems, Sabre Holdings, HCL Corporation, Perot Systems, MetLife, and others. His academic writing has garnered international prizes. He was a professor and Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin, Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kansas, and President of the University of Oregon. He has served on the Board of many prestigious organizations across the world. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Life member of Council on Foreign Relations, Life member of the American Oriental Society, and on the advisory boards of several American universities. He is the President of The Ludo and Rosane Rocher Foundation.



SHIV NADAR established HCL in 1976 as an original garage start-up, revolutionizing Indian technology and product innovation. Today, HCL is a

US\$13.1 billion global technology conglomerate, employing over 224,756 people in 60 countries. In 1994, Nadar established the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which is today the largest philanthropic organization in India, having established seven institutions covering the entire spectrum of education and has directly touched the lives of over 36,000 globally dispersed students and alumni. As of March 2023, the Foundation has invested US\$1.2 billion across various initiatives. Nadar has received several honors and accolades in the past, notable being the third highest civilian award – Padma Bhushan, bestowed upon him by the President of India in 2008.



PALLAVI SHROFF is the Managing Partner of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., with about forty years of extensive experience. Her broad and varied

representation of public and private corporations and other entities before various national courts, tribunals and legal institutions has earned her national and international acclaim. Ms. Shroff

is the head of the dispute resolution practice and also mentors the competition law practice at the firm. She has frequently featured in several international publications and legal directories. She has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chambers India Awards (2019). Fortune India and Business Today have recognized her as one of The Most Powerful Women in Business in 2021- 23. Ms. Shroff is presently a director on the boards of Apollo Tyres, One97 Communications Ltd. (Paytm), PVR Inox Ltd, IndiGo Airlines and Juniper Hotels Ltd.

SUB JURY

Environment

SIKI GIUNTA Executive Vice President & Head, HCL CloudSmart Consulting & OS, HCLSoftware
ASHUTOSH SHARMA Vice President, Global Head Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs, HCLTech

RUSHIKESH CHAVAN Head, The Habitats Trust

CHRISTINA HERDEN Director, Corporate Sustainability, HCLTech

Health

RAMACHANDRAN SUNDARARAJAN Chief People Officer, HCLTech

MANISH ANAND Executive Vice President & Company Secretary, HCLTech

KRISTIN HAZLEWOOD Senior Vice President & GM, BigFix, HCLTech

TARUN THAKUR Vice President, Operations & Delivery, HCL Healthcare India

Education

RAJ WALIA Executive Vice President, HCLTech
AMBIKA NATARAJAN Senior Vice President, HCLTech

DARIO DEBARBIERI Vice President & Head of Marketing, HCLSoftware

ROBIN SARKAR Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

HCLTech GRANT RECIPIENTS 2023



UNVEILING OF HCLTech GRANT COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL.VII by Dr. Nidhi Pundhir,
Vice President, Global CSR & Director, HCLFoundation



ENVIRONMENT
Plan@Earth



HEALTH
Innovators in Health (India)



EDUCATION
Meghshala Trust

HCLTech GRANT RECIPIENTS



2023

ENVIRONMENT Plan@Earth 32
Innovating sustainable waste management and recycling processes among communities

HEALTH Innovators In Health (India) 36
Strategies for prevention and treatment of TB for the poor

EDUCATION Meghshala Trust 40
Leveraging technology to revolutionize teaching practices



Plan@Earth



Plan@Earth envisions communities that are conscious and self-reliant in waste management and who live by the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. It currently offers waste management and recycling services in two municipalities and eight panchayats, catering to nearly 64,000 households in Kerala, managing over 124,000 kilos of dry waste a month.

Founded by Sooraj Abraham, Gomathy Ramaswamy, Mujeeb Mohammed, Rasheed Ashraf in 2009

HCLTech Grant Project Approach: Providing solutions to plastic polluting the ocean and invasive water weeds affecting several key districts of Kerala

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Recover and Recycle

Plastic from Ocean and Protect Water Bodies from Water Hyacinth Infestation by Manufacturing Briquettes Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic (DROP) and Manufacture Briquettes from Water Weeds

Beneficiaries: Inland fishermen, marine fishermen and fishing-related workers

Location: 45 villages in 4 districts of Kerala

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

The HCLTech Grant has helped us implement and run the DROP (Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic) project in Kerala, creating awareness among the fisher community. The Grant provides for studies and reports which will help in measuring the impact of the project. The VMF (water weed recovery project in Vembanad Lake and its conversion to briquettes) is now in the study phase and we will soon implement it. DROP has integrated with the state's Haritha Kerala Mission and has helped the local self-government manage over 35 tons of plastic that might have ended up in the ocean.

Working with the HCLFoundation

It has been an excellent learning process as we have had to conform to the highest standards of compliances and quality checks. We are



Top: Fishermen are the heroes of Project DROP (Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic)

Bottom: Plastic discards and ghost fishing gear recovered under Project DROP



still learning, and it has helped us improve in our performance particularly in submitting reports and answering queries. Funding agencies have started regarding us in a more positive light and new project invitations are coming in. When an organization becomes part of a programme like the HCLTech Grant with its multiple rounds of due diligence, it highlights the various ‘weaknesses and pitfalls’ that need addressing for long-term existence and growth.

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: Protection of water bodies, recovery of ocean plastic, protection of wetlands especially a Ramsar site like Vembanad Lake.

INNOVATION: Roping in the fishing boats and fishermen to collect plastic from the ocean. The invasive waterweed, water hyacinth, made into biomass briquettes is a

first for India and probably the first time in the world on an industrial scale.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: DROP can be done in every fishing harbour. Removal of water weed and converting into biomass briquettes can be replicated anywhere.

SUSTAINABILITY: In Project VMF, the income from sale of briquettes goes back into the project to run the workers’ collective that operates the unit. Integrating with the government’s waste management initiative helps to sustain the DROP project.

FINANCIAL MODELLING: Empowering workers’ collectives to manage funds and ensure that incomes go back into the project

INCLUSION: More than 50 per cent of the workforce are financially backward women, migrant workers and soon, special needs people for the upcycling. Marginalized fisher and farmer communities are beneficiaries of the project..



Stories of Impact

Estuary in Pallipuram Panchayath, Vembanad Lake, Kerala

Collectively referred to as backwaters, the Vembanad Lake (the longest in India) includes many estuaries with shallow brackish waters that are breeding grounds for fish and crustaceans. Poiyyil is one such, where due to the tides, huge volumes of plastic wash up along the shore line. It becomes especially difficult for marginalized inland fishermen who practice sustainable fishing methods using fishing lines to navigate these waters and reach a landing. As a solution to this, on International Coastal Clean Up Day, the Panchayath joined hands with Plan@Earth under Project DROP funded by HCLFoundation and cleared out all plastic trash and other waste from Poiyyil.

Making the oceans cleaner for the benefit of humanity and marine life both



Innovators in Health (India)

Innovators in Health India (IIH) works towards ensuring healthcare for the rural poor through innovative and community-based approaches, especially in cases of tackling tuberculosis (TB), mental health, maternal and neonatal health care. The organization works by strengthening public health institutions, empowering grassroot workers and community-based referrals and collaborates with international experts and government organizations.

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

IIH is committed to strengthening the existing healthcare system and engaging with Government health facilities, addressing gaps and providing assistance where needed with the help of the HCLTech Grant. For instance, to fix a shortage of microscopes in 15 testing centres across different blocks, IIH has supplied 9 microscopes to Samastipur district. Government facilities often experience shortages of child dose medicine and in general TB drug shortages – so we provided the medicines. We offer transport for patients to reach a healthcare facility for quality diagnosis and treatment. In the 3 quarters of implementation, we have been able to find/diagnose 2058 persons with TB and begun treatment of 1990 of them.

Working with the HCLFoundation

Working with the HCLTech Grant has been a remarkable experience from Grant application to final implementation was marked by

Founded by Manish Bhardwaj in 2010

HCLTech Grant Project Approach: Providing universal TB care in rural Bihar through our model aligned with SDG 3 embedded in a patient-centred and evidence-based approach

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Universal Tuberculosis Care through Active Case Finding and Treatment Support in Rural Bihar

Beneficiaries: 10,800 notified TB patients from public health facilities, 10,665 household contacts of TB patients, 3856 community health workers, 3400 informal healthcare providers

Location: 1,260 villages in Samastipur, Bihar



Top: Spreading awareness on Tuberculosis under the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' programme
Bottom: Happy beneficiaries of TB programmes engaging with the team and the ASHA worker



professionalism and timely execution. The promptness in both Grant signing and release facilitated seamless collaboration and swift and effective implementation of our initiatives. This underscores the effectiveness of HCL's Grant management process and their commitment to supporting initiatives for maximum impact. The post-Grant support, including the dedicated liaison, Mr. Rahul Kumar from HCLFoundation, has been instrumental in propelling our initiatives forward.

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: We have reached a total of 24,000 people and conducted screenings for tuberculosis, with more than 50% belonging to the most vulnerable communities (SC&ST). **INNOVATION:** A tele-counselling service for treatment adherence and consultations for persons with tuberculosis (PwTB). An online platform called 'Contaque' for patient calls to ensure proper follow-up. PwTB receive periodic calls through (IVRS) related to tuberculosis,

nutrition, precautions, and prevention. **SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY:** Previously, IIH operated within 10 blocks of Samastipur. With the support of the HCLTech Grant, we are in the process of extending our intervention area to cover all 20 blocks of Samastipur district, now catering to a population of 3.3 million. This expansion will facilitate the implementation of 'Active Case Finding' **SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSION:** Community awareness sessions and training sessions for 1044 ASHA workers were held, to empower them in their frontline roles. We work with vulnerable populations but also ensure representation of every caste and gender within our team. We leverage government funds for equipment. Integrating technology for a sustained impact has been a key focus. The ASHA's are trained to use mobile phones and the 'ASHWIN portal'—an app-based payment system for their incentives, and 'NIKSHAY IDs' used for Direct Benefit Transfer for individuals with TB.



Stories of Impact

Wari Panchayat, Singhia Block, Samastipur District, Bihar

IIH is committed to providing the best TB facilities to the community, clearly illustrated in the challenges our team faces in this heavily flood prone area. In September 2023, a 28-year-old patient named Dharmsheela Devi was diagnosed with TB in this flood-affected area. Shambhu Kumar, the Block Coordinator of Singhia Block took proactive steps to minimize her travel during diagnosis. The doctor prescribed a 6-month medication course for Dharmsheela. Despite the flood-related challenges, Shambhu made regular visits to Dharmsheela's home by boat for follow-up care. This unwavering dedication to the well-being of patients exemplifies the team's commitment to delivering healthcare services to the community.

Monitoring the growth of little children to detect malnutrition and refer them to the Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre



Meghshala Trust

An organization for teachers by teachers, Meghshala Trust leverages technology to design education that levels the playing field for all children, making them thinkers and the conservers of society and the Earth. The organization has revolutionized the teaching practices of over 15,000 teachers across the country, enabling them to go from being lecture-based to interactive leaders of learning, especially in resource-constrained settings. Meghshala has interventions in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur, and Delhi.

The HCLTech Grant Project in Action

The HCLTech Grant’s financial backing for developing curriculum-based language content tailored to the indigenous languages in Sikkim has allowed us to implement and sustainably scale our project. Aligning our objectives with government initiatives has created synergies, amplifying the combined impact of the HCLTech Grant and our initiatives in bringing in technology to Government schools. The recognition and support gained through the HCLTech Grant have eased the integration process with the Education Department of Sikkim, from recruiting content creators to implementing Meghshala’s E-learning programme.

Working with the HCLFoundation
Collaborating with the HCLFoundation has

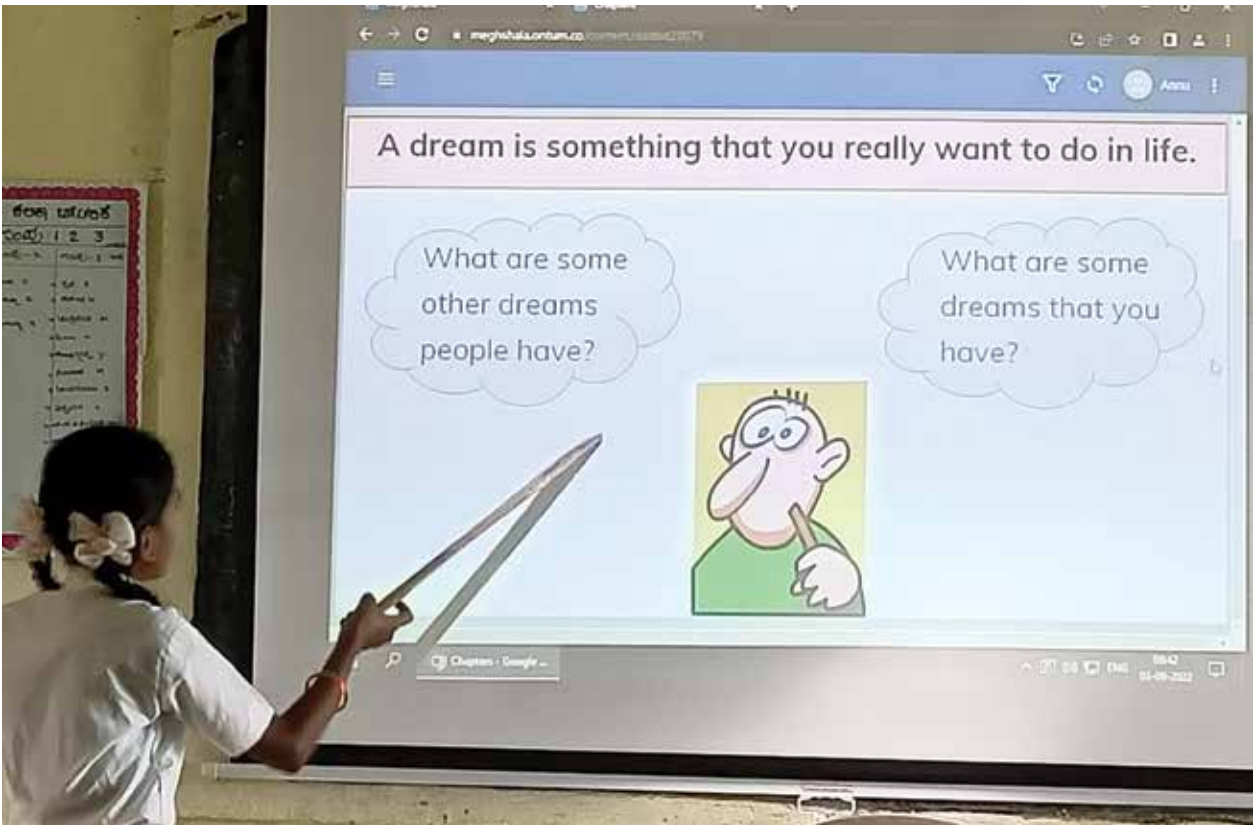
Founded by Jyoti Thyagarajan in 2013

HCLTech Grant Project Approach: Using technology in education and preserving & promoting indigenous languages in Sikkim by developing NEP (SCERT)-aligned content for teachers

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Technology Enabled Teacher Capacity Building - A Case for the State of Sikkim

Beneficiaries: 1815+ Government School Teachers, 46000+ students in Sikkim

Location: 460 villages in 6 districts of Sikkim



Top: Using their home language for learning builds a stronger foundation
Bottom: Storytelling by members of the community makes classrooms truly come alive



been an enriching experience and a seamless and constructive partnership. The Foundation has demonstrated a commitment to fostering positive change in the community and has actively engaged with us throughout the process, amplifying the impact of the project. Their team has provided valuable insights, guidance, and mentorship; and communication channels have been open and transparent.

The Impact of the HCLTech Grant

RELEVANCE: By providing essential financial support, the Grant has helped us align with the pressing educational needs of the local communities, addressing language diversity and cultural relevance.

INNOVATION: The Grant has driven the creation of groundbreaking curriculum content. Our pioneering approach, integrating indigenous languages into educational materials, fosters linguistic diversity and preserves cultural heritage. Technology interventions have revolutionized pedagogical methods, empowering teachers with world-

class techniques and enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

SCALABILITY/REPLICABILITY: With the Grant's support, we have the potential to replicate the model in other regions facing similar linguistic and educational challenges, thereby amplifying the project's impact on a broader scale.

SUSTAINABILITY: By providing financial backing and fostering partnerships, the Grant has helped create a foundation for long-term sustainability. This includes the ongoing development of curriculum content, teacher training programs, and community engagement initiatives.

FINANCIAL MODELING: The infusion of funds from the HCLTech Grant have generated effective budgeting, resource allocation, and strategic financial planning in our projects.

INCLUSION: The project's focus on indigenous languages ensures that traditionally marginalized communities are actively included in the learning process, promoting diversity and inclusivity in the education sector.



Stories of Impact

Leela Subba, Teacher, Tumlabong Junior High School, Sikkim

Upon joining Meghshala, on my initial day as a Master Teacher of Lepcha, I was a bit introverted. However, as the days went by, engaging in discussions about lessons and content creation, I found immense enjoyment in collaborating with my colleagues, sharing ideas, and working together. Prior to joining Meghshala, I had little awareness of the significance and status of language. Meghshala has given me the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to both education and language preservation. I believe this approach is the most effective way to pass on our experiences to the next generation. Teaching students through tablets we provide will also enable them to have more fun learning.

A little school in Sikkim benefits from a far-reaching e-learning programme

ENVIRONMENT



Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

Lokpanchayat **50**

Working to improve the environment through sustainable farming and resource conservation

MUKTI **58**

Impacting holistic community development in the Sunderbans

The Corbett Foundation (TCF) **66**

Creating synergy between wildlife/bio-diversity conservation, and the welfare of forest communities

Shortlisted 2024

Action Related to the Organization of Education Health and Nutrition
(AROEHAN) **74**

*Supporting sustainable change in tribal and rural communities through committed
and empowered youth*

Arpan Seva Sansthan **78**

Solutions for environmental and development issues through sustainable, participatory methods

BAIF Development Research Foundation (BAIF) **82**

Building sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural families

End Poverty **86**

Empowering the rural poor with innovative programmes for community-led development

MANUVIKASA **90**

Fostering prosperity for farmers and replenishing of natural resources

The Covenant Centre for Development (CCD) **94**

Facilitating community institutions for health, education and livelihoods

Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) **98**

Protecting wildlife and biodiversity through collaborations with communities and authorities



From rejuvenating lakes and water bodies, to replenishing land through agroforestry; from livelihoods for forest communities to tackling illegal poaching; from women-led plantations enhancing incomes and yields of gatherers and growers of medicinal plants – the NGOs shortlisted in the ENVIRONMENT category of the HCLTech Grant are catalysing communities and sustainable resource management practices across India. Innovation powered by research and technology works to promote synergies between people, nature and wildlife to preserve the Earth and lessen the effects of climate change.



This category includes projects providing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; combatting climate change and its impact; supporting sustainable conservation of flora and fauna; facilitating wildlife protection and conservation; protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands; conserving and rejuvenating natural water bodies; battling desertification, deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss; targeting pollution and promoting sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and making the community aware and involved in these processes. To qualify for the HCLTech Grant, the project must focus on direct action that leads to long-term impact, achieved through lasting behavioural change.





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

Lokpanchayat



Founded by Sarangdhar Pande, Tulshiram Jadhav, Sanjay Phallay, Adv. Jyoti Malpani and Vijay Thorat (existing president), in 1993

Lokpanchayat has key initiatives focusing on revival and promotion of sustainable farming practices, watershed development, bio-diversity conservation, women's empowerment, enterprise development and liberal school education in rural schools. Till date, more than 20,000 farmers have joined their KrishakPanchayat initiative, improving food security, strengthening local governance and creating awareness on tribal rights. The major constituencies of Lokpanchayat's initiatives are marginal farmers, landless laborers, tribal communities, distressed women, and youth residing across 95 villages in Sangamner and Akole blocks in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra.

*We make our lands richer with organic and sustainable practices
Following pages (52–53): Our future is sustained by efficient
water management in the present*

WATER SCARCITY. LIFE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. Climate change. Low agricultural productivity. Migration. Gender discrimination. The list of issues plaguing the region where Lokpanchayat works is extensive. For this committed organization, its core purpose lies in empowering local people to determine their own futures and the development of their communities through social justice, sustainable livelihoods and environmental regeneration.

Lokpanchayat (which means People's Collective for Governance) started work as a group of 12 young people. Inspired by Anna Hazare's Adarsh Gaon Yojana, the group formalized into an NGO and expanded its reach. Over the years, it redefined its efforts, mobilising farmers for organic agriculture and natural resource management, consolidating Self-Help Groups, organising women for active participation in governance and advocacy against gender-based violence. It also extended its initiatives to the tribal belt, working with communities on forest rights and biodiversity. After 2010, Lokpanchayat's focus shifted to institutionalising its interventions. To this end, it started a women's cooperative, a short stay home for women in distress, a farmers' producer company and a rural technical training institute.





Top: *Conserving water through indigenous methods like earthen check dams*
 Bottom Left: *Farmers proudly work to conserve the beautiful Dangi, a local breed of cattle*



Teaching children about the forest in the midst of a sacred grove
 Following pages (56–57): *Joining our hands together to make bio-pesticide from the leaves of ten different trees*

‘What makes our approach unique is the emphasis on cultivating local change agents, reflected in the fact that nearly 90 per cent of our staff and grassroots volunteers come from the villages we serve. This distinctive approach extends to systematic endeavours in capacity building within communities, encompassing technical knowledge and leadership development...Lokpanchayat methodically leverages existing policies, laws, and government schemes as integral assets for mobilising community actions and advocacy efforts,’ says Sarang Pande. These strategies lead to sustainability and scalability of interventions.

Tulasabai Dhindale is a Beej Sakhi (Indigenous Seed Preserver), who was supported by Lokpanchayat through her domestic abuse situation by counselling and legal aid. She became involved in programmes

like organic farming training, indigenous seed preservation, community forest rights, and ecological conservation. Now she is a leader in her village, having started a seed bank and harvesting and conserving 44 types of indigenous seeds. In 2022-23 her group organically produced, harvested, and sold 2.25 tons of millets and pulses from indigenous seeds. Tulsibai says, ‘Through this work, I have gained extensive knowledge of plants and indigenous varieties. Moreover, today, none of us have to migrate for our livelihoods.’

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Climate Action for Community Forest Management
Beneficiaries: 2174 tribal and forest dwellers, 5 Gram Sabha members, 500 hectares of community forest
Location: 5 villages of Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

MUKTI



Founded by Sankar Halder in 2005

MUKTI has been dedicated to improving holistic community development in the Sundarbans (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and over 10 other districts of West Bengal. The organization has made a significant impact through programmes on health, water & sanitation, education & enrichment, agriculture reforms, livelihood & enablement, environment & resilience, rights and special needs, awareness & empowerment, integrated development, and disaster recovery, on the lives of more than 10 lakh beneficiaries, which includes approximately 1.5 lakh households, 30,000 self-help group (SHG) women, and 4,500 children on a yearly basis.

Nurturing saplings, nurturing nature
Following pages (60–61): *Nature's bounty sustainably maintained by through the Food-for-Work initiative*

NOWHERE IN INDIA is the impact of climate change more evident than in the mangrove laden, Ganges delta region of the Sunderbans. Relentless cyclones, rise of the sea level and human encroachment lead to a disruption of the fragile eco-system and devastation of human settlements and livelihoods.

In this scenario, the organization MUKTI has responded with highly successful interventions dedicated to sustainable development. All of its programmes occur with the aid of professionals, experts, and volunteers. MUKTI works from a community centric approach, especially the championing of women leaders through the formation of SHGs and capacity building. Its strategy is to have a holistic model of environmental conservation, including mangrove plantation to fortify embankments as a green defensive layer, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and agroforestry, addressing both the ecological and human issues. Other initiatives strive to support local livelihoods, provide healthcare and education, and more.

MUKTI's work during the Covid-19 pandemic was extensive, and gained visibility, saving hundreds of lives. It then began working intensively in environmental





Top: We are trained to graft and care for mother Earth's plants
 Bottom: The Vetiver grass we plant is the frontline of the Green Defense System



Our contribution towards green environment is rewarded by food support from the community shop
 Following pages (64–65): The mangrove plantation saves our soil, our community and our lives

sustainability in the Sunderbans. In 2021, it was named India's top NGO for climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and organic farming by FICCI. Ankita Kothiyal from MUKTI says, 'Continuous community engagement, education programmes, and strategic partnerships address conservation mindset challenges. Integration of modern technologies ensures real-time adaptability to changing conditions. The project's resilience lies in evolving with community support, strategic alliances, and innovative solutions, navigating the complex challenges inherent in its mission.'

For a reckoning of MUKTI's impact, ask Nandini, who has become a 'Food Processing' Trainer at the Rural Self Employment Training Institute, South Twenty-four Parganas District. Or the hundreds of women who are successful

members of Coal India's 'Chick Rearing for Marginalized Women', with MUKTI as the implementation partner. Or Hargopal Dutta, an alumnus of Talented Student Sponsorship (TSS), has become a scientist (horticulturist) at the Central TASAR Research and Training Institute in Ranchi dreaming of assistinf farmers with advanced cultivation techniques and superior seed varieties. Or Anjana, who joined the Hasthshilp programme at MUKTI where she learned doll-making, selling her handcrafted creations at fairs and markets and making the future of her family so much brighter.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Green Defense in Sundarbans
Beneficiaries: 450 SHG members
Location: 15 villages in West Bengal





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

The Corbett Foundation (TCF)



Founded by the Late Dilip D. Khatau and Rina Dilip Khatau in 1994

The Corbett Foundation endeavours to enable wildlife conservation in tandem with sustainable development of forest-dwelling communities. It has a strong presence in Corbett in Uttarakhand, in the tiger reserves of Kanha and Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh, and a divisional office in Kutch. Its programmes are a multi-pronged and integrated approach to conservation, to help create a future where wildlife and human beings coexist in harmony. TCF has implemented its programmes in over 650+ villages in the states of Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Majestic queens of the grasslands: the endangered and beautiful Great Indian Bustard
Following pages (68–69): *Bustard beauties: Asian Houbara (left) and Lesser Florican (right) gracing the Kutch landscape in Gujarat.*

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, humans and nature have had a symbiotic and harmonious relationship. However, increased populations and over-use of natural resources has strained the shared ecosystems between humans, animals and forests, leading to imbalances and conflict. The Corbett Foundation was founded to find solutions to this conflict. Several success stories later, this committed organization has ensured a synergy between wildlife/bio-diversity conservation, and local community welfare.

‘The Corbett Foundation has formulated a three-pronged approach – mitigating human-wildlife conflict, health for people and livestock, and conservation education among the young generation,’ says Kedar Gore, Director, TCF. It started a Rural Medical Outreach Programme for primary health in remote forest fringe villages and gained the trust of local communities. This was followed up with awareness programmes. TCF’s Interim Relief Scheme (IRS) providing immediate ex-gratia compensation for livestock killed by predators resonated with the community. ‘Since 1997, there has been no report of carcass poisoning in the areas where IRS is being implemented. This success spurred TCF to spread its coverage to many more villages across the Corbett





Top: *Communities come together to restore the grasslands by sowing the indigenous seeds of change*
 Bottom: *Restored pastures and bountiful harvests*



Pastures managed in scientific ways teem with indigenous grasses and diverse species of wildlife
 Following pages (72–73): *A fence to manage wildlife incursions into fields*

landscape, and the stage was set to take on more ambitious programmes,' says Kedar Gore.

TCF's holistic approach to conservation, besides human-wildlife conflict mitigation and human and veterinary health, includes other aspects like ecological research, biodiversity conservation, watershed development, sustainable rural development, policy and advocacy. TCF has a habitat restoration project in Shahdol Forest Division and another in Kutch, Gujarat. It has a reforestation project in Kanha in Madhya Pradesh (MP). It has provided energy-efficient cookstoves to the forest-dependent communities of Bandhavgarh in MP, Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra and Tamenglong in Manipur. It also works to save many endangered species including the Great Indian Bustard.

TCF empowers the marginalized forest communities to be a crucial part of conservation efforts through providing vocational skills training and alternate livelihoods. 'For example, if we are asking people to stop cutting trees to make cattle sheds, we ensure that we provide them with a sustainable alternative to wood for making cattle sheds. If we tell the community to stall feed their cattle instead of free and open grazing in forests, we provide them with the option of harvesting grass and other fodder from protected reforested plots.'

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Guardians of Grasslands

Beneficiaries: 130 households, 817 community members, 4551 livestock

Location: 16 villages in Gujarat





Action Related to the Organization of Education, Health and Nutrition (AROEHAN)



Founded by Anjali Kanitkar in 2006

AROEHAN was established to support sustainable change in tribal and rural communities through building a cadre of committed and empowered youth who would initiate and sustain these efforts at transformation. The effort was to access and utilize available resources to the optimum, keeping in mind the values of social justice and human dignity. The projects undertaken by AROEHAN are exercises in creating sustainable livelihoods, deepening democratic processes, while facilitating better services for rural and tribal people in the areas of water conservation, migration, solar-based irrigation, nutrition, education and women's empowerment in Maharashtra.

Regenerating check dams revives our community

FOR TRULY SUSTAINABLE CHANGE, the people must own the change process. Firmly believing in this idea, Action Related to the Organization of Education, Health and Nutrition (AROEHAN) works towards empowering communities to demand their rights and entitlements, to understand processes and public delivery systems and the effectiveness of collective action, and to make a rights-based perspective an important component of programmes, advocacy and policy. Every intervention by AROEHAN in its core areas of health, education, livelihoods and governance that creates services and opportunities for people also weaves in participatory action by the community.

'In our quest for bringing sustainable change to the lives of tribal and rural poor, we work closely with villagers through hamlet-level people's committees, women's groups, statutory committees of the Gram Panchayat and through the Gram Sabha, seeking to empower villagers to engage in participatory decision-making regarding village development. We also work closely with the government departments acknowledging that if change is to be sustainable, systems must endure,' says Amit Narkar, CEO of AROEHAN.



Top: Saplings in the tender hands of the Self Help Group at the nursery
 Bottom: Ancient techniques like mulching give the best results



Harnessing the sun for extracting water

AROEHAN began as a field action project of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, in 2006, in response to a terrible incident in the Palghar district of Maharashtra, where 169 children died due to malnutrition. AROEHAN was registered as an NGO in 2014, working on holistic, integrated, and sustainable programmes in the areas of water conservation, health and nutrition, solar based irrigation and agriculture.

In its project villages, malnutrition and anaemia numbers have dropped. By regenerating wells and bunds, the number of ‘thirst days’ experienced by villagers have reduced considerably. Using technology like solar-based lift irrigation, solar-powered small agro-processing units like rice mills, flour mills and oil pressers, and solar dryers for making chips, income generation and farming has been enhanced. Through its interventions,

AROEHAN has facilitated favourable changes in cropping patterns, increased land under irrigation, reduced migration to a large extent and improved school infrastructure and quality of learning for children. Hundreds of SHGs and PVTGs have been empowered for livelihood promotion, and statutory bodies activated for transparent and accountable service delivery. And a significant number of local people have been empowered to be harbingers of change in their hamlets and villages

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Sustainable Pro-People Development Solutions by Promoting Climate Resilient and Adaptive Livelihoods, and Use of Green Energy
Beneficiaries: 77 farmers households, 20 SHGs
Location: 5 villages in Maharashtra



Arpan Seva Sansthan



Founded by a team of young agricultural professionals in 1996

Arpan Seva Sansthan strives to improve the livelihoods of rural communities through participatory approaches. It has impacted over 10 lakh rural families in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana & Maharashtra. Arpan works to promote processes which are sustainable, socially inclusive and equitable, with specific focus on women and child development through natural resource management, livelihood enhancement, improved access to education, health and sanitation. In 2023, Arpan Seva Sansthan won the prestigious ‘4th National Water Award 2022’ in the NGO category from the Government of India.

Fostering harmony in agriculture and a brighter future by sustainable agroforestry and horticulture practices

WHAT KEEPS MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES away from mainstream development? A group of young agricultural students and teachers from a university in Rajasthan set out to find the answer to this vexing question. The findings from their field investigation were translated into the mission and goals of Arpan Seva Sansthan, now a multiple award-winning NGO.

Starting off with a focus on natural resource management, Arpan now works on a range of issues, finding solutions for them through community-led and participatory methods, combined with leveraging technology. Some of the areas it covers with its programmes include WASH; enhancing livelihoods through infrastructure improvement and market linkages; empowering women through education, skill training, and gender equality; improving education facilities, teacher training, and digital literacy; implementing sustainable agricultural practices, afforestation, waste management initiatives and much more.

‘We have successfully collaborated with Central and State Governments, as well as agencies like NABARD, to bring about positive change in communities. We undertake



Top: *Cultivating a green revolution, where every tree tells a story of growth*
 Bottom: *Seeds of progress for a greener tomorrow*



With our fruits, we cultivate resilience and abundance

Special Monitoring of the implementation and progress of various Rural Development Schemes initiated by the Government of India. These schemes include Antyodaya Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and MGNREGS,' says Dr Subh Karan Singh, President, Arpan Seva Sansthan. Other partnerships through CSR programmes, and Panchayati Raj Institutions have made its programmes far reaching and highly transformative.

It is because of Arpan that farmers like Kishan Singh have converted their non-arable land into fertile land through soil and water conservation innovations, and thus reduced their migration to cities for work. Villages like Bijori Kalan and Bhilon ka Naka in the hinterlands of Rajasthan have built structures to harvest rainwater guided by the community, leading to increased water for drinking, irrigation and livestock. Other

rural folk like Ashok Kumar Mohariyais who is physically challenged, and Sheela Devi have received loans to start shops, ensuring a steady income. Kalu Singh Chavda was made aware of several sustainable technologies that would help him prosper, like drip irrigation, vermicomposting, better packaging for his produce building a poly house, and more, which he has purchased with loans from the project. Farmers Ramesh and Narayan have developed WADI in their fields and started growing fruits, thereby increasing their yields and income considerably.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Regenerative Land Restoration and Agroforestry using Locally Adapted Native Species
Beneficiaries: 12000 small and marginal farmers
Location: 225 villages in Rajasthan



BAIF Development Research Foundation (BAIF)



Founded by Late Dr. Manibhai Desai in 1967

Based on Gandhian principles, BAIF Development Research Foundation (BAIF) strives to build a self-reliant rural society assured of food security, safe drinking water, good health, gender equity, low child mortality, literacy, high moral values, and a clean environment. BAIF Livelihoods was established in 2012 to create opportunities of sustainable livelihoods for rural families, through skill development, effective use of local resources, climate smart technologies, building value chains of farm-produce and community participation. BAIF has reached out to 4 million families from one lakh villages in 14 states, and most of its beneficiaries are tribal, marginal, and smallholder families.

Enterprising women farmers lead the way to progress

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL agricultural co-operatives in the country is Vasundhara Agri-Horti Producer Co. Ltd. (VAPCOL). Owned by farmers, it was started to streamline and improve the agricultural value chain between the farmers who grow produce under the *Wadi* scheme, and their consumers. VAPCOL has a membership of 55 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and a membership of 41,000 farmers. This is just one of the community-led movements promoted by BAIF and BAIF Livelihoods.

‘BAIF implements nature-positive programmes like livestock development, natural resources management, agri-horti-forestry (*wadi*), and agrobiodiversity conservation for sustainable livelihoods and enriched environment. The focus is on conducting state-of-the-art field-based applied research and technology transfer,’ says Mahesh Lade, Associate Thematic Programme Executive, BAIF.

Bringing positive change in the lives of the rural population and marginalized communities through gainful self-employment, BAIF leans on strategies that propel empowerment through knowledge building and skilling of people, especially young people,



Top: A rice conservation centre on the farm is a door to prosperity
 Bottom: Nutrition and profits go hand in hand when we grow our indigenous vegetables



The improved bio-gas model is a source of pride

to encourage them to stay in agriculture-based livelihoods. Collaborations with national and international science and technology institutions are also part of BAIF's efforts, for technology-driven scientific and action research for development. The research focuses on relevant areas like fodder production, soil quality improvements, input cost reduction, renewable energy and conservation of native species and varieties. BAIF has been recognized as a Scientific Research Organization and is a consortium member in many national-level research programmes.

'For collecting baseline data and compiling it, BAIF uses digital platforms. BAIF uses remote sensing devices, and conducts geo-hydrological surveys to monitor field situations and bring accuracy to its work. For the production of quality inputs, BAIF has accredited labs in genomics, plant nutrition, and soil sciences,' explains Mahesh.

BAIF has formed partnerships with corporates and philanthropic organizations for support and with government departments as implementation partner or knowledge partner for rural development programmes. And, as is evident from the VAPCOL example, BAIF rests on a pillar of community involvement and participative models of development, building capacities of local people, who in turn contribute in cash or kind to the initiative, creating a real sense of ownership among the community and ensuring the success and sustainability of the project.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Regenerative and Resilient Farming System Promotion for Ecosystem and Economic Wellbeing
Beneficiaries: 6500 farming families, 10 SHGs, 400 women and youth
Location: 20 villages in Andhra Pradesh



End Poverty



Founded by Vinod Kaushik in 2009

End Poverty is a civil society organization based in India that designs and delivers innovative solutions for the poor of India through community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental change. The organization enables and empowers people through education, training, and capacity building and supports them with identifying solutions and making informed choices. EP has over 60,000+ beneficiaries reaching across 850+ villages in 8 Indian states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

Natural fertilisers are key to ecological balance and soil health

HELPING WOMEN FARMERS with climate resilience measures like drip irrigation, vermicompost, mixed use cultivation and other farming practices for productivity and sustainability. Facilitating Crop Residue Management for farmers by increasing their access to machinery through an app and presenting an alternative to stubble burning. Revitalising a community pond by removal of water hyacinths, construction of a retaining wall to address erosion, and aquifer recharge to provide a sustainable and improved water resource for humans and livestock.

These and many other measures are part of the efficacious interventions by End Poverty, an organization that works with the rural poor to make a positive and sustainable difference in their lives. End Poverty, which began with the support of Gen Initiative, a UK-based charity, catalyses change through programmes in the key areas of dairy development, sustainable agriculture, quality education, implementing climate-resilient practices to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and rural livelihoods, and rural development encompassing infrastructure, healthcare, skills, and community engagement.



Top: We receive plentiful milk from our healthy cows fed on sustainable Azolla grass
Bottom: Farm ponds store rainwater so our fields and livestock have water through the year



Empowering women to lead the battle against climate change

With programmes that reach out to remote and marginalized communities mapped out through field research and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), End Poverty identifies the specific needs of communities and regions, and designs its interventions accordingly. For example, its programme in Haryana not only addressed climate change issues but also empowered women as key drivers of the programme. Technology plays a major role in its initiatives, to evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives, like tools to measure real-time weather parameters, piezometers for monitoring water levels in rejuvenation projects, and a diverse array of digital tools for training and capacity building.

‘We firmly believe that for change to take root truly, it must extend beyond direct interventions and become a shared aspiration

that unites all stakeholders. This involves transitioning from subsidy dependency to entrepreneurship and enhancing practical skills for sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, our focus on community-level transformation includes forming farmer collectives, enhancing market value chains, and leveraging technology for efficiency and transparency. This strategic blend of individual empowerment and community collaboration, underpinned by technology, sets our approach apart from others,’ says Vinod Kaushik CEO, End Poverty.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Earth Sisters: Empowering Women for Eco-consciousness and Water Conservation

Beneficiaries: 550 women farmers

Location: 30 villages in Rajasthan and Haryana



MANUVIKASA



Founded by Ganapati Bhat in 2003

MANUVIKASA believes in the development of sustainable livelihoods, improved education, enriched environment and the development of good human values. It seeks to catalyse economic development by ensuring sustainable natural resource use, reducing dependency through alternative livelihoods, and fostering prosperity for farmers through enhanced water availability and resource conservation. To date, it has helped in the harvesting of 8,500 billion litres of rainwater, along with rejuvenating 244 lakes and 3,421 farm ponds, impacting over 10,000 rural families.

A rejuvenated lake protects biodiversity and the community flourishes, too

ERI KERE, A LAKE IN Sangedevarakoppa Village, Dharwad District, Karnataka, was drying up. A community initiative driven by the NGO MANUVIKASA in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat, decided to rejuvenate the water body. What resulted was not merely the availability of water, so that women and children no longer had to travel long distances to collect it. There were multiple other positive outcomes: the degradation of the lake plagued by garbage and sewage waste was prevented. Safety of the villagers was improved as open defecation reduced considerably. Consistent water access made irrigation easier, thus farmers paddy yields increased and kitchen gardens thrived. In short, prosperity and economic revival came to the village.

Such transformative programmes are the hallmark of MANUVIKASA which started with forest and water conservation initiatives in one village in Karnataka, and has now grown to impact over a thousand more, by fostering innovate strategies for sustainable farming, conservation, and community management of natural resources for climate resilience, and more. Its projects are supported by CSR initiatives, international organizations and government departments.



Top: Showcasing our hard work reviving the lake, and the renewed connection to water
 Bottom: Rainwater harvesting in the community forest for environmental resilience



Excavating the lake to rejuvenate its future and that of our community

Ganapati Bhat, Managing Trustee, MANUVIKASA says, ‘MANUVIKASA distinguishes itself through a meticulous and community-centric approach to its interventions. Before engaging in community initiatives, it conducts a thorough needs analysis. Following this, it undertakes capacity-building programs to enhance community knowledge on pertinent issues. Actively involved in implementation, the organization collaborates with communities, sharing costs. An integral aspect is the unique exit strategy, ensuring the transfer of ownership to the community and Gram Panchayat for long-term viability. Additionally, MANUVIKASA supports communities by establishing networks to leverage government schemes in any development projects.’

MANUVIKASA works to ensure that the

most deserving and neglected communities benefit from its efforts, including tribals, fisherwomen, and agricultural labourers, by using a vulnerability index setting. A cost-sharing model ensures financial sustainability of projects and promoting the formation of Farmers Producer Organizations and SHG’s carries its work that much further, as these groups, made of former beneficiaries, have now themselves taken over the running of programmes for financial inclusion, women’s capacity building, water conservation, and agricultural land fertility enhancement!

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Water Conservation

Beneficiaries: 20,200 farmers, 133 lakes, 480 women, 1000 acres of commons land

Location: 300 villages in Karnataka



The Covenant Centre For Development (CCD)



Founded by N. Muthuvelayutham in 1989

CCD works at building community institutions around traditional wisdom to empower poor and vulnerable communities for sustainable development. Their programmes work in cord with the SDGs, and addresses poverty eradication, promotion of farm-based livelihoods, empowering women, biodiversity conservation and development and more through community-led initiatives. Thus far, it has promoted 14 Kalasam Women SHG Federations involving 30,000 women, and made them independent. Currently, it works with 25,000 smallholder farmers by promoting 34 farmers' producer organizations (FPO's) and networking them.

Sorting chillies, enhancing lives, the Chilli Producers' Collective thrives

MUCH BEFORE FARMER PRODUCER COMPANIES (FPOS) became a cornerstone of community-based development, came a unique public limited company called Grama Mooligai Company Limited (GMCL) with gatherers of medicinal plants as its shareholders, owned and managed by the rural community itself. This innovative community enterprise has, over the years, helped hundreds of medicinal plant cultivators integrate sustainable cultivation methods, and get better prices for their produce, as well as educate consumers on the holistic benefits of these plants. This innovative company was established by The Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), which works in the drought-prone and arid regions of interior Tamil Nadu.

Starting off with initiatives to address migration of rural populations, CCD has since segued into setting up financial institutions to empower women, organising communities into enterprises to promote local resources and traditional skills like organic farming and traditional medicinal plants (GMCL and FPOs are prime examples), and preserving biodiversity by creating a 40-acre Ethno Medicinal Forest and a Medicinal Plant Conservation Park with 800 plants species.



Top: *Ethno Medicinal Conservation Park – a home for herbal bio-diversity in farmlands*
 Bottom: *Gloriosa superba intercropped with herbs for conservation and prosperity*



Good harvests mean better livelihoods for traditional communities of medicinal plant gatherers

Community health and education are also a prime focus for CCD.

‘CCD never delivers any benefits directly to the community. Instead, it builds localized community organizations (COs) and enables them to bring development on their own. As a promoter organization, CCD continues to function as a facilitator and an advisor. Democratic practices embedded into the FPOs from the very beginning make the local communities take collective decisions, own the outcomes, resolve conflicts if any in an amicable way, representing the COs for the common good,’ says N. Muthuvelayutham, Secretary, CCD.

A case in point are medicinal plants, a natural resource around which CCD’s four pillared strategy was modelled. Once the resource or skill with economic potential is

identified, then rigorous capacity building, skill infusion, knowledge generation and dissemination occurs with all stakeholders. Post this, sustainable partnerships are formed between the plant collectors, cultivators, commercial bodies, technical and research organizations and more. Lastly, linkages all the way from local to international markets and the producers collective are established in order to truly enhance the livelihoods of the communities.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Promoting Herbal Biodiversity in Rainfed Farmlands for Enhancing Livelihoods of Small and Marginal Farmers
Beneficiaries: 10000 Small and Marginal Rainfed Farmers
Location: 250 villages in Tamil Nadu



Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)



Founded by Belinda Wright, OBE, in 1995

The main objective of the Wildlife Protection Society of India has been to bring a new focus to the daunting task of tackling India's growing wildlife crisis. It does this by providing support and information to government authorities to combat poaching and the escalating illegal wildlife trade, and by fostering community-led conservation initiatives. WPSI's anti-poaching outreach in Central India has engaged over 825,000 people living around six Tiger Reserves, and its overall effort across India has assisted authorities in the apprehension of over 600 alleged wildlife criminals.

A magnificent beast, burning bright in Central India

IN 2006, the tiger and leopard populations in the vast and remote regions of central India were being decimated by organized poaching syndicates. By 2013, these wildlife crimes virtually came to a stop. The reason for this remarkable turnaround is the committed and collaborative effort of the Forest Departments, individuals and regional NGO's, including the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). In particular, WPSI's innovative Secret Information Reward Scheme which gives incentives to local people to report any crimes against wild animals in the vicinity of their villages, with the promise of total anonymity, which are then dealt with by the authorities.

This collaborative partnership between the government, NGOs and the community is the hallmark of WPSI. It was started by wildlife photographer Belinda Wright, the daughter of the legendary Anne Wright, who co-founded WWF India and spearheaded Project Tiger. 'WPSI works through a comprehensive approach that involves engaging with local communities, curbing hunting through awareness, co-developing alternative livelihoods, and reducing people's antagonism against wildlife. WPSI has since pioneered innovative conservation strategies across India,



Top: Co-opting local communities into wildlife conservation through the Secret Information Reward Scheme
Bottom: Forest Department Officers in the front line of wildlife protection learn to enforce the law



The community is engaged in the fight for conservation through awareness programmes

using state-of-the-art technology, meticulous documentation, motivating the active participation of communities and building collaborative partnerships with regional authorities,' explains Belinda Wright.

WPSI works to mitigate emerging threats to wildlife and the creation of a sustainable coexistence between humans and the natural world. Strategies consider each landscape's unique wildlife, and the socio-cultural dynamics of its people to design practical and long-term solutions. Another extremely impactful initiative is the nation-wide database on wildlife crime leveraging data, technology and community participation. The knowledge generated from this is disseminated and feeds directly towards bettering conservation and awareness.

Forest-fringe communities are engaged in wildlife conservation through awareness programmes, film screenings and

discussions with regional Forest Departments. Initiatives include connecting villagers with government schemes for compensation for loss of life or crop damage by wildlife; the above-mentioned volunteer-based informer scheme which empowers anyone with a mobile phone to become a wildlife guardian; and by distributing effective communication materials to empower communities to become part of wildlife conservation. These proven strategies have contributed significantly to the region having among the highest tiger populations in the country.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Securing Tiger Strongholds of India
Beneficiaries: 4,00,000 forest-fringe dwellers, 1,500 front-line staff of enforcement agencies, wildlife protection authorities and the media.
Location: 4526 villages in 7 states

HEALTH



Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO), India 108

Bridging the healthcare gap through innovative capacity building at scale

Sangath 116

Reaching mental healthcare to underserved communities

Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal - SROUT KORBA 124

Strategies for tribal communities to get access to health, education and livelihoods

Shortlisted 2024

Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF) 132

Quality rehabilitation and healthcare for children with disabilities in Kashmir

Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) 136

Disseminating information through programmes in SRHR, gender-based violence and social justice

eGovernments Foundation, 10BedICU Project 140

Ensuring quality ICU facilities for marginalized and remote communities

Manbhum Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT) 144

Research and action for good healthcare for tribal communities

Public Health Resource Society (PHRS) 148

Promoting access and equity in public health, and capacity building of frontline health workers

Sri Someswar Nath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT) 152

Striving to mobilize communities to improve healthcare systems

The American India Foundation Trust (AIF) 156

Building resilient communities through innovative initiatives and technology



They span geographies. They work with communities to make interventions more impactful. And they leverage technology to get quality care to where it's never reached before. Whether telementoring frontline healthworkers or engaging with the mental wellbeing of young people; mainstreaming inclusive education in schools or facilitating rehab for children with disabilities; creating safe spaces for conversations on SHRH, or using technology to deliver intensive care to the last village – the shortlisted NGOs in the HCLTech Grant's HEALTH category are at the forefront of some of the most pressing health challenges in rural India today.



This category recognizes projects that enable transformative work in the areas of equitable and universal access to health for all; equal access to clean drinking water; sanitation and hygiene facilities for all; prevention and elimination of waterborne diseases; maternal, adolescent, child health and nutrition; and eradication of communicable diseases. To qualify for the HCLTech Grant, the project should complement state efforts towards achievement of the goals of the National Health Mission and support innovative, scalable models that will help the nation meet its targets in rural India.



Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO), India

Founded by Dr. (Col) Kumud Rai in 2008

With a mission to promote equity in healthcare, education and other sustainable development goals, ECHO India offers innovative solutions to build capacities of frontline workers at scale, disseminate knowledge and empower professionals to implement them effectively, bridging the access gap faced by underserved populations. With health at the forefront of its portfolio, it enables and facilitates a knowledge-sharing network that builds workforce capacity by connecting professionals in the healthcare sector, thereby improving disease management and patient outcomes. Currently, ECHO India extends its transformative impact across 35 states and Union Territories through 370+ knowledge hubs.

A training programme for medical officers in Kolkata's municipal corporation boosted TB diagnosis manifold. Following pages (110–111): Tackling healthcare issues at the primary care level by training those at the front line

IMAGINE A WHEEL WITH MEDICAL EXPERTS at its hub, and frontline health workers, doctors or nurses as the spokes. Then imagine this configuration transplanted into a public health crisis, for instance, COVID 19. This is the remarkable ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model, which works through telementoring and building the capacity of healthcare providers. This was employed for prevention, management and immunisation training during Covid-19 and also to successfully tackle over 30 disease areas in India like the Hepatitis C crisis in Punjab, train doctors in clinical care for mental health in Chhattisgarh, enhance the National TB Elimination Programme and more. State-of-the-art digital infrastructure, 'iECHO', technology like video conferencing, mobile apps and virtual communities, are used to scale up programmes to bridge gaps between medical knowledge and its application among healthcare providers, even those in remote locations.

The project ECHO and its core idea of democratising knowledge was the brainchild of Dr. Sanjeev Arora, a leading hepatologist at the University of New Mexico. ECHO India was





Top: Empowering ASHA workers to prioritize community health
Bottom: Building capacity of health personnel from around the country through remote sessions



A COVID-19 response: 3,000+ sessions and 700,000 attendees in collaboration with public health entities
Following pages (114–115): A movement for capacity building of frontline workers makes the impact of national healthcare programmes tenfold

started by Dr. (Col) Kumud Rai, a preeminent vascular surgeon, and award-winning Indian Army veteran. He says, ‘What sets the ECHO Model apart is its mentoring philosophy—a departure from the traditional one-way knowledge flow. Inspired by the collaborative learning of medical rounds during residencies, ECHO thrives on lively group discussions, collective problem-solving, peer interaction, and engagement with local expertise. This inclusive ethos, coined ‘All Teach, All Learn,’ shapes every ECHO program, cultivating a virtual community of practice where participants mutually support, guide, and learn from each other.’

In 2019, ECHO India ensured a broader impact by signing an MoU with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which integrated ECHO India into national health initiatives including for mental health, TB and

cancer. Connecting specialists with grassroots workers like ASHAs and Auxiliary Nurse & Midwives (ANMs) to empower them through seamless communication and knowledge exchange, ECHO has created a holistic ecosystem in its pursuit to achieve universal, equitable and quality healthcare for the marginalized communities of the country.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Building Bridges of Healthcare Excellence: Empowering Primary Care Providers in Northeast India Using the ECHO Model

Beneficiaries: 5,000 community healthcare workers including ASHA workers, ANMs & CHOs, and 34,00,000 patients

Location: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura



आयुष्मान भारत

हेल्थ एवं वेलनेस सेंटर - खड़मा



ओ पी डी
समय सुबह
1.00 से

प्रसूति
हेतु 108
डायल
करे

परिवहन
हेतु 108
डायल
करे

प्रसूत
परिवर्तन
के लिए
विशेष
102
डायल
करे

हेल्थ एवं वेलनेस सेंटर
ओ पी डी
समय सुबह 10 बजे
12-30
12-30

950107235
9399077756



SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

Sangath



Founded by a group of child development and mental health professionals in 1996

Sangath endeavours to make quality mental health care accessible and affordable for all, by addressing mental health concerns through innovations including deploying community resources, digital technology, and stakeholder participation. With its headquarters in Goa, two major hubs in Bhopal and New Delhi, and field offices in various sites, Sangath has worked across India. Sangath won the MacArthur Foundation's International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008 and the WHO Public Health Champion of India award in 2016.

Anganwadis become courtyards of learning about maternal and child health

Following pages (118–119): Over cot and chai: community collaborations between supervisors and trained frontline counsellors are the cornerstones of capacity building

PARENTING INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN with autism. Inclusive education in schools. Transforming the school environment to promote young people's mental health. Supporting older adults struggling with chronic diseases. Providing therapy for harmful alcohol consumption and depression. All these are innovative health interventions designed by the pathbreaking organization, Sangath, catalysing equitable access to mental health, and transforming the narrative of fear and shame around mental health conditions..

'Sangath began with the establishment of a child guidance clinic to serve children with developmental disabilities and their families in Goa. A realisation dawned that this specialist-led, clinic-based traditional approach was modelled on services available in wealthy countries, but seemed a poor fit in the context of India with its massive scale of unmet needs, compounded by the scarcity and cost of specialists,' says Professor Vikram Patel, Co-Founder & Managing Committee Member, Sangath.

To address this, the NGO developed a model of psychosocial interventions to suit Indian realities, delivered by community health workers and lay counsellors, which are then evaluated in world-class clinical and





Top: Ideas and aides to stimulate children come to the community's doorstep through one of their own
Bottom: Children achieving new developmental milestones with collective support from the community



Bridging treatment gaps in perinatal depression by training ASHA workers through digital modules
Following pages (122–123): Modelling healthy feeding practices and responsive caregiving at home through trained counsellors

public health trials, thus respected for their evidence, and scalable across similar contexts. ‘Our most important collaboration is with the community-based providers. Through our ‘task-sharing’ approach, we aim to empower them in providing frontline mental healthcare. This approach is now becoming recognized as an approach to increase the access to quality mental healthcare across the whole world,’ explains Prof. Patel.

Sangath’s ‘Mann Kaksha’ model co-developed with the Madhya Pradesh health system was scaled to the whole state by the state government. Its work is represented in the National Mental Health Policy of India and the National Health Systems Resource Centre guidelines. Its innovative interventions are being adopted and adapted in several countries, including Nepal, Canada, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the UK and the USA.

Sangath reaches out to build the capacity of all stakeholders – healthcare professionals, lay counsellors, educators, mental health professionals, youth advocates, and caregivers. As a testament to Sangath’s efforts, frontline health workers have reported personal transformation after being trained on mental health, not to mention improvement in the health of community members under their watch.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: EMPOWER: Building India’s Perinatal Mental Health Workforce

Beneficiaries: 750 ASHA workers, 750 anganwadi workers, 300 community health officers, 90 district health officials, 71345 pregnant women, 25000 parents of children aged 0-3 years

Location: 750 villages in 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal - SROUT KORBA

Founded by Dicson Masih in 1999

SROUT KORBA envisions a society in which people live with dignity, prosperity and happiness. With its headquarters in Chhattisgarh, the organization aims to end poverty by empowering marginalized and vulnerable communities, improve their livelihoods, health and education, while providing them with the capacity to take ownership of their own development. So far SROUT KORBA has skilled up to 1,000 women and 500 men on different trades for livelihood, along with forming and strengthening more than 1,000 self-help groups. More than 3500 mothers and 2000 children are impacted every year through its interventions in health and nutrition.

Realising the value of nutrition for their children through community-led initiatives

Following pages (126–127): *How she has grown!*
Imbibing the importance of monitoring children's growth

THE MALNUTRITION RATE AMONG CHILDREN under 5 has improved by a whopping 53 per cent and the anaemia improvement rate of 1000-day mothers (pregnant women and mothers with children up to 24 months) has gone up by 61 per cent. The kitchen garden success rate is 69 per cent and the haemoglobin level of over 900 mothers has been checked. These are some of the huge successes of the NGO the Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal - SROUT KORBA which besides working in health and nutrition for women and children in Korba region, Chhattisgarh, also works on child rights and protection, livelihoods, soil and water conservation, women's empowerment and protection, and education.

'Our primary aim is to respect and study the cultural and social diversities among tribal communities and identify ourselves with them so that we may have a long-lasting relationship. The process takes time, but we found ourselves representing the communities confidently and getting wider community acceptance. Another significant approach was to promote participation and empowerment of communities. This includes involving local community members in social



कुपोषण से मुक्ती हेतु बचाव के दस कदम

1. किशोरियों को पोषक तत्वों से भरपूर आहार दें ।
2. गर्भवती और शिशुवती को समुचित मात्रा में आहार मिलें एवं आयरन की गोलियां प्राप्त हों ।
3. शिशु के जन्म के एक घण्टे के अन्दर शीघ्र स्तनपान करवाएँ ।
4. 6 माह के आयु तक शिशु को केवल स्तनपान करवाएँ ।
5. 6 माह पूरा होने पर स्तनपान के साथ-साथ उपयुक्त पोषण आहार आरंभ करें ।
6. बढ़ते उम्र के अनुसार पोषण आहार की मात्रा बढ़ाई जाए ।
7. स्वच्छता का ध्यान रखें - खाना पकाते समय , रखें ।
8. शिशु के पहले वर्ष पूर्ण होने तक निर्धारित समय में वर्ष के होने तक प्रत्येक साल में 2 बार विटामिन ए पिले दवा खिलाएं । बच्चे का नियमित वजन वजन भी करें ।
9. बीमारी के दौरान और उसके बाद बच्चों को उचित रीति ।
10. अति कुपोषित बच्चों को तुरन्त ही गुणवक्ता युक्त चिकित्सा ।

जीवन के हर पड़ाव में रखें अपने एवं



91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100



Top: Teenage girls learn about nutrition and hygiene management
Bottom: Educating mothers in nutrition-dense foods



Anemia Checkup during Anemia Awareness Programme
Following pages (130–131): Sensitising the community mothers on the prevention and management of anaemia

triggering, decision-making processes and implementation of planned strategy. Local staffing too has its greater implication, as together we are always on one page. And perhaps this sense of ownership shapes the entire team,' says Dicson Masih, founder, SROUT KORBA.

Starting off as the implementing agency of a CARE India Integrated Nutrition and Health Program, SROUT KORBA is now a well-respected organization which works in collaboration with CARE India and other national and international partners like the government's Department of Women and Children, BALCO CSR and more, on programmes that are community-based and -led, and while being implemented, strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders, families and individuals so they can be changemakers for their hamlets or for the community. Its interventions are tuned to

always be relevant and use elements which community can accept, adopt and practice, transforming the lives of beneficiaries.

For instance, a WhatsApp group was formed with 1000 days mothers from 7-10 different areas at cluster level. The group soon became a thriving hub of information as women began to share their learnings, best practices, innovations in their kitchen gardens and new recipes.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Kamnah Project – Korba Action for Maternal, Neonatal and Adolescent Health
Beneficiaries: 2000 children under 6, 100 pregnant women, 600 lactating mothers, 300 SAM & MAM children, 800 adolescent girls, 130 poor & malnourished families, 400 VHSNC members, 40 girls peer educators
Location: 40 villages in 1 district of Chhattisgarh

28/12/23 से 29/12/23 तक
सरसईपाली
अनीनिया
स्वास्थ्य विभाग एवं महिला एवं बाल विकास
सोशल रिवाइवल ग्रुप ऑफ अर्बनका





Chotay Taray Foundation (CTF)



Founded by Arjumand Makhdoomi in 2000

Chotay Taray Foundation envisions a world where everyone has an equal opportunity to realize their potential. It strives to transform the lives of differently-abled children and marginalized communities in Kashmir. Through community-centred initiatives and the support of organizations like CRY, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and Give India, CTF works on mental health, child development, childcare, protection, livelihood, skill development, and emergency crisis relief among communities. It has delivered 8,000 rehabilitation services to specially-abled children, and extended support to over 11000 children through quality education initiatives.

Enhancing mental health through activities in schools

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES are often considered a burden on their families and society. This problem is compounded in rural areas or marginalized communities, and more so in a conflict-ridden and geographically difficult region like Kashmir. Chotay Taare Foundation (CTF), however, takes a positive and empowering approach to changing this mindset. Realising quickly that simply assisting children with multiple disabilities was only one aspect of the solution, this remarkable NGO evolved a comprehensive methodology that aimed at holistic development and welfare of these children, expanding its scope to include child development, quality education, livelihood support, skill development, and even a sports component in its programme planning.

'The foundation's proactive approach addressed the pressing needs of disabled children, including enrollment, identification, assessment, and rehabilitation. Operating in a region where no aiding body existed, the organization paved the way for change, embodying the adage that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,' says Arjumand Makhdoomi, Founder of CTF.

Tailoring its programmes to the specific needs of the communities it works with, CTF offers institution-based, outreach, and



Top: Improving lives by improving cognitive skills
Bottom: Using the positivity of art to help children grow



Involving the community in mental health awareness to yield the best results

online services (through video calls and a forthcoming mobile app) to the community to ensure accessibility for all. On one hand, individuals benefit under specific projects and receive support. On the other hand, community awareness, and advocacy with governmental partnerships ensure a broader impact. Community-driven, bespoke projects are designed with inputs from all stakeholders, from beneficiaries to local leaders. Engagement with local and government authorities and alignment with existing government policies and programmes ensures the long-term sustainability of these projects and the creation of a supportive ecosystem and a brighter future for the children of Kashmir.

‘Recognition from Child Rights and You (CRY), New Delhi, marked an eight-year collaboration with a primary focus on Home Based Rehabilitation in District Srinagar and Budgam. The ensuing years witnessed

impactful projects, including collaborations with UNICEF and capacity building for Police Officers, laying the foundation for transformative initiatives. In 2022, our collaboration with the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir marked a milestone, initiating impactful mental health awareness sessions for adolescent students across districts,’ says Arjumand Makhdoomi.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Reduce the Risks of Deaths and Disabilities and Improve Mental Health and Wellbeing of People with Mental Health Issues and their Families Living in Remote/Isolated and Border Areas of Jammu and Kashmir

Beneficiaries: 187 structurally excluded women and girls, 60 elected women representatives, 75 health service providers, 30 CSOs, 5 medical colleges

Location: 27 villages in 3 districts of Bihar



Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA)



Founded by Geetanjali Misra and Pramada Menon in 2000

CREA builds feminist leadership, strengthens movements, challenges unjust power structures, expands sexual and reproductive freedoms, and advances the human rights of structurally excluded people. It works by creating and increasing access to new information, knowledge, and resources; and enabling supportive social and policy environments. Its vision is to create a strong Global South-based organization that works at local, regional, and international levels. CREA has been a member of the Govt. of India's Gender Task Force of Niti Aayog, and has received multiple awards, including the Mbillionth Award (2016).

Creating support for domestic abuse and violence against women through a grassroots movement: Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti

THE TERM 'STRUCTURALLY EXCLUDED PEOPLE' refers to women, girls, gender non-conforming people, persons with disabilities (PwDs), sex workers and others not part of the mainstream narrative of development, mobility and decision making. These are the very people Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) works with, giving them access to tools and knowledge to plan and execute interventions and movements that are intersectional, inclusive and meaningful, and that create long term, sustainable solutions for their issues.

CREA was started in order to develop the leadership capacities of young women to take on issues of sexuality and reproductive health and rights, violence against women, and social justice. It is now 'recognized as a global leader in gender, sexuality, SRHR (sexual and reproductive health and rights), gender-based violence, and human rights; as an organization embedded within the women's rights movement but also connected to broader global movements for sexual rights; and one that links theory and practice, scholarship and activism,' explains Anuradha Chatterji, Director, Resources, Impact and Learning, CREA.

CREA's strategies take into account the sensitivity of the issues it deals with. For



Top and bottom: *Harnessing the power of collective action for progress, prosperity and health*



Dispelling myths and promoting awareness of SRHR for young women through the 'It's My Body' programme

example, since talking about sexuality issues is usually taboo, CREA introduces the idea of SRHR indirectly in discussions. It has developed methodologies through which women can talk about the most personal or seemingly private matters like domestic violence or sexual choices in safe spaces. Through its programmes and partners, all marginalized women facing abuse are given a hearing and protection. Through CREA's initiatives, girls have advocated for safe abortion services, gender-based violence prevention, and access to healthcare; others are running a pad bank; another has shed the prejudice against widows life and is learning to live again, and still another is taking on her responsibilities as an elected representative despite family and societal pressure. CREA disseminates information about SRHR to young people through

community radio stations, helplines with IVRs, and many innovative campaigns like Badhte Kadam Panchayat Ki Ore and 16 Days of Activism in communities in UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand. The first engaged with women Panchayat members and SHGs, and the latter birthed conversations with over 30,000 women, girls, trans persons, and PWDs about choices, bodily autonomy, sexuality and freedom, and building feminist leadership and movements.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: All Women Count! (AWC!): Reinforcing Gender-sensitive and Inclusive Health Systems
Beneficiaries: 187 Structurally excluded women and girls, 60 Elected Women Representatives, 75 Health service providers, 30 CSOs, 5 Medical Colleges
Location: 27 villages in 3 districts of Bihar



eGovernments Foundation, 10BedICU Project



Founded by Nandan Nilekani and Srikanth Nadhamuni in 2003

eGovernments Foundation is a collective of technologists, strategists, and policy professionals committed to solving societal challenges. The organization works on three strategic pillars: public digital platforms, enabling policies, and open ecosystems. To date it has built 18 reference applications, resolved over 3.5 million grievances and impacted over 250 million citizens. In 2021, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, it launched 10BedICU, which has now evolved into a robust initiative for ensuring universal access to Intensive Care by strengthening critical care systems in nine states, covering 200 hospitals, 12 Tele ICU Hubs and treating over 35,000 patients.

Ensuring quality critical care for the underserved

WHEN COVID CASES raged across the country, the 10BedICU was on a war footing creating ICUs in the most affected states in the remotest of areas. This unique project, initiated by the NGO eGovernments Foundation, was inspired by Nobel laureate Prof. Amartya Sen's belief that health equity is central to social justice. It works with a specific focus on ensuring universal access to essential critical care services. During the Covid-19 crisis, seeing the distressing lack of ICU facilities in government hospitals and rural areas, the founders collected funds and set up 10BedICUs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

'By innovating rapidly and deploying equipment, training and TeleICU support of specialists, we were able to help thousands in the most affected remote areas. Using the CARE technology backbone, this digital public infrastructure could scale to 20 per cent of India's districts in two years,' says Srikanth Nadhamuni, founder of 10BedICU. The CARE platform is a cloud based EMR, with pandemic management and TeleICU support. It is ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) compliant and currently launching several



Top: *The magic of technology enables healthcare in remote regions*
 Bottom: *Training frontline workers in the use of life-saving equipment*



A tele-ICU saves an abundance of lives

Gen AI tools to help doctors and nurses in resource constrained areas.

Overcoming challenges ranging from onboarding government officials, to hiring staff for remote geographical locations, bringing doctors in for Tele Consulting or co-opting hospitals to engage with the project, 10BedICU brings all stakeholders together to create a sense of ownership. Working as a public-private partnership with the health department, it offers tailored solutions for each state. To ensure sustainability, it works with the community by building capacity and undertaking community outreach through the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (under the National Health Mission) which consists of local leaders, state officials, the hospital's management etc. 10BedICU leverages technology to the fullest extent possible.

In Churchandapur, a Mynamar-bordering district in Manipur, a patient was struggling for her life. Using the 10BedICU set up, and a high resolution camera, the patient was remotely diagnosed, intubated and monitored virtually by nurses on call with a specialist at JNIMS, Imphal. After 9 days, she stabilized. Delivering high quality ICU care to an underprivileged patient, at no cost, in one of the remotest regions of India. This is a true story of 10BedICu in action.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: 10BedICU
Project Beneficiaries: 52000 financially challenged, rural patients at government hospitals needing ICU care, 400 doctors and nurses in ten-bed ICU hospitals
Location: 20,690 villages in 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh



Manbhum Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT)



Founded in 1960 by Late Sri Harihar Mukhopadhyay

MANT believes in people-centred development through empowerment of marginalized people. The organization's mission is to create a healthier and equitable world by empowering communities. Its principles include participation of people, education and health for all, and emancipation of the weaker sections of society. Through MANT, since 2007, more than 15 million people have received healthcare services and more than 1,50,000 adolescent girls have been reached through adolescent intervention programmes.

Check ups and free medicines from Mobile Medical Clinics transform healthcare

IN A SMALL HAMLET IN TRIBAL HEARTLAND OF WEST BENGAL, two young Santhali girls fiddle with knobs and mics, and then they are on air, broadcasting from a community radio station in their native tongue, bringing up issues that affect their people. This project is just one of the initiatives of Manbhum Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT), a pioneering organization that works with the tribal communities who are the custodians of the abundant forests, rivers and biodiversity of the eastern-most part of India.

MANT was formed by a group of committed young people who first worked to improve education opportunities for underserved populations in Purulia district. Surmounting formidable challenges like location, gender, language, class, and culture, MANT broadened its interventions to include research and action for healthcare, preservation of local ecology and empowering communities to take ownership and lead the change.

MANT uses collaborations and partnerships with the government (like mobile health clinics), policy shaping agencies, universities, community media, cultural activities and more to intensify the impact of its programmes. Research and monitoring are built into its



Top and bottom: *Communities are thriving because of preventive and curative treatments through the MMC*



X-rays of hope in communities that had given up

initiatives. Digital health technology provided by a tech partner integrated into MANT's existing community and healthcare ecosystem enables early measurement of crucial health metrics saving hundreds of lives.

However, its biggest and best partnership is with the communities themselves. 'The hallmark of MANT's initiatives lies in public engagement, from planning through implementation to evaluation, with a focus on co-production and co-creation. This ethos prioritizes sustainable, long-term solutions over quick fixes,' explains Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee, Director, MANT. Training tribal girls in essential health service delivery for immunization, neonatal care and nutrition; engaging with local leaders, labour and health officials to improve access the mobile health services; Web Radio; enhancing the capacity of women for Livelihood promotion – these

are some of this NGO's initiatives that lend themselves to engaging and empowering communities.

'I recommend MANT's Mobile Medical Clinic to anyone in need of medical care, especially those with financial or geographical constraints. This project shows the power of compassion, teamwork, and the desire to improve society,' says Bina Kumbhakar, who attended the MMC in Jalpaiguri.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Digital Therapeutics of CVD management in underserved populations of West Bengal
Beneficiaries: 18,780 tribal adults above 40 affected by diabetes and hypertension; 1,05,561 rural and underserved adults above 40 affected by diabetes and hypertension
Location: 417 villages in 2 districts of West Bengal



Public Health Resource Society (PHRS)



Founded by a group of development professionals in 2008

Public Health Resource Society is the core group that has initiated the Public Health Resource Network – an organization that constantly reinforces efforts to promote public health, equitable distribution of health services, and building capacity of frontline health workers. It works for the underserved and marginalized people of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. With the belief that appropriate, and responsive public health services are imperative for the health and well-being of the population, it has designed programmes like the ‘Mental Health Literacy Project’ in collaboration with De Montfort University, Leicester, and ‘Rural Creche Initiative’ with the aim of reducing malnutrition in the state of Odisha.

Skill-teaching inside and outside the classes

SNEHA’S FAMILY couldn’t understand why she wanted to study after Class 8. Besides, they couldn’t afford it, and the school was far. Vinita loved school, but one day she stopped coming. Her friends told her teacher that she was going to be married so had dropped out. Siddhu was born differently abled, and his family had no idea how to improve or manage his condition. After the intervention of field co-ordinators from Public Health Resource Society (PHRS), who spent many hours talking to and convincing their families, Sneha is now back at school with a scholarship from the Savitribai Phule Kishori Samriddhi Yojna; Vinita’s marriage has been postponed till she turns 18; and Siddhu is going to a community crèche where his diet, growth and development are being monitored. He is now crawling and playing with the other children.

PHRS focuses on strengthening public health systems and building the capacity of frontline health workers through training and designing curricula for state governments to use. ‘We facilitate community mobilisation on health and nutrition and the integration of communities into health planning to make it more equitable and effective... The State



Top and bottom: *Community-based interventions radically improve health awareness and outcomes*



Smiling faces at a community creche

Health Resource Centre (SHRC), Chhattisgarh provided the experience that helped to shape the NRHM (which later became the National Health Mission). PHRS was brought into being as a documentation and dissemination initiative of the SHRC. It focused on the NRHM elements of decentralized planning and communitisation that it considered could truly change the health scenario of the disadvantaged population,' says Dr. Rupa Prasad, Executive Director, PHRS. 'Now, we are focusing on building scalable approaches for community level health systems, family planning services, adolescent health and so on, keeping gender, equity, and social inclusion at the center of our interventions.' Some of PHRS's models include community-based childcare (crèches) like the one Sidhu went to, and working with

women's self-help groups/women collectives to promote the concept of good nutrition. Advocacy and action to improve health outcomes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), operational research to influence policy and improve public health systems, and providing technical expertise on health and nutrition to governments are other aspects of PHRS's work.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Community-Based Intervention to Create Demand for Family Planning Information, Services, and Products.
Beneficiaries: 40,000 young married men & women, 50,000 adolescent boys & girls
Location: 150 villages in 2 districts of Jharkhand



Sri Someswar Nath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT)



Founded by Amit Kumar Choubey and Nitesh Kumar in 2007

SANMAT helps develop a just, participatory and peaceful society based on strong democratic values, women's empowerment, education for all, health and livelihood generation. The organization undertakes development initiatives to improve the quality of life of marginalised communities. Because of SANMAT's interventions, 33000 students benefitted through the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme; 28 lakh tribal and marginalized people were treated through tribal welfare hospitals; 6 million plants were planted through social forestry; 2,12,00 people were given the COVID-19 vaccine; and nutritional screening of 40,000 tribal children was completed.

Bettering employment opportunities of young people in rural locations through skill training

THOUSANDS OF GRADUATES of tech colleges in Chennai contributed their pocket money and time to create a unique organization called Sri Someswar Nath Mahadev Trust (SANMAT). It was founded to close the gap between the government's well-intentioned policies and the intended beneficiaries of those policies. This includes implementation of schemes for food and material assistance in Tamil Nadu, healthcare in Jharkhand, and education and MGNREGA in Bihar. SANMAT's commitment of operating and managing charitable hospitals in Jharkhand has helped in the treatment of lakhs of tribal people thus far.

One such story is of Maloti Marandi, from the Santal tribe. She had lost her mother to diseases caused by diabetes and did not want the same fate for herself. A local administrator recommended that she consult a doctor at Kalyan Hospital, Kathikund, managed by SANMAT, for blood sugar tests and treatment of her other symptoms. She says, 'I'm rewriting my future. Other than good medicines, their medical team provided me with an education about diabetes combined with practical advice for better nutrition, exercise, stress management, and problem-solving. Three months of this and I was no longer pre-diabetic.'



Top and bottom: *We will proudly support our family's income after training to be General Duty Assistants for medical facilities*



Rural Health Camps make medical care accessible to all without travelling long distances

SANMAT's successes emerge from their intense engagement and capacity building within the community, creating an ecosystem around the issue. They source team members from the community, and involve them in the design, planning, and implementation of programmes right from inception. All levels of government functionaries and other stakeholders are part of the process, too. 'We identify our community ambassadors from different sections, tribes, communities, age groups, and faiths. We reach out to schoolteachers, private tutors, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, community seniors, faith leaders, local Panchayati Raj Institution (members, doctors, nurses, unqualified practitioners, grocery shopkeepers and others, who help us in identifying and listing the most marginalized and vulnerable families/persons,' says Dr. Dhananjay Singh, Executive Director-SANMAT.

Innovative technology helps SANMAT fulfill its objective of reaching the last mile. An app Commcare, developed by an international organization Dimagi and implemented for capturing real time data from the field, tracks medication given to children, storing the data for further analysis. In the proposed project for the HCLTech Grant, basis of the proposal grant, an app will be developed which will have a touch calling button for Sick Cell Disease (SCD) patients who need emergency care and treatment.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Improving Sick Cell Disease Detection and Management in Jharkhand's Public Health System
Beneficiaries: 245,000 people, including newborns, adolescents, pregnant women, and adults
Location: 599 villages in Jharkhand



The American India Foundation Trust (AIF)



Founded by Shankar Venkateswaran, Saurabh Srivastava, Ashok Alexander, Nishith M. Desai in 2003

AIF envisions a more equitable, inclusive, and vibrant democracy in India where each individual, regardless of location, gender or social status, can realize their full potential. It is committed to improving the lives of India's underprivileged through high impact interventions in education, livelihoods, and public health. AIF's programmes have impacted the lives of 16.51 million of India's poor across 36 States and Union Territories of India, including empowering 7.25 million children through digital technology and STEM education, 349,505 pregnant women through its public health programmes and 2.2 million youth, marginalized women, and Persons with Disabilities, to secure sustainable livelihoods.

Dancing our way to mental health fitness

ITS DIGITAL EQUALISER PROGRAMME empowers children in government schools through digital technology and STEM education. Its low-cost public health programme, the Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI) supports quality home-based care for mothers and children while improving local health systems. LAMP (the Learning and Migration Program) provides access to education to the often-missed-out children of migrant workers. Entre-Prerana is a high-impact intervention to resurrect the livelihoods of the nano-entrepreneurs of India – the street vendors.

Each of the above innovative and agile programmes (and many others like them) are initiated by the American India Foundation (AIF) and are the true manifestation of its goals to empower marginalized communities, especially women, children, and the youth. 'Conceived amid the tragic devastation caused by the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 AIF was born to meet the need for a philanthropy platform that would connect the world's two largest democracies...for a meaningful participation in India's democratic and economic growth.



Top: By sharing our feelings and experiences, we learn so much about our inner selves and our emotions
Bottom: We draw our superheroes and their qualities and aspire to be better ourselves



Managing our anger and dispelling negative thoughts in fun, constructive ways

The American India Foundation has since built on this vision and created countless opportunities for India's poor to live successful, productive lives while creating impactful change at an unprecedented scale,' says Mathew Joseph, Country Director, AIF.

Collaborating with local communities, NGOs, corporates, tech and knowledge organizations and working with the governments at all levels, AIF's strategy is to leverage existing models and infrastructure for large-scale and eco-system-wide interventions in poverty alleviation, bridging the gender and digital divide, climate change resilience, healthcare innovation, creating opportunities and market linkages for enhancing livelihoods, and much more. These interventions employ the transformative power of technology for better penetration, scalability, innovation, and adaptability, and are run based on excellent

financial and governance standards. And underpinning all of this is AIF's focus on making sure interventions align with the needs and aspirations of the community and are truly sustainable. This is accomplished by empowering, enabling and engaging community members in planning and decision-making processes all along the way. Continuous monitoring and evaluation ensure that its programmes are – and remain – relevant to the evolving challenges facing the communities AIF works with.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Promoting Mental Well-being and Addressing Adolescent Mental Health Issues
Beneficiaries: 93529 adolescents, 1104 teachers, 93529 parents
Location: 4162 villages in 2 districts of Uttarakhand

EDUCATION



Shortlisted For the Jury Round 2024

Makkala Jagriti **166**

Safe spaces for children for quality learning

Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for
Multiple Disability **174**

Rights-based interventions for PwDs in north-east India

Sri Aurobindo Society **182**

Making room for inclusivity in mainstream education

Shortlisted 2023

17000 ft Foundation **190**

High quality education for children in the Indian Himalayan Region

Ahvaan Trust **194**

Enhancing Early Childhood Education in government schools and anganwadis

Akshara Foundation **198**

Creating an ecosystem to transform the way children learn in rural schools

Contact Base **202**

Transforming traditional cultural skills into prosperous livelihoods for artistes

NalandaWay Foundation **206**

Using visual and performing arts to enhance the well being of children in the care system

Transforming Rural India Foundation **210**

Enabling marginalized communities to access opportunities for education and growth



The NGOs shortlisted in the EDUCATION category of the HCLTech Grant employ exciting new methodologies to increase access to quality education for rural children or those in care institutions. Some of the innovative projects for this year include an engaging Maths programme for government schools and another using the arts to create wellbeing; one that empowers educators for inclusive learning, and one that recharges anganwadis; a project that makes local schools in remote places desirable for parents, and another that educates consumers on their rights and artistes on how to leverage their crafts for socio-economic empowerment. Their efforts lead to holistic, long-lasting impact for vulnerable communities and the children of India.



This category covers projects which support the Right to Education and strengthen primary, secondary and higher education; promote lifelong learning opportunities through skill development; work with adult literacy; advance girl children's and women's education and empowerment; and ensure digital literacy for all. To qualify for the HCLTech Grant, projects should be designed around equitable, inclusive and quality education, thereby strengthening state systems and attaining sustainability in rural development.





Makkala Jagriti



Founded by Joy Srinivasan in 2003

Makkala Jagriti aims to create a value-based social movement to empower children and their communities towards a brighter future through holistic development models. It works with early childhood education, primary education and youth in multiple districts across Karnataka, having cumulatively reached over 80,000 children and 500+ institutions. Its programmes creating safe, non-threatening spaces where children and youth can learn and develop, and access quality learning learn to grow into confident and self-assured individuals, who are aware of their talents and potential.

*Developing fine motor skills and brighter futures
Following pages (176–177): Story time at the anganwadi,
opening minds and widening horizons*

THERE IS AN INHERENT FEAR OF LEARNING among children from marginalized communities due to their social conditioning. But if these same children are given opportunity, access and exposure to education, they have been seen to fight against the odds and emerge transformed and empowered. Makkala Jagriti’s child-centric work in Karnataka is based on this belief, and on its excellent motto: ‘Where you are born should not limit how far you go.’

‘Within the first six years of inception, Makkala Jagriti partnered with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan towards institutionalising its holistic development model with government schools. Following this, we partnered with the Department of Women and Child Development in 2007-08 and started our interventions in government Child Care Institutions, at a time when there were hardly any NGOs working in that space,’ says Sunayana Chatrapathy, CEO, Makkala Jagriti.

This engagement with public education institutions like government schools and anganwadis has had tremendous impact. The story of Maralukunte anganwadi illustrates this perfectly: a space that was transformed by the NGO’s interventions, including materials and activities for the children, as well as training





Top: Little superstars graduate from anganwadis, well-equipped to make the most of big school
Bottom: Welcoming children to not just an anganwadi, but to a better future



Building gross motor skills to help leap over obstacles to good learning
Following pages (180–181): Empowering parents to ensure children's holistic learning and growth

Veena, an anganwadi helper, in early childhood education. The once dull anganwadi is now a hub of learning, play and laughter.

The ecosystem approach where Makkala Jagriti empowers all stakeholders like parents, teachers, community leaders, government functionaries to have greater involvement in children's development has had a transformational effect, too. The build-monitor-transfer approach ensures long-term sustainability and community ownership of programmes.

The NGO has leveraged technology effectively to extend the reach of its programmes. Over 350 videos in Kannada have helped in sensitising and building capacities on preschool learning activities with children among anganwadi teachers and parents. Thousands of lesson plans and activities are shared digitally among children in government schools and childcare institutions across the

state, and live online sessions are conducted for children and other stakeholders.

The best success stories are those of role models and changemakers created from among the children and youth through Makkala Jagriti's interventions – like Mercy who is now a bank manager in a reputed bank; Murali, who became a World Taekwondo champion is now a Taekwondo teacher; and Prabhu, who is a programme coordinator with Makkala Jagriti.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Transformation of anganwadi ecosystem in vulnerable areas towards sustainably providing quality early childhood care and education to children
Beneficiaries: 12,500 children, 403 anganwadi teachers, 341 anganwadi helpers, 13 ICDS supervisors, 1 CDPO, 1 Deputy Director, WCD
Location: 451 villages in Mysuru district of Karnataka





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability



Founded by Brinda Crishna, Mira Kagi, Tondra Barbora and others in 1987

Shishu Sarothi's vision is of an inclusive world where all people with disabilities – children, women, and men - enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and are respected for their inherent dignity, and valued as a part of the human diversity and humanity. It works for and with children and persons with disabilities in Assam and northeast India by enabling and empowering them through services and programs across the thematic areas of health, education, awareness & advocacy, and research and documentation, and has helped thousands of children across northeast India.

*The joy of inclusive learning
Following pages (184–185): Winning is much easier
when learning opportunities are equal*

TWO CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY in a spare room in one child's grandfather's home. A professional trained in special education.. A small group of parents and volunteers. These were the modest beginnings of the committed and dedicated organization, Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability. Today, after nearly 4 decades, this NGO is one of the major drivers of rights-based interventions in northeast India, for health, rehabilitation and education of children and persons with developmental disabilities like cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and autism – the lowest priority even among those with disabilities in the north-east of India.

'Our work in health, offered from various locations across Assam, focuses on early intervention with families of children with disabilities and offers assessment, counselling, therapy and special education inputs, and home management programmes from different locations across Assam. In the education domain, we promote inclusive education through school readiness programmes in an inclusive pre-primary education, and holistic special education services for children with disabilities and high support needs. Additional





Top: *Working hard to make something of myself*
 Bottom: *We learn together and we dream together*



Sharing our thoughts with our friends and community and working collectively to improve school life
 Following pages (188–189): *Another day ends, and we look forward to tomorrow*

programmes sensitise and train mainstream schoolteachers, provide scholarships for students with disabilities for higher education, and train a cadre of special educators for the state and region. We also create awareness among rights holders and duty bearers on rights and provide legal counsel and litigation support to redress grievances. Research studies help to create empirical evidence to influence policy,’ explains Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director, Shishu Sarothi.

Affiliations with other institutions in the field brought in technical know-how, and integration with government initiatives has furthered Shishu Sarothi’s impact. It was encouraged by government, both central and state, to provide Early Intervention at their institutions; conduct state-wide awareness programmes on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act; and endorsed by Samagra Shiksha Assam to train and provide resource

support on Inclusive Education in the state. It is now slated to become a Composite Regional Centre for the NE region on Disability Studies and Action with support from the North Eastern Council and the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment of Government of Assam.

Empowering communities and parents of the children, ensuring inclusion and participation in the programmes, Shishu Sarothi has established itself has a force in the field. The staff of Shishu Sarothi include persons with disabilities, some of whom are alumni of this remarkable institution, keen to demonstrate their abilities and participate in the organization’s work.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Logey Bhaage Xikhu (Let us Learn Together)
Beneficiaries: 120 children with disabilities, 5880 children without disabilities, 150 teachers
Location: 117 villages in 4 districts of Assam





SHORTLISTED
FOR THE
JURY ROUND
2024

Sri Aurobindo Society



Founded by Mirra Alfassa (The Mother) in 1960

Sri Aurobindo Society was established to bring a dynamic spirituality into material life, so that global problems can find a true solution, and the dreams of humanity can be realized. It is now an international organization working in diverse fields like integrated health, education, sustainable development, leadership, palliative care and more. Project Inclusion, an initiative of the Sri Aurobindo Society, was designed to empower teachers and special educators in India to identify and create an inclusive learning environment for students with learning difficulties. Since its inception in 2016, Project Inclusion has evolved into a national programme operating in 32 states and union territories, and orienting over 2 lakh teachers.

Screening students through psychometric assessments to determine their learning journey
Following pages (184–185): *Training teachers who are the true guardians of inclusivity*

MEHTAB ANSARI, the Headteacher at Rashtriya Prathamik Vidyalaya in Almora, Uttarakhand, was struggling with creating an environment of inclusive education in his school. Determined to address this issue, Mehtab enrolled in the Inclusive Education course run by Project Inclusion, which helped him learn about disabilities that hinder children's learning, and tailor solutions for support to overcome these challenges.

Making space for inclusivity in mainstream education by empowering educators is the mission of Project Inclusion, an initiative of Sri Aurobindo Society. Through inclusive education, the initiative seeks to shift the narrative from exclusion to inclusion, fostering a society that celebrates diversity. There are 8 million children with disabilities in India, but only 45 per cent have access to schools, thus the need for this movement, especially among vulnerable communities, is urgent.

Initially, when we began our journey, less than one per cent of teachers were aware of different learning disabilities, facing challenges in identifying and screening children due to the lack of tools, training, and knowledge. Our Learning Management System (LMS) and the Project Inclusion App were introduced



राष्ट्रीय मातृत्व दिवस
25 नवम्बर 2014

6
प्रसण्ड-कांके

1
प्रसण्ड-कांके

28
प्रसण्ड-कांके

30
प्रसण्ड-कांके



Top and Bottom: *Introducing teachers to Project Inclusion and on-ground training in its methodologies*



Training teachers on ways to embed an inclusive learning environment for children from marginalized communities
Following pages (188–189): *The futures of differently-abled children are in safe hands, being trained to work in special ways*

to enhance reach and impact. The three-phase approach (sensitisation, identification, and remediation) strategically utilized online platforms and tools, empowering stakeholders in creating an inclusive learning environment,' explains Sambhrant Sharma, Director Education & Member Executive, Sri Aurobindo Society. The first phase focuses on teacher orientation and training using the 17 modules of the LMS. The second uses digital tools to assist teachers from identification to in-classroom remediation. The third phase involves counselling parents and encouraging collaboration between teachers and parents to reinforce inclusive principles.

Bringing together the government, special educators, teachers and parents, a dynamic and responsive ecosystem of collaboration and co-ownership is created and embedded

within communities to give priority to inclusion in education. Teachers are given handholding support and awareness to implement the strategies in classrooms for severely marginalized populations including children of sex workers, children of prisoners from the Pondicherry Jail, and students with learning disabilities. Project Inclusion is establishing Centers for Excellence nationwide, a blueprint model for broader educational reforms, research, teaching and remediation support, to enhance the impact of its programmes exponentially.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Center for Excellence - Project Inclusion

Beneficiaries: 6,600 children, 400 teachers, 4,800 parents and community members

Location: 105 villages in 3 districts of Puducherry





17000 ft Foundation



Founded by Sandeep Sahu, Sujata Sahu and Sonam Dawa in 2012

17000 ft Foundation addresses the exodus of families from frontier villages in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) by facilitating quality elementary education for children in local schools. It strives to transform these communities into self-sustaining, resilient and thriving ones, by improving the government school education system, and generating opportunities for income and exposure. Envisioning a world where geography and distances create no barriers to opportunity and growth for all children, 17000 ft has programmes in Ladakh and Sikkim directly impacting over 350 remote schools, and now scaled to all the schools of Ladakh.

Laying the foundations of high quality learning in high altitude schools

A TINY SCHOOL WITH 6 STUDENTS, one teacher and no blackboard was the spark that ignited the remarkable journey of 17000 ft Foundation, an organization that has dedicated itself to improving the access to and quality of education for children in the Indian Himalayas. 17000 ft believes that if local government schools can provide a high standard of learning, infrastructure and facilities, the migration of children and families to other areas will considerably reduce. This will increase the working hands in villages and also give children an education based in their own context, language and culture.

17000 ft enhances physical infrastructure and learning resources of schools, like Children's Parks, digital learning labs, libraries, outdoor lighting, vibrant classrooms and furniture etc. It also brings improvement in learning through its excellent Blended Learning Programme DigiLab, with visual and interactive content and individualized learning platforms to enrich traditional teaching methods. An Active Reading Programme, a School Readiness Programme for anganwadi workers and pre-primary teachers, capacity



Top: Books are our friends and the library has so many!
Bottom: The DigiLab makes even tough subjects fun



A playground in the Himalayas means more children in the school

building workshops for headmasters and teachers on various pedagogies, all help to improve learning in the classroom.

A unique feature of 17000 ft's programmes is that instead of donating or providing resources, 17000 ft mobilises community members to participate in the programme, and encourages common ownership of all resources. Community members contribute manpower and ensure basic safety features are in place in the school before it is considered for adoption. Over the years, a few of the examples of leveraging community support include: carrying building material from the nearest roadhead to their school; painting classrooms with material provided by 17000 ft; levelling ground for playground setup; providing sand; installing grills in

windows; giving space for remedial classes in the holidays (including heating) and other such contributions.

'Ladakh's challenging terrain poses a unique hurdle – the lack of mobile connectivity in over 50 per cent of rural areas makes it difficult to effectively deliver and monitor the effectiveness of any programme. To overcome this, 17000 ft has developed a specially designed offline mobile app for headmasters, which syncs data to the cloud during their monthly visits to zonal offices,' says Sandeep Sahu, Co-Founder & Director, 17000 ft.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: NIPUN Ladakh
Beneficiaries: 5500 students from grade 1 to 3
Location: 650 villages from Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh



AHVAAN Trust



Founded by the Late Indrajit Seth and Sarvjeet Seth in 2010

Ahvaan Trust envisions an equitable society where every child receives a holistic education. The organization aims to enable and empower teachers in government schools and anganwadi workers through effective knowledge, skills and value-based, scalable learning pedagogy for early and foundational learning, restoring their significance in the education journey of the children, communities and the nation at large. In five years, Ahvaan intends to impact the foundational levels (3 to 8 years) of education as defined in NEP 2020 across India in empowering 100,000 teachers. Ahvaan works across the states of Delhi, Tripura, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

Rhymes and games in the community summer camp put a spring in the children's steps

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) is the foundation of a good education, helping children achieve their full potential. In India, however, ECCE and Foundational Learning are sorely neglected: approximately 50 per cent of 5-year-olds reaching the school system for Class 1 have had no ECCE support at all.*

Ahvaan Trust seeks to remedy this through a deeply researched and comprehensive three-pronged strategy implemented in partnership with government schools and anganwadis. First, by designing age-appropriate, skill-oriented, experiential, diverse and holistic curricula, integrating pedagogy and innovative classroom techniques. Second, by collaborating with state cadre to help teachers transition to the newer approaches through strong coaching and monitoring mechanisms. And third, by executing a school readiness programme to fill learning gaps children starting Class 1.

Ahvaan Trust was started to drive change in government schools, with a belief that this transformation was possible only if the agency of teachers was strengthened. From this was born the first ECCE curriculum for Delhi,

*As per UDISE report 2021-22 and the anganwadi enrolment report by Ministry of Women & Child Development



Top: Interactive learning methods like Circle Time bring excellent results
Bottom: Fuelling curiosity and expanding minds through innovative lessons



Parent engagement is paramount for the success of community-led learning

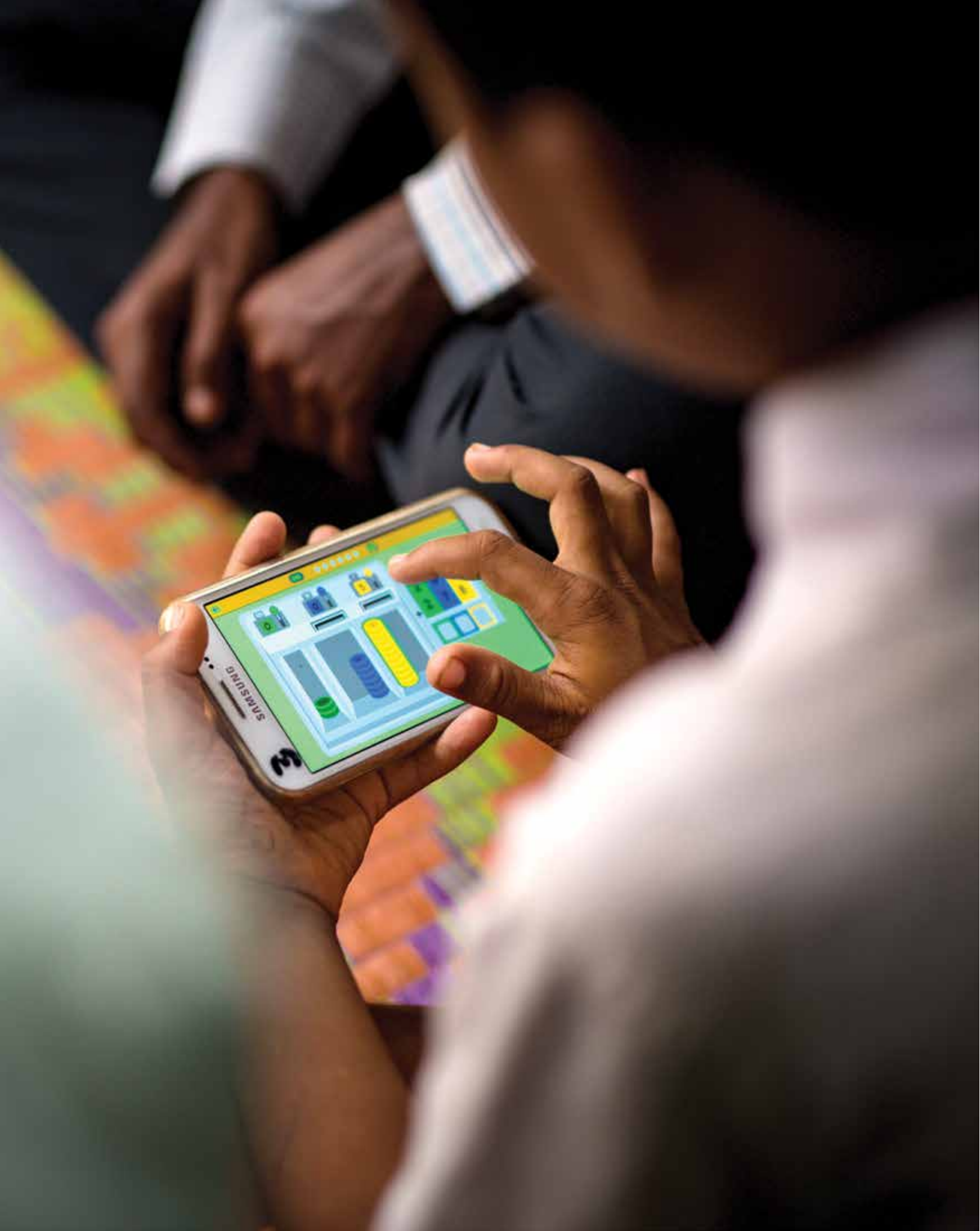
‘Neev’, supporting teachers in government school classrooms. Scaling up, integrating with government mechanisms resulted in a cadre for professional development/mentoring of teachers to deliver the innovative curriculum to each child. The programme was scaled in 2019 to Tripura, followed by Chhattisgarh.

‘Our successes have been the creation of ECCE integrated Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Curricula with teaching learning materials that are state endorsed; capacity built ECCE and FLN educators and specialists that we have mentored who are a part of our legacy in education departments; a credible and committed team who are products of the government school system. Our model is distinctive since it prioritizes building the capacities of all stakeholders, forging strong partnerships with communities and the State cadre to instill a sense of ownership in the

program,’ says Sayantani Gaddam, Executive Director, Ahvaan Trust. Through every intervention, she says, ‘the foundational levels of learning are constantly supported by a holistic approach to child development integrating socio-emotional learning, universal values and inclusive classrooms.’

The results are tangible, as in Chhattisgarh, parents are now shifting their children from private schools to government schools where Ahvaan Trust’s programmes are in place.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Balwadi Strengthening in Co-located anganwadis
Beneficiaries: 1000 cluster academic coordinators, 120 state resource group (SRGs), 2200 primary school teachers, 2200 anganwadi workers and helpers
Location: 5,000 villages in 10 districts of Chhattisgarh



Akshara Foundation



Founded by Shri Upendra Tripathy and C.V. Madhukar in 2000

Akshara Foundation is a tripartite partnership between the government, corporate, and the voluntary sector, with the mission ‘Making our Education Systems work for every child’. The organization, a Public Charitable Trust, focuses on blended models that can accelerate conventional learning through accessible technology-based innovations for teachers & children, impacting over 7 million children in Karnataka, Odisha & Andhra Pradesh. Akshara’s Math Programme GKA gained global recognition as one of six successful programmes worldwide to have improved early grade numeracy outcomes at scale by RTI International. Building Blocks was acclaimed among top 100 most scalable and impactful edtech innovations globally in The HundrED Global Collection 2024.

The Building Blocks learning app reinforces maths concepts children learn in government schools

THE SARPANCH SAID ‘NO’. The Gram Panchayat office was indifferent. But after some persuasion, the Deuli Gram Panchayat Math Contest was finally held in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha. Annapurna Panda had entered 5 of her brightest, primary school students, all of whom were from poor, tribal families. To her elation, 2 of them won prizes in the competition. The exposure and confidence this gave her students was unparalleled. This contest is one of the current programmes of the highly impactful NGO, Akshara Foundation, which was born of the belief that quality education is the undeniable right of every child and that children should not be deprived of this just because they do not have access to it or the resources to realize their dreams.

There are over 1 million government schools in India but most are victims of poor infrastructure, low quality of teaching or lack of qualified teachers, outmoded methodologies of teaching and learning and many such issues. Akshara works to establish a ‘learning enabling ecosystem’ to try and bring about a systemic transformation in the schools it works with. ‘True scale and sustainability can only be achieved when the community starts



Top: *The money is fake, but the Math learning is real*
 Bottom: *Making adding and subtracting easy using fun aids and tools*



Teachers need to learn the new methods too, so they can inspire young minds with a passion for Math

demanding quality education and starts participating in its delivery. At Akshara, we believe that for effective transformative change to happen we need a holistic model that makes sure that children, teachers, educators, community members, elected representatives, NGOs and the government all see value. And all the bits have to play together concurrently for impact,' says Ashok Kamath, Chairman and Managing Trustee, Akshara foundation.

Akshara's programmes include the Karnataka Learning Partnership to bring together all stakeholders in the public education space in Karnataka in order to make it more accountable, transparent and solve the complex challenges of the sector; as well as its world-class flagship programme, Ganitha Kalika Andolana (GKA) (which means mathematics learning movement) and

which works to bring children up to grade appropriate levels in maths through innovative teaching learning materials, and developing a gamified app, Building Blocks, with over 400 Math games mapped to the state textbook syllabus, available in 9 regional languages. GKA has now scaled up and is the State-adopted numeracy programme for all 90,000+ government schools in Karnataka and Odisha.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Ganitha Kalika Andolana (GKA)-Learning Math the Fun Way
Beneficiaries: 71300 government primary schools children in Grades 1-5, 4000 children in tribal residential schools in Grade 1-5, 2500 Government primary schools Math and head teachers, and 80 tribal residence school teachers, 60 State resource persons
Location: 1237 villages in Dhenkanal district of Odisha



Contact Base



Founded by Amitava Bhattacharya in 2002

Contact Base was founded in 2002 with the aim of empowering rural and indigenous communities with the knowledge, skills and resources to negotiate their rights and use cultural capital as an asset for inclusive development and building peace. By safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) like performing arts and crafts, its flagship initiative Art for Life has transformed traditional cultural skills to core economic activities and socio-economically empowered more than 60000 rural artists and craftspersons in West Bengal, Bihar and Rajasthan through grassroots creative economy and village cultural tourism.

Making pottery, moulding a livelihood

TAJKIRA BEGUM IS A KANTHA ARTIST FROM BIRBHUM. But she is also an influencer. Her excellence in her craft is legendary, but her efforts at poverty alleviation in her community by inspiring hundreds of women to start micro-craft enterprises like her have transformed lives. Tajkira Begum is part of initiatives by the unique organization Contact Base, which has programmes addressing poverty alleviation, gender equity, health and hygiene, and environmental action for sustainability. Believing strongly that cultural factors shape a community's needs and that culture can be a driver of development, it engages communities, especially youth, to use their cultural heritage to strengthen community identity and pride, and leverage traditional knowledge and skills to augment livelihood opportunities.

'We found transforming traditional cultural practices from fringe to core economic activities alleviated poverty, empowered women, fostered social inclusion and developed ownership among communities to pursue developmental goals. Improved education, health and sanitation have been key outcomes,' says Ananya Bhattacharya, Co-Founder and Director of Contact Base.



Top: *The traditional Goan Kunbi dance is a celebration of tradition*
 Bottom: *A basketry workshop with international participants weaves together the strands of progress*



Using football for development, evolving youth as community champions

Art For Life, its flagship programme, revitalises cultural traditions and skills and enables them to be passed on to younger generations. It helps artists market and innovate their cultural products to the needs of a contemporary audience. Through this initiative, hundreds of artists who had never stepped out of their villages have now visited international festivals, taken part in global collaborative exchanges, and become art entrepreneurs, using digital storytelling and selling their products online, streaming their music on websites, social media and Youtube. Their villages have turned into cultural destinations with festivals that celebrate local traditions. Art For Life has been studied at Harvard and UNESCO for its innovative methodology. It has partnerships with IIT for social entrepreneurship, with the Indian Football Association for Sports

for Change, and Google Art and Culture to present digital stories on how culture can foster social inclusion and empowerment.

Working with diverse communities in the remotest of geographies, engaging with local leaders, women's groups and frontline workers, Contact Base uses storytelling, art and street and forum theatre to create platforms to air difficult conversations around abuse, gender violence and more, seeking to propel behavioural and social change.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Making Goan Youth Ready to Evolve as Responsible Community Champions Using Football and Cultural Tourism as Vehicle
Beneficiaries: 300 cultural practitioners, 500 youth
Location: 45 villages in 5 districts of Goa



NalandaWay Foundation



Founded by Sriram V Ayer in 2003

NalandaWay Foundation uses visual and performing arts to help children from underserved communities in India. It endeavours to empower disadvantaged children and adolescents by improving learning abilities, reinforcing positive behaviour and helping them soar high by enabling them to be creative and express themselves through the arts. Since 2019, the organization has impacted over 6 million children across Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir through diverse projects integrating various forms of arts into education.

We express our identity and emotions through the visual arts

PROJECT VANAM VASAPADUM is a trauma-informed expressive arts intervention by NalandaWay Foundation that creates joyful art experiences to enhance the wellbeing of the children in government-run child-care institutions. A 14-year-old girl from Cuddalore who had lost her mother was having a difficult time processing her grief. Through this programme, group sessions using role plays and performing arts gradually helped her to open up, make friends, and even discover the singer inside her!

The unique methodology of NalandaWay is premised on the understanding that children from vulnerable backgrounds have a high risk of emotional disturbance due to dysfunctional homes, life on the streets, constant abuse and social conflicts. Statistics show that the rate of psychiatric disorders in children aged 4-16 in India is 12 per cent. This programme, one of the several initiatives of NalandaWay, works with such children to move them away from the inevitable cycle of substance abuse, abandoning school, and other evils, and enhance their sense of self and overall well-being.

NalandaWay was born to create a safe space for children, where they can be free of fear, where learning and joy can blend together.



Top: Performing arts training helps build confidence and self esteem
Bottom: This wall mural is our CCI team's effort and we are proud of it



Opening up the world and healing one's inner self through photography

'We've seen in our work across projects and geographies that art has transcended barriers of language, ability and literacy. It has been a natural medium for children across the domains of education, holistic wellness and self-expression. When reaching out to children from vulnerable communities, art has been a link to build relationships and provide care,' says Sriram V Ayer, Founder & CEO, NalandaWay Foundation.

Studies have shown that the impact of arts in children's development is tremendous – it fosters leadership skills, teamwork, better communication and problem solving. NalandaWay's programmes are embedded within communities, designed according to their inputs and needs.

NalandaWay's strategies encompass creation of innovative, engaging, art-based resources (workbooks, audio stories, videos) digitized for wider access, training and

empowering school teachers and leaders on mental health first aid, partnering with CBOs and other grassroots organizations for better mobilisation, sensitising parents and other stakeholders, and much more. NalandaWay nurtures the children in its programmes – from urban slums, rural areas, in childcare institutions, anganwadis, government and corporation schools, tribal children and more – moulding them into hopeful, resilient and fearless individuals.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Holistic Support for Adolescents in Transition from Childcare Institutions (CCIs) and Aftercare
Beneficiaries: 3672 adolescent boys and girl, 350 staff at CCIs, 10 senior officials at the Department of Social Defense
Location: 41 villages in 17 districts of Tamil Nadu



Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRI)



Founded by Anish Kumar and Anirban Ghose in 2016

Transforming Rural India Foundation was born to transform opportunities for rural communities through participatory methods for impact at scale. It works through a 360 degree, multidimensional development approach to break the complex cycle of poverty for the rural poor. TRI works to transform rural education, impacting over 90,000 children across 2200 schools in 1100 villages across 7 states of India. Its team collaborates with policymakers to plan and design rural development initiatives, while its practitioners operate at the grassroots level, piloting these ideas in blocks and districts.

Innovative models of community-led learning like 'Shiksha ki Deewar' ignite young minds

IN INDIA, 78 per cent of grade III and 50 per cent of grade V students can't read grade II texts, and only 27 per cent of grade V students can solve a division problem. Primary education figures are good, but the dropout rate in middle school is very high. Add to this, the inadequate infrastructure in schools, ill-equipped teachers, disinterested parents and other socio-cultural barriers, and we are faced with a system badly in need of intervention. This is where Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRI) comes in, working to make rural villages worthy places to live with inclusive and equitable education.

'By designing, developing, and demonstrating innovative solutions, TRI aims to tackle these complex problems. Our approach includes a '360-degree systems-view' and interventions in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB), partnerships with Rajya Shiksha Kendra in Madhya Pradesh, facilitating policy changes and creating large-scale impact. Third-party assessments of TRI's interventions show significant improvements in government entitlements and learning outcomes, with notable gains in reading and math skills,' says Javed Siddiqui, Lead Education Vertical, TRI. Attendance by both



Top and Bottom: *Making classrooms buzzing, joyful spaces using storytelling and interactivity, and local languages and culture woven into lessons*



The School Management Committee deliberates a healthier future for the children through nutritious midday meals

students and teachers has risen and children are engaged in joyful learning processes, building capabilities in early Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). The impact of this work goes beyond numbers. School management committee members, parents, and community leaders have all begun actively participating and working collaboratively to improve the functioning of schools.

One of the successes of TRI is the establishment of the Education Sector Council, a robust platform made up of renowned education organizations to develop effective tools and process protocols and ensure a comprehensive approach towards rural education.

TRI employs a holistic strategy which promotes community-based models, especially women's collectives, where women are the powerful agents of educational change, taking collective responsibility for education in the

village and addressing issues of discrimination and segregation to create cohesive education communities. Respecting local tribal culture and customs and integrating local languages into programmes, as well as fostering technology-aided learning and joyful classroom ideologies in its interventions, TRI comes closer to its goal of empowering rural children with 21st century skills including creativity, entrepreneurial mindsets and adaptability, so that these children can become changemakers in their communities and beyond.

HCLTech Grant Project Title: Ensuring Positive Transformation in the Primary Education System of Stranded India

Beneficiaries: 28000 students, 25000 mothers, 1000 teachers, 2100 SMC, 300 PRIs, 1500 Learning Center anchors, 1500 education change vectors, 42 local education functionaries

Location: 700 villages of 6 districts in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand

BEHIND THE SCENES



HCLFOUNDATION TEAM

Dr. Nidhi Pundhir – Vice President, Global CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation
Simi Suri – General Manager, HCLFoundation
Dr. Santanu Basu – Project Director, Harit
Prijoie Tharu – Group Manager, HCLFoundation
Robin Thomas – Group Manager, HCLTech Grant
Anuj Srivastava – Manager, HCLTech Grant
Rahul Kumar – Deputy Manager, HCLTech Grant
Shally Kaushal – Deputy Manager, HCLTech Grant
Shreya Bisht – Program Officer, HCLTech Grant
Umakant Pandey – Group Operations Head, Samuday
Dr. Chethana Thirthahalli – Technical Lead, Health
Dr. Neelima Chopra – Technical Lead, ECCD
Gaurav Majumdar – Technical Lead, Skills and Livelihood
Sujeet Kumar Verma – Technical Lead, Gender & Inclusion
Akshay Ahuja – Group Manager, Samuday
Manu Khanna – Senior Manager, Sports
Mili Agarwal – Manager, Communications
Joshua Livingstone – Manager, Uday
Newton Raj – Manager, Power of One
Abhishek Narayanan – Manager, Harit
Marshal Kumar – Deputy Manager, Harit
Mahender Kasula – Deputy Manager, Uday
Kunal Saini – Associate Sector Lead, My Clean City
Kaushik Das – Associate Sector Lead, Samuday
Sudha Kumari – Associate Sector Lead, Samuday
Ankit Kumar – Deputy Manager, Harit
Ravi Kumar Sharma – Deputy Manager, Harit
Shashank Khare – Deputy Manager, Education
Akshansh Akshat – Deputy Manager, Samuday
Marshal Kumarv – Deputy Manager, Harit
Bapanapalli Srinivasulu – Associate Manager, Uday
Prabakar Ignatious Prince – Associate Manager, Uday
Prakriti Khar – Associate Manager, Po1
Namrita Singh – Associate Manager, ECCD
Sumit Malik – Associate Manager, Communications
Mohammad Saqib – Senior Program Officer, ECCD
Anjali Khurana – Senior Program Officer, Education
Dishant Daipayan Das – Senior Program Officer, Samuday

Himani Gautam – Program Officer, Skills & Livelihood
Dr. Bhavya Rajeshkumar Bhagat – Program Officer, Samuday
Shubham Nautiyal – Program Officer, Sports
Joseph Dev Anandh N – Field Development Officer, Samuday
Ishita Tewari – Senior Executive, Communications

STRATEGY OFFICE

Sundar Mahalingam – President, Strategy HCL Corporation & Shiv Nadar Foundation

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Jill Kouri – Chief Marketing Officer, HCLTech
Ashutosh Sharma – Global Head Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs, HCLTech
Sumanta Biswas – Group Manager, Corporate Communications, HCLTech
Siddhartha Bhatnagar – Senior Manager, Corporate Communications, HCLTech
Vaibhav Agarwal – Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications, HCLTech
Rip Sahu – Senior Management Trainee, Marketing & Communications, HCLTech

HCLTech GRANT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

Dr. Dhruv Lalitkant Mankad
Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain
Mudunuru Venkata Narayana
Saurabh Biswas
Dr. Chandanathil Pappachan Geevan
Dr. Udit Ghosh Sarkar
Avani Kumar Varma
Mohd. Dilshad
Dr. Chandreyee Das
Dr. Shafia Yaseen Wani
Shashank Shekhar
Nilamadhab Prusty
Nikhil Pant
Santosh Kumar Sharma

GOVERNANCE PARTNER

Grant Thornton Bharat LLP



HCLTech Grant is not just about a CSR fund, rather it is about providing global exposure to Indian NGOs that are doing path breaking work in the field of rural development. It promotes sharing of best practices in the field of Environment, Health and Education – practices that are transformative in nature. A robust year-long application process comprising shortlisting of applications, due diligence, field visits, audits and jury proceedings ensures complete transparency in the selection of the winners.’

—Ms. Robin Ann Abrams, Chairperson, HCLTech Grant Jury & Board Member, HCLTech



CREDITS



TEXT

Ruchika Chanana

PHOTOGRAPHY

17000 ft Foundation: 2, 165 (bottom), 190, 192–193, 219

APD: 15

AROEHAN: 74, 76–77

Ahvaan Trust: 194, 196–197

Akshara Foundation: 165 (top), 198, 200–201

Arpan Seva Sansthan: 49 (top left), 78, 80–81

Bal Raksha Bharat: 18

BAIF Livelihoods: 82, 84–85

Chotay Taray Foundation: 132, 134–135

Contact Base: 164 (top), 204, 206–207

CREA: 136, 138–139

CRY: 19

eGovernments Foundation: 140, 142–143

End Poverty: 5, 47 (bottom), 86, 88–89

ECHO India: 105 (top), 108, 110–115

IHAT: 14

IIH: 13, 36, 38

LLF: 16

Lokpanchayat: 50, 52–57

Makkala Jagriti: 163 (top), 164 (bottom), 166, 168–173

MANT: 144, 146–147

MANUVIKASA: 49 (bottom), 90, 92–93

Meghshala Trust: 17, 40, 42

MUKTI: 47 (top), 58, 60–65

NalandaWay Foundation: 206, 208–209

Plan@Earth: 10

PRADAN: 11

Public Health Resource Society: 148, 150–151

Saahas: 9

Sangath: 105 (bottom), 107 (top right), 116, 118–123

Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability: 174, 176–181

SROUT KORBA: 106 (bottom), 107 (top left), 124,

126–131

Sri Aurobindo Society: 182, 184–189

Sri Someswar Nath Mahadev Trust: 152, 154–155

The American India Foundation Trust: 106 (top), 156, 158–159

The Corbett Foundation: 48 (top), 49 (top right), 66, 68–73

The Covenant Centre for Development: 48 (bottom), 94, 96–97

Transforming Rural India Foundation: 107 (bottom), 210, 212–213

Under The Mango Tree Society: 12

Wildlife Protection Society of India: 98, 100–101

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

ISBN: 9788196643539

Published by Roli Books 2024

M-75, Greater Kailash-II Market

New Delhi-110 048, India

Ph: +91-11-4068 2000

E-mail: info@rolibooks.com

Website: www.rolibooks.com

Text and Photographs © HCLFoundation

Project Editor: Ushnav Shroff

Design: Misha Oberoi

Pre-Press: Jyoti Dey

Production: Lavinia Rao

Printed and bound at Samrat Offset, New Delhi