

# A step towards Nation Building

## HCLTech Grant Granule

(October–November 2024)



# HCLTech Grant Edition X Rollout

## HCLTech Grant concluded Stage 3 - Detailed Proposal Review Round

The Detailed Proposal Review Round of the tenth edition of HCLTech Grant was conducted on 7th, 8th and 9th October 2024. In the 3 day long deliberations on the detailed proposals, 52 NGOs were shortlisted out of 224 proposals. 17 NGOs each from the categories of Environment and Health, and 18 NGOs from the category of Education were selected for the Stage - 4 of Field Level Due Diligence.



Environment Category - Detailed Proposal Review



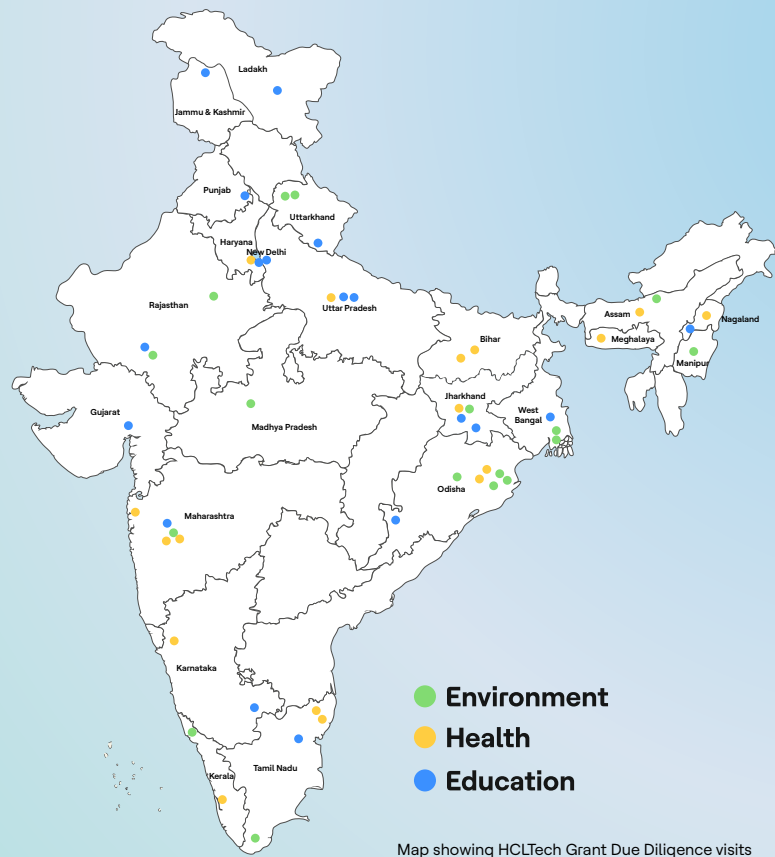
Health Category - Detailed Proposal Review



Education Category - Detailed Proposal Review

# HCLTech Grant Stage 4 - Field Level Due Diligence

HCLTech Grant successfully completed the Stage 4 of Field Visit and Due Diligence round for the shortlisted NGOs in the categories of Environment, Health and Education. The field level due diligence that started on 25th October 2024, went on for 32 days, visiting 52 NGOs, covering a distance of 1,52,890 kms across 20 states and 3 union territories. 14Subject matter experts along with 38HCLFoundation team members from their respective domains conducted field visits, dedicating 2 days for each organization; the first day being an in-person office visit and the second day being the field visit. This is a crucial round of the HCLTech Grant, as these field visits help the HCLTech Grant team to gain an in-depth understanding of the organization and the proposed project.



Few glimpses from Stage 4 - Field Level Due Diligence

# Partnerships Bulletin

## Empowering Communities through Community Forest Management in Maharashtra

Community Forest Rights Management Committee (CFRMC) meetings were organized on October 10th and 11th, under the project "Climate Action for Community Forest Management" executed by Lokpanchayat, the Edition IX HCLTech Grant recipient in the category of Environment. The meetings were held in the Kothale and Lavhali Otur Villages, where the youth and the community members were guided in the processes of forest mapping, dense forest measurement and photography techniques.

Mr. Vijay Sambare, the environmental expert, held discussions with members of the Community Forest Rights Committee, explaining the scientific process of forest mapping, measurement and management of the rights of the allocated community forest-land. Over these two days, villagers actively engaged in the community forest management process, making the meetings productive for the CFRMC members along with youth group.



CFRMC meeting at Kothale and Lavhali Otur villages, #Environment category HCLTech Grant recipient Lokpanchayat, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

## Leveraging Technology for Better Health through ECHO model

The program, 'Capacity Building Program on Comprehensive Primary Healthcare (CPHC)' was successfully launched in Nagaland, by 2024 #Health category HCLTech Grant recipient - Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes, with the support of NHM Nagaland on 22nd October 2024. The program aims to empower primary care providers in Nagaland using the ECHO Model, with the objective of improving access to primary healthcare services across the state. The initiative will strengthen the capacity and skills of 200 Community Health Workers and establish a robust knowledge network across 16 districts of Nagaland. The program will cover a wide range of topics under CPHC services, including Maternal health, Non-communicable diseases, Infectious diseases, Infant and adolescent health, Oral health, Palliative and elderly healthcare, basic mental health, and Emergency medicine.



Launch of CPHC training module, #Health category recipient, ECHO India, Nagaland

# HCLTech Grant's Engagement with the Supported Projects: A journey of Impact

## HCLTech Grant visits Sri Aurobindo Society: A Partnership for Education, empowering young minds

HCLTech Grant team members visited with Sri Aurobindo society, the 2024 HCLTech Grant recipient in the category of Education on 24th October 2024. Sri Aurobindo Society works towards the project, "Auro Scholar" that encourages student learning by providing them micro scholarships via 10 minute digital micro-assessments. These scholarships help the government school students from Grade 1 to 12, by motivating them to take regular self-assessments and rewarding them Rs. 50 per quiz on scoring 80% or above. Ms. Anisha B Chacko, Program Officer, HCLTech Grant and Ms. Ishita Tewari, Senior Executive, Communications visited the organization with the aim to understand the status quo of the project and discuss avenues for mutual branding collaboration.



HCLFoundation team meets with the team of Sri Aurobindo Society, Delhi

## Fostering Environmental Stewardship with Lokpanchayat

Lokpanchayat is the #Environment category recipient of the HCLTech Grant Edition IX that works towards 'Climate Action for Community Forest Management' in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. By strengthening the Community Forest Right Management Committees through trainings and workshops, Lokpanchayat is fostering environmental stewardship among tribal communities along with their livelihood enhancement through NTFP and skill development initiatives for women and youth. Ms. Anisha B Chacko and Dr. Ushas George, Program Officers with HCLTech Grant explored the project locations in Sangamner and Akole blocks, to learn and observe the organization's work in the area of environment.



Meeting with the Lokpanchayat team



Community Forest Mapping at Kothale village

# Strengthening Healthcare in Nagaland with Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), the #Health category recipient of HCLTech Grant Edition IX is working towards building the capacity of 200 Community Health Care Workers through training in the Comprehensive Primary Health Care module in the 16 districts of Nagaland. The visit aimed at meeting the project stakeholders at National Health Mission, Nagaland – Dr. Akuo Sorhie, Mission Director, NHM, Dr. Arenla Walling, Joint Director, NTPC, Ms. Linoka K Awomi, Consultant DTCC – NTCP, Dr. Temsu, SIO, Dr. Rio, Deputy Director, Universal Immunization Programme, Dr. Kezo, SPO, Mental Health. Visits were also made to meet the CHOs at the Thizama and Chedema sub-centres.



Visit to Healthcare Sub-Center at Thizama



Meeting with Dr. Akuo Sorhie, Mission Director, NHM Nagaland

# Ms. Robin Abrams visits PlanatEarth: A dive into Sustainability

Ms. Robin Abrams, Chairperson HCLTech India and along with the HCLTech Grant team conducted a site visit to PlanatEarth, the 2022 HCLTech Grant #Environment Category winner of the HCLTech Grant. The team visited the project locations of the Project Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic (DROP) & Vembanad's Macro Fight (VMF) at Pallipuram and Munambam Harbour respectively. Ms Robin Abrams interacted with the project stakeholders and also unveiled the unique Fish Sculpture crafted from discarded slippers, symbolizing innovative efforts in Ocean waste recovery at the Cherai Beach.

As part of the project VMF, the team explored the Vembanad Wetlands, where they witnessed the recovery of water hyacinth from the Ramasar Site, using a mechanical weed harvester. The sculptures created with recovered ghost nets were handed over to the Coast Guard Head Quarters in Kochi during this visit. They also went to the Fort Kochi Beach to see the Angel Wings Selfie Sculptures, which is another remarkable creation from slippers recovered from ocean under project DROP.

They also travelled to VMF Unit at Parakadav to see the arrangements made for installing machinery to produce briquettes and pellets from water hyacinth.



Glimpses from Ms. Robin Abrams and HCLTech Grant team's visit to PlanatEarth, Kochi, Kerala

# Awards & Recognition

HCLFoundation was adjudged the winner in the Healthcare category at the sixth edition of Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) Annual CSR Conclave and Awards. The recognition was received for its transformational work with the 2016 #Health Category HCLTech Grant winner - Child in Need Institute for the project "Creating Community-based Safety-net for better Health and Nutrition Outcomes for children, adolescents and women" in 3 Districts of West Bengal.



Mr. Anuj Srivastava, Senior Manager, HCLTech Grant receiving award at the IFCCI Annual CSR Conclave & Awards

## Key Representation

During the National Children Consultation organized by the National Action and Coordination group for ending violence against children (NACG-EVAC), Mr. Anuj Srivastava, Senior Manager, HCLTech Grant was invited as a resource person. The session was in collaboration with the CSR strategic partnerships and the Civil Society for Child Welfare Program. Mr. Srivastava emphasized on the pivotal role of CSR partnerships in combating violence against children and fostering a safer environment for their well-being.



Mr. Anuj Srivastava, Senior Manager, HCLTech Grant at the panel discussion

# Stories of Transformation

## A Buzzing Success: Integrating Beekeeping and Agriculture

"The locally organized training has helped me to integrate beekeeping with agriculture, a critical input, for a smallholder", mentions Lata Farale, a programme participant of the project "Keeping Indigenous Bees Buzzing and Supporting Biodiversity Conservation in Tribal Communities" by Under the Mango Tree Society. The 45-year-old beekeeper from Faralpda village adds, 'my cashew and mango yields saw a remarkable increase of 30% to 35%, with similarly positive outcomes for black gram'. Improving pollinator density and diversity has a direct positive impact on crop yields, consequently promoting food and nutrition security. Hence, enhancing pollinator services is important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as for helping family farmers' adaptation to climate change. Trained in 2023, Lata says, 'introducing bees to agriculture/



Ms. Lata Farale engaging in beekeeping with Under the Mango Tree Society, Maharashtra

horticulture, resulted in more number of flowers, supporting in propagating population of local pollinators'. She adds, 'apart from A. cerana and Trigona bees, I am able to spot A. florea, A. dorsata, and other kinds of bees, etc. in my vicinity, which was not the case earlier'.

## Overcoming Waste Management Challenges: A Case Study of Padubidire Gram Panchayat

Padubidire Gram Panchayat in Udupi faced challenges in waste management due to the inadequate infrastructure for domestic hazardous waste disposal and wet waste composting. Up until October 2023, Padubidire in Udupi had a commendable waste collection system. However, operations ceased for wet waste due to insufficient infrastructure and space for composting. Additionally, the collection of domestic hazardous waste ceased due to similar limitations, leading to a decline in dry waste collection and a rise in burning incidents.

Saahas, the 2020 #Environment category winner of the HCLTech Grant, in collaboration with SLRM members, conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns and issued mandates through Gram Panchayat announcements, necessitating the handover of waste to

collection vehicles under the project, Sustainable Waste Management through Community-Owned Rural Resource Recovery Systems. Concurrently, the PDO and elected representatives initiated the purchase of land for solid waste management and established a wet waste composting unit with the assistance of Saahas team, and an incinerator with the support of the Adani group to manage domestic hazardous waste (Sanitary and diaper waste). As a result, the Padubidire Gram Panchayat resumed the collection of properly segregated waste.

Today, over 2000 households and 270 commercial establishments actively participate in segregated waste collection, displaying the transformative power of community engagement and sustainable waste management practices.



Solid Waste Management Process, Saahas, Udupi

## Overcoming Adversity: A Pregnant Mother's Journey to Health

Jyoti Yogendra Jambekar, a 19-year-old expectant mother, from the village of Pankhalya, faced a critical health challenge during her pregnancy. With her haemoglobin (Hb) levels dropped dangerously low to 4 g/dl at just 8 weeks, Jyoti's health and that of her unborn child were at risk. Responding promptly to the urgency of the situation, MAHAN Trust intervened promptly, arranging 2 blood transfusions in Dharni government hospital. MAHAN provided a course of Iron and folic acid tablets, in addition to the regular support, including Local Therapeutic Food (LTF) to Jyoti.

As weeks passed, Jyoti's dedication to her health journey, coupled with the support of the MAHAN Trust, yielded remarkable results. Approximately 23 weeks into her pregnancy, Jyoti's Hb levels had increased to 9.4 gm/dl, a testament to the efficacy of the intervention.

Jyoti's story exemplifies the transformative impact in safeguarding maternal and child health in tribal communities. The timely intervention and compassionate care, not only ensured Jyoti's well-being, but also nurtured the health and vitality of the next generation.



Jyoti Yogendra Jambekar, Mahan Trust, Maharashtra

## A Story of Hope and Healing

Kajal, a 25-year-old from Khagaria, Bihar, was expecting her third child while her husband worked as a daily wage laborer outside the state. Since her husband was working away from home, she moved to her parents' house in Bithan block, Samastipur district in her last trimester, when she developed a persistent cough and fever. Despite taking medicine, her condition didn't improve, but her family, eager for her delivery, decided to wait. In June, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, but Kajal's health continued to deteriorate. Worried, ASHA worker Manju Devi reached out to Jiwachh Kumar from the Innovators in Health, India team. Sensing the urgency, they took Kajal directly to the PHC, where it was confirmed by tests that she had tuberculosis. Her hemoglobin was also dangerously low and her family was deeply concerned as she could barely sit or stand. Jiwachh, ASHA, and STS Subham Kumar provided her with iron and vitamin supplements, and started her TB treatment in July 2024. They also counselled her family on precautions, such as continuing breastfeeding while wearing a mask and ensuring proper hygiene. With regular follow-ups from the field team and the tele-counseling team of IIH, Kajal's condition has gradually improved. She now continues her medication from her parents' home in Bithanblock.



Kajal, Innovators in Health India, Samastipur, Bihar

## Empowering Young Learner's: Transforming Mathematics Education in Gufani School

Located 10 kilometers from the Bastar block, the primary school in Gufani is witnessing a significant change in how students learn counting. Ms. Varsha Sahu, who teaches grades 1-3, shared her experiences with numeracy classes: "Previously, teaching counting took a lot of time; children would only learn addition by the time they reached grade 3. We faced challenges in teaching counting to grade 2 students because we were unable to implement the textbook exercises effectively, which led to a lack of interest in learning. We also didn't know how to utilize Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) or follow the appropriate processes."

However, numeracy sessions in teacher training and the TLMs provided through the MLE program by Language and Learning Foundation, brought a significant change to her classroom. She identifies the changes and the reasons behind them. She shares: "Working in four blocks of numeracy provided us an opportunity to engage students in mathematical discussions about numbers and various concepts, and they can easily relate these to their surroundings. Oral math discussions, connecting concepts to their day-to-day life with the help of activities, allow children to easily grasp mathematical concepts."

Ms. Varsha acknowledges that through the FLN objectives and the teaching plan based on NCF-FS-2022, she learned how to help children achieve targeted competencies during a five-day training. She is now implementing a daily plan for grades 1 to 3. While last year's training provided some understanding, this year's training gave her deeper insights into mathematical operations.

She also shares her experience with the use of TLM: *"Since we learned about the concept of bundling ten during training, the children can now easily count beyond ten and solve addition problems without difficulty."*



Ms. Varsha Sahu with her school children at Language and Learning Foundation, Chattisgarh

## From Dropout to Aspiring Teacher

Pinky, from Parvariya village in Guna, has faced an uphill battle for education ever since she dropped out of school in 2018 due to her family's financial difficulties and a lack of emphasis on education in her household. In a community where girls are often forced into traditional roles that include sex work, Pinky's story stands out as one of perseverance, aided by the support of the CRY-HCL initiative.

In December 2021, Pinky was re-enrolled in school through NIOS with the help of the program. She faced numerous obstacles on her way back to education, including having to travel over 100 kilometers to take her exams in July 2022. The harsh weather, heavy rains, and

limited transportation options made this journey arduous, but Pinky's determination never wavered. Although she failed her exams initially, the support she received from the CRY-HCL team encouraged her to continue.

In 2023, Pinky re-enrolled for her exams and finally passed her 10th standard in July 2024, becoming the first person in her family to achieve this milestone. Her success has changed not just her life but also the perception of education in her community. Pinky now aspires to become a teacher, inspired by the educators who helped her. Her goal is to give back to her community and help other girls like herself who face similar challenges.

# HCLFoundation

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