



HCLTech Grant

India | by HCLFoundation

Celebrating
HCLTech Grant
'The Fifth Estate'
10 Years of Nation-Building

A Briefing Booklet
2015-25

“

The HCL Citizens Grant supports and facilitates the institutionalization of NGOs through the creation of strong governance frameworks and management capability. As this Grant is intended to bring in better governance into the social-sector system, it will benefit all stakeholders in the long run.”

Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee

Former Hon'ble President of India
at the HCL Citizens Grant Award Ceremony, 2016



10 years of HCLTech Grant

India | by HCLFoundation

A decade of nation-building. A decade of collaborating with partners to make a sustained difference linking vision and impact. Ten years of blazing a trail of innovation and inclusivity. A decade of changing the rules of the game by empowering local communities and strengthening institutions. Ten years of building connections between people and policy, to take hold of the reins of change.

The HCLTech Grant is committed to transforming the rural landscape of India in partnership with India's Fifth Estate, Social Purpose Organizations, the community-led ecosystems that shape inclusive growth and democratic resilience at the grassroots. Together, they embody what true nation-building looks like from the ground up. As the nation rests on the strength of its four constitutional pillars, the legislature, judiciary, executive, and free press, the Fifth Estate emerges as a vital, dynamic force, ensuring that sustainable development reaches every corner of the country and represents and amplifies the voices of its people.

This Briefing Booklet reflects the remarkable ten years journey of the HCLTech Grant. It presents not only the outcomes of the funded projects, it takes us through their deeper impact of empowerment, collaboration and a collective sense of purpose to build a future-ready India.

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Robin Ann Abrams

Chairperson,
HCLTech Grant Jury

Over a decade, the HCLTech Grant has set a remarkable benchmark for how corporate philanthropy can drive credible, large-scale impact. What began as an idea, to identify and strengthen India's most effective nonprofits, has evolved into a movement of trust, transparency, and transformation.

Each year, we have witnessed the depth of commitment among civil society organizations working in some of the most challenging contexts. The Grant's rigorous selection process ensures that innovation is matched with integrity and that every investment translates into measurable, lasting change. As we celebrate ten years, the real achievement lies not only in the outcomes reached but in the partnerships built, between communities, nonprofits, and industry, to reimagine inclusive growth.

The HCLTech Grant continues to demonstrate that when purpose meets discipline, immense progress follows.



Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Chairperson – HCLTech

Trustee – Shiv Nadar Foundation

Founder & Trustee – The Habitats Trust

Chairperson – Corporate Social Responsibility,
HCLTech

Ten years ago, we began the HCLTech Grant with a simple conviction that India's growth story is incomplete without its rural communities.

We believed that real change cannot be imposed; it must be nurtured from within, through trust, collaboration, and the power of local leadership.

A decade later, that belief stands stronger than ever. From forests revived in Odisha to classrooms transformed in Sikkim and health systems strengthened in Nagaland, we have witnessed how ideas seeded with purpose can grow into movements of resilience and hope.

The HCLTech Grant has become more than a funding programme; it is a partnership between the 'Fifth Estate' and the people it serves. It is a bridge between innovation and inclusion, scale and sustainability, ambition and empathy.

As we look ahead, the challenges before us, climate change, digital divides, and rising inequalities, remind us that our work is far from over. We reaffirm our commitment to continue investing with intention, partnering with purpose, and scaling what truly endures.

This ten year milestone is not a conclusion but a renewal of our faith in communities, in collaboration, and in the quiet, persistent force of collective good.



C Vijayakumar

Chief Executive Officer and
Managing Director, HCLTech

Over 10 years, the HCLTech Grant has reflected our belief that lasting progress is built through partnership, trust, and shared purpose. When we began this journey, our goal was not only to fund impactful projects, but to strengthen the social purpose institutions and leaders driving India's development story.

Today, this Grant stands as a model of responsible collaboration, where technology, innovation, and community expertise converge to create sustainable impact. Each partner organization has shown that transformation endures when solutions are locally rooted, data-driven, and community-owned.

As we mark ten years of this initiative, we are proud of what collective effort has achieved, stronger ecosystems in education, health, and environment, and a deeper sense of accountability across the social sector.

The HCLTech Grant exemplifies how purpose and performance can coexist, how business and social responsibility can move forward together.

Our commitment remains clear: to continue investing in ideas that create value for communities, for the nation, and for the planet.



Dr. Nidhi Pundhir

SVP – Global CSR, HCLTech &
Director, HCLFoundation

In 2015, the HCLTech Grant began with a simple aspiration: to strengthen India's development sector by trusting those who serve its most invisible corners. What started as a grant has become a movement – of collaboration, courage, and community-led change.

Through our partners, we've learned that impact is not only in numbers, but in dignity restored, ecosystems revived, and lives transformed. The Grant has grown by deepening its intent – to listen better, trust more, and build systems that endure.

As we mark a decade of this journey, I feel deep gratitude, for changemakers who lead with conviction, communities who open their worlds to us, and every partner who believes that responsible giving can shape a more equitable, sustainable India.

The story of the HCLTech Grant belongs to all who dream, act, and persist, proving that real impact is always a shared pursuit of hope and humanity.

HCLTech Grant: A Decade of Inclusive Impact



87,636+
registrations



13,383
Applications
received



10
Editions of the
HCLTech Grant



Committed Funds: ₹169.3 Cr

Projects Awarded: 67

- 49 projects successfully completed
- 18 projects currently active



Lives Impacted: ~2.3 million

Geographic Reach: 22 States | 2 Union Territories

Thematic Focus: Education | Health | Environment

For the past decade, the HCLTech Grant has supported organizations tackling inequality at its roots, driving inclusive impact across communities, ecosystems, and institutions. These highlights celebrate the transformative change made possible through sustained partnerships.



Endorsing a Vision

Their words stand as a testament to a decade of purposeful action and trust.



I must complement HCL for going into the larger society, creating an independent jury, looking at areas which need support and getting the jury to select the best so that the winners can be role models for others."



Late Shri Arun Jaitley

Former Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs at the HCL Grant Award Ceremony, 2017



The HCL Grant stands out for its unmatched rigour, merit-based selection, and outcome-driven approach. It identifies India's best NGOs and empowers them to deliver lasting impact. NITI Aayog is proud to partner in taking this transformation forward."



Mr. Amitabh Kant

Former CEO, Niti Ayog, at the HCL Grant Award Ceremony, 2019



I congratulate the HCL Grant Recipient NGOs and HCLFoundation for the work they are doing. It is my hope that in the years to come the social value of HCLFoundation will continue to increase. In a country like ours it is important for everyone, government, corporates, NGOs and civil society to work together towards the development agenda. India needs to 'dream of a new GDP', going ahead, where GDP stands for Gross Domestic Prosperity."



Shri Rajnath Singh

Minister of Defence, HCLTech Grant Award Ceremony, 2018



Health, Education, and Environment are vital pillars of India's development. I'm deeply impressed by the impact these NGOs are creating and by the rigorous selection process of the HCL Grant. My congratulations to HCL and all the winners for their remarkable work."



Mr. Kapil Dev

Former Captain of the Indian cricket team and world-renowned all-rounder, at the HCL Grant Award Ceremony, 2020



I feel privileged to be a part of this event. It is inspiring to see the work of the NGOs and I congratulate the winners of HCL Grant and HCL for the outstanding work they are doing."



Mr. Sourav Ganguly

Former captain of Indian National Cricket Team at the HCL Grant Award Ceremony, 2019

Jury Over the Years

**Shiv Nadar**

Founder – HCLTech
Chairman Emeritus & Strategic
Advisor to the Board – HCLTech
Founder & Chairman – Shiv Nadar Foundation
(Served as jury member till 2021)

**B. S. Baswan**

Former Director, Indian Institute
of Public Administration and
Former HRD Secretary

**Robin Ann Abrams**

Chairperson,
HCLTech Grant Jury

**Pallavi Shroff**

Managing Partner, Shardul
Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.

**Roshni Nadar Malhotra**

Chairperson – HCLTech
Trustee – Shiv Nadar Foundation
Founder & Trustee – The Habitats Trust

**Suresh Narayanan**

Chairman & Managing Director,
Nestle India Limited

**Dr. Richard Lariviere**

Sanskrit Scholar & President
Emeritus,
The Field Museum, Chicago

**Late Dr. Isher Judge
Ahluwalia**

Economist, Chairperson ICRIER,
member HCLTech Grant Jury
(Served as Jury member
from 2017 till 2020)

In Gratitude

We fondly remember Late Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, an eminent economist and distinguished member of the HCLTech Grant Jury. Her wisdom, integrity, and deep commitment to inclusive development enriched the Grant's vision in its formative years. As Chairperson of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), she brought unparalleled insight and rigor to the selection process, helping shape the values of excellence and equity that continue to guide the HCLTech Grant today.



Symposiums – Driving CSR from Compliance to Commitment

Since 2015, the HCLTech Grant Symposiums have travelled across India, building capacity and collaboration among NGOs, corporates, and academia. Focused on CSR strategy, Section 135, and project design, they also help clarify the HCLTech Grant application process. Featuring experience sharing and panel discussions in Education, Health, and Environment, the symposiums inspire scalable, sustainable impact. HCLTech Grant fosters dialogue and collaboration for innovation, financial governance, sustainable development, and positive social impact across India.



68

Physical
symposiums

22

E-symposiums

38,055

NGOs
registered

19,006

NGOs
participated

Over the years, sixteen leading academic Institutions hosted the HCLTech Grant Symposiums transforming campuses into spaces of collaboration, learning and social innovation. Together, they bridged research and real-world impact, enabling NGOs, corporates, and policymakers to co-create pathways to sustainable development.

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), Patna
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar
- North Eastern Hill University, Shillong
- G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Science for Women, Hyderabad
- Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur
- DBS Global University, Dehradun
- Chinmaya Center of World Understanding (Chinmaya Mission, Delhi)
- St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad
- Marudhara Industries Association, Jodhpur
- Sikkim Manipal University, Gangtok
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- Xavier Institute of Social Sciences (XIIS), Ranchi
- Punyabee Sabhagruha, Pune
- Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal
- India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Action Driven Publications

- HCLTech Grant Compendium: Celebrating India's Fifth Estate Over 10 editions, the HCLTech Grant Compendium has chronicled the journeys of shortlisted NGOs and grant recipients across Education, Health, and Environment, capturing their innovations, outcomes, and models of change that strengthen India's development landscape.
- Anchoring Change: Seventy-Five Years of Grassroots Interventions That Made a Difference. Authored by Vikram Singh Mehta, Neelima Khetan, and Jayapadma RV, Anchoring Change captures seventy-five years of impactful civic action across India, uncovering what makes social change work and how these lessons can guide the nation's path forward.

The Shortlisting Process



Step 1: Application screening

Applications are screened based on predefined eligibility criteria and the information and documents submitted by the organizations.



Step 2: Abstract review

Organization profiles and project abstracts are evaluated by subject experts and the Governance Partner on parameters such as governance, problem relevance, innovation, and potential impact.



Step 3: Proposal review

Shortlisted organizations submit detailed profiles and proposals, which are evaluated by Subject matter experts and the Governance Partner on parameters such as delivery capacity, financial modelling, sustainability, inclusion, partnerships and scalability.



Step 4: Field audit

Selected organizations undergo field visits by HCLTech Grant and Subject Matter Experts, along with due diligence by the Governance Partner. Both teams conduct a joint review to shortlist ten organizations per category for the next stage.



Step 5: Sub-jury review

A 12-member panel reviews shortlisted applications through case presentations by HCLFoundation and the Governance Partner. All featured organizations appear in the HCLTech Grant – The Fifth Estate Compendium, and the panel selects the top three per category for the next stage.



Step 6: Due diligence

The Governance Partner conducts a detailed review of documents, background checks and site visits, along with discussions with the organization's team and board members.



Step 7: Jury review

A panel of six eminent members reviews case presentations by the governance partner and selects one winner (₹5 crore) and two runners-up (₹25 lakh each) in each category.

A Decade of Impact (2015–2025)

Partners across three themes

Education

5 crores awardees

• Going to School • MeJol • Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers India) • Srijan Foundation • Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children) • Child Rights and You (CRY) • Language and Learning Foundation • Meghshala Trust • Makkala Jagriti • Raised Lines Foundation

Health

5 crores awardees

• Child in Need Institute (CINI) • Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) • She Hope Society for Women Entrepreneurs • India Health Action Trust (IHAT) • The Association of People with Disability • Innovators in Health (India) • Sangath • Gurupriya Vision Research Foundation

Environment

5 crores awardees

• Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) • Keystone Foundation • Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) • Under the Mango Tree Society • SAAHAS • Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) • Plan@Earth • The Corbett Foundation • Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission

25 lacs awardees

• CORD (Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development) • Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha • Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health • Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan • Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disability • 17000 ft Foundation • Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre • Krida Vikas Sanstha (Slumsoccer) • Centre for Youth and Social Development • Tata Institute of Social Sciences • Sri Aurobindo Society • Yuwa India Trust.

25 lacs awardees

• Amar Seva Sangam • Christian Medical College Vellore Association • Cure International India Trust • MAHAN Trust • ECHO India (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) • Pro Rural • Govel Trust • Karuna Trust • Karnataka Health Promotion Trust • Ekjut • Sri Sri Rural Development Programme Trust • Social Revival Group of Urban Rural and Tribal (SROUT Korba) • Pallium India Trust.

25 lacs awardees

• Tarun Bharat Sangh • DHAN Foundation • Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune • Lokpanchayat • Gram Gourav Pratishthan • Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) • Nature Conservation Foundation • North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) • MUKTI • Life Education and Development Support.

Category-Wise Impact



Education

Across 21 states, 23 projects reached 4.2 lakh beneficiaries—transforming education into a gateway for opportunity

3.6 lakh

students from preschool to secondary school benefited from joyful, skill-based education.

32,000

educators trained in digital, experiential, and inclusive pedagogy.

5,000

children with disabilities and 200 special educators reached through inclusive learning models.

2,500

schools including 400+ anganwadi centres strengthened.

15+

models adopted into district, state or national frameworks (e.g., SCERT, NCERT).

60,000

community members engaged to make schools safer, more gender-equitable, and responsive.

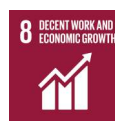
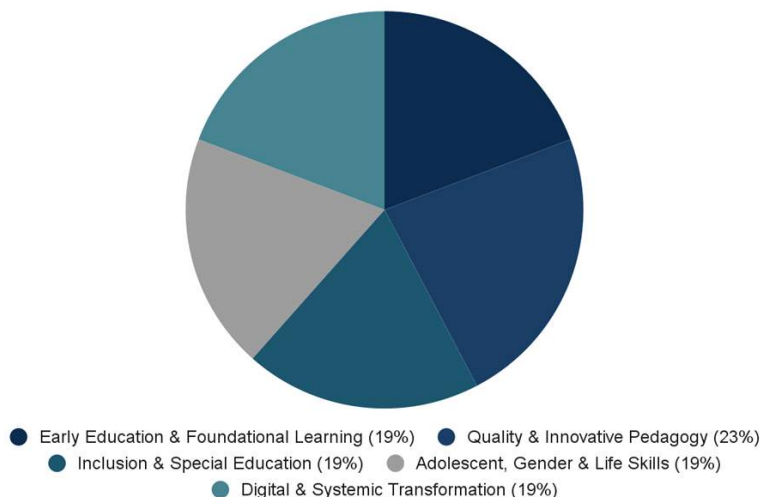
82%

projects transitioned to community or institutional ownership post-funding.

Improved student engagement,

attendance, and confidence, particularly among girls and first-generation learners.

Education initiatives were anchored across six key focus areas



Making learning joyful, inclusive, and lasting - 23 changemakers transforming access to quality education across India

Innovations: The HCLTech Grant has supported transformative education models that place children, teachers, and communities at the heart of learning. Pedagogical innovations have replaced rote methods with story-based and activity-driven curricula that spark curiosity and joy. Inclusive classrooms and assistive tools are enabling children with disabilities to learn alongside their peers. Community-led approaches have empowered parents, teachers, and local leaders to co-own education and drive change. Several grassroots models have been scaled into state and national systems, influencing policy and practice. Technology has played a key role, expanding teacher training and making inclusive learning more accessible across geographies.

Alignment with Government Schemes and Policies

• Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) • Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) • Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) • National Education Policy (NEP 2020) • National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) • Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan • Digital India • DIKSHA Platform • Bihar Education Department • NCERT • State Education Departments (Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh).



Health

13.3 lakh lives healed through 22 healthcare solutions spanning nearly every corner of the country

223,000+

mothers and children reached through community safety nets for better health outcomes and nutrition

32% reduction in neonatal mortality and **53%** drop in child malnutrition across multi-state interventions

20,000+

health workers (ASHAs, ANMs, nurses, doctors) trained and integrated with NHM frameworks.

Health systems strengthened in **150+** Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and **70+** district hospitals.

60,000+

persons with disabilities rehabilitated; 4,000 + assistive devices distributed; 2,962 caregivers trained.

20,000+

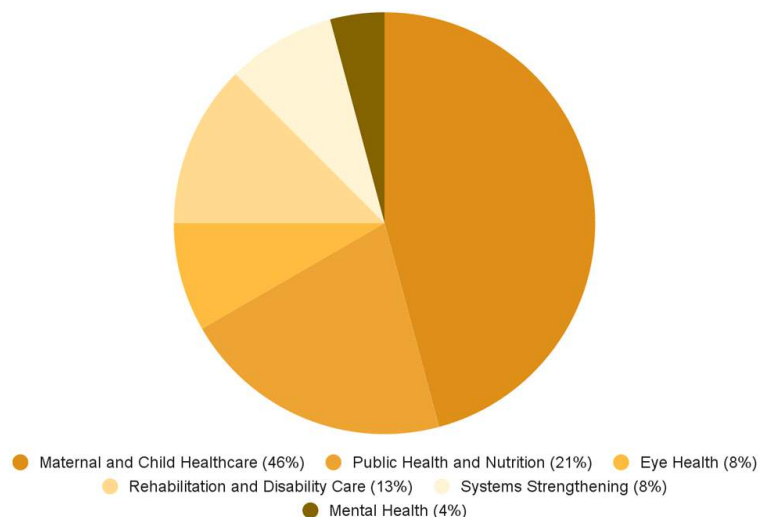
villages connected via tele-health, AI dashboards, and telescreening.

8 flagship models

embedded into state or national health programs.

₹1 of HCL investment leveraged up to ₹3-₹5 of public and private co-funding across health portfolios.

Healthcare impact was driven through six strategic fronts



From nurturing newborns to rebuilding systems – **22 healthcare innovators supported in 10 years.**

Innovations: Over the past decade, the HCLTech Grant has reimagined health not as a service delivered, but as a right restored. From AI eye screening to digital rehab tools, the HCLTech Grant has enabled impactful health innovations across India. Predictive dashboards help track pregnancies and reduce maternal deaths. Public-private models improve rural care, while women survivors craft prosthetics in conflict zones. Smartphone tools support adolescent mental health, rehab apps connect people with disabilities to therapists, and virtual networks strengthen rural doctors. Community-led nutrition models reduce malnutrition, and home-based palliative care now shapes state policy.

Alignment with Government Schemes and Policies

- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) • National Health Mission (NHM) • Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) • Ayushman Bharat • National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) • District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) • Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model for PHCs • National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) • Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)



Environment

22 projects have driven environmental change across 19 regions over 10 years

20,000+ hectares

of degraded ecosystems restored, **1.2 million people reached**.

600

tribal or rural institutions now lead conservation, climate action, and resource governance.

43,000 tons

of CO₂ emissions reduced annually through green livelihoods—powered by 4 lakh trees and 40,000 tons of carbon stock

Over **15 flagship species** protected, from elephants and snow leopards to native bees, blackbuck, and mangrove ecosystems.

>60%

of local conservation institutions such as SHGs, forest committees were led by women.

100+

traditional and community water systems revived.

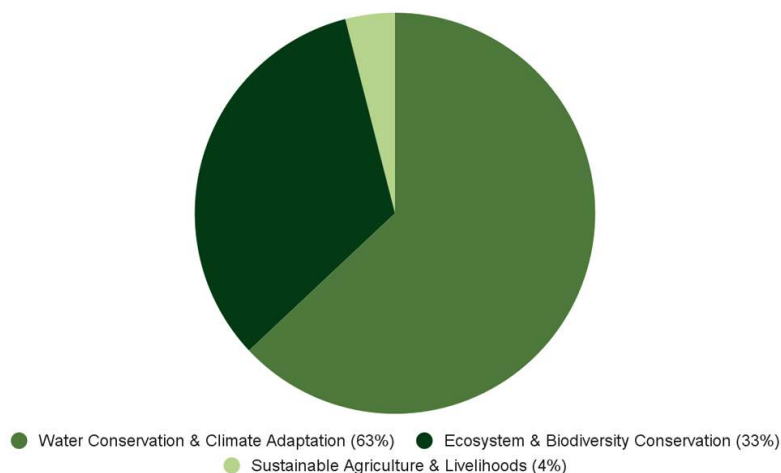
₹12.28 crore

in public funds mobilised through convergence with MGNREGA and NRLM.

1.8 lakh

individuals built sustainable livelihoods through regenerative farming, beekeeping, ecotourism – raising household income by **10–25%**.

Environmental interventions were anchored in three core themes



From ecological restoration to community-led conservation – A decade of green impact led by 22 visionary nonprofits

Innovations: The HCLTech Grant has powered a diverse range of environmental interventions, from restoring hill wetlands and rejuvenating springs to protecting elephant corridors and coastal ecosystems. Projects have strengthened community-led conservation, promoted regenerative farming, and improved water security through rainwater harvesting, artificial glaciers, and watershed development. Tribal communities have been empowered through biodiversity-linked livelihoods, clean energy, and indigenous seed preservation. Efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, reduce pollution, and recover ocean plastic have advanced coexistence and ecological resilience. Across forest-fringe, high-altitude, and delta regions, these initiatives blend science, tradition, and local action to regenerate ecosystems and build climate-adaptive futures.

Alignment with Government Schemes and Policies

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) • National Biodiversity Mission (NBM) • National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) • National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) • State Forest Departments • Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) • Jal Shakti Abhiyan • Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) • Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) • Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin + Urban) • UNESCO • Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Selection Criteria in Action

10 years of HCLTech Grant - where purposeful, strategic funding meets grassroots resolve

At the heart of the HCLTech Grant is a simple yet profound belief, that lasting change begins with clarity of purpose and strength of process. Over the years, the Grant has evolved into a thoughtful, future-facing framework that looks not just at what an organisation does, but how it endures. Its six guiding values — Relevance, Innovation, Sustainability, Scalability, Inclusion, and Financial Modelling, reflect both the promise of an idea and the integrity of the institution behind it.

These principles go far beyond selection; they shape how impact is understood and sustained. Through continuous engagement, HCLTech Grant walks alongside its partners, helping them strengthen their teams, deepen their governance, and build the systems that make progress endure.

A decade on, the HCLTech Grant has done more than fund projects. It has nurtured ecosystems of trust and possibility, seeding ideas that have taken root in policy, in communities, and in everyday lives. This is the quiet, steady transformation of purpose into practice, and of commitment into collective change.



Relevance

Every HCLTech Grant project begins with relevance, a deep understanding of community needs and priorities. It reflects how essential the intervention is to address local challenges and how closely it aligns with India's development goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Innovation

The Grant nurtures purposeful innovation, enabling organizations to design creative, technology-enabled, and locally grounded solutions that respond to complex social and environmental challenges.

Replicability / Scalability

Through rigorous selection and long-term support, the Grant helps proven grassroots models scale across districts and states — influencing public systems and inspiring sector-wide adoption.

Sustainability

At its core, the HCLTech Grant invests in sustainability, building leadership, capacity, and systems that enable organizations and communities to continue creating impact long after project completion.

Inclusion

Inclusion lies at the heart of every Grant partnership. It assesses how the NGO upholds diversity, equity, and participation, within its team, leadership, and community engagement, ensuring that marginalized voices are represented and empowered.

Financial Modelling

The Grant recognises NGOs that demonstrate strong financial governance, transparency, and accountability, with diversified funding strategies that sustain impact beyond the Grant cycle.

An Ear to the Ground

Over the past decade, the HCLTech Grant has identified and supported initiatives that respond directly to pressing local challenges across education, health, and environment. Each intervention reflects the lived realities of the communities it serves, addressing gaps in access, equity, and resilience, while aligning with India's national development goals and 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Chosen projects engage with aspirations and challenges of communities, and design responses that build long-term resilience

In education, the need for intervention emerged from persistent inequities in access to quality learning, particularly in government and rural schools. Grant projects focused on enhancing teaching quality, embedding life skills, and promoting inclusive education for children from marginalized and tribal communities. By working within state systems, these efforts improved learning outcomes for thousands of students and educators across districts, ensuring relevance not just to learners but to India's broader education ecosystem.

In health, the Grant supported interventions that addressed systemic gaps in maternal and child health, nutrition, and disability care, especially in remote, tribal, and border regions. Interventions strengthened community health systems, trained frontline workers, and extended care to underserved populations. Across multiple states, more than 300,000 individuals benefited from improved healthcare access, while collaborations with state health departments and the National Health Mission reinforced public health systems.

In environment, relevance was defined by the urgency of ecological distress, shrinking water resources, deforestation, and climate vulnerability threatening community livelihoods. Projects worked with rural and forest-dependent populations to restore degraded ecosystems, revive water bodies, and promote biodiversity-friendly livelihoods. These interventions contributed to climate adaptation and ecological resilience, linking environmental restoration with community well-being. These collective efforts have helped communities adapt to climate stress, regenerate local ecosystems, and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Across all three themes, the HCLTech Grant's relevance lies in its ability to identify where change is most needed, and to support solutions that emerge from within communities themselves. Each project reflects the intersection of local need and

national purpose, ensuring that impact is not only measurable but meaningful, deeply rooted in the realities of people and places that need it most.



Relevance

Contribution to UN SDGs

12 SDGs contributed to across health, education and environment projects

Livelihood and environment:

Sundarlal Sukum, farmer, shares: "Ever since childhood, we have burnt the bee hives for honey; we have been ignorant that bees can be domesticated. Now that we understand the fact that beekeeping is more rewarding, we shall promote the activity and conserve bees, to support agriculture, because it is our only source of income."

Inclusive sports

Renukha, Bhimabika's mother shares: "We never imagined she would pick up the sport of para badminton and para basketball so quickly and with such proficiency."

Maternal health

Mrs. Bamang Tipi shares: The services provided by nurses were tremendous and saved my life by preventing bleeding after delivery.

Aspirational districts covered

45+ Across 17 states

Ideas with Purpose

33 out of 67 organizations showcased purposeful innovation, proving that creativity rooted in local context can drive scalable, systemic change.

Over the past decade, the HCLTech Grant has positioned innovation as a cornerstone of effective social impact. It has supported organizations that apply creativity, technology, and community insight to design sustainable solutions across education, health, and environment. These initiatives have demonstrated that innovation is not a stand-alone idea but an operational approach that improves efficiency, inclusion, and long-term resilience.

In education, innovation translated into scalable teaching and learning reforms. Grant-supported projects introduced digital lesson platforms, multilingual pedagogy, and life-skills integration within government schools. By leveraging technology and localized learning tools, these interventions improved teaching quality and learner outcomes while enhancing participation of marginalized children and teachers in rural and tribal areas.

In health, innovation strengthened preventive and last-mile systems. Supported organizations used telemedicine, mobile rehabilitation, and data-enabled monitoring to extend healthcare access to underserved populations. Adaptive devices for persons with disabilities and real-time digital networks for frontline workers enhanced continuity of care and responsiveness within community health systems.

In environment, innovation focused on adaptive and technology-led ecological management. Communities implemented decentralized water-storage systems, renewable-energy solutions, and biodiversity mapping to address climate stress and resource degradation. These approaches combined scientific methods with traditional knowledge to restore ecosystems and secure livelihoods.

Across ten years, 49 percent of all supported organizations, 33 out of 67 projects, demonstrated measurable innovation in design or delivery. Their efforts reflect the Grant's commitment to evidence-based experimentation that is replicable and scalable within public systems.

The HCLTech Grant continues to advance innovation with intent, enabling purpose-driven solutions that connect creativity with impact, and contribute to an equitable, sustainable future.

Innovation

Innovation across themes

49% of all HCLTech Grant projects demonstrated clear innovation in design or delivery, from technology-enabled learning and telehealth networks to climate-adaptive community models.

Education

57% led with innovative pedagogies and digital learning tools that redefined classroom engagement.

Health

64% showed the strongest technology adoption, using telemedicine, data dashboards, and mobile care units to reach remote populations.

Environment

27% focused on ecological innovations, blending traditional knowledge with scientific restoration and renewable solutions.



From Pilots to Policy

37 out of 67 projects demonstrated clear replicability or scalability.

Over the past decade, the HCLTech Grant has served as a catalyst for transforming community-led innovations into scalable development models. By strengthening credible organizations and fostering collaboration among civil society, government, and academia, the Grant has enabled local solutions to influence public systems, policies, and state-wide frameworks.

In education, replication and scale were achieved through institutional adoption and curricular integration. Learning modules piloted in classrooms were incorporated into government teacher-training programmes and state curricula. Digital learning platforms were expanded through partnerships with education departments, while inclusive education models for children with disabilities were institutionalized in state resource centres. These interventions strengthened pedagogy, teacher capacity, and school governance, illustrating how effective pilots can evolve into systemic reforms.

In health, scalability was driven by convergence, technology, and data. Community-based health models were mainstreamed through the National Health Mission and state-led health programmes. Telemedicine networks and mobile health units extended care to new districts, while digital dashboards enabled continuous maternal and neonatal monitoring. These interventions demonstrated how innovation and institutional partnerships can embed sustainability into healthcare delivery.

In environment, replication was achieved through policy alignment and community stewardship. Watershed and river-rejuvenation models informed state water missions; biodiversity and eco-governance frameworks were adopted by Panchayats and district administrations. Climate-adaptive practices from cold and arid regions were replicated by local governments, linking traditional knowledge with scientific methods to enhance ecological resilience.

Across the portfolio, replicability and scalability remain defining outcomes of the HCLTech Grant. By investing in evidence-based models and enabling strategic partnerships, the Grant has helped locally grounded innovations transition into systems that endure, building pathways for sustainable, system-wide impact.



Scalability & Replicability

Government partnerships

91% of all HCLTech Grant partners collaborated with government bodies, from Panchayats and District Administrations to State Departments and National Missions.

Beyond geographies

55% of all HCLTech Grant partners expanded their reach beyond initial geographies.

Health

77% of Health projects were integrated with public systems or scaled through state partnerships.

Education

48% of Education projects were replicated through curriculum adoption, digital tools, and teacher-training models.

Environment

41% of Environment projects were expanded through community-led resource management and policy alignment.

Ensuring Change Endures

Sustainability within the HCLTech Grant is defined not as a project outcome but as an organisational and systemic capacity to endure. Over the past decade, the Grant has invested in strengthening institutions that continue to deliver impact beyond the funding cycle. This long-term perspective has enabled partners to evolve from implementing projects to leading self-sustaining ecosystems of change.

In education, sustainability was achieved through state partnerships and institutional integration. Teaching models piloted under the Grant were embedded into government training programmes and school systems, allowing educators to sustain improved learning outcomes without external support.

In health, sustainability was ensured through convergence with the National Health Mission and local governance mechanisms. Community health workers, digital monitoring systems, and district-level collaborations continued service delivery beyond project closure, reinforcing public health capacity.

In environment, sustainability was rooted in community stewardship and co-management. Ecosystem restoration and watershed initiatives were transferred to Panchayats and local collectives, while biodiversity-linked livelihoods created ongoing incentives for conservation and income generation.

Across all thematic areas, sustainability has emerged as a measure of institutional maturity. By building leadership pipelines, strengthening governance frameworks, and embedding resilience into systems, HCLTech Grant partners have transitioned from time-bound projects to enduring institutions, ensuring that impact continues as a shared and lasting legacy.

Sustainability

Sustainability

82% of all HCLTech Grant projects demonstrated sustainability through systems, institutions, or leadership capacity.

Model Integration

3 in 4 organisations integrated their models into public systems or local governance structures.

Institutional strengthening

60% strengthened institutional leadership and internal systems during the Grant period.

Community led

7 of 10 across the HCLTech Grant portfolio are explicitly community-led, participatory, or built on **local ownership models**.



Amplifying Every Voice

Inclusion remains a foundational principle of the HCLTech Grant, supporting NGOs designing, implementing, and sustaining interventions that embed equity, dignity, and participation across their operations, ensuring that marginalized populations are not just beneficiaries but active contributors to development outcomes.

Across ten years, 45 percent of all partner organizations demonstrated strong inclusion practices, either by advancing gender equality or by directly engaging socially excluded groups. In education, inclusion was the most prominent, with 63 percent of projects focusing on girls' education, inclusive learning environments, and enhanced representation of women educators. In health, 41 percent of initiatives extended care to remote, tribal, and conflict-affected communities, addressing systemic barriers to access. Within the environment portfolio, 30 percent of projects promoted inclusive stewardship by enabling indigenous and forest-dependent groups to co-manage natural resources and biodiversity.

Inclusion within the Grant also extends to institutional structures. More than 40 percent of supported NGOs are led or co-led by women and community representatives, reflecting a shift towards participatory governance and inclusive leadership. Many organizations have adopted equitable hiring, training, and decision-making frameworks that strengthen representation from within.

Through these collective efforts, the HCLTech Grant demonstrates that inclusion is not only a social value but an operational imperative, one that builds trust, broadens participation and ensures that progress is both equitable and enduring.

Inclusion

Across themes

45% of all HCLTech Grant partners demonstrated strong inclusion practices, in who they serve and how they work.

Women-led

43% of NGOs integrated gender equity or women-led leadership.

Marginalized communities

46% of NGOs worked directly with marginalised, SC/ST, or minority communities.

Dual inclusion

1 in 4 achieved dual inclusion, blending gender and social equity at every level.



Investing in Institutional Strength

Financial resilience is often invisible, built not in the headlines, but in the everyday discipline of governance, trust, and transparency. For the HCLTech Grant, strong financial modelling is not a compliance exercise; it is an act of stewardship, ensuring that every organisation it supports can sustain impact far beyond the funding cycle.

Over the past decade, grantee partners have used the Grant to build robust systems of accountability and financial integrity. Many introduced independent audits, digital accounting platforms, and clear fund-tracking processes, creating cultures of openness that inspire confidence among donors and communities alike.

Across portfolios, the impact is visible. Around 60% of organisations strengthened their financial governance, improving audits and reporting standards. One in two partners diversified their funding, attracting new CSR and philanthropic support. Over half developed sustainability plans, setting aside reserves or defining long-term financial policies. Several also designed cost-sharing and earned-revenue models, linking innovation to continuity.

In education, partners embedded sustainability through community contributions and integration into public systems. In health, blended models combined philanthropic capital with service-based or government contracts. In environment, collaboration with local Panchayats and CSR partners created shared ownership of resources and results.

Through this quiet but foundational work, the HCLTech Grant has helped organisations evolve from implementers into institutions, credible, resilient, and ready to carry their missions forward. Because when accountability becomes a habit and transparency a culture, change does not end with a project; it endures as a legacy.

Financial Modelling

Financial Governance Strengthened

60% of grantees institutionalised new financial systems, independent audits, digital accounting, or financial dashboards.

Funding Diversification

50% secured new CSR, philanthropic, or government funding during or after the Grant period.

Institutional Growth

45% transitioned from single-donor to multi-donor portfolios, diversifying income streams.

Pasture Restoration

Vadilal Pokar – Kanakpar Village Committee, Kutch

shares “They have helped us restore 50 acres of pasture, earning us the 2021 International Pastoralists Award. We now produce 30,000 kg of fodder yearly and stay self-reliant. With HCL’s support, we’ll restore 100 more acres and involve women in a grass seed bank.”



The Way Forward

As the HCLTech Grant enters its second decade, the journey ahead builds on a decade of measurable change, grounded in research, innovation, and trust. The focus now shifts from reach to depth, from funding projects to shaping knowledge, technology, and systems that can transform India's development landscape at scale.

Consolidation and Scaling (2025–2027)

The immediate focus will be on executing Edition XI effectively, with the inclusion of **Water and Biodiversity** as new thematic areas alongside Health and Education. This phase will strengthen the Grant's research backbone by building evidence on models that work, applying SROI (Social Return on Investment) frameworks to quantify outcomes, and expanding digital monitoring and evaluation tools for real-time impact tracking. Enhanced runner-up support and a stronger learning ecosystem through The Fifth Estate and national symposiums will ensure that insights are not only generated but widely shared.

Deepening Impact and Diversification (2027–2029)

With robust data from independent research and evaluations, the Grant will deepen its engagement in key domains such as climate resilience, livelihoods, digital inclusion, and gender equity. Technology will play a catalytic role — from

satellite-based water mapping to AI-enabled health diagnostics and digital learning platforms — to amplify community-driven solutions. The Water theme, introduced in Edition XI, will become a national model for integrated water resource management, aligning with India's Jal Jeevan Mission and SDG 6.

Institutionalization and Sustainability (2029–2030)

As the Grant matures, its legacy will extend beyond project cycles. An alumni network of grantees will enable peer learning and mentoring, while a Centre for Social Research and Innovation will synthesize learnings, publish insights, and shape sectoral policy dialogues. The next decade will see stronger integration between SROI-based evaluation, ESG alignment, and digital governance, making the HCLTech Grant a model for transparent, outcome-driven philanthropy.

The way forward reaffirms a simple truth: sustainable change is not achieved by charity alone, but by coupling research with empathy, technology with trust, and resources with measurable results. The next decade of the HCLTech Grant will be defined not just by the lives it touches, but by the systems it strengthens and the futures it enables.



Sub Jury Over the Years



Environment

G.H. Rao (2016)
President, Engineering and R&D Services (ERS), HCL Technologies
Rupamanjari Ghosh (2016–2018)
Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University
S.G. Murali (2016)
Chief Financial Officer, HCL Infosystems
Rita Gupta (2016–2018)
Senior Vice President, Finance, HCL Corporation
Prahlaad Rai Bansal (2017)
Deputy Chief Financial Officer, HCL Technologies
Sanjay Gupta (2018)
Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies
Shashi Banerjee (2017–2021)
Principal, Shiv Nadar School, Noida
Anuradha Khosla (2019–2021)
Senior Vice President, Enterprise HR, HCL Technologies
Maj. Gen. Gopalakrishnan Jaishankar (Retd.) (2018–2021)
Dean, Student Affairs, Shiv Nadar University
Trisha Ghose (2019–2021)
Project Director, The Habitats Trust
Rushikesh Chavan (2019–2024)
Head, The Habitats Trust
Ashutosh Sharma (2022–2024)
Vice President & Global Head, Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs, HCLTech
Christina Herden (2022–2023)
Director, Corporate Sustainability, HCLTech
Siki Giunta (2022–2024)
Executive Vice President & Head, HCL CloudSmart Consulting & OS, HCLSoftware
Sonia Eland (2024)
Executive Vice President, APME Sales, HCLTech



Health

Kristin Hazlewood (2022–2024)
Senior Vice President & GM, BigFix, HCLSoftware
Manish Anand (2019–2024)
Executive Vice President & Company Secretary, HCLTech
Ramachandran Sundararajan (2023–2024)
Chief People Officer, HCLTech
Tarun Thakur (2022–2024)
Vice President, Operations & Delivery, HCL Healthcare India
Kirti Karamchandani (2019–2021)
Head, Government Relations, HCL Corporation
Parveen Juneja (2019–2021)
Executive Vice President, Human Resources, HCL Corporation
Dr. Bibek Banerjee (2020–2021)
Dean, School of Management and Entrepreneurship; Director, Strategic Initiatives, Shiv Nadar University
R. Rangarajan Iyengar (2018–2019)
CEO, HCL Healthcare
Srimathi Shivashankar (2016–2018)
Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies
Pamela Srivastava (2017–2018)
Head, Sustainability, Shiv Nadar Foundation
Neelesh Agarwal (2016–2017)
Senior Vice President, Finance, HCL Corporation
Shikhar Malhotra (2017)
Vice Chairman, HCL Healthcare; Director & Board Member, HCL Corporation; Trustee, Shiv Nadar Foundation
Manoj Gopalakrishna (2016)
CEO, HCL Healthcare
Apurva Kackar (2019)
Chief HR & Marketing Head, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art
Bishwajit Banerjee (2018)
Principal, VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr



Education

C. Vijayakumar (2016)
President & CEO, HCL Technologies
Kala Vijayakumar (2016–2017)
President, SSN Institutions
Rajiv Swarup (2016–2018)
President, Shiv Nadar University
Col. (Retd.) Gopal Karunakaran (2016–2020)
CEO, Shiv Nadar Schools & Executive Director, Shiv Nadar University
Rahul Singh (2016)
President, Financial Services, HCL Technologies
Ambika Natarajan (2018–2024)
Senior Vice President, HCL Technologies
Dario Debarbieri (2022–2024)
Vice President & Head of Marketing, HCL Software
Raj Walia (2023–2024)
Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies
Anubha Bali (2016–2021)
Director, Career Development and Alumni Relations, Shiv Nadar University
Robin Sarkar (2016–2024)
Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative, Shiv Nadar Foundation

Subject Matter Experts



Environment

- Avani Kumar Varma
- Chandanathil Pappachan Geevan
- Mohd. Dilshad
- Dr. Udit Ghosh Sarkar
- Arun Mani Dixit



Health

- Dr. Dhruv Lalitkant Mankad
- Dr. Nutan Prabha Jain
- Dr. Sebanti Ghosh



Education

- Dr. Chandreyee Das
- Mudunuru Venkata Narayana
- Nilamadhab Prusty
- Shashank Shekhar
- Dr. Shafia Yaseen Wani
- Santosh Kumar Sharma
- Nikhil Pant





The HCLTech Grant is a recognition of the rise of community-led ecosystems, or the Fifth Estate – Non-Governmental Organizations, the others being lawmakers, independent judiciary, matured executive, and the 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.”

– Shiv Nadar

HCLTech Grant Core Team



Prijo Tharu
Associate General Manager,
HCLFoundation



Robin G Thomas
Associate General Manager,
HCLTech Grant



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Rimisha Nag
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Dr. Ushas George
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Dr. Nilanjana Sen
Associate Manager,
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Enabling functions at the HCLFoundation

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Mili Agarwal
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Finance:

Nitesh Sinha
Group Manager

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Vineet Kumar Mishra
Senior Manager

Agency Credits:

Aspire Impact | Ruchika Chanana
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JULY
AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

