ABOUT CHILDFUND INDIA

ChildFund, a child development organization registered in India in 1984, has been working with underprivileged children, youth and families from the most remote, extremely backward and hard-to-reach areas, with a vision to build “an India where children lead a dignified life and achieve their full potential”. ChildFund in India works in the rural belts of the country, now slowly expanding its focus to urban poverty where child protection issues and violence against children are prevalent. Its programs provide comprehensive support to children from their conception until they reach 24 years of age by integrating health, nutrition, sanitation, gender equality, disability, education, skill training, livelihoods, child protection and humanitarian relief work.

ChildFund annually reaches lacs of children, youth, and their families across the country, through its long and short-term programs.

ChildFund’s unparalleled longstanding community presence in India, long-term partnership with grassroots NGOs and relations with relevant stakeholders ensure that its holistic interventions foster an enabling environment where children can grow to their fullest potential.
As we share this report, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread to almost every part of India bringing grief, suffering and turmoil in its wake. Globally, the poorest and most disadvantaged families are hurting the most and the divide between rich and poorer countries has become starker than ever! As you read this report, I humbly invite you to review ChildFund India’s programs and results. ChildFund India remains committed to doing whatever it takes to improve the lives of the most marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and give them the childhood that they deserve and can truly cherish.

Together, with help and support from our partners, ChildFund was able to reach out to 26 lac people including children in 2019-20, in 15 states of India. We continue to drive innovative programs for better educational opportunities for children, enhanced health & nutrition services to infants and mothers’, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the families we work with.

We proactively provided employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to youth through skill development, supporting tribal farmers through smart agricultural practices and saving the lives of disaster-affected children and families through our emergency relief support as we prioritized and geared up our work on community based child protection services.

During 2019-20, ChildFund India partnered with USAID and Health Ministry of Madhya Pradesh to structure the world’s first Impact Bond to improve nutritional status and treatment cure of Tuberculosis (TB) patients in the state.

We introduced Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPM) as a way to map and strengthen our programs on the ground. We implemented various strategic initiatives to reinforce child protection issues and rights in the community. Across India, we’ve engaged with children, youth and their communities to gage their most pressing issues and help find solutions to the real problems. Our efforts at various levels have helped build a strong voice for the rights and protection of children in the country.

And the work carries on!

Our partners across the private and public sector, civil society, including community-based organization and thousands of families that we’ve worked alongside with, remain bedrock stakeholders in all our endeavors, and the invaluable “feet on the ground” in times of humanitarian crisis.

Finally, I want to convey my sincerest thanks to everyone who’s taken this journey with us, walked with us shoulder to shoulder to change the lives of people that need it the most. We know you – our partners and supporters share our commitment to our children’s well-being. There have been setbacks and challenges and there have been achievements and milestones. But the change continues to unfold each year through our programs and your support. With each passing year, and together with our many partners in every part of India, we will emerge stronger and with renewed enthusiasm and vigor, we recommit ourselves to the vision of a country where children lead dignified lives and achieve their full potential.
HEALTH AND NUTRITION

ChildFund India’s health and nutrition programs are implemented in 58 districts across 15 states, benefiting more than 7.1 lac people, including 4 lac children.

ChildFund India’s Health and Nutrition programs identify the root causes of healthcare and nutrition challenges and works towards solving these at the individual, community, and systemic levels to develop and implement innovative solutions. This is achieved by promoting and strengthening access to comprehensive health, nutrition services for children, women, and girls.

ChildFund India empowers communities to ensure adequate and appropriate nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), promotes safe motherhood, protection against life-threatening childhood illnesses, supports sexual and reproductive health awareness for adolescents, and empowers communities to ensure universal access to health.
MACHAN (Mother and Child Health and Nutrition)

MACHAN is being implemented across 20 districts across 15 states, benefiting a population of over 4 lac people including 40,000 children, in India.

To address the multi-sectorial needs of children from birth up to the age of 5 years, ChildFund India initiated the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MACHAN) program that focuses on addressing and preventing malnutrition and child mortality. This holistic model works to ensure infants and young children are healthy, nourished, and nurtured through basic health care, nutrition, stimulation, and protection.

The community-based interventions under MACHAN have been designed to achieve better early childhood care and development, in rural and disadvantaged areas:

**Mentor Mothers for Healthy and Nourished Children**

This intervention provides sustainable rehabilitation of underweight children to address malnutrition with the help of mentor mothers. These women are from the community, who are trained on health and nutrition. Each mentor looks after 40-50 households in four districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

**First 1000 Days of Life**

The intervention empowers mothers, families, and healthcare workers towards better child and maternal healthcare practices that focus on the first 1,000 days of the children’s lives while supporting them up to the age of 5 years. The initiative is currently being implemented in Alirajpur district in Madhya Pradesh and Gogunda and Udaipur districts in Rajasthan reaching 30,000 children. An assessment by an external agency in 2020 showed that more than 73% of children under the project have achieved normal weight, who were earlier malnourished.

**Positive Deviance Plus**

A peer-influencer intervention, the Positive Deviance Plus identifies mothers, who are ‘positive deviants’ (individuals whose exceptional behaviors or practices ensured better results), to spread awareness about successful local solutions and practices for child-rearing in the community. In 2019-20, more than 678 positive deviant sessions were organized in 185 villages and 87 urban slums in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

**Saving Lives - Safe Motherhood**

Under the intervention, ChildFund India staff counsels mothers towards safe motherhood and helps link pregnant women and mothers to institutional deliveries and service delivery sites. As a result of this intervention, skilled and assisted delivery rates increased from 38.1% in 2018 to 62.3% in 2020.

**Nutrition and Caregivers Livelihood Security**

The intervention trains hundreds of caregivers on agro-based livelihood options and links them to several social security schemes to prevent food insecurity in their households through increased food production and provides livelihood security to mothers and caregivers of children under 5 years.
**GARIMA: The Dignity Model**

GARIMA is being implemented across 26 districts in 15 states, in India, benefiting over 1.5 lac people, including 30,000 adolescents.

ChildFund India’s program ‘GARIMA’, meaning dignity, aims to improve adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH) knowledge and health status of adolescents. GARIMA supports adolescents in practicing healthy behaviors, forming positive relationships, accessing essential services, and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse through various interventions across 15 states.

**Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights**

The Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights intervention provides access to easy-to-comprehend, high-quality, evidence-based, comprehensive health information through peer educators and adolescent groups. One peer educator works with a group of at least 10-15 adolescents on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). More than 69 adolescents have been trained on SRHR through the program.

**Adolescent - Friendly Health Services through Jigyasa Centers**

These centers provide adolescent-friendly health services and engages community level functionaries such as families, teachers and anganwadi workers (AWW) to re-establish 418 adolescent-friendly health in 2 states.

**Family Matters!**

This community intervention works with parents to emphasize on positive parenting and effective parent-child communication on sexuality and sexual risk reduction. The intervention supports parents to initiate conversations on sensitive and often tabooed topics such as gender-based violence and to increase understanding around social norms that increase risks of unsafe sex and its negative health impact on adolescents. In the past year, 49 family matters sessions took place in 3 districts of 2 states.

**Menstruation Hygiene Management (MHM)**

The MHM intervention addresses harmful beliefs, myths, and taboos about menstruation through awareness and training sessions that focus on the importance of menstrual hygiene. More than 200 adolescent girls were trained under the initiative in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

**Reduction In Anemia Through Normative Innovations (RANI) - The Adolescent Anemia Project**

RANI is being implemented across 14 districts in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, in India, benefiting more than 30,000 people, including 1,700 children.

The Reduction in Anemia through Normative Innovations (RANI) Project works with adolescent girls to improve and ensure nutritional levels, especially Hemoglobin (HB) level. RANI identifies anemic adolescents and provides them with information on nutrition, food diversification and management of anemia at home/community/institution level.

Working with ‘community change agents’ comprised of peer educators and recovered adolescent girls, the project provides health and nutrition care, behavior change practices, community awareness and implements community-based monitoring systems.

The RANI project has reached out to more than 693 adolescent girls through counseling and supplementation of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA). More than 122 girls were supported with nutrition gardens and 21 adolescent groups were trained and oriented on the importance of nutrition for adolescents. By the end of 2019, more than 63% of the 700 adolescents had a normal HB level as compared to only 30 % prior to the intervention.
The SWASH ++ program was initiated in 2019, to improve awareness and access to safe drinking water, sanitation, health, and hygiene for marginalized, and vulnerable children in government schools. The program has already benefited 97,000 school-going children from 96 schools. The program promotes gender-separate toilets in schools, strengthens School Management Committees (SMC) to advocate WASH and conducts outreach and advocacy under the government’s school health programs. Within a short span of implementing the project, children have become healthier, resulting in improved attendance and performance at school.

A similar initiative called Targeted Interventions is being implemented in 11 districts and 119 hotspots in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This intervention works to build a community model to address the complex needs of rural HIV prevention, care and support requirements of the vulnerable rural populations at risk of HIV/AIDS while raising awareness with the general population and HRBG. The initiative works to improve access to information materials and commodities (condoms, needles/syringes) and testing and treatment services at Integrated Centers for Testing and Counseling / Primary Health Centers (ICTC /PHCs).

HIV And AIDS – Prevention And Treatment

ChildFund India is the lead agency for the Link Workers Scheme Program (LWSP) supported by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) across 19 districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The project works to improve knowledge of and access to HIV prevention, care and support among and High Risk Behavior Groups (HRBG); it has reached out to more than 5,000 CSWs (Commercial Sex workers), 1,089 MSMs (Men having sex with Men) and the general populations of 2,000 villages, in the past year.

In 2019-20, 2,389 meetings were conducted with Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 11 districts, 200 Village Information Centers (VIC) were established to cover 1,300 villages, 311 model villages were developed across states and 2,000 Condom outlet box monitoring systems were developed by volunteers and the Red Ribbon Club members in their respective villages.

MUKTI: TB And Nutrition Impact Bond

This innovative financing model is being implemented across 13 blocks in Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh, benefitting 1,000 TB patients.

In 2019, ChildFund India, in partnership with USAID India’s financing platform, PAHAL and IPE Global, structured the world’s first impact bond to improve nutritional status and treatment cure of Tuberculosis (TB) patients. Mukti supports the Department of Health and Family Welfare, National Health Mission (NHM) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh, to improve nutrition status of Tuberculosis (TB) patients and treatment compliance, nutrition status, and cure rate of TB patients in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

SNEH (Sustainable Nutrition, Education And Health)

The Sustainable Nutrition, Education and Health (SNEH) supports over 2 lac people, including 4,000 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The SNEH project works to improve nutrition in children by focusing on the first 1,000 days of their lives while supporting them till they are 5 years old. Supported by Acuity Knowledge Partners, ChildFund India works with marginalized communities in selected districts in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In the last year, 12 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children as well as 1,500 pregnant women and lactating mothers have been supported through SNEH.
CASE STUDY
Khushi’s Recovery from Anemia

Firozabad is an industrial town in western Uttar Pradesh (UP) that has been the hub of the bangle-making industry for more than 200 years. The town faces issues such as industrial pollution, sanitation and open drainage, especially in densely populated areas. Due to these factors, residents here become the unfortunate victims of respiratory diseases, silicosis, anemia and other health concerns.

Khushi, a 13-year-old girl, lives with her parents, two siblings, and four other tenants, in a small house in one of the slums in Firozabad. Like most families in these slums, they have a home-based bangle-making unit which is their primary source of livelihood. Khushi was anemic since her early childhood. For years, in spite of several visits to the doctor and numerous medicines, there was no improvement in her condition. The situation worsened once she started her periods; she would suffer severe loss of blood and excruciating pain during her periods. While her parents worked hard to support Khushi’s medical expenses, they could barely make ends meet. Her rapidly deteriorating illness started putting a huge strain on the family’s already meager income. Confined to the four walls of her tiny house, Khushi became increasingly depressed and unhappy. And then, Khushi joined ChildFund India’s programs that are being implemented there since 1994.

Issues of anemia, malnutrition and sexual and health-related (SRHR) services are covered under ChildFund India’s health programs across communities. Khushi benefitted from the program immensely.

Today, Khushi is on her way to a full recovery and her family is very happy and positive about her improvement. Khushi dreams of continuing her education and having a government job someday to support her family.

EDUCATION

ChildFund India’s education programs are implemented in 15 states in India benefiting a population of over 7.2 lac people, including 4.3 lac children.

India is a young nation with around 28 % of the population in the 0-14 age group. To ensure that this young population can become our future demographic dividend, it is of utmost importance that they have access to quality education. ChildFund India’s educational initiatives focus on ensuring quality education, improving enrollment and reducing drop-out rates amongst the most disadvantaged and marginalized children.
**PENCIL (Protective, Effective N Context-based Initiation of Learning)**

ChildFund India’s Protective, Effective N Context-based Initiation of Learning (PENCIL) program works to improve learning abilities of children through context-based learning. The program is a comprehensive education model targeting children and young people between the ages of 3 – 18 years. Through assessment tools and context-based, multilingual, scientific teaching-learning methods, the program gauges skills, creates appropriate learning plans to meet the needs and creates conducive learning environments.

To strengthen the model further, ChildFund India works to strengthen local school governance and ensure quality education for all children through community level networking and advocacy. The Program, therefore, employs a three-pronged approach of building the capacity of School Management Committees (SMCs) members, creating awareness on Right to Education (RTE) and facilitating state level advocacy through RTE forum and network.

In the past year, ChildFund India has supported 86 government schools to adopt the PENCIL model and trained their teachers. The initiative has reached out to 2,328 children and has achieved remarkable success, resulting in improved learning and problem-solving skills in 67% of all the children, increased retention and reduced number of dropouts in schools.

**Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to healthy human development. SEL benefits children and young people by equipping them with skills to positively navigate and manage emotional processes and forge respectful relationships.

An assessment on socio-emotional learning by ChildFund India in 2017 highlighted that the socio-emotional status of children across varied across different states. A few states had a very low number of emotionally matured children while some states even had 0%. ChildFund India, therefore takes special effort while working with children on their competencies of socio-emotional issues, under PENCIL, across 15 states.

To ensure SEL is imparted well in schools and communities, ChildFund India trains master trainers, project staff, and most importantly, parents; facilitate SEL through different child engagement platforms including Child Parliaments, Child Club, Baal Sabha, etc. to help children express their views, ideas and emotion; and reinforces SEL learning through different activities.

Under SEL, ChildFund India undertook training and capacity building of 48 master trainers and 87 education facilitators from the states of Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, at two zonal level trainings. Additionally, ChildFund India sensitized and trained 1,009 parents as peer educators, to raise awareness in the community. The initiative has witnessed a 40% improvement in parent engagement in their children’s activities.

ChildFund India activated 42 Child Parliaments, engaging more than 5,000 children across these 6 states; and engaged 2,967 children through different local and cultural activities, art and crafts, science and sports. Almost 1,337 children were involved SEL-related activities through 286 Child Learning Centers.

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Under the initiative, ChildFund India designed 86 vibrant, child-friendly school libraries this year, benefiting 9,362 children. Multilingual story books, songs and posters have been developed across 87 libraries by facilitators, with the support of children and the communities. Local Language Pictorial Glossaries have been developed in four languages - Bagheli, Bhili, Mewari and Juang and 23 children books developed in Mewari, Dasia and Paraja languages.

Under the initiative, ChildFund India designed 86 vibrant, child-friendly school libraries this year, benefiting 9,362 children. Almost 50 master trainers and 86 education facilitators have been trained on the assessment tools to make these libraries more effective and creative and also to strengthen community participation. More than 35 government teachers and 2,271 parents and grandparent engaged in library activities.

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The program supports children to make a successful transition from elementary to higher education by strengthening school governance and providing special support to children to access quality education to address the high percentage of school dropouts that occur due to various reasons.

In the past year, ChildFund India reached out to hundreds of youth through the counseling sessions under the program to spread awareness, give career guidance, and conducted life skill sessions across 9 districts of Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh to help them transition back to mainstream education. Through the Life-skill sessions alone, 861 youth are trained on different competencies for adaptive and positive behavior that enable them to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life. A special session was organized for 176 parent and community members on gender issues, discrimination and on addressing the psycho social needs of adolescents/youth.

**High School Education Program**

**Special Support For School Retention And Transition**

Special Support for School Retention and Transition conducts special support classes for children with financial constraints or face difficulties in transitioning to higher grades because of low learning levels. We support children through special support classes to improve their academic performance, help students facing financial constraints, with school admission and examination fees and provide necessary educational material like notebooks, guidebooks and sample test papers to children in need.

This year, 30 special support classes were conducted to support 375 students. ChildFund India supported 80 children financially and provided these children with necessary educational material like notebooks, guidebooks and sample test papers. Almost 70 children have successfully joined back into the mainstream educational system.

**Smart Classes**

SMART classes address the need for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education by providing interactive learning material in schools. The intervention provides digitally interactive learning material for children in grades 6 and above, to aid robust critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovative attitude in children. Besides this, science and math laboratories are also set up to develop practical knowledge and understanding of the subjects. In the past year, this program was implemented in the selected districts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

**Open Education Program**

In collaboration with NIOS and SIOS, ChildFund India also facilitates Open Education for school dropouts and children with low competency and learning ability. This year, NIOS examinations were facilitated for 68 youth from Jharkhand and Odisha.

**Khilta Bachpan**

Khilta Bachpan is a novel campaign by ChildFund India to provide children between the ages of 6-18 years, from underserved communities, with access to art education, encourage them towards creative expression and help build self-confidence. In the first phase, the project was implemented in 60 government primary schools in Delhi, slowly reaching out to 2000 schools across 15 states. The second phase was launched in Odisha, in late 2019; local level art and craft activities were conducted in 70 schools in bamboo crafts, stone arts, leaf arts, terra-cotta, folk dance, and music and 5 special art corners were created across different schools. ChildFund India was able to develop 5 special art corners across Odisha in different schools this year. Special exhibitions were held across 5 locations, with participation from 87 children. At the 3 cluster-level science exhibitions that we organized, 64 children presented and showcased their projects.
CASE STUDY
Creating a Community of Learners

A typical day in Vasundhara’s life, before the Community-Based Learning Center (CBLC) started in her village in Kotra block of Udaipur district in Rajasthan, involved taking care of her family’s livestock and helping her mother in household chores. Her parents work as daily-wage laborers, earning an unstable income. While they did not attend school, Vasundhara’s parents understand the importance of education to succeed in life. When they heard about the new learning center, they were happy and hopeful.

Vasundhara studied at the CBLC and learned basic literacy and numeracy skills. Soon, she was able to join the local government school and continue with formal education. She is a confident 3rd grader and is proud of being the first one in her family to attend school. “I liked coming to the center, and learning different poems, songs, and counting numbers. I also like going to school now. I want to continue to study a lot more and maybe become a teacher when I grow up”, says Vasundhara.

Kantilal, a young boy, also spent his days similarly – helping his parents in agriculture, rearing goats and running errands, before the CBLC center was established. Today, he is Vasundhara’s classmate, his two sisters study in the same school. Kantilal says, “I like learning English and Hindi. It is more fun to learn anything through songs. I also enjoy playing carom and badminton”. Kantilal’s father, Mohanlal, too is excited about Kantilal’s future. “All the schools were far away. When this center opened, we came here and saw how the teachers teach and we were satisfied. I’m happy my son is studying in a formal school now.”

“We have around 200 families in this community. Earlier, children would not attend schools. Now, thanks to these centers, they have started attending and getting interested in learning. Many children have gone on to study in schools from here. I’m confident these children will also attend formal schools one day.” - says Chunnilal, local govt. official

Vasundhara and Kantilal are getting the childhood they deserve, full on knowledge and fun. “They (Vasundhara and Kantilal) are amongst the best in class. They are confident children who take initiative in answering questions and do not hesitate to come up to the (black) board to write answers.” says Gowrishankar, the teacher at the local government school, who has seen the progress made by these children. Not only the children, the adults of the community are happy and hopeful too!

Under its Livelihoods and Civic Engagement initiatives, ChildFund India is covering 15 states in India benefiting over 6.9 lac people, including 4.2 lac children and youth.

ChildFund India has always strived to nurture the youth into skilled individuals, support them to achieve improved economic, physical and social well-being and develop them to become change agents in their families and community.

To achieve its objectives of empowering youth collectives through skills and leadership development, ChildFund India has initiated the comprehensive 3E (Employment, Entrepreneurship and Empowerment) program. This initiative caters to the aspirations of adolescents and youth through employability and entrepreneurship skill development and facilitates their engagements in social development and civic processes.
EMPLEYMENT

Daksh Centers
A total of 861 youth have undergone training in 85 districts across 15 States. Over 300 youth have been successfully trained and placed while many youth have been supported with credit linkages to establish their own business.

Under its ‘Employment’ initiative, ChildFund India provides placement-linked skill development, through DAKSH centers, to youth from underprivileged families. With the support of both government schemes (DDU-GKY, PMKVY, RSETI, UPSRLM, RSLDC) and private (ICICI Foundation, L&T, Pratham) organizations, the youth are provided training across diversified sectors including Hospitality, Retail, Desktop Publishing (DTP), Nursing, Automobile, Agriculture, etc., along with a comprehensive life skill training module. Post the training, students are placed across different organizations through job fairs organized by government as well as private agencies. Through market-oriented skill training, the integrated model encourages young people to acquire knowledge, skills and experience that are necessary for safe, sustainable, gainful and non-exploitative employment and other livelihood activities.

E-saksham: Building Better Future For Youth Through Employment Hub

As the first phase of E-saksham was successfully implemented, the State Street Foundation supported ChildFund India to implement the second phase across 3 slums in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mumbai covering 250 youth. The project has established Employment Hubs in the slums of Bangalore to provide industry accredited employability training programs to youth and help them find permanent jobs. Other key interventions of the project include setting up libraries within communities, training on English communication, basic computer skills, career guidance and soft-skills training.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship Training And Business Promotion

As part of the Entrepreneurship Trainings and Business Promotion initiative, ChildFund India partnered with the International Labor Organization (ILO) for Training of Trainers (ToT) and developed an Entrepreneurship initiative in Delhi with National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NISBUD) to support 115 youth to start their own business. In addition, 378 youth and parents have been trained on financial literacy under the initiative.
Strengthening Civil Society Organizations Towards Fostering Women Empowerment

ChildFund India has partnered with the European Union (EU) to lead and implement the Strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Towards Fostering Women Empowerment, an ambitious intervention in Uttar Pradesh.

The project has a strong focus on strengthening civil society organizations, while it works on climate issues and innovation linked to agricultural methods for women farmers to gain access to new information and new technology. By reaching women, it also impacts the next generation of girls and it creates better conditions for their future.

Further, the project aims to train and build capacities of CSOs to also promote Gender Equality and Partnerships Accessibility so that collectively, we can address issues faced by women in the most disadvantaged regions in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The project includes 10 selected CSOs covering 150 villages and 15000 women farmers.

EMPOWERMENT...

Youth Civic Engagement

ChildFund India works with more than 5,100 members across 361 youth clubs, in 15 states under the Civic Engagement of Youth initiative. The initiative builds capacities of young leaders to address and advocate social issues related to gender equality, unsafe migration, poor drinking water facilities, school safety and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRD). Youth Participation in Gram Sabha is one of the significant drives initiated by ChildFund India.

Last year, 331 youth from youth clubs, participated in Gram Sabha where they presented their charters of demands and action plans to bring about policy change in their communities. The youth clubs have also played a crucial role in ChildFund India’s COVID response program, sensitizing the community on social distancing, use of hand sanitizers and masks, hand-washing, quarantine protocols for migrant workers and other preventive measures.
CASE STUDY

Improving Lives of Marginal Farmers Through Organic Farming

In a hamlet in Madhya Pradesh’s Jhabua district, 300 kilometers from the state's capital Bhopal, a group of tribal women farmers has joined hands to show the way to a sustainable future by adopting organic farming.

Jhabua has a high rate of illiteracy, poverty and unemployment; a majority of the population depends on seasonal migration for their livelihood. Little over a year ago, the Adivasi, tribal people, from Jhabua were inspired to switch to organic farming with the encouragement of ChildFund India. Panki Bai, a 60-year-old entrepreneur, was one of the first people to walk down this path, in hopes of a better future.

With a family of 8, Panki Bai, like most people in the district, depends on farming as her sole source of livelihood. Panki Bai joined the program to seek growth; over time she learned techniques to reduce agricultural input costs and secure greater income. The program also helped with vegetable seed support, various fruit plants and subsidized drip irrigation systems through the state’s agriculture department.

Since then, life has changed for Panki Bai. Her agricultural land, spread across almost 2 acres (6 bigha) flourishes with healthy crops without any use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. “I applied the learnings and concepts taught by ChildFund India. They have guided me on my new journey to organic farming and now, I am getting good returns on my harvest. We spend less money on the farm and earn much more than what we used to,” says Panki Bai.

Prior to the program, Panki’s family grew Soyabean, Cotton, Corn and other seasonal crops, earning only 60,000/- annually. Thanks to organic farming, her family’s income has grown to 1.5 Lac, annually. They have even managed to buy a van to supply vegetables to the nearby market.

Panki Bai’s success has inspired other farmers in the community to join ChildFund India’s organic farming program.

“With the increased income, I can plan to educate my grandchildren. I want to see them successful and independent.”

- says Panki Bai

CHILD PROTECTION

Under the Child Protection program, ChildFund India is covering 15 states in India, benefiting over 7.4 lac people, including 4.5 lac children.

Children in India face multiple child protection issues, such as sexual abuse, child labor, child marriage, trafficking, discrimination, neglect, etc. In spite of India having a fairly comprehensive policy and legal framework addressing rights and protection for children. However, gaps in implementation of these policies, laws and schemes, limited capacities, strained infrastructure and financial resources along with low accountability affects many children, especially the most deprived, excluded and vulnerable, who are denied these services and benefits.

ChildFund India’s Child Protection Program (CPP) has a vision to ensure that ‘Children live in protective and enabling environment, free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence (ANEV) in target villages/communities.’

ChildFund Annual Report 2019-2020
Strengthening Community-based Child Protection Mechanisms

Under this initiative, Mass Awareness Campaigns were organized for different stakeholders to sensitize them on child rights, child laws and child protection issues, child protection systems and services available at community, block and district level. The 12 awareness campaigns that we organized, reached 1,635 community stakeholders.

Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) Initiative

This initiative engages with and builds capacities of communities on child protection, supports them in identifying, mitigating and addressing child protection risks and issues with the support of Community-Based Organization (CBOs) like Child Groups and Parent Groups.

This year, 328 VCPCs, 202 Child Groups and 137 Parent Groups have been formed, while 27 Panchayat level CPCs and 8 Block level CPCs were formed across Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In addition, 8 VCPCs and 4 VCPS in Odisha and Jharkhand, respectively, were capacitated in mapping child protection risks in their communities across home, school and the society at large.

Strengthening of People’s Leadership on Child Protection

Under the intervention, 5,260 community members, including parents, children, youth, Child Protection Committee (CPC) members, and village and community leaders, participated in stakeholder meetings to discuss topics ranging from child protection issues, laws and referral pathways, child protection risks and protective factors for children.

Reinforce Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Compliances

ChildFund India ensures that partners understand the issue, need and mechanism of child protection. Therefore, CPP conducted compliance trainings for its 29 implementation partners to emphasize the need to adhering to safeguarding protocols/procedures and internal reporting mechanisms to ensure incidents of child harm/abuse are reported.

Networking And Advocacy

ChildFund India has actively contributed to the collective advocacy efforts of the Joining Forces for Children - India through strategic engagements with key authorities at the national and state level. The alliance disseminated findings of the study ‘Child Rights Situational Analysis’ held in 2019 and submitted the ‘Charter of Demands’ to the national and state government authorities through a series of consultations/regional dissemination workshops. In 2019, India was also selected as one of the 2nd pilot countries for the Ending Violence against Children (EVAC) program.

Four state-level CSO Networks have been formed in the North and East Zones in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Jharkhand to address child protection issues and referral systems through supportive advocacy and collaborations. The network, comprised of local partners and led by respective lead partners in the state members, regularly interacts with PRIs, block and district level authorities to address core community child protection issues.
Protective, Enabling, Accountable and Child Friendly Environment (PEACE)

The PEACE project, supported by FORUM SYD Barnfonden - ChildFund Sweden, is implemented in 50 villages of Gogunda block of Udaipur district in Rajasthan. The project works to reduce risks and incidences of violence against children by creating safe and secure environment for children at home, school and community through awareness, knowledge and capacity building on child protection, of the rights holders and duty bearers in the target communities. Over 7,500 community members were engaged on the issues through folk-art focused programs such as puppet shows and street plays; Child Rights Clubs and Adolescent Girl’s Group covering 480 members across 48 schools have been formed in 12 panchayats. To increase income and promote stability, a total of 1,810 vulnerable families received livelihood support and at least a 100 farmer clubs have been formed.

Combatting Child Trafficking Through Sustainable Livelihood Development

The project, supported by BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and ChildFund Germany, was implemented in Kotada and Jhadol blocks of Udaipur, Rajasthan between April 2016 till September 2019. The project worked to create awareness and combat child trafficking and ensure sustainable livelihoods for income security of parents to ensure that children are not forced into labor and can focus on education. The project provided agro-pastoral support to 540 beneficiaries, linked them with government schemes and programs and also facilitated enrolment of 1,024 drop-out children in schools across 15 villages.

Delhi Urban Child Development Project

After successfully implementing programs in rural India for the past seven decades, ChildFund India aims to bring its expertise to urban locations and metro cities, to address urban poverty and improve the lives of children. Through the Delhi Urban Child Development Project, ChildFund India works in 8 slums of South and South East districts of Delhi. In the past year, 4 Child Clubs, comprising of 80 children and 7 Mothers Groups, comprising of 58 mothers were formed, along with one Child Resource Center for 80 children.

Community-led Micro Planning Exercise

The intervention trains community members to identify problems, reasons, solutions and actions based on development indicators that impact children and adolescents. Slum Action Plans (SAP) were developed across 8 Mohallas in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh to identify problems, define solutions and actions and track monthly progress. In the coming years, this initiative will be scaled to 22 other Mohallas in the city.

DISHA - Preventing Child Labor

DISHA promotes sustainable community-based strategies to prevent child labor in Firozabad, a small industrial town in Uttar Pradesh, which is a famous glass-making hub since 2 centuries. Unfortunately, child labor is highly prevalent here, in small, informal bangle-making workshops commonly run by families in slums. DISHA brings children out of labor by providing health, educational and livelihood support within the communities.

Four model centers have been established to provide integrated child development services (ICDS) to the children of these slums. A sustainable livelihoods center called ‘DAKSH’ is providing vocational training and coaching on personality development, spoken English and entrepreneurship to youth, to increase their opportunities. Additionally, it promotes and provides a national platform for youth and Self-Help Group federations.

Under DISHA, selected children of Firozabad slums were trained as child reporters to help identify child protection issues in their communities, write stories and demand letters to concerned authorities such as the Police officials, Bal Mitra Thanas, local leaders, SMCs, PRIs, etc. to encourage responsiveness and action by the authorities.

A total of 120 Child Reporters covering 16 schools have been trained in child protection. These child reporters have shared their issues and concerns through 200 stories and articles. Till date, 7 Demand Campaigns have also been organised wherein ‘Charter of Demands’ were presented by children highlighting different field level issues on child protection; more than 590 children participated in these demand campaigns.
CASE STUDY
A Tough Tale of Teenage Courage in Adversity

Abhay (name changed) lives with his parents and elder brother in a small village of Udaipur district in Rajasthan. His father works as a farmer and a daily-wage laborer to support the family.

Visiting his elder sister for a fun summer vacation turned into a nightmare for 13-year-old Abhay.

In the summer of 2019, Abhay went to stay at his sister’s home in the neighboring village. However, a random conversation with a stranger changed everything. The man, who was a labor contractor, lured Abhay by giving him a mobile phone and some money. Coming from impoverished circumstances, Abhay knew the money would help his family’s needs. Promising more, the contractor took Abhay to a village in the state of Gujarat, where he was put to work in a small hotel. The mobile phone was taken away and he was not allowed to contact his family.

Abhay toiled for nearly 15 hours every day, doing dishes and cleaning the hotel well into the night. While he was provided enough food to eat, his living condition was appalling; he shared a room with 20 others. Days turned into months and Abhay persisted with courage unusual for a teenage boy, hoping that his horrible ordeal would end one day.

Six months later, in late November, a PEACE project coordinator working in Abhay’s village, received a call from a community member with information about an underage boy working in a hotel in Gujarat. The project coordinator along with Abhay’s uncle and a few staff members from hotels around the village contacted the local government ChildLine Service. Together, they worked to rescue Abhay and bring him back to his family in less than 24 hours.

The overjoyed parents expressed, “We are very relieved that our son has come home. We want him to go back to school and take care that he doesn’t fall into such traps again.”

Moments after being reunited with his family, Abhay dashed away to play with his friends, reminding us of the value of such simple joys in children’s lives.

The PEACE project was felicitated on the occasion of the country’s 71st Republic Day in 2020, organized by the local government in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.
Strengthening Community-based School Safety Program

The program works to increase the safety of children for better educational outcomes. It empowers children to take on leadership roles in school risk assessments, planning and preparation of school safety plans and their implementation with support from School Management Committees (SMCs). Key interventions under the program include training of children and teachers to identify and minimize risks through school safety planning as well as establishing school-based emergency management task forces to mitigate risks. The program has benefited 1,497 students and 210 Teachers/SMC members across 26 schools in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Humanitarian Response

ChildFund India’s Humanitarian Response focuses on saving the lives of disaster-affected children and population with a specific focus on child protection in emergency. The key interventions include providing essential relief materials to children, families and communities affected by emergencies; creating child centers spaces to give children a safe place for activities crucial to their recovery from the trauma of emergencies and promoting education on disaster preparedness.

ChildFund India responded to three major disasters during the financial year namely Cyclone FANI in Odisha (May 2019), Assam Floods (July 2019) and the devastating South India Floods (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) in August 2019, by providing emergency relief support, that consists of hygiene kits, tarpaulin, mosquito net and kitchen utensils, to disaster affected children and families. In total, 6,570 families from 212 villages were supported with these relief support initiatives. In Odisha, ChildFund India established 10 Child Centered Spaces (CSS) in the aftermath of the FANI cyclone.

In Odisha, 445 children were supported to access structured play and educational services from CCS. Individual Education Kits were provided to 250 school going children to support their education continuity. Non-Food Items (NFI) Kits were provided to 6,360 households benefitting a population of 28,712 including 9,461 children.

CASE STUDY

Cyclone ‘FANI’ Response, Restoration of Normalcy

On the morning of 3rd May 2019, a severe cyclone made landfall on the coast of Puri, in Odisha. It was the strongest tropical cyclone that India had seen in the past 20 years, ‘FANI’ caused extensive damage to the coastal area, leaving thousands of families homeless. One of the worst hit by the devastation were the 2 lac strong fishing communities of Puri. More than 11,000 fishing boats anchored along the coast were damaged, leaving fishermen without boats, houses or livelihoods.

Suryakanta, a 17-year-old boy from Kanas block lived with his family in a dilapidated thatched house in a small fishing village. His father, and Suryakanta earned their livelihood by fishing in the 1200 sq km of Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon — Chilika, 30 km from the Bay of Bengal. When Fani hit, Suryakanta’s fishing boat and nets were washed away, like those of other fishermen living near the Chilika lake.

Before Fani hit the coast, ChildFund India had worked to inform and evacuate 48 families and helped them with basic pre-disaster preparations like stockpiling dry food, clothes, drinking water and keeping important documents safe.

After the cyclone passed, the communities went back to marks of the havoc and devastation left behind by the storm – inundated houses, boats pummelled by the waves and fishing nets buried under mounds of sand. To help the affected community, ChildFund India immediately sprang into action and distributed urgently required emergency items like Family Kits, Tarpaulin, Hygienic Kits, Mosquito Nets, Education Kits and Solar Lights.

“Our house was completely in ruins. We used the tarpaulin provided by ChildFund India to cover the open roof and took shelter inside. The mosquito nets were very helpful. The education kit helped my son continue his studies while the schools were closed for months. The Solar light brightened our house when there was no electricity.”

- said Suryankanta’s father.

With help from ChildFund India and the state government, lives in this small fishing community has slowly restored back to normal. Suryakanta and his father continue to fish in the open seas to earn their livelihood.
ChildFund India’s Response
To #COVID-19 Crisis

Over 5 lac people from vulnerable communities will be supported to fight the COVID-19 crisis

While the efforts taken by the Government to prevent and control community outbreak of COVID-19 are commendable, the impact of this crisis on the underprivileged families and their children is a huge concern. As India fights against the COVID-19 pandemic, families in villages and urban slums are struggling to get food, basic hygiene items, clean water and healthcare. In response to this pandemic, though many NGOs, institutions and corporates have come forward to extend support, there is an urgent need to scale these efforts to help ensure that vulnerable communities have adequate resources and clear guidance on how to keep themselves safe.

ChildFund India has launched its response plan to fight the COVID-19 crisis on national level, which is divided into two phases. The 1st Phase shall focus on providing Relief support and the 2nd Phase shall emphasize on Rehabilitation of the affected families.

ChildFund India, through its response efforts, will support over 5,00,000 people across the country over the next few months. In the 1st phase, by distributing food baskets and hygiene kits to most vulnerable families, food security and family safety will be ensured. ChildFund India will provide protection kits to frontline workers. Children will be supported with Educational, Arts and crafts, and sports materials for their home-based learning and coping. ChildFund India will also focus on spreading awareness amongst people on prevention and management of COVID-19 through dissemination of Information, Education and Communication materials.

In the 2nd phase, ChildFund India will support in restoring livelihoods of vulnerable families and initiate WASH (Water and Sanitation, Hygiene) interventions to increase hygiene practices for sustainable results.
EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Children Advocating For Their Rights Through Arts

On 8th April 2019, ChildFund India, in association with Lady Irwin College, organized an event, ‘Children Advocating for their Rights Through Arts’, in New Delhi with an objective to empower children as Catalysts of Change. Children from different government schools came forward and voiced their concerns on child rights and protection using various Art forms.

ChildFund India, in collaboration with the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), organized ‘Khilta Bachpan - Khilta Bharat’, a cultural program in New Delhi, on 21st November 2019 to celebrate Indian Art and Culture, and promote Art Education for children’s overall development.

Joining Forces for Children - India: Child Rights in India

Joining Forces for Children - India is an alliance of six leading child development organizations, namely, ChildFund India; Plan India; Save the Children India; SOS Children’s Villages of India; Terre Des Hommes and World Vision India, working towards the well-being and protection of rights of vulnerable children and young people in India.

On 3rd July 2019, the alliance released an all-India report, Child Rights in India - An Unfinished Agenda. The report is aligned to the global report - A Second Revolution: 30 years of child rights, and the unfinished agenda - recently launched by Joining Forces Alliance in New York, USA.


AVPN India Summit 2019

Continuing with the Breaking Boundaries theme from AVPN’s Annual Conference in Singapore, on 28th November 2019, the AVPN India Summit 2019 invited philanthropists, corporations, impact investors, financial institutions, policymakers and capacity builders to break down barriers and collaboratively address complex challenges facing the region. The CEO of ChildFund India, Neelam Makhijani was among the esteemed speakers of this summit. At the summit, she shared her valuable ideas on the topic ‘Adopting collaborative-consultative approach for impactful ECCE outcomes’.

Seminar on “Foundational Stage as the First Stage of School Education”

ChildFund India, in collaboration with Ambedkar University Delhi, organized a seminar on ‘Foundational Stage as the First Stage of School Education’ on 13th December 2019 in Delhi, in the light of the recent Draft National Education Policy (2019) which included Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as the Foundational Stage of rapid brain development, play and active discovery.

On this occasion, the book ‘Going to school but not ready: Early childhood education and school readiness in India’ was also launched which is based on the longitudinal study prepared by CECED and ASER.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Child Fund India
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020
(All amounts in ₹ unless otherwise stated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Fund</th>
<th>As at 31st March 2020</th>
<th>As at 31st March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Fund</td>
<td>409,027</td>
<td>409,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Fund</td>
<td>5,140,474</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>77,407,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>60,961,085</td>
<td>77,407,476</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>74,481,486</strong></td>
<td><strong>85,108,476</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted Fund</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Fund</td>
<td>76,269,130</td>
<td>57,824,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan Fund</td>
<td>6,495,952</td>
<td>16,270,469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Loans</td>
<td>- 60,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities and Provisions</td>
<td>1,365,269</td>
<td>1,365,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,711,860</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,318,392</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applications of Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Assets</th>
<th>3,160,474</th>
<th>3,517,851</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,160,474</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,517,851</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Current assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash and Bank Balances</th>
<th>135,991,249</th>
<th>145,373,051</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans, Advances and Deposit</td>
<td>13,561,264</td>
<td>6,027,680</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>149,552,513</strong></td>
<td><strong>151,390,731</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Notes on Accounts and Other explanatory Information</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,711,990</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,318,392</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For S.K.A.HOO & CO. Chartered Accountants
For and on behalf of Child Fund India

J. Martino President

Nitesh Mattoo Treasurer

Date: 15-10-2020 Place: New Delhi

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Child Fund India
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2020
(All amounts in ₹ unless otherwise stated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>As at 31st March 2020</th>
<th>As at 31st March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>302,476,088</td>
<td>307,658,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>7,812,188</td>
<td>8,541,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>171,176</td>
<td>804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>391,464,532</strong></td>
<td><strong>396,000,752</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on objects of the Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief of the Poor Projects</td>
<td>200,793,866</td>
<td>226,194,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Project (Non-Financial)</td>
<td>11,505,730</td>
<td>11,737,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Relief (Preventive Healthcare Projects)</td>
<td>34,018,186</td>
<td>52,220,603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>17,162,267</td>
<td>6,491,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on Capital/ Fixed Assets</td>
<td>202,210,138</td>
<td>967,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>297,625,152</strong></td>
<td><strong>293,522,641</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation during the year</td>
<td>1,285,345</td>
<td>967,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transferred to Asset Fund</td>
<td>1,285,345</td>
<td>967,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>297,625,152</strong></td>
<td><strong>293,522,641</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund</td>
<td>(9,980,300)</td>
<td>6,500,497</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For S.K.A.HOO & CO. Chartered Accountants
For and on behalf of Child Fund India

J. Martino President

Nitesh Mattoo Treasurer

Date: 13-10-2020 Place: New Delhi

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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP & SUPPORT

ChildFund India’s supporters and partners include:

- Acciona
- Acuity Knowledge Partners
- ARYAKA Networks
- National AIDS Control Organization
- Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society
- Telangana State AIDS Control Society
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- Un Enfant par la Main (ChildFund France)
- ChildFund Deutschland (Germany)
- Barnfonden (ChildFund Sweden)
- Forum Syd
- European Union
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ
- Grameen Impact Investments India
- Give2Asia
- State Street Foundation
- HCL Foundation
- HSBC
- KAVLIFONDET
- Technicolor India Pvt. Ltd.
- The Hans Foundation
- Citi Foundation
- Tata Trusts
- UNDP
- Rexel Foundation
- Watt for Change - Foundation VALOREM
- Nexans Foundation
- ChildFund International