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Charitable Trust**

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Collaborating for Change

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



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The information in the Annual Report 2022-2023 is based on the data available with the SDMC Trust, and all efforts have been made to provide accurate information. Photographs appearing in the report are owned by the SDMC Trust or shared with us by our non-profit partners with consent.



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Mr. Rakesh Malhotra
(Co-Founder and Trustee)

CO-FOUNDER'S FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

India, with its multifaceted embroidery of cultures, traditions, and languages, is a land of great variations. On one hand, we celebrate remarkable economic growth and technological advancements. On the other hand, we acknowledge the persistent inequalities, barriers to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities for certain sections of society.

The Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust was born out of a vision and determination of creating a just and equitable society by empowering people. Through our initiatives in primary education, primary healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and access to safe drinking water, we have endeavored to be catalysts of positive social change, enabling individuals to aspire and achieve their full potential.

Our journey in the past year has been a testament to the efforts of countless individuals, organizations, and partners who

believed in our mission. Collectively we supported 13 initiatives across Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Haryana, and Delhi, which resulted in positively impacting over 390,000 lives across India.

At the core of our primary healthcare initiatives lies an unwavering dedication to improving access to high-quality and affordable medical services in rural areas. We take great pride in our collaboration with the Rural Healthcare Foundation to support 9 Rural Health Care Centres in West Bengal. Additionally, the Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Dispensary and the Medical Mobile Unit in Himachal Pradesh, play a pivotal role in reaching out to communities that otherwise might face challenges in accessing medical facilities.

The SDMC Trust, in collaboration with Pratham, is trying to address the issue of low learning outcomes in primary education. Project Ankur runs in 18 Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools benefitting more than 2,000 children. Through this well-crafted program, students are guided by

specially trained instructors to bolster their foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Furthermore, our steadfast support to Shiksha Bharati School, run by our partner NGO - Aniket Ashraya Society, facilitates the mainstreaming of around 325, mostly out-of-school children up to Grade V.

In collaboration with Oxfam India, the SDMC Trust is actively working with 2,000 tribal women in the Koraput district of Odisha. Through this partnership, we foster economic independence and self-reliance of women by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance their livelihoods.

One of our flagship projects focuses on providing access to safe drinking water in three highly affected districts in Odisha, where iron contamination is a major concern. Last year, in partnership with our NGO partner- Oxfam India, we supported iron-free drinking water in 25 villages.

Rakesh Malhotra

Last year we consciously pledged to harness the potential of collaborative funding partnerships to address social problems collectively and on a larger scale. I am pleased to share that the first such co-funding partner has joined hands for the community-owned safe drinking water plants in the Kalahandi district of Odisha.

Looking ahead, we are determined to deepen our impact and expand our reach through continued collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including NGO partners, government, and co-funders.

On behalf of SDMC Trust, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our partners for their continued support and belief in our work. Together, we will navigate the road ahead with optimism, determination and strive to build a better future for all.



COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

At SDMC Trust, we believe in the power of collective efforts to drive positive social change. In the year 2022-23, our collaborative landscape expanded to include partnerships with NGO, government, local communities, as well as co-funding organizations.

This year, we associated with 8 NGO partners who brought a deep understanding of community needs and valuable expertise in translating ideas into tangible social outcomes in primary health, primary education, sustainable livelihoods, and safe drinking water.

The active involvement of local community members and stakeholders has been integral to our programs, fostering inclusivity and a sense of ownership. This year, we engaged with a diverse set of stakeholders, including over 2,250 parents of children, 44 teachers, 94 volunteer teachers from the community, 2,000 women farmers, 250 village-level water committee members, and 150 panchayat members.

Our collaborative efforts with government bodies add significant value to our programs by gaining a deeper understanding of system-level intervention and contributing to outcomes at scale. One of the key highlights of this year was our collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and

the Districts Institute of Education and Training for Project Ankur to improve learning outcomes. Similarly, for the safe drinking water program, we collaborated with Panchayati Raj Institutes and Block and District-level officials to ensure the selection of villages for the installation of water purification systems in a consultative manner.

The year 2022-2023 marks the beginning of a new journey for SDMC Trust, as we collaborate with like-minded co-funding organizations. Partnership conversations with several potential co-funding partners have commenced, recognizing what we can achieve together. HDFC Bank came forward to support our NGO partner, Oxfam India, for a safe drinking water in five villages of Kalahandi district. Several such new alliances are expected to materialize in the coming year.

By collaborating for change, we are effectively advancing towards achieving our shared development goals, pooling diverse strengths and resources for greater collective impact. Together, we are shaping a brighter future and making tangible progress towards a more prosperous and equitable society.

ABOUT SDMC TRUST

The SDMC Trust is a family foundation of the promoters of the SAR Group. The Group owns popular brands like Livguard, Livfast, Livpure and Lectrix.

Our Vision is to work towards creating a just, equitable, and prosperous society by empowering people with incremental changes in health, education, livelihood, and safe drinking water.

Since its establishment in 2009, the SDMC Trust has played a central role in extending

support to NGO partners involved in diverse social development programs. Throughout the past 14 years, we have supported 33 NGO partners, directly impacting the lives of over 1.4 million individuals through our programs.

Our programs are driven by three pillars, **"Impact, Sustainability, and Scalability"** to achieve outcomes. As we move ahead in our journey, we are focusing on harnessing the potential of collaborative funding to achieve social change collectively and on a larger scale.

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Late Mr. Madan Lal Malhotra
(Founder)



Mr. Rakesh Malhotra
(Co-Founder and Trustee)



Mr. Paresh Pradhan
(Managing Trustee)



Mrs. Nirupama Malhotra
(Trustee)



Mr. Navneet Kapoor
(Trustee)



Mrs. Rashmi Nayar
(Trustee)

SDMC TRUST AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDMC Trust is deeply committed to aligning its work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means to create a lasting societal impact. The SDGs are a set of 17 global goals to address some of the most pressing social,

economic, and environmental challenges faced by our world. By aligning its efforts with the 5 SDGs, SDMC Trust is committed to making positive progress towards social change.

OUR THEMATIC FOCUS



Primary Education



Primary Health



Sustainable Livelihoods



Safe Drinking Water



Gender Equality



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Primary Education

2,700+

Children improved their learning outcomes



Primary Health Care

3,84,000+

Individuals accessed primary healthcare services in rural area



Sustainable Livelihoods

2,000

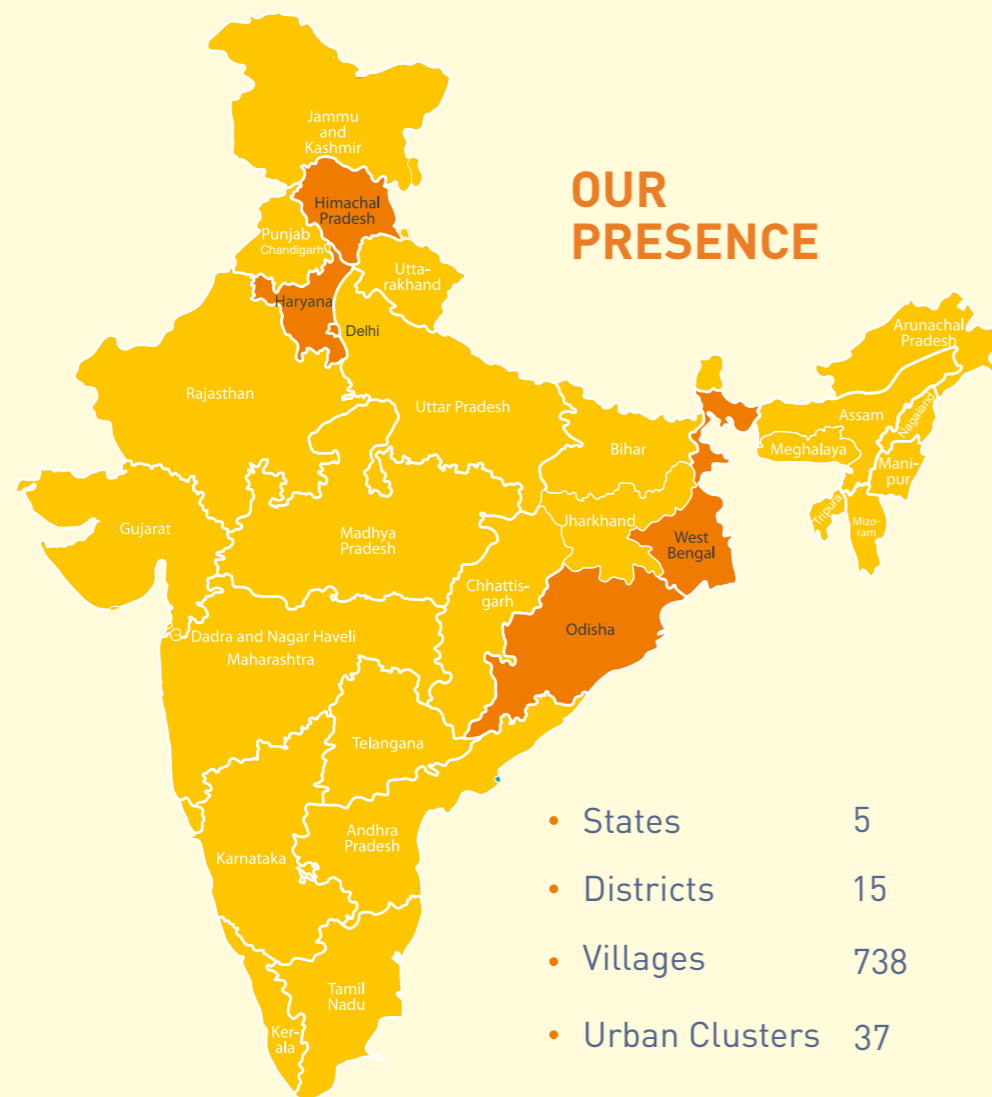
Women-farmers improved their livelihood



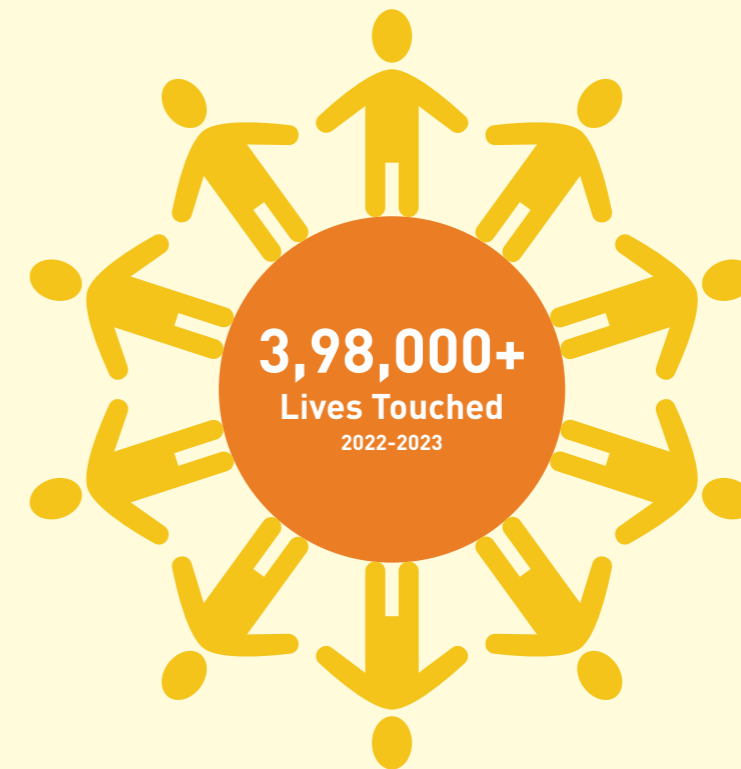
Safe Drinking Water

10,000+

Individuals accessed iron-free and clean drinking water



OUR REACH



PRIMARY EDUCATION

Our goal is to improve the learning outcomes of children in Primary Education



Foundational Literacy and Numeracy



Mainstreaming Out of School Children

OUR IMPACT



2,700+
Students



19
Schools



44
Teachers

Ensuring access to quality primary education is essential as it not only guarantees every child's fundamental right but also equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to face the challenges of life. Since the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act in 2009, India has made remarkable progress with 98.4% enrolment in primary education. However, the ability of Grade 5 children in reading the basic text or performing basic arithmetic operations is low. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 describes it as the learning crisis and urges to immediately focus on promoting foundational literacy & numeracy.

Building proficiency in literacy and numeracy during the primary years is crucial as it equips children with essential skills that

serve as the building blocks for advanced learning. This proficiency plays a significant role in promoting equity in education by providing equal opportunities for children from diverse backgrounds to open the door for lifelong learning opportunities.

SDMC Trust contributes to SDG 4, by addressing the issue of low learning outcomes in primary children. By supporting innovative approaches, SDMC Trust strives to foster solutions for creating a positive impact on educational outcomes.

Project Ankur in Delhi

Pratham Delhi Education Initiative

'Project Ankur', developed by SDMC Trust and Pratham Delhi Education Initiative, aims "to address the learning gaps among students in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Schools (MCD), particularly in regions where learning levels are particularly low." The project focuses on Foundational Learning and Numeracy (FLN) to improve learning outcomes.

The project has a twofold objective:

I) To prepare students in grades 1 and 2 to attain proficiency in basic reading and numeracy

II) To help students in grades 3 to 5 catch up with basic reading & numeracy skills

This year, the intervention began in 18 MCD Schools located in three districts of Delhi: Rohini, North Shahdara, and South Shahdara.

KEY ACTIVITIES

'Catch-up' Methodology for Grades 3-5:

Children in Grades 3 to 5 who could not read a grade 1 text (paragraph) are identified through a simple assessment and they participate in short-duration, high-intensity learning activities lasting for 10 days each for three cycles in quick succession. These "Teaching at Right Level" (TaRL) activities are designed to help them catch up on their reading and arithmetic skills, in line with the Mission Buniyad¹ of the Government of Delhi, which has been designed and supported by Pratham since 2019.

'Leap Forward' Pedagogy for Grades 1&2:

A dedicated instructor is assigned to deliver year-long teaching learning inputs to children in Grades 1 and 2. The aim is to build strong foundational literacy and numeracy skills along with holistic development during the early childhood years for sustained learning of children, aligning with the NIPUN Bharat² Mission of the Government of India.

Community Engagement:

A small group of mothers whose children attend Grades 1-3 is formed within each hamlet in the catchment areas of the school. They were provided with weekly activities to be performed with children to promote the holistic development of a child. Community-based children-clubs were formed under volunteers who supported children-groups to create a conducive learning environment. This collaborative approach involves actively involving the community in creating an enabling education ecosystem.



1. Mission Buniyad of Govt of Delhi, aims to enable all students of Grades 3 to 8 to read a paragraph and do basic maths operations.

2. National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy aims to attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools.



The initiative serves as a demonstration model for the MCD and aims to scale up its impact. Ongoing coordination is maintained with Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training, District Institutes of Education and Training, and MCD to ensure effective implementation and collaboration.

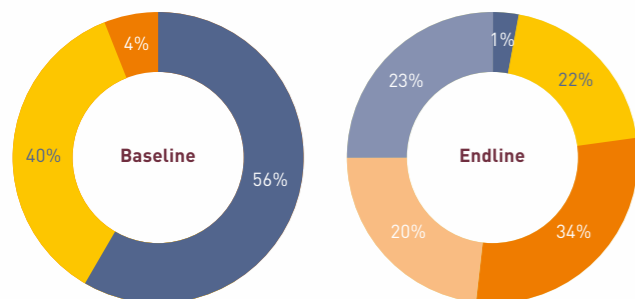
In 4 years, the project aims to scale up the 'Catch-up' methodology across all the MCD schools as well as demonstrate a 'Leap-forward' pedagogy that will make the children attain the necessary proficiency so that they do not need any remedial by the time they reach Grade 3.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

TOTAL STUDENTS – 2,409

Grades 1&2

LITERACY: LEARNING LEVELS
BASELINE VS ENDLINE

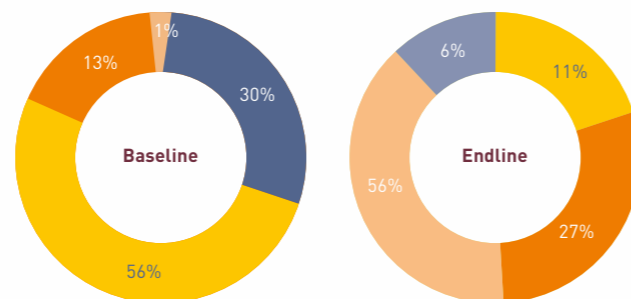


Total students- 1,144

■ Beginner ■ Letter ■ Word ■ Paragraph ■ Story

By endline, 43% of children are able to read Grade 1 level text (paragraph & above)

NUMERACY: LEARNING LEVELS
BASELINE VS ENDLINE



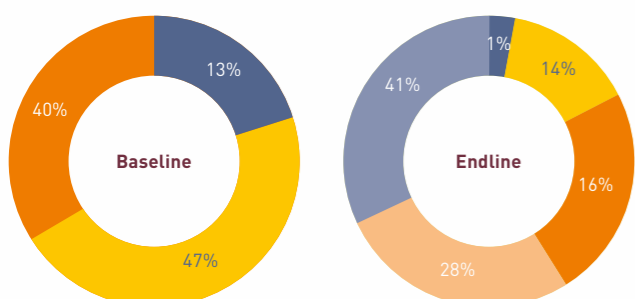
Total students- 1,144

■ Beginner ■ Number Recognition (0 - 9) ■ Number Recognition (10 - 50)
■ Number Recognition (51 - 99) ■ Number Recognition (100 - 999)

By endline, 89% of children are able to identify 2-digit numbers

Learning Level Improvement (Grade 3-5)

LANGUAGE

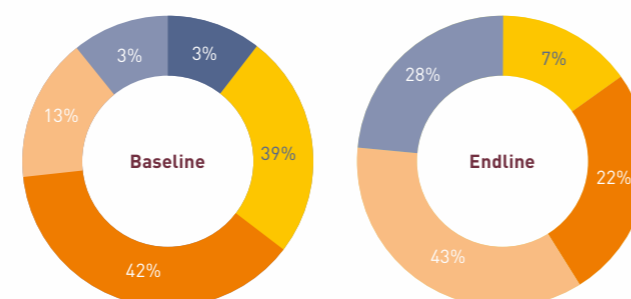


Total Students- 1,265

■ Beginner ■ Letter ■ Word ■ Paragraph ■ Story

After completion of 30 days of language camp 69% of targeted children can read a Grade level 1 paragraph

NUMERACY



Total Students- 1,265

■ Beginner ■ One Digit Number Recognition
■ Two Digit Number Recognition ■ Subtraction ■ Division

70% of targeted children at the endline were able to solve a subtraction problem

Story of Sana

Sana, a talented 5th grader hailing from Nand Nagri, Delhi, resides in a rented house with her four siblings and her mother, who works as a daily labourer. Despite facing challenging circumstances, Sana possesses a firm determination to become self-reliant and excel in her education. Her pathway towards achieving this goal commenced when she joined a learning camp organized by Pratham Delhi Education Initiative, where she embarked on a journey of educational growth.

In the camp, Sana embraced the opportunity to learn how to read Hindi and tackle mathematical problems. Initially, Sana was a beginner unable to identify numbers, but she gradually honed her skills and swiftly conquered complex math challenges. Sana finds great joy in utilizing sticks and bundles

to grasp mathematical concepts and solve difficult problems. Moreover, her enthusiasm soared when she actively participated in storytelling and play-based sessions, which introduced excitement into her learning experience.

Recognizing the power of collaborative learning, Sana has come to understand that studying alongside her peers in a group setting yields the swiftest and easiest progress. Consequently, she now actively encourages other children to engage in group activities and learn together. Sana's aspiration is to fulfill not only her own dreams but also those cherished by her parents, as she strives to reach greater heights through the transformative force of education.

Shiksha Bharati School in Haryana

Aniket Ashray Society

The objective of Shiksha Bharti School is “to involve out-of-school children into mainstream primary education, irrespective of their age, and provide them with equal opportunities for success.” Shiksha Bharati School established in 2009 by the Aniket Ashray Society provides pre-primary and primary education in Palam Vihar, Gurugram.

The SDMC Trust partnered with the Aniket Ashray Society in 2017 to support the school for educational resources, infrastructural improvement, and nutritional assistance. As a result, Shiksha Bharti School has emerged as a model educational institution, positively impacting the lives of the children it serves.

The total number of Students in Shiksha Bharati school in the academic year 2022-2023 was **325** students in LKG, KG, and Grades 1 to 5.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Innovative teaching and learning methods

Innovative teaching and learning methods along with flexible approaches are employed as tools to support the education of children, helping in their learning improvement.

Parents-Teacher engagement

Parent-teacher engagement is integral to the program, with the teachers working closely with the parents to spread awareness about key issues relevant to child development and education, health, nutrition, and parenting.

Usage of a Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)

The school uses the Management Information system portal of the Government of India to track attendance, and academic progress monitoring. This allows them to use real-time data on tracking relevant data points relating to the students.

Nutritional Assistance

The school also provided nutritional meals to all students throughout the academic year with a balanced menu for each day of the week.

This year **27 students** graduated from the school and secured admission to nearby Government & Private Schools paving the way to their secure future. In a way, Shiksha Bharati School is giving back the children their childhood.

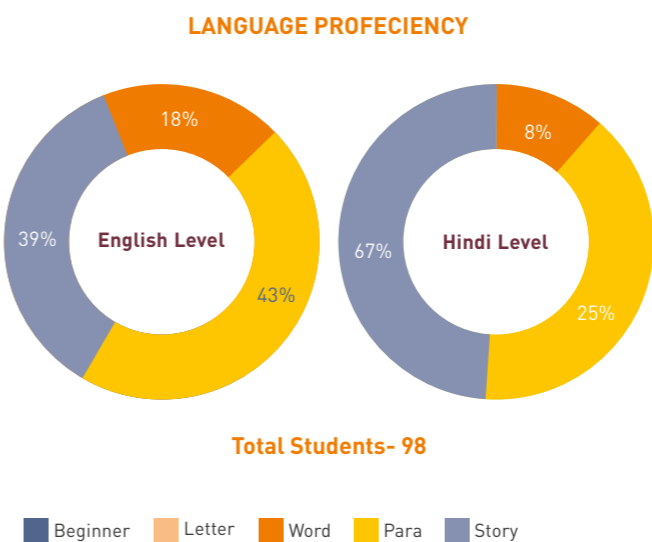


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

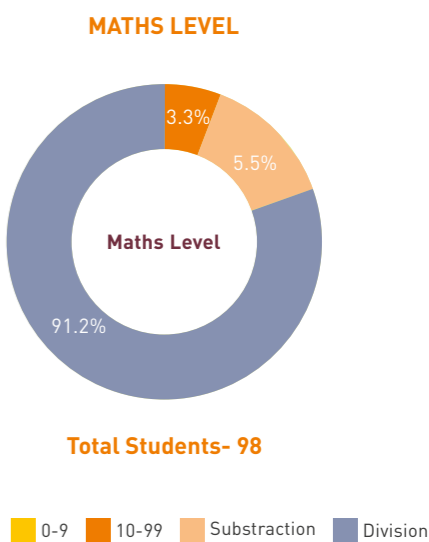
TOTAL STUDENTS – 325

An independent external assessment was conducted by Pratham Delhi Education Initiative in Shikha Bharti School for students

of Grades 3-5 in the academic year 2022-23 to assess the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy level of the children.



The findings show that there are no children in the non-reader category (levels 1 & 2)



>90% of children are in the highest category in Math (level 5)

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE



Our aim is to provide easy access to quality and affordable primary healthcare for rural communities



Rural Primary Healthcare Centers



Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)



Community Outreach

OUR IMPACT



3,84,000+
Patients



10
Rural Health
Centres



15
Villages Served
through MMU

Primary healthcare plays a fundamental role in promoting overall health and well-being within a community. It is typically the first point of contact for individuals seeking medical attention. It provides important services like health check-ups, basic tests, referrals, and treatment for common illnesses, focusing on overall well-being. In rural areas, primary healthcare is especially important in overcoming limited access and availability of services and service providers.

With a focus on SDG 3, SDMC Trust acknowledges the transformative power of primary healthcare. By providing accessible and quality primary healthcare services in rural communities, SDMC Trust ensures early detection, timely treatment, and improved management of illnesses, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of individuals by supporting projects related to it.

Rural Health Care Centres in West Bengal

Rural Health Care Foundation

SDMC Trust has partnered with Rural Health Care Foundation (RHCF) with the objective “to address the challenges of access and affordability in rural healthcare.”

Since our collaboration in 2015 with RHCF, we have been committed to supporting availability of quality and patient-centric healthcare for rural communities.

The intervention is continuing in six districts of West Bengal: Purba Bardhaman, Murshidabad, Hooghly, Nadia, South 24 Paraganas, and North 24 Paraganas.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Rural Primary Health Centre

SDMC Trust supported 9 well-equipped centres in rural areas of West Bengal which are accessible to the patient in nearby villages. Patients visiting these centres receive quality and affordable services through experienced doctors and healthcare providers.

Primary Healthcare Services

Patients receive healthcare consultations on general medicine, optometry, dentistry, and homeopathy. Patients are provided with one-week free supplies of medications, low-cost diagnostic services, and corrective spectacles. This year, more than 3,00,000 patients were provided with healthcare services out of which over 3,500 individuals received corrective spectacles.

Referral Services

The doctors refer patients for free cataract and pterygium surgeries. This year, 1,386 people received cataract surgeries, and 37 people received pterygium (an ocular disease that affects cornea) surgeries.

Community Outreach Program

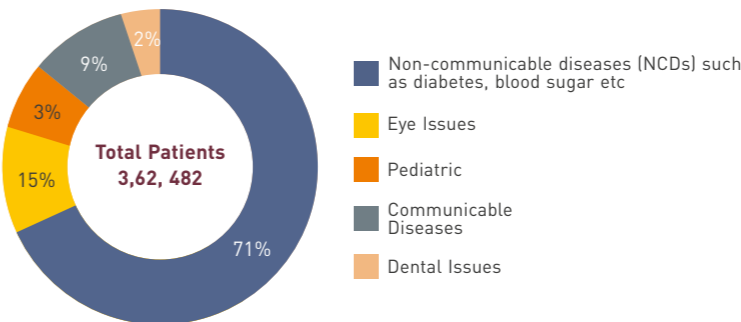
Through door-to-door outreach in rural areas, the rural health assistants conduct preventive health screening in nearby villages of the centre. Enabling early detection of communicable, non-communicable, and various preventable diseases. The outreach efforts are dedicated to raising awareness in the community and encouraging them to seek appropriate medical treatment. This year, 1,56,092 beneficiaries were successfully screened for various diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, musculoskeletal, and gastrointestinal.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

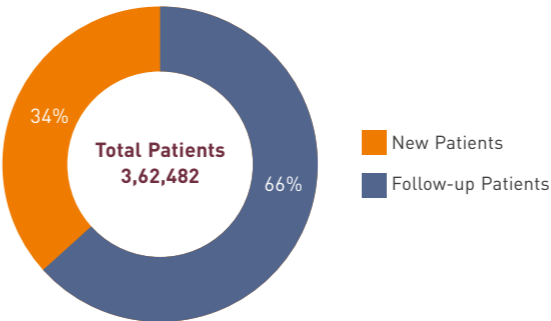
TOTAL PATIENTS-3,62,482

TYPES OF HEALTH ISSUES ADDRESSED IN 9 CENTRES



71% of the patients were supported for the management of long-term chronic diseases and NCDs

DEMAND FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN 9 CENTRES



66% of follow-up patients signify continued demand for healthcare services





Amira Bibi's Journey to Health and Well-being

Amira Bibi, a 62-year-old woman, lives with a large joint family comprising 16 members, including her children and grandchildren. Due to the economic condition and poor access to healthcare services, her health gradually deteriorated. She started feeling extremely fatigued and unwell due to persistent high blood sugar, high blood pressure, and body pain.

Amira Bibi's deteriorating health became a significant concern for both her and her family, as she could no longer carry out her day-to-day activities. Realizing the need for medical attention, she decided to seek a consultation and began searching for a healthcare center. Soon, her family learned about the Rural

Health Care Centre near their home and began visiting it.

With a thorough diagnosis from an experienced doctor, consistent medication, and regular visits to the Rural Health Care Centre, she experienced significant improvement in her health condition. Freed from the limitations of her illness, Amira Bibi can now play with her grandchildren and actively engage in her daily life with newfound joy and energy.

She is grateful to the doctor and the staff at the Rural Healthcare Centre who assisted her in regaining her health.

Dispensary in Himachal Pradesh

SDMC Trust

Since 2009, SDMC Trust has been running a dispensary in Gagret, district Una, Himachal Pradesh with an objective "to serve patients from underserved areas with quality healthcare services."

SDMC Trust dispensary addresses the primary healthcare needs of the surrounding community consisting of villagers, migrants and industry workers.

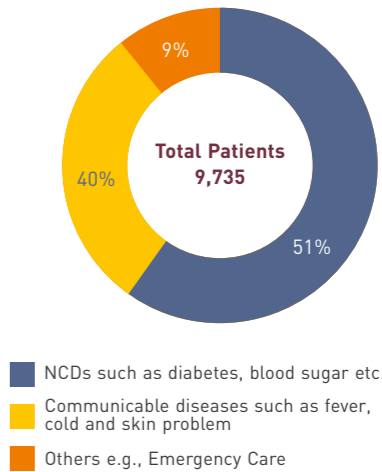
Diagnostic Services

SDMC Trust dispensary also offers 25 different diagnostic pathological tests at subsidized prices, ensuring accessible healthcare for the local population.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

TOTAL PATIENTS-9,735

CATEGORIES OF PATIENTS SERVED



Majority of the patients served (51%) were treated for NCDs

KEY ACTIVITIES

Outpatient Department Services

The dispensary provides outpatient services and serves a large catchment area that expands to a radial distance of nearly 12 kilometers. It operates six days a week and provides prescribed free medicines for all. The dispensary is staffed by qualified and experienced doctors, pharmacists, lab technicians, and support staff.



Mobile Medical Unit in Himachal Pradesh

SDMC Trust

In 2022, SDMC Trust expanded its healthcare activities to Una and Gagret blocks through the introduction of a Mobile Medical Unit. This mobile clinic aims “to reach the unreached by conducting mobile OPDs in remote villages and hamlets.”

Currently, the Mobile Health Clinic operates in 15 villages, with the involvement of local panchayat members and other stakeholders.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Mobile Health Services

Mobile Medical Unit operates five days a week, ensuring that each village is visited twice every month. The MMU is equipped with a qualified doctor and pharmacist.

Other Services

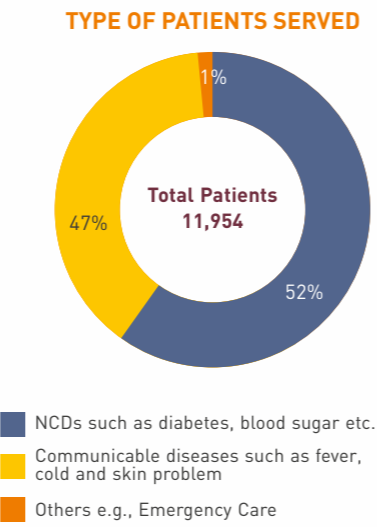
MMU provides free standard-quality medicines to patients. The clinic has also established linkages for diagnostic facilities at subsidised prices, further enhancing healthcare accessibility for the communities.

Referral for Treatment

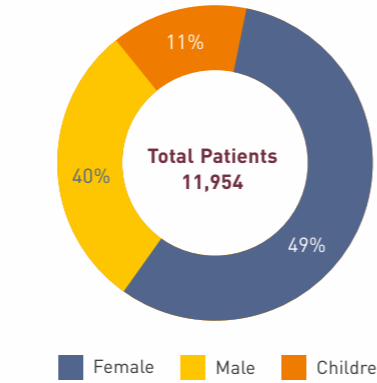
MMU also provides a referral for further treatment to patients for the SDMC Trust dispensary or to other health centers.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

TOTAL PATIENTS-11,954



Majority of the patients served (52%) were from NCDs



Majority of the patients (49%) served were women





SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Our aim is to foster socio-economic empowerment, particularly for women



Agricultural skills and entrepreneurship training



Collectivized production and marketing

OUR IMPACT



2,000
Women



40
Tribal Villages



400+
Farmers Linked
with Govt. Schemes

In rural areas, the availability of sustainable and decent livelihood opportunities are limited, leading to a cycle of poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. Creating sustainable livelihood opportunities is crucial for improving the lives of rural communities, especially women, and helping them become more economically and socially empowered.

SDMC Trust considers SDG 2 and 5, as top priorities, and firmly promotes equal economic opportunities, particularly for women. SDMC Trust supports activities which provide knowledge and skills for improved agricultural productivity. This can build capacities for improved market access, ultimately resulting in enhanced agricultural income.

Economic Empowerment of Women Farmers in Odisha

OXFAM India

SDMC Trust collaborated with Oxfam India with the objective of “doubling the income of 2,000 Tribal households in Semiliguda and Pottangi blocks of Koraput district over three years.”

Launched in February 2021, this initiative on women-led vegetable farming has brought significant improvements in 40 villages. The primary focus of the project is to enhance income through equipping women farmers with agricultural techniques for improved production, linkages with govt. schemes and market opportunities.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building of Women Farmers

Training was organized in a decentralized manner through Farmer Field Schools to empower farmers in all 40 villages. The Farmer Field Schools played a crucial role where champion farmers demonstrated to fellow farmers the techniques and methodology in the field. This year, over 1,500 members received training. Both external experts from Krishi Vikas Kendra and internal project experts provided guidance on better farming practices, making organic manure and pesticides, and on financial literacy. The main focus was on cultivating ginger, sweet potato, chili, and beans based on the specific needs of the farmers.

Women Farmers Producers Groups (WFPGs)

The project organized 2,000 members into 40 WFPGs and two Women Farmer Producer Organizations (WFPOs). These efforts have been further strengthened by more than 300 shareholders who have collectively deposited over three lakh rupees as share capital.

Inputs Support

All 40 WFPGs have received agricultural input support in the form of seeds, biofertilizers, and high-yield seedlings of grafted brinjal, sweet potato, and ginger with the intention to promote high agriculture productivity.

Linkages with Govt. Schemes

Women tribal farmers were supported by government schemes like NABARD¹, MNREGA², and OLIC³ for resources such as ginger drawing machines, solar pumps, and irrigation equipment.

Market Linkage

Two market facilitation centers (MFC) were established in both blocks to provide support to women farmers. MFCs are located at the wholesale marketplace of the block and provide services such as weighing farmers' produce before selling, enquiring about the price, and meeting with vendors. This has pitched the possibility of collective action in marketing. This year, more than 1,000 members were facilitated in the MFCs.

¹Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

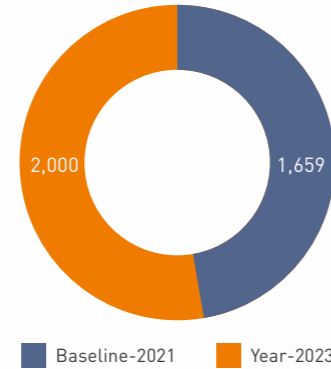
²National Bank for Agriculture And Rural Development

³Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

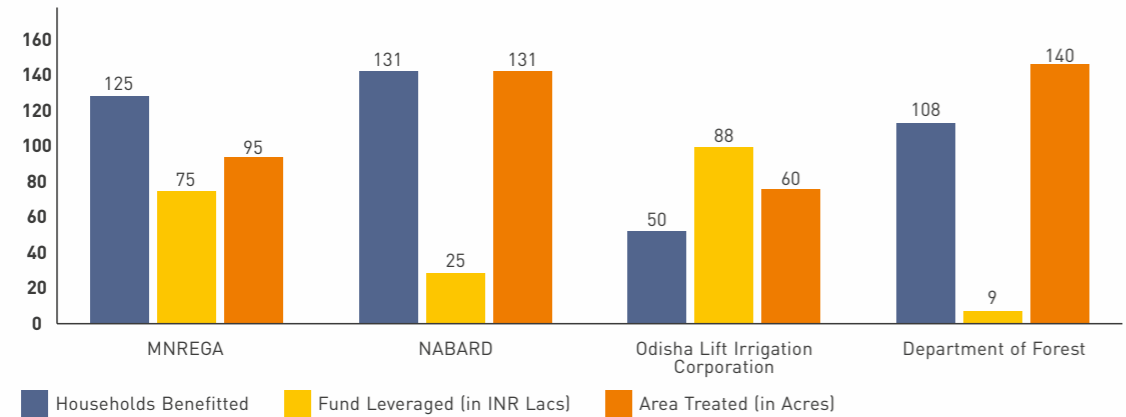
LAND USED FOR VEGETABLE CULTIVATION
(IN ACRES)



20.55 % vegetable cropping area increased from 1,659 Acres in 2021 to 2,000 Acres in 2023

- 1,740 Quintals of traditional Kisaan sweet potato and five tons of Bhu-Krishna (purple) sweet potato sold through a collective marketing approach by 125 farmers with a profitable price
- All 2,000 members have treated and preserved ginger for their own use as seeds, saving about 40% to 50% of their cost of cultivation

LINKAGE WITH GOVT. SCHEMES



- 400+ farmers' households linked to Government schemes with access to resources of INR 197 Lacs which treated more than 400 acres of land

Instrumental Role of Community Seed Bank

The Indigenous community of Koraput district largely depends on agriculture for their livelihood. However, this traditional occupation falls short in meeting the basic needs of these communities due to a lack of modern agricultural skills, low crop production, and inadequate marketing abilities. Over time, this situation has worsened, resulting in low incomes and significant livelihood challenges for these people.

To address these challenges, Oxfam India, in collaboration with SDMC Trust, has implemented multiple interventions. One noteworthy initiative involves the establishment of **seed banks** within these communities. Seeds, one of the basic inputs of agriculture, play a fundamental role in ensuring both food and economic security.

Traditionally, indigenous women in the villages of Koraput district have played a crucial role in preserving seeds for their own use, without sharing them with the wider community to conserve and multiply agro-biodiversity. For instance, Saita Jaipuria, a member of the Paraja tribe from Aligaon

village, has been a custodian of native brinjal seeds for the last thirty years.

Similarly, Laxmi Katabali, also from Aligaon village, has been cultivating tomato seeds, exclusively for family consumption.

Through the project, women have come to recognize the significance of community seed banks and the potential benefits of seed exchange for the entire community. As a result, Saita Jaipuria and Laxmi Katabali donated native brinjal and tomato seeds for the first time this year!

Presently, all 40 villages and 2,000 farmers are actively engaged in the community seed bank to ensure the conservation and propagation of native seeds at the community level through the involvement of custodian farmers. This has enabled low-cost cultivation, and diversification of crop cultivation possible in a collective manner, ensuring enhancement in income of the households.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Our aim is to improve access to safe drinking water for rural communities



Community Level Water Purification System



Community Capacity Building and Ownership

OUR IMPACT



1,700
Households



10,000+
People



25
Villages

Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, as recognized by the United Nations. It is a cornerstone for healthy living, sustainable development, and the well-being of communities.

Recognizing the significance of clean water access, SDMC Trust contributes towards SDG 6, by supporting projects that safely manage drinking water in rural communities with heavy metal contamination of groundwater.

SDMC Trust supports programs on access to safe drinking water through “Livpure Foundation”, in Puri, Jajpur, and Jagatsingpur districts, where iron contamination of groundwater is a major concern.

Iron-free drinking water in three districts of Odisha

Oxfam India

SDMC Trust through Livpure Foundation and Oxfam India has collaborated with the objective to “ensure access to safe drinking water for 25 disaster-prone villages of Odisha, benefiting over 10,000 people through low-cost and simple filtration technology, which is maintained and managed by community members.”

The project, implemented in Puri, Jajpur, and Jagatsingpur districts of Odisha, particularly focuses on women taking the lead on water governance which includes the management and operation of water plants, ensuring hygiene, and taking an active part in decision-making in water usages.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Installation of Iron Removal Plants

The project successfully installed solar-powered Iron Removal Plants, ensuring round-the-clock access to clean drinking water. IRP is a water filtration unit that filters iron contaminants, and microorganisms and improves the quality of water. The technology was innovated by the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar. The two-tank filtration model filters an average of 3,360 liters of water per day, sufficient to meet drinking and cooking water needs of about 60 households. The technology is easy to use, highly efficient and disaster-risk resilient.

Community Ownership

A community-ownership model is one of the key elements of this project, where the users are involved from the planning to take up the operations & management roles. Village water committees (VWC) were formed to enable the community to own and maintain the plants, giving them a say in decision-making. These committees consisted over 50% women, who regularly collected a monthly user-fee and deposited in a bank. This contribution of the community is kept to take care of the expenses on maintenance.

Community volunteers received comprehensive training on cleaning and maintaining the Iron Removal Plants, enabling them to handle routine tasks. Village Water Sanitation and Hygiene committees were formed to ensure proper management of filtration units. The project provided ongoing handholding support to community institutions, offering technical assistance and troubleshooting help as needed.

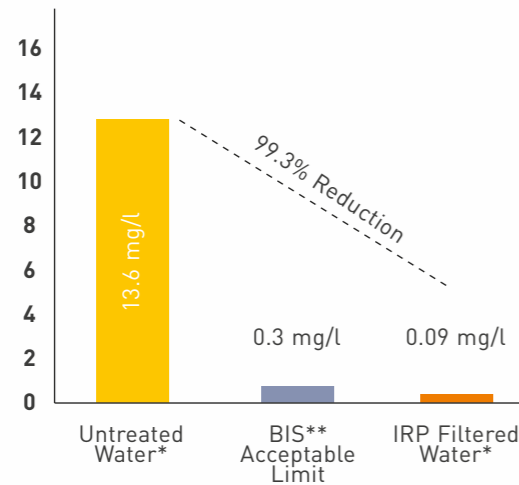
To enhance the project's impact, the project organised multi-stakeholder consultations involving government officials, NGOs, local leaders, and experts. Also, organised meetings with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) to discuss the General Panchayat Development Plan, ensuring support for the project's inclusion in local governance plans. The training program of PRI representatives was conducted on drinking water quality and technical aspects of IRP.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

With Iron-Removal Plants

REDUCTION IN IRON CONTAMINATION IN DRINKING WATER



The IRPs installed through the project is capable of reducing iron contamination by 99.3%, which is much lower than the acceptable limit

*Lab test results of water sample **BIS: Bureau of Indian standards

In addition, 99% of turbidity and 95-100% of microorganisms are also reduced from IRP

Community Engagement for Sustainability

- 25 VWCs formed to ensure regular operation and maintenance, with 50% of women members
- 150 PRI members participated in training on safe drinking water
- Each of the villages conducted water testing at least once every six months

Since 2017, Livpure Foundation and OXFAM India installed 75 Iron-removal plants and handed them over to communities in 4 districts of Odisha providing access to iron-free drinking water to more than 25,000 People.

A 40-Year Quest for Safe Drinking Water of Gamu Village

The local community of Gamu village, situated in the Jajpur district of Odisha, has been deprived of access to safe drinking water for over 40 years. The groundwater of Gamu village has been contaminated with a high concentration of iron, creating numerous challenges for potable water. The villagers have endured the burden of consuming water contaminated with iron, resulting in adverse effects as most of them travelled as far as 3.5 km to access clean water.

In 2020, the villagers engaged with volunteers from Pallishree, a local NGO partner of Oxfam India, to discuss their challenge of accessing safe drinking water and their need for a viable solution. In response, Oxfam India

in collaboration with the Livpure Foundation implemented a community-level water purification system, aimed at providing iron-free drinking water.

The initiative organized multiple meetings within the village and established village water committees, with women constituting 50% of the members. These committees are responsible for the operations of the Iron-removal plants. After struggling for long years, the residents of Gamu village now have access to safe iron-free drinking water with the complete ownership to repair and maintain the IRP with their own contribution.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Addressing Eating Disorders

FREED

Freed is a non-profit organization that intends to encourage conversations around eating disorders by providing support to affected individuals and families in India. SDMC Trust has partnered with Freed with the objective of "enabling holistic well-being for people requiring support for eating disorders."

Freed runs a helpline to provide a stigma-free safe space for people to share and ask questions regarding eating disorders.

Additionally, Freed organized a fellowship program and awareness program with the aim of reducing the gap between the onset of eating disorders and help-seeking behavior. This year, Freed's programs extended their reach to encompass 10 states including Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Support for Treatment of Children with Critical Illness

Sachin Tendulkar Foundation

The Sachin Tendulkar Foundation (SRT) partnered with SDMC Trust with the aim of "making essential surgical treatments accessible for children facing serious health challenges." The SRT partnered with Ekam Foundation and Inga Foundation to provide assistance for children requiring critical surgeries.

This year, a total of 330 children benefitted under the program across 13 states in India.

Among them, 202 children received crucial surgical treatment, while 128 children received assistance for corrective procedures for craniofacial abnormalities. These surgeries have profound and transformative effects on children's lives, not only improving their physical well-being but also positively impacting their psychological and social dimensions.

SUGAM School

SUGAM NGO

SUGAM NGO was established in the year 2009 with the objective "to offer free education and nutrition to children residing in the urban slums of Gurgaon, Haryana." The organization goes beyond academics by providing essential resources such as free books, uniforms, bags, and other necessities. SDMC Trust collaborated with SUGAM NGO in 2020 to support the school's operations.

During the year 2022-23, the NGO provided education to 417 students ranging from Nursery to class X. The school organized health check-ups and counseling sessions for students, teachers training and parent-teacher meets to improve the overall development of children.

Capacity Building of Non-Profit Professionals on Fundraising






India Leaders for Social Sector

India Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS) was set up in September 2017 with the aim of "creating a learning and leadership development organization that can help build leadership capacity for India's social sector." The SDMC Trust has partnered with ILSS to support the capacity-building program in fundraising, designed to empower non-profit professionals, which is a critical capacity need of the present time.

The first of its kind in India, the ILSS Fundraising Program is a rigorous virtual

learning course for fundraising professionals. It provides a platform for in-depth engagement with leaders in the field, fostering solid networks and knowledge-building through contextual study. This year, 55 participants covered a comprehensive curriculum through various approaches, carrying forward vital skills, and creating and nurturing networks.

SDG MAPPING OF OUR PROJECTS*

| PROJECTS | SDGs |
|--|--|
| <div> PRIMARY EDUCATION</div> <div>1. Project Ankur, Delhi 2. Shiksha Bharati School, Haryana</div> <div>SDG 4: Quality Education</div> <div>4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes</div> | <div></div> |
| <div> PRIMARY HEALTH</div> <div>1. Rural Healthcare Centre, West Bengal 2. SDMC Trust Dispensary, Himachal Pradesh 3. Mobile Health Unit, Himachal Pradesh</div> <div>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being</div> <div>3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines for all</div> | <div></div> |
| <div> SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS</div> <div>1. Economic Empowerment of women-farmers, Odisha</div> <div>SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 5: Gender Equality</div> <div>2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, and indigenous people, including through productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and non-farm employment</div> <div>5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in economic and public life</div> | <div> </div> |

*Relevant excerpts from the SDGs target are mentioned above

SAFE DRINKING WATER

1. Iron-free Drinking Water, Odisha

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

6.1 Equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities

OTHER INITIATIVES

1. Addressing Eating Disorders

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

3.4 Reduce non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

2. Support for Treatment of Children with Critical Illness

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including access to quality essential healthcare services

3. Sugam School

SDG 4: Quality Education

4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4. Capacity Building of Non-profit Professionals on Fundraising

SDG 4: Quality Education

4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development

5. Digital Classes for DAV school, Punjab

SDG 4: Quality Education

4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete quality primary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

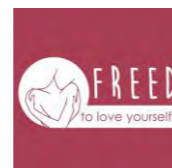
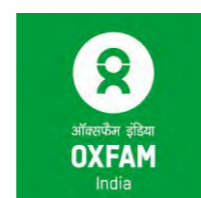
6. Save Soil Initiative by Isha Outreach

SDG 15: Life on Land

15.3 Restore degraded land and soil



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