THF Presence in States

Since its inception in 2009, THF has spread its wings from initiatives in a few sectors across a limited number of states to now covering the entire nation – An Overview
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The first step in any journey is its defining moment. The Hans Foundation commenced its journey with baby steps in 2009. Ever since, in its quest to reach out to millions of underprivileged, these steps have transformed into big strides. What began as a grassroots-level work through partner organizations, has assumed the proportions of social development movement in the areas of health, education, disability and livelihoods.

Our spectrum of work now spans a wide bandwidth from grassroots NGOs to statewide development programs and national level initiatives. We are helping more than 250 projects across the country. Amidst all this good work, which has benefited hundreds of thousands of poor people, Mr Manoj Bhargava, our founder and prime mover, recently launched Billion in Change 2 in October 2017. This outstanding endeavor is aimed at solving the world’s biggest need of electricity, water and medical care. It featured one of his new cutting-edge innovations: 300 watts Hans PowerPac, Runnmaker filtration units and Shivansh Fertilizer.

Health remains one of our biggest priority areas. This year, amongst other initiatives, we recommenced our Little Hearts program in partnership with National Heart Institute, Delhi and Mumbhadi Foundation, Mumbai. THF also gifted a world class state-of-the-art eye bank at KGGMJ Lucknow with the help of SightLife, USA and committed to support it for next four years. It also triggered its imagination to work and help eradicate corneal blindness from the country. A collaborative national effort has been launched by Dr L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad to scale up cornea transplants from 25,000 currently to 100,000 per year by 2021.

Another significant initiative of THF in disability sector is to expose De-institutionalization/ Social Role Valorization. There are thousands of inmates in state run institutions for people with intellectual disabilities, who have recovered but have been languishing for years and denied acceptance by the society, in a landmark decision, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with TISS and other leading organizations has formed a task force spearheaded by THF to evolve a national level strategy for De-Institutionalization – in consonance with the latest Supreme Court directive.

It was a momentous occasion for THF to be felicitated by the Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr Kiron Kanti Paul for its unmatched contribution in the field of health on July 1, 2017. THF was also one of the national winners at the Jill Dean Campaign ceremony organized by CNBC and Aquaguard and felicitated by Honorable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, on March 24, 2017.

Our statewide development program UK 2020 is progressing well. There have been remarkable achievements on multiple fronts viz integrated village development, agriculture, energy, sanitation, gravity fed water schemes and livestock programs. It is a second coming for green revolution in India, provided weather Gods are kind with our endeavor to promote agriculture through Shivansh Fertilizer and permaculture across states. We have forged meaningful collaborations in multiple fields with several state governments to upscale our efforts to reach out to the most inaccessible areas. In our North East policy initiatives, THF would soon be signing MoUs with the Nagaland Government to initiate mega livelihood programs spread over few districts of land on it by the Nagaland Village Council. Presently, several THF programs are running in six North East states ranging from skill development, education, health to livelihoods.

THF is in the process of planning another collaboration with the Maharashtra Government to participate in their Village Development Program for 1000 villages. It is a scheme launched by the Honorable Chief Minister. THF has achieved several milestones in its short journey. We are filled with a sense of gratitude and feel humbled. It would not have been possible without the vision of our founders and the tactful support of our partners.

Wishing you all Season’s Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Lt. Gen S M Mehta (Retd)
AVSM, SM, VSM**

Our annual magazine gives me the opportunity to share the past year’s news with everyone who has supported The Hans Foundation, and contributed to our eight-year journey. In the past year, our partner base has grown to over 350 collaborations and we have forged great partnerships. Our family has also grown to meet these commitments. We now have over 35 members in our Delhi and Dehradun offices. We have signed MoUs with State and Union agencies and have affirmed the Foundation’s role as an influential partner for development and change in India.

THF works all over India to improve accessibility and quality of services for disabled people. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill was ratified in December 2016, a momentous occasion for people of India. Our Foundation has initiated and funded projects across several states: increasing access to education, enhancing skills for sustainable livelihoods, and training and building awareness in companies to increase work opportunities for disabled people. In 2017, over One lakh PWs have accessed and benefited directly from THF-sponsored initiatives. Over five lakh Indirect beneficiaries have also gained from these initiatives.

THF is connecting non-profits, academics, parent organizations and other active voices in the area of disability so we can help build and shape a positive framework for recognizing disability rights. In our partnership with the National Trust, we have supported and helped implement government schemes such as the Nirmal Health Insurance Scheme, which has served over 76,723 people.

Through its joint work with Keystone Human Services International (THF is helping change the diagnosis and thought around rights of people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. It formed the Association De-institutionalization and working towards inclusive living and community based rehabilitation.

THF has funded over 500 trainings and networkussions across the country and has also initiated a research project, the group for which comprises respected and experienced members from the not for profit and government agencies. The idea is to study and co-create the positive aspects of community-living, look at inclusive living solutions already being applied in India so we can bring systemic change and recognition of human rights of people living in and affected by institutions.

UK2020, our development commitment to Uttarakhand, was announced in 2015. The biggest achievement this year was the inauguration of The Hans Foundation Satpauli Hospital. Through construction took three years, we had Out Patient Services up and running within the first year. An average of 3000 people were accessing this care. Today, the 150 bed multi-specialty hospital provides modern, quality care to remote populations. Under UK2020 we also started projects in disability, education and healthcare. As well as water, sanitation and environmental protection. In a joint partnership with the Government of Uttarakhand, we helped provide gas connections in SST9 villages as part of the midday meal scheme, reducing dependency on wood fuel. MANIS is a project we are implementing with American India Foundation. Locally trained ASHA and AYMH workers provide home based prenatal and neonatal care across 600 villages in Uttarakhand. Our Bal Anupya Karyakram provides medical coverage to children not covered under the State Health Insurance scheme.

THF has increased partnerships and investment in the northeast states of India. In Assam we are working with the state government to set up a multi-specialty hospital in Mijal, the biggest island in the Brahmaputra. In Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, we fund Mobile Medical Units, which cater to over 100 villages and annually provide primary healthcare to over 80,000 people. In Sikkim and Mizoram we have funded job-linked skill development programs.

We also focus on protection and preservation of the environment. One effort THF is making for river rejuvenation is through the Kumudwati River Rejuvenation project in Karnataka. This project is implemented by the International Association of Human Values and follows an integrated, watershed management approach, resulting in improved ground water levels, restored ecology of the catchment area and a green ridge.

As we grow, it is important to pay attention to all those who benefit from our partnerships and projects. It is for us to constantly learn so we can make more informed decisions and support our grantees with research and better ideas. Today the Foundation and its partners have pledge to work together so we can help bring better quality of life for all. We rely on your support, whether financial or hours spent volunteering, to achieve this dream.

With all of you a wonderful new year.

Regards,
Shweta Rawat
The focus of our organisation remains on creating useful inventions which help improve quality of life for billions around the world.
inverter for running small electronics. The Hans PowerPack can be recharged for free using the built-in solar panel, the Hans Solar Briefcase, or the Hans Free Electric bicycle. It can also be plugged into a regular wall socket and charged off the grid. Those who receive electricity 2-3 hours per day, the PowerPack can be charged when the utility is sending power, and then used during outage periods. The Hans PowerPack is built with tough materials and a state-of-the-art battery, so it is made to last.

The Hans Solar Briefcase is a lightweight, portable, and simple-to-use set of solar panels designed for charging the Hans PowerPack from virtually anywhere on Earth. Created with portability and durability in mind, the Hans Solar Briefcase avoids the serious problems that make glass rooftop solar panels impractical. For a rural household, school, or small business that lacks reliable electricity, the combination of the Hans Solar Briefcase and PowerPack will meet most electrical needs. Together, they are like a miniature power station. And the best part is that the electricity is entirely free.

THE RAINMAKER INVENTIONS

Water is fundamental to life. Today, water scarcity and water contamination are critical problems facing nearly all populated regions of the globe. Currently, over 660 million people in the world lack access to safe drinking water, and more than 50% of hospital beds around the globe are occupied by people who became sick from unsafe water. Unclean water is an epidemic, and clean water is healthcare. Clean water is also essential for agriculture, as crops can’t grow in soil poisoned by salty or polluted water. Stage 2 designed the Rainmaker devices to address the major water issues affecting humanity.

The Rainmaker device featured in the original Billions in Change film uses a distillation process to purify ocean water into fresh water suitable for drinking, agriculture, and industrial purposes. One Rainmaker machine is the size of a commercial water-dryer set and can clean 1,000 gallons per hour. In 2016, Stage 2 continued refining and simplifying Rainmaker, but also faced the reality that converting ocean water into fresh water involves navigating years of bureaucracy, regulations, and permitting. So while this machine is still an option for the future, Stage 2 has spent the past year developing two new water devices that can be used immediately.

The Rainmaker for Brackish Water is a water filtration unit for use at the village level. The device removes the salts and other minerals from brackish water, enabling villages to use brackish wells for both drinking and agriculture. Brackish wells are everywhere around the world, and this device simply attaches to the water source and begins working right away. And unlike other water filtration devices, this one uses very little energy – just 2 kilowatts, which is about what it takes to run a hair dryer! If enough brackish water can be turned into fresh water, the water crisis in some regions can be delayed for several years, if not decades.

The Rainmaker for Grey water is a small, self-contained unit that uses a series of filters to purify any type of dirty water—river water, sewage water, bacteria-filled water, etc. Like the Rainmaker for Brackish Water, this unit is intended for use at the village level and can be installed and used immediately. But Rainmaker for Grey Water requires even less energy to operate. And if electricity is not available, it can be used with a manual pump or bike pump.

SHIVANSH FARMING

Billions of rural farmers around the world are unable to make a living and take care of their families because of the debilitating expense of chemical fertilizers like urea. Shivansh Farming is a cost-free method of transforming unproductive land into a thriving farm. The simple-to-follow technique involves taking whatever is laying around – dry leaves, fresh grass, crop residues, animal manure – and creating a nutrient-rich fertilizer that also contains a high concentration of soil microorganisms. The process takes just 18 days, and integrating the fertilizer into a field can bring dead soil back to life within just one planting season.

Field-testing with the Shivansh Farming method began with 50 farms in India in 2016. Within a year it had spread virally to about 40,000 farms across the country. The results have been stunning. Farmers who have replaced chemical fertilizer with the Shivansh Fertilizer have reported both higher yields and higher quality crops.

They’re using less pesticide because their plants are healthier. Their produce looks better and tastes better. They have visibly healthier kids because the kids are eating more nutritious food. Their irrigation requirements are lower because the soil is finally absorbing water, as opposed to 90% of it being lost to evaporation. They’re getting functional seeds, which can be replanted to grow more crops, so they no longer have to buy seeds. Instead of burning farm waste, they’re burning it into fertilizer, which means less air pollution.

Most importantly, the farmers are making a living, which is allowing them to send their kids to school, buy basic necessities, and experience higher quality of life. All of these benefits can be attributed to reinvigorating the soil with Shivansh fertilizer. The Shivansh Farming method is described in a simple illustrated farming manual available for free at www.billionsinchange.in.

Facing Page
The Hans Free Electric is a hybrid stationary bicycle that when pedaled for an hour creates a day’s worth of electricity – for a rural household.

Above
1. Rainmaker device can purify brackish water into filtered water suitable for drinking
2. Mr. Manoj Bhargava interacting with the community
3. Mr. Bhargava explaining the solar briefcase concept
4. Mr. Bhargava explaining the solar briefcase concept
5. The process of creating Shivansh Fertilizer which takes only 18 days has resulted in better produce and higher quality crops
Addressing Corneal Blindness

THF supported state-of-the-art Eye Bank facility at KGMU, Lucknow has been declared a landmark success in less than a year of its operations.

Healthcare being one of the key indicators of development, the Hans Foundation has been working for the last eight years to bridge the gap of primary healthcare services in some of India’s most inaccessible regions. This is being done through strategic collaborations with civil society, private service providers, beneficiaries, stakeholders and through optimum utilization of available resources. Even though Eye Care forms an integral part of Primary Healthcare, it is still treated as a separate aspect. Good eye and vision health can reduce health disparities but promoting optimal conditions for “eye and vision health can also positively influence many other social ills including poverty, other health inequalities, increasing healthcare costs, and avoidable mortality and morbidity.”

Blindness is a major global public health concern, with India carrying a disproportionately large share. Vision loss is believed to be closely linked to economic development owing to several factors and the poor are at greater risk given their relatively worse nutrition and lack of access to health services, education, adequate housing, water and sanitation.

Among the four causes of blindness, Cataract is listed as one of its major reasons in India. The cost of surgery is substantial and affects not only the individual but the entire family’s financial status. Eighty percent of this visual impairment in India is preventable and treatable if detected early. Fortunately, care exists and the Hans Foundation is investing in eradication efforts.

In India, cornea services have been evolving over the years and new surgical techniques are being introduced constantly. As a result of the reflective process undertaken by THF, a pilot project was initiated to establish a world class eye bank in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In partnership with King George Medical University (KGMU) and SightLife, the project is based on a PPP model and aims to cater to the massive gap in the demand and supply of corneas in Uttar Pradesh. The pilot was realized by fostering strategic partnerships with local hospitals and by exercising an ecosystem building approach.

World Class Eye Bank in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is a particularly underserved state with 180,000 people suffering from corneal blindness with less than 700 transplants conducted in 2015. As eye donation and corneal transplants are still perceived as emotional and sensitive practices in the country. Sensing an opportunity to eliminate corneal blindness in Uttar Pradesh, THF has partnered with SightLife, Silapur Eye Hospital Trust and KGMU to create a world-class facility providing high volume, high quality corneas for transplant.

It will serve as a center of excellence for eye banking staff throughout Asia. With an investment of INR 4 Crores (to be spread over six years from 2015 – 2021) the facility is already equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and dedicated training space. It has already begun setting high standards of quality in corneal blindness treatments and surgeries.

Within four months of its operation, since its inauguration on December 5, 2016 the eye bank recorded landmark success and surpassed
KGMU’s previous annual transplant volume along with efforts to influence the medical/legal
donations. Following intensive policy work, the
Director General of Police issued a state-wide
order in June 2017 for all police and mortuary
staff to support donation and the Health
Secretary issued an order for government
hospitals to actively support Hospital Cornea
Recovery Program (HCROP).

In one year of its functioning, the eye
bank has done over 450 transplants. During
planning stages it was envisaged that the
eye bank will deliver 4300 sight restoration
transplants by 2021. However, based on the
results so far, it is set to achieve more than
5000 transplants by 2021.

Making ‘Right to Sight’ a Reality
Consistent with the aim of reducing the overall
burden of corneal blindness in UP, THF will now
adopt a decentralized approach and has plans
to set up two more eye banks in Uttar Pradesh –
one in Varanasi in Eastern UP and the second
in Moradabad, Western UP. Together, these eye
banks working in tandem with local hospitals
will serve thousands of people who have been
waiting for a corneal transplant for years now.

With this intervention, THF aims to salutate and
take care of most of the backlog that the state
has been grappling with.

Further, the Hans Foundation has
conceptualized and initiated a national level Eye
Care Program that will significantly contribute
to the fight against avoidable blindness. Since
the program necessitates collaboration with
stakeholders in the public and private sectors,
the Foundation has partnered with L V Prasad
Eye Institute, a pioneer in the sector, who will
be providing technical guidance for planning
and implementation for the nationwide program.
Initial discussions have already taken place
with L V Prasad to assess the need for capacity
building of Eye Banks in states which record
high corneal blindness burden. SightLife –
champions in working towards global sight
restoration programs will also be empaneled as
strategic consultants along with L V Prasad for
implementation of the plan.

The program will be executed with a
two-fold approach. To provide preventive and
curative treatment of blindness and vision
impairment and secondly, creating awareness.
As the program unfolds, the Foundation will
be targeting Assam and Chhattisgarh along
with UP for improving sight restoration and
sensitization on eye care. The focus will remain
on providing cost-effective cataract surgeries
through identified eye banks. These banks will
be supported on capacity building of staff,
equipment, processes and technical expertise to
adopt an all-inclusive approach for a more long-
term and sustainable program. The purpose is to
build self-sustaining Eye Banks in the long term.

Ecosystem Approach for
Sight Restoration
THF recognizes that for fully eradicating corneal
blindness, it requires wide ranging efforts. For
accelerating the progress towards Universal
Health Coverage proven, integrated, person-
centered quality eye health services need to be
available at all the three tiers of primary,
secondary and tertiary) service delivery levels
of care, so that everyone can access affordable
and quality services. In the next five years, the
program initiated by THF will continue to focus
on the overall health system approach. It will not
only focus on eye care and surgeries but will
also initiate a comprehensive public awareness
campaign for eye and vision health for a larger,
long-term effort to change attitudes, knowledge,
behaviour, and practice of the masses and also
the eye care delivery professionals.

This along with an understanding of the
determinants for community participation and
development and addressing the same will go a
long way in ensuring continued sustainability of
the model.

Christ et al, 2016; Rahi et al, 2009; Reis, 2013
HOLISTIC CARE

2017 saw THF expand base in one of its core thematic areas – Health, with stellar initiatives in Primary and Tertiary healthcare.

THE HANS FOUNDATION EYE CARE

A staggering 285 million people worldwide – 63 million in India alone are blind or visually impaired. Access to quality eye care could help as many as 80 per cent of them as most vision-imparing conditions are preventable or treatable. Many are blind because of poverty. The faster we reach out to people suffering from “curable blindness,” the faster we can take them out of a scary dark life.

The Hans Foundation Eye Care (THFEC), a 30-bed eye hospital based in Hardwar, Uttarakhand, has 20 dedicated doctors and paramedics reach out to remote hilly areas, screen local populations, commute patients to the hospital, perform the necessary surgery, and post-surgery transport them back at their doorstep. During patients’ overnight stays, THFEC’s hygienic in-patient wards, are under the guidance of a physician, caring staff and a specialized chef serving healthy meals.

Inception on June 30, 2014, The Hans Foundation Eye Care OPD & IP teams have treated over 25,000 patients, while conducting over 10,000 surgical operations and 600 outreach camps.

BLANKET - Curable Blindness

Throughout its three successful years of operations, THFEC Out-Patient (OP) and In-Patient (IP) teams have recognized that the positive health change is multi-dimensional; an outcome of several initiatives and interventions that must work in synergy. In line with this and to bring sustainable change, we started ‘Blanket – Curable Blindness,’ which maps, district by district and village by village, the menace of “avoidable blindness.” The success mantra behind this project is “Educate, Engage and Empower Communities.”

Leaders and volunteers from villages become “ambassadors of change,” continuing to refer patients post-camp, so efforts to contain avoidable blindness multiply further. Most of these post-camp referral patients obtain restored vision, whereas earlier they may not have had the slightest idea that they could be cured.

ISMS-Operation Restore Vision

In March 2017, The Hans Foundation Eye Care collaborated with America’s ISMS-Operation Restore Vision (ORV) in an international mission to eliminate needless blindness – a marathon week of complicated surgeries, education and knowledge exchange. A first of its kind, this international mission brought some of America’s best surgical eye practitioners to the doorstep of India’s poor. A team of 10 US and Indian eye specialists performed 31 of the most sophisticated surgical interventions simultaneously training other doctors and residents through interactive audio-visual equipment.

All interventions were 100 per cent free and ended with positive results. As part of this mission, a first in the region enlightening Continuing Medical Education (CME) program, “The North India Ophthalmic Conference,” was held in Hardwar, with physicians from all over North India participating. The result of the interactive training and CME program was excellent, an exchange of surgical information that will continue to benefit patients for years.
Eye Donation Awareness Fortnight

Every single eye donation brings sight to two blind people. To highlight and demonstrate this fact’s importance, an ‘Eye Donation Awareness Fortnight’ – an annual event has been created from 25 August – 8 September. During this event, The Hans Foundation Eye Care doctors and para-medical staff lead a series of awareness activities at nearby schools. Through video clips, PowerPoint presentations and direct talks, we apprise children of the advantages of eye donation, seeking their help to encourage people around them to fill up pledge forms.

This year on 8 September, our campaign culminated in a large eye donation awareness Hans Jay rally involving school children, staff and general public. All participants, wearing The Hans Foundation Hospital caps and raising Eye Donation placards with slogans, made the whole environment vibrant. We attracted a lot of attention and encouragement for eye donations from the Hardwar population, as well as passers-by.

THE HANS FOUNDATION GENERAL HOSPITAL

An estimated 75 per cent of the Indian population lives in rural areas. Yet only 25 per cent of doctors practice in rural areas. To help bring medical care to rural Indians, we launched The Hans Foundation General Hospital (THFGH) on a 70-acre campus in Satpur. While undergoing construction for the last three years, the hospital still provided daily outpatient care to over 100 patients.

On November 10, THFGH became a fully operational 150-bed capacity hospital. It will continue to cater to the medical needs of the underprivileged in Pauri-Garhwal and surrounding regions, providing health for all.

OUTREACH CAMPS – Bringing care to the Patient’s Doorstep

To bring health care to previously unserved localities, THFGH dedicated an ambulance and team of multi-specialty physicians and paramedics to conduct outreach camps. Every month through camps and in-house, THFGH provides over 5,000 needy patients free care, medicine and spectacles. While patients requiring eye surgeries are being treated at The Hans Foundation Eye Care facility in Haridwar, eye surgeries are now being performed at THFGH, Satpur as well, in one of the four dedicated state-of-the-art ophthalmic operation theaters. General Surgery, Orthopedics, Trauma and OB-GYN-related surgeries will be performed in one of the additional four general operation theaters.

Technology, Patient Care and Safety

The Hans Foundation Hospitals has an excellent team of doctors, paramedics, and nurses along with the best possible facilities. Now, at both THFESC and THFGH, we are installing the latest Hospital Information System IT applications. Implementation will automate processes and recording without human intervention will ensure improved efficiency making patient care even more reliable. Nurses and Doctors will use computers to record patients’ medical histories and treatment, lab and vital sign records, and medicine orders will be electronically input into the main database, which can easily be referred to, at later dates. Patients will have improved access to their own information so they can easily follow the line of treatment adopted. Finally, our priority at THFH is to practice patient safety. Safety goals are based on WHO guidelines, and treatment and quality of clinical and non-clinical care are monitored – including effectiveness of meeting expectations of patients, families and associates. Patient safety, care, and technology implementations will now usher in a new era of clinical and service excellence at THFH.

Alleviating Human Suffering

Our founder Mr. Manoj Bhargava once said, “We may not be able to alleviate human suffering on a grand scale, but it will be fun trying.” This simple yet deep-seated statement inspires us every day to provide quality affordable healthcare and mitigate the suffering of the underprivileged. Here’s hoping we continue taking The Hans Foundation Hospitals and its mission of “Health for all” to soaring heights.
De-institutionalization is the replacement to long stay in psychiatric hospitals. It is a process which leads to strengthening of community-based care.
absence of homes or families to return to (because the families themselves are perpetrators of violence and discrimination, or if the survivor is old or ailing).

- Persons who have accessed all the care that they could in a hospital and continue to live with residual symptoms, and in some cases, suffer only mild to moderate disability.

- Persons classified as destitute with no option to return home (these individuals could also belong to categories 2 and 3).

THF has been supporting Atal, a Kolkata-based organization working in the field of mental health and human rights for the past four years. Doshi Ghar – a joint venture with the West Bengal Government, directly addressed our priority on the issue. It is a pioneering effort recognizing the potentiality of people with psychosocial disabilities. The affected individual is distanced from all the opportunities of enjoying all rights, especially employment. Doshi Ghar is designed to address this issue and develop a ‘replicable model’ in providing employment opportunities for long-staying, abandoned and recovered people staying within the hospital. It establishes that these individuals are employable and can live an independent life if given the opportunity.

THF is also a member of several international forums such as the Clinton Global Initiative and has also partnered with several multilateral and bilateral organizations especially in the area of disability.

Chairperson of The Hans Foundation, Ms Shweta Rawal, has continued our much lauded work in this area by participating as a panelist in the UN side event panel discussion on the “Making De-Institutionalization Real. Moving from the Idea Toward the Ideal.” This discussion was organized as part of the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on June 14, 2017 in New York. The panel recognized the central role PWDs must play in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Convention on the Rights of PWDs. This panel of change agents explored some of the most difficult issues around creating a society where everyone belongs.

THE KEYSTONE INSTITUTE INDIA

The Keystone Institute India (KI) is a joint endeavor between THF and Keystone Human Services International (KHSI) to provide nationally-focused and robust education, training and support for the development of an inclusive Indian society which includes PWDs as fully participating and valued members of society. Our joint work has focused on developing responsive, respectful inclusive community services which move away from segregation and move towards full, inclusive citizenship for PWDs.

Strengthening Partners and Stakeholders

KI has worked with nearly all current THF disability partners through capacity building, technical assistance and support to move toward individualized support and away from institutional methods which separate, segregate and prevent PWDs from being a part of everyday Indian life. In the first half of 2017, KI organized 17 formal events reaching 526 persons. It has nine additional events scheduled till the end of this year and aspects to add more.

Social Role Valorization and Person Centered Methods

THF and KI have partnered to bring foundational ideas of inclusive practice and de-institutionalization to the fore in a structured effort to build a base across India and develop capacity in both teaching ideas and implementing them. In 2017, efforts were on building leadership in these areas by utilizing many of the graduates of the first Indian Social Role Valorization intensive course held in 2016, as emerging teachers and leaders. Since January 2017, the ideas of SRV have been shared with an additional 195 people in five states across India, utilizing 14 emerging Indian SRV educators as faculty alongside Ms. Elizabeth Neville, Director, KI.

Alternatives to Institutions

THF and KI staff have begun to study supported living models across several states in India in preparation for the formation of a task force on de-institutionalization designed for providing a policy and implementation framework for establishing community-based, non-institutional support for people with psychosocial disabilities. The aim is to conduct a National Level Study under the auspices of Health Ministry of Government of India to evolve a strategy for De-Institutionalization. The research will develop a position paper on approaches for long-stay institutionalized persons with mental health issues to be reintegrated into their families or appropriate inclusive living options.

This will look at repatriating those stuck in 43 Government Mental Health Hospitals across the country. This strategy involves all stakeholders – government and non-government agencies, educational institutes etc. The draft directive for Sustainable National Strategy for De-Institutionalization of People with Mental Illnesses has been shared with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the study will begin before the year’s end.

This work will move things forward in both policy and practice, and will surge towards a strong community-based system of support which prevents and remedies separation and segregation of people currently kept apart in institutional confinement.
Our NEW FRONTIER

THF’s vision for the North East is to catalyze, accelerate and promote inclusive growth and thus we are supporting many projects on Disability, Education, Livelihoods and Health.

In 1947, when India got her independence, the North East was among the most prosperous regions of the country. Seventy years on, the region overall and the states comprising it are lagging far behind the rest of the country in the most important parameters of growth. Thus, the need for capacity building of institutions and individuals cannot be over-emphasized.

THF’s vision for the North East is to catalyze, accelerate and promote inclusive growth. It involves institutions of democratic, representative, participative and popular development existing in these states along with participation of the private sector and civic society. THF has supported many projects since 2009 on disability, Education, Livelihoods and Health. An overview.

MEGHALAYA

We are supporting Bethany Society, which works towards promoting inclusive development by focusing on mainstreaming disabled people in sectors of health, education, livelihoods and social inclusion. A program of Bethany which aims at promoting mental wellbeing, prevent mental disorders, provides care, enhance recovery, promote human rights and reduce the mortality, morbidity and disability for persons with mental disorders. In community settings is being supported by us. Bethany Society benefits 5000 people directly with their programs and interventions annually.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

A project on improving the maternal and child health of the community is being run by Prayojan, a non-profit through a mobile medical unit in Tawang district. Supported by THF, community-based awareness programs on improving the health of the mother and child antenatal care and post-natal care are being carried out round the year along with diagnosis and administration of medicines free of cost. Through the MMU, 30 villages in Lohit district are covered benefiting 8000 people directly annually. Frontline health workers like ASHA and ANM are also leveraged to provide the best possible services and care.

ASSAM

Health Intervention

With an aim to facilitate provisions of health services for the economically weaker sections of Majuli, biggest island in the river Brahmaputra, THF is collaborating with the State government for setting up a multi-specialty hospital. A feasibility study has already commenced and the work is being carried out to enhance delivery of health services to the people.

Linking Unemployed Youth with the Market

THF has been supporting DBTech Society for providing employment-linked, market-driven vocational courses to the marginalized youth. Under this project, vocational training centers are supported by THF across 14 locations over four north eastern states: Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. Courses relate to Hospitality and Retail industry etc. where DB Tech provides placement assistance to candidates including opportunities for self-employment, post training. The program has been designed to address the issue with a market-based approach sensitive to the socio-economic needs of youth aged 18-35 years. So far, DB Tech has trained 3300 students and placed almost 50 per cent of them.

MIZORAM AND SIKKIM

Livelihoods Across States

Another program supported by THF in
Health Services at Doorstep

A majority of the population in Sikkim lives in rural areas and faces challenges of advance socio-economic conditions and geographical barriers. This is especially true when it comes to quality healthcare. In collaboration with Bhaviniya Bharat, a non-profit set-up, THF has extended financial support to run three MHOs providing health services in 60 villages in four districts. This project aims to provide basic healthcare facilities, conduct awareness programs, undertake general health profiling and addressing immediate health care needs, and will benefit 75,000 people directly.

Education

THF’s collaboration with Magic Bus Foundation for Education to Livelihood (E2L) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The overarching goal is to co-create learning and enabling environment in schools, motivate children to attend schools by engaging them in physical education, life skill trainings for enabling them to secure employment post education. The program focuses on adolescents from Std VIII-XII and equips them with employable skills. The program is being implemented in 50 schools in Alzawal, Mizoram. In a span of three years, the program will engage and train 3000 school children.

NAGALAND

Nagaland has made impressive strides in literacy, health, water & sanitation and governance in the last few decades. But the difficult geographical terrain and long drawn insurgency movement have been major constraints to overall development. Considering Nagaland’s resources and potential, THF has placed special emphasis here and undertaken strategic planning for next 10 years to enlarge the livelihood spectrum by initiating a variety of interventions across trades which include:

Livelihoods Landscaping

THF is collaborating with the Government of Nagaland for livelihood interventions in Kangtungan village in Tuli, Nagaland through a MoU. The proposed program was designed after the Village Council in Chuchuyimlang donated 320 hectares of land to THF. The objective of this strategic partnership is to generate sustainable livelihoods for communities across 4000 families from 30-40 villages in the region. Additionally, THF also aims to initiate other initiatives through development of small enterprises in Agriculture, allied sector and non-farm sectors like pig-piggy, poultry, bee-keeping, handloom, spice cultivation and others.

Collaboration with TISS

In October 2019, THF supported establishment of Mahatma Gandhi Academy for Human Development (MGADH) in Chuchuyimlang village in Mokokchung, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The Academy offers Diploma and Certificate courses on Livelihood Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship. The first batch of 24 has graduated successfully. The Academy will have seven dedicated departments of which one will be for imparting skill-based training to youth. THF has provided financial support for the establishment of the Institute and the operational cost till 2019. THF will leverage its crucial position of convening the pool of trained youth in the planned livelihood programs. These initiatives on the state level have opened up new avenues for creatively engaging youth in entrepreneurial ventures as well as secure livelihoods.

It is also anticipated that graduating students will be provided internships and then jobs by employing them in the larger livelihoods plan involving bamboo and tea processing units; bee-keeping, pig-keeping, handicraft and other alternative programs.

THF has also been supporting Community Educational Centre Society (CECS) since 2012 for various programs in Nagaland. Construction of a world-class school infrastructure in Tuli, Nagaland named Rajashwari Karuna School has been built by THF with an outlay of NH 12 crore. The school campus, spread across 18 acres, has a three storey building including hostel facilities that can accommodate around 1000 children.

Another school which used to operate from a thatched roof structure located in a slum was also transformed to a full-fledged three storey building containing 24 rooms. The school has a playground and mid-day meals are being given to 500 children who come from low socio-economic backgrounds. CECS was also supported with funds to run a Mobile Medical Unit to bridge the gap in availability of quality health services for the state’s tribal community.

Development of human resources in forms of employability is critical for the development of the North East. Providing access and incentives for sustainable livelihood systems for youth especially tribal populations in the region is extremely important for the region’s economic and social transformation.

THF plans substantial advances in enhancing agro-processing industries in Nagaland, harnessing potential of the unemployed youth through skill-based programs and setting up of bamboo, tea and other units with people oriented and people-centric approach. THF is making concerted efforts towards the same by focusing on Nagaland for an integrative livelihoods program along with other interventions in health and education.
THE FUTURE’S WHITE GOLD

THF’s Mission Water takes a 360 degree approach - from ensuring water accessibility to water conservation, to water recharge and river rejuvenation.

Water is the elixir of life. Although often perceived to be ubiquitous, water is the most remarkable substance without which life would not have evolved on earth.

Mankind has taken this resource for granted and exploited for millennia. This has resulted in half the population of the world not having access to safe drinking water! Using water that is not safe for drinking, washing or cooking poses a serious threat to our health, resulting in almost 50 per cent of the hospital beds being occupied by patients suffering from water borne diseases. There is a dire need for immediate attention by the stakeholders to make sustainable use of the available water resources.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, THF has undertaken Mission Water with all the seriousness it deserves - at the grassroots as well as at the national level. We continue our efforts to ensure accessibility to drinking water provisions, water conservation, water recharge and river rejuvenation programs. The Foundation has also taken recognisable strides to promote sanitation provisions for large geographical areas including Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka and National Capital Region (NCR).

REJUVENATING OUR RIVERS

KUMUDVATHI RIVER, Karnataka

THF has demonstrated results in Kumudvathi River Rejuvenation project in Karnataka. The project is being implemented by the International Association of Human Values (IAHV) and follows an integrated watershed management approach, the resultant factor being improved ground water levels, renewed ecology of the catchment areas and a green zone. It has benefited 278 villages in the drainage basin belonging to Nelamangala Taluk of Bangalore rural district and Magadi Taluk of Ramanagara district.

The project successfully constructed 53 Boulder Check Dams, 48 Recharge Wells, five Recharge Bore Wells and 18 Water Pools. To augment the results, intensive tree plantation was also carried out in the region. To ensure sustainability of the project and ownership of the locals, community participation and engagement of government partners has been ensured at every level. A key metric of success has been the alignment of the project with Government schemes like MGNREGA. In the long run, the river rejuvenation will also restore water to Tippa Gundana Hills reservoir that has been catering to the needs of residents of Bengaluru.

MANJRA RIVER, Maharashtra

The Hans Foundation along with IWV has also reached 200,000 beneficiaries in Maharashtra through rejuvenation of the Manjra River along an 18 km stretch in Latur district by desilting
and deepening the river. In terms of Geology and Environment, Central Water Commission has declared the ground water situation in Lalur as semi-critical. The project activities were carried out across 16 villages. The unique feature of this program is participation of the community where they collected INR 6.5 Crores through crowd funding and provided equipment, vehicles and labour services on voluntary basis at a scale rarely seen before. The Hans Foundation provided rest of the funding. The project also carried out afforestation in Akhandi watershed and adjoining areas by planting hundreds of thousands of saplings (including fruit bearing saplings) using drip irrigation techniques. The project is in its second year and will act as a model and offers enormous lessons for dissemination and replication in similar geographical settings.

**Transforming Khora Colony**

The Hans Foundation took up the mantle of changing the face of largest urban slum in Northern India – Khora Colony in the National Capital Region. A comprehensive set of interventions has successfully worked in Rajiv Nagar and Adarsh colonies of the slum. In partnership with Forum for Organised Resource Conservation and Enhancement (FORCE) and Jan Jal Limited, the project has installed five water ATMs at pertinent locations. The ATMs cater to potable drinking water accessibility for 1000 families at 50 paisa/litre.

To keep the locality clean, the project has also induced three Rickshaws for house-to-house garbage collection. Serving the entire ecosystem, the project is working towards: construction of compost pits and a clean drainage system in the entire chain of activities, the project has integrated community ownership as a key element for success and sustenance. As a consequence of this intervention, the THF was selected as one of the winners in a nationwide campaign jointly run by CNN-IBN and Aquapedia and facilitated by the Honorable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis at the Jal Dan ceremony held in Mumbai, in June 2017.

**Recharging Himalayan Springs**

For recharge of spring and water distribution through community participation, THF has partnered with Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHRAG) in Tanuk and Lamwarhia blocks of Almora, Uttarakhand. It has supported 26 spring recharge and also developed water distribution systems to reach 1330 households. The spring recharge activity has been completed in 15 villages. Water distribution, one of the most critical pillars of the project, has also been completed in all the 15 villages.

**Hans Jal Dhara Program**

Hans Jal Dhara is one of the flagship programs of THF that seeks to provide drinking water to every household in villages across four districts of Uttarakhand – Almora, Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli and Nainital. To implement this program, THF has partnered with six organizations with an outlay of INR 50 Crores. Once completed, this will serve as a pilot project – to be replicated in all districts of Uttarakhand.

Components of this program include construction of water supply schemes, recharge of springs, construction of Rain Water Harvesting Tanks (RWHTs) and individual household toilets. This program will benefit 19,447 people. The planning phase has been completed in which the organizations prepared Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), constituted Water User Groups (WAGs) and conducted water testing of all sources. The implementation began recently under which spring recharge measures like plantation, contour trenches, bunding etc. have been initiated. This program will provide at least one tap connection to each household in select villages, as per the list provided by the Uttarakhand Government.

THF has undertaken many such initiatives in other states too, ranging from conservation of water schemes, rainwater harvesting, reviving and recharging rivers. These efforts have shown tangible results and has encouraged us to continue our march. With the launch of Billions of Change 2, and our life changing interventions, THF is trying to infuse greater intensity in its campaign to provide safe drinking water to rural masses and ensuring adequate water is available for irrigation in its areas of work. These are small but very significant endeavors towards building a better future for all.

**Facing Page**

Lt Gen S.M. Mohla, GOC, The Hans Foundation being felicitated at the Jal Dan Ceremony.

**Centre**

THF team conducts a site visit to the Kumudwathi river rejuvenation project, Kamataka.

**Top Community Meeting**

meeting for clean water and sanitation practices in Uttarakhand.

**Above**

THF is also supporting the WASH program in Uttar Pradesh.
2017 saw The Hans Foundation expand horizons and redouble efforts in areas like water conservation, river rejuvenation, education, infrastructural support, new inventions and development of last mile villages.
8. LAUNCH OF HANS POWERPACK
Shri Bhode J. Mahajan (extreme right) with Mataji Smt Mangalaji and other dignitaries at the launch of Hans PowerPack in Kedarnath at Billion in Change 2 media event

9 - 10. INAUGURATION OF MGAD
A collaborative effort by THF and TISS to set up a University in Nagaland graced by former HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

11. LIGHTING UP THE HIMALAYAS
Electrification project by THF in the last mile villages of Pindar Valley, Uttarakhand

12. HALDWANI CANCER HOSPITAL
MoU signing ceremony for operationalizing Haldwani Cancer Hospital at a cost of INR 12 Crores

13. UTTARAKHAND RATTAN AWARD
Mataji Smt. Mangalaji being presented the Uttarakhand Rattan Award by former CM Shri Harish Rawat

14-15. RIVER REJUVENATION
A national level endeavor to revive Manya River in Maharashtra benefiting 240 villages and Kumudwati River in Kanata presenting 400 villages

16. EDUCATIONAL DRIVE IN PINNAR VALLEY
Holistic interventions in Education sector ranging from electrification, water & sanitation, infrastructure and IT initiatives in Pindar Valley primary schools, in Uttarakhand
THF has selected diversified agricultural interventions in several states, and 2017 has seen steady and tangible progress in all its livelihood initiatives.

The agriculture sector is a prominent part of the Indian economy, supporting more than 50 per cent of India’s workforce. With over 58 per cent of rural households dependent on farming, it plays a vital role. However, serial monsoon failures, lack of access to irrigation and poor knowledge of progressive farming practices have led to sub-optimal utilization and production in agriculture sector. The Hans Foundation recognizes not only the importance of strengthening the rural agricultural economy but also the dearth of financial aid to livelihood programs in remote interiors.

We have undertaken several agriculture-based livelihood programs, with an integrated approach to land and water resource management. These interventions are aimed at exploring project-specific solutions adaptable to local realities of rural India. We envision undertaking large scale agricultural projects in different states that contribute towards food security, equitable access of food resources, enhance livelihood opportunities and contribute to economic stability in the next few years. Recently, we have also forayed into organic farming and Permaculture to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture. A mammoth initiative is underway in the form of Shivansh Compost and Permaculture practices which are stated to become movements to uplift rural economy in the country. Here are THF’s key interventions and their progress on ground:

**Permaculture**

**Taking the Organic Route**

THF has demonstrated and established a new method of farming called Permaculture in different parts of the country with a major focus on Uttar Pradesh. ‘Permaculture’ originates from ‘permanent agriculture’ and ‘permanent culture’ and is an innovative approach that follows the natural cycle of our ecological system to create agricultural produce in such a way that productivity and sustainability is maintained.

In recent months, the internet has been flooded with discussions of Shivansh Fertilizer’s technique promoted under Billions in Change 2 campaign. The technique is revolutionizing agriculture in India and saving hundreds of thousands of farmers from the perils of chemical agriculture. Shivansh Fertilizer is a cost-free fertilizer that can transform unproductive land into a thriving farm, enabling farmers to reduce reliance on chemical inputs and increase yields. Primarily it is a layering system which utilizes materials like brown waste material (dried grass, wheat stalk, animal bedding, dried leaves), coupled with green material (green leaves, green grass, tree trimmings) and dung from herbivores like goats, hens and cows. The compost is prepared by layering the three different materials and requires turning every 3-4 days creating chemical reactions and yielding rich fertilizer in just over two weeks. This was tested across 80 farms in Uttar Pradesh and is now being utilized over 40,000 farms across the country. Farmers who have replaced area with Shivansh Fertilizer have reported higher yields and higher quality crops and are using less pesticides because their plants are healthier. THF will continue to disseminate and scale up this technology to ensure its reach across the country.

A Permaculture Training Institute has been established in Delhi, which is being run by experts assembled from all over the world. It is imparting training to farmers on Permaculture and Shivansh Compost making. There is a separate vertical created by the name of Shivansh Fertilizer, which will be working extensively to disseminate this technique to the villages all over India.

There are already 14,000 farmers in Uttar Pradesh who have been trained and are successfully using these techniques with increased productivity and better soil conservation. The vision of our founder is to make it a national movement, curbing use of pesticides and insecticides, saving billions of rupees in subsidy and promoting age-old and healthier practices.

**Livelihoods Enhancement in MP and Rajasthan**

THF is also supporting two projects on enhancement of livelihoods through land, water resource and agriculture development in villages across Baranowa in Rajasthan and adjoining Jabhua in Madhya Pradesh. In partnership with NM Sagarpur Water & Development Foundation, these projects are being implemented along with state sponsored schemes and will benefit...
8700 households over the next three years. These are severely drought-prone and backward areas that witness high distress migration. The project aims at increasing yield in cereal crops per acre by minimum 40 per cent and enhancing average annual income by minimum 50 per cent. It will also focus on cash crops like vegetables. This has been adopted using comprehensive Package of Practices (POP) approach along with production of high-yielding variety of seeds. Other interventions are:

**Integrated Watershed Development**

So far, 1047 acres have been treated under Watershed Development, consisting of participatory micro watershed development, well recharging/renovation, construction of farm ponds, gabion structures and various land treatment measures like continuous contour trench (CCT), field bunds, gulley plugs, agroforestry, grass seeding on bunds etc. The benefits of the intervention are increase in soil moisture, and are also leading to an increase in ground water level, resulting in more water in wells.

**Vegetable Cultivation**

A total of 1292 seasonal vegetable plots in the open fields and trellis were developed on an average plot size of 0.25 acres. The trellis system benefited farmers economically and ecologically. Under the open field vegetable cultivation, the gross average income is INR 15,000-20,000 per season.

**Water Resource Development**

More than 900 new farmers have benefited from irrigation through lift irrigation, check dams and well deepening. Irrigation support was provided in vegetable, wheat, green gram and groundnut crops.

The irrigation potential created through above interventions is about 784 acres in one season and significantly accumulates for upcoming seasons.

**Improving Small-holders Livelihoods**

THF is supporting another intervention in partnership with National Foundation for India in 162 villages across 10 districts of Assam, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. All the grassroots, eight local NGOs are being supported in these three states for project implementation. Nearly all the blocks are geographically remote tribal areas where government schemes have lowest reach. The project aims at enhancing annual income of at least 10,000 marginlized households by INR 20,000 through strengthening of agriculture and allied livelihoods by 2019. More than 11000 farmers are benefitting through this intervention.

**Entrepreneurial solutions for improving quality of life in Odisha**

THF has partnered with Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SITT) for a project on ‘Entrepreneur Driven Solutions’ in South Odisha – one of the most backward regions in the country, inhabited by scheduled caste and tribes. The proposed intervention will improve quality of life of 4000 families in five blocks through an entrepreneurship driven model. The major focus will be on drinking water for household use and irrigation of field crops and kitchen gardens. Village level water infrastructure for domestic use and for irrigating kitchen gardens will be set up in 80 villages by a farmer-producer company. Components like fencing, soil stabilizing, manure and solar pumps are also supported under the program. The farmers will use the infrastructure for round-the-year crop cultivation and encouraged to contribute to the share capital of the producer company to the extent of grant provided to them, keeping in view sustainability.

**Way forward**

India has made great strides in increasing food grain production since the Green Revolution era of the mid-60s. However, the declining total factor productivity, diminishing and degrading natural resources and stagnating farm incomes are major concerns faced by Indian farmers. We understand the pressing need for raising the farm income in a sustainable manner and increasing the resilience of agricultural production systems. Thus we are working towards growth and advancement of organic agriculture through technological interventions, community empowerment and partnerships. THF is also experimenting with agricultural diversification by identifying key crops/commodities which can help small farm holders raise their income. These incremental gains in income will be instrumental in attaining higher productivity and profitability.

The Hans Foundation has selected diversified agricultural interventions in several states. The past year has been rewarding with steady progress in all our agriculture based livelihood initiatives and we aim to expand our permaculture program to all agriculture based states and make it a national movement. In line with our commitment towards integrated and sustainable development, community engagement, and convergence with government schemes remains at the heart of all our initiatives. As we expand, we continue to maintain focus on high impact programs and creating sustainable solutions managed and owned by the communities.
BIG LEAP INTO THE FUTURE

With an investment of over 176 Cr since its inception in 2015, THF’s ambitious statewide development program UK 2020 is now focused on reaching the last mile villages.

In 2020, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of India after being carved out of Uttar Pradesh. With three distinct geographical regions – Higher Himalayas, Middle Himalayas and Plains, its 10.08 million inhabitants are living across 16,826 villages spread over 95 blocks in 13 districts.

The Hans Foundation announced its ambitious Uttarakhand 2020 program in November 2015, committing itself to statewide development. A MAU with the State Government was signed in the presence of then Honorable Chief Minister Shri Harish Rawat. The two-year journey has been full of successes and learnings for further improvement. UK 2020 was developed with a futuristic approach with special emphasis on strengthening infrastructure and empowerment of communities. The aim was not only gradual social upliftment of people but also balanced regional development, with benefits accruing particularly for the impoverished sections of the society in the coming years.

To date more than INR 176 Cr have been invested in the state in a diverse portfolio of large scale programs in Health, Disability, Education, Energy, Water & Sanitation, Agriculture and Livelihood sectors.

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS

Health is one of the core areas THF is focusing on in Uttarakhand. For improving access to quality healthcare services to the last mile villages, THF has committed 31 Mobile Medical Units to extend quality healthcare. At present, 12 MMUs are operational and nine more will be inducted soon. So far about 78,585 patients have availed benefits of these MMUs. Under Maternal and Newborn Survival (MANS) initiative of the American India Foundation supported by THF, more than 14,600 pregnant and lactating women have benefitted so far.

THF had committed gas connections to 5519 schools last year of which more than 3000 schools have received double barrel gas connections and a customized gas stove as part of the project. THF has initiated several interventions to create livelihood opportunities, including reviving agricultural practices, strengthening allied sectors like dairy, bee-keeping and individual entrepreneurship and introducing a new technology called Permaculture that is benefitting 10000 farmers across 300 villages. Our 2016 Annual Report covers those interventions in detail.

PINDAR VALLEY CHALLENGE - Integrated Village Development Plan

As part of UK 2020, THF’s vision is to ensure that ripples of our development reach even last mile villages where government intervention is minimal. Consequently, an ambitious and daunting project Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) was initiated as a pilot project in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, targeting eight remote villages in Pindar Valley. The aim was to implement a plan that holistically develops the region. Pindar was deliberately selected, given its treacherous and remote location. The last mile villages in Pindar are 4-5 hours trek away from the unpaved road, without electricity and present day basic amenities. IVDP was begun to supplement government’s work for improving overall quality of life for 900 resident families in Pindar Valley. Ten months since its inception, the project has gained momentum with all partners setting their basis in the valley and monitoring the implementation work. The following section highlights the interventions and overall framework for development.

LIVELIHOODS - Agriculture and Non-Farm

Livelihood-based initiatives forms one of the key priorities for THF under IVDP to curb migration, which has been one of the biggest concerns for the state. THF is promoting and reviving agriculture produce through the following -

1. THF has partnered with Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC) to implement climate smart agricultural practices by introducing commercial crops; improving traditional crops, use of technology and strengthening the supply chain. High variety sapslings of apple and walnut (approx. 40000) were planted. A new variety of potato has been introduced and 150 farmers had benefited from a better yield. A total of 34 Pely houses have been established for high quality vegetables and 34 more will be set up next year. New techniques on beehkeeping have been introduced and 90 farmers have been given 430 boxes for beeking.

As part of the Livelihoods initiative in partnership with HARC, introduction of a new potato variety has yielded better produce.
MANSI, supported by THF has benefited more than 14,500 pregnant and lactating women so far.

expecting honey in the coming season, which will be bottled and sold under the brand Pindari - The Nature’s Brand. Registration for the brand is currently under process. Other interventions like medicinal plant samplings (Kulki, Rosemary) have been given to farmers as there is high demand of these in India and international markets. Farmer Producer Groups have been made and a cooperative society will also be created. So far, this project has benefited approx. 2911 farmers.

For alternative livelihoods, THF aims to train 100 women in the valley on weaving and allied activities by establishing a weaving centre in a central location. Consequently, youth are also provided training on various vocational courses and later will be supported to start small enterprises.

THF will soon be starting innovative interventions like ‘Cheese Plant’ where select families will be given cows and the milk for production of cheese. The number of families expected to benefit from this intervention in the coming years will be approx. 300.

Application for organic certification is underway, once the certificate is received, the produce from our initiatives will be sold under Pindari Valley organic products brand. These enterprises will catalyse into empowered families who will leverage the use of the information and technology to harness the potential of agriculture in the coming years.

WATER AND SANITATION

Since availability of drinking water is a struggle for the families, especially women who cover several kms daily to fetch water, a Detailed Project Report on providing safe drinking water has been prepared. The work has begun in Khuli Village for providing clean drinking water to each of the 95 households. By the end of 2019, each household will have water supply at their doorstep. Peoples’ Science Institute (Dehradun) is constructing new water schemes, repairing the old ones, working on recharging the water sources to ensure that each household has water supply at home. The first village ‘Khuli’ is taken as an up on priority and shall be completed by the end of the year.

The Government has been working for creating open defecation free state and providing financial support to households to construct toilets. There are a few villages where toilets were constructed by Government but since they were never used they are in abysmal conditions. THF has resumed work to construct 516 toilets in eight villages of the valley.

Himalayan Villages Educational Development Programme

EDUCATION

In the Education sphere, THF has initiated pilots aimed at customized learning and support the school system. The schools in Pindari Valley lack basic infrastructure and none of these schools have any access to information for new age learning methods. Recognising this, THF decided to intervene for creating learning experiences to meet each student’s needs. Kavalya Education Foundation, supported by THF is working on pedagogy and training teachers on Activity Based Learning. One Planet Foundation has been training the educated youth of the valley to teach in schools which have inadequate teaching staff. Seven schools were also provided furniture by THF and seven more will be provided by the end of November 2017.

Digital classrooms have been set up in five primary schools. Zaya learning Labs has initiated ‘Class Clouds’, a device containing learning content in digital format that children can access in the form of lessons through tablets provided by the Foundation. THF has disseminated 100 tablets in five schools. Once the learning outcomes are assessed, more schools will be covered under this project.

ELECTRICITY

To electrify the schools, THF has installed 2 low solar systems in each of the five schools as part of the iVDP THF has also provided electricity to 180 households in the last mile villages, Kwarui and Badakhol situated at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

The Hans Foundation aims to establish iVDP as a replicable benchmark for other developmental agencies and the Government. Through our diversified strategic interventions, we are creating milestones by finding innovative ways of reviving agriculture and non-agricultural opportunities for the people in the valley for creating sustainable livelihood and job opportunities.

The development of agriculture and an agriculture-based system linked with the growth of industries and tourism is being explored as a way towards inclusive development of the state. Education plays a pivotal role in empowering and enlightening any society. Therefore, top priority is being accorded to this vital sector. THF’s endeavor is to recalibrate the development paradigm, especially in geographically inaccessible areas to fulfill a larger social vision for Uttarakhand that is inclusive, sustainable and which protects the natural endowments of the state.
While consolidating our signature campaign, the Cochlear Implant Program, we instituted reforms which ameliorated the whole process to make it more organized.

Cochlear Implant Program (CIP), was started by The Hans Foundation in 2013 and has become conceivably the biggest program being run by any single organization in the world. The progression to make it the largest program was full of challenges and learnings. CIP was initiated by the Foundation to bridge the gap that existed between children born with profound hearing loss and their affordability of assistive devices. In line with our commitment to excellence, THF undertook a programmatic review of the CI program for understanding the underlying issues and opportunities for improvement. We would like to share a snapshot of the journey this project went through to become what it is today.

**THE CONSOLIDATION EXERCISE**

In March 2015, an exercise was undertaken by THF to review the post-surgery progress in children. The findings revealed during the review undertaken in March 2015 were edifying and these learnings reshaped our whole approach. A special panel comprising The Hans Foundation team, an audiologist and a speech therapist was formulated to assess the improvement in the hearing ability of the children. Almost 70 per cent of the children were able to hear diminutive sounds and were learning to respond. However, almost 30 per cent of the children were still communicating through sign language. It was clear that there was a need for a paradigm shift from step one of the program. The major learnings and subsequent actions undertaken were as follows:

**Identification of Suitable Candidates**

One crucial aspect of CIP is to appropriately determine the candidacy for cochlear implantation; right age, level of hearing loss, economic background, etc. It was made compulsary that the child and his/her family first come to THF and be reviewed by the expert panel comprising a Pediatric Surgeon, a Therapist, Counselor and THF representatives. The process to select deserving candidates in accordance with the criteria for the surgery has become more organized.

**Economies of scale – Cochlear Devices**

The devices initially procured by the hospital were steeply priced. Three separate vendors were identified for procurement of Cochlear devices at optimal rates. This enabled THF to procure devices at concessional rates and save as much as equivalent to carrying out almost 50 additional surgeries in a year.

**Focus on Therapy**

Post-surgery therapy is one of the most crucial components of the CIP. The evaluation exercise revealed that the post-operative therapy provided was inconsistent. Hence, effective coordination and evaluation of therapy sessions with parents was implemented. Support was provided wherever parents had distance or resource constraints to attend the sessions. Regularity in attending therapies brought remarkable progress in the children.

**Extensive Speech Perception Review**

THF formalized an assiduous process of quarterly review of each child operated under the CIP. The expert panel assesses the speech development and counsels the family to ensure that the child is able to maximize the benefit received from the device.

**Rehabilitation**

The approach for the rehabilitation varies with each child based on his/her needs. Select therapy centres are engaged as part of the rehabilitation program. Once it is established that the speech development in the child is satisfactory, the team ensures that the child is integrated into a mainstream school. In many cases, additional counseling on education, on perceptual skills, and dynamics of communication for the parents is provided to improve communication skills of the child.

**Leaving No One Behind**

For the children operated on in year one, all parents were contacted and the children were assessed. Based on expert advice, some children were given a second implant. Several of those children started benefiting with the advent of another device coupled with extensive therapy counseling and review undertaken by THF.

**Platform for Feedback**

An annual meet for parents is organized to share feedback on the progress of their child and they are encouraged to share the challenges they have faced. This not only keeps the team abreast of the progress and challenges of the parents but also provides a platform for the parents to share each other’s experiences.

**Moving Ahead**

So far, more than 500 surgeries have been conducted under CIP – our flagship program. To ensure that all children supported under this program achieve maximum benefit from the remodeled approach, it has been decided that the consolidation exercise will continue for one more year. While we continue providing Cochlear Implant surgeries through Apollo, Columbia Asia and Max Super-specialty hospitals in Delhi, THF has taken a conscious decision to expand this program to other parts of India.
A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

A systematic assessment of the Little Hearts Program led THF to forge newer associations, and make this initiative a more robust patient care initiative.

Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) is the number one cause of birth defect-related deaths in the world and remains one of the major causes of mortality and morbidity in the pediatric population. In India alone, it is responsible for 10 per cent of infant deaths despite rapid advancements in diagnosis and treatment. In some cases, the child needs to be operated within the first few hours or days of his/her life. Thus, early diagnosis and timely management are the most crucial aspects of this treatment.

THF joined hands with Being Human Foundation and a leading hospital in April 2013 to inivate hope for underprivileged children with CHD and their families. In this initial collaboration, 50 per cent of the surgery cost was contributed by THF; whereas surgical support and rest of the surgery cost were provided by the hospital. Being Human was the coordinating agency for identification of children and connecting them to the hospital. Almost 310 surgeries were supported by THF in the first year of LHP. By 2015, THF had supported more than 530 surgeries. The program leveraged a chain of hospitals across the country to treat beneficiaries.

Evaluation of the Little Hearts Program

In 2015, THF decided to assess LHP’s performance. For even after treatment, children with CHDs need regular monitoring and follow-up care, sometimes for the rest of their lives. The evaluation process revealed staggering results:
- Irregular follow-ups by families, especially from rural areas post surgeries
- The inability of families to afford supplements/medicines post surgery, adversely impacted recovery
- Mismangement of anti-coagulation medicine by parents after discharge
- Post-operative mortality rates in some cases

This systematic evaluation indicated that coordination between the agencies needed to be more efficient and coherent. There was also great scope for making post surgery follow-up process with parents more systematic and uniform. We then decided to restructure the whole program from the beginning. THF came to the forefront of project implementation, taking charge of screening beneficiaries based on pre-determined criteria. Several measures were undertaken to revitalize the program and ensure it serves its goal of giving a new lease of life to these children. Some of the reforms are:

New Partnerships

Post evaluation necessitated provision of the best healthcare services coupled with an effectively coordinated program with surgery/post surgery care. However, in a program as complex and sensitive as pediatric CHD, choosing health facilities with the most extensive experience in operating specific conditions is of vital importance. In 2016, the LHP was reformed and we decided to partner with two renowned healthcare providers - the National Heart Institute (NHI) and Wockhardt Foundation, to continue the program.

Now, THF’s LHP has not only gained economies of scale but this has also given a new impetus to our mission of improving and prolonging the lives of CHD survivors. So far we have conducted 30 surgeries with Wockhardt in a span of six months and eight surgeries have been performed through NHI.

Extended Post Surgery Care

During assessment, we realized that since most beneficiaries are from impoverished backgrounds, they lack resources to provide best nutrition for the child post surgery and this proves detrimental to recovery and, in some cases, degrades their health to alarming levels. So as an added measure, the families were granted INR 10,000 post surgery for meeting expenses of entailed diet. This small step proved to be of immense significance for the recuperating child.

A Helping Network

The families and caregivers also shared that they felt clueless and helpless. Some even experienced post-traumatic stress disorder when they learnt that their child has CHD. Being a caregiver of a child who needs medical attention, it is important that they reach out and connect with others going through similar challenges. So, we created a support network of parents. This platform enabled parents to interact, ask questions, share experiences, learnings and provide support to each other. This small step provided immense relief to them.

We have been constantly working towards empowering families and creating common grounds where the families and doctors can work together to create care plans and strategies that are tailored to each child’s need. Over the years, THF has been able to develop new and effective methods for creating a streamlined process that makes the whole treatment and care journey for the parents seamless.

THF’s Little Hearts Program has evolved as a comprehensive patient care initiative with optimal outcomes for the patient and his/her family. We will continue to work towards ensuring children with CHDs can live a fuller life, with best possible treatment, through world-class health service providers.
Together WE CAN

The Hans Foundation has worked towards leveraging strengths of government schemes, facilities and institutions to enhance its overall reach to beneficiaries. This ensures the system’s ownership, sustainability and provides greater value for money.

ASSOCIATION WITH KEYSTONE INDIA INSTITUTE

The Hans Foundation, in collaboration with Keystone India Institute and National Trust, and other Government Ministries is in the process of undertaking a study on sustainable national mental health strategy for deinstitutionalization for persons with mental illness issues.

COLLABORATION WITH NIRMAYA HEALTH INSURANCE, NATIONAL TRUST

Under Nirmaya Health Insurance of National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India – the collaboration of The Hans Foundation, has benefited 76,723 persons with Disabilities through the scheme. The benefits received by persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, covered the risks of hospitalization and treatment expenses in hospitals and OPD services in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh with the sum insured of INR 100,000 for each disabled person.

HAND IN HAND WITH KEM, MUMBAI

The Hans Foundation has also collaborated with King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital (run by Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation) Mumbai to augment the quality of services in Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Department of Paediatrics. Upholding the mandate to reach the poor and marginalized communities with affordable health services, THF is providing 4 Paediatric & Neonatal Ventilators, 4 Multi-Parameter Patient Monitors, 2 Ventilators for High Dependency Units for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department and 8 Multi-parameter Monitors for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at a cost of INR 3 Crores.

From THF’s point of view the support holds tremendous relevance since the focus remains on socio-economic weaker communities – especially women and children. The Hans Foundation will also bear the cost of maintenance of this equipment for the next 8 years. The hospital offers free-of-cost quality services as the patients load is increasing with every passing day.

COLLABORATING WITH GOVT. OF UTTARAKHAND

THF’s collaboration with the Government of Uttarakhand has helped us reach the marginalized communities in the state. The joint efforts have strengthened the schools in selected villages with infrastructural support and also equipped where necessary.

Going ahead, The Hans Foundation has also met the new Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat for establishing community toilets; a model centralized kitchen for school children and Anganwadi’s support of infrastructure in smart schools etc. THF is already providing machinery and equipment support to the Cancer Hospital in Haldwani at a cost of INR 12 Crores. It has been entrusted with the responsibility of running and managing the government’s Primary Health Centre in Deori village in Bageshwar district.

THF has been asked to take over Nanda Devi Centre – a centre of excellence for training women artisans in handicrafts. The centre is sub-optimally utilized and can be turned into a strong base for promoting handicrafts related work in the entire state. It has been set up by the Government of Uttarakhand (GHUK) for development of handicrafts and natural fibers. The Foundation has been entrusted to train and provide livelihoods to rural women through the development of natural fibres and handicrafts sector particularly in remote areas of the state and the surrounding locations. THF plans to train 10,000 artisans in the next five years and promote handicrafts by these weavers across the country and internationally.

LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS IN KANGSTUNG, TULI, NAGALAND

The collaboration with the Government of Nagaland for Livelihoods Interventions in Kangstung village in Tuli, Nagaland, through a MoU is under discussion. The proposed program is entirely based on the fact that the village council has donated 320 hectares of land to THF. The discussions are on with the State Government of Nagaland to earmark budget for construction of roads, help in providing electricity & water works through MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) and also provide budget under MGNREGS for tea plantation and facilitate regulatory clearances.

The overall objective is to generate sustainable livelihoods for the communities across 4000 families from 30-40 villages in the region. The detailed study of the project and the Detailed Project Report for the interventions has already been prepared which entails bamboo and tea plantations and Tea Processing Units, at an approximate cost of INR 100 crores in a five
Budget is one of the most important aspects of financial management. The Hans Foundation formulates its annual budget and allocates funds to its initiatives in the fields of Health, Education, Disability, Women Empowerment and Livelihoods.

The budget is divided into broader heads of Program Cost, Personnel Cost, Capital Expenditure and Administrative Expenditure. Other than Administrative expenditure which is budgeted on an incremental cost basis, Zero-based budgeting (ZBB) is used for all other heads especially Program Cost.

Vision 2020 being an important and big initiative in itself, the budget is formulated separately and then consolidated with overall budget of the Foundation.

The analysis of budget for 2017-18 and preceding five years is presented below.

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>87.48</td>
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<td>108.08</td>
<td>74.71</td>
<td>84.62</td>
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*Un-audited numbers (Figures are in Ru. Cr.)
We are pleased to share the The Hans Foundation Annual Report for the year 2017.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Lt. Gen S M Mehta (Retd), AVSM, SM, VSM**, CEO for providing me this opportunity and guidance to compile the Annual Report of 2017.

The Hans Foundation would like to thank all our partners for remarkable work in their respective areas. Thank you for sharing details about the work and the impact created where it matters the most.

I would also like to thank Delhi and Uttarakhand team members for their interest, contribution and support who, despite demanding work schedules and competing priorities, have provided all the requisite information. Furthermore, I would also like to thank the finance team for their valuable contribution and hard work in compiling the financial report and giving a comprehensive picture of financial outlay of the organisation.

We would like to thank Manjula for extending her services for reviewing the content and editing the report. It is in order to thank Sid Ghosh for designing this report.

The team would like to express sincere gratitude to Ms. Shweta Rawat, our Chairperson for her unstinted support and trust in us. We continue to be inspired by the organisation’s Vision, that drives us to be committed to the journey of development that leaves no one out.

We hope that this Annual Report 2017 provides a candid periew of our work and you enjoy reading it.

Swati Sharma
Program Manager
The Hans Foundation