The Hans Foundation is forever indebted to Mata Shri Mangla Ji and Bhole Ji Maharaj for being a source of inspiration and guiding spirit. It is a privilege and an honor to have their patronage and work towards their grand vision for humanity.
The journey that has lasted a decade, started with a single name—Hans. The idea was simple—to pay homage to the lives of Shri Hans Ji Maharaj and his wife Shri Rajeshwari Devi, spiritual leaders who preached a message of love and universal brotherhood. When we originally discussed how best we could credit Shri Hans’s work and add to his gifts to society, it was decided that philanthropy would best serve those goals. And thus in April 2009, we registered the name The Hans Foundation. That was the easy part.

As the foundation took its first steps, we soon realized that though rescue and relief of a charitable nature would always be an essential part of the work, or as my mother calls it “work of the heart”, it was important to glimpse into the future and create pathways to sustainability and independence, or in other words “work of the head”.

We dreamed big from the get go. We never restricted ourselves to one state or region. We purposefully kept away from religious and communal divide. Our basic tenet was and remains to provide and improve access. That no one in our big, beautiful country should be bereft of clean water or the right to send their children to school. No one should die of lack of medicine or doctors.

We have been fortunate to have partners who believe in our dreams and share our vision. We have received bipartisan support from Central and state governments, who genuinely want to reach their people in the farthest corners of their states and understand that The Hans Foundation is helping bridge that gap.

We have been inspired every step of the way by Shri Bhole Ji and Shri Mangla Ji who tirelessly visit every school and hospital and open their hearts to all those who ask for help. We thank Manoj Bhargava for his dedication to his country and for never asking ‘Why’ or ‘How’ we plan to accomplish our ambitious goals.

For like the people we help, we dream too. We dream of a country where girls never have to second-guess their future. We dream of clean rivers, green forests and a loving relationship with Mother Nature. We constantly strive for healthy minds and healthy bodies that will come together for a healthy nation.

Each individual who has contributed his or her time to the foundation has grown with it. And as we complete the decade, I look forward to future years with a wonderful team. As Robert Browning said, “The Best is yet to be.”
Our presence across the country

Statistics

12 million beneficiaries reached

400+ partnerships

27 states with THF presence

7 MoUs signed with state governments

Health
Education
Livelihood
Disability
OUR RELIEF CAMPAIGN FOR COVID-19

REBUILDING LIVES
In 2020, COVID-19 took the world by surprise. Scientists and medical personnel struggled to understand the disease and control the infection and countries adopted different methods to combat the virus. Witnessing the rapid spread of infection in Europe and the US, India imposed a proactive lockdown across the nation. This lockdown led to several ramifications including widespread unemployment, hunger, an unprecedented migrant worker crisis, and loss of access to healthcare. The impact was especially acute on daily labourers who suffered wage loss and were deprived of food, water and temporary shelter.

**Collective Action For Saving Lives**

While the disturbing footages of migrants travelling back to their villages barefoot and hungry impacted millions of Indians, The Hans Foundation sprang into action to provide all possible help. We reached out to the returning migrants and also those who were stuck in the cities without any work and means of subsistence.

Our partners across India briskly moved into collaborative actions with the local authorities to deliver rations and other necessary commodities in large scale. The Hans Foundation worked with organizations like Tarun Bharat Sangh in Rajasthan, Child in Need Institute, Sundarbans Social Development Centre and Sabuj Sangh in West Bengal, Masoom Charitable Trust in Jharkhand to name a few. Approximately 1,26,300 ration kits were distributed in the interior locations of the states mentioned below. More than 50,000 hygiene and sanitation kits were distributed containing sanitizer, masks and gloves. Apart from these kits more than 1, 50,000 masks, gloves, face shields and 7000 litres of hand sanitizer was distributed in Delhi, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

The Hans Foundation collaborated with several organisations for COVID-19 relief work. Some of them were; The Leprosy Mission Trust (Chhattisgarh), GRAVIS (Rajasthan), Caritas India (Bihar), International Association of Human Values, (Karnataka), Satya Special School (Puducherry), Adharshila (Delhi), Bhavishya Bharat (Sikkim), PRAYAS (Arunachal Pradesh), Americas (multiple states), The Banyan (multiple states), Anjali (West Bengal), VARDAN (Dehradun) among others.

Under the blessing and guidance of Mata Shri Mangla Ji and Shri Bhole Ji Maharaj, the Foundation initiated ‘Operation Namaste’. The main objective of Operation Namaste was to provide support to the underprivileged people in the states of Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan by supplying essentials like basic staple food items, hygiene kits, masks and sanitizers required for sustenance during the pandemic. Through this initiative, we reached out to the people most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Operation Namaste played a significant role during lockdown by providing ration to over 66,000 families. Additionally, THF distributed basic food items to various custodians (pandits or pujaris) associated with the most popular religious centres of Uttarakhand namely Baba Kedarnath, Lord Badri Vishal, as well as various other temples located in Uttarakhand. Overall, THF has spent approx. 12 Crores on food, PPE kits, sanitation items, hospital equipment, and direct and indirect monetary support to fulfil the aim of Operation Namaste to help the underprivileged deal with this global health emergency.

With the recurring extension of the lockdown, lay-offs, reduced payments and non-payment of wages and salaries have become a common narrative. The Hans Foundation, on the request of National Commission of Women, reached out to 300 students from North-East who were stranded in Uttarakhand, and supplied them with relief materials of food ration, PPE kits, and sanitary items. The Hans Foundation also partnered with a Manipur-based NGO, RUDIM to assist approximately...
3,000 students and young professionals from North-East.

Supporting Corona Warriors Healthcare Workers

As the patient load in designated COVID hospitals surged, quickly establishing the quarantine centres was the need of the hour. Responding to requests from District Magistrates of Udham Singh Nagar, Champawat and Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, The Hans Foundation supported setting up of quarantine centres that can accommodate up to 10,000 people. For these quarantine centres, mosquito nets, electric fans and other amenities were provided. This support was extended to a total of 135 quarantine centres. Additionally, the foundation also extended ration support to 3,000 quarantined migrants in Tanakpur, Champawat district. In Tehri Garhwal district, where the quarantine centres were established at the gram panchayat, the foundation provided sanitizer kits, disinfectants and masks for the centres. Thermal scanners were procured to support the health institutions and authorities in identifying suspected cases in Satpuli, Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. To enhance testing capacities of COVID-19, The Hans Foundation provided 10 TrueNAT machines across eight (8) districts of Uttarakhand on the request of Director General, Medical Health and Family Welfare.

A total of 45000 thousand PPE kits were also provided to physicians, nurses, medical assistants, policemen, ASHA workers, journalists and other people to reduce the risk of them contracting the virus while they bravely worked to keep the nation functioning. The Hans Foundation supported setting up quarantine centres that can accommodate up to 10,000 people. For these quarantine centres, mosquito nets, electric fans and other amenities were provided. This support was extended to a total of 135 quarantine centres. Additionally, the foundation also extended ration support to 3,000 quarantined migrants in Tanakpur, Champawat district. In Tehri Garhwal district, where the quarantine centres were established at the gram panchayat, the foundation provided sanitizer kits, disinfectants and masks for the centres. Thermal scanners were procured to support the health institutions and authorities in identifying suspected cases in Satpuli, Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. To enhance testing capacities of COVID-19, The Hans Foundation provided 10 TrueNAT machines across eight (8) districts of Uttarakhand on the request of Director General, Medical Health and Family Welfare.

A total of 45000 thousand PPE kits were also provided to physicians, nurses, medical assistants, policemen, ASHA workers, journalists and other people to reduce the risk of them contracting the virus while they bravely worked to keep the nation functioning. The Hans Foundation provided water bottles in LNJP hospital for health workers in New Delhi and provided essential items in Sikkim for the establishment of an isolation centre. For ensuring our hospitals do not fall short on the critical equipment and supplies, THF provided the government hospitals located at Rudraprayag, Mussoorie and Tehri (all in Uttarakhand) supply of various medical equipment like ventilators, X-ray machines and ambulances. In partnership with Prayas JAC, The Hans Foundation supported essential medical equipment, protective gears, masks gloves, sanitizers for three (3) quarantine centres in Arunachal Pradesh. After the lockdown was announced, masses of people started travelling back to their respective villages/towns passing through Delhi. Delhi Police played a vital role in controlling such huge crowds during those critical times. In order to help Delhi Police, do their job safely, THF provided masks, hand sanitizers, and PPE kits to the brave policemen and women.

Extending A Helping Hand

The Hans Foundation, in partnership with Anjali in West Bengal, provided disability allowance to 210 PwDs. With our partner Sense International in Goa, the foundation reached out to the children and adults with deafness - blindness and provided ration support to 550 families. Acknowledging the job loss and salary cuts among staff, The Hans Foundation also extended help to National Association for Blind to meet salary of the support staff and gave food supplies for 350 children with visual impairment.

When the lockdown was announced, our initial response was to make sure our NGO partners were coping with the changed scenario and that their programmes were not disrupted. Not only did they face tremendous pressure with agility but also formulated action plans to provide help for COVID affected communities in the most remote regions. All these initiatives we undertook,
would not have been possible without the networks of partners we have. Our partners across India continue to be a source of exceptional strength and we thank them for their dedication and cooperation. As the government, private sector, and civil society organisations continue to do their bit towards limiting the spread of COVID-19, each of us also has the capability to bring about positive change. Although it will take years to recover from the effects of this pandemic, it has given us the opportunity to see how quickly we adapt our functioning to respond to calamities, be more flexible and empathetic to others and has also given us the chance to test our resilience in these challenging times.

“Our partners across India continue to be a source of exceptional strength and we thank them for their dedication and cooperation.”
FIVE YEARS OF UTTARAKHAND VISION 2020
FROM SEED TO SCALE
The Hans Foundation celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2015. To mark this occasion, we announced an ambitious development program, our Uttarakhand 2020 initiative. This five-year state-wide development program was announced by our founder and principal donor Mr Manoj Bhargava in a historic MoU with the state government that covered a wide spectrum of schemes related to health, disability, livelihoods, education, electrification, water supply, women empowerment and nature conservation. Mr Bhargava pledged 500 crores for this ambitious programme. This landmark commitment translated into an inspiring framework of vibrant developmental programs that have enabled people in the state of Uttarakhand to improve their lives and their future prospects. This year the Hans Foundation completed five years of UK Vision 2020, a program that has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the state.

The launch of UK Vision 2020 was a Synergy workshop organised at then Chief Minister Shri Harish Rawat’s residence. Representatives from more than 50 civil society organisations participated along with eminent govt. officials and funding organizations. By putting people and their immediate needs at the forefront, the UK 2020 program highlighted key, crucial programs in each and every district of the state. This helped to reshape decision-making and implementation of development programs.

The multidimensional nature of poverty requires an equally comprehensive development effort, which is designed to encompass solutions for livelihood, health, disability, water & sanitation, and education. The Hans Foundation in partnership with several other NGOs, consultants and govt. departments started programs that included all of the thematic sectors that can impact the quality of life of anyone from a marginalized background. Programs such as Hans School Modernization program, Hans Jal Dhara, Hans Bal Arogya Karyakram, Hans Mobile Medical Units, Himadri Hans Handlooms and Integrated Village Development Program (IVDP) were started as part of UK Vision 2020 and became game changers in terms of impact and social transformation.

Education

One of the biggest challenges in Uttarakhand has been the quality of education. The state faces a disadvantage in the fact that cost of education delivery in hills is higher than in plains, leading to higher than national average cost. In last five years, we started programs that targeted five core problems- poor infrastructure in schools, quality of education, burden on teachers due to poor teacher to student ratio, lack of smart classes, and vocational training. Some of the key programs undertaken for improving access and quality of education are mentioned in the subsequent paras.

1. Innovation & Smart Classes

Smart classes create a wider and more current learning environment and when utilized correctly, helps to make learning an engaging and interesting process. To ensure the children from the hilly state of Uttarakhand are not left behind in a world with rapidly changing technology, the
Foundation spent almost rupees three crores to establish 100 smart classes in 50 govt. inter colleges across Uttarakhand. These classes have aided in making the teaching-learning process more interesting, innovative, and interactive. Also, science labs for Physics, Chemistry and Biology were built in 32 govt. inter colleges across all districts of Uttarakhand with a total outlay of Rs. 5.17 crores. THF partnered with American India Foundation to implement their Digital Equalizer program in 90 government schools of Uttarakhand benefitting 5435 students of grades 6th – 8th. The program focuses on building the capacities of teachers through on-site facilitation on integration of technology in daily classroom teaching methodologies. With a budget of Rs. 5.35 crores, apart from aiding students, more than 360 teachers were trained as part of the program.

Our “School Quality Enhancement Program” was designed for children in urban slums of Dehradun and is operational in nine government schools catering specifically to children of migrant labourers. In Pindar valley the last mile villages of Bageshwar district, “Schools Transformation Program” has benefitted 100 government primary schools to improve learning outcomes in the schools. In this program since the last five years 51 Gandhi Fellows were engaged for their fellowship program with a total budget of Rs. 5.75 crores. THF has built sanitation facilities in 38 government schools across 11 districts in Uttarakhand. Improving school sanitation helped lower the drop-out out rate for adolescent girls as normal mores would have parents keep them home once they started their menstruation cycle. Improved health and hygiene practices have also helped maintain gender equality.

2. Support For Higher Studies

Education holds the might to pull a family out of poverty as it is generally believed that even one member of the family if educated and professionally qualified, can set in place a chain of events that will help his or her family to prosperity.

A total of 280 students were given scholarships for higher studies (MBBS and Engineering degree courses). The aim of this program is to support the next generation of changemakers for our country.

“Programs such as Hans School Modernization Program, Hans Jal Dhara, Hans Bal Arogya Karyakram, Hans Mobile Medical Units, Himadri Hans Handlooms and Integrated Village Development Program (IVDP) at Bageshwar district were started as part of the UK Vision 2020 and became game changers in terms of impact and social transformation.”

Expanding The Continuum of Health Services

Poor learning outcomes in our schools are partly because of poor quality of teaching and lack of adequate infrastructure, but they are also partly due to high incidence of child malnutrition, which reduces learning ability. Government of Uttarakhand is implementing several health programs and schemes in the state. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we planned on how to best compliment the work already being done by the govt. For instance, the Rashtriya Bal Swasthaya Karyakram aims at early detection and management of the 4Ds prevalent in children. These are Defects at Birth, Diseases in children, Deficiency conditions and Developmental Delays including Disabilities. However, the scheme doesn’t cover chronic illnesses like cancer. The Hans Foundation is supporting the treatments not covered under this scheme, under its program Hans Bal Aarogya Karyakram. To date 1893 children have benefitted under program with a total outlay of Rs. 6.32 crores. With an objective of reducing the prevalence of Tuberculosis in the state, The Hans Foundation supported 7872 TB treatments.

Strengthening Health Infrastructure In The State

To address the lack of tertiary care facilities, THF has built world-class Intensive Care Units (ICUs) at district hospitals in Pithoragarh and Pauri.
Total cost incurred in building these ICUs was Rs. 6 Crores. The Foundation has also provided equipment and infrastructural support to the 200-bed Gandhi Shatabdi Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences.

**Hans Mobile Medical Program**

The topography of the state of Uttarakhand prevents easy accessibility to health facilities and remains one of the major challenges for the people. Long distances, bad road conditions, limited transportation facilities enhanced by lower economic status and mobility, makes it all the more difficult for the population to visit hospitals. THF’s Hans Mobile Medical program was designed to adapt to difficult terrain and low connectivity, proving that primary health care can be made available through this model to people across socio-economic groups, with minimum expenditure and lesser operational responsibilities. In partnership with the state government, THF has been running 21 MMUs covering all 13 districts of Uttarakhand that have screened and treated more than 11,94,000 patients. For breast cancer screening also, two special mammography vans have been provided to Haldwani Government Medical College and Doon Medical College.

**Disability**

To enable women with developmental disabilities to become self-dependent, two community Homes has been established at Dehradun in collaboration with the government of Uttarakhand (Department of Women and Child Development). Disability Inclusive Livelihood Project in Uttarakhand for 1339 individuals is being implemented, with an objective of livelihood promotion through institution building and strengthening.

Programs with Bajaj Institute of Learning School and Raphael Residential School and Day Centre have supported 147 deaf children to achieve a better quality of life with better education and vocational trainings. The Raphael program has supported enhancing daily life and community living skills for 40 intellectually disabled boys.

**Livelihood**

A program to enhance the incomes of 5,000 farmers in 90 villages of five districts is being implemented in partnership with the Himmotthan Society. Farmers are being trained on improved agricultural practices by demonstrating new technologies. The project aims to enhance farmers annual income by Rs 50,000/-. BAIF Development Research Foundation is implementing a dairy development program for breed improvement covering 5000 families in 50 villages of the Nainital district. Animal health camps, vaccination, community-driven livestock insurance and other input services are provided to the farmers. In addition to this, an agriculture-based project is being implemented in the Devprayag area of district Tehri Garhwal. The project is benefitting 1300 women, farmers, by increasing their access to improved agricultural practices and irrigation facilities. The project has been able to enhance the income of these women farmers from Rs. 18000 – 24000.

A conservation linked livelihood development project is on its way by creating renewable energy resources based on pine needles, responsible for devastating forest fires. Another project implemented for energy conservation is setting up bio-digesters, which provide 3-4 hours of cooking gas daily besides the significant quantity of slurry which is used as bio-compost. 50 units of biogas and 100 are being set up as part of the project.

In the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, The Hans Foundation established quarantine centres and delivered rations throughout the state. Always looking towards the future, we are now working on a flagship project on livelihood creation for the migrants who returned to Uttarakhand during COVID-19 pandemic.

Through these programs, we strive to add value to lives of the most needy and underprivileged communities.
NAGALAND-INVESTING FOR A LONG TERM CHANGE
LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES THAT MADE AN IMPACT
An Idea That Gave Birth To A Vision

Ms. Shweta Rawat visited Nagaland a few years ago, and she was struck by the fact that a large population in the state was dependent on subsistence farming. There was widespread poverty and unemployment, creating conditions that were giving rise to many social issues. That is when the idea came to her: to create a model of sustainable livelihood opportunities, using traditional knowledge and skills of farming that could be replicated for the benefit of hundreds of thousands of people. The Hans Foundation recognized the fact that since agriculture and allied activities were the backbone of peoples’ livelihood, programs with a strong focus on increasing productivity and income-generating potential of the sector had to be considered. Given the significant linguistic, ethnic, and cultural diversity within the state and regions, it was also important to carefully consider the diverse agro-ecological conditions and the complex social fabric of the region while designing the program.

The Hans Foundation’s team started to chart out a feasible plan to make this idea into a reality. Several options were deliberated upon to choose from. Finally, it emerged that establishing an organic tea garden was the most viable option. The process began with Intellecap, a consultancy firm, conducting a feasibility study. Community Education Centre Society (CECS), an existing partner of THF based in Nagaland, identified a specific land parcel for the initial phase. CECS also identified target beneficiaries for the program. The land selected was non-forest but difficult to access, abandoned Jhum land in the hilly regions of Aopenzu village, Tuli subdivision of Mokokchung District. Jhum cultivation practice has been a matter of concern for the state. The land use management system has been substandard. The land development for agricultural use is meagre with inadequate irrigation facilities.

How We Turned The Challenge Into An Opportunity

The first challenge facing The Hans Foundation was to make the selected land conducive to cultivation. By doing so, additional cultivable land could be made available to the villagers. This would ensure that land with easy accessibility was used by the farmers for their traditional farming. After mobilizing the communities and with their support, clearing of land commenced in 2019. Sixty-Three hectares of land was readied for plantation by March 2020. For accessibility, a four-km long road strengthened with granular sub-base capable of sustained vehicular movement was cut through. Several kilometres of arteries were also created through the plantation for easy access by the beneficiaries. Finally, an organic nursery of superior quality saplings was established. At the start the nursery was set up with more than six lakh sixty thousand organic plants. An additional four million plants have since been added to the nursery. With over ten million plants, it is possibly the largest nursery of its kind in the country.

In March 2020 COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were imposed. All the work by the beneficiaries and vendors came to a grinding halt. To utilize this time productively and create alternative activities for the workers, The Hans Foundation team started capacity building exercises for the beneficiaries. Plantation experts were brought on video conferences and calls. Trainers were trained who subsequently imparted training in land preparation, plantation, and post plantation upkeep to the beneficiaries. As soon as
the authorities permitted agricultural activities with a limited number of people, we began our work. Regular video calls were made to experts, showing them the work and conditions on the ground. Work proceeded smoothly with advice from experts being assimilated by the team on the ground.

**Sustainable Agriculture Through Organic Farming**

The day of 30th April 2020 became a red-letter day not only for the beneficiaries but also The Hans Foundation. It was on this day that the first tea plant was planted. This initiative is being implemented by THF over 184.35 hectares of land. So far, 36 hectares have been planted. At present 170 tribal beneficiaries are participating and drawing sustained incomes from the project, of which 84 are women. Additionally, over 25 persons are employed full-time and about 40,000 person-days of temporary work has been created providing a source of income for the locals. The project will ultimately expand to its full planned capacity of a 360 hectare plantation and will benefit 432 farmers a majority of which will be women.

**Integrated Village Development Programme (IVDP)**

While setting up the organic tea garden as a means of sustainable livelihood remains our signature programme, we are exploring new territories in terms of development work in Nagaland. As part of the MoU signed with the Government of Nagaland (GoN), the foundation is starting structured development programmes in the most inaccessible and remote areas of the state.

To begin with, the most difficult areas in the remote district of Mon and Kiphire have been identified for further intervention. These districts rank extremely low on the development indices. They lie in the easternmost part of the state and share the border with Myanmar. A cluster each of 16 and 15 villages has been identified in Mon and Kiphire districts respectively. Phase I will commence this year where 7 to 10 villages from each district will be selected. Using our tried, tested and extremely successful IVDP model, The Hans Foundation will intervene in the areas of Safe drinking water and Sanitation, Energy, Livelihood, Health and Education. The program will reach out to about 80,000 people.

THF is working very closely with the State Government and the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the arena of Mental Health and Disability. A Day Care cum Rehabilitation Centre for PwDs will be established. A multi-dimensional approach to development is necessary for eradication of poverty. Economic development alone will not succeed. Development must create employment opportunities that are both diverse and sustainable.

THF is working very closely with the State Government and the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the arena of Mental Health and Disability. A Day Care cum Rehabilitation Centre for PwDs will be established. A multi-dimensional approach to development is necessary for eradication of poverty. Economic development alone will not succeed. Development must create employment opportunities that are both diverse and sustainable.

The Hans Foundation has planned an extensive holistic program for the overall progress of the state. The focus will remain on enhancing the organic cultivation of tea, and later, bamboo in the state. One of the most important outcomes of this initiative is the generation of employment opportunities in post-harvest management activities such as transportation, storage, marketing, processing, and packaging, where educated youth can find gainful employment. This initiative is a long-term program which will be implemented in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland and will bring much needed incentives to the state, which will hopefully jumpstart economic activity for the local populace.
The Handloom Sector is an integral part of rural and semi-rural livelihoods across India and is the hub of one of the largest unorganized economic activities in the country after agriculture. Handloom weaving constitutes one of the richest and most effervescent aspects of Indian cultural heritage. By tradition at cottage level, this craft has been sustained and grown by transfer of skills from one generation to the other. Handlooms are not just a source of livelihood for lakhs of weavers and artisans, but they remain environment friendly, and energy and capital saving. More importantly, the labor heavy aspect means employment for many. The sector has established India’s presence in millions of homes across the globe; a presence that has been crafted by dexterous hands belonging to those who are among the most marginalized sections of our society.

Recognizing the opportunity to not only honor the cultural heritage and traditional skills of handloom weaving, but also provide a source of employment for local women, The Hans Foundation started Himadri Hans Handloom in the town of Almora in Kumaon Valley of Uttarakhand. The initial aim of this undertaking was to make Uttarakhand’s handloom and handcrafted textiles accessible to global markets by training the rural women artisans of Kumaon in technical and design skills. The unit was taken over from the Govt. of Uttarakhand in 2018; originally it was a handloom weaving facility where women artisans were trained to weave shawls made out of local wool and the products were sold to visiting tourists. Around 200 women artisans, from 12 villages in and around Almora have been trained and involved in making textiles.
using Hand-spinning Charkhas and Handlooms. HHH’s products have been showcased in several international exhibitions and are still making headway in domestic and international markets.

While we continue to expand our marketing and sales domain, we have started diversification of our products into more popular and progressive textiles made out of plant-based fibres indigenous to Uttarakhand like Hemp, Nettle, Harsil, Cotton, Silk & Bamboo Yarn. This has enabled us to widen the portfolio of products and extended our reach to a wider market that focuses on the usage of such natural materials.

Challenges Of COVID-19

New schemes rolled out at HHH were beginning to take shape when the COVID–19 pandemic struck across the world and economies shuddered to a halt. The handloom sector was severely affected as were all sectors of the economy. All our operations were put on hold for the two months of March – April 2020 but during this period, The Hans Foundation ensured that the artisans, who were entirely dependent on the employment at the unit, were supported with continuous payment of salaries and other assistance required in such dire times. The Hans Foundation also extended relief support to the villagers by providing them ration kits, hygiene and sanitation kits to fight the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Shifting Focus To Essentials

While the Unit resumed work from May 2020 onwards with all the necessary precautions, the largest challenge for us was to get business. All orders were on hold and due to the lockdown, the market remained shut. As a business strategy, the management decided to continue the artisans’ engagement and shifted the focus from exclusive products to essential products. The lockdown period was utilized for establishing benchmarks in work efficiency in the existing set-up. The employees were regrouped for up-skilling and new verticals were created in the fields of weaving, knitting, stitching and embroidery. These essential items that have a ready market to capture, will also bring about independence and progress towards self-sustainability of the unit. For diversification, certain products were identified that held better ground in the market than the scarfs and shawls that were being made as the staple products.
Taking the local culture & heritage into consideration, ‘Ankuri’, an agro-food brand was conceptualized and is in its final stages of being launched. The product line under this brand umbrella will comprise locally grown spices, herbs and staples. While all spices are organic and naturally produced, hand-pounded and hand-ground, grain flours are also being hand-ground for optimum nutrition and flavour. The top of the product line is our range of Flavoured Salts made using Himalayan Crystal Salt and other herbs of the region. Our own artisans make Ankuri products ready for the market, and we also seek to widen our engagement with more people in the region through the extension of more activities into villages.

A span of other products like Aipan Art, Paper Quilling Art, Macramé and Bamboo Basketry were also added to the production line. While the final product is a staple and has a huge market reach across the globe, the involvement of more women and employment generation is expected to extend through the valley under this vertical. With the support of our team and our women artisans, we are ready to launch our new product line into the market.

The Handloom project has proven a great opportunity to preserve local heritage. It has also showcased the foundation’s interest in providing tools to create sustainability for local populations. What started as a simple weaving initiative has grown to include production of organic food supplies as well as other arts and crafts; a beautiful example of the importance of adaptation to the changing needs of the times, and interests and skills of the people we are aiming to assist.
Access to adequate, quality mental health care is a basic right for every individual. Mental healthcare should be affordable, equitable, geographically accessible and voluntarily available. Various studies have shown that staying in the institutional settings for an extended period even after the recovery can result in a halt in functionality, a relapse or persistence of symptoms. Globally, a median of 18% of people living in psychiatric facilities have been there for a year or more. Modern psychiatric facilities, while varied in their quality of care and rights-based orientation, are remnants of the asylum model of mental health care. Many continue to be characterised by paternalism and restrictive practices. Irrespective of the quality of care at such institutions, the institutionalisation of people with mental illness over extended periods perpetuates segregation and their exclusion, distancing them from socio-economic, cultural and political resources and the right to live with dignity.

World Health Organization defines health as physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and as a resource for living a full life. Working to improve the quality of care in both in and outpatient facilities is important, not only to reform past neglect but to ensure the development of effective and efficient care for the people. It is important that people with mental health issues can live full and normal lives in the mainstream society.

The Hans Foundation believes that mental health services need to go beyond the provision of medical treatment and should encompass the important roles of supporting individuals to access employment, housing, educational opportunities, and to engage in community activities and programmes. Quality services must also promote recovery by putting individuals’ goals and aspirations at the forefront, facilitating a path to lead fulfilling lives in the community. This remains a distant dream for people stuck in the mental health institutions in the country, people who have recovered from the treatment but have nowhere to go.

In the last decade, India has seen some movement towards de-institutionalisation. These initiatives are small, mostly individual endeavours, made by a few non-governmental organizations. At national and state level, few schemes have been implemented. These are far from the holistic approach needed. Any holistic initiative needs to include community treatment, psychological rehabilitation, and case treatment.

In 2018, THF formed a Task Force to formulate a National Strategy for Inclusive and Community-Based Living for People with Mental Health Issues. The Task Force comprised members from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), Joint Secretary - The National Trust, Director - Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Director - The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Director - Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), The Hans Foundation and eminent NGOs like The Banyan, Anjali, Ashadeep.

The study report was released by Hon’ble Shri G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, (GoI) in the presence of all medical superintendent from state hospitals, NGO partners and other dignitaries on 4th March 2020 in Delhi.

From Ideas to Impact

The study has provided far-reaching recommendations with an action plan. The mission of the study is to reintegrate 4,404 persons with mental health issues from 43 mental health institutions into Inclusive Community Homes, Halfway Homes & Family Reunification in the next three years. The pilot for the reintegration of the inmates has already started in four states of India. "Till date, THF has set up 44 homes across five states; Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Assam and Telangana and has supported 220 individuals with mental health issues. More than 275 individuals have been reunited with their families."

[Image of group of people]
Canada has come forward to join hands with THF and The Banyan to support this initiative that will transform the lives of hundreds of peoples waiting in mental health institutions, who have the opportunity for reintegration into the community. The program will be implemented in a phased manner to cover the entire cohort that can be repatriated and reintegrated into the community. A total of 128 Crore has been earmarked for the next three years for this ambitious initiative. Over 3 phases we will reach 4550 individuals.

The phase-wise implementation will be as follows:

1. **Phase one (Year 1)**
   - The focus is to provide services to a total of 1400 individuals

2. **Phase Two (Year 2)**
   - Total 1800 individuals can be reintegrated into the services

3. **Phase Three (Year 3)**
   - Approximately 1150 individuals will be given service programmes

Deinstitutionalization is an essential part of the reform of mental health services. This means more than discharging people from long-stay hospitals. It requires considerable changes involving the use of community-based living alternatives rather than institutions for the delivery of services. The Foundation believes that it is imperative to recognise and restore the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities to live in the community, with flexible support that enables them to make choices and exercise agency over their care and daily living and engage in lived experiences with personal meaning. This program is an ambitious endeavour by The Hans Foundation towards the same cause, which no other entity has attempted at this scale in the country.

**Love You Zindagi**

As part of The Hans Foundation’s efforts to transform lives and create awareness on various social causes including mental health, The Foundation started a special series named “Love you Zindagi” with Aaj Tak and India TV Today. A series of eight episodes on mental health, education, health, disability and rural development were conceptualized to generate nationwide awareness where experts from all walks of life featured in the show and shared their insights.

Three episodes from the series were devoted to the mental health theme. Eminent personalities like A R Rahman, Ms Deepika Padukone, Shweta Rawat (Founder & Chairperson, The Hans Foundation), N Ram (Editor – The Hindu), Dr Gangadhar (Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences), Revathy (Actress and Director) and Prof. Shalini Bharat (Director, TISS) among others shared their views on the state of mental health services in the country and the emerging models. The panelists collectively agreed that the need to mainstream mental health issues into areas of development work is now more than ever. Mr N Ram during the discussion urged the media to play their role in bringing such issues to the forefront. These episodes also created discourse around the need for exploring possible options for reintegrating patients staying for more than one year in the hospitals/institutions into society.

The show recognized the essential role of mental health in achieving health for all people. The issues taken up during each episode stirred up strong emotions among the studio audiences and even the panelists. This show was just a beginning to create awareness and the Foundation’s work will continue to drive this change in transforming lives.
THF 10th Anniversary event started with the National Anthem. From left to right: Mr. Manoj Bhargava, THF - Founder and Prime Funder, Ms. Shweta Rawat, Chairperson, Bharat Ratna, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Former President of India, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mata Shri Mangla Ji.
THF 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

“Our journey started in 2009 and in the last ten years we have created memories that will last with us forever, the accomplishments that make us what we are today and the vision for tomorrow that keeps us going. The Hans Foundation started as a story of adaptability, compassion and unwavering determination for excellence. These ten years of The Hans Foundation are more than the story of an organization’s growth, it is no less than a saga of bringing hope, transformation and lifelong changes to the lives of underprivileged people.”

Mata Shri Mangla Ji, welcoming and felicitating the Chief Guest at the event, Former President, Bharat Ratna, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Guest of Honour, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat

In July 2019, Shri Bhole ji and Mata Mangla Ji pledged Rs. 100 crores for developmental schemes in Uttarakhand. These funds will focus on setting up skill development and COVID-19 testing centres in Uttarakhand. The scheme was jointly launched with Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat and Shri Dhan Singh Rawat, Minister of State for Higher Education.

The event concluded with an exhilarating cultural event with performances from renowned artists that energized and enthralled the audiences. Image on top: Shillong Choir scintillating the audience with their signing. Image on right: Shobhna and her troupe kept the spectators hypontized with their bharatnatyam performance.

THF Chairperson, Ms. Shweta Rawat giving the opening address at the event

Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat felicitated five THF Champions

Mata Shri Mangla Ji, welcoming and felicitating the Chief Guest at the event, Former President, Bharat Ratna, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Guest of Honour, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat
The Hans Foundation distributed 2,00,000 utensils in 2200 schools in Uttarakhand to strengthen the mid-day meal program. Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat and Mata Shri Mangla Ji inaugurated the utensil distribution ceremony.

The Hans Foundation under the blessings and guidance of Mata Shri Mangla Ji and Shri Bhole Ji Maharaj has provided financial assistance to eight hospitals of Swami Vivekanand Health Mission Society located in remote locations in Uttarakhand. The inauguration of this noble initiative was done by Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand Smt. Baby Rani Maurya, Mata Shri Mangla Ji, Bhole Ji Maharaj and other dignitaries at the auspicious Kedarnath Dham in September 2019. These hospitals are located at Dharmawala, Barkot, Maneri, Narayankoti, Pipalkoti, Badrinath Dham, Petshal and at Kedarnath Dham.

The Foundation undertook a public awareness campaign through a show ‘Love you Zindagi’. The show was conceptualised and produced in partnership with India Today TV, Aaj Tak and Aaj Tak HD channels to create necessary awareness about various social issues like stigma around mental health, education, rural development and village transformation. The series had seven episodes featuring eminent panelists from government and prominent civil society organizations who participated in larger discourse around the theme of the episode.

Release of report on national strategy for inclusive and community based living for people with mental health issues on 4th March 2020 in New Delhi. From Left to right: Lt Gen SM Mehta (CEO THF), Ms Shweta Rawat (Chairperson THF), Shri G Kishan Reddy, The Union Minister of State for Home ffairs, Mata Shri Mangla Ji and Bhole Ji Maharaj.
The Hans Foundation’s first Fellowship program was started in 2019 and after a productive year for the fellows, came to an end with a two-day convocation ceremony on 24-25 August 2020. The Honourable Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, General V.K. Singh, chief guest at the event, commended the fellows.

An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the District Hospital, Pauri was inaugurated by Dr Dhan Singh Rawat, the Hon’ble Minister of Higher Education (Government of Uttarakhand) and Dr G.V. Rao, Executive Director, The Hans Foundation. This world-class ICU is the second facility built by The Hans Foundation that will provide much-needed healthcare services to the people in Uttarakhand. This state-of-the-art ICU has the latest high-tech equipment necessary for attending emergency cases and treatment.

Another ICU was built in District Hospital Pithoragarh through support extended by THF.
Life is challenging for Persons with Disability (PwD or Disabled Persons) in India. PwDs encounter many barriers to accessing training for employable skills and gaining meaningful employment. These challenges persist in both urban and rural areas. However, the number of people with disability is proportionately higher in rural areas, as 68% of India lives in the villages. These barriers are further accentuated by poverty, lack of access to health services and a disconnect from institutions where disabled people can acquire skills. It is critical to build the capacities of PwDs, through vocational training and creation of employment opportunities. As barriers are removed, and opportunities become available, the quality of life for the individuals and their families improves. This not only benefits one individual or one family but also the broader economy.

The Hans Foundation is internationally recognized as a leader for our work with disabled people. One of our new projects is Inclusion of Divyangjan Entrepreneur Association (IDEA). IDEA is a national platform to create a comprehensive web portal and Mobile APP. The app is accessible, multi-lingual, and disabled-friendly. The Divyangjan India app allows the targeted users to search for jobs via postings by empanelled employers. It connects them to an organization providing relevant skill courses near them. The app also gives the users the opportunity to list the services they can offer and get hired by relevant employers. We believe that the impact of the portal and APP will be a game-changer for disabled people. It will be a gateway not only to opportunities, but also to realizing their dreams and aspirations.

Over the next five years, the target is to provide employment/livelihoods to over one lakh people with disabilities and create 5000 successful entrepreneurs across the country. The project aims to empower disabled people to be the torchbearers of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) by setting up small and mi-
This ambitious dream will be achieved through strong alliance/collaboration with like-minded organisations, industries, and government.

Inspired by industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICCI), FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), IDEA will lead national-level programs for better connections between NGOs, education institutions, government bodies and companies to ensure effective employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for PwDs. IDEA has already signed an MoU with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and is in the process of signing another MoU with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The State and Central Government, Finance Corporations and Corporates will play a major role in building the Divyangjan Entrepreneur Ecosystem in India. The goal is to facilitate a broader engagement with the target group and bring tangible solutions to the table. The major highlight of this project is that it will create a workforce of skilled PwDs. This will be done through leveraging technology and micro-credits to enable potential entrepreneurs.

IDEA promotes and creates inclusion through livelihood opportunities by connecting disabled people with service providers, financial support systems, and market linkages. The program includes tailored entrepreneurship education and training, financial assistance for the business, and support for the business after start-up. It is our commitment that the programme should be open and accessible to everyone, regardless of the type and severity of their disability. While complete inclusion of PwDs with all types and severity of disabilities may take time to achieve, it is an ambition we will strive towards. At the outset, the implementation is to take place in Delhi and NCR. THF plans to scale it up and go national over the years.

Key programmatic features of this project that will be implemented over the next two years are:

- Divyangjan swavalamban yatra- advocacy for inclusive employment generation and entrepreneurship promotion for PwDs
- Act as a database aggregator of PwDs to develop a specialized recruitment service
- Jago- job awareness, guidance and opportunity
- Divya Kaushal job fairs & abilities expo
- Entrepreneurship promotion-national level

“Over the next five years, the target is to provide employment/livelihoods to over one lakh people with disabilities and create 5000 successful entrepreneurs across the country.”

PwD incubation centre
- Inclusion through technology- create a comprehensive web portal and mobile app for the last mile connect
- National portal on divyangjan
- Setting up of help desk - call centre

Targets for the Year 2020-21:

- 2000 PwDs participate in entrepreneurship development programmes to start their self-employment and entrepreneurship journey
- 350 PwDs get seed grant support to set up micro-enterprises in two years
- 30000 PwDs are lined and benefit from Divyangjan APP in two years
- 2250 PwDs will have access to employment opportunities in Two Years.
- 30 Central and State Government Departments will participate in the project in two years.
- 75 NGOs and Training Partners will participate and collaborate in the project in two years.
- 50 Campuses including universities will be added to the program in next two years.

THF believes that everyone has a right to realize their potential irrespective of their disability. We imagine a world where disabled people are integrated into the society and economy, without any stigma, as fully functioning and participating members, with equal opportunities and full protection of their rights. IDEA is a mighty step towards realizing this dream.
Corneal blindness accounts for nearly 7% of all blindness and is one of the important causes of blindness, especially in developing nations. It is estimated that 60% of the corneal blind live in India and China. Many of these cases can be benefited by cornea replacement - a surgery, wherein diseased cornea is replaced by healthy cornea obtained from donors after death. Unfortunately, despite being the second most populated country, the number of corneas collected in our country are one-fourth of the numbers required to take care of blindness. Shortage of donor tissue is not because of not having enough number of eye banks. The data from the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI) mentions that many eye banks are not functioning to their full capacity. As per the EBAI and National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) data, all eye banks together in India are collecting only just over 60000 corneas and utilizing close to 50% corneas for transplantation surgeries. Whereas the current need for corneas for transplantation is about One lakh per year to meet the demand and every year on an average 25000 new patients are getting added to the waiting list. Some of the major issues with existing eye banks are suboptimal infrastructure of most eye banks; lack of trained manpower; lack of acceptable standard operating procedure and quality controls. Further, the eye banks rely heavily on age-old systems of engagement with the public - getting pledge cards filled or voluntary donations.

The Hans Foundation for addressing the gap in the demand and supply of corneas in Uttar Pradesh established the first of its kind eye bank in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in partnership with SightLife and Sitapur Eye Hospital in November 2016. Since then the eye bank has become the highest performing eye bank in the country in such a short span of time and has already conducted 2414 corneal transplant surgeries. To undertake the mammoth task of increasing the supply of corneas on a national level, THF joined hands with LV Prasad Eye Institute. To understand the existing situation of eye banking in various states, a feasibility study was conducted jointly by SightLife, India and LV Prasad Eye Institute and the report was presented to The Hans Foundation. The study also revealed facts such as the high prevalence of corneal blind in North and Northeastern states, low patient socio-economic conditions to seek medical assistance, transplant surgeon availability, deficiency in infrastructure, low performing eye banks which are based at Govt. institutions. Based on the conditions it was clear that there is a dire need for quality corneas for transplant surgeries in the North-East region. Based on the findings of the study three states were identified to start the first phase of the project.

National Level Initiative for Improving Corneal Transplant Surgeries

As part of this initiative, two eye banks have already been established. One eye bank has been set up in AIIMS, Rishikesh (Uttarakhand) and another one in Regional Institute of Ophthalmology in Guwahati (Assam). MoU for a third eye bank to be established in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh has already been signed with Banaras Hindu University and it is expected that this eye bank will also be functional by this year-end. The status of the eye banks is as follows:

- **THF – LVPEI Eye Banking Project**

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Varanasi Eye Bank Project

The third eye bank as part of the THF-LVPEI eye banking project is to be established at the Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi. MoU has already been signed and the project construction activity will start once the COVID restrictions are relaxed. The eye bank will resume operation by May 2021.

Strengthening The Eye Banking Ecosystem

Regardless of ongoing efforts to expand access to surgical treatment, corneal transplantation is not necessarily the singular answer to solving the problem of corneal blindness, and prevention as a public health imperative must be explored. Lack of awareness remains one of the major obstacles in receiving corneas. A large number of people are not even aware of the need and benefits of eye donations. On the contrary, there are many myths related to strong cultural and religious beliefs of rebirth and reincarnation that have a negative influence on eye donations. To the extent consent of the decedent or his family is crucial to initiate the process of eye donation, lack of awareness becomes a major obstacle to convince and obtain consent. Reorientation publicity to change attitudinal factors and the fear of presumed liability of health care workers is crucial for reducing the demand-supply gap. To address this, our efforts will continue to create excellent and equitable eye care systems that will be accessible and affordable to all. In the coming years, the plan is to build the capacity of the non-functioning eye banks, establish accredited eye banks where there are none to achieve zero waitlist for corneal transplants. This will be done by setting up eye banks with professional operations with highly trained staff and certified technicians, round the clock coverage and growing public interaction.

Guwahati Eye Bank Project

Guwahati Eye Bank project was started as per the project plan and was established in the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology (RIO) under Govt. Medical College Hospital (GMCH) Guwahati. RIO is a premier Ophthalmic Institute catering to the needs not only of Assam but also of the entire North-East Region. Other NE states like Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tripura refer their eye patients to this institute for advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities. Considering the strategic location of this institute, it was decided that the eye bank will be established in GMCH. The construction and set up of the eye bank was completed in mid-March 2020 and the eye bank has been named as Guwahati Medical College Eye Bank (GMC Eye Bank). The pandemic slowed down the operations of the eye bank however all necessary statutory permissions such as registration under Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act have been completed and the certificate has been received and the training of the staff has already been done. The operations of the eye bank began in January 2021.

AIIMS Rishikesh

THF signed an MoU with AIIMS Rishikesh to establish an eye bank with international standards. The Eye Bank is named - Rishikesh eye bank and started its operations on 26 August 2019. As part of the project, four eye bank technicians were recruited and trained at LV Prasad Eye Institute and later deployed at Rishikesh Eye Bank. The AIIMS Rishikesh which was created from scratch in a short span of one year has collected 194 corneas and has completed its 100th transplant despite the burden of the pandemic and lockdown. It is a great achievement for a new eye bank and we are convinced that all these eye banks will continue to outperform themselves in terms of the quality of corneas collected and in the volume of transplants done.

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We Are Ready – COVID 19

The Hans Foundation Hospitals under its mission ‘Health for All’ has been providing quality healthcare to the underprivileged communities through its Hospitals; 150 bedded multi-specialty General Hospital in Satpuli and a 30-bedded Eye Hospital in Haridwar. In the hilly state of Uttarakhand where the healthcare services are hard to reach, together these health facilities are working compassionately had benefitted more than 2,00,000 people last year.

Preparedness of hospitals to maintain healthcare services standards during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is of utmost importance. It is exceedingly vital today to take care of patients more observantly. From making sure the patients are well aware of the COVID-19 virus, its symptoms and safety measures, both the hospitals took necessary precautions to provide a responsive hospital management system. For every patient or visitor, the front door health checkup is performed with thermal scanners and people wearing masks properly are only allowed to enter the hospitals. Those who do not have masks are provided at the entrance. Triage and screening procedures are done at the registration counter. Social distancing is aggressively implemented by keeping people at a distance of one metre in waiting rooms and corridors. All patients entering any OPD zone are mandated to use hand sanitizers before entry and at the exit. All hospital staff are trained in the proper use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs), limiting physical contact and strict personal hygiene practices. Due to the potential survival of the virus in the environment for several days, the premises and high touch areas are regularly disinfected multiple times in a day. Regular trainings are held for frontline staff on COVID-19 related precautions. Every employee of The Hans Foundation Hospitals is a coronavirus brave, each one stands tall, working for the patients risking their own lives.

Warriors At Work
Balancing Challenges And Responsibilities

A General Surgeon at General Hospital, Satpuli, who hails from Ahmedabad, hasn’t visited home since March 2020 to keep his family from being exposed to him. “Initially, more than me, my children were worried considering the risk of contracting the infection since I am surrounded by patients day and night. Having said that, we are doctors and it is our moral duty to do our best for the communities we serve,” he says. Another huge challenge, shared by one of the nurses with Obs. & Gynae. Department (Gen-

“Through the THF General and Eye Hospital, more than 2,00,000 people benefitted last year.”
Adapting Healthcare to COVID 19

Tele Medicine – Eye Care, Haridwar - Owing to the COVID crisis, visiting doctors, hospitals or scheduling a surgery has become more challenging than ever. To reduce the need for people to physically visit hospitals yet address their eye care needs – the Hans Eye Care hospital introduced telephonic consultations and virtual visits to bridge the gap between the experts and the patients. As the COVID-19 virus patient burden is increasing on the healthcare systems in general, our telemedicine program is stepping up into the spotlight and helping our caregivers better respond to the needs of far-flung hilly areas like Dev Prayag, Rudra Prayag, Chamoli and Joshimath etc. “Not only our teleconsultation program saves the commute for thousands of patients but is also a great endeavour for people to leverage the technological advancements at best. We have kept the interface extremely simple to ensure the best patient experience” shares Program Manager (Tele-Medicine).

Mother and Child Care, General Hospital, Satpuli

Each year, we saw hundreds of women and children risking their lives from preventable causes. These are not merely numbers. They are women and kids with names and faces. To provide superior antenatal care and significantly reduce neonatal mortality, we formed a specialized Mother & Child Care team with qualified and experienced Doctors, Technicians and Nurses. Since March 2020, our Mother & Child Care department has positively impacted over 10,000 lives. We have achieved excellent progress in a short period and often the solutions are very simple, such as education on neonatal care to the parents, proper nutrition for the pregnant women, be cautious that the neonates do not succumb to any infection, educating the young girls with untimely pregnancy and educating woman on their hygiene and use of sanitary pads.

“We continuously evaluate our Mother & Child program’s key delivery areas where the action is required to enhance, strengthen and improve the service delivery” as per the senior Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at the hospital.

Together We Are Strong

The Hans Foundation Eye Care is collaborating with AIIMS Rishikesh for ensuring delivery of healthcare services to remote areas and digital access to the services. Sr. Manager, Hospital Operations says THFH is transitioning to Digital Outreach for the patients in need who cannot travel for various reasons. We are attempting to change the way healthcare is delivered during the pandemic.

THFH shall provide the technical, manpower & clinical assistance at an outreach location and digitally link patients to the specialized AIIMS Doctors for virtual consultancy. First tests like ECG, Blood sugar and Blood pressure etc. would be conducted by the THFH staff on the ground, then the patients would be connected through live audio-video interaction with the AIIMS Doctors where the patient would get to share the symptoms, history etc. Free Medicines would also be provided to the patients on the spot post consultation.

Dialysis Unit, General Hospital, Satpuli

With approximately 4950 dialysis centres, largely in the private sector in India, the demand is less than half met with existing infrastructure. “Since every Dialysis has an additional expenditure tag of about Rs. 2000, it results in a monthly expenditure for patients to the tune of Rs. 3-4 Lakhs annually,” says The Medical Superintendent at General Hospital, Satpuli. Besides, most families have to undertake frequent trips, and often travel long distances (Delhi & Dehradun) to access dialysis services incurring heavy travel costs and loss of wages for the patient and family members accompanying the patient. Considering the
provision of this important lifesaving procedure and also for reducing out of pocket expenditure for underprivileged patients, a Dialysis program has been introduced in the hospital. Our Dialysis unit with nominal charges would initially attend to 200 patients a month and will be expanded as per the demand.

**Outreach Camp Surgeries**

**Eye Care, Haridwar**

Program Manager (Outreach Camp) shares that to establish the efficacy of our rural outreach program in reducing avoidable blindness caused by cataract, we conducted two surgical camps at District Government Hospital, Uttarkashi and one at District Government Hospital, Pauri. We had an OPD of 750 and conducted 210 successful surgeries. Patients were given treatment in the form of cataract extraction and implantation of intraocular lenses. Providing surgical services at the patient’s doorsteps enriched the patient’s experience and also helped in reducing the patient burden for the hospitals.

**Radiology and Blood Bank**

**General Hospital, Satpuli**

Our Department of Radiology provides a wide range of radiological services. We have installed technologically advanced, state-of-the-art medical equipment like Siemens 16-Slice CT Scanner machine with 3D, Logic’s Ultrasound machine and Siemens 600 MA X-Ray machine with fluoroscopy in our endeavour to provide the best diagnostic output. Our head of Radiology along with his team of technicians on a daily average conducts up to 25 CT Scans, nearly 50 Ultrasound and 50+ X-Ray tests. Blood is a vital element for having a healthy body. “Our blood bank would soon start to separate various components so they can be used most effectively according to the needs of the patient. Red blood cells carry oxygen, platelets help the blood clot, and plasma has specific proteins that allow proper regulation of coagulation and healing. We can provide services to many smaller clinics and Hospitals too along with catering to direct patients”, adds Doctor for Pathology & Blood Bank.

While working in the healthcare sector, during any crises, health care resources are to be distributed in an ethical, realistic, and systematic way to do the greatest good for the patients. These testing times we learned to move away from the “the way we do it” mentality and instead focused on how best to accommodate the patients likely to benefit the most from care. Every day, the selfless healthcare warriors are giving it their all while cutting themselves off from their families and loved ones. The sacrifice that they are making for the safety and welfare of humanity is priceless. They are truly our heroes in these challenging times and the entire team of The Hans Foundation salutes their selfless determination.

“Our Mother & Child Care department has positively impacted over 10,000 lives.”
In September 2019, The Hans Foundation launched “The Hans Foundation Fellowship Program”. The program is envisioned to create a cadre of visionary leaders, who will play catalytic roles towards creating an equitable and inclusive society. The program will provide these young people with a platform and a guiding framework for action. By connecting the fellows with leading development experts and practitioners, the program will create opportunities for this vision to be realized.

The objective of the programme is two-fold: to provide young professionals with an opportunity to work with our partner organizations, where they contribute to bring positive change. The fellowship is also aimed at providing these young people with an opportunity to start a career in the development sector. At the same time, the fellows provide our partner organizations working in rural parts of India with a pool of talented resources.

THF’s engagement with programs that support young people and their aspirations for higher studies and meaningful careers is not new. We have a long history of supporting fellowships and scholarship programmes. To name a few: the Ashoka Fellowship, American India Foundation’s Clinton Fellowship, Kaivalya Gandhi Fellowship, Foundation for Excellence and Katalyst. The Hans Foundation believes that there is an ever-growing need to expand, diversify and multiply such initiatives in India. We understand that there are times when even the best academic institutions fail to equip their students with lessons on how to cope with the challenges of the ground realities. We believe that in the current landscape of the development sector, which is changing and evolving rapidly, there is even more of a need for programs that act as a bridge between the academic and the professional spaces.

The THF Fellowship is a 12-month programme, with an opportunity to work with our partner organisations in the areas of health, education, livelihood, and disability. Through a rigorous selection process involving multi-level screenings, 15 most deserving candidates are chosen to serve. The selected Fellows come from diverse backgrounds. They are placed in different project areas with their host organisations for a period of one year.
The Hans Foundation Fellowship Program (2019-2020) was my first step in the development sector in a professional capacity. The opportunity was a big one, as it gave me the chance to work with some of the remarkable minds in the field. Through this program, we have learnt, un-learnt and re-learnt a lot on the concepts that have been etched in our minds.

Baljeet Kaur
THF Fellow

An orientation is held during the first two weeks for the fellows. This is before they are sent to their respective partner organisations. At the host organization, the Fellows are required to work not only on the projects being implemented by the organisation but also on strengthening the systems of these organizations.

The fellowship is designed to expose the fellows to multi-sectoral experts and training modules to enhance their learning experience. Over the year, there are many opportunities for learning and development, through training programmes, workshops, meet-ups, online sessions by technical experts. Experts from the sector also provide coaching and mentorship.

The COVID 19 pandemic is one of the most challenging events of this century. The response of the THF Fellows has been nothing short of remarkable. The fellows have had to quickly adapt to new and often challenging situations. In some cases, the fellows have continued to work at the frontlines, along with their host organisations, providing services to the communities most affected by this pandemic. The cohort has shown tremendous resilience in face of unprecedented challenges and hardships. We are proud to say that all the Fellows have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serve the marginalised and underprivileged communities.

Due to the exigencies of the lockdown, THF has also experimented with new models of engagement with our Fellows. We have adapted to the need to go digital by providing training through online platforms. During these tough times, our fellows have been appreciated for their dedication, commitment, and resilience by our partner organizations. We are immensely proud of them.

Ms Chitra Shah, Founder member and Director Satya Shah said about the THF Fellow posted with her: “A shy soft - May I come in? started the journey of the fellowship program at Satya Special School. From the shy, worried, and quiet girl to the more confident, organised, team player, the journey of the fellow had great learning and was enriching for us as the host organisation as well. The fellowship program that started last September holds a lot of promise, as every organisation has several projects that need dedicated resources to start, nudge them forward or simply need a voice. The fellow brought with her fresh thoughts, and different perspectives added to the cultural diversity of the organisation. As a mentor, we too grew, and look at the fellow to become the voice for advocacy and drive for innovation in bringing out social change. We look forward to hosting more such fellows.”

The convocation ceremony of the inaugural cohort of the fellowship was organised online on 25th August 2020. Honourable Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Gen V K Singh (Retd.) PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC was the chief guest and handed out the fellowship certificates to the 15 candidates. The fellows shared their fellowship journey and experiences over the last year.

We hope that the Fellows will transition into meaningful roles in the areas of their choice. We believe that they will leverage their experience, learning and relationships that they have built as part of their Fellowship journey to grow into professionals who will work actively towards creating that equitable and inclusive society, and for the well-being of the people of India.

“The one-year program provided one of the most provocative, eye-opening, and gratifying experiences in my professional sphere. It was a unique circularity of training sessions followed by lengthy immersions in the host organization’s (CINI) method of work and again getting back to training sessions. The times I spent on the field locations or interacting with trainers in sessions is something I would cherish not only because it exposed me to the problem but also allowed me to attempt to solve the problem.”

Debayan Hazra
THF Fellow

“The Hans Foundation Fellowship Program (2019-2020) was my first step in the development sector in a professional capacity. The opportunity was a big one, as it gave me the chance to work with some of the remarkable minds in the field. Through this program, we have learnt, un-learnt and re-learnt a lot on the concepts that have been etched in our minds.”

Baljeet Kaur
THF Fellow

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OUR STORY

Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST) was born from a simple but powerful idea – that access to high-quality services is a right for everyone, not a privilege for a few. RIST is the brainchild of industrialist and philanthropist Mr Manoj Bhargava. Established in 2007, RIST’s mission is to alleviate poverty through value-based, strategic, and impactful partnerships. Through partnerships with value-aligned organizations in India and the US, RIST invests millions of dollars in India aimed at reducing poverty by enhancing access to services that improve quality of life, thus creating a more equitable society. In the last 5 years alone, RIST has invested approximately $120 million, on an average $24 million per year, in support of our mission. This has supported the life-transforming work of over 130 different organizations in India. Our main partner in India is The Hans Foundation (THF). Along with THF, we work with 15 other partners to achieve our goals and materialize our vision.

EDUCATION

Agastya International Foundation

The idea behind supporting the Experiential Learning Program is to make STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) accessible to all students regardless of their class, caste, or gender, and popularize science and scientific temper among the young. The initiative is aimed at helping children develop a design-thinking mindset, an inquisitive perspective, and enhancing their problem-solving skills. RIST is supporting 27 Programs benefiting 36000+ students across 260+ schools in six states in India. Agastya runs Diet Science Centers, Mobile Science Lab and Lab on a Bike. Hands-on science sessions are conducted in the schools by instructors using models covering a wide range of topics in Physics, Chemistry and Biology for students from Class 5 – 9th standard.

Humana People to People India

The Kadam+ (Uttar Pradesh) project supports the Government of Uttar Pradesh in securing quality elementary education for every child. Over three-years, the program implemented in 240 schools has improved the learning outcomes of 24,000 children and has trained 1200 government school teachers. The program has also integrated 9,600 excluded children in the school system. In phase two, called Kadam+ (UP 25), the project aims to reach 20,000 government primary teachers and impact more than 3,61,000 children by 2025.

The Museum of Art & Photography Foundation, Inc.

India has a rich cultural and artistic heritage, but there is a lack of popular interest in arts. There is also a perception that arts and museums are a luxury and for the elites. RIST has made an endowment grant towards establishing Museum of Arts and Photography (MAP) in Bangalore. The museum will strive to create and nurture a new generation of museum going audiences. A special effort will be made to get the young and those with disabilities more involved and interested in art. MAP is custodian to a growing collection of over 20,000 objects dating from the 10th century to contemporary times, primarily from India.
William Jefferson Clinton Fellowship Program

This program aims to further US-India relations. The fellows, selected from a diverse pool of professionals from India and the US, are trained and placed with grassroots civil society organizations in India. The fellowship helps the fellows gain experience as development professionals and it also strengthens the capacity of the host organizations. Over the last three years, RIST has funded 20 fellows.

Arogya World

India has more than 70 million people with diagnosed diabetes, with an equal number of undiagnosed cases according to estimates. The partnership of RIST and Arogya World aims to tackle this growing challenge through two flagship programs. The program - mDiabetes is the largest text message-based prevention program in the world. It uses mobile technology to educate and facilitate behavioural change to reduce risks and prevent diabetes. Using this easy and effective way to reach poorer communities in remote areas, Arogya World has reached 300,000 people over three years.

Healthy Schools is a two-year peer-led school-based diabetes education and prevention program aimed at children, ages 11-14. Till date, the program has reached 100,000 students in mostly rural government schools in 10 states across India. By 2022, Arogya World and their partners will reach additional 3,50,000 students.

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

CSIS, in collaborations with RIST, kickstarted the “Indian States Health Innovation Partnership” aimed at strengthening health outcomes in India by identifying the Indian states that are ready for innovative partnerships with international institutions. With RIST’s support, CSIS actively maintains a database of timely health-related news on their “Engaging Indian States” website.

Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT)

RIST and FRLHT started “Center for Holistic Nutrition, Research & Education” to create food solutions that are low-cost, high in nutrition, and offer food solutions based on a combination of rigorous scientific research and Ayurveda knowledge systems. This project is creating an extensive and interactive Ayurveda food database that is first of its kind to quantify how natural foods can improve health outcomes.

Americares

Americares and RIST work together to improve the health of urban poor in the slums of Mumbai. As part of this flagship program, RIST has funded seven mobile medical vans providing high-quality primary healthcare benefitting more than 6,00,000 people in 130 slums till date. Hundreds of thousands more will be reached over the next five years during the second phase. Together RIST and Americares have been at the forefront of responding to emergencies in India, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

American India Foundation (AIF)

Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSII) – The flagship public health program of AIF strives to fill the gaps in the access to quality and affordable healthcare for mothers and newborns. Currently operational in two blocks of Haridwar, MANSI has reached, over 82000 severely underweight children and premature newborns and counselled over 46000 lactating mothers in breastfeeding and nutrition since July 2015 till September 2020. In 2021, AIF will be scaling up the program to MANSI 2.0.

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Keystone Human Services International

RIST and Keystone Human Services International share a common core set of values when it comes to assisting people with disability to lead dignified lives marked by belonging, relationships and personal growth. This shared commitment led to the launch of Keystone Institute India in 2016, a values-based national training institute to facilitate broad-based approaches to elevating the possibilities for people with developmental and psychosocial disability to lead full and rich lives. RIST and Keystone have emerged as leaders in the arena of de-institutionalization, both in policy and in practice. Together with The Hans Foundation, The Government of Uttarakhand, and Lehmann Hospital, two small-scale community homes have been created for women with developmental disabilities.

The Banyan

The Banyan - RIST partnership began with an endowment grant from RIST in 2018 for starting the Centre for Mental Health and Inclusive Development (CMHID). The partnership aims at promoting social inclusion and participation through facilitating transitions from institutions to supported and independent living options under the Home Again program. The project is implemented in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and close to 1000 people have benefitted from the intervention.

Cities Rise

RIST is funding the project “Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People in India” aimed at changing the narrative around mental health by increasing awareness, reducing stigma, improving access to care, and providing support to vulnerable young people. The project is implemented in Chennai and Tamil Nadu with the plan to scale it up to other cities in India based on success on the evidence-based mental health interventions for youth. The goal of this multi-stakeholder global platform is to reach one Billion people by 2030 globally to improve mental health and decrease suicides or other harmful fall-outs of mental health issues. Presently they are working in Chennai in India.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Protecting ecological diversity and environmental health of India is a major commitment of RIST. RIST and WCS-India have together launched an ambitious project to save the Great India Bustard (GIB) – one of the most critically endangered bird species in the world. The Thar Desert in western India, where WCS-India is working closely with communities and government departments, has less than 150 individual birds remaining. This, perhaps, is the only site in India with the potential for saving the GIB from extinction.

RIST and WCS-India work in a second partnership to strengthen Marine Conservation in India and protect the immense biodiversity of the Indian coastline. The strategy is to create new marine protected areas, to improve the long-term outlook for marine life (dolphins, sea turtles and dugongs) by working with fishing communities to promote wildlife-friendly fishing practices, and to stop the decline of sharks and rays through scientific monitoring and citizen science initiatives.

Wadhwani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare Foundation (WISH Foundation)

In India, over six million people fall into poverty every year because of healthcare costs and millions die of preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. Abysmal primary health care scenario – lack of doctors, outdated equipment, high medical costs, inaccurate patient records, and health disparities especially for rural and remote areas – is the main reason behind this tragedy. Through the Sustainable Innovative Digital Health Initiative for the Under-served (SIDHI) program, WISH Foundation seeks to ensure equitable access to quality primary healthcare for the under-served populations. Using “Digital Health” innovations it has reached 1.5 million people in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. A holistic, cost-effective, and high impact model called Digital Health and Wellness Centers (dHWCs) has been designed as robust primary care delivery systems embedded within the community to bring down the cost and provide access through technology and innovative solutions.

In addition to the ongoing core programs, RIST is responding to counteract the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the poor and the marginalized communities across India. Through our partners on the ground, RIST has distributed PPE and relief rations and has worked to increase the understanding of the COVID 19 virus to decrease the risk of transmission.
FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020
The Hans Foundation is one of the biggest foundations in India. It has spent more than INR 800 Crore since its inception in 2009. In last five financial years, i.e. 2015-2020 total spending on the development activities have been more than INR 650 Crore. The Hans Foundation (THF) has spent INR 175.13 crore on development projects in the financial year 2019-2020. The funding has been continuously increasing since the start of the Foundation.

Major portfolio of the foundation remains Health with 36% of total spending in last five years (2015-20) towards development projects in Health thematic area. Spending in Disability, Livelihood, Education, Water & Sanitation sector has also been considerable. Most of the livelihood projects are women centric which makes the Women Empowerment profile of THF bigger than what figures in tables and graphs depict.

The Foundation has been consistent in all the thematic areas except for the fact that there is a dip in water & sanitation projects due to completion of its major projects in that sector in 2018-19.

**Funding to NGO implementing partners**

THF’s programmatic interventions are majorly done through its partner NGOs. The importance of partnership is also emphasised in the mission statement of the foundation. THF has funded more than INR 400 Crore to its NGO partners for various development projects during 2015-20.

Biggest funding to NGOs have been in Health sector. Other sectors like Disability, Education and livelihood have also been considerable. Funding for Disaster relief has increased many folds in 2019-20. This was majorly due to support during Kerala, Assam and Bihar flood relief. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, THF funded NGOs for Water & Sanitation projects, most of which were in the state of Uttarakhand. The scenario is expected to change with the recent amendment in FCRA which restricts the transfer of FC funds to other organisation.
Direct Implementation by THF

The Foundation also directly implements development projects. It has spent more than INR 200 Crore on the self-implemented projects during 2015-2020. Almost half of total spending towards livelihood has been under direct implementation. Average yearly spending for self-implemented project has been INR 40 Crore. However during last two years, i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20 the foundation’s spending on directly implemented projects has crossed INR 50 Crore. In coming years the direct implementation portfolio of the foundation is going to grow further partly as a natural progression and partly due to the recent amendment in FCRA which restricts transfer of FC funds even to other FC registered organisations in India.

BUDGET 2020-21

THF’s budget is always aligned with its Vision, Mission and Objectives. The yearly budget is prepared after thorough study of its past experiences, current situations and comprehensive plan for the ensuing financial year. However, 2020-21 has been a different situation altogether. The Financial year started with COVID – 19 Pandemic and long lockdowns which had its impact on the foundation’s budget also. Owing to this the overall project budget of The Hans Foundation was practically worked out at INR 137.18 Cr.

Budget for Financial Year 2020-21 in Cr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Area</th>
<th>THF</th>
<th>UK 2020</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>19.37</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>21.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>12.23</td>
<td>17.96</td>
<td>30.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>18.92</td>
<td>10.63</td>
<td>29.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livelihood</td>
<td>25.45</td>
<td>18.91</td>
<td>44.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Sanitation</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>10.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>58.47</strong></td>
<td><strong>137.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uttarakhand 2020 being an important state-wide development program has a budget formulated separately and then consolidated with overall budget of THF. THF’s major focus has been the state. The interventions in Uttarakhand consolidates under its UK Vision 2020.

Uttarakhand 2020 completed its fourth year in 2019 since its inception in November 2015. The UK 2020 budget has also decreased in 2020-21 due to Pandemic COVID – 19.
We are pleased to share The Hans Foundation (THF) Annual Report 2020.

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic struck our world and affected everyone’s life especially leaving the marginalized communities more helpless than ever. Regardless of that, our partners have continued working in the most adverse situations and we also The Foundation has been able to reach the remotest areas and the most marginalized communities through our partners. The report presents an overview of the work done in the last year and underlines the national-level initiatives. Through this report, we acknowledge and deeply appreciate the transformational work being done by our partner organisations on the grassroots.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to Ms Shweta Rawat, Chairperson, for providing me with the opportunity to create this report and for providing her guidance in making it a coherent and meaningful report. It is because of her vision, commitment and fervour that the organization has been able to set unparalleled standards in social development work in the country. Her unstinted guidance, support and encouragement have been the key motivation for the team to strive for perfection and ensure our interventions reach the unreached.

I would like to thank the entire team of The Hans Foundation (Delhi, Dehradun, The Hans Foundation Hospitals, HHH and Nagaland) for extending all possible support for compiling and collating the data, without their help and support, the report would not have been complete. Furthermore, I would like to thank the finance team for their contribution and hard work in compiling the financial summary and providing a comprehensive picture of the financial outlay. It is in order to thank Prachee Sinha, Program Manager, RIST for extending her support in the review of selected chapters.

Special thanks to the entire team of Eternal Tiger for designing the e-Annual Report.

We hope that this Annual Report 2020 provides a purview of our work in the last year and you enjoy reading the report.

Swati Sharma
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