

# Annual Report 2018

## South Asia



# Annual Report 2018

terre des hommes Germany - South Asia

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**terre des hommes Deutschland e.V.**

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# Contents

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<b>0. Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Situation in the Region</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Programme Development</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Important social economic and political developments	8
<b>2. Highlights of 2018</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3. Assessment of the Strategic Goals</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1. Strategic goal 1: Participation by children and youth	16
3.2. Strategic goal 2: Spaces free from violence and exploitation	18
3.3. Strategic goal 3: Ecological Child Rights	22
3.4. Strategic goal 4: Child rights in international policies	22
3.5. Focal Themes	27
<b>4. Programme Development</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 Project Support	28
4.2 Evaluations and Assessments	29
4.3 Partner Meetings	29
4.4 Food Security, Malnutrition, Child Labour, Child Marriage and Health	30
<b>5. Institutional Development</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1 Staff development	32
5.2 Compliances	32
5.3 Financial/ budget development/regional fundraising	32
<b>6. Regional Networking and Collaboration</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>7. Public visibility and advocacy work</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>8. Perspectives for the future</b>	<b>37</b>

# 0. Executive Summary

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## 1. Situation in the Region

The year 2018 brought a difficult set of challenges to social development of the South Asian countries and saw significant political developments in Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan. Despite high economic growth, India is still plagued by an unemployment and agrarian sector crisis. Kerala was hit by its most devastating flood in a century. Undernourishment, stunting and wasting is troublingly common in India and maternal health still is a concern. Many children are affected by forced migration, child labour and gender-based discrimination.

Scrutiny on rights-based organisations is increasing and funding for social development is diminishing. The socio-political situation in India is both tense and uncertain in anticipation of the 2019 General Election.

After a turbulent 2017, the political situation in Nepal has stabilised with its new Government and Constitution in effect. On the economic front, employment remains a major challenge, forcing migrants, including youth, out of the country in search for work. Despite high enrollment rates in schools, drop-outs remain an issue and discrimination of the girl child is of continuous concern.

Pakistan elected a new Prime Minister in 2018, signaling a change in the country's political environment. Still, the situation of children has not improved. Violence against children, gender-based discrimination, child labour, and poor access to adequate education and health centres continue to be pressing issues in the country.

For Afghanistan, 2018 was a turbulent year with the promise of change. After violent attacks targeting the planned parliamentary elections, elections were finally held but its results are yet unclear. Peace talks are underway between Afghanistan and the USA, hinting at the possibility of a negotiated settlement. Meanwhile, droughts, migration and school attacks added to the existing issues of inconsistent access to education and healthcare while child abuse, discrimination, child labour and violence remain prevalent.



## 2. Programme Development

Governments in the region continue to scrutinize NGOs and rights-based organizations, leading to a decline in funding for the sector. Despite the challenges, the Region was able to tap into the Corporate Social Responsibility sector for support, expand operations in India to 19 states, offer timely support to the flood survivors in Kerala and move close to the completion of the emergency work in Nepal. In 2018, the Region also began to integrate new strategic goals of tdh Germany into the work.

### Participation by Children and Youth

Events were organised with youth and children during the year to discuss child marriage, education and other social issues. Youth and children's groups have been involved in raising their demands with local governments on issues like mid-day meals, child marriage, corporal punishment and more.



### Space Free from Violence and Exploitation

Violence, exploitation and discrimination are critical issues in the Region. In Sumangali project locations, more than 6000 victims of violence were supported through special training and counselling. Training sessions on psychological care and child protection in multiple states across India were organized. Children have also been empowered to report instances of violence and abuse. The joint alliance demanding 'Quality education for all, no child labour at all' is another notable effort to address child exploitation.

### Ecological Child Rights

Children and youth participated in ecological activities like pond cleaning, segregation of garbage and water harvesting. A three-day Youth Convention in Nepal raised awareness on SDGs and currently 6,841 young people are engaged in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. In total, 27,723 children are engaged in various campaigns on environmental protection, across the region.

### Child Rights in International Policies

The Time to Talk campaign gave the Region's children a voice on issues like child labour before an international audience at the ILO World Conference in Argentina. In Nepal, the Destination Unknown Children on the Move (DU COM) Campaign succeeded in including issues of children-on-the-move in the proposed "Child Rights Bill". The alliance among CACL, Right to Education and Right to Early Childhood Development Alliance, has strengthened advocacy on education and child labour in Indian states.

### Visibility and Alliances

Tdh and partners have been active in various alliances and joint action programmes on different issues related to child protection, promotion of free compulsory education, elimination of child labour and protection of the environment.



These networks organise joint actions to highlight instances of violations and seek the protection and development of children. The Campaign Against Child Labour, Right to Education forum, and Right to early childhood Development Alliance are some such initiatives where tdh is involved. In Delhi, tdh continues to be a part of 'ProChild', a network of child rights agencies. In Pune, tdh is involved with Action for the Rights of the Child, as well as the Right to Food and Health for All campaigns.

Digital media was actively used to increase public visibility. The new website of tdh Germany-India programme is updated regularly with short films, case studies and blog pieces. During the last year, short films were made on mica mining in Jharkhand, the youth convention in Lucknow, child labour in the brick industry and child work in the carpet industry.

## **Perspective for the Future**

This year, the process on integrating the new strategic goals in the work started and the Region will continue to work on issues of education, child labour, violence and ecological rights. In response to local concerns, the focus on peace and conflict resolution in Afghanistan and some parts of India will continue. Food insecurity and malnourishment in India, as well as discrimination against the girl child in the entire region are crucial issues. Advocacy with government agencies was strengthened on child labour, education and violence to highlight these issues before the upcoming General Election in India.

In the coming year, the Region hopes to better understand LGBTQIA rights and make the approach more inclusive. Focus on education as the key against child labour and the protection and development of vulnerable children and youth in the region will continue.



# 1. Introduction

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The South Asian region is home to about 1.82 billion people of which at least 36% (or 627 million) are under 18 years. Despite the progress made in human development, South Asia is still home for more than half of the world's wasted children. One third of the region's child population between 3-5 years performs poorly on the development indicators. Only a little over half the children in the region attend regular schools. Child marriage is still practiced and violence against children, particularly gender-based violence, remains common.

As the year 2018 comes to an end the socioeconomic reality of South Asia continues to be uneven. On the economic front, fiscal deficits have been high and growth rates have been mediocre, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. India, despite being the region's largest economy and the fastest growing economy in the world, is facing enormous challenges with unemployment and slow growth in the agrarian sector. Growth rates were moderate in Nepal and Bhutan, and high in Bangladesh. Sri Lanka had below average growth but performed well in human development indices. In all, the region is making progress towards becoming a fast-growing economic force but still lags far behind the Southeast Asian countries.

Social stratification and inequities still prevail. Concentration of wealth in the hands of a few and pauperisation of other sections is a reality in India and other countries. With vast diversity in geography, climatic conditions, language and culture the countries have remained in relative peace, despite tensions and occasional border clashes.

The South Asia region of tdh Germany is supporting projects and programmes in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Partner organisations engage with children and their communities in protecting children from all forms of violence and abuse and promoting their educational development and participation. Protecting children from environmental and ecological hazards and engaging with children and youth in sustaining the ecological balance has become a core concern for tdh. Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the global level are a point of convergence with governments and other actors in this region. tdh and partner organisations have maintained this spirit during the year 2018 and made significant contributions at different locations and levels through projects, programmes and advocacy. The Strategic Goals 'participation of children and youth,' 'safe spaces for children' and 'ecological rights of children' were the key objectives pursued by the region.





## 1.1 Important social economic and political developments

### 1.1.1 India

Growth alongside expanding inequality is the distinguishing character of the Indian economy. According to the latest Oxfam report, 1% of Indians own 51.53% of national wealth while the bottom 60% share only 4.8%. A similar story of disparity is told by growth rates, with the top 1% growing at 39% while the bottom 50% grew at a meager 3%. These trends reflect a widening gap between the rich and the poor, creating social and economic discontent and threatening to erode democracy in the country.

These national trends are also reflected in disparity between states. Eastern and northeastern states like Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, parts of West Bengal etc. are far below the country's average growth rate. This creates a push for large scale migration, particularly of the younger population, towards far away, high-growth states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab. Unemployment and underemployment contribute heavily to this trend. The agrarian sector, India's biggest employer, continues to reel in crisis. Despite various installments of loan waivers in different states, the situation of farmers has not improved. It is now evident that loan waivers are more beneficial to the banks than they are to the farmers and are not enough to pull the sector out of crisis. Even the improved minimum support price is yet to yield positive results. Overall, though India is one of the world's fastest growing economies, the situation of the majority of its people has scarcely improved.

A major cause of the inequality is insufficient funding or privatization of social services for the poor and deprived sections. Public initiatives in sectors like education, health and other social benefit schemes have not been sufficiently funded. Though much is said about government health insurance schemes like Ayushman, these schemes do not cover outpatient costs at all. Outpatient costs can amount

to 68% of the total medical bills. This means that even at 100% success the insurance schemes will cover only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the actual cost. Privatization of these sectors adds to the burden faced by the poor and even negatively impacts public systems. The private education sector is attracting more and more students at very high costs, leading poor families into debt crises. At the same time, this pulls people away from government schools, causing schools to shut down due to inadequate enrollment.

There is hardly any good news that comes out of the social situation. As a result of the competing economic interests, there is social segregation among different communities. Every community is trying to grab a bigger piece of the shrinking pie. The farmers, the dalits, the women, the youth, the students and even sections of the forward communities are agitating with their economic demands, creating a volatile social situation. The cruel lynching of a 16 year old boy in Haryana and the heinous rape and murder of a girl in Kashmir are not isolated events. Such incidents have been reported from other states as well. Any remaining social harmony is under threat of erosion by the national register of citizens and subsequent Citizenship Bill which is pending passage in the parliament. This Bill promotes the idea of citizenship based on religion and is being resisted by even allies of the ruling coalition.

### ***Situation of children***

The situation of children is not any better than the rest. Naturally, it is the children of the poor communities and poorer sections who are affected most severely. According to the latest Global Nutrition Report (2018), 466 million children are stunted and 25.5 million are wasted. India also has more than one million children who are overweight – another result of poor nutrition. Violence against children, particularly sexual violence and abuse are commonly reported. Physical abuse including corporal punishment are yet to see any significant declines.

The South Asian region accounts for a major part of the world's poor and is noted for high rates of gender inequity. Girls and women are therefore more adversely affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, ill health and other forms of discrimination. Child marriage and poor maternal health continue to be issues in the region. The Global Nutrition Report (2017) has revealed that maternal health in India is on the decline. India has more than 45 lakh girls under 15 years of age who are married, of which, 70% are reported to have two children. There are around 10.13 million child labourers between 5-14 years in India (Census 2011). Our work in the region has especially focused on education of the girl child as the key to address child labour. The joint campaign of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Right to Education Forum and Right to Early Childhood Development Alliance has worked on both education and child labour. This joint campaign, along with the Time to Talk Campaign, have given children a voice and brought their perspective to a national and international policymaking audience.

### **Child Abuse and Exploitation**

India has 33 million working children between the ages of 5-18 years. In some parts of the country, more than half the child population is engaged in labour (Census 2011). Every day, around 150 children go missing in India – kidnapping and abduction is the largest crime against children in our country (National Crime Record Bureau 2016). Over the last 10 years, crimes against children have increased five-fold (National Crime Record Bureau Data Series).

### **Child Health and Nutrition**

19.8 million children below age 6 in India are undernourished (ICDS 2015). Only 9.6% of children between 6-23 months in the country receive an adequate diet (NFHS 4, 2015-16). Nutrition-related health outcomes in children under 5 are very poor. More than one-third (38%) of these children are stunted, one-fifth (21%) suffer from wasting, 36% are underweight,

and 58% are anemic (NFHS 4, 2015-16). One-fifth of all births in India are home births (NFHS 4, 2015-16). In 2015-16, total immunisation coverage in the country stood at 62% (NFHS 4, 2015-16). Child health and nutrition is a key area that requires attention in India.

### **Maternal Health**

Maternal health is still a concern in India. 42% of married women in India were married as children, making India home to one-third of the world's child brides (UNICEF). Prenatal care is poor – with only one in five mothers receiving full antenatal care in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16). More than 50% of the pregnant women between 15-49 years were found to be anemic – a key indicator of the poor long-term health of mothers and children (NFHS 4, 2015-16).

There is increasing awareness on the rights of children. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the girls, educate the girls) scheme has been a flagship programme of the current government. As a result of the Right to Education legislation, more children have come into schools, particularly the younger ones. Sexual and physical violence against children has been highlighted in the news and legislation changes has made child rape punishable with capital punishment. Whether stronger punitive measures will contribute to reduction of violence remains questionable. Better implementation of existing laws to prevent violations is a more important and effective way of protecting the country's children.



## Aarti Sisodiya's perseverance helps fulfill her dream in Bhopal, India

*Aarti, a lively and active girl, is the third of five siblings in a large family that lives in the Suraj Nagar slum in Bhopal. Her parents are daily wage workers at building sites or road construction projects. Aarti's father is an alcoholic who does not contribute to the family's expenses; the family survives mainly on what her mother brings in. Despite being an excellent student, the family's financial situation forced Aarti to discontinue school just as she was to start Grade 9 in 2012. She was compelled to take up a daily wage job alongside her mother and elder sister.*

*terre des hommes (Germany) with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) supports a project for improving educational opportunities for children and youth in Mumbai and Bhopal. The project is implemented by Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) in Mumbai. Implementation in Bhopal is with two NGOs: National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD) and Muskaan.*

*In 2014, Muskaan started a library in Suraj Nagar slum. They encouraged school dropouts to join the library. Apart from reading, activities such as drawing, handicrafts and various learning games were also held in the library. Aarti's younger sister Pinki, a regular at the Muskaan library, persuaded Aarti to join. Aarti soon became a library regular herself, participating in the many activities there. When a Muskaan counselor discovered Aarti's reason for discontinuing her education, she encouraged Aarti to offset not going to school by reading library books. The counselor's constant encouragement soon found success and Aarti began to take an interest in reading. Since Aarti is outgoing, she took a keen interest in a youth workshop organised by Muskaan and TDH on topics such as leadership, career planning, life skills etc. Aarti enjoyed the workshop and shared the learning with her friends and sisters.*

*When asked whether she would like to continue her education through a private course, Aarti proved her mettle by not wanting to settle for the certificate a private course offered. She wanted a regular school leaving certificate and was determined to re-enroll in class 9 to get one. Despite the three-year interruption in her studies, in July 2015, with the support of Muskaan and tdh, Aarti was re-admitted to a government school in class 9 - with the additional benefit of a scholarship.*

*Alongside school, Aarti learnt tailoring through a vocational course conducted by Muskaan. Today, in 2019, she is preparing for her Class 12 examinations. She pays for extra tuition by working as a daily wage earner or taking tailoring orders during her holidays. She is hopeful that she will be able to do well in her exam.*

*Although her family is keen to get Aarti married after Class 12, she is determined to join college after graduation. She is working hard to persuade her family members to delay her marriage for three years till she finishes college. She dreams of becoming a Collector and helping girls like herself in the future.*

*written by: Sharmili Basu*

### 1.1.2 Nepal

The small Himalayan country can be broadly divided in 3 main geographic regions – Terai, Hill and Mountain – which have a range of cultural, linguistic and climactic diversity. Politically, it is divided into 7 provinces and 753 Municipalities. The new constitution of Nepal has been implemented after three consecutive elections in 2017 – local, provincial and federal. It now has a stable government with a two-third majority of the Communist Party of Nepal. At present, Nepal has a balanced relation with its two big neighbours – India and China.

It is still hard for the earthquake survivors to endure yet another winter with poor housing and inadequate protection. 28.62% of the population are living below the poverty line. About 3 million people migrated to the Middle East, Malaysia and South Korea as labour, contributing to 30.1% GDP of the country. Due to the forced migration of the youth, the country is facing a shortage of labour in the construction, production and agricultural sectors. Privatization of education and health is causing hardship for the middle classes and for the marginalized sections of the population.

The situation of women is similar to that of the other South Asian countries. Women are involved with household chores and have low ownership of land. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and child marriage are prevalent. There is a small increase of women's involvement in sectors like banking, education, the police force and the army. Despite being recently made illegal, discrimination and isolation of women during menstruation is a continuing issue.

#### ***Situation of children***

Nepal has a population of 29.6 million and an average family size of 4.7. It is a young country – 44% of its population are children below the age of 18, including 10.5 million children under the age of 16 years. Of every 1000 live births, 23 children do not live beyond 5 years. Economic exploitation of children, violence and abuse, trafficking in children and lack of access to

healthcare continue to be major concerns.

Though school enrolment is 96%, the dropout rate upto 10th grade is as high as 39%. The quality of education remains poor. Middle-class families prefer to send their children to high-cost private schools in Kathmandu. Government centres for early child development are poorly run and technical or vocational education is inadequate. Many children are forced to work, with around 1.6 million being involved in the worst forms of child labour. Unemployment among the educated youth remains a concern.

The difficult economic situation leaves the youth unemployed and frustrated. Foreign migration for study and work is increasing. Agriculture remains the main occupation for most of the population. However, the educated youth are reluctant to get into agriculture or stay in the remote villages. Some youth who have returned from abroad have started successful small enterprises in small and big cities.





### 1.1.3 Pakistan

The second largest country in the region with a population of 208 million, Pakistan ranks 147 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Indices. High inequality, unemployment, underemployment, poverty and deprivation are the major economic issues.

The election of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister Imran Khan made 2018 a significant year for Pakistan. The two-party dominance of Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League was broken. The emergence of Tehrike-Labbaik-Pakistan (TLP),

the right-wing political group is a worrying development in Pakistan. On a positive note, the street mobilization of these right-wing forces has not increased the street violence in the nation. Overall, some semblance of political stability and peace has emerged in Pakistan this year.

While the stresses and strains on Pakistan-American front continue, relations with Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates has improved. The US peace talks with Afghanistan could mean some easing of the US and Pakistan relations as well.

The mega plan of the new Prime Minister to build 5 million houses which will create 6 million jobs and provide shelter to 5 million and promises to boost the whole economy of the country. However, the resources for this ambitious scheme have yet to be gathered.





## ***Situation of children***

Contrary to some claims, Pakistan has not been able to keep the promises of UNCRC. Violence against children, child labour, and poor access to good schools and health centres continues. The situation is often described as dismal and deteriorating, with almost 25 million children out of school and 12 million in labour. Though Pakistan has instituted free compulsory education until the age of 16, the enrolment and retention rates are still very poor. Child marriage and discrimination of the girl child are still common place in Pakistan.

### **1.1.4 Afghanistan**

From a sociopolitical standpoint, Afghanistan had a tumultuous year. In the early part of the year, the warring groups of Taliban stepped up their attacks including bombings of army and police camps, and targeted attacks of provinces. The parliamentary elections, scheduled for July, and the preparatory registration of the voters became major targets of attack. The elections finally took place during the first half of October and the final results are still unclear.

Meanwhile, the United States of America and NATO have been pushing for peace talks. A series of meetings have been held at different locations like Doha, Dubai, and Moscow. During the recent talks, there have been indications of a mutual agreement and negotiated settlement. However, these are still at a very nascent stage, and there is yet to be any distinctive positive response from the Taliban. A possible settlement in which the Talibans and Pakistan have the upper hand would be worrisome for Afghanistan.

## ***Situation of children***

Educational activities were disrupted during the first half of the year due to the attacks on the schools where voter registration was being done. The drought that affected many provinces like Ghor and Daikundi impacted schools in the region as well. Large scale migration of rural families to cities

like Herat, Kabul and other smaller towns also contributed to disruptions in schooling. The main issues in child rights sector continue to be inadequate access to education, child labour, child abuse, exploitation, discrimination against girl children and child marriage.







## Sayed Habibullah's transformative journey towards education and peace in Kabul, Afghanistan

*Sayed Habibullah Jamail just graduated from high school. In most countries, this milestone would have been a cause for celebration, but also an expected step in life's journey. For Sayeed, a student of Abdul Ali Mastaghni High School in Kabul, Afghanistan, it has been dangerous, arduous and not without pain and loss.*

*Sayed comes from a very poor family. His father Kamaluddin, unable to read and write even their native language, was keen Sayeed became an educated member of society. "If you study well, you will have a better life in the future and also be of service to your community", Kamaluddin counselled his son.*

*Notwithstanding the family's financial situation, Sayeed had a happy early childhood. That changed when he lost his father to a suicide attack in Abol Fazal cemetery in Kabul, in which Sayeed came close to losing his own life. After his father's death, the family's situation worsened. Sayeed looked for employment, but with little work available and low wages it was difficult to provide the family even with regular daily meals. Working hard to battle these challenges and somehow support the family became his daily life. "I felt helpless and hopeless", Sayeed remembers.*

*In 2012, Sayeed was enroute to Faryab when a terrorist group invited him to join them. When Sayeed declined - it was a suicide attack which had killed his father – they tortured him and forced him to join them. They started teaching him to use weapons and how to fight. His habits began to change day by day; he started to become hardened and brutal. After a year, and desperately missing home, Sayeed managed to escape. He spent many days and nights on the road, running and hiding, until finally reaching home. Reunited with family, Sayeed was happy again, despite continuing to be tormented by memories of his time in the terrorist camp.*

*2013 marked a new beginning for Sayeed. He started school in Faryab. After some time in Faryab, he returned to Kabul and switched to a school there. In Kabul, Sayeed came into contact with Afghan Peace Volunteers (APV), a tdh South Asia partner organization. They treated him with love and kindness and welcomed him to the APV family. This made Sayeed feel happy and secure, and made him realize he was not alone. The APV teachers helped him to look past the bad times and start a new life. Five years on from that time, Sayeed proudly graduated from high school.*

*Given his journey, Graduation Day unsurprisingly had a special significance for Sayeed. "Being at this school brought back happy memories of my childhood. It also reminds me of my father's words. Graduation Day for me means graduating into a world free of violence, which has always been my dream. Having lived through horrific experiences, I am now optimistic and hopeful. I hope to become a doctor and serve my people. I also want to be a peace activist and bring real and everlasting peace to the people of Afghanistan."*

*written by: Sayed Khalid Sadaat*

## 2. Highlights of 2018

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- 2.1 Participation of youth and children in promoting ecological sustainability was a highlight of 2018. Partner organisations facilitated different programmes with children and youth on protection of environment and engaged children with leaders and other authorities on this subject. The youth were also given a chance, through partner organizations, to have extensive discussions with experts and resource persons in the field. The national conventions organised in Nepal and India consolidated these efforts and motivated the youth to continue with such initiatives.
- 2.2 The Delegates Conference (DC), including preparation, participation and reporting back, was a major event of the year. The elected delegates were supported to contribute to new strategic goals for tdh Germany. Though the youth representative could not attend due to non-issue of visa, he joined all the discussions and was able to follow the whole process remotely.
- 2.3 The Campaign Against Child Labour, together with the Right to Education Campaign and the Right to early childhood Development Alliance, launched a joint campaign with a common demand – 'Quality education for all, no child labour at all'.
- 2.4 Resources were accessed from new agencies like Bread for the World, and existing relationships with Misereor, AEIN, CHL, PSF and others were maintained during the year.
- 2.5 Partners were efficiently supported to access funds from Corporate Social Responsibility sector.

- 2.6 Right to Play emerged as a significant activity with tdh and our partner organisations engaged in organizing different play practices. A range of sports including frisbee, rugby, football, kabaddi, kho-kho and more were promoted. Children enthusiastically participated in these sessions and various sports festivals.



## 3. Assessment of the Strategic Goals

### 3.1. Strategic goal 1: Participation by children and youth

*Objective: Children and young people have become actors through empowerment, who call for and respect child rights for themselves and others. They actively contribute to shape their surroundings, policies, programmes, projects and the participating organisations in the society they live in.*

Children and youth in different parts of the region have become leaders in their areas at local level (and even at national level in Nepal). They learn to live by democratic and secular values and understand gender equity. A National Youth Convention on SDGs was organized in Karnali, Nepal with the participation of 57 youth (52 from all provinces of Nepal and 5 from India) on 3-5 October, 2018.

Children's organisations are active in 70% of existing partner organisations and are taking up small actions through local schools and village activities. 50% of new partners have initiated children's organisations as well. Youth organisations are active in 16 states in India. In Nepal, 70% partner organisations have initiated youth groups. In Pakistan, there are initiatives to start young peoples' collectives.

Several trainings on health and on gender were organised across the region for the youth and children to understand their rights. Meetings, discussions and festivals were organised with youth and children during the year to discuss child marriage, education and other social issues. Children and youth also participated in celebration of international days and Global Action Month was commemorated at 121 places in the region.

Youth participated in partner meetings in all zones in India and Nepal, as well as in the National Partners' Meeting in Kolkata in November. The youth delegate for DC 2018 actively participated in networks meetings though he could not participate in the DC itself.

Youth groups and children leaders are raising their demands on the proper functioning of government schools, ensuring that mid-day meals are served on time, and fighting against violence, corporal punishment and child marriage. The process of supporting children to claim their rights has been effective, with more than ten thousand instances reported in various countries of the region this year. Six thousand eight hundred and forty-one (6841) young people are currently engaged in monitoring the implementation of SDGs.





## Reclaiming parks to play and to rest in Mangol Puri, Delhi, India.

*Parks are meant for play and leisure, a pleasure denied to the children of Mangol Puri. With their community parks used to stow vehicles, throw garbage and other anti-social activities such as drinking and gambling, Mangol Puri's children were forced to play on the streets, its senior citizens left without a place to relax in.*

*The issue came up at one of Dr. AV Baliga Trust's youth group meetings, where members of the organization's Eco Club meet periodically on social and environmental issues. Most of them had seen their neighbourhood deteriorate and wondered if the situation would ever change.*

*With a need for change on their minds, they joined the e-learning centre run by Dr. AV Baliga Trust a year ago. Over and above their computer education, they became a part of tdh's youth network. This network helped them develop an understanding of local issues in the context of larger ones at state and national level. They shared their concerns and problems with youth from different parts of India and learnt ways to address them within their local context.*

*Mangol Puri's open spaces and parks were not being put to the right use, adding to the area's other problems. The dumping of garbage was breeding flies and mosquitoes. Plants and trees had been cut. The group decided to take up this issue, dividing themselves into sub-groups for different tasks. Four of them went to the forest department and fetched 100 saplings, another 15 wrote slogans on Safe Environment while the rest drew pictures about the problem.*

*Mobilizing friends, parents and others from the neighborhood on World Environment Day to create awareness and action, they also met the local councilor and asked for his support in cleaning the parks in three different blocks of Mangol Puri. With community participation they planted the saplings, also taking on the responsibility of monitoring their growth.*

*A key challenge for the group was how to keep the momentum going. The answer they found was to reframe their work into a project titled Green Parks. They prepared goals, objectives, an action plan stating roles and responsibilities for all the youth group members. Soon they had an annual plan for awareness walks, tree planting in other parks in the area, keeping watch against garbage and advocacy with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to put gates on all the parks.*

*Within three months the Municipal Corporation had put up gates as well as swings for children. Free of the risk of becoming garbage dumps and parking lots, Mangol Puri's parks have returned to being happy places where children play and seniors spend their leisure time.*

*The walls of the park, painted by the youth group, announce their mission, "The city should be safe for all, especially women". They are also a testimony to the determination and success of a small group of youth who would accept the decay of their neighbourhood.*

*written by: Ritu Mishra*

### 3.2. Strategic goal 2: Spaces free from violence and exploitation

*Objective: Children and youth are resilient and have safe, reliable, and sustainable living spaces in which they are free from exploitation and violence.*

South Asia is the region with the maximum disparity between men and women in the world. Women and girls live in very difficult circumstances, and gender-based violence and discrimination are major concerns in the four countries of the region where tdh is working. Engaging with both girls and boys on the topic of gender and violence through cultural media, plays, songs and discussions has been a high priority. Several plays have been organised on child sexual abuse, along with posters and discussions in India. Discussions on child marriage in Afghanistan are an important part of project work. The partners have integrated work with girls and women into their priorities.

Efforts have been made, particularly with youth groups of girls in the Sumangali areas, to increase awareness about violence and prevention of violence against women and girls. In Sumangali project locations, 6000 victims of violence were given special training, counselling and were supported to be strong and stand on their own feet. Child protection has been part of the discussions during youth meetings and partner meetings across India. 80 staff of partner organizations were trained on child protection in Karnataka. 50 youth members from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were trained in SDGs and for advocacy at the local level. Training for psychosocial care was organised for partners in South India. Special trainings on child protection and child participation were organised for the Uttar Pradesh partners during the year. Under the EU Project, 7 support centres and 65 Non-Residential Bridge Centres (NRBCs) in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan ensured the education of children of brick kiln workers, who were completely out of education. A film was also made, capturing the situation of children's rights in the brick kiln sector.

In total, 11,708 children have benefitted from different measures like psychosocial care, personal development, counselling and legal aid. 7,265 more have been linked to health services including centres for malnourished children.







## Farida's return to a normal childhood of laughter and play in Herat, Afghanistan

*For Farida, now a typical 9-year old in Herat, the experience of a normal childhood came with difficulty. At the age of 2, in keeping with certain longstanding traditions, she was married to a cousin by her father.*

*Her marriage, and the future it entailed, weighed heavily on Farida's mind. "She behaved more like a grown up than a child", says a teacher. Living everyday with the reality of being married was not easy on young Farida. It bothered her the most when she played with her friends, who would taunt her every day about having a husband. Farida became severely stressed, afraid of everyone around her and of the future. Her cheeks would quiver and hands tremble when she tried to speak. She lived with the dread that something bad would happen at any moment and began to suffer from shyness and discrimination.*

*About six months ago Farida started attending a child support center at Masklakh on the outskirts of Herat city, run by Women Activities and Social Awareness Association (WASSA) with support from terre des hommes Germany. After several counselling sessions with Farida and engaging her in group psychotherapeutic games, WASSA's staff started to see a positive response from her. Gradually she started enjoying play, even beginning to win in games. She started to speak without hesitation or reserve. Her attitude became positive. Farida now speaks boldly about herself and also her group. She mingles freely in the group and is not afraid of being amongst others. Benefiting from hygiene awareness sessions for her and her family, she has improved her hygiene significantly.*

*Farida is now a regular and active student at the center and plays a lot. She says, "If I had not met Ms. Rahmani (of WASSA), I would have continued to be miserable. I am now able to live normally and set goals for myself. I am enjoying being with everybody and learning."*

*Today, Farida is a very different child from the one who came to the support center six months ago. She now laughs out loud and plays with everyone.*

*written by: Sayedi from Wassa*



## A girls-only café in Karachi, Pakistan provides refuge, friendship and learning to young women

*Passing buildings scarred by gunfire as they hurry through the narrow streets of Lyari, a group of young women climb to a girls-only rooftop cafe in a bullet-riddled building. The terre des homes Germany supported Girls Café in Lyari has become a destination for over a hundred girls who regularly come for computer literacy, language and handicraft classes. The majority are school and college students. More than forty are learning to use a computer. "Computer literacy was my dream; it is becoming a reality here. My parents can't afford a computer, nor could I access a computer center in Lyari," says a 15-year old girl.*

*Lyari in south Karachi has experienced horrific violence. A decade of gang war has seen hundreds killed and thousands displaced. A rare building is free of bullet marks. Law enforcement agencies were unable to enter and save lives and property. The gang war not only destroyed Lyari's socio-economics, it also damaged schools and play grounds. Children and youth were the worst affected, with fear, insecurity and violence prevailing for years. Girls left school and stayed indoors for fear of their lives. To help mitigate the fear and insecurity, ARADO, an organization of young volunteers, came up with a plan to rehabilitate children and girls through education and skills once peace was restored. Terre des Hommes Germany supported the rehabilitation of violence-affected children and youth through the establishment of Girl's Café.*

*"Girl's Café is not only a learning space, it is a place where girls can socialize. We lived in suffocating isolation for ten years, while the streets were occupied by gangsters," explains Kiran, the volunteer computer literacy teacher.*

*Rimsha, also a volunteer and the English teacher, whose free class is attended by more than 20 regulars, adds, "The English language course is another favorite, with every girl wanting to attend. Since I have taken English language classes myself, I love to teach other girls here."*

*Another volunteer Zulekha has started a beautician class. A long queue of girls knocks on the Girl's Cafe door every evening to learn Mehendi, hairstyling, dressing up and handicrafts. "The interest is so large, I have no choice but to request many girls to wait for the next batch, since we have problem of space and time."*

*Girls Café also teaches self-defense. More than 15 Lyari girls take boxing classes. "We want to become strong and face violence fearlessly," a 12-year old explains. Young volunteer Jameel, who first started coaching street children, is their instructor.*

*Lyari's Girls Café is a trendsetter and is very popular on account of the innovation and empowerment it provides. Girls in need of a safe space and keen for an opportunity to learn continue to arrive in large numbers. A small band of dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to accommodate them.*

*written by: Abdul Salam Dharejo*



Annapoorni and her Mother

## Annapoorni's journey from Labourer to Officer in Srivilliputhur, Tamil Nadu, India

*Annapoorni lost her father when she was only one year old. Her mother, a housewife, had to go to work to support them, but she motivated and supported Annapoorni to continue in school. Unfortunately another tragedy befell Annapoorni's family when she was in 10th grade: her mother met with an accident, resulting in a broken leg that prevented her from returning to work. Annapoorni had no alternative but to discontinue her education to take care of her mother and provide for the family. She was just 16 when she went to work at a spinning mill as a helper. Working in the mill was very difficult for Annapoorni, bringing with it health problems. She endured them because of her family's situation.*

*Through a social worker, Annapoorni heard about the skill development training offered by our project Sumangali BMZ-C&A India ("Reduction of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Textile Supply Chains in Tamil Nadu") implemented by our partner Community Awareness Research Education Trust (CARE T) and Trust for Education and Social Transformation (TEST). She took individual and group counselling sessions conducted by the Project, which led her to Computer Training. Soon she was enrolled in a one year computer course in MS Office, Photoshop and Tally. She was reemployed by the very mill she had previously worked in as a labourer, but this time as a computer operator and administration officer. Annapoorni now earns Rs. 8000/- a month, with which she now covers the house rent and takes care of herself and her mother.*

*Annapoorni is very happy with her new job. "My life has been transformed. I now work in the office and I am addressed as "Madam", which I could never have imagined earlier. Labourers in the mill are not at all respected, I am so thankful to the project for their support, without which this respect would have been impossible" says Annapoorni, with tears in her eyes.*

*Recollecting her days at the project, Annapoorni particularly treasures the memories of Saturday fun activities like games and discussion. She is also part of Sumangali Activity Group and brings the project's Skill Development and Education activities to the attention of deserving young girls.*

written by: Priscilla N

### 3.3. Strategic goal 3: Ecological Child Rights

*Objective: The necessity of an intact natural environment for the welfare of children is generally recognised. Children, youth and their communities are supported in their efforts to protect and strengthen their natural environment.*

Ecological child rights are well integrated into the work of 60% of partner organisations within the region. During the year, a special effort was made to understand the problems surrounding plastic in both urban and rural areas. In rural areas, one partner in Keonjhar built bird nests to encourage birds to come to the trees. Several partners and children participated in cleaning and restoring ponds which are now used for agriculture and activities like swimming. Water conservation was an important activity, and children participated to save and harvest water. Youth and children's organisations in different parts of the region are working on ecological rights. Common issues taken up are segregation of garbage, biodiversity registers, preservation of seeds, organic farming, changing food consumption patterns. A total of 1,781 children and youth groups have been practising and discussing plastic free villages, chemical free agriculture and kitchen gardens.

In Orissa, a study on the 'market dependence' on food by local communities is ongoing. The aim is to promote the consumption of local foods like millets, tubers, herbs and other forest produce, with a focus on the adivasi community.

A Youth Convention was organised in Lucknow, with the aim of involving youth in the monitoring of SDGs, where 95 youth leaders participated from India and Nepal. The youth in the region now understand the Sustainable Development Goals and pursue their implementation, including several campaigns at the local level. In total, 27,723 children are engaged in different campaigns and awareness programmes on protection of the environment.

### 3.4. Strategic goal 4: Child rights in international policies

*Objective: The rights and special needs of children are taken into account in international policy making.*

During the last year a significant step was taken when three national level networks – Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Right to Education Forum and Right to Early Childhood Development Alliance – came together to form a joint campaign with a common demand – 'Quality education for all, no child labour at all'. This joint campaign has been formed keeping in mind the general elections in India in 2019. Strengthening government schools and increasing access for marginalised children has been the main focus. A large effort is being made to engage with political parties so that they include children's rights within their perspectives and manifesto for the upcoming general election. Activating the state chapters of CACL in 9 states has been effective in strengthening advocacy on the issue of child labour.

The Time to Talk (T2T) campaign gave children an opportunity to send their perspectives on child labour to the international audience at the ILO world conference in Argentina. Some national authorities that attended these presentations even





## Puran Singh's mission to protect the forests of Sundargarh, Odisha, India

*Puran Singh of Chirobeda Village, Sundargarh, Odisha is a 21-year old with a day job as an electrician at Rourkela Steel plant. When he's not at the steel plant, Puran's passion for protecting the forests around his home takes over.*

*Due to indiscriminate mining, Sundargarh faces a severe depletion of forest areas. Youth are left with no alternative but to migrate out of the state to work in textile mills and soap factories. To help reverse this, Puran encourages children in schools to view illegal tree cutting as a serious offence to take up with the authorities. Along with other members of Vikas Youth Group, Puran approached the forest department about the illegal felling of trees and to start a reforestation nursery of traditional multipurpose trees. In 3 years, Puran and his group have planted more than 500 trees. A concurrent campaign they have undertaken is to promote the use of local forest based food in communities. Indefatigable Puran doesn't stop there: in the time left over, he provides support to a children's group in his village to conserve water and protect biodiversity.*

*Vikas Youth Group, to which Puran belongs, is supported by tdh's long-standing donor-partner BMZ since 2015, through the project "Program for the re-establishment of Agro-biodiversity and Natural Resources in environmentally damaged areas" by DISHA.*

*While the community applauds Puran for a host of reasons, one that fills us with admiration is his dedication to reconnect Sundargarh's children and youth to their native forests, land and water. He has visited Osnabruck to learn about sustainable ways of living, aspects of which he shares in his meetings with youth in his community. With Puran's involvement, youth from 12 project villages have conducted PRA tools to map out the seasonality calendar of 12 villages. They found their communities consume 44 varieties of green leaves and 14 of edible mushroom found during rainy season. Along with youth groups in these villages, Puran is motivating community farmers to use green manures and organic compost to revive the traditional practices of tribes in the district.*

*Puran's love for the forests of his native Sundargarh is visceral and everlasting. "When you walk deep inside the forest, you hear all kind of subtle sounds," he says. That's why, despite the many challenges he faces, Puran's passion to repair his fractured land remain undiminished.*

*written by: Soni Sapana Dhan*



## Kalikot in Nepal prospers through green entrepreneurs

*Under the auspices of the Green Enterprise initiative, walnut (*Juglans regia*), lemon (*Citrus limon*) and mausami (*Citrus limetta*) farming in Kalikot Village is successfully combining sustainable utilisation of natural resources with small entrepreneurship in the Himalayan region.*

*The project originated in March 2018 when Kalikot-based HuRENDEC Nepal consulted with the District Forest Office and the Kalikot Chamber of Commerce to assess the potential for green enterprise. With farming identified as an ideal means to support livelihoods in the densely forested and richly biodiverse upper parts of Kalikot district, the next step was to find suitable entrepreneurs. A group of CBOs are asked to rank themselves on their social and economic status, to identify the poorest and most excluded households. The ranking identified four very poor individuals as potential entrepreneurs to implement livelihood support initiatives.*

*The project provided a NRs 109,000 (approximately €1,000) enterprise grant. Among the beneficiaries is Jay Bhadur Mahotara from Kalikot village, who grows walnut, lemon and mausami. Jay says, "The idea of farming had been previously presented to me. But without any external support, I was unable to start a green business. Look at me now: through the support of TDH/BMZ Germany, I supply my produce to villages all over and outside the district. I was unemployed earlier, now I have earned NRs 50,000 by selling my produce in the market as well as to my neighbours."*

*Pankha Mahotara, a neighbour, says "With the help of farming tips taught from Jay, I have started cultivating the softwood tree, grown and used worldwide for medicinal purposes. Both its timber and fruit are useful."*

*By encouraging green enterprise and the creation of livelihood improvement plans, the project is helping to ensure livelihood security for communities that live in and around protected areas. Green Enterprise also promotes sustainability, by helping decrease the haphazard exploitation of natural resources.*

written by: Amrit Devkotta



assured the children that their opinions would be considered in the course of drafting laws and regulations regarding children. Through the campaign, children's perspective on the new legislative changes on child labour has been disseminated at different levels in India. In Nepal, the DU COM Campaign together with other networks succeeded in including issues of children-on-the-move in the proposed "Child Rights Bill".

DU COM remains active in India and in Nepal. However, there has not been much progress in India this year and the campaign needs to be reviewed on how it will continue over the years. In India the campaign is currently hosted by TDH Geneva and in Nepal by tdh Germany. The goal is to make the campaign more relevant to the immediate needs of the area.

### 3.5. Focal Themes

#### 3.5.1 Play

Play has been well integrated into 70% of the projects in India and Nepal, and also to some extent in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the Volkswagen Workers' Council (VWWC) supported projects there is regular football practice in Pune. Partner organisations are facilitating play and training of Rugby in Jharkhand, and Frisbee in Assam and also other local games and sports are organized by other groups. The understanding of sports and its linkages with child development and gender equity is well understood.

Across the region, children's groups have cleaned and accessed a total of 187 play grounds and spaces for themselves.

#### 3.5.2 Alternate Models of Development

The thematic working group on alternate models of development was not very active during the year. After the Delegates' Conference, which decided to continue this focal theme, a new beginning was made. Various alternative models that were attempted at small and medium levels in India were documented and published in a new compendium by two

activists, Mr. Ashish Kothari and Mr KJ Joy. The publication has been circulated among colleagues and partners and Mr. KJ Joy has been invited to talk to partners at the national and zonal partner meetings. The discussions incited interest among the partners and will be followed up on.

#### 3.5.3 Priority Setting

Priority setting, strategic planning and thematic orientation were all combined in the preparatory meetings for the Delegates' Conference and the discussions and the debates on the forthcoming strategic goals. The priorities of gender-based discrimination, child protection (particularly in the context of forced migration) and ecological orientation have been addressed by the new strategic goals.

The new strategic goals were unbundled in the third quarter of the year, through reporting back from the elected Delegates to the partner organizations at zonal and national meetings. A result chain on each goal was then used for training staff. During the training, existing and prospective projects were also categorised under the new strategic goals. The result chains and details of the strategic goals were explained to partners using a World Café forum at the partner meetings. This forum created a lot of debate and enthusiasm on the relevance of these strategic goals to the current situation in different project locations and was deemed interesting and educative by participants.







## Children of Dumka, Jharkand, India overcome multiple obstacles to play Tag rugby

*Rugby is a sport not associated with India and less so with the villages of interior Jharkhand. This makes the achievement of 60 children from 5 villages of Dumka District, who participated in a Tag Rugby tournament, all the more admirable. Even more creditable is that girls and boys played together in mix-gender teams, overcoming multiple obstacles to do so.*

*Children groups are formed in a number of villages by tdh partner SARITA and Jungle Crows Foundation, who brought rugby coaching to the practice sessions.*

*The enthusiastic youngsters of Daldali Village had to deal with many challenges, chief among which was that parents forbade their children from taking part in any kind of mix-gender group activities. The conservative elders of Uppar Biyari village imposed equally strong restrictions against teenage girls playing with boys. Defying the restrictions, the children first trained in secret and, when discovered, convinced their parents to allow them to continue playing, a rare feat in a region where children never raise their voices against adult diktats and blind submission is the accepted norm. Their cause was helped by parents from other villages who seeing the 3 women coaches from Jungle Crows Foundation in action – all girls in their late teens, with confidence and expertise in guiding the youngsters - felt inspired and agreed to their girls taking part in the 14 days of practice.*

*Guided by the young coaches from Jungle Crows Foundation, Kolkata, more than 100 children participated in the practice sessions. 60 were chosen to compete in a tournament on World Play Day 2018 on 28th May. Each team consisted of 5 girls and 5 boys. On match day, the trials of the past weeks were forgotten and the players only concern was their team, their only focus a win for their village. When the whistle blew to end a nail biting final, Daldali Village proudly held up the winners' trophy, but everyone present knew that all the participating children were winners that day.*

*tdh Germany jointly supports an initiative with the organizations SARITA, Lake Gardens Women & Children Development Centre, Path Welfare Society and Jungle Crows, through which Jungle Crows trains young girls and boys from the slums of Kolkata and the villages of Jharkhand to play Rugby. Buoyed by the example set by the children of Dumka, more children from the project areas plan to play rugby in the future.*

*written by: Koel Chowdhury*

## 4. Programme Development

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Project support is the essential work of terre des hommes Germany in South Asia. The Regional Office South Asia (ROSA) was able to maintain its plans and support 103 projects. Apart from the planned projects, a new project was sanctioned for Nepal at the end of the year. ROSA responded to the floods in Kerala by providing support to the flood survivors. It was able to access support from the HUII department, Robert Bosch Foundation, TDH Lausanne Foundation, AEIN Luxembourg and TDH France F68. The new project in Jharkhand supported by Bread for the World was also an important beginning during the year. Koel Chowdhury was deeply involved in development of proposal. Projects with children in the mining sector are being supported by both Misereor and Bread for the World.

The region now works in the four countries of the South Asian



Region – India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan – through the Coordination Office in India. Despite constraints to the work in India, as rights-based organisations have faced close scrutiny, tdh has been able to work with a large number of NGOs in the country. The focus of the work has been on child protection, education, livelihood and environmental rights. Similar challenges are faced by NGOs in Nepal. tdh supports projects mainly in the mid-west and far-west regions of Nepal and focuses on youth development and livelihood. In Pakistan, vigilance on the work of NGOs continues, nevertheless, the work of tdh has become integrated with the work of local partners on education of children and livelihoods. The project work in Pakistan is directly monitored by the HO in Germany.

In Afghanistan, tdh continues its work with local partners with the support of a consultant based in India. The work in Afghanistan is slowly expanding, a second BMZ project is being developed in Herat with three local partners. The visit by Albert Rechnagel, the Executive Board Member responsible for the International Program (IP), and Birgit Dittrich of the Refugee Program has given further support to the work in this new country.

In Pakistan, the livelihood project is ongoing, and a new project supported by BMZ on the eradication of child labour from the textile industry in Karachi has been initiated. VWWF initiated a project in Pakistan supporting refugees in 2018. The ongoing emergency work in Nepal will be concluded in 2019.

Youth groups working with partner organisations on ecological rights have a special focus on the SDGs. Awareness on gender equity, secularism and violence against women and girls is

being further integrated into the work with youth. The network Youth for Ecological Sustainability (YES), after organizing state level meetings, held the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Convention on ecological rights in Lucknow in November 2018. A charter of demands was drafted based on the proceedings of the convention. In Nepal, the youth network is vibrant and active in all seven provinces. They were invited for an interaction at the German Embassy in Kathmandu to discuss their issues and share their concerns on ecological rights.

#### 4.1 Project Support

The staff were motivated to raise institutional funds from various international and local agencies. While accessing funds from the BMZ has been successful, the efforts to get support from the European Union requires further attention. The staff in the region have been closely supported by the colleagues in the co-finance department of the Head Office.

While the region has now 11 ongoing projects supported by the BMZ, 26 new projects were supported from the regional budget. There was good cooperation with the Programme Coordination department towards sanctioning projects through IPEG.

For the year 2018, AEIN has continued its support to four projects in India and two in Nepal, and has also supported the survivors of the flood in Kerala. PSF continues to support one project in India and one in Nepal. CHL/PSF Luxembourg currently supports one emergency project on reconstruction of schools after the earthquake in Nepal. The inauguration of the schools is planned for early 2019. Tdh Lausanne and tdh NL support the DU COM project through tdh Germany in Nepal.

During the year, a study was commissioned in Manipur in order to assess the situation of children there. A small support was extended to a project in Kashmir on child protection. A study on children in the carpet sector in Mirzapur and Bhadohi has also been commissioned. The region has also initiated a few projects with the new strategic goals. New areas of training

are being identified in order to introduce the staff of partner organisations to the new Strategic Goals.



### 4.1.1 Humanitarian Assistance

The Southern Coastal state of Kerala suffered from a massive flood from July to August 2018. This is the first time tdh was working in Kerala since the post-tsunami support over a decade ago. The devastating flood and consequent needs were assessed in collaboration with some former partner organisations in Kerala and the Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) in Mysuru, a border district with Kerala. Eventually, support was extended for relief and recovery measures in the districts of Wynadu, Iddukki, Alapuzha and Ernakulam. Funds were accessed from Head Office, TDH Lausanne Foundation, AEIN Luxembourg, Robert Bosch Foundation and TDH France F68. The projects are still ongoing and assistance towards restoration of livelihoods and cash for work are highly appreciated by the communities and also the government authorities. This also created an opportunity for the region to work with TDH Lausanne Foundation on a joint project. The Deputy Regional Coordinator managed the humanitarian support efforts and the joint project with TDH Lausanne Foundation.



### 4.2 Evaluations and Assessments

The project GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19 supported by Misereor was evaluated by an external team. Evaluation of project VSS BMZ INDIA 15-18 supported by BMZ was completed in early 2018. The debriefing meeting together with the representatives of all the partners and tdh staff was a good learning experience, particularly on entitlements to tribal communities. Continuation proposals have been submitted in both cases and sanctions are expected.

Financial Management Service Foundation (FMSF) Delhi conducted a financial and management review of tdh for Bread for the World. Several suggestions have been made which are currently being implemented. This includes creating a financial manual for the organization, which tdh is working on. External evaluations were also done for some projects supported by the regional budget, as well as financial reviews by external auditors.

### 4.3 Partner Meetings

Partner meetings were organized in Nepal and in every zone in India and during the year. The partner meeting attended by 52 participants in the Northern zone was organized in Rishikesh. The Dy. Regional Coordinator, Mr. Reji, also joined the meeting and discussed the proposed strategic goals for the DC. Topics such as child protection and environmental rights were discussed. The Western zone partner meeting was organized in Gujarat in July and was attended by 85 representatives of partners and youth from the zone. Visits were organized to nearby projects for participants to better understand the work of dalit organisations and alternative agriculture, which the participants found stimulating. The youth had common and parallel sessions in both meetings.

The National Partner Meeting, held in Kolkata in November 2018, focused on "Alternatives in the Country" and on the new Strategic Goals. Mr. KJ Joy was the keynote speaker at the meeting. Lena Niehaus from the Co-finance department

attended and made a presentation on child participation. The newly elected delegate, Mr. Prithvi, presented the new Strategic Goals. The meeting was attended by 48 partner representatives from all over the country and 21 youth from the Eastern zone. An introductory session on Peace and Conflict Resolution, and an engaging World Café on the Strategic Goals were the highlights of the gathering. Participants appreciated the sharing of good practices by partners.

In December, the Southern zone had its meeting which was attended by 60 participants and 25 youth. The meeting's topical focus was 'Water Crisis and the Alternatives in the Country', though it also included an overview of the new Strategic Goals. They also organized the World Café on Strategic Goals and invited Mr. KJ Joy as a speaker.

In Nepal, a three-day partner meeting was held in September, in which all the 11 partners of tdh participated along with 15 youth from different parts. The new Strategic Goals were discussed by the Regional Coordinator and the delegates, including the youth delegate.

The South Asia Seminar was organized in Bremen in June 2018 and was attended by 34 participants. The delegates from South Asia and terre des hommes Germany volunteers who were planning a visit to India also attended. There were members from AEIN, Luxembourg and several working groups from tdh at the seminar as well. Jan Hinnerk Voss and Lena Niehaus from the HO were also present.

#### **4.4 Engaging with Food Security, Malnutrition, Child Labour, Child Marriage**

Within the context of the Strategic Goals of tdh, the issue of protection and safe spaces for children received priority. Partner organisations and alliances were actively involved in promoting food security and reducing malnutrition. Prevention of early marriages through children's and youth organisations were reported by different partners. Supporting education and age appropriate enrollment in schools were

the means to reduce child labour.

With the increase in reported violence against women and girls, the focus on women and domestic violence continued. Projects to focus on girls' rights, protection from abuse and all forms of violations has also been an important area of work in the region.





## 5. Institutional Development

### 5.1 Staff development

This year has been relatively stable in terms of staff development. Regular internal staff meetings and the Skype meetings ensured effective coordination among all. A three-day training for programme staff was organised in August in Kathmandu including staff from Nepal, Pakistan and India to orient them and integrate the new Strategic Goals into their work. The combined staff training was organized on the theme of 'Peace and Conflict Resolution' in Kanyakumari and was an illuminating experience for participants. Two colleagues completed their training at the Karl Kuebel Institute of Development on BMZ procedures. Beyond this, staff were provided training opportunities as and when possible.

Staff management is being decentralised with the zonal heads taking the responsibility for training, orientation and skill development of staff. The appraisal processes are also being decentralized as each of the zonal/department heads

are taking responsibility of the appraisals. A joint meeting is held between the staff and zonal/department heads to report to the Regional Coordinator.

Mr. Satyajit Kar, who was appointed as National Resource Mobilisation Officer, moved on and new recruitment is still in process. In the Northern zone, Ms. Surabhi Malaviya resigned and Ritu Mishra took on the role of the new zonal head. Mr. Mohammad Salim has been appointed as Jr. Programme Coordinator. Mr. Arul from Southern zone was replaced by Ms. Priscilla in January 2018.

In Nepal, the accounts staff faced an overload due to the increased volume of administrative and financial work with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and other government agencies. A new Accounts Officer, Ramesh Syangtan, was hired to support the Administrative Officer. A new consultant, Mr. Sayed Khalid Sadaat, was hired in Afghanistan in January 2019.





## 5.2 Compliances

The official registration of terre des hommes Germany as Branch Office is nearly complete and reporting procedures have begun with the support of experts and consultants. Reports are to be submitted at multiple offices.

As a registered Branch Office of terre des hommes Germany, the Coordination Office in India is required to complete multiple compliances nationally. The same holds true for the national office in Nepal. Since the year 2017, the region has a new Auditor, M/s MP Chitale and Co., and this has proved to be a good collaboration. Besides this, for the GDSSSS project supported by Misereor, there is the Auditor Gandhi and Gandhi. For the Bread for the World projects, the auditor in the coming year will be FMSF and another local auditor. The region has also commissioned auditors and financial consultants to do an independent assessment of some of its partners. In Nepal, the Auditor, BRS Neupane and Co will continue as before. The compliances with the Government and the Social Welfare Department are ongoing.

## 5.3 Financial/ budget development/regional fundraising

Financial and budget development is an integral part of the programme development of the region. This, however, has been very challenging as the share of the regional budget has been progressively decreasing. The rest has been accessed from different sources with much efforts and support from all the colleagues of the region. ROSA utilized a total budget of Euros 5,286,762. Of this Euro 4,688,528 (88.23%) was utilized for project support and Euro 598234 (11.77%) was utilized for administration expenses.

Besides the regional funds, one of the main sources of funds for the projects in the Region was through the Ministry of Economic Cooperation – BMZ.



### 5.3.1 Co-financing

During the year, the South Asia Region with the support of the Co-fi department got the sanction of 4 new co-financed projects - 1 in Pakistan, 1 in Nepal and 2 in India. Currently, the region has 11 ongoing co-financed projects in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal with several more in the pipeline. Effective coordination between the regional and head office staff has made this possible. Besides this, the staff worked hard and submitted two concept notes and one full proposal for EU approval, including one concept note from Nepal for DFID and another by the Western zone office to Comic Relief UK. The region has maintained good relations with the German Embassy in all the countries as well as with the EU Delegation in India. The ongoing project with EU support on Green Bricks is operating smoothly and on schedule.

### 5.3.2 Special Donations

ROSA has strengthened its ground with 'Special Donation Partners'. A new contact was made with **Bread for the World** (BftW) which has resulted in the sanction of a new project in Jharkhand. The hope and effort to expand this contact to the support of other projects and concept notes have been shared with them. An application has also been submitted to **Misereor** for continuation of their existing project.

The company **DACHSER** who has supported the region's work in India and Nepal has now committed an amount of 1 million Euros for the next 5 years (2020 – 2025) towards project support in India and in Nepal. **VWEF, VWWC and Scania** have been involved in supporting projects in India and in Pakistan (VWEF has approved a project commencing from Jan 2019). The new Scania support has also seen good results in Andhra Pradesh. The **CHL** funding for reconstruction of the earthquake affected schools is near completion. **Tdh F-68** continues to support one project in India.

The existing cooperations with organisations such as **AEIN Luxembourg** and **PSF Luxembourg** remain. However,

both organizations receive funding from the Government of Luxembourg, which has reduced development cooperation funding for India. The trend, therefore, is moving towards declining support on this front. In Nepal, an effort is being made to connect directly to the partner organizations, rather than through tdh.

Discussions on the possibility of a common project with TDH IF member organisations **TDH Foundation Lausanne**, TDH Netherlands and TDH Germany finally culminated in a joint project of the Foundation and TDH Germany. The project started in the month of October 2018 and is progressing well.



### 5.3.3 Regional Fundraising

The Regional fundraising has been possible only in India, due to the difficult socio-economic situation in the other three countries. In India, the approach is to connect partners and companies with CSR obligations and provide the necessary assistance to both sides. The funding is arranged directly to the partner from the donor company. Two fundraising events – one in Mumbai sponsored by Dachser and the other

in Bengaluru supported by Freudenberg – helped inform corporates in these cities about the work of tdh Germany. A stall of terre des hommes Germany was showcased during the Annual General Body Meeting of Indo-German Chamber of Commerce in September 2018.

Despite the dip in the regional budget last year the overall project payments for 2017 were Euro 4,453,510 and for the year 2018 were Euros 4,688,527.



## 6. Regional Networking and Collaboration

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6.1 The Region has been actively participating in the 'Joining Force Alliance', a national organization of six international child rights agencies, which was initiated in India in May 2018. Ritu Mishra has been representing TDH IF in the meetings. The draft report of Child Rights Situation Analysis (CRSA) study was submitted to the global group in 2018. In Nepal, the participation of tdh in the group has also been initiated.

6.2 Plans to work closely with networks on gender and violence for 2019 have been finalized.

6.3 Two meetings were organized during the year with TDHIF members in India. The first was in Kolkata, followed by two short meetings in Bengaluru. One with Lysiane Andre (President of TDHIF) and Yasmina Banaza (TDH France); and the second with TDH NL to specifically discuss coordination in Jharkhand on the Mica mining project.

6.4 Tdh Germany facilitated distribution of 75 computers to TDH Suisse Geneva and 214 to TDH NL from Amadeus Software Labs India, Pvt. Ltd., an American software company.

6.5 The Delegation from HO – Albert Recknagel (Executive Board Member International Programmes) and Birgit Dittrich – together with the Consultant Advisor met Mr. Erhard Bauer (TDH Lausanne) in Afghanistan to explore collaboration. Later, the colleague in Pakistan had a Skype

meeting with Mr. Erhard Bauer in December 2018 plan collaboration on future projects.

6.6 Terre des hommes Foundation Lausanne and tdh Germany are jointly supporting a recovery project in the flood affected region of Allapuzha in Kerala. Despite the initial challenges in getting the project off the ground, project implementation is progressing smoothly.

6.7 In Nepal, tdh Germany is represented by Shyam Shrestha and Moni Shrestha in the Association of International NGOs (AIN).



## 7. Public visibility and alliances

Tdh and partners have been active in various alliances and joint action programmes on different issues related to child protection, promotion of free compulsory education, elimination of child labour and protection environment. These networks organise joint actions to highlight instances of violations and seek the protection and development of children. Campaign Against Children, campaign for Right to Education and Right to early childhood Development Alliance are some such initiatives where tdh is involved. In Delhi, tdh continues to be a part of 'ProChild' a network of child rights agencies. Similar collectives exist in Pune, such as Action for the Rights of the Child, Forum Against Child Sexual Exploitation and others with whom we work as well. Mr Sampat Mandve has been playing a key role in this. The goal is to highlight the issues of children and youth rather than highlighting the alliance itself. These networks have press conferences and other public meetings in which tdh participates. In the South, the Sumangali projects have done significant work on violence against women at different levels.

In November 2018 a group of eight tdh volunteers from tdh Germany accompanied by a staff visited projects in India and had engaging discussions with partners and colleagues.

Digital media actively used to increase public visibility. The new website of tdh Germany-India programme is updated regularly with short films, case studies and blog pieces. During the last year, short films were made on mica mining in Jharkhand, the youth convention in Lucknow, child labour in the brick industry and child work in the carpet industry.

Last year in Nepal, the youth of tdh Germany's national

network were invited by the National Youth Council on Youth Parliament 2018 and Mr. Ashok Khanal was elected as Prime Minister of Mock Government including discussions on SDGs. Six youth of Nepal also participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> Diplomatic Relation Anniversary of Nepal and Germany organized by the German Embassy in Kathmandu on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. In India, a group of 8 tdh volunteers met partners and colleagues and had informative and engaging discussions.





## 8. Perspectives for the future

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The year 2018 was an interesting one for ROSA despite the many political and social challenges within the region. Over the year, tdh has expanded the India operations to cover 19 states. It has also expanded operations in Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. ROSA is looking ahead and has already begun to integrate the new strategic goals in the work through the drafting and dissemination of the result chains with the partners. The Regional partner meeting is planned for late February 2019 in Kathmandu and will be an opportunity for the partners across all four countries in the region to participate. The Executive Board Member, Albert Recknagel, will also be present for this meeting.

While the new Strategic Goals are slowly being integrated into project work, the regional priorities include projects on 'food insecurity and malnutrition', 'education as a key against child labour', 'discrimination of the girl child and child marriage'. Understanding LGBTIQ and trying to make the approach more inclusive is on the agenda. Partners have been trained on child protection and peace and conflict resolution. While Peace and Conflict Resolution remains a top priority in Afghanistan and Nepal, work is also initiated in conflict areas of India such as Kashmir and northeast India. A study has been commissioned in Manipur on the "understanding the situation of 'violations of children's rights' in Manipur. Strengthening initiatives on ECR and integrating youth into partner meetings continues as before.

South Asia is the world's most populous region and continues to have the largest number of people living in poverty. The widespread inequality in the region prevents the economic rewards of its fast-growing economy to trickle down to

the poor. The peaceful coexistence of the diverse cultural, linguistic and ethnic groups in the region is threatened by competing economic, political and social agendas. Violence against women and girls has been on the rise and there has been a slow erosion of secular political values.

In this context, terre des hommes Germany's new strategic goals centered around gender equity, peace, ecological stability, education and psychosocial care for children fit the needs of the region. Though the challenges are immense, with the help of our collaborators, we hope to make a positive contribution to the overall well being of the region's children.

### **Ingrid Mendonca**

*Regional Coordinator – South Asia*



Annexure I

Organogram of terre des hommes Germany – South Asia  
As on 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2018



## Annexure II

### Project Payments in South Asia For the Period: January to December 2018

S. NO.	DETAILS	Euro	Euro	Euro
<b>1</b>	<b>PROJECT PAYMENTS</b>			<b>4,688,526.92</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>INDIA PROJECTS</b>		<b>3,113,775.63</b>	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	42,638.93		
	Regular Projects	393,904.17		
	VW Projects	330,442.78		
	Emergency Projects	105,080.00		
	Co-financed Projects		1,281,246.11	
	Special Donation Projects	706,868.33		
	GDSSSS Projects	253,595.30		
<b>B</b>	<b>NEPAL PROJECTS</b>		<b>1,013,531.43</b>	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	7,442.24		
	Regular Projects	12,720.00		
	Emergency Projects	193,317.54		
	Co-financed Projects	400,863.97		
	Special Donation Projects	399,187.68		
<b>C</b>	<b>PAKISTAN (Humanitarian Assistance)</b>		<b>202,994.86</b>	
	Regular Projects	24,965.00		
	Co-financed Projects	78,029.86		
<b>D</b>	<b>AFGHANISTAN PROJECTS</b>		<b>358,225.00</b>	
	Regular Projects		30,000.00	
	Emergency Projects		22,000.00	
	Co-financed Projects		306,225.00	
<b>II</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>			<b>598,234.67</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>INDIA ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	515,292.61		
<b>B</b>	<b>NEPAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	82,942.06		
<b>TOTAL...</b>				<b>5,286,761.59</b>

## Annexure III

## terre des hommes Germany - South Asia

### According to Budget Line

BUDGET LINE	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Regional Budget	47	461,589	25	507,619
Kofi	13	2,156,653	3	1,599,900
HUHI	4	252,583	3	67,080
VWWC	9	330,262	5	350,238
Special Donations	27	1,140,557	11	1,462,808
Regional + Special Donations	3	257,900	1	7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4,599,544</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3,995,145</b>

### ACCORDING TO countries / zones

	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Eastern Office	19	509,794	10	1,482,756
Northern Office	22	365,257	10	196,854
Southern Office	13	939,700	9	454,234
Western Office	23	982,089	9	778,264
India Cluster	1	235,748	0	0
Afghanistan	6	358,225	3	52,000
Nepal	14	1,005,734	4	521,478
Pakistan	5	202,995	3	509,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4,599,544</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3,995,145</b>

### ACCORDING TO Strategic Goals

	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
SG 1 - Child and youth participation	36	709,560	18	1,009,238
SG 2 - Safe Spaces	41	1,867,691	20	2,003,305
SG 3 - Ecological Child Rights	15	1,079,325	4	582,166
SG 4 - Child rights in international policies	0	0	0	0
Alternate Development Models	2	283,972	0	0
Not related to strategic goal	9	658,996	6	400,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4,599,544</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3,995,145</b>

## Annexure II

### Zonewise projects

S. No.	Codeword
EASTERN OFFICE	
1	SARITA-INDIA-15-18
2	PWS-INDIA-2016-18
3	PWS-INDIA-18-20
4	NISHTHA-INDIA 2016-18
5	NISHTHA-INDIA-18-19
6	NERSWN-INDIA-16
7	PECUC-AEI-INDIA-16-18
8	PECUC-AEIN-2018-21
9	HSWS-INDIA-17-18
10	TORANG TRUST -INDIA-17
11	ANT-INDIA-17
12	ANT-INDIA-18
13	LGWCDC-INDIA-17-18
14	LGWCDC-INDIA-18-19
15	CWG-INDIA-2018
16	SAVERA-INDIA-18-20
17	PASDO-INDIA-2018
18	ANT-IND-BMZ-18-21
19a	DISHA-BMZ-IND 18-20 - DISHA
19b	DISHA-BMZ-IND 18-20 - PECUC
19c	DISHA-BMZ-IND 18-20 - CAUSE
NORTHERN OFFICE	
20	AMAN INDIA BMZ 14-17
21	AVBALIGA-Dachser-IND-15
22a	SKVS/PACE-IND-15-20-SKVS
22b	SKVS/PACE-IND-15-20-PACE
23	CEC-EU-INDIA-16-19
24	ABHIYAN-INDIA-16-18
25	Abhiyan -India-18
26	MMSVS-INDIA 16-18

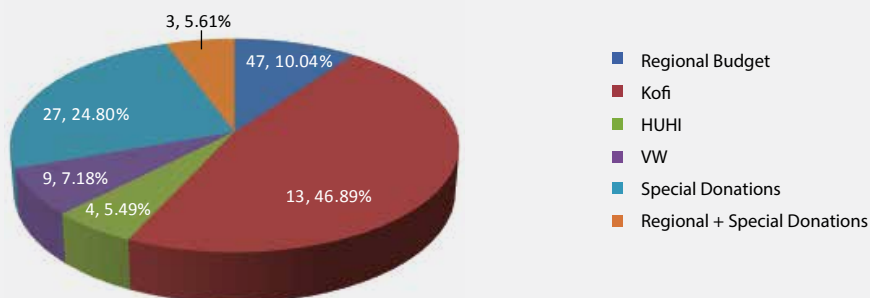


27	MMSVS INDIA- 18-19
28	AIDENT-INDIA-16
29	ANKUR-INDIA-18-20
30	MSEMVS- INDIA- 18
31	AV BALIGA DACHSER IND 16
32a	ASREAD-INDIA-17 - ANKUR SOCIETY
32b	ASREAD-INDIA-17 - READ
33	BHOOMIKA VIHAR-IND-2018
34	CENTRE DIRECT - IND 17-18
35	CSD-INDIA-2017
36	CSD-INDIA-2018
37	JAN-IND-17-19
38	DISHA-IND-18
39	READ-INDIA-18
40	SARD-INDIA-18-19
41	TPVS-IND-18
S O U T H E R N   O F F I C E	
42	SAKHI-AEI-16-19
43	HEAL II BMZ INDIEN 16-19
44	SUMANGALI BMZ C&A INDIA 16-19
45	PSYCHOTRUST-INDIA-2017
46	PSYCHOTRUST-INDIA-2018-20
W E S T E R N   O F F I C E	
47a	YuvaNiwcydMuskaan-IND-18 - NIWCYD
48a	BSS-MMKSS-TDHAL68-IND-17-BSS
48b	BSS-MMKSS-TDHAL68-IND-17-MMKSS
49	VSS BMZ INDIA 15-18
50	Anandi-PSF-IND-15-18
51	Anandi-PSF-IND-18-20
52	Prasoon-PSF-IND-18-20
53a	Anandi-Gantar-C&A-IND-15-ANANDI
53b	Anandi-Gantar-C&A-IND-15-GANATAR
54	PAHAL-IND-17-18
55	PAHAL -IND -18-19
56	SYM-AEI-IND-16-18
57	SYM-AEI-IND-18-21
58a	DILASA-UGAM-AEI-IND-16-18-DILASA

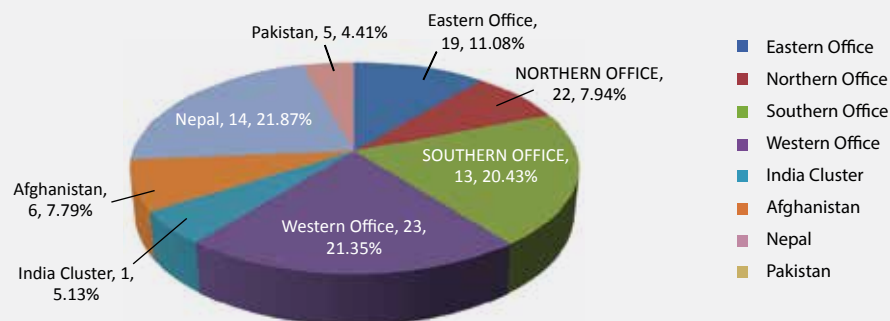
58b	DILASA-UGAM-AEI-IND-16-18-UGAM
59a	ASTITVAGMVS-AEI-IND 16-19-ASTIVA
59b	ASTITVAGMVS-AEI-IND 16-19-GMVS
60	CHAUPAL II BMZ IND 16-19
61	LOKPANCHAYAT-IND-VWEF-17
62	LOKPANCHAYAT-IND-2017
63	KP-IND-VWWC-17-18
64	NEWVISION-VWWC-IND-18-20
65	Nirman-Ind-VWWC-2018
66	TDHGIP-PLAY-VWWC-2017
67	Tdhgip-Play-VWWC-2018-19
68	TMC-VWWC-IND 17-18
69	NPM-Shanti-IND-18-19
47b	YuvaNiwcydMuskaan-IND-18 - MUSKAAN
47c	YuvaNiwcydMuskaan-IND-18 - YUVA
INDIA CLUSTER	
70a	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (1) DON BOSCO
70b	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (2) SEEDS
70c	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (3) SAMATA
70d	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (4) SVSS
70e	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (5) GSS
70f	GDSSSS-MISEREOR-IND 16-19.. (6) SYM
71a	FR-CYDA-RLHP-RBF-18-19 - CYDA
71b	FR-CYDA-RLHP-RBF-18-19 - RLHP
72	FR-RLHP-INDIA-2018
73	Vanmoolika-tdh-Ind-2018
74	BCT-VW -IND-2018
75	HOC-VW-IND-2018
76	FR-JVALA-AEIN-INDIA-2018
77a	FR-CYDA-CAP-AEIN-2018-19 - CYDA
77b	FR-CYDA-CAP-AEIN-2018-19 - CAP
78a	FR-CYDA-CAP-tdhfAL68-2018 - CYDA
78b	FR-CYDA-CAP-tdhfAL68-2018 - CAP
AFGHANISTAN	
79	SDAO-AFGH-2018
80	WASSA-AFGH-2018
81	SDAO-AFGH-2017

82	WASSA-AFGH-2017
83	JRS-AFGH-2019
84	JRS-BMZ-AFGHISTAN-2017
N E P A L	
85	RUKUM-NEPAL-BMZ-15-18
86	CDS-PSF-Nep-15-16
87	CDS-PSF-Nep-18
88	Relief-Dachser-Nep-15-20
89	AAWAAJ-AEIN-Nep-18-20
90	SOSEC-AEI-NEP-16-18
91	ARD-AEI-NEP-16-17
92	ARD-AEIN-Nep-18-20
93	CARDSN-NEP-PSF-16-18
94a	NS-A-C-E-R-N-NEPAL-16-17-2 CWISH KATHMANDU
94b	NS-A-C-E-R-N-NEPAL-16-17-3 RELIEF NEPAL SINDHULI
94c	NS-A-C-E-R-N-NEPAL-16-17-4 NEPAL NAZERETH/ARSO KAVRE
94d	NS-A-C-E-R-N-NEPAL-16-17-5 ECARDS DOLAKHA
95	ARD NEP 2017
96	ARD-NEP-2018
97	HURENDEC-NEP-BMZ 17-19
98	SA-NEP-17-18
P A K I S T A N	
99	AWARE-PAK-BMZ-16-18
100	ARDO-PAK-2017
101	ARDO-PAK-2018
102	PFF-PAK-18
103	DEVCON-PAK-BMZ-18-21

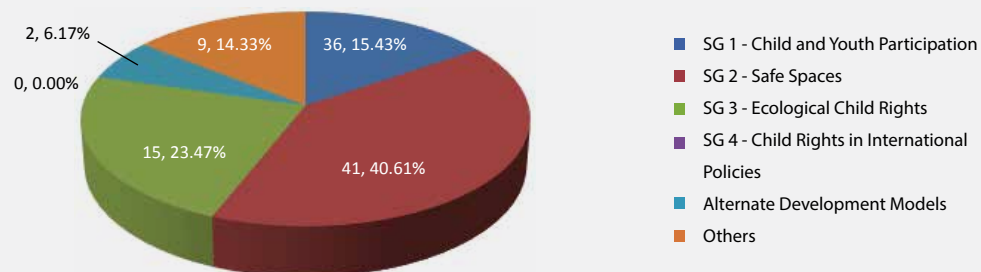
## No. of Projects according to budget line



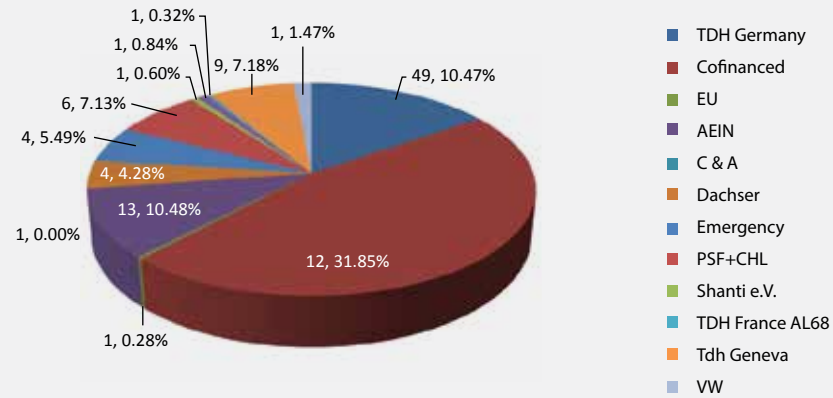
## Zone / countrywise budget distribution



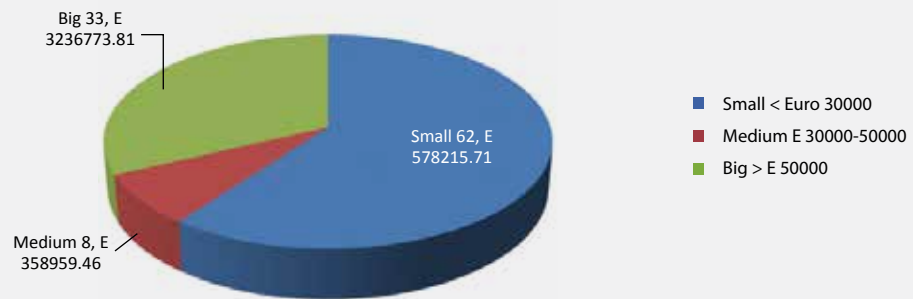
## No. of Project according to strategic goals



## No. of projects according to Donor



## No. of projects according to budget size





# Project locations in ROSA



