



Annual Report 2019

terre des hommes Germany - South Asia



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0. Executive Summary

Situation in the Region

The year 2019 was the last year of the decade of 2010s which started immediately after the global economic crisis of 2008. It has been called the decade of de-globalization with an increase in populist governments and protectionist policies worldwide. In the South Asia region, this decade has been marked with high unemployment and underemployment leading to increased inequalities. An era of uncertainty, authoritarian governments and majoritarian tendencies in politics also gave rise to different forms of discriminations, especially religious.

In India the recent elections led to the consolidation of the right wing government which has introduced a number of measures and laws that have been termed partisan and discriminatory, again mostly on religious lines. Child mortality and morbidity is still high, and more than 20% of eligible children are out-of-school. Distress migration continues to cause major problems for children in accessing both education and health and gender discrimination is still a huge problem.

Nepal has still not recovered fully from the 2015 earthquake both economically and socially and unemployment is high while agricultural and

industrial growth is slow. Though trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation has reduced the gender concerns particularly that of right to work and protection from violence and abuse prevail. The educational system is still dysfunctional to a large extent with many school drop-outs. Climate change effects and distress migration is still a problem.



Pakistan saw the economic growth rate halved and the inflation rate reach double digits. Social polarization nationally, and continued hostility with India internationally have hampered growth and the education situation is still dismal with more than half the rural population illiterate. Child labour and other forms of exploitation are major issues which need urgent attention.

In Afghanistan, though the dominant news of the year was Peace Talks between the US and the Taliban, this has not translated into results on the ground, for the benefit of for children. About half the children are out of school and more than two-thirds of these are engaged in child labour. This, along with the widespread displacement due to sharpening of conflicts has left many children living on the street. The US-Taliban Peace Treaty has been signed finally about the gradual withdrawal of the US forces, but the internal divisions and violence continues. In fact violence has increased on the civilians and the Afghan army and there are many casualties where children are involved.



Programme Development

The focus this year was on participation of children in matters relevant to them and the highlight was the consultation for children in Delhi on the occasion of the release of the report: 'India's Children: Where Do We Stand'. A concerted attempt was made in protecting girls working in the textile industry in the South, with support to field organizations, networking with other like-minded groups and lobbying with government institutions. On a larger scale, tdh was active in joining hands with other international organizations in various alliances like 'Joining Forces: Child Rights Now'. Capacity building of partners through trainings related to key overarching issues like peace building and conflict resolution as well as project management was also emphasized. More attention was also given to enlarging the fund-raising base through Corporate Social Responsibility and retail fundraising channels.

Strategic Goals (SGs)

The tdh Strategic Goals continued to provide the structure for all projects.

Promoting a Culture of Peace is highly relevant to South Asia and children and youth were made aware of the issue and encouraged to explore ways of promoting peace and harmony in their own milieus through trainings in relevant skills.

Improving psychosocial and educational services for forcibly displaced children and youth is a key

concern for about 20% of our projects. More than 40,000 women and children are able to gain access to education, health and nutritional services through our work.



Promoting the Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment is the major focus for more than 40% of projects in the region. Children and youth are made aware of their ecological rights and responsibilities, and motivated to take action themselves on local issues, like water and waste management and organic farming. Communities are also encouraged to preserve traditional crops and cooking methods. In the remote areas of Nepal where communication facilities are limited, FM Radio is used to spread awareness to protect the ecology. Partners are built into networks for action at the local and national levels and to lobby with the government on issues like sanitation facilities and organic farming.

Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations with special focus on the situation of the girl child is a crosscutting theme across all our projects. Child and forced marriages are prevalent and these practices are tackled with the families as well as with children themselves. Almost 80% of the partners show an active involvement of children in such issues. Partners and communities have been sensitised to LGBTIQ issues and for the need to change patriarchal values at the very root. Play activities has provide to be an effective tool in our work towards attaining gender equality.



Visibility and Alliances

tdh in South Asia has been proactive in a number of high profile campaigns in cooperation with other national and international agencies. Such alliances and joint programs include the Campaign Against Child Labour, Right to Education Forum, Right to Food Campaign and Campaign for Early Childhood

Development Alliance. Partners and youth also participate actively in programmes like Fridays for Future, Destination Unknown and Time to Talk. In Pune, tdh is closely associated with the Action for the Rights of the Child (ARC), a forum of organizations and individuals standing for child rights. In all these instances, the focus is on ensuring greater visibility for the issues rather than on individual space for the participating agencies.

Perspective for the Future

The year 2019 has been one of mixed feelings in South Asia. Internal divisions and international friction have led to widespread tension. In India the recent political changes have led to social instability and the economic slump has generated further anxiety, which has had its impact on the social and development programmes. In Afghanistan the political situation is still uncertain and internal politics has left Sri Lanka unsettled. Pakistan is under pressure from the army and radical groups.

And Nepal is attempting to resolve its own problems while balancing the two regional powers - India and China. Bangladesh is under constant threat of natural calamities as well. The situation calls for an orientation based on hope, which can only arise in a context of justice and peace. This is what the ROSA will promote in the near future. Children and youth, working together to protect the environment, empathizing with each other and supporting the needier, will play a large part in this effort.

South Asian Region

1. Introduction

The year 2019 was a special year as it was the last year of the decade of 2010s. This decade had started immediately after the financial crisis of 2008 where South Asia and especially India were more or less insulated though affected marginally.



The decade of 2010s is a whole different story and described in different ways. It is often described as the decade of de-globalisation as the financial crisis gradually brought in protectionist measures in different countries and economies. It is also described as a decade of shrinking working population and further as a decade of increasing populism. Unemployment and underemployment remained high in the South Asian region as well. Populist governments of both the right wing and left wing got strong support across the world and

South Asia was no exception. It was also a decade of increasing polarisation when different sections of people took very strong positions which led to intolerance and strong divisions. The decade also saw high levels of inequalities where globally the number of Dollar Billionaires increased from 1011 to 2513 while in India it increased from 49 to 106. In other words these just doubled and this growth of inequality has also contributed to the polarisation and hard positioning.



South Asia itself witnessed a growth in religious intolerances which was started with the murder of a liberal governor in Pakistan and continued in other countries which went into elections like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Authoritarianism and majoritarianism seemed to be the dominant trends

which attracted strong opposition from the other sections.

1.1. Important social economic and political developments

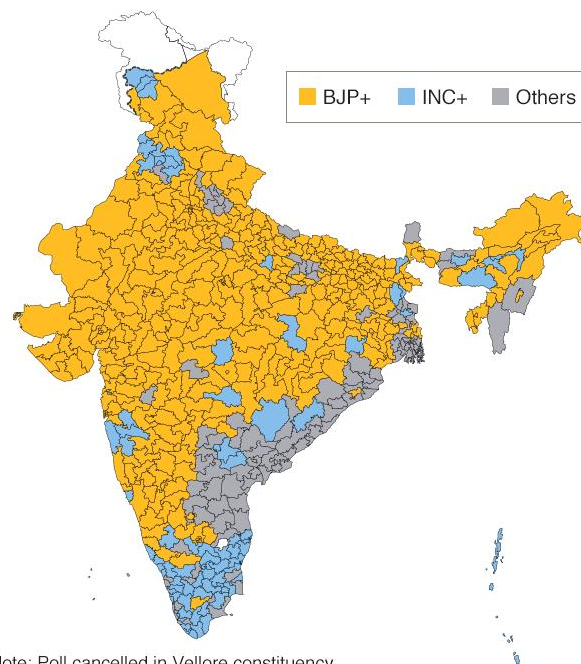
1.1.1 India

For India the year started with the preparations for the national elections which were due already in the first half of the year. While the ruling right wing coalition was facing certain amount of incumbency and the opposition parties were making a big effort to make head way in the national elections - the results were rather unexpected. The ruling coalition came back to power with an even stronger majority, the strongest in 35 years. Simultaneously there were also traces of economic slowdown. The markets became non-responsive from the months of April – May 2019 and the rate of economic growth eventually fell to 4.9%. In spite of concessions and allowances in the industrial sector hope is bleak and the growth rate for the coming year has also been pegged at 5%. This has had serious implications on employment and the availability of funds in the hands of the people. The agrarian sector where 48% of the population is engaged continues to be in crisis despite the doles and loans announced by the government.

The newly elected government brought in new measures and laws which appeared partisan and unacceptable to many like the sudden dissolution of

the state rule in Jammu and Kashmir and the finalization of NRC in Assam the results of which were rejected by the Assamese government and the subsequent legislation on Citizenship Amendment Act by granting citizenship to all immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh except the Muslims. This amounted to defining citizenship on the basis of religion which is in conflict with the Constitutional provisions of India.

Indian election results 2019



Source: CVoter

BBC

Situation of children

The year 2019 was also the 30th year since the adoption of the UNCRC globally and the 27th year since the ratification of the same by the Government of India. However, child mortality is still at 39 deaths per 1000 live births. 149 million children are still stunted. In spite of Free and Compulsory Education Act passed in 2009, 20% children are still out of school and many children get married before the legal age for marriage. Sex ratio is still skewed against the female gender. Other forms of discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, ethnicity and disability still remain. In fact discrimination based on religion and ethnicity has been sharpening during the reporting year. The trends which are visible in the social and political sector affect the children in concrete terms vis-à-vis education, health, right to play and psychosocial well-being. Distressed migration continued during the year not only due to economic reasons but also due to political and social situations of hostility. The children of such migrant communities have lost their opportunities of education and the sudden movements uprooted from their friendly neighbourhoods throwing them into a strange environment where fear, frustration, sadness and exploitations rules.

It would be unfair to say there has been no improvement at all on these parameters in the last

decade but there is still a long way to go and the country is far away from reaching its own internal targets, let alone that of the Sustainable Development Goals. Gaps still continue to be the norm.

According to census of 2011, 11.5% of the children in India were below the age of 6 years while 29% were below the age of 14 and 37% below the age of 18 years. Needless to say therefore that there needs to be robust facilities to take care of this young population. During the decade there have also been major administrative changes like increase in the number of districts from 640 to 731 and those of gram panchayats to 250,000. These are also important as the services and infrastructure for children are based on these districts and gram panchayats most of which are still at formative levels.



1.1.2 Nepal

Political stability has prevailed in this Himalayan country though it continued to be affected by large scale migration and acute climate change issues. The federal constitution of the country has by and large been implemented with 7 provinces though the provincial government is still in the process of being formed. Even though it has been five years since the devastating earthquake of 2015 – the reconstruction work is yet to be completed. Looking through the economic lens – unemployment continues to be high combined with the slow growth in agriculture and the industrial sector which is yet to recover.

Situation of children

As far as children are concerned the situation in Nepal is comparable to India with large numbers still out of school. 50% of public schools, health centers and drinking water infrastructures were destroyed by the earthquake and those facilities have only been partially restored. Only 42% of schools have been built back and for health centers the number stands at 49%. This situation deeply impacted the well-being of children and contributed to disrupting education and health care. The scarcity of higher education in turn has led to drop outs and forced migration as well.

Trafficking, especially for women and children was a very important concern and has been contained to



a certain extent. However substantial work still needs to be done there since poorer households depend heavily on girl children for incomes and family support. The mid-western and the far-western provinces are affected by irregular weather conditions due to rapid climate changes, floods, landslides and droughts. The Eastern and the Terai region too are affected severely. Tourism continues to be the mainstay of the economy. Though the new Federal Constitution of the country guarantees children's rights to education, health care and prohibits abuse and exploitation; clearly these are yet to be achieved. According to a report of the Asian Development Bank, in Nepal 41.6% of children under the age of 9, and 34% below the age 17 years could be considered multi-dimensionally poor. Investing more in inclusive quality education,

child health and issues concerning differently-abled children are key issues which need to be addressed urgent

1.1.3 Pakistan

Pakistan has been going through tumultuous times recently. The economic growth has been reported to be halved from 6.6% to 3.3% and dipping further to 2.4%. Inflation has reached more than double digits and climbed to 13% and the external debt is a major concern. The country has not yet been able to implement an effective taxation system resulting in increases in indirect taxes and putting the burden on the poorer sections of the population.

Though the civic rule under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan made many promises regarding employment and social justice - things are yet to unfold. In spite of the civic rule - the supremacy of the army and the deep polarization of the population continue to be the norm. India-Pakistan hostilities have been high during the reporting year causing insecurity, the fear of war and other consequences.

Situation of children

Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Though the literacy levels in the cities are fairly high the national literacy rate is reported to be around 56% which means that in smaller cities and rural sectors more than half of the population is illiterate. This includes a lot of children as well. So



education, child labour and various other forms of exploitation of children in terms of abuse, recruitment into radical groups, and subjugation of girls are important issues to be attended to.

1.1.4 Afghanistan

The war continues in spite of all the news about peace talks and cease-fires all through the previous years. The initial proposal of the peace talks was almost reaching a conclusion with some agreement of partial withdrawal of the American forces, however that eventually collapsed. Attempts to resume this negotiation have not yet proved to be very successful. Other peace initiatives at the behest of countries like China, Russia has also not made any headway. The Afghan government and Taliban did negotiate on the release of two foreigners – one American and one Australian who were taken into captivity in 2016. When they were released and two of the Taliban leaders were freed from jail in return - this was viewed as an

opportunity for further discussions between the government and Taliban. The Peace Treaty between the US and the Taliban was finally signed. However the Taliban and the Government have not yet opened any discussions. Violence has actually been increasing on civilians and the Afghan army leaving many casualties. Meanwhile the dispute over the election of the new President is also leading to escalation of violence. Though the independent election commission has declared Mr. Ghani as the winner and hence the new President, the former CEO Abdullah Abdullah has also been sworn in as President. This is creating a very volatile situation. The US mediation between the two contenders for the post of the President does not seem to be working either. Meanwhile the relations between Afghanistan and Iran are also worsening, particularly after the death of Soleimani. The released Taliban leaders were expected to join the mediation, however no progress has been reported on that front. Meanwhile the corona virus spread is



creating panic, particularly in the Western Provinces bordering Iran. The country is not really equipped with medical infrastructure and systems to combat this. Thousands of refugees are returning to Afghanistan daily from Iran. It is feared that many of them are already infected.

Situation of children

Children as always are paying the price for this extreme situation. Two decades of continuous conflict and war has inflicted tremendous pressure and suffering on them and almost 50% children between the age of 7 years and 17 years (over 3 million in number) are still reported to be out of school. The UN population division estimated that at least 2 million children between 6-14 years are working as child labour, many of them in hazardous situations. In the challenging situation that exists – many schools and spaces that children are in get caught up in conflict and displacement is the order of the day. Many children and families who were



previously displaced have managed to get back but more than 72% of those families who return – face displacement multiple times.

Such displacement creates trauma and fear among children as they miss out on schools, lack of proper shelter, food and nutrition and everything that is familiar. Majority of these families depend entirely on support from aid agencies. The streets of the cities are home for thousands of children. They engage in range of menial jobs just for survival including sale of various articles, polishing of shoes, cleaning of cars, begging and doing any odd jobs. Loading and unloading in the market places, working in shops and restaurants, workshops and small industries are also common.



2. Highlights of 2019

- 2.1** In continuation with the last year, 2019 also focussed on effectively enhancing the participation of children and youth in matters concerning them. There were significant activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of UNCRC across the region. The consultation with children followed by public hearing in Delhi and a similar gathering in Pune deserve special mention. Following those there were also state level consultations of children in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kozikode for the release of the child friendly version of the report “India’ children : where do we stand”. Through these initiatives children articulated their situations in which their rights were not recognised and those where these were upheld. Some of them also narrated personal stories in the perspective of children’s rights in the current day. They debated amongst themselves on such issues and agreed on the need to act by themselves by approaching their parents, their local governments, teachers etc. These discussions by the children were documented and submitted to the respective government authorities in addition to publicising the same. Empowering children to be proponents of their own rights slowly and steadily has been a significant achievement.
- 2.2** tdh South Asia has been active in protecting and supporting girls who were employed in difficult situations in the textile sector

particularly in and around the district of Tirupur in Tamil Nadu, India. For many years, support has been provided to women who were victimised and on the other hand adequate information is being provided to help prevent the recruitment of girls for such employment. During the last year over **4,331 girls and women** were reached out to through this project. There have also been representations, delegations and discussions with the respective government authorities and political leaders. Networks were formed of different organisations working on these issues such as Tirupur People’s Forum for effectively combating the exploitation of adolescents and young women in this area. During the current year the tdh Ambassador, Margot Kaessmann and the Executive Board Member Birte Koetter visited these areas with Christian Ramm and Christel Kovermann and they were able to get an insight into these issues. Discussions were held with government authorities and media persons in Coimbatore and Mumbai. Reports were published on the website of terre des hommes Germany and also the German media. There was a follow up by visit of the partner of Care –T and the Dy. Regional Coordinator to Germany in early 2020.

- 2.3** Trainings: In the context of the new strategic goals of terre des hommes Germany the year 2019 has been a year of multiple and intense training of staff and partners at different

locations. Trainings on peace building were organised in Bhopal by the Western zone and **19 youth leaders** participated in it and found the training very useful. A three-day training programme on project management and conflict resolution and peace building was organised in Delhi for **10 partners** from Afghanistan. The President of tdh and the executive Board Member responsible for finance also met the partners from Afghanistan in Delhi. The Eastern zone organised training in RBM for partners. Trainings for youth were also organised in the South on peace building. Nepal organised trainings in ecological rights while partners in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu underwent training on understanding “gender.” Partners, senior project staff and youth in North Zone underwent training on peace building.

- 2.4** Active participation in Joining Forces – Child Rights Now was another highlight of the year. Ritu Mishra – the Programme Coordinator of Northern region assumed the responsibility for participating and contributing to this process effectively. Together with other organisations like Save the Children, World Vision, SOS Children’s Villages, PLAN International and Child Fund a study on status of child rights in India was done and report was launched in Delhi followed by the other zones of the country namely the Western, Southern and Eastern zone. tdh Germany took the lead in organising the regional launch for the Western region in Bhopal and tdh colleagues and

partners took active part in the other regions as well.

- 2.5** Accessing funds for partners: The efforts to access funds for partners from local sources including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds in India continued during the year. With a new colleague in the resource mobilisation sector significant work has been done in streamlining the websites and communications processes of tdh and building pipelines for prospective corporate funding. The ongoing support to partners from Forbes Marshall Foundation, Gala Freudenberg, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics and RG Cargo continued. Initial steps have also been initiated to start individual fundraising and those plans are to be implemented in the coming year.
- 2.6** Towards the end of the year on 11th December 2019 a CSR summit was organised in Pune to discuss and debate on the situation of CSR funding to civil society organisations, the challenges therein and the way ahead. The summit organized in association with long time tdh partner Dachser India – saw noteworthy experts take the stage and was attended by representatives from 18 companies based out of Pune. This was the third such event during the last two years and this chapter generated lucrative leads for possible CSR based partnerships which are now in the process of follow ups.

3. Assessment of the New Strategic Goals

The Strategic Goals of terre des hommes Germany are realised by supporting projects and programmes with the different SGs as the dominant theme of such projects and generally the projects include elements of capacitating the partners, the community and young people and also providing services to the young people whenever needed. The services are often new initiatives and innovative in approach with a view to demonstrating to the governments at different levels that such effective and efficient methods can be pursued. Therefore there are notes of advocacy interwoven as well. Additionally the SGs are advocated by the young people and the partners through representations, negotiations, networking public discussions and media presence.

3.1 Strategic Goal 1: Promoting A Culture of Peace

By 2023, terre des hommes and partners have scaled up innovative solutions that enable children, youth, their caretakers and communities to understand and challenge the cycle of violence in which they are involved and to acquire nonviolent forms of conflict resolution.

terre des hommes and partners have established multi-actor agreements as well as measures to protect children and youth by preventing violence and creating safe environments.

The SG 'Promoting a Culture of Peace' is new, projects in the region were marginally involved in working towards this goal in the context of ethnic clashes in the North-East of India, in Afghanistan and in some parts of Nepal. In Pakistan this has been taken forward through play.



Children and young people have been engaged in different activities to promote peace within their communities. Different methodologies have been used to bring young people together to build peace and resolve conflict. ROSA works in Afghanistan where several peace building workshops have been organised both for the staff and for the youth of the projects. Working towards engaging the youth from

different ethnic communities to work together is very challenging in situations where there is a long history of violence. In Pakistan as well, some steps have been taken and in the North East of India which has seen some violence recently due to new legislations. Play has been used as a method to advance peace. Trainings of youth on peace and conflict resolution have been initiated in different zones in India like the Southern zone, Western and Eastern zones. This contributes to capacitating the youth to deal with such situations constructively. Contacts have been established with different groups in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi and Assam with civil society organisations engaging in peace activities. Resources and expertise from these groups are used in trainings.

During the last year, zonal partner meetings have included 'peace' and 'non-violence' have been included for discussion and debate among different ethnic groups. Discussions on 'anger' and bullying have also formed a part of the discussion which has been centred in Govt. schools in different areas.



Their slice of peace – in a challenging life

“Whatever our caste or community, we now play together in this center. Didi teaches us so well that we are all doing well in school as well.” - Says Suman, a young resident of a congested slum in the capital city of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

Her mother echoes her sentiments “In our daily struggle for existence – whenever we are stressed – we come and find peace at this center.”

In a community which not long ago faced constant unrest and turbulence whether – amongst each other or with external factors – this statement proves the long way we have come.



The project works in some of Bhopal's most congested slums which face a high level of migration from people who come into the city in search of better jobs and a better life. Most of these communities belong to indigenous tribes and minority groups who are constantly in fights with another. Hailing from outside the state also makes these communities very vulnerable to exploitation and their women, children and youth are often targeted by the police for any petty crimes that occur within the neighbourhood. This combined with the constant pressures of living without any basic facilities in congested rooms, alcohol abuse, insecurity of livelihoods – creates an

environment which is constantly full of stress and leaves the families with very little space for anything else.

When tdh supported Project Muskaan started work in this area – they realized that the first thing to do would be to provide children with a safe place where they could escape the constant day to day trauma. They started centers in the community and encouraged children to just come and spend time there. They engaged with them through simple games and activities and slowly started to get children to open up to them. Understanding that many of these children were first time learners – they also provided remedial education for them.

The team however faced a big challenge bringing children from different tribes and groups together. Led by their parents' ideals – these children would constantly fight with each other and create friction. The team decided to create a platform where children could engage in play and team sports and use this as a means of breaking through the barriers.

Slowly children began to talk to each other and find comfort in each other's company. When they realized that many of the issues they face were similar – they also began to talking to their parents about the useless fights and conflicts that they engaged in. Relationships began to change and hesitantly at first – trust grew.

Today 350 children, 400 youth and 300 women are part of this community mobilization. Festivals are celebrated and joys and sorrows are equally shared. The center has become their island of peace and well-being while they work towards building a better life.

3.1.1 Main achievements during the year

A training programme was organised for staff of the project WASSA in Afghanistan along with some partners from Delhi on 'peace and conflict resolution' by the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution in New Delhi. Youth groups and children have started discussing the importance of peace in their day to day lives. More and more governments are introducing peace education as a part of curriculum. Partners of tdh through their work bring together children from different religious sections as well as different caste groups to work together to ensure peace and better integration to avoid violence. There is a growing intolerance towards some of the minority communities and hence this is a crucial time to bring in peace education.

- Trainings for 126 youth leaders and staff of partner organisations were conducted on peace building and conflict resolution.
- The International peace day was observed by partners in different locations to create awareness on peaceful environment and building peaceful communities through practicing the culture of peace.
- 5 safe spaces were claimed by children and youth in Bhopal where they play together and organise meetings.

- In Afghanistan 5368 children/youth, have learnt techniques in conflict management and peace and are using these skills to guide their lives and influence changes in the mind-set of their communities. 75 youth have taken up the responsibility in the community to work as volunteers, teaching English and conducting Peace education classes for the village students. Awareness sessions were conducted for 340 parents, who engaged with trying to influence the community and the mullahs.
- In the project Ant in Assam 400 girls and 531 boys from different ethnic communities were brought together in play in order to solve ethnic conflicts and bring peace through play.
- In Pakistan, Lyari Girls Café has been actively involved in wall painting and peace slogan written over the prominent place of Lyari. The girls have planted trees on the spots where people were killed during the period of violence. More than 40 girls have taken part in citizen journalism trainings and engaged in raising awareness on peace through street photography and use of social media.
- **50 youth** belonging to local fishermen community and the Rohingya and Bengali speaking communities have been working together to promote harmony among the local and migrant communities in Ibrahim Hyderi area of Karachi.

3.2 Strategic Goal 2: Improving Psychosocial and Educational Services for Forcibly Displaced Children and Youth

By 2023, terre des hommes and partners have developed, implemented and multiplied measures to improve the quality of psychosocial and educational support services, including mental health, meeting the special needs of forcibly displaced children aiming at creating life opportunities.

Almost 20% projects fall into this category. Several partners are working in areas where there is acute poverty and distress migration. In urban areas slum communities are forcibly evicted due to rapid urbanisation. The focus of the work in the region is on ensuring basic needs to these communities such as water, sanitation, housing and education.

In the mining areas and in the area of brick kilns families along with their children have been forced to migrate close to the sites in order to earn a living and hence have to survive in very challenging conditions. Children are thrown out of education and are also forced to live in these areas. Partners try to ensure that children get access to education and food and health care. Crèches are also run to take care of small babies and infants to protect them from the new, often hostile environment. In cities like Pune and Mumbai several thousands of families from rural areas are forced to migrate and are supported with education and other health facilities through partners. Psychosocial care for Sumangali victims were organised as a part of the project, **4,331 girls** benefitted from this.

Working with forcibly displaced and migrant communities has not been new in the region though the emphasis on psychosocial care was relatively low. In such a situation training of partners including the partner staff was found to be very important and such trainings have been organised in different zones and countries. JRS in Afghanistan is engaging with International Psycho Social Organisation (IPSO) on a regular basis. In the Western zone in India a four-day training was organised for partner organisations in Pune. **25 project staff** were trained in this training.



A child labourer's efforts to end child labour

Meet Surya Bharathi.
A child labourer yesterday.
A well-known musician today.



Surya Bharathi's life was no different from numerous other child labourers in India. When he was 11 years old and studying in the 6th grade in a small village school in Tamil Nadu, India, his father left the family pushing them all in to a life of poverty. With no education and family support his mother came to Karur which was the district headquarters in search of a livelihood. She worked as a helper in the textile unit but the meagre amount she earned was not enough. Young Surya was therefore sent off to work as a gem cutter to help the family survive.

When the team from terre des hommes supported project Psycho Trust started working in the area – the situation with child labourers in the gem cutting industry posed a serious challenge. Most of these units functioned out of individual homes as cottage industries and the owners were not aware they were flouting any rules by employing children. For Surya the problem was even more complex since he was the primary breadwinner for his family and his mother did not want him to stop working.

The project team therefore decided on a two pronged approach. At one level they began a campaign to educate and convince the owners of the gem cutting units and on the other level – they began work to change Surya's mother's beliefs. The progress was slow but eventually Surya was enrolled into a Non Formal Education center and later mainstreamed into school.

At school the young boy was a bright student and showed a natural aptitude for music. His teachers and the project team encouraged him and young Surya began to learn how to play the thavil a musical instrument very popular in the Southern part of India. His talent not only took him through music college but also gained him enough recognition to start him off on his musical journey.

Today Surya is a recognized name in those parts and earns INR 25,000 a month. From a child labourer who started with INR 480 a month – that is indeed a commendable journey.

Surya's success has also turned the wheels of change for the entire region that the project works with. Since then 58 villages have been made completely free of child labour. Many of the former gem cutting unit owners have turned around completely and joined the project as full time staff to work on ending child labour and giving children a better life.

One boy's struggles have indeed changed a whole region and generations to come.

3.2.1 Main achievements during the year

- **4453 drop out children** who had been displaced have been enrolled into schools.
- **10848 former child labourers** have benefitted from the support education centers and continue regularly in school
- **4814 young boys and girls** have undergone vocational trainings.
- **40178 women and children** from the project areas are linked to education, health and nutritional services.
- **65 children** including youth members from migrant brick kiln families in UP are actively engaged in counselling their peers to help them through empathy, decision making and



counselling skill process. These trained counsellor helped **41 children** (counselees) who were either involved in substance abuse, victim of employers' exploitation, inequality of wages, bullying, discrimination and friendship conflicts at school and neighbourhood level to get them cop up with their problems.

- **100 street children** are learning in Lyari girls café in Lyari Karachi

50 Immigrant children belonging to the Rohingya and Bengali speaking community including **170 out of school children** of local fishermen have been enrolled in schools in Ibrahim Hyderi area of Karachi.



3.3 Strategic Goal 3: Promoting A Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment

By 2023, terre des hommes and partners have conceptualized, implemented and communicated a coherent program approach on environmental child rights. Jointly with children and youth terre des hommes and partners have raised global awareness on environmental child rights and succeeded in including them into public policies.

This SG has been a major focus in the region and is related to 41.55% of the number of projects in the region. Regular meetings with youth groups on ecological rights in almost all the partner organisations take place. In India and in Nepal they are further networked into groups and the representatives meet at the national level and at the state level. Encouraging children to take up small and large issues in the areas in which they live as well as understand 'climate change' and 'consumerism' and integrate this into their daily lives. In some areas there are water conservation projects, in other areas children and youth are encouraging the city administration to organise their 'waste' better. Eco friendly businesses are being organised in urban areas so that youth can find work in 'sustainable occupations'. Growing organic crops, making compost, speaking about the ill effects of pesticide are part of the work of the youth groups. In Nepal the youth also engage with Govt. functionaries on all these topics.

Planting trees, promoting solar panels for energy, generating water mills through ecological means

are all part of the work with youth on ecological rights. Promotion of awareness on plastic is widespread among youth groups across the region. In Nepal in some of the remote and hilly areas, FM radio is also used to spread important information about ecological rights. This year in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well the youth groups were engaged in 'Fridays for Future' and other campaigns.



Women-power: Turning the tides

The Musahars are one of the most marginalized communities in the country and constant discrimination and extreme poverty is almost a way of life for them and their children. The communities living in the 10 remote villages in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh had almost accepted exploitation, malnutrition and constant hunger as part of their lives. They had no access to proper government schemes or the ability to earn a dignified living. They were essentially landless and worked for pitiable wages. The struggle to constantly make ends meet – made them victims of moneylenders who would exploit them further with no end in sight.

When tdh supported project Samudaik Kalyan Evam Vikas Sansthan (SKVS) started work with this community – the malnutrition rate was 80% for children between 0 – 5 years. Hunger by far remained the main cause of death in these villages. And the community was powerless to fight against this.



An analysis of the project area revealed that the women of the community were the most concerned about their children and their lives and therefore the project team decided to mobilize women's groups as a tool to start the process of change. The team helped them open up and discuss the issues that they faced. Women agreed that one of the biggest challenges they faced was being able to feed their children and not falling prey to the endless cycle of moneylenders. They therefore came up with the idea of a 'Grain Bank'. In months when the agricultural produce was good or when they had a little extra – each woman from the group deposited a certain amount of grains at a common place. These were grains they had grown or earned and each woman was

selfless about how much she would put in. Slowly this became a habit – like forced savings. When a family needed some extra food for any specific occasion or when things got difficult– they could borrow grains from this bank to feed their families. They would pay back the grains when their situation would improve with a 25% interest in grains. Since this interest was much lower than what they would have to pay a money lender – this model was also a sustainable one.

The Grain Bank has been a huge success for this community. Given that it has been able to break through the cycle of endless loans and poverty – the overall welfare and life of the community has improved. The Grain Bank is also lenient in its rules for paying back the loan and therefore families are not under constant stress. The Grain Bank has also made it possible for some of the women to take loans and start small business which ensures financial independence as well.

27 families have benefitted from the Grain Bank including 2 women who have started small businesses. 49 women are active participants in the Grain Bank and have made remarkable strides in improving their own lives, their communities and of their children. Malnutrition is slowly being arrested and children are on their way to a healthier future.

Turning a new corner: How a village changed for the better

For all the men in the tiny village of Haudi in the Kalikot district of Nepal – leaving their home and being forced to find employment outside their country was nothing new. After all in their country – opportunities were limited. When it was young Acharya's he knew he also didn't really have a choice and went to the Garhwal region in India to find employment and means to sustain his family back in his village.

However the young man was desperately homesick and longed for a way to go back to his village and still continue to make enough money. He also realized that with the cheap daily wage jobs that he was engaged in – he would never be able to help his family break through the cycle of poverty. This would leave him feeling very desperate about the future.

While in India he came into contact with a lot of machinery that was used to make work easier and his mind went back to how much time his village community had to spend on the most basic jobs in the absence of any development or machinery. His thoughts strayed to the way the husk had to be separated manually from the rice grain and how much time that consumed given that rice was one of the staples in the community. When he was a child he would often spend the whole day doing this and miss out on his studies and even any leisure time he could get. However this work was essential as the community's very survival depended on this.



On one of his visits back home – he got to know about HuRENDEC's Sustainable Utilisation of Resources in Himalayan Region project and he realized this might be his big chance to not only solve one of the most basic problems in his community but also bring about a long term change. He started a dialogue with TdH Germany and from the project staff understood how he could build a rice mill that would reduce the day long labour required to separate the husk from the rice grains to just a few minutes. With their guidance he also realized that most such mills run on diesel which was a major pollutant – however by using the power from the local rivers he could not only solve this problem but also find a sustainable source of energy. The mill was soon constructed and the community finally had an easy solution to the hard labour they were putting in. Additionally since hydro power was readily available at

no cost – the mill could run for the long term without any large investments.

Today not only has life become simpler in the village but the children across **300 families** are now free to pursue their education without any interruptions and also have the time for leisure and play. Lives have changed and the village is firmly on its way towards progress and a better tomorrow.

3.3.1 Main achievements during the year

- **26585 members** of children's and youth groups are actively involved in campaigns on education, child protection, environment and SDGs, polythene free villages, water and sanitation.
- **7537 farmers** (male/female) are practicing sustainable organic techniques and vegetable gardens.
- **3701 water sources** conserved by children and youth participation
- **488 water sources** like ponds, wells, streams, hand pumps - have been cleaned/recharged/installed to address water shortages in a drought situation. This has benefitted more than **14000 community members**.
- **77 women** from Jounsari tribe in Uttarakhand have increased their income through value added process of making juice from Rhododendron flowers.
- More than **10000 households** in villages have sanitary latrines in place through accessing government schemes.
- NIWCYD (Project YUVA-BMZ-II) has been recognised as the Brand Ambassador for its contribution in Clean India Survey and was awarded by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation.
- **1300 households** (Yuva BMZ II project) in the slums of Bhopal and Mumbai are practicing waste segregation. **20 Youth** from the Muskaan project area have been awarded by the Bhopal municipal government for taking initiatives for making compost from the segregated wet waste.
- **100 youth** from Kushinagar Dachser project area made 10 village action plans highlighting the development needs and issues of 10 villages, out of which six village action plans were acknowledged and incorporated in GPDP (*Gram Panchayat Development Plan an exercise for planning at gram sabha through convergence between Panchayati Raj Institutions which is implemented by State Nodal Officer, District Level Officer and then Block Level offices to address the village level issues*)



- **750 women and Self-help group members** in Odisha are organized and sensitized towards growing nutritional grains like millets and have revived traditional ways of cooking food and promoting collection of food from forests which have high nutrient values. **369 women SHG members** in Uttar Pradesh have learnt to write their names to access the banking system and other necessary documents for linkages with state and national government programmes. **109 women** gained economic empowerment and became entrepreneurs by starting their own grocery shops, cash crops, vegetables shops, goat keeping and milk selling etc.
- **122 youth** from UP prepared a charter of demand and organized a press meet asking for the immediate action of government with regard to climate crisis and plastic use. They also emphasized on allocation of budget for environment protection and conservation
- An association consisting of **40 tribal youth** has



been formed for promoting community based livelihood through bamboo artifacts in 10 villages of Nandurbar district, Maharashtra.

- More than **50 members** of youth group belonging to the immigrant Rohingya, Bengali and local fishermen took part in the neighbourhood cleanliness campaign.
- **500 girls** from the Lyari girls café has initiated anti plastic campaign and produced and distributed 7000 cotton bags among the community and shopkeepers.
- In Nepal, **268062 seedlings** of different plant species were planted as a Mega Plantation Campaign in coordination and collaboration with local government in participation of youth and CBOs members of the project.
- **780 flood survivor families** were benefitted with relief packages (food and non-food items) in 3 Municipalities of Sarlahi district, Province No. 2 in collaboration with local government and District Disaster Management Committee.



3.4 Strategic Goal 4: Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations

Gender justice has been a cross cutting theme within project support in South Asia for decades particularly focused on the situation of girls in India due to skewed female-male ratio. The new strategic goal gives a fillip to this concern which continues to be very relevant and urgent. Due to the urgency of the SG the focus of staff trainings and partner trainings during the year was on Gender Based Rights Violations. Almost all the zones in India engaged in this. In Nepal and Afghanistan as well - partners have worked further on the theme by introducing activities and programmes to promote the status of girls through education, capacity building and diversification of skills.



Working to prevent child marriage, forced marriage as well as abuse of girls is an integral part of the work. Partner organisations engage both boys and

girls in discussion on gender equity and gender mainstreaming. In states like Rajasthan and Karnataka the incidence of child marriage is still very high and it can only be changed through a lot of work on education and mainstreaming.



Girls are encouraged to continue at school and parents are supported to ensure that girls do not drop out of school once they reach puberty. Topics like 'prevention of dowry, life education' and other topics are discussed with girls and boys. Children's groups are also slowly discussing topics of LGBTIQ within their sessions and discussions, during the year, an understanding on this topic has increased and more and more partners are becoming sensitive about their own lives. Children's organisations are active in 70 to 80% of existing partner organisations and are taking up small actions through local schools and local village activities. Several new partners have initiated discussions and training on gender based violence within children's and youth organisations. The

youth organisations also engage in activities towards promoting gender equality and begin to discuss such issues within families. The youth groups engage in such activities jointly among girls and boys in India and Nepal, contributing to resilience building among the girls.

In Tamil Nadu in the Sumangali area several girls are victims of physical and sexual violence. The partner Care – T, together with other partners has ensured that these victims get proper care, medical and legal support as and when necessary. Special training and counselling have been done for around 4,331 girls in the reporting year.

During this year zonal partner meetings were devoted to organising an entire 2 to 3 days for all the partners on 'gender rights violations'. Growing up in the region, in a strong feudal and patriarchal society - it is crucial that staff themselves understand what patriarchy is and how to deal with this. The staff training for all the staff held at Udaipur in July end / August was focused on 'financial monitoring'. It also had a special session on gender.



Nooria's story: Breaking the silence against violence

*Imagine being married off for money to someone you have never met. Imagine leaving your family knowing full well you will never see them again. **Now imagine all this happening to you when you are 10 years old.***

Nooria grew up in the Herat province of Afghanistan in a resettlement colony. Child marriages were the norm in her community and when she was ten years old – Nooria was married off to a rich family by her grandfather – in exchange for money. The girl was taken away to the Kandahar province and away from her family – her nightmare began. Her new family abused her – emotionally and sexually – even forcing her into drugs to make her more compliant. By the time the family moved back closer to Nooria's parental home – the girl was suffering from deep physical and psychological trauma. She however managed to escape one night and make her way back to her childhood home.

When the project team got to know about Nooria – her mother was desperately seeking help to not only help her daughter overcome her trauma but also to fight against Nooria's grandfather who wanted to send the child back to her husband. The team immediately went to work to get Nooria the help she needed to fight against her drug addiction since that posed a serious threat on the child's health and sanity. They also began sessions with her grandfather to help him understand the torture he was subjecting his granddaughter to. Once Nooria started getting the care she needed – the team also started counselling to help her get over her fears psychologically. The child was frightened of strangers initially and refused to talk but through slow and patient work – she began to overcome her trauma and speak out. As her confidence increased - the project team encouraged her to get justice for herself and Nooria filed a complaint with the Attorney of Non Violence for Women and eventually got a divorce and a new start to life. Her grandfather also caved against the resistance to send her back.

The child expressed a deep desire to study and with the help of the project team – she was connected back to education and finally enrolled into school. By the time she was 12 years old – Nooria had overcome a lifetime of challenges. Rather than letting that get her down – Nooria has made it her life's mission to educate other families about child marriage and making them more aware. Aspiring to be a teacher the child shares her challenges and her journey as a way to help people understand the plight of young girls. Today her entire community is on the path to awareness – to understanding how girls should be treated and why education is a necessity.

A single young girl's courage – has changed the lives of an entire community and all its daughters for generations to come.

3.4.1 Main Achievements during the year.

Focussing on the rights of the girls in the state of Madhya Pradesh, particularly in Bhopal and also integrating more of them into the youth activities has happened. The support to the victims of employment in hosiery sector in Tirupur and prevention of forced recruitment of such girls also is an achievement. Women were integral part of the project measures in UP and Rajasthan. AV Baliga Trust in Delhi and HESCO and AMAN in Uttarakhand enhanced their engagement with women during the year.

- **110+ children (Age 7 - 16 years)** from 5 organizations engaged in football coaching at 2 places in Pune. 4 teams formed were formed bringing together girls and boys from different communities. **320 children** participated in a 3 km marathon promoting child rights under the banner of Action for the Rights of the Child (ARC) and tdh with the slogan “Empower Young Girls Change Their Lives.”
 - **213 adolescent girls** have taken a stand against their early marriages and are now pursuing higher education/ vocational training.
 - **4331 girls** were reached through the Sumangali project in 2019 on prevention of gender based violence through discussions, awareness, support and counselling.
 - The recruitment guideline titled as Minimum Standards for Employment and Conditions of Work for Recruits particularly young girls in Textile Industry and Mill Codex have been completed and presented to **42 representatives** of 31 textile mills in Tamil Nadu.
 - **8629 children and youth** have been sensitized on gender equity through play. Reducing the gender gap through different games such as rugby, football, frisbee, boxing, cycling and other games. Play has been an effective tool in bringing together girls and boys from within as well as different communities including adivasis to get out of a culture of submission. **8 girls** from the Pardhi and Gond community are now actively playing frisbee and have also participated in national level tournaments.
 - More than **500 girls** of Lyari has taken part in different skill building sessions at Lyari Girls Café and more than **20 girls** have secured jobs in corporate sector through girls counselling’s and career center of Lyari Girls Café. Similarly, sports are being used to reduce gender based violence and empower girls.
- In Pakistan more than **300 unskilled women** including women from the Rohingya and Bengali communities have completed a stitching course and have started contributing to the household income.

3.5 Joint Campaign - International Campaign to Promote Children's Environmental Rights

terre des hommes in India and Nepal have encouraged the formation of youth groups in all its projects. The youth organisation is called "Youth for ecological sustainability" – YES. Since the end of last year it has formed a national committee which will now organize the next youth convention which takes place every two years. The next one is planned for Odisha in October 2020. While the youth groups discuss issues pertinent to them, such as safety of girls and boys, secularism, conflict, the main binding force has been 'ecological rights. Today there are 26585 youth that are a part of this campaign, of these 3,450 are from Nepal. The Nepal youth network is linked with the National Youth Council of the Govt. of Nepal. The delegate Ashok Khanal is the earlier member of this council and at present the youth member Mr. Sanjib Neupane is a part of the National Youth council. The youth networks are participating in the online (Go-to) meetings organized by the International Youth network every month and will also join the International campaign once it is launched next year. Discussions to this effect are underway.

The youth groups in different partner organisations and initiatives like the Time to Talk try to reach out to international audience in the context of the global ILO conference. Though focussed on child

labour this also had aspects of how destruction of environment and displacement was leading to child labour. The programmes around the impact of environment on children's well-being, particularly health have been highlighted in the context of air pollution, water pollution and chemical agriculture. The youth groups have been advocating various measures and demonstrating small examples to combat the environmental degradation. All these have been uploaded to the IYN website and also particularly in the month of November during the GAM campaign. The South Asia region uploaded 146 events on the GAM website. The youth groups have also been joining the Go-to meeting sessions of IYN and articulating their views on various things both in different zones of India and also Nepal. Afghanistan and Pakistan also participated in the GAM programmes effectively.

3.6 Focal Themes

Towards Well- Being – Beyond Development

While working on different aspects and violations of children's rights the partners have also been trying to understand the causes behind these situations in terms of lack of allocations of resources for health and education, focus on growth based economic development causing environmental hazards and promoting growing inequalities within and in between countries. Commercialisation of every sector of life and commodification of women particularly has emerged from such practices. There

have been detailed discussions to understand the deteriorating situation – including inputs and insights from experts. Searching for alternatives is part of this exercise and different partner organisations are engaged in this along with other social movements. These initiatives come up with different ways of safeguarding the ecology and environment and natural resources like water. The partners continued these discussions within the zones to some extent and the partner forums sometimes engaged with experts like Ashish Kothari and KJ Joy who have published a compendium of articles about many such initiatives across the country.

Partner organisations are also trying to ensure that the local people are organised through a ‘rights based approach’ so that they understand the working of a democracy and systematically demand their due wages and other benefits from the government. Small enterprises in many cases based on environment friendly procedures and start-ups with green perspectives have emerged. Some of the partner organisations have been promoting such initiatives on a cooperative basis. Organic agriculture is extending slowly as well. Looking at alternate models of development, having a dialogue with partners, staff, youth and children have been an important part of this region’s work, this year

Achievements during the year

- **8481 children and youth** take initiatives to promote AMD in projects related to environment conservation and education
- **2822 families** benefitted through vermin compost plants
- Discussions on alternative have taken place within the youth groups

Priority Setting

Priority setting was included in the regional strategy planning in the middle of the year. Several partner meetings were organised before the DC and inputs from partners finally fed into the ‘strategy paper’ and the preparation for the DC. After which at partner meetings the SGs have been discussed with different groups of youth and partners so that they can be better integrated into the work of tdh in the region. The regional strategy paper emerged from the discussions with partners before the DC and during and after.

The unpacking of the strategic goals was initiated earlier. This was further elaborated upon through a result chain on each of the goals and training of the partners on the result chain during the partner meetings.

Though the majority of projects are so far focussed on the child's right to a healthy environment and on gender based violence, with the volatile situation in the region, several projects are slowly incorporating peace and conflict resolution into their work. A large number of programmes are focussed on malnutrition of children and food security for communities that are still faced with hunger. Child labour and the Right to Education along with joyful learning are still priorities in the region for project work. Combating hunger and malnutrition of the 0-3 age group through innovative methods, in coordination and support from Govt. programmes such as the integrated child development programme also fall within the priority of the region.



4. Programme Development

The programme development followed the new strategic goals adopted in the year 2018 and though the strategic goals maintained continuity with the previous set of goals, new areas of promoting culture of peace and fighting gender based violence were introduced. The necessity of incorporating these goals into the programme led to trainings of staff, partners and the youth in different aspects of the themes. The three components of each strategic goal of capacity building, providing services wherever necessary and advocacy at different levels had to be integrated creatively. This was attempted successfully in some of the zones / countries.

In Afghanistan the SG of “Promoting Culture of Peace” was introduced and the partners were trained. Same was done in the Southern and



Western zones in India. The Southern zone trained the partners on fighting “Gender Based Rights Violations” while in the West psychosocial support to children of migrant communities was an important theme. Northern region also introduced the gender based violence as an important theme while the East focused more on ecological rights of children. Nepal also enhanced the programmes with the youth network and ecological rights in the context of climate change. The programme staff and the partners worked together on these SGs quite effectively.

Regular involvement and engagement of the youth in different activities around ‘protection of children from violence and abuse’ and on ecological rights has increased in India, Nepal as well as in Pakistan.



Afghanistan has started some of these activities as well. 2 youth - one from the South and one from the East of India participated in the UN meeting between 21st – 24th, October in Bogor, Indonesia and shared their experiences while learning from other youth in the Asian continent. Some of the projects in Nepal focus on reducing firewood, conserving energy and supporting the ecology. An active youth network is present with representatives from different provinces. During the last year, among partner organisations in Pakistan also there has been a growing awareness among youth on ecological rights among partner organizations in Pakistan as well and they have taken up a number of actions on this issue. There is a growing concern within the region and many youth members have joined “Fridays for Future” and interpreted this within their context and linked it to their work.



Close work being done in India within networks and alliances like Campaign Against Child Labour, Right to Education, Right to Food, both at state and national level also form an important part of the year's highlights. Campaign Against Child Labour together with Right to Education Campaign and Right to Early Childhood Care and Development Alliance (ECCD) joined together in a campaign against child labour and for health and education to every child prior to the national elections.

Combining the ‘Right to Play’ with protection of children particularly empowerment of the girl child and integration of children from different communities has been an ongoing programme. Frisbee, karate, kabbadi, football, khokho also have been promoted in different parts of the region. Children and youth also participate in sports and music and dance festivals. **16394 children and youth** have been involved in regular play activities in the region.



4.1 Project Support

The programmes in all the 4 countries of the region continue to grow despite several challenges. A total of **103 projects** were supported with a total budget of RS Euro 4434766. Besides the regional budget funds have also been raised from 'Special donors'. While this required a lot of efforts and a common understanding and vision – it was a successful initiative. Dachser renewed its support to projects in India and Nepal after the CEO visited both the areas to ascertain the work in the region. The total number of projects has been categorized in the table below. Sourcing funds from the corporate sector in India, expanding to conflict areas, looking at new sources of International funds will continue in 2020.

New beginnings have been made in Afghanistan through a project under the budget line Flucht from BMZ with our partners WASSA, RSDO and WISE.

Similarly in Nepal the BMZ supported project with CDS in the climate change sector is another significant new development. In India accessing funds from Bread for the World and initiating work in the region where mica mining is rampant is contributing to children's health care and schooling. The cluster programme for protecting children in the mining areas supported by Misereor was evaluated and also concluded during the year. A new project has been initiated around similar issues



but with a new set of partners from different states. The partnerships with Misereor and Bread for the World have been important milestones in programme development. A team of AEIN board members visited projects in India and Nepal and have taken the decision to continue to finance one project in Jharkhand on the education for Adivasi communities and another project in Karnataka in 2021.

4.1.1 Engaging with Food Security, Malnutrition

Malnutrition and food security have been a major concern in states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, UP, Rajasthan and Orissa. Measures have been introduced by partners in some of these states for accessing government schemes against malnutrition, particularly the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC). In addition to this communities are encouraged to consume the local millets, fruits and berries combining them with other forms of nutrition. Advocacy to ensure that

the midday meal provides nutritious food to small children all over the country in India as well as in Nepal is yet another important area of work under this issue. Ensuring that Anganwadis - a flagship programme of the Indian Govt. provides nutrition to infants through crèches is a big priority in India. Given that the early years between 0 – 3 are so crucial - some cases NGOs have also been supported to run crèches for this age group to immediately prevent stunting and harm to young babies. Tara Mobile Crèches in Pune and Savera and Samarpan in Jharkhand are examples of this. Projects also focus on training mothers in preparing nutritious meals for their children. The Vikas Samvad project monitored the growth chart of more than 5,000 children over 3 years and identified 939 severely malnourished children who were given the care they needed and brought out of the crucial situation. Assistance to access public distribution scheme and monitoring the PDS functioning has also been part of the work in many areas.

4.1.2 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian crisis in terms of natural calamities has become a regular phenomenon and occurs almost every year. The reporting year was no exception. The first major instance was that of FANI – the cyclone in Orissa and parts of West Bengal. The gushing winds and torrential rains battered the

coasts of Orissa causing severe damage to houses, properties, trees, other infrastructure like electric lines and telephone lines. The government and the civil society organizations joined hands to provide effective disaster preparedness and thus saved hundreds of human lives by shifting people to safe locations and protecting them. Though the total death count reached 65 – people who survived also suffered substantial damages and losses.

This was followed by torrential rains and floods in Assam and subsequently the Western part of India in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra cities like Pune, Sangli and Kolhapur went under water repeatedly. The people in Kolhapur and Sangli districts and farmers even elsewhere suffered heavy losses. tdh supported emergency relief in Orissa and Maharashtra with immediate relief and small recovery programmes.

The longer term recovery projects in Kerala continued through the year and have been concluded only by the last quarter of the year. Some of the districts of Kerala were affected by a repeat lashing of rains and landslides in some areas.

4.2 Evaluations and Assessments

On the one hand the regulations and the compliances required from registered NGOs is increasing and becoming difficult on the other the partner organizations who get very engaged with the issues and the programmes seem to neglect the documentation and compliances. This situation demands more attention from support agencies such as tdh on matters of financial and programmatic documentation, reporting and compliances. Consequently a number of financial reviews were undertaken during the reporting year. Partner organizations such as Desha in Orissa, Care Trust in Tamil Nadu, MSEMVS and TPVS in UP were reviewed by expert financial agencies such as Chartered Accountants. A number of evaluations were also due during the year like HuRENDEC BMZ and AWAAJ AEIN in Nepal, Chaupal BMZ and Sumangali BMZ in India. These evaluations were also conducted by expert evaluators from Nepal and India. The learning points have been included in



the further implementation of the projects. The Volkswagen Workers' Council supported projects in Pune were also reviewed by Dr. Milind Bokil – a senior evaluator and sociologist. The identified weaknesses are being worked on with active support from the programme and financial colleagues at the Coordination Office.

4.3 Partner Meetings

Partner meetings have been held in different zones to understand and integrate the different Strategic Goals. Gender and peace have been the main focus, so in-depth meetings and trainings were organised with partners as well as with youth. A regional partner meeting was organised in February in Nepal with partners from the 4 countries. For the first time partners from Afghanistan and Pakistan were also able to join the meeting.

Partner meetings took place in every zone, except Eastern zone and they were all focussed on understanding the Strategic Goals, particularly Gender Based Rights Violation and Culture of Peace.

In the South it took place in Coimbatore and in the West in Raipur. 53 participants from 21 partner organisations were present. The Northern zone partner meeting was in Udaipur and representatives from 22 partners were present. A regional partner meeting took place in Nepal in which there were 43 partners from all the 4 countries of the region and they together reflected



on the current situation and shared best practices on the Strategic Goals. A project was to be initiated in Kashmir which has been postponed to 2020 keeping in mind the political situation. The Eastern Zonal Partner meeting planned for 2019 had to be postponed due to social unrest in the state of Assam. This has now been planned for February 2020.



5. Institutional Development

terre des hommes Germany is registered in India as a Branch Office and in Nepal as a Country Office. The legal and statutory compliances have been becoming more and more difficult however all these have been met within the time frame.

5.1 Staff development

ROSA has a large staff of 26 persons across 3 countries. Despite a lot of changes in the work and new challenges with different agencies the staff has remained stable. Exposures to new areas, training when required have also contributed to retention of staff. Three colleagues completed their trainings at Karl Kuebel Institute of Development on BMZ procedures. Staff management has been decentralised with the zonal heads taking more responsibility for training, orientation and development of junior staff within the zone. The appraisal and awards processes continue. This is decentralised with each of the zonal / country heads taking responsibility of the appraisals and the Regional Coordinator having a joint meeting with the staff and the zonal / country heads.

Ms. Alakananda Ghosh has been appointed as National Coordinator – Communication and Resource Mobilisation and Ms Titiksha Kannure has been appointed in the Coordination Office to assist with administrative tasks and fundraising. Otherwise the staff in the Coordination Office and

in the Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western zones has remained the same. In Nepal the Accounts Officer Ramesh Syangtan has moved on and a new staff member will be recruited in his place. Mr Sayed Khalid Sadaat who joined in January 2019 is working as a Consultant in Afghanistan and is based in Kabul.

A 3 day staff training was organised in Udaipur where the first part was on accounts and compliances for NGOs and a day was devoted to 'gender mainstreaming'. All 26 staff members attended this training.

5.2 Compliances

As branch office of terre des hommes Germany in India it also has been registered under the Indian Companies Act 2013 at Delhi. The yearly compliances under this Act have been completed through Company Secretaries appointed in Pune. The same holds true for the country office in Nepal.

Since the year 2017 M/s MP Chitale and Co. has been auditing the calendar year accounts as well as financial year accounts and this has proved to be a

good collaboration. Besides this, for the projects supported by Misereor and Bread for the World auditors are appointed from options approved by these agencies. 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. continue as before. The compliances with the Government and the Social Welfare Department are ongoing. Since the registration of tdh Germany for the Nepal Office is due for renewal, the new registration procedures have been initiated with support from the auditors.

5.3 Financial/ budget development / regional fundraising

The Regional Coordinator with the support of the finance staff regularly monitors the budget and the programme development in the region. The regional budget is the base for project support. Several efforts were made to increase funds for project support within the region from other international agencies. All the staff members have actively participated in this process. The ratio of project support to administrative expenditures is 87.79%: 12.21%.

5.3.1 Co-financing

Funding from the BMZ has been the biggest source of funding for projects within the region. In the last year the region had a total of 15 projects - 9 in

India, 3 in Nepal, 2 in Afghanistan and 1 in Pakistan. New projects sanctioned during the last year were Rukum in Nepal, VSS in MP and Bihar. Projects submitted during the year were HuRENDEC III for Nepal and Sumanagali Phase III. The region with support from HO also submitted a proposal for support from EU for a project in Tamil Nadu, which unfortunately did not get sanctioned. There was however, effective and coordinated cooperation between the regional and the head office colleagues to make this possible. There have been a lot of challenges in implementing projects both because of internal and external factors however these have been addressed. The region has kept 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 will now be completed in June 2020.

5.3.2 Special Donations

ROSA has been very active in working with several donors. During the last year there was a visit from Misereor to the projects in UP for the cluster in education in mining, carpet and the new phase of the project for mining affected families has been sanctioned from October 2019 to 2022. The partnership with AEIN, PSF and CHL from Luxembourg still continue. There was also a visit from the team of AEIN and PSF to India and Nepal. The Jharkhand project continues with support from

BfdW and discussions on working together in Manipur continue. The support from AEIN will stop in Nepal but continue in India. Support from PSF will



continue in Nepal. The new phase of support from Misereor for education of children in 3 states started last year after a visit from Misereor.

ROSA has been working closely with the Company Dachser during the year. The CEO Mr. Bernhard Simon visited projects in Bihar and in Rajasthan to understand the situation in the community. He engaged with the people and the partners about the strategy to reduce violence against girls as well as to engage youth in awareness on ecological rights. A new phase of support has been committed to by Dachser which includes partners in Nepal and India from 2020 to 2025. In India the projects are located in U.P., Delhi, Rajasthan and Bihar as well as a youth network in the North. VWEF as well as the

VWWC and Scania have been supporting projects in India and in Pakistan.

The projects started during the floods in Kerala in 2018 and were completed in 2019. Reports have been submitted to the donor partners. Support was also given to partners in Maharashtra after the incessant rains during 2019. Cyclone Fani in Odisha caused a lot of destruction and AEIN supported the survivors through a rehabilitation project. A 3 year project for rehabilitation has been submitted which is likely to start from April 2020.

The CHL funding for reconstruction of the earthquake affected schools in Nepal went into a serious delay, this was completed in December 2020 and the schools were inaugurated in Feb 2020.

tdh F 68 continues to support two projects in India. Shanti e.V phase I has been completed. The next phase of the project in Parbhani will be supported by the trust for another two years.

The overall project payments for 2018 were Euro 4,485,532 and for the year 2019 were Euros 4,203.860.

5.3.3 Regional Fundraising

Regional fund raising has been possible only in India due to the difficult socio-political situation in the other 2 countries Afghanistan and Pakistan. In

Nepal we still need to work out how this could be possible through HNIs. The approach has been to offer existing projects supported by tdh to possible corporate donors. Unfortunately that often does not happen as corporates themselves want to support projects near their headquarters, whereas typically tdh projects are located in remote rural and tribal areas. However some companies have supported partners directly. A fund raising event was organized in Pune in December sponsored by Dachser, 18 companies came for the event and are now being followed up closely. The economic slowdown has caused a serious problem in the economy which has affected CSR funding in India.



6. Regional Networking and Collaboration

- terre des hommes Germany has represented tdh IF in the 'Joining Forces Alliance' in India, through Ms. Ritu Mishra who is a member of the task force and is based in New Delhi. The launch of the report in Delhi and later in Bhopal and Guwahati and in Hyderabad and Kolkata were events that several member organisations participated in. All the 4 member organisations working in India meet once or twice a year to share their work. The DU Campaign is an area where all organisations are together, however it has not advanced much since its inception. In Nepal the 'Joining Forces Alliance' launched the report as well. tdh NL supported the report. Plans for taking this further in India and in Nepal are still to take place. The focus will be on a campaign to prevent violence against children.

- Terre des hommes Foundation Lausanne and tdh Germany jointly supported a recovery project in the flood affected region Kerala. The project is now complete.



7. 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, eradication of child labour and protection of the environment. Some of the alliances are initiated by tdh and its partners. All these alliances try to engage government departments in order to work together to achieve better results. Campaign Against Child Labour, Campaign Against Child Trafficking, Right to Education forum, Right to Food campaign and campaign for Early Childhood Development Alliance - are a few that deserve mention. In Pune tdh is active in '*Action for the Rights of the child*'. It is the issues of children and youth which are to be made more visible than the alliance itself. The networks have press conferences and other public meetings in which tdh participates to advocate the rights of the child and relate this to wider issues. Partners and youth have actively participated in the "Fridays for Future" and other rights based issues in the country. tdh is also active in the Destination Unknown campaign as well as the Time to Talk campaign which gives an opportunity to children to express their views on child labour. The website of tdh Germany – India programme is updated regularly with short films and case studies. During



the last year short films were made on understanding violence for girls 'Gender Discrimination in Diverse Cultures'.

There were a lot of visitors during the year. The Executive Board members for finance and communications - Ms. Gille and Ms. Birte Koetter respectively - visited India and Nepal. We also had visit from the tdh Ambassador Ms. Margot Kaessmann accompanied by the Head of the Fundraising department Mr. Christian Ramm which was an enriching experience for the staff and partners. The President of tdh Edgar Marsh along with 17 German visitors also visited projects in Delhi, Rajasthan, Mumbai, Pune and Nashik. Denis Divoux along with volunteer Agnes Mueller also visited projects supported by tdh France F68 in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Two youth and a staff member Ms. Koel Chowdhury, participated in the UN Summit in Bogor Indonesia and shared experiences from India. In Nepal there were visits from AEIN, PSF, and from HO. Ms Lena Niehaus responsible for co-financed projects visited India and participated in the orientation of the new WASSA BMZ project in Delhi. She also visited projects in Assam and Mumbai. The Nepal youth are active at the national level and are recognised as part of the Government's National Youth council. The RC, Dy RC, zonal head from the

East participated in a round table at the Embassy in Delhi. The Northern zone Coordinator regularly participates in meetings at the embassy and gives information on different topics.

Conclusion:

2019 has been an interesting and challenging year for the region. The challenging political climate has made it difficult to continue work with civil society organisations in all the countries however on the positive side the new Strategic Goals of tdh are now understood and better integrated into our project work. A substantial amount of work is being done under the strategic goal 'Gender rights violations' as the situation for women and girls is very difficult in the region and requires special attention. tdh was also part of a special consultation on the 30 years of UNCRC together with HAQ Centre for Child Rights and other networks and alliances. A 'status report on the situation of children' was brought out and released in Delhi and the child friendly version was also disseminated across the country in different languages.

8. Perspectives for the future

For most of South Asia the year 2019 ended with heavy mixed feelings and fears on the lack of stability and prosperity. In India complex emotions of hope, fear and anger is said to have prevailed due to various developments in the 2nd half of the year. The sudden dissolution of the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir by creating two union territories, the unexpected results of NRC in Assam and consequent non-acceptance of the same by the very same people who had launched it and the new legislation CAA had raised many questions. The feeling of negativity was compounded further by the fall in the economic growth to 5%. Fear of loss of jobs and unemployment became more and more real. TdH partners and the communities with whom they worked were all affected by these developments and shared their anxieties.

In Afghanistan hope about a peaceful settlement and ceasefire remained unfulfilled and the presidential elections were alleged to have been rigged and manipulated. The later development of assassination of General Soleimani has contributed to further complications.

Pakistan inspite of the continuation of the civilian government remained under the pressure of the military and radical groups. The election results in Sri Lanka and the consequent appointment of the

Prime Minister too raised uncomfortable questions. Nepal has been trying to keep the balance between the two regional powers of India and China while Bangladesh is living in the real fear of climate change calamities that might hit them at any time.

Such situation calls for a new and different orientation. An orientation based on hope, which can only come out of justice and peace. That's what the region hopes to promote and work towards for the coming years. Togetherness of children and young people for protecting the environment and the earth and empathising with each other while supporting the needy will play a large part in this effort.

COVID -19

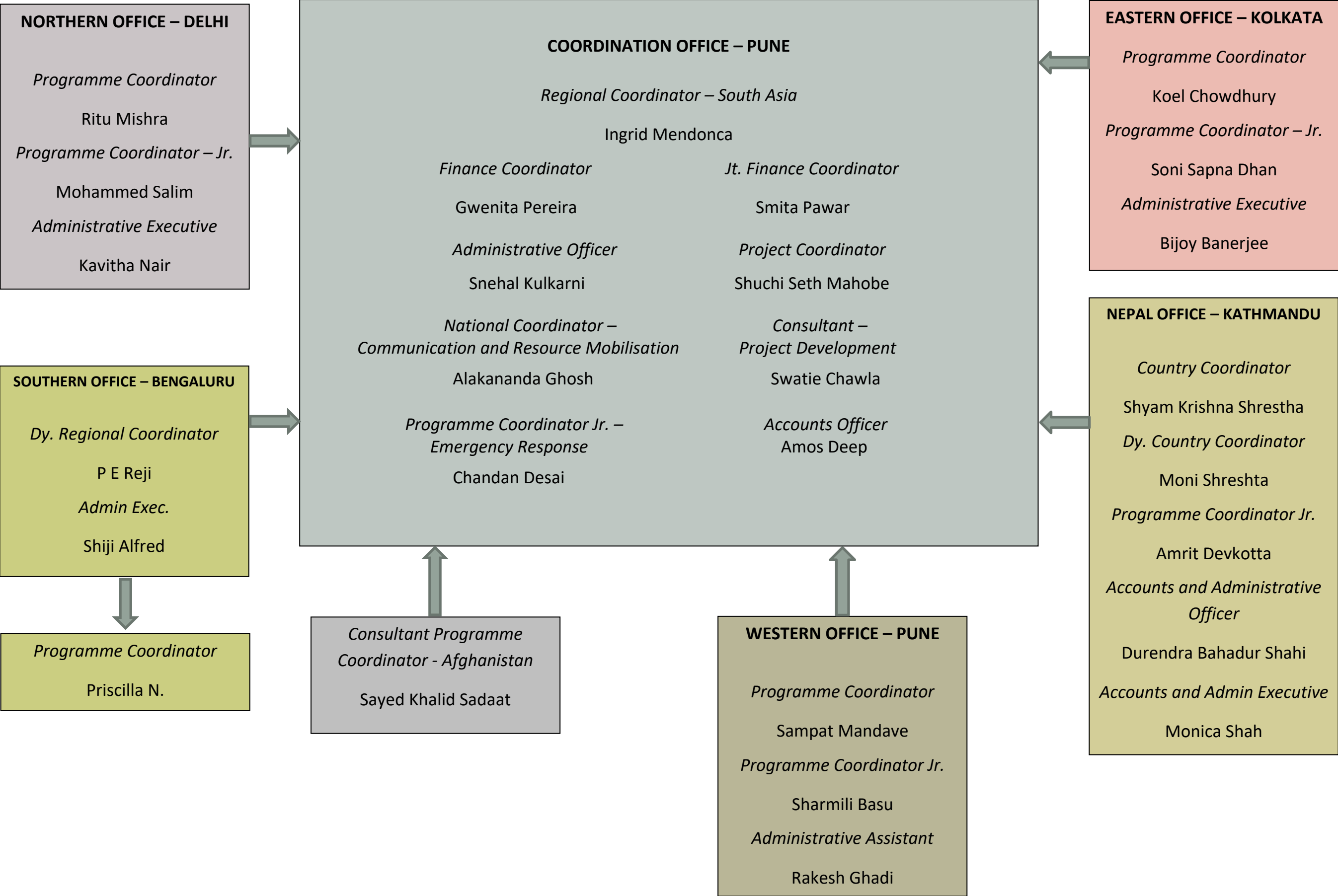
This report has been delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region. The virus plus the intense lock down has affected millions of people in the region due to them being migrants and not having enough to eat. TdH staff and partners are working tirelessly to reach out to these people in whichever way is possible.

Ingrid Mendonca

Regional Coordinator – South Asia

09.03.2020

Organogram of terre des hommes Germany – South Asia
As on 31st of March 2020



Annexure II

**PROJECT PAYMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019**

S. NO.	DETAILS	EURO	EURO	EURO
1	PROJECT PAYMENTS			4,529,240.60
A	INDIA PROJECTS		2,793,669.43	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	28,290.97		
	Regular Projects	244,216.50		
	VW Projects	207,837.68		
	Emergency Projects	72,707.00		
	Co-financed Projects	1,214,102.83		
	Special Donation Projects	653,956.89		
	Misereor projects	249,999.32		
	Bread for the World Projects	122,558.24		
B	NEPAL PROJECTS		968,366.16	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	17,840.78		
	Regular Projects	20,831.00		
	Emergency Projects	30,510.00		
	Co-financed Projects	541,776.19		
	Special Donation Projects	357,408.19		
C	PAKISTAN (Humanitarian Assistance)		325,380.60	
	Regular Projects	20,000.00		
	Emergency Projects (Regular)	11,250.00		
	Co-financed Projects	184,130.60		
	VW-PROJECTS	110,000.00		
D	AFGHANISTAN PROJECTS		441,824.41	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	4,342.00		
	Regular Projects	37,500.00		
	Emergency Projects	5,187.66		
	Co-financed Projects	394,794.75		
II	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			584,738.79
A	INDIA ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	506,536.43		
B	NEPAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	78,202.36		
	TOTAL...			5,113,979.39

ACCORDING TO BUDGET LINE

BUDGET LINE	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Regional Budget	41	3,22,547.00	17	3,03,611.00
Kofi	15	23,25,365.00	5	23,80,431.00
HUHI	9	1,19,655.00	7	1,12,460.00
VWWC	9	3,17,838.00	4	3,90,000.00
Special Donations	23	9,82,093.00	6	3,22,519.00
Regional + Special Donations	6	3,67,268.00	4	10,69,154.00
Total	103	44,34,766.00	43	45,78,175.00

ACCORDING TO countries / zones

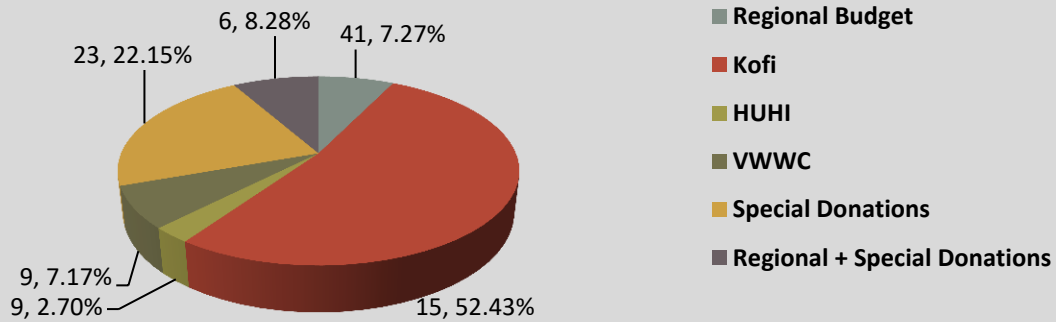
	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Eastern Office	20	7,16,332.00	9	9,42,894.00
Northern Office	20	3,92,740.00	8	3,46,601.00
Southern Office	13	6,40,374.00	2	5,84,770.00
Western Office	22	7,31,315.00	8	6,12,441.00
India Cluster	2	2,40,618.00	1	6,05,000.00
Afghanistan	8	4,37,482.00	6	4,47,059.00
Nepal	13	9,50,524.00	6	6,47,497.00
Pakistan	5	3,25,381.00	3	3,91,913.00
Total	103	44,34,766.00	43	45,78,175.00

ACCORDING TO Strategic Goals

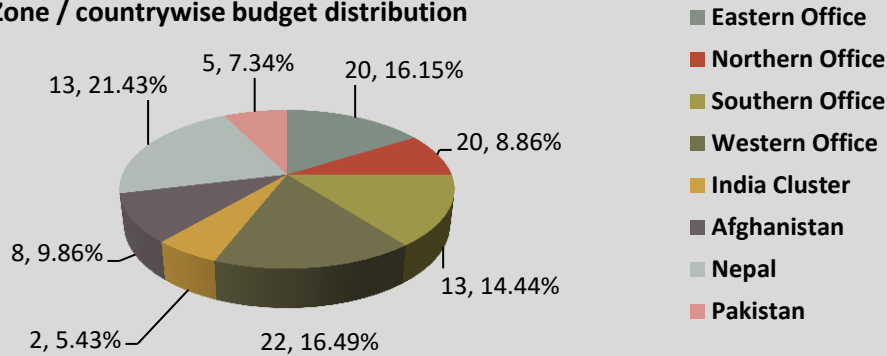
	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Promoting Culture of Peace	8	1,38,209.00	5	1,33,799.00
Improving Psychosocial and Educational Services for Forcibly Displaced Children and Youth	19	8,84,650.00	10	10,13,887.00
Promoting a Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment	29	18,42,560.00	11	19,31,490.00
Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations	16	7,48,482.00	7	7,89,131.00
Alternative Development Models	0	-	0	-
Not Related to Strategic Goal	31	8,20,865.00	10	7,09,868.00
Total	103	44,34,766.00	43	45,78,175.00

Annexure IV

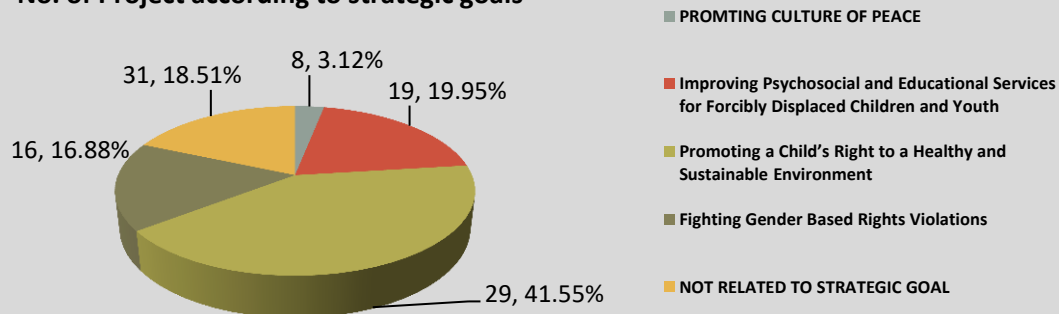
No. of Projects according to budget line

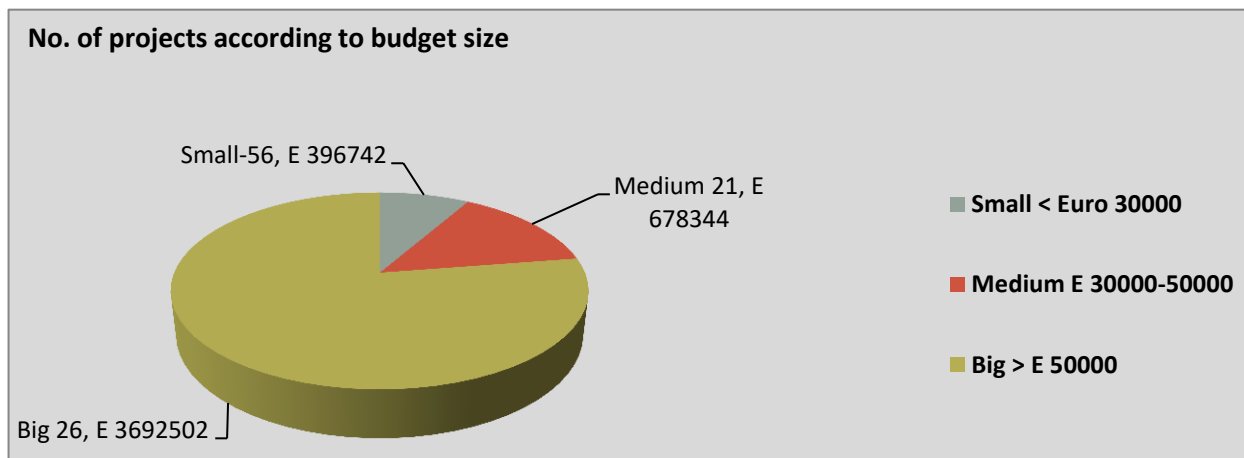
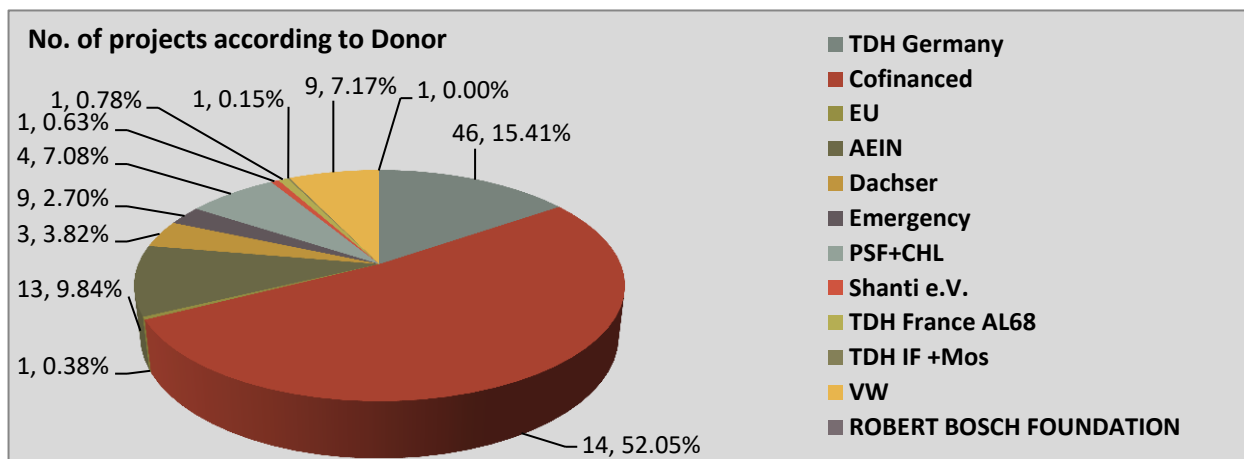


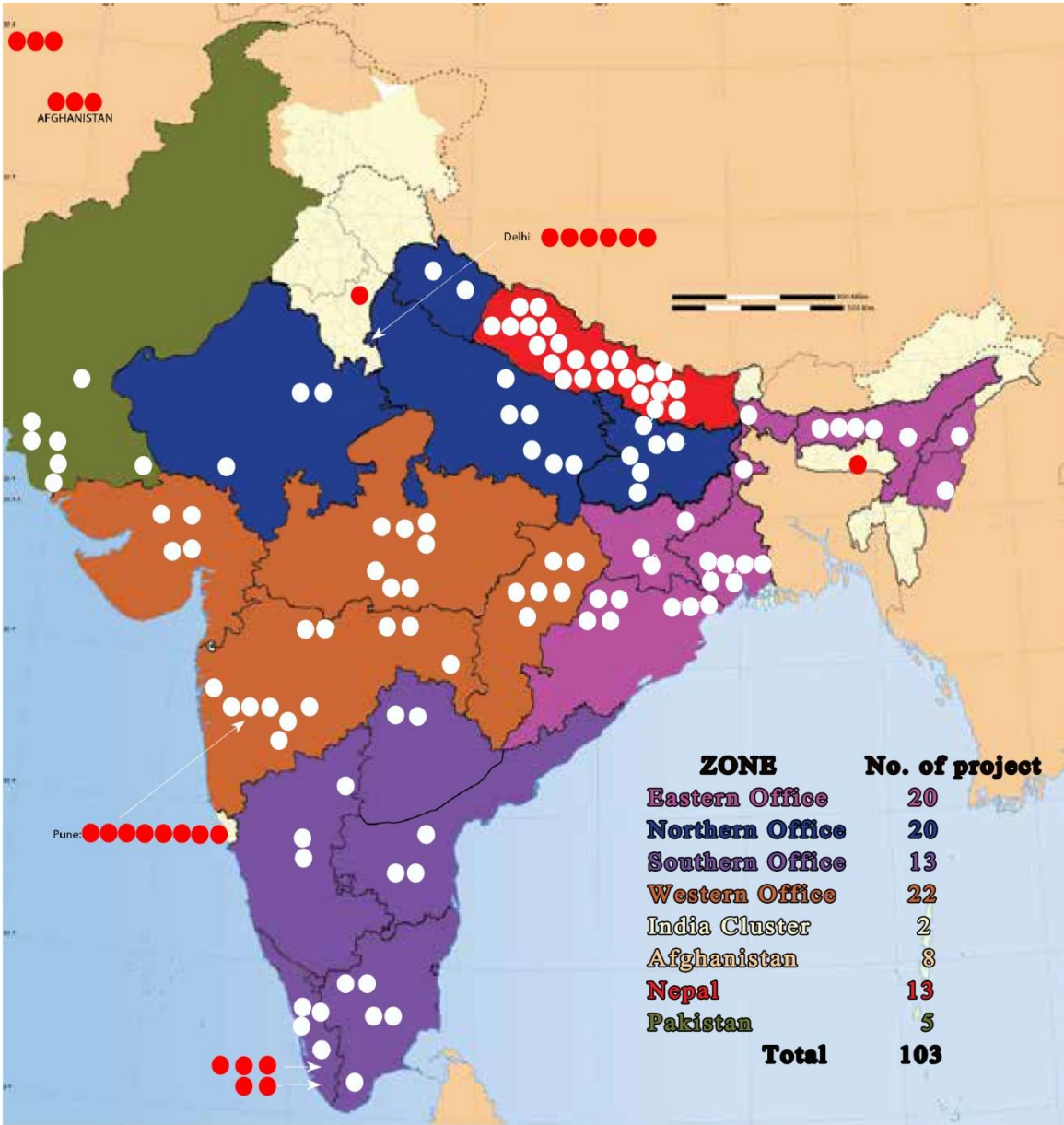
Zone / countrywise budget distribution



No. of Project according to strategic goals









Standing L to R – Durendra, Chandan, Rakesh, Sampat, Moni, Sharmili, Kavitha, Soni, Shuchi, Shiji, Ingrid, Gwenita, Smita, Albert, Priscilla, Shyam, Khalid, Reji, Amos

Sitting L to R- Amrit, Bijoy, Ritu, Snehal, Alex, Koel, Salim

