• terre des hommes Help for Children in Need



Annual Report 2020 South Asia

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terre des hommes Germany - South Asia

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0. Executive Summary

1. Situation in the Region

For South Asia Region, as indeed for the entire globe, 2020 was the year of Covid-19. The direct impact of the pandemic (12 million cases and 180,000 deaths) was felt most of all in India but the entire region was badly hit by the aftermath: Region-wide economic lockdown leading to loss of jobs, and livelihood for hundreds of millions, followed by mass migration (India, Afghanistan and Nepal). In addition, the closure of schools affected over 600 million children, and the switch to online learning in the education system penalized the poorer sections and girls in general because they had limited access to smart phones. In addition to the interruption of their studies, the children were also deprived of the midday meal which in many cases was a crucial element in of their nutrition. Children were also deprived of opportunities of play and many were forced into child labour. On the social front, the Health and Immunization services were badly affected and the situation of women worsened, with escalating domestic violence.

2. Programme Development

Programme development was originally expected to focus on the Strategic Goal of psychosocial training and education. The pandemic forced the plans to be modified and adapted. Many of the programmes were converted to online activities and others had to be suspended or postponed. Activities were added to meet the special needs arising from the lockdowns and general disruption of systems. Partner budgets had to be readjusted, which was done after discussions with the donor agencies. However, the level of project support was maintained and in some cases increased because of Special Donations. A major hindrance to work in India arose from the Amendment to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Bulk funding to Cluster projects was banned and funds had to be disbursed to individual participant partners individually. This increases the administrative burden considerably but was successfully handled.



Strategic Goals (SGs)

The tdh Strategic Goals continued to provide the structure for all projects. The four goals are mutually interconnected and help to create an integrated approach towards social justice and sustainability. **Promoting a Culture of Peace** is of special significance in Afghanistan with its decade long internal conflict and war, where schools are often a specific target of combatants. In the other countries, like Nepal Pakistan and India, political rivalries and latent ethnic conflicts are a common concern. In India distrust and hostility between the majority- minority communities is increasing. The tdh projects emphasise building peace by promoting conflict resolution, tolerance and mutual respect among peoples. Children are made aware of the need for building peace and are taught that they have to play their part on their level to foster harmony and mutual acceptance.

Improving psychosocial and educational services was of prime importance this year of Covid-19. The pandemic and the consequent counter measures like economic lockdown and closure of schools created a situation of great stress and tdh projects across the region provided educational support, counselling and psychosocial support to treat the trauma people were experiencing.

Promoting the Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment: Climate change related developments, especially in vulnerable areas like mountainous areas and coastal regions, are responsible for a lot of deprivation and hardships for communities and particularly for children. tdh partners work on creating awareness among communities and on encouraging specific action programmes to combat such effects.

Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations: Such violations are generally on the increase in the region and the pandemic situation in many ways made the situation worse. tdh projects fight this in a multi-pronged approach using general awareness in communities, empowering women through providing girls greater access to education, skills

training, and opportunities of gainful economic work as well as through psychosocial support.

Visibility and Alliances

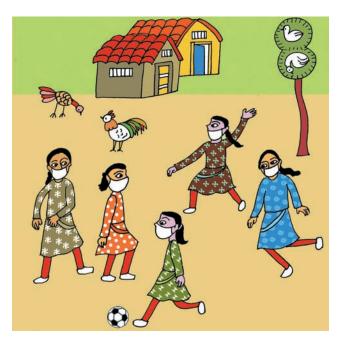
In all the restrictions of the Pandemic, tdh and its partners were very active though the entire period through online events. Partner networks like CACL kept track of the child labour situation and took action where possible. Other networks like CACT, and Prochild and Campaigns like Right to Food and Right to Education kept the pressure on government departments to keep up the midday meal distribution for children and the distribution of rations to the poorer sections. The tdh network 'Youth for Ecological Sustainability' kept up with online meetings with the International Youth Network as well as "Time to Talk" initiative on child labour. tdh itself conducted online trainings and meetings. The Media was also used to highlight issues faced by youth in the pandemic as well as problems faced by the LGBTIQA community and how local communities were mobilizing to grow their own food. At the international level, the tdh Northern Office represented tdh Germany in the alliance "Joining Forces", and all the zones and Nepal were actively involved in this. tdh Germany also played an



active role in initiating meetings with the other tdh member organisations working in India and with Suisse Geneva, for the 'Destination Unknown' Campaign.

Perspective for the Future

As we move on from the pandemic situation, the Perspective at the end of year 2020 is all about reimagining and constructing a more sustainable and safer world for all children. tdh Germany is already launching a campaign #MyPlanetMyRights which more properly needs to be titled OurPlanetOurRights. This future should include health for all. Access to the vaccine and health services including mental health services is a key step to this. Access to education for all and effective measures to combat climate crisis would be the other necessary elements. tdh Germany, committed to creating a healthy environment for children, building a culture of peace, offering education and psychosocial support and ending gender based discrimination and violence looks forward to continuing its engagement with the South Asian societies with the above perspective.





1. Introduction

It is not easy to sum up the year 2020 for the region of South Asia. The world has had to face an extremely challenging year. The more vulnerable the region and the people, the more challenging it has been. The year of COVID 19 pandemic brought up a plethora of issues that need to be addressed, ranging from the strengthening of fragile health systems, restoration of livelihoods and jobs of millions of people, keeping the economy and production running, adjusting to schools being closed and caring for the children cooped up in houses and institutions. The lessons and the new rules of the 'New Normal' are still being learnt.

The year closed with the arrival of the vaccine, presenting yet another challenge of how to reach it to all. All hopes are pinned on the vaccine even for the recovery of the economy. Children in South Asian countries of India, Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan, particularly the more vulnerable ones, stayed out of school and out of contact. Many missed the regular medical care, food, nutrition and the learning opportunities the education system provides. Without any access to play or leisure, many children entered labour to support the family and some even took to the streets as vendors or to ask for money and support. The effects of the pandemic pushed back progress made in the sectors of health, education and other sectors, damaging children's well-being in numerous ways. Over 600 million children were affected and some 430 million pushed into using remote learning.

The pandemic has not been the only challenge during the year. Climate related calamities like the cyclones, irregular rains, landslides and floods affected the already bruised poor communities. The path to recovery is long and strenuous and also full of environmental challenges.



1.1 Important Social, Economic and Political Developments

1.1.1 India

In the South Asia Region, India was the worst hit by Covid. Out of 12 million infections in the Region, 10.3 million were in India with 150,000 out of 180,000 deaths. The Pandemic caused havoc both economically and socially. Lockdowns and other regulations resulted in loss of work, livelihood, and shelter for millions of workers, some of whom walked hundreds of kilometres to return to their home villages. The GDP initially fell by 12% and though it did climb once again to 9%, the Covid-related loss of jobs, cuts in salaries and reduced opportunities for livelihood led to a crisis situation for the poorer and marginalised sections. Though the Agricultural sector did not fare too badly, farmers felt insecure due to new laws which farmers saw as threats to land ownership, remunerative prices, and the right to redressal before the courts.

Socially, the pandemic and associated lockdown seriously affected the rights of women. Violence against women, (domestic and social) increased considerably. The work participation of women fell from 14.3% to 8.7% in India. Though proportionately more women than men lost jobs, in other situations women became the sole bread winners in the family making their lives much harder.

Situation of children

The pandemic made the existing bad situation of malnutrition and child labour critically dangerous. Health services and immunisation went down by 25%. Due to the lack of access to nutrition and mid-day meals, nutrition levels fell drastically. As mentioned above, the closure of schools and the unemployment of parents pushed many children into labour. When education shifted online, 56% of children from the poorer sections who did not have digital access were badly affected. The education of girls was especially affected by this move since just 11% of the girls had smart phones, and as a result more girls than boys are dropping out of school.

1.1.2 Nepal

Though the Covid virus itself, to a large extent did not directly affect Nepal (about 260,533 infections and 1856 deaths till

April 2021), the overall impact was major because of the repercussions on the informal sector, especially tourism, which constitutes about 50% of the economy. In addition the remittance economy, maintained by over a million migrant labourers in India was badly hit. The strict and prolonged lockdown resulted in increased unemployment, with over 1.5 million losing their jobs. Overall, the economy shrunk about 6% below the 2019 levels and the recovery is slow and strenuous. Socially there was an increase in violence against women and children as also a general rise in criminality.

Situation of children

The impact on the children and the communities was similar to that in the neighbouring countries. Down-sizing of the health and social protection measures, shortage of goods and services, high levels of inflation and isolation, affected the children and the communities.

Children lost out on regular health services, food and nutrition, schooling, play and leisure. Schools are yet to reopen and with restrictions on movement still prevailing, a return to the earlier normal seems distant.



1.1.3 Pakistan

In general Pakistan has a fragile relationship with the neighbouring countries. The challenges of extremism and religious radicals, minority concerns and liberal v/s conservative are worrying. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and law and order are the breeding grounds for problems. The initial lockdowns by the government were effective in curtailing infections and unlike in other countries the second wave has not been huge. Though all the sectors of the economy were affected by the pandemic, with inflation reaching as high as 9% and adding to the woes of lockdown with loss of jobs and wages, the recovery has been rather guick. The spread of the virus itself has been slow in the 2nd half of the year unlike in other countries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the situation of malnutrition, especially in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces, which has always been acute.

Situation of children

36% of the 220 million population is below 14 years and 20% is aged between 15 and 24 years. Average literacy rate is still only 58% and the female literacy is only 45% as against 69% for males. The health and educational well-being of young people is a major concern. Infant mortality rate is high at 52.3 deaths for every 1000 lives. 10 million children are estimated to be employed as child labour.

1.1.4 Afghanistan

The initial spread of COVID 19 in Afghanistan was through infected migrant workers returning from Iran to the provinces of Herat, Kabul and other areas of Kandahar and Mazar e Sharif. At the peak of the infections, it was said that about 30% of the population was infected. However, community transmission within the country was controlled through external assistance and support of bilateral / multilateral agencies and also INGOs. At the end of the year the total number of cases was just 54000 with about 1500 deaths reported. Nevertheless, the months of April, May, and June were very difficult ones with large numbers deprived of access to food, medical support, hygiene materials and so on. In the meantime, while the ongoing peace talks were the dominant theme of the year, there was an escalation of violence all over the country, particularly in the capital and some of the other provinces.

Situation of children

Afghanistan has a young population with about 57% of the population below 25 years. Lack of access to education, particularly professional and higher education, and lack of access to schools, especially for girls, continue to be the critical challenges the country faces. Increasing the supply of food and nutrition and improving the fragile health service structure is the order of the day.

tdh Germany has been supporting projects and programmes in the four South Asian countries. All the countries had to face similar issues and challenges, namely inadequate investment in the social sectors, slow infrastructure development and high levels of disparities, but Afghanistan has also had to deal with other factors like open war, political conflict, and continual violence over the last four decades. tdh has been working with Civil Society Organisations and communities in order to capacitate and enable children and their communities to work towards claiming their rights and contributing to the national growth and development.

2. Highlights of 2020

2.1 COVID 19 relief

The highlight of the year has been the support and work towards prevention and handling of the COVID 19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impact on the vulnerable communities. tdh colleagues and the partners joined hands extensively in all the zones in India and other countries of South Asia in this Himalayan task. Multiple level of support has been extended through resources from the existing projects and new resources accessed for protecting children and their communities and also to keep them safe from infections through awareness programmes, food and nutrition support and enhanced access to services. Funds were reallocated following a due process towards organising help and support. The active engagement of partners with communities even during the lockdown was laudable.

2.2 Youth network and online solidarity

During the lockdown period the youth network, which also experienced the pain of isolation, initiated online meetings, and solidarity gatherings. This proved to be a significant initiative.

2.3 Humanitarian engagement

In addition to the stress caused by the pandemic, the Region had to overcome the regular crises, including the havoc caused by cyclone Amphen in Kolkata and parts of the coast of West Bengal, and also the floods in Assam and Bihar. tdh partners contributed according to their capacities towards supporting the affected communities.

2.4 Increase in BMZ supported and Special Donation projects:

During the year, the region had about 104 projects quite a few of them sanctioned towards the end of the year. Many of these projects are multiple year projects. The colleagues with support from the head office have put in much effort towards developing these.

Collaborative programmes, with support from Dachser, Misereor and Volkswagen Workers' Council and Employees Foundation also were renewed and expanded during the year.



3. Assessment of the New Strategic Goals

The efforts towards implementing the new strategic goals, with the focus on an integrated approach towards social justice and sustainability have resulted in an integration of the projects and programmes in the region. These goals; working towards culture of peace; providing educational and psychosocial support; combating gender discrimination; and protecting environmental rights are very closely interconnected and highly relevant to the region. It is difficult to isolate one goal from the others, e.g. peace cannot prevail without equitable treatment to persons belonging to different genders, culture and ethnicity. Consequently, though the different projects are categorised under one dominant theme, they actually function as a combination of multiple strategic goals.

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 multiactor agreements as well as measures to protect children and youth by preventing violence and creating safe environments. Peace is the prerequisite for well-being and sustainability. The different countries in the region are passing through a phase of growing rivalries and conflicts, often breaking into actual violence. In Afghanistan where a kind of civil war situation exists, with fighting between the rebel forces and the government forces together with the inter-group conflicts and violence, the lives of common people are under constant threat. Even children are targeted through attacks on schools, places of worship and other locations. Peace building integrated with conflict resolutions, tolerance, and mutual respect is both a need and desire among the common people. The tdh projects in Afghanistan focus on this theme, particularly in the context of returnees, IDPs and local populations living together in different provinces in the western part of the country. The projects WASSA and JRS are engaged in introducing different peace methodologies in order to bring communities from different ethnic groups together. Other projects like ASCHIANA also use peace methodologies in their work.





Maryam hails from Kahdestan Area of Roba Pirzadeh in Herat Province. She is a member of a large family with ten members. Her father, a daily wage worker, is the sole breadwinner. Life has been tough and full of deprivation. Maryam used to go to school and studied up to the 6th Std. After that she left school due to family opposition and lack of resources. Maryam's elder brother was a drug addict and grabbed whatever he could find for procuring his drugs. He would fight with everybody including the father who had become worried and frustrated. Maryam didn't know what to do. She desperately wanted to help out the family. Then she happened to come across a staff member of WASSA BMZ, one of the projects supported by terre des hommes Germany. During the initial meetings Mariyam was shy and reluctant to share the situation in the family. But eventually she opened up. Mariyam was invited to join the vocational training classes. Though she was only 13/14 years of age she decided to join the classes and the family looked forward to any help that might come from that. Mariyam met many girls at the training center. She got to talk to many people. She found the teachers understanding and caring. She could confide in them of her issues and aspirations. She decided to do a course in baking and confectionary. Soon she picked up the skills to make sweets on her own. Generally everybody liked what

But Mariyam was not satisfied. She wanted to continue with school. So with the help of the project staff she now attends the higher classes and plans eventually to sit for the Konkur examination. Thus Mariyam is learning while earning a small amount for her family.

that the family now has enough to eat and nourish themselves.

Mariyam made. She was happy as she was being appreciated for something for the first time in her life. So she continued to bake and improve her skills. Mariyam began to make cakes and cookies and sell them to the neighbours. She was lucky she had an uncle who had a bakery shop. She began to supply him with cakes and sweets and today Mariyam earns 3000-4000 Afghanis per month, which she contributes to the family. Her father is a relieved man, and her mother is happy

Maryam learns and earns

In Nepal, where the situation is relatively more peaceful, political rivalries and latent ethnic conflicts are still a concern. Projects Relief-Dachser-Nep-15-20, ARD-AEIN-Nep-18-20, ARD-Nep-2019-20, CDS-BMZ-Nepal-19-21, RUKUM II-BMZ-NEPAL-19-22, ARD-Nep-20-21, HURENEDC III-BMZ-Nepal-20-23, integrate this aspect together with protection of environment and children's rights. The projects are particularly located in the remote districts.

The Pakistan situation is still quite distinct from the other countries. The project locations have large number of migrant populations and conflicts driven by challenges of poverty and deprivation and also religious extremism, minority concerns are dominant. Project Lyari Girl's Cafe working with the young people is creating awareness and acting on these issues towards fostering harmony and mutual acceptance.

Moving on to the sub-continent of India – the largest country in the region, the situation of socio-political and cultural conflicts are observed specific to certain locations in the country. However, there is increasing distrust and hostility among communities, particularly regarding majority– minority relations and concerns have been escalating. The regions of north-east India and northern India witness such situations more acutely. Projects ANT-Ind-BMZ-18-21 in Assam, CWG in Manipur and Vigyan -India -20-21 in UP address these issues and focus on contributing to a culture of peace.

3.1.1 Main achievements during the year

Partner meetings during the year included trainings on peace building and as meetings were possible towards the latter half of the year, discussions on this topic were taken up across communities.

- Training on Peace & Conflict Resolution in Guwahati with 57 persons from CSOs from 5 states as well as 21 youth (11 girls & 10 boys) representing the Youth Network of Assam. 300 youth of 4 partners in Pakistan have undergone training.
- 940 children & youth (453 girls & 487 boys) in Assam regularly participated in Ultimate Frisbee training and team games.
- 67 VLCPCs in Assam and Odisha and 795 VLCPC members from 30 villages in the mining affected region of 2 districts of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana strengthened by partner organisations. An exchange visit was organised where 5 youth from Uttar Pradesh (from Dachser project) visited Assam and built understanding on conflict mitigation and Citizenship Amendment Act
- 6356 children/youth (2679 male and 3677 female), and 41staff/teachers (19 males and 22 female) were trained on conflict management and peace building in Afghanistan. 375 children from schools in Pakistan participated in drawing and performed theatre on the topic of communal harmony



 In Afghanistan, peace education was provided to 1,444 students (1,036 females and 408 male. 18 teachers (11 females and 7 male). Formation of 4 youth groups (40 members) among the members from all groups was completed by end of 2020

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.

Large-scale forced migration, particularly economic migration, has long been a harsh reality in all the countries in the region. In the year 2020, the Covid pandemic gave an even grimmer face to this unfortunate practice. In India, exceptionally strong measures like a total economic lockdown in an attempt to control the spread of the epidemic led to millions of workers losing their jobs and in any many cases, shelter and food security. Their only option was to return to their home villages. With mass transport also completely shut down, millions of workers, with their families, including little children, were forced to trek hundreds of kilometers in a mass displacement on a scale never seen before. In addition large numbers were stranded at the India-Nepal border. This required a tactical shift in programme activities.

Countering Covid epidemic and its aftermath in India

In order to counter the impact of Covid, some programme activities had to be increased and new activities initiated in a number of projects in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh TN, and Madhya Pradesh. These included

- Liaising with local authorities to ease problems of mass migration of workers and families
- Food Kits for migrants en route
- Nutrition to children missing midday meals due to closure of schools.
- Psychosocial support to displaced families / children
- Monitoring effect of migration/lockdown on child labour



First Generation Learners from Notified and De-notified Tribal Communities

12 year old Vishal and his 7 year old sister Renuka moved to the city along with their family. Like hundreds of other NT/DNT families already living in the same area, Vishal and Renuka's family was also deprived of basic facilities. They belong to a set of different communities namely, Pardhi, Wadar, Shikalgar and others. These communities lived a kind of nomadic / semi-nomadic life, moving from place to place. These communities are relatively small and do not own houses or property and many of them also do not possess the necessary documents of their citizenship or domicile. They speak different languages at home and education of the children in the family could never be a priority.

Nirman – an NGO supported by tdh Germany, works with these communities and creates awareness among them about child rights. In a couple of years the community started sending their children to schools where Nirman supports the students and the teachers so that the first generation learners can continue effective learning. The danger of dropping out or being pushed out of the school system for children of these communities is high. The children initially perceive the school atmosphere as hostile. But with the facilitation of the teachers and the Nirman colleagues, they settle down in the school gradually. Over the last three years Nirman is accompanying 250 children ensuring their continued education and development.



The regular programmes under this goal continued. In India projects such as TMCP and New Vision in Pune, Green Bricks in Delhi / Jaipur, SARATHI in UP majorly focus on education for children and child labour however psychosocial care is also included. PSS-INDIA-20-21 in the Eastern Zone and HOC-VWEF-IND-2018, AID-IND-2020, Care-T-BMZ- India 20-23, in the Southern Zone engage with children and communities of the migrant population.

Afghanistan and Pakistan were somewhat accustomed to displacement of populations due to factors like wars and internal sectarian conflicts, but Covid gave a new twist to the earlier phenomenon. Afghanistan now had to deal with the return of millions of migrant workers forced to leave Iran because of Covid. tdh projects providing educational support, counselling and psychosocial engagement tried to meet the special needs arising from Covid in addition to their regular activities. In Afghanistan the projects LEAFO and HHWO gave psychosocial support to girls and older women to treat their trauma and a large number of cases of anxiety, depression were treated. The AWEC project provides education and psychosocial assistance to child labour, mostly children of migrant families or children on their own. In the case of JRS, psychosocial care is part of the educational curriculum. Women counsellors refer clients to specialized care when required. A range of measures such as support education, school enrolment, higher education, health services and counselling and psychosocial support are part of these projects. A Project of PFF dealing with Bengali and Rohingya immigrants living in Coastal area of the Karachi city, has provided emergency support during the COVID-19 in the year of 2020 to more than 300 girls and 100 boys.

In Nepal, AAWAAJ-AEIN-Nep-18-20 and ARD-AEIN-Nep-18-20 projects provide psychosocial support and education to girls and children primarily children of migrant and poor families.

Main achievements during the year

- Migrant workers and their children were enabled to have discussions with local Administrations on their needs during the COVID 19 pandemic. One hundred and ninety parents' groups, CPCs were sensitised on child rights issues of migrant children in Pune, Mumbai and Bhopal cities.
- In Andhra Pradesh, six hundred migrant families were provided with psychosocial support and information on keeping children safe during pandemic along with the distribution of food and other essentials during the COVID 19 pandemic. In Tamil Nadu 365 children and 354 women received psychosocial care counselling during covid19 Pandemic.
- Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) has been strengthened in 15 states. CACL state chapters from



10 states conducted rapid assessment survey of effect of COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown on vulnerable children, to identify the trades attracting maximum child labour as a result of lockdown, on status of education and protection of children affected by the Covid lockdown. The reports were disseminated to the respective administration authorities

- In spite of Lockdown nutrition was made accessible to 433 small children in the districts of Giridih, Koderma, West Singhbhum and Pakur. Nutrition supplements made available to 1490 children in the mining region of Andhra Pradesh
- 4600 daily wage earners and migrant families in the north facilitated to access dry ration and state government monetary support.
- 2136 vulnerable families linked to the food security programme of the government and 163 migrant household assisted to access the government employment scheme during the lockdown in MP and Bihar).
- 2200 children were facilitated to receive midday meal food security allowance and immunization service from AWCs and Schools.
- 850 families were supported to get work under MGNREGA in UP and Uttarakhand.
- 100 labourers from Rajasthan were supported to back their home safely and settled their wages.
- Twelve online sessions for organisations' staff working with migrants were organised on psychosocial support during the covid lockdown and one physical session was organised after the lockdown
- Seven cases of child marriage prevented, and 1 case of child labour rescued in the western zone. In NO 24 girls

were saved from physical violence in Bihar, 1 girl was rescued from child marriage while 226 children were enrolled in schools/remedial centres and partially/fully prevented from child labour in UP, Bihar and Rajasthan.

- In Nepal, coordination with Municipalities for selecting beneficiaries for scholarship and learning material support to 999 needy children. They were provided support for food/non-food items, sanitizing materials during the COVID pandemic during which priority was given to children of migrant families.
- In Pakistan, 1405 immigrant youths actively took part in social development discourse in Ibrahim Hyderi area of Karachi.
- 2265 migrant children from 22 communities and 1106 migrant children, children of mine workers and other displaced children were provided with psychosocial support during covid lockdown following all precautionary measures
- In Afghanistan, 1855 beneficiaries (705 males, 887 females and 263 children) received individual advice services while 1042 beneficiaries (394 males, 464 females and 184 children) received group discussion services. Psychosocial training was offered to 18 teachers (11 female and 7 male) to support the students in need of psychosocial support. 5927 beneficiaries (1735 males, 2724 females and 1468 children) participated in 447 family counselling sessions.
- 5927 beneficiaries / IDPs (1735 males, 2724 females and 1468 children) received psychosocial services in Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor Provinces of Afghanistan. Out of these beneficiaries, 1018 beneficiaries (including 303 males, 505 females and 210 children) received individual counselling services.

• In Afghanistan, 560 children and youth provided with psychosocial support and 50 children and youth are undergoing individual counselling

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 programme approach on environmental child rights. Jointly with children and youth groups, terre des hommes and partners have raised global awareness on environmental child rights and succeeded in including them into public policies.

As indicated in the description of the situation, in addition to the COVID 19 pandemic climate change related developments also contributed to the deprivation and hardships of children and their communities in the region. Various environmental issues and ecological imbalances have been directly impacting communities in the coastal areas, mountainous regions and in the river delta regions. Projects supported by tdh engage with such communities in both the Himalayan region as well as the regions of the eastern and western coastal belts. Projects in Bihar, UP and



parts of Assam are regularly engaged in climate change related events.

The tdh supported youth network – Youth for Ecological Sustainability, has consistently raised awareness of these issues with the public and also engaged in an action programme to protect rivulets/water sources and plantation and protection of trees in rural areas, and in urban areas through schemes to reduce plastic pollution through segregation and cleaning of waste. This youth network engagement is spread across the country. Additionally, in India the project HESCO in Uttarakhand and SKVS-PACE in UP have endeavoured towards protection of soil and water and prevention of erosion.

In Pakistan the project AWARE supports the communities in their struggle against the increasing desertification of agricultural land. In Nepal projects like HuRENDEC and CDS-Nep-18, Relief-Dachser-Nep-15-20, ARD-Nep-2019-20, CDS-BMZ-Nepal-19-21, RUKUM II-BMZ-NEPAL-19-22, HURENEDC III-BMZ-Nepal-20-23 work with communities on soil and water conservation and also other nature-protection initiatives. A small youth group in Afghanistan set up by the partners Aschiana and others are initiating the youth on environmental issues.



Traditional Water Mills - Improved and Sustained.

Water Mills- Serving Communities for Centuries in the Himalayas

The use of water mills for grinding grain has been an age old practice in the mountainous regions of the State of Uttarakhand. More than 200,000 water mills, locally called 'Gharat', have been serving rural communities in the Himalayan region. However, there are challenges of low productivity and high costs of repair involved in the running of these mills and in the 1980s, with the introduction of modern mills using diesel or electricity, these traditional water mills suffered a major setback. In 1990, **Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO)** organized water millers to seek government support in reviving the traditional mills with new technology. As a result, the Ministry of Renewable Energy, Government of India launched a scheme for the millers with 70% subsidy. The Ministry of Small Scale Industry also gave the status of industry to these mills. These developments helped the millers to get technology and resource support.





Upgradation of traditional water mill in Kalsi Block, Uttarakhand

Old wine in a new bottle- benefits of new technology

The traditional water mills have wooden blades and turbine and use running water of the hills to power the blades. The technology upgradation through HESCO, introduced metal blades and turbines, and power from flowing water, resulting in the efficiency of the traditional mills increasing 3 – 4 times. Also, this upgradation ensured low cost, easy handling and locally repairable technology. People say that the quality of flour produced by these mills is better owing to the slower grinding of the grains with hydro power, as compared to the flour made in the mills run by diesel or electric power. With the support of tdh-Germany, HESCO upgraded 2 traditional water mills in these remote parts of Uttarakhand.





Inside of the mill

Metal turbine run by a stream

A significant advantage of this new version of the traditional mill is that it is eco-friendly. HESCO has shown that as this mill does not require wooden turbine and blades, it avoids the felling of trees. Also, since no diesel is burnt to run this mill, there is no carbon emission and hence there is no air pollution.

The lifespan of a traditional water mill (made of wooden blades and turbine) is between 15-20 years whereas the new or upgraded mill can function for much longer. As these mills run with the same principle as big dams, production of hydro-electricity was added as another wing to this enterprise. So through generation of electricity, many villages which were in dark were illuminated through these mills.

Gharat- a community asset and livelihood generator

There are now around 5000 such 'gharats' or water mills operating in the State of Uttarakhand under the supervision of HESCO. One such gharat caters to 200-300 families. A gharat is run by one family but it is a community asset. Depending on the proximity to a running water source and suggestions of the community members, HESCO selects one person/family to run a gharat.

A nominal amount is charged (Rs.2 per kilogram) for grinding grain for people availing the service of the gharat. In case someone is unable to pay in cash for this service, they give a portion of their grains instead.

People say that "now with this gharat near to our homes we are able to get the flour in quick time and at any time of the day or night." In the absence of any specific public communication space, this gharat also acts as a centre of information sharing for the local people, a kind of centre point for the villages.

While the gharat serves the community, it is an Investment for life for the person/ family running the mill. So, this initiative has also produced a significant number of entrepreneurs, providing livelihood to many people in these remote villages.

Story of a person running a gharat

Sushil Kumar is a native of Rampur village. He is 22 years old. His is a joint family comprising his father, mother, uncle (father's brother) and his wife (aunt), 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Sushil attended school up to the 12th class (intermediate level).

The family is into agriculture and Sushil's father and grandfather had been running a traditional water mill for many years. So, Sushil was already exposed to the water mill business since childhood. This traditional water mill run by Sushil's family was selected for upgradation by HESCO. Sushil was provided with the necessary knowledge and



Sushil with members of his village-Rampur



Sushil and his gharat

skills for running and maintaining this gharat with the new technology. Today, Sushil is able to run the gharat very well, confidently and independently. He is able to earn a decent living of Rs. 25,000 per month though this home-based enterprise.

This water mill run by Sushil serves 4 villages viz. Rampur, Ghadol, Visraj and Muldhan. Earlier people had to spend an hour to get their grains made into flour from the diesel or electric mill located in another village, far from their houses. Now, the gharat is convenient and also saves them the cost of travel as it is at their doorstep.

Sushil is a living example of how the advent of water mills has transformed the lives of rural people in the Himalayan region. Not only is he serving the local people through this enterprise but he is willing to help other people within the State or elsewhere with his acquired knowledge and skills about the 'gharat'.

Challenge

In these parts of Uttarakhand, there is natural water supply (rain and glacier water) for 4-6 months of the year. As the water mills operate on running water, they are not functional for the remaining months of the year. So the 'mill entrepreneurs' like Sushil and their families have to rely on other occupations, i.e. cultivation or labour work for those dry months.

Solution

HESCO plans to construct a chamber on a hill top which would be a confluence of nearby streams (water diverted through PVC pipes and channelizing them) to produce incessant running water for the gharat over the whole year.

Future

Since 1986, over 5000 water mills have been upgraded with the support of HESCO and many more will be done in future. This initiative is the first de-centralised water enterprise of its kind in India. In the near future, HESCO plans to open a 'Water Mill Station' in Dehradun. This would be an institution for knowledge and skills generation with regard to the water mill enterprise.

Apart from all its benefits, the water mill initiative is also a way to conserve water, hence conserving nature. The future of the remote Himalayan villages seems brighter with the traditional water mills finding their place in the good hands of the younger generation.

Village Gangchau wakes up...

Gangchua and the Baiga community

Keshar Baiga says, "The village of Gangchua is very old but we are originally from Village Daldali. When it was discovered that bauxite was abundant in Daldali, the government and big industrialists made life a living hell for us. They told our forefathers to leave the village and displaced them. Where would they go? Three families strayed into this forest and started living here. But life was not easy as not only was there a danger of wild animals but the attitude of people already living there wasn't pleasant. Within two months two families moved out though one family bravely continued to live there. Our village Daldali was razed, our houses, fields and forests destroyed and large mines dug and numerous people were displaced. The displaced gradually settled in Gangchua. Today, this village has a population of 235, consisting of 53 Baiga families who live in 52 houses. There are more women in our village than men and we listen to them".

The village Gangchua is located in the midst of dense forests, falling under the Singhari Panchayat¹ Life for the displaced Baigas has been a continuous struggle, without essential amenities like housing, livelihood, health and education. They had repeatedly approached the panchayat for help but to no avail. In 2007, despite the hurdles put up by the forest department, they cleared trees, leveled the land, started farming and built huts to live in.

When 'Shikhar Yuva Manch' supported by terre des hommes and Misereor Germany approached the people they were not even ready to talk to them. There was immense fear of yet another displacement. But by and by, after various informal discussions, the team of Shikhar Yuva Manch made friends wtih the villagers.



A meaningful initiative

There were a number of challenges in all the 15 selected villages of the project such as non-cooperation of Panchayat officials, and harassment by the of forest department. Awareness was created in the people, problems identified and leaders chosen from amongst them. Among the chosen fifteen villages there were schools in only two villages. The people were organized to fight for

^{1.} Panchayat is a grassroot -level formalized local-self government at the village or small-town level.

more schools. Officials were invited to the village, demonstrations held and applications submitted. Thus schools started in these villages.

The Health Worker (Mitanin)² was generally from outside the village. The organization created awareness among the panchayat about selecting women from their own villages and motivated them to put forth this point in the Gram Sabha³. Thus daughters and daughters-in-law from the village were selected and trained as Mitanins. Health camps were organized on a large scale in these villages. Gradually more government employees visited the villages and seeing the good work being done, they became more sensitive towards the Baiga community.

Setting up anganwadis⁴ helped promote immunization and nutrition for young children. Matiya, who is a Mitanin proudly says, "When I arrange medicines for everyone, I feel good. The organization has introduced me to all the government departments and I have learnt their purpose. I can confidently express myself and put forth my point. There are no home-deliveries of children. I dial the number 102 ambulance service for delivery of all pregnant women and accompany them to the hospital. There is regular immunization in the village now".



Livelihood was still a problem. The organization discussed the importance of minor forest produce. It advised and organized them to sell their forest produce at the block and district markets so that they would get good prices. They followed their advice and got better prices for Chirota, Amla, Mahua, Achar (Charoli), Tendu leaves⁵ and pehri (mushroom). Ayodhya Jaiswal says, "We encouraged the people to come forward themselves and learn and be independent. We introduced them to the block and district level government offices, helped them learn the rules and regulations, and how to fill different kinds of application forms. Today the people are very knowledgeable be it from the Keshar Baigas, Dhauliya Baigas or Matiyas.

Achievements in Gangchua

Today Gangchua has a primary school and all the children are enrolled. All villages have Anganwadis and women and children are benefiting from the services. Home deliveries have been replaced by hundred percent institutional deliveries. Each village has

^{2.} Mitanin is a community organizer who also provides health services.

^{3.} Gram Sabha constitutes all person whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat.

^{4.} Anganwadi is a child care centre for under five children.

^{5.} Chirota, Amla, Mahua, Achar, Tendu leaves are herbs, spices and others plants which are minor forest products.

a Mitanin who provides health services and medicines to the people. In Gangchua, people do farming after leveling 450 acres of land. Seventeen families have got forest rights' leases. Action is underway for the rest to get similar leases. The Baigas cultivate Kodo⁶ along with paddy, arhar and other pulse crops in the fields and some vegetables in their home gardens. Though an electric connection was present in the village, it was not available to them. Due to the efforts of the institution, people now not only have electricity in Gangchua, but also have pucca or concrete houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana⁷. There are now two Panchs from this village in Singhari Panchayat who consistently represent any problems of their village in the Pachayat.

Women's groups invest their savings in poultry and make additional income. They earn profits from selling forest produce, in spite of the harassment by the forest department. The village had initially constructed a Sangwari centre or a Meeting Place of bamboo.. Today that building is made of concrete and continues to be a 'light house' for solving any issues of the village.

Gangchau has woken up and is alive today with children studying in school, health workers delivering services, women cultivating and doing animal husbandary and the whole community relying on non-timber minor forest produces for their livelihood.

^{6.} Kodo is a kind of millet

^{7.} Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna is a scheme launched by the Prime Minster to provide housing for the poor.

Main achievements during the year

- In 22 villages of Sundargarh & Keonjhar Districts, Odisha, youth groups organized a campaign on sustainable development and ECR with the local children's groups.
 812 children have improved their nutritional status
- Lyari Girls Café organised a demo rally on environment protection in which 350 girls and 85 community members participated.
- 1500 children and women helped to improve their nutritional status with Spirulina Nutribar and healthy eating practices.



- In 16 villages of Sundargarh District, Odisha, local youth groups along with return migrants organized tree plantation drives by mobilising resources from the Forest Department, and plantation was done on 2.5 acres of land.
- Children's groups in 40 villages of Maharashtra engaged in environment awareness and promotion of indigenous seeds.

- 50 nurseries, 639 seed banks, 1173 kitchen gardens, 34 polyhouses, 4 diversity parks were established in UP and Uttarakhand with approx. 52000 plantation under Dachser and Hesco BMZ project.
- Accessibility of clean water is ensured for 2500 families through cleaning of 38 springs in Uttarakhand and repairing of 60 handpumps in Uttar Pradesh.
- 34 ponds were also cleaned in UP which provided water for cattle and agricultural work.
- Children and youth groups have established 66 local vegetable seed banks and they are managing collection and distribution of seeds in Madhya Pradesh (VSS). 1914 farmers are benefitting from this.
- 6339 organic kitchen gardens have been set up in 140 villages of MP and Bihar to promote nutritional diversity (VSS) benefitting 31695 people.
- 349 youth adopted sustainable farming practices such as using indigenous seeds, applying organic pesticides, mix cropping etc (MGVS- Maharashtra)
- Children and youth in 100 villages of Madhya Pradesh have collected and documented information on 140 flora and 18 fauna till the end of the year (VSS).





- Global Action Month observed with the #My Planet My Rights in the region. 11706 (6206 online and 5500 offline) petitions under My Planet My Rights filed by youth in ROSA.
- Earth Day, World Environment Day were observed by 22859 youth in the region by conducting tree plantation drives and online campaigns.
- 450 children trained on WASH and ecological child rights in 3 government schools in Maharashtra (PWSS WASH project).
- In 22 villages of project implementation area of Odisha project on Food Sovereignty & Addressing Malnutrition following results achieved: -
- 812 children improved nutrition status.
- 34 seed banks have been established
- 3885 families have increased period of food security up to 12 months in a year.
- 6339 tribal and Dalit households and 2580 malnourished children in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have access to supplementary nutrition and green and leafy vegetables (VSS-BMZ II).



- 102 defunct water structures (MP-40, Bihar-74) repaired and desilted for drinking water and irrigation use (VSS).
- LGC have produced 10000 cotton bags and distributed them among communities. 740 children and 350 youth participated in anti-plastic bag campaign.
- 5932 families are doing waste segregation. 235 children and youths are actively involved in the monitoring of the waste segregation in their communities (Yuva BMZ).
- DevCon youth have managed restoration of the drinking water pipeline with the support of the government which provides safe drinking water to 250,000 population. 300 youth are taking part in the Plastic Free Campaign in Pakistan
- More than 2000 trees have been planted by the youth and children in schools and surroundings and are watered regularly. In Nepal 6 local-level press meets on SDGs and environment issues were organized at province level and 4 street dramas demonstrated on environment issues. A total of 12,12,73 seedling/ samplings were planted by CBOs in public and private land in the project areas of Nepal.

3.4. Strategic goal 4: FIGHTING GENDER BASED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Gender discrimination and gender based violence is a matter of general concern in the South Asian region. In spite of much effort from government and non governmental agencies, gender based discrimination and violence has been generally on the increase. In the context of additional negative events such as the COVID 19 pandemic, the vulnerable sections of women become more vulnerable and the impact on them multiplied. Gender justice has been a general concern in project work but currently is a specific strategic goal, this has received greater focus. In Afghanistan, a major goal is promotion of education for girls both at primary and higher secondary levels. In Pakistan, the same objective is achieved through enabling girls to engages in games and sports activities and providing them independent sources of incomes through skill training.

In India, the project in Tamil Nadu "Decent work in Southern India's Textile Supply Chain" provides protection to girls employed in the hosiery sector and promotes their rights in education, skill training and also psychosocial well-being. Projects such as SARD in Rajasthan, Bhoomika Vihar in Bihar and SKVS in UP work actively against gender discrimination.

Main Achievements during the year.

This Strategic Goal in general has led to an increased awareness on Gender discrimination in a variety of ways in society. These include domestic violence against women, discriminatory behavior between boys and girls and sexual harassment at the workplace. At the level of processes, it has shown how gender discrimination is perpetuated all over the region through male dominated decision making, lack of girl's participation in jobs, low priority to girls' education



specially in higher education, lack of mobility and sports spaces for girls and lack of proportional representation of women in the work.

- 11 women from Uttar Pradesh were elected as ward members. This has led to better access to immunisation services for children and women.
- 3000 women get employment through MNREGA in Karnataka.
- 90 partners out of 104 in the region have gender policies in their organisations.
- Youth Group members of Nishtha (East) have conducted gender sensitization sessions with children and community members. 60 Gender Rights volunteers trained on Gender based violence in 15 villages of Madhya Pradesh.



Children as Protagonists of Their Rights

Anjali Pokharel felt helpless when she heard that one of her classmates, aged around 15 years, was eloping with a young driver. She was aware of consequences of child marriage on girls lives and she wanted to stop it, but she thought that, as an individual, she could do nothing.

But it did not take her long to realize that the Child Club, initiated by Relief Nepal to which she belonged could help to stop this marriage. She spoke to her friends in the Bikas Child Club and the children collectively convinced the eloping girl not to marry her boyfriend immediately.

Anjali, who has recently been elected president of the Club, thinks stopping child marriage was one of the biggest achievements of her Child Club so far. However, the Club is not restricted only to preventing child marriage; it has helped the children fight against anything that obstructs them from enjoying their rights, while also grooming themselves as leaders.

Pokharel has been a member of Child Club since its inception. "Children like me came together to form this Child Club with the objective of doing something good in our society," she says. "Till today, we have achieved a lot in our mission, but we still have a long way to go."

According to Anjali, the Club was initially focused on helping out-of-school children get access to education. "We collected information about children who were not going to school and tried to find out the reasons. If they were not going because of ignorance, we provide them information why going to school is important," the leader explains. "If they were not going because they did not have money to buy books and stationery, we would support them to get such things."

These days, the Child Club is also actively involved in a sanitation and cleanliness campaigns in the community. Its members go around the village every week and collect waste from public places such as streets and playgrounds. Likewise, the child club also organized a plantation program.

Though the initiatives taken by the Child Club seem easy, they face many challenges according to Anjali. She says, for example, that some of these out-of-school children were laborers; convincing them to join school was really difficult.

When child activists tried to stop the child marriage of their friend, they faced numerous hurdles. At first, the girl was stubborn. Secondly, the driver, whom the girl was eloping was already in his late 20s or early 30s and the children were not confident enough to talk to him. Further, the girl's family was unaware of her plan because she had lied to them.

"Therefore, we called the Area Police in Bhiman and sought their support. Likewise, we also called people from Maiti Nepal," says Anjali. Maiti Nepal of Sindhuli District is a leading anti-human trafficking NGO of the country. And with this back-up they eventually succeeded in stopping the marriage.

Relief Nepal, is a partner organisation of terre des hommes Germany and leads the project Improving Sanitation, Health and Education in 3 VDCs in Sindhuli District, Nepal'. The project is supported with funds from Dachser.

Today Priya Leads a Dignified Life

Sudantra Priya hails from Valaparei – the well-known hilly tea region of Tamil Nadu. Born into a family of daily wage workers on the plantations, she had just the bare necessities as child. As soon as she finished secondary school she was tipped to work in the textile mills of Tirupur where her older sister was already employed. The family needed her earnings for the upbringing of the younger siblings. She was promised Rs 50000 at the end of three years and also hostel accommodation and some pocket money during the contract period.

Priya found the working conditions tough. The working hours were long and the living facility and food barely tolerable. They got couple of weeks leave during the year when they could go home. Once when she was on leave, the staff of the tdh supported project "Education of Worst Forms of Child Labour" happened to meet her and they talked about her experiences at the hostel and in the company. She was advised to look at other options. Meanwhile her sister, unable to cope with the working and living conditions there had left the job. Priya started thinking: She had dreams of doing computer education or studying for nursing but her parents could not afford any of these. The project staff continued meeting her and called her to the counselling center. Through many discussions it became clear that she was interested in computers. So the same was offered to her. Simultaneously she was also motivated to appear for her Higher Secondary School Exam. She started visiting the project library and also the coaching classes. There were also opportunities for personality development and other life skills education. It was all not easy. Her parents were apprehensive about her safety as a young girl, due to her being a girl and also because the area was under the threat of wild animals.

Priya continued her work in the textile industry but worked hard and completed her diploma in computer education. She fought through all the hardships. With the support and friendships she had found in the project team and among the girls she was able to withstand the exploitative conditions. Eventually she also passed the Higher Secondary Examination and quit the job at the textile mills. Priya then appeared for selection tests conducted by the Forest Department for the post of computer operator. She did well and she had the advantage of being a local girl.

So thus Priya today is an employee of the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu State Government. More than that, Priya is a peer leader and is engaged in motivating other girls to resist discrimination and exploitation and to live a dignified life. Priya is one among the 1383 young girls rescued and supported by the project "Decent working conditions in the textile supply chain in South India" implemented by Care T with full support from terre des hommes Germany, Ministry of Economic of Cooperation – Federal Government of Germany and Laudes Foundation.

Priya has transformed herself and is helping change the lives of other girls and the situation of the labouring community.



- In Nepal, 29 Gender and leadership training were organized with 778 women participating.
- In Nepal 31 sessions on women rights and GBV at local level were organized for 3535 members of the women groups.750 trainee women from Devcon project joined the awareness raising events.
- In Pakistan 500 youth, 200 women 400 children have been regularly using WOMEN PARK for walk, sports, events related to universal days and also for marketing of clothes and other items.
- 309 children and 15 young coaches are promoting gender sensitization in communities of Dumka district in Jharkhand using Rugby as the medium. 70 girls from Lyari Girls' Cafe regularly take part in cycling, 30 girls are taking part in football, 30 girls are taking part in boxing.
- 2 Frisbee teams have been formed of nomadic and denomadic community girls and boys living in Bhopal city and their participation in the game is encouraged (Muskaan BMZ).
- One state level meeting youth (virtual) was organized on GBRV in Delhi.



- 25 action groups of young women are monitoring and addressing violence against women and also preventing children from school dropout in Tamil Nadu.
- Literacy training was provided to 131 females in Afghanistan to enable them to manage their regular interaction while improving their self-esteem
- 40 Women members from Rajasthan had a dialogue with local government authorities to shut down the liquor shop in their community.
- 25 Young adolescent from Bihar initiated a campaign named "Break the Silence and Discard Violence".
- 936 stakeholders were trained and familiarised with laws protecting women at work place, children rights and importance of girl children education in Tamil Nadu
- Mill Codex was introduced to retailers, parliamentarians, and civil society organisations in Germany during February 2020





- 45 girls from Pahal project (MP) trained in self-defence and 35 girls from SYM project (CG) trained in male dominated occupations such as hand pump repairing, motorcycle repairing, electrical fitting, mobile repairing etc. 36 girls from Badwani district (Pahal) and Mumbai (Yuva) getting trained in male dominated sports. 14 girls trained in industrial training at RTTI placed in jobs
- DevCon in Karachi has trained 300 women in stitching and computer. They also had sessions on health, environment, child labour, business development and online marketing of products.
- Women Park is established by the PFF and more than 1000 women, girls and children have taken part in regular visits, events and sports in the park



3.5. JOINT CAMPAIGN - INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

The region has tried to keep the ECR campaign active even in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The euphoria that the lockdowns contributed to cleaning up the environment was short lived as the recovery process started travails of pollution and other environmental hazards restored even more aggressively. Due to the pandemic there is a return of Plastic and Toxic waste which needs to be contained. The youth groups in different locations have been interacting with each other and also with the communities. They have done this locally and also regionally using online media. Some of the specific initiatives have been

- Observed important days like Earth Day, World Environment Day and World Play Day and also attended Virtual workshop on Citizen Journalism, Session on climate change and Pandemic by using online platforms like Zoom Meetings & Facebook Live.
- Earth Week was observed and children & youth from all over the country participated by sharing their photos and videos.
- On 12th August, we celebrated International Youth Day and around 300 youth from different states of India raised their state level demand through posters. And also done advocacy through Twitter top withdraw EIA draft proposed by Environment and Earth Sciences Ministry of Govt. of India.
- Campaign against single use plastic and demand ban of the same. Mass awareness drive for waste segregation and disposal.
- MPMR Campaign- 6206 online signatures & 5500 offline signatures (till Dec 2020) / Online Facebook launch of the MPMR campaign by South Asia youth network members.
- Main activities done during 2020- cleaning of water sources in Uttarakhand, development of biodiversity park in UP, Social Media campaign on Cracker free Diwali by Delhi youth network; Campaign on Waste Segregation in MP; Weekly cleaning of River Ganga in West Bengal.
- NYN Observed Friday for Future Global Strike on 25th Sept 2020.

The new campaign #MYPLANETMYRIGHTS was initiated and popularised. In India, youth groups promoted by Psycho Trust in Tamil Nadu India, NIWCYD and Muskaan



from MP and SYM from CG and Delhi and Rajasthan actively participated in this. Groups in Pakistan were especially active in the Campaign through different programmes. Youth groups used cycling, and boxing and other means to take the message of the campaign far and wide. A few youth from Afghanistan were also part of the Campaign. In Nepal and India, initial activities were mostly online though by the end of the year, youth were also able to meet face to face and discuss within their projects and also between projects. 176 activities of the youth were posted in the GAM website by partners and youth from different parts of the region.

3.6. Focal Themes

Towards Well Being – Beyond Development

The focal theme Towards Well being - Beyond Development was largely pushed into the background during the year because of the pandemic. Though the partner dialogue processes on the focal themes continued online, actual debates or action programmes were not feasible. Efforts to provide inputs and debates on the focal theme will be a priority in the post pandemic situation.

Achievements during the year

The women's initiative to address malnutrition in the 10 backward villages of Kolar District Karnataka by production & distribution of Spirulina Nutribar has led to the improvement in health of 1500 most marginalized migrant families in the District. During COVID 19 pandemic situation, Spirulina Nutribars were procured and distributed to COVID 19 patients and the frontline health workers in Tumkur District by the District Health Department as per the orders of the District Administration.

3.7 Priority Setting

The strategic goals adopted in 2018 govern the priority goals of terre des hommes in South Asia. However, as the regional situation is rapidly changing due to multiple factors especially the Covid Epidemic and the ensuing lockdown, certain adaptation became necessary during the reporting year. The initial plans were to emphasise on promoting the culture of peace and providing educational and psychosocial

support to children affected by forced migration. The first quarter of the year presented a different reality with the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic. By the middle of March, when the virus was declared a global pandemic, it had also started in India. The subsequent lockdowns and restrictions on the one hand called for a change in plans and on the other hand created new situations which demanded special attention. The immediate priority was to be of assistance to people who were impacted by the lockdowns, loss of jobs, livelihood and in many cases loss of housing. Children lost their time in school and also companionships, play and elementary medical care. This became the programme priority which eventually moved into extending support to communities in the unlocking process, jobs restoration of livelihood measures and continuing learning both online and through distance learning. The partner organisations of terre des hommes remained engaged with the needs of the communities in this changing situation without losing sight of the long term goals.





4. Programmeme Development

In this, the second year of implementation of the new Strategic Goals, the planned focus in programme development had been on psychosocial training and education. However, the plans had to be modified and adapted to the situation in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Modification forced by Covid Epidemic

- Programmes converted into Online activities
- Some activities postponed until situation improved sufficiently
- Budgets adjusted to provide funds to emergency action related to Covid
- Training and Partners visits suspended or delayed

Nevertheless, the partner organisations and the colleagues remained alert and closely interacted with the communities both by responding to the situation and extending mutual support. This called for extensive discussions with the donor agencies and also the head office.

In addition to the pandemic, the Programme had to respond to the humanitarian situations arising out of cyclones and floods in different parts of the country. The cyclone Amphen in the east coast caused immense sufferings to rural population in West Bengal while the floods did havoc in Assam and also Bihar.

4.1 Project Support

Despite the hurdles due to Covid, the project support in the region maintained its scope, and overall coverage actually increased as special humanitarian projects were sanctioned in some of the countries. There was also an enhanced cooperation with co-financing agencies such as BMZ, Misereor and Bread for the World. These resulted in new project supports and also higher levels of planning for the future. Some of the long standing cooperation arrangements like the one with Dachser and Volkswagen Employees Foundation also expanded.

In Afghanistan the new project initiated in 2019 by WASSA went into full operation while other similar initiatives have also been developed during the year. JRS completed the three years project supported by BMZ and a five years continuation has been sanctioned.

In Nepal the focus continued to be on protection of water sources, land resources and support to communities living on the mountainous regions.

Every zone and country has had an increase in funds from different sources. A total of 104 projects were supported with a total budget of Euro 5055744. Besides the funds of regional budget, extra funds from 'Special Donors' have also been raised. In the current situation many online meetings were organized with donors so that they could have interesting engagements with communities that they could not visit. The new phase of Dachser started as planned in October 2020. A new project supported by Misereor in Nepal will start from April 2021. The projects supported by both Misereor and Bread for the World in the mining sector in India will continue though funds will now be transferred to HO and then from there to the partners. Support from organisations in Luxembourg has reduced. AEIN has 3 partners in India and PSF has only one partner CDS, in Nepal. Support to projects through VWEF and VWWC continue. Expansion of support through BMZ also continues in the whole region. Because of the changes in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in India, cluster projects had to be broken up into individual projects and partners. This required a lot more administrative work and also it will result in the working with larger number of partner organisations directly.

4.2 Evaluations and Assessments

Learning while doing is the spirit under which tdh engages with projects and partner organisations. So it is natural to look back and understand the achievement and failures in the process of project and programme implementation. tdh Germany in South Asia continued to do this during the reporting year in spite of the Covid-related and other restrictions. Fortunately, many of the evaluations and reviews were completed in the first quarter of the year before the pandemic was in full spate, and others were postponed towards the last quarter when conditions eased. In Afghanistan, the first BMZ supported project JRS had completed the field work before the pandemic and was evaluated by Dr Milind Bokil. Similarly, DISHA BMZ in India was evaluated by Debal Deb. Mariette Correa reviewed the PSF supported project in Gujarat while Malini Mukharjee and Milind Bokil jointly did the end study on ANT BMZ.

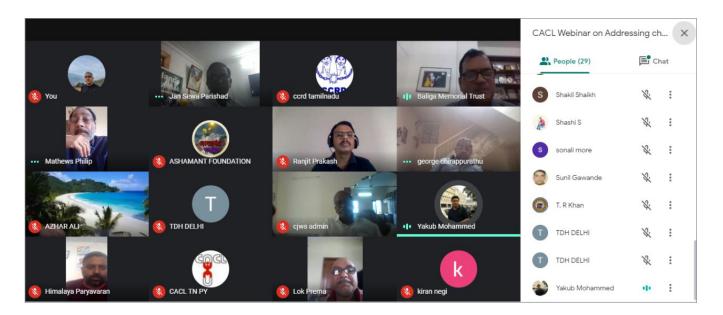
Additionally, feasibility studies in India and in Afghanistan were also undertaken during the year. The efforts have always been to engage local experts with enough experience for analysing the implementation process and the end results. Critical and weak areas of performance were highlighted for further analysis and learning. This has helped improve the performance subsequently. A comprehensive list of the commissioned evaluations, assessments and feasibility studies is given below.

Project Evaluations					
Project Code	Project Title	Evaluator			
Anandi PSF	Improving health status of children and women	Mariette Correa			
ANT BMZ	Conflict resolution and peace education for children and adolescents in northeast India	Milind Bokil and Malini Mukherjee			
ASTITVA-GMVS	Building community resilience to drought	Amit Narkar			
DISHA BMZ	SEWOH - DISHA - Seeds: Food sovereignty for Adivasi communities in Odisha, India	Debel Deb			
Prasoon PSF	Improved health and nutrition status of Tribal and Dalit households in Ganj Basoda	Mariette Correa			

JRS BMZ *this was commissioned in the year 2019 but completed in the year 2020	Educational Opportunities for Children, Youth and Young Adults from Returnee Families in Afghanistan	Dr. Milind Bokil
Feasibility Studies		
NEADS-PAD BMZ	Strengthening resilience: sustainable adaptation to climate change in flood-affected areas Assam through multi-sectorial prevention and adaptation mechanisms and advocacy for climate insurance	Partha Jyoti Das
Sunderbans BMZ	Empowered: climate-affected communities in Sundarbans are socially, economically, ecologically and politically strengthened and are committed to combating the consequences of climate change	Change Scape
Odisha BMZ	Strengthening food sovereignty for indigenous communities through a community-based, gender- sensitive and participatory food security model based on traditional knowledge in two districts of Odisha, India	NP Research and Development Agency
RPSA	Strengthening Women, Promoting Peace, Networking Across Countries, Enabling Education: Better Integration of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Host Communities	Peace of Mind Afghanistan
JRS BMZ II	Peace education, gender-sensitive measures and educational opportunities promote the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons in the project regions in Afghanistan	Naseer Ahmad Mohammadi

4.3 Partner Meetings

tdh in South Asia has a tradition of engaging closely with the partner organisations, both individually and collectively through various fora. Apart from mutual visits and group discussions on the basis of common themes, the annual partner meetings are important events every year. This normally includes inputs by external resource persons on the current situations and concerns and discussions on the relevance of these to the children and marginalised communities. Additionally, there are also gatherings to do peer review on the child safeguarding measures as well as complaint committees against sexual harassment (prevention of gender discrimination). The strategic goals of tdh Germany and achievements are also reviewed. The strategic goals were integrated into project work in discussions with partners through the partner meetings. Both the SG on violence against women and that of ecological rights were well integrated into programme work. Every zone and country had its meetings during the year. Staff of NGOs participated enthusiastically. It was interesting to see the active discussion between the different groups and the interchange. Staff were able to enlist very interesting 'resource persons' for these meetings, since they were relatively free because of the Covid restrictions. Discussions were also held on the changes in the FCRA Amendment which has caused a lot of confusion particularly among small NGOs in India.



5. Institutional Development

(staff development, financial/budget development/regional fundraising)

5.1 Staff development:

A 3 day staff meeting was organised in Goa in January 2020 at which Mr Albert Recknagel participated with all the staff of the region.

ROSA has a staff of 27 persons across 4 countries. To assist the growing programme in Nepal, an additional staff was appointed during the year as an Accounts and Admin Executive. The staff of ROSA continue to remain motivated and enthusiastic with a high degree of involvement and commitment. During the pandemic, regular online meetings were organised with the staff on a weekly basis to understand the difficulties of partners and youth in the different projects that are supported by tdh. Most of the trainings took place online. At the end of the year a physical outdoor training was organised near Pune, with the majority of staff from the India team attending. This helped in improving both the reporting and planning procedures for the coming year. Despite having to work from home because of Covid, and the grim situation in the country and the region, staff worked tirelessly to reach out to communities and youth. The restrictions on travel meant that the staff had more time for writing new concept notes for donors. Many of these concept notes were sanctioned during the year and full-fledged proposals are now being worked on. ROSA also appointed a consultant in the Coordination office by the name of Swati Chawla to assist in the writing of proposals

and streamline reports from the region. Due to the Covid situation, appraisal process was suspended for the past year and has since been reinstituted for the current year.

As Alakananda Ghosh resigned from the position of National Coordinator – Communication and Resource Mobilisation, Ms Aditi Pandey was appointed as National Coordinator – Resource Mobilisation and Communication. Ms Pandey will work from the Delhi office. In the Eastern office a new staff Rohit Rakshit was hired towards the end of the year to coordinate the GIZ project for Eradication of Child Labour in the Mica Industry.

The compliance requirements after the passing and coming into force of the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Act 2020 in India were both challenging and cumbersome. However, all efforts were made to ensure full compliance.

terre des hommes Germany in India has been registered as a Branch Office under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and also under the Indian Companies Act 2013, Registrar of Companies (ROC) Delhi. The yearly compliances under this Act have been completed through Company Secretaries appointed in Pune. In Nepal the registration of terre des hommes Germany as an INGO under the Social Welfare Council expired early in the reporting year. The renewal applications were filed and pursued and a new registration for a period of five years has just been received.

5.2 Financial/Budget Development Regional Fundraising

The Regional Coordinator along with the zonal heads and with the support of the finance staff monitors the budget and the programme development in the region. Due to travel restrictions the monitoring and accompanying of the projects and financial administration was seriously hampered last year. Streamlining has helped optimum utilization of the budget and also maintaining a good ratio between programme and administration costs which stayed at 90:10

5.2.1 Co-financing:

During the year 2020 BMZ, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Federal Government of Germany increased programme support. The total number of projects supported by the BMZ during the last year was 18: (9 in India, 4 in Nepal, 2 in Pakistan and 3 in Afghanistan). Monitoring these projects has been a challenge due to the difficulties from the Covid situation last year. However the staff did their best to stay closely in touch with partners and youth throughout the difficult months and a lot of effort was put into developing tools for remote monitoring using mobile applications The only project supported by the EU will come to an end this year.

5.2.2 Special Donations:

Support from special donors continued during the year. Both Misereor and Bread for the World will continue their support. FCRA changes in India necessitated a lot of interactions with donors to ensure that the funding continues smoothly under the new circumstances. These special donors will now transfer grants to the Head Office of tdh Germany who then will transfer these to the partner organisations. This change in the funding process is still in process and hopefully it will come to a positive end in the next months as several projects have still to receive funds which were interrupted due to these changes.

Misereor and tdh will have a joint project in Nepal to end violence against women from April 2021. Much effort was made to keep the interest of the donors throughout the lockdown through online methods. Several applications were also made to new institutional donors but this has not yet materialized.

ROSA has been working closely with the Company Dachser during the year. The CEO Mr Bernhard Simon engaged in online meetings with the youth from the region as well as from Africa. The new phase of the project started in October last year.

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.

5.2.3 Regional Fundraising:

The COVID 19 pandemic and the lockdown situation though restrictive in many ways, at the same time proved to be an opportunity to enhance solidarity among the community. This was done through online appeals and events. There were singers, artists and poets who performed live and appealed for support. The funds collected were used mainly for relief work and for helping youth and children get access to online education. Fund raising through corporate organisations like the Freudenberg Group provided the means to reach deprived children and their communities in Delhi, Pune, Parbhani, Chennai and Ahmedabad. The websites were kept active and stories of relief work and newsletters informing the public were also displayed. The economic slowdown of course affected CSR funds; despite this Euro 125355 were raised in 2020. A lot of donors were also informed about the work of tdh and allied organisations.

6. Regional, Country Networking and TDHIF Collaboration

- tdh Germanytooka lead role in the alliance'Joining Forces' put together by the children's rights organisations, Save the Children, SOS, Plan International and World Vision. The northern office in Delhi represented tdh Germany. Additionally, the Regional Coordinator also took part in the meetings and discussions. This collaboration also extended to the different zones where the zonal offices and Nepal hosted events.
- In addition to this, tdh Germany engaged with campaigns and alliances such as CACL, ProChild, Action for the Rights of the Child and Right to Education campaign. All these networks and initiatives raised the issues of children in the context of the pandemic and the lockdown. Most of them also engaged in relief for children.
- Regular meetings are initiated by tdh Germany with the other 3 tdh member organisations in India - tdh Lausanne, tdh Netherlands, and tdh Suisse Geneva. During the Covid19 pandemic regular meetings were organized online to keep them informed about the work that tdh Germany was doing in this situation.
- In the Destination Unknown Campaign, tdh Suisse Geneva and tdh Germany came together to discuss current issues.

- tdh Netherlands and tdh Germany have organized several joint calls to discuss the issue of 'Mica Mining and Child Labour' in Jharkhand where a closer collaboration is planned as both organisations work in the same area.
- In Afghanistan and Pakistan also efforts were are made to stay in touch with the delegation of tdh Lausanne.



7. Highlights of Public Visibility and Initiatives on Child Rights

tdh and its partners were very active during the entire year through online events. The network CACL had several meetings to discuss the situation of child labour in the country and highlight the distress that young children were facing because of the pandemic, and especially the increased risk of child abuse that many children had to face Pressure was put on the government through several organisations to ensure that the mid-day meal was distributed in spite of the pandemic. Later the Governments in India started giving rations through the Public Distribution System, where NGOs played an active role in ensuring that the poorest of the poor received these rations. Online trainings on protection and participation took place with children, partners and youth.

CACL, CACT, (Campaign Against Child Trafficking), Right to Food Campaign and the Right to Education Campaign as well as Action for the Rights of the Child and many other networks conducted online meetings to keep staff of NGOs active and alert to child abuse in this challenging situation where many children were forced to stay at home.

In Delhi, tdh is active in Prochild a network of NGOs and in Pune tdh is active in a similar network, 'Action for the Rights of the Child'. A link between some of these networks and the tdh network Youth for Ecological Sustainability was made through the International Youth Network as well as "Fridays for Future". Time to Talk also had online meetings to encourage the participation of children in programmes. A number of short films were made to depict the 'despair that youth faced during the pandemic'. These included one on the life of 'Rani', a transgender in Pune and another on the positive efforts of small groups of farmers, particularly women , who were able to grow food for personal consumption. The website of tdh Germany – India programme is updated regularly with short films and case studies.

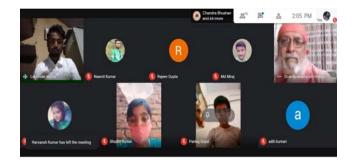
Because of the pandemic, there were only a few visits at the beginning of the year, including that of Mr Recknagel who visited several projects in the central part of the country. There was also a visit of Mr Prum from CHL to Nepal to mark the completion of the school construction programmeme. Both visits were before March 2020. The artists Nicolaus Schmidt and Christophe Radke visited the projects in Mumbai, Pune and Delhi.

Despite the difficult situation, the Regional Coordinator was able to travel to Germany on a personal visit. She took the opportunity to visit the head office and was able to have discussions with representatives of Bread for the World, Misereor, AEIN and PSF in Luxembourg. It was a good opportunity to also discuss the challenges in the new FCRA Amendment and explain the impact that this would have on project funding in India. The new proposal for Nepal was also discussed with Misereor. The RC also had very useful discussions with tdh staff in the Head office which helped in better communication for the region, especially because of some of the new challenges and changes. The RC also visited some of the Working Groups that are deeply involved with projects in the region - Osterode, Bremen, and Munich.

The South Asia seminar was planned for June in Munich but it took place only online with 60 participants. Being online had several advantages, as youth and partners and all the staff from the 4 countries could actively participate. There were participants from the Board, the Presidium, the volunteers and partners and youth from the countries. ROSA was able to effectively use the online medium for communication to a large number of volunteers in Germany, in Luxembourg and in France, through several online meetings. Through the pandemic the youth groups were very active and they were led by Pragya and Sharmili from India and Amrit from Nepal as well as Salaam and Khalid from Pakistan and Afghanistan. The youth convention in India and Nepal which was planned for 2020 had to be postponed to 2021.

The Nepal youth federation has also been very active with good participation at the national level and with the federal Government structures also part of this process.





8. Summing Up:

A challenging year concluded with the good news of the vaccine. Amidst the pandemic, lockdown and closures, the region did its level best to ensure that the staff, partners and youth were well engaged with their work. Though travel was very restricted, online meetings were soon organised to keep everyone engaged and involved. Zoom, Webex, GoToMeeting and several other media were used effectively. The time was also used to write a number of project proposals and concept notes which have mostly yielded positive results. Despite the restrictions, the staff was well motivated. Offices in India were open partially in May and fully by June though some staff could work from home. There was a close connection between staff and partners.

In Afghanistan the security situation became an issue though our staff consultant was able to travel to the project regions in the latter half of the year. In India and in Pakistan too staff travelled to project areas after October 2020. The Eastern zone was able to organise a meeting in Guwahati in the beginning of the year. Other zones had their partner meeting online which was attended actively by 70 to 80 participants on an average. Staff from HO also participated in these.





9. Perspectives for the future

The Perspective at the end of year 2020 as we move ahead from the pandemic situation is all about reimagining and constructing a more sustainable and safer world for all children which actually means for all. What is sustainable and safer for children would be certainly good for all, not only humans but the planet itself. tdh Germany is already launching a campaign #MyPlanetMyRights which more properly could be titled OurPlanetOurRights.

This view of the future should include health for all. Access to the vaccine and health services including mental health services is the key to this. Ending all forms of discrimination is a necessary condition for sustainability and safety. Access to education to all and effective measures to combat climate crisis would be the other necessary elements. tdh Germany, committed to creating a healthy environment for children, building a culture of peace, offering education and psychosocial support and ending gender based discrimination and violence looks forward to continuing its engagement with the South Asian societies with the above perspective.

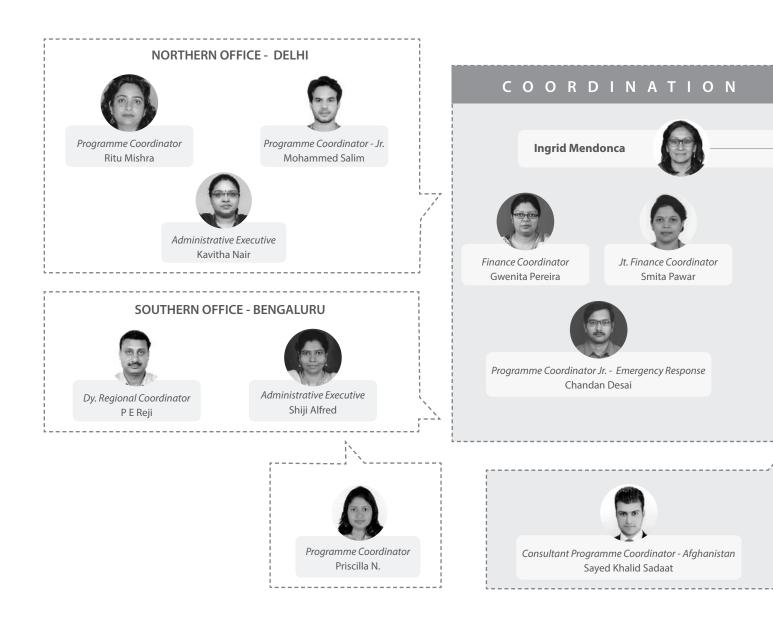
Ingrid Mendonca

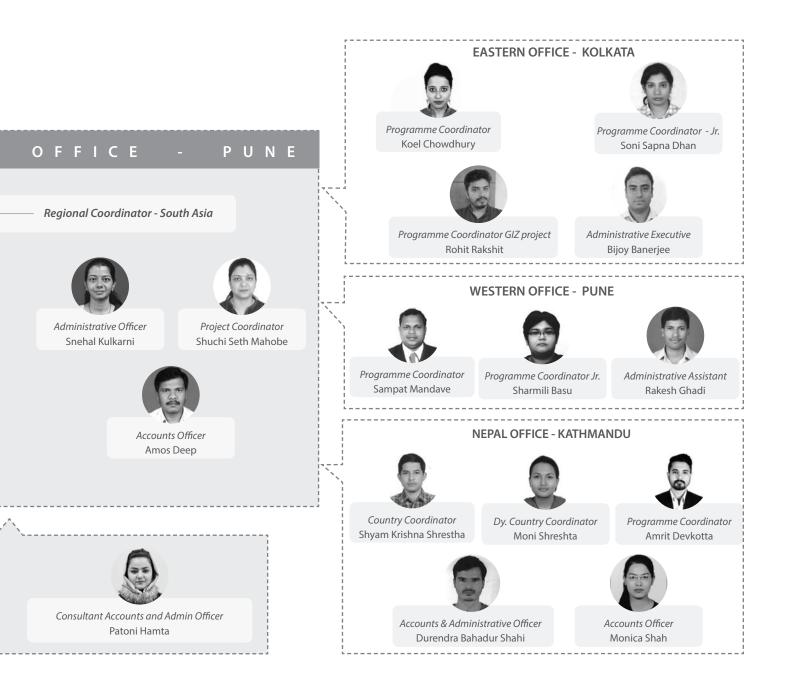
Regional Coordinator – South Asia Pune





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





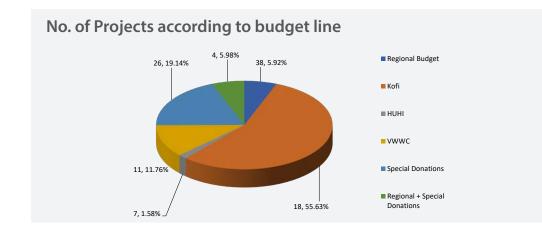
Project Payments In South Asia

For The Period January – December 2020

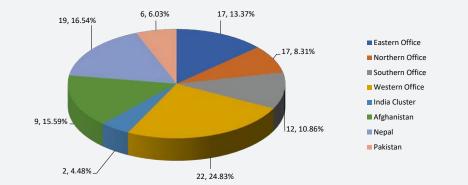
S. No.	Details	Euro	Euro	Euro
1	PROJECT PAYMENTS			5142654.45
А	INDIA PROJECTS		3196346.79	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	23868.01		
	Regular Projects	193769.89		
	VW Projects	524410.52		
	Emergency Projects	0.00		
	Co-financed Projects	1347386.11		
	Special Donation Projects	805380.11		
	Misereor Projects	206735.29		
	BfdW projects	94796.86		
В	NEPAL PROJECTS		843403.41	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	0.00		
	Regular Projects	37969.00		
	Emergency Projects	10017.45		
	Co-financed Projects	583295.62		
	Special Donation Projects	212121.34		
С	PAKISTAN (Humanitarian Assistance)		305907.00	
	Regular Projects	45000.00		
	Co-financed Projects	190097.00		
	VW Projects	70000.00		
D	AFGHANISTAN PROJECTS		797807.25	
	Discretionary payments & Workshops	9796.00		
	Regular Projects	35000.00		
	Emergency Projects	57617.00		
	Co-financed Projects	695394.25		
I	ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			501768.33
А	INDIA ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	412153.52		
В	NEPAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	71348.52		
С	AFGHANISTAN ADMINISTRATION EXPNESES	18266.29		
	TOTAL			5339325.78

According To Budget Line	

Budget Line	No. of all projects	Payments	No. of new projects	Liability
Regional Budget	38	299209	20	452627
Kofi	18	2812394	6	5370581
HUHI	7	79818	5	77003
VWWC	11	594411	2	287028
Special Donations	26	967827	10	1253315
Regional + Special Donations	4	302086	0	0
Total	104	5055744	43	7440554.93
According To Countries / Zones				
Eastern Office	17	675838	9	670071
Northern Office	17	419893	6	686820
Southern Office	12	549097	5	1513827
Western Office	22	1255126	8	1649729
India Cluster	2	226481	1	29776
Afghanistan	9	788011	5	1887096
Nepal	19	836200	6	896726
Pakistan	6	305097	3	106510
Total	104	5055744	43	7440555
According To Strategic Goals				
Promoting Culture of Peace	15	859775	3	304251
Improving Psychosocial and Educational Services for Forcibly Displaced Children and Youth	18	907675	4	1849942.22
Promoting a Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment	22	1747362	10	2389148.63
Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations	16	587341	6	1522437
Alternative Development Models	1	4364	0	0
NOT RELATED TO STRATEGIC GOAL	32	949227	20	1374776.08
Total	104	5055744	43	7440554.93

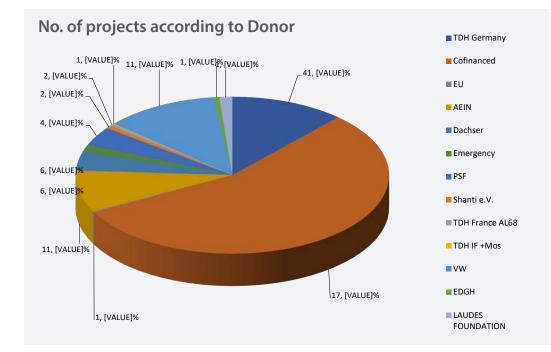


Zone / countrywise budget distribution

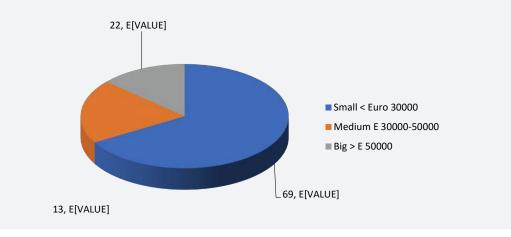




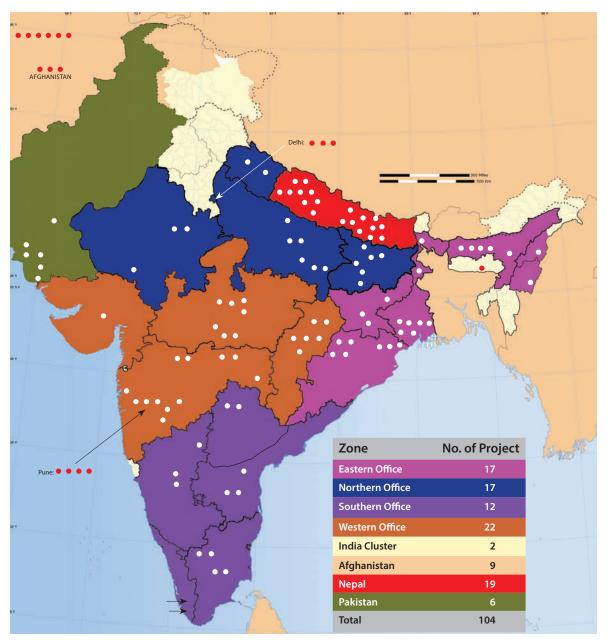
No. of Project according to strategic goals

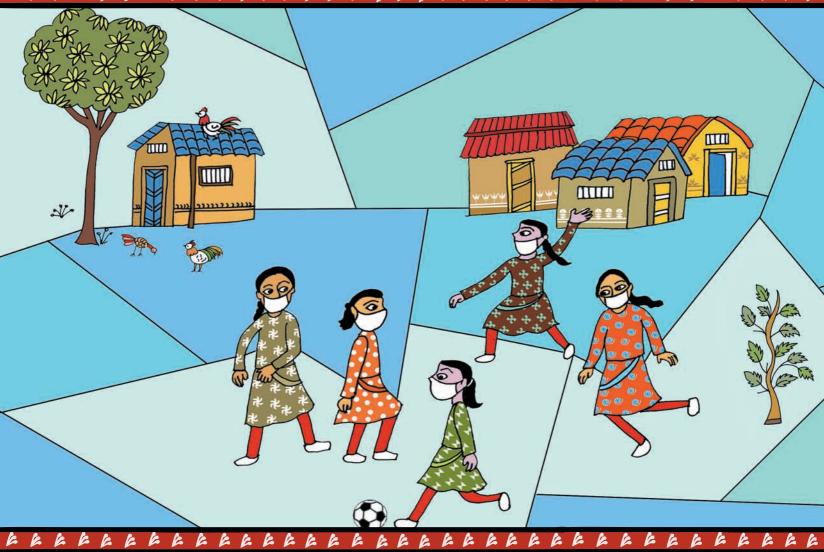


No. of projects according to budget size



Project locations in ROSA





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