



Annual Report 2023



 terre des hommes
Help for Children in Need

Annual Report 2023

terre des hommes Germany - India

Photo captions**Front Cover:**

Children Group Campaign-Art Competition - NEADS BMZ

LEADS BMZ

Red Hand Day Observation at CWG, Manipur

Back Cover:

VACHA Maharashtra drawing competition

Wallpaper design by children from HESCO BMZ project

LEADS BMZ

Work for Equality - youth sports

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Abbreviations

SGs	Strategic Goals	CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979
DC	Delegates' Conference	RC	Regional Coordinator
CACL	Campaign Against Child Labour	HO	Head Office
JFI	Joining Forces India	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
TDH IF	Terre des hommes International Federation	ECR	Ecological Child Rights
COP28	Conference of Parties 28	GAM	Global Action Month
G20	Group of Twenty	GC26	(draft General Comment no. 26 on children's rights and environment)
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GBV	Gender Based Violence	FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations	RDM	Research Development and Media
HDI	Human Development Indices	ROSA	Regional Office South Asia
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	VWWC	Volkswagen Workers' council
LEADS	Life Education and Development support	VWEF	Volkswagen Employees' Foundation
tdh NL	terre des hommes Netherlands	RTTI	Rural Technical Training Institute
YES	Youth For Ecological Sustainability	BFTW	Bread For The World
NEWS	Nature Environment & Wildlife Society	SATRA	Social Action for Appropriate Transformation and Advancement in Rural Areas
DMFT	District Mineral Fund Trust	MP	Madhya Pradesh
		WB	West Bengal



0. Executive Summary



Situation in the country

India - the fastest growing economy in the world continues to stay attractive for the investors. With the landing on the south pole of the moon and also the hosting of the G20 presidency the status of the nation has continued to be high both technologically and socio-politically.

The contrast is that while India credits on the high growth rate, it also admits that 820 mn (82 crores) people are being supported by the government with free food grains under National Food Security Act.

Low consumption rates and demand is an indication of lack of purchasing power among the people. While the emphasis on the Govt on capital expenditure and infrastructure development is attracting investment, low spending by the Govt. in social sectors like health, education, children's welfare and the elderly contribute to serious challenges.

Tdh G has been supporting projects and programmes in the country in such a situation..

Highlights of 2023

- The country has many projects focused on strengthening environment concerns and the youth network in the region. 73 youth came together in the Sundarbans as a part of the IKU project on climate change. They prepared for the meeting by having different meetings in their respective states to present

the challenges related to climate change in their own areas.

- The new proposed Strategic Goals that were passed by the DC last year were discussed during all the zonal partner meetings. A national partner meeting was held in Bengaluru in which 38 partners and youth from all over the country attended. Youth presented their work and their challenges.
- tdh Germany India office represented TDH IF in Joining Forces India (JFI) actively. It hosted the JFI secretariat in Delhi from April 2023 onwards. Several programmes were conducted through Ritu Mishra who led the task force in Delhi.
- The projects supported by Misereor and Bread for the World have particularly strengthened education of working children and have empowered several children to attend school regularly. These projects are implemented in the states of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. A special project focusing on peace has also brought communities from different religions together.

Assessment of the Strategic Goals (SGs)

Assessment of the Old Strategic Goals (SGs)

The relevance of the Strategic Goals of the period 2018-2023 has not shifted much. The situation in the country continues to be similar with some significant changes within zones.

For example, migration still continues to be distress migration while the economic recovery after the COVID19 pandemic has stabilized the situation partially. The climate challenges

continue to be acute but factors such as the COP28 resolutions and the adoption of GC26 with regard to the ecological rights of children, new avenues for action have opened.

Assessment of the New Strategic Goals (SGs)

The Strategic Goals of tdh from 2023 - 2028 was passed by the Delegates Conference after much preparation in June 23. It was a huge process which started almost 2 years prior with participation from youth, partners, staff and volunteers of tdh. There was a lot of discussion and debate prior to this and finally the new goals have been rolled out. The zones are in the process of putting them into practice and integrating them into project work.

SG 1: EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR LIFE PERSPECTIVES

SG Education and Empowerment for Life Perspectives forms one of the main focuses of tdh work in the region. Education for children who have been forced to work and are exploited have remained a priority of the organisation in the region.

SG 2: ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

Forced migration due to several factors such as drought, employment for parents, displacement due to disasters both human and climate are the reason why people have to leave their homes and live somewhere else.

SG3: YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL VOICES

This is one of the most engaging Goals of the region. Almost every partner has a youth group within the organisation. Every new partner is oriented to organise youth in their project areas as many of the projects link youth with climate smart livelihood strategies.

SG4: GENDER JUSTICE TO LIVE IN A WORLD FREE FROM GENDER-BASED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND DISCRIMINATION

In India, exploitation of women gets worse at the bottom of class and caste hierarchies. Poverty and unemployment forces youth and men to migrate and girls and women who are left behind become more vulnerable in personal and social spaces. There are still significant cases of discrimination based on caste where women face a lot of discrimination and violence.

Main Achievements during the year

- Total 74 project partners in the region have gender policy in place and are implementing the same.
- One zonal and 4 state level workshops on gender were conducted in Bihar and Uttarakhand in which 238 youth participated.
- 188 District law enforcement authorities were sensitised to effectively implement laws protecting girls and women at workplace.
- 262 women representatives are participating effectively at the local government levels and putting forth their demands.
- 5000 young women were trained on gender and labour rights, 282 girls for skill training and 100 marginalised women for income generation.

Joint Campaign - International Campaign to promote Children's Environmental Rights

The GC 26 was the main focus of work in the region regarding environmental rights. This was well integrated into several projects. The project local to global also helped build up local youth groups strengthen the existing network. The youth conference in the Sundarbans also supported this. GAM was observed with great enthusiasm throughout the country. 30230 children and youth from youth network in India had participated in the activities of GAM and uploaded it on the GAM website. The GAM always supports the local youth organisations and encourages youth to be very proactive.

Project Development

The year 2023 was a very busy year for the India branch office of terre des hommes Germany. All the 4 zones of tdh expanded and extended their work in different ways. There was more focus on strengthening youth groups in the zones and also a lot of emphasis on due diligence on organizations. During the last year 20 projects have been sanctioned totally of which 3 are new BMZ projects.

Financial/ budget development/regional fundraising:

Co-financing:

During the year 2023, the Regional Coordinator visited Bengo in Bonn in order to present the situation on the ground in India. Close contact with the German Embassy in India was maintained.

Regional Fundraising:

Special Donations:

tdh Germany India has several 'special donors' many of them visited the country and the projects last year and have continued their support. A new staff from Misereor Boston Daniel attended a training of partners and staff at New Delhi and was able to contribute to the discussions and understood the functioning of different organisations in the cluster. He has also visited the office in Pune and a project in Karnataka. Tdh France AL68 supports a project in Madhya Pradesh focusing on youth in a tribal area. Two partners in Jharkhand are supported by Bread for the World with a focus on children's education in the mica mining districts of Giridih and Koderma.

Highlights of Public Visibility and initiatives on child rights

tdh Germany has been working with several networks in the county and is well known for its work on education of child labour, Campaign Against Child Labour and children's rights to a healthy environment. In the reporting year a big focus has been on gender equity within projects and also at supporting exclusively projects on gender.

Summing up

It has been a difficult year, but at the same time a lot of hope and change. Several children got out of labour and joined school, youth got an opportunity to speak up their problems and concerns. The partner meetings in every zone and particularly the National Partner meeting in Bengaluru reinforced our faith and belief in democracy and the commitment to a just and secular society.



LEADS BMZ - Jharkhand - access to education

1. Context



tdh Germany looks forward and remains hopeful even when hope is being challenged.

India – the fastest growing economy in the world continues to stay attractive for the investors. With the landing on the south pole of the moon and also the hosting of the G20 presidency the status of the nation has continued to be high both technologically and socio-politically. The GDP is reported to be growing even beyond 7% yearly. However, the per capita GDP is still only USD 2610 whereas the figures for the developed countries are much higher.

The contrast is that while India credits on the high growth rate, it also admits that 820 mn (82 crores) people are being supported by the government with free food grains under National Food Security Act.

2023 was the penultimate year before the national elections and the elections to five states in the second half of 2023 was termed as semi- final. The ruling coalition of course won the semi-final and is anticipating a victory with huge majority in the 2024 national elections.

While this is happening, the fear of majoritarianism is creating anxieties among the minority groups and the poor in general. Factors like persisting unemployment rates and inflation, currently 8.3% food inflation, contribute to hardship of the middle and low income groups across the country.

In addition to the polarization among the religious groups there appears to be regional and linguistic polarization, growing gradually in different sectors.

On the one hand the economy is growing, the stock market is booming, and investors from different continents are arriving in India, and on the other hand, still persisting deprivations, inflation and social tensions make the national picture rather hazy.

High levels of inequality which is widening can lead to social unrest, political instability and low levels of development.

Low consumption rates and demand is an indication of lack of purchasing power among the people. While the emphasis on the Govt on capital expenditure and infrastructure development is attracting investment, low spending by the Govt. in

social sectors like education, children's welfare and the elderly contribute to serious challenges.

Situation of children

As for situation of children, it was reported to the Indian parliament in December 2023 that the health indicators have improved. Stunting has decreased from 38.4% to 35.5%, wasting from 21% to 19.3% and under weight prevalence from 35.8% to 32.1%. This means still at least 1/3rd of the country's children are in critical situation. The investments in the health and education sectors by the government continue to be inadequate. India stands at a rank of 158 in investment on education and health.

Children's center - Misereor Panna



2. Highlights of 2023



Responding to these situations tdh Germany has been supporting projects and programmes in the country.

- 2.1 The country has many projects focused on strengthening environment concerns and the youth network on ecological sustainability. 73 youth came together in the Sundarbans as a part of the IKU project on climate change. They prepared for the meeting by having different discussions in their respective states to present the challenges related to climate in their own areas. Many of them have been organised into groups and meet at the state and national level through online means. The meeting enabled them to strengthen their commitment. At the end of the convention the youth came up with a National Youth Statement which could lead to a healthy and sustainable life. A short video has been made to summarise their concerns. Discussions and follow up plans on the GC 26 were also discussed with youth.
- 2.2 The new proposed Strategic Goals that were passed by the DC last year were discussed during all the zonal partner meetings. A national partner meeting was held in Bengaluru. Thirty eight partners and youth from all over the country attended. Youth presented their work and their challenges. There was an open discussion on the situation in which terre des hommes



BMZ Visit

works and also on the challenges facing NGOs. All the field staff were present at the meeting.

2.3 The Head of the BMZ Mr. Daniel Haas, Mr. Stefan Wilhemy (Head of Division - Bengo and Programme officer of Bengo) visited 3 projects of tdh during their travel in India in November. Ankur which is part of the Gender Transformation project, the Leads project in Jharkhand which focuses on education of children in the mining sector and the IKU climate resilience project in the Sundarbans, were visited. They tried to understand the approach of NGOs and also the challenges faced by them.

2.4 Despite several challenges the region worked hard through the year and

submitted 20 new projects including projects supported by donors such as Misereor, Bread for the World, EDGH Luxembourg, DACHSER, tdh France AL68 and others.

2.5 A special focus on working with children in marginalised communities particularly child labour has been an important focus of the work in India. Working in the Aspirational Districts listed by the Govt., where poverty is high and other human development indices (HDI) are low, has been a priority.

2.6 A strategic meeting with the programme staff to discuss the priorities of the region and develop the WOK took place in February in Goa. Birgit Dittrich responsible for the region along with an external

consultant supported the workshop. Later in the year the Staff meeting and National Partner meeting in Bengaluru was attended by Sonja Ende who also facilitated the discussion on the WOK with partners.

- 2.7 There were two staff meetings during the year the first in February focused on Strategy and the second meeting in Bengaluru was a training on 'understanding the basics of forensic audit of the accounts of partner organisations'. The latter was conducted by CPA from Delhi to enable staff to examine the accounts and other documents from partner organisations meticulously.
- 2.8 tdh Germany India office represented TDH IF in Joining Forces India (JFI) actively. It hosted the JFI secretariat in Delhi from April 2023 onwards. Several programmes were conducted through Ritu Mishra who led the task force in Delhi. A programme on youth and the environment, theatre staged by

children and shadow report on the UNCRC are some of them. All of these was done with the active participation of youth. The secretariat of JF has shifted from tdh to World Vision since March 2024.

- 2.9 The projects supported by Misereor and Bread for the World have particularly strengthened education of working children and have empowered several children to attend school regularly. These projects are implemented in the states of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. A special project focusing on peace has also brought communities from different religions together. Special attention has been given to understand climate protection challenges. In several contexts steps to support women and reduce the drudgery of collecting firewood were initiated through alternative cooking stoves. One projects in Uttarakhand in India has been submitted to Dachser to promote the use of green technologies and strengthen youth groups.



3. Assessment of the Strategic Goals (SGs):



3.1 Assessment of the Old Strategic Goals (SGs)

The relevance of the Strategic Goals of the period 2018-2023 has not shifted much. The situation in the country continues to be similar with some significant changes within zones. For example, migration still continues to be distress migration while the economic recovery after the COVID19 pandemic has stabilized the situation partially. The climate challenges continue to be acute but factors such as the Conference of Parties 28 (COP28) resolutions and the adoption of General Comment 26 (GC26) with regard to the ecological rights of children have opened new avenues for action.

Given the above situation it can be concluded that the change in the Strategic Goals is more of an emphasis and focus on new aspects of a complex socio-economic and ecological situation. The primary goal of well-being of children and realization of their rights are understood in specific areas and attempts made to realise those.

In India the threat of religious radicalism leading to terror continues which even found expression in ethnic communities.

In short, the previous strategic goals and the new ones continue to be related and aligned.

As the projects have been planned on the basis of the outgoing strategic goals the year's data

will be a mixed set of outcomes based on the previous SGs and the new SGs. The following section gives the achievements pertaining more to the outgoing SGs.

In the northeast of India as well as in Uttar Pradesh several projects focus on integrating children from different religious groups and ethnic groups to work together to prevent communal conflict. In the current context, one fears an increase in communal and ethnic violence and peace processes will be integrated into different projects.

Currently 2.72% of the projects fall under this strategic goal.

Main achievements during the year

- *Training and support was given to 997 youth and children on co-existence, coordination and collaboration, community conflict resolution, youth resilience model, communication, leadership, social relations, time management and human rights, in South, north, east.*
- *Out of 276, 50% of children in conflict with law (CCLs) in Samvaad project, Pune are integrated into their families and their involvement in repeated offences has been prevented.*
- *In Assam, 10 Peace Committees have been formed with 268 members and they received*

Child Friendly Center, Misereor Panna





Yuvraj - a youth group member, helps resolving conflict

Yuvraj one of the youth members from one of the wards in Bengaluru where the project, Promoting culture of Peace among different religious communities in 4 wards of Bangalore 'is working, takes on active role in promoting peace and equality in his area. He is studying in his 2nd year of bachelor's degree. He took a remarkable initiative to change the mindsets of other children after an incident that threatened the peace in the ward. Yuvraj's actions inspired others to follow his example.

The project runs an evening learning centre in KG Halli, where some Muslim children from other streets also joined. However, some local children belonging to another religious community, started teasing them and stopped them from coming to their street and thus they stopped attending the learning centre. Yuvraj, learnt about this situation from other children who attend the centre, and wanted to address this situation. Yuvraj called those children who were teasing and made them understand that what they are doing is wrong. He inspired them with his talk on Peace, equality and harmony and explained to everyone the importance of learning and growing up together as children, keeping aside their religious or linguistic identities. Yuvraj did not just talk, but also acted. He invited the Muslim students from the other streets to join the centre and they happily joined the learning centre; he also visited their homes with few other children which was welcomed by their families. He aimed to bridge the gap between communities by creating a friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

Yuvraj's actions not only resolved the situation, but also advanced the broader goal of a peaceful and harmonious community. Yuvraj's commitment to building peace serves as an inspiration for other youth members in his area.

Story from, Promoting culture of Peace among different religious communities in 4 wards of Bangalore' implemented by Need Base India (NBI), written by N. Priscilla.



training to form understanding on conflict resolution, peace building & constitutional rights. 1606 children and youth participated in 9 awareness campaigns on promoting social justice, and inclusive societies in UP.

- *1445 children were engaged in conscious citizenry sessions in Manipur & Assam in Misereor supported project. 10 youth (7 girls & 3 boys) are undergoing capacity building to become peace volunteers in Assam. In north in Misereor supported project, 20 peace committees with 642 representatives actively resolve local conflicts such as facilitating the road construction near religious site, preventing bullying of girls enroute to schools, advocating for minority cemetery ground, resolving disputes over public water sources, waste disposal and blocked drains*
- *1052 community members including youth and children observed International peace day in south and east India.*
- *5251 children and youth are organized in mixed ethnic group & mixed gender sports teams to promote peace and conflict resolution.*

a. Assessment of the New Strategic Goals (SGs):

The Strategic Goals of tdh from 2023 – 2028 was passed by the Delegates Conference after much preparation in June 23. It was a huge process which started almost 2 years prior with participation from youth, partners, staff and volunteers of tdh. There was a lot of discussion and debate prior to this and finally the new goals have been rolled out. The regions are in the process of putting them into practice and integrating them into project work.

SG 1: EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR LIFE PERSPECTIVES:

SG Education and Empowerment for Life Perspectives forms one of the main focus of tdh work. Education for children who have been forced to work and are exploited have remained a priority of the organisation in the country. Child labour continues to persist still, particularly in the underdeveloped states and the aspirational districts. The focus of several projects is to withdraw children from work and ensure that they have access to education and all the other rights of a child, including health, nutrition and play. In several areas it has been important also to focus on early childhood care and protection for young children whose parents are working in challenging situations. Children who grow up near brick kilns, mining industries and worst forms of child labour are the focus of this goal and also of project support. Education is the main concern of this goal. While ensuring that children have the right to education, their right to live in peace and communal harmony is also emphasized.

Strengthening campaigns and networks that ensure better legal reforms for children and youth and also efforts for better legislations, to ensure that children have access to education were part of project measures. 'World play week' was used to strengthen the rights of children in different communities and ensure that they can use play to understand gender and bring children of different religious and ethnic communities together.

In Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra children are working around extractive industries as well as in the sugarcane fields.

Agriculture is one of the largest employers of children in the country and often this is part of family labour. In Rajasthan and in UP children are working in the Brick kiln industry. tdh supports projects in all these areas to slowly teach children through bridge classes and non-formal education classes and then enroll them into formal school. Childrens groups are formed where they understand about their rights, also child protection and ecological rights. Youth are also organised into groups and take up local issues on development, in order to improve the area in which they live and understand citizenship.

In all the projects supported by tdh in India 3730 children who were working are now enrolled into school. Several had dropped out due to difficult conditions and are also re-enrolled. More girls are forced to drop out due to family pressures, special efforts are made to ensure that these girls are re enrolled into school.

This Goal has special significance in India where a large number of children still are out of school and part of labour.

SG 2: ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION:

Forced migration is due to several factors such as drought, employment for parents, displacement due to disasters, both human and climate impacted. Children and women face a lot of challenges and difficulties in this situation and were a target of this goal. Sometimes the whole family migrates to the brick kilns, to mining sites, to different agriculture destinations in search of work. Children are thrown out of their routine and are forced to work. In some projects like in Jharkhand, the partners supported by tdh,

initiated creches where children from the age of 0-5 could be protected from the harsh, dusty and dry surrounding and are cared for health and nutrition. In the sugarcane fields of Maharashtra families migrate to areas where they can work in the sugarcane fields. Tiny babies just born are forced to live outside amid the dust and dirt of the sugarcane cutting areas. Children also go with their parents and are forced to live in very difficult conditions. In Andhra Pradesh children from the Chenchu tribe, essentially nomadic, do not stay long enough in one place and are deprived of education. They are displaced from one area to another as they do not own any land.

Main projects under SG 2:

The BMZ - LEADS project in Jharkhand provides education to children in the mining sector for ensuring that they do not go to work and go to school. The sustained work of Leads and other partners in the districts of Giridih and Koderma along with coordination with the district administration have enabled 2741 working children to go back to school.

Migrant workers from Bihar work in the brick kilns of Rajasthan and UP. Bridge classes have enabled children to first study in the classes and then go back to school. In the Dachser supported projects in UP and Bihar children from migrant families have access to school and also to counselling and group support to enable them to study.

In Madhya Pradesh partners working with communities engaged in the diamond industry in a project supported by Misereor have been organised into youth groups and supported to complete their education, they are also taking



HAQ BMZ - Rajasthan Children getting nutritious food at CHSNC

up local activities in the area to ensure a cleaner environment.

tdh supports networks of child rights organisations like Action for the Rights of the Child in Pune and Campaign against child labour both at the national and at the State level. These campaigns address both legislative and local changes. Through CACL joint advocacy plans are developed and taken up. Capacity building of partners and youth are regularly organised.

3.21% projects fall into this category.

Main achievements during the year

- *In UP 1353 children engaged in full-time carpet work at home enrolled in schools. In Maharashtra 2400 children of seasonal migrant sugarcane families linked to government schools.*
- *Life skills trainings has been provided to 211 children and youth. 1115 youth have received career counselling & vocational training.*
- *12221 children and their families were linked with social welfare schemes of the Government in India.*

Blue Moon Club brings Zingsho village together



The children in Zingsho village in Senapati District of Manipur did not have much going – they went to school and came back home and played with their friends. They were not interested to step out of their immediate peer group & friends' circle and rarely had the opportunity to explore their creative self, express their thoughts and assert leadership roles.

When the organization MANEDA started working in the village as part of the project “ANTII”, one of the first things the team did was to create the “FAB Club”, FAB stands for “Friends Across Barriers” with 27 members – all children, 11 girls & 16 boys from the village, attending the local school. As part of the FAB Club, the children participated in “conscious citizenry” sessions; in these sessions they got the chance to think creatively, and engage in discussions on nature, environment, climate change, rights, duties and any other topic of current interest. The organization of the FAB Club activities brought about a visible change in the energy and confidence level of the children.

The FAB Club of Zingsho Village, named as “Blue Moon Club” organized a series of cleanliness drives in their village whereby they would meet once a month to collect plastic and polythene was lying in open spaces and dispose of them in a safe manner. With their enthusiasm and consistency, they earned the respect of the local village council who are now organizing for refreshments to be served to the Blue Moon Club members during the monthly drives. The children were formerly meeting in open spaces as they did not have any defined space to organize their FAB Club activities.

Earlier, the children did not have the confidence or the inclination to approach the community leaders for any matter; after months of starting their conscious citizenry sessions, the children took up the courage to meet the village chief asking for a permanent space for organizing their club activities and were provided with a space in the local community hall. The Blue Moon Club members are now regularly meeting with the local village council to address different issues.

One significant achievement of the Blue Moon Club was the organizing of a Village Literary Meet as a fun event in the village which included singing, speech, group activities & discussions by children, and attended by children, youth and adults.

Story from “Action Northeast Trust II: Strengthening children’s and women’s right through peaceful conflict resolution, conflict transformation and peacebuilding in Assam and Manipur” implemented by The ANT, CWG and MANEDA, written by Koel Chowdhury.

Piyush transforms himself through counseling and hand-holding

Piyush (name changed) a young boy of about 17 years was referred to Samvaad Centre in the Pimpri-Chinchwad area of Pune, Maharashtra, for counselling and rehabilitation. He was accused of theft and attempt to murder at the age of 16 years.

The counsellors conducted an intake interview with Piyush and also visited his home and community to understand influencing factors in his community. It was found out that the environment of his family and community was not supportive or nurturing. In fact, adolescent boys like Piyush had very easy access to substances and illegal activities in the community.

He had dropped out of school due to some arguments with the teachers and an alleged attempt to damage the school property.

After multiple sessions, the Samvaad team developed a good rapport with Piyush and convinced him to continue his education. He was enrolled in the 10th grade examinations conducted by NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling). He insisted on attending the classes conducted at the registered study center, with the hope of reuniting with his old friends and continuing their education at the same school.

Last year, Piyush appeared for the exams for the first time after a long gap and cleared some of the subjects. He is preparing to clear the remaining subjects in his next attempt. In the meantime, Piyush developed an interest in the vocational trade of electrical wireman and got himself enrolled in a diploma course at a reputed institute. He has to travel by public transport for a couple of hours every day to attend the classes, but he is regular and found to be happy with the teachers and classmates. Recently, Piyush participated in the technical exhibition organized at the institute and confidently presented his project to the visitors. Piyush is looking forward to a decent job opportunity once he completes the course.

Story from, Samvaad-Centre for psychosocial care and vocational education for juveniles' self implemented by tdh Germany written by Mandar Shinde

“I have dream, I want to inspire my community children to dream too”

Born in a very poor and marginalised family, Prakash worked hard and completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree. All his education was completed in Government schools and colleges. His father passed away, and his mother and younger brother (school drop-out) work as labourers in agricultural fields. Prakash and his family live in a very small house with just one room and a small kitchen. Prakash went through a lot of social hurdles due to his low caste community status and also economic hurdles because his family is very poor and depended upon daily wages. After completing his Bachelor Degree course, Prakash’s aim was to study law, but he had no financial means to pay the fees. He was found by the Director of the project “Continued Education and Empowerment of children and youth of Manual Scavengers in Davanagere District, Karnataka” (AID-INDIA-2021-23) which works in Davanagere District. Prakash was found to be very interested in uplifting his community through providing Education for his community children, because his community never gave importance to education for the children, most children drop out of school around 6th to 9th grades and start working as labourers or follow their parents work as manual scavengers. Prakash’s and the project’s vision matched with each other. So Prakash joined the project as a Children Activity Centre teacher and started engaging the children in educational and recreational activities in the evening and with the project’s higher education support, he joined the college to pursue his studies in law. At the moment Prakash completed his degree in law and works as a Assistant Advocate with a Senior Advocates in Harihara Town which is close to his place and continues to teach his village children in the evenings. His dream is that every child in his community should get education and develop to their fullest potential. He is the favourite person and inspiration to many children in his village. The children enjoy coming to the Children Activity Centre every evening. “My dream is to become a Government Lawyer and make every child in my village a dreamer and achiever, I do not want to see any of them dropping out of school, I will continue to work for them and motivate them” says Prakash.



Story from ‘Education, skill development and empowerment for manual scavengers and other marginalized children and youth in Davanagere District of Karnataka’ implemented by Action Initiative for Development (AID), written by N. Priscilla.

- *28 new memberships were added to the CACL including tdh NL in Jharkhand. CACL has active membership of 1022 members in 19 states and union territories in India.*
- *1924 children (982 girls) in Jharkhand and Bihar have been provided educational and psychosocial support. 2712 children and youth supported with supplementary education, life skills and peer counselling sessions in brick kiln in UP and Rajasthan*
- *In Maharashtra 26 seasonal hostels for 2400 migrant children were started with the education dept. Migrants' registration has been done in 59 villages, with 16444 individuals to ensure children's access to nutrition and education services*
- *Skill Education for 1987 youth was provided. Life skills training provided to 3463 youth members in east, south, and north zones.*
- *1054 youth have received career counselling & vocational training while 37 youth received only career counselling. In Delhi, 33 youth got placed in private companies and earning Rs. 12,000-17,000 per month. In UP and Bihar 164 girls are getting Rs.500-Rs.1500 per month by stitching clothes.*

SG 3: YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL VOICES:

This is one of the most engaging Goals. Almost every partner has a youth group within the organisation. Every new partner is oriented to organise youth in their project areas as many of the projects link youth with climate smart livelihood strategies. In the Sunderbans IKU different methodologies have linked youth and livelihood with eco tourism. The local youth take up local issues within the area on waste

management, organic farming and relate it to climate change. Through the BMZ project Local to Global several youth groups have been formed and these are networked together. tdh has since the last several years established a local network of youth called "Youth For Ecological Sustainability" with 19776 active youth members in 18 states in India.

The National Youth Convention organized in Sundarbans from 25th -27th November 2023 was the 6th such event organized in 11 years, the earlier conventions took place in Bhopal, Bangalore, Wardha, Lucknow and Chilika at intervals of 2 years. The Convention brought together 73 youths (26 girls & 47 boys) from 17 states representing their respective states in the network - Youth for Ecological Sustainability or YES. The convention was planned by YES members, with support from tdh Germany and Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS); with the objective to engender exchange and cross learning between youths coming from different geographical and social backgrounds.

The youth understood the special ecosystem in the Sundarbans which is a part of the IKU BMZ project. Other topics of interest to the youth were on GC 26, Artificial Intelligence, Uniform Civil Code, (a very much debated topic on understanding civil marriage in India) Raising the legal age of marriage and whether population growth is responsible for environmental degradation?. A session was organized on - "career plans and entrepreneurship as a career option", in which the youth were introduced to diverse options to nurture their entrepreneurial mindset. As an outcome they produced the "National Youth Statement" - a document containing their demands and also listing their

own commitments, to realize their rights to a healthy and sustainable environment. This enables follow up on a clean environment and climate justice.

Through 'Joining Forces' an alternate report was also commissioned that would focus on the UNCRC. Child's right to a healthy environment has also been included in this report and the report should be published in the year 2024 but awaits the Govt report. A special toolbox to understand climate change and children's rights has been developed as a part of the BMZ local to Global project and this is being used by youth and children. The project has skilled the youth in a better understanding of the subject. The GC 26 was also followed by several youth and follow up is continuing in small ways. This year Bruna Leit from HO and the advocacy dept. attended the youth convention in West Bengal and spoke to the youth and interacted with them.

The number of projects during the year 2023-44.90% has been on the SG3 Child's right to a healthy environment.

Project Local to Global

The project is hosted in Mysore in Karnataka and is coordinating with 15 partners. The project has helped to strengthen the youth network in the country.

Main achievements during the year

- *25359 children and youth have actively observed various days of international importance like the Earth Day, World Water Day, Environment Day and also have been part of the GAM activities in the year.*
- *One youth summit on SDG 2 - Ending hunger and malnutrition held in north India with 82 participants discussed climate and food security.*
- *19316 children and 19776 youth in the country are working on climate change, environment destruction and conservation of biodiversity etc.*
- *Nutritional diversity of 8303 women and 16125 children has been ensured to address hunger and malnutrition issues in east, north, west. Nutrition diversity of women and children to tackle chronic hunger and malnutrition was promoted through nutri gardens among 17887 Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.*
- *In south and north protecting rights of 6956 children and village communities affected by climate change and development activities ensured.*
- *14409 youth participated in events to create mass awareness on ECR, climate change, sustainability & other related topics as part of GAM.*
- *430 children & youth have attended climate literacy sessions in West Bengal and have started practical projects to create models of sustainable practices.*
- *2110 children & youth in Odisha, Sundarbans, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh are maintaining biodiversity registers to ensure food security through local foods.*
- *6076 children and 7059 youth were trained in pollution control, waste management and access to natural resources.*
- *300 azolla cultivation and nitrogen fixation pits were constructed benefiting 300 farmers families of Uttarakhand.*



National Youth Convention - Sundarbans

- *In Maharashtra, 6491 children have access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities. 24 defective water structures are repaired by combined effort of community members and project benefitting 480 people.*
- *In north, 16 spring sheds have been developed to provide irrigation to 1500 farmers. 20 water tanks have been chlorinated, giving 100 families clean water with efforts of youth (IKU-BMZ).*
- *In the north India 2727 families, 233 youth in MP and 3345 farmers in Odisha are practicing sustainable farming and have conserved local variety seeds for indigenous food production.*
- *With support from the DMFT fund, two dust suppression machines and two kitchen garden sheds were provided to support two schools and 1 health check up machine installed for 1167 mining affected families in UP.*
- *Kumirmari Ecotourism Pvt. Ltd in the Sundarbans has started getting business.*
- *15 women in the Sundarbans, WB have nurtured a mangrove nursery and now around 99,500 saplings are ready for plantation to strengthen the river banks against storms.*

SG 4: GENDER JUSTICE TO LIVE IN A WORLD FREE FROM GENDER-BASED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND DISCRIMINATION

The proportion of women who experienced severe physical violence in their lifetime declined in India from 11.9% to 11.3% according to recent reports. India is characterized by its strong patriarchal norms, feudal structures, caste ridden society in which women have the lowest status. Growth rates have increased but this has hardly led to a change in status for women. Women's status during the Covid -19 pandemic was at its lowest, and now are slowly getting back to the pre pandemic situation. Women have continued to stay in the unorganized sector.

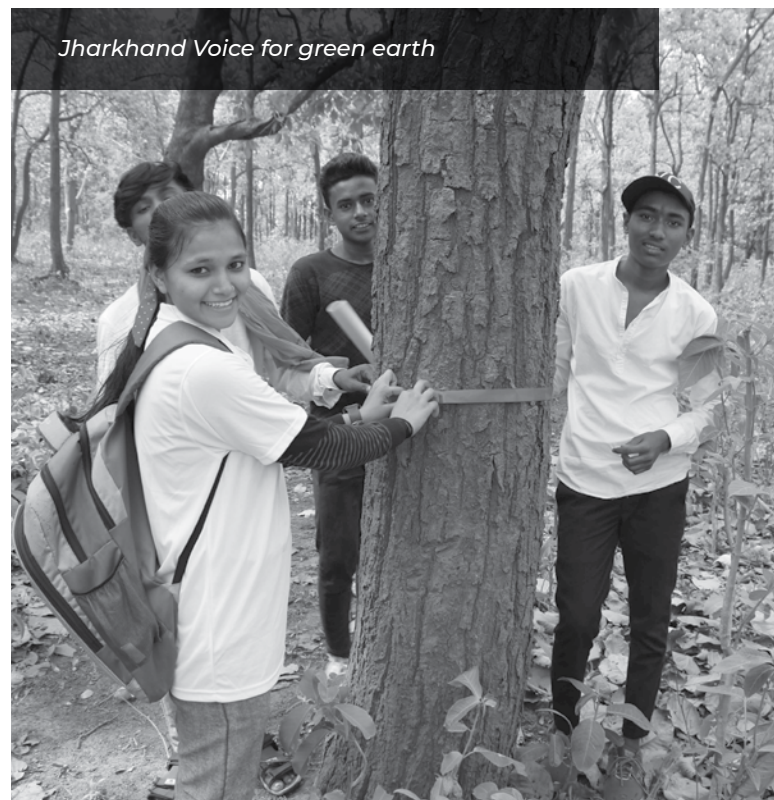
The country has ratified the most important convention about women-CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979) which under its Article 12 had affirmed Right to a healthy life as one the fundamental right that all women should enjoy and all states must ensure. This is not possible till women get equal share and participation in economic and social resources and existing power structures. The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 also indicated the situation of gender inequality in India stands at 127 among 146 countries. Women face discrimination in all aspects of their personal, political, social and economic lives due to patriarchal nature of society.

Male members earn for the family and therefore, due to societal norms, deserve a special position and respect in the family. This results in high chances of women and girls being

undernourished and malnourished throughout their lifespan. Besides this, women also face other forms of gender based discrimination and violence in private and public spaces due to which they go through anxiety and distress which goes unnoticed and face serious health problems.

The caste system plays a key role in women's development. The lowest jobs of cleaning the cities, waste pickers, domestic help are all women from the lowest castes.

Exploitation of women gets worse at the bottom of class and caste hierarchies. Poverty and unemployment forces youth and men to migrate and girls and women who are left behind become more vulnerable in personal and social spaces. There are still significant cases of discrimination based on caste where women face a lot of discrimination and violence.



Rehra village youth access clean water

Rehra, a village situated on the edge of the forest Balrampur district of Uttar Pradesh close to the Indo -Nepal border where access to water is a dream. The hand pumps installed in the village draw water from the first layer of the ground water (30-40 ft below surface) which mostly carries soluble impurities and infectious bacteria. Thus, villagers are forced to drink contaminated water which leads to several water borne diseases. The area is covered by forest and is situated on the outer foothills in the Terai region so the next layer of water is about 500 feet below the surface. Drilling till the second layer of water was not possible for the villagers and the entire population had to use the same water.



Youth volunteers from the Youth group formed by Participatory Action For Community Empowerment (PACE) in the project supported by Dachser Intelligent Logistics and terre des hommes discussed this issue in their regular meeting and public health consultations and collectively demanded for the construction of water tank.

An application was submitted to the village head, village secretary, Village Development officer (VDO) and Jal Nigam Office (Water Board). Their actions turned into hopes when officials from Jal Nigam (Water Board) visited village for finalising the location for constructing water tank. The construction work started from May 2022, and completed in January 2023.

The continuous efforts of youth and the follow-ups with government official authorities finally resulted in creating access to clean water.



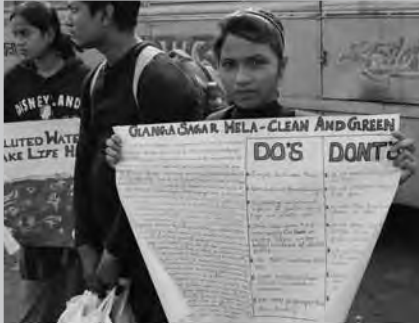
Story from “Ensuring right to survival, food and health for children and livelihood opportunities for the young adolescents” implemented by PACE Written by Mohammed Salim

Alisha leads environment protection initiatives

Sixteen-year-old Alisha Ghazi, lives in Padirnati, Santoshpur slum in the Kolkata city of West Bengal. None of her family members had even completed their basic education. According to her, in Santoshpur, people used to send their boys for labour /work, and the girls used to be given in marriage early. Alisha resisted getting married early and found support from her maternal grandmother who also brought her to the youth group formed by the Local to Global Project, implemented by Lake Garden Women and Child Development Center and supported by tdh. Alisha started developing her understanding of the nature and environmental rights and climate change. She identified the local issues of waste management, drainage clogging and water logging as critical issues. Waterlogging issues were severely affecting the community. In the rainy season, the children can't play outside due to huge waterlogging, and at times, it is more dangerous to cook their food in their houses as well.



After her involvement in the youth groups, she took initiative to deliver and spread the same information to other youths and children in her locality and motivated them to take part in local activities focusing on environmental issues in that area. According to Alisha, girls are more vulnerable than boys because they have less education and information. She took part in the street plays organized to create awareness of people on ecological rights. During the meetings conducted by the Local to Global project, she learnt about the environmental perspective to save their future by saving the earth.



Through these plays and meetings Alisha got motivated to work for the protection of environment and children's right. She was then selected as a Core member of the Team. Alisha took it upon herself to combat child and environmental rights violations including child marriage and child labour in her area and also conducted cleanliness drives in the locality, especially on plastic waste management. She created the slogan 'nylon, plastic, polythene parishes shatru teen' (nylon, plastic, polythene are three enemies of the environment). She and her group members have been successful in placing waste bins in the community supported by LGWCDC and also ensuring the regular monitoring of cleaning of the waste bins by the Municipality in their community. Things have changed drastically for the past few months in her area. she has already delivered a message to other youth members and set a model, the youths have started the same practices in their locality through street plays and other actions. She was also invited by the SWAYAM organization to perform street play on plastic "Stop single-use plastic" in Bangur Park, Kolkata, West Bengal which was covered by a few print and electronic media i.e. The Statesman, Dainik Vishwaamitra, The Times Group ePaper.



Now Alisha's only dream is to change the thought process of other youth members including girls and community people to save the environment and earth. Her current educational status is 11th class. and she keeps continuing her support to the other youths to become environmental changemakers.

LOCAL to GLOBAL: Strengthening, networking and capacity building of youth-led activities for the right to a clean and healthy environment

Reproductive and mental health of women and adolescent girls is also a major concern which mostly gets unaddressed.

The situation deteriorated with more pressures on women for dowry, more women have become victims of domestic violence and also cyber crime. Extortion due to fake promises of marriage, job and other things to lure women who have steady jobs has become common.

There is a strong move towards more conservative and traditional norms propagated by the Hindutva lobby on the one hand and on the other violence, unemployment, alcoholism and deep frustration and anger by targeting women.

A new project called the Gender Transformation project in the Northern Zone with 3 partners aims to change the fundamental traditions and norms which govern women's lives. As a part of this project training of women staff of partner organisations on understanding gender is also key and hence the benefit also goes to staff of another 10 partners organisations. The partner Ankur is a part of this and works closely with girls in the community settlements of Delhi.

The new BMZ project 'break the chain' in Tamilnadu focuses on strengthening migrant women workers in the textile industry in Tamilnadu to understand their rights and protect them through different mechanisms to ensure that they have fair working conditions.

Formation of self help groups, programmes for women, income generation programmes are all a part of almost every partner that tdh supports in the country. The focus of the work in the country is on women from the most marginalized communities particularly migrant and dalit

women and women from minority communities. 18.96% of the projects fall under this goal.

Main Achievements during the year

- *74 project partners in the country have gender policy in place and are implementing the same.*
- *One zonal and 4 state level workshops on gender were conducted in Bihar and Uttarakhand in which 238 youth participated*
- *2338 youth participated in 23 campaigns against child marriage and demanding safe spaces for girls and women were carried out in Bihar and Rajasthan. 28 child marriages were stopped in west and north, and rehabilitation of children was done*
- *188 District law enforcement authorities were sensitised to effectively implement laws protecting girls and women at workplace.*
- *187 women representatives are participating effectively at the local government levels and putting forth their demands.*
- *Kumirmari Ecotourism Pvt. Ltd., the ecotourism company formed in the Sundarbans has now 5 women on its board..*
- *359 women started receiving their own sustenance allowance in brick kilns of Rajasthan.*
- *5000 young women in north and south were trained on gender and labour rights. In the west zone, 282 girls for skill training and 100 marginalised women for income generation were supported.*
- *Discussions on Gender Rights were mainstreamed in all target group meeting like children groups, youth groups and*

women's groups, campaigns and collective actions in most of the projects in India. In Chhattisgarh, a vulnerability survey of girls was conducted in 100 villages to prevent child marriages, and 53 vulnerable youth have been identified and followed up.

- In Tamil Nadu 3500 women workers in textile supply chains were empowered to raise their voice against violations.
- 1088 young girls and women benefited from vocational trainings.
- 31 gender ambassadors and girl leaders associated with Bihar and Rajasthan youth network are advocating for gender rights.
- 198 girls are able to delay their marriages and continued higher education in north and west.
- 1910 girls are engaged in playing various sports activities to promote gender rights.
- 51 textile factories in Tamil Nadu ensured decent working elements like IC committees and improved facilities like food and stay facilities for workers benefiting more than 10,200 women workers.
- 4 decent elements including workplace harassment committee, child protection committees, facilities of toilets, drinking water and safety equipment's for brick kiln and mining families have been ensured in UP and Rajasthan.

3.3. Access to adequate nutrition and to governmental programmes related to food security

tdh has supported projects that focus on organizing the local community to engage themselves to realise their rights and directly address these issues.

The project EXIT in Odisha is one such example, where the rights of tribals and their access to nutrition is a key factor. In the SEWOH Chaupal project in Chhattisgarh the focus is also on health and nutrition and access to food for tribal groups in 2 districts of this state. The project 'On the move' focuses on the rights of sugarcane workers to access to education for children and access to food for these migrant communities, who migrate from one part of Maharashtra to another for work.

These projects enable the partner to work with the poorest communities in the "aspirational districts" identified by the Govt. that are extremely poor. Working on the topic of health and nutrition and the communities access to basic food and strengthening the children's groups and the youth groups within the project have been a main focus. These groups are then networked with other groups in the country.

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

The GC 26 was the main focus of work in the country regarding environmental rights. This was well integrated into several projects. The project local to global also helped build up local youth groups strengthen the existing network. The youth conference in the Sundarbans also supported this... GAM was observed with great enthusiasm throughout the country. 30230 children and youth from youth networks had participated in the activities of GAM and uploaded it on the GAM website. The GAM always supports the local youth organisations and encourages youth to be very proactive.

Breaking the stereotype role of women and men

Up to the age of 10, especially boys help their mother in the domestic work without any hesitation, but as they grown up into adolescence, they often have a social misconception from society that girls and women has naturally should take care of domestic work, Gradually, by watching the people around them, they learn that housework belongs to women and men's job is only to earn money. And a strong perception is created that the money earner has value, and the housewives are doing a worthless job that has little value. Especially in society, people have a strong perception that cooking at home is only women's work.

The same attitude was observed among youth belonging to 10 villages in rural part of Pune Maharashtra. In these areas the prevalence of gender discrimination is high and girls don't even get opportunity to play outdoor games. In such circumstances talking about career opportunities for girls is the out of box question.

40 boys and 50 girls participated in the Gender Equity Initiative program which focused on breaking the stereotype of division of domestic work of men and women. 40 boys made Roti in a traditional way without any hesitation. After the event some boys expressed that.

"Aadesh 16-year participant said I don't think that making Roti is only the responsibility of women but we both can share responsibility for it. Though some time other boys start teasing me, I will not stop this best practice to help our family members especially women and girls because I understand that domestic work is the responsibility of both male and female. I can proudly say that I can make Roti and I am capable of and not dependent on others to prepare food.

Sahil 17 years participant said, "If I will start taking responsibility of domestic work, my sister will get time to fulfill her dream, it will not only impact to my sister but also motivate other girls from our society to achieve their goal, slowly the entire society will change"

Mohan, 14 years participant said, "My parents usually migrate to other place for livelihood, me and my sister along with my grandparents staying back for our education, my sister pursuing higher education and she has to go early morning for her classes, I use to prepare food for us, so she can concentrate on her studies,"

Bhawana, one of the participants said, our society never has seen such picture that girl is repairing electric board, but this opportunity helped us to learn the work which mostly we expect from boys, now if anything happens in our home, I don't need to wait for my brother and father, Now I know what to do. This event developed our confidence and changed the perspective of society to break the stereotypical role of men and women.

Story from 'Addressing gender discrimination through engagement of youth' implemented by Work For Equality written by Chandan Desai.





Archana's journey to becoming a successful Technician

Archana, a 19-year-old resident of Samsherpur, Tal. Akole, belonged to an economically weak family. Her parents, both farm laborers, were facing challenging times. However, Archana harbored a strong desire to pursue further studies, yet she was unsure about how to proceed.

Fortunately, Archana learned about Lok Panchayat ITI from some girls in her village who were studying there. She discovered that the institution offered a 100% discount on college fees, hostel fees, and mess fees for girls, along with excellent placement opportunities. Encouraged by this information, Archana decided to enroll in Lok Panchayat ITI. With her impressive 64% marks in SSC, Archana quickly secured a spot through the Lok Panchayat ITI College Online Admission process. She demonstrated perseverance over the next two years and successfully completed the electrician trade program with exemplary marks.

Currently, Archana is employed as an Electrician Apprentice at Fiat India Automobiles Pvt Ltd in Ranjangaon MIDC. Her monthly salary of Rs. 11,500, not only supports her financially but also brings joy and gratitude to her family. They owe their newfound happiness to Lok Panchayat RTTI College. Archana's journey serves as a remarkable success story, showcasing how access to quality education and opportunities can transform lives. Her dedication and the support provided by Lok Panchayat ITI have empowered her to contribute to her family's financial well-being, opening doors to a brighter future.

Archana's journey is a reflection of Lok Panchayat Social Organization's unwavering commitment to student empowerment and holistic development. Archana's inspiring transformation serves as a testament to the organization's success in achieving this goal.

Story from 'Rural Technical Training Institute for Tribal and Low-Income Group', implemented by Lokpanchayat, written by Chandan Desai





Turning the Tide - Karina Kumari

In Bangakhalar village of Koderma district of Jharkhand, where basic facilities were a distant dream, Karina Kumari stepped in to tackle issues plaguing her community. Facing problems like deforestation, water scarcity, and gender bias, Karina decided they can change the situation with her youth group.

Bangakhalar grappled with a lack of basic amenities, and the environment degraded with rampant tree-cutting. Use of plastic bags had increased, and the soil suffered from chemical fertilizers. Education opportunities were limited, especially for girls, and child marriages were alarmingly common. Karina in collaboration with Samarpan, under the BFTW and terre des hommes supported project, in collaboration with Kareena, initiated group efforts. Small setups like Baal Manch and youth groups were formed. Kareena, part of the Roshni youth group, took charge. A postcard campaign for a high school was led by Kareena, who also raised her voice against child marriages, even making complaints.

Under Karina's influence, a palpable shift towards education has occurred. Regular youth meetings have become a hub for discussions on pressing village issues. The attendance of children in remedial classes and their newfound interest in reading newspapers indicate a growing educational awareness. One of the most remarkable outcomes of Karina's efforts has been the reduction in child marriages. Through her vocal opposition and the registration of complaints via the childline toll-free number, Karina has played a pivotal role in preventing four such marriages. This has not only saved young lives from early commitments but has also instilled a fear of administrative consequences in the minds of the community. Karina's initiatives extended towards environmental protection. Through rallies, debates, and planting saplings, she has not only raised awareness but has actively contributed to preserving the local ecosystem. The symbolic act of tying red ribbons to trees, signifying them as 'brothers' to be protected, showcases a community-driven commitment to safeguarding nature.

The success of the postcard campaign, led by Karina, advocating for a high school in the panchayat, marks a tangible improvement in educational infrastructure. Additionally, the recommendation for a mobile network signals a potential leap in connectivity, overcoming the previous communication challenges faced by the community. Karina's quick thinking and prompt action in calling for medical help for an injured woman have not only saved a life but have also prompted a broader awareness of emergency medical services. The initiation of 108 ambulance services has made a substantial impact on the community's health and safety.

Kareena aims to keep the momentum going. Her goal is to link other youths to education, maintain environmental balance, and become an administrative officer.

Story from "Empowerment of Women & Children of marginalized communities in Giridih & Koderma Districts, Jharkhand" implemented by Samarpan, written by Rohit Rakshit



4. Project Development



The year 2023 was a very busy year for the India Branch office. All the 4 zones expanded and extended their work in different ways. There was more focus on strengthening youth groups in the zones and also a lot of emphasis on due diligence on organizations. During the last year 20 projects have been sanctioned totally of which 3 are new BMZ projects.

During the reporting year the country focused on developing a climate protection projects in Uttarakhand to be supported by the Dachser climate fund. We await news of sanction. The projects supported by Dachser emphasise the integration of youth participation in the projects and also work on children's rights and women's rights. The project supported by Misereor focuses on children affected by the extractive industries. Several partners are supported through the VWWC and the VWEF. The project 'National School for the Blind' has received an extension to the end of this year. The direct implementation project of tdh 'Samvaad' Pune that supports children in conflict with law. This project will come to an end and the new project will soon be taken over by Tata Institute of Social sciences and take up the same issues of children in conflict with law in both Pune and Mumbai. The project RTTI in Sangamner will be completed by the end of 2024 and there is a discussion with VW workers council that they would support another vocational training centre near Pune.

During the year 2023 a total of 61 ongoing projects were supported by tdh. It has been a big challenge to stop the activities that were planned in Assam as well as the projects in Manipur also suffered due to the volatile social situation in Manipur. Despite this, tdh continued its work which was focused more with the Naga community.

Promotion of education and child labour eradication programmes in different states of India continued with the support of partner organisations. Working closely with the Campaign Against Child Labour also helped to bring the issue to the centre and do campaign work on this topic. Focused work with different NGOs in the mica mining sector have continued. These organisations have had an impact and now almost all children are in school and the mining of mica has been banned by the Govt. only some stray work continues. 2741 children (1760 girls) have been mainstreamed to school in 2022 and 2023, by working in 110 villages of the mica mining belt of Bihar and Jharkhand.

The partners work in close collaboration with the District and the State authorities. tdh also has

several projects that address issues of gender. In Rajasthan two organisations are focused on the issue of child marriage as in the districts of Ajmer, Bhilwada and Rajsamand it is still a huge challenge.

The project Synergy in Madhya Pradesh is also being directly implemented by tdh, with the support of tdh France AL68. There will also be one or two others in Kolkata and Bengaluru where tdh has zonal contact points to improve the work and visibility of the organization in India.

a. Evaluations and Assessments

Reviews and evaluations of projects and programmes is an integral part of the region's work. Number of projects are evaluated both financially and programmatically for understanding the outcome and impact and also for collective learning. During the reporting year three evaluations were conducted of the projects co-financed by BMZ. There were also some cases of investigation and inquiries into financial management of some of the partners. Corrective measures have also been taken as found necessary. The list below mentions the important evaluations.

Project Evaluations 2023			
	Project Code	Project Title	Evaluator
1.	Ex-post evaluation Aman and HESCO	Ex-post-evaluation of four projects concerned with environmental child rights (ECR), located in India, Cambodia, Peru, and Mozambique	Adil Ali and Enakshi Ganguli
2.	VSS II- BMZ-Indian-20-24	SEWOH_VSS II: Building a community-based, resilient, and sustainable food security model through community Participation and advocacy in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar	Rahul Ranjan Sinha & Purna Roy Chowdhury
3.	HAQ India BMZ 21-25	Building a child rights-based model of sustainable food sovereignty for children of seasonal migrant families	Abhigyan

Feasibility Studies			
1.	Child Marriage - Jatan and MJAS	Contribution to SDG 5.3- Combat child marriage and related unethical customs of gender inequality in Rajasthan, India	Bharti Ali
2.	On the Move - MGVS	Empowerment of seasonal migrant workers for nutrition undertaking in Maharashtra/ India'	All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG)

During the year, the India branch office also participated in a programme and financial evaluation done by the head office. The head office team through detailed methodologies engaged with staff, partners and consultants, both online and offline. Towards the end of the evaluation, preliminary feedbacks were shared and the final report is awaited.

b. Partner Meetings

For tdh, partner meetings are important tools for networking and relation building among partners and also between tdh and partners.

Every zone organizes these meetings following a similar pattern. In addition to partners sharing reports and information from their project area and work, additional analytical inputs are included. Experts on special themes like the climate change challenges, gender inequalities and the context of realization of children's rights are invited to these meetings. These meetings are in addition to the National meetings organized for specific purposes. During the reporting year, all the zones organized these meetings. There were also occasional online meetings including partners from different countries.

National Project Partners' Meeting Bengaluru



5. Institutional Development

(Staff Development, Financial/ Budget Development/Regional Fundraising)

5.1 Staff development

Tdh is working in India in 4 locations with 18 staff. The staff situation has been stable since the last few years. Ms Kavitha Nair from northern zone resigned and was replaced by Vipin Kumar towards the end of the year. The Programme Coordinator - South Mr P. E. Reji resigned. He had been working for the organisation for more than 25 years. He had played a big role in establishing tdh's work in the South of India. The work in the South will not expand due to the improved socio-economic situation.

The Administrative staff in the Coordination Office have taken up a lot of extra responsibility and new challenges and have shown a high degree of commitment and integrity. The complexity of work, proposals from different donors, budget lines, reporting have become more complex. This has been taken up very competently with good team spirit. They have ensured that tdh as an organisation meets with all the compliances both of Govts. as well as of donors. The programme staff too are motivated and committed to the 'rights of the child' and the vision and mission of tdh. The conditions in which NGOs work in India has become very challenging and the narrative has changed in the recent past due to a lot of restrictions from Govt particularly on International NGOs. Despite all this they have worked within these challenges.

During the last year the region had several visitors Ms Birgit Dittrich visited the regional



office in Pune and later joined the staff meeting in Goa. Ms Sonja Ende also visited in August and took part in the National partner meeting in Bengaluru. Later Bruna visited the youth convention and also the Dachser projects in Uttarakhand. Lena Fritzensmeier and Ann Christin also visited the Regional office in Pune as a part of the ongoing ROSA evaluation.

Partners and staff attended the Delegates Conference in Germany where the new Strategic Goals were passed.

Last year the accounts training in Osnabruck enabled Gwenita Perreira the head of finance and Amos Deep to interact with other colleagues and understand the HO systems and share their work.

Swapnil Yadav responsible for BMZ and co-financing department visited the Coordination Office along with Sarah Ackerman in June. They also had a training with the accounts staff near Pune. This was helpful in understanding the new discussions with the BMZ.

The Branch office status continues and the FCRA registration also has been extended for 5 years upto 31st October 2028. This came as a big step ensuring the stability of tdh in India.

This was due to the organisation keeping to the Govt of India compliances fully.

5.2 Financial/ Budget Development/ Fundraising

The tdh HO funds allocated for India have gone steadily down in the last few years. In the years 2023 and 2024 they have been at an all-time low. India Branch Office has been forced to spend a lot of time in fund raising from international organisations to support its work. The Special Donation partners have also a long association with the region, the strategic Goals of the organisation have been discussed with the partners over a period of time, they spend time in the field with the partners and youth and staff to understand the context in which tdh works in the country.

Delegates' Conference 2023



Resources have been mobilised by organisations from Germany, Luxembourg and France. Some part of the tdh HO budget is also utilised to include tdh's 'own contribution'. However since the vision mission of these organisations is the same it is easy to work together. The compliances of the different organisations have been met and a good ratio of 90.12:9.88 of project payments and admin expenses was maintained in the region.

During the year 2023, the Regional Coordinator visited Bengo in Bonn in order to present the situation on the ground in India. Close contact with the German Embassy was also maintained, staff were invited to participate in round table discussions at the Embassy in Delhi with Parliamentarians on women's issues and children issues. Regular discussions on the new concept notes and plans for projects on youth empowerment and environmental protection are underway. There are 17 ongoing cofinanced projects in the country. Cross-country projects like Zimbabwe and India have seen good results as there is cross learning. The projects supported by the Ministry cover a variety of topics from protection of ecological rights to working for women's rights and supporting communities to look at alternate livelihood and improve their food consumption.

During the last year a group from India, both staff and partners visited Zimbabwe and found the visit very interesting and were able to share and understand ideas about eradication of child labour.

In November 2023 a delegation from the BMZ and from Bengo Mr. Daniel Haas (BMZ) Head of BMZ and Mr. Stefan Wilhemy (Head of Division - bengo) visited 3 projects of tdh - in Delhi , in

Jharkhand and in the Sundarbans. It was a great opportunity to share the challenges of working and also the outcomes and impact. They were accompanied by Ms Lincy from Bengo who coordinated the visit. It was an opportunity also to interact with other NGOs. The RC and other colleagues accompanied these visitors along with other NGOs.

5.2.2 Regional Fundraising

Special Donations

tdh Germany India has several 'special donors' many of them visited the country and the projects last year and have continued their support. A new staff from Misereor Boston Daniel attended a training of partners and staff at New Delhi and was able to contribute to the discussions and understood the functioning of different organisations in the cluster. He has also visited the office in Pune and a project in Karnataka. Tdh France AL68 supports a project in Madhya Pradesh focusing on youth in a tribal area. Two partners in Jharkhand are supported by Bread for the World with a focus on children's education in the mica mining districts of Giridih and Koderma. The project will come to an end soon and it is decided along with BFTW that new partners will be selected in the coming year. EDGH Luxembourg continues to support SATRA in Assam and also Sakhi in Karnataka which is focused on education of Devdasi girls in Karnataka. Shanti e V an independent organization has sanctioned a project to support education of girls in Parbhani district of Maharashtra. Miseror will support a new project in Assam which will focus on youth leadership and self actualisation.

Tdh Germany's India Branch Office continues to work closely with the support of Dachser. The company has put out a special climate fund and tdh has applied for this in Uttarakhand. The project will focus on climate protection and energy conservation. A lot of preparation time has gone into this project, which still awaits sanction. The current project of Dachser is located in Delhi, UP, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan and also strengthens the youth network. The current MOU comes to an end in 2025 and discussions are underway for the new MOU.

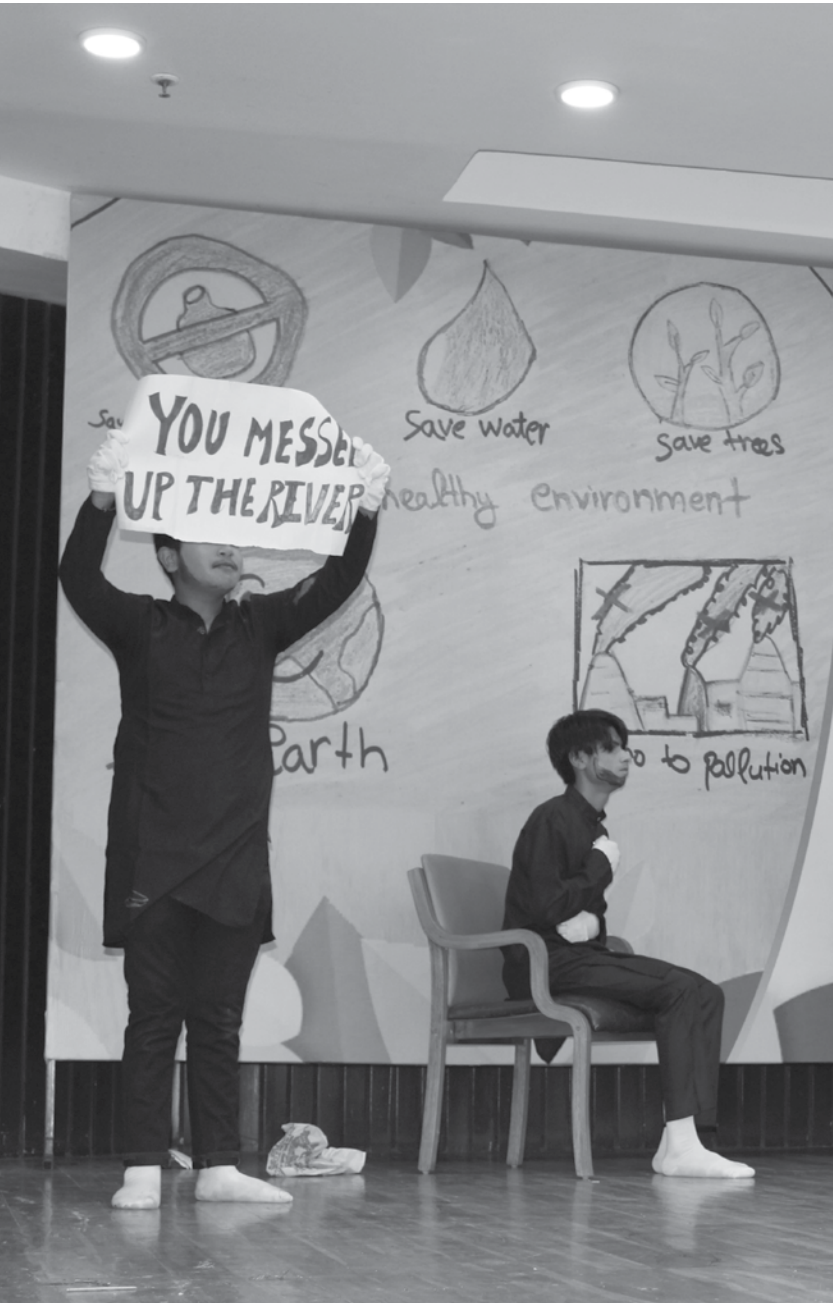
Eleven projects are supported by VWEF and the VWWC. These are located in and around Pune and also in Karnataka and in Andhra Pradesh.

Some of them will continue while others are being phased out depending on the feedback of the partners. The VWWC also supports the National School for the Blind which is a residential school for visually impaired girls. Here tdh has an opportunity to support visually impaired girls on protection issues. Juvenile Justice, ecological rights and skill training. The project has been extended upto December 24.



Girls' sports at child friendly center in Panna

6. Highlights of regional or country networking



tdh Germany represents the tdh IF in Joining Forces in India. Participation of youth in environment was demonstrated jointly on the 5th of June. Ritu Mishra represented tdh in the task force. She is also part of the Global advocacy team and visited tdh NL and tdh Germany in 2023 as a part of this responsibility. During the year tdh Germany hosted the Secretariate of JF in Delhi. Several joint meetings were organized where all 6 members of JF participated. A joint programme was held in November on 'best practices on child and youth participation'. A booklet was published of stories of children and youth from different parts of the country. This was later published in Marathi in Pune. The Secretariat of JF will move in 2024 to World Vision.

In India the offices of tdh Germany, Swiss Geneva, Netherlands and tdh Lausanne share information about their projects and strategy on project work. Tdh France AL68 supports a project in India through terre des hommes Germany. These regular exchanges build solidarity.

7. Highlights of Public Visibility and initiatives on child rights

tdh Germany has been working with several networks in the county and is well known for its work on education of child labour, Campaign Against Child Labour and child's rights to a healthy environment. In the reporting year a focus has been on gender equity within projects and also at supporting exclusively projects on gender. Migration in the context of child labour has become key and forced displacement due to climate, drought, war and ethnic conflict, is also very important. Youth networks have been set up in different projects and in several states.

These are further networked at the national and regional level. Youth from different areas are in touch with each other through online means of communication and discuss common issues such as gender, vocational training, online abuse and other similar topics.

The South Asia seminar was organised in June in Colmar in France by tdh AL68. There were 26 participants. Members of the working groups from Munich, Aschaffenberg, Freiburg, Haagen, Dortmund, Osterode and Stuttgart came for the meeting. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Dachser Mr Bernhard Simon took an active part and presented the work of Dachser in South Asia and also the new climate protection project. Ms Birgit Dittrich and Mr Chris Hartmann from the tdh HO participated and spoke about tdh's involvement in Afghanistan and in the Ukraine, in Nepal and in Tajikistan.



The RC also visited Misereor in Aachen and presented the ideas for future projects as well as Bread in Berlin to discuss the current projects.

She participated in the Regional Coordinators' meeting in Osnabruck.

South Asia Seminar 2023



8. Summing up



The year 2023 was an interesting one despite the challenges and constraints. tdh Germany in India has focused its work on education of children and on participation and on ecological rights.

Supporting bridge classes and creches to enable 'out of school' children living on brick kilns or mining or construction sites have been a part of this journey. Education of working and vulnerable children, organising women into self help groups in order to enable them to work together, for a better life and understand exploitation and stand up for their rights has been a part of the work.

In several pockets in India projects focused on poor remote areas.

Exploring livelihood options, ensuring that govt development programmes reach the poor, especially the school and Anganwadi programmes has been an important part of BMZ supported projects. Working with youth to give them a dream and a future, to enable them to think critically and understand the wider issues have been a part of the youth network. tdh engages with partner organisations that work with the poorest communities and ensure that they claim their rights.

The partner meetings in every zone and particularly the National Partner meeting in Bengaluru reinforced our faith and belief in democracy and the commitment to a just and secular society.

9. Perspectives for Future

The overall economic prospects, anticipated for India, are positive. While the growth rates of the economies are good in terms of GDP, that does not reflect the actual living situation, particularly of the weaker sections of the population in the country. India is attempting to gallop towards a developed Nation in the next two decades. However, the disparities stand very high reportedly with 1% of the population owning 40% of the total wealth of the country.

The climate challenges are moving to the extreme with another year of high temperatures already at the door.

Within the above context the contribution by tdh towards well-being of children are significant. Be it the migrant population, the discriminated genders, caste, ethnic and religious communities and their children, or the victims of climate factors, the protection and development support is needed. tdh Germany looks forward and remains hopeful even when hope is being challenged.

Ingrid Mendonca
Regional Coordinator
terre des hommes
22.03.2024



Annexure I

ORGANOGRAM OF terre des hommes GERMANY - INDIA

COORDINATION



Ingrid Mendonca
Regional Coordinator



Gwenita Pereira
Finance Coordinator



Smita Pawar
*Jt. Finance
Coordinator*



Snehal Kulkarni
*Coordinator - Communication,
Admin and HR*

NORTHERN ZONE - DELHI



Ritu Mishra

Programme Coordinator



**Mohammed
Salim**

Programme Officer



Vipin Kumar

Accounts and Admin Officer



**Khima Nand
Balodi**

Consl. Project Coordinator (Climate)

SOUTHERN ZONE -BENGALURU



Priscilla N.

Programme Officer



Shiji Alfred

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OFFICE - PUNE



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Chandan Desai

*Programme Officer -
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Amos Deep

*Asst. Finance
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Shilpa Sharma

Project Documentist

EASTERN ZONE - KOLKATA



**Koel
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Rohit Rakshit

Programme Officer



Bijoy Banerjee

Accounts and Admin Officer

WESTERN ZONE - PUNE



**Sampat
Mandave**

Programme Coordinator



Navnath Gore

Programme Officer



**Mandar
Shinde**

Consultant



Rakesh Ghadi

*Accounts and Admin
Officer*

Annexure II

Terre des hommes Germany - INDIA

ACCORDING TO BUDGET LINE				
	No. of all projects	Payments in Euro	No. of new projects	Liability in Euro
BUDGET LINE				
Regional Budget	19	194407	10	197463
Kofi	17	2852141	3	3078811
HUHI	3	29063	0	0
VW	11	674207	2	167378
Special Donations	7	168898	3	217232
Regional + Special Donations	4	412376	2	1252502
TOTAL	61	4331092	20	4913385
ACCORDING TO ZONES				
Eastern Zone	13	883318	3	998316
Northern Zone	12	955393	5	847009
Southern Zone	13	597445	3	630245
Western Zone	19	1210478	7	896161
Cluster	4	684458	2	1541655
TOTAL	61	4331092	20	4913385
ACCORDING TO STRATEGIC GOALS				
Promoting Culture of Peace	2	117668	0	210006
Improving Psychosocial and Educational Services for Forcibly Displaced Children and Youth	6	139157	2	67866
Promoting a Child's Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment	12	1944661	4	2650799
Fighting Gender Based Rights Violations	17	821105	8	910574
Not Related to Strategic Goals	24	1308502	6	1074140
TOTAL	61	4331092	20	4913385



Standing from left to right:

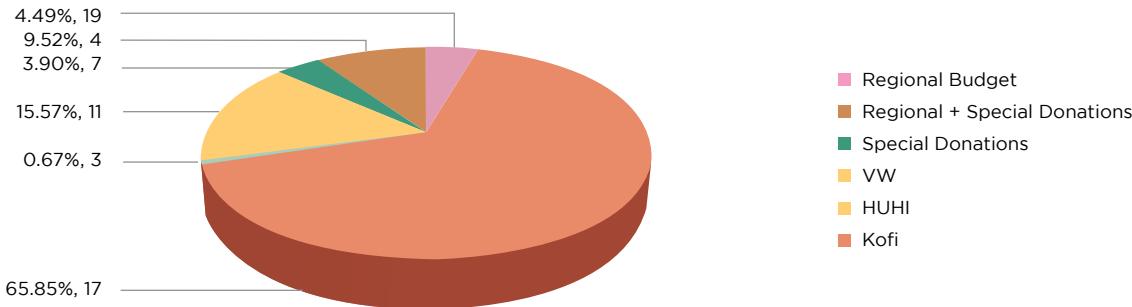
Koel, Ritu, Amos, Amber, Ingrid, Bijoy, Boturkhon, Sampat, Moni, Chandan, Shiji, Shuchi, Gwenita, Monica

Sitting from left to right:

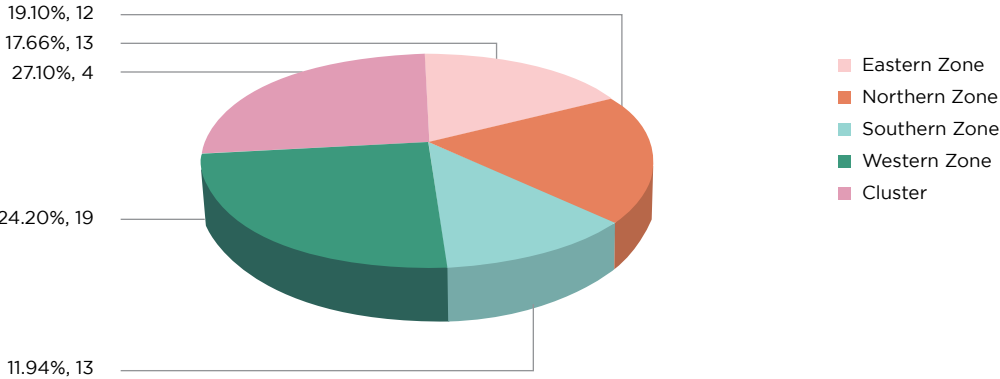
Vipin, Navnath, Smita, Priscilla, Rohit, Rakesh

Annexure III

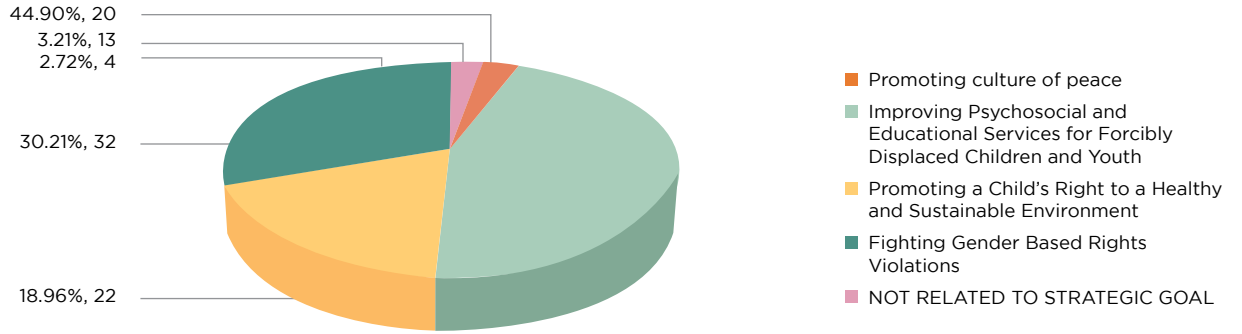
No. of projects according to budget line



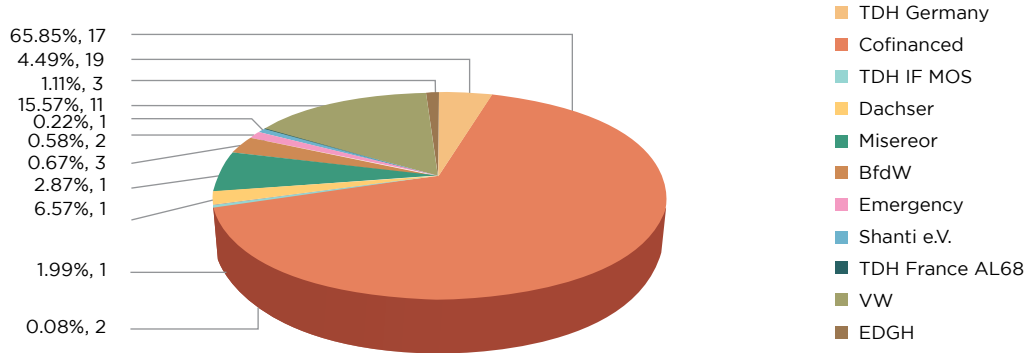
Zone/countrywise budget distribution



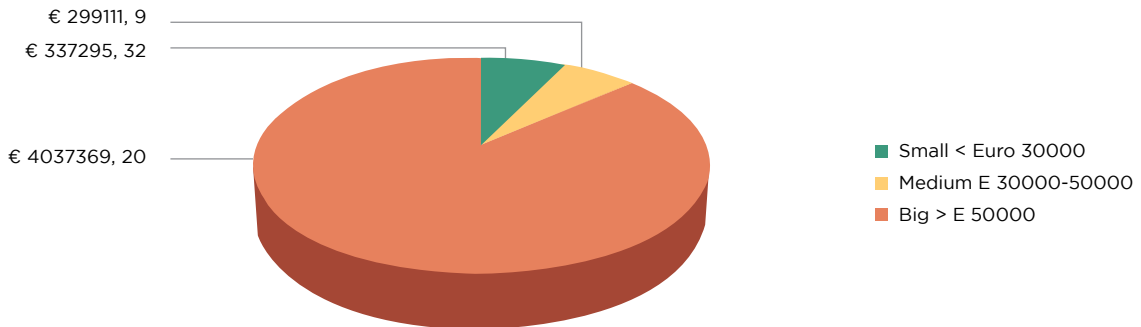
No. of projects according strategic goals



No. of projects according to donor

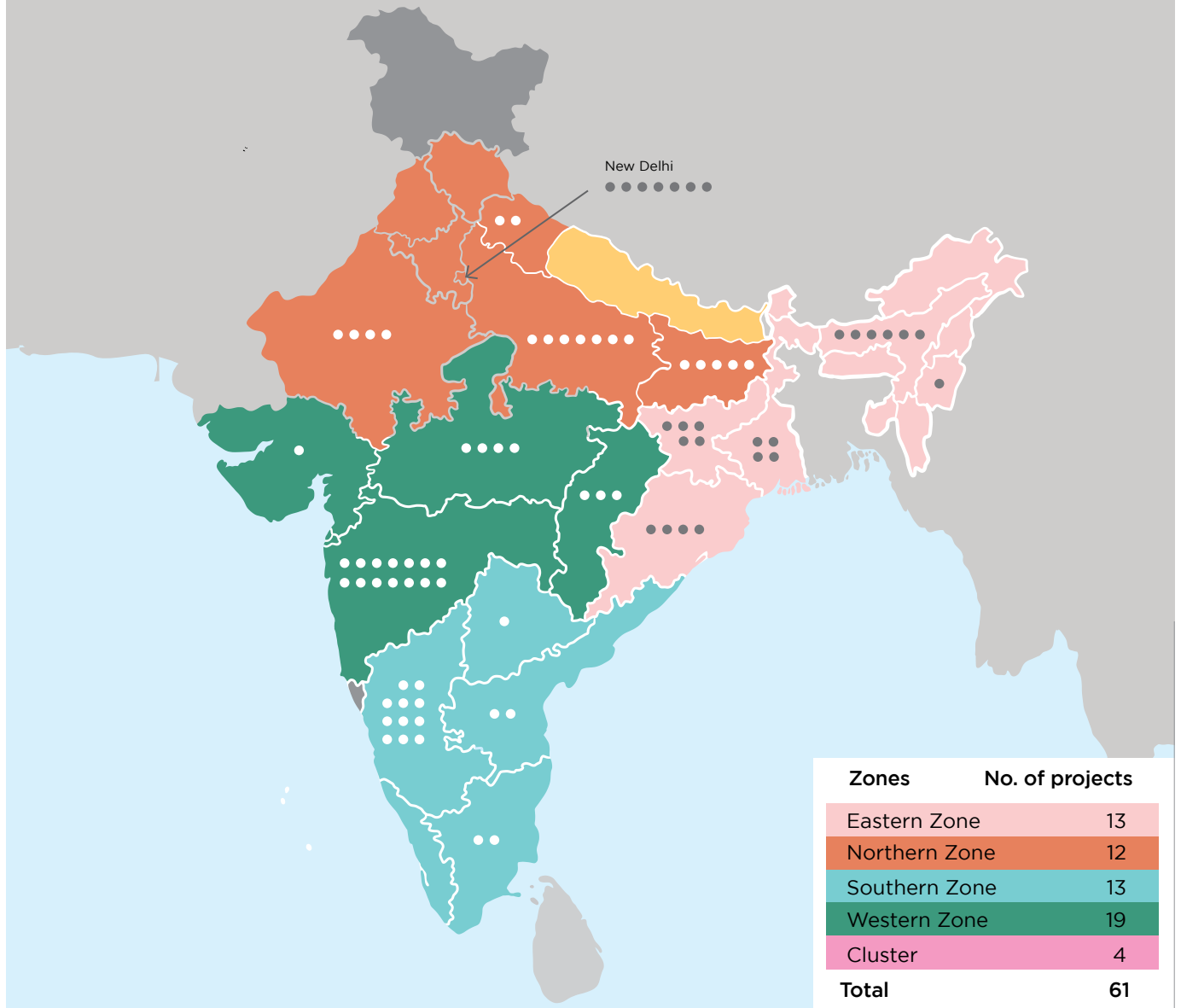


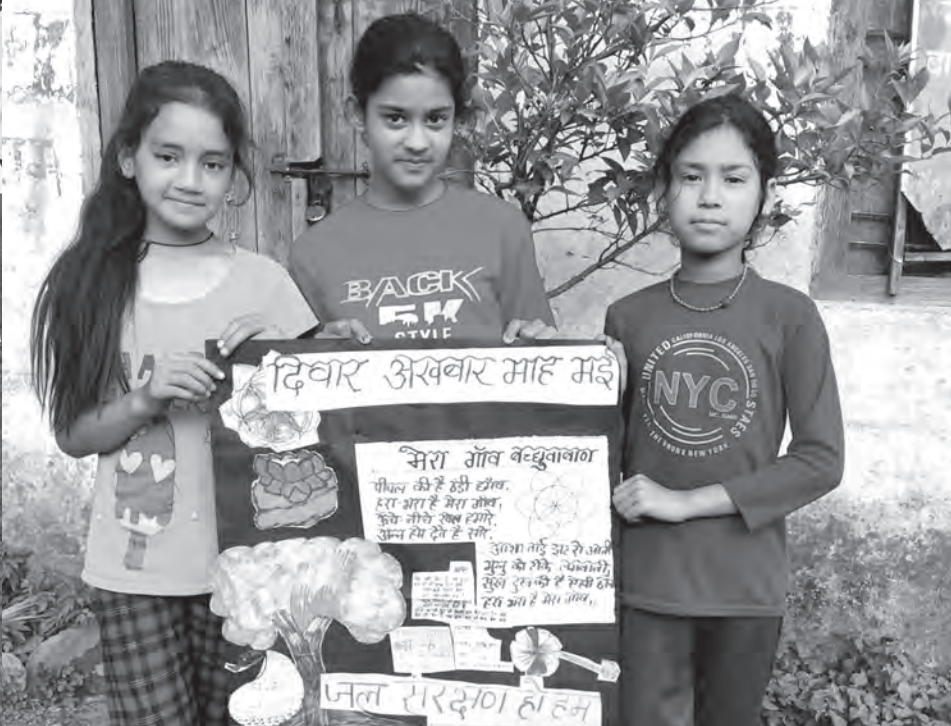
No. of projects according to budget size



Annexure IV

Project locations in India





www.tdhgermany-ip.org

