



Annual Report 2018–19



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healthcare



community empowerment



environment



education



financial inclusion



Overview of Asha slum

From the Director's Desk



Dr Kiran with the Asha Ambassadors and the members of the Asha team

“Thank you, Asha team and all our supporters all over the world, for enabling us to provide opportunities to slum dwellers in Delhi”

Dear Friends,

Last year (2017–18) was a wonderful and extremely busy year, including the 30th Anniversary celebrations. This year (2018–19) has managed to keep up that pace and has even surpassed it!

During the year we had a visit from The Reservoir Team, from Boston, USA. The Team included Dr Daniel Hendrix, an audiologist, who held several clinics in various slum colonies for the deaf and hearing-impaired. These clinics have changed the lives of many of the slum dwellers. Khushboo, from Zakhira, had been deaf since birth. Dr Daniel examined her and fitted her with a hearing-aid; she can now hear for the first time in her life! She has, not surprisingly, been overwhelmed by this miracle of modern medicine and is now learning Hindi from scratch, as she has never heard any language until now.

Asha seeks to provide health solutions for many diseases and ailments and has been blessed with a network of doctors in state and private hospitals. These wonderful doctors provide health care to Asha slum dwellers on a priority basis, free of charge. This has helped many of the slum dwellers. This network is growing and is changing many lives. We are so grateful to all the health specialists providing their services through this network.

At the beginning of 2019, Asha had the honour of welcoming the Prime Minister of Denmark, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, his wife, Sólrun Løkke Rasmussen, and other dignitaries to Jeewan Nagar slum colony. He heard from Asha Ambassadors and Asha workers about the work done to encourage Asha students to go to university and about the health initiatives in the slum. He also met and talked with the Asha Women's and the Children's groups.

As you probably know Amanda Clegg and Victoria Byrne, Friends of Asha GB, came to the Asha slums and spent a month tasting and testing food prepared by Asha slum dwellers. They have produced an amazing cookbook, 'Hope & Spice', a spellbinding Pandora box filled up with the flavours from India. The book contains authentic Indian recipes, with glorious photos of the cooks and their dishes. The proceeds from the book are being donated to Asha. Thank you so much!

There has been a lot of activity outside of India too. In late 2018 Freddy Martin took Abhishek from Peeragarhi slum to the UK, where Abhishek shared his story of transformation at a number of schools over a period of a month. It was also the opportunity to continue the 30th Anniversary celebrations with all our friends and supporters in the UK, including an event in London, where 'Hope & Spice' was formally launched; there were also presentations highlighting Asha's achievements of the past 30 years.

Dr Kiran visited the USA with Usha and the UK with Jubair during the year. Usha is currently working as a video journalist at Hindustan Times, Desi Martini, one of the leading media houses in India. She delivered a number of wonderful and inspirational speeches. Jubair travelled to the UK to share how Asha had been instrumental in changing his life. Again, inspirational.

Back in India at the beginning of the year Asha held its first 'Global Asha Meet', when our friends from all over the world came together in Delhi to discuss ideas relating to the future direction of Asha. We had a very interesting and thought-provoking time together. Thank you to all who came so far to be with us.

We have, of course, continued to encourage Asha students to go to university and to take up internships. 2018 is the seventh year of the Asha Internship Programme, with 62 Asha students placed in prominent multinational companies and diplomatic missions in Delhi. The number of organisations opening their doors to Asha interns continues to grow, offering students a priceless and crucial opportunity to experience the world of work in successful and professional bodies. To all those who have been involved in providing such opportunities, thank you!

As a suitable climax to this time in Asha's life, on 27th July 2018 Dr Kiran attended the graduation of Mahinder Shrivastava in Melbourne, Australia, where he received his Masters degree in Computer Science. As far as we know Mahinder is the first young person from a Delhi slum to receive a degree from a foreign university. He has worked so hard, so far from his family, friends and Asha, but he has succeeded marvellously! He is working for Macquarie Bank in Sydney. We are very proud of Mahinder and all he has achieved. Congratulations to Mahinder and thank you to everyone who has supported him over the years!

So, again thank you, Asha team and all our supporters all over the world, for enabling us to provide opportunities to slum dwellers in Delhi: opportunities to be healthy, to be educated, to have significant jobs and satisfying lives; opportunities for transformation! Thank you all.

Warm regards,

Dr Kiran Martin

Transforming lives in the slums of Delhi



Our Mission

We work with the urban poor to bring about long term and sustainable transformation to their quality of life.

Through a practical expression of the christian values of faith, hope and love, we aim to provide holistic community-based healthcare, empowerment, financial inclusion, education and environmental improvements by training, resourcing and encouraging the community to receive and enjoy their basic human rights. Asha also aims to influence the lives of its international audience by sharing local practice, experience and vision and facilitating partnerships where awareness and association between different cultures can impact and change individuals globally.

We believe that

- All human beings are created by God and are of equal worth. Therefore, the poor have the same inherent dignity, and rights that deserve our protection.
- Every person has a right to affordable healthcare that will allow them the best possible chance of living.
- Every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem.
- Shelter, safe water and sanitation should be available to all, regardless of their background or status within society.
- Women have equal rights to those of men, and those rights should be protected by both men and other women.
- Communities working together are capable of achieving great change and can influence others to also strive for change.
- The poor deserve the chance to improve their financial status and their quality of life, and to break free from the cycle of poverty.

We are committed to

- Working among the poor without discrimination of any kind such as that based on sex, caste, religion, language, race, colour or other status.
- Being at the forefront of the pursuit of justice and peace for the poor and dealing with the systems that make and keep poor people in poverty.
- Challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peace-making.
- Empowering the poor to lead full and meaningful lives, and building vibrant communities through the advance of love, neighbourliness, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Practicing a liberating generosity towards the poor and giving them the opportunities they deserve.
- Demonstrating earnestness in prayer for the needs of the poor and for all our partners.
- Valuing diversity and the skills and gifts of each team member.
- Maintaining excellence in the quality of our programmes.
- Exhibiting good stewardship of limited resources.
- Fostering effective partnerships with the government, funding agencies and other NGOs.
- Becoming a force for liberation and transformation of poor communities.

Children at Chandanpuri slum community

Our History

Founded in 1988 by Dr. Kiran Martin, a paediatrician, Asha has travelled the journey from providing primary healthcare to a single slum, to today serving the interests of 700,000 people in over 91 Delhi slums through our holistic approach to slum development.

Our ground-breaking community development programmes in health, education, empowerment, environment improvement and financial inclusion have placed us firmly at the forefront of urban community transformation in the developing world and beyond.

From the humble beginnings of treating patients under a tree in response to a cholera outbreak, the Asha Healthcare Model has grown to address both direct and indirect factors and covers both curative and preventive approaches to improve standard of health in the slums. The communities have been empowered to lobby for infrastructure like clean water, sanitation and paved pathways to prevent diseases.

Asha’s slum based primary health centres and partnerships with local hospitals ensure that all slum residents are able to access quality healthcare services while the Community Health Volunteers provide advice and information to prevent illnesses, to the community.

Committed to empowering slum communities to work in partnership with both state and national governments, we have seen much progress through developing this relationship. Having already secured the provision of safe water supply and drainage systems for a number of slums, under the leadership of Dr. Martin, the 1990’s saw Asha collaborate with the Government of Delhi to pioneer a slum housing project which resulted in slum dwellers being awarded their own land titles and permanent brick housing.

Through widely praised initiatives such as this, government policy has been greatly influenced to the benefit of hundreds of other slum residents, and Asha has enjoyed fruitful working relationships with various state government officials at all levels.

The 2000’s brought with them the exciting endeavour of facilitating slum dwellers’ access to banking services through our highly successful financial inclusion scheme for the urban poor. Devised in partnership with the Government of India’s then Minister of Finance, the launch of this initiative heralded a previously unimaginable increase in slum communities’ financial security. The subsequent availability of education loans opened the doors of higher education to our slum children.

The first initiative of its kind, our Higher Education programme has to date seen over 2500 slum children gain membership at some of the country’s most prestigious educational institutions. One of the most relevant achievements of this year was the graduation ceremony of an Asha student in Masters of Computer Science from the University of Melbourne, Australia. In the recent years, the programme has grown to provide mentorship and internship, and job placements to the students. Asha has welcomed prominent political figures from India to witness the transformation in their constituency’s slums, for which they have since become strong advocates.

Numerous overseas political Leaders and visitors have also accompanied Dr. Kiran on slum visits to Asha project areas and enjoyed a similar experience. Global support has been garnered for Asha through the establishment of formal and registered Friends of Asha societies in Great Britain, Ireland, the USA and in Australia through which supporters regularly fundraise and spread news of our work.

Dr. Kiran has lectured at some of the world’s leading universities and presented the Asha model at the US House of Representatives and the British House of Commons. In 2002, the President of India presented Dr. Kiran with one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri. This year, as Asha completes 30 years, its contribution to the field of urban development continues to gain recognition worldwide.

“Our ground-breaking community development programmes in health, education, empowerment, environment improvement and financial inclusion have placed us firmly at the forefront of urban community transformation in the developing world and beyond.”



Transforming lives since 1988.



Our Slums

In the year 2018, Asha extended its services from 74 slums to 91 slum hubs, mainly for higher education. To pay it forward, Asha Ambassadors visited new slums in the past year to identify needy and bright students, who needed mentoring and financial aid. The map below displays the new areas along with the old areas. Asha is working in to transform the lives of over 700,000 slum dwellers.

West

Block A, B, C, Savda Ghevra Slum Colony, Savda	1
Peeragarhi Slum Colony, Peeragarhi	2
N86 Slum Colony, Lawrence Road	3
Block W85 & W88, Zakhira Slum Colony, Zakhira	4
Indira Colony, Punjabi Bagh	5
Golden Park Slum Colony, Punjabi Bagh	6
M.G Slum Colony, Club Road, Punjabi Bagh	7
Tanki No. 2, Udyog Nagar, Peeragarhi	8
Jaipur Golden Slum Colony, Udyog Nagar	9

South West

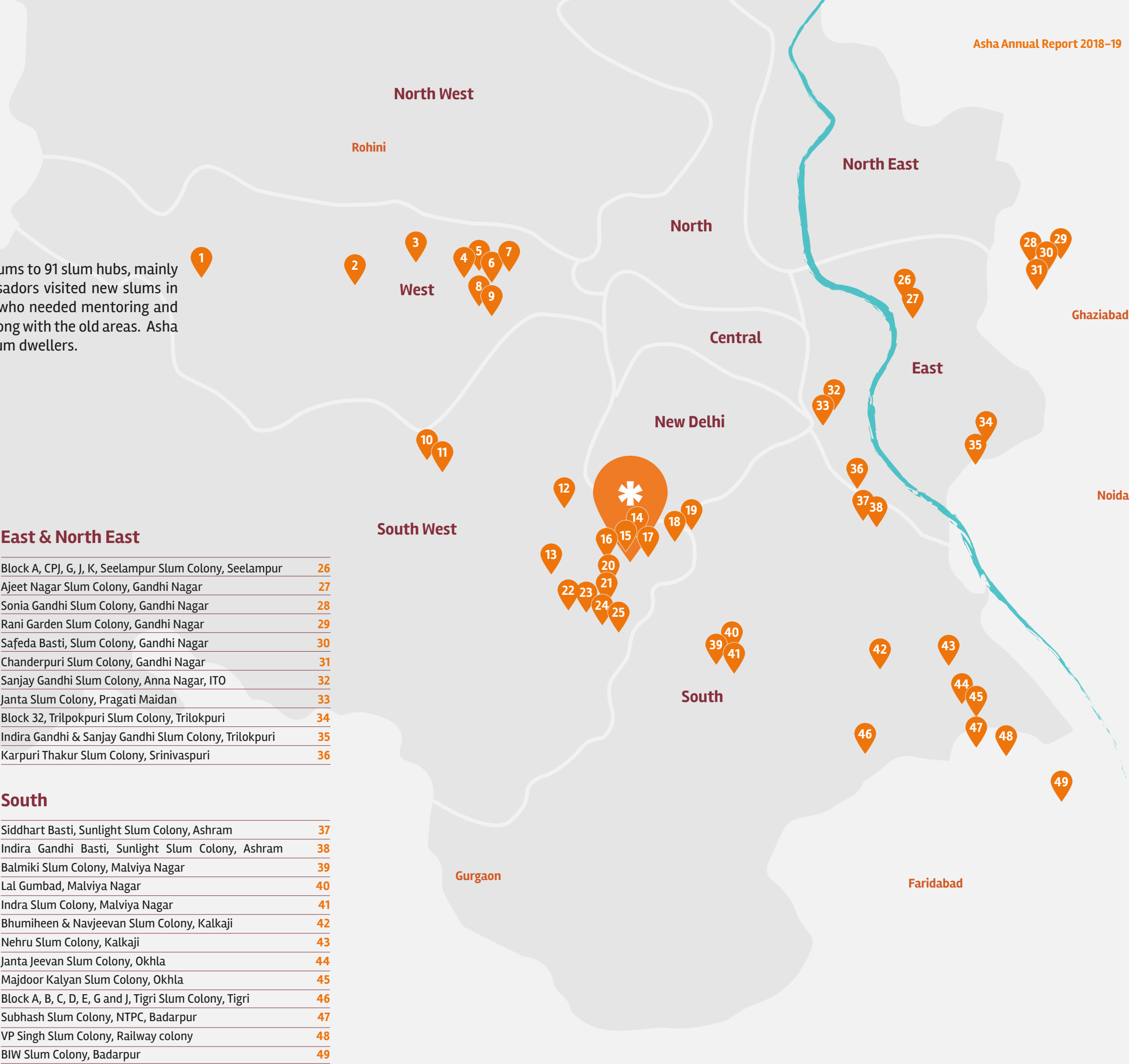
Asha HQ, Sector-6, RK Puram	*
Pili Kothi Slum Colony, Hari Nagar	10
Kanchan Slum Colony, Mayapuri	11
Railway Line Slum Colony, Mayapuri	11
Block C76, C200, C187, E10 Mayapuri Slum Colony, Mayapuri	11
Vivekanand Slum Colony, Chanakyapuri	12
Kanak Durga Slum Colony, RK Puram	13
Nehru Ekta Slum Colony, RK Puram	14
Hanuman Slum Colony, RK Puram	15
Dr Ambedkar Slum Colony, RK Puram	16
Ravidas, Slum Colony, RK Puram	17
Sarswati Slum Colony, RK Puram	18
Motilal Nehru Slum Colony , Munirka	19
Ekta Vihar Slum Colony, RK Puram	20
Malai Mandir Slum Colony, RK Puram	21
Nepali Slum Colony, Vasant Vihar	22
Kusumpur Slum Colony, Vasant Vihar	23
Bhawar Singh Slum Colony, Vasant Vihar	24
Nepali Slum Colony, RK Puram	25

East & North East

Block A, CPJ, G, J, K, Seelampur Slum Colony, Seelampur	26
Ajeet Nagar Slum Colony, Gandhi Nagar	27
Sonia Gandhi Slum Colony, Gandhi Nagar	28
Rani Garden Slum Colony, Gandhi Nagar	29
Safeda Basti, Slum Colony, Gandhi Nagar	30
Chanderpuri Slum Colony, Gandhi Nagar	31
Sanjay Gandhi Slum Colony, Anna Nagar, ITO	32
Janta Slum Colony, Pragati Maidan	33
Block 32, Trilpokpuri Slum Colony, Trilokpuri	34
Indira Gandhi & Sanjay Gandhi Slum Colony, Trilokpuri	35
Karpuri Thakur Slum Colony, Srinivaspuri	36

South

Siddhart Basti, Sunlight Slum Colony, Ashram	37
Indira Gandhi Basti, Sunlight Slum Colony, Ashram	38
Balmiki Slum Colony, Malviya Nagar	39
Lal Gumbad, Malviya Nagar	40
Indra Slum Colony, Malviya Nagar	41
Bhumiheen & Navjeevan Slum Colony, Kalkaji	42
Nehru Slum Colony, Kalkaji	43
Janta Jeevan Slum Colony, Okhla	44
Majdoor Kalyan Slum Colony, Okhla	45
Block A, B, C, D, E, G and J, Tigri Slum Colony, Tigri	46
Subhash Slum Colony, NTPC, Badarpur	47
VP Singh Slum Colony, Railway colony	48
BIW Slum Colony, Badarpur	49





Members of Children's Association in Seelampur slum community

Our Values

Through a practical expression of these values, Asha aims to provide access to holistic community-based healthcare, education, empowerment, environmental improvements and financial services to some of the world's poorest communities. Beyond the improvements to circumstances that come about through their application, these values bind us together – they define our identity and that of our communities.

Dignity

We respect and value the innate potential within everyone.

Justice

We challenge social structures that deny basic human rights.

Generosity

We give freely because we desire to, not with the idea of receiving a reward in return.

Compassion

We recognize and identify with the suffering of all.

Affirmation

We give individuals a heightened sense of value, courage and security.

Gratitude

We make a conscious choice to focus on the positive and block negativity.

Non-violence

We completely reject aggression and confrontation in everything we do.

Touch

We demonstrate good will, warmth and love by the way we interact with people.

Optimism

We help people to see possibilities rather than problems.

Empowerment

We seek to unleash the potential of individuals for the greater good.

Simplicity

We encourage people to engage with and focus on the purpose of their lives.

Joy

We find contentment in recognizing and celebrating all that is good in life.

90 Year old Kasturi speaks about the Asha Values

“She (Dilbari) loved me, helped me like a family member when I was left stranded. This came to all of us because of the Asha values,” says Kasturi with the willing smile on her wrinkled face.

This is a story of 90-year-old Kasturi and 50-year-old Dilbari from Asha’s Kanak Durga slum community who inspite of belonging to different religions broke barriers to help each other.

Kasturi has seen the transformation first hand from the time Asha started working in this community her entire life. She always mentions that Asha values have remained one underlying principle and a constant, which is the core of every intervention. It has sustained generations in the community to progress.

Dilbari migrated to Delhi after marriage, met Kasturi often in the Mahila Mandal (Women’s Association) meetings at Asha. Gradually, their bond grew stronger. Despite belonging to different religions, Kasturi and Dilbari, who practice the Asha values, have never been biased towards each other. People around them take inspiration in maintaining harmony and dignity.

Both found solace discussing and taking advice from each other. They recall how bad the infrastructure used to be when they shifted to Kanak Durga slum community as newly-weds, decades ago. A hillock bordering the slum stood in as a community toilet. The women bathed in their houses, by the door, so that the water seeped out into the drain that cut across the slum. Diseases were rampant. Since then they worked as a pressure group for the community under guidance from the Asha team.

Lately, Kasturi accidentally fractured her femur bone and was left bed-ridden, without any assistance. This was when Dilbari along with the other Mahila Mandal members came forward to help her.

Today Kasturi is walking again!

Such a deep bond between Dilbari and Kasturi is a fine example of practicing Asha values where neither religion, caste nor creed become a barrier.



Kasturi in a contemplative mood



Dilbari with Kasturi

Healthcare

Asha’s Healthcare Services –developed in partnership with community residents– is based on an inclusive 3–Tier Model, which has been widely recognized by institutions across the world for efficiency and impact in providing quality healthcare services.

At the first level, Asha has trained women from the communities working in slums who are engaged as Community Health Volunteers (CHVs). They regularly visit and monitor the health of communities particularly pregnant women, children under five, elderly and T.B. patients. Through committed efforts by Asha, almost 100% of deliveries across slums have been either institutional or with the help of trained professionals. Clinics across the Asha centres in the communities are adequately manned by doctors, nurses and paramedical staff.

At the second level, for advanced Healthcare and Diagnostics, Asha Polyclinic is well equipped with a laboratory, X– Ray, ECG, Ultrasound and other diagnostic facilities.

At the third level, Asha has a Referral Network that has been strengthened to cover public and private hospitals in Delhi. Patients from the slums are referred to these facilities which cover the entire spectrum of healthcare and diagnostic services in many speciality areas.

As a part of the health outreach programme, camps for regular health check–up, eye care, diabetes, hypertension and geriatric care are being organized at Asha. This year, hearing aids were also provided to slum patients by an audiologist. Asha has made great progress in reducing the Under–5 Mortality and maternal mortality rate in its slums.

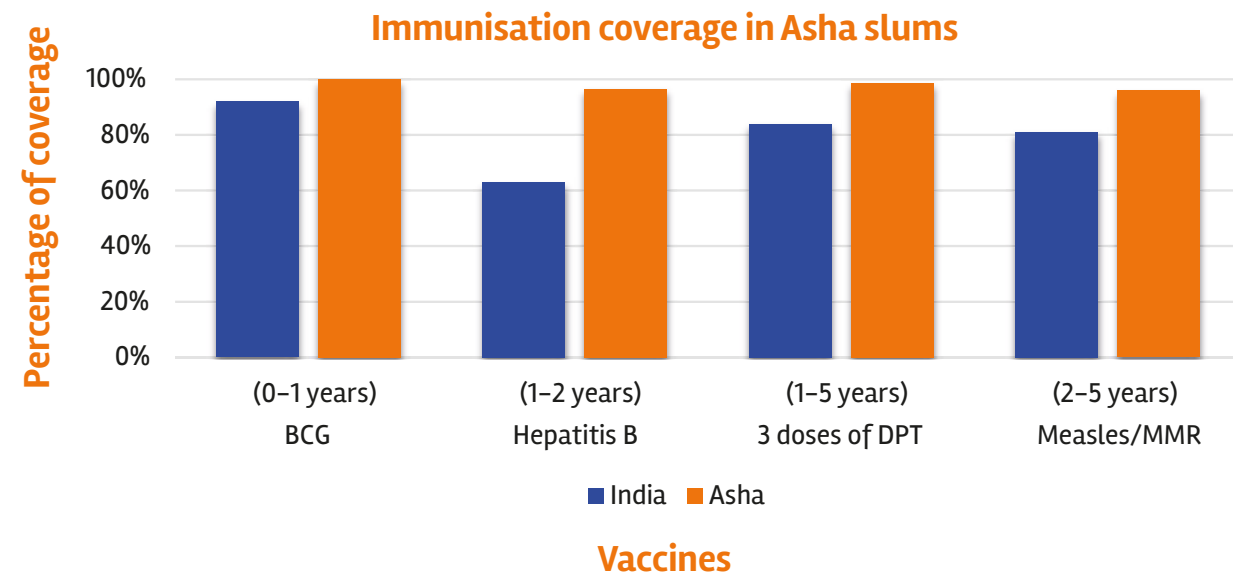
Statistics Maternal Health Programme

Indicators	India	Asha
Antenatal Coverage	51%*	100%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel	81%*	99%
Post–Natal Care After 2 Days of Delivery	62%*	99%
Early Initiation of Breast Feeding	41%*	99%

Statistic tool used: Median
*UNICEF



Bimla and Narayani conducting awareness session at Ekta Vihar slum community



Source: National Family Health Survey 2015
Statistic tool used: Median



Shabnam's Journey to Health and Happiness

A resident of Navjeevan Camp in Asha's Kalkaji slum community- Shabnam lives with her husband and in-laws. Shabnam's husband works day and night in a private firm to feed the family of five on an earning of Rs 10, 000 (\$146/ £116) per month.

Three years after marriage when Shabnam got pregnant, it brought joy to the family. This turned into despair soon after. The reason was that 21-year-old Shabnam was diagnosed with high-risk Tuberculosis (TB) and anaemia. "The multiple complications have placed the lives of my wife and unborn baby in grave danger as stated by the Gynaecologist at the nearby government hospital," said Shabnam's husband in a hoarse voice.

On a regular visit around the community by the Community Health Volunteer, one day, a weak and dull Shabnam was found lying in one corner of her shanty. The CHV immediately took her to the Asha Health Centre and showed her to the doctor. She was referred and accompanied to nearest government-run Tuberculosis centre. The team at Kalkaji ensured that Shabnam took her Tuberculosis medicines and Iron supplements on a daily basis. The Asha Team conducted regular check-ups on her to ensure that her pregnancy went well. They also counselled her in-laws regarding the superstitions related to Tuberculosis and anaemia.

Early this year, Shabnam gave birth to a healthy baby in spite of her complications. The Asha Team was present in the hospital to support the family and assist the mother in early nursing.

"My life was shattered when I heard about Tuberculosis. I would not have this prized possession in my arms without Asha Team's help," signed off Shabnam happily feeding her newly born.



Shabnam at her home in Kalkaji slum community



Asha Nurse Rama at the polyclinic

Khushboo's Life Transformed

The life of twenty one year old Khushboo is nothing short of a miracle. Born as hearing impaired to poor and illiterate parents in a small village in Bihar, Khushboo has seen unending struggles. Her parents resorted to marrying her off at a very young age to Iftiaaq. Khushboo was about to settle in her life with a very understanding husband when another blow hit them. They discovered that their firstborn also had a hearing impairment.

Iftiaaq decided to move to Delhi for a better livelihood and a hope to get treatment for his wife and daughter. The family moved to Asha's Zakhira Slum Community in the year 2015. From early on, Khushboo found a family in the Asha team. Shiny, the Asha team leader, encouraged Khushboo to attend the meetings of Women's Association in spite of her inability to communicate. With encouragement from the Asha team, she began to express herself using sign language.

In the month of February 2019, Dr Daniel Hendrix, an Audiologist, came to volunteer at Asha, and held a special clinic at Zakhira.

Daniel conducted tests on Khushboo and her daughter and found Khushboo's hearing problem could be resolved to some extent using a hearing aid. Khushboo was provided with a brand new hearing aid the following day. Khushboo was shocked and scared when she heard sounds for the first time. Through sign language, Daniel explained to her that the word she was listening to, was her name. Her eyes teared up with happiness.

Now, Khushboo is steadily discovering new sounds, whether it is the chugging of trains, chirping of birds or the laughter of children.

She is learning new words and trying to speak. Now confident Khushboo and happy Iftiaaq are hopeful that soon their daughter will be able to hear too.



Khushboo with her husband in front of their home

Volunteer Doctors at Asha



Rheumatologists from UK visit Asha

Asha was pleased to welcome two Volunteer Doctors from the United Kingdom, Dr Elaine Smith, and Dr Louise Dolan for a week at Asha. It was a wonderful opportunity for slum residents to avail specialist healthcare services.

Both the doctors carried out clinics in four different slums, as well as at the Asha polyclinic. The follow-up will be continued at the clinics situated in the respective Asha slums. This is how the volunteer program contributes and plays a key role in strengthening the capacity of the existing Asha workforce.



Free eye camp held in Mayapuri

A free eye camp was organized by Dr. Jatinder Bhalla, Eye Surgeon, and his team from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital on 21st of April. This hospital is a part of Asha's referral system, wherein the critical patients from Asha clinics are referred to renowned doctors, who treat them free of cost, as a part of their pro bono services. A good turnover of 148 people was seen, of which 8 patients were further referred to undergo cataract surgery.



Health check-up camp

Asha organized a Free Health Camp for its slum residents at Kusumpur Pahari on September 14, 2018. The camp was conducted in collaboration with MAX SMART Super Specialty Hospital. More than 140 patients were treated and provided medication. Patients were attended by a skillful team of doctors from MAX Hospital with the help of Asha.



Mental Health clinics at Asha slums

American Psychiatrist John Peteet and Social Worker Amanda Proctor volunteered at Asha for a week early this year. They held counselling sessions for patients with mental disorders in the Asha slum clinics as well as at the polyclinic. A separate workshop was also conducted for the Asha team at the polyclinic on the importance of mental illness.



Clinics for the Hearing Impaired

Audiologist Daniel Hendrix came to volunteer at Asha for a week in February 2019. He held clinics in different Asha slum colonies for persons with hearing impairment. Daniel examined hundreds of patients, and based on the test results, fitted hearing aids on 24 patients.

Community Empowerment & Safe Environment

Asha’s Empowerment Programme enables slum women and children to become principal agents of transformation and is instrumental in improving the quality of life of the communities in which they live.

Community Empowerment addresses the social, cultural, political and economic determinants; while the Environment Programme aims to train the members of Women’s and Children’s Associations on advocating for their rights as citizens on a range of issues like community cleanliness, prevention of air and water pollution, waste disposal, and household safety measures.

The Asha centre in the slum being the focal point enables the slum women and children to become principal agents of transformation. Over three decades, the Women’s Associations have taken leadership in their own hands and successfully formed linkages with the community, public health authorities and local government bodies. Community empowerment plays a vital role in environment and infrastructure development.

Stepping into an Asha long-supported slum shows that change is possible in the environment. Clean paved streets, unblocked drains, legal electricity meters in every home, functional water pumps and clean public toilet complexes are some of the improvements as a result of Asha’s grassroot advocacy and empowerment of the community. Last year, Women Associations did a commendable job by getting the government to shut down many illegal liquor shops and build toilet complexes and parks.



Statistics

Indicators	India	Asha
Population Using Basic Sanitation Services	40%*	95%
Population Using Piped Drinking Water	28%*	80%

Statistic tool used: Median
*UNICEF



Children taking out rally on 'Girl child' at Ekta Vihar slum community

From a garbage dump to a new gym in Trilokpuri

Womens' empowerment can do wonders for collective effort. Trained to advocate for their rights, the Women's Association in Trilokpuri were adamant to convert an empty space, misused by the residents for dumping garbage. This empty space was even used for public urination, making it difficult for its residents to pass through this foul-smelling area. This dump bred many flies and mosquitoes. This had also become a spot for many anti-social activities like eve teasing, drugs and liquor selling.

The Women's Association took the matter into their own hands and approached the MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) of their area asking for his intervention. After lot of sustained efforts and multiple visits to the Government offices, the garbage dump was converted into a beautiful, lush green park with an open gym.

Members of the Mahila Mandal not only focus on improving their health but also inspire the residents to utilise their time in the gym. Many girls have also started coming out without fear. Nature and fresh air help make exercising fun and therefore more effective. In 2014 there were communal riots but this gym has played a part in creating harmony in the community. The authorities have assigned a gardener to beautify the garden and look after the gym equipment.

We are proud of the determination and courage these women have displayed. When you empower women, you empower the whole community.

Members of Women's Association in Zakhira slum community



Women exercising in the open gym at Trilokpuri slum community

Education

Asha has always recognised the life-changing role of education, which creates opportunities for better jobs, leading to income for improved nutrition, healthcare and housing, and finally breaking the cycle of poverty. Asha’s interventions over the past 31 years have ensured that opportunities for education at each level, i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary are available to the students living in slum communities across Delhi.

The Asha team ensures that each child is a part of the formal education system and has access to adequate study material. Asha also offers Computer and English literacy classes to school-going children in order to bring them at par with their financially better-off counterparts.

Poverty and pressure from society often force students to drop out of school and take up small jobs to supplement the family income. Asha launched its pioneering Higher Education Programme in 2008 to provide opportunities for tertiary education to students from the slums.

Asha’s Higher Education Programme started in 2008 with just 27 students and now covers more than 2,500 students! Asha’s strategy to reach out directly to the children in the slums has begun a process that will lead students through primary and secondary education to graduation and jobs which will enable Asha students to lead satisfying and dignified lives.

In the academic session 2018, 98% of students who took the school leaving examinations successfully passed and out of these more than 80% enrolled at university or vocational colleges.

The Asha Higher Education Programme provides more than just college education: it also offers mentorship, internship, and most recently job placement opportunities to the students.

Statistics

Indicators	India	Asha
Primary Education Completion Rate	95%*	100%
Secondary Education Enrolment Rate	75.18%**	95%
Tertiary Education Enrolment Rate	27.54%**	84%

Statistic tool used: Median
*UNICEF
** UNESCO



New entrants to Delhi University



Tushar speaking at an event

Tushar- Conquering all odds

"I was born in great poverty to parents who lived in a slum by the railway track. My father was a labourer doing low paid work at Asia's largest scrapyard, breaking down old cars or machines with crude tools and implements, and earning barely 75 pounds in a month. The biggest tragedy is that after 14 years of being a labourer, he has suddenly lost his job because the scrapyard has been declared illegal by the courts. And we are once again facing huge financial challenges. I work as a sweeper in a small shop and give tuitions to the children in my slum after college hours, to bring a bit of money home. There's a huge scarcity of water in my community and I have to wake up early morning each day to fill up enough water from the common water connection and carry it home in buckets.

My father and I have had a stressful relationship because his sleep is disturbed when I study at night as we all live in one room. I have to read under the dim light of a small lamp in one corner of the room.

I can never forget the day when I was playing an Indian street game called Gilli Danda when a young Asha Ambassador called Abhishek approached me. That meeting changed my life. I had never heard of Asha until then. Abhishek took me to the Asha Centre and introduced me to Tressy Ma'am and many other kind and loving members of the Asha family. The books I had always dreamed of buying but could not, were provided by Asha, and I was thrilled! Now I could study well and also in the peace and quiet of the centre. The senior Ambassadors helped me, coached me, and mentored me. I could hardly believe it when I scored 88.6% in my high school national exam. I had never thought my eyes would ever witness such marks and grades. I also topped my school in the humanities subjects. I was able to secure admission in a History Honors Program at Delhi University; this was my dream course, and I was in! The first student from my entire village and community to go to university! And Asha, of course, understood my financial difficulties and paid for my tuition and other expenses without which I would have become a labourer like my father.

When I interned at the British High Commission through Asha, and entered the beautiful office on the first day, I wondered if I was daydreaming. It was an experience I don't have enough words to describe.

I have now decided that I would like to do a Masters in History of Art as the architecture of the ancient monuments in Delhi has always fascinated me. Maybe I will become a Historian or a Museologist someday. I pray that I can move with my family into my own home one day and give them a life of dignity.

I love being an Asha Ambassador and spreading the Asha values that have completely changed my life and made me a better person, I think. I may forget many people and incidents in life, but I can never forget Dr Kiran and will always love her as my mother.

This is Tushar, a poor boy who played barefooted in the dirty lanes by the railway track, didn't have enough to eat, and today I have nearly completed my Bachelors in History Honors with a GPA of 7.5/10, studying away until the early hours of the morning as the trains go by on the railway track every few minutes. Thank you to all the Asha friends who have changed the lives of the students of Mayapuri slums. We will always remain grateful to you and pray that God will give you a long, healthy and happy life."



Tushar receiving Internship certificate from Sir Dominic, the British High Commissioner to India

Asha Ambassador Programme

One of the Asha initiatives in the area of education is the Asha Student Ambassador Programme. Launched in December 2013, the programme has seen over 700 enthusiastic Student Ambassadors working tirelessly across Asha communities. These students, who have received Asha support in the past, are motivated to Pay It Forward and guide younger students in the same manner. Regular workshops and interactions help these students to become effective peer leaders. With more and more high school students looking to them for advice and guidance, the Ambassadors are now role models across Asha communities. The Asha Ambassador Programme helps bring together these shining stars who willingly give their time to their younger fellow students, so that they can excel academically. Working day and night, the Asha Ambassadors focus on spreading awareness about the importance of education in order to eradicate unemployment and poverty around their communities.



Gunjan teaching students at her home in Anna Nagar



Kusumpur Pahari ambassadors at a Government school



Asha Ambassadors counselling the class XII students



Asha Ambassador and team taking workshop in a government school in Seelampur



Asha team and the Ambassadors from Anna Nagar meeting the Government school principal



Asha Ambassadors motivating the slum community members on Higher Education

Asha Internship Programme

The Asha Internship Programme offers university students with an opportunity to gain professional experience during their summer break. Since 2012, the programme has provided internships to 354 students in diplomatic missions and corporates across Delhi. Impressed by the students' performance, many of the employers have extended the internship durations while others have offered jobs to the interns.

The Asha Internship Programme aims to provide Asha slum students with exposure to a professional environment. The internship opportunities help the students learn basic workplace norms and skills, to help the students gear up to face the country's competitive job market.

61 students secured internships in Multinational Companies, High Commission, Embassies and UN organisations, such as the Australian High Commission, the British High Commission, Macquarie, Rio Tinto and others. Long term internships were also given to Asha Graduates by the Embassy of Denmark and the Embassy of Ireland.



Internship Launch at the Australian High Commission



Asha Mentorship Programme

Launched in the year 2012, the Asha Mentorship Programme aims to provide bright but underprivileged students, residing in Asha slums, exposure to the professional world. The programme helps to link professionals, associated with renowned firms and companies, with Asha slum students depending upon the interest of the mentor and mentee. The Asha Mentorship Programme's main objective is to guide students in career planning and help them to upgrade their soft skills. The mentee and mentor arrange meetings in a comfortable environment such as cafes, malls, restaurants, parks or at home.

In the year 2018-19, 25 professionals from Multinational Companies and High Commission/ Embassies volunteered to mentor over 30 Asha Students , from various slum communities.



David French (British High Commission) with Gunjan



Jaskaran (Macquarie) with Sandeep



Usha (Hindustan Times) with Sonam



Bjoern (German Embassy) with Amit



Gopi Bahl (Macquarie) with Mahinder and Amritesh



Jonathan Longden (British High Commission) with Tushar



Venica Voss (Australian High Commission) with Suman

Asha Alumni Association

In the year 2018, for the first time ever graduates from Asha slum communities came together to form the Asha Alumni Association.

The Asha Alumni Association aims to encourage the Asha graduates to contribute their expertise, time and resources for the development of the Asha students in their respective slum communities.

In just the first year of its inception, members of the Alumni Association made exceptional contributions. From making financial contributions, visiting new slum communities and identifying bright students for Higher Education, organising workshops in the slum communities and government schools, to organising special subject classes for class XII students, assisting in college admission and sharing information on job placement, they spent many hours and days helping our undergraduates.



Members of the Asha Alumni Association

Job Placement Programme

Asha has recently embarked a Job Placement Programme for its graduates. The Programme has been integrated with the Higher Education, Internship and Mentorship Programmes to achieve the best results. The systems, processes and structures are interlinked, incorporating academic training, aptitude and behavioural traits of the students to obtain the curve of best fit, in order to achieve significant outcomes.

In the reporting period, several rounds of workshops, seminars, activities and interactive discussions in CV preparation, online and offline job search processes, interview techniques, training on soft skills, behavioural traits and personality development were carried out to ensure that the candidates were placed at the right position in the organisation. The endeavour was to focus on career development and growth rather than just finding a job. The programme also looked at the latest market trends in employment and had a futuristic outlook providing the candidate with the right skill sets.

Till date, more than 96% of Asha’s graduates are gainfully employed in large transnational and blue-chip corporates including Macquarie, Rio Tinto, Grant Thornton, Embassies and High Commissions like Denmark, France, New Zealand, Great Britain, Ireland; just to name a few.

Asha’s students like Mahinder, Usha, Amritesh, Saranya, Rubina and Chandan have embarked on a successful career journey in multinational corporates, media houses and other prestigious organisations both in India and abroad, and are being well appreciated for their performance as well as their personality.

It has also been Asha’s focus to ensure that those students who are unable to secure admission in colleges are counselled and motivated to join skill development and vocational courses based on their attitude as well as aptitude and create employment opportunities for everyone in the productive age group.



Chandan, Anju, Madhu and Shubham at the Embassy of Denmark



Rekha at the New Zealand High Commission



Ravi at Cushman and Wakefield



Shubham at Grant Thornton



Mahinder at Macquarie, Sydney



Sandeep, Saranya and Amritesh at Macquarie, Gurugram

Son of a humble gardener

In the words of Dr Kiran “Amritesh’s father was a poorly paid gardener in a private school. He moved Amritesh from a government school (where he was studying in the Hindi medium of instruction) to the private school where he was working. The switch from Hindi to English was so traumatic in many ways that Amritesh began to stammer. His stammering got progressively worse and he was constantly made fun of by his peers. He completely lost his confidence. He would watch his father sweating it out in the school garden from his classroom window, in the summer temperatures of 44 degrees C. Amritesh would stay back after school hours everyday to get help from his teachers while his peers from well to do families had access to private tuitions. Red Kidney beans and rice were a luxury at home. Meat was unheard of. He never remembers ever buying new clothes all through his school years. He would teach younger children in the slum community and earn some pocket money to meet his expenses. When Amritesh scored 91% in his high school exams through his hard work and Asha’s help, his father was called on the school stage while his son’s efforts were being recognized. That was the first time the school realized that Amritesh was their gardener’s son. Amritesh went on to completing his Bachelors in Commerce with Asha’s help. Today Amritesh is a permanent employee at Macquarie and has got his confidence back! The stammering has mostly left him and he is looking forward to a public speaking opportunity at Asha that I’m committed to giving him soon. I was moved deeply after my conversation with Amritesh. How great is the power of believing in a child and giving him all the support he needs to excel. Miracles begin to happen.”



Amritesh at his home in Kusumpur



Amritesh at his workplace

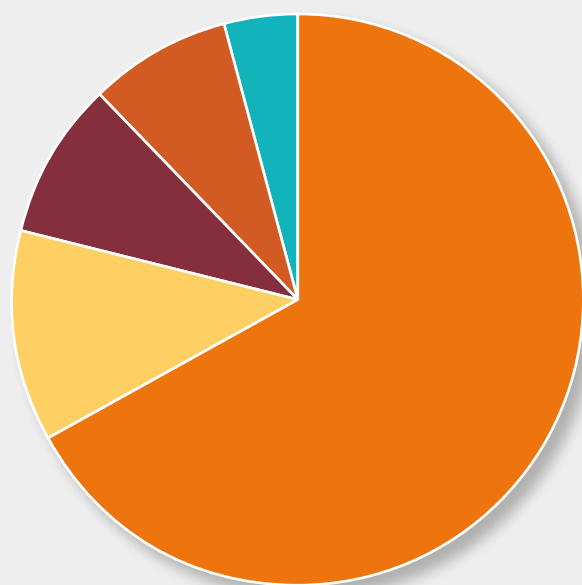
Financial Inclusion

Asha's Financial Inclusion Programme provides access to banking and loans for slum residents. This access helps them achieve economic independence and break the shackles of poverty. There was a time when banks were reluctant to provide any assistance to them because of their social and economic condition.

However, this programme has provided opportunities for every Asha slum resident to access all the financial services offered by banks, including bank accounts and low interest rate loans to pursue higher education, repair houses and set up small businesses. The repayment rate of loans in Asha communities is about 98%.

Over the past ten years the improvement in living conditions and the changes brought about in the slums have shown the real impact of the programme.

Loans granted since 2008



67% Business Loan

12% Home Repair

9% Other

8% Education

4% Vehicle



Shahjahan Begum, a borrower at her shop in Mayapuri slum community



Ramesh in his goods carrier

From a driver of a rented rickshaw to an entrepreneur

Ramesh aged 30 years, and a father of four children, has lived in Jeevan Nagar slum community for many years. He used to drive a rented auto and would only earn about ₹150 (\$2/ £1.50) per day. When he was ill and could not go to work, his family would go to sleep those nights without food.

About 9 years ago Asha intervened in Ramesh's life. Asha assisted him in taking out a bank loan of ₹150,000 (\$2148 /£1660) to buy a commercial vehicle to carry goods. This new source of income not only brought happiness into Ramesh's life, but also enhanced his confidence to expand his business. In a span of four years, he was not only able to repay the loan, but was also able to purchase another commercial vehicle. In early 2019 Ramesh purchased an auto rickshaw with the money he had been able to save.

Today Ramesh is the owner of three commercial vehicles that are enabling him to have a good standard of living. The loan he took out has transformed his life, and the lives of his family members. He is now in a position to provide an education for his four children, who are being raised under the wings of Asha. "My family has seen very bad days, but now I feel I am in a position to help others".



Proud Ramesh standing by the two vehicles now owned by him

Asha students abroad

In the past three years Asha has given opportunities to Asha Ambassadors to travel to different parts of the world and offer them an experience they could never have imagined.

So far, eight students have accompanied the Asha Director and Associate Director to the UK, USA and Australia, to learn, interact and share their inspirational stories with overseas Asha supporters.

In the year 2018, three young Ambassadors: Jubair, Usha and Abhishek from Asha's Seelampur, Ekta Vihar and Peeragarhi slum communities respectively, embarked on trips to the UK, USA and UK.



Jubair, UK

Asha Ambassador Jubair had the opportunity of a lifetime to accompany Dr Kiran to the UK in the month of June to share his journey with old and new Asha supporters. Together they visited many schools and organisations where Jubair inspired many with his story.

He shared the wonderful experience of his UK trip with us. He was humbled by the hospitality he received from the Asha supporters there.



Usha, USA

In September 2018, Usha accompanied Dr Kiran and travelled to both the East and the West Coasts of the USA. Usha shared her inspirational journey with Asha supporters, leaving the audience impressed with her achievements.



Abhishek, UK

The month of November 2018 was indeed a significant month for Abhishek, an Asha Ambassador from Peeragarhi slum colony. He represented the Asha students and the work of Asha along with Freddy Martin, Associate Director of Asha during his trip to the United Kingdom.

Abhishek was warmly welcomed by Friends of Asha Great Britain and Ireland. He shared his transformational story on how Asha helped him shape his future. During their stay, Mr. Martin and Abhishek visited various schools and colleges and attended many fundraising events.

Friends of Asha

The Asha family is a global one: supporters around the world have been drawn to the Asha values and have been inspired by visiting the Asha communities in Delhi. In the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America and Australia, Asha supporters have set up 'Friends of Asha' organisations to support Asha's work. These independent registered bodies that run on a voluntary basis, extend phenomenal support to Asha in India. Friends of Asha help the Asha donors and hope givers make tax efficient donations. They also provide resources like information updates, publicity material, statistics and more, for our supporters. They offer invaluable support to volunteers and teams planning to visit Asha to help them prepare for their time in the slums. Over the years, Friends of Asha organisations have spread awareness about the work of Asha to large numbers of people, expanding the supporter base in their respective regions.



Great Britain

Dr Richard Hogben, National Co-ordinator
Friends of Asha (GB)

36 Combe Street Lane, Yeovil, Somerset BA213PE, UK
Charity Registration No. 1085071
foasha.richardhogben@gmail.com
facebook.com/Friends-of-Asha-Great Britain



Republic & Northern Ireland

Mr Gordon Wright, Co-ordinator
Friends of Asha (Ireland)

3 Altona Manor, Holywood, Co Down, N Ireland BT18 9BX, UK.
Charity Registration No. XR 37459
ashaireland@icloud.com
facebook.com/Friends-of-Asha-Ireland



USA

Mrs Louanne Hempton, National Co-ordinator & Treasurer
American Society for Health for All Inc (ASHA)

15 Notre Dame Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140, USA
ASHA (USA) is a 501 (C) 3 registered charity, EIN #010557632
asha.usa.info@gmail.com | asha-usa.org
facebook.com/Friends-of-Asha-USA



Australia

Mr Richard Leder, National Co-ordinator
Australian Friends of Asha for Slums

Australia India Institute, The University of Melbourne,
147-149 Barry Street, Carlton VIC, 3053, Australia.
Charity Registration No. ACN 161 085 650
info@australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au
australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au

Events across the Globe

Friends of Asha (GB)



British Curry Night on 2 March 2019 at Yeovil, England



British Curry Night on 5 Feb at Montrose, Scotland



Launch of "Hope and Spice" at London on 10 November 2018



Fundraising concert by Wallace High School, London for "Lisburn/Delhi Hope Project", on 28 June 2019



Carnival held by Discovery School Academics Trust, Leicestershire



Dr Kiran visited Gryphon School, Dorset on 25th June 2018

American Society for Health for All (ASHA)



18th Asha Day celebration at Napa Valley, California, USA



Friends of Asha Sacramento, USA, hosted an event at Double Tree by Hilton on Saturday October 13, 2018

Australian Friends of Asha for Slums



Dr. Kiran met with former Governor of Victoria and Founding Patron of Asha Australia, Hon'ble Alex Chernov



Mahinder's Graduation Ceremony at University of Melbourne



Dr. Kiran Martin met High Commissioner of India to Australia, His Excellency A. M. Gondane at the High Commission of India on 24th July 2018



"Images of India" – a fundraising photographic exhibition in Fremantle by Juliet Murray in April 2018

Asha India



Asha Board Members' at Kanak Durga Slum Community



Global Meet of Friends of Asha at Mayapuri Slum Community Centre on 30 March 2019



Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG, British High Commissioner honors the Asha toppers



"Hole in the Wall" project was inaugurated by Mr. Simon Shimomura- CSR Head – SONY India Ltd



Dr Kiran gifted laptops to Asha students



Blanket distribution under Share the Warmth campaign

Dignitaries

Every year, we have the privilege of meeting and hosting supporters, volunteers and heads of diplomatic missions, leading political parties and senior government officials from within India and abroad. Their presence, support and words of encouragement to the slum communities hugely impacts their lives.

This year too we have had a wonderful opportunity of meeting some renowned people from all walks of life. Here are a few glimpses:

Dignitaries



The Prime Minister of Denmark, Lars Løkke Rasmussen visited Asha on 20th January, 2019



Britain's Foreign Office Minister, Rt Hon Mark Field MP, visited Asha's Kanak Durga Slum Community on 7 May, 2018



Ambassador of Greece to India, Mr Panos Kalogeropoulos visited Asha's Kanak Durga Slum Community on 2 May, 2018



Ms Jill Scheer, spouse of Honourable Conservative Party Leader of Canada- Mr Andrew Scheer visited Asha's Mayapuri Slum Community on 8 October, 2018



Deputy Head of Belgium Embassy, Mr. Stijn Mols and his wife Ms Evy Renap visited Asha on 6 June, 2018



Deputy Head of Mission (DCM) of the Embassy of Finland in New Delhi, Ms Seija Kinni visited Asha on 10 July, 2018

Teams, Volunteers, and Visitors

Great Britain



Discovery Schools Academics Trust team of 28 members volunteered at Asha's Seelampur and Chanderpuri slum communities in October 2018



Three schools from Sherborne volunteered at Kalkaji slum community in the month of October 2018



Megan Brown and Jessica Cassidy from Wales volunteered at Asha's Communication team and Dr Ambedkar slum community respectively



Ben Johnston, Daniel Nelson, Andrew, Gemma and Emma Johnston, Medical Elective Team from Ireland volunteered at Asha's Kalkaji slum community



Alice Green from London volunteered at Zakhira slum community



Elaine Smith and Louise Dolan, two doctors from the UK volunteered at Asha slum communities

Great Britain



Dr David Armstrong, Partner at PwC United Kingdom, visited Asha's Kusumpur Pahari slum community



Angelica Bains and Katie Edgely from London visited Jeevan Nagar slum community

Northern Ireland



Dunclug College from Ballymena volunteered at Kusumpur Pahari slum community in the month of October 2018



A team from Wallace High School in Lisburn volunteered at Asha's Mayapuri slum community in the month of October 2018

Australia



The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Australia Mr. Michael Spence AC along with the Vice-Principal Mrs. Tania Rhodes-Taylor and the Chief of Staff and Director Mrs. Kirsten Andrews visited Asha on February 8, 2019



On 4 February 2019, Robert Johanson (Chairman of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited) the Chairman of AFOA visited Asha's Chanderpuri slum community



Dr Monica Pahuja, Principal Radiologist and the Head of Women's Imaging (Breast and Gynaecology) at Monash Health and spouse of Mr Harish Rao, Board member of the Friends of Asha Australia, visited Asha on November 5, 2019



On 12 January 2019, Dr Jack Leder, Retired General Practitioner and Prof Gilah C. Leder, Adjunct Professor at Monash University and Professor Emerita at La Trobe University, Australia visited Asha's Chanderpuri slum community



On January 09, 2019, a team from Deakin University, Melbourne visited Asha



A team of eleven from Trinity College, Melbourne, volunteered at Asha's Seelampur slum community in January 2019

United States of America



Dr Praveen Prasad MD (Neurosurgeon at Mercy Medical Group & Director at Dignity Health Neurosciences Institute, Sacramento, USA) visited Asha on December 14, 2018



Mohan Passi, supporter of Asha (USA) visited Asha's Kusumpur Pahari slum community on 30 October, 2018



American Embassy School in New Delhi, at Asha's Kusumpur Pahari Slum Community on 28 March 2019



Dr Ashish K. Jha, MD, MPH, Director, Harvard Global Health Institute, K. T. Li Professor and Dean for Global Strategy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, visited Asha on December 3, 2018



The Reservoir Team from Boston volunteered at Chanderpuri slum community in February 2019



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Team volunteered at Tigri slum community in October 2018

Audit Report

Asha Community Health & Development Society
Abstract of Financials for the year ender March 31, 2019*

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)	
A Sources of Fund			
A.1	Capital Fund	179852037	82512734
	Less: Application towards Fixed Assets	97339303	
A.2	Restricted Funds		81863113
A.3	Staff Gratuity Fund		8382422
Total (A1+A2+A3)			172758270
B Application of Funds			
B.1	Change in Working Capital		
B.1.1	Current Assets & Loans and Advances		
→	Current Assets		
	Closing Stock	93254	
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	173553321	
→	Loans And Advances	308082	173954657
B.1.2	Less:Current Liabilities & Provision		
	Security Deposit(Salary)		1196387
Total (B1.1-B1.2)			172758270

Financial Activities during the F.Y 2018-19**

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)	
C Revenue(s) earned			
C.1	Income from All Contributions, Donations and Grants		55640031
C.2	Clinic Receipts		4053420
C.3	Interest (From Bank & Income tax Refund)		9838550
Total (C1+C2+C3)			69532001
D Expense(s) incurred			
D.1	Running & Maintenance Of Clinics/Centers		40261630
D.2	Welfare of Children		11841318
D.3	Asset Procurement		1602311
D.4	Administrative Expenses		3110244
D.5	Other Expenses		650878
D.6	Depreciation on Assets		2322679
Total (D1+D2+D3+D4+D5+D6+D7+D8)			59789060
E	Excess of Revenue over Expenses (C-D) transferred to fund(s)		9742941

*Please note that this balance sheet is an abstract only and is solely meant for the purpose of being published in the Annual report of Asha. This statement is not meant to be used before any other forum. For the actual set of Balance Sheet and allied financial statements prepared in accordance with law in force in the territory of India, Asha may be contacted for having a copy.

**F.Y 2018-19 in India extends from April 01, 2018 till March 31, 2019

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For R.Mediratta & Associates
Chartered Accountants

(Rakesh Mediratta)
FCA, Proprietor
Place: New Delhi
Date: 17/07/2019



For Asha Community Health and
Development Society

(Treasurer)

Asha Community Health and Development Society is registered under the Societies of Registration Act of 1860. The Registration Number is S/20849 of 1990. Asha is authorised to receive funds under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Contributions to Asha are exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Asha is granted Income Tax exemption under Section 10 (23c) (6a).

Asha Community Health and Development Society

Ekta Vihar, R K Puram Sector 6, New Delhi 110022, India.

Email: info@asha-india.org | **Website:** www.asha-india.org



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