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healthcare



community
empowerment



environment



land rights



education



financial
inclusion

Transforming lives in the slums of Delhi





From the Director's Desk



Thank you Asha team and all our supporters around the world for helping us to meet the challenges and improve the lives of slum dwellers in Delhi.

Dear Friends,

As India continued to battle the deadly second wave of the covid pandemic, the country's health systems and infrastructure were put under enormous strain. There was an acute shortage of hospital beds with ICU facilities and other life-saving equipment. Further, there was a horrific oxygen crisis which led to many deaths. Asha developed a home care treatment protocol for mild, moderate, and severe covid cases and arranged oxygen concentrators for the sickest patients in the community, saving the lives of thousands of slum residents. The unstinted efforts of the Asha team, together with God's blessings, ensured that there was only one death due to covid across the Asha slum communities. I want to thank all our friends and well-wishers worldwide for their continuous support during this critical phase.

Asha continued to bring hope to thousands of distressed families and support the community from the severe health, social, and economic impact of the pandemic through food distribution, immunity-building programmes, and psycho-social support. Asha expanded its healthcare programme for the communities, operating the Asha clinics regularly with enough resources providing free medicines, treatment and care for their best health and well-being. Asha also collaborated with the Government, achieving 98% covid vaccination across its communities, keeping them safe and protected. The Asha team and more than 300 Asha covid warriors worked with dedication to ensure the kids in the slums continue their education, sensitizing the community for the covid vaccination drive, providing emotional care, and distributing financial aid and grocery kits.

The IT Labs, which were the Asha students' lifeline, were expanded at the Asha resource centres, during the pandemic. More than seven IT labs are currently functioning across Asha's project locations. Whilst the privileged kids enjoyed learning from their homes, the kids in Asha's slums had the opportunity to use advanced laptops and high-speed internet facilities at the Asha resource centres to continue their education. The IT Labs also provided support to the students for attending their internships online.

Asha students continued to excel in the school leaving board exams despite the challenge of the pandemic and the shift in marking patterns by the Central Board of Secondary Education. Although there was a challenge for the students as the marking was new, based on the average of class X, XI and internal assessments of class XII, more than ten students scored more than 90% and many students were in the 80-90% range. Wonderfully, 156 students secured admission to Delhi University.

It gave me immense satisfaction to note that finally, Amritesh and Tushar reached the shores of Brisbane and Sydney, respectively, to pursue their master on campus after one year of studying from india online due to pandemic restrictions. Another Asha scholar, Chandan, is at Melbourne University for his PhD programme. My blessings are with all these brilliant students.

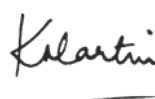
I had the opportunity to meet the new British High Commissioner to India- HE Alex Ellis, and his lovely wife Theresa, at their residence, along with my mentees. His Excellency was highly impressed with their great life-changing stories. I spoke to him about our meaningful partnerships with FOA-GB and FOA-Ireland for many years. His Excellency promised to resume the internship and mentorship programs as soon as possible and also begin hosting events in his garden once the Covid situation permits.

I was also delighted to meet Mr Mathew Johnston, Minister Councillor for Education at the Australian High Commission, and his entire team. Our partnership with the Australian High Commission is over 25 years old and has provided abundant benefits to our students in the slums. It was wonderful to meet them after nearly 18 months.

The communities and Asha team continued to practice Asha values such as Generosity, Gratitude, Compassion, Dignity, and Nonviolence in their daily lives. Several Asha values practice events were organized at our Asha Slum Centres. The practice of these values helps to control discouragement and desperation, raise our spirits, increase positivity, and give us the strength to fight the circumstances, especially during gloomy and depressing times.

I would like to thank you all for always standing by us in times of need, and as we try and emerge from the shadows of the pandemic, we hope to make contact with our treasured friendships, forge new partnerships, and inspire new supporters.

Warm regards,



Dr Kiran Martin
Founder and Director



Asha's Interventions: Visual Circle



Our Mission



The mission of Asha is to work with the urban poor to bring about long term and sustainable transformation to their quality of life.

Through a practical expression of the 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.
- 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.

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 the 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 in 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 1990s 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.

Though 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 2000s 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 4000 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 enrolment of Asha Students at Imperial College, London, University of Sydney, University of Melbourne and University of Queensland, Australia.

In 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 the news of our work.

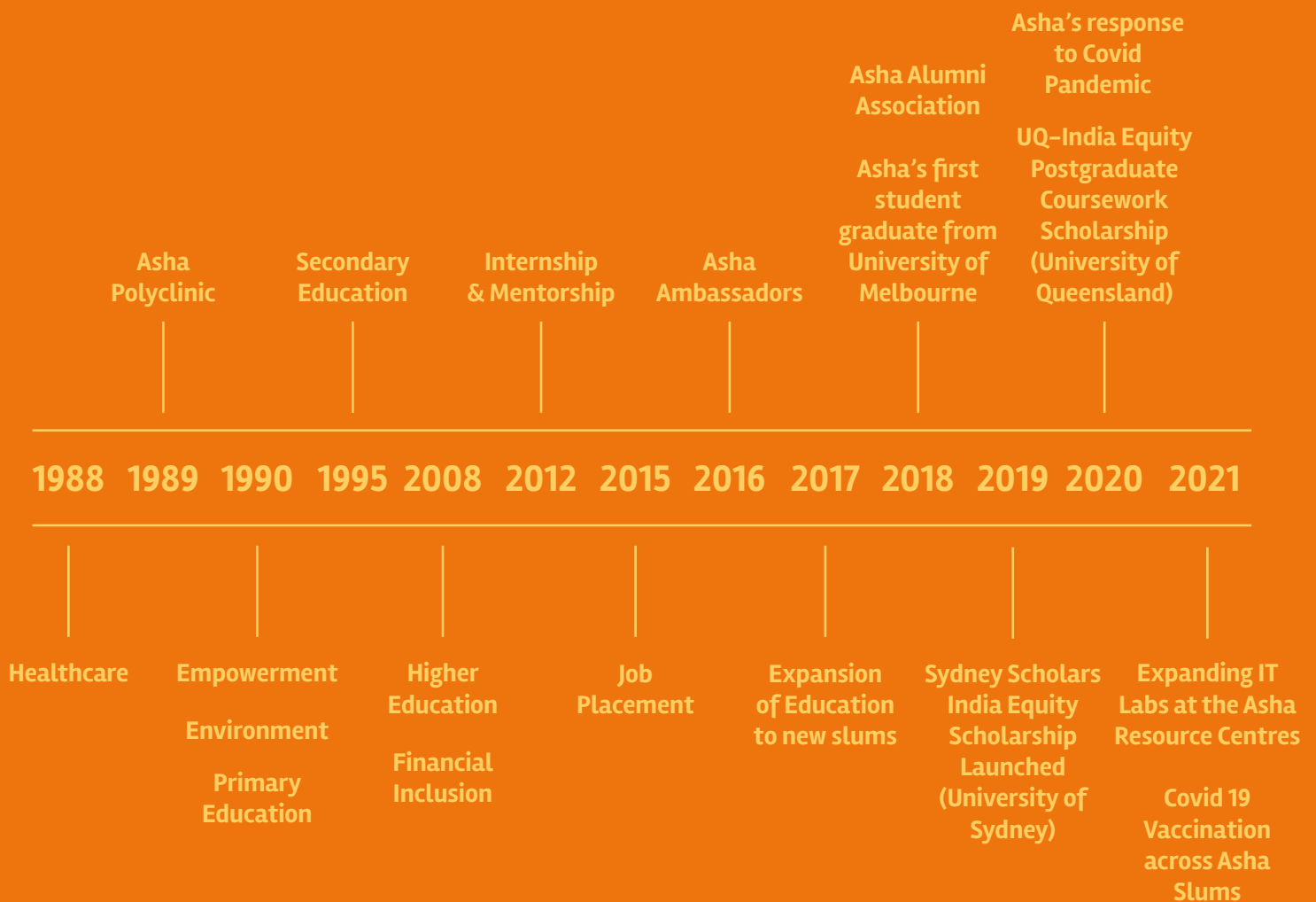
When the Covid pandemic struck India, the situation in Delhi's slums was critical. The poor and vulnerable residents were engulfed by a massive healthcare crisis and social, economic and livelihood challenges. Asha immediately geared up its core team, prepared and trained a team of corona warriors across all the slums in its project locations, galvanised the logistics and infrastructure and reached out to the community. There was regular awareness and sensitisation programmes to educate the slum residents on the necessary Covid protocols along with Covid appropriate behaviour, distribution of masks and sanitisers, and supply of food, medicines and cash to every home as they faced one of the worst survival crises of their lives. Treatment and isolation of patients with Covid symptoms, RTPCR tests, immunity building programmes, ensuring that Government welfare schemes reach the people, taking care of the elderly along with providing care of mental health and psychosocial issues were major interventions. Asha also aggressively promoted Covid vaccination in the community in collaboration with the Government and ensured 98% vaccination of the required doses as per Government guidelines. Asha's efforts have ensured that there was only one death across its communities in successive waves of the pandemic.

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 33 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 – Some Milestones



Our Presence

West Delhi

Block-A, Savda Ghevra Slum community, Savda	1
Block-B, Savda Ghevra Slum community, Savda	2
Block-C, Savda Ghevra Slum community, Savda	3
Peeragarhi Slum community, Peeragarhi	4
Indra Camp Punjabi Bagh	5
JJ Colony Punjabi Bagh Club Road Punjabi Bagh	6
JJ Colony Udyog Nagar, Paschim Vihar	7
N-86 Slum community, Lawrence Road	8
Block W85, Zakhira Slum community, Zakhira	9
Block W88, Zakhira Slum community, Zakhira	10
Pili Kothi Slum community, Hari Nagar	11
Kanchan Basti Slum community, Mayapuri	12
Railway line Slum community, Mayapuri Phase-I	13
Block-C-200 Slum community Mayapuri	14
Block-C-187 Slum community Mayapuri	15
Block-E-10 Slum community Mayapuri	16
Railway line Slum community Mayapuri Phase-II	17
Brahmpuri Colony Sagarpur	18
Kazhan Basti Mayapuri	19
Block-C-76 Slum community Mayapuri	20
Tulsinagar Slum, Zakhira	21
Golden Park, Punjabi Bagh	22
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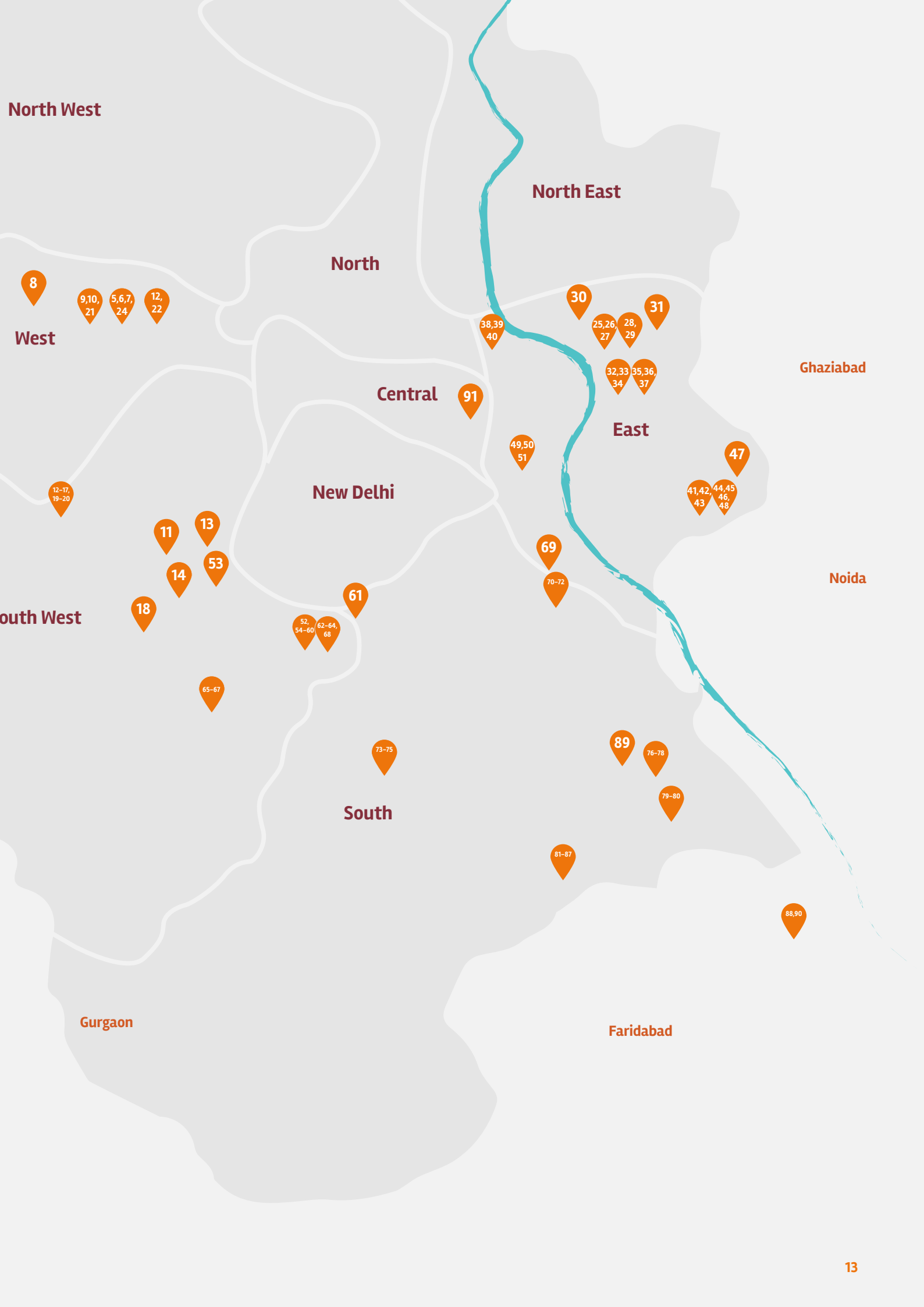
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Rohini

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S





GRATITUDE

आविष्कार
INNOVATION

समन्वय
UNITY

आनंद
HAPPINESS

सादगी
SIMPLICITY

सादगी
SIMPLICITY

GRATITUDE

Our Values

Asha always teaches life values to the slum community dwellers, from the young to the old. The children's groups formed in every Asha Slum community Centre created an enabling platform where the children were taught different human values such as Joy, Compassion, Gratitude, Affirmation, Non-Violence, Dignity, Generosity, Optimism, Touch, Simplicity, Empowerment and Justice that they can practice daily. In every Asha Slum community Centre, the staff and the Asha student ambassadors took the initiative to practice different Asha values and encourage the children to read books. They also supported improving their academic performance. The children were encouraged to express their diverse talents and work towards improving their self-confidence and social skills.



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.

Asha values: Underlying Principles of All Our Endeavours

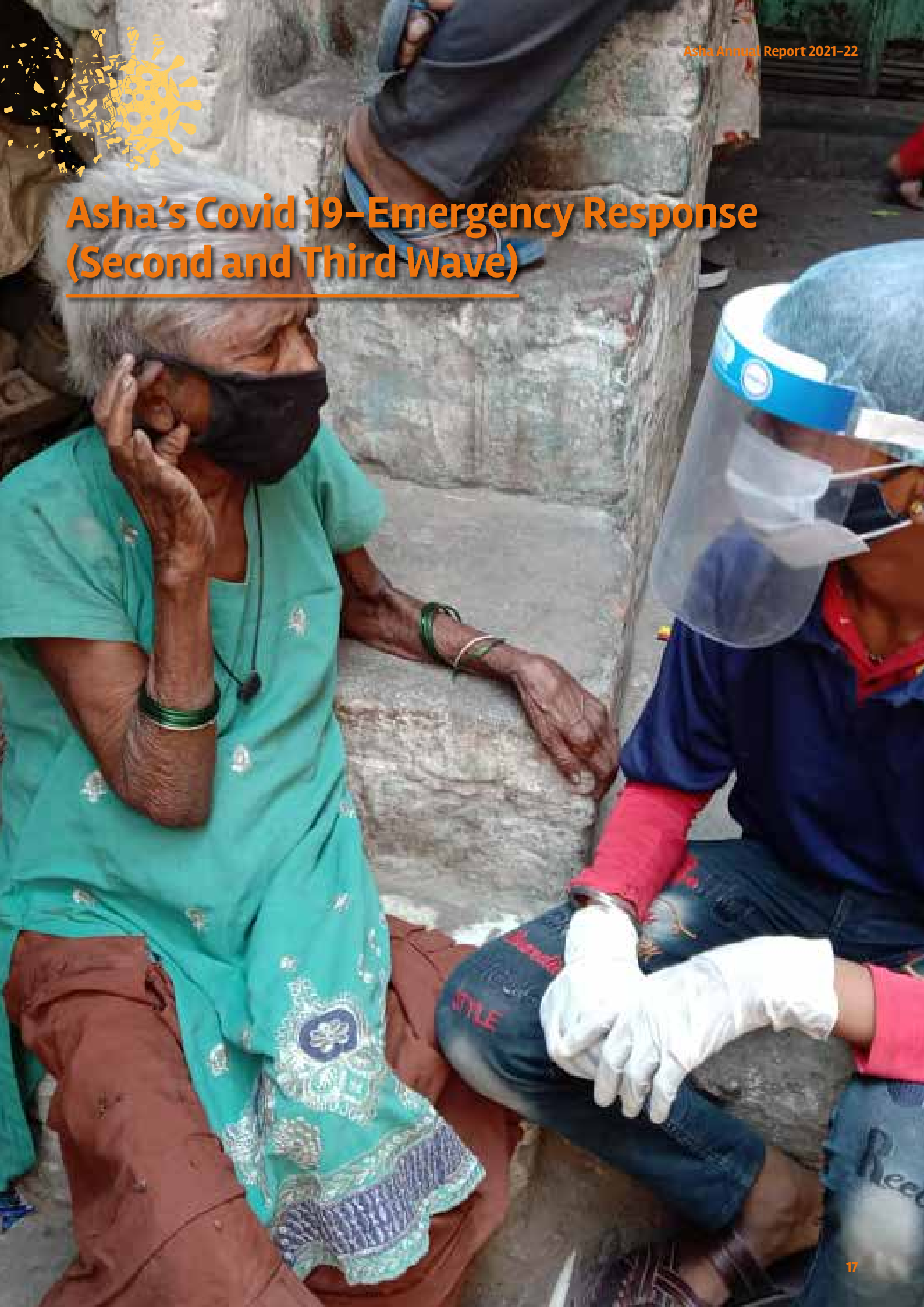
–Members of Children’s Group, Mayapuri Slum, West Delhi



The Children’s Group Members at the Mayapuri Asha centre consider Asha values as the foundation of their activities. They are proactively involved in helping the needy in their slums, joining the Asha team. They do acts of generosity by collecting individual contributions of Rs 5 to 10 each and visit the abandoned elderly, sick and the needy with nutritious food items like milk, egg, fruit, rice, oil and so on. They help in cleaning the slum surroundings, especially the areas surrounding the railway lines and clean the houses of the sick and elderly. They also find time to visit them and engage in friendly talks. Such moments are very precious to the old and the ill in the slum. Asha team members always encourage the children to affirm each other by sharing their good qualities and expressing gratitude for everything. They enjoy themselves together by dancing, singing, and sharing meals at the centre. They always try to practice the Asha value of non-violence as they make efforts not to indulge in physical fights with each other. The children hug each other as they reach the centre, expressing kindness, love and tenderness. The early learning of such values enables these young children to be happy kids who love and care for one another. The practice of Asha values helps to curb the negative influence of their surroundings and helps them become responsible citizens of the country and of the world.



Asha's Covid 19-Emergency Response (Second and Third Wave)



Covid 19: Asha's Response to the second wave

April 2021 was a time of panic and tension for everyone, especially the city dwellers, as India reported more than 300,000 cases of Covid 19 per day. Almost all the hospitals and Covid 19 centres were out of beds within a few days making many patients wait in long queues to get admission. Delhi witnessed an acute oxygen crisis as the cases of pulmonary patients with low oxygen levels increased daily. The death rate rose dramatically. The Asha team worked around the clock to ensure that the people from our slum communities were protected with adequate covid prevention, control and treatment strategies. The activities included:

Spreading awareness, sensitization and educating the community on compliance with covid protocols

The Asha team and Corona Warriors regularly spread awareness and sensitized the community on covid appropriate behaviours, distributed masks and sanitisers and educated people on compliance with covid protocols to reduce the spread of the virus.



Covid 19 home care treatment



Treatments included intravenous and oral medicines, nebulization with steroids, and frequent monitoring of oxygen levels under regular teleconsultation and supervision of doctors. Severely ill patients received oxygen with the help of oxygen concentrators if their oxygen saturation (SpO₂) was below 94. During this unprecedented crisis, the Asha team's commitment and dedication saved hundreds of lives. Generous donations from the UK, US, and Australia enabled Asha to obtain the resources needed for this crisis. Of all 688 confirmed patients suffering from Covid 19 across the communities, only one death occurred, which is a truly remarkable achievement of which we are very proud.

Diagnosis and treatment of covid patients



Asha proactively scaled up house-to-house visits to identify people with flu-like symptoms. The Warriors encouraged the community to report cases without fear of ostracization. The Asha medical team took every care that people who had covid symptoms were put on a rigorous monitoring regime. Also, Asha developed a Covid 19 home treatment strategy, categorizing patients into mild, moderate, and severe, and started treatment as per agreed protocols. The team monitored mildly symptomatic patients in regular teleconsultation with the Asha doctor, as mild patients had a high risk of becoming moderate or severe in a short time. Moderately ill patients were treated with anticoagulants and bronchodilators through nebulization to stabilize their condition. Severely ill patients who were refused hospital admission, were intensively monitored and treated in their homes with patient or family member consent.

Distribution of groceries and psychosocial support to the needy, vulnerable and the elderly

Asha continued to support the poorest and most needy with enough groceries so that no one in an Asha slum went to bed hungry. The elderly, persons with disabilities, infants and pregnant and lactating mothers were especially taken care of by the Asha team and the young Covid Warriors. They regularly visited and spent time with them, ensuring they were safe and keeping well. The team also conducted regular home visits to provide mental counselling and minimize anxiety, depression and loneliness.



Covid 19: Asha's response to the Third Wave

The third wave of the pandemic struck Delhi and the rest of India during the last week of December 2021. The significant variant was Omicron, which was more infectious and fast spreading but less severe than the previous Delta variant. In Delhi, the number of covid cases increased by more than 20,000 infections per day in a short period.

Distribution of Masks and community awareness

Asha immediately geared up its infrastructure to control the spread of the virus and protect the slum communities across its project locations in Delhi. The Asha team and the Corona Warriors intensified their efforts to spread the awareness and sensitization messages through door-to-door and community visits on the necessary covid protocols and compliance with appropriate covid behaviour. High-quality masks were distributed in all slums and everyone from young to old was educated on their proper usage.



Home visits for identifying new covid cases

The Healthcare team made daily home visits to identify people having symptoms of covid. They were immediately isolated and treated as per our home care protocol. The entire Asha team and the corona warriors were fully protected with proper PPE.



RTPCR Tests

Asha also conducted RTPCR tests for people with covid symptoms across all its project locations to understand the positivity rate and the extent of spread of the new variant. Based on the results, the Asha team determined the strategy for containment and controlling the spread of the virus.

Vaccination drive in collaboration with Govt. of Delhi

Along with awareness, precaution and treatment, Asha intensified the vaccination drive across the slum communities. Asha started the precautionary or booster dose of the vaccine in January 2022 as per the Government of India guidelines for frontline healthcare workers and people above 60yrs. Also, vaccination for the 15-18 years age group was started. Asha collaborated with the Govt. of Delhi to organize vaccination camps at all the Asha centres. The entire Asha team was vaccinated with the booster dose of the vaccine. The aggressive vaccination drive resulted in more than 98% vaccination of all the residents across Asha communities.



Immunity Building programmes

Along with this intensive vaccination drive, Asha also provided supplements and Vitamin D injections, especially to the vulnerable, elderly and people with comorbidities, to help boost their immune systems.



Regular running of the Asha clinics

The regular clinics for control of Malnutrition and Anaemia amongst women and children were also organized at the Asha centres. Asha's multipronged strategy has effectively controlled the spread of the virus across its communities and reduced the severity of the illness during the third wave.



Vakil Ahmed, successfully combatted severe Covid under Asha's Care

65 year old Vakil Ahmed has been Kalkaji's resident for longer than 36 years. He came to Delhi from his native village in Uttar Pradesh 40 years back in search of a better livelihood and settled at a slum near Raghbir Nagar in West Delhi. However, within three years, he and his family shifted to a slum in Kalkaji. Vakil has five children- three daughters and two sons. All three daughters are married and settled at their in-law's place. His family includes seven members: Vakil's elder son, his wife, their two children and his younger son.

Vakil and his family have long associated with Asha for almost thirty years since the start of Asha's interventions in Kalkaji. All his children were born with Asha's support under the Maternal and Newborn Healthcare programme, received immunizations and had regular monitoring and check-up of their health. Vakil's wife is an active member of Asha's Women's Group.

Vakil worked as a tailor in a nearby cloth merchant's shop to support his family. Since the onset of the Covid pandemic, their life came to a standstill. The shop was closed, and his income stopped. His elder son, a cab driver, also lost his income. The family went into deep distress and starvation like others in the slum. The Asha team and the Corona Warriors reached their home with food packets, medicines and other necessary items within two days, which saved them from starvation.

After the first wave of the pandemic, when the lockdown and containment restrictions were slowly lifted, the deadly second wave of the pandemic started within a few months. It was more severe than the first wave with the highly infectious delta variant, and it was overwhelming. The cases began rising exponentially, and the hospitals and health facilities were on the verge of collapse. Moreover, there was an acute oxygen crisis in the country, and people were dying due to the lack of oxygen support. It was frightening with patients being turned away from the health facilities with no place to go. Even the mortuaries were full, and people did not have a peaceful last journey.

Although Vakil was confined to his home, one day he suddenly felt sick with a very high temperature, body pain and other covid symptoms. His family members panicked and took him to a nearby Government hospital. However, they refused to admit him as no beds were available with oxygen support. When he reached home, he started developing breathlessness and deteriorating health.

On hearing about his serious health condition, Asha's Health Care team arrived immediately. They started treatment as per protocol, giving him steroids and nebulizing him four to five times daily along with other necessary medication. They monitored his SpO2 levels, temperature, and other vitals regularly. Asha's healthcare team visited him throughout the day and even late at night and watched his condition round the clock until the critical situation stabilized. After one month of Intensive therapy and monitoring, he came out of Covid and was back on his feet. The weakness and fatigue persisted for some time, but with exercise, supplements, and a balanced diet, he is completely cured and leading a normal life, returning to his job as a tailor. Meanwhile, he has received two doses of the covid vaccinations.

Vakil and his family do not have words to express gratitude to the Asha team for providing the best and most timely treatment and saving his life from the deadly disease. He says he would not be alive today without Asha.



Healthcare

After the second wave of the pandemic, Asha clinics started operating with efficiency in a calibrated manner across the project locations. The nightmare of the deadly second wave had severely strained the city's health infrastructure with lack of beds, oxygen, ICU facilities and other critical support. Non-Covid healthcare was severely impacted in all the Government and private hospitals and other healthcare centres as they struggled to cope with the surge of the pandemic. Along with tackling the pandemic through the home care covid treatment protocol, Asha extended its healthcare services across all the slum clinics. Asha provided free medicines and treatment to all patients. The community residents preferred to come to the Asha clinics. Other healthcare facilities were impossible to access.



Maternal and Newborn Health



At Asha, we believe that every mother in the slums deserves access to quality healthcare, and every child deserves a healthy start. Therefore, Asha centres in the slums organized antenatal clinics weekly, where all the expectant mothers of their areas were registered. The Asha Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) visited every house in their target areas, going door to door and ensured that all the pregnant women were rightly guided and registered to visit Asha clinics.

Next, in the clinics, the doctor or the senior nurse practitioner examined these pregnant women and advised and referred for several tests to rule out the possibility of other co-morbidities. They were advised to be vaccinated against tetanus toxoid and were prescribed vitamin and mineral supplements.

The expectant mothers were also guided and encouraged to have at least three antenatal check-ups to secure their health and the health of their unborn child.

Asha also counselled pregnant mothers to go for hospital deliveries or home births attended by trained nurse-midwives. Once they gave birth, the Asha health team conducted regular postnatal check-up visits for the first six weeks. The first PNC check-up was done within 24 hours after the delivery, and they monitored blood pressure, pulse rate and look for any birth abnormalities. The immunization schedule was shared with the mother during this first visit. The new born was also administered with BCG, Polio vaccine and Hepatitis-B vaccine.



Jahan Afreen: Delivering a Healthy Baby

27 year old Jahan Afreen lives in Seelampur with her husband and two children. They live in a one room shanty. Her husband Shahnawaz works as a daily labourer earning a paltry sum of 200INR(2USD) a day, making it very hard for the family to make ends meet. Further, the pandemic resulted in a severe financial challenge for the family as Shahnawaz lost his job. The Asha team immediately rushed to the family with food supplies, medicines, and cash as part of the Emergency Covid Response programme, which helped the family survive the crisis. In December 2020, Jahan Afreen got pregnant for the third time. Asha's CHV visited her house and accompanied her to the Asha clinic for all the ANC check-ups. During her first ANC check-up, the Asha Health team found that she was suffering from Malnutrition. She was given micronutrient supplements like Iron, Calcium, and B-Complex. She was also enrolled in Asha's Special Clinic for Malnutrition and Anaemia, where she was given high-energy, high-protein laddoo and high-calorie nutritious drinks developed by Asha's Healthcare experts daily. She was advised a proper and balanced diet of affordable healthy foods.

When she was taken to the hospital for registration and delivery, she was identified with very low haemoglobin and needed a blood transfusion. The Asha team donated blood since there was no one in her family willing to donate. Asha's interventions for Malnutrition improved Jahan Afreen's health condition, and her weight and BMI increased. Her appetite also improved considerably.

When it was time for her delivery, Asha's CHV accompanied her to the hospital, and she delivered a healthy baby boy in September 2021. On discharge, Asha's CHV regularly visited her home for post-natal care and monitored the mother and child's health. Jahan Afreen regularly comes to the Asha clinic for regular check-ups and attends the special clinic for supplementary nutrition. Both mother and child are in good health.

Asha's Healthcare programme helped Jahan Afreen combat Malnutrition and anaemia and have a safe delivery.



Antenatal Care		
Indicators	Asha Slums	India as a Whole
Antenatal Coverage	100%	51.6%
Tetanus Toxoid Coverage	100%	89%*
Lab Investigations	100%	59%*
Obstetric Sonography	100%	28%*
Natal		
Deliveries in Hospitals and by Trained Birth Attendants	100%	83%*
Postnatal		
Normal Birth Weight (2.5 kg and above)	91%	82%**
Breast fed within 6 hours of birth	100%	45%*
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	103 per 100,000

Source

* National Family Health Survey (NFHS) ** UNICEF * World Bank

Note: Statistics for slums in India are not available.

Child Health



During Well-Baby Clinics, Asha's trained health workers monitored children's weight, height, and other parameters and recorded them on the "Road-To-Health" chart every week. Children were provided doses of iron, zinc, and vitamin supplements.

Children were immunized as per WHO protocol against ten preventable diseases. Immunization is a crucial factor in reducing child mortality. Malnutrition was detected through regular monitoring of weight and measuring the mid-arm circumference, and was treated with nutritional supplements and micronutrients. Vitamin A supplementation and deworming were provided to the children every six months. Mothers were given dietary advice.

Asha's trained health team treated childhood illnesses, particularly diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections. The Asha Women's Advocacy groups lobbied with local government officials to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) levels, toilet construction, access to clean water, cleaning open drains, and solid waste disposal.

Child Mortality Rates		
Indicators	Asha Slums	India as a Whole
	(Per 1000 live births)	
Perinatal Mortality Rate	6	20
Neonatal Mortality Rate	11	23
Infant Mortality Rate	13	27
Under 5 Mortality Rate	13	36

Source

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)
UNICEF
World Bank
Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS)
National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)

Note: Statistics for slums in India are not available.

Immunization Statistics			
S. No	Immunization	Asha	India
1	BCG	100%	92%
2	PENTA VALENT	98%	NA
3	POLIO	96%	85%
4	MEASLES (2 doses)	85%	47% with at least one dose
5	3 doses of DTP Vaccines	99%	89%
6	Vitamin A supplementation	98%	56%

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

** UNICEF

*** World Bank

**** Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS)

Sexual and Reproductive Health

To address issues of Sexual and Reproductive health, the Asha team conducted couples' comprehensive Family Planning Services, including awareness. Asha promoted the usage of Family Planning Practices like IUDs, Condoms, Oral pills, and injections, improving the health of mothers and children. Awareness programmes were conducted to change the community's mindset towards family planning and breaking barriers of religion and caste. The Asha team conducted family planning counselling and informed about the advantages and disadvantages of each family planning method, so the couple could make their own choices. They promoted awareness and behavioural change on Sexual and Reproductive rights of women in the slum community and gave medical and emotional support to the victims of sexual violence.



Asha promoted Menstrual Hygiene amongst girls and women across Asha's slum communities and distributed Sanitary Napkins. It also provided Health Services to prevent Reproductive Tract Infections and STDs. RTI was treated by a syndromic approach.

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Geriatric Health



Asha's approach to prevention of health problems and management of elders' health has been holistic. The Asha team has been trained to recognize early signs of common elder health problems and to address elders' social and economic conditions that adversely affect their health. Asha's Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) visited elders' homes and accompanied them to the Asha clinic, where they received free medical check-ups. They were

screened for mental and physical problems including depression, anxiety, recent falls, joint pain, and hearing and vision problems. Asha provided referrals to specialists, medicines, vitamins, glasses and hearing aids free of cost, and monitored their health regularly. Asha also provided regular essential groceries, so that nutritional needs are met. These weekly geriatric clinics provided compassionate, free health care to elders to promote healthy aging.

Asha team and volunteers visited elders daily in their slum houses to talk with them about their well-being, engaged them in conversation, provided companionship and helped them with their day-to-day activities including personal and environmental hygiene, house cleaning, shopping and other daily chores.

Asha Advocacy Groups intervened when they observed that elders were being treated unfairly or poorly by their family members. In addition to daily visits from Asha volunteers, the women's and children's groups invited the elderly community members once a month to the Asha center, where they shared lunch and refreshments – a sign of love, respect, and care for the elder members of the community. The groups also contributed money from their resources to provide items which the elderly needed.



Differently abled Elderly Parameshwari finds solace and comfort at Asha



Sixty two year old Parameshwari lives in Ambedkar Basti Slum Colony. She is taken care of under Asha's Geriatric care program as she suffers common old-age ailments and is differently abled. When she was ten years old, she suffered from paralysis, causing permanent loss of her right hand's capacity to do any activity.

Parameshwari is originally a resident of a village in Bihar. She married Masodan, a partially paralyzed man when she was just fourteen. Soon after the marriage, the couple came to Delhi and settled in Ambedkar Basti. Since both were differently abled and could not find jobs, they lived by begging in the neighbourhood. The couple was blessed with two sons, they raised them with great difficulty, but once the sons started earning, they abandoned Parameshwari and her husband. The sons are married and settled near their home, but they just left the couple to live as beggars. Understanding the couples' condition, the Asha team reached them with food supplies and free medicines. The Asha team and the ambassadors regularly visited their homes, helped them with their daily activities, spent time with the couple and engaged them in conversation to cheer them up. They also accompanied the couple to the Asha Clinic for geriatric care.

Parameshwari and her husband never miss visiting the Asha clinic as they find it to be a time to enjoy the company of the Asha team members. Parameshwari spoke about Covid 19 emergency response actions by the Asha team and the young Covid Warriors. She recollected that they were all given masks, soaps, sanitisers, and food kits during the trying times. She remembered that many men and women who were daily labourers and seasonal employees had lost their jobs. Every family in the slum faced severe social, emotional and economic challenges.

She remembers with gratitude that Asha ensured that all the families received food supplies, medicines, and mental health support. The community also received all the doses of covid vaccination as per schedule. Parameshwari and her husband, like many other elderlies, hesitated about vaccination because of misconceptions. However, the Asha team and Covid Warriors patiently explained to the community the benefits of the covid vaccine, built their confidence and ensured that more than 95% of residents were vaccinated.

Parameshwari expresses her sincere gratitude to the entire Asha team for caring for her and her husband with the best health care, food and other support with love and tenderness. The differently abled couple no longer feels alienated since the Asha team is always there to help them and is just a call away.

Chronic Disease Management

Asha addresses the chronic disease management through programs that support behavioral change, education, and treatment. These include regular clinic visits with primary care providers, referrals to specialists, medication monitoring, and other community-based programs.



Bronchial Asthma

Patients are investigated and diagnosed at the Asha Health Centers in the slums. Appropriate treatment is provided free of cost. Asha’s team of doctors, nurses, and community health volunteers monitor patients and provide counseling on prevention.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

The Asha team provides treatment in the form of rotahalers, nebulization, bronchodilators, steroids, and oxygen therapy, depending on severity. Education and counseling about the use of tobacco-related products, nutrition, and exercise are given.

Diabetes

Residents learn about the causes, treatment, and management of diabetes through home visits, workshops, and community meetings. Asha takes all diagnosed patients under its care and provides them with treatment free of cost. They are monitored regularly through appropriate investigations. Individual patients receive advice regarding diet, exercise, and lifestyle management.



Hypertension

Early diagnosis and access to treatment are key to the effective prevention of cardiovascular adverse events. The Asha health team diagnoses patients through screening as well as those who are symptomatic. Treatment with appropriate anti-hypertensive medication is given along with other therapy as needed. Patients are investigated and monitored regularly.

Asha also empowers individuals to address common risk factors through smoking cessation, cholesterol reduction, diabetes management, and lifelong adherence to drug therapy to reduce cardiovascular events.



Tuberculosis

The Asha team educates and spreads awareness of causes and symptoms. Home-to-home screening is conducted regularly. Those identified with symptoms are investigated through Mantoux testing, Hemogram, Sputum for AFB, X-ray chest, and other tests as necessary. Once the diagnosis is established, treatment is given and rigorous follow-up is done to ensure compliance. Asha works closely with the government’s TB Program called DOTS (Daily Observed Treatment Short-term). Asha also provides vitamins and other high protein high calorie supplements to the patients. The families of the patients are also screened for the disease.



Anaemia and Malnutrition Clinics for Women and Girls

Asha organized special clinics weekly to take care of Anaemia and Malnutrition amongst women and girls. Investigations were done and appropriate treatment was initiated. High energy, high protein and high-calorie drink were provided to them along with necessary Vitamin and Minerals supplements.



Soni's Journey of Recovery from Malnutrition

28 year old Soni has been a resident of the Chanderpuri slum for more than nine years, where she settled in a one-room shanty after her marriage at the age of 19. Her parents lived in the nearby Babarpur slum. Soni's battle with poverty and deprivation started the day she was born as her parents struggled to make ends meet. Soni had poor health and suffered from malnutrition since her childhood. The condition did not change even after marriage, as her husband had no regular income. He worked in a nearby factory as a part-time labourer earning less than 2 USD daily, which was also unreliable.

Moreover, he had the habit of excessive drinking, which further accentuated domestic tension and aggravated the financial crisis for the family. Within a year of marriage, she gave birth to two beautiful daughters. It caused Soni's health to deteriorate further. She never had enough to eat. A balanced diet was out of the question. As women in the family are the last to eat after providing for everyone, Soni had no food left for herself for many days and had to fill her stomach with glasses of water.

The onset of the Covid 19 pandemic plunged Soni and her family into a deep crisis. Her husband lost whatever source of income he had. With a four-member family to feed, there was no food, and the family was on the brink of starvation. Her daughters also became malnourished. It took a further toll on Soni's mental and physical health. Her condition worsened, and she would have regular bouts of dizziness.

As soon as the Asha team found out, they immediately rushed to Soni's house and began providing emergency food supplies to the family. Looking at her skinny and severely malnourished state, the Asha team leader brought Soni to the Asha centre and enrolled her at our special malnutrition clinic. She was found to be severely underweight at 35kg with a Body Mass index of just 17.

She was immediately enrolled in Asha's unique Laddoo and Sattoo programme- A specific supplemental nutrition programme with high protein, high energy and high-calorie sweets and drinks for combating malnutrition and anaemia amongst women and children. Soni attended the programme regularly. She was also regularly provided micronutrient supplements like calcium, zinc, iron, and other mineral and vitamin supplements.

Gradually she began to gain weight. With proper monitoring from the Asha team and intensive interventions for almost six months, her haemoglobin went up from 6 to 9. Her weight went from 35 to 44 kg, and her BMI went up to 20.3.

The Asha team also advised her on a balanced nutritious diet and ensured that she had milk, eggs, fruits, and green vegetables.

When her health condition improved, she became pregnant! She had wanted a baby for a long time.

The ASHA CHV regularly monitored her health during pregnancy, ensuring Antenatal Care at Asha. When her delivery date approached, Soni was accompanied to the hospital for delivery by Asha's CHV Munni. Soni gave birth to a baby boy on 9th July 2021.

The baby is healthy and born with a healthy weight. He received his mother's first milk within 6 hours of delivery. After 24 hours of monitoring at the hospital, Soni was discharged and sent to her home. The Asha team and the CHV took adequate postnatal care.

"I can never forget what the Asha family has done for me," says Soni. "They stood with me during the worst time of my life and saved me. The gift of a healthy baby is the greatest gift I could have ever asked for."

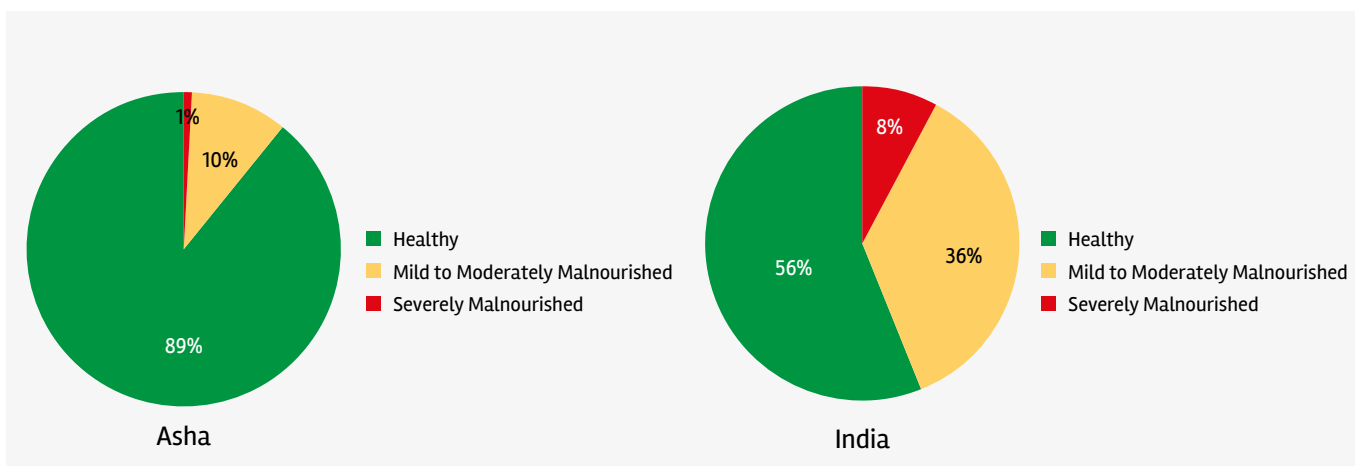


Malnutrition Clinics for Children



As Malnutrition amongst children had increased significantly due to the pandemic, the Asha health team organized special clinics to prevent and treat malnutrition amongst children from 0–5 years across Asha centres. Suitable control measures were planned based on the identified risk factors for the nutritional status of children. Medicines like Zinc, Calcium, Minerals and Vitamins were provided to the children. Along with the regular micronutrient supplements, the children were given high-energy high, protein laddoos regularly, prepared by the Asha team, to prevent and treat malnutrition.

Malnutrition Status



Community Empowerment and Infrastructure Development



Asha's Empowerment Programme enabled slum women and children to become agents of transformation within their communities. These collaborations were highly instrumental in improving the quality of life of the community and creating pathways of progress and development. They also provided a forum for women and children to come together and address the problems within their communities. The programme has enabled thousands of women across Asha slums to rewrite their destinies.

The Environment Programme trained the members of Women's and Children's Associations to advocate for their rights on issues such as community cleanliness, prevention of air and water pollution, waste disposal, and household safety measures. The programme also contributed to better healthcare, education, and improved livelihood in the communities. The Asha centre in the slum acted as a hub for the children and women to come together and develop their personalities, augment their leadership qualities, and overcome psychosocial barriers. For three decades, the Women's Associations have taken leadership into their own hands and successfully associated themselves with the community, public health authorities and local government bodies to achieve an improved quality of life in the communities. Community empowerment played a vital role in environment and infrastructure development. Clean paved streets, unblocked drains, legal electricity meters in every home, functional water pumps and clean public toilet complexes are some of the improvements because of Asha's grassroots advocacy and empowerment of the communities.

Women's Group ensures clean toilet facilities at Ekta Vihar



Asha's infrastructure development and sanitation interventions focus on constructing new toilets, improved water supply, better drains, and other essential services to enhance community cleanliness.

This story narrates the efforts made by a group of women from the Ekta Vihar slum colony who fought tirelessly to get a new toilet complex built in their slum.

The slum residents at Ekta Vihar were using a dilapidated toilet complex consisting of only 10 seats for a population of 5,000. Since the toilet complex was not appropriately maintained, it was in a pathetic condition. The toilet seats and the doors were broken, and the electric fittings did not work; therefore, there was no privacy, especially for women and girls. There was an acute water shortage, and people had to carry water from long distances. Fights were routine as the waiting time was more than 5 to 6 hours.

The members of the Asha's Women's Group (Mahila Mandal) and young girls from Ekta Vihar slum colony, with the support of the Asha team, relentlessly pursued their case with the Sanitation Department for a new toilet complex in the area. They took courage, visited the locally elected legislative representative and government Sanitation Department officials, and submitted petitions for constructing new toilet complex blocks with enough lavatories and bathrooms. There were repeated follow-up visits accompanied by members of Bal Mandal and Asha college students.

They did not lose hope with the negative replies and patiently pursued the case. The ladies' constant fight for their rights to proper sanitation facilities finally yielded fruitful results, and the project to construct a new toilet complex was approved. A new community toilet complex was built and was made ready for use by the last week of February 2022. There are now forty toilets and twenty bathrooms to be used by everyone in the slum. Twenty toilets and ten bathrooms are exclusively allocated for women.

After the success of having a new toilet complex, the Asha team and the Mahila Mandal members of Ekta Vihar are now working on a project to provide the elderly in their community access to a user-friendly toilet facility.





Education

The programme ensured that every child across the Asha slum communities completed their school education and was ready for the higher education journey. The programme was uniquely designed in a sequential structured manner to cope with challenges faced by the slum students and open the doors of Tertiary education and better career opportunities. Since the programme's inception, more than 4500 students across Asha's slum communities have received University education and almost 600 students received vocational and skill development courses through Asha's support. These students have moved out of the intergenerational cycle of poverty and given their families a life of dignity, respect, and financial comfort as a result of their education.

The Education sector faced enormous challenges during the pandemic. The slum children met severe problems as they could not access smartphones and high-speed internet. Asha ensured that the students across the Asha slums continued their education through smartphones, or at well-equipped IT labs at Asha Resource Centres with high-speed internet and advanced laptops. Asha's Ambassadors conducted house-to-house visits, ensuring students' studies were less disrupted and helped them with their assignments and listened to their concerns.

Amidst the pandemic, the final school results were declared. The university's online admission process began, including paying fees through digital methods. The Asha team and the student ambassadors provided help, support, and guidance at every step, including online admission, course and college selection, and most importantly, financial support for college fees and other expenses. Every eligible and deserving student was helped to get admission to Delhi University. They were guided in selecting the right college and subject based on their merit, aptitude, and market demand. Asha took all possible care to ensure that the academic year for the students did not go to waste. 120 students were admitted to the university in 2021-22 with Asha's financial support, and 80 were enrolled in open learning programmes. Two students secured admission in paramedical courses. The Asha Resource Centre in respective locations acted as the hub for college admissions for these students.

Statistics

S.No	Topic	Asha	India
1	Percentage of Primary School Enrolment	100%	99.9% (World Bank) 80% in Indian slums*
2	Percentage of Enrolment in Secondary School	98%	75%(World Bank 2020)**
3	Gross Enrolment of Higher Education	80%	27%***
4	Enrolment of students in Vocational Education after secondary	20% of students in Upper Secondary are enrolled for vocational and skill development programmes	Approximately 3% students are enrolled for vocational education.****
5	Enrolment of students in Professional courses after Senior secondary	5% of total enrolment in Higher education	1% of total enrolment in Higher Education*****

Reference

* India - School enrolment, primary (% gross) - actual values, historical data, forecasts and projections were sourced from the World Bank on August of 2022. www.worldbank.org

** School enrolment, secondary (% gross) in India was reported at 75.48 % in 2020, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. www.worldbank.org.

, *, *****- Economic Survey 2022- Government of India

www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey

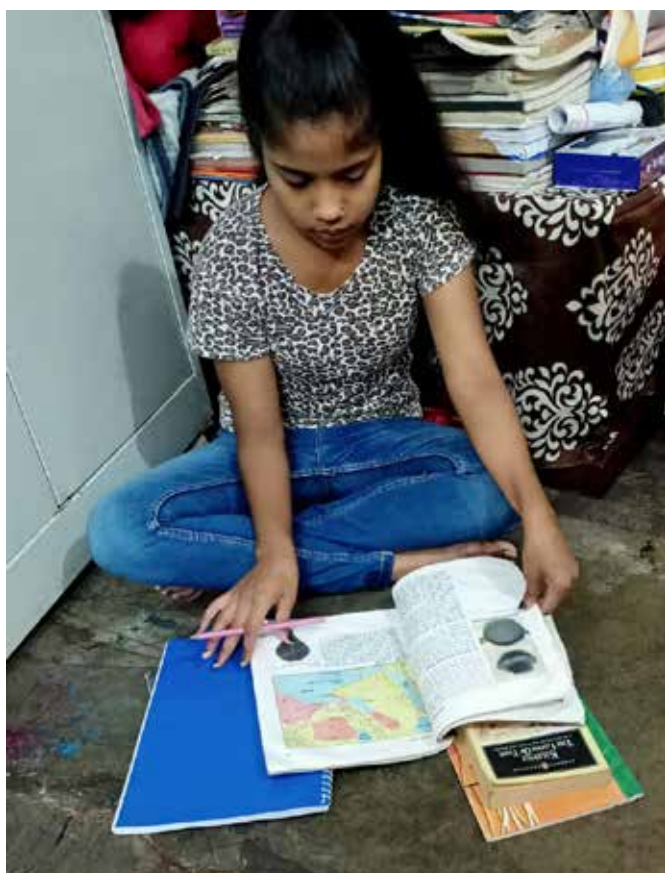
Note: Statistics for slums in India are not available.

Tripti- fulfilling her dreams of higher education

Tripti is a 19 yr old girl, born and brought up at the Vivekananda Slum colony. Her family consists of eight members, including her parents, three siblings and her two cousins. Her parents are natives of Bihar State. Her father came to Delhi in the mid-1990s as he had lost his parents at a young age and had to take up the family responsibilities. Her mother is a housewife.

Tripti has been closely associated with Asha since birth, as her mother received all her ANC/PNC check-ups at the Asha Health Clinic. Tripti has taken all her childhood vaccinations from the Asha Clinic. She became a regular Asha family member when she joined the Children's Group at the age of seven. She then became the president of the Group. As a member of Bal Mandal, she learnt life activities and completed her school lessons and homework. She also learnt Asha values which helped her to become a good human being and minimized the negative influence of the slum environment. Most importantly, Tripti found an enabling environment to study which was missing in her home.

After she passed her class X exam with good grades, Asha helped her with academic support like reference materials, supplementary books, mock tests as well as coaching classes by senior students to grasp the concepts and clear her doubts. With



thorough preparation and Asha's support, she passed the senior secondary school leaving examination scoring 90%. The family was suffering from a financial crisis due to the presence of the Covid pandemic. Asha also supported the family with grocery and medicines to survive the crisis.

After her class XII results, Asha helped her with the online admission process including course and college selection. With the help of Asha, she joined the BA. English (Hons) course at Delhi University. Asha paid her college fees and other expenses. She had never thought that she would be able to do her graduation from Delhi University as her parents did not have the money for a college education. She is performing well in her studies and intends to become a teacher in the future. She is so thankful to Dr Kiran and the Asha team for their constant encouragement of her ambitions.

Asha Ambassador Programme

The Asha Ambassador Programme has been a widely accepted intervention in the slum communities. Under this programme, senior Asha students took up the role of Asha Ambassadors and registered for the Asha “Pay it forward program”. They contributed to their community by motivating and guiding the young students to perform well in their studies, develop a good career and move their families out of the intergenerational cycle of poverty. The programme, initiated in 2013, comprises more than 300 student ambassadors across the Asha communities. They acted as role models for their junior counterparts and set examples for them to follow. They conducted regular subject classes and prepared the juniors for their exams. They also assisted in college admission along with the Asha team. They counselled, motivated, encouraged, and educated junior students to pursue higher education. They also conducted home visits to counsel the parents and family members of students in their respective slum communities about the importance of education and creating an enabling environment. Each Asha ambassador was responsible for ensuring that the younger children were better performing in their studies and securing good grades in the school leaving board exams. They always tried to understand the family situation of the young students and inform the Asha team whenever Asha’s support was necessary. They were always at the forefront to ensure that young students never drop out of higher education due to financial constraints or anti-education pressure from the community. During Covid, these student Ambassadors did a remarkable service by helping the Asha team to reach the needy and the deprived in the slums with food and medical support. They were always there, ready to play multiple roles in implementing Asha’s different interventions.



Kulsum– A Young Change Maker



Kulsum is a 20 year old graduate student from Zakhira Slum Colony. She lives with her six-member family consisting of her parents, one elder sister and two younger brothers. Her parents migrated to Delhi from Bihar 25 years ago for a better livelihood. Her father is a scrap worker who collects plastic, iron and metal items from the slum and nearby area, segregating and selling them to factories. The family survives from his income. The parents, as they are less educated, belonged to a conservative family and faced severe financial constraints, and were not in favour of sending their kids, especially the girls, to pursue higher education. The Asha team's timely intervention and regular counselling led the two sisters to get permission for higher education.

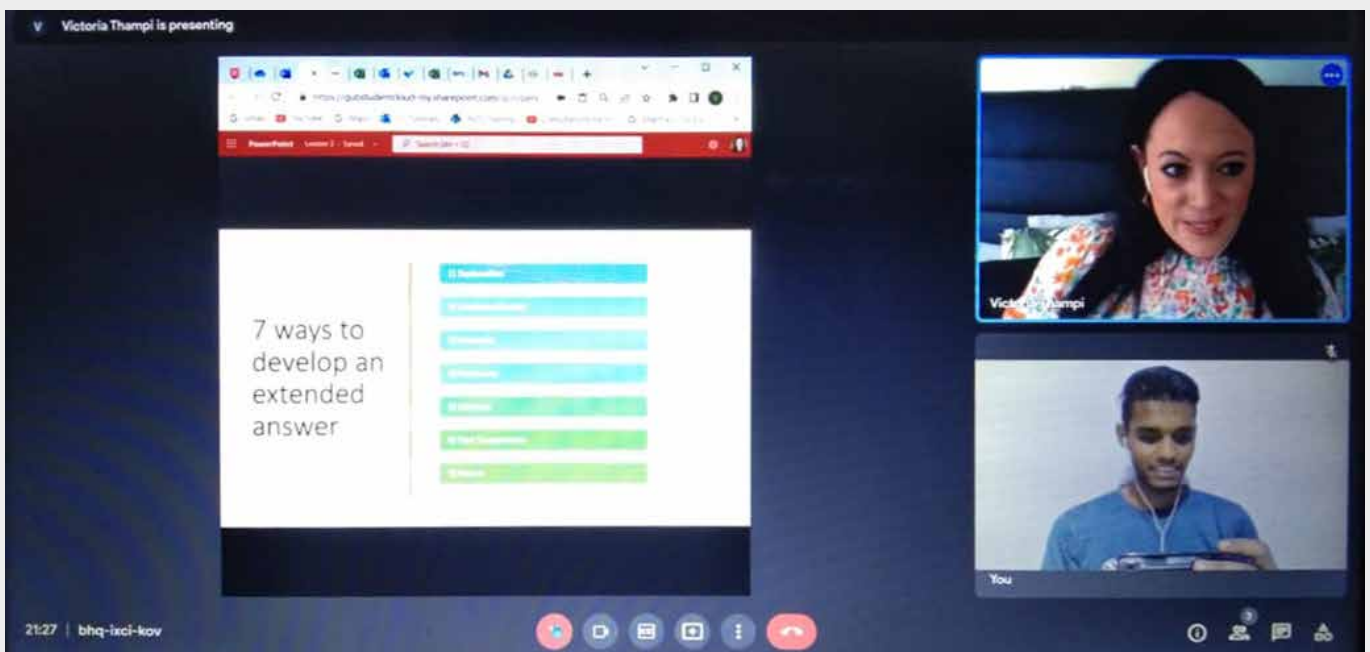
Kulsum has been a part of the Asha programme since her childhood. She was an active member of the Children's group formed in her slum community. As she grew up and entered college, she joined the Asha Ambassador Programme, where she found time to teach the class 12 students and motivate them to go for higher education on a regular basis. Kulsum herself has been a good student and has scored consistently high marks. She always shared her life stories with the juniors; and how she changed the narrative of her life with the help of Asha and the senior student ambassadors. She also takes English tuition classes for the members of the children's group and sessions on Asha values. During her free time, she helps the Asha team to run different clinics and accompanies home visits to the elderly and sick to give medicine and clean their homes. She actively supported the Asha Medical team during the Covid Pandemic by conducting awareness rallies in the slums, vaccination camps, bringing the elderly to get vaccinated, distributing masks, providing groceries to the families and other interventions. As an Asha Ambassador, she urges the young students in her slum to dream big, grab their opportunities, and use the support systems to forge a better life.



Online English language Training

Asha provided intensive training to the slum students to improve their spoken and written language skills in English through international volunteers. The training was offered online to enhance students' English language skills. The language barrier was always a significant challenge for slum students in pursuing career development goals.

Asha's international volunteers taught the students by giving them conversation-based assignments, writing essays on relevant topics, and basic English grammar tests. Students completed their tasks at a given time and completed periodic online tests to check their progress. Once they were comfortable with conversational English, the students who were selected for the International Higher Education Programme were upgraded to the next level of training focusing on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) preparation. In IELTS training, the trainer ensured that the students become exam ready in the four English language proficiency testing components: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Periodic model tests were conducted to check their scores and redefine the training pattern in individual cases.



Fazia: Online English classes brings about a positive change



19 year old Fazia, an Asha student from Seelampur slum colony, is a good example of becoming proficient and confident in English language skills through Asha's support.

Fazia's life has been sad as she lost her father three years back, and her mother has brain cancer. Her twin brother looks after the 7-member family by working as a labourer in a nearby market earning USD 120 in a month. He is the family's breadwinner and supports Fazia and her other sisters in pursuing their education. However, at Asha, she has found a place of solace and comfort.

Fazia is one of the prospective candidates for Asha's International Higher Education programme, and she aims to pursue a Masters's programme in a prestigious university in Australia. She was the highest scoring female Asha student of 2020 in the Senior Secondary School examinations, scoring 96%. With Asha's Educational support, she is in an Honours Program in English at Delhi University.

To support her in improving her English language proficiency, Dr Jean Peteet, Board member of Friends of Asha (USA), has been teaching conversational English online to Fazia since September 2021. During the initial training period, Fazia found it difficult to understand and respond to the conversations and follow an international accent. After putting in much effort and hard work, she is showing improvement while comprehending and expressing herself in English. Her teacher is impressed with her progress and zeal to develop her personality. Her teacher recently started IELTS coaching as she is quickly picking up her skills. She refers to different study materials and does all her assignments both online offline, she has started getting better scores in the sample IELTS test papers.

Fazia now finds it much easier to follow her college lessons and converse in English with her classmates and teachers. She is a role model and inspires many young girls in her community to fight adverse circumstances and change their destinies through the power of education.

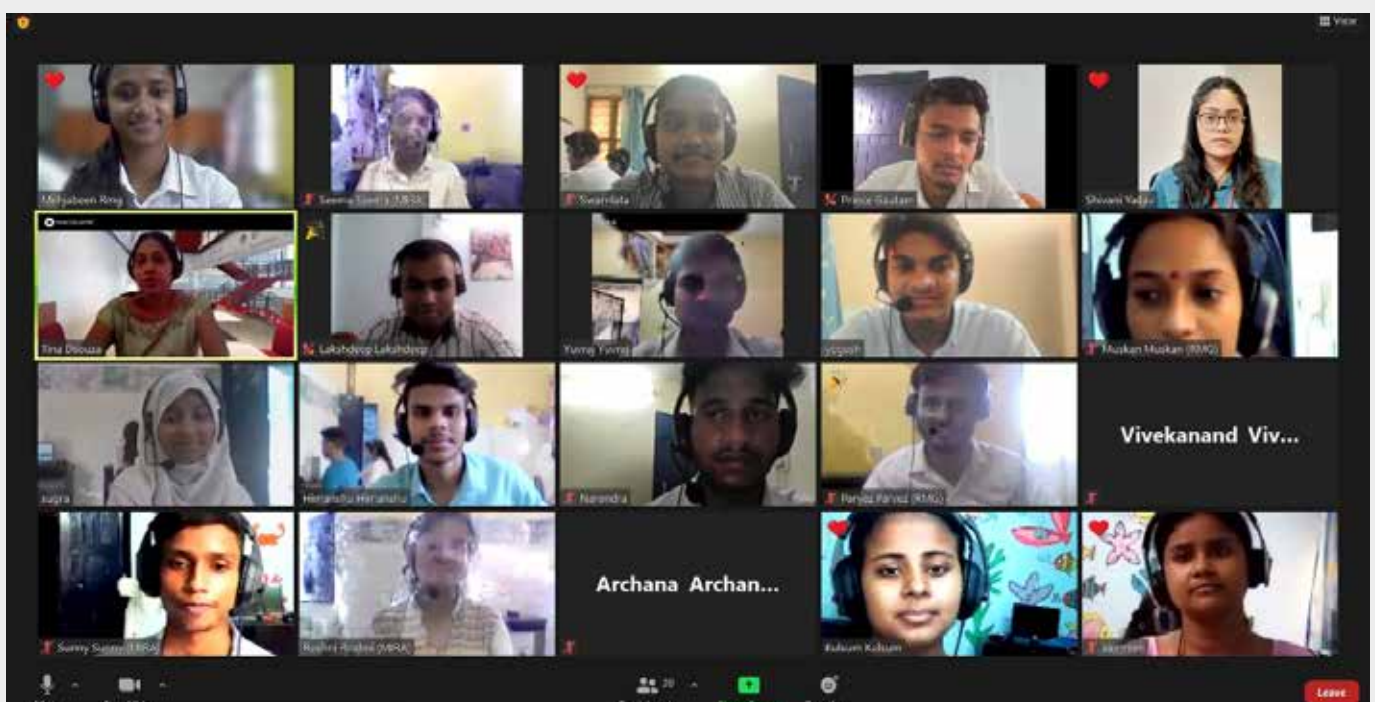


Asha Internship Programme

Asha's Higher Education Programme has focused on the comprehensive development of the student community from the slums of Delhi. Asha started the internship initiative in 2012, intending to introduce college students to a world-class professional environment in international organizations and multinational corporations. Nearly 460 students from different slum communities have benefited from it so far. Students secured internship opportunities in multinational companies, High Commissions, Embassies and organizations such as Macquarie, Rio Tinto, Mazars, Australian High Commission, British High Commission, International Monetary Fund, and others. Long-term internships were also given to Asha graduates by the Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of Peru and Embassy of Denmark.

The internship programme gave the interns significant work experience to learn professional skills and exposure to working in a multicultural environment, making them confident and adding value to their career development plans.

In the year 2021, due to the Covid pandemic, 20 Asha students had the experience of online internships at Macquarie Group utilizing the facilities at IT Labs at the Asha centres. Two students got the opportunity of a long-term internship onsite at the Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi.



Internship: Developing a Roadmap for the Professional World



Yogesh lives in Kusumpur Pahari Slum Community with his parents and older brother. His parents came to Delhi from Rajasthan soon after his birth. His father, working as a labourer in his village, couldn't afford the family expenses with his meagre income. Migrating to Delhi didn't make much difference because his father couldn't get a better job and struggled to make ends meet. Their life at the slum was miserable as they lived in a one-room shanty and all the household activities had to be performed in that small space.

Yogesh became a part of the Asha family when he was studying in the 11th Grade. Asha supported him in his academics as well as provided him necessary infrastructure, dedicated study spaces and an enabling environment to prepare for the crucial board exams. He completed his senior secondary schooling, scoring 79%. Asha helped him to get admission at a Bachelors in Commerce programme at Delhi University, and paid his college fees and other expenses.

Along with his college education, Asha gave him the opportunity to do an internship at Macquarie Group, a world-class financial corporate giant along with 20 other Asha graduate students, where he had many life-changing experiences. He acquired different soft and technical skills in different divisions of the organization which gave him exposure to working in a professional environment. After completing his graduation, he plans to sit the Common Aptitude Test (CAT), the entrance exam for MBA, do his Master's in Business Administration, and develop his career as a finance professional.

He is grateful to Asha for giving him the experience of working at prestigious corporate house and developing his career goals along with supporting his higher education.



Asha Job Placement Programme

Asha's Job Placement Programme has been integrated into Asha's Higher Education, Internship, and Mentorship programs to achieve the best possible outcomes. The systems, processes, and structures are interlinked with the intent to deliver the necessary training and skills required for the students to secure the best opportunities. Asha, along with the contribution of volunteers, regularly initiates workshops on CV building, interview techniques, training on soft skills, behavioural training, and personality development. The focus was on career development and personal growth rather than just finding a job. The program also looked at the latest market trends to incorporate the right skills in candidates. Asha has recently held career workshops delivered by successful professionals in the field. Our students benefited by attending workshops on different professions such as journalism, banking, and defence. The workshops gave interested students specific knowledge about their preferred fields, along with details of the necessary exams and the potential challenges. Through our sustained efforts, to date, more than 96% of Asha's graduates are employed in multinationals, top Indian corporates, and diplomatic missions.

Asha counselled and motivated those students who could not secure admission to university to join skill development and vocational courses based on their aptitude.



Shubham- Unlocking his potential

Shubham is 25 years old, belonging to Anna Nagar Slum Colony, Delhi. He has been living here with his parents and siblings since childhood. His father had migrated from Bihar to Delhi in search of a better job. His father is a driver, and mother a housewife. He is overwhelmed with joy, as he could land a good job at a young age with the support of Asha. He remembers his mother taking him, his brother, and his sister to the Asha clinic whenever they got sick and getting medicines free of cost. He has seen his mother participating in the meetings of the Mahila Mandal at the Asha centre.

He became a regular visitor to Asha as he joined Asha's student support program when studying in class 9th. The students read books at the Asha resource centre and participated in group discussions on life values that lead to their development and confidence building. He was always attracted to Asha since it provided him with a dedicated study space and a library. The students were always encouraged by the Asha Team to learn the English language and improve their public speaking skills. The positive environment motivated him to do well in his studies. He started working hard and concentrating on his academic life.

Shubham scored 74% in the class 12 Board exams. He was motivated to go for higher studies by the Asha Team. Asha helped him get admission to a BA Degree Programme at Delhi University. He had the opportunity to join a 3-month internship program at the Embassy of Denmark with the help of Asha. It was a time when he could learn more about building professional skills in a multicultural environment. The Asha team continued to support him and this enabled him to get an excellent job at Macquire Global Services, India Office, following his 6-month internship with them. He started working at Macquire Global Services on 1st December 2021, earning a good salary. A good career has made him confident and contributed to his personality development.

Shubham does not have words to express how happy he is today. He mentions that because of Asha's constant and dedicated support, he could fully unlock his personal and academic potential to get into a job. He expresses his heartfelt thanks to the Asha team for walking along with him and filling his mind with positive motivation to dream high and achieve rather than cursing the life situations in the slums. He is happy now that he can support his family as an earning member. Along with his family, Shubham has moved out of Anna Nagar to better accommodation in Gurugram. He wishes that the Asha team may be able to help many more students like him to unlock their potential and lead a dignified life.



Financial Inclusion

Asha believes that to achieve inclusive development and growth, the expansion of financial services to all sections of society is imperative. In recent years, the Indian Government have been pushing the idea of financial inclusion. In line with the Government of India's mandate, Asha collaborated with the Ministry of Finance, and 9 nationalized banks to launch the Financial Inclusion Programme in June 2008. The pilot programme provided equal opportunities to slum dwellers to access financial services for an improved income and a better life. The scheme also involved equipping slum dwellers with financial literacy to increase their self-confidence in their earning potential and help them in their financial planning. Based on Asha's reputation and credibility, most of the slum dwellers in Asha communities have opened their accounts with nationalized banks with zero balance. Opening bank accounts has helped them access low-interest loans to pursue higher education, repair houses and set up small businesses. Asha's programme integrated slum dwellers into the mainstream financial system, giving them access to microloans that lead to income-generating activities and sustainable economic development. Members of the Women's Association have been trained to educate the slum residents on financial decision-making and banking services including credit, interest, usage of ATM cards, financial stability etc. As a result of the workshops and training conducted, the quality of the interface between members and banks has been improved. In Asha slums, the repayment rate is more the 99%. Ultimately, borrowers who repaid their loans established their own relationship with the banks and applied for new loans independent of Asha's involvement, leading to sustainability of the programme.

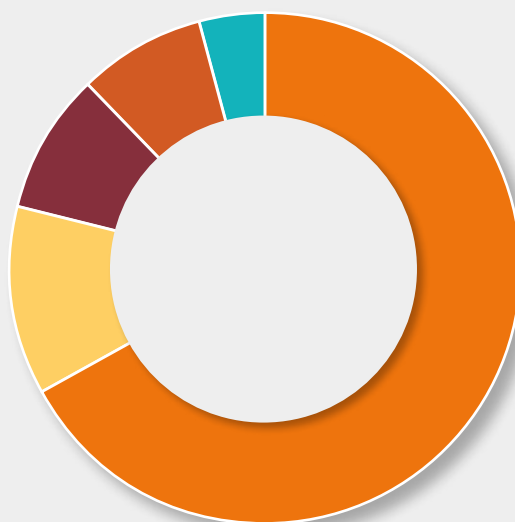
The bank account with Asha's intervention provided them direct interaction with the banks with the complete range of financial services and facilities like loans at a lower rate of interest, easy access and withdrawal of money, opportunity of savings through fixed deposits, term deposits and insurance schemes.

In a radical departure from the normal requirement of collateral for loans, Asha acted as a nodal agency in determining the soundness of applications. The Mahila Mandal played a key role through its networks and intimate knowledge of each household to enable the group to assess the reliability of borrowers and their capacity to repay. In addition, the Asha team conducted interviews with intending borrowers to identify the income of the family, the business concept, estimated loan and profit and the business plan. Asha's involvement continued throughout the period of the loan, maintaining close contact with banks and borrowers. Many residents have tripled their incomes, and everyone is happy and satisfied that they are no longer denied the basic financial services. The bankers have been pleasantly surprised at the reliability of loanees from slum areas – 99% made their repayments on time, in contrast to the 90% repayment rate the banks report of their other customers. Slum residents have strengthened and repaired their homes, paid for their children's education, bought vehicles, and started or expanded a wide variety of businesses.

Education loans were primarily used to support tertiary study in private institutions. These included courses such as nursing, engineering, allied health services etc. Loans covered tuition fees and other costs associated with higher education. These loans made the difference in being able to undertake life-changing tertiary study for slum children admitted to private institutions.

Loans have been used also to expand or consolidate an existing small business, providing a stable income source. Others used it to purchase vehicles that can carry goods, thus enabling greater sales opportunities. Financial Empowerment created linkages in terms of better outcomes in healthcare, education, and improved asset creation resulting in better living conditions for the Asha community residents. They also created a new generation of entrepreneurs from the Asha community their enterprise and hard work helped them to rewrite their destiny and break the vicious cycle of poverty and deprivation.

Loans granted since 2008



67% Business Loan

12% Home Repair

8% Education

4% Vehicle

9% other



Suman at her Tailoring shop in Kalkaji

Raju- On the Road to Prosperity



Raju, a 40 year old man from Kanka Durga Slum colony, who migrated from Chennai to Delhi about 30 years ago in search of a better livelihood, landed in lots of struggles. Since he did not have enough money to get a better home, he started living in a tiny one-room shanty in the thickly congested slum at the Kanak Durga colony in R.K. Puram.

He worked as a helper in different grocery shops to earn a meagre income. In the meanwhile, he got married, but the income was not sufficient to meet the family's needs as he was the only earning member. His two daughters and his wife were totally dependent on him. It was then that he thought of opening a small shop of his own. He pondered over his dream despite not having a single penny in his hands. He tried to get a loan to put up his dream shop but was denied it as he had no source of income to give assurance to the bank that he could repay it. Asha supported Raju with a bank loan under its financial inclusion programme, facilitating the entire documentation process to ensure credibility and give confidence to the bank. The Asha team accompanied him to the bank and helped in processing

all the loan papers with necessary supporting documents. They introduced him to the bank officials and ensured close monitoring of the repayment. Raju was granted a loan of Rs 30000/- from the bank.



Raju made use of the money to put up a small general shop in his late father's name as "Prakash Store" in his slum. He feels so proud that he could open a shop in his father's name. Currently, he can earn Rs 1500/- per day, which provides a comfortable livelihood for his family. He has just completed repaying the loans without a single default and according to schedule. He expresses gratitude to the Asha team for enabling him to have a permanent source of income to meet the needs of his family.

International Higher Education Programme

Amritesh started on-campus learning at the University of Queensland, Australia



Asha student Amritesh finally reached the University of Queensland at Brisbane on 10th February 2022 to attend in person classes after more than a year of online studies due to the pandemic. He is doing a master's in international Economics and Finance. He was thrilled to finally be there and get the much-needed international exposure at one of the world's top universities. He has been enjoying his university life since then, and is able to attend lectures in person while connecting with people from different parts of the world. Apart from focussing on his academics, he has met several eminent dignitaries like the Chancellor- Mr Peter Varghese who has also been mentoring him. He has also become a member of the Australia India Business Council and has participated in various social and sporting events at the university. The journey has been exciting, and Amritesh is enjoying his stay in Brisbane.

Tushar begins classes at the Sydney University Campus



After completing the first semester in India through the online mode, Tushar finally arrived at the Sydney University Campus to continue his Master's degree in International Relations in December 2021.

He is so delighted to share his overall experience at Sydney University.

"I was thrilled to see the Lecture theatre and seminar hall, which are great and well equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities.

I consider myself very lucky that I was allotted the oldest residential college in Australia – St Paul's College to live in. I could have never imagined living this life in a country like Australia.

Along with my academics, I joined the UN society of USYD, which gave me good exposure and enhanced my debating skills.

While enjoying my studies, I heard about the student election notice. Pursuing my interest in politics, I decided to contest the election for the student leader in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science (FASS). Unexpectedly, competing against 11 other established candidates running for the same position, I won the election.

Following the Asha value– Pay–it–Forward, I volunteered as a Postgraduate mentor, mentoring the first Semester Master's students in FASS– USYD. I also volunteered at USYD Centre for Disability Studies, mentoring and providing academic support to students with intellectual disabilities.

I signed for a virtual internship in Public Policy with the NSW, Australia Government. As a student representative, I wrote an article sharing my internship experience with the NSW Govt, and it was published in the University's newsletter, disseminated worldwide.

I also got an internship opportunity at the prestigious Australia India Institute as the Research and Admin Officer. This internship fulfilled my long–cherished dream of working in the public and foreign policy domain.

I got my semester result where I scored 80.8 per cent."

Global Friends of Asha

The Asha family is a global one: supporters worldwide have been drawn to Asha and have been inspired by visiting the Asha communities in Delhi. In the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America and Australia, Asha supporters have set up 'Friends of Asha', which are independent charities to support and promote Asha's work. These independent registered bodies that run voluntarily extended phenomenal support to Asha in India. Friends of Asha helped the Asha donors make tax-efficient donations. They also provided resources like information updates, publicity material, statistics and more for our supporters. They offered invaluable support to volunteers and teams planning to visit Asha to help them prepare for their time in the slums.

Friends of Asha (USA)



Friends of Asha in Napa Valley, California meets after a long Covid 19 break: After two long years of Covid 19 pandemic restrictions, Friends of Asha in Napa Valley, California, had a get-together. The meeting was indeed an occasion to cherish the fond memories of Mr K.C Chaudary, the founder of Friends of Asha Napa, who passed away recently. His daughter, Rita, her husband, and many others like Lana and David Stanley, Jim and Sandy Jones, John and Sally Zikmund, and Jeet Bhangoo, the owner of Aroma Cuisine, were present.

All came forward with the idea of opening a high-speed internet Centre at an Asha community in the loving memory of Kailash Chaudhary, who served and supported Asha through his Annual fundraisers in Napa for over 21 years.

The Sacramento Chapter of Friends of Asha organized zoom webinars to support Asha's Covid 19 interventions: The Sacramento Chapter of Friends of Asha founded by Dr Nalini Prasad (Dermatologist), has always been at the forefront in supporting Asha. They were able to spread the message of Asha's vision far and wide in their area. They made a great deal of effort along with Friends of Asha Board Member Manmohan Passi in organizing virtual events on Zoom all through the pandemic. They met with Dr Kiran in November 2021 and organized a fundraising event at the home of Dr. Nalini Prasad.



Dr Nalini Prasad, Founder of FOA Sacramento Chapter along with her husband Dr Praveen Prasad



Dr. Kiran Speaking at a fundraising event at the home of the Prasads

Friends of Asha (GB)

Young school children, Discovery Schools Academic trust, complete a 100-lap challenge to support Asha: Asha has been associated with Discovery Schools Academy Trust for past ten through friends of Asha trustee David Briggs. This past decade has resulted in various school visits from the UK to Asha, resulting in strengthening of relationships.

During the second covid wave, one of the schools of the trust has lent their support to Asha's work by completing a 100-lap challenge in their school field throughout the term.



BBC Radio speaks to Dr Kiran, Asha student Tushar and David Briggs of Discovery Schools Academics Trust: BBC Radio Leicester spoke

to Dr Kiran, Asha student Tushar and David Briggs, Discovery Schools Academic trust, on the remarkable initiative taken by young school children to complete the 100-lap challenge to support Asha's Covid 19 emergency response programmes.

Hope and Spice Stalls-Fundraising Events for Asha in GB: Friends of Asha (GB) organized many online/offline fundraising events during the year for Asha, mainly to support the Covid 19 relief works. Even though there were covid restrictions, they made every effort to put up Hope and Spice Stalls in different parts of GB. They sold Hope and Spice the Award-winning Delhi recipe book, handicrafts, beautiful bags, and aprons made by women in the Asha slums. The GB team members also came forward with their artwork and beautiful wood products, ran tea gazebos, and gained more Asha Supporters.



The local press in GB also covered the news on Hope and Spice's fundraising effort for Asha.



Friends of Asha (Ireland)

Friends of Asha (Ireland) organized various online and in person fundraising events during the year for Asha, mainly to support the Covid 19 relief operations. During the second wave of Covid, Friends of Asha Ireland raised an outstanding amount to support Asha's work in the slums.

We are incredibly grateful for the support, generosity, and commitment that Friends of Asha Ireland, have shown during some of the worst times this year due to Covid 19.

Friends of Asha (Australia)

Friends of Asha (Australia) organized a zoom webinar on 6th July 2021, where Usha, an Asha graduate and promising journalist, detailed the interventions Asha is making to save lives in communities during this pandemic. The online event was highly successful as hundreds of Asha supporters worldwide joined to hear about Asha's emergency response to Covid 19 in the slums. FOA (Australia) also organized online fundraising events and sent appeals to the Asha supporters for the Asha Covid Relief Programmes.

Friends of Asha Contact Information



Great Britain

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

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foasha.richardhogben@gmail.com
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Republic & Northern Ireland

Mrs Victoria Thampi, Chairperson and National Co-ordinator
Friends of Asha (Ireland)

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Charity Registration No. NIC 101268
friendsofashaireland@gmail.com
facebook.com/Friends-of-Asha-Ireland



USA

Mrs Louanne Hempton, National Co-ordinator & Treasurer
Friends of Asha USA

15 Notre Dame Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140, USA
Friends of Asha (USA) is a 501 (C) 3 registered charity,
EIN #010557632
asha.usa.info@gmail.com
www.friendsofashausa.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
www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au

Audit Report

Asha Community Health & Development Society

Abstract of Financials for the year end March 31, 2022*

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)	
A	Sources of Fund		
A.1	Capital Fund	208,673,834	
	Less: Application towards Fixed Assets	(94,529,114)	114,144,720
A.2	Restricted Funds		161,051,080
A.3	Staff Gratuity Fund		11,851,489
Total (A1+A2+A3)			287,047,289
B	Application of Funds		
B.1	Change in Working Capital		
B.1.1	Current Assets & Loans and Advances		
→	Current Assets		
	Closing Stock	214,331	
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	287,349,528	
→	Loans And Advances	751,494	288,315,353
B.1.2	Less: Current Liabilities & Provision		
	Security Deposit(Salary)		1,268,064
Total (B1.1-B1.2)			287,047,289

Financial Activities during the F.Y 2021-22**

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)	
C	Revenue(s) earned		
C.1	Income from All Contributions, Donations and Grants		130,371,189
C.2	Clinic Receipts		2,474,110
C.3	Interest (From Bank & from Others)		12,372,095
Total (C1+C2+C3)			145,217,394
D	Expense(s) incurred		
D.1	Running & Maintenance Of Clinics/Centers		57,119,906
D.2	Welfare of Children		9,670,749
D.3	Asset Procurement		2,537,683
D.4	Administrative Expenses		3,076,047
D.5	Other Expenses		678,754
D.6	Depreciation on Assets		2,217,697
Total (D1+D2+D3+D4+D5+D6+D7+D8)			75,300,837
E	Excess of Revenue over Expenses (C-D) transferred to fund(s)		69,916,558

*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 2021-22 in India extends from April 01, 2021 till March 31, 2022

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For R.Mediratta & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Rakesh Mediratta
(Rakesh Mediratta)
FCA, Proprietor
Place: New Delhi
Date: 02/08/2022



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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