Where you live shouldn’t be a barrier to who you become.
Asha’s Education Initiatives

**Primary and Secondary Education** Asha began working with slum children in primary education in 1990 to keep them in school through graduation. Major challenges include the lack in schools of teachers, functional toilets and access to drinking water, which decrease students’ motivation to stay in school. Slum children meet after school where they complete homework, play, learn through fun-filled activities, and practice Asha values including compassion, dignity, non-violence, and gratitude – reinforcing positive qualities that counter the slum environment’s negative influences. Asha’s efforts to counsel parents and children in slums, have achieved a less than 1% drop out in primary and about 20% dropout in secondary schools.
Tertiary Education The Asha team and student ambassadors select students who have performed well in secondary school exams to provide them with intensive academic support including textbooks, study materials, IT skills, and regular online English classes conducted by international volunteers in preparation for the final class XII Board exams. They also guide these students through the admission process, and offer financial support for fees, transportation, and other college expenses when parents are unable to do so. They provide students without access to college education with career counseling and vocational skills. Asha has supported more than 3700 students across its slum communities to receive a university education, and more than 1000 students in vocational and skill development courses. Through education, these students have helped their families move out of an intergenerational cycle of poverty into a life of dignity, respect, and greater financial security.

Asha’s Internship Program Asha launched an initiative in 2012 to introduce students to a professional environment. They learn the basics of professional life: communication, office norms, CV development, exposure to a professional environment, and simple administrative tasks to become more confident and competent to enter the competitive Delhi job market. Over 460 students have now benefitted from internships. During the pandemic, internships were virtual but have since returned to in person experiences. Some 36 institutional partners have or continue to participate, including the Australian, New Zealand and British High Commissions.

“Paying It Forward” Program Many students from Asha slum communities who have benefitted from Asha support volunteer in their communities to become role models for other children and adolescents. They “pay it forward” by helping promote education to students and families as a key to escaping the grip of poverty.

IT Labs The pandemic shifted education to online platforms, creating a significant challenge for slum students as they lacked necessary infrastructure and internet connectivity. Presently, IT labs are operational in eight Asha slum centers, with laptops, high-speed internet, supporting equipment, and dedicated staff for students to pursue their academics.
Fazia’s Story

Fazia, 19 years old, lives in the Seelampur slum community. Fazia’s family of seven lives in just a one-room shanty. Fazia’s father suddenly passed away three years ago and Fazia’s twin brother had to quit school to support the family. His earnings have enabled Fazia and her younger sisters to continue their education. While preparing for her high school final exams, Fazia and her family experienced another hardship as her mother was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent chemotherapy; Fazia took care of her while preparing for her exams. Despite many hardships, Fazia secured a stunning 96% in her high school examinations, the highest-scoring female Asha student of 2020. Fazia’s personal story of victory was shared across various news channels to inspire young minds all across the country. Fazia’s life has been filled with sadness. In Asha, though, she found a place of solace and comfort. The Seelampur Asha team and Ambassadors lovingly mentored her in preparation for her final exams and she secured admission to the prestigious Delhi University to study for a Bachelor in English (Honors). She has been working online with a volunteer U.S. English tutor and has significantly improved her English-speaking skills. Fazia recently completed an internship at an Australian investment bank, Macquarie, and is a prospective candidate for Asha’s International Higher Education program, hoping to pursue a Master’s degree abroad. Her family is going through significant financial hardship. The Asha team in Seelampur is caring for Fazia’s mother and helping her youngest sister who is malnourished, through the Supplementary Nutrition Program. Fazia is an active Asha Ambassador and conducts coaching classes for younger students. She is a role model who inspires many young girls in her community to fight adverse circumstances and change their life destinies through good education.
You can help.

£3000 to fund running of one IT lab in an Asha Slum Centre for one year.

£800 to provide one year of entire university expenses for one student.

£700 to provide one laptop for one student.

£300 to provide the course materials and resources a student needs.

£85 to fund one year’s coaching and mentoring for one student.

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To donate online go to:
www.asha-india.org/how-you-help/donate/ireland-donations/

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