



MAKING INDIA BETTER FOR
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

“
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2017 - 2018
”



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unchanged vision. Expanded mission. That encapsulates the year for all of us at Oasis India. In both new communities and old, we have been establishing Change Agent groups who work to build their communities, ensuring that everyone is included, has a chance to contribute and reaches their potential, thus ultimately confining trafficking and other forms of violence against women and children to the past. Despite the many obstacles from a consistently rough fundraising environment to biases about the role and value of developmental organisations – what has shone through is the steadfast commitment of our staff and supporters in helping the world's poorest and most vulnerable take charge of their lives and thrive.

In addition to the programme outcomes that you read about in this report, some other organisational developments include:

- Oasis India was certified with the NITI Aayog unique number within the October 2017 deadline set by the Government of India. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- We successfully restructured Oasis India into two regions -southern and western. In all, 7-8 staff have been promoted to a higher level.
- We carried out a Workload Analysis for all our staff, which helped the management to re-design roles and structure.
- We implemented a new performance management system. The results were very encouraging - 95% of staff met expectations and 3% exceeded expectations.
- We signed a new partnership with Fiinnovation Pvt Ltd, New Delhi in order to raise 50 lacs of CSR funds for our computer education project in Bangalore.



As we move forward in 2018 and beyond, I look back with pride and look forward with excitement. I know the best is yet to come.

Mangneo Lungdim
Executive Director, Oasis India

IN THE LONG RUN AND BIKE RALLY

"Awareness is a key ingredient in success. If you have it, teach it, if you lack it, seek it."

- Michael Kitson

This year, we took the fight against human trafficking national through a bike rally and marathon along routes where human trafficking is predominant - from Bangalore to Mumbai and from Bashirath (Bangladesh border) to Mumbai.

The first 'In The Long Run' (ITLR) in India wound through key trafficking routes in the country. Beginning from West Bengal, the run passed through Kolkata, Raipur, Nagpur, Nasik and ended in Mumbai. Mumbai is a major destination point while Raipur, Nagpur and Nasik are emerging as key transit points for human trafficking. Six boys from the football programme in Mumbai participated in the run along with participants from Belgium. Growing up with women and children who were trafficked and pushed into prostitution, they ran for the world to hear the silenced voices of their mothers, their sisters and their brothers in similar situations.

The Mukthi bike rally wound through Mysore, Mangalore, Murudeshwar, Hubli, Kolhapur, Pune, and ended in Mumbai along with the marathon. Each of these places is a business point for the trafficking trade.

Through this run and bike rally, and the rallies, street plays and exhibitions held at each stop in collaboration with local organisations, schools and community based institutions, we sought to bring to light the dangers of exploitation by traffickers. This is especially crucial as human trafficking is a major area of concern across South Asia with particular focus on India. India as the source, transit and destination ranks high in terms of both internal and cross-border human trafficking.



A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear friends,

Change. This word that is packed with so much meaning and punch has been reduced to such a cliché that using the word barely hits a nerve these days. Be the change you want to see. Make a change. Change is constant. Change. Change. Change.

One dictionary defines change as 'to make the form, nature, content, future course of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.'

'Alter the future course of something' – that seems like a huge mountain to scale.

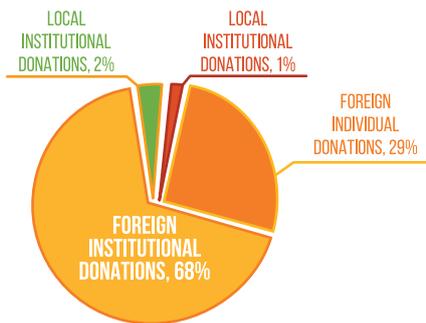
India has been trying to scale the mountains of caste, religion, gender equality, domestic violence for decades now. Each new incident brings us one step closer – hopefully – to shifting the tide for women, for minorities, for children. In the communities and brothels we work in, too, we are determined to be a unified voice for change. Together, with our staff as well as generous supporters and well-wishers like you, we will continue our efforts to eliminate poverty, uphold human rights, safeguard the environment and ensure the human dignity of the poor and vulnerable in our communities.



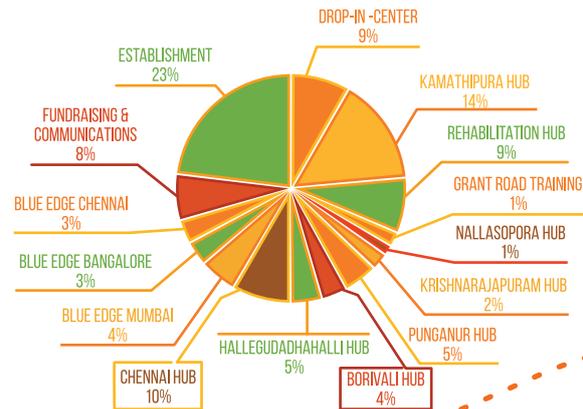
Dr. Ezhil Christadoss,
Chairman, Committee of Management,
Oasis India

FINANCIAL DETAILS FOR THE YEAR 2017 - 2018

INCOME:



EXPENSE:



WHERE WE WORK

Mumbai, Maharashtra
Bandra, Borivali, Grant Road, Kamathipura, Nallasopora

Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Basin Bridge and Kannigapuram

Bangalore, Karnataka
Hallegudadhahalli and Krishnarajapuram

Punganur, Andhra Pradesh
10 surrounding villages

NEW INITIATIVES

- Nallasopora hub in Mumbai
- Hair styling/ cutting training centre in Mumbai
- In The Long Run
- Bike Rally



EDUCATING FOR LIFE



341

children received educational support through after school programmes.



199

young people learnt English and computer skills.



175

people learnt vocational skills like tailoring, hairdressing, etc.



402

children and youth were formally trained in volleyball, football and cricket.



241

farmers are supported to do organic farming.



36

Aanganwadi teachers received training and support.

GOING BACK TO THE BASICS

By Suresh Daniel, Project Coordinator in Punganur, Andhra Pradesh

"Over 58 per cent of rural households in India depend on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood.* In Punganur, agriculture is the primary occupation and Potters' Wheel (Oasis hub) works with over 60 farmers in 12 villages around Punganur. At Oasis we have been placing an emphasis on healthy communities, and hence have taken steps to encourage farmers in the area to shift to organic farming.

Convincing farmers that chemical fertilisers have an effect not just on them but on the society around them is a tough ask. Organic farming is built over time, unlike chemical fertilisers that have an immediate effect on crop yield. Awareness programmes, vermicomposting training and health camps have made a small dent in their hesitation, and slowly many of them are beginning to understand the effects of these toxic fertilisers.

Narayana Reddy, a 45-year-old farmer from Madanapalle, a village near Punganur, is a regular part of the meetings and discussions we organise at Potters' Wheel. Initially when we approached Narayana to try organic farming, he was unsure. Finally when he did decide to jump ship, he faced a lot of opposition from his family.



Despite the bumps in his journey towards organic farming, Narayana has seen a major change in his business and in his health. "Chemical fertilisers had affected my health through the years, but now I will be healthier, and the community will be too, in the long run. Not using expensive fertilisers has also helped me save money," he told me.

It is fulfilling for me personally to help farmers take small steps towards the right direction that contribute to the betterment of the society. In the next year, we would like to create a piece of land with 25 different models of organic farming where farmers can view the land for learning and be encouraged to shift to organic farming. Implementing organic farming is a long and arduous process but we are in it for the long haul.

*Source: www.ibef.org

OUTREACH



3440

people learnt about human trafficking through awareness programmes (street plays).



1052

people were part of health awareness sessions.



54

women and pimps left the sex trade.



27

adolescent girls from the red-light area were given safe shelter every night.



485

children were engaged through summer camps and vacation activities.



746

new relationships were built with women and pimps in Mumbai's red-light areas.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

By Evangeline Grace, Anti-human Trafficking Coordinator in Chennai

Vincent van Gogh, a famous painter, once said, "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." Our anti-human trafficking (AHT) programme is one such initiative, where we are aiming to bring people from the community to do their bit in building a thriving society. People like Indumathi.

Indumathi lives with her family in Basin Bridge. She joined the Blue Edge vocational training course with hopes of finding a job, and instead found within her an intense passion to serve others. She joined the community vigilance group (CVG), a part of our AHT programme. One fine example of her 'never give up' attitude is when we did not have permission to conduct an awareness programme in a school, Indumathi liaised with the City Corporation through her husband, to get government permission. When that failed, she suggested that the programme be done right outside the school premises when the school day ended. Her level of enthusiasm and commitment to service is a rare quality in individuals, and THAT created a wave of interest among the younger CVG members.

It is our goal to help group members realise that it is THEIR community and THEY should initiate change. It is when they take ownership of their work that they become passionate about it and it brings immense joy for me to witness it. According to the baseline survey we conducted in Basin Bridge on the awareness of human trafficking among residents, 86% of the residents are confident that human trafficking does not exist in their area. We give them a reality check that trafficking does prevail and how we can prevent it. We also touch upon issues like child marriage, women's rights and child rights etc. in our awareness programmes. Currently over 100 residents, 70 children, 16 CVG members and 9 stakeholders benefit from our AHT programme, overall.

Since we work across all age groups, our next goal is to create an AHT club where we can train our after-school programme students to become change agents, thus creating socially responsible citizens who can lead in making small changes that will turn the tide one day.

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES



519

individuals were linked to healthcare services.



334

people were linked to specialised health training.



178

people were placed in jobs.



152

people were referred to other NGOs for services.



209

people were offered counselling services.



147

children who dropped out of school were linked to opportunities to continue their education.



125

people were linked to government benefits and schemes.



CONNECTING RESOURCES

By Sonu Shetty, Nurse, Oasis Mumbai

Trafficked and left without any attention in the brothels, we found Roshini* on her death bed during one of our outreach programmes. She was HIV positive and diabetic with multi-drug-resistance tuberculosis. Lakshmi*, who is part of our CVG, notified us about Roshini and we approached to help her. We found that she had lost all her medical documents and had no money or resources to buy medicines.

We contacted an NGO that provides shelter for HIV patients and they agreed to let Roshini stay there. After months of support and treatment Roshini got a second chance at life. When Roshini came to us after the treatment, she was still broken and had lost everything she owned. She had to build her life again from scratch and that scared her.

Roshini often came to the drop-in centre in Mumbai and we gave her counselling on how to overcome her struggles. The drop-in centre is home to many women from the red light area and they come there for comfort and guidance. Through Oasis' health initiatives, we share information and tips on various topics like HIV, TB, cancer and personal hygiene with women and programme participants. We encourage them through counselling and help them realise that it is never too late to start over again in life.

*name changed

COMMUNITY BUILDING



20 groups (up from six groups last year) with around 180 members are on the journey to transform themselves and those around them.

SHGs GOING STRONG

By Prakash, Community Building Organisation Coordinator, Chennai

I am personally very proud of the men's self-help group (SHG) we have started in Chennai. This group has overcome a lot of struggles by just being consistent, and working hard researching and learning, despite experts' opinion that men's SHGs are prone to fail. Attending capacity building training sessions has helped them to learn how to identify needs as well as organise and plan programmes in the community. They have also learnt to manage their finances in the group and we hope that one day they will start other SHGs in the community and will be self-sustainable as a federation.

Parthiban, a mechanical engineering student, joined the men's SHG hesitantly. He worried that it would be a waste of his money because of his perception that joining a savings group in a slum community may be a disaster as men in these communities are prone to be irresponsible. However, he was desperate to pay off his student loans as his parents earned only Rs. 10,000 per month. The loans were taken from small-scale money lenders who charge steep interest rates, and the SHG was his last resort.

Initially, Parthiban took a loan of Rs. 4000 to pay his tuition fees and later took another Rs. 4000 to help his mother set up an idly shop. Through the months, he saved some pocket money and continued to pay the monthly amount in the group. He told me, "I am now able to save money and take loans when needed. This, I believe, will help me build my career and family, financially."

The SHG members are also socially responsible, and grab any chance to address any needs in the community. They run health camps and educative sessions that will benefit residents in some way. Their next step is to start an export and import dry fish business as a group, and I am excited for them!



EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND TO SHARE WITH, LAUGH WITH AND HANG OUT WITH. BE THAT FRIEND FOR A CHILD.

"THE GREATEST LESSONS IN LIFE, IF WE WOULD BUT STOOP AND HUMBLE OURSELVES, WE WOULD LEARN NOT FROM THE GROWN-UP LEARNED MEN, BUT FROM THE SO-CALLED IGNORANT CHILDREN."

— MAHATMA GANDHI



**JOIN OUR MENTORING PROGRAMME IN CHENNAI.
CONTACT EBENEZER AT 9025 16 1464 OR
EBENEZER.SUDHAHARAN@OASISIN.ORG**

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT US WITH YOUR TIME, PLEASE DO THINK ABOUT SUPPORTING US FINANCIALLY.

JUST RS. 500 A MONTH WILL HELP US CONTINUE OUR VISION OF TAKING VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENABLING THEM TO TURN INTO VIBRANT CITIZENS AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS... WE ARE BECAUSE YOU ARE.

Bangalore: 23/2 Kumaraswamy Naidu Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore 560005

Chennai: No. 18, 1st Street, Secretariat Colony, Kilpauk, Chennai 600010

Mumbai: 101, 1st Floor, Mahavir Darshan, Opp. Old TMC Office, Stadium Road, Jambli Naka, Thane (West) 400601

Website: oasisin.org

Email: info@oasisin.org