

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

Hand in Hand Switzerland was founded in 2013 as an expert entity to support the activities of Hand in Hand India, Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

### **Our Vision**

Alleviating poverty by creating jobs and developing communities

### **Our Mission**

Working toward economic and social responsibility by creating sustainable communities

### **Our Objective**

Creating 10 million jobs by 2025 in India, Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka



## Our Founding Organization

Registered in 2004, Hand in Hand India, our founding organization, started its operations on a humble scale with a vision to eradicate child labour in Kancheepuram, a district in Tamil Nadu in South India known for its 500-year-old silk weaving industry. Over the years, the organization has expanded geographically – from one small district to 16 large States of India and 7 countries globally – and thematically from preventing child labour to addressing root causes of poverty through its 5 Pillar Programme. These include interventions on child labour and education; health; skill development; job creation and women empowerment; environment.

### Hand in Hand Switzerland's Approach

As we expand our footprint globally, Hand in Hand Switzerland joins the efforts of its founding organization and its group entities to contribute in achieving the overarching organizational goals for a greater impact.

Hand in Hand Switzerland's primary focus is on a 3E approach i.e. Education, Empowerment and Environment. We believe that these are the core focus areas that require utmost attention for creating an equal, sustainable and prosperous world.

**Education:** We engage with vulnerable children and youth from remote and rural areas, and provide them with access to quality education and opportunities through our residential and non-residential programmes.

**Empowerment:** We financially empower women from rural communities so that they can become self-sufficient entrepreneurs and bring about social change, command greater influence on their families and communities, and make better decisions regarding their health and wellbeing.

**Environment:** We create climate resilient communities through large scale environment initiatives that focus on climate-smart agriculture and waste management programmes.



## The Dream Village

Aside from these three core initiatives, we have a flagship programme, the 'Dream Village' designed to holistically support an entire village with the requirements of the community.

Directly addressing poverty, our dream village elevates rural spaces by improving social indicators of environment, education and empowerment through a community-oriented participatory approach. The 30-month programme aims to build self-reliant communities through a linear development approach of assessment, awareness, activities, results and outcome leading up to sustainability.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Well-wishers,

It gives me great pride to present Hand in Hand Switzerland's Activity Report for the year 2021. Despite the challenges that 2020 and 2021 have posed to the world of international development, Hand in Hand Switzerland has managed to make strides on several fronts.

We have successfully registered our organization with a new headquarters in Geneva! This gives us a window of opportunity into the development sector right at the heart of Europe where there are thriving international organizations, the United Nations and other NGOs that are leaders in the social development space. We hope to not only establish our footprint here and forge new relationships, but also learn from the best practices so we can replicate them in our work in the field.

In 2021, we have continued supporting projects related to child labour elimination in India where despite school closures owing to the pandemic, young girls from Madhya Pradesh have had continued access to education. By running satellite training centers and providing them with mobile tablets, schools were brought to their homes. This year, we concluded two landmark projects - one on sustainable organic farming technology which supported 60 farmers in upgrading their land area to organic farming and a Dream Village project in Tamil Nadu that focused on upgrading school infrastructure, education of the girl child, empowerment of women, and improving access to healthcare for toddlers through the day-care centres. Towards the end of 2021, we are at the cusp of completing our novel initiative of construction of 100 well-recharge pits, innovative structures that increase the groundwater table of farmers in the semi-arid region of Salem in Tamil Nadu.

Aside from our regular programmes that focus on our 3E approach, we have managed to support vulnerable communities in times of humanitarian crisis - when the COVID-19 wave peaked in India in May 2021. This year, we have continued supporting our 'Green Friends' (sanitary workers) with ration kits, and have supported local Government hospitals in India with critical medical equipment ranging from oxygen concentrators to blood pressure machines. In the most rural and remote areas of North India - Bihar and Jharkhand, we have introduced telemedicine services so they have access to quality healthcare services.

Relationships are at the heart of any upcoming organization. In 2022, we have plans of establishing an Ambassador Circle, welcoming like-minded individuals from Switzerland to contribute with skills and ideas to support our goal of job creation and community empowerment. We are also looking at increasing our digital presence by hosting webinars with relevant thematic focus to benefit a wide range of stakeholders. With international borders opening up, we hope to forge Academic partnerships and welcome interns from Switzerland to India and Cambodia to get a first-hand exposure of our work in the field.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors and partners for their support, encouragement and belief in our work. I am grateful to our Advisory Committee members who provide their valuable expertise and who are always available for guidance. I thank my team in Switzerland and India for their sustained efforts in making the Hand in Hand Switzerland flag fly high!

**Dr. Kalpanaa Sankar**

President - Hand in Hand Switzerland



# **COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**Conservation  
& Cultivation of  
Traditional Paddy  
Varieties through  
Organic Means**







## **Conservation & Cultivation of Traditional Paddy Varieties through Organic Means**

**Supported by:** Humanium & Erbacher Foundation

**Location:** Tamil Nadu, India

**Activities:** Traditional varieties of paddy are known for their high nutritional value compared to modern variants. In this project, the farmers with suitable land area were identified and the traditional mother seeds of paddy were sourced and provided to the farmers for large scale seed production. Regular farmer field schools provided technical training on cultivation and usage of appropriate organic inputs. The output of the cultivation was regularly monitored by both the farmer and the field team of Hand in Hand.

**Impact:** The project has directly benefited 66 farmers covering 51 acres of farmland. The programme was successfully delivered to reach marginal farmers, owning less than 2 to 3 acres of land. Over the period of the project, the farmers have gained a profit of INR 16,000 (CHF 197). Aside from these tangible impacts, the project has been critical in the conservation of groundwater as traditional paddy absorbs less water with increased output, and each of the farmers has received an organic certification for their project. To ensure access to market, forward and backward linkages have been created with farmer producer organizations providing maximum value for their products.

### Meet Farmer Veerasamy

Veerasamy is from Aathur Village in Tamil Nadu with 3.5 acres of land. Previously, he was using his farmland for cultivating paddy but in the modern way - with pesticides and other inputs. Seeing the impact of traditional harvesting in neighbouring fields, he too took up the same. Mr. Veerasamy expressed that, "for one acre of land I received 20 kg of 'seeraga samba' rice seeds, biofertilizers and bio-inputs from the project that are organic and eco-friendly". Through the trainings, he realised that this would lead to improved soil fertility, minimise manure application, reduce pest and insect spread, and reduce water usage. Further, he noticed that these were a climate resilient variety of paddy. After the first season itself, he earned an income of INR 17,000 (CHF 207) per month and this has given him confidence to convert his entire land to traditional paddy conservation methods!



**Well Recharge  
Pits – A Climate  
Resilient Source  
of Water for  
Villages**





## Well Recharge Pits - A Climate Resilient Source of Water for Villages

**Supported by:** Audemar Watkins Foundation

**Location:** Tamil Nadu, India

**Activities:** In India, groundwater resource which makes up for 40% of the country's water supply is depleting fast due to changing climatic patterns, unreliable monsoons and draining more than the recharge. Southern India is facing severe climate change with alternative years of drought. The project was designed to address water issues in an area covering 785 hectares of land extent benefitting 7 habitations in the Salem District, reaching out to 1,532 small and marginal farmers and 133 landless families. The Well Recharge Pits have proven to be one of the most effective and unique structures through which 100 farmers got direct benefit by harvesting the rainwater, collecting the runoff and further allowed the harvested rainwater to percolate under the ground with specific reference to the aquifer system that benefit their wells.

**Impact:** Totally 100 Well/Bore well recharge structures were successfully installed in the project location Aranganur watershed of Salem District. Post the monsoon, it was noticed that the water level under the ground increased from 30 to 50 feet because of the effective Well Recharge Pit structures. Another key impact was that the farmers were able to increase the area of cultivation from 1 acre to 2 acres of land in addition to their previous cropped area due to the increased groundwater table. This has helped in increasing their yield and in turn income providing them livelihood all year round!



## Impact Story

### Mani - A happy farmer

Once after the establishment of the WRP, farmer Mani could cultivate the entire area under his possession i.e. 2-acre land with ridge gourd in half acre, ragi in one acre and broad bean in half acre. The quality of water improved greatly and the time for operating the motor was reduced to just half an hour on alternative days vs 2 hours every day. Earlier, the available electric motor (2 hp) with 8-inch pipe could not pump its full capacity of 4,000 litres per hour, but now it is functioning to its full capacity. He gained confidence that economically he will be benefitted as expected, with INR 15,000 to 18,000 (180 - 220 CHF) from ridge gourd harvest and additional for ragi and broad bean, which will take time to attain maturity. On the whole, Mr. Mani became a successful farmer engaged full time in the farming activity, his social relationships developed positively, and established himself as a role model for small and marginal farmers.

### Bounty of water on Thangam's farm

Ms. Thangam (aged 47 years) is a woman farmer and a widow; she is the only breadwinner of the family with three children. She knows only farming and possesses 2 acres of land. Thangam could not undertake agriculture as there was no sufficient water for irrigation. Though there was a bore well operated with a 2 hp motor, running it for an hour every day was not enough to irrigate even a portion of her land. Hence, she opted for rain-fed farming in the remaining portion of her land, cultivating groundnut and ragi. When she decided to setup the Bore Well Recharge Pit, there was a touch of hesitation. Within a year, she got more yield, and was able to pump water 3-4 hours a day. After looking at the performance of her borewell, she brought the entire land under irrigation support and started cultivating vegetables and paddy. Thangam now generates an income of INR 35,000 per acre. She was overwhelmed while sharing her experience, stating that she has gained confidence in carrying out agriculture and now can afford her children's education.





## Creating a Dream Village

**Supported by:** J K Wonderland Foundation & Catherine Beatrice Zai Stiftung

**Location:** Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu

**Activities:** This project focused on holistic upliftment of an entire village. The activities included Improving School Infrastructure, Skill Development for women and youth, Enterprise Creation for women, Livelihood Development, and Promotion of Organic Farming. It combined all 3E's - Education, Empowerment and Environment to bring about sustainable positive change in the community.

**Impact:** A local Government school was identified and the infrastructure was improved to make it more child-friendly, and included a new smart classroom for children to have an interactive experience with learning. The focus was on girl children and specific programmes were catered to them including provision of bicycles so they have a safe commute to school, empowering them with martial arts training for self-defence, and training in menstrual health management. Women were also a main target group; the self help group movement was strengthened and women were given training on financial literacy and digital literacy. Thrust was on entrepreneurship development where women were given training on organic farming, Pro Tray nursery set up and promotion of Vermicompost. 25 model Eco Farms were set up by the women.

# **ONGOING PROJECTS**



# Supporting vulnerable girl children with a residential special training centre





## Supporting vulnerable girl children with a residential special training centre

**Supported by:** Humanium

**Location:** Madhya Pradesh, India

**Activities:** The project, initiated in 2019, focused on establishing a residential special training centre for vulnerable girl children where they receive boarding, lodging, education and psychosocial support. Here, the children relive their lost childhood before going back to Government schools. Owing to the pandemic, the centre has been shut since March 2020 and in its place, Hand in Hand has been running Satellite Training Centres (STCs) - i.e. bringing schools to the children's homes so they have continued access to education. The teachers and volunteers have walked through difficult terrains to reach the children and have made use of the tablets provided by the donor for effective teaching. The girls were thrilled to receive this education, without which they would have regressed to the vicious cycle of poverty and child labour.

**Impact:** The team has been conducting 7 STCs with 64 vulnerable children during 2021. To promote digital learning and bridging the digital divide, tablets have been provided to all the centres. As the project concludes soon, 53 of the children have been mainstreamed into formal Government schools while the rest are being counselled for the same. The project has been landmark in thrusting the necessity of education of the girl children in a new and difficult environment.



## Impact Story

### **Lata's journey to continue education from child labour...**

COVID-19 and lockdowns have changed the lives of many people. Lata is one of them. Lata's journey shows how responsibilities changed her life. The 14-year-old girl decided to sacrifice her studies to alleviate the burden on the family. Lata is living with her parents and 6 siblings in Kakalpura village. Her parents are working as daily wage labourers and face difficulties in fulfilling the needs of their family. Lata was studying in the RSTC run by Hand in Hand but realised her responsibilities when she returned home during the lockdown. As she was not able to attend online classes, her interest in studies got affected. Having younger siblings at home and the poor financial situation of her family forced her to think about earning money to support her family. She started working in a factory in a nearby town and was hardly getting INR 100-120 daily. Slowly, she was getting detached from studies.

After the lockdown, when the HIH team tried to contact each and every student of the RSTC to know their education status, it was evident that Lata has dropped her studies and started working in a factory. The team visited Lata and her family, convinced her parents to give Lata a chance to get a better education, and made Lata understand the importance of education and how she would be able to help her family in the future through education. The HIH team helped her get the admission at the government school in Nalchha. The dedication and continuous efforts of the HIH team helped Lata come out of child labour.

### Mainstreaming 4 girls in Government Primary School, Mandav

Lives of 4 girls (Priya, Preeti, Sangita and Ishika) completely changed when they got a chance to get education at the RSTC run by Hand in Hand. These girls belong to the Scheduled Tribe community and are from the nearby villages of Mandav. They always dreamt of a good education but due to their financial condition, they were engaged in child labour. They were kept away from their studies so that they can earn something by working.

During the field visit, HIH team noticed that instead of studying, these girls were working in the fields. The team motivated them to continue their studies. The team asked their parents to enroll them in the RSTC where all the facilities, from education to accommodation, would be provided free of cost. As a result, the team was able to convince them to send their children to the RSTC.

For 2 years, all 4 girls studied in the RSTC, Nalchha, Dhar District, and were taught with the help of bridge course and teaching-learning material which helped them a lot in their studies. Learning with fun and activities improved their performance. Activities like indoor and outdoor games, usage of Educational App through tablet, etc. excited them and got them more engaged with school work. After the completion of the course in RSTC, the girls got enrolled in Government Primary School, Mandav. Now, all of them are regular in school and perform well in their studies. The parents of these girls are proud of them and feel grateful to Hand In Hand for the holistic development of their children.



## Child Friendly Village

**Supported by:** Humanium

**Location:** Tamil Nadu, India

**Activities:** Creating a smart and sustainable village with a special focus on children, women and environment is the objective of this project. The project aims to achieve these goals by developing quality education through Children Learning Centres improving school facilities and equipment like water purification systems and sanitary napkin incinerators in schools, raising awareness on child rights & protection, better access to quality healthcare, innovative eco-farms, training on skill development for women and on enterprise building and management.

**Impact:** The implementation of the interventions has benefitted 35 children at the Children Learning Centres; 140 girl children are now using the incinerator at the school; 400 students use the water facilities at the school; and 71 members gained knowledge about child rights and methods of protection through 6 trainings. On the healthcare front, 150 village members received awareness on sanitary practices and a total of 495 people received treatment through 3 health camps (General, Paediatric & Gynaecology, and Ophthalmology); 321 members were vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Through the project, 12 farmers were provided training on organic and eco-farming practices and their maintenance. They were further motivated to adopt the innovative ways of eco-farming. 3,000 fish fingerlings were distributed to the SHG members that showed interest in fish farming and 2,000 fish fingerlings were distributed to individual farmers. The members were also provided with trainings on poultry farming through exposure visits of current project locations, and this motivated many to indulge themselves in the same and start enterprises. Through the veterinary service intervention, 657 animals were treated and 4,400 fodder crop slips were distributed to the members.

**Before**



**After**



# **NEW PROJECTS 2021**

# COVID-19 Interventions





## Telemedicine and access to healthcare in remote rural India

**Supported by:** JK Wonderland Foundation

**Location:** Bihar & Jharkhand

**Activities:** This project focused on COVID-19 relief activities with a thrust on telemedicine, community radio, health help desk and strengthening government health facilities in remote areas of Bihar and Jharkhand. These Northern states are often cut off from access to good healthcare facilities and were especially suffering during the May 2021-July 2021 phase of the pandemic in India. To overcome these challenges and to provide a sustainable solution for these communities, a healthcare focused project was launched.

**Impact:** While the project is still ongoing, there have been significant strides achieved. For instance, the telemedicine application has been successfully launched and set up. So far, 351 members have benefitted from this. The Community Radio has been very impactful in rural areas as it broadcasts health related information & facts, and enhances their knowledge not only on health but also serves as a holistic platform to empower thousands of vulnerable people. Based on need and request from the District Administration in Jharkhand, the team has selected District Hospital of Koderma, Jharkhand and has established a health help desk – a simple desk that will provide critical information about the hospital premises, help people with immunization information and other information to facilitate a pleasant experience at the hospital premises.





## Emergency humanitarian support during the second wave

**Supported by:** Lonza

**Location:** Tamil Nadu

**Activities:** Hand in Hand was yet again supported by Lonza for timely humanitarian support during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. This project focused on supporting Green Friends (sanitary workers) with appropriate protective materials, food ration kits and boxes that would help them tide over phases like lockdowns where they did not have any time to visit the grocery stores that were open only for a limited time during the day. Provisions worth INR 1,000 were distributed as relief materials to 1,000 Green Friends working across eight project locations in India. Lonza's Covid relief materials helped the Green Friends in saving some money for their personal needs, as many of them are sole breadwinners for their families.

Another initiative supported by this project is the running of a battery-operated vehicle at the vast 350-acre Chengalpattu Government Hospital in Tamil Nadu to ferry not only COVID-19 patients but also other sick and vulnerable patients across the hospital premises. There were also awareness activities on the importance of vaccination and immunization and the process for the same was conducted as a part of this project.



## Health and nutrition – construction of a school canteen

**Supported by:** Bel Foundation

**Location:** Karnataka

**Activities:** This project thrusts on strengthening a school canteen at Government Higher Primary School, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru, Karnataka state. This canteen (currently under construction) will support 127 children from 20 villages with access to clean, hygienic and healthy premises for their lunch and will have tap water facilities for ensuring hand wash and hygiene. Aside from the construction, Hand in Hand's health team will create awareness on best health, hygiene and nutrition practices among the children and the teachers of the school.





## A child-friendly village at Kaliyampoondi

**Supported by:** Humanium

**Location:** Tamil Nadu

**Activities:** This project focuses on creating a child-friendly village by upgrading and supporting the Government school infrastructure, ensuring all children have access to high quality meaningful education. So far, in 2021, a new Children Learning Centre (CLC) has been established with 27 vulnerable poor rural children studying. This CLC provides a platform for children to continue their education and stay in touch with the basic concepts of Maths, English and Tamil. It is notable that the classes are conducted by following safety norms of social distancing and providing face masks and sanitisers to children.

Some key activities include a training on Child Rights and Acts among 245 adolescent girl children studying in Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kaliyampoondi and distribution of sports materials to Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kaliyampoondi that will benefit 511 children. Again, focusing on girl children, 15 girls were encouraged to take up Karate as a sport and uniforms were distributed to them!

## New projects in the pipeline

Hand in Hand Switzerland is actively working with foundations, philanthropists and CSR of companies to create further impact in the areas of education, empowerment and environment in 2022.

## STRATEGY 2021-2025

Our thrust will remain on achieving our goals through the 3E Approach.

### Education

The ILO estimates that close to 10 million children in India fall under the wrath of child labour. Our objective remains simple – to support in the eradication of child labour and ensure that every child has access to his or her rights and to education. Our programmes are holistic focusing on not only identifying children under these difficult circumstances but bringing them back their lost childhood through a comprehensive residential special training centre that focuses on mental and physical well-being aside from education. Once they are ready, the children are put into the government education system. With a strong group of child rights protection committee members, the children are tracked till they graduate from high school, ensuring they do not drop out of the system once again. Our programme in India aligns itself with the objectives of the Samagra Shiksha initiative of the Government of India.

### Projects support the following initiatives:

- Child Labour Elimination
- Higher Education
- Child Health and Nutrition

So far, Hand in Hand has been instrumental in creating **1,142** child labour free panchayats (child-friendly villages).

This model has been successfully replicated in the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.



**2000** child labour  
free villages by  
**2025**

## Empowerment

Participation of women in the workforce in India is around 25%. It is even lower in rural areas with just 10% of women meaningfully engaged and having an income to support their families. We believe that women can be the powerhouse of change. From our experience of creating 4.7 million jobs (as at January 2022) in India and abroad, women when empowered with skills, financial education and access to markets can not only earn an additional income but also contribute to the upliftment of their family and the society.

The Self Help Group-micro enterprises programme of Hand in Hand primarily targets women and focuses on enterprise creation and jobs. It also realises the importance of education and creates awareness among the Self Help Group women on education of children and conducts adult literacy classes in the project villages as women can access only non-formal education at this stage.

### Projects under Empowerment support:

- Job creation for women
- Skill training and development
- Women's healthcare



**10 million jobs for women by 2025**

## Environment

It is a well known fact that the impact of climate change is severe in developing countries. Food security issues threaten close to 145 million people in India with close to 43% children being chronically undernourished. To combat the effects of climate change at a grassroots level, the work is focused on conserving natural resources and ensuring proper disposal of waste to create a sustainable tomorrow. Our interventions focus on the marginal farmer, providing him inputs to convert his farmland into organic and hence improve his yield through traditional soil cultivation methodologies. On the other hand, water conservation is thrust through deepening and renovation of existing ponds, wells and water bodies especially in rural areas. Responsible disposal of waste starts with proper segregation. Knowledge dissemination and segregation of waste at source through a cadre of 'Green Friends' (sanitary workers) ensure responsible disposal and a cleaner society.

### Projects under Environment support:

- Water and sanitation
- Food security and ecology
- Climate action and advocacy



**Reach out to 100,000 farmers by 2025**

## GROWING OUR PRESENCE IN GENEVA

2021 was a landmark year where we moved our headquarters to the hub of international development - Geneva.

### PANEL CONVERSATION

18.01.22

12PM - 13:30PM CEST

11AM - 12:30PM BST

With:

Professor Lucie Cluver,  
Sahaana Sankar,  
Deirdre Collings,  
Morgane Bonvallat,  
Dr. Abiodun Adereni.

“ How Mobile Apps and Online  
Technology Act as a Catalyst for  
Positive Change for Women & Girls. ”



giving  
women



### Webinar - Technology as a catalyst for positive change in women

Technology is a catalyst for women's empowerment around the world. With the advent of mobile applications, technology can be leveraged to the maximum to benefit vulnerable women and children for improving their quality of life, access to social security and healthcare services, and for their economic empowerment.

Hand in Hand Switzerland participated in a webinar hosted by Giving Women in January 2022 that focused on 'how mobile apps and technology can be a catalyst for positive change in women and girls'. The participants showcased examples from Africa, India, the Middle East and Switzerland.

In this event, Sahaana Sankar, Development Officer of Hand in Hand Switzerland spoke about a mobile application that Hand in Hand India has worked on that provides market linkages for rural self help group women in India. The B2B application, called the RISE App has over 50,000 women enrolled. She also spoke at length about the digital and financial literacy initiatives that have been successfully implemented in India and abroad.

## Newsletter Launch

We have officially launched our quarterly newsletter that will give our readers the latest information on our projects, events and news. Our first newsletter went out just shy of Christmas 2021 and garnered a positive response. We look forward to engaging with our stakeholders regularly in 2022.



HAND IN HAND SWITZERLAND

2021 has been a whirlwind of activity and change. While we are forming new partnerships and focusing on furthering impact in education, empowerment and environment, we are also impressing our footprint in Switzerland. and hope that big move will be pivotal in maximizing our outreach!

**We are now headquartered in Geneva**



## 2021 PROJECT UPDATES

### Bridging the digital divide

COVID-19 effected all schools in India to remain shut for over a year. To ensure that the children at our residential schools and children learning centres continued their education in a safe space, we launched satellite training centres. The project, funded by Humanium, was a huge success with close to 86 students enrolled across 8 centres.



### Combatting COVID-19 in India

With support from our donors, we reached out to the most needy persons with essential ration kits, set up health help desks at hospitals and leveraged telemedicine services to reach remote populations, creating access to healthcare. Awareness on vaccination and COVID-19 safe protocols remained a part of the initiatives!



### A Dream Village in Melnagarambedu

The Dream Village is an integrated development programme designed to support an entire village according to its very specific needs. In 2021, we supported the remote village of Melnagarambedu, in Tamil Nadu. Through this 30-month initiative, we have improved the lives of children, especially girls, and women, through access to quality education and skills training. Among the many activities, a girl club was created to improve self-confidence, creativity and self-defence of girls.



## WAY FORWARD 2022

2022 shines bright for Hand in Hand Switzerland as we foray into new partnerships and collaborative events. Our key focus areas for the year include:



### **Ambassadors Circle**

In 2022, our flagship initiative to support us promoting Hand in Hand Switzerland's mission and values is the creation of an Ambassadors Circle. By investing their time, providing skills and ideas, reaching out to networks and creating opportunities, like-minded Geneva-based individuals will help us:

- build local partnerships to promote best practices
- create opportunities to demonstrate impact and raise awareness on sustainable ways to alleviate poverty and create jobs
- increase support and mobilize resources to achieve greater impact for communities



## Internships & Exposure visits

Hand in Hand is delighted to welcome interns and students interested to learn from practical field visits in India and Cambodia. These in-person sessions will give a direct exposure to the 3E approach and students can interact with beneficiaries in the field directly. These exposure visits can be planned for individuals or a group of persons who share common interests. We are currently exploring potential partnerships with Geneva-based academic institutions to create synergies.



## Webinars & Events

We started 2022 with a webinar on women and technology. We plan to use digital platforms to continue to engage with global stakeholders through webinars and events. Our thematic webinars will not only focus on our work but will also bring together experts from different fields to share best practices. If pandemic restrictions are eased, we would like to have in-person events and workshops in Geneva as well.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The support and guidance from our Advisory Committee has supported us in reaching our goals. In 2021, we welcomed our newest member, Ms. Mihoko Kobayashi. Read briefly about our members:

### **Dr. Kalpanaa Sankar – President**

With a double doctorate – one in nuclear physics and another in gender studies, Dr. Kalpanaa Sankar has specialized in participatory assessment of Self Help Groups, NGOs, participatory rural appraisal, gender-differentiated impact, developing monitoring tools and indicators and preparation of manuals / guidelines on gender issues for the past 20 years. She has handled several international missions and received special commendation from the United Nations Office for Project Services. Dr. Sankar has trained high level government delegates from South Africa and Afghanistan and has supported microfinance and poverty reduction programs in Afghanistan and Brazil. She has been a consultant to UNDP, UNOPS, Wetlands International and Christian Aid. She was awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2017 and the Global Award for Women Empowerment from UN Women and Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr. Sankar is currently Managing Trustee of Hand in Hand India and Managing Director of Belstar Microfinance Private Ltd. She has received scholarships to

attend the INSEAD Business School and HBS – ACCION program and has been a student of the TRIUM E-MBA course. In 2009, she was felicitated by the US Congress as a leading Woman Social Entrepreneur in recognition of her role in providing leadership and fostering economic growth in local communities.



### **Mr. Amitava Tripathi – Former Indian Diplomat Secretary**

Mr. Tripathi has been a distinguished Indian diplomat, having served the Indian Foreign Service since 1971. He has held different critical assignments in Karachi, Dhaka, UNO apart from being India's ambassador to Brazil and Switzerland. A postgraduate from Cambridge University, Mr. Tripathi, following his laying down office, has dedicated himself to social development and charity work. Apart from serving Hand in Hand Switzerland Association, he is concurrently the President of the Governing Body of Action for Food Protection. Mr. Tripathi is also on various panels of the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India and is invited to deliver addresses and share his experience in various international platforms.



### **Ms. Vera P. Weill Halle**

Ms. Halle has over 30 years of experience working with international organizations and in the non-profit sector. Vera started her career working with Population Reference Bureau, in Washington DC, and later joined the UN Secretariat and subsequently the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome. She was head of delegation in a number of the UN and other international conferences. She is currently running her own firm, Brighter Ventures, for the empowerment of women.



## Mr. Todd Wade

Mr. Wade comes with deep technical and cybersecurity expertise working in global environments with experience managing people, processes and technology across a variety of industry sectors. He has completed his Trium MBA - jointly issued by NYU - Stern, HEC (Paris) & LSE.



## Mr. Arndt Soret - Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Soret is a senior Corporate Counsel and Lawyer with over 15 years of experience in commercial law. He has worked primarily in Europe and UK with corporate giants such as Toshiba, Symantic and Lonza. Highly specialized and known for his negotiation acumen, Mr. Soret comes with strong business knowledge and passion having briefly worked for the UN and a law firm in the US.

Wanting to make a positive change and the world better since he was young, especially since he heard about alarming infant mortality rates, Mr. Soret has dedicated his passion towards social causes. He co-founded Humanium, a voluntary child rights oriented non-profit in 2008 in Switzerland, Germany and France. Through Humanium, he has visited grassroots projects in India, a place which transformed him and where he has made some of his closest friends. Calling himself, 'an Indian at heart', Arndt is dedicated and committed towards making a difference to those who most need it!



## Ms. Mihoko Kobayashi

Director of Management Committee Governance for the regions of Africa, Middle East, India, Oceania, Europe in a global corporate; also executive coach serving leaders to make a difference.

"I met Dr. Kalpanaa 10 years ago, inspired by her passion and the clear governance of Hand In Hand India, occasionally had my own charitable activities with the organization. I'm honored and delighted to have a part of it and hope to make my contribution with love and care."



## Our Team

### Mr. Sandip Mookerjee – Managing Director

Mr. Mookerjee is a professional with over three decades experience in various corporates in the general insurance sector, in public and private enterprises / MNCs, having served in leadership levels. He has wide exposure in People Management, Human Resources, Learning & Development, Insurance Underwriting, Sales, etc. During the past decade, Mr. Mookerjee has shouldered various responsible assignments, in Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd. and Bharti AXA General Insurance Co. Ltd., where he served as Vice President, Human Resources and was also a member of the Company's Executive Committee.

Mr. Mookerjee's passion to serve the poor motivated him to join the social development sector and he is currently leading the Swiss operations of the Hand in Hand group. He is also the Deputy CEO at Hand in Hand India and heads the Partnerships & Alliances wing.



### Ms. Emilie Compigne – Fundraising & Development Consultant

Ms. Compigne brings more than 10 years of professional experience in fundraising and project management. She has a BA in International Affairs from La Sorbonne and a Master in International Solidarity from the Social Sciences Faculty – Catholic Institute – in Paris. She has served for various entities internationally, such as the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the prestigious One Drop Foundation in Canada, before launching her career as a Consultant in Geneva.

Curious and eager to learn, Ms. Compigne also has experience in entrepreneurship and business management and in dialogue facilitation. She is co-creator of the Fundraising Bootcamp, a series of capacity-building workshops for small and medium sized non-profit organizations in Geneva.



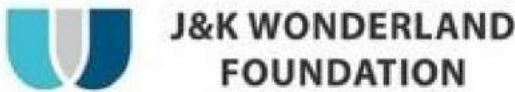
### Ms. Sahaana Sankar – Fundraising & Development Manager

Ms. Sankar carries two hats as an Electronics and Communications Engineer as well as a Management graduate from London School of Economics and Political Science, where she specialized in marketing and strategy. She is passionate about the development sector and her stint with Hand in Hand Switzerland Association and Hand in Hand India is the first in this field.

Prior to this, Ms. Sankar has held various leadership and editorial positions during her education. She has worked with a start-up, Wimbletech in the UK for a year as Financial and Community Manager where she handled the audit, accounts and expansion strategy alongside a small team. She has also worked with the United Nations Chief Executive Board in New York.



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