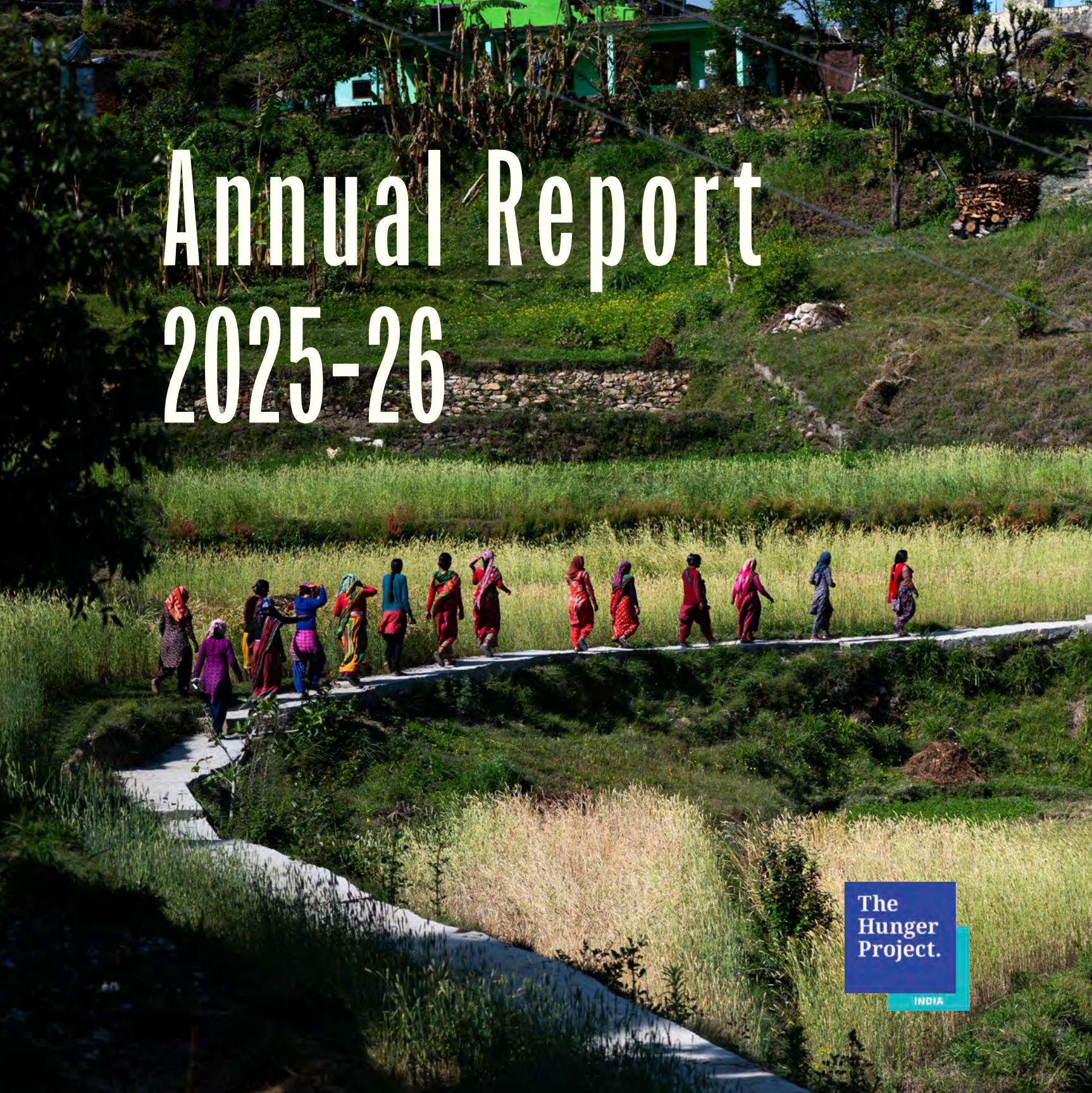


Annual Report 2025-26

The Hunger Project.
INDIA

THE HUNGER PROJECT

Annual Report 2025-26

Published by: The Hunger Project, India

Design: Studio Eksaat

Cover Photo: Anurag Banerjee

Declaration: In compliance and as mandated under Section 22 of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, The Hunger Project, India hereby declares that no complaints of sexual harassment were reported to its Internal Committee for the year 2025-2026.



The Year In Reflection 01
P-05



About The Hunger Project 02
P-15



Empowering Women, Transforming Governance 03
P-21



Programme Highlights 07
P-57



Critical Spaces: Reframing Dialogue 08
P-63



Financial Report 09
P-69



Creating Safe Spaces Where Adolescent Girls Lead Change 04
P-37



A Scholarship, A Turning Point 05
P-45



From Distance To Dignity 06
P-51



THP People 10
P-83



Thank You, Donors 11
P-87



Contact Us 12
P-89

Contents

Since 2001, The Hunger Project has been working with **women leaders** in **Gram Panchayats** across India.

In 2015,we started engagement with adolescent girls.

Currently, we are working in six states: Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

Our Vision

A world without hunger, a world where every human being leads a life with dignity and equality

Our Mission

Strengthen women's leadership in local governance so that they can perform effectively as public officeholders, practice good governance, and promote social cohesion and gender justice



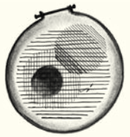
Our Fundamental Principles



Gender Equality



Inclusion



Collaboration



Accountability



Human Dignity



Social Justice

01

A Year in Reflection



A Year in Reflection

2025 was yet another year holding both loud and quiet courage of women and adolescent girls, stepping into leadership, of communities choosing participation over reticence, and local democracy becoming more human, more inclusive, more alive. In the following pages, we celebrate some key highlights that have shaped the organisation and its impact.

The past year restates our commitment to gender equity, social justice, human dignity, inclusion, decentralisation and accountability. Across diverse and challenging contexts, our teams remained grounded and purposeful, demonstrating adaptability at every step. We strengthened capacities, deepened learning, refined strategies, and renewed our resolve to advance entitlements and essential public services for the most vulnerable communities.

Embracing new realities and opportunities, we delved deep into different facets of our own work. We set up Gram Panchayat Help Desks (GPHDs) across ten panchayats in Uttarakhand as a way to ensure the most vulnerable groups can access government entitlements with ease. Pensions, job cards, PDS ration, and scholarships are lifelines for the rural poor. GPHDs aim to bridge the gap (lack of information, complex systems, other barriers) and improve people's access to government welfare schemes. In Karnataka, girls' responsive panchayats were reimagined to enable and amplify both women leaders' and adolescent girls' voices. In

Bihar, a milestone moment arrived when 183 adolescent girls received financial support in the form of Azim Premji Foundation scholarships to pursue higher education. A scholarship is both a vital turning point where the journey begins and the culmination of years of sustained engagement. It reflects what nurturing girls' confidence, aspirations, and agency can make possible.

Through our continued efforts to empower women leaders in gram panchayats, we have witnessed compelling stories of leadership emerging. They are making local governance more transparent, accountable, and participatory, while helping the most vulnerable communities secure welfare entitlements and access essential public services.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) continues to evolve to generate strategic insights, strengthen evidence-based decision-making through improved data systems, learning reviews, and outcome tracking across programmes. Learning became more embedded in programme implementation, enabling field teams and partners to use evidence for reflection, adaptation, and stronger accountability. An endline assessment of the women's leadership programme was carried out in Madhya Pradesh, and two baselines in Uttarakhand.

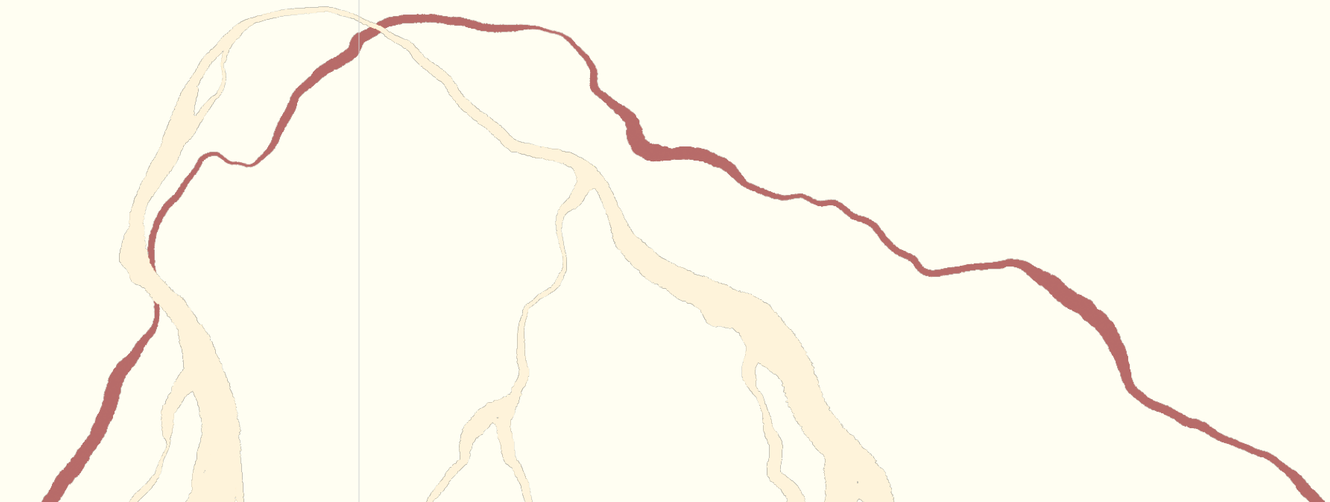
In the Communications portfolio, we brought forward stories of women leaders, adolescent girls, and responsive panchayats. The portfolio strengthened its strategic role by integrating storytelling with programme evidence, creating narratives that connected grassroots change with broader development conversations. Through photo books, long-form photo essays, and short films, we expanded our reach and influence to elevate community voices, deepen stakeholder engagement, and reinforce THP's vision of women-led development.

We remained an active thought partner in across vital forums sharing insights, deepening alliances, and advancing the discourse on gender and governance. These engagements continue to shape and strengthen our collective efforts to nurture more inclusive ecosystems. We continue to endeavour to build and share knowledge systems with new and old allies as we strive to imagine better.

We are deeply grateful to the communities who trust us, to our field teams who lead with courage and care, and to our donor-investor community, partners and supporters who walk this journey with us. Your unwavering support and solidarity make this work possible and enable us to take small, large, bold steps.

As we steer through and adapt to an ever-evolving landscape, we remain anchored by the wisdom of the past, the drive and dynamism of the present, and the hope and promise of the future. We move ahead - intentional, inspired, and committed in our mission to build a future rooted in equity, dignity, and justice.

The Hunger Project, India



2025 Outreach



27
districts

48
blocks

855
panchayats

30050
women leaders

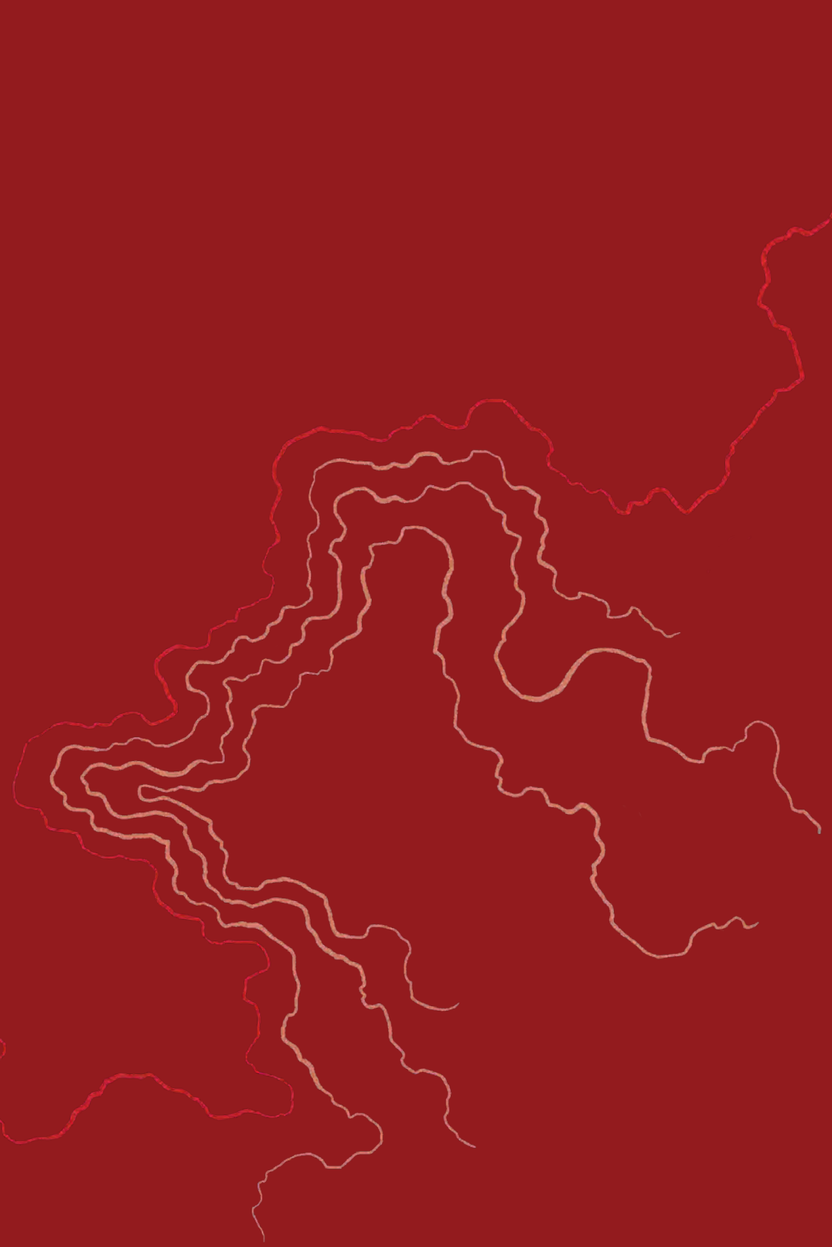
2304
adolescent girls
(Bihar, Rajasthan)





02

About The Hunger Project



About The Hunger Project

Who Are We?

The Hunger Project (THP) is a non-profit organisation unwavering in its promise to empower women and girls in rural India. Rooted in the vision of democratic decentralisation introduced through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, THP works to strengthen women's leadership in panchayats and build inclusive socially cohesive communities.

What We Do?

THP strengthens women's leadership to enable transformative change at the grassroots. Our work is grounded in the belief that when women have the knowledge, skills, and supportive ecosystems to lead, they can shape more inclusive local institutions, improve access to government programmes and services, and foster equitable, participatory development.

Through structured capacity strengthening, mentoring, peer learning, and community-based platforms, we support women leaders to identify local priorities, engage citizens, work collaboratively with institutions, and drive solutions that improve the everyday lives of rural communities. In essence, we promote and support women-led development.



The strategy broadly involves the following elements:

Strengthening **capacities** and leadership skills

Fostering an enabling environment through the creation of **support structures** such as federations and jagruk manch (collectives of women citizens) as spaces for co-learning and collective action

Dialogues with local administration

Leveraging the role of women leaders to **empower** adolescent girls

In 2025, we worked with **30,050 women leaders** across **855 panchayats** in the five states of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

They have exercised their leadership to ensure improved access to various rights, entitlements and government schemes - education, health services, food and social security, water, sanitation, electricity, forest conservation, and safe and violence-free panchayats.

Simultaneously, the adolescent girls' programme in Bihar and Rajasthan continues its critical engagement with girls by building safe spaces for dialogue, enabling girls to articulate their issues, make informed decisions, and collectively negotiate for change.

Building **life skills**

Facilitating a safe learning environment through **girls' collectives**

Interface with the local administration and government officials

It's encouraging to see girls increasingly empowered to make decisions, use their voices to claim entitlements and access panchayat services. They are emerging as active citizens and leaders in their communities. The programme spanned **57 panchayats** in two states, working with **2304 adolescent girls.**

Our interventions are rooted in our vision of gender equality and a just society. We continuously explore innovative approaches to amplify voice and agency, while strengthening village-level practices of good governance, accountability, and transparency.





03

Empowering Women, Transforming Governance

Empowering Women, Transforming Governance

Women's leadership in panchayats is not just changing who sits at the decision-making table - it is transforming what is possible at the community level.

Across villages, women leaders are stepping forward to inform themselves, negotiate, and act on issues that shape everyday lives - from access to education, healthcare, and social security to dignity and inclusion.

Through THP's work with panchayats, women, whether in formal positions or members of community platforms like Jagruk Manch, are finding their voice, building collective power, and reshaping local governance. What begins as a woman raising a concern in a village meeting can become a moment geared towards safer communities, stronger public systems, and a more equitable future.

This year, women leaders supported by THP have shown extraordinary courage and leadership.

They are:

Ensuring delivery of essential public services.

Monitoring schools, health centres, crèche centres, and ration shops.

Championing safe mobility for women and girls.

Advancing transparency, accountability, and inclusion in local democracy.

This year alone, women leaders facilitated the submission of 4071 petitions to improve the quality and accessibility of services across Anganwadi centres, schools, and health facilities - demonstrating how informed and organised local leadership can make governance more responsive.

These leaders are also educating communities, creating livelihood opportunities, and promoting sustainable use of local resources - protecting fragile ecosystems while securing futures for the most marginalised.





Food Security & Nutrition –

7,382
Households linked to ration cards

509
PDS shops monitored

1,635
ICDS centres monitored

904
Malnourished children enrolled in NRCs

Strengthening Nutrition Through Panchayat's Institutional Mechanisms

When Duja Dhurve became a ward member of a gram panchayat in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, she knew little about the functioning of local governance. Her participation in THP's Women's Leadership Workshop changed that. The workshop gave her the confidence and understanding to see leadership as an act of listening to the community and acting together.

Her first challenge was the village anganwadi. During a visit, she found that the anganwadi helper was not regularly bringing young children from their homes, leading to poor attendance and limiting children's access to nutritious meals, early learning, and health services. When Duja raised the issue, she was met with resistance. Instead of giving up, she chose dialogue and collective action.

At a block-level meeting, she brought together panchayat members and anganwadi workers to discuss the challenge. Together, they agreed that helpers would conduct daily home visits to bring children to the centre, while mothers would actively support the effort. Back in the village, Duja mobilised women to form a **Mothers' Committee** that began regularly monitoring attendance, food quality, hygiene, and the overall functioning of the anganwadi.

The change was gradual but significant. Children's attendance increased, parents regained confidence in the centre, and the anganwadi helper became more accountable. The **Mothers' Committee** also became a platform for women to raise concerns and work with the gram panchayat to improve services. Through the Gram Sabha, Duja advocated for repairing the anganwadi building, ensuring safe drinking water, and providing essential utensils and hygiene materials.

Today, the anganwadi in Pondi is supported by an active partnership between mothers, frontline workers, and the gram panchayat. Duja's journey demonstrates that when local leadership brings communities together, anganwadis become more than service centres - they become gateways to better nutrition, healthier childhoods, and stronger community ownership.

Collective Voices, Cleaner Villages

In Lephripara village of Sundargarh district, Odisha, the **Mahila Adhikar Sammukhya (MAS)** has become a powerful example of how women's collective action can strengthen local democracy and improve public services.

The village generated large amounts of household waste, yet in the absence of an effective waste management system, garbage was routinely dumped along roadsides and in public spaces. Although the gram panchayat had received a garbage collection tri-cycle under a government scheme, it remained unused because no one had been appointed as a Swachhta Sathi. Social stigma surrounding sanitation work discouraged local people from taking up the role, leaving the village to struggle with growing sanitation and health concerns.

Refusing to accept the situation, the women of MAS took collective ownership of the issue. During their regular meetings, they discussed the problem, built consensus, and decided to pursue a solution through the panchayat. They repeatedly approached the Panchayat Extension Officer, submitted petitions, and followed up. With no action being taken, they raised the matter in successive Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring that waste management remained on the local governance agenda.

Their persistence paid off. The panchayat appointed two Swachhta Sathis from the neighbouring village of Suarajore, who now operate the tri-cycle, collect household waste, and help maintain clean public spaces across Lephripara.

The collective's advocacy has extended beyond sanitation. In nearby Alapaka village, sustained engagement by community women also contributed to the appointment of two livestock inspectors, improving access to essential veterinary services.

The journey and significance of the MAS demonstrate that democratic decentralisation is strongest when citizens actively engage with local institutions. By identifying community needs, demanding accountability, engaging with local institutions, and persistently using forums such as the Gram Sabha, the collective has shown that panchayats become more answerable when communities, especially women, participate not as beneficiaries, but as informed partners in governance.





Education

1,910
Girls enrolled in any higher education facility (after 12th) with the support of women leaders

4,200
Children enrolled in school

1,096
Girls who had dropped out re-enrolled into the formal education system

6,280
Children linked to scholarships/other benefits with the support of women leaders

A Bus Route Opens the Road to Education

In Holalkere block of Karnataka's Chitradurga district, women leaders responded to a concern repeatedly voiced by adolescent girls: the lack of safe and affordable transport to schools and colleges. Girls from 10 villages described long walks to distant bus stops, dependence on irregular and expensive private transport, and unsafe routes where harassment was common. These challenges disrupted attendance and, in some cases, forced families to withdraw girls from school.

Through the **girls' responsive gram panchayats** initiative, the women leaders worked with adolescent girls, ASHA and Anganwadi workers to document the problem and build a case. They mobilised support across four panchayats, collected signed petitions from students and frontline workers, and persistently engaged the local administration and transport officials to secure a solution.

Their efforts resulted in the introduction of a new government bus route connecting Holalkere and Hosadurga through more than 15 villages. Today, over 100 students use the service to travel safely to schools and colleges. As demand increased, the route expanded from one to three daily buses, making travel more reliable, affordable and secure. For several villages, it marked the arrival of a government bus service for the first time - demonstrating how active women leaders can turn girls' priorities into lasting improvements in public services.

"When we came together to raise this issue, we helped make education safer and more accessible for over 100 students. It is rewarding to see girls continue their education with confidence." - Manjula, Ward Member, Holalkere Block

When Climate Shapes Women's Mobility

For women panchayat leaders, climate change is not only an environmental challenge; it directly affects mobility, safety, and participation in public life. Erratic rainfall, damaged roads, water scarcity, and failing local infrastructure make everyday movement more difficult, especially for women who are already navigating social restrictions. As village landscapes become more fragile, so do the pathways through which women access health services, markets, and governance spaces.

Kavita Goswami, gram panchayat Pradhan, Uttarakhand, understands this intersection intimately. Her experience shows that s**trengthening climate resilience** is also about making villages safer and more accessible for women. She links unpredictable rainfall, hailstorms, and water shortages to the daily realities women face, recognising that environmental degradation disproportionately increases their burden.

In response, she has prioritised rainwater harvesting through Amrit Sarovar, spring restoration, solar street lighting, drainage repair, and improved irrigation systems. These interventions not only help communities adapt to climate uncertainty but also make public spaces safer and easier to navigate.

Kavita's leadership is rooted in movement itself. By walking village roads, inspecting infrastructure, and meeting residents where they are, she demonstrates that women's mobility is central to responsive governance. Safe, well-connected public spaces enable women leaders to remain visible, accessible, and accountable, while also encouraging other women to step into community life.

As Kavita observes, when women "come outside," they do more than occupy public spaces - they reshape them. In this way, climate-resilient infrastructure becomes an essential foundation for women's safety, mobility, and meaningful participation in local democracy.





Social Security & Employment

16,396
No. of people linked to MGNREGA (job cards)

10,392
No. of people linked to pensions (single women, old age, widows, differently abled)

12,293
No. of people received housing

A Birth Certificate Opened the Door to a Better Future

Eight-year-old Ramesh Kumar Bhil was born with a disability. After losing his father in 2022, his family's circumstances became even more precarious. His mother later remarried, leaving Ramesh and his two younger siblings in the care of their grandmother, who struggles to support the family through daily wage work and goat rearing.

Without birth certificates or other identity cards, the children were excluded from school admissions, disability benefits, and government welfare programmes. For families living on the margins, these documents are more than proof of identity - they are the gateway to essential social security schemes, healthcare, education, and other public services that can make the difference between vulnerability and stability.

During a gram panchayat meeting, Sarpanch **Durga Devi** (Rajasthan) identified the family's situation and took the initiative to help. She regularly followed up with the family, explained the **importance of obtaining identity documents,** coordinated with the e-Mitra centre, and ensured that the application process moved forward. Her sustained support helped Ramesh secure his birth certificate, begin the process of obtaining his Aadhaar card, and complete the required documentation for his two siblings.

Today, the children have access to opportunities that were previously out of reach. They can enroll in school, access government services, and become eligible for social protection schemes. By recognising a vulnerable family's needs and helping them navigate public systems, Durga helped ensure they could claim the services and entitlements available to them.

04

Creating Safe Spaces Where Adolescent Girls Lead Change



Creating Safe Spaces Where Adolescent Girls Lead Change

We invest in adolescent girls because every girl has the right to thrive - fearless and unafraid, to claim her education, to live with dignity and safety.

Over the past two years, the programme has been creating transformative spaces for adolescent girls in 30 villages across 17-gram panchayats in Rajasthan. Through Kishori Samuhs (girls' collectives), girls have found safe environments to learn, question, support one another and engage with local institutions. The programme is helping girls move beyond prescribed social roles to become informed, confident and active participants in shaping their own futures and their communities.

For many girls, the first change has been deeply personal. Growing up amidst restrictive social norms that govern their mobility, education, aspirations and choices, they are beginning to discover their own voice and sense of possibility.

As 16-year-old **Kalpana** reflects,

"I have learned it's okay to have dreams, fulfilled or not. We have the right to dream."





For Krishna, 15, the programme has expanded her horizons:

"We are getting a focused understanding of what the future could hold."



As Anjali shared, these gardens mean families have

"fresh vegetables every day, more energy, and money saved for other needs."

Manisha, 15, who recently prevented her own child marriage with support from the programme, shared,

"I gave my parents the pamphlet explaining why child marriage is harmful and illegal. For now, they agreed. If the issue comes up again, we'll find another way."





Similarly, Chanchal, 14,

drew on information shared during Kishori Samuh meetings to help prevent the child marriage of another girl in her village.

Monica, 14, described filing an application with the panchayat for a garbage collection vehicle:

"The Kishori Samuh helped me understand - this is my panchayat too."





As Kiran, 14, reflected,

"I used to be very shy. Now I know my strengths and can ask for help."

These shifts in confidence are enabling girls to imagine careers as doctors, teachers, police officers and entrepreneurs - dreams that previously felt beyond reach.

The programme has equipped girls with knowledge on health, nutrition, gender equality, and life skills while strengthening their ability to make informed choices. Conversations on menstrual health, bodily autonomy and nutrition have challenged deeply rooted myths and encouraged healthier practices.

Girls are also adopting practical solutions such as kitchen gardens, improving household nutrition while reducing food expenses.

In addition, girls diagnosed with anaemia and malnutrition received regular follow-up, health check-ups, and support to consume iron supplements.

Perhaps most significantly, girls are translating awareness into collective action. Through their Kishori Samuhs, they have engaged with schools, panchayats and frontline service providers to improve sanitation, secure regular supplies of iron-folic acid tablets, work towards safer school infrastructure and ensure access to scholarships.

The programme has also strengthened girls' ability to address violence and harmful practices. Equipped with information on legal protections and referral mechanisms, girls are intervening to prevent child marriage.

Girls are also increasingly engaging with local governance to improve community services. Beyond tangible improvements in services and entitlements, the programme is nurturing a generation of girls who believe they have the right to ask questions, make decisions and shape their own futures.

These voices embody the programme's greatest outcome: adolescent girls who are not only more aware of their rights and opportunities, but are increasingly exercising leadership, supporting one another and driving change within their families, schools and communities.



05

A Scholarship, A Turning Point



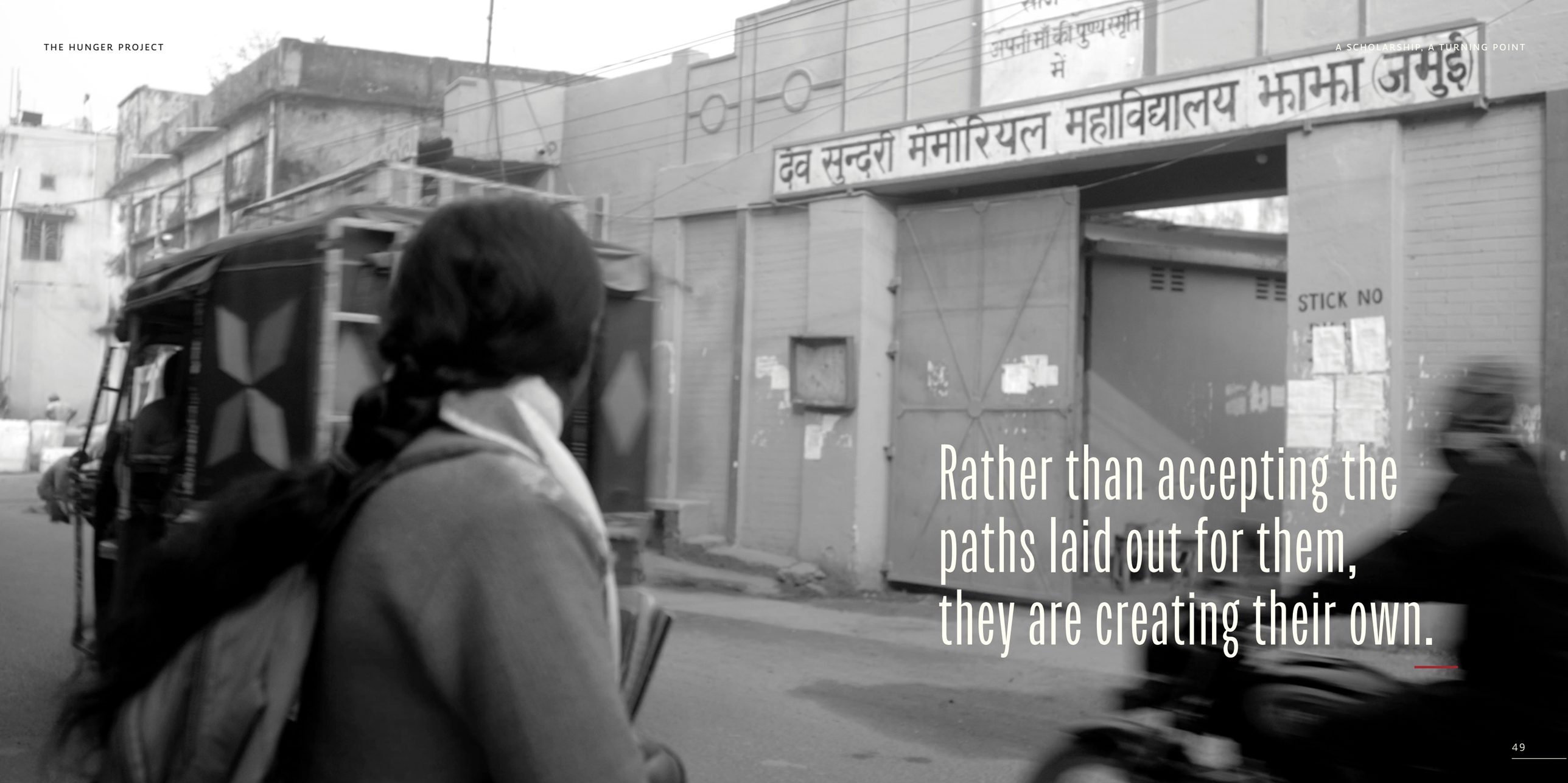
A Scholarship, A Turning Point

A total of 150 girls from the 2021–2024 Adolescent Girls' Programme cohort across Arwal, Jamui, Muzaffarpur and Rohtas applied for the Azim Premji Foundation scholarship. 88 girls were selected. The impact extended even further: through peer networks and sustained outreach by programme staff, 95 additional girls also secured the scholarship. In total, 183 young women are now receiving financial support to pursue higher education.

The scholarship supports students who have taken admission in the first-year as a regular student of a recognised undergraduate degree or diploma course at a government or a (credible and bona fide) private college or university, anywhere in India. For many of these young women - most of whom are the first in their families to attend college - it is the support that makes higher education possible.

This milestone is about much more than scholarships. It reflects years of investment in girls' confidence, aspirations and agency.

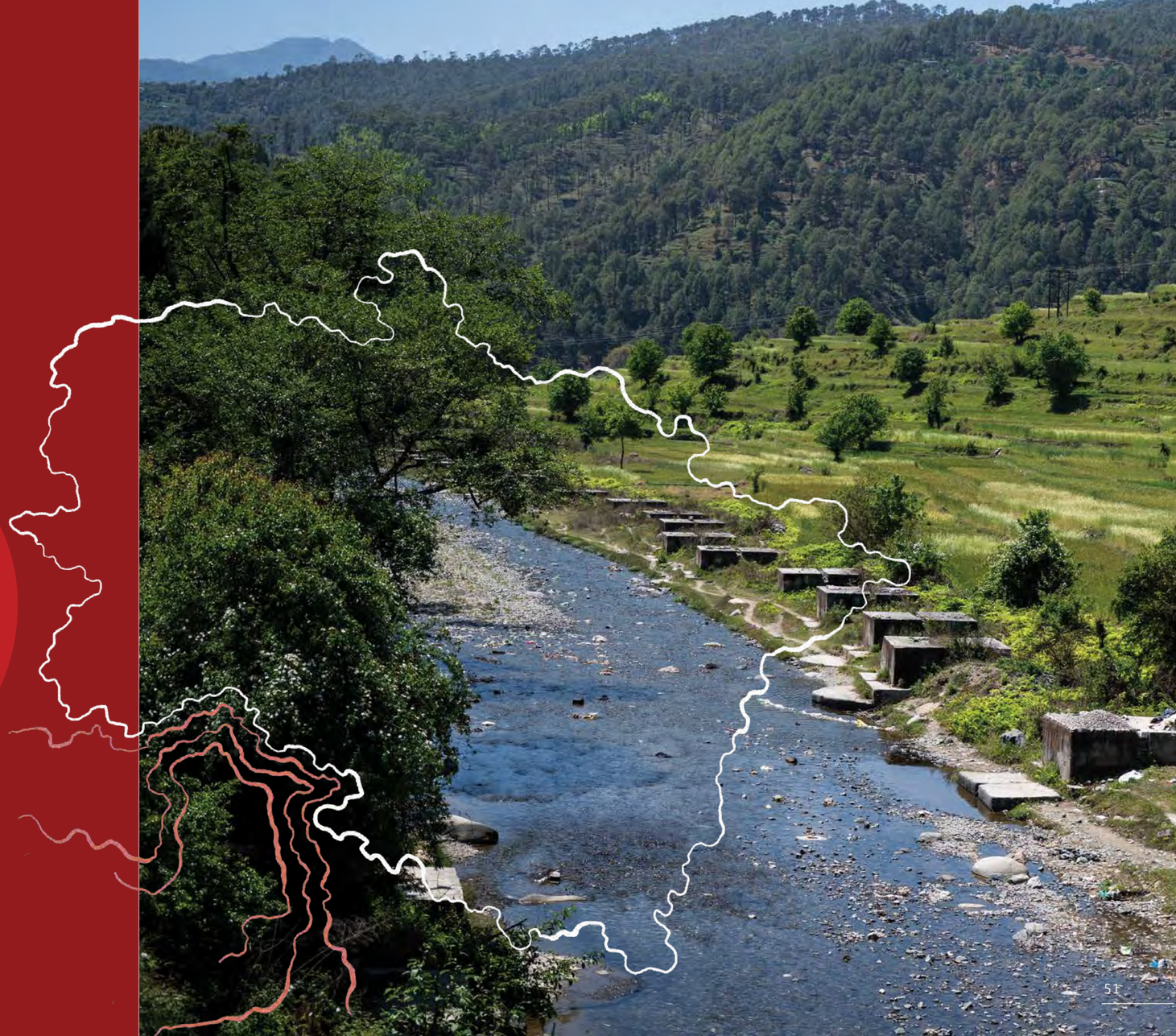
In Bihar, many girls still face pressure to leave school, marry early and abandon their ambitions. Yet these young women have chosen a different future. Many work while continuing their studies. The ₹30,000 annual scholarship, available for up to four years, eases financial pressures and enables them to remain focused on their education.



Rather than accepting the paths laid out for them, they are creating their own.

06

From Distance to Dignity: Gram Panchayat Help Desks Ensuring Last Mile Delivery



From Distance to Dignity: Gram Panchayat Help Desks Ensuring Last Mile Delivery

1,789 successful applications for government entitlements in just one year.

Behind this number are thousands of rural citizens who no longer have to navigate multi-layered government systems alone. Across 10-gram panchayats in Uttarakhand, THP's Gram Panchayat Help Desks (GPHDs) are making local governance more accessible by helping people secure the services and benefits they are entitled to.



In a state where villages are often dispersed across difficult terrain, and government offices are hours away, the help desks have become trusted community institutions. More than information counters, they bridge the gap between citizens and public services, making panchayats more responsive.



At the heart of each help desk is an E-Sahyogi - a trained help desk manager. Hema Joshi is one of ten such E-Sahyogis, one in each panchayat, who helps citizens access information on government schemes, complete and submit applications, resolve documentation challenges, and follow up with relevant departments. Whether it is obtaining an Aadhaar card, pension, ration card, job card, caste or income certificate, or an ABHA health card, she ensures that people are able to navigate administrative processes with greater ease. She also works closely with panchayat leaders, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, and other panchayat functionaries to identify and support the most vulnerable households.

For women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and socially marginalised communities, the help desks are emerging as an accessible first point of contact for information, documentation, referrals, and grievance resolution. They save people repeated journeys, reduce paperwork-related barriers, and make government services significantly easier to access.

"The time and money we save are precious. We receive proper guidance in filling forms," says Rekha Arya. For many families, securing a single government document or welfare benefit can involve multiple visits, lost wages, and uncertainty. "We have got back some of our stolen time," reflects Babita, a ward member, who was accompanying another woman to obtain her ABHA Card. This 14-digit digital health identity enables access to authenticated health records.

Over the past year, the ten Gram Panchayat Help Desks processed 1,909 applications for government schemes and services (along with 986 additional administrative requests). Of these, 1,789 applications were successfully approved, demonstrating how locally anchored support mechanisms can significantly improve access to public entitlements while strengthening citizens' trust in local governance.



07

Other Programme Highlights



Other Programme Highlights

Need-based workshops

Also known as technical trainings, were held in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and attended by 2,266 women leaders. These meetings provide focused inputs on themes that may require deeper engagement. These included the significance of ward sabhas, mahila sabhas, and palli sabhas, understanding gram panchayat administrative processes and budgets, operating online portals to access social security schemes, and situating their work in the context of broader sustainable development goals.

School Management Committees

In Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, the programme engaged School Management Committees as key institutional platforms for improving school governance and accountability. By encouraging greater community participation, the initiative has fostered stronger oversight of school functioning, improved engagement between schools and communities, and promoted a more responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Climate Smart Meetings

In Uttarakhand, the programme promoted environmental conservation through 51 Climate Smart meetings (in schools across the 32 panchayats) and eight mobile awareness campaigns, reaching out to 11,902 community members (including women leaders, jagruk manch members, and youth) to advance collective climate action.

Jagruk Manches

Jagruk Manches continued to serve as vital local support structures, strengthening women's collective participation in local governance alongside women leaders. During the year, 785 meetings were held in Rajasthan and 759 in Karnataka. Major themes included regular monitoring of anganwadis, better public transport, addressing issues of water scarcity, delays in issuing job cards under the national livelihood programme, access to social security schemes, and proper utilisation of panchayat funds.

Cross-learning workshop

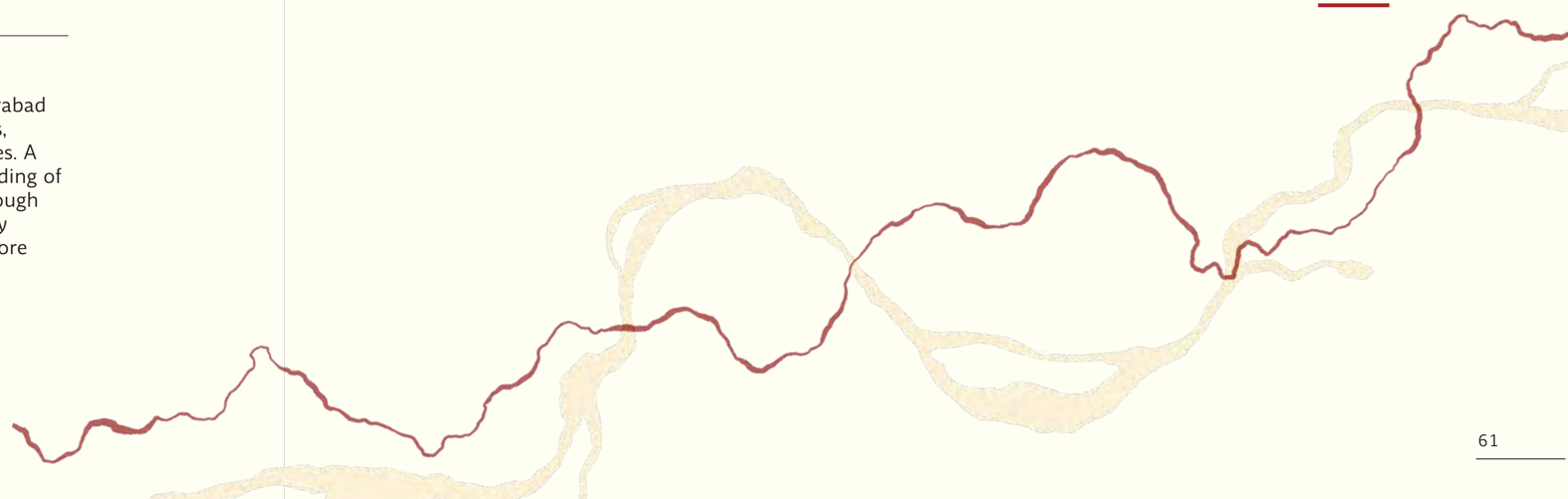
Sixteen programme team members came together in Hyderabad for a cross-learning workshop to reflect on field experiences, strengthen collective learning, and identify strategic priorities. A session with an area expert deepened the team's understanding of integrating livelihoods into Panchayat-led development through improved access to social protection, creation of community assets, and leveraging the Forest Rights Act, reinforcing a more systematic and outcome-oriented programme approach.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

A two-day workshop on Mental Health and Wellbeing, held in Patna, equipped 21 field trainers and coordinators from Bihar, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Uttarakhand with practical tools to recognise and manage stress, prevent burnout, and support the mental wellbeing of adolescent girls. The workshop strengthened participants' capacity to care for their own wellbeing while responding more effectively to the emotional needs of the adolescent girls they work with.

THP produced films

THP produced two significant films highlighting the leadership journeys of adolescent girls: When Mountain Moves - We Dream in Colours and Something Else Exists in Bihar and Rajasthan, respectively. Both films exemplify the transformative role of girls' collectives in creating safe spaces where girls build confidence, exercise their voice, foster supportive networks, and develop the leadership, agency, and values that shape their futures.



08

Critical Spaces: Reframing Dialogues



Critical Spaces: Reframing Dialogues

For women's leadership to truly thrive, it must be accompanied by sustained efforts to advance gender equality within broader social and political discourse.

In 2025, THP expanded its engagement across national and global platforms, contributing to critical conversations on leadership, democratic participation, and gender equality. Working alongside partners and allies, we amplified the voices and experiences of women and girls, strengthened strategic partnerships, and helped inform dialogue on more inclusive and equitable policy and practice.



Here are some notable engagements through which we extended the reach of our work, using stories and evidence to build understanding, connection, and support:

Participated in an online webinar titled **Unleash Women** for women investors from the UK, attended by 12 participants. The session showcased the organisation's work with women leaders in Panchayats and adolescent girls, highlighting how their leadership, resilience, and collective action are driving meaningful change in rural communities.

Engaged with over 200 supporters, including board members, entrepreneurs, professionals, and members of the Indian diaspora in **Australia.** The three-city visit showcased the impact of programmes with women leaders and adolescent girls in panchayats through compelling storytelling, strengthening relationships with existing supporters while cultivating new partnerships to sustain and expand investments in the organisation's work.

Attended the **Equilead conference** on "Lead With Equity" in Delhi. The conference focused on advancing women's leadership in the context of climate change-related challenges, who gets to lead, and shifting power within institutions and communities.

THP was invited by **Azim Premji University** to conduct a session for 25 M.A. Development students on designing monitoring systems for development interventions. Using the organisation's programme as a case study, the session explored outcomes, data quality, learning dashboards, and the use of evidence to strengthen programme design and decision-making.

Engaged with 33 M.A. **Gender students from Ambedkar University Delhi** in a session exploring women's leadership in local governance, feminist approaches to development, and community engagement. The discussion evolved into a rich exchange on development practice, donor engagement, and ethical dilemmas in the NGO sector, creating a valuable space for critical reflection, learning, and dialogue between practitioners and students.



09

Financial Report



Financial Report

Financial Facts

FUND RECEIPTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26	RUPEES	%
Interest on FDR/Savings	12,650,451	10.68
Grant	105,788,807	89.29
Donation	26,195	0.02
Others	13,571	0.01
Total Receipts	**118,479,024**	**100**

COST CENTRE-WISE EXPENSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26	RUPEES	%
Administrative	28,550,597	23.97
Programme	89,471,274	75.12
Depreciation and Amortization expenses	1,086,510	0.91
Total Expenses	**119,108,381**	**100**

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of The Hunger Project - India

Unmodified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Hunger Project-India (the Trust), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2026; and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in India, in the case of:

a. Balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the trust as at 31 March 2026, and

b. Statement of Income and Expenditure, of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under fair presentation framework, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the aforesaid Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

CA. Ravi Nasa
Partner
Membership No.: 508591
SKN & Company
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.: 023323N
UDIN: 26508591TRPPGQ2727
Place: New Delhi
Date : 23rd September 2026

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2026

PARTICULAR'S	AS ON MARCH 31, 2026 RUPEES		AS ON MARCH 31, 2025 RUPEES	
I. Funds And Liabilities				
Funds				
Corpus Fund	8,500,000		8,500,000	
General fund	159,461,439		160,090,796	
Unutilised Earmarked Funds	32,313,344	200,274,783	13,483,710	182,074,506
Non-current liabilities		-		-
Current Liabilities:				
Trade payables				
(a) Micro enterprises and small enterprises	-		-	
(b) Others	-		-	
Other Current Liabilities	17,294,475	17,294,475	15,722,798	15,722,798
TOTAL		**217,569,258**		**197,797,304**
II. Assets				
Non Current Assets:				
Property Plant and Equipments and Other Intangible Assests				
Property Plant and Equipments	3,118,688		2,638,078	
Investments	39,647,466	42,766,154	37,068,068	39,706,146
Current Assets:				
Cash & Bank Balances	167,417,423		152,124,615	
Other Current Assets	7,385,681	174,803,104	5,966,543	158,091,158
TOTAL		**217,569,258**		**197,797,304**

Summary of significant accounting policies 1

As per our separate report of even date attached

For The Hunger Project

Authorised Signatory

CA. Ravi Nasa
Partner
Membership No.: 508591
SKN & Company
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.: 023323N
UDIN : 26508591TRPPGQ2727
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23rd September 2026

Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2026

PARTICULAR'S	AS ON MARCH 31, 2026 RUPEES	AS ON MARCH 31, 2025 RUPEES
TOTAL INCOME		
Grants and Donation Received	105,815,002	127,886,373
Other Income	12,664,022	12,580,003
	118,479,024	**140,466,376**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
Administrative and General Expenses	28,550,597	27,917,121
Other Expenditure on Objects of the Trust	89,471,274	110,040,069
Depreciation and Amortization Expenses	1,086,510	846,254
	119,108,381	138,803,444
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year to be transferred to general fund	**(629,357)**	**1,662,932**

Summary of significant accounting policies 1

As per our separate report of even date attached

For The Hunger Project

Authorised Signatory

CA. Ravi Nasa
Partner
Membership No.: 508591
SKN & Company
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.: 023323N
UDIN : 26508591TRPPGQ2727
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23rd September 2026

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2026

Brief of The Hunger Project

The Hunger Project is a Charitable Trust established on 28th March 1984 registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 vide registration number F-9598(BOM).

The Hunger Project was registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to claim full exemption from Income Tax u/s 11 & 12 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 being charitable. The Finance Act, 2020 has introduced new sub section 12AB by eliminating Section 12AA and has mandated every registered charitable organization for re-registration under section 12AB of the Income Tax Act 1961. The trust has received the new registration certificate under section 12AB of the Income Tax Act 1961 vide registration number **AAATT0359B25MB01** dated 30 March 2026 valid till Tax Year 2030-31.

The Hunger Project was also registered u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Finance Act 2020 has mandated that the charitable institutions registered under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 are required to re-apply only for approval. The trust has received the new registration certificate under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 vide registration number **AAATT0359B25MB02** dated 30 March 2026 valid till Tax Year 2030-31.

The Hunger Project is also registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 ("FCRA") vide registration no 083780474 dated 3 May 2001. The validity of existing registration is valid till 30 September 2029.

The Hunger Project is a global strategic organization committed to the ending of hunger. In India it is committed to ignite, kindle and sustain the leadership spirit in women elected to village Panchayats. The 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution which mandated 33.3% reservation for women, SC and STs in all three tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institution, has brought more than one million women into public political life. It is our conviction that active participation of these women in local governance will make hunger free India a reality.

Significant Accounting Policies

i. Basis of Accounting

The Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India are applicable to non-profit entities, only if any part of the activities of the entity is considered to be commercial, industrial or business in nature.

The trust does not carry on any activity in nature of commercial, industrial or business, therefore the Accounting Standards are not mandatory and have been followed to the extent practical or relevant.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on an accrual basis except stated otherwise. The accounting policies have been consistently applied by trust except stated otherwise.

ii. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, balance with bank fixed deposit and government bond having maturity less than three months. Fixed deposit and bond having maturity more than three months, but less than 12 months has been classified as other bank balances.

iii. Investment

Fixed deposit and Bonds having maturity more than 12 months have been classified under Investment.

iv. Revenue Recognition

a) Earmarked Grants are initially credited to a Liability account in the Balance Sheet and are transferred to Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which and to the extent to which the Trust complies with the conditions attached to them.

b) Interest from savings accounts is transferred to respective grant accounts only in case it is written specifically in the agreement else directly treated as Income.

c) Donation and Interest income is recognized in the year of receipt.

d) Fund Received from foreign source are kept in designated bank account and separate books of account are also maintained as per Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and rules made there under.

v. Foreign Currency Transactions

The Trust has received foreign contributions in accordance with the provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 read with FCRA Rules, 2011. The foreign contribution received has been accounted for in the books on the basis of advice issued by the banker. The exchange rate mentioned in the advice copy is taken as conversion rate for the purpose of converting foreign contribution in Indian Rupee.

vi. Expenses

Direct costs associated with specific programs are recorded as direct program expenses.

vii. Employee Benefits

a) Short Term Benefits

Short term employee benefits are accounted for as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which the payments are made.

b) Post-Employment Benefit Plans

Contributions to Provident Fund are recognized as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account when the employees have rendered services entitling them to contribution.

c) Gratuity

Gratuity is a defined benefit scheme. The charge in the income & expenditure account for gratuity is based on the actuarial valuation by an independent actuary. Further, as per the trust policy, the amount of gratuity payable to an employee shall not exceed INR 20,00,000.

viii. Fixed Assets

a) Fixed Assets are stated at written down value in the financial statements.

b) No revaluation of fixed assets was made during the year.

c) The gross block of fixed assets is capitalized at cost which includes taxes and duties and other identifiable direct expenses attributable to acquisition of fixed assets up to the date.

d) Depreciation is provided on the written down value method mainly at the following rates:

Nature of Assets	Rate of depreciation Percentage
Computers	40.00%
Furniture & Fixtures	15.00%
Vehicles	25.00%
Office Equipment	13.91%

ix. Taxation

The Trust is registered under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide registration certificate dated 30 March 2026 which entitles it to claim an exemption from income tax provided certain conditions laid down in the Income Tax Act 1961 are complied with. Provision for tax will be made only in the year in which the Trust is unable to establish reasonable certainty of its ability to fulfill these conditions.

x. Operating Leases

The Project generally enters into cancelable operating leases for office premises normally renewable on expiry. Rent expenses relating to operating leases for the year ended March 31, 2026 are INR 34,77,287 (Previous Year INR 37,23,744).

xi. Other Accounting Policies

a) As per estimation of Trust management, there is no contingent liability except the matter under litigation as referred below in point no. B (iv).

b) No prior period items taken into account during the year.

c) The rest of the accounting policies are consistent with the generally accepted Accounting Policies.

d) Previous year's figures have been regrouped or rearranged wherever necessary.

B. Notes to Accounts

i) Expenses are generally disclosed as per the program budget heads.

ii) There is no income which is of a business nature as defined under section 2(15) of the Income Tax Act, 1961

iii) The organization has duly complied with the provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 as well as Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 while finalizing the books of accounts relating to foreign funds.

iv) In view of the stay order granted by Hon High Court of Mumbai and on the basis of information gathered from various sources, in respect of payment to be made, to the Commissioner Charity under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, the trust has not made a provision @ 2% for the amount being an uncertain /unconfirmed liability for the year.

v) Pending Legal Case/Contingent Liability; There is no legal cases pending or initiated during the year either by any individual or organization against The Hunger Project.

vi) Balances receivable/payable to donors as on March 31, 2026 are subject to confirmation from respective donors.

Summary of significant accounting policies 1

As per our separate report of even date attached

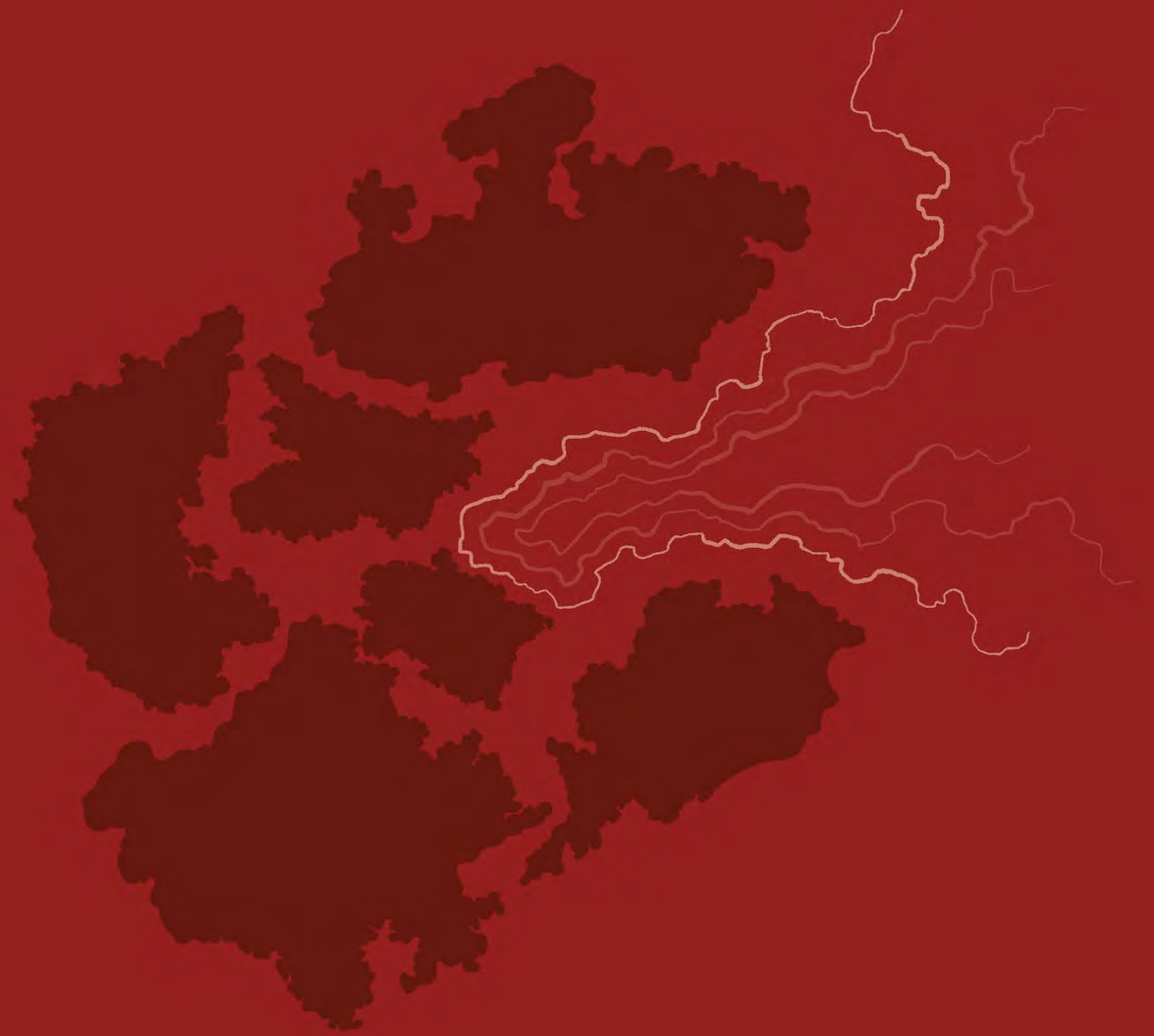
For The Hunger Project

CA. Ravi Nasa
Partner
Membership No.: 508591
SKN & Company
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No.: 023323N
UDIN : 26508591TRPPGQ2727
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23rd September 2026

Authorised Signatory

10

THP People



THP People



Governing Council:

Pari Jhaveri, Chairperson
Debarpita Banerjee, Treasurer
Madhavi Misra, Secretary
Krishna Menon, Member
Ayush Chauhan, Member
Preeta Lall, Member

National Office Staff:

Bharani Sundararajan
Bhushan Giri
R. Chandramaulika
Darshan Surendranath
Ganga Gupta
Naveen Verma
Nidhi Kumari
Paritosh Sasmal
Ruchi Yadav
Shiw Shankar Mahato
Smriti Minocha
Subrata Sahoo
Surbhi Mahajan
Varsha Chaudhary
Vicky

State Teams:

Bihar: Shahina Perween, Rana Pratap, Sanju
Karnataka: Somashekhar A., Padmini Ananth, Vinodh P., Mani
Madhya Pradesh: Belu George, Ritu Kamble, Nitendra Gupta, Ram
Odisha: Sukanta Mohapatra, Deepika Ekka, Susanta K Barad, Bimal Sahu
Rajasthan: Virendra Shrimali, Renuka Sharma, Nikhilesh Gupta, Mahender
Uttarakhand: Kamla Bhatt, Deepti Patwal, Himanshu Sati, Tara

Thank You Donors

We are grateful to our donors for their support and solidarity

American Jewish World Service

Azim Premji Foundation

Porticus

THP Australia

THP Global

THP Germany-BMZ, Germany (The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development)

THP Netherlands

THP Sweden





Contact Us

NEW DELHI:
11/1, Sarvapriya Vihar,
New Delhi – 110016
Ph: 011-41688847/40519106
/40519075

BIHAR:
House No. – 102, Road No. - 21
Shri Krishna Nagar
Patna - 800001
Ph: 0612-2521705

KARNATAKA:
Sree Guruvayurappan
No. 25/1/1, 6th Cross
Athmananda Colony
Sultanpalya, R.T. Nagar Post
Bangalore - 560 032
Phone: 080-23554580

MADHYA PRADESH:
MIG-136, Bagmugaliya
Extension,
Housing Board Colony,
Bhopal - 4620430755-2424736

ODISHA:
D-14, Harekrushna Villa,
Botanda,Sunderpada,
Khordha - 751002
Ph: 09124908977

RAJASTHAN:
C-4, Ground Floor,
Hari Marg, Civil Lines,
Jaipur - 302006
Ph: 0141-2223123

UTTARAKHAND:
C-1, Chandra Mauli,
J. K. Puram, Mukhani,
Haldwani - 263139
Ph: 05946-280188



The Hunger Project. INDIA

@thehungerprojectindia
The Hunger Project India
@THP_Ind
thehungerprojectindia
http://thpindia.org