

The Journey of an Epoch

NEEDS gets 18 years' young



Network for Enterprise Enhancement and Development Support



"Simavi partners with NEEDS for more than 12 years. NEEDS' strengths are its ability to work efficiently, creating buy-in of both the beneficiaries and the local government, followed by replication of successful models. NEEDS has also been instrumental to improve the work of other Simavi partners, by sharing their experiences and models. Together, we have piloted and researched m-health interventions, and shared our findings in national and international conferences. Our work together has been successful to trigger interest from other donors to improve or scale up our programmes"

**- Loan Liem
Sr. Programme Officer Simavi;
Netherlands**

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NEEDS: Network for Enterprise Enhancement and Development Support

India's unprecedented growth in the last decade with the advent of globalization and digital technologies is yet to touch the lives of many citizens. However a considerable section of its population resides in rural regions yet untouched by the progress its urban counterpart has been able to achieve. The contrast of this disparity is stark when we consider the fact that many of these people lack the infrastructure for nutrition, hygiene and education. These challenged areas are in dire need of attention.

NEEDS was founded in 1998 with this foresight to create an environment for dignified living for the marginalized in the rural pockets of Bihar and Jharkhand. First established in Santhal Pargana it has now grown into a professionally managed and committed NGO (non-governmental organization).

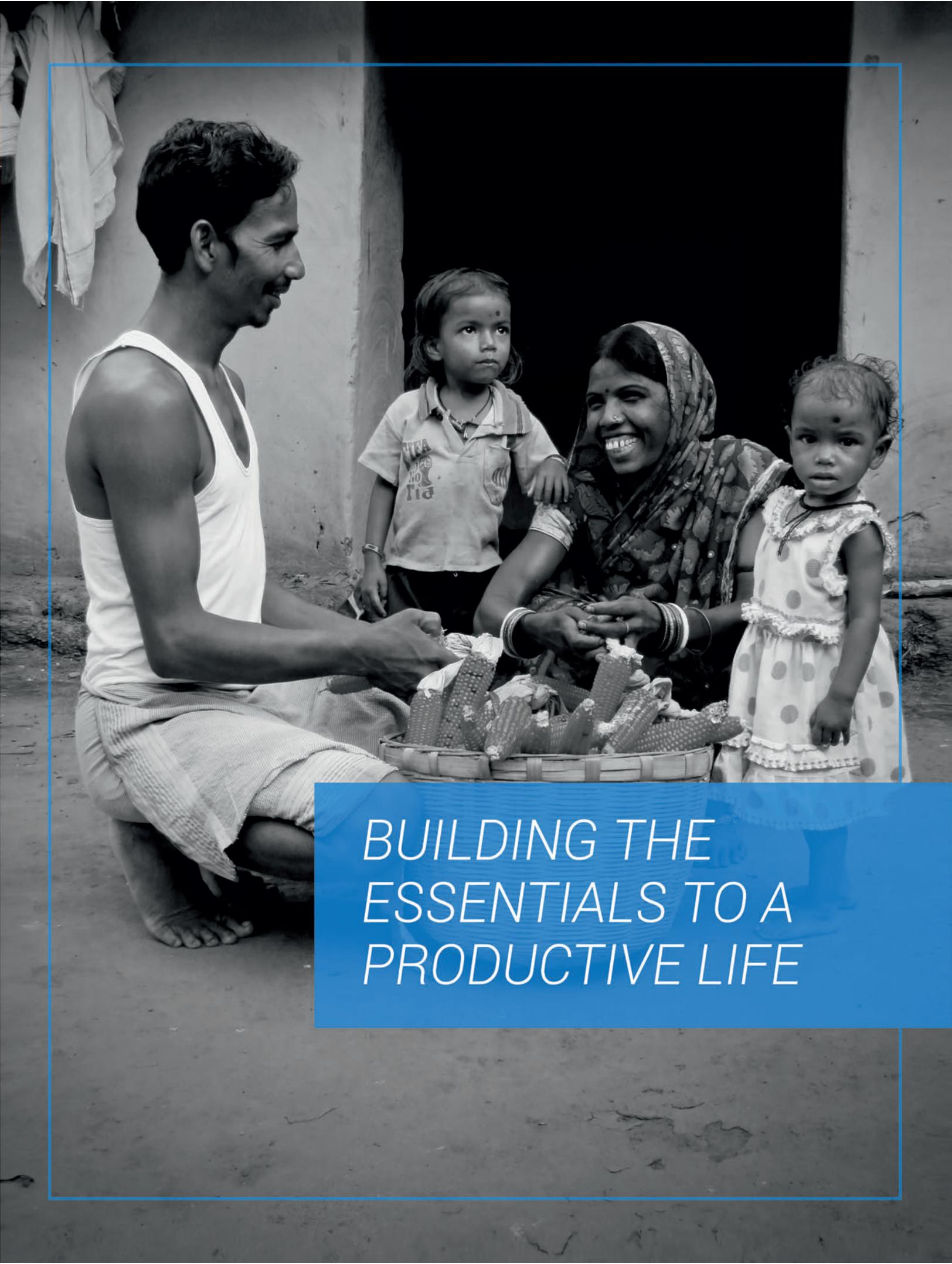
Over the years it continues to actively generate awareness and foster communities in these impoverished regions.

NEEDS is registered under the Indian Trust Act and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, in 1998. Over the years, our reach has expanded to multiple districts of Bihar and Jharkhand, with a network of local offices.

At NEEDS, we believe in empowerment through a change in the thought process: education, awareness and advocacy have a more meaningful impact on transforming lives than simply enabling resources. Therefore our key areas of intervention begin with the very essentials of productive living which include:

- * **Livelihood and nutrition security**
- * **Water sanitation and hygiene**
- * **Sexual and reproductive health**
- * **Child protection and education**

We seek to resolve social vulnerabilities and build stronger communities, unencumbered by gender injustice and empowered with sustainability. A team of professionals from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds have joined hands to work for this shared vision of change.



*BUILDING THE
ESSENTIALS TO A
PRODUCTIVE LIFE*



GROWING FROM STRE

We have come a long way...

The state of Jharkhand in Eastern India has one of the worst poverty rates, the highest prevalence of child malnutrition and the most elevated infant mortality rates in the country, as reported by the World Bank[1]. Hence NEEDS was founded to implement reproductive health, adolescent reproductive health and secure livelihoods in its most deprived regions.

Mr Murari Mohan Choudhury and Mr Tanay Chakraborty, the founder members of NEEDS, are both alumni of Xavier Institute of Social Science, Ranchi, which is one of the nation's prime institutes. Mr Choudhury's work in the social sector took him to different parts of the country. However, his attention was drawn to Santhal Pargana, one of the most poverty ridden areas of erstwhile united Bihar, also one of the mineral rich areas in the country. The unequal distribution of wealth as well as conditioned access to resources had pushed a majority of the population to abject poverty.

Mr Choudhury successfully motivated his friend from college to join his mission, leaving the security of their jobs behind, to start NEEDS. It was their mission to build the capacity of local grass-root organisations, who were passionate for change but lacked the skills and knowledge to implement it sustainably.

In the words of our founder, Murari M Choudhury,

"The first three years of establishing NEEDS was a struggle for survival. Our only capital was money I received after leaving my position with Catholic Relief Services. The first computer in the organization belonged to my son. I only saw my family once every three months."



ENGTH TO STRENGTH

But his efforts and sacrifices paid off, as he and two other colleagues received the opportunity to become Leadership Fellows and participate in the Visionary Leadership Program in Population (VLP). Gradually, more committed and trained professionals joined their team to form an organisation with a modern approach, relying on innovations and technology to bring change for sustainable impact. A board was established, by-laws formulated and a team of professionals from diverse backgrounds joined hands to work together.

The VLP training provided tools on basic management procedures and increased knowledge on issues of sustainability, resource mobilization, system enhancement and governance.

The process of shared vision-building at the village/community level has resulted in higher motivation of the community from passive observers to active participants, as opposed to a directive approach.

Our journey has had a distinct learning curve, which has only helped us sharpen our processes and garner deeper insights. The role of passionate leaders, not only in NEEDS but across India, is pivotal to bringing about meaningful change.

[1] <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOUTHASIAEXT/Resources/223546-1181699473021/3876782-1181699502708/summary.pdf>

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH A SHARED VISION OF CHANGE

Vision, Mission and Values that drive us.



Often, it is the lack of information that keeps a person, community or population outside the sphere of development. To overcome this challenge, from the beginning our prime focus was for the participant community to have the required information, to be at par with their developed counterparts. This focus is reflected in our vision and mission statements, becoming the core value of our organisation.

Vision

To create value-based communities of dignified and informed citizens, comprising the erstwhile marginalized and the oppressed from the perennially underserved regions in place with pride.

Mission

To secure sustainable livelihood and well-being of households living under poverty and graduate them to next level of the development paradigm while ensuring an enabling environment for sustained growth, gender justice and human rights.

Core values

- * Integrity
- * Respect
- * Commitment
- * Learning
- * Perseverance
- * Self-governance

Every five years, we revisit the Vision, Mission and Core Values for the entire team to align itself towards this common goal and collectively analyse the impact that the organisation is focused to achieve. In the process a shared vision is developed, which motivates every individual to strive for setting a higher standard in their role and contribute towards creating a just society.

Our policies

- * Strategic Plan 2030 aligned with SDG
- * HR development Policy
- * Financial Management Policy
- * Diversity policy for inclusion
- * Anti-Fraud Policy
- * Child Protection Policy
- * Policy on Sexual Harassment



INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS CONVE

Our Team: Committed individuals who want to make a difference.

People are the backbone of every organisation. When people from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds come together, the spectrum of their expertise enables great work to happen. Our team is ever-inspired to keep acquiring knowledge and bring about sustainable development in regions that need it the most.

"It was 2009 when I first came in contact with NEEDS. NEEDS is one of those few non-profits who are driven by passions rather than projects. NEEDS is our valued partner and together we are impacting the lives of about 30000 children and 3000 women. I have found NEEDS staff highly professional and motivated. The robust systems are in place to make the work smooth and built in accountably



EMERGE INTO A POWERFUL IMPACT

This is why NEEDS has gained trust and confidence among partners and stakeholder. I wish NEEDS all the very best to reach out to the unreached and to find resources to do so."

**- Subrat Nayakuty, Director,
National Program, MelJol**

As per the year 2016-17 there are currently 11 members in the Board. The core implementing team consists of an Executive Director, Programme Quality Manager, PM Livelihood, PM Health, PM Child Protection, PM Sanitation and an Accounts Officer and over 173 men and women who contribute to the strategy and implementation of our programmes. We also receive numerous volunteers who wish contribute to the groundwork and add value to our work. Sexual Harrassment Committee and Child Protection Committee ensure best practices at organisational and work levels.

The headquarters of NEEDS is located in Deoghar, Jharkhand, with 8 branch offices altogether spread across the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand.

PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR MISSION

Grants are optimised for highest Impact

UN Organizations

- * UNDP
- * Global Sanitation Fund [GSF]

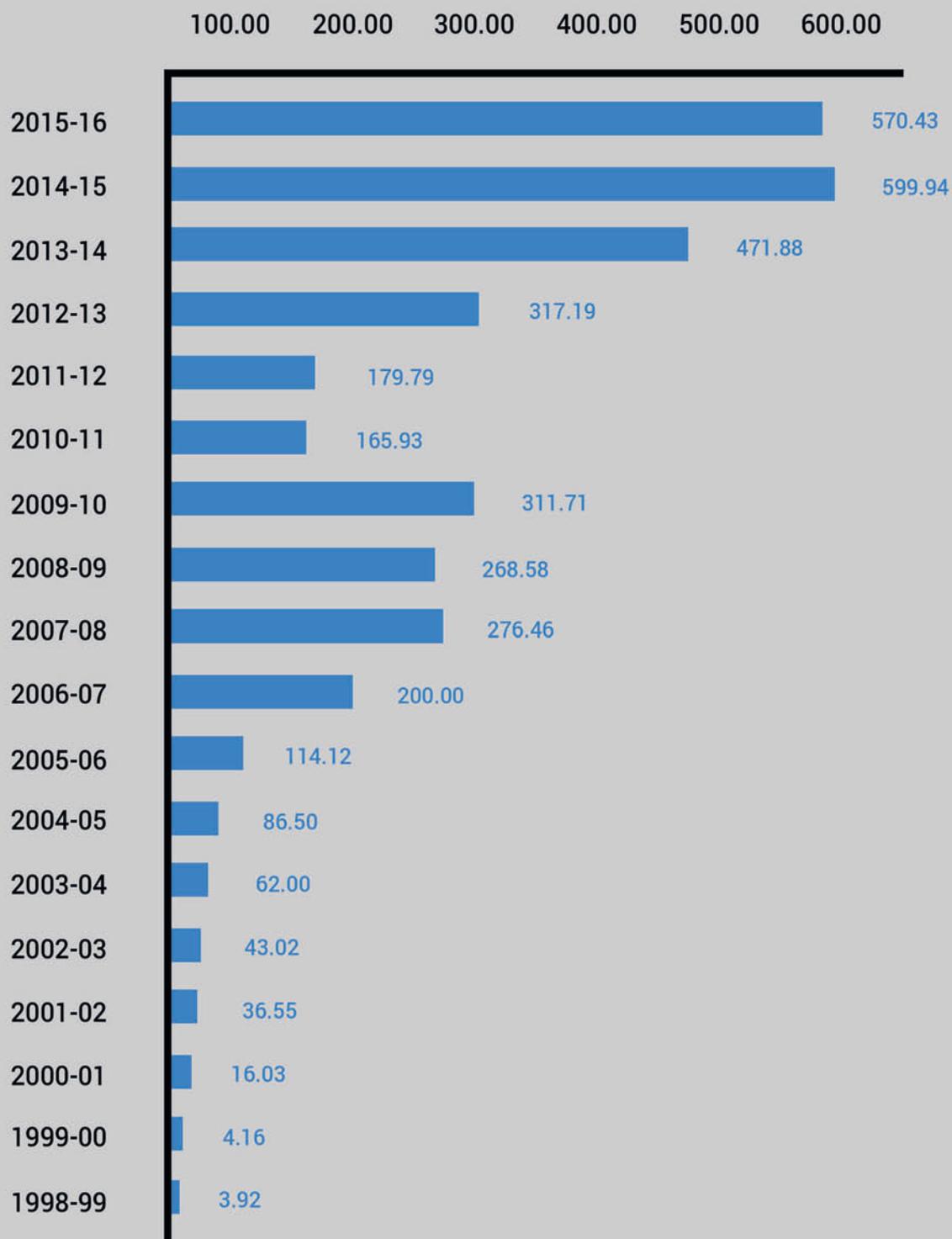
Other international Grant Making organizations

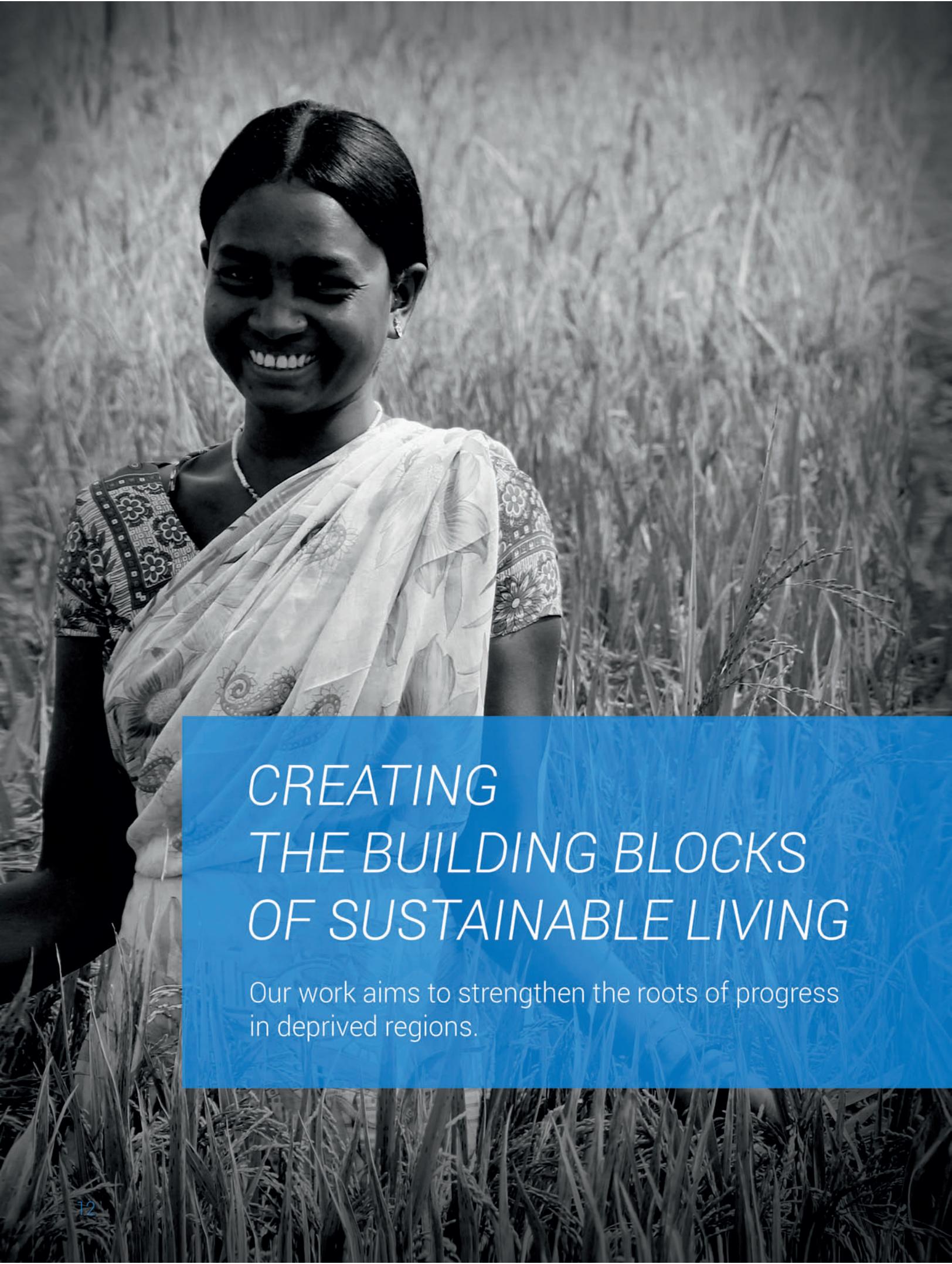
- * DKA/KFB- Austria
- * Welthungerhilfe/ Germany
- * European Union
- * GTZ/ Germany
- * SIMAVI/ Netherlands
- * VSO/UK & India
- * Trickle Up/ USA & India
- * Save the Children
- * Water Aid

Government Of India and State Government:

- * Sir Ratan Tata Trust/ Mumbai
- * Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CInI)
- * MelJole/ Mumbai
- * Give India
- * HDFC Bank
- * e. Vidyaloka/Bangalore
- * Bharat Rural Livelihood Forum [BRLF]/ GoI

A Glance at our Financial Growth (In Lakhs)





*CREATING
THE BUILDING BLOCKS
OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING*

Our work aims to strengthen the roots of progress
in deprived regions.

Our interventions in selected poverty stricken pockets of Bihar and Jharkhand have resulted in a significant change, especially in the life of women and children, in terms of securing food and livelihood, understanding reproductive health and hygiene, as well as child development and protection. Additionally, we also focus on developing various institutional arrangements for sustainability in self-help collectives and skill building, while creating a shared vision for change.

The community shares a holistic approach towards development that includes improved health service access for women and children in particular, child protection and rights including girl-child education and early child marriage issues. Reducing the chasm of digital divide would further enable productivity and positive governance. Introducing technological advancement has benefitted all aspects of the people's lives – be it modern agricultural techniques for farmers, increased maternal health awareness for women or emotional and intellectual growth of adolescents.

We have imbibed the **Theory of change** to adapt to the changing contexts and requirements to view progress in a better and lasting perspective with increased level of people's participation and transparency.

A Progressive journey

A closer look at our journey as an organisation sheds light on how the holistic approach towards development shaped the formation of different work sectors. Focused efforts in each of these crucial sectors has led to a meaningful change in lives of deprived communities.

NEEDS started its journey with the focus on **Food Security**, ensuring meals every day for all households in the poverty-ridden cluster of Santhal Pargana. The next challenge was to ensure income stability of the family and retain the funds within family through improved health, thus saving the large expenditure.

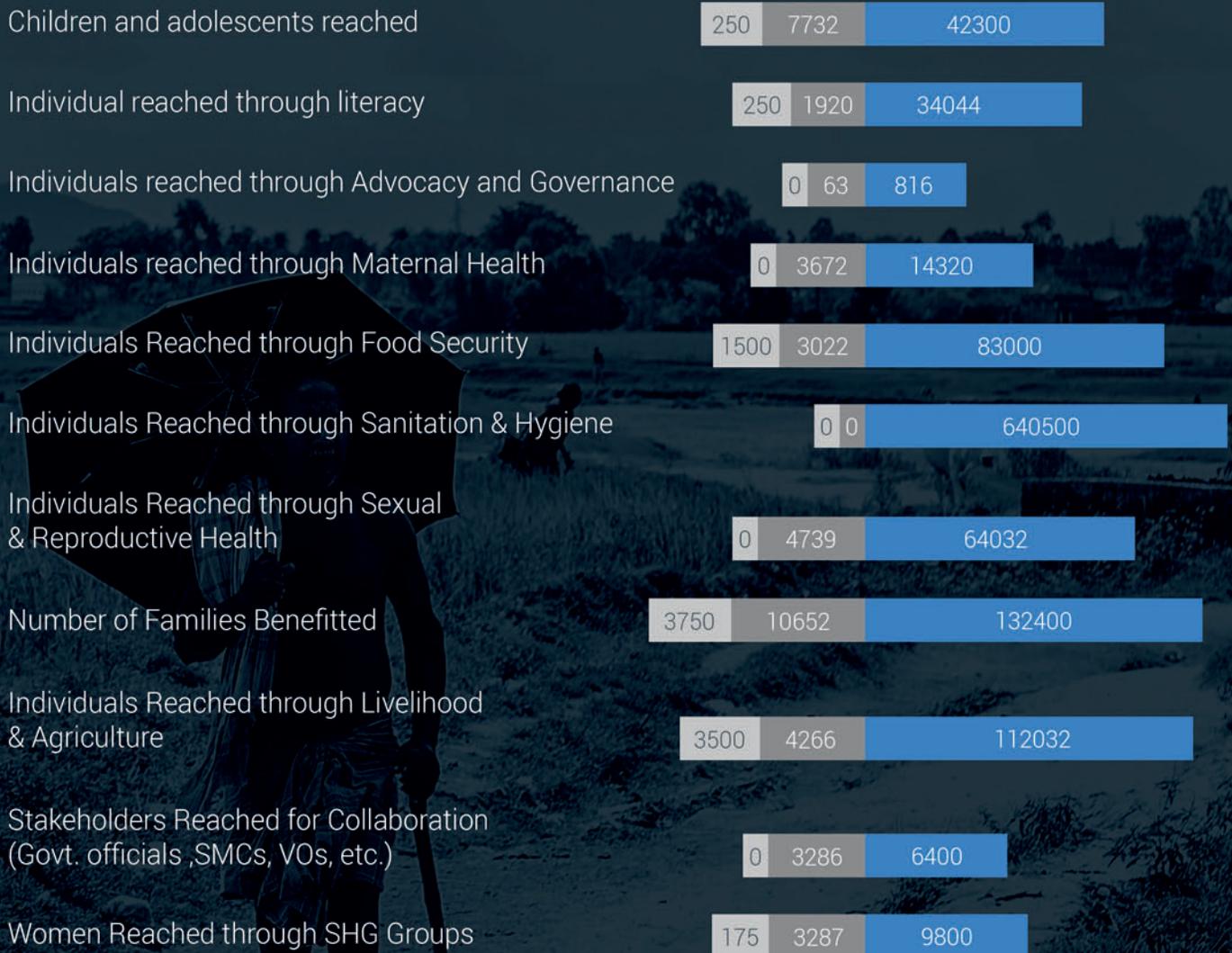
Thus emerged **Health Sector** alongside **Livelihood** with a focus to address maternal and child health as these are the most critical area having poorest indicator in the entire country.

The next big leap was to start **Child Protection sector** to bring entire populace under coverage of development and fight child labour and school dropouts.

Sanitation and Hygiene and access to safe water projects started as an integrated component of Health sector program as these are major contributing factor in maternal health, child health specially child nutrition and overall well-being of an individual.

Entitlement is also considered at large as organisation works on Rights mode aiming to have a just based society. People's participation through community-based institutions like self-help groups, federations, cooperatives, youth groups, take major leads in demanding services and provisions thus taking onus for their own development.

■ 2000-01 ■ 2008-09 ■ 2016-17



Snapshots of outreach growth between 2000-01, 2008-09 and 2016-17 through the sectors

LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY



As the initiative developed more sustainable practices, it evolved to include Livelihood as well. To help the populace come out from this cycle of poverty, NEEDS had created 'poverty- free' model block in each district where it worked with the strategies of enhancing enterprise and non-agriculture services.

Mission

To aid people living in poverty develop the necessary human, social and economic capital to exit extreme poverty while increasing participation of women in important decision-making.

Theory of Change

If families living in poverty are mobilised in collectives and their knowledge/information access and skills are enhanced including acquiring new skills, their ability to access resource gets enhanced i.e. To take up improved practice or to take new livelihood initiatives, market exposures and then they are able to impact on poverty.

This sector began with the initiative for Food Security which aimed to ensure regular meals and food in every household in selected deprived areas.

Growth

- * 2004-05- With GoI and UNDP partnership scaled up sustainable livelihood intervention for 23,165 households through farm based technology.
- * 2010-11- Scaled up System of Rice intensification [SRI] practices with 10000 families supported by VSO which led to double rice productivity.
- * 2016-17- Partnership with Bharat Rural Livelihood Forum [BRLF] achieved for overhead support of NEEDS Livelihood program as part of mission 2020 Lakhpati Kishan Program.



SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Mission

To advocate and facilitate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene to everyone in need and everywhere and always to impact malnutrition, maternal and child health in particular and the community health at large.

Theory of Change

If community is mobilized and triggered, it helps the individual and collective to change their behaviour for water and hygiene practice outcome, which helps generate demand and

improve their ability to access resources and technology. This creates scope for improved access to potable water and sustainable hygiene infrastructure, creating a sustained change in sanitation outcome that impacts malnutrition, reduces new-born and maternal deaths and also attributes to economic enhancement of the households.

In line with the National Swachhata Mission, NEEDS began promoting sustainable sanitation in rural India, partnering with the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) in response to the fundamental challenges in the Indian Rural Sanitation Sector, consistent with the principles espoused by the Government of India, and aims at influencing long-term, sustainable change.



Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is highly focused to enable access and effective use of improved sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion. Demand-driven approaches that emphasize high quality awareness creation along with supporting institutional strengthening and capacity building at state, district and sub-district levels. Digitalization (using tablets) is an innovative approach to raise awareness in the community and which also makes it easy to connect with government MIS as baseline, progress and improve monitoring on daily basis.

Growth

- * 2013-14 - Introduced CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) strategic model of ODF outcome in Deoghar district with Government support.
- * 2013-14 - Trained 100 CLTS master trainer and engaged in monitoring support to the district under SBM (Swacch Bharat Mission) programme.
- * 2015-16 - Partnered with Water Aid on WASH components for sanitation in Jamtara district. 4 Gram Panchayat declared ODF till 2017.



Mission

To improve access to information and services and impacting the quality of SRH services.

Theory of Change

If young people have access to timely and targeted health-related information, it would enable them to make better choices for

themselves. By making better choices, they would be able to demand better quality services which would then contribute to reduced risks because of informed choices and also the impact on maternal and infant mortality (and morbidity) due to better access and quality services.

Initially focused on building sustainable health services, the sector evolved to adopt a Right-based approach with a wider scope of work through advocacy with government and community. Programs were implemented to

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

reduce maternal death by making pregnancy safer through community action.

Through MenEngage and Safe Abortion programme, the organization is ensuring practices of family planning, gender equality, couple communication, safe and legal abortion and good menstrual health practice. Increased participation of men in maternal health is one of the approaches all of its maternal health program to achieve gender equality.

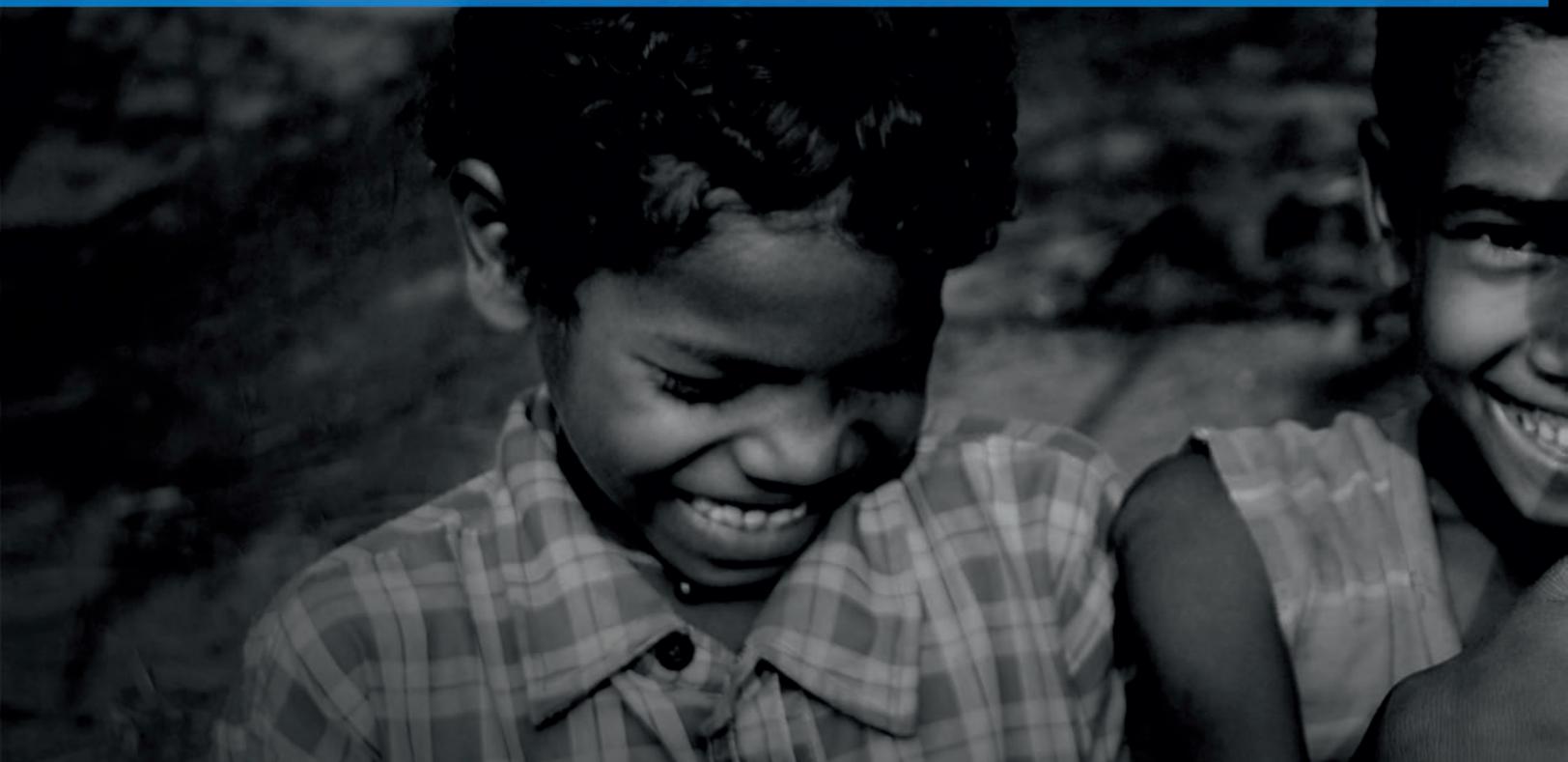
Introduction of Case Management Diary is another highlight of the program where volunteers and staffs are trained to take track records of pregnancies.

Technology-based solutions for improved maternal health and sex and sexuality among adolescents are innovative mobile health programs, which have been changing lives over a period of time in the targeted areas.

Growth

- * 2008-09 - Shifted from short-term project to long term approach on reproductive health rights, advocacy and services as an integral component within the broader vision of health sector.
- * 2008-09 - onwards reached out hard to reach areas with Mobile Medical Units, a dedicated health care delivery van service under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) have been facilitated to ferry expecting mothers and general patients to nearest health centers to buck up institutionalized deliveries and also meet shortage of ambulances at district hospitals.
- * 2013-14 - 'MenEngage' programme a session based intervention powered by SIMAVI to engage men and boys to help improve their information, knowledge and work on various myths & misconceptions to influence gender equity and family planning.

CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION



Mission

For all children to learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential in a joyful learning environment and free from any form of threat or abuse.

Theory of Change

If communities and schools are informed and educated about child rights and protection, the scope for protection of every child from any form of threat and abuse would substantially reduce, and opportunities for children to live well are enhanced.

Child Protection sector began with identifying child labour and out-of-school children across state, and to initiate innovative approaches for them to return to schooling. In the process, larger social issues like illiteracy and early marriage have come into the spotlight. We are also running Child Line for every child in need of care and protection in villages.

The Child Protection Committee (CPC), School Management Committee (SMC), the PRIs and community are sensitized and capacitated towards Right to Education (RTE). Integrating life skills, self-defense, financial literacy and bridge courses makes the education more holistic in approach. Thus, we bring about holistic development resulting in well-informed adults.

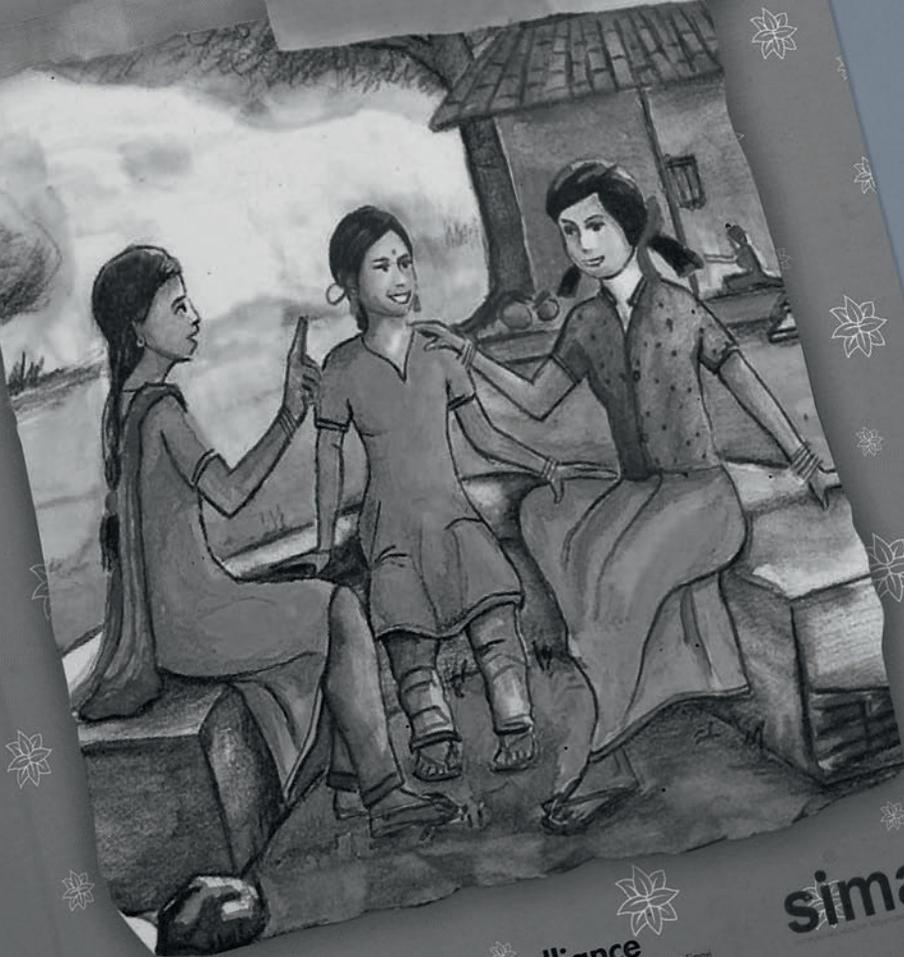


Growth

- * 2008-09 - Reached out to slum children & child labour, and railway children in Deoghar district for their protection, remedial education and mainstreaming in schools combatting child labour and reached out over 3300 children.
- * 2015-16 - Introduced 'SMS story' innovative intervention with support from VSO in over 300 Government schools to improve on early grade English reading ability of over 16000 children.
- * 2016-17 - Partnered [Non-Financial] with e.vidyalaoka to compensate shortage of teachers in 8 Kastruba Gandhi Schools of Deoghar using Skype technology intervention reaching out over 600 adolescent girls.
- * 2016-17 - 'Girl not Bride' initiative taken with 360-degree strategic intervention to scale down early child marriage while empowering girls to retain in 55 government schools across 201 communities.

sharing
simple facts

मासिक धर्म / माहवारी
स्वच्छता प्रबंधन (एमएचएम)



NEEDS
EXIST TO IMPACT

SRHR alliance

Rajguru WFP • AMREF Flying Doctors • CHOICE • JanakLife • Simavi

simavi

PAVING THE WAY AHEAD

We are developing the resources for greater results

Livelihood and Nutrition Security

- * Module on Standard Operating Procedure on SHG institution building
- * Farmer's Business Development Module for Financial Inclusion
- * Intensive Vegetable Cultivation Package of Practice and Sustainability
- * Integrated Pond Fish Farming Module
- * System of Rice Intensification Training Module and Training Kit
- * Pragya Kendra Business Plan and SoP for community information

Child Protection and Education

- * Module on Social and Economic Enterprising for Children
- * Remedial Coaching kit for children
- * Framework for School RTE assessment and quality of education assessment module
- * School Sanitation Kit

Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights

- * Comprehensive Sexual Education and Life Skills Module for Adolescents
- * A 5-session Module on MenEngage in Family Planning
- * Safe Abortion and Comprehensive Care Module for Young Women
- * Menstrual Health Management Manual
- * Case management Diary
- * Maggi Apron: a card based module on pregnancy

"In my time spent working with NEEDS it became clear that it sets itself apart from other NGOs through the clarity of its strategic vision, its ability to translate strategy to achieve development goals and the passion, commitment and capability of its people. It was an honour and a pleasure to work to develop leading edge HR processes with such a talented group of people who were very open to learning."

**- Alex Marples, HR Manager,
AstraZeneca, UK, VSO volunteer**

MILESTONES

Achievements that mark our journey

Livelihood and Food security

2002

Initiated food security intervention in a cluster of villages at Deoghar with 340 Households living under poverty.

2008

Became resource agency for NABARD to promote System of Rice Intensification [SRI] and reached out to 5 district and 4500 farm families in Deoghar.

2015

'Green College' established through Welthungerhilfe to transfer skill and knowledge to rural youth through multiple trade provision/ professional courses for self-employment and other employment opportunities.

2004

Established Rural Technology Park as Technology Modulation Center for farm based alternative livelihood promotion.

2013

In partnership with SRTT [CINI], reached out over 4633 households for sustainable farm based livelihood outcome.

2015

Initiated mission 2020 for Lakhpati Kishan Smart village initiative to reach out to 7000 HH living under poverty to shift in sustainable livelihood with minimum increase of income from Rs. 35000 per annum to Rs. 120,000 per annum.

Child Protection and Education

2008

NEEDS was identified as a mother NGO by Jharkhand Education Project Council [JEPC] to help strengthening NGO run remedial bridge courses across 5 districts in the state.

2009

Partnered with Child Line to reach out vulnerable and at risk children in the state.

2010

onwards reached out over 300 Government schools with Aflatun module of financial and social enterprising and child right with over 80,000 children under MelJole partnership.

2015

Scaled up remedial bridge course to reach out adolescent girls with interventions in quality of education in Government schools for the coverage of 100% girls that are out of school or irregular in school through the Go Girl Go project.

Sexual and Reproductive health Rights

2012

Launched 'Mobile for Mother' program as an interactive mobile based tool developed as a case management solution for rural health service provider to help improve maternal and newborn health outcome.

2014

'Stories of life', an innovative programme aimed at providing young people with SRHR information through short informative videos that are tailored to their needs and relevant for improving their knowledge, skills and practices.

Sanitation & Hygiene

2008

Under Total Sanitation campaign; Ministry of Rural Development program intervened in one Gram Panchayat for successful total sanitation outcome.

2012

onwards intervened in 15 Gram Panchayat with comprehensive WASH components including Menstrual Hygiene Management and reached out over 30,000 adolescents and young women, achieved over 55 village ODF with SIMAVI and SBM partnership.

2014

Partnered with Global Sanitation Fund and in 11 blocks of Banka district, 1 block of Pakur and 2 blocks in Ranchi districts, achieved 15 GP ODF till 2017.

2016

Partnered with UNDP for 'Namami Gange' programme as a Mother NGO in Sahibganj district.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Accolades bestowed on us over the years.

- * 2008 First accredited NGO in India for desirable norms of good governance and transparency as endorsed by Planning Commission and Credibility Alliance
- * President's Award in 2008 for "Nirmal Gram Panchayat" under TSC program
- * India NGO Award 2009 for Best NGO in Medium Category for East INDIA
- * Certificate of Recognition for "CommCare, category m-HEALTH for one button access to Health Information in Rural Jharkhand" at m-Billionth Award South Asia in 2011
- * Vodafone Foundation & Digital Empowerment Foundation WIN (Women & Innovation for Mobile) Award for 'Mobile for Mother' project as a finalist
- * Chanakya Award in 13th Bihar Award 2013 under Best NGO Category
- * India NGO Award 2013 for good governance and the impact that has been created in the life of its clients/community by NEEDS
- * Leading Change maker Awards 2015, powered by Nasscom and Vodafone Foundation





Recognition from the Government

- * NEEDS is accredited by Indian Institute of Corporate affairs of Govt. to receive CSR funding
- * Worked as a Mother NGO for Jharkhand Education project council [JEPC] for rural children living in difficulties.
- * Appointed as Maternal Death Auditor under NRHM program by Govt. of Jharkhand
- * Working as technical advisor and support agency for strengthening DHAP for 3 districts of Jharkhand
- * Appointed as nodal agency for food security of primitive tribe of Deoghar district
- * Worked as consultant for UNICEF for CCA program assessment for Bihar and Jharkhand
- * Working as Resource Agency for NABARD on System of Rice Intensification
- * NEEDS is engaged in youth policy and program development of Government of Jharkhand
- * Appointed as the member of child convention report team for the state
- * Letter of Excellence from Department of Science & Technology, Government of India for the innovation and application of technology on system of paddy [SRI] technology



We credit our achievements in uplifting deprived communities to our determined team, alongside an evolving vision and implementation. Going ahead, in line with the National Mission 2030, we have Mission 2030, a strategic plan to help more people advance.

Organisational Growth

NEEDS aims at increasing Integrated Programmes to scale up Ultra Poverty Program through the livelihood policy in all the 30 blocks of Santhal Pargana emphasising on food security and nutrition in 3 lakhs households. NEEDS Skill academy will be established as a sustainable business venture.

PLANNING AN EMPOWERED FUTURE

Our vision to ensure the movement forward

Simultaneously, for over 4 lakh children our child protection sector will thrive to secure access to digital education and also concentrate on developing framework for girls' employability and skill education to influence reducing boy preference for elimination of discrimination, and also end the practice of girl-child marriage.

In order to have a positive impact globally as a collective effort, these plans pertain to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 1 [End Poverty]

SDG 2 [End hunger and food security]

SDG 3 [Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being]

SDG 4 [Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education]

SDG 5 [Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls],

SDG 6 [Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all]

SDG 8 [Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all]

Organisational Stability

This will be achieved through new livelihood sector business models and social marketing models for skill sector. Emphasis on local fundraising is one of the strategies for diversification of resource base. Crowdfunding is another strategy which will be specially focused on the livelihood for disabled people and education for girl-child to sponsor at least 500 households.

In line with this Inclusive Policy, NEEDS is aiming to reach people with disability [PWD] through sustainable livelihood programmes and food and nutrition security in these households. Our innovative approach includes demonstrating sanitation incubator for zero garbage business model establishment, including technology collaborations with IIT and ISRO.

NEEDS will proactively engage with the government and corporate organisations, to shape policy development and reforms in the key areas of focus by 2030.

SHARING AND CARING

SUPPORT. PARTICIPATE. DONATE.

Donate

Donations accepted as under section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961

Volunteer with us!

Sponsor an Intern!

Donate in Kind!

Support us with your expertise!

Make a donation to run a programme!

Participate

To donate, join or volunteer with us do contact:

Mr. Murari M. Choudhury (Secretary cum Executive Director)

Email: choudhurym2c@gmail.com

Tel: +91 9204795008; **Mob:** +91 9771405855.

Post

NEEDS

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P.O- Ashram Karnibad, Deoghar- 814 143, Jharkhand

Connect with us at:

needspostmaster@gmail.com / www.needsngo.in



Support

At NEEDS we strive to support small irrigation facilities to help marginal farmers combat extreme poverty.

Support our programme to be a part in building a happy family with us. Contact us to know how!

You can empower an adolescent girl by supporting our menstrual hygiene sessions.

Help us install vending machine and incinerator at schools and Anganwadi centers for a healthy period. Reach out to us for more information!

To curb migration and break the vicious cycle of poverty, **lend your hand to provide skill development for youth in rural villages.** Sponsor them through our skill development courses. Engage with us to know how!

1 out of 5 women in Jharkhand suffers from anemia during their pregnancy. **Support us to provide for expert medical care and supplementary diet.** Ensure a healthy mother and child with us. Unite with us if it interests you!

1 out of 5 girls are not allowed to attend schools in Jharkhand. **You can sponsor an out of school girl to be mainstreamed in school** with our remedial coaching and education material support. Talk to us to know how!

In media dark regions of our country **help us reach out to youth, adolescents and women with digital education.** Come support us to bridge the gap in digital divide by sponsoring digital education sessions. Connect with us for more information!

Private Room Stories

In Remote areas of Jharkhand, an Organisation is Bridging the Literacy Gap through Remedial Classes

Towards a mission to educate school drop-out girls and groom them up to join mainstream education.

To the south of Sonarathari block, Deoghar district of Jharkhand lays a village named Borajamua. It comprises of a Muslim population with over a 200 families. The greenery in the month of October and the mild windy weather will definitely compliment Jharkhand once you take a stroll around the streets over here. There is but a thing that will strike you the most if you visit this place, THE UNITY. The whole village is united to one thing, the occupation---The occupation of 'beedi making'. From every doors and corners of the household you could see dry tobacco leaves nicely decked in baskets and a silent concentration in every brain while twining the threads in a bundle of beedi. If you look to your right you could see a man tying beedi, to the right a young girl of around 11 or twelve years old would be placing tobacco in the small patterned leaves. Her bent spinal cord and her darkened eyes fully grasped every strand of a tobacco. The air above in the village was heavy it mixed with the smell of the tobacco, if you smell it with all your heart it will leave you drowsy after sometime.

Jharkhand is one of the most vulnerable Indian State (ranking 16 out of a total of 17 in the Indian Hunger Index) and one of the world's poorest regions. The literacy rate in the state is 56.21 percent while the total literacy is 67.63% (census of India, 2011). The situation of girl child education in Deoghar district is very poor; research and

programs conducted has outlined that over 60% girls drop out from school at the age between 10-13 years when they attain adolescent age.

Network for Enterprise Enhancement and Development Support (NEEDS) an organisation founded in 1998 with a foresight to create an environment for dignified living for the marginalized in the rural pockets of Bihar and Jharkhand has been working on a project from the year 2014 named 'Go Girl Go' in Deoghar district with a mission on school retention for all girls between 10-18 years of age. 'Go Girl Go' started with remedial classes on English, Computer Literacy, Karate training and other life skills providing girls ensuring holistic education. The idea is to educate school drop-out girls through age specific bridge courses in remedial classes and groom them up to join mainstream education. The project also aims towards reducing gender based violence, providing life skills to girls and strengthening the capacity of the schools by improving the quality of education to be maintained as per RTE.

However, the volunteers from the organisation had a real tough time in Borajamua to convince the parents and send their daughters to the remedial classes. The community members knew about the Right to Education (2010) and that schools were free for children but in order to send one kid to school and secure his or her future she cannot let the lives of others in the family to go at stake. As a child going to school for 5 hours is minus the 5 hours she could provide



The remedial classes under the 'Go Girl Go' project turned out as a real pathbreaker for girls to shape up their aspirations.

Photo courtesy- NEEDS, Jharkhand

in beedi making and hence less production and less income for the house. If one notice carefully there will be 7 steps to a beedi making and with division of labour the work gets easier so you need approximately seven members to get the bundles in continuity. With every bundle one gets close to 1000 beedis to pool in Rs 125 for the day. It's simple economic game which has run through blood and bones of people staying and crawling through poverty for ages in these areas. As a woman in the village said 'it's a blessing the day a young member in the family gets to tame the methods of making a beedi. It's the day of celebration as it meant more production, more earning more hands to feed; and hence there is no scope to think of school.' Education tends to remain a luxury in front of poverty and also in this village I found irrespective of being a boy or girl no one was allowed to go to school post class 5. In the competition between poverty and gender discrimination it was poverty which has won the race in this village.

The implementation of Right to Education is still a challenge for regions struck with immense poverty. The NGOs that are working in such poverty struck regions still has major challenges to cope up with the

hunger strategies like child labour and convince the otherwise disoriented parents. Young girls fall into a vicious circle of poverty and hence lose out of their aspiration from life. The remedial classes under the 'Go Girl Go' project turned out as real pathbreaker for girls to shape up their aspirations. Over the time NEEDS has worked hard to ensure that 276 government schools in the Sonaraitari and Sarwan block has impacted 9621 children through qualitative education inputs in 36 months of intervention with special attainment among girls children to be enrolled in school. It has also formed strong School Management Committee in monitoring any form of abuse and violation and record protest and secure protection, while making every girl accretive. Girls have started life skill trainings through karate, spoken English and computer classes. Moreover a massive campaign has been done to involve the family members in the villages to boost them to send the girls to the remedial classes.

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"NEEDS has become a leading change maker in Santhalpargana region and is able to impact in various socio-economic indices of the people that were living in poverty. It is my pleasure to mention that team NEEDS is able to bag various credentials and recognition by national level awards for its ability to create impact in the life of people for decent living. We have been working relentlessly for a better society.

The time is right that we scale up our initiative with larger impact to people in need. We need your support to meet our mission 2026 and hence join us for new partnerships & collaborations in bringing a positive change in the society.

-Murari Mohan Choudhury
Executive Director
NEEDS

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