

## OVERVIEW OF India

### Overview of India



### Languages

22 major languages, including Hindi (41%), Bengali (8%), Telugu (7%), Marathi (7%), Tamil (6%), Urdu (5%), Gujarati (5%), Kannada (4%), Malayalam (3%), Oriya (3%), Punjabi (3%), Assamese (1%), Maithili (1%), and Other, including Sindhi, Sanskrit (6%)

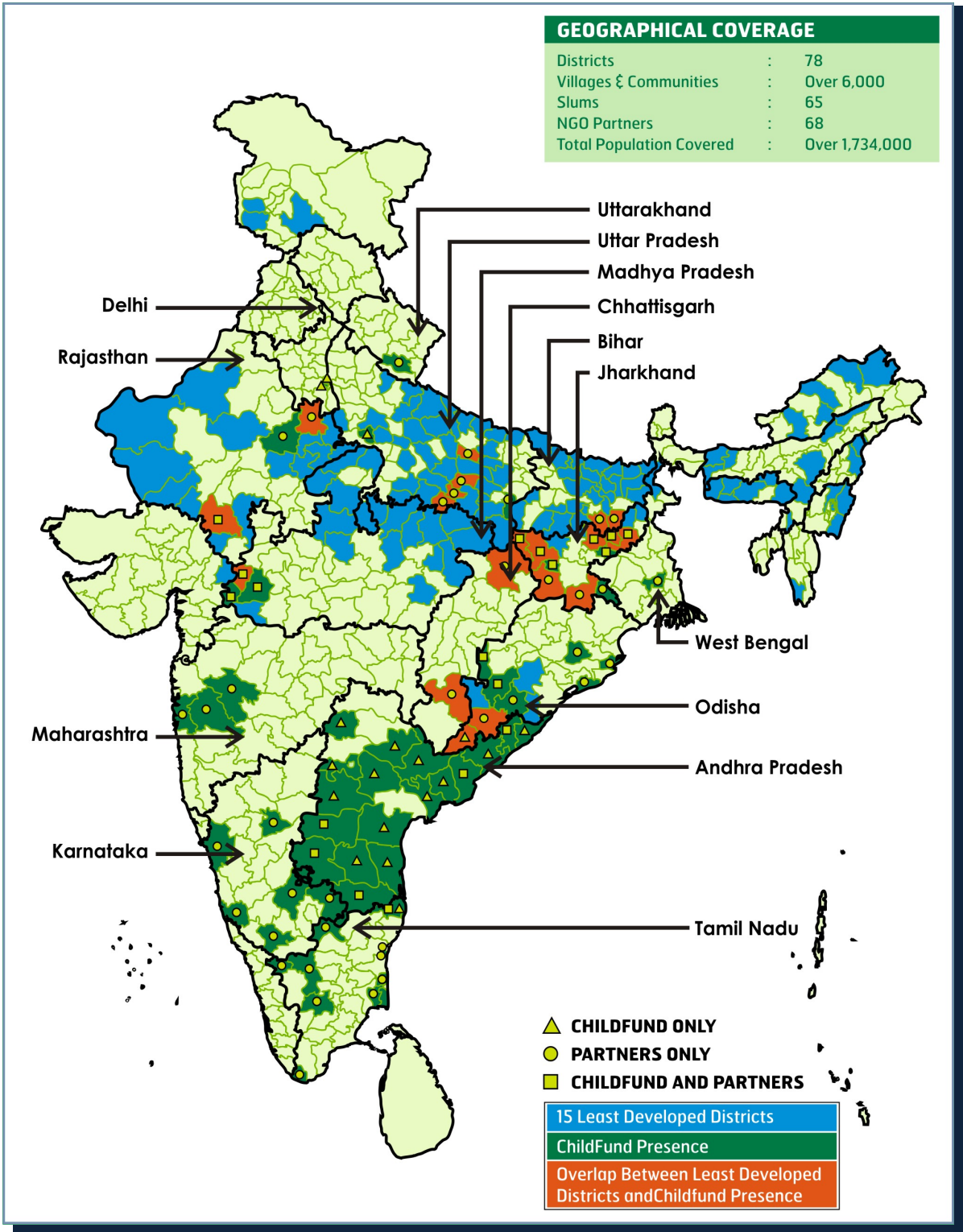
## Human Development, Economic & Poverty Indicators

**Under-five Mortality Rate:** 56 per 1,000 live births. India ranks 49 in the world.

**Human Development Index (HDI)** for 2013: 0.586 (ranked 135 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

Human Development Indicators	Economic, Demographic and Poverty Indicators
Total Literacy Rate: 73%	Birth Registration: 41%
Male Literacy Rate: 80.9.2%	Proportion of Undernourished in Population : 17%
Female Literacy Rate: 64.6%	Prevalence of Underweight Children under 5 years of age:
Youth Literacy Rate-Male: 88%	Urban: 33%
Youth Literacy Rate-Female: 74%	Rural: 46%
Child Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males): 919	Per Capita Income: 1,499 (in US Dollars)
Birth Sex Ratio : 1.12 males/female	GDP per capita average annual growth rate:5%
Life Expectancy at Birth: 66 Years	
Infant Mortality Rate: 44 per 1000 live births	
Maternal Mortality: 200 deaths/100,000 live births	

# Where We Work



# Brief History of ChildFund in India

**ChildFund came to India: 1951**

**Number of participants (FY14): 1,581,112**

**Number of enrolled children (FY14): 59,824**

ChildFund (formerly known as Christian Children's Fund (CCF)) started its work in India in 1951 by supporting an orphanage located in Alwaye Settlement School in Kerala. In subsequent years, the support extended to many more schools and orphanages, with the India operations being overseen by the CCF office in Hong Kong. With the emergence of new projects in southern India, the first field office of ChildFund was established in India in 1966 in Bangalore, Karnataka. Similarly, another field office was established in 1972 in Delhi to provide program support and oversight to projects in the northern regions of India.

Currently ChildFund has its National Office based in Bangalore and a registered office in Delhi. In order to decentralize the monitoring of field and program operations, ChildFund India categorized its operating areas into three zones and established zonal offices in Bangalore (for the south zone), Bhubaneswar (for the east zone) and in Delhi (for the north zone). With six (6) area offices (Udaipur in Rajasthan, Malkangiri and Kalahandi in Odisha, Jabua in Madhya Pradesh and Deogarh and Daltanganj in Jharkhand) as well as through 52 NGO partners, the organization is working in 14 States and one Union Territory covering a population of more than 2.6 million in 7 districts.

## Brief Program Overview

ChildFund India's program approach focuses on empowering and developing communities. The communities are considered key stakeholders in designing and implementing the program interventions. For involving communities, ChildFund India follows a two-prong strategy. First, ChildFund works to strengthen existing community structures formed under government programs. Examples of community structures include Village Health and Sanitation Committees, School Management Committees, Village Education Committees, Gram Panchayats (village level elected local body). This approach helps in ensuring participation of communities in the decision-making process for the entitlements included in government schemes. Second, ChildFund India directly creates community institutions such as child clubs, youth clubs, village development committees, and women self-help groups. These community institutions work as change agents and help in delivering ChildFund India programs effectively. ChildFund India also has selected and trained community volunteers who help in implementing the organization's community empowerment initiatives. ChildFund India also conducts regular activities to build the capacity of these community institutions and volunteers.

During the fiscal year, program strategies were based on the needs and situation of each life stage and ensured the involvement of community members and other stakeholders. The following is a brief overview of programs in each life stage during the current fiscal year.

## Brief Program Overview (continued)



In Life Stage 1, primary focus was malnutrition. Through the Positive Deviance Hearth program, local partners conducted orientation sessions in various communities to deal with the issues of malnutrition and demonstrated the local availability of nutritious foods and how to establish good nutritional practices. The program also aimed to provide counseling sessions on health and nutrition issues at the Early Childhood Development Centers for parents and caregivers. In FY14, more than 40,000 malnourished children were identified and supported through different nutritional interventions. Further, around 12,000 counseling sessions were organized with participation of more than 75,000 parents and caregivers. Moreover, linkages were established with government health service providers for effective delivery of antenatal care services. In FY14, about 70,000 pregnant women were registered for the Ante-Natal Care (ANC) program. There was a remarkable increase in the institutional deliveries in targeted areas compared to the national average.

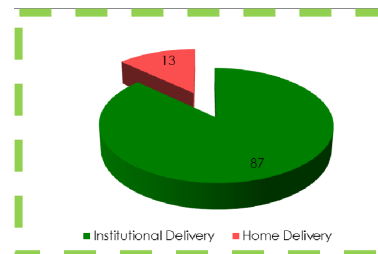
Life Stage 2 focuses on providing quality education for children 6-14 years of age. ChildFund India's programs accomplish this by moving beyond the four walls of the school classroom and reaching out to the larger environment which includes various other critical stakeholders who play a crucial role in shaping quality education for India's children. Other means included forming Child Clubs (1,000 children) and strengthening parents committees and School Management Committees which take part in effective school governance.

During FY14 two flagship programs were the Reading Improvement Program (RIP) and School Quality Improvement Program (SQuIP) aimed at enhancing the ability of elementary school children to achieve acceptable competency levels. These accelerated learning programs reached approximately 2,500 children and addressed issues such as improving school management, supervision, and the overall learning environment, accountability, and teaching training. Further, there were some programmatic interventions for out of school children, addressing the issues of child labor and supporting children with special needs.

In addition to the sponsorship program, this year focused on grand based programs like UDAN, with an emphasis on providing support for higher education for 250 girls in four states and VIDYA, which focuses on enhancing the learning levels of primary school students in language and mathematics in 80 schools in Jharkhand.

As today's children are tomorrow's youth, ChildFund India's focuses on a healthy transition between each life stage, with each life stage providing a foundation for children and youth to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change to their communities. Life Stage 3 programs address issues related to youth unemployment, higher education, skill development, life skills education and building leadership skills. During FY14, the program emphasis was providing vocational training and skill development for youth. Another programmatic intervention in this age group is supporting children and youth pursuing higher education. Training on adolescent reproductive and sexual health, providing training on leadership through youth clubs and strengthening youth resource centers were some of the other interventions targeted for this life stage. Around 700 training sessions were organized in various project locations with participation of more than 7,500 youth in vocational training and skill development. Through this training, many of the youth were able to obtain employment in the formal sector or pursue self-employment.

# 2014 Program Achievements



## Healthy and Secure Infants

As ChildFund believes a healthy beginning is the future promise for all infants, it promotes programs that offer safe motherhood and early childhood care through the following four domains:

- Empowered and responsive caregivers—the focus is to build a lasting relationship between caregiver and child through conducting volunteer home visits to educate the caregivers.
- Safe and caring environments for infants and young children—the focus is to ensure sustained protection of the children at the village level and quality services at ECD centers, through formation of Child Wellbeing Committees (CWBC).
- High quality health care and adequate nutrition for infants, young children and expectant mothers—the focus is on care of pregnant women, lactating mothers, early childhood care, and immunization.
- High quality stimulation for infants and young children—the focus is to provide high quality stimulation to infants (0-3 years), through home-based intervention and to young children ages 3-5, through institutional intervention.

This year's program strategy for Life Stage 1 emphasized enhancing the knowledge of communities around safe motherhood and related government schemes, increasing the percent of women receiving antenatal care and institutional delivery, reducing the malnutrition of children in the community and increasing the participation of children 3-5 years in ECD services.

During FY14, through ChildFund India's training programs, more than 100,000 mothers and primary caregivers were trained on various aspects of positive parent child relationships, detection of potential developmental disorders at young ages and play and stimulation of children. ChildFund was successful in ensuring the participation of service providers from the integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), in the monthly community review meetings.

In Life Stage 1, we placed special focus on ensuring quality health care and adequate nutrition for expectant and lactating mothers, infants, and full immunization of children. In FY14, 364 Positive Deviance (PD) hearth sessions were conducted in which women learned to prepare nutritious food using food material available in the home (with an average participation of 10-20 women in each session). ChildFund's drive to reduce malnutrition among children through PD hearth interventions helped 11,776 severely malnourished children and 29,017 moderately malnourished children move to normal category during FY14.

ChildFund focused on providing antenatal care services to expectant mothers in the project area and in FY14, 68,329 women registered for antenatal care; 45,983 consumed 100 IFA tablets and 33,996 women went for at least three antenatal care visits. Another significant improvement was the increase in the institutional deliveries in FY14 being conducted in institutions. Results from

# 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

ChildFund's 2013 Impact Report shows clear evidence of increase in the skilled assisted delivery in ChildFund operational areas with 75% in 2012-13 compared to 52% at the national level during the same time. ChildFund continues its support in vaccination drives and reported full immunization of about 60,000 children in the target areas.

To assess the change in the baseline status, a midline survey was conducted in 2013 in three implementation areas. For the midline, quantitative data was collected from 2,394 respondents. The midline assessment captured data on ChildFund's core outcome indicators on the well-being of infants, children, and youth as well as relevant contextual or intermediate variables. The assessment reflects ChildFund's integrated life stage approach to child development. The finding of the midline assessment sowed many positive changes in the baseline status, for example, reduction in malnutrition levels (from 54% to 50%) and an improved level of deliveries attended by a skilled person (from 38% to 75%). This shows the robustness of ChildFund India's program approach.

Under Life Stage 1, the Center of Learning and Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CLEECD) unit was established with an objective to develop resource centers to strengthen existing interventions on ECD in India and to become a recognized agency for its technical depth and quality programming on ECD by 2018. Core staff of CLEECD has been selected and on board. CLEECD has started functioning to strengthen the foundation for ECD programs by initiating ECD manual development, engaging with key research institutions, initiating development of ECD curriculum, as well as putting plans in place to continue assessing needs for capacity building.

## Educated and Confident Children

The 2011 census data shows that nearly one-fifth of the population in the country are in the age group 6-14 years. Ensuring quality education and preparing a conducive environment for children in this age group will enhance the future of the country. ChildFund India is working with 6-14 year old children to address their needs, especially their educational needs and building leadership and confidence through the following three domains:



- Positive relationships in supportive homes and communities—the focus is to ensure active participation and to develop leadership qualities among children in this age group through child clubs and groups at the village level.
- Literacy, numeracy and life skills to make healthy decisions—the focus is to provide quality education and learning acquisition through active teaching and enabling learning environments.
- Healthy and active participation in community life—the focus is on children's health through improved sanitation, sensitization and awareness about child protection and active participation in the community.

Education is the key focus in Life Stage 2. The major issues in education include low level learning outcomes, poor school infrastructure, less involvement of parents in school management, low school attendance, among other issues. To address these issues, the Life Stage 2 core program focused on community mobilization, ensuring quality of education through specific interventions, and advocating for improved school infrastructure and school governance, by strengthening School Management Committees.

## 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

During FY14, various workshops, seminars and training programs were conducted to enhance leadership skills among the children in child clubs. Child club members conducted regular monthly meetings and the partner staffs/resource persons discussed the importance of personal hygiene and keeping the home and surroundings clean. They also encouraged the children to spread the importance of cleanliness in their own house and communities. During the meetings, children were informed about various aspects of child rights and healthy living conditions. In FY14, there were 1,086 Child Clubs and 444 Child Resource Centers (CRC) across ChildFund India's project areas with a participation of 35,932 and 13,822 children, respectively. Also, joint discussion forums were organized for teachers, children's club members and SMC members to discuss hygiene practices, and how to have a safe environment at school and at home. In FY14, 5,540 sessions were conducted in schools on topics such as general hygiene, life skills and nutrition. A total of 154,013 school children participated in these sessions. Further, in FY14, ChildFund India organized exposure visits for children at police stations, hospitals and other government offices.

Through the Reading Improvement Program (RIP) and the School Quality Improvement Program (SQUIP), ChildFund India aims to improve the quality of education in remote locations. The RIP program has been implemented in 2,356 schools (2,065 primary schools, 244 middle schools and 47 secondary schools). The SQUIP program has been implemented in 652 schools (463 primary schools, 151 middle schools and 38 secondary schools).

Core indicators for Life Stage 2 are related to education and building the confidence of children to express their views, as these are crucial elements for a child's development during this stage. In FY14, ChildFund India supported 2,075 schools under various programs and conducted 5,540 sessions in schools on various issues. A total of 154,013 students participated in the sessions. Of the 296,838 children aged 6-14 years, about 92% attended formal or non-formal education. This is also substantiated by the midline survey which showed that 92% of children are currently going to school. The 2013 Impact Report also showed that in ChildFund program areas, the number of children completing primary school is higher than the national average.

In FY14, ChildFund India further deepened its education program portfolio through grant based programs like UDAN, VIDYA and EQUIP, in addition to the sponsorship programs and other interventions, to ensure the reach and quality of education to participants. The program interventions emphasized the development of school infrastructure, strengthening of school management committees and providing leadership quality for the children. Further, ChildFund India is implementing Enhanced Education Quality Improvement (EQUIP) with support from Caterpillar Foundation which has been running successfully in 98 primary schools in Tamil Nadu, India. The focus is to improve the school infrastructure and make it a conducive environment for learning, strengthen the school management committee and identify the slow learners and help them improve their learning levels.

The midline survey conducted by ChildFund in 2013 in three program areas showed that nearly 79% of children in the 12-14 year age group have completed at least a 5th grade education in the program areas. A comparatively higher proportion of children who are enrolled in ChildFund's program completed the 5th grade when compared with non-enrolled children (85.1% for enrolled children versus 76.6% for non-enrolled children). There is significant improvement observed in the proportion of children who completed the fifth grade in the midline, as compared to the baseline. Overall, 35% of the children in the midline were performing at optimum level compared to 25% at the baseline. The data also depicts a higher proportion of children enrolled in a ChildFund program performing at the optimum level (41%) as compared to non-enrolled (32%). It also

## 2014 Program Achievements (continued)



showed that the enrolled children were more confident in expressing their views with their family and community than the others in program areas.

### Skilled and Involved Youth

Talented and passionate youth are the force for positive change in the community and nation. Being in the third stage of its demographic transition, India sees skilled youth as agents of betterment of their own future and the nation's development. To build off this vision, ChildFund's youth program provides support and intends to provide windows of opportunity to the youth in the country through the following broad domains:

- Securing sustainable livelihood—the focus is to help young people engage in employment that provides a living wage and a non-exploitative work environment.
- Strong and healthy generation—the focus is to provide understanding of gender roles and create awareness about sexual and reproductive rights.
- Youth as leaders: Educated and empowered youth—the focus is to engage youth in positive ways at the community level and to create larger youth forums.

ChildFund India's program addresses issues like vocational education, life skills education, communication behavior, and management skills. The program also focuses on human trafficking issues and help vulnerable youth identify alternative livelihoods.

During FY14, 684 skill training sessions were organized and 7,662 youth completed training. Of them 2,372 became self-employed and 1,391 entered formal employment. The year reported 988 Youth Clubs and 76 Youth Resource Centers working towards leadership development for youth. The Youth clubs had a membership of 22,634 while the Youth Resource Centers had a membership of 3,068. Regular meetings were conducted with the youth clubs. During the meetings, discussions centered around different government schemes, village level developmental issues and specific issues related to youth. Joint meetings between youth clubs were also organized. Youth clubs played a pivotal role in the overall development of their villages. Youth clubs were actively involved in the community events and provided support. They also discussed various issues related to their own health and livelihood.

Youth issues are also being addressed through the grant programs. The BMG grant funded program in the Udaipur district addresses the issues related to child trafficking. The communities are being made aware about child trafficking issues and vocational training is conducted for youth.



## 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

The Disha program, through support from ChildFund Germany, addresses issues around child labor in the glass industry. Specific interventions help youth develop skills for better alternative employment opportunities.



In one of the project areas in Odisha, the youth club members collect a monthly contribution of INR 20 (approximately \$0.3) and provide support to the members if they are in need of paying their fees for education or help the community members who are not able to pay for their health care services. They are also actively involved in the village health and nutrition, and immunization days to support the community mobilization.

The midline survey results show improved proportion of youth 15-24 who: (1) attended school (from 70% to 89%); (2) currently attend school (from 44% to 68%); (3) reduction in early marriage (from 43% to 12%). The survey results also show that nearly a quarter (23.2%) of the total number of children participating in the survey were working and half of them reported they were not into exploitative employment. Exploitative employment was considered when a child was not being paid (despite working outside family), was forced to work more than five (5) hours a day without a break and/or felt risk in doing the work.

ChildFund India is working towards strengthening its Life Stage 3 programming. As a first step, country specific Theory of Change (TOC) is being evolved. During FY14, a TOC workshop was conducted. ChildFund India is also in the process of developing a life skill manual for adolescents and youth.

### Civil Society

ChildFund India has been focusing on strengthening civil society organizations by creating a positive environment for children through the active participation of youth, parents, women's groups and leaders at the community level. Currently, ChildFund India has a national coverage with a presence in 78 districts in 14 states and 1 Union Territory, assisting over 1.6 million children and youth and other members in 6,092 communities.



During FY14, ChildFund India focused primarily on building the capacity of the youth clubs and family level associations, women self-help groups, and federations by providing a series of awareness and leadership training sessions, vocational training, and awareness about social securities, the Right to Information Act and the Right to Education Act. ChildFund India has contributed to the empowerment of Indian civil society by ensuring access to services, protecting the rights of children, providing capable leadership, community level sensitization and livelihood programs.

In the backdrop of the Theory of Change adopted by ChildFund International for all life stages and a new County Strategic Plan (CSP) with high aspirations, ChildFund India has decided to conduct a "Capacity Mapping of Partners." Capacity Mapping of Partners will help in devising appropriate program strategies and developing appropriate capacity building plans for the partners. As part of this study, the agency hired for the process will conduct a detailed program and organizational assessment.

# 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

During FY14, a detailed plan and budget exercise was conducted to develop Project Design Documents (PDD) for all local partners. They were requested to develop their PDDs using a consultative process to involve the various stakeholders at the field level. Subsequently, these PDDs were reviewed with the local partners in workshops organized in three locations. All partners attended these review workshops with their draft proposals. Technical and program implementation team members reviewed all the proposals and provided separate feedback to every partner on their proposals. After incorporating the feedback, partners submitted their final proposals.

ChildFund India is extending initiatives around capacity building to various partners, community members and other likeminded civil society organizations. In this regard, Series I training programs were conducted for capacity building with local partners, communities, and larger civil society members. A thematic manual was developed to document processes in order to strengthen accountability. ChildFund India is also participating in larger civil society discussions at the district, state and national levels.

## Disability Inclusion

ChildFund India works to ensure that disability is mainstreamed in all its programs. Our approach begins with the identification of disabled children and family members and then integration with existing government programs and services. In certain cases, direct support is provided, e.g., acquiring aids and appliances. A social grant of \$5,130 USD was approved in FY14 and allocated to partner Mangaljyoti, a Mangalore-based organization specializing in aids and appliances for children with special needs.



Initiatives led by ChildFund India's partner Mangaljyoti include:

- Facilitation camps for certificates and linkages with government departments.
- Awareness camps on different schemes and their entitlements.
- Organizing district level competitions/talent shows for differently-abled children.
- Direct support to selected disabled/needy children for higher education, digital hearing aid for hearing impaired children.
- Aids and appliances for orthopedically challenged children.
- Emergency health needs referral service.
- Celebration of World Disability Day.
- Capacity building for teachers on inclusive education.

The Deoghar Area Office in the state of Jharkhand is also working towards connecting disabled children and adults in the project area with the government schemes and programs. Further, the Area Office is also working towards sensitizing the community concerning social inclusion of special children and the need for training school teachers on inclusive education. ChildFund India's partner is implementing a specific intervention "Inclusive Development of the Children and Youngsters with Disability." The activities include helping disabled children get their entitlements, building awareness among children and their parents, education support, and livelihood training.

Chirag is a 12 year old boy living in Mangalore city. He is currently enrolled in the 5th grade at Mangala Jyothi Integrated School, Vamanjoor. His family is economically disadvantaged. His father is a manual laborer earning daily wages. He has been a very active student, participating in all the activities and events in his school.

When Chirag was 4 years old, he was admitted to the hospital with a severe stomach ache. His doctor

## 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

Discovered that he had Carcinoma of the spine. Chemotherapy treatment began immediately, along with the doctor's certification of a 90% disability. Chirag was unable to do any basic activities and became completely dependent on others for support.

Presently he is a paraplegic and has been given physiotherapy rehabilitation. Mangala Jyothi ChildFund India provided him with a wheel chair. With the help of his wheel chair he can move from place to place without assistance. Mangala Jyothi ChildFund India also sponsored a hip-knees hand ankle foot orthosis for him. This orthosis helps with blood circulation, joint and muscle control, and prevents deformity. With the help of this orthosis, he can stand and also take small steps, with the help of others.



### Mobile Technology

ChildFund India's Level 1 M&E system focuses on accountability (child verification, budget utilization, beneficiary counting) and activities. Level 2 and Level 3 M&E emphasize program quality, and outcomes and impact. ChildFund India plans to use mobile technology (through specially designed Android tablets) to track outcomes and monitor quality.

ChildFund India is designing a system to: (1) track progress on key outcome indicators; (2) capture communities' perceptions on change; and (3) assess the quality and functionality of service providing mechanisms. The proposed system will enhance existing program planning and monitoring mechanisms and provide critical information to plan and monitor in more effective ways. The system will ensure improved decision making and track whether ChildFund interventions are being managed to bring changes at the community level. Currently the system is being piloted at three partner locations.

In another pilot, mobile technology is being used to support the child verification process. To ensure data accuracy and actual data collection, ChildFund explored various technological solutions and found that mobile application platforms may be the best tool suitable for that purpose. Based on research, ChildFund India determined that POI Mapper is the best suitable mobile application platform for the task and is piloting this application for CVS data collection.

### Programs—Coastal Region

Children living in the coastal areas are vulnerable and prone to experiencing natural disasters like cyclones, floods, and tsunamis. Around 76% of India's coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis, while 59% of the country is vulnerable to earthquakes, 10% to floods and river erosion, and 68% to droughts. eas are located in the

Current country programs of ChildFund India cover the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which are located along major coastlines: (1) the Odisha coastline—(about 480km long/298 miles); (2) the Karnataka coastline (around 320 km long/198 miles); and (3) the Andhra Pradesh coastline—(972 km long/603 miles). Around 10-12 of the local partners are located in area in the zone prone to cyclones, tsunamis and flash floods.

The health of the population in the coastal areas has been a major issue due to the lack of appropriate and timely response to health needs related to disasters and rapid economic and demographic change. Children being the most vulnerable, are the worst affected by issues related to the population density, migration, tourism and meager livelihood. When a major emergency

# 2014 Program Achievements (continued)



situation arises, children are affected by the discontinuance of education, inadequate medical attention, inadequate care and attention, and they are often exposed to economic exploitation and human trafficking.

Major interventions in the coastal areas are focused on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency response, social protection during emergency situations and protecting children and target groups in vulnerable situations.

In October 2013, the southeastern coastal regions of India Faced the devastating impact of super cyclone Phailin when it hit the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states. ChildFund responded quickly by deploying its disaster response team on ground and partnering with International Medical Corps (IMC). A short term project with support from ChildFund Deutschland was implemented in two of the severely affected districts: Kendrapada and Puri, with the existing ChildFund partners VARRAT and Nilachal Seva Pratishthan. The purpose of this project was to support the people in the 39 villages affected by the cyclone—to help them revive their income and become resilient to disasters in the future. The project interventions were planned to restore livelihoods and support the vulnerable households in the cyclone affected villages by providing intermediate and long term solutions.

## Agricultural Programs

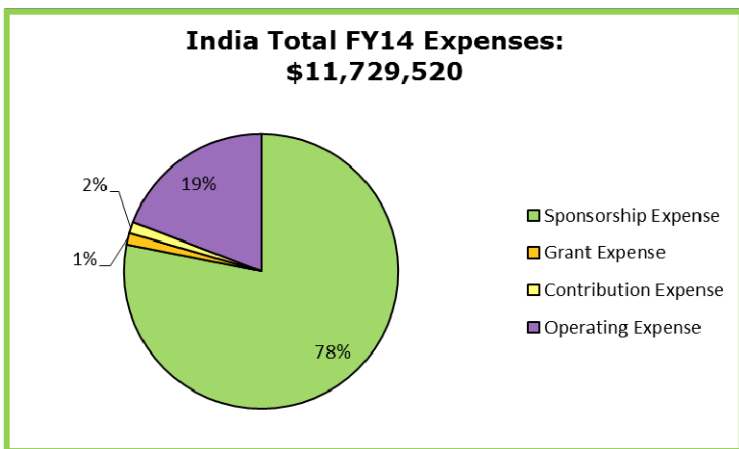
Over 200 million Indian farmers and farm workers have been the backbone of India's agriculture sector. Despite having achieved national food security, the wellbeing of the farming community continues to be a matter of grave concern. The National Policy on Agriculture seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and help farmers and farm workers face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization. The Government priorities include an annual growth rate of over 4%, greater private sector participation through contract farming, price protection for farmers, national agricultural insurance schemes, rational utilization of the country's water resources for optimum use of irrigation potential, high priority to development of animal husbandry, poultry, dairy and aquaculture, high priority to rural electrification, setting up of agro-processing units, and creation of off-farm employment in rural areas.

# 2014 Program Achievements (continued)

ChildFund India has been engaging with farmers on strengthening their natural resource base basically around land, water, and forest, to increase their productivity, promoting value addition and marketing of the farm produce mainly through Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) who are trained, nurtured and empowered to take up income generation activities. Our project engagement has been around increasing agricultural productivity, and promoting organic farming, vermin-composting, intensive vegetable cultivation, and effective use of water resources for irrigation and fisheries, poultry, dairy, social forestry, and horticulture promotion to ensure sustainable, environmentally friendly livelihood.

ChildFund India in partnership with local NGOs such as RASS, is working in close collaboration with the Block and District level Agriculture Department, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs), Agricultural Research Institution, to extend services around new innovations like System of Rice Intensification (SRI). The main objective is strengthening rural economy to reduce distress migration to urban centers and provide environmentally friendly sustainable livelihood.

## Financial Report



### India FY14

Sponsorship Expense	9,164,155	77%
Grant Expense	157,259	1%
Contribution Expense	157,619	1%
Operating Expense	2,250,487	19%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,729,520</b>	<b>100%</b>

### ChildFund Alliance

**Sponsorship:** At the end of FY14, ChildFund India had 46,799 active sponsorships from the following Alliance members: (1) ChildFund International—31,241; (2) ChildFund Australia – 4,022; (3) Taiwan Fund for Children & Families – 2,995; (4) Barnfonden – 2,986; (5) ChildFund Deutschland – 1,828; (6) BORNEfonden – 1,492; (7) ChildFund New Zealand – 1,177; (8) Un Enfant par la Main – 686; and (9) ChildFund Ireland - 372.

**Contributions:** During FY14, ChildFund India received \$11,913 from ChildFund Deutschland (\$9,827) and ChildFund Australia (\$2,086).

# Financial Report (continued)



**Grants:** Since 2012, ChildFund India has received two grants from ChildFund Deutschland, supporting projects pertaining to the Prevention of Child trafficking in Southern Rajasthan (\$ 373,796 USD) and Udaan (\$190,176 USD), for a period of three years.

ChildFund Sweden has been actively supporting ChildFund India in the implementation of the Vidya Project through a 3-year grant totaling \$300,000 USD, to support children's education.

## **Prevention of Child Trafficking in Southern Rajasthan (October 2012-March 2015)**

ChildFund is implementing a project with support from the German Ministry (BMZ) to build the capacity of the civil society to implement comprehensive programs and a network to combat child trafficking as well as address the complex needs of trafficked children. In the wake of this, ChildFund India worked to improve the living and working conditions of children involved as labour in BT Cotton. Baseline data indicated the need for building strong advocacy networks to improve the implementation of this project.

Further, the project focused on capacity building for Community Vigilance Squads, and lawyers and media groups on legal aspects with regard to trafficking of children and child protection in the Udaipur District. Capacity building of stakeholders aims to change the mindsets of family and community members on how to avoid child labor and establish a strong, vigilant committee which frequently assesses and monitors child trafficking. The major reaches communities, heads of households, girls, boys, lawyers, law enforcement agencies and the media.

ChildFund India was successful in achieving the following:

- Formation of a District Civil Society Bal Suraksha Network (Child Protection Network).
- Identifying and enrolling 528 youth who have undergone counseling sessions and completed skills training.
- Five (5) candidates who have completed mobile repair training, have started their own shops in their respective villages.

## **Udaan: Girls Scholarship, 250 Faces of Hopes (September 2013-December 2016)**

Through a grant from ChildFund Deutschland, this project intends to support 250 girls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha, in pursuing higher education. ChildFund India commissioned a field assessment in approximately 150 villages in the Jhabua Area Program (Madhya Pradesh) and the Jhadol Area Program (Rajasthan), with girls enrolled in high schools and their families. The key problem identified: youth, especially girls, are unable to access higher education because of varied reasons, such as, lack of awareness and guidance about career and higher education options, low socio-economic conditions, and lack of availability of infrastructural resources. Given the findings from the study and from the programmatic experience of ChildFund, the UDAAN project has been conceived to support children in class XI (11) and XII (12) with counseling, career guidance and information, which will enable these children to choose a higher education program suitable to their needs.

# Financial Report (continued)

The major target for the scholarship will be girls, ages 17-24. The aim is to enable the girls to be self-sustainable so they can support themselves and their families.

Achievements include:

- First cohort of girls has been identified for scholarship from Jhabol and Jhabua. Subsequently, first installment of scholarships will be released
- Consultant is customizing the life skills manual developed by ChildFund India for this project.

## **Vidya: Towards Quality Primary Education (Feb 2014- Jan 2017)**

A challenging educational initiative has been undertaken by ChildFund India i.e., Vidya in Jharkhand for a period of three years with support from Barnfonden. Through the Vidya education project, ChildFund India will implement quality primary education in 80 government school of which 40 schools are in the Ranka block of the Garwa district and the other 40 schools are in the Satbarwa block of the Palamu district. The major focus is improving learning and increasing student achievement levels in selected areas. ChildFund's intervention will focus on capacity building of teachers who in turn will contribute towards improving the learning level in languages and mathematics among students.

This project aims to reach more than 7,000 primary school children, both boys and girls. The total number of government school teachers covered will be around 245. Additionally, 800 community members will be targeted as members of SMCs.

Accomplishments include:

- Completed a baseline study to assess the learning levels of students in 80 schools.
- Identified Bodh Shiksha Samiti for teacher training and curriculum development.
- Conducted project orientation for trainers and project staff.

## **Disha (Sponsorship Program)**

Disha Children's Program strongly believes in the participation of children in planning, implementing and monitoring various activities that enable a healthy transition between the life stages. With the support of ChildFund Deutschland, the project aims to:

- Ensure that children participating in the program realize their right to education, health and development, and recreation.
- Enable improvement in the income and healthier work environments for youth and families seeking employment.
- Collaborate with various child rights organizations and departments participating in child rights advocacy.

Based on the findings from ChildFund India's baseline study, 11 Mohalla covering 1,456 families of District Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh were identified.

# Challenges



The story of India is one of growth, gains and gaps. Over the past decade, India has witnessed accelerated economic growth, emerging as a global player and as the world's fourth largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. At the same time, approximately 100 million children in India are in the poorest wealth quintile. The progress on social indicators in the last decade has been slow, except in certain areas, such as the near eradication of polio, increase in literacy rates, and enrollment of children in primary schools.

There has been limited change in the practice of key behaviors related to child well-being, such as exclusive and early breast feeding, immunization, hygiene and sanitation. Also, issues related to child protection, gender discrimination and vulnerabilities of children associated with rapid urbanization, are becoming more pronounced. Areas requiring systemic changes such as in the provision of quality services and emergency preparedness have a long way to go.

There is a wide variation in progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) throughout the country. States like Odisha, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh continue to under perform whereas states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have achieved indicators at par with developed countries.

Also, funding from bilateral and multilateral donors for development programs has shrunk over the years and hence, foreign aid that used to be a key source for development funding till a decade ago has gone down considerably.

Further, India is currently suffering from a massive inflationary pressure. A depreciating rupee would only add fuel to this. It could lead to high inflation, as India imports around 70% of its crude oil requirement and the government would have to pay more for it in rupee terms. Moreover, this higher import bill will lead to a rise in the fiscal deficit for the government and will push inflation.

The Parliament has recently passed the much debated Food Bill which guarantees cheap grain for 67% of the country's population. While it is considered as the world's largest welfare scheme, experts believe it would greatly impact the current fiscal deficit.



# Why Sponsorship is Important

Child Sponsorship focuses on promoting programmatic development of children by supporting and maintaining quality person-to-person relationships between children and sponsors. Our overarching core values incorporate the principles of child protection and help ensure all children benefit equally from the sponsorship system. The Child Sponsorship method looks at program and sponsorship activities through the eyes of the families and children enrolled. All activities, though constantly focused on development, should be enjoyable, fun, and readily accessible to all children.

About 60,000 children and their families are enrolled in ChildFund India's sponsorship program. Through the life-cycle approach that ChildFund adopts, the program supports holistic development of the child (and also the family and the community in which the child lives) through access to health facilities, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and livelihood opportunities.

Sponsorship is an integral component of overall program development and it is ChildFund's belief that development programs can be integrated into sponsorship activities and vice versa. ChildFund ensures that accurate records are maintained on every enrolled child within the sponsorship program in order that the "presence, program value and status is monitored on a regular basis". The sponsorship program is funded by ChildFund International and other ChildFund Alliance countries.

## Realizing Dreams through ChildFund Sponsorship Program

Deepa Kochrekar hails from the Hireshatta community in Karwar Taluka of Karnataka state. With seven members in the family, her father was struggling to manage even one proper meal daily from his masonry work. Investing in good education or health was a distant dream for them. It was at that time when a self-help group (SHG) for women and enrollment of children in sponsorship was started in Deepa's village by ChildFund. Initially Deepa's mother became the member of SHG and later Deepa was also enrolled in 1998, when she was 8 years old. Deepa's mother received training on the importance of savings, health issues such as Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT), Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), nutrition for children, and HIV & AIDS. She was also trained to sensitize others about the importance of education for children. ChildFund provided housing assistance including sanitation, repaired the family's well and provided loans for purchasing some masonry equipment, which helped Deepa's father become more independent in his work.



Deepa was an average student but ChildFund support (in the form of notebooks, pencils, tuition fee, counseling etc.) helped her to achieve good scores in her studies. ChildFund services also helped to improve her health. She attended various competitions such as dance, singing, and sports and won prizes, which boosted her confidence level to perform better in every sphere of her life. Some amount of her sponsorship money was always kept as saving for the future. Further, Deepa attended various training sessions on Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), leadership skills, sexual harassment in the work place and gained knowledge in these areas. She was an active member of child and youth clubs and participated in most of the ChildFund Program activities.

Deepa has come a long way. She has completed her Bachelors in Commerce and is working with the Agriculture Department at Karwar. She commutes to her office by a scooter which she purchased from her income. Her elder sister is now married, and works in a school. Her brother Roopesh is also working as a clerk in a private school. Both are helping their parents address the needs of the family. Deepa's hard work and determination is now inspiring many other girls in the community to realize their dreams.

# Why Sponsorship is Important (continued)

Deepa's mother says "I was reluctant to send my children to the school. I enrolled my daughter Deepa in ChildFund India, my eldest daughter had dropped out of school in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and was helping us in earning a living. But the other SHG members and ChildFund staff motivated me to send my other children to the school and made me to allow them to continue their education. In fact, due to ChildFund's support, now both Deepa and my son are standing on their feet which have helped us to improve our family's economic condition. This is all because of ChildFund India's sponsorship."

## An Inspiring Story of a Daily Wage Worker to an Engineer

Purushottam, who belongs to Dommara, a semi-nomadic community of Chittoor Dist in Andhra Pradesh, never imagined that one day he would become a qualified engineer and a source of inspiration not only for his family but one for the whole community. His parents were daily wage earners and were unable to support their children's education. Purushottam had to discontinue his education and work to help his parents support the family.

Purushottam's family was living in a small thatched house, without proper ventilation and sanitation. During the rainy season they had to take shelter in a nearby safer place as the hut could not protect them from rain. Due to poor economic conditions, no one in the village could complete the secondary level of education. Purushottam was worried about his studies but in 2001, during the survey of BPL families, Purushottam was included in the sponsorship program while enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> class in the Zilla Parishad High School, Karakambadi in Reniguntamandal in the Chittoor district. From there onwards he never looked back. With the support from ChildFund, he completed his education with first class in 2005 and enrolled in Srinivasa Junior College, and completed his intermediate education with second class in 2007.

In May 2007 he took the EAMCET (Engineering, Agricultural and Medical Common Entrance Test) and gained admission to Sri Indu College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad. Once he turned 24, his sponsorship ended and again he faced an economic crisis but this time it was his mother's self help group (SHG) which helped him continue with his education. Unfortunately, these circumstances compelled Purushottam's brother to discontinue his education. After graduation, he had to join a private factory as a daily wage worker since his parents could barely support Purushottam's education. Purushottam successfully completed his B. Tech (Electrical and Electronics Engineering) in May 2011 with first class (62%). Following Purushottam's success, his parents were motivated to support their other son to continue his studies.

Purushottam's life has inspired many boys and girls in his community to continue their education. Purushottam has also been working actively to discourage child marriage, which was very common in his community. During a recruitment event on the college campus, Ocean India Company, Malaysia selected him for a job but he was required to deposit Rs.3,00 lakhs. Since the amount was beyond what he could afford, he could not accept the offer. However, he did obtain employment. Presently, he is working in a factory near his native village, Amaraja Batteries, as an engineer and earns Rs.25000/month. Also, his family has a new house under Indira Awas Yojana.

