



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Sewa International, USA

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VISION

We aspire to be the pre-eminent, Hindu faith-based, humanitarian organization that serves selflessly and with compassion to create a positive impact. We envision and strive for a world in which all people live in harmony, free from suffering.

MISSION

Sewa International's mission is to serve humanity in distress, aid local communities, run developmental projects for the underserved, and assist people in transformational change through the power of innovation by mobilizing partners, donors, and volunteers. We accomplish this mission by focusing our efforts toward:

- Disaster recovery
- Family and child welfare
- Promoting volunteerism

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We believe in the Dharmic principles of "Serving Humanity is Serving Divinity" and "Unity in Diversity."
- We believe in service above self.
- We practice teamwork and self-reliance.
- We are proactive and responsive to the needs of society while promoting 'Self Reliance' among those who are served.
- We are pluralistic, trustworthy, and transparent.
- We create a positive impact through operational excellence and customer satisfaction.
- We respect and safeguard our environment.
- We value our volunteers, donors, and partners.
- We respect the dignity of every human being, and consider humanity as one family (vasudhaiva kutumbakam) while serving them regardless of race, color, religion, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation.
- We accept and celebrate diversity in people and community, and we are sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of people we serve.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Sewa USA has completed 20 years of service this year! I am proud to say that what began in a basement in Atlanta with a handful of volunteers, has now grown to nearly 5,000 volunteers in 43 chapters.

Principles of Sewa Reaches Global Audience

As India presided over the G-20 summit in 2023, Sewa International India, headed an initiative to gather recommendations on service and volunteerism from 200 global organizations.

During these consultations, Sewa introduced the principles of *sewa* (selfless service) and *tyaag* (sacrifice) as cornerstones to building a compassionate and sustainable world. In this context, it was very gratifying that we could organize three important summits -- the Partners' Summit, the Philanthropists' Summit, and the Influencers' Summit that attracted a wide variety of participants who offered their knowledge, experience, and wisdom to help us steer Sewa more effectively.

Successful Third National Youth Convention

I am also delighted to share the success of the Third National Youth Convention held in July. With over 650 enthusiastic high school LEAD delegates participating, the event featured impactful sessions. The online engagement was strong, with more than 1,500 live views on Facebook, underscoring our commitment to empowering youth for positive change. Later in the session, a resolution -- "A Child's World without Drugs" -- was passed. Nearly 25 chapters implemented the LEAD program for high school students this year with nearly 1,000 youth participating across the country.

Supporting Dharmic Nonprofits

Sewa takes pride in supporting Dharmic Nonprofits in the US by raising awareness about government grants and facilitating the application process. In collaboration with our partner organizations, we conducted three impactful webinars in December. We are grateful for the participation of 160 individuals, including community leaders, temple trustees, priests, and executives of various nonprofits.

Wide variety of Fundraising Events

Sewa volunteers had numerous creative ideas to raise the required resources to run local programs. This year, three chapters were able to cross the half-million dollar mark to support programs in their respective chapters. This truly reflects our model of thinking globally and acting locally. Sports for Sewa, Walk/Run for Sewa, Sewa Holi, and Sewa Dancing Stars are just some of the creative ways that volunteers made fundraising a truly fun event. It was particularly uplifting to hear a commendation during the Houston gala by the chief guest, CGI DC Manjunath, on the diversity within Sewa -- a true manifestation of the Indic ideal of 'Unity in Diversity.' The comment, expressing joy in the varied backgrounds of Sewa's volunteers, donors, beneficiaries, and programs resonated deeply. This recognition reflects the core values that define Sewa. It's truly gratifying to know that our commitment to inclusivity is not only evident in our actions but is also recognized and appreciated by those who engage with Sewa. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the Sewa family for contributing to this inspiring tapestry of unity in diversity.

Focus on Well-Being

Sewa International volunteers have been organizing 5K walk/run events in the Greater Houston area over the past few years working with 30+ different partner organizations every month. The program is based on Sewa's S.E.L.F. framework -- Sleep, Exercise, Living in the Present, Food, and Diet. Over 3,000 people have benefited from these events. Using the Sewa event as a spark to start their fitness journey, many participants have started regular yoga practices, and regular walks/runs, and some of them are even running half marathons. More than eighty Sewa volunteers participated in the Houston Marathon this year! This focus on health and well-being is expanding to all the chapters with a special focus on family well-being. These events and the SELF program have also attracted many high school students and adults to join Sewa International's volunteering programs. With the partnership of local hospitals, medical professionals, and community organizations, we are trying to make our 'Healthy SELF' initiative bring transformative lifestyle changes.



ARUN KANKANI
President, Sewa International

Sewa Yatra -- Experiencing the Inspiration

Visiting various service initiatives to witness the great work going around across the globe by kind-hearted individuals and a mission-driven organization brings an experiential understanding of the Sewa mindset and impact. One of the successful events of our 'Sewa Yatra' program was held in December. Our Bay Area chapter coordinated a two-day journey in Delhi/NCR in India, spreading joy to around 400 underprivileged children. The initiative included distributing 'SEEK' bags, winter clothes, and bicycles. Our expatriates engaged in various projects, from renovating libraries to distributing school kits, connecting with the roots of Bharat, and finding fulfillment in giving back. 'Sewa Yatra' exemplifies our commitment to service, creating enduring joy for those in need and a profound sense of completeness for our volunteers.

Sewa Day of Service

While these instances show how Sewa volunteers are implementing innovative, humane, and impactful programs, we would like to mention a vital initiative we are taking up in 2024. Sewa is working with AmeriCorps to observe September 11 as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Sewa is working to bring people together to lead community service projects to honor the lives of those we lost on September 11, 2001. Specifically, through this initiative, Sewa is focusing on environmental welfare programs.

Service for All

Sewa's various initiatives in the US -- such as Family Services, Seniors Sewa, ASPIRE for education, Sewa outreach, and partnerships in Native American, African American, and Hispanic communities -- are increasing in their reach and impact. Globally, we were able to aid six countries during natural disasters as well as help them in development programs such as Sponsor a Child, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Girls, Sewa Fellowship, and the Sevankur initiative to increase societal sensitivity amongst medical students. These are just some of the examples through which countless volunteers are manifesting the principles of Sewa in making the world a better place for all. The twin philosophy of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' (let all be happy) and 'Together we serve better' is manifested in the actions of Sewa volunteers.

Arun Kankani
Arun Kankani
President, Sewa International



ENDORSEMENTS



Congressman Dr. Rich McCormick

Representative for Georgia's Sixth Congressional District, USA
Endorsement:

"In my view, the Indian American community embodies the essence of the American dream, contributing significantly to our nation's prosperity. I stand with you in advocating for policies that empower our community and against those that hinder our progress."



Nanda Kumar, president, of Aerospace Group, for Eaton,

a power management company
Endorsement:

"I am deeply inspired by Sewa International's notable accomplishments and valuable contributions. The impactful work, especially the ASPIRE program in Cleveland, mentored 500 students, tutoring and guiding them toward college. Shrikant Konda's efforts have sparked my passion for philanthropy, particularly their work with the Bhutanese refugees."



Gaurav Verma, COO, United States - India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

"Even before we began working together, I was impressed with Sewa International's problem-solving approach. They systematically identified issues and guided us toward solutions. Our interactions felt like a meeting of minds, and their professionalism and unwavering commitment to their cause stood out above all else."



Dr Kiran Patel, Cardiologist,

Community Leader, and Dedicated Philanthropist

"I believe Sewa International has provided an excellent platform for us to engage in meaningful work. Sewa's ability to turn vision into action is truly remarkable. They are an invaluable partner in charity and philanthropy, with programs that make a difference in the short and long term. Partnering with Sewa enables us to create changes in the world."

The "I Am Buddha Foundation" honored Sewa International's efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic with a certificate for alleviating hardships. Sachin Sugandhi, the coordinator of Sewa's Dallas Chapter, accepted the certificate on August 15, 2023, in Dallas-Fort Worth. Over twenty Sewa volunteers joined him on stage during the ceremony, where renowned Indian film actress Pallavi Joshi and accomplished film director and author Vivek Agnihotri presented the honor. The event concluded with an engaging interactive session with Agnihotri and Joshi.



Renowned actress, Pallavi Joshi, handing certificate to Sachin Sugandhi, Coordinator, Sewa International's Dallas Chapter



ASPIRE

SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

Launched in 2013, the “Achieving Students Progress, Instilling Resilience, and Excellence” (ASPIRE) program began as an after-school homework assistance center for elementary school students residing in apartment complexes primarily populated by refugees and immigrants. Over the years, the program has expanded its reach to encompass two large school districts in southwest Houston.

Sewa's ASPIRE team served 518 children from kindergarten to 12th grade in 2023. The program supported 1,500 children, ensuring their essential needs were met, including food, clothing, and blankets. Sewa's 55 volunteers contributed 282 work hours, demonstrating their passion for community service and the program's mission. The ASPIRE After OST (Out-of-School Time) program leveraged resources effectively, with a total value of \$35,000, expanding the reach and impact in the community. The program made significant strides in serving the community, focusing on academic support, enrichment, social-emotional learning, service learning, and computer literacy. Sewa trained 1,200 children to handle emergencies effectively through disaster preparedness initiatives, offering essential skills and knowledge to respond to emergencies.



SEWA RECEIVES AMERICORPS PUBLIC HEALTH AND ASPIRE GRANTS

Sewa has received the prestigious AmeriCorps Public Health Grant for its Mental Health Program and the ASPIRE grant for its after-school program. These grants allowed Sewa to expand services to more schools in underserved communities. The ASPIRE grant specifically helped Sewa reach marginalized communities, offering crucial support and resources to students in need. The Mental Health Program promoted well-being through awareness sessions and Mental Health First Aid training to support individuals facing challenges.

SEWA AMERICORPS PLEDGES TO SERVE COMMUNITY

The Sewa Houston AmeriCorps Program, now in its third year, recently trained its inaugural group to serve the community. This program targets education, disaster resilience, mental health, community empowerment, and workforce development in underserved neighborhoods. It supports recent immigrants, refugees, and diverse communities through ASPIRE Community Centers, focusing on social determinants of well-being. Sewa AmeriCorps bridges gaps in skills, services, and resources to foster positive change and aid those in need.



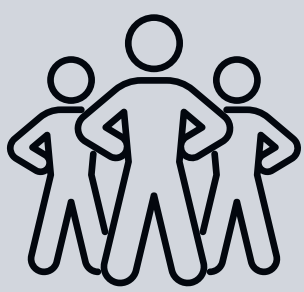
LEAD

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

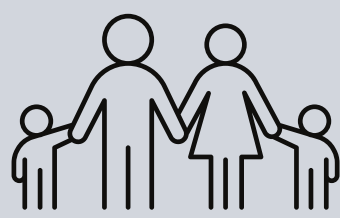
In 2023, Sewa conducted LEAD programs in 25 chapters with over 1,100 high schoolers participating in them, connecting more than 700 families directly with Sewa. This program has become a meaningful part of the lives of these youth. Sewa’s AmeriCorps Atlanta after-school tutoring program served 92 unique children since September 2023.

Fifty LEAD high school volunteers participated in virtual sessions Monday through Thursday. Additionally, the LEAD program partnered with the Sienna Ridge Apartments community to meet the children in person every Saturday, enhancing interpersonal skills and connections.

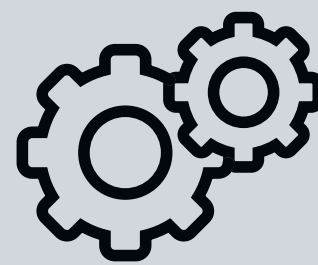
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



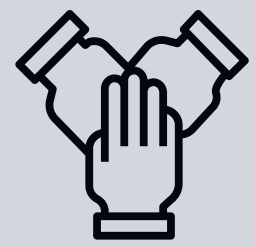
**1,100+
LEADS**



**700+
FAMILIES**



**120+
PROJECTS**



**25
SEWA
CHAPTERS**

“DESIGN TO LEAD” CONFERENCE 2023

The second Design to Lead (DTL) conference took place on September 17, 2023, with over 200 attendees witnessing presentations, including one on "The Role of Design Thinking in Shaping Society." Participants experienced a virtual event filled with knowledge-sharing and inspiration. The DTL program, available nationally to all chapters running the LEAD program, was curated by Prof. Anurag Mairal, President of the Sewa Bay Area Chapter, focusing on training Sewa youth in a "design-thinking" approach to address society's challenges. The program consisted of three phases: problem identification and research, prototype creation and refinement, and scaling up and implementation in communities. The DTL conference featured presentations highlighting the year's achievements.



NLC 2023

LEAD'S THIRD NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The third National Youth Conference, hosted by LEAD, brought together nearly 800 students from across the US for a virtual event on July 29, 2023. One of the conference's highlights was attracting about 1,500 viewers via live stream on Facebook, marking its success and growing significance in empowering youth nationwide. The conference served as a platform for young leaders to showcase their passion and commitment to serving their communities. Through engaging discussions, interactive sessions, and inspiring presentations, the conference provided a space for students to connect, collaborate, and explore innovative solutions to societal challenges. It acted as a catalyst for fostering leadership skills, enhancing teamwork, and promoting community engagement among the participants, inspiring the next generation of change-makers.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING SESSIONS

The Sewa AmeriCorps Program in Atlanta introduced a unique after-school tutoring initiative. This hybrid model combines virtual sessions with in-person learning activities on Saturdays within Section 8 community apartment complexes. The program offers children opportunities to interact with mentors, fostering cultural exchange and broadening perspectives. LEAD high school students contribute to the program's success, creating a collaborative learning environment for tutors and students.



SEWA WORKS WITH JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

About 25 volunteers from Sewa's Central Jersey Chapter joined the January 2023 food distribution at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) in Philadelphia, organized to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. Over 850 volunteers from various organizations participated. Sewa's LEAD volunteers helped pack food packets and deliver items to 20 households. The Sewa Central Jersey Chapter started volunteering at JRA in December 2022, with more than 100 volunteers contributing close to 500 hours of work in the last three months.

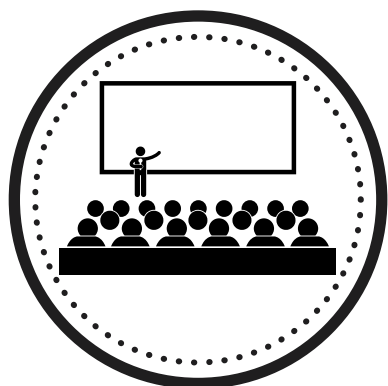


SEWA FAMILY SERVICES

COMMITMENT TOWARDS SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Sewa's Family Services project caters to the specific needs of Indian American immigrants. This year Sewa conducted over 60 workshops and seminars. Among them, the Health and Wellness program covered twelve events, featuring topics such as Yoga, Meditation, Mental Health, Nutrition, and Self-Care. The Stop Diabetes Movement (SDM) offered four specialized yoga sessions.

The Education & Awareness segment featured sixteen events covering financial and estate planning, five wishes, disaster preparedness, and college admission processes. There were sixteen engaging sessions for seniors on various topics. The Houston FS program hosted 26 workshops and seminars on health and wellness, and education and awareness to support our community.



60+
Workshops and seminars



1,300+
Know Your SELF participants



20+
Partner organizations



240+
Cases handled



27,000+
Runners

The Sleep, Exercise, Lifestyle Practices, Food, and Diet (SELF) Program activities included thirteen monthly 5k walks/runs, benefiting over 1,300 participants. Seventy-four half-marathon runners and two mentors completed full marathons in runners' groups. There were also weekly yoga classes and neighborhood weekly group walks/hikes. The Houston FS program hosted eleven collaborative 5K walks/runs with 21 partner organizations, adding eleven new partners.

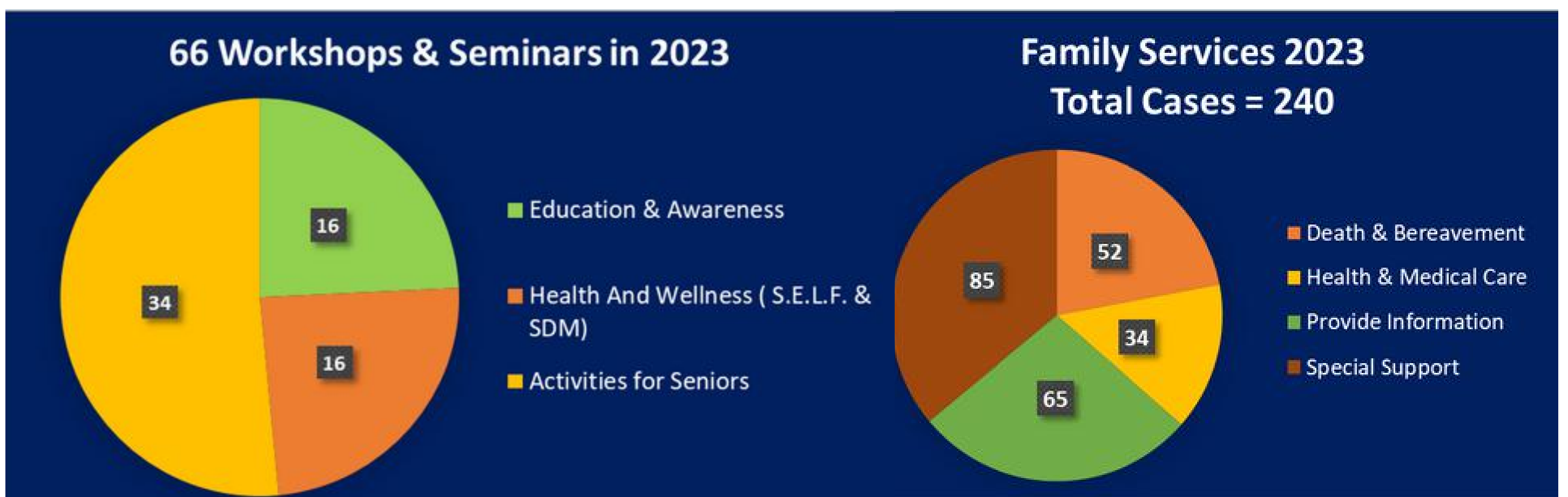
The FS program hosted a webinar on marathons with 25 attendees, engaging 76 runners, including 74 half marathoners (34 first-time runners) and two full marathoners who served as SELF mentors in Houston. Over 120 volunteers served at the Chevron Houston Marathon on January 14, Mile 8 Mega Refueling Station, aiding 27,000 runners.

From January to November 2023, Sewa Family Case Management Services extended support to 219 recipients across various categories. They included 45 death and bereavement cases, two food preparation and delivery cases, and 27 health and medical care cases. We provided information to 63 recipients, provided translation facilities to one recipient, and offered special support to 81 recipients.



SEWA FAMILY SERVICES

ADDRESSED 240 CASES IN 2023



Family Services handled 240 cases in 2023, including 52 related to death and bereavement, 34 concerning health and medical care, 65 involving providing information, and 85 requiring special support. Sixteen workshops and seminars were conducted on education and awareness, another 16 on health and wellness, and 34 activities for seniors. Requests came from across the country, covering needs like funerals, repatriation, accidents, medical conditions, mental health issues, and other distress situations. They assisted in individual or family emergencies, with most cases originating from the Bay Area, Houston, and the Phoenix Chapter.

To address concerns about essential documents during uncertain events, the Family Services team organized the "Financial Well-Being/Essential Documents Workshop" led by Mira Radadia, an estate attorney and Sewa volunteer. The workshop had 173 community members participating across chapters, and feedback was collected to develop FAQs on the topic.

DISTRESS CASE MANAGEMENT

STOP DIABETES MOVEMENT

KNOW YOUR HEALTHY S.E.L.F

EDUCATIONAL & WELLNESS WORKSHOP



DIWALI FOOD DISTRIBUTION SPREADS JOY NATIONWIDE

Sewa Diwali reaches 234 cities and towns

Sewa Diwali, a charitable food drive organized by Dharmic communities across the United States, donated over 502,000 pounds this year, benefiting over 245 organizations from 34 states, including food pantries, homeless shelters, worship houses, and schools. Sewa Diwali extended to 234 cities and towns in 2023, its sixth consecutive year. Since its inception in 2018, the Sewa Diwali project has donated over two million pounds of food nationwide.

Sewa Distributes Food for Indianapolis Communities

As part of the Sewa Diwali food donation drive, Sewa volunteers distributed 700 pounds of food items to “Fueled for School,” in Noblesville, IN. Sewa volunteers conducted the second Sewa Diwali food distribution at the Boys and Girls Club of Indianapolis – the Legore Club. A collaborative effort involving over nineteen dharmic organizations in Metro Indianapolis collected 600 pounds of non-perishable food items and a hundred care packages for deserving children from these donations.



Sewa Supports Native Americans in Arizona

The Sewa Diwali Food Drive 2023 enabled the distribution of food and winter clothes to Native Americans in the Navajo Nation, southwestern United States. Over forty organizations and groups across Arizona joined forces to collect and distribute about 10,000 units of food and winter clothing, benefiting Native Americans.

Sewa partnered with donors, including Brandon from KEinfoSHOP in Window Rock, Bonn from Taaka Hooghan InfoSHOP in Flagstaff, and Alfred from Leupp, to assist the Diné, Apache, and Hopi communities. Their efforts reached across borders within the Navajo and Cocopah Indian tribes along the US-Mexico border. Contributors included the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Phoenix Jewel of the East Lions Club, Samhita Hindu Temple of Arizona, Chutneys Indian Cuisine, Jain Center of Greater Phoenix, Phoenix Metro Maharashtra Mandal, Sri Venkata Krishna Kshetra, Nepali Friends Association, Ayyappa Samaaj Arizona, and KHNA Kerala, among others.



SEWA FRESH FOOD PANTRY OF SIMI VALLEY

The Fresh Food Pantry of Simi Valley is a successful program providing healthy food options to needy families, supported by local high school student volunteers. Launched as a pilot initiative by Sewa International, it has now become a sustainable program with support from various organizations. The pantry is crucial for the community, offering a safe environment for families to access healthy food and promoting healthy eating habits. Volunteers gain valuable life skills and a deeper understanding of social issues through their involvement. The food pantry receives support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Share of Ventura, Simi Valley Unified School District, Simi Valley Police Department, Simi Valley Chamber, and various city officials.

SEWA'S NEW CHAPTERS IN ORLANDO, FL, AND SILVER SPRING, MD

Sewa's Orlando chapter, a new addition to the Southeast regional chapters, is led by coordinator Girish Sharma. Previously operating as a subsidiary of the Tampa Chapter, the Orlando team struggled with event organization until Girish Sharma engaged high school students in collecting and donating food to nearby pantries. This initiative sparked a significant increase in volunteer participation, growing from a handful to over 25 volunteers in just a few months.

Maryland Sewa Chapter Inauguration

The Sewa Maryland Chapter was inaugurated at the Sewa Community Center in Silver Spring, MD, with about eighty attendees. Prof. Sree Sreenath, former president of Sewa International, shared his journey with the organization, while Swarup Kurella, the North-East Regional Director, highlighted focus areas and impactful projects in a comprehensive report.



SEWA'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS G20 LEADERSHIP

Sewa partnered with G20 leaders to develop 32 policy recommendations on service, philanthropy, and volunteerism. These suggestions, which were compiled from insights provided by over 200 civil society organizations around the world, were submitted to the Indian Government and subsequently reviewed and accepted by G20 leaders. The initiative introduces Indian principles of sewa (service) and tyaaga (sacrifice) to global civil society discussions, aiming to foster a more compassionate and sustainable world. This effort underscores the influential role of collective action in shaping global policies.





2023 SYRIA & TURKEY EARTHQUAKE: SEWA INTERNATIONAL RAISED \$64,000; SERVED MEALS TO VICTIMS

Sewa International raised \$64,000 to help victims in Turkey and Syria when an earthquake hit the region in 2023 – with donors pitching in \$49,000 on the Sewa website and \$15,000 via a Facebook campaign. Volunteers from Sewa International's partner organization, Food for Life (FFL), started relief work in the earthquake-hit areas, serving about 800-1200 meals daily in villages near Antakya, the capital of Hatay Province.

The Houston Sewa team collaborated with the National Association of Christian Churches (NACC) to deliver more than 200 boxes to Turkey and Syria through a Turkish Airlines flight. FFL volunteers from Hungary and Turkey drove a giant truck filled with cooking equipment, rice, beans, fresh vegetables, 5,000 liters of water, and other essential supplies and arrived in Antakya on February 12. The Turkish Ministry of Interior's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) requested the FFL to serve in Hatay. Three FFL volunteers from Turkey and four Hungarian FFL cooks, including the FFL Director from Budapest, drove about 15 hours from Istanbul to Antakya. Sewa USA was one of the first organizations to actively offer funds to alleviate suffering in the region.

SEWA REBUILDS MAUI'S SPIRIT



The catastrophic wildfires that engulfed Maui, HI, in August 2023 rank among the most destructive fires in the US over the past century. Lives lost, homes reduced to ashes, and a haunting aftermath painted a grim picture of Lahaina. Over 101 people died and 2,200 buildings were destroyed. The fires caused an estimated \$5.5 billion in property damage, destroying entire communities. Against this backdrop, Sewa raised about \$4,000 and Sewa's volunteers worked hard to offer immediate relief and vital resources.



SEWA'S SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

Sewa aims to establish a network of 100 chapters nationwide and bring over 250 women into key leadership roles by 2027. President Arun Kankani shared this vision at Sewa's seventeenth national conference in Atlanta on May 6 and 7, 2023. The plan reflects Sewa's commitment to inclusivity and women empowerment. Additionally, Sewa will open a "Sewa Academy" to train volunteers and expand its reach through the neighborhood Sewa program, opening chapters in small towns near metro areas. Syam Kosigi, VP of Organization, commended the Atlanta Sewa chapter for hosting a successful event, attended by 129 members from 23 US chapters.

SHE-CAF PROVIDES ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING TO 64 TRANSGENDER PEOPLE



Sewa's Covid Affected Families (CAF) program empowered marginalized communities, training over 64 transgender beneficiaries in Karnataka, West Bengal, and Telangana. "PREMATHO," a food truck, operated by the transgender community near Hyderabad, is a thriving venture known for serving delicious breakfasts and snacks. "PREMATHO" means "with love" in Telugu, a South Indian language. The Nagpur Sewa's team, led by Vice President of Programs Prem Pusuloori, visited this project in Hyderabad on October 28 and 29, 2023. West Bengal beneficiaries underwent tailoring and beautician training, and in Cooch Behar District, four beneficiaries established a paper plate manufacturing unit, creating opportunities, building livelihoods, and transforming lives.

SHE

SANITATION & HYGIENE PROJECT FOR THE GIRL CHILD

In 2023, the India sanitation project addressed inadequate facilities in rural schools, benefiting 6,803 people. With support from key donors like Google California and Sewa USA chapters, 132 toilets were constructed across seven states. The funds raised by the students from the North Jersey Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) team, in collaboration with Oracle India, enabled the Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child (SHE) team to renovate toilets in 25 schools in Karnataka. This effort emphasized our commitment to enhancing sanitation for vulnerable communities.

MENSTRUAL HEALTH & AWARENESS

This year, Sewa's Menstrual Awareness Program addressed school challenges with newly constructed toilets, tackling issues like girls dropping out due to inadequate sanitation and missing classes during menstruation. The program benefited 3,155 adolescent girls through awareness sessions and the distribution of reusable cloth sanitary napkins, positively impacting their well-being and educational continuity.

Due to generous funding from Google and the North Jersey LEAD group, the SHE team educated over 1,500 adolescent girls on menstrual health and provided self-defense and yoga training to over 300 students. Moreover, they empowered over 120 women through skill development training. A fourteen-day yoga and self-defense program across multiple schools in Hamirpur, Ayodhya, Kanpur from the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Sagara in Karnataka, and Viratnagar in Rajasthan, as well as Bastar in Chhattisgarh, benefited 3,371 students.

SHE-CAF PROJECT

Sewa organized sales and exhibitions in Karnataka, Delhi, and Chhattisgarh, collaborating with the SHE Karigar (craftsman) online platform for added sales. SHE-CAF beneficiaries from Srikalahasti, a temple town in Andhra Pradesh, India, fulfilled a Sewa USA order for 75 hand-painted "Tree of Life" paintings, presented to key stakeholders and the congregation.

Sewa's initiatives are empowering 3,500 women and bringing about positive transformation in communities across 16 Indian states. The SHE team has successfully implemented a model village concept in Rajasthan. Over the past two months, they have constructed 42 new toilets in underprivileged schools, benefiting more than 1,800 students and staff.





SHE

SANITATION & HYGIENE PROJECT FOR THE GIRL CHILD

MODEL VILLAGE

Sewa International has established a model village in Chhattisgarh, focusing on eight villages in Durg District. Twelve school toilets have been built benefiting over 1,000 students. Sewa conducted menstrual awareness sessions and offered yoga and self-defense workshops. In rural areas, Sewa is offering skill development programs, teaching tribal art wrought iron work, painting, Tumi art, and jewelry-making to women, and helping them sell their products.

WASH PROGRAM

Sewa's SHE team and Oracle India joined for a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project in Karnataka, benefiting over 8,300 students and teachers in 25 schools. It involved restoring toilets, installing hand wash units and water filters, as well as conducting a painting competition for enhanced awareness. Sewa organized a painting competition for students in grades 6 to 10 on WASH themes, allowing them to display their skills and present ideas for water conservation and sanitation. Students showcased creativity and presented ideas on water conservation and sanitation. Their paintings served as visual education tools, providing insights into WASH principles for their peers. Sewa conducted these programs in the last week of October in schools across Karnataka, including Magadi, Ramanagara, Hubli, and Belagavi.



COLORADO STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR SHE PROJECT

Students in Colorado raised over \$650 for the SHE project, which funded the construction of a toilet in a government school in Sankara village, Chhattisgarh, India. Srinidhi Gorla organized the "Hike for Hygiene" event, which was attended by over 25 people at Lake McIntosh. Her family supported her by providing refreshments, and Sewa volunteers informed participants about Sewa's initiatives and work.

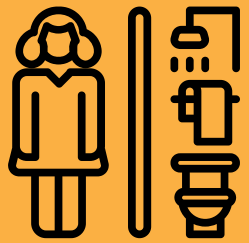
SEWA TRAINS WOMEN ON INDIA'S EASTERN BORDER

The SHE-CAF team empowered women in Phulia, a weavers' village at the India-Bangladesh border, where over 100 women weavers received support. Additionally, the team started new programs in Tangta, a small hamlet at the India-Bhutan border. The program aimed to preserve traditional craftsmanship, with 90 women and their families enrolled. Sewa initiated this program as part of its SHE and CAF project, assisting artisan communities affected by the pandemic. Additionally, Sewa helped 30 women through livestock-rearing initiatives, impacting over 120 women near the India-Bangladesh and India-Bhutan borders. These efforts enable women to pursue opportunities in the local fashion industry, securing sustainable livelihoods.

PROJECT IMPACT



872
TOILETS
FOR GIRLS



120
HAND WASH
STATIONS



53,988+
SCHOOL
CHILDREN



45,500+
ADOLESCENT
GIRLS



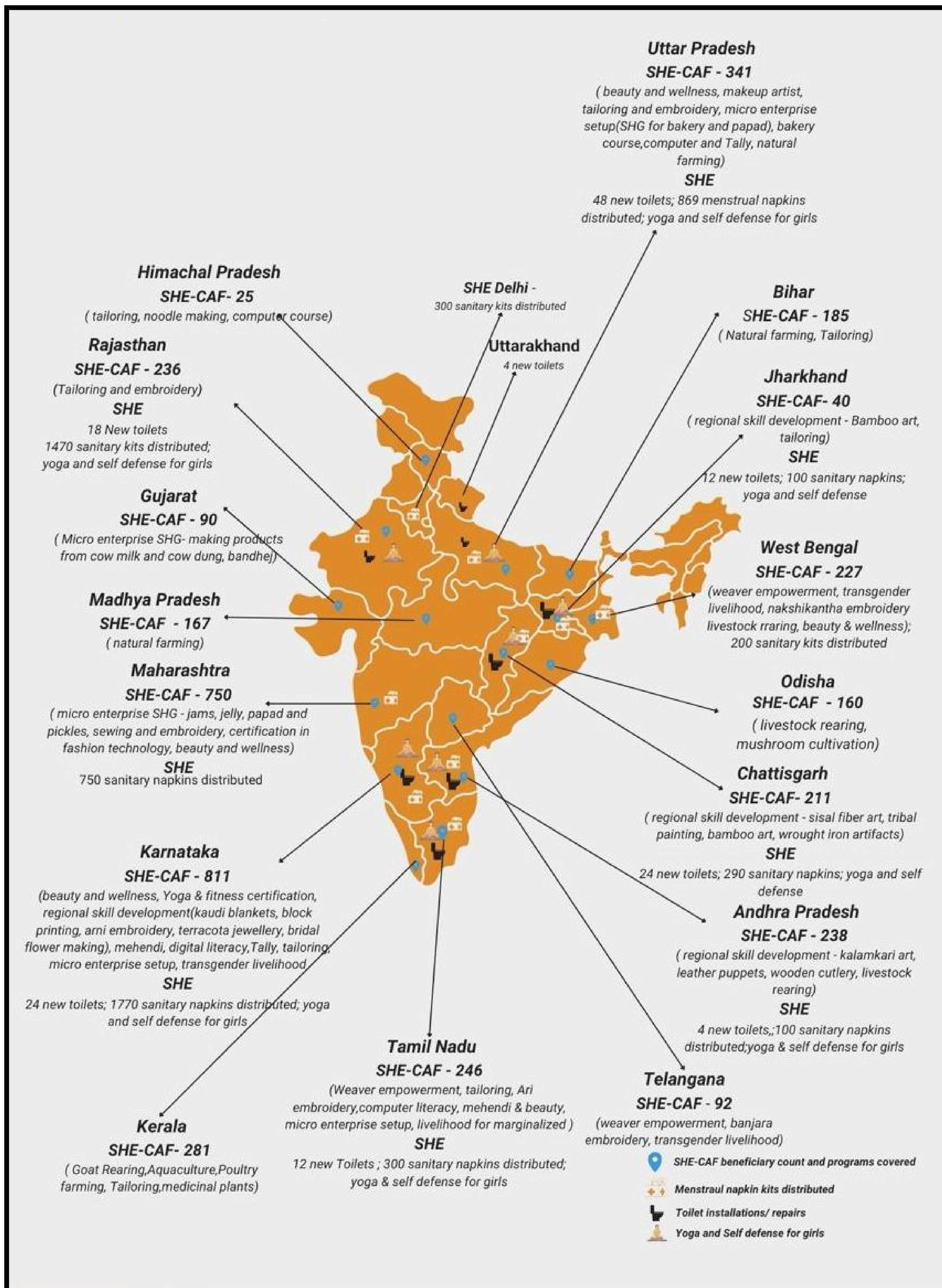
4,100
COVID IMPACTED
WOMEN



16
INDIAN
STATES



SHE PROGRAM FOOTPRINT - 2023



Sewa International USA SPONSOR A CHILD



In 2022 Sewa successfully sponsored 9,600 children, offering them education and a brighter future. The impact of donors to this program has been nothing short of extraordinary.

However, in 2023, SAC faced financial challenges that affected our ability to continue the momentum. Despite past success, in 2023, Sewa was able to sponsor only 3,873 children. With donors' continued support these obstacles can be overcome, ensuring support for more children.

SEWA RECEIVES GRANT FROM BAXTER INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Sewa's Sponsor a Child (SAC) team received a grant from the Baxter International Foundation for 2024-25. In a letter, the Executive Director of the Baxter International Foundation, Verónica M. Arroyave, conveyed the Foundation's approval of a \$50,000 grant. The Foundation supports Baxter International Inc.'s mission to save and sustain lives. Ms. Arroyave explained in her letter that they achieve their goals by collaborating with organizations worldwide to improve healthcare access for underserved populations, nurture the next generation of healthcare innovators, and make a lasting impact in Baxter-supported communities.



400+
DONORS



3,637
STUDENTS



\$524,000+
TOTAL FEES
PAID



1264+
SCHOOLS



SPONSOR A CHILD

ANUBHUTI CAMP SPARKS CREATIVITY AND UNITY

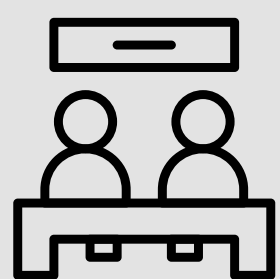
Over 60 high school students from six Indian states participated in the Sponsor A Child (SAC) Anubhuti camp held at the Agastya International Foundation, in Kuppam, India, from May 15 to 20, 2023. The camp showcased 11 “best-out-of-waste” initiatives projects, including glider-making. It aimed at providing students with a platform for exploration and innovation and helped children think creatively and develop life skills. Prof. Sree Sreenath, President of Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) and former president of Sewa International, and Prof. Bhagirathi, Head of the local Music College, were guests at the inaugural event.

SPONSOR A CHILD TEAM SUPPORTS MUMBAI'S DABBAWALA CHILDREN



Sewa's Sponsor a Child (SAC) team supported over eighty children of Mumbai's Dabbawalas (transporters of daily food boxes from home to the office for thousands of officegoers) during a two-day initiative on July 8 and 9, 2023. The team's commitment led to discussions with the Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Charity Trust to secure ongoing sponsorship for these children and explore extending assistance to more deserving children in the community. Mona Joshi, a dedicated volunteer from the Chicago Chapter, played a pivotal role in this transformative partnership. The "Dabbawala" office bearers felicitated her for her selfless contributions to the cause. Embracing her role as a catalyst for positive change, she also engaged directly with the sponsored children and their families, adding a personal touch to the support provided.

SPONSOR
A CHILD to provide
EDUCATION
& Empower Families



3,637
STUDENTS



54%
MALE



46%
FEMALE



DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEAST INDIA



EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Donor support sustains the Oja Shankar Vidyalaya in Kharasom, Manipur. Sewa has covered operational expenses for a year, arranged health camps, and annual and sports day events, and conducted teacher training—shaping a brighter future for about 150 students.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTERS (CAC)

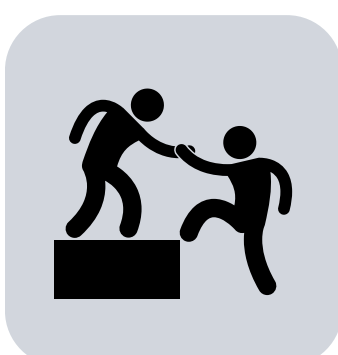
Sewa and Arunachal Vikas Parishad (AVP) have till now constructed 76 out of the planned 100 Community Activity Centers (CAC) across a variety of tribal communities. These centers function as central hubs for gatherings, adult education, music, yoga, and sports, bringing positive change to these tribal communities. AVP showcases organizational strength in 25 districts, 22 committees, and 168 circles. Through 680 projects encompassing education, health, and community development, AVP has made a significant impact on 3,495 villages. Noteworthy activities include youth training, the commitment of new volunteers, events in Assam, educational initiatives, women's programs, health services, gram vikas projects, and social awareness drives.



SEWA AAROGYAM

Teaming up with Sewa International (Bharat), Sewa USA is using a mobile medical van (MMV) in Tripura to offer a beacon of hope, delivering healthcare to over 30,000 people every month. Twenty-four health camps were conducted, offering general outpatient department (OPD) consultation, screening and diagnostic services, medications for minor ailments, and referrals for higher treatment to patients.

The fight against COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh continues. Sewa has helped enhance immunity through organic farming and herbal medicines, benefiting 150 farmers in 15 villages surrounding Roing town. Training sessions and distribution of seeds worth INR 40,000 are contributing to a healthier community. Sewa's Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) are operational in Dibrugarh, Assam, offering essential services. In collaboration with Hospital Dada Verendrapuri Ji Eye Institute, ophthalmic screening has positively impacted remote villages through eye camps and cataract operations.



SEWA HELPS MANIPUR RIOT VICTIMS

Sewa launched a fundraiser to support victims of attacks against the aboriginal Meitei community in Manipur, Northeast India. The fundraiser aimed to provide immediate assistance to those living in temporary shelters in desperate conditions. Swadesh Katoch, Vice President of Disaster Recovery, emphasized the importance of donations and spreading awareness to bring comfort, relief, and hope to the affected individuals. Sewa provided victims with essential items such as food, water tanks, mosquito nets, blankets, tents, cooking gas stoves and utensils, and medicine.



\$70,000 FOR DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS IN INDIA

Nearly \$70,000 was raised through fundraising campaigns for three relief efforts in India in 2023. These three events included a fatal train accident in Odisha, in which over 288 people died, and over 1,000 were injured. In the ethnic violence in Manipur in the first week of May, nearly 120 people were killed, and over 3,000 were wounded. In Gujarat, Cyclone Biparjoy led to power outages in thousands of villages, uprooted hundreds of trees, destroyed crops in nearly 50,000 hectares of farmland, and damaged numerous homes. To support the Balasore train accident victims, Sewa raised about \$40,000. For Manipur relief efforts, it collected almost \$22,000, and nearly \$7,000 was raised to assist the Cyclone Biparjoy-affected families of Gujarat.

Sewa provided food, medicine, and other essential items to affected families through its relief program, and distributed 140 essential ration kits to the affected families in Gujarat. Additionally, volunteers served cooked meals to those in need. Sewa provided essential clothes and hygiene items to help individuals rebuild their lives. Volunteers repaired homes and facilities.

JOSHIMATH LANDSLIDES BRINGS SEWA HELP



The floods in February 2021 caused landslides and over 700 homes developed cracks by January 2023. Broken roads and tilting buildings created fear. Sewa volunteers aided in the relocation of residents to temporary shelters.

Relief work involved 400 self-help groups, identifying 723 affected buildings, and assisting with temporary accommodations for hundreds of families.

Volunteers also conducted surveys, collected information from over 250 households, provided essentials to these families, and offered community counseling for mental health issues.

Sewa assisted people in networking, helping them connect and work with the district administration, providing groceries and other essential items to over 250 families, and conducting community counseling.





SCODE: SEWA INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN INDIAN SCHOOL



Sewa introduced a pilot program, “School Crisis Orientation and Disaster Education” (SCODE), in 75 schools in Uttarakhand State and 25 schools in Delhi. The program provided disaster preparedness training to fifty students in each identified school, focusing on educating girls. Sewa's Vice President for Disaster Relief, Swadesh Katoch, said that this pilot program's success would lead to offering the program throughout the country.



SUPPORT FOR NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS

In the aftermath of a devastating 6.4 magnitude earthquake in western Nepal on November 3, 2023, Sewa International called for support to aid the affected. The earthquake claimed the lives of 157 people, including 78 children, and caused extensive loss. Sewa supported Nepal during this crisis, making a significant impact by providing food, clean water, and medical aid as well as assisting in rescue and rebuilding efforts.





VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO FLOODS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

In response to the floods in Himachal Pradesh, India, Sewa volunteers demonstrated extraordinary courage by risking their lives to provide essential medical care to those who were stranded by flood waters and were in dire need. Shyam Parande, head of Sewa International, India, said, "In the darkest hours of this natural disaster, the volunteers' unwavering dedication and bravery have shone as beacons of hope".



SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS SHED LIGHT ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Our Esteemed Speakers



Dr. Kiran Patel
Visionary healthcare entrepreneur and philanthropist



Mr. Nanda Kumar
President of Eaton's Aerospace Group



Mr. Gaurav Verma
COO of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum

Philanthropists' Summit: At the 2023 Philanthropists' Summit held on September 7, 2023, Dr. Kiran Patel distinguished charity from philanthropy to over 80 attendees, emphasizing lasting solutions and outlining impact, replicability, scalability, and sustainability as key pillars. He reiterated the importance of taking action, quoting a famous saying, "Vision with action can change the world."

Gaurav Verma, COO of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, praised Sewa's responsible resource management and collaboration during the COVID-19 crisis. Verma highlighted Sewa's professionalism and effectiveness, particularly citing the collaboration with other Indian American and Dharmic partners during the COVID-19 crisis. He pledged continued collaboration and expressed admiration for Sewa's work.

Nanda Kumar, President of Eaton's Aerospace Group, highlighted the importance of community engagement in philanthropy, citing education and homelessness as focus areas. He credited Hira Fotedar for inspiring his philanthropic journey and thanked him for his mentorship. The speakers collectively underscored the transformative power of collective action and the need for sustained philanthropic efforts in addressing societal challenges.



Partners' Summit: Sewa International hosted a “Partners' Summit” on August 20, 2023, with 80 attendees representing 50 partners. Acharya Vivek Gupta, from the Niagara Chinmaya Mission, stressed the importance of utilizing privilege for generosity. Dr. B.K. Mohan, Cardiologist and Founding Trustee of the Hindu Temple of Atlanta viewed temples as hubs of spiritual activity. Swami Boggarapu from the NRI Vasavi Association emphasized integrating Hindu heritage with non-violence. Soma Venkat from the Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation highlighted temples' role in community service. Bhuwan Pyakurel, the Bhutanese American City Council Member from Columbus, OH, shared his journey from Bhutanese refugee to city council member. Ashwini Surpur from Yoga Bharathi expressed gratitude for Sewa International's role in rehabilitation efforts. President Arun Kankani highlighted the power of collaborative synergy in partnerships. Sandeep Khadkekar, VP for Marketing, emphasized teamwork and the crucial roles of volunteers, donors, and partners.



Influencers' Summit: At the Influencers' Summit on October 28, 2023, filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri emphasized the essence of sewa (selfless service) to 150 attendees, including policymakers, media professionals, and thought leaders. A discussion, moderated by Padma Shri Prof. Subhash Kak, highlighted Sewa's global unity-focused work and its connection with the transformative impact of yoga. Gauranga Das praised Sewa's fellowship program, recommending its promotion in global educational institutions. R Jagannathan of Swarajya Magazine discussed the global impact of nonprofit organizations on narratives surrounding dharma (righteous duty) and selfless service. The session explored obstacles faced by charitable organizations rooted in the Hindu faith and proposed strategies to address them. Inputs from thought leaders such as Prof. Rajiv Srinivasan, Prof. Ramesh Rao, Padma Kuppa, and Prof. Anurag Mairal framed the dialogue. Former Michigan State Representative Padma Kuppa stressed the importance of storytelling, especially for marginalized communities like women, and advocated for unity within the Hindu and Indian diaspora. President Arun Kankani expressed gratitude for Sewa's 20 years of service in the US and highlighted initiatives like Sewa Day, with plans to expand nationwide in 2024.





ALIEF ISD HONORS SEWA INTERNATIONAL AS A DIAMOND PARTNER IN EDUCATION

The Alief Independent School District of Texas recognized Sewa International as their “Diamond Partner in Education” for 2022-2023. Sewa was praised for its exceptional support, highlighting volunteers' contributions and AmeriCorps members' active participation in various initiatives. The presence of volunteers in classrooms enriched student learning, while disaster preparedness training contributed to the safety of the entire school community. This recognition solidifies the strong bond between Sewa and the district, catalyzing educational goals and fostering community development.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

HINDU UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA HONORS RAMESH & KIRAN BHUTADA



Hindu University of America (HUA) honored Ramesh Bhutada and his wife, Kiran Bhutada, for their one million dollar donation at the Vallabh Priti Seva Samaj (VPSS) Haveli in Houston, TX, on March 26, 2023. Ramesh Butada, a Sewa Board Member and Chairman of Star Pipe Products, and Kiran Bhutada, the Chief Executive Officer of Star Pipe Products, were recognized for their generous contribution. The event, organized by HUA and Hindus of Greater Houston (HGH), was attended by over 500 guests. HUA's Chairman, Prof. Ved Prakash Nanda, and HUA President, Kalyan Viswanathan, shared insights about HUA's revival and plans.

SAMIKSHA DEME WINS ONESTAR FOUNDATION'S “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” AWARD



Samiksha Deme, a member of Sewa’s AmeriCorps team, received the National Service “Make a Difference” Award from Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, Honorary Chair of the Governor’s Volunteer Awards. Presented by OneStar Foundation, this award recognizes significant contributions to Texas communities through service. Samiksha Deme, known as Sami, joined Sewa’s Disaster Preparedness Group as an AmeriCorps Outreach Specialist, transforming disaster preparedness training for underserved individuals. With expertise in environmental science, Sami focuses on environmental justice, healthcare equity, and the intersection of natural and human-caused disasters. She also volunteers for vaccine clinics, clothing drives for Afghan refugees, and personal essentials drives for the disadvantaged, embodying the essence of sewa -- selfless service to humanity.

DR. MOHINI GEHANI HONORED



Sewa International marked the official inauguration of the Sewa Maryland Chapter with its first Maryland Sewa Milan at the Sewa Community Center in Silver Spring, MD. The event drew a gathering of about eighty people and commemorated Ram Gehani, who generously donated his entire wealth to establish an endowment fund for Sewa International. Dr. Sudhir Sekseria and Dr. Mohini Gehani shared insights into Ram Gehani’s work and ideals. The organizers also felicitated Dr. Mohini Gehani, recognizing her late husband's extraordinary contributions.



NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ramesh Bhutada (Chairman)
- Sridhar Talanki (Director)
- Sarojini Gupta (Director)
- Ajay Singhal (Director)
- Dr.Suresh Jain (Director)

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- Prof. Radheshyam Dwivedi
- Dr. Manohar Shinde
- Dr.Mukesh Goel
- Sachin Kulkarni
- Dr. Arti Gehani
- Avdhesh Agarwal

FORMER PRESIDENTS

- Srikanth Konda
- Gautam Desai
- Prof. Sree N Sreenath

NATIONAL ADVISORS

- Amit Misra
- Dhiren Shah
- Girish Mehta
- Saumitra Gokhale
- Srinarayan Chandak
- Yashwant Pathak
- Venkatesh Murthy
- Shyam Parande

Sewa International NATIONAL TEAM 2023

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

- Arun Kankani, President
- Venkat Santhanaraman, VP Finance
- Ashwani Garg, VP Administration
- Syam Kosigi, VP Organization
- Sandeep Khadkekar, VP Marketing Fund Development
- Anil Deshpande, VP Technology Services
- Swadesh Katoch, VP Int. Pgm & Disaster Relief
- Prem Pusuloori, VP Projects & Programs
- Srikanth Gundavarapu, VP Fund Development
- Rakhi Israni, VP Govt. Relations
- Kirthi Jain, Director, Finance and Control
- Viswanath Koppaka, Director, of Marketing
- Vidyasagar Tontalapur, Director, Communications
- Vasudev Singh, Director, Grants
- Gopakumar Krishnapillai, Director, Donor Relations
- Rakesh Pathak, Director, IT Operations
- Bhaskar Enaganti, Director, Technology
- Mitesh Rathore, Director, Administration
- Swarup Kurella, Director, Northeast Region
- Vikas Arora, Director, Southeast Region
- Prasad Koranne, Director, Central Region
- Guru Prasad, Director, West Region

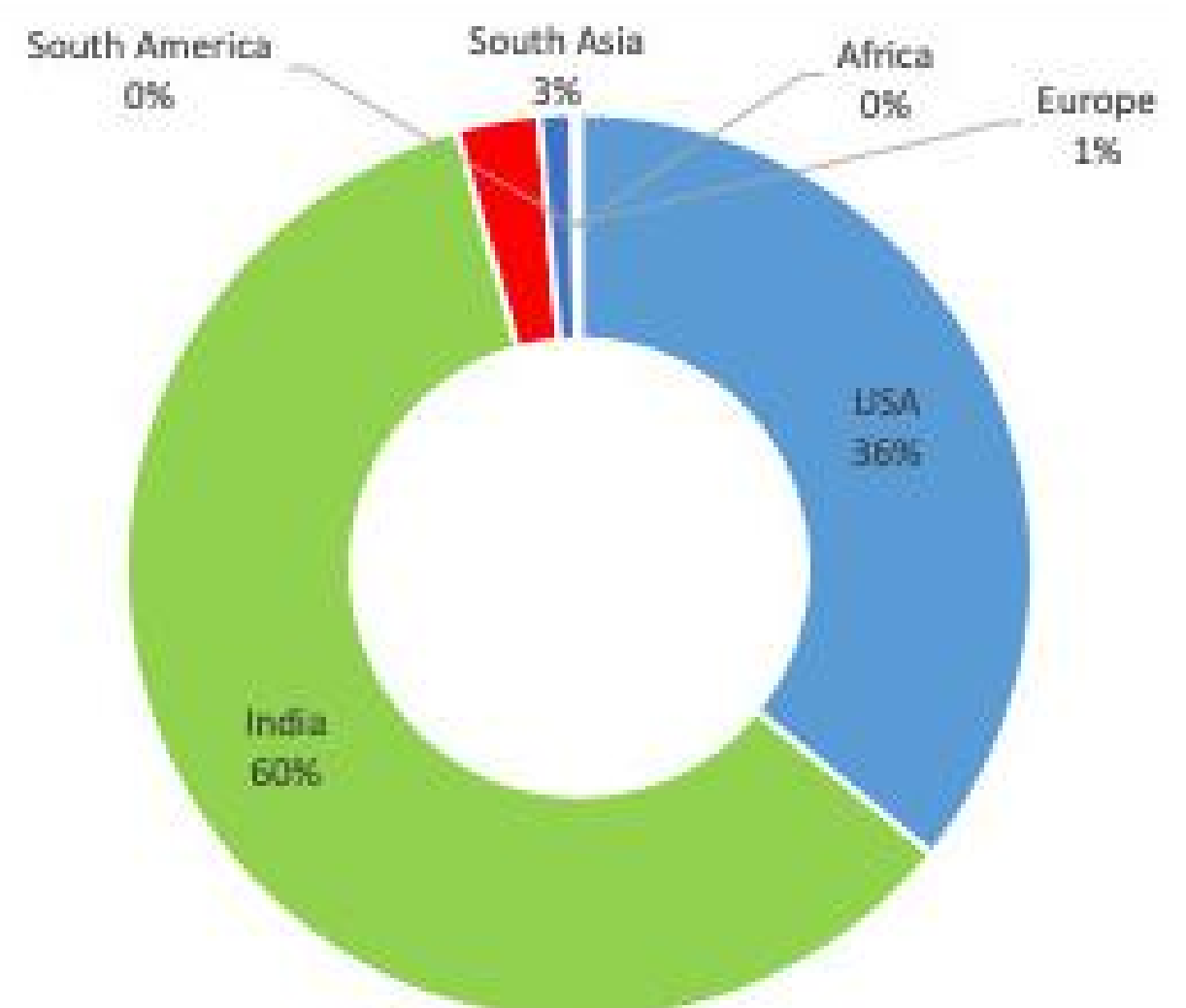
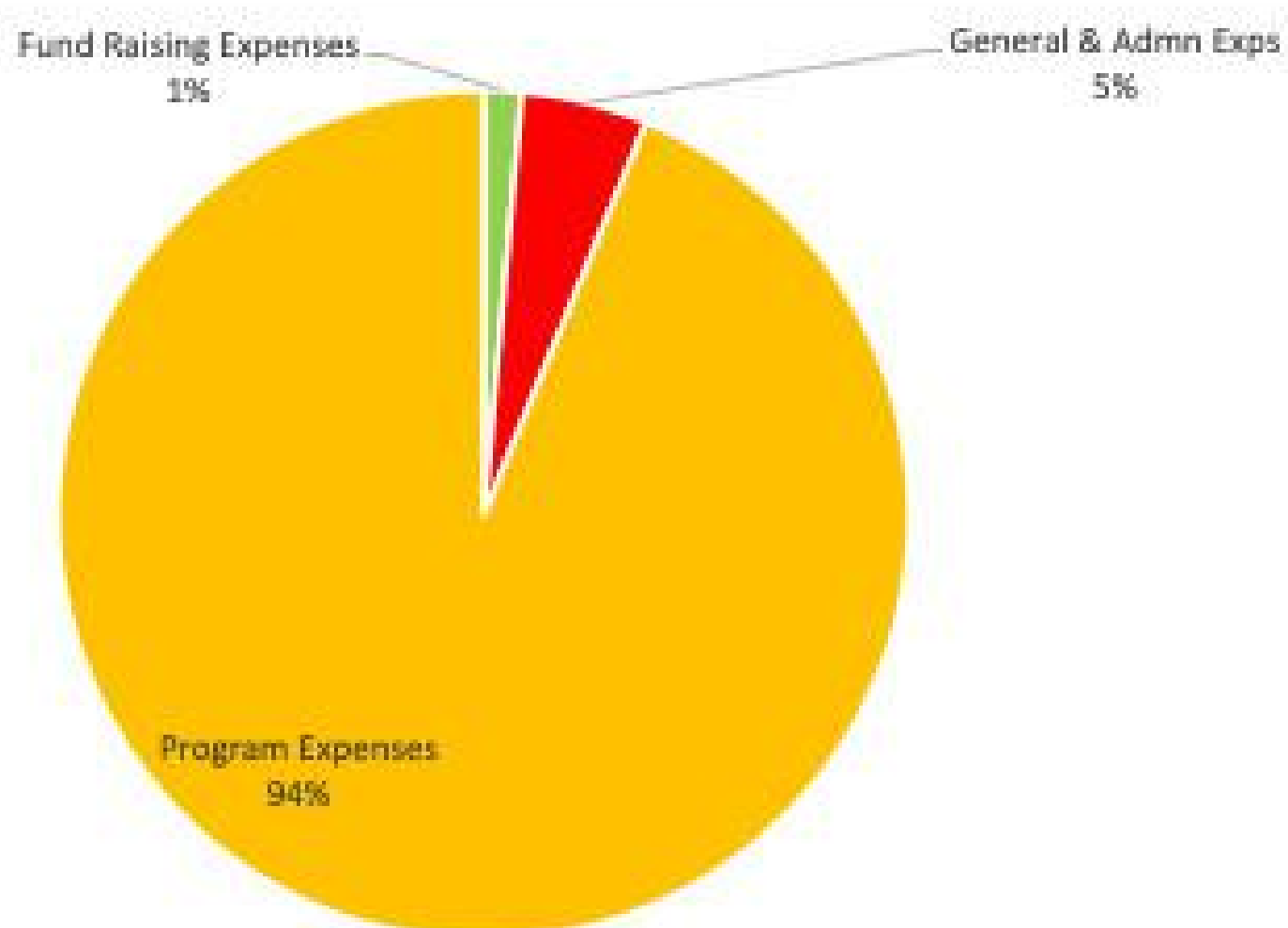
FINANCIAL REPORT 1ST QTR 2024 (UNAUDITED)

BALANCE SHEET

Opening Fund balance(Net of liabilities) : \$28,774,404
 Closing Fund balance (Net of liabilities) : \$23,384,289

INCOME STATEMENT

Income	:	\$6,319,500
In Kind Donations	:	\$1,793,034
Total Income	:	\$8,112,534
Expenses		
.....		
Fund Raising Expenses	:	\$138,931
General & Admn Exps	:	\$466,082
Program Expenses	:	\$9,079,836
.....		
Total Expenses	:	\$9,684,849



FINANCIAL REPORT 1ST QTR 2024 (UNAUDITED)

BALANCE SHEET

Opening Fund balance(Net of liabilities) : \$23,384,289
 Closing Fund balance (Net of liabilities) : \$26,301,936

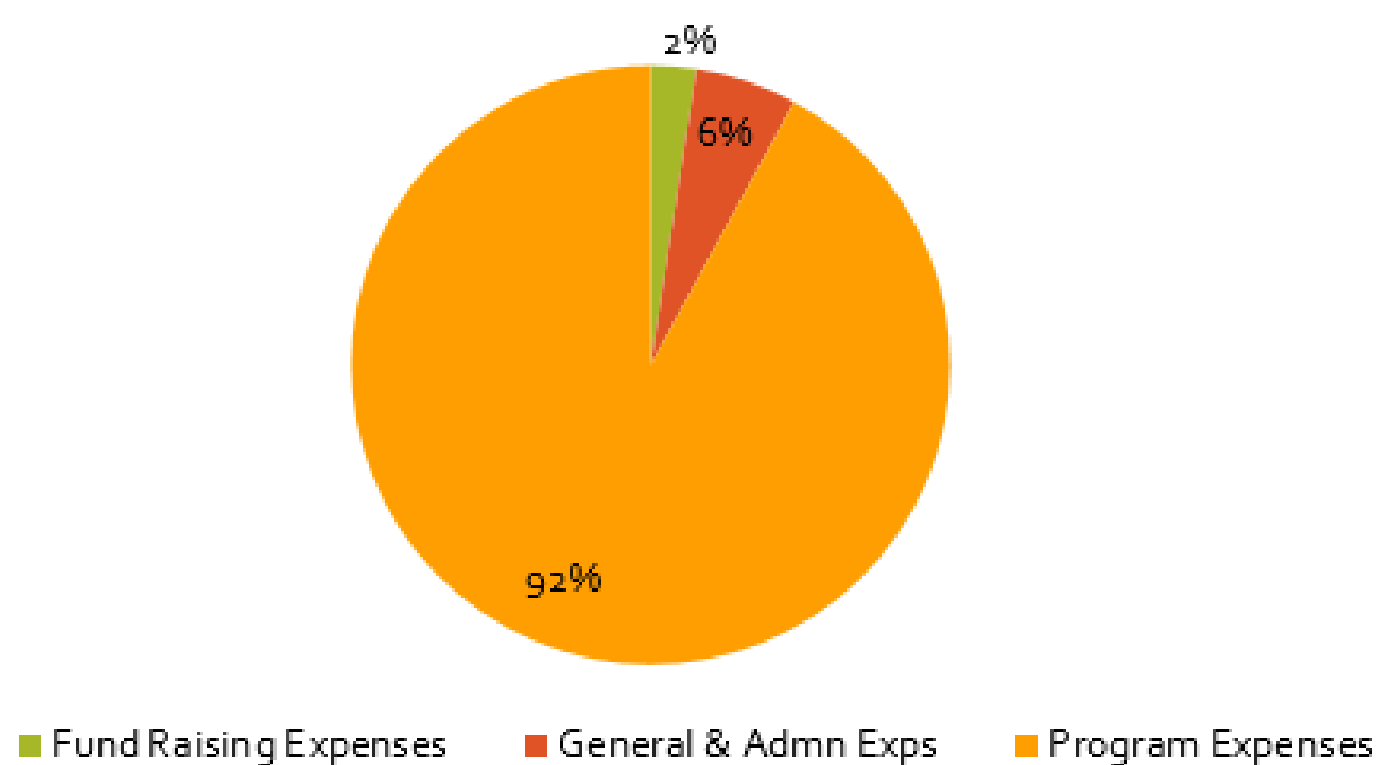
INCOME STATEMENT

Income	:	\$7,834,179
In Kind Donations	:	\$21,648
Total Income	:	\$7,855,827
Expenses		

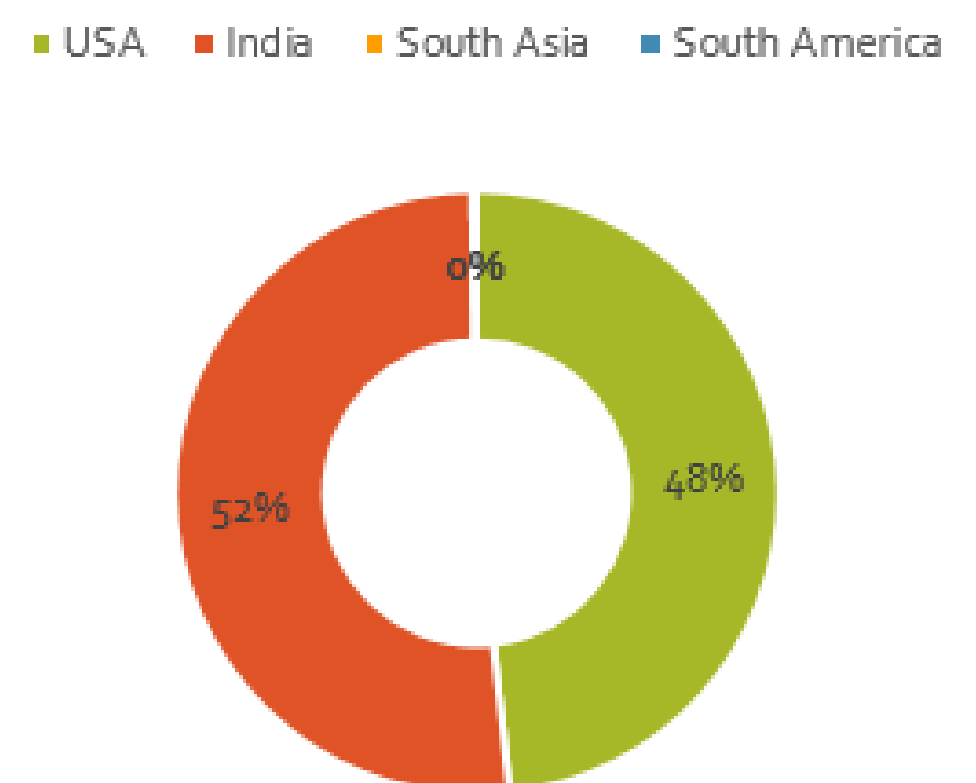
Fund Raising Expenses	:	\$161,126
General & Admn Exps	:	\$364,621
Program Expenses	:	\$6,093,394

Total Expenses	:	\$6,619,141

Program Expense Details FY 24



Program by Country



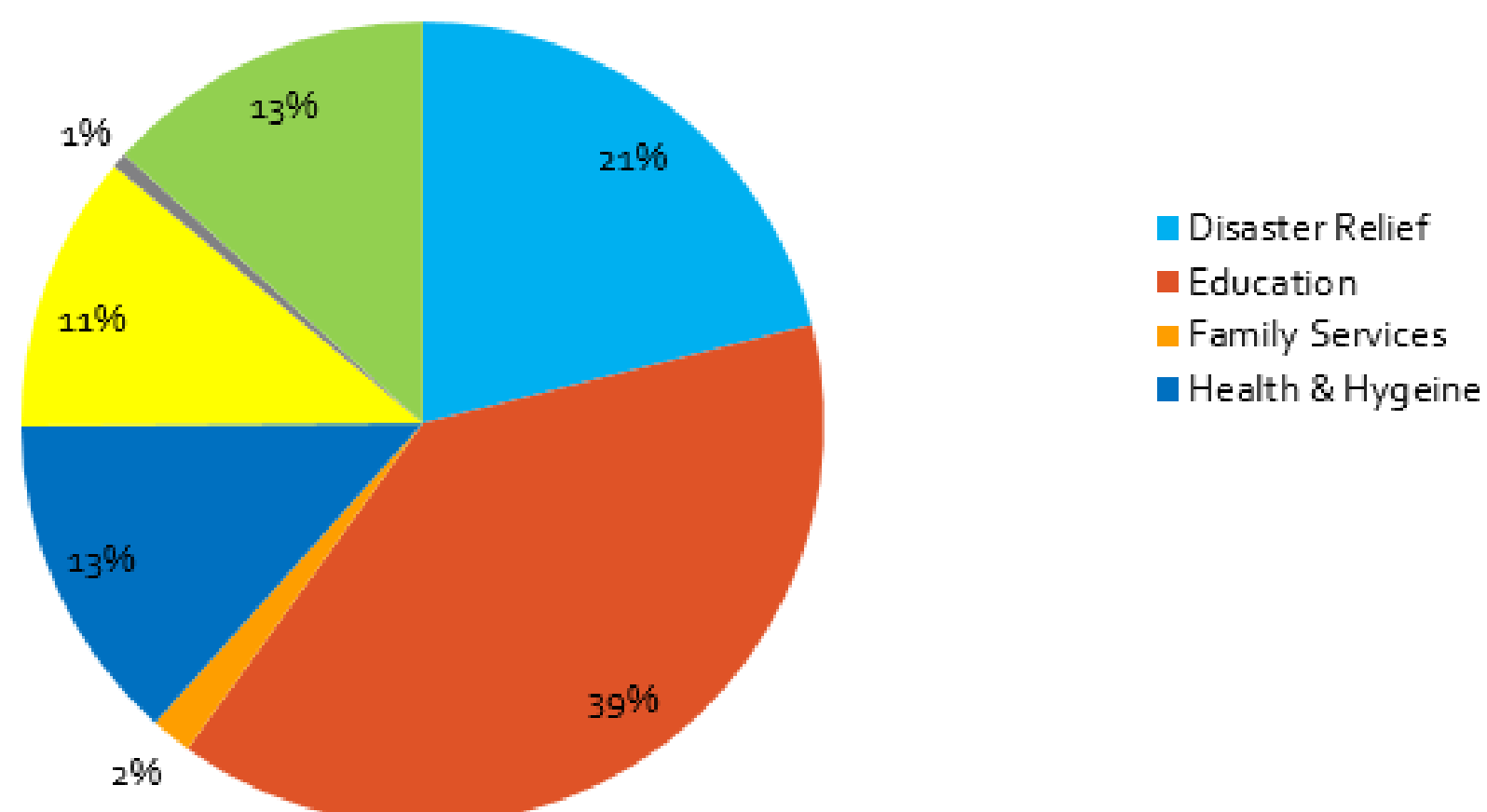
PROGRAM EXPENSES BY COUNTRY

USA	:	\$2,940,500
India	:	\$3,138,805
South Asia	:	\$9,089
South America	:	\$5,000
TOTAL	:	\$6,093,394

PROGRAM EXPENSES BY THEME

Disaster Relief	:	\$1,282,895
Education	:	\$2,371,008
Family Services	:	\$99,910
Health & Hygiene	:	\$809,714
Other Projects	:	\$680,440
Rural Development	:	\$36,746
Volunteer Development	:	\$812,681
TOTAL	:	\$6,093,394

Program Expenses by Projects





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