

# Welcome to our story

[www.projecthelpindia.co](http://www.projecthelpindia.co)



Annual Report 2022



# Our Vision

Through relationships and respectful community engagement, we bring a message of love, dignity and purpose to people living in urban slums and very remote and isolated rural mountain villages.

We focus on education, nutrition and human rights, so that individual lives are impacted, empowered and restored. We seek to bring about holistic community change and generational transformation.

## **In 2022 we helped and cared for people who were**

- marginalised
- vulnerable
- hungry
- in desperate need
- suffering from leprosy
- in crisis

## **To do this we**

- reached slum and village communities with a population of approximately 10 000 people.
- worked in 3 cities, across 3 states of India.
- had 500 students enrolled in our schools and Disability Centre.
- held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SHINE Women's Empowerment Conference.
- employed 28 local staff.



**In 2022  
we served  
118 000  
meals to  
children.**

As well as the education they receive, each one of our students is given a daily nutritious meal. We employ a cook at each of our centres.

For most of these children this is their main meal for the day.

## Helping the poorest of the poor

Project Help India holistically addresses the issues facing India's poorest of the poor, the Dalits, otherwise known as the 'untouchables'. The human rights of these people are severely challenged. These slum and village communities struggle with an under-resourced education system, exploitation, addictions, human trafficking and domestic violence.

## The power of education

Our work centres around education. Many of our students would otherwise not go to school and instead would be begging, flossicking or involved in child labour. We connect with these children's families, providing parenting programs, counselling and guidance. Through this we strive to impact lives by breaking the cycle of inequality and intergenerational poverty.

## Project Help India is an entirely local enterprise

We are praised by community leaders and works closely with police and the local government to deliver social services. A local board of governance oversees all programs. Project Help India employs only local teachers, administration and support staff.



**Top:** student dance performance at our Annual Function celebration in November.

**Bottom:** students participating in World Environment Day 2022 community service projects.



**Above:** In February we celebrated the girls at SHINE 22. Our local team did a brilliant job.  
**Below:** In June 50 kids started school for the very first time at Village Dalernaga.



# Achievement of key targets and initiatives in 2022

The following targets and initiatives were identified in the 2022 Annual Report and we are pleased to report what was achieved.

- ✓ Hold our annual SHINE Conference
- ✓ Be responsive to opportunities to start new schools in locations for children who are marginalised, vulnerable and who do not go to school
- ✓ Direct greater funds towards the meals we provide our students.
- ✓ Deliver parent and community awareness education programs
- ✓ Respond to needs of vulnerable families impacted by poverty
- ✓ Prioritise the wellbeing, health and safety of our staff

## Our Governance

'Project Help India' (a unit of Panah Foundation) is a non-government organisation registered with the Indian Government. Our Board membership is comprised of the following respected citizens and community leaders from Kotdwara and neighbouring towns:

- **President and Director:** Amit Samuel
- **General Secretary:** Daisy Samuel
- **Treasurer:** James Singh
- **Board Member:** Narendra Hamilton
- **Board Member:** Vishal Singh
- **Board Member:** Ester Dass

The Board of Panah Foundation meets four times a year and the address of the Panah Foundation office is registered with the Indian Government. Our finances are monitored and audited annually in accordance with stringent Indian Government FCRA regulations.



**This is a mother of 3 kids who attend our Bijnor Centre. Her family lives in terrible poverty, sharing one broken bed with a leaking roof over their head. In 2022 we made emergency repairs to their house, purchased new beds, blankets and new kitchen utensils. In 2022 we provided crisis care to a number of families in similar situations.**

# Honour and Recognition

In January our General Secretary, Daisy Samuel received prestigious recognition for her work in the community, and was acknowledged;

Normally a politician would receive this award but this year, Daisy was asked to be the Guest of Honour at a Hindu sacred moment - the re-enactment of the story of Rameela. 430 people attended the performance, and the hall was full of loud applause as Daisy entered.



*“Daisy is the face of women’s empowerment for the people of Kotdwara.”*





It was also a great honour and privilege for our Director Mr. Amit Samuel to be invited to Dehradun by the National Commission for Minorities for their organised event on the occasion of 'Minorities Rights Day.' This day is observed annually on 18 December to promote the rights and raise awareness of minority communities in India.

This year the event was hosted by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami, who said that Project Help is highly regarded as an organisation that continuously cares for needy children and people, and has continued to excel and deliver a valuable service to the community after the pandemic. He thanked us for supporting and enhancing the social priorities of the Uttarakhand State Government, and looks forward to partnering further with us.



***“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”***

***Chief Minister, Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami***

# Three new centres for vulnerable kids in isolated places

Project Help India provides education, health and community advocacy programs to people in Kotdwara, Bijnor and surrounding isolated areas of Northern India. In June 2022 we opened a new centre in Village Dalernaga for 50 children who had never attended school before.

In November we also funded 2 other new centres in far Western Punjab with over 100 students attending. As part of our work with this community we have also delivered a medical camp and drug awareness lessons for the children as well as parenting seminars and a women's hygiene awareness education program for the mums.



Commencing in November Project Help India began working with a small and neglected population group in the Gatti District - an isolated and very dangerous area due to its proximity to the Indian - Pakistani border. Little has changed in this area for the past 75 years. Access to services is available only possible by crossing the river by boat (at a fee), and this does not operate during the monsoon season. Most families do not have the money to regularly cross this wide river so therefore most children do not attend a school. These kids, like their parents, are illiterate and uneducated. The area is heavily patrolled by the military, especially by drones. Children and young people are preyed upon by local mafia, seeking to get them addicted, caught in a vicious cycle of exploitation and ultimately crime. Education and the safety provided by a school are key for combating these sinister forces, and keeping these vulnerable children safe.

# Our Disability Centre

In 2022, 14 children were are enrolled in our Disability Centre located in the Kotdwara slums. These children would not attend a school if it was not for Project Help. We are thankful for their unique gifts and beautiful personalities. These kids make our lives richer. It is indeed a privilege to help and care for them and be inspired by their courage, their determination and resilience in the face of incredible challenge and daily adversity.

We are incredibly grateful for the many people whose compassion and generosity make it possible for us to fund our Disability Centre. In 2022 we;

- ✓ Relocated to larger and safer premises in the slum
- ✓ Refurbished and resourced the new classroom
- ✓ Rescued one of our students from a kidnapping attempt
- ✓ Our students delivered a fabulous dance performance at our Annual Function in November, to the delight of their parents, our staff, and guests.
- ✓ Were praised by State Government Ministers with many news items in various newspapers – suggesting it is a model for other community initiatives
- ✓ Gave each of our students received a warm jumper for Christmas
- ✓ We engaged with the local community in the city of Bijnor to assess the need for another centre. At this point it has been deemed to not be needed.
- ✓ Celebrated 'International Day of Disabled Persons' with cake, presents & singing



# Our Anti-Trafficking Work

Our work in Anti-Human Trafficking is one aspect of the 'holistic' nature of our mission to care for children. The main areas of vulnerability for the kids that we work with are sex trafficking, forced hard labour, forced and under age marriage and organ harvesting. Our efforts mostly focus on education, awareness programs and counselling to victims and impacted individuals.

We also work closely in partnership with the local police responding to situations specific to the children and families who attend our education centres, or who are known members of the slum communities and villages where we work. Organised crime syndicates (mafia) prey on vulnerable slum kids and they also target parents who may be unemployed, alcoholics, addicts or living in desperate circumstances. To sell your child for as little as \$50 with the promise of a better life for them, can be an easy trap.

Project help works hard to keep our students safe from these people -many of whom are also ensnared in a vicious web caused by their own circumstance of poverty. This is why our staff are visible and highly engaged in community life.

## What we do

- ✓ We support and provide assistance where possible to the under resourced Uttarakhand State Police Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. The police worked closely with our team to deliver 16 school, college and community awareness programs
- ✓ We also deliver information seminars to the parents of our students.
- ✓ Approximately 6000 students attended these workshops
- ✓ We transported the police between venues, providing refreshments and equipment such as data projectors and sound systems.
- ✓ Our teachers at each of our centres provide regular safety lessons to all of our students. Sensitive and unsettling content for children is presented in a caring, age-appropriate way.
- ✓ We duly note that 16 children were rescued over the past 12 months by the Police Team in Kotdwara.

# Operation Mukti

During the month of September, in partnership with the Government Railway Police, some of the Project Help team travelled to the Haridwar Train Station – a renowned busy place where religious pilgrims, travellers and tourists gather and where vulnerable children beg. Operation Mukti identified and worked alongside 25 children. These kids would normally spend the day begging by the railway, fossicking for recyclable rubbish with many preyed upon to work with local mafia gangs. Many of the girls are sexually abused too, which then ultimately leads to their involvement in prostitution.

- ✓ Through counselling and an intervention program 12 of the kids were enrolled in a local school. We know from previous experience that starting school plays a vital role in ensuring children's safety and long-term positive life outcomes. The police will ensure that these kids are monitored and supported over time.
- ✓ Project Help India gave them each a school bag with school books, stationery items and some chocolate too.



# Women's Sewing Centre

Our Women's Sewing Centre provides a six-month vocational program for vulnerable young women (aged 16 to 35) from the Kotdwara slum area. Some of these women were once students at our Education Centre, and some of them are mothers of some of the kids who currently attend our slum centres.

The lessons provide the opportunity for the women to receive group counselling, guidance and support as they face the challenges of a life of poverty. As we understand their personal circumstances, we are able to respond to situations to ensure for their ongoing safety and wellbeing.



✓ In 2022, twenty women attended morning lessons which run for 2 hours, five days a week. As well as receiving sewing skills, course participants receive counselling and are also supported and coached in starting a small business.

# Our key targets for 2023

## 1. Education targets

→ We seek to be responsive to opportunities to start new schools in locations for children who are marginalised, vulnerable and who do not go to school. These include slums, remote jungle areas and children with disabilities.

→ We continue to look for a suitable location to commence a new Disability Centre in Bijnor

→ Further improve our centres in Kotdwara and Bijnor, and to do this we are focussing on teacher training, improving our classroom facilities, and where possible, leasing better and safer places for our centres.

## 2. Delivery of Parent and Community Awareness Education Programs

These include anti-drugs, disability awareness, health and hygiene, child protection and personal safety, parenting courses, anti-addiction, leadership, environment and the importance of a child's education.

Anti-human trafficking awareness seminars, programs and interventions to be delivered in partnership with the local police.

## 3. Preparedness for extreme weather events or other crises

Those living in poverty are the most vulnerable and the local authorities come to us for help. Annually we budget funds for this need.

## 4. Growth and Expansion

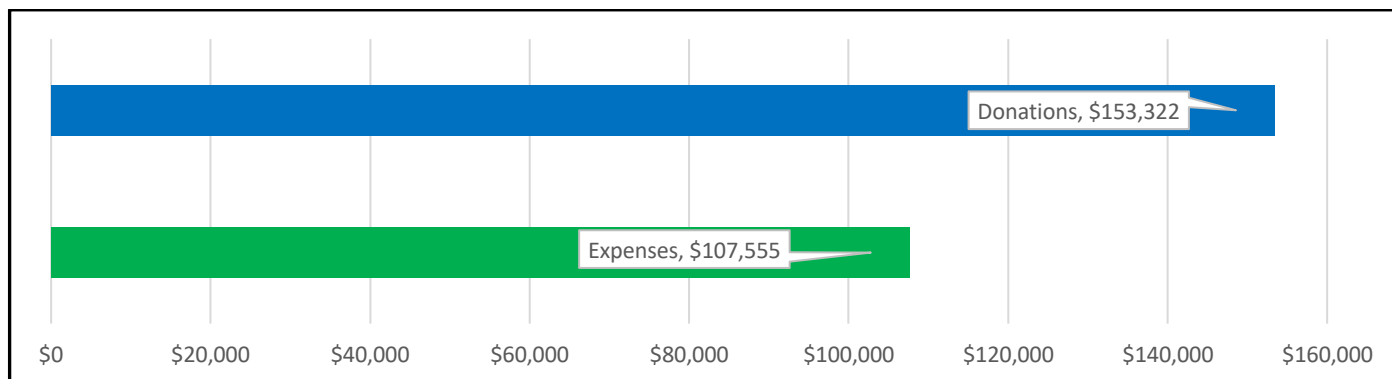
→ We will consider how we can better support and grow our work in Western Punjab.

→ We continue to prepare our application to directly transfer funds to Project help India, compliant with Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). This will save administration costs that we currently pay to a third party, who accepts international transfers on our behalf.

# Our Finances Donations & Expenses

Donations in 2022 were \$153,322

Expenses in 2022 were \$107,555



## Donations

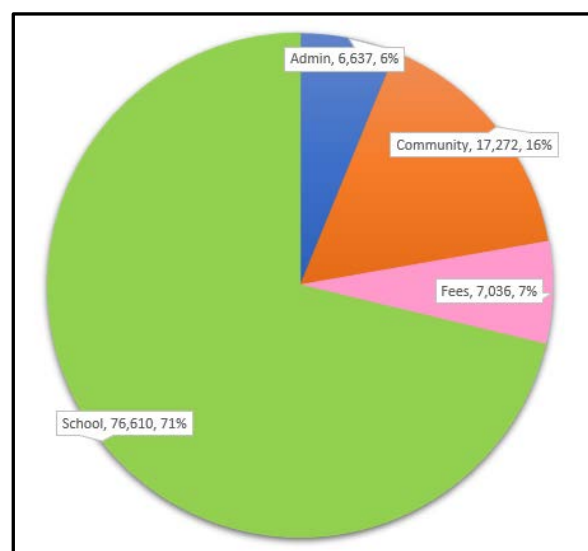
→ Donations decreased by 31% from 2021 (or 10% excluding the \$51 000 prize received in 2021).

→ There were 180 tax-deductible donations which were 74% of total donations. Non tax-deductible donations totalled \$39,871 (26%).

## How Your Donations were Spent

→ 87.5% of donations went directly to schools, programs and community services, being the main focus of the mission of Project Help India.

→ 12.5% of donations were spent on administrative expenses, international transfer expenses and government fees.

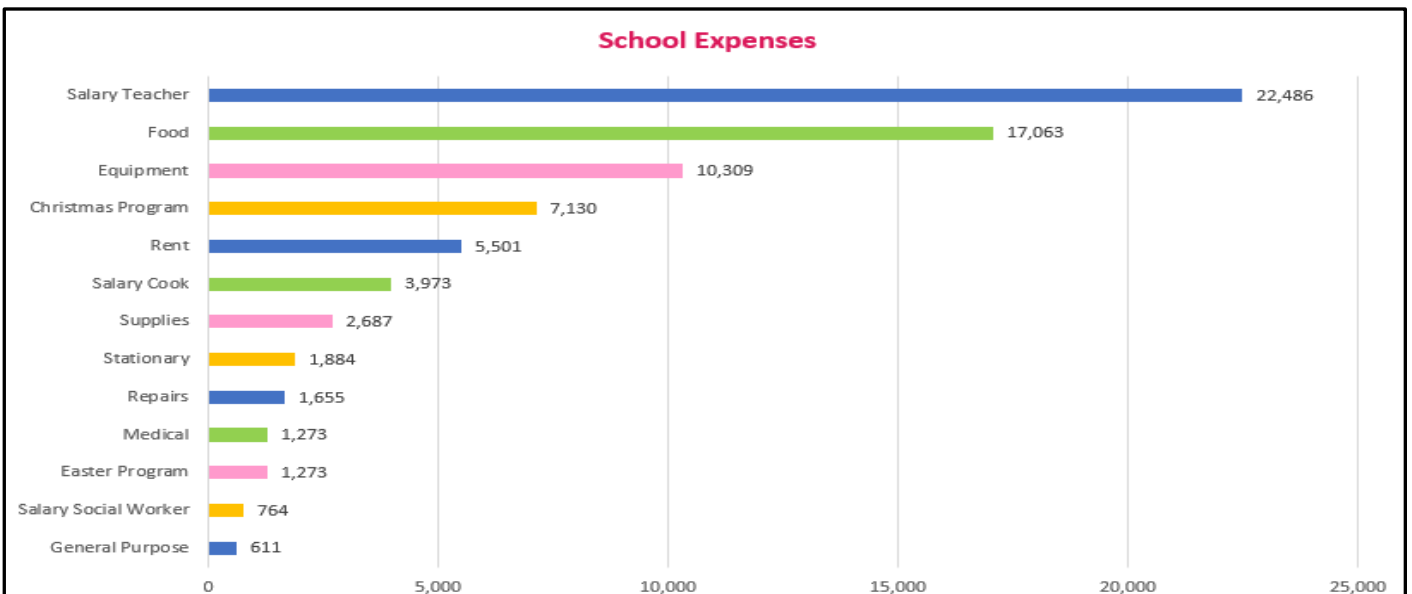
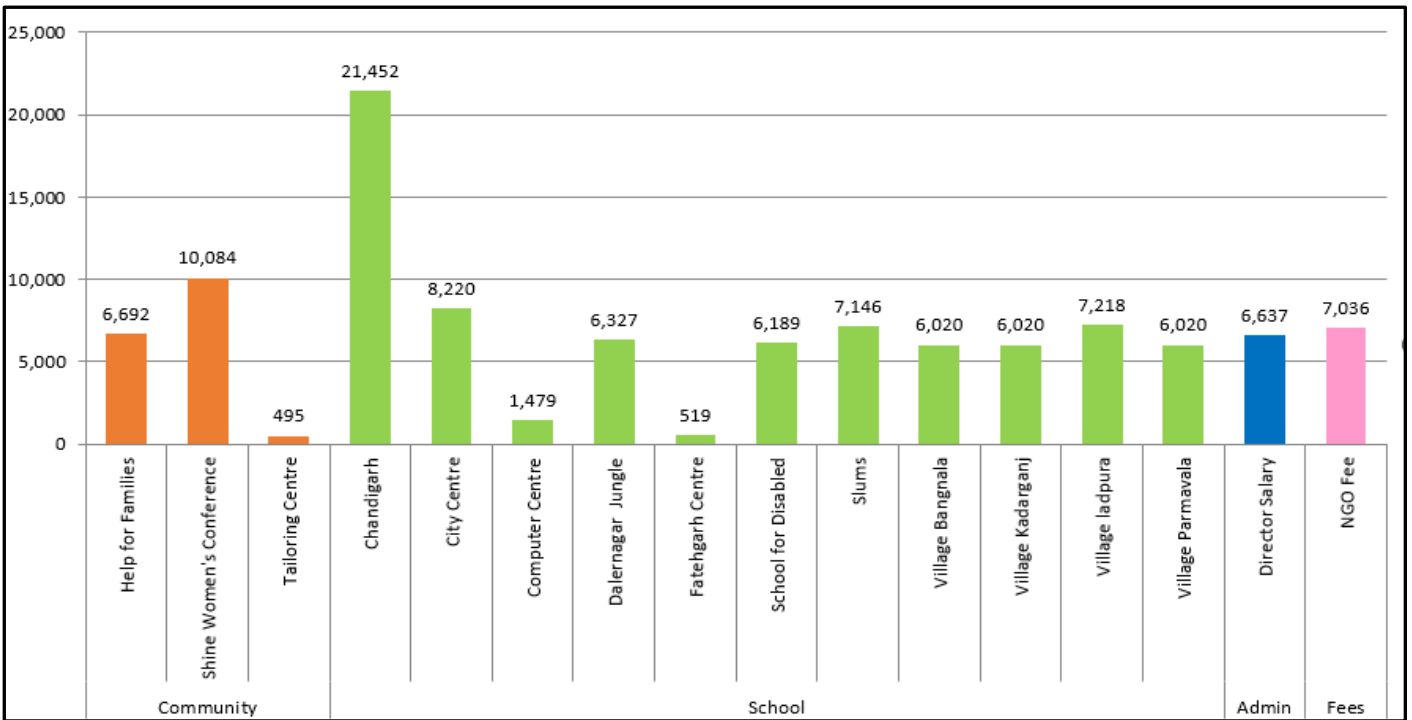
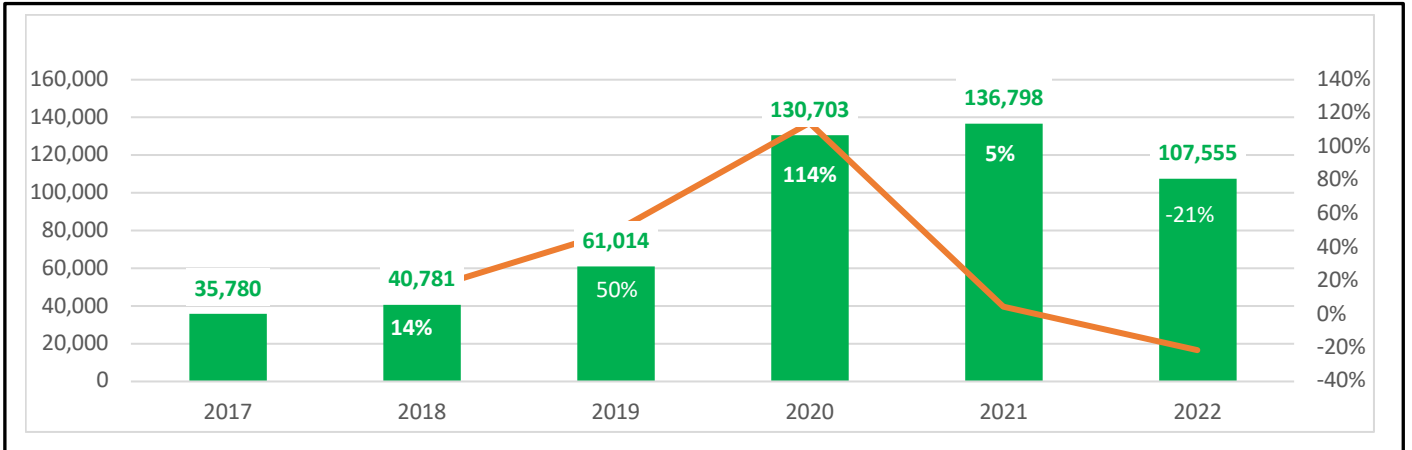


**your kindness +  
compassion +  
generosity +  
= impact**



# Expenses over time

Our expenses in 2022 decreased by \$29,242 (21%) from 2021.



**We seek to learn from the people we help and get alongside.**

**We listen to their stories.**

**We celebrate our differences, earning respect and building trust as we live together in community.**

**love**

**hope**

**purpose**

**The people we help are filled with love, gratitude and appreciation for you.**

# Thank you for joining our story

We are indebted to many people, in India, Australia, and around the world who support our work. Your encouragement and generosity make all that we do possible. Please consider making a donation and become a regular supporter.

Your **tax-deductible donation** can be made from our website or follow this link to our [GDG project page](#) where you can make your payment in the following ways;

Secure credit card donation

PAYPAL

Direct Bank EFT Transfer



Please consider setting up ongoing regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

## Bank Transfer

*(not tax-deductible)*

**Account Name:** Project Help India

**BSB:** 062 230

**Account:** 1134 1909

Please include your name in the reference section.

## Contact us

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[www.projecthelpindia.co](http://www.projecthelpindia.co)

**love + hope + purpose**  
**= lives changed**



A woman wearing a bright orange sari and a matching headscarf is sitting on a concrete step. She is smiling warmly at the camera. Her hands are clasped in her lap. She is wearing simple sandals. The background shows a blue door and a wall with peeling paint.

**It is a gift to share our story with you...**

The people we work alongside are known as the Dalits or the untouchables – they are exploited and vulnerable. We dream of a better life for them, we advocate for them and fight for their rights. 'Project Help India' is all about friendship, learning and growing with each other. As we get to know these amazing people, we also learn about ourselves. And as we bring **love, hope, dignity and purpose** to their lives and circumstances, our lives are changed and we become better people.

**Isn't this what the world needs?**

**[www.projecthelpindia.co](http://www.projecthelpindia.co)**

**ABN: 2783093533**