

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



NOURISH.
STRENGTHEN.
EMPOWER.



ACROSS THE PAGES

Impact Snapshot of the Year	02
Message from the Chairperson	04
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	06
About Action Against Hunger	08
Core Components	09
Our Presence	10
Our Intervention Model	12
New Interventions	16
Regional Highlights	19
Our Events	36
Monitoring, Evaluation, Adaption & Learning	40
Knowledge Sharing	42
Human Resources	44
Our Ambassadors	46
Our Partners	47
Board of Directors	48
Financial Profile	50
Glossary	52

NOURISH. STRENGTHEN. EMPOWER.



At Action Against Hunger, our goal is concisely captured in the powerful tagline 'Nourish. Strengthen. Empower.' This guiding principle drives our commitment to addressing the complex challenges of hunger and malnutrition.

Nourish: We believe that nourishment goes beyond providing food; it is about ensuring access to nutritious meals that promote health and development. By tackling the root causes of food insecurity, we aim to enhance the well-being of vulnerable communities through sustainable agricultural practices and education on diverse diets.

Strengthen: Strengthening communities is essential for resilience. We equip individuals with skills and knowledge through training programs, fostering local partnerships that enhance community capabilities. This collaborative approach ensures that communities

can effectively navigate challenges and build a sustainable future.

Empower: Empowerment is a transformative process. We advocate for equitable food systems and work to amplify the voices of those we serve. By enabling individuals to participate actively in the fight against hunger, we uplift families and strengthen regional economies, creating a more cohesive society.

Through these interconnected pillars, Action Against Hunger is dedicated to creating lasting change. By nourishing bodies, strengthening communities, and empowering individuals, we are building a future where everyone can thrive. In embodying 'Nourish. Strengthen. Empower,' we are not just fighting hunger; we are fostering a world rich in opportunities for all.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AN IMPACTFUL YEAR

6,90,264

Total population reached

1,312

Villages reached

44,425

Pregnant & lactating women reached

90,816

Home visits conducted

69,213

Screenings of children under the age of 5

6,367

Group discussions & demonstrations conducted

6,085

Malnourished children referred and treated

2,907

Children cured

33

Vermicompost beds set up





5,186

Telephonic
counselings

318

Nutri-gardens
developed

5,749

Frontline workers
trained

78

Tippy taps
installed

91

Poultry units
installed

46

Anganwadi centers
refurbished

642

PRI members
sensitized

3,142

Anganwadi centers
covered

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



“

Through the unwavering dedication of our teams, partners, and supporters, we have made significant progress in creating sustainable solutions that empower communities and transform lives.



Dear Friends & Partners,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the Annual Report for 2023-24, as Chairperson of Action Against Hunger India and our international network. This report not only highlights the impact of our work but also underscores the resilience, innovation, and steadfast commitment that drive our mission to eradicate hunger and malnutrition worldwide.

The financial year 2023-24 has been a remarkable chapter in our journey. In a world confronting the complex challenges of climate change, geopolitical instability, and economic inequality, our collective efforts have reached new heights. Through the unwavering dedication of our teams, partners, and supporters, we have made significant progress in creating sustainable solutions that empower communities and transform lives.

As we strive toward the **Sustainable Development Goal of 'Zero Hunger' by 2030**, it is clear that achieving this vision requires renewed efforts and commitment. While challenges persist in many regions, this presents a vital opportunity to strengthen international collaboration and mobilize greater financial support to make meaningful progress.

In this context, we recognize the crucial role India's non-profit sector plays in advancing the nation's goal of becoming a USD 5 Trillion economy by 2025. Our work is deeply aligned with this vision, harnessing the growth potential of one of the world's fastest-growing economies. India's robust economic trajectory continues to inspire hope, motivating our initiatives and amplifying their impact in fostering sustainable development.

Our programs in India have been vital in addressing the nutritional needs of the last-mile populations, strengthening local capacities, and driving long-term systemic change. From empowering grassroots initiatives to utilising cutting-edge research, we have ensured that our interventions are impactful and enduring. On a global scale, our network has extended its reach, supporting millions as they move closer to a healthier future.

In 2023-24, we are proud to have reached 21 million people through our global Action Against Hunger network. With the support of 9,000 dedicated professionals across 59 countries, we delivered vital assistance to those facing hunger, malnutrition, and crisis. Our work spanned Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, where we provided life-saving support, including the treatment of over 7,00,000 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

9,000
Dedicated professionals across **59 countries**

As we celebrate this year's achievements, we are also acutely aware of the work that lies ahead. I am deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, and supporters for their tireless dedication, and to the communities we serve for their trust and resilience. I would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude to each and every donor for their incredible generosity and support. Thanks to you, we are able to make a real difference in their lives, offering not just aid, but the promise of a brighter, healthier future.

Let us sustain this momentum and reaffirm our commitment to a world where every mother and child has access to good health and well-being.

With gratitude,

Ashwini Kakkar

Chairperson

Action Against Hunger India

Action Against Hunger International

21 million

People reached through our global **Action Against Hunger** network

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



“

At Action Against Hunger India, our work is rooted in the unwavering belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy and dignified life.



Dear Friends & Partners,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we have made together in our mission to work toward a healthier India and uplift hard-to-reach communities. At Action Against Hunger India, our work is rooted in the unwavering belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy and dignified life.

Over the past year, we have reached **6,90,264** individuals, impacting lives across **1,312** villages. Our interventions spanned **90,816** home visits, **69,213** screenings for children under five, and support for **44,425** pregnant and lactating women. Through these efforts, **6,085** malnourished children were referred and treated, with a recovery rate of **2,907** children. These numbers represent the heart of our mission and the tangible difference we are making.

Our approach to tackling malnutrition is both comprehensive and innovative. Guided by our pillars of Nutrition & Health, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), and Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL), we implemented programs that empower communities to take ownership of their health and well-being. This year, we piloted innovative solutions like **MAAP**, an application that allows mothers and families to independently assess their children's nutritional status using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) method and expanded **Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)** units to improve neonatal care outcomes.

We also addressed systemic challenges, such as anemia among adolescent girls, through **Project Shubharambh** in Sanand, Gujarat, which combines testing, treatment, and community engagement to create lasting change. These projects reflect our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and community empowerment.

This annual report reflects our unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and grassroots impact. It showcases the scope of our routine programs and strategic initiatives, highlighting the responsible use of resources and the progress we have made.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and supporters for standing with us. Together, we are planting the seeds of change, nurturing hope, and empowering communities to build a resilient and equitable future. Thank you for your steadfast belief in our mission—we look forward to reaching even greater milestones together.

As we look to the future, I am energized by the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to **nourish** the potential of communities, **strengthen** systems that support resilience, and **empower** individuals to lead healthier lives.

With gratitude and determination,

Vinay Iyer

Chief Executive Officer



Action Against Hunger India



About Action Against Hunger

FOSTERING A HEALTHIER INDIA



 Our goal is to foster a thriving nation by enhancing the nutritional well-being of both children and mothers. 



At Action Against Hunger, we drive change from the ground up, aiming to cultivate a healthier world.

Since inception in 1979, our work has impacted the lives of 21 Million individuals through a network of 9,000 humanitarian professionals across 59 countries. In India, our operations from the grassroots upwards, are focused on taking decisive action to create a healthier nation.

In India, we are one of the few NGOs focusing specifically on maternal and child health with various nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. Our teams engage with communities in remote and hard-to-reach areas, identifying and addressing nutritional challenges in children.

We empower mothers and families with knowledge and awareness so they can see their children grow up strong and for whole communities to prosper.

We operate in 1,312 villages in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

 We save lives and build resilient communities. 



Our Contribution to the Global Goals

We are strongly committed to collective, inclusive, and concerted action, and to working together with new and long-time partners in our global community to contribute to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





MULTI-DIMENSIONAL FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

Our programs are anchored in a community-first philosophy. With careful planning and technology-driven evaluations, we delve into the fundamental causes of malnutrition, its severity, and the influence of our interventions. Through our all-encompassing 'First 1,000 Days+ of Life Program' Program, we combat malnutrition along three fundamental pillars: Treatment, Prevention, and Endurance.

Our core components encompass three broad pillars:



Treatment

We focus on the early identification of malnutrition within communities. Children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) receive home-based treatment, while those with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are referred to the nearest Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC). Our approach emphasizes continuous follow-up, counseling, and engagement with families at both community and facility levels to ensure adherence to treatment, promote faster recovery, and prevent relapse.



Prevention

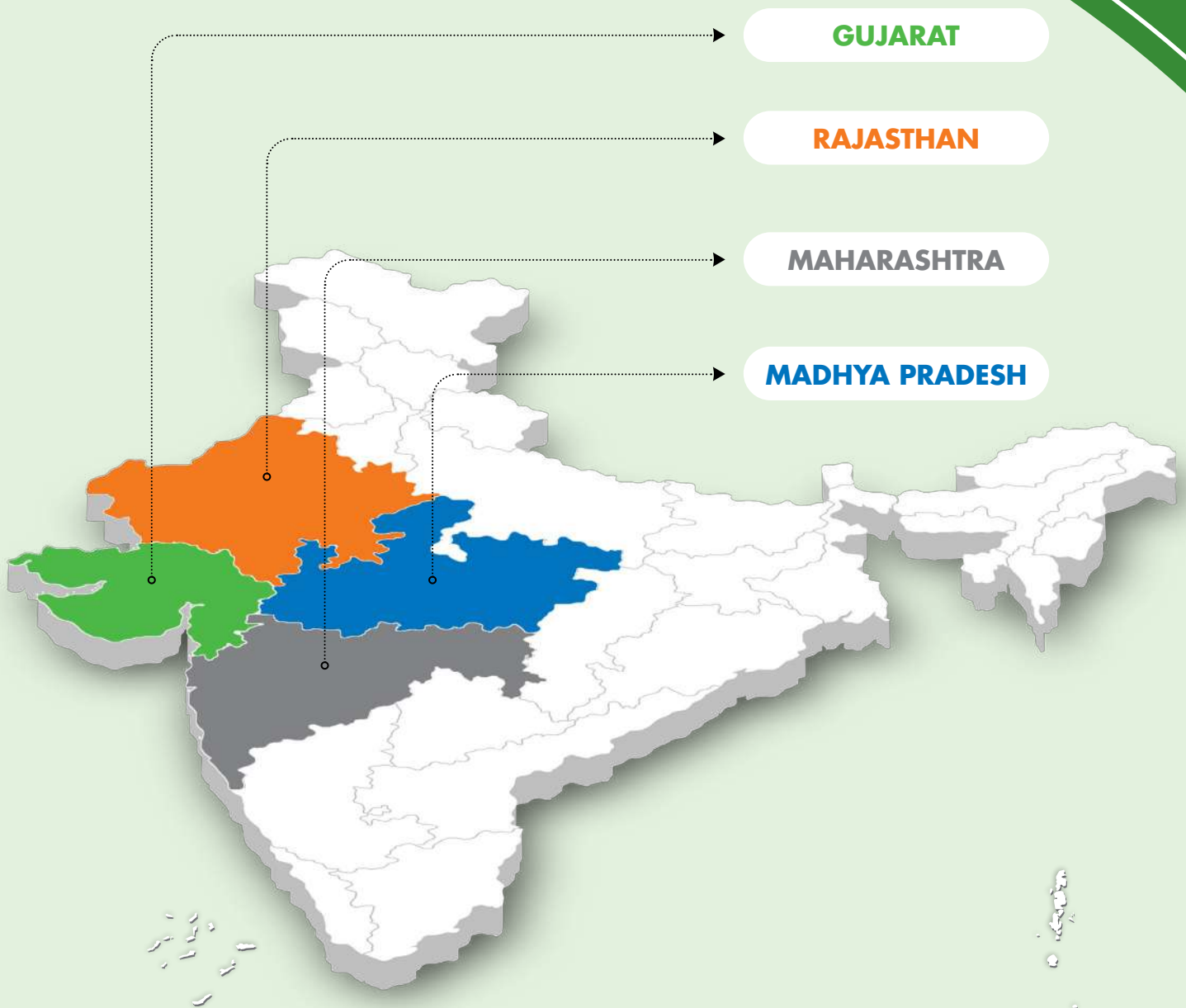
Prevention is key to breaking the cycle of malnutrition. We empower mothers and communities with the knowledge to recognize the signs of malnutrition, understand its causes, and take preventive steps. Through nutrition education, we ensure that maternal and child health improves. Our efforts extend to providing access to nutrition-sensitive interventions such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security, and Livelihood programs. We also help connect beneficiaries with essential health and nutrition-related government schemes.



Sustainability

To create lasting change, we collaborate closely with local governments and the health and nutrition ecosystem. We conduct capacity-building sessions for Anganwadi and ASHA workers, as well as Panchayati Raj Institute (PRI) members, to enable them to identify early signs of malnutrition and take corrective actions. By strengthening local systems, we foster an environment that supports improved nutrition for mothers and children, ensuring that the positive outcomes of our programs are sustainable.

Impactful Footprint Across India



Disclaimer: This map is a generalised illustration only for the ease of the reader to understand the locations and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries and the names of geographical features/states do not necessarily reflect the actual position. The Company or any of its Directors, Officers or Employees, cannot be held responsible for any misuse or misinterpretation of any information or design thereof. The Company does not warrant or represent any kind of connection to its accuracy or completeness.



TACKLING MALNUTRITION FROM EVERY ANGLE

Comprehensive Intervention Model

At Action Against Hunger India, our mission is firmly rooted in addressing malnutrition through a diverse and integrated framework. Our intervention strategy comprises three fundamental pillars: Nutrition & Health, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), and Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL).

Central to this initiative is the 'First 1000 Days+ of Life' framework, which prioritizes early preventative measures to disrupt the cycle of malnutrition during its most crucial phases—from conception to a child's second birthday. By integrating efforts across nutrition, health, hygiene, and livelihoods, we forge a robust support system that nurtures vulnerable communities at all levels.



Core Measures: 'First 1,000 Days+ of Life Model'

The 'First 1,000 Days+ of Life Program' is integral to our focus on Nutrition & Health. It highlights the crucial phase of development from pregnancy to early childhood, directing interventions that promote health, nutrition, and holistic well-being at key developmental benchmarks.



Preventing Anemia and Iron Deficiency

We collaborate closely with pregnant and nursing women to avert iron deficiencies, which can adversely impact both maternal and child health. Furthermore, we advocate for adolescent girls by encouraging regular health assessments and ensuring they receive iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation via government programs, empowering them to safeguard their future well-being.



Comprehensive Ante Natal Care (ANC) & Post Natal Care (PNC)

Our teams ensure the timely registration of pregnancies at health centers, providing a seamless continuum of care for both mothers and infants. This includes individualized home visits to counsel families on pregnancy care, collective discussions to encourage institutional deliveries, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, and hygiene protocols, as well as facilitating access to critical government services like immunization and healthcare.



Child Care and Early Development

Guaranteeing the sound physical and mental development of children is a significant goal. We focus on championing optimal breastfeeding practices, enhancing infant health outcomes, and establishing infrastructure for effective malnutrition screening. Through these initiatives, we cultivate nurturing environments that promote healthy growth during the most critical early years of life.

Complementary Measures: Strengthening Communities and Systems

At the core of our work lies a commitment to nutrition and health, complemented by essential efforts in WASH and livelihoods to achieve sustainable change. These initiatives are designed to strengthen community resilience and build strong frameworks that underpin enduring health and nutrition.



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Improving hygiene and sanitation is vital in our fight against diseases that lead to malnutrition. We engage communities by teaching essential practices, such as effective handwashing at five crucial times: before eating, after using the toilet, before cooking, before feeding a child, and after cleaning a child. To ensure families have better access to clean drinking water, we have also installed tippy taps. These efforts create healthier environments, nurturing the well-being of both families and children.



Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL)

We empower communities with sustainable income sources that strengthen their food security and nutritional health. Through initiatives such as nutrition gardens, poultry production, organic farming, and aquaculture, families improve their diets and generate earnings. These practices encourage self-reliance and resilience, lessening dependency on external support and promoting overall well-being.



Capacity Building: Empowering Frontline Workers

The effectiveness of our interventions depends on the knowledge and dedication of frontline workers. We prioritize capacity building through:

- **Training Government Workers:** Regular, need-based training sessions are conducted for Anganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), and other key players. This includes on-the-job support and mentorship to ensure they are well-equipped to deliver vital health and nutrition services.
- **Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):** By training local governance bodies, we help them play a proactive role in implementing health and nutrition programs, fostering accountability, and ensuring that government services reach the most vulnerable.



Advocacy: Influencing Change at the Policy Level

Action Against Hunger India understands that meaningful, enduring change necessitates systemic transformation. Our advocacy initiatives are centered on converting grassroots experiences and research into actionable insights that shape policy and program development.

- We collaborate closely with state and local governments, harnessing our learnings to enhance the delivery of government programs. By engaging elected officials, local administrations, ASHAs, and Anganwadi workers, we ensure that community voices resonate loudly, making government services more attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable.
- A pillar of our advocacy is nutrition-sensitive planning, which emphasizes strengthening the capabilities of Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) through essential infrastructure and equipment. Additionally, we strive to establish a legislative framework that not only supports nutrition-specific programs but also promotes accountability via the formation of District Nutrition Committees.
- In alignment with national mandates, we actively endorse the Jan Andolan under POSHAN 2.0 and are dedicated to localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working tirelessly toward the elimination of malnutrition by 2030.



Leveraging Technology: Innovating for Greater Impact

Technology plays a pivotal role in enhancing the reach and effectiveness of our interventions. We embrace innovative tools and solutions to optimize our programs at every stage:

- **AI and Machine Learning:** We collaborate with global organizations to use AI and ML for identifying malnutrition hotspots and improving the accuracy of malnutrition detection.
- **Geotagging:** Beneficiaries are geotagged to ensure precise, location-based interventions and track progress over time.
- **Behavioral Change through Audio-Visual Media:** We use media to educate communities about malnutrition prevention and treatment, driving positive behavioral shifts around nutrition and health.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Tools:** Platforms like CommCare and Kobo Toolbox enable real-time data collection, allowing for continuous monitoring and fine-tuning of our programs.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND ADVANCING CARE

Innovative Health Interventions

In our consistent commitment to combat malnutrition and uplift the health and well-being of vulnerable communities, Action Against Hunger India has embarked on a journey of innovation this year. Our mission is to empower individuals, strengthen early intervention strategies, and enhance healthcare delivery systems. The following key initiatives illuminate our strides in addressing malnutrition, improving neonatal care, and fostering adolescent health, showcasing our relentless pursuit of meaningful change.





MAAP

Child malnutrition continues to be a pressing public health challenge in India, impacting millions of children under five. To transform families from passive recipients of care into proactive advocates for their children's well-being, Action Against Hunger India has created an innovative digital solution. In partnership with a digital consultancy, we launched an application that allows mothers and families to independently assess their children's nutritional status using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) method.

This app empowers caregivers to monitor their child's growth and take timely action when necessary, notifying our team about at-risk children for prompt intervention. Initially developed as a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), the application has been piloted in various communities and is now in the pre-pilot testing phase to assess its usability. This initiative represents a significant leap toward decentralizing malnutrition care and empowering families to take charge of their children's health.



Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Unit Initiatives

Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is a globally acclaimed neonatal care approach dedicated to the health and well-being of low-birth-weight (LBW) and premature infants. By prioritizing skin-to-skin contact between the mother and newborn, exclusive breastfeeding, and early discharge from healthcare facilities, KMC has dramatically enhanced infant survival rates and reduced neonatal mortality. In partnership with healthcare facilities, Action Against Hunger India has launched two significant initiatives:

- KMC Unit at HBT Medical College & Dr. R. N. Cooper Municipal General Hospital, Mumbai:** Launched last year as a pilot project operating within an urban healthcare facility, this unit has, over the past year, served 188 mothers and 201 babies. Notably, there has been no neonatal mortality among the discharged infants during this period. The integration of KMC and NICU care contributed to significant positive health outcomes.
- Expansion to Baran District Hospital & Community KMC in Mokhada:** Building on the success of the Mumbai initiative, we piloted two additional projects: one in Baran District Hospital and the other in Mokhada, Palghar district. The **Community KMC** initiative in Mokhada focused on improving the health of LBW infants by training families in Kangaroo Mother Care practices and providing them with KMC wraps. This community-driven approach saw active family participation, resulting in improved weight gain and overall health outcomes for LBW babies.

Project Shubharambh: Addressing Anemia in Adolescent Girls

Anemia is a critical health crisis affecting adolescent girls, leading to severe developmental setbacks, cognitive limitations, and alarming school dropout rates. In rural, marginalized communities, the challenge is compounded by early marriages, which leave young, anemic girls vulnerable to maternal morbidity and mortality along with adverse birth outcomes.

In response, we have launched 'Project Shubharambh', a transformative initiative designed to elevate anemia testing and treatment among girls aged 15-19. This pilot project, implemented across 10 villages in rural Gujarat, focuses on early detection, effective treatment, and robust prevention strategies and provides need-based support at individual, family, community, and system levels. Key elements of this groundbreaking project include:

- **Testing & Treatment:** School-going and out-of-school girls were tested for anemia in schools and communities. It was ensured that girls identified with anemia received support from their families, communities, and systems to consume locally available, nutrient-rich foods, particularly those rich in iron, and were provided with Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) tablets.
- **Community Engagement & Education:** Using peer-to-peer learning sessions titled 'Play, Learn, Act for Nutrition' (PLAN), girls were educated on the dangers of anemia and its effects on their health. The project also employed mass cultural events, such as Garba and folk theaters, to raise awareness and offer solutions in a culturally engaging manner.



The impact of Project Shubharambh in Sanand, Gujarat, was significant. Comparisons between the baseline and endline assessments include:

- Increased awareness of iron-deficiency anemia in Sanand, Gujarat, was remarkable, rising from just 3.3% to an impressive 99.7%.
- Enrolled in Project Shubharambh, 98% of participating girls received IFA tablets, with 85% adhering to the recommended dosage consistently. The impact of these efforts underscores the project's success in transforming health outcomes for adolescent girls in the region.

After its successful completion, Project Shubharambh is being scaled up to reach new regions, establishing a sustainable model to tackle anemia in adolescent girls throughout India. This expansion aims to amplify our impact, ensuring that more young women benefit from vital health interventions and support.

CREATING IMPACT ACROSS REGIONS

We are actively working to address the root causes of malnutrition in regions such as Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya

Pradesh. Through a variety of projects, initiatives, and events, we are working to bring about meaningful change.





ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Rajasthan

© Baran

Madhya Pradesh

© Dhar



This initiative, backed by SBI Life Insurance, adopts the First 1,000 Days+ of Life methodology. Baran, which is home to tribal communities relying on subsistence farming, manual labor, and the sale of forest resources, struggles with unstable incomes, leading to inadequate nutrition. Since 2011, we have been working to combat malnutrition and its root causes in the region, establishing ourselves as one of the pioneering organizations to do so. In 2018, we were honored with the 'Most Promising Social Program' award at the 'Cause Because' event for our alignment with UN SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

Major Highlights

Collaboration with Government Officials

We held discussions with the District Program Officer (DPO) and several officials from the Women and Child Development (WCD) department, addressing project progress, and concerns regarding THR distribution, and strategies for involving newly elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in nutrition security efforts. A significant accomplishment has been the establishment of 45 Nutri Gardens across the intervention areas, with 39 currently operational. Additionally, we conducted personalized meetings with 272 PRI members to advocate for the 'Meri Panchayat Poshit Panchayat' initiative, highlighting the importance of community-driven nutrition enhancement.

Enhancing Skills and Connections

Training has always been a key focus, highlighted by a three-day refresher course on CommCare conducted in Indore for teams from Baran and Dhar. In addition, representatives from the State Bank of India (SBI) toured the field, engaging with project beneficiaries and community leaders to discuss the initiatives' outcomes. International delegates from France also visited Baran to gain insights into the project, exploring its early phases and observing the activities on the ground.

Anemia Awareness Pakhwada

The government launched an Anemia Awareness Pakhwada, during which evaluations and training sessions, including anthropometric assessments for field staff, ensured that team members were well-prepared to tackle urgent nutritional issues within the communities they supported. Our joint efforts embodied a holistic approach to combating malnutrition and promoting healthier communities throughout Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

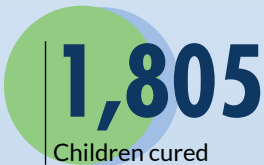
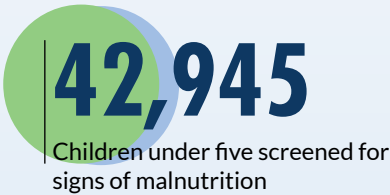




Enhancing Knowledge on Anthropometry and Malnutrition

We conducted an 'Anthropometry & Malnutrition' training session for 125 AWWs at the AWC and Panchayat Bhawan, refining their expertise in anthropometric measurement methods and addressing malnutrition. The training resulted in a 42% improvement in their knowledge, encouraging health-conscious behaviors and equipping AWWs with vital technical skills to combat malnutrition in children under six, a key factor for the overall well-being of communities across India.

Impact at a Glance





Digital Innovation for Zero Hunger

The 'Digital Innovation for Zero Hunger' initiative in Kishanganj and Baran equipped frontline health workers with an AI and AR-powered Child Growth Monitor (CGM) app, improving early detection of malnutrition, precise anthropometric measurements, and encouraging positive behavioral change within the community. A workshop held as part of the project highlighted the CGM's progress, insights, and potential. Stakeholders praised its accuracy, effectiveness, and the possibility of integrating it into local healthcare systems, furthering our commitment to a hunger-free world.



Case Study

Sanjay's Transformation from a Malnourished Child to a Healthy Child

In the serene village of Bainthha, located within the Shahabad block, young Sanjay (name changed), a member of the Sahariya community, struggled with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), with a MUAC of 88 mm and a weight of just 5.8 kg. His family, burdened by daily hardships and limited resources, turned to faith healers in the hope of a miracle that never materialized. During a field visit, Community Mobilizer (CM), Naresh, recognized Sanjay's dire condition and took swift action.

On August 22, 2022, Naresh escorted Sanjay to the Shahabad MTC, where his condition was thoroughly evaluated, and he was subsequently transferred to the Baran MTC for specialized care. Over the following 13 days, Sanjay received the crucial treatment he desperately needed, while his parents gained essential knowledge on hygiene, nutrition, and proper childcare practices. By the time they left the center on September 3, Sanjay had gained weight, reaching 6.74 kg, offering a glimmer of hope for his future.

Naresh's commitment did not end there. He continued to visit Sanjay's family regularly, providing consistent support and educating them on proper nutrition and hygiene to maintain his progress. As the months passed, Sanjay flourished, and by April 25, 2023, his MUAC had improved to 128 mm, signaling his full recovery. His family,

deeply thankful for Naresh's firm dedication, celebrated his remarkable transformation, which serves as a powerful reminder of the profound impact of community support, education, and compassion.

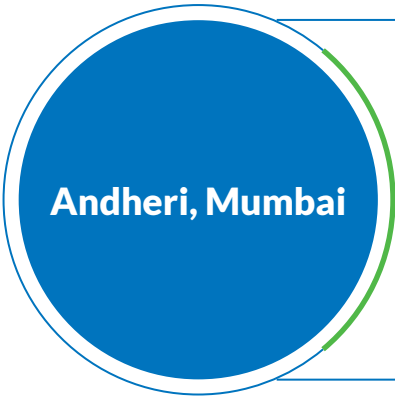




Maharashtra

- Andheri, Mumbai
- Govandi, Mumbai
- Dharni, Amravati
- Palghar





Andheri, Mumbai

Project Khwaish

Backed by Givaudan and Crédit Agricole, this initiative is situated in a suburb of Mumbai, where a large population of migrant workers and daily wage laborers reside. The community faces significant challenges, including low literacy levels and unstable employment, which often result in the neglect of children's growth and contribute to serious health issues like undiagnosed malnutrition. Seasonal shifts, particularly during the monsoon, bring a surge of harmful pathogens, leading to an increase in diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. These issues, combined with inadequate living conditions, create a highly precarious environment for the families in this area.

Major Highlights

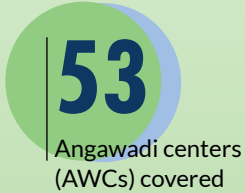
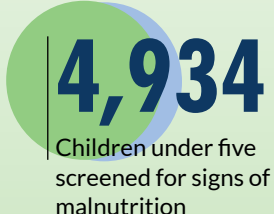
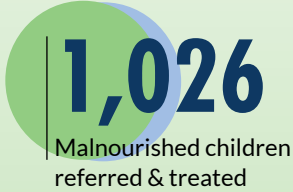
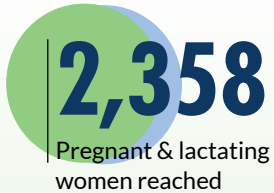
Training and Capacity Building

In September 2023, 23 ICDS assistants were trained on their duties and obligations, based on recommendations from ICDS Supervisors in the Andheri project. In October 2023, 40 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) from the K-West wards participated in a nutrition workshop covering 10 food categories, as recommended by Cooper Hospital's Community Medicine Department. These CHVs will be responsible for disseminating nutritional information to beneficiaries at local health posts.

Launch of Poshan (Nutrition) OPD

The Urban Health Training Center (UHTC) in Andheri launched a Nutrition Outpatient Department in partnership with HBT Medical College and Cooper Hospital. This OPD is designed to address malnutrition by providing specialized healthcare services and dietary counseling. The opening ceremony was led by Dr. Shailesh Mohite, Dean of HBT Medical College and Cooper Hospital.

Impact at a Glance



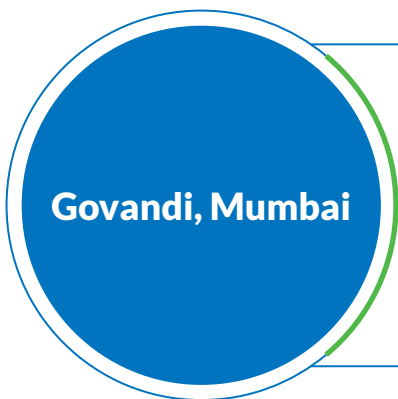
Case Study

A Journey of Timely Care and Maternal Guidance

Shaziya (name changed), a 23-year-old mother of two, resides with her husband in a rented flat. Her husband, the family’s sole breadwinner, earns INR 15,000 a month working as a delivery boy. In the fourth month of her pregnancy, Shaziya met our Community Mobilizer (CM), Deepika Mhamunkar, who advised her to register early for prenatal care. However, during a follow-up visit in March 2023, Shaziya had still not registered her pregnancy, expressing hesitation due to the short interval between her pregnancies. Deepika provided counseling to both Shaziya and her family, emphasizing the importance of early registration and regular care, which encouraged Shaziya to sign up at a nearby hospital.

Deepika continued her support with monthly visits, offering guidance on vital topics such as iron and calcium intake, antenatal checkups, and birth preparation. Shaziya eventually had a C-section and gave birth to a healthy baby girl weighing 2.7 kgs. Although Shaziya was unable to breastfeed immediately, Deepika returned 12

days later to provide advice on exclusive breastfeeding and immunizations. Shaziya diligently followed the recommendations, and by 3.5 months, her baby had received all required immunizations and weighed 7.1 kgs, thriving on exclusive breastfeeding.



Backed by Societe Generale, this initiative tackles urgent issues in Govandi, a crowded Mumbai neighborhood, home to numerous migrant and daily-wage workers. Challenges such as widespread illiteracy, job instability, neglected children, and undiagnosed malnutrition are exacerbated during the monsoon season by waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhea, stemming from poor sanitation and contaminated water. Coupled with inadequate maternal health, proximity to the nation’s largest waste disposal site, and limited awareness, these conditions result in 51% of children in the area suffering from stunting.

Major Highlights

Visits and Meetings with Government Officials

The Rajmata Jijau Mission team visited the NRC at Shatabdi Hospital on June 14 and 28, 2023, to engage with the staff and gain a deeper understanding of the ongoing activities. On July 14, 2023, a crucial meeting was held with Dr. Sanjay Funde, the MoH of M-East Ward, to explore potential collaboration with the RBSK and AAH teams, with a focus on strengthening anthropometric activities. In September and October 2023, senior team members held discussions with Dr. Sunil Pakale, the Chief Medical Officer, to strategize on

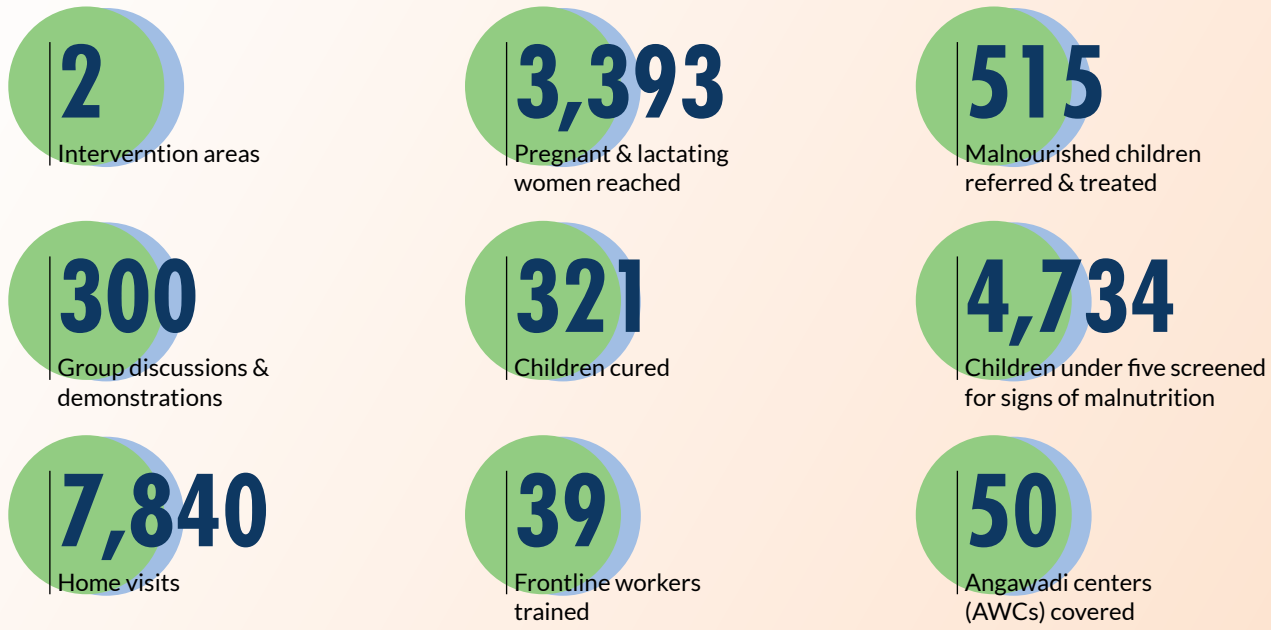
future partnerships, particularly the establishment of a KMC unit and NRC, while also addressing challenges related to MNT procurement that could affect the treatment of SAM. Furthermore, during the Task Force meeting on November 28, 2023, organized by M/E Ward MCGM, key topics such as the ‘Pulse Polio’ campaign, immunization outreach, and the role of NGOs in community pre-mobilization were discussed.

Visits and Meetings with Health Officials

An introductory session was conducted with frontline workers (FLWs) from 25 AWCs in the Deonar ICDS project to introduce AAH's initiatives and highlight the significance of collaboration at the grassroots level. Additionally, a meeting took place between MCGM officials and 12 NGOs in

M-Ward, focusing on opportunities for partnership and addressing implementation-related challenges. A follow-up session was held in October to ensure a coordinated approach and prevent overlap in ongoing community health efforts.

Impact at a Glance



Case Study

Suhana's Journey toward a Healthy Life

In August, during a routine screening at Anganwadi 126, Suhana (name changed) was found to be malnourished, weighing only 7 kg and measuring 65.5 cm. CM enrolled her in a growth monitoring program and issued a MAM card for tracking. The CM advised Suhana's mother to provide boiled water, avoid uncovered food, and offer fresh meals.

At the next follow-up, Suhana's weight had decreased. The CM discovered that her mother was breastfeeding excessively and not introducing solid foods. After educating her on complementary feeding, Suhana's weight increased by 100 grams, though she was still below her initial weight. The CM then brought in a counselor, who found that Suhana's father provided minimal financial support, visiting only once a week and providing just ₹ 50 for the family's needs.

The counselor helped Suhana's mother learn how to prepare affordable meals and directed her to nearby government hospitals for further support. Additionally, the CM linked the family to Anganwadi services for supplementary nutrition. By March, Suhana's weight had improved noticeably. On March

12, 2024, she was discharged, weighing 7.6 kg and measuring 68.3 cm, with a healthy Z-score of 126. This process not only restored Suhana's health but also empowered her mother to better manage their family's needs.



Dharni, Amravati

This initiative, situated in Maharashtra’s Dharni, Amravati, and supported by NAOS, tackles the numerous challenges confronting the tribal communities in the mountainous Melghat region. Limited access to clean drinking water and scarce livelihood opportunities compel many residents to migrate seasonally in search of basic necessities. Severe child malnutrition is aggravated by factors such as poverty, early marriages, frequent pregnancies, inadequate sanitation, and the lack of nutritious food.

Major Highlights

Poultry Farming Training

A detailed poultry farming workshop was conducted for 74 caregivers of SAM and MAM children in Titamba and Babaidhana. The training covered the Pancha Sutras—housing, nutrition, vaccination, breed selection, and marketing—providing caregivers with the knowledge to set up sustainable poultry farms. Emphasis was placed on proper housing, balanced diets, vaccination protocols, choosing the right breeds, and effective market strategies to enhance both nutrition and income.

Nutrition Garden Training

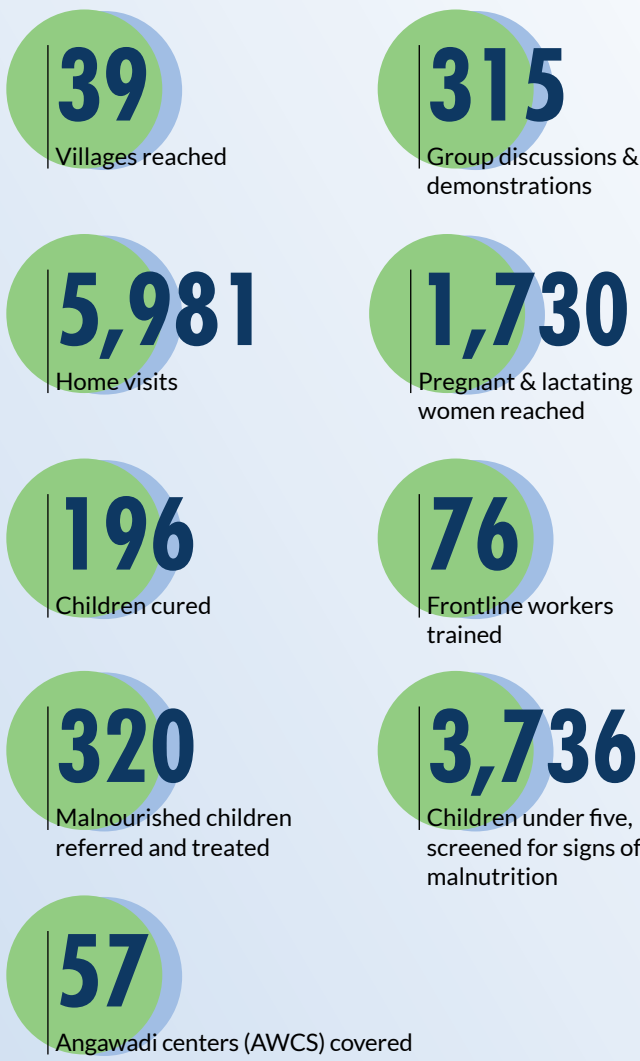
The Poshan Vatika training familiarized beneficiaries, including those with SAM, MAM, as well as pregnant and lactating women, with the advantages of cultivating organic vegetables. Participants learned about the nutritional benefits of consuming 300 grams of vegetables daily, among other key insights, and were equipped with the skills and resources to create nutrition gardens at home. The training focused on hands-on techniques for garden planning, seed planting, and composting, all aimed at enhancing the nutritional intake of malnourished children and vulnerable mothers.

Farmers Exposure Visit

A farmer exposure trip to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Burhanpur, was organized to deepen beneficiaries’ knowledge of organic farming practices. The event, inaugurated by Dr. Sandeep Kumar Singh, featured experts in genetics, plant breeding, and plant protection, who highlighted sustainable methods

such as nutrition-sensitive agriculture, vermicomposting, and vermishash through demonstration plots. Farmers, along with lactating mothers and pregnant women from various villages, learned how to incorporate organic techniques to enhance crop yields and quality, gaining a stronger appreciation for sustainable agricultural practices.

Impact at a Glance





Case Study

Improving Health through Nutrition Gardens

For five years, Action Against Hunger has been working on improving nutrition, food security, livelihoods, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in 39 villages within the Dharani block. One beneficiary, Shreya (name changed), a 19-year-old pregnant woman from Patharpur village, faced significant health challenges during her first pregnancy, including a dangerously low hemoglobin level of 4.6 and diabetes. With her home located 12 kilometers from the nearest health center, access to medical care was a constant struggle.

On April 20, 2023, CM Madanlal Dhurve recognized Shreya's high-risk situation and immediately provided support, offering advice on nutrition, managing high-risk pregnancies, and scheduling prenatal check-ups. Despite complications, Shreya successfully delivered a healthy baby weighing 2.3 kg on August 25, after receiving assistance with establishing a nutrition garden that helped raise her hemoglobin level to 9. Follow-up visits focused on breastfeeding and Kangaroo

Mother Care (KMC), resulting in the baby's weight increasing to 3.2 kg by October. Today, both mother and child are thriving, and Shreya is deeply thankful for the timely support that transformed their lives.



Palghar

In Maharashtra's Palghar district, the project is supported by funding from Intesa Sanpaolo (ISP) for the Jawhar block and Action contre la Faim (ACF) Italy for the Mokhada block. This region is home to a large tribal population, with agriculture being their primary livelihood. However, the rugged, hilly landscape makes year-round farming difficult, resulting in lower incomes, restricted access to nutritious food, and seasonal migration. A 2015 survey revealed that Jawhar and Mokhada had the highest rates of stunting and wasting among children under five in the region.

Major Highlights

Refurbishment of Anganwadi Center

We successfully refurbished an Anganwadi center in Dakhanechapada village to create a supportive environment for our beneficiaries. This renovation addressed critical issues, such as leaky roofs and non-functional toilets, enhancing access to vital health and nutrition services. The refurbished center benefited over 50 children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers from three villages - Dakhanechapada, Hedodi, and Vadpada, ensuring improved service delivery and a better experience for our community.

Food Security & Livelihoods

In our efforts to enhance food security and livelihoods, we developed 27 demo plots for 27 malnourished children and established 71 kitchen gardens at both household and community levels. We provided training to 34 caregivers of malnourished children and 27 pregnant and lactating women, equipping them with local indigenous seeds for various vegetables and fruit saplings. Additionally, we set up 9 poultry units for caregivers of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, promoting nutrition and sustainable livelihood opportunities within the community.

Community-Based Kangaroo Mother Care Intervention

We introduced a community-focused Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) program in Jawhar and Mokhada to assist caregivers of low-birth-weight infants. Participants received specialized training, tailored counseling, and weekly home visits, along

with KMC wraps to facilitate the practice. In partnership with local health department staff, the program ensures ongoing community-level oversight and continuous support through community health workers.

Impact at a Glance

71

Intervention areas

798

Group discussions & demonstrations

8,253

Home visits

6,691

Pregnant & lactating women reached

103

Children cured

108

Frontline workers trained

1,087

Malnourished children referred & treated

8,391

Children under five screened for signs of malnutrition

241

Angawadi centers (AWCs) covered

Case Study

Empowering Mothers through Kangaroo Mother Care

In the village of Ghanval, Mokhada, a remarkable change unfolded, thanks to the firm dedication of Ms. Vinita (name changed), a first-time mother facing the challenges of her newborn son's low birth weight. When her baby was born weighing just 2,250 grams, our CM intervened, providing vital support and guidance. The mobilizer introduced Reshma to the practice of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC).

Equipped with a specially designed KMC wrap, Vinita dedicated 90 to 120 minutes daily to skin-to-skin contact for 36 consecutive days. With the assistance of her family, who helped adjust the wrap and ensured the bonding time, Vinita's dedication led to a remarkable improvement in her baby's health, as his weight grew from 2,200 grams to 3,200 grams in just over five weeks. Her journey, fueled by love and determination, exemplifies the transformative impact of community-driven initiatives like KMC in promoting

healthier beginnings, while inspiring others to embrace these life-changing practices.



Gujarat

- Ankleshwar
- Sanand
- Sabarkantha



Sanand Project Trupti

Project Trupti, initiated in Sanand, Gujarat, and supported by Baxter Pharmaceutical India Pvt. Ltd., adopts a holistic life cycle approach by combining health services with the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to offer comprehensive community support.

The project is designed to improve the health and well-being of mothers and children up to five years old, ensuring timely referrals and treatment to give every child the best possible start in life. It emphasizes the promotion of optimal breastfeeding practices for infants and young children, alongside raising awareness about safe drinking water and personal hygiene through focused social and behavioral change initiatives.

Major Highlights

Early Childhood Development Kits

To foster early childhood development, we provided 10 Anganwadi centers with kits containing 13 durable items aimed at boosting hand-eye coordination and enhancing fine motor skills in young children.

Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

We actively engaged in the Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, partnering with multiple government agencies. As part of this initiative, we showcased Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices to beneficiaries in rural communities.

Anganwadi Workers' Training

In partnership with the ICDS department, we organized a two-day workshop for 209 Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) in Sanand Block. The session covered two key areas: proper use of stadiometers for precise height measurements and the significance of tracking children's growth. Additionally, a demonstration on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) was held, highlighting its positive impact on infant weight gain and fostering emotional connections between caregivers and children.

Impact at a Glance

16

Villages reached

2,529

Pregnant & lactating women reached

217

Malnourished children referred & treated

519

Group discussions & demonstrations

3,143

Children under five screened for signs of malnutrition

6,346

Home visits

39

Anganwadi centers (AWCs) covered

196

Frontline workers trained

Case Study

Transforming Health Outcomes through Early Interventions

Mitali (name changed), the firstborn of the Mer family from Moraiya village, was identified as moderately malnourished (MAM) during a routine check by Community Mobilizer (CM) Piyush Maheriya. Born with a low birth weight of 1.8 kg and unregistered at the local Anganwadi center after her family relocated, she was registered and referred for Take Home Ration (THR) at 1 year and 7 months. The CM also ensured her family's enrollment in the Anganwadi program. During follow-up visits, the CM found the family not using the THR. Through counseling, support from the Field Supervisor, and involving the grandparents, the CM stressed the importance of nutrition, hygiene, and breastfeeding. With ongoing support, Mitali showed marked improvement and was deemed healthy by the sixth visit.

Later, Mitali's mother, Prajakta (name changed), enrolled as a pregnant woman, gave birth to a healthy baby weighing 3.5 kg. This case highlights the impact of early intervention, family involvement, and consistent support in improving child health in vulnerable communities.



Ankleshwar Project Sampurna

Project Sampurna, supported by Glenmark Life Sciences, aims to improve maternal and child health across 14 villages and 31 Anganwadi centers in Gujarat's Jitali ICDS cluster. Collaborating with health centers, ASHA workers, and facilitators, it employs a life-cycle model to integrate health and ICDS services. Focusing on the 'First 1,000 Days+ of Life Program', the initiative includes anemia screenings for adolescent girls and malnutrition screenings for children. A separate component (CMAM) targets pregnant women, mothers, and children under 5. Outreach in 17 schools address anemia in girls aged 12-19, while Anganwadi workers engage non-schoolgoing girls. Nurses provide essential education on anemia prevention and management. Through these initiatives, Project Sampurna aims for a healthier, anemia-free future for mothers, children, and the community.

Major Highlights

Capacity-Building Program for ICDS Helpers

A training session was conducted to empower ICDS Helpers with the knowledge and skills needed to engage communities, advocate for hygiene, and encourage healthy cooking practices to fight malnutrition. The program aimed to strengthen their capacity to connect with parents, enhance communication, and promote cost-effective, nutritious meals. Key areas of focus included identifying local stakeholders, implementing effective sanitation practices, and utilizing solution-focused counseling methods.

Anthropometric Assessment and Counseling Training for ICDS Sevikas

The ICDS program, supported by Sevikas, plays a vital role in combating malnutrition through accurate anthropometric measurements and effective counseling. This training was designed to strengthen Sevikas' expertise in key areas, including mastering measurement techniques, reducing errors, and delivering solution-oriented counseling to empower caregivers. Through interactive methods such as lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and role-playing, participants enhanced their knowledge, raised awareness, and gained confidence in addressing malnutrition within their communities.

Anemia Awareness Meeting

We organized an anemia awareness session at the Anganwadi center in Nava Diva village, bringing together more than 20 young girls for an interactive discussion on the condition. Our team, including nurses, community mobilizers, and healthcare professionals, provided valuable information on the symptoms, prevention, and treatment of anemia. Each participant was given iron-folic acid tablets, and informative educational materials were handed out to further their understanding. The event equipped the girls with essential knowledge and resources to improve their health.



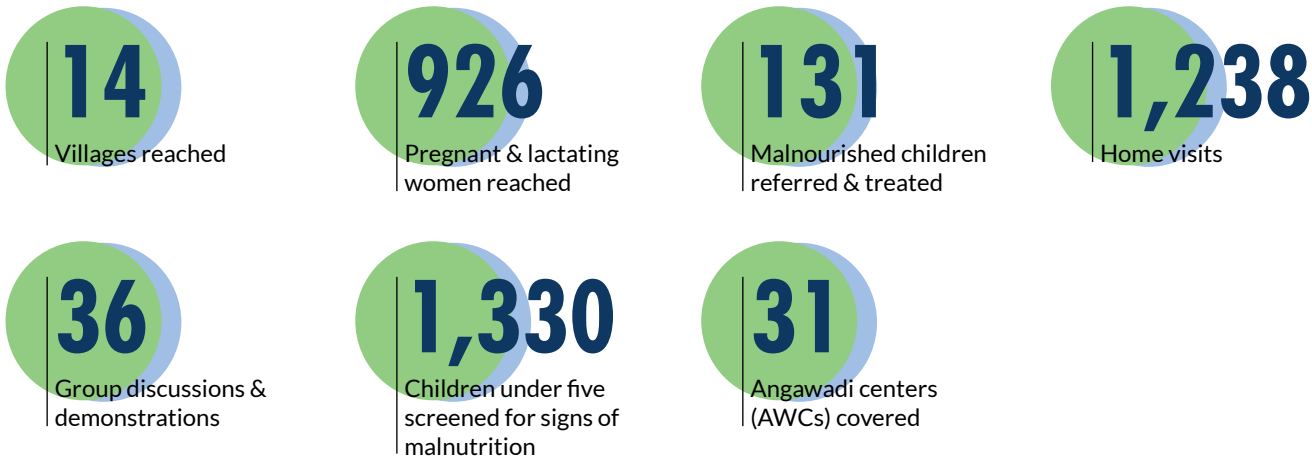
Personal Hygiene and Handwashing Practice Session

At Anganwadi center 2 in Jitali, our CM met with children and Anganwadi workers to promote health and hygiene. She demonstrated handwashing techniques, emphasizing the importance of washing hands before meals and after play, using soap, keeping nails trimmed, and wearing clean clothes. The children practiced handwashing before having refreshments, and these hygiene messages were further shared by Anganwadi workers during their home visits to reinforce healthy practices.

Distribution of Child Development and Medical Kits

We hosted an impactful kit distribution event at Jitali PHC for Anganwadi workers and subcenters. Representatives from numerous Anganwadi centers and caretakers from five subcenters gathered for this vital initiative. Local health officials emphasized the critical role these kits play in benefiting the community. We also took a moment to express our sincere appreciation to Glenmark Life Sciences for their generous support in facilitating this endeavor.

Impact at a Glance



Case Study

The Life-Saving Journey of Kangaroo Mother Care in Jitali Village

In Jitali village, 22-year-old Shreeja (name changed) faced a critical moment when her second child was born weighing only 2.2 kg, marking him as a low birth weight (LBW) infant. Overwhelmed with anxiety, she feared for her baby’s survival. Our community mobilizer with Project Sampurna had been visiting Shreeja during her pregnancy, encouraging her to enroll at the Anganwadi for vital health services. Throughout her visits, the CM provided guidance on antenatal and postnatal care, emphasizing the importance of nurturing both mother and child.

After the birth, Shreeja expressed concern about her baby’s low weight. During a visit, the CM introduced her to the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) practice, which promotes skin-to-skin contact. Initially skeptical, Shreeja gradually accepted the idea with her husband’s support, following the guidance provided by the CM and the Anganwadi worker.

After a month of practicing KMC, Shreeja’s baby had gained weight, reaching 3.8 kg. This transformation was miraculous

for the family. Grateful and empowered, Shreeja began sharing her positive experience with other mothers, advocating for KMC in her community.



Sabarkantha Project Vrudhi

Project Vrudhi has achieved extraordinary progress in advancing health and nutrition outcomes throughout the Sabarkantha district. Leveraging the insights gained from our pilot phase in 2022, we have broadened our interventions to amplify our impact. Our firm dedication to enhancing the well-being of the communities we serve propels our initiatives, ensuring that our strategies are meticulously crafted to address the unique needs of our beneficiaries.

Major Highlights

● District-Level Workshop on Enhancing Supportive Supervision

We held a workshop in Himmatnagar, Gujarat, titled 'Empowering Health and ICDS Supervisors: Leadership and Enhancing Supportive Supervision,' in collaboration with the Sabarkantha Health, ICDS-WCD Departments, and Jilla Panchayat. The workshop aimed to strengthen leadership and supervisory skills of female health workers, multi-purpose health workers, and lady supervisors, while fostering experience exchange and connections to amplify their community impact.

● Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) Drive

We are deeply committed to enhancing maternal and child nutrition, which is why we initiated Mothers' Meetings in all eight blocks of Sabarkantha. These gatherings address essential topics like anemia, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and hygiene. Led by our dedicated coordinators along with Health and ICDS staff at local Health and Wellness Centers, these meetings aim to ensure equitable and accessible

healthcare for all. We also took this opportunity to honor the top three Community Health Officers for their exemplary contributions to organizing these impactful sessions.

● Sickle Cell Awareness

Acknowledging the profound impact of sickle cell anemia on tribal communities, we formed a partnership with the Department of Health and Jilla Panchayat Sabarkantha to launch impactful awareness initiatives. Through diverse programs across three tribal blocks—Poshina, Vijaynagar, and Khedbrahma—we empowered communities with knowledge about the causes, symptoms, and preventive strategies related to the disease. Vibrant street theater performances in schools and colleges served as effective platforms to elevate awareness about the critical importance of sickle cell screening prior to marriage, directly addressing the risks faced by carrier couples.

Impact at a Glance

740

Villages reached

3,868

Frontline workers trained

1,922

Anganwadis impacted

2,998

Group discussions & demonstrations

Case Study

Building Capacity for Impactful Change

Sushant (name changed), a Community Health Officer (CHO) at Khedva Primary Healthcare Center, has gained skills in Social and Behavior Change (SBC) counseling, enabling him to raise community awareness and supervise frontline workers. He plays a key role in organizing Mother's Meetings across eight blocks by implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to streamline logistics and enhance community mobilization.

The project also introduced 'Counseling Cards' as an interpersonal communication tool, which Sushant uses to deliver consistent messaging. His deep understanding of the local context helps identify influencers to promote initiatives like 'Poshan Chaupal', aimed at improving nutrition for mothers and children. Sushant's contributions highlight the significance of empowering CHOs, creating a sustainable healthcare model, and improving health outcomes in Sabarkantha.



PROMOTING WELLNESS THROUGH EVENTS

National Nutrition Month Celebrations



Rajasthan - Baran, and Madhya Pradesh - Dhar

In September 2023, we celebrated National Nutrition Month with 52 awareness sessions for caretakers of children, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), male caretakers, Frontline Workers (FLWs), and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), engaging 1,496 participants (1,261 females and 235 males). Activities included group and individual counseling, poster-making competitions, health walks, and other community events. Additionally, refurbishment of AWCs progressed, and all four vacant community mobilizer positions were filled.

Aligned with the Government of India's theme, 'Healthy Diet Affordable for All,' we focused on promoting sound nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Sessions were held at AWCs, schools, Panchayat Bhawan, and villages, with positive participation in activities like the 'Swastha Balak Balika Spradha Abhiyaan' and capacity-building workshops.



Maharashtra

Mumbai

In Gaondevi and Baiganwadi, we celebrated Nutrition Month with a focus on the urgent need to address food insecurity and encourage healthy eating. Partnering with ICDS, we engaged participants in enlightening discussions about the benefits of a balanced diet compared to junk food, spotlighting ten essential food groups. Through hands-on demonstrations, we not only raised awareness about how to preserve nutritional value but also highlighted the harmful effects of junk food.

Dharni, Amravati

Engaging 167 beneficiaries, including mothers, ASHA workers, ANMs, and community members, Nutrition Month was celebrated across several villages. Rallies and community information sessions were conducted, involving school children and villagers in activities to disseminate nutrition-related information.

Palghar

We organized community activities to promote dietary diversity, local food resources, weight gain during pregnancy, and complementary feeding. We hosted an exhibition showcasing wild vegetables and cooking demonstrations, attracting many participants, including pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of malnourished children.

Gujarat

Sanand

During Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) this year, we took significant steps to raise community awareness about nutrition and health. We organized rallies in five villages, where slogans and banners were prominently displayed, and engaging sessions were held on the streets. This initiative brought together school children, teachers, principals, government stakeholders like AWWs and ASHAs, and community members, creating a vibrant atmosphere of collaboration. A total of 615 participants joined with Motipura contributing 100 participants, Shela 90, Changodar 155, Sanathal 150, and Telav 120.



Global Hand Washing Day

Rajasthan - Baran and Madhya Pradesh - Dhar

On October 15 and 20, 2023, we celebrated Global Handwashing Day under the theme 'Clean Hands are within Reach,' with four awareness sessions and demonstrations at government schools and hostels. Participants, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, caregivers, and adolescents, were educated on proper hand hygiene, with a focus on adolescents to spread awareness in their families.

To make learning engaging, we used handwashing songs and rhymes. A quiz competition engaged 701 individuals, and a 'Best Hand Washing Video' competition saw 119 Anganwadi workers participating, with 24 workers (6 per cluster) rewarded for their outstanding contributions.



Maharashtra

Mumbai

In the Gaondevi region of Govandi, we raised awareness about hand hygiene through a street play demonstrating proper handwashing techniques, followed by a community rally with 135 attendees, including pregnant women and caregivers. We emphasized the critical role of hygiene in preventing health issues and enhancing sanitation. In Baiganwadi and Sathe Nagar, we reached 458 participants, including schoolchildren, to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene. Positive feedback from teachers and students reinforced our commitment to promoting better hygiene awareness in the community.

Dharni, Amravati

Global Handwashing Day was celebrated in Dharni across two villages. The event, attended by pregnant women, lactating mothers, ASHA workers, and Gram Panchayat members, focused on promoting the importance of handwashing with soap for disease prevention.

Palghar

Emphasizing on the importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene for mothers and children on Global Handwashing Day, our goal was to educate community members on proper handwashing techniques and critical moments for handwashing through demonstrations in local villages, engaging participants and health officials alike.



Newborn Week Celebration



Maharashtra

Mumbai

We celebrated Newborn Care Week from November 15 to 21, 2023 to raise awareness about the importance of newborn care. Our events at Deonar Maternity Home and Shatabdi Hospital engaged 85 pregnant women and 7 new mothers, covering essential topics like breastfeeding and immunization.

Dharni, Amravati

Newborn Week was observed in three villages under Sadarbari PHC, supported by Action Against Hunger. With a focus on promoting newborn care and health, 44 beneficiaries participated, including expectant mothers, lactating mothers, ASHAs & ANM workers, and Anganwadi workers.

Palghar

In celebrating Newborn Week, we raised awareness about childcare practices, exclusive breastfeeding, and family support for new mothers. Events at local hospitals engaged lactating mothers and caregivers, covering hygiene, immunization, and distributing warm baby blankets to those in need.

World Breastfeeding Week Celebration



Rajasthan - Baran and Madhya Pradesh - Dhar

On August 7, 2023, we hosted a Breastfeeding Promotion and Maternal Health event in Gandhwani block, Dhar district, reaching 1,718 beneficiaries from 74 AWCs. The activities included a rally with 892 participants, conversations addressing breastfeeding challenges, and training for 220 Anganwadi workers to strengthen local support for nursing mothers. A Healthy Baby Competition with 235 participants showcased the advantages of breastfeeding, while 131 PRI members were involved in encouraging local leadership in breastfeeding advocacy. Additionally, a focus group discussion with 240 participants delved into community views and obstacles.

Maharashtra

Mumbai

During Breastfeeding Week in Gaondevi, we undertook efforts to educate pregnant and breastfeeding mothers on the critical benefits of breastfeeding. With 89 engaged participants, our team of MCGM doctors led interactive sessions on proper breastfeeding practices. This initiative played a key role in debunking common misconceptions about breastfeeding, encouraging male involvement, and emphasizing the vital importance of colostrum for infant health.

Dharni, Amravati

World Breastfeeding Week was celebrated from August 1 to August 7, 2023, in nine villages under the Sadrabadi PHC. The event engaged 178 participants, including expectant and lactating mothers, ASHA workers, ANMs, and PRI members. Educational sessions were held to emphasize the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life. Activities included video screenings, rallies, and community information sessions, successfully raising awareness about breastfeeding benefits within the community.



World Food Day Celebration

Maharashtra

Mumbai

On October 16, 2023, we gathered to observe World Food Day with the devoted caregivers of malnourished children in Gaondevi, underscoring the significance of food security and dietary variety. The event showcased a colorful food exhibition, emphasizing nutritious ingredients and sparking engaging conversations about the health benefits of pulses and nuts. With 112 participants, we encouraged attendees to adopt balanced diets and deepen their understanding of the negative effects of junk food, creating a community committed to enhancing nutrition.

Dharni, Amravati

World Food Day was observed at Khari Anganwadi No. 1, with 22 attendees, including women, men, and PRI members. The event aimed to raise awareness about global hunger and encourage mindful food consumption, featuring demonstrations with locally sourced grains and vegetables.



World Water Day

Maharashtra

Dharni, Amravati

World Water Day was observed on March 22, 2023, in the villages of Bhanwar and Kasmar, with 41 attendees, including expectant and breastfeeding mothers, community members, and local leaders. The event sought to raise awareness about water conservation and the vital connection between deforestation and water retention. Participants were educated on government initiatives in tree planting and the role of MGNREGS in safeguarding water resources.



MAXIMIZING IMPACT THROUGH ROBUST MEAL PRACTICES

In the intricate landscape of developmental work, discerning the consequences of our initiatives is of paramount importance for nurturing sustainable progress. This year, our organization has achieved significant milestones in fortifying our Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework, ensuring that our

interventions are effective and attuned to community aspirations. By conducting in-depth evaluations and monitoring activities across various project sites, we are amplifying our awareness of the challenges and opportunities that inform our efforts.



Monitoring: Establishing a Robust Framework



We executed extensive monitoring initiatives in Dhar, Baran, Palghar, Jawahar, and Mokhada. Interim evaluations empowered us to refine our strategies in real time, while a foundational study was conducted in Ankleshwar. KPMG facilitated end-line assessments for the Dhar and Baran projects, enabling precise quantification of outcomes. We established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Logical Framework Approaches (LFAs) for new collaborations with Crédit Agricole, Givaudan, Baxter, and SBILife, ensuring alignment with our strategic goals.

Evaluation: Driving Insights for Improvement



Our evaluation strategies prioritize the extraction of practical insights. By performing interim assessments and drawing on KPMG's expertise, we evaluated our achievements and identified critical areas for improvement. The insights gained from these evaluations shape our programmatic strategies, enhancing our influence in the communities we serve.

Accountability: Ensuring Transparency and Engagement



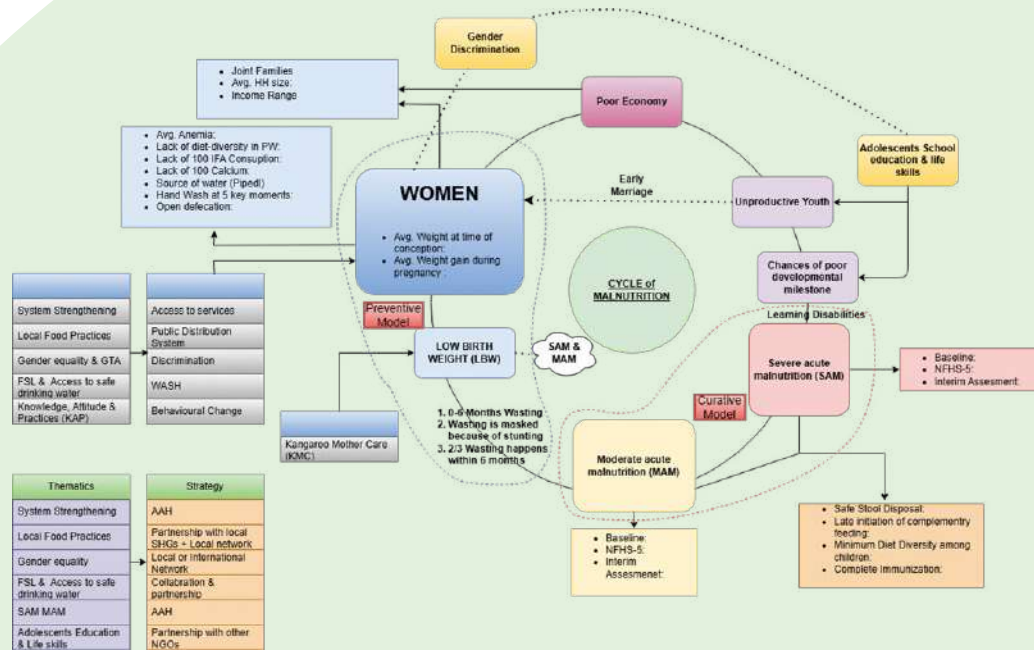
Accountability is an integral pillar of our MEAL framework. We devised and circulated dashboards through MySQL data scripts to uphold transparency among personnel and community mobilizers. Collaborations with interns from IIM Calcutta and BITSOM enriched our strategic approach, while our contributions to the International Gender Framework and Result Framework strengthened our commitment to international accountability.

Learning: Fostering Continuous Improvement



Learning propels our organizational advancement. This year, interns from VES College and TISS played a crucial role in aggregating historical data for the CMAM and 'First 1,000 Days+ of Life Program' initiatives, delivering significant findings to our Board. The MEAL team distilled insights from diverse studies, enhancing our comprehension of the malnutrition cycle and guiding modifications to our program design.

Addressing the Malnutrition Cycle



The malnutrition cycle we have identified reveals essential insights into maternal health and its far-reaching effects on child development. For example, a woman weighing 45-49 kg who gains only 4-6 kg during pregnancy has an 18% chance of delivering infants with low birth weight (LBW). Among these newborns, approximately 20% may face SAM or MAM, resulting in substantial developmental obstacles and a generation of unproductive youth.

This cycle reinforces a continuous loop of poverty and poor health, particularly impacting girls. Early marriages and malnutrition exacerbate the phenomenon of malnourished mothers giving birth to LBW babies, which further elevates the risk of SAM or MAM. Children suffering from these

conditions often necessitate curative interventions, but the long-term implications can impede their physical and cognitive development, ultimately affecting economic prosperity.

To eradicate this cyclical pattern of malnutrition, it is crucial to focus on maternal nutrition and holistic health throughout pregnancy. Improving the nutritional condition of expectant mothers, facilitating appropriate weight gain, and delivering robust maternal and child healthcare services are indispensable steps toward nurturing healthier future generations, and encouraging sustainable economic progress.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING & RECOGNITION AT ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

At Action Against Hunger, the dissemination of knowledge and acknowledgment are core tenets of our commitment to combating malnutrition and enhancing community well-

being. By nurturing collaboration and ongoing education, we strive to elevate our impact and empower our teams to deploy effective interventions.

Roundtables Attended and Lectures Delivered

Our Director of Technical & Research has played a crucial role in furthering the fields of nutritional science and community health initiatives through active participation in several significant events:



Webinar on Innovative Grant Proposal Writing: Organized by the Glenmark Foundation, this session armed participants with effective strategies for crafting persuasive grant applications, thereby bolstering the capacity of organizations to secure funding for essential nutrition initiatives.

International Conference on Nutrition: At the 'Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia 2023' conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, Action Against Hunger presented two abstracts, imparting insights and findings that enrich the broader discourse on nutrition and health in the region.

R4NUT 2023 Conference: Action Against Hunger participated at the conference, concentrating on fortifying community-based approaches for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of undernutrition, facilitating vital conversations among stakeholders from diverse sectors.

Guest Lectures: Dr. Pawankumar Patil, Director, Technical & Research, Action Against Hunger, delivered guest lecture at Azeem Premji University in Bengaluru, imparting expertise on designing community-centric behavioral change interventions, inspiring future leaders in public health and nutrition.

Micronutrient Forum's 6th Global Conference: Roshni Vakilna, Project & Technical Lead for Project Vruddhi, remotely delivered research on the interplay of socio-cultural factors influencing anemia among pregnant women in Gujarat, contributing valuable insights to global knowledge on maternal and child health.

Journal Clubs

We are committed to remaining at the forefront of nutritional research. This dedication is reflected in our active Journal Clubs, which facilitate critical discussions on emerging guidelines and protocols:

- Hosted a session on the new WHO guidelines to combat acute malnutrition in children under five. We equipped our teams with the latest recommendations to enhance intervention strategies.
- Facilitated a discussion on the Government of India's innovative Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) protocol for managing malnutrition in children. We aligned our practices with national policies to ensure effective implementation in our programs.

Need-Based Capacity Building

Recognizing the importance of continuous professional development, we conducted a robust series of training sessions:

- Internal Capacity Building:** We organized 22 need-based capacity building and refresher sessions for our internal team, enhancing their skills and knowledge to respond effectively to nutritional challenges.
- Engagement with Frontline Workers:** Seven sessions were held with government health and nutrition frontline workers, fostering collaboration and ensuring a unified approach to tackling malnutrition at the community level.
- Exposure Visit for 'Caritas India' Team:** During their exposure field visit to our intervention area in Dharni, Maharashtra, we oriented the 'Caritas India' team on the significance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, emphasizing the critical interventions needed during this crucial period.

Visit from ACF France

In a strategic move to enhance global collaboration, we hosted representatives from ACF France, Pascal Revault and Benjamin Guesdon, who sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of our field operations. Their visit included a tour of our Govandi base, an urban intervention area where they interacted with families confronting SAM and MAM. The team observed our RUTF treatment methodologies for counseling, referral, and care, showcasing our proactive approach to addressing malnutrition. Following this, they ventured to Baran, Rajasthan, accompanied by our Director of Technical & Research, Dr. Pawan Kumar Patil, to delve into our joint efforts to combat malnutrition through innovative home-based counseling models.

Furthermore, joint-stakeholder meetings with organizations such as SNEHA in Mumbai and Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, enabled the exchange of diverse grassroots strategies to tackle malnutrition. These collaborative endeavors expand our knowledge base and



amplify our collective impact within the communities we serve.

Through these multifaceted initiatives, we continue to cultivate a robust culture of knowledge-sharing, ensuring our strategies are shaped by the latest research, best practices, and collaborative experiences.



OUR PEOPLE, OUR STRENGTH

In the fight against hunger and the promotion of community resilience, our strongest asset is our people. As we review 2023-24, it is clear that the accomplishments of Action Against Hunger hinge not just on our mission but also on the dedication and well-being of our team. This year commenced with an illuminating Employee Engagement Survey

that served as a navigational tool, revealing the drivers of satisfaction and avenues for enhancing our workplace culture. By valuing our employees' input, we seek to nurture an environment where everyone feels appreciated and empowered to advance our shared mission.



Recruitment Excellence



In spite of facing numerous hurdles, our recruitment strategies proved highly effective, reaching an impressive closure rate of 93%. From 84 open positions, we successfully filled 78, which included 47 full-time positions and 31 consultancy roles. Remarkably, our strategic approach saved sourcing fees, with 13 vital roles—9 full-time and 4 consultants—filled through social media and internal recommendations.

Empowering through Training



To nurture a proficient workforce, we facilitated over 15 online training sessions on vital topics, including the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), Employee Statutory Benefits (such as the Provident Fund and Employee State Insurance Scheme), and our Human Resources Software System (Darwin). Moreover, we conducted a Goal Sheet Refresher Training on our Performance Management System and provided resources on Grievance Redressal, guaranteeing that our team remains informed and actively involved.

Audits and Compliance



Throughout the year, we steadfastly upheld our dedication to transparency and accountability, participating in 12 comprehensive audits, which included donor evaluations, statutory examinations, and internal assessments. This meticulous diligence bolsters our mission of responsible stewardship and operational excellence.

Team Building Initiatives



To foster camaraderie and team spirit, we organized various engaging activities:

Master Chef

Our talented in-house chefs exhibited their gastronomic prowess in an engaging Master Chef event, where team members collaborated to explore exquisite delicacies, delighting our palates while fostering teamwork.

Treasure Hunt

A unique treasure hunt that engaged local shops and eateries transformed into a captivating escapade. Teams traversed the neighborhood, exchanging ideas and laughter, culminating in the discovery of the 'true treasure' - an unforgettable experience.

Garba Evening

To honor the vibrant festival of Garba, we organized a spirited gathering for our two base offices in Andheri and Govandi, along with our headquarters. The evening resonated with music, dance, gifts, and a profound sense of community.

Christmas Cheer

The holiday spirit came alive with our cherished Secret Santa event, where colleagues exchanged thoughtful gifts, underscoring the significance of knowing one another to forge meaningful connections.

Ongoing Commitment to Safety



To maintain a secure and respectful workplace, we implemented regular POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) awareness training for all staff members. On February 23, 2024, we reaffirmed our commitment to thwarting harassment incidents, ensuring our team feels safe and supported within their work environment.

Looking forward, our dedicated personnel remain our most valuable asset, propelling the mission of Action Against Hunger. Together, we advocate for change and aspire to nurture a more inclusive and empowering workplace.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Our Ambassadors

In 2023, Action Against Hunger India launched a significant collaboration with two of India's eminent sports champions, MC Mary Kom and Rani Rampal. This partnership aims to enhance the health and

well-being of women and children throughout India, contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger by 2030.

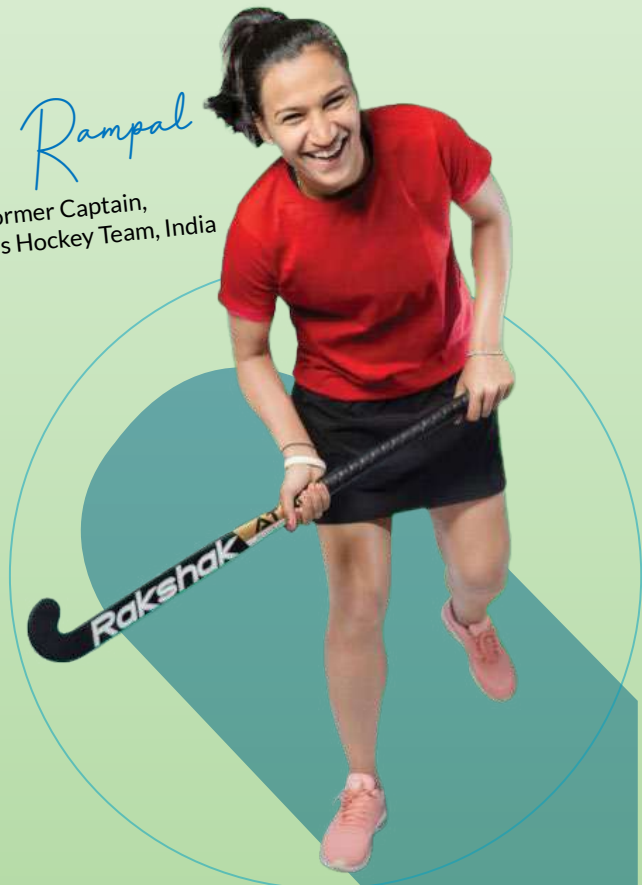
Malnutrition poses a dire public health threat in India, impacting millions of children under five years old and significantly endangering the health of women and girls. While there have been substantial advancements in addressing hunger and childhood wasting, daunting challenges remain that obstruct India's path to progress. This initiative is dedicated to increasing awareness of malnutrition and advocating for impactful, sustainable solutions, transforming the lives of innumerable women and children.

Leadership Commitment

Vinay Iyer, Chief Executive Officer of Action Against Hunger India, expressed his appreciation for the collaboration, "We are honored to have the support of MC Mary Kom and Rani Rampal, shining examples of what women can achieve when given equal opportunities. As we work toward a healthier India and strive to eradicate malnutrition, we must implement effective strategies to counter undernutrition, especially as we near the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."



Mary Kom
Indian Olympic Boxer



Rani Rampal
Former Captain,
Women's Hockey Team, India



SHOWCASING OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



LEADING WITH A VISION

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ashwini Kakkar
Chairperson

Ashwini Kakkar is a business leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist with a background in mechanical engineering, finance, and international business. He is the Founder-Chairperson of Action Against Hunger Foundation India, where he became Global Chairman in 2021. Ashwini Kakkar previously served as Chairman of Mercury Travels and as Co-founder & Chairman of Via.com. His leadership roles included President of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and President of the Travel Agents Association of India.



Amb TCA Rangachari

Amb TCA Rangachari has traversed a spectrum of roles across different regions during his extensive 36-year career with the Indian Foreign Service. A respected former diplomat, he has previously led the MMAJ Academy of International Studies in New Delhi. Furthermore, Mr. Rangachari has served on the Boards of notable institutions such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA, among others.



Vipul Jain

Vipul Jain is an accomplished entrepreneur and innovator with a distinguished career spanning multiple sectors. He co-founded Kale Consultants (now Accelya Kale Solutions Limited) in 1986 and Kale Logistics Limited in 2010, where he serves as Chairman of the Board. Vipul is also the Co-founder of Catalysts for Social Action (CSA), a social initiative promoting child adoption, and Jabarkhet Nature Reserve.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD



Denis Metzger

Denis Metzger is a seasoned merchant banker with experience in New York, London, and Paris. Committed to addressing hunger and other critical issues, he founded several impactful organizations, including the Institut National pour la Simplification in 1992, the Appel pour le Combat de l'Abbé Pierre in 1994, Droit d'Urgence in 1995, and Action Against Hunger India in 2013.



Rohan Parikh

Rohan Parikh serves as the Managing Director of the Apurva Natvar Parikh Group, where he has established a diverse portfolio encompassing real estate development, logistics, shipping, education, and hospitality. Additionally, he leads The Acres Foundation, an organization dedicated to innovating and enhancing India's educational system.



Nikhil Singhi

Nikhil Singhi is a Senior Partner at Singhi & Co., Chartered Accountants, a prominent accounting firm in India specializing in assurance, tax, risk advisory, and corporate finance/investment banking. As a Managing Partner, he serves on the National Board and leads the Western India Practice. Nikhil has played a pivotal role in numerous large-scale assurance and corporate finance projects both domestically and internationally. Additionally, he holds positions as an Independent Director on several public companies and is an angel investor in various early-stage ventures. He is also an active member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO).

FINANCIAL PROFILE

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER FOUNDATION
Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2024

Particulars	Note No.	(Rs. in lacs)	
		As at 31.03.2024	As at 31.03.2023
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Shareholders' Funds			
Share Capital	2	1.00	1.00
Reserves and Surplus	3	466.01	599.84
		467.01	600.84
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long-term Provisions	4	41.00	43.29
		41.00	43.29
Current Liabilities			
Grant Received in Advance	5	290.69	499.19
Trade Payables	6		
Due to Micro Enterprises and Small Enterprises		11.06	8.47
Due to Creditors other than Micro Enterprises and Small Enterprises		14.87	65.61
		25.93	74.09
Other Current Liabilities	7	27.57	27.20
Short-term Provisions	8	6.43	4.72
		350.61	605.20
Total		858.62	1,249.32
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets			
-Property, Plant and Equipment	9	97.01	170.13
- Intangible Assets	9	5.91	5.83
		102.92	175.95
Other Non-current Assets	10	163.40	23.90
		266.31	199.85
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	459.19	990.46
Short term Loans and Advances	12	30.45	24.61
Other Current Assets	13	102.67	34.41
		592.31	1,049.47
Total		858.62	1,249.32
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	1		
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	18		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report attached,
For **J K V S & Co.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 318086E

Vijay S Varma
Partner
Membership No: 016014D

Place: Mumbai
Date : 11th September, 2024



Vipul Jain
VIPUL JAIN
Director
DIN: 00142518

Ashwini Kakkhar
ASHWINI KAKKAR
Director
DIN: 00390787

Place: Mumbai
Date : 11th September, 2024



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER FOUNDATION
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2024

Particulars	Note No.	(Rs. in lacs)	
		2023-24	2022-23
Income			
Income from Grants and Donations	14	1,648.18	1,856.48
Other Income	15	34.86	46.75
		1,683.04	1,903.23
Expenses:			
Programme cost	16	1,497.99	1,630.31
Depreciation and Amortisation	9	89.54	83.50
General and Administrative cost	17	229.34	180.01
		1,816.87	1,893.82
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		(133.83)	9.41
Tax Expenses:	18(12)		
- Current tax		-	-
- Deferred tax		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		(133.83)	9.41
Basic and Diluted Earnings per equity share (In Rs.)	18(7)	(1,338.32)	94.09
Face value per equity share		10.00	10.00
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	1		
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	18		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report attached,
For J K V S & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 318086E

Vijay S Bapna
Partner
Membership No: 0115070
Place: Mumbai
Date : 11th September, 2024































Vipul Jain
VIPUL JAIN
Director
DIN: 00142518

Ashwini Kakkhar
ASHWINI KAKKAR
Director
DIN: 00390787

Place: Mumbai
Date : 11th September, 2024



GLOSSARY

AAO		Assistant Administrative Officer
ACF		Action contre la Faim
AI		Artificial Intelligence
ANC		Ante-Natal Care
ANM		Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
ASHA		Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC		Anganwadi Center
AWW		Anganwadi Worker
BCMO		Block Chief Medical Officer
CDPO		Child Development Project Officer
CGM		Child Growth Monitor
CM		Community Mobilizer
CMAM		Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
FC		Field Coordinator
FLW		Frontline Worker
FS		Field Supervisor
FSL		Food Security & Livelihood
ICDS		Integrated Child Development Services
IFA		Iron and Folic Acid
IPC		Inter Personal Communication
IYCF		Infant and Young Child Feeding
KMC		Kangaroo Mother Care
KPI		Key Performance Indicator
LBW		Low Birth Weight
LFA		Logical Framework Approaches
LW		Lactating Women
MAM		Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MCMG		Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

MCP	▶	Mother and Child Protection
MEAL	▶	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
MIYCN	▶	Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition
ML	▶	Machine Learning
MLAs	▶	Members of the Legislative Assembly
MGNREGS	▶	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MTC	▶	Malnutrition Treatment Center
MUAC	▶	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
MVP	▶	Minimum Viable Product
NICU	▶	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NRC	▶	Nutrition Rehabilitation Center
OTP	▶	Outpatient Treatment Point
PHC	▶	Primary Health Care
PLAN	▶	Play, Learn, Act for Nutrition
PNC	▶	Post-Natal Care
POSHAN	▶	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment)
PRI	▶	Panchayati Raj Institute
PW	▶	Pregnant Women
RUTF	▶	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SAM	▶	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBC	▶	Social and Behavior Change
SDGs	▶	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	▶	Self Help Group
SOP	▶	Standard Operating Procedure
THR	▶	Take Home Ration
UHTC	▶	Urban Health Training Center
WASH	▶	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WCD	▶	Women and Child Development

FOR FOOD.
AGAINST HUNGER
AND MALNUTRITION.

FOR CLEAN WATER.
AGAINST KILLER DISEASES.

FOR CHILDREN THAT GROW
UP STRONG.
AGAINST LIVES CUT SHORT.

FOR CROPS THIS YEAR,
AND NEXT.
AGAINST DROUGHT
AND DISASTER.

FOR CHANGING MINDS.
AGAINST IGNORANCE AND
INDIFFERENCE.

FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER.
FOR EVERYONE.
FOR GOOD.

FOR ACTION.
AGAINST HUNGER.



Action Against Hunger

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Makwana Road,
Marol, Andheri (East)
Mumbai - 400 059, Maharashtra

Action Against Hunger Foundation is
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