

## Annual Overview 2021-2022

Emergency Response   Health   Education  
Protection   Life Skills   Environment



# Thank You

The Hope Foundation is extremely grateful to all our wonderful supporters – both individual & corporate, private & public and to our phenomenal volunteers who have assisted HOPE by volunteering on our projects in India, and also by volunteering on fundraising events in their own countries over the years.

To all the students who have fundraised within their communities, and to those who have organised and attended HOPE events – we cannot thank you enough. We acknowledge those who have provided HOPE with donations in kind, and have provided us with pro bono support.

We are extremely grateful to all our Patrons and Ambassadors, for promoting the work of HOPE and encouraging others to engage with and support us.

A.S.T.I.	Fenella Smith	Perry Boucher Family Foundation
Aerogen	Finty Smith and her best friend Sam	Peter and Anne Holland
Alexandra College	German cooperation	Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
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Bees Trees Water	Give Foundation	Quail Roost Foundation
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Calcutta Calling	Irish Aid	Soly Benveniste
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Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust	Lucy Nugent and Ciaran Faughnan, Tallaght Hospital	The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation
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Dr. David Mulcahy	Nikhil Srinivasan	Wheel Calcutta Club
Eibhlín and Barry Mc Cleary	Nom Lab	White Oak
ElectricAid	Oxford University Press	Wiz Digital Service Pvt Ltd
Enet	Pascal Switch Care	Zenone Foundation

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**All names have been changed in “Story of Change”**

## From The Founder Director



Dear Friends of HOPE,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your incredible generosity and support, which has helped HOPE to grow into the organisation it is today. We continue to provide permanent and sustainable pathways out of poverty through education, healthcare, protection, livelihood skill training, and emergency response in a holistic approach. This would not be possible without your continuous support, and I am sincerely grateful to you.

The last few years have been difficult for us due to COVID. India went through a crisis in April and May 2021, as the COVID cases surged. There weren't enough hospital beds or life-saving supplies. Another cyclone hit West Bengal in 2021, which devastated village communities. We had to deal with one crisis after another. Our supporters responded to our call, which helped us to save and rebuild lives, and we are forever grateful.

We are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Our projects are back to the full mode of operation, and the children are back to school and enjoying playing sports and other activities once again. It is with great joy that we can meet others, hold events, and we especially look forward to welcoming our supporters, donors, school students and volunteers to Kolkata once again.

To our staff, volunteers, students, teachers, patrons, board members and donors from Ireland, the UK, the USA, India, Germany and all over the world who have stood by us during the past year, your generosity never fails to astound us, and you are the reason we can keep HOPE alive.

Our mission to work towards a "world where it should never hurt to be a child" is at the heart of our work. HOPE is a source of light to thousands of children and their communities, enabling and empowering them to build a brighter future for themselves and their future generations. We hope you continue to support our work and vision, and look forward to engaging with you, our supporters, again next year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maureen Forrest', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maureen Forrest



## From The Director, Finance & Administration

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share that The Hope Foundation has completed 23 years of journey and continues to support the underserved children and communities of Kolkata and surrounding districts. This Annual Overview of April 2021 – March 2022 highlights the various aspects of our engagement in child protection, education, health, livelihood, environment and emergency response.

In 2021, India went through a serious health crisis due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid spread of the Delta strain led to countrywide adversity, and an uncounted number of people lost their lives. We are incredibly thankful to all our supporters from India, Ireland, UK, USA and Germany for extending immediate assistance that helped us convert HOPE Hospital into a 53-bed COVID Hospital and set up a Satellite Medical Facility for non-critical COVID-19 patients.

As the pandemic continued, along with health and livelihood, the most impacted area was education due to the prolonged closure of schools. HOPE ensured uninterrupted learning by using a variety of online and offline methods, including community radio in collaboration with the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights. During this financial year, HOPE has started collaborating with Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to ensure education for children with special needs in government schools.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Founder Director Maureen Forrest, HOPE team members from India, Ireland, UK, USA and Germany, donors, supporters and volunteers who were with us during this difficult time. As we deeply miss the late Geeta Venkadakrishnan, founder of Hope Kolkata Foundation, her legacy has been taken forward by the team. Our staff have been our greatest strength; it would not have been possible to carry out our work without their commitment and courage.

Through the ray of HOPE, we wish to create a better world for the children in need.



Sachidananda Das



## About Us

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) is a development organisation working to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty and advocate for the rights and equal treatment of vulnerable children and communities in West Bengal, India.

The power and potential of a child is often suppressed by poverty, discrimination, and violence. However, in today's world every child should have the right to be healthy, educated, protected, and valued in their own family and society. To create long-lasting change, we empower the children, their families, and their communities to access their rights and break free of the cycle of poverty.

Since 1999, The Hope Foundation has been building a strong partnership with children, families, government departments and civil society organisations fighting for the rights of children through 56 projects supported by more than 505 members of staffs in India.

**OUR VISION:** 'A world where it should never hurt to be a child'. Restoring childhoods to children and sustainability to individuals and communities.

**OUR MISSION:** To improve the quality of life for the most marginalised street and slum connected children and communities, primarily in India. Ensuring their basic rights and enhancing their dignity of life, through protection, health, education, and economic development in a sustainable life cycle approach. Achieving this mission through fundraising activities and initiatives.

### OUR CORE VALUES

#### **Accountability**

We are accountable. We believe in transparency and in making ourselves accountable to all of our donors, supporters, and beneficiaries. We are committed to the highest standards of governance and best practice in all areas of our work. HOPE is accredited to Triple Lock, Charities Institute Ireland.

#### **Collaboration**

We collaborate. Communities are at the heart of our work. We believe in building and fostering partnerships at different levels at home and abroad in order to leverage local, regional, and global strength for sustainable development.

#### **Equality**

We treat one another equally. We are committed to promoting equality by removing barriers that stop the full participation of every individual, group, or community in public or political life. We believe in and promote inclusivity and diversity inside and outside of our workplace.

#### **Innovation**

We are innovative. We believe in the power of great ideas. We are always open to accepting and developing new and creative ideas; ideas which will enhance systematic change for sustainable solutions.

#### **Integrity**

We have integrity. We aspire to the highest standards of honesty and encourage critical thinking for further development. We never compromise on quality and act in the best interests of those with whom we work.

#### **Respect**

We are respectful. We respect the people we work for and on behalf of. We respect ourselves; we respect our colleagues and our community. We have fostered an organisation that enables and encourages respect.

#### **Caring for the Environment**

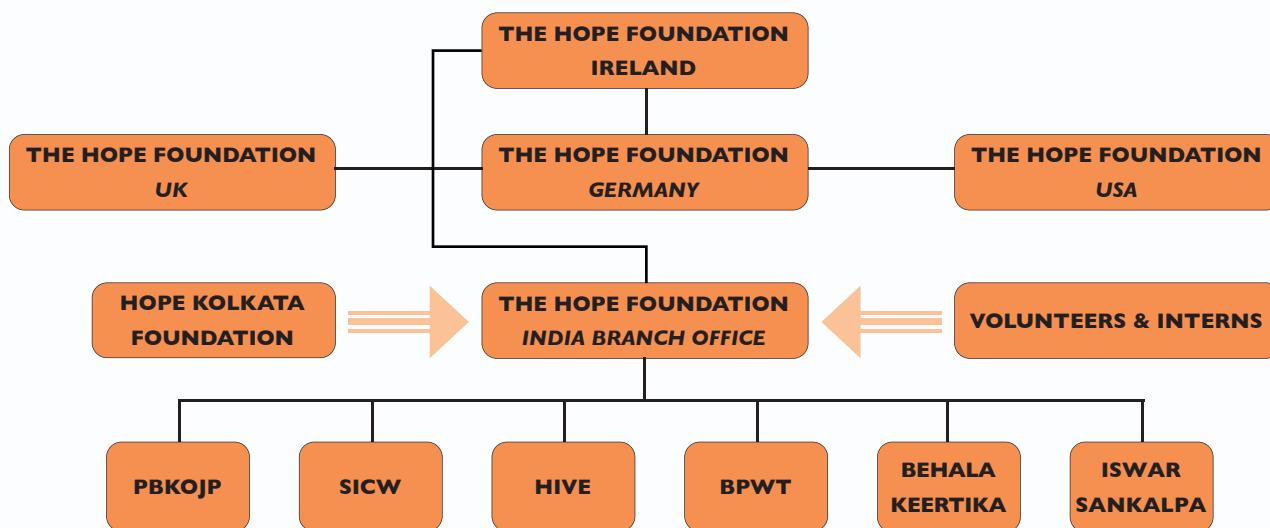
We are responsible. We are responsible for our contributions to the organisation's value for saving the planet. We must act decisively and responsibly to protect the environment. We must aim towards creating a clean and green environment and reducing our carbon footprint.

### OUR STRATEGIES:

1. Improve the healthcare status of underprivileged and/or marginalised communities, with particular attention to maternal health, child mortality and combating RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS.
2. Improve learning outcomes and the educational attainment of children and raising the quality of learning environments in formal schools.
3. Provide home-based and family-based care and protection for children to combat child labour, abuse, exploitation, and deprivation.
4. Empower marginalised young people and women to increase their skill capacity to secure sustainable livelihoods.
5. Be a voice for children through the implementation of an all-encompassing family and community approach to development.
6. Improve management effectiveness and accountability within the organisation.
7. Increase fundraising initiatives in India, Europe and Internationally for organisational stability and sustainability.
8. Increase volunteer and stakeholder engagement.



## Structure of HOPE



## Implementing Our Local Partner

### Hope Kolkata Foundation (HKF)



The Hope Kolkata Foundation was set up in 1999 to improve the lives of children surviving the difficult circumstances they faced living on the streets of Kolkata. For the protection and development of these underprivileged children, Hope Kolkata Foundation manages 4 Residential Child Care Centres, 2 Crisis Intervention Centres, Punorjibon rehabilitation centre for addicted boys, Mother & Child Care Centre and provides early adulthood support, a Holistic Education Programme in government schools, 7 Naboasha education centres, 4 crèches, a Life Skills Training Centre, a Hospital, Pharmacy, Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Blindness Eradication Programme, 2 Community Clinics, Child Watch, and a Sponsorship Programme.

### 1. Paschim Banga Kira-o-Jana Kalyan Parishad (PBKOJP)



HOPE partnered with PBKOJP at the time of its inception in 1999 and collaborated with them in various interventions such as education, vocational training and early childhood care and education. Currently, HOPE supports "Prerona Home" for girls which was set up in 2003 for children in need of care and protection including children of sex workers.



### 2. HIVE India

HOPE has partnered with HIVE India since 2006 to support the Emergency Response Unit, set up to rescue any person at risk on the streets, involved in accidents, suffering from physical or mental illnesses, victimized by harassment or abuse, or involved in child labour and domestic violence.

### 3. Society for Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)



Since 2005, with the support of HOPE, the UMEED Special Needs Unit has worked with children with special needs to ensure their development and to bring them into mainstream society. HOPE also partners with SICW to support the Education Sponsorship Programme.

### 4. Iswar Sankalpa (IS)



HOPE has supported the Naya Daur outreach programme since 2007, a city-wide community-based programme providing treatment and support to address the needs of homeless people with psychosocial disorders on the streets of Kolkata.

### 5. Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT)



"Snehneer Home" was established in 2005 in partnership with HOPE. Snehneer ensures the holistic development of children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS, through the provision of

protection, healthcare, nutrition, education, and recreation in a loving and caring family environment.

## 6. Behala Keertika



HOPE collaborated with Behala Keertika in the year 2008 to support “Keertika Home”. Girls in need of care and protection are provided with holistic support to flourish into independent and empowered women.



## Good Governance

As an organisation, The Hope Foundation is open and transparent. HOPE implements international best practice in governance.

We recognise our responsibility to you, our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and fundraisers.

HOPE is committed to safeguarding children. We implement best practice guidelines and provide child protection training and capacity building for all staff who work directly with children and vulnerable adults. HOPE has an elaborate Child Protection Policy which is reviewed every three years.

Our membership of representative organisations ensures that we are supported in keeping up to date on procedures, legislation and developments that impact on our work. Some examples of best practice in Governance include:

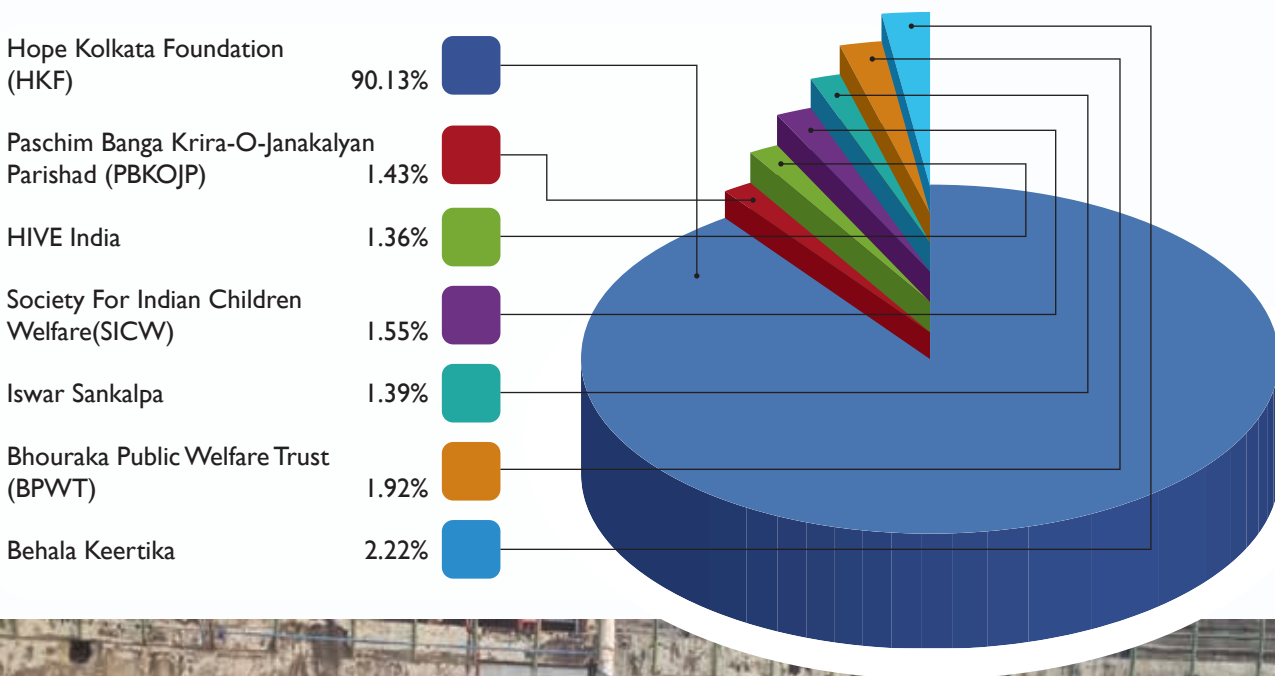
- HOPE is a signatory of the Comhlámh ‘Code of Good Practice for Volunteer Sending Organisations’. ‘Comhlámh’ is Irish for solidarity and is a member and supporter organisation for those working for social justice, human rights, and global development.
- HOPE is a member of Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, and subscribes to its ‘Code of Conduct on Images and Messages’.
- HOPE is a member of The Wheel, a leading support and representative network for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland.
- HOPE is fully compliant with The Governance Code, a Code of Practice for good governance of community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland.
- HOPE is a member of the Charities Institute Ireland, the body formed from the merger of ICTR and Fundraising Ireland in 2016 and adheres and implements the ICTR ‘Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising’. We have been awarded ‘Triple Lock’ membership by the Charities Institute Ireland, demonstrating our commitment to best practice in all aspects of transparent reporting, ethical fundraising and governance.
- HOPE’s Directors’ Report and Financial Statements are presented in a form which complies with the Companies Act 2014, and, as far as possible, with the New Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP), are published on our website.
- Our Founder and Honorary Director Maureen Forrest does not take a salary.
- Modest Staff Salaries
- Numerous pro-bono professional service-providers and special rates help to keep administration costs down.



## 2021-2022 Major Achievements

- **26,995** individuals across Kolkata have been direct beneficiaries of HOPE **healthcare programmes** and interventions in the street connected and slum communities, including over **8,770** who have been treated in HOPE Hospital's Inpatient and Outpatient Departments
- **8,139** children received **educational support** through HOPE crèches, Naboasha projects, special education projects, educational sponsorship, and our Holistic Education Programme
- **1,699** children and adults have been **protected** from abuse and neglect by our Residential Child Care Centres and Child Watch
- **652** young women and men have engaged in HOPE's **vocational training, skills enhancement, and income generation** programmes to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty
- **14,035 grocery packets** were distributed to **9,635** vulnerable families in **4** districts of West Bengal including Kolkata and Howrah, as part of our **emergency response** during **lockdown** and **cyclone Yaas**

## Fund Allocation to Partners of Financial Year 2021-2022



# Vulnerability Assessment

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted the lives of people across the globe. The situation is worse in developing nations like India. HOPE conducted a vulnerability assessment in 2021 to assess the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions on marginalised communities from HOPE intervention areas, including Kolkata, Bhagar (Howrah) and Sundarban.

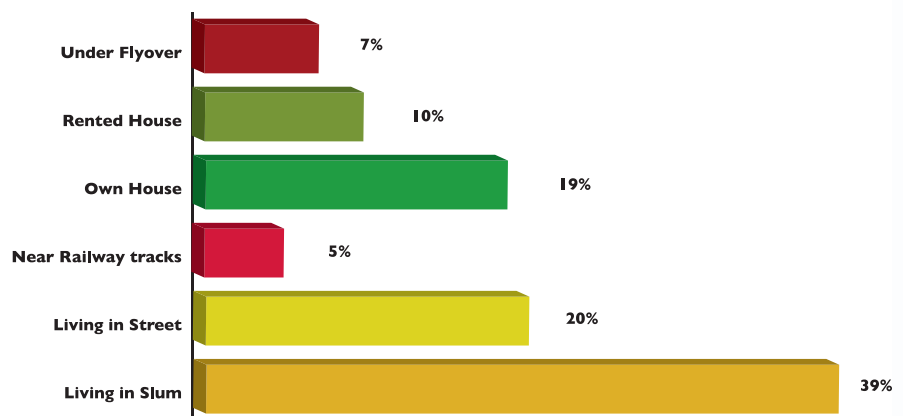
## Methodology

- Mixed-methodological approach to ensure sufficient quantitative data triangulation with qualitative information from door-to-door interviews and focus group discussions.
- A pilot study was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of the data.
- Purposive random sampling method was applied for sample selection.
- **832** households were covered through a door-to-door survey method. Focused group discussions were conducted with **240** respondents from HOPE intervention communities. The sample distribution was **70%** beneficiaries and **30%** non-beneficiaries of HOPE services. The majority of the respondents in the study were females (**76%**).
- Administration of structured questionnaire to collect quantitative data from the adults of the intervening communities
- Checklists for focus group discussions to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on their lives and the community.
- Descriptive statistical formulation of frequencies and percentile were applied for the analysis.

## Background of Respondents

91% of surveyed households are in Kolkata and Howrah Municipal areas, and 9% are in Panchayat areas (village council). The living status of the 832 surveyed households is shown in **Figure 1**. These families survive under extreme vulnerability as they are always under the constant threat of being evacuated or affected by natural calamities.

**Figure 1: Respondent's Current Living Status**

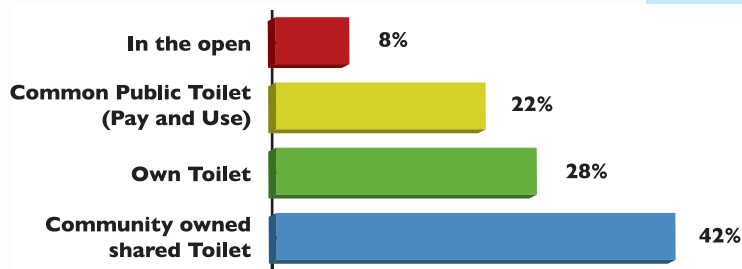


The survey indicated that 42% of households have access to community-owned shared toilets while 22% of the families living on streets/under flyover use public toilets for which they must pay. Open defecation is still practised amongst 8% of surveyed households, risking the health of all, especially children and women (**Figure 2**).





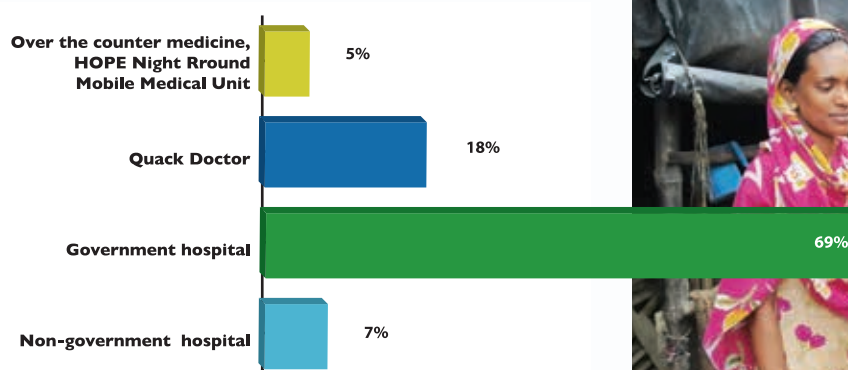
**Figure 2: Defecation Practises in the Community**



Male members of 94% of surveyed households work in the unorganised sector<sup>1</sup>. They are daily wage workers, van pullers, auto-rickshaw drivers, cart pullers, loaders and helpers, to name a few. Many are engaged in jobs like glass breaking, rag picking etc. 43% of women from the surveyed households work in the unorganised sector as domestic helpers, cooks and caretakers, to support their families.

69% of families access government hospitals and ward health facilities for all health-related issues (**Figure 3**). 23% of households continue to seek medical guidance from people who lack professional medical knowledge like quack doctors (18% households), take over-the-counter medicines from medicine shops etc. 3% of surveyed households accessed HOPE healthcare facilities (HOPE Hospital, Night Round Mobile Medical Unit and Community Clinic). 13% of families visit non-government hospitals and local doctors.

**Figure 3: Access to Health Facilities**



<sup>1</sup> According to the Unorganised Worker's Social Security Act, 2008 unorganized worker works as home-based worker, self-employed worker or wage worker in the unorganized sector includes a worker in the organised sector who is not covered by any of the Acts mentioned in Schedule-II of Act.

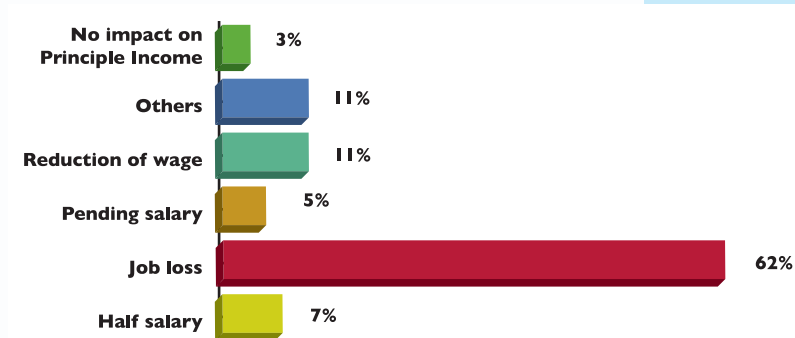
## Findings

### LIVELIHOOD

COVID-19 has deeply impacted the principal income of households. This vulnerability had been continuing for almost 2 years, since March 2020. 62% of the respondents lost their work, and 11% shared that all opportunities to work were closed. In 23% of households, their wage was either reduced, or their salary was pending (**Figure 4**). This clearly reflects the financial challenges each family had to face and food scarcity, which affected the mental health of each member.

The biggest challenge was that 88% of families could not find any alternative source of income during the period as every opportunity to work was closed. Due to financial constraints during the lockdown, 46% of households stopped using one or more amenities. 65% of respondents shared that their families stopped using mobile phones or mobile internet, especially during the first lockdown period. However, the connections were restored when some restrictions were lifted, and people started working again. 17% of families had to shift from cooking with gas to wood or charcoal. 48% of families stopped watching television.



**Figure 4: Impact on the principal income**

To cope with the situation, 58% of households have used up their savings, 28% took financial support from friends/relatives, 6% bought food on credit, and 5% borrowed money from relatives. Amongst 3% of households, there are families completely dependent on the support received from the relief distribution. The study indicated that the majority (57%) of households continue to face the challenge and are yet to overcome the financial crisis. Focus Group discussions revealed that 12 boys below 18 years started working in jewellery shops, iron factories etc., to support their families.

### Food Security

During the pandemic, lockdowns led to food scarcity amongst families. The vulnerability assessment showed that 84% of households faced challenges arranging basic meals for their family every day during the first lockdown and 79% during the second lockdown. During the first lockdown, 17% of families faced food scarcity at home almost daily, which decreased to 9% during the second lockdown.

36% of households faced the challenge once or twice a week during the first lockdown, which increased to 48% within a year during the second lockdown. The vulnerability was high among 52% of households who shared that there had been days during the lockdown period when there was no food at home.

The study reveals that food insecurity was felt during both the lockdowns. However, the relief support received from Hope Kolkata Foundation, government and other local authorities played a significant role in managing the situation.

### HEALTH

18% of surveyed households shared the challenge of lack of transport during the lockdown to reach hospitals for healthcare services and fear of exposure to the virus.

34% of households experienced difficulties in accessing treatment due to lockdowns/restrictions.

Accessing treatment was more challenging for people with critical and terminal illnesses (TB, HIV/AIDS, Cancer) as they depend highly on medicines. 51% reported critical and terminal illnesses, of which 14% experienced difficulties accessing healthcare and treatment.

Since local Anganwadi centres (ICDS) remained closed, pregnant women of 13% of households did not access antenatal care due to lack of information

and lack of transport or fear of COVID-19. 7% non-institutional birth deliveries were recorded from migrant communities of Chitpur, Hastings, Bhagar and Central during the pandemic. However, 93% of households accessed hospitals. 28% of the families with children of age 0-6 reported that children didn't receive timely vaccination during the pandemic. The financial situation led women to use cloths instead of sanitary napkins during menstruation which is unhygienic and resulted in infections.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic brought a complex array of challenges which had mental health repercussions for everyone, including children and adolescents. Grief, fear, uncertainty, social isolation, increased screen time, and parental fatigue negatively affected children's mental health.

Due to the stigma and fear of isolation, 92% of household members did not get tested for COVID-19, despite having symptoms. However, the majority of the respondents and their families have taken both doses of vaccination from the government hospitals and health centres.

### EDUCATION

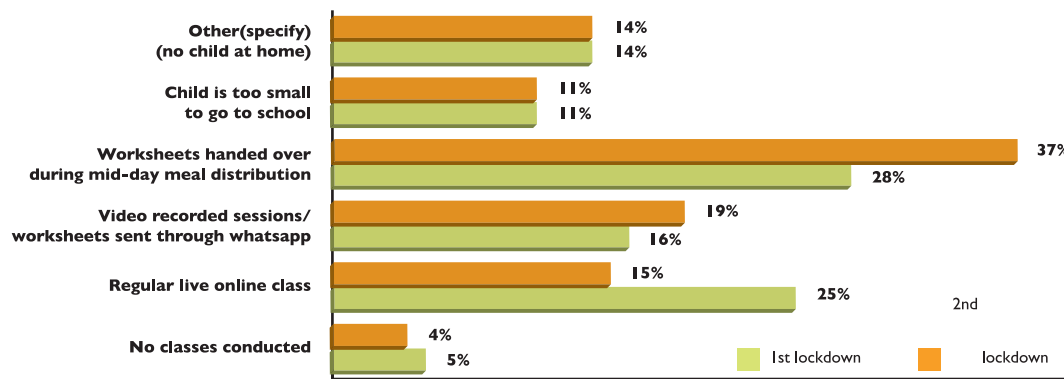
COVID-19 has created a record education crisis. Preschools and schools remained closed for almost 2 years since March 2020. To cope with the situation, the schools shifted to a new remote education system, providing worksheets and online classes. Some schools even shared audio and videos virtually. However, many schools did not apply this new system, and the children had no access to education. Thus, the probability of discontinuing education or dropping out has become a significant concern.

The study shows that 26% of families shared that lockdown and no access to smartphones for online classes were the primary reasons for children in the 6-18 age group to discontinue education. Deprioritising education has always been the main concern for children from vulnerable families to drop out. The pandemic had deeply impacted



the families' financial situation, making this a critical reason for dropping out. Lack of money and parental support are the reasons for 40% of children to discontinue education.

**Figure 5: Mode of classes during lockdown**



The table above shows that only 25% of schools conducted online classes during the first lockdown. This situation deteriorated during the second lockdown. Additionally, 10% of schools discontinued online classes. Irregularity of online classes, lack of supervision from the school, and absence or inaccessibility to smart devices, decreased the rate of retention in online classes. Only 15% of schools shared videos, audios or worksheets virtually (through WhatsApp).

Worksheets were a common form of education during the pandemic. The guardians collected them during the monthly grocery distribution (Mid-Day Meal). 60% of children had no access to worksheets, and the remaining 40% did not complete them as they were mostly not collected by the schoolteachers for evaluation. Thus, children from families with low education levels or first-generation learners lack awareness of their children's academic performance. Pre-primary children received almost no support from the ICDS centres as they remained closed.

The reasons outlined above highlight the growing concern over the 'learning loss' of children. The foundation skills of children suffered due to prolonged school closures and inequitable access to different forms of technology-based educational inputs. It can be understood that there has been a significant increase in the number of children with learning gaps.

## PROTECTION

The pandemic has led to children being more exposed to the virtual world. They spend more time on mobile phones, the internet, online games and gambling. 40% of

adults and 13% of children expressed the same during focus group discussions.

This increased rate of children spending time online has become a significant concern. As children are the most vulnerable group in the society, this leads them exposed

to severe risks. Cyber bullying can affect adolescents every time they use social media. Children may be exposed to violent and sexual content. There is a higher risk of being trafficked as social media

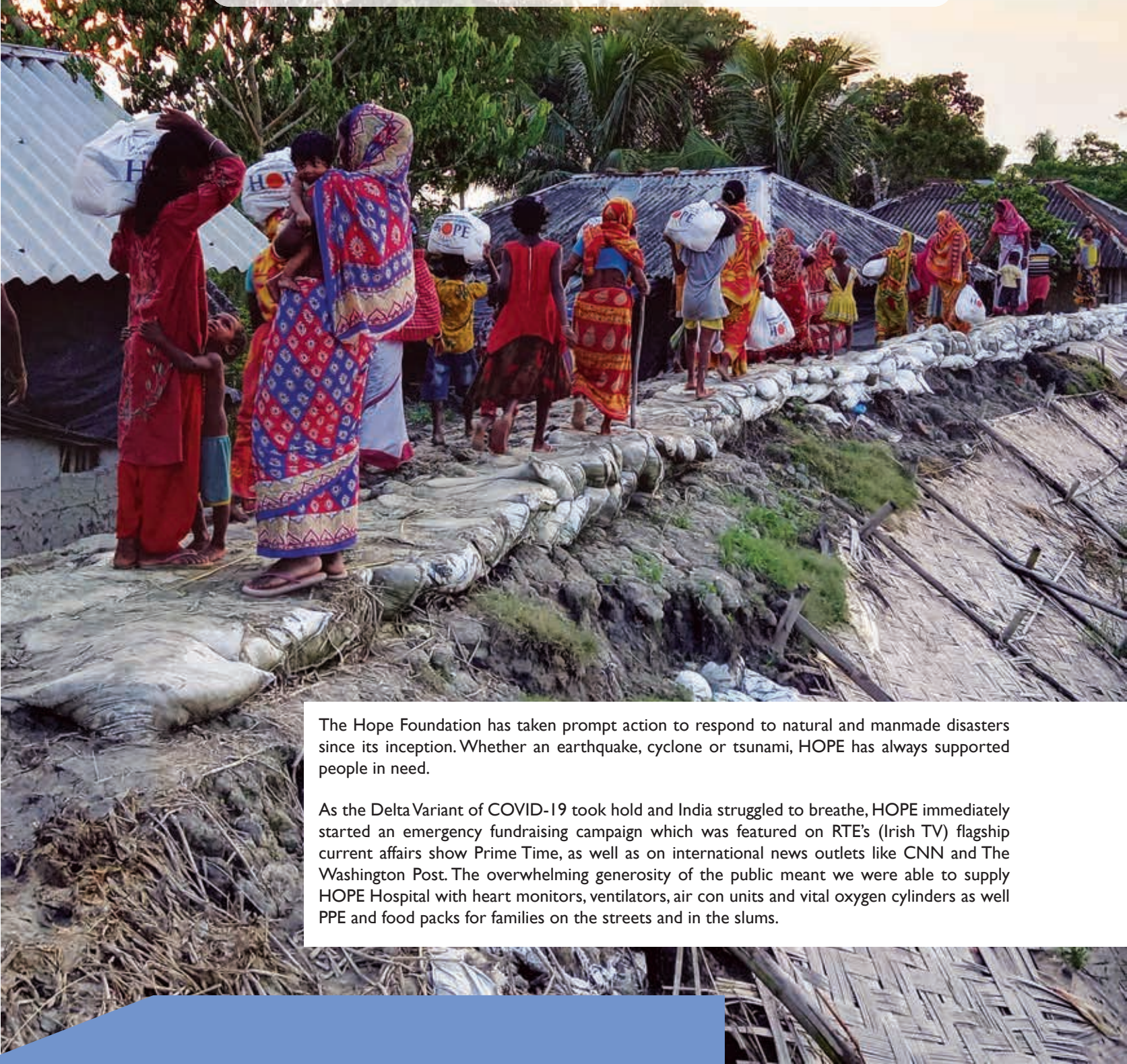
allows offenders to contact potential victims easily. Lack of data safety in the virtual world also threatens privacy.

Apart from this threat posed by the digital world, there continues to be a presence of addiction. 5% of respondents in focus group discussions and 4% of surveyed households accepted their children's addiction. It can be clearly understood that this is a conservative number as families are not always comfortable sharing the actual data. Amongst them, children of more than 75% of households are addicted to chewing tobacco and/or cigarettes. 17% of respondents shared that the influence of peers is very strong, and they were pushed to consume alcohol or smoke various substances. Dendrite is another common form of addiction. As schools remained closed during the pandemic, the children spent more time with their friends in the community without being monitored, which increased the risk of using substances.

The survey shows that family members of the majority (51%) of households are addicted to alcohol, gambling or substance abuse. The most common (81%) were alcohol and gambling. The rate of alcohol consumption decreased during the first lockdown due to lack of or no cash. There has been mixed opinion regarding domestic violence. Around 6% of adult females shared during focus group discussions that domestic violence continued in the communities during the lockdown. The number can be assumed to be much higher as many women were apprehensive due to social stigma.



# Emergency Response and Relief COVID-19 and Cyclone Yaas



The Hope Foundation has taken prompt action to respond to natural and manmade disasters since its inception. Whether an earthquake, cyclone or tsunami, HOPE has always supported people in need.

As the Delta Variant of COVID-19 took hold and India struggled to breathe, HOPE immediately started an emergency fundraising campaign which was featured on RTE's (Irish TV) flagship current affairs show Prime Time, as well as on international news outlets like CNN and The Washington Post. The overwhelming generosity of the public meant we were able to supply HOPE Hospital with heart monitors, ventilators, air con units and vital oxygen cylinders as well PPE and food packs for families on the streets and in the slums.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic

### HOPE Hospital

In 2021, West Bengal experienced the spread of the highly transmissible Delta variants of COVID-19, which was a real cause for concern. During the surge in COVID-19 cases in April 2021, the hospitals in India were overwhelmed and at full capacity. There was a shortage of beds and oxygen supplies, leaving many people without access to healthcare.

During the second wave of COVID-19, HOPE Hospital was converted into a COVID Hospital, and 53 beds were dedicated to COVID-19 patients. HOPE Hospital effectively dealt with the third wave of the pandemic in January 2022 and dedicated 25 beds for COVID-19 patients and 15 beds for suspected COVID-19 patients.

During this emergency, HOPE Hospital procured ventilators, BiPAP machines, suction operators, portable x-ray machine, cardiac monitors, laparoscopic instruments, biochemistry analyser, oxygen cylinders and lifesaving medicines.

HOPE Hospital also received permission to start the COVID-19 vaccination programme, allowing many people from the street-connected communities to get vaccinated.

### Activities and Achievements

- **967** COVID-19 tests were conducted.
- **1,000** Rapid Antigen Tests were done.
- **257** COVID-19 patients were treated in HOPE Hospital.

## Satellite Health Facility

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE Hospital set up a temporary Satellite Health Facility for COVID-19 patients who did not require critical care. This created space in HOPE Hospital to treat critical COVID-19 patients in May 2021 as there was a bed crisis in the hospitals in Kolkata.

HOPE collaborated with the charitable organisation 'Hydari & Rehmatbai Vадnagarwala Maternity & Nursing Home Trust' to set up a 15-bed medical facility on a temporary basis.

### Activities and Achievements

- **19** COVID-19 patients were treated.
- **4** patients were referred to other hospitals for further treatment.
- **12** patients were rehabilitated to aftercare homes after recovery.
- **3** patients were reunited with their families after recovery.





## Lockdown & Cyclone Yaas: Food Security & Relief

Devastated by repeated lockdowns with subsequent loss of jobs over the past year, the under-served communities in West Bengal have been made even more vulnerable by the more contagious new strains of COVID-19. The daily wage workers had little money saved for the future and became jobless again due to the lockdown announced in May 2021.

The growing food insecurity has led to increased rates of diseases and ailments, especially among children and women, making them more susceptible to the virus. HOPE identified families living on the streets and slums of Kolkata and Howrah and distributed food packets to these families from May 2021.

### Activities and Achievements

- **8,065** food packets were distributed to **3,665** families.

Cyclone Yaas hit the eastern coast of India in May 2021, even before the families could completely recover from the loss caused by Cyclone Amphan in 2020. The Sundarban Islands were completely flooded, and many temporary dams collapsed. The salted water destroyed agricultural land. Families lost their homes and belongings, and managed to save their lives by moving to flood shelters. HOPE analysed the worst affected areas after Cyclone Yaas. Accordingly, food packets, clothes and tarpaulins were distributed to the most vulnerable families.

### Activities and Achievements

- **49** remote villages in **4** districts of West Bengal were supported.
- Grocery packets were provided to **5,970** families.
- **12,200** packets of garments were distributed to **5,970** families.
- **955** tarpaulins were provided to set up temporary shelter.



### Dealing with Emergency: One After Another

*Gauri Pandit, Programme Manager, Naboasha Project*

The 2020 lockdown was my first experience working in an emergency response team. I experienced a whole new dimension of vulnerability at every level of society, be it poor or rich. The people on the streets were more threatened with loss of jobs than COVID-19. However, the scenario changed during the 2nd wave of COVID-19.

In April 2021, COVID-19 was increasing, and the mortality rate increased in other parts of the country. We started preparing for relief distribution again for the street-connected people as we could predict another lockdown could be introduced at any time. In May 2022, the government announced lockdown, and our emergency team was back in action without even considering what would happen if they get infected again. The people from the street-connected communities were again in distress. However, the 2020 lockdown taught them the requirement of saving something for the future, even if that is a tiny amount which I did not observe in my 15 years of association with these communities.

During the 1st wave, they always avoided wearing masks; however, in the second wave, they were scared as they heard people all over India were losing their life due to the pandemic. They were more focused on health and hygiene in their limited capacity. Our relief materials ensured that they had food each day for their families, and due to limited restrictions, they could work as and when possible, to support the other needs of their families.





## Dealing with Emergency: Surviving on an Island

*Arunava Das (Gora), Hospitality and Logistics Manager, The Hope Foundation*

I have experienced the destructive impact of a cyclone twice in my lifetime; however, this was the first time I went out to lead an emergency response team to support the people who lost everything in Cyclone Yaas. We frequently travelled to Sundarban coastal areas for a month, where most of the villages were under water. We stopped in many islands for relief distribution and realised whatever amount we bring is not enough for all.

Some days we would travel 3 hours on the road and 4 hours on a boat to reach a village. On the way, we would see villagers standing on high lands and waiting if any boat stopped with some dry food and drinking water. We already committed to others to bring food and therefore could not support everyone we came across on our way. Each day on the way back home, we planned to return to Sundarban again with more relief materials.

The degree of helplessness was tremendous. The villagers could be economically backward, but they were neither homeless nor beggars. However, this natural disaster put them in such misery that they had to depend on others, and there was no way out. No food, wet clothes, and no permanent shelter, but they never forgot to express gratitude for our support and for risking our own life.





## Health Programme



Addressing health issues of the street-connected and slum communities in Kolkata has been one of HOPE's main goals since its inception. HOPE supports its partners in providing healthcare services to street-connected and slum-dwelling communities, creating awareness of physical and mental health issues, mobilising communities to access quality healthcare facilities, and rescuing and restoring or rehabilitating patients after treatment who are homeless or abandoned on the street.

For the last two years, HOPE has extended its support to rural communities with limited access to healthcare facilities by organising health and eye checkups in collaboration with local community-based organisations.



HOPE has shown a humanitarian response since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued during 2021-22. In 2021, the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit Kolkata catastrophically, increasing additional pressure on the government healthcare services regarding the availability of beds in hospitals, lifesaving drugs and even medical oxygen support for patients. With the limited resources and capacity, the government healthcare facility could not provide treatment to the increasing number of COVID patients. On the other hand, medicinal treatment and care for general patients were also affected.



During 2021-22, the number of patients abandoned on the street increased. Homeless people with psychosocial disabilities were evacuated from where they usually take shelter, which affected their improvement in mental health as the treatment and care got disrupted.

The government imposed a night curfew to minimise the effect of the pandemic, which was a challenge for the regular activity of HOPE projects. To respond to the situation, HOPE implemented strategies and modified its activities in the following way:

- HOPE Hospital was converted into a COVID Special Hospital to support the government healthcare system.
- Set up a temporary satellite health centre to treat COVID-19 patients who did not require critical care.
- Procured lifesaving drugs and medical oxygen for the patients through networking with various organisations and the generous support of HOPE's supporters.
- Provided medical support to people in the rural areas, as the medical facilities in remote villages were rarely available due to the pandemic.
- Continued to rescue patients abandoned on the streets and in distressed situations through advocacy and networking with different government departments.
- Provided medical treatment and care to homeless people with psychosocial disabilities by strengthening and mobilising local community members.

All the health programmes supported by HOPE are designed to create a bridge between the government healthcare system and patients from marginalised economic backgrounds through proper networking, linkage and advocacy with government and non-government stakeholders.

## HOPE Hospital

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE Hospital was established in May 2008 to cater to the secondary healthcare needs of street-connected children and adults. It consists of Inpatient, Outpatient and Surgical Departments, a Diagnostic Centre, a pharmacy, and a Dialysis Unit. The hospital has established enhanced treatment facilities such as eye and dental care.

HOPE Hospital collaborates with several NGOs and community-based organisations from all over West Bengal and provides required medical support at a subsidised rate. HOPE Hospital's Night Round Mobile Medical Unit and emergency response team rescue patients from the streets of Kolkata and admit them for treatment.

### Achievements

- **7,184** patients received medical consultations in the Outpatient Department.
- **1,586** patients were provided with medical treatment, medication and nutrition in the Inpatient Department.
- **11,831** different diagnostic tests were done for patients.
- **712** surgeries were conducted; **201** were inpatient, and **511** were day-care surgeries.
- **2,237** people received the COVID-19 vaccination, including **109** children.
- **433** children were vaccinated under the influenza vaccination programme.
- **111** dialysis services were given to patients.
- **144** patients were rescued by HOPE's Emergency Response Team. **119** persons were rehabilitated to different aftercare units.

## Blindness Eradication Programme

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Blindness Eradication Programme aims to ensure the holistic medical treatment of underserved from remote villages, street dwellers, nursing homes or rehabilitation centres who would otherwise be deprived of necessary eye treatment in Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal. HOPE Hospital conducts eye clinics, and eye camps are organised in outreach areas for eye screening, and dispensing free medicine and spectacles.



Under this programme, youth from the economically weaker section are also supported to become independent by pursuing a two-year course in optometry.

### Achievements

- **5,479** persons were tested at eye camps.
- **2,381** persons attended the specialised eye clinic at HOPE Hospital.
- **441** eye surgeries were performed in the eye operation theatre.

- **2,053** free medicines were dispensed.
- **3,918** pairs of free spectacles were provided to children and adults.
- **2,423** eye tests were done at the specialised eye clinic at HOPE Hospital.
- **16** students are sponsored to pursue the Diploma in Optometry Course in two batches.

## Night Round Mobile Medical Unit

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit was established to address the crisis street-connected communities face in availing of healthcare services. Street and slum dwellers, who are mainly daily wage workers, live in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, lacking basic sanitation. These people cannot afford to lose a day of paid work as visiting a government hospital can be time-consuming, and they cannot afford private medical care. Lack of education and information also prevents this population from accessing healthcare.

The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit provides primary health checkups, treatment, free medication and wound dressings. As required, the team also assists in admitting patients to the hospital for treatment. It also aims to create health and hygiene awareness

among the street-connected communities of Kolkata.

### Achievements

- **8,445** patients received primary healthcare support along with free medicines for various illnesses.
- **255** patients were referred to the government hospitals.
- **20** awareness camps were organised on health issues such as HIV-AIDS, COVID-19, and Malaria. **461** people participated in these awareness camps and improved their knowledge.



# Community Clinics in Chitpur and Sickline slum areas

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

The two community clinics in Chitpur and Sickline provide primary health checkups and free medicines to the community members of these slum areas. Chitpur and Sickline are highly populated, unregistered slum areas in Kolkata. Most of the people living in these slums are migrant daily wage workers.

HOPE's Community Clinics reflected that the slum dwellers often have medical problems that differ from the general public. This is due to their unhygienic environment, the closeness of the dwellings to each other, and neglected ailments that worsen, particularly for young women who often feel too uncomfortable to approach a doctor.

The project emphasises care for children, pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescents and older adults. The project has greatly impacted the improvement and maintaining patients' general health by providing medical care and treatment.

## Achievements

- **1,775 (603 children and 1,172 adults)** patients received health checkups and free medicine at Chitpur Community Clinic.
- **2,016 (847 children and 1,169 adults)** patients received health checkups and free medicine at Sickline Community Clinic.

## Story of Change

The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit was contacted by a community member from Nimtala, where the underserved population stays in a slum built along a railway track. The area is an extremely dangerous place to live, and the consequence was fatal for Sonu, a 5-year-old boy who met with a train accident. Under such an emergency, the Night Round doctor advised to admit him to the nearest Government Hospital for treatment. His hand and leg were amputated in the hospital, and he was on ventilation support for a month.

After discharge, Sonu returned to his home. However, the unhygienic condition of the slum area did not allow his wounds to heal. The Night Round team approached his family, and after counselling, he stayed in the hospital for 7 weeks until the wound healed. However, life became extremely difficult for the 5-year-old boy. Sonu was discharged, and the hospital team continued to explore the possibility of supporting Sonu further.

Finally, Sonu was readmitted to HOPE Hospital for prosthetic hand and leg procedures. This is a significant relief to Sonu and his family as it will allow him to adjust and lead normal life.





## Naya Daur

### Iswar Sankalpa

Naya Daur is a community-based project which supports homeless people with psychosocial disabilities through nutrition, health and hygiene, medicine, counselling, clothing and family restoration.



Reducing the stigma surrounding mental health is a crucial aspect of the project, which supports clients to reintegrate into society. Advocacy and awareness campaigns are conducted to promote the social inclusion of this marginalised population. Support is provided to help clients obtain government benefits.

Caregivers are identified within the local community to support people with psychosocial disabilities living on the street. As a result, more clients are being accepted back into local communities and provided with employment.

Naya Daur mobilises community resources such as pharmacies, NGOs, Community Based Organisations, local shopkeepers, pharmaceutical companies, other corporate groups and concerned individuals, empowering them to function as potential caregivers. A more comprehensive support network is formed using these resources to create an integrated mental health service model. The caregivers and other community members provided enormous support during the lockdown by providing medicinal and food support to the clients when the social workers were unable to.

### Achievements

- **112** homeless persons with psychosocial disabilities were supported, including **20** new clients.
- **237** people attended **16** awareness camps to reduce social stigma surrounding mental health.
- **139** community people were reached through **2** medical camps.
- **61** clients were under the care of community-based caregivers.
- **32** clients were employed.
- **53** clients received free treatment and medicine from government hospitals.
- **16** clients were vaccinated for COVID-19.
- **4** clients obtained social entitlements from the government.

### 15 years of supporting the last persons on the streets

“15 years of supporting the last persons on the streets— marks 15 years of responding to the voices and dreams of homeless persons in Kolkata. We have always strived to ensure the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable persons, and along the journey, we learnt to embrace and negotiate with our varied selves. Naya Daur questions the deep divides between the ‘sane’ and ‘insane’ and in turn asks us to extend ourselves to those who are forgotten. The central premise of the community outreach programme is the autonomy of the client. Community inclusion, participation, respect for capacity, recovery approach and non-coercive practice are the principles that shape the programme.



The recognition given by the World Health Organisation to Naya Daur as one of the best practices of Community Mental Health Services in the world is a recognition of the will of the previously ‘invisible’ people with no identity to claim their rights as citizens of the world and the will of the network of care built by the multidisciplinary team of voluntary community caregivers, social workers, psychiatrists and counsellors to facilitate reintegration.

I am grateful to our supporters, well-wishers and the entire team who have united to realise the dream of Naya Daur. Maureen Forrest and Jenny Browne of The Hope Foundation helped Iswar Sankalpa to sow the seed of this dream 15 years ago. On behalf of the doubly stigmatised homeless persons with psychosocial disability, I express my deep gratitude for helping lives breathe a little easier over the years.

Thank you for joining us to build a more equitable world!”

Sarbani Das Roy, Iswar Sankalpa

# Emergency Response Unit

## HIVE India

The Emergency Response Unit of HIVE India offers 24/7 rescue, rehabilitation and restoration services to those in crisis across Kolkata and neighbouring areas, 365 days a year, focusing on the elderly, women and children in need of emergency care and protection. The project aims to rescue abandoned and trafficked women and children, accident victims and those suffering from mental health issues. Medical and psychological support is provided to people when



required, in addition to hospitalisation and treatment in the case of poor and homeless people. The response and rescue team are equipped with ambulances to respond to any emergency call within 20 minutes and is trained to manage emergencies. Immediate first aid and psychological support are provided to support clients, make them comfortable and stabilise them. As required, necessary legal documentation is submitted to the local police, district judges' court, or the Child Welfare Committee. Homeless persons who recover from their physical illness are rehabilitated to appropriate aftercare units.

### Achievements

- **286** people were rescued from different crises.
- **162** cases were registered with the police as the incident occurred in a public place and was intervened by the police.
- **93** people were produced for a court order and provided with legal support for rescue and restoration.
- **128** of the total rescued persons were hospitalised.
- **87** people were rehabilitated to temporary shelter, **51** people in halfway homes and **28** people in rehabilitation centres for persons with psychosocial disabilities.
- **93** people, including **27** older adults and **32** children, were restored to their families.
- **145** of the people rescued were provided with counselling after treatment and medication.

### Story of Change

Kolkata police contacted the Emergency Response Unit of HIVE to support Tushar, who had a wound on his leg and was staying on the street. After providing first aid, he was admitted to hospital by the HIVE team. Tushar underwent surgery, and during treatment, he shared that he works in the flower market and was not in contact with his family for a long time. The Restoration Officer of the Emergency Response Unit contacted Tushar's family through the police in the neighbouring district of Howrah. Tushar was discharged from the hospital and reunited with his mother.





# Education Programme

The Constitution of India commits that all children between six to fourteen years must receive free and compulsory education, which was realised through the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The New National Education Policy 2020 aims to universalise education from preschool to secondary level with a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in schooling by 2030. The objective of the New Education Policy 2020 is to make India a global knowledge superpower.

Globally, COVID-19 created a record education crisis during the period. Preschools, schools, colleges, universities and other education centres have remained closed since March 2020. UNICEF referred to more than 1 billion children across the world as being at risk of falling behind in education due to school closures. Many schools had adopted a new remote education system, but millions of children had no access to education.





Since March 2020, HOPE has been conscious of the emerging issues due to the disrupted education. HOPE analysed the impact of disrupted education early on and developed alternative operational strategies to ensure the children continued education. Schools and HOPE's education centres remained closed for most of the year. HOPE conducted the classes online, and worksheets and demonstrative videos were developed for evaluation. HOPE staff designed lesson-oriented worksheets for the children. Froebel methodology has helped design the worksheets for these children who belong to families with no education or a low level of education. Parent participation is key in ensuring children's engagement in this new education system. Regular motivation sessions were held to inform the parents of this changed education system and their critical role.

All schools and education centres fully opened from February 2022 based on the government directives.

***HOPE, through its different education programmes, has been working to achieve:***

- **Enrolment**
- **Mainstreaming**
- **Retention**
- **Inclusion**



## Integration of Quality Education to ensure improved learning in Primary Schools

### ***Hope Kolkata Foundation***

In 2015, HOPE started its school-based intervention programme based on the study findings that there has been a significant increase in the rate of enrolment after our community-based projects, but retention continued to be a challenge.

In 2021, HOPE started the education project in 43 government Primary Schools in Kolkata and 10 Resource Centres in collaboration with Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). HOPE is also working in 4 primary schools in Bhagar, Howrah.

The school education project aims to ensure quality education at primary level for all children, including children with special needs. In the pandemic situation, as the schools remained closed until mid-January 2022, the staff supported the teachers in designing special worksheets for children with learning gaps and assessing their improvement. The parents were oriented on this new education system and were continuously motivated to be involved in the process of their children's education. The schoolteachers were also motivated to discuss the same with the parents. Managing children with special needs was a significant challenge during COVID-19. HOPE staff interacted with and supported the parents of children with special needs to manage their children at home. The child cabinet members were oriented on child rights and other issues and informed on the pandemic and its impact on their peer group. They were encouraged to support their peers in this exceptional time.



As per the government directives, all primary schools and resource centres reopened with full student strength from February 2022. Since the children were going to school after a long gap, the government introduced an innovative model called "Paray Shikshayalay" (Neighbourhood education centre) to help the children gradually adjust. In each centre, children of 3 to 4 schools assembled in a neighbourhood park or community centre. Schoolteachers were engaged in creating a joyful atmosphere to impart education among children through play activities, art and craft. The focus was more on activity-based learning rather than conventional formal education. Gradually, from March 2022, all school children returned to their school premises and regular class routine. During this transition period,

HOPE played a proactive role in supporting the schools in organising special activity-based classes to ensure the participation and involvement of all children.

Renovation work and joyful learning was set up in one of the school in Bhagar to make it child friendly. Apart from the infrastructure repair work, all classrooms were painted with mural art. A playhouse was set up for the children, along with a block corner, book corner, art corner and a doll corner. Play materials were provided, such as toys, an abacus, rings, a learning floor mat, building blocks, animal characters, dolls, etc. This will help in the retention of 62 children and increase enrolment.

HOPE provided computers and projectors to 2 schools in Bhagar - Triveni Vidyapith and Shastri Siksha Sadan to set up a digital classroom. Digital learning has empowered their efficiency and productivity. The students also developed positive feelings and confidence to learn. The initiative has also helped children with learning gaps understand the subjects more easily. 384 children benefit from this initiative.

### Achievements

- **3,025** children benefited from joyful activity-based learning.
- **1,081** children were enrolled in school.
- **337** children received support from the government Resource Centres, and **285** received need-based therapies (physiotherapy, occupational, speech, behaviour and movement).
- **99** children with learning gaps and **6** children with special needs have made progress.
- **279** teachers are using activity-based learning methods for children with learning gaps.
- **4,706** parents attended Parent Teacher Meetings and were informed of their children's progress. These



parents are more involved in their children's education.

- **755** community people were reached through awareness programmes and informed on different issues related to children, with a particular focus on children with special needs.

### Story of Change

Piyush, is a 7 years old hyper active boy, with severe autism spectrum disorder. He is a student of Class I. Due to the extensive lockdowns due to COVID-19, all the students remained confined within their houses, and Piyush was no exception. Being a child with special needs, he could not cope well with the changed situation, and his parents could not support him. Due to this situation, his mother was unwilling to bring him back to school even when the school reopened. Piyush was too traumatised and was unwilling to attend school.

In such circumstances, HOPE's special educator played a pivotal role in conducting home visits, informing and encouraging his parents to bring their child out of the home and encourage him to socialise. After repeated discussions, the mother took Piyush to school. Piyush was hyperactive and refused to enter the school. During this phase, the HOPE special educator took strategies and involved him in activities that led him to enter the school without hesitation. Moreover, all the school teachers were informed about his disability and the inclusion of children with special needs in school to manage the children in the classroom. HOPE's special educator designed a special programme for the child, which the schoolteacher now maintains.



Piyush now attends school regularly and is supported to get accustomed to a classroom environment and continue his education. He stays in school until lunch break, and it was observed that he now tries to follow instructions given by the schoolteachers. He also participates in peer activities and finds interest in attending classes conducted through Froebel-based joyful methodology. These remarkable changes have been noticed in Piyush, and now his mother also understands the supportive role of the teachers.



# Naboasha

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Naboasha project provides educational and psychosocial support to children living on the streets and slums of Kolkata. Naboasha provides after-school education support and assists children who dropped out of school to enrol in formal schools again.

The project identifies children who have never gone to school and prepares them to be enrolled in school in the next academic year. Naboasha also mobilises parents to take a proactive role in their children's education and holistic development.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the schools were closed from March 2020 until February 2022 as per government guidelines. The Naboasha teachers-social workers took extra care of the children to continue their education through remote education systems (recorded classes, video calls, messages from school on different social media platforms) or worksheets. The Naboasha teachers and counsellors motivated the children to continue and go back to the school after almost two years.

Naboasha ensures the "Voice of Children" by strengthening a community volunteer group of older children. This programme also strengthens the safety net within the community by providing awareness and training to another community volunteer group of adults. Naboasha encourages the children to participate in co-curricular activities such as painting, art, craft, singing, dancing, and celebrating cultural and religious events. The project also supports the children in obtaining social entitlements from the government and links them with scholarship schemes which help them to continue their education.

## Achievements

- **531** children were enrolled in **7** Naboasha centres and received educational support and supplementary nutrition.
- **344** parents gave time to their children and motivated them to continue their education.
- **295** fathers are saving money for their child's education.
- **407** community people participated in different awareness programmes to acquire knowledge on child protection and social issues.
- **531** children were linked with at least one social entitlement, and **420** were linked with multiple social schemes.



## Story of Change

Through Naboasha, the parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's overall development. In the initial stages, it was seen that mothers attended the meetings and interacted with the teachers regarding their children's education. Mothers who are the most ill-treated members of the family, victims of family disputes and domestic violence, have little to no power to make decisions for their children.

Naboasha incorporates the father's participation as they are the main decision-makers, being the main earner in the family but have no or less contribution to the upbringing of their children, including education, protection and other issues.

The teachers interact with the fathers during the home visits and encourage them to interact with their children regarding their education.

Naboasha has scheduled programmes on community awareness on different social and child protection issues, and the fathers were encouraged to participate in these meetings. With the continuous efforts of the Naboasha teachers and counsellor for the last three years, the fathers have gradually started to participate in the meetings.

The counsellor interacted with fathers with addiction problems, tried to influence them to reduce expenses on addiction and entertainment, start saving for their child's future education. The teachers informed the fathers about government schemes and social entitlements, which they can obtain to save money for a better future.

With continuous motivation and counselling in 2021-22, 295 fathers participated in Parent Teacher Meetings in school and continued saving in their bank accounts for their children's future.



## Crèche facilities for Children without parental supervision

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE runs 4 crèches in Kolkata and Bhagar, providing early childhood education and supplementary nutrition for children under 6 years of age. Early childhood care and education is aimed at the holistic development of children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs to build a solid foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. The project focuses on children living in slum areas without parental care for a long duration as both are engaged in work.

The crèches provide child-friendly and joyful learning through play and Froebel methodologies. As the classes were mostly held online during the year or through worksheets, the teachers focused on making them easy to understand and activity-based, following Froebel methodologies. The parents were motivated to practise learning at home and send their children to the crèche when the centres reopened. Health checkups, deworming and dental camps were done for the children's health. Awareness camps and programmes were held for the parents and children on COVID-19, child rights, protection and the importance of education. Efforts were made to involve fathers in the meetings, thus ensuring their involvement in the care and education of the children. The children were enrolled in formal schools at an age-appropriate level.

### Achievements

- **227** children were supported in **4** crèches for early childhood care and education throughout the year.
- **84** children were enrolled in formal school.
- **211** parents improved their knowledge of child education and the importance of finance management.
- **1,046** community people were made aware of different issues for ensuring basic rights and a safer childhood for every child.





### Story of Change

Raj is a 3-year-old boy with special needs. He has a hearing impairment and was enrolled in the crèche in 2021. His father is a daily worker, and his mother is a domestic helper. Due to his hearing impairment, he also has speech problems. Once these were identified, the teachers informed his parents and recommended that they consult a doctor and special educators at National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities, Kolkata. The teachers contacted MAA ENT Centre, and he underwent a checkup and got a hearing aid. When the crèche reopened after the lockdown restrictions, the HOPE teachers helped him. They organised small group and play sessions for him in a child-friendly atmosphere. The teachers also prepared special worksheets for him with the help of HOPE's special educators.

Raj now attends the creche regularly. He enjoys playing with the children and loves to perform activities as he is very energetic. Raj likes painting as well as art and craft activities. He also participated in all the events at the annual sports day and did very well.



## Early Childhood Care and Education for underprivileged children in collaboration with ICDS

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is one of the world's largest early childhood care and education programmes run by the Government of India. To make it successful in the slums of Kolkata, Hope Kolkata Foundation has collaborated with the Government of West Bengal since 2018.

As the Panchanantala ICDS centre remained closed during the year due to the pandemic, the focus was on facilitating community-based programmes. These programmes included meetings with adolescents and community people. Community Volunteers Groups played a critical role in ensuring the continuation of preschool education of children when the centre remained closed. They also facilitated the process of community members receiving the COVID-19 vaccination free of cost by linking them with local government officials.

HOPE refurbished one ICDS Centre in Kolkata. External and internal renovation and painting were done, including local-specific mural art. A separate kitchen and child-friendly toilet were also set up. Vibrant and innovative early learning materials were provided to the centre so the teachers could use them for children aged 2-5 years. 47 children are accessing services from this ICDS Centre.

During 2018- 2022, HOPE has refurbished 32 ICDS centres and created child friendly environment to ensure regularity. HOPE also imparted training to the ICDS workers and conducted several awareness programmes in the communities. Variety of teaching learning materials, resources for teachers and children were shared to ensure activity based teaching and learning.

HOPE has concluded its direct association with the ICDS centres in the beginning of 2022 and has created visible impact on the communities that they continue to send their children to the ICDS centre due to improved environment, quality of teaching and recognising the importance of early childhood education and development.

### Achievements

- **26** community-based meetings were conducted.
- **123** mothers, adolescents and other community members were made aware of various mother and child-related issues.
- **83** children were retained with the support of the HOPE facilitator and continue to access services from one ICDS centre.

## Brian's Way Resource Centre

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE recognised the need of the Children with Special Needs (CWSN) from the underserved communities where awareness level is low and access to funds is another obstacle to use the therapeutic support.

To address this much needed issue, HOPE started the Brian's Way Resource Centre in 2019 to ensure children with special needs could access therapy. 85 children with special needs from the underserved communities of Kolkata are enrolled in the centre. 72 of these children receive therapeutic support (physiotherapy, occupational, speech and dance movement), and 57 children receive special education. The project aims to improve the quality of life of children with special needs through access to therapies and special education. Through this project, the parents are oriented on disability and its different forms, inclusive education and government schemes. They are also informed on how to support their children, especially to ensure their children's progress and improvement. Counselling is also provided to the parents on how to support their children at home. This became extremely important during COVID-19 as the children were mostly restricted at home.



HOPE started a disability-friendly bus service exclusively for the enrolled children in December 2021. The children are collected and dropped back home again.

### Achievements

- **85** children with special needs benefitted through the project.
- **60** children have progressed through

functional therapies.

- **48** children with special needs have progressed in special education.
- **20** children were linked with government entitlements.
- **272** community people were informed about disability, social inclusion, government schemes, and the facilities for children with special needs and their families.
- **15** children with special needs were identified through community awareness and enrolled in Government Primary Schools.



### Story of Change

Chanda is a 7-year-old girl with cerebral palsy and belongs to a financially struggling family. Her parents enrolled her in a government resource centre, but the centre did not provide the required therapy support. Due to the family's economic condition, they could not afford therapies. Therefore, Chanda was not receiving therapy and was gradually losing balance. She was unable to stand and walk properly without any support. Due to negligence, her body was contracting.

Her mother found the Brian's Way Resource Centre, and Chanda was enrolled. Her mobility issues made it difficult for her to travel by public transport. However, she now avails of the bus service provided by Brian's Way. Chanda was provided with physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, dance movement therapy and special education. The therapies helped her, and she started showing improvement. Chanda began to gain strength in her muscles, and her speech and walking improved. She also showed improvement in squats, kneeling, kneeling to standing and her gripping power. Chanda adjusted in the centre and enjoyed every therapy session. Her relationship with the therapists has helped boost her confidence and motivation to improve.

## Education on Wheels

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Education on Wheels programme was developed to provide educational support to underserved children aged 6-14 from Chitpur slum and the surrounding areas in Kolkata. It is a unique project that operates on a bus due to limited space in the slum



area. Coaching classes are provided to the children with learning gaps to facilitate proper development to reach their full educational potential, enhance individual talents and look forward to a life out of poverty.

Counselling services are provided to the fathers about the importance of education and protection and to save money for their children's education instead of spending money on addiction.



The project also assists the children's families in obtaining social entitlements such as Aadhar Card, PAN card, Swastho Sathi card (Health insurance scheme of Government of West Bengal), education sponsorship

Government schemes such as Kanyashree and Eikyashree (especially for minority) and social entitlements for women and widow.

### Achievements

- **77** children were supported by the project, including **17** children who were newly enrolled.
- **58** children showed improvement in learning and were promoted to the next class.
- **60** children enjoyed and celebrated several cultural events to ensure social inclusion and participation.
- **60** children and their family members were linked with various Government schemes.

## UMEED

### Society for Indian Children's Welfare

UMEED is a project for children with special needs where classes are designed to develop the cognitive, communication, self-help, motor and academic skills of the children from the Residential Child Care Centre of SICW, through a progressive curriculum based on milestones. Regular recreational activities are organised monthly, and great emphasis is placed on the social integration. The children receive physiotherapy, speech therapy, prosthetics and other aids depending on the nature of the disability to enable them develop a greater degree of autonomy. Regular counselling is also provided to the children and the caregivers.

During the pandemic, the classes were shifted to online mode, which was continued in 2021-22. Each teacher conducted the classes with small groups of 5 to 6 children. Offline classes started in February 2022 for individual children as per the need, and both online and offline classes continued.

Speech therapy continued throughout the year, online and offline, as per

the situation and COVID-19 restrictions implemented by the government.

Physiotherapy sessions resumed in August 2021. This was conducted maintaining COVID-19 precautions. As there was a rise in COVID-19 cases in West Bengal in January 2022, physiotherapy could not be held from January to February 2022.

### Achievements

- **32** children benefited from the programme, including **14** children with special needs and **18** with learning difficulties.
- **11** children were adopted as per the government guidelines and rehabilitated to new families.
- **2** children were restored to their own families as per the judicial court order.





# Protection Programme



Prevention, Protection and Prosecution are three core approaches of HOPE's Protection Programme in protecting children's rights and preventing them from getting hurt, neglected, abused and exploited.

The year 2021-22 was significant in many ways and the consequences of the pandemic heavily impacted children. Migration on a large scale, displacement of families, job loss, food insecurities, domestic conflicts and violence, and inaccessibility to school, healthcare and transportation have led to a multidimensional impact on the lives of children, youth and their families. To continue supporting them, HOPE implemented new strategies and adjusted the activities of the Protection Programme to strengthen, support and sustain family and community-based care.



### Activities and Strategies implemented during COVID-19:

- Introduced and improved computer literacy among the children to attend online education.
- Psycho-social support for families through tele-counselling, virtual meetings and interactions.
- Strengthening community-based care through linking and improved access to necessities and requirements.
- Effective involvement of **7** Child Vigilance Groups (comprised of children) and **7** Community Support Groups (comprised of adult members) in addressing child rights violations in communities.
- Awareness on income-expenditure, protection from COVID-19, sources to receive health treatment and benefits, hygiene practices etc. given to families and children.
- Increased number of life skills, sports, co-curricular, recreation and skill-building opportunities for children.
- Encourage children to express their thoughts, feelings and challenges related to COVID-19 and lockdowns.

Protecting children is at the core of HOPE's mission. Thus, continuing support-strengthening efforts amid lockdown was an important focus during the year. Based on the UN Convention on Child Rights and Sustainable Development Goals, HOPE has been working and collaborating with its partners to bring meaningful and lasting change to the lives of children and youth, especially to those most at risk.

Through its 'Child Watch' and 'Residential Child Care Programme', HOPE delivered integrated and holistic care and support to vulnerable children. To achieve that, system level, community level as well as individual initiatives were undertaken by HOPE. These initiatives were aimed towards capacity building of external stakeholders as well as the children, youth, their parents and project staff. Through these varied initiatives, HOPE helped in ensuring access to justice and reduce vulnerabilities for the underserved children and youth of the society.

## Alternative Care for Children and Deinstitutionalisation

**Hope Kolkata Foundation, PBKOJP, Behala Keertika, BPWT**

The 2019 UN General Assembly Resolution on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children recognises that a child should grow up in a family environment to have a full and harmonious development of her or his personality and potential. The UN calls for global actions and every effort for children where the immediate family is unable to take care of them, to provide quality alternative care within the wider family and within the community in a family setting, bearing in mind the best interests of the child and taking into account the child's views and preferences.

HOPE has endorsed the resolutions recommended in the UN General Assembly for the effective deinstitutionalisation of children. HOPE has been working to ensure effective "Deinstitutionalisation" of children and

create a safe environment in families and communities to reduce dependency on institutional care and provide it as a last resort for children (one of the principles of the Child Protection Act and laws of India) to prevent further separation of children from their families.

Therefore, the project strategies and activities of HOPE's Protection Programme are designed to:

- Recognise, prioritise and support families to prevent unnecessary family-child separation,
- Protect children without parental care and ensure high-quality, appropriate alternative care,
- Strengthen systems for the welfare and protection of children,



- Ensure full participation of children without parental or family care,
- Ensure adequate financial and human resources in the protection of every child and their rights.



Aligning with the UN General Assembly Resolutions and the changing and emerging needs of children over the years, HOPE focuses on community/family-based support for holistic, integrated care and protection of the children. However, the importance of temporary shelter for children in need of care and protection remains. A Situation Analysis conducted by HOPE highlighted that the risks and vulnerabilities of children living on streets and platforms have increased and are instigated by COVID-19 in many ways. The prevalence of children running away from families and abandonment due to incidents of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and deprivation of basic necessities is higher than before COVID-19. Financial struggle and loss of jobs by adult family members have changed child-rearing practices, forcing children into labour and begging. This impacts the rights of survival and development of children. The closing of open shelters, schools and educational institutions not only affects the development and education of children but increases their risks and vulnerabilities in many ways. Enforcing social distancing and closing places of safety left the

children unattended, alone, and vulnerable, especially children living on streets, platforms and slums.

HOPE is committed to strengthening community-based care and reducing the dependency on institutional care. Children with inadequate or no parental care are at particular risk; when the child's family cannot provide adequate care or abandons them. HOPE protects their rights of survival, development, protection and participation through residential care and aftercare support. The regular review of the appropriateness of these care arrangements and the development of children is monitored and assessed by the Government of West Bengal and through its competent local authorities and duly authorised organisations.

In 10 Residential Child Care Centres (registered under Section 41 (1) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015) under the support of HOPE, children in need of care and protection are provided with age-appropriate nutrition, healthcare and treatment, elementary and special education, counselling, skills and knowledge building trainings, co-curricular classes, sports, vocational skills and career counselling for their holistic growth and development.

Families always play an important role in shaping the personalities of children. Thus, in every HOPE project, the family is a key stakeholder. The families (where traced and found) are supported to create a child-friendly





environment by improving their knowledge, understanding and socio-economic condition to take responsibility for their children and protect their rights. Each family is linked with Government schemes and entitlements to improve their socio-economic condition and have access to safe shelter, drinking water, toilets, free ration, citizenship documents and other documents to secure their rights and entitlements. Once the family has been strengthened and empowered, the children are restored to their families with follow-up home-based support to prevent further separation.

Any child in need of care and protection identified and rescued is placed in HOPE's care by the Child Welfare Committee. The Child Welfare Committee is the final authority for exercising the powers and discharge duties concerning children in need of care and protection. HOPE's Residential Child Care Centres provide a child-friendly atmosphere and infrastructure to respond to the children's individual needs. These include special care and intervention for rehabilitating children infected and affected with HIV, children suffering from substance abuse, children who experienced sexual abuse or violence, victims of early marriage and forced into labour, and children with special needs.

Individual Care Plans are developed for each child to respond to their individual needs and





requirements. Specific strategies have been adopted to support the children in coping with the pandemic and lockdown. Consequently, the children acquired computer literacy, with internet use. English communication skills, improved vocabulary in English, and made handicrafts. The children participate in Children Committee Meetings, meetings organised by the government departments and awareness-building sessions to practise their participation rights and decision making.

### Achievements

- **233** children (**140** girls and **93** boys) were supported by HOPE's Residential Child Care Programme.
- **180** children under the care of their families enjoy their rights and entitlements and achieved developmental milestones through home-based care and support.
- **151** children were restored to their families during the year, of whom **92** were girls, and **59** were boys.



- **189** children identified in need of care and protection were newly placed in HOPE's Residential Residential Child Care Centres by the Child Welfare Committee during the year.
- **230** children have access to government schemes and entitlements such as education sponsorship, disability stipend, minority benefits, birth certificates, Aadhar cards, bank accounts etc.
- **102** girls who were victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence and child marriage were rescued and placed in HOPE's Residential Residential Child Care Centres by the Child Welfare Committee.
- **87** boys who had run away from their families after being physically abused, survivors of substance abuse and engaged in begging were brought into the care and protection programme of HOPE



by the Child Welfare Committee for their holistic growth and development.

- **110** children over 12 years of age received the COVID-19 vaccination.
- **254** children have excelled in sports such as football, kickboxing and taekwondo, yoga and zumba and achieved physical growth milestones.
- **81** children acquired advanced vocational skills. These include Business Executive Accountant Course, Advance Excel and MIS Diploma Course, an advanced course on making masks, jewellery and embroidery etc.
- **241** children improved their English communication skills, and **293** excelled in operating computers and attending school online.
- **20** children improved their writing skills and vocabulary and learned to portray their imagination and thoughts in words and stories. This was achieved in collaboration with "Scribeasy", a storytelling platform.
- **57** boys of 6 to 16 years with a history of substance abuse have been treated and protected. These



boys are now free from addiction, leading healthy lives, and acquiring skills.

- **345** children were enrolled in school and continued their education.
- **353** children were promoted to the next class.
- **21** girls completed Secondary Board (Madhyamik) Examination, 2021-22 and were promoted to Class XI.
- **12** girls and **1** boy completed the Higher Secondary Board Examination and enrolled in the Bachelor Degree Courses.
- Child participation is a central pillar of our action. Children have always been encouraged to voice their concerns, thoughts, and suggestions in ensuring child participation in stages of implementation. **233** children regularly participated in the Children's Committee Meetings. They actively participated in the formation and intervention of the committee to speak out for their rights and ensure changes.
- **267** families were supported to improve their socio-economic status to take the ultimate responsibilities for their children.

### Story of Change

8 years old Disha and her friends are excited to see the seeds they have sown grow into fresh vegetables. It is a moment of immense pride for them to create and return to nature.

These girls are infected and affected by HIV, which impacts their health and education. Some of the girls lost their parents due to HIV, which deprived them of a secure childhood. These 18 girls are from a highly vulnerable and marginalised section of the society, coupled with stigma and exclusion associated with HIV/AIDS. The COVID-19 pandemic affects these areas of vulnerabilities more than others.

HOPE, in collaboration with the famous Academy Award-winning actor Jeremy Irons, introduced basketball and gardening to 18 girls infected and affected by HIV to acquire new skills through fun and recreation. The children living with HIV are more at risk of delayed physical and psychosocial development milestones. While basketball promotes overall health and strengthens the immune system, planting vegetables encourages healthy eating, teaches responsibilities and patience, and develops skills to create a sustainable kitchen garden.

The girls were provided with seeds of various vegetables and taught how to plant, water and take care

of the saplings. Along with gardening, the girls attended weekly basketball classes and received uniforms and accessories.

Gardening and basketball kept the girls engaged and proved a great stress buster, addressing the anxiety and other issues arising from the pandemic.

The activities also helped them acquire physical and mental strength, improved coordination and motor skills and strengthened their immunity and time management skills. Watching the tomatoes, green chillies, peppers, aubergines, marigolds and Madagascar periwinkle grow created a sense of accomplishment among the girls and a sense of pride.

*"I love to water my plants. I love to see my flowers blooming, and I am happy that I can grow vegetables."* - Disha.

*"I love to play basketball; it feels good when I wear the uniform and dribble and shoot the ball."* - Naina

The girls aspire to continue playing basketball and look forward to participating in championships. They are encouraged to play and plant more seeds of their empowerment, which can turn their crisis period into an opportune endeavour.

### Story of Change

Sahida lived on a footpath in Kolkata with her parents and five siblings. Later her mother gave birth to a girl. Sahida was begging along with her mother. Her father worked as a daily labour and earned very little money, which was insufficient to support the family, and he was an alcoholic. The children were not enrolled in school and were deprived of proper care, nutrition and protection. A social worker from HOPE identified the vulnerable children and produced the case before the Child Welfare Committee. The Child Welfare Committee issued an order to place Sahida in HOPE's Kasba Girls Home when she was 10 years old. In 2016,



Sahida was placed in Ashar Alo Home for further care.

She was enrolled in school and continued her education. In 2017, the family moved to their village; her mother stopped begging, and her father moved to another state as a daily labour. The caseworker visited her home to strengthen the family.

In 2021, at the age of 18 years and based on the permission of the Kolkata Child Welfare Committee, she was allowed to stay in Ashar Alo Home to complete the Secondary Board Examination in 2022. She is a first-generation learner in her family and is, therefore, the first in her family to complete the board examination.

Her family was supported to improve their socio-economic condition to ensure a protected and child-friendly environment for Sahida. She has an Aadhaar card, Birth Certificate, and bank account and received the scholarship under the Kanyashree scheme. Her family received a Swasthya Sathi Health Card and E-Shram Card. Her parents received an Aadhaar Card and Voter Card, opened a bank account and were linked with the Bangla Gramin Awas Yojana housing scheme with the help of HOPE.

Sahida has completed her Higher Secondary Education and acquired more than 60% in aggregate. She has enrolled in Graduation and is continuing college.

## After Care Programme for Young Adults

### **Hope Kolkata Foundation**

HOPE runs a unique programme for young adults to continue further education and acquire vocational skills for independent living. Providing educational support to these young adults allows them to fulfil their educational aspirations and provide a secure and self-sufficient future.

Orphan and abandoned children over 18 years are placed in the After Care Programme for a temporary period. During their stay, they are provided with nutrition, medical treatment, higher education support and professional skill training to get a job and start a career. The after care programme for these young adults is implemented through two after care centres (one for girls and one for boys) to prepare the young adults to become self-sufficient and responsible citizens of India. After acquiring professional degrees and jobs, they are self-restored and become self-sufficient.

During the year, 63 young adults (29 girls and 34 boys) were supported to pursue higher studies and acquire new skills to be independent and prepare for a successful future.

### **Achievements**

- **6** boys and **8** girls were placed in jobs and have become self-sufficient to lead their lives in their own way.
- All the young adults received the COVID-19 vaccine and are attending college and school online.
- **18** girls are pursuing Higher Education, of which **13** girls are pursuing their graduation from universities in Kolkata; **1** girl is pursuing a master's degree in Arts, and **1** girl is studying Hotel Management from Crystal School of Excellence. **3** girls are studying in Class XI and Class XII.
- **21** boys continued their education from school and college. **2** of these boys are in secondary (class-IX to X) level; **12** boys are studying in higher secondary level (Class-XI to XII); **5** boys are studying in college, and **2** boys are studying Automobile Engineering.
- **7** boys successfully passed the Class-X Board Examination (Madhyamik), and **5** boys passed Class-XII Higher Secondary Board Examination.
- **10** girls and **3** boys completed vocational training courses and are pursuing internships.
- Constant advocacy and networking have helped to link **4** girls and **5** boys with schemes and to open savings bank accounts.

The young adults supported by the After Care Programme also realise their duties and responsibilities to give back to society. 20 girls and boys voluntarily joined HOPE's Emergency Response Team to distribute relief materials and groceries to the communities affected by Cyclone Yaas.

## Mother and Child Care Unit

### **Hope Kolkata Foundation**

Gender-based violence, already a global crisis before the pandemic, has intensified since the outbreak of COVID-19. Lockdowns and other mobility restrictions have left many women trapped with their abusers, isolated from social contact and support networks. Increased economic insecurities have further limited many women's ability



to leave abusive situations. COVID driven economic and social instability have also increased women's mental health problems, amplified by their inferior socio-economic position in the household, greater care responsibilities, and risk of intimate partner violence. Women in developing countries, particularly those residing in rural regions, have limited access to mental health support owing to poor access to treatment, resources and stigma associated with mental health in India.

Additionally, gender determines the differential power and control men and women have over the socio-economic determinants of their overall health and lives, their social position, status and treatment in the society, their susceptibility, and exposure to specific psychological health risks. As estimated by the World Health Organisation and studies in India have shown that common psychological illnesses and disorders such as depression and anxiety are strongly associated with the female gender besides poverty. The effect of biological vulnerability is increased by the social disadvantages, stigma and lack of knowledge that women have.

In 2021-2022, 22 mothers were supported by the Mother and Child Care Unit (MCCU), of which 6 mothers were suffering from severe psychological illness, and 13 mothers took shelter on the streets with their children after being abused and disowned by their husbands, which is the highest in numbers in comparison to previous years. 22 mothers supported under MCCU are the victims of domestic violence, separated from their families and were living on the street without safety and protection.

In the Mother and Child Care Unit, the mothers and their children were provided with holistic care, treatment, and nutrition to improve physical and psychological well-being. Care and counselling, skill building through in-house recreation and vocational training initiatives, and group sessions were organised for each mother. Children under 6 years were enrolled in the crèche, and children over 6 years were enrolled in the school.

The project provided safe shelter, nutrition and education for the children, and healthcare, recreation, and counselling for the mothers until they were empowered and mainstreamed in society.

### Achievements

- **10** mothers were restored to their families along with their **7** children. They were separated from their families after experiencing abuse and domestic violence from their husbands.
- **1** mother and her child are staying in another organisation and receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS.
- **6** mothers received treatment for psychological illness and showed improvement in managing their daily chores, taking care of their children, and maintaining daily hygiene practices.
- **4** children were enrolled in a crèche and introduced to language, arithmetic, reading and writing skills.
- **22** mothers improved their understanding of new-born childcare, age-appropriate nutrition for children, COVID-19, healthcare guidelines etc.

### Story of Change

Bidisha, a mother with special needs, was rescued from the streets by the Tollygunge Police Station in May 2019 along with her 6-year-old daughter Asha. They were found in a vulnerable situation and were placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit.

When placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit Bidisha was found to be six months pregnant during the health checkup. Accordingly, her prenatal care and checkups were planned. She gave birth to a healthy baby boy.

After delivery, immunisation and postnatal care for the mother and the baby have been ensured. The birth certificate was obtained through networking with the Kolkata Corporation. Asha was enrolled in school and received tuition support from the Mother and Child Care Unit staff. She also participated in various curricular activities, sports activities, and therapy sessions to enhance her growth.

To plan long-term rehabilitation and restoration of Bidisha and her two children, networking was done with Childline, Child Welfare Committee, police stations, District Legal Authority Services, Missing Squad of Lalbazar, Kolkata etc., to trace her family. Despite counselling and identifying locations, Bidisha's family could not be found.

Bidisha has speech difficulties, and Asha was unwilling to share family details, which made it difficult to find their family. Unable to trace their family for the last two years, the Child Welfare Committee was consulted. During counselling, Asha shared that her mother tortured her and that she did not feel safe with her family. She wanted to find a new, safe, loving family to care for her and her brother. Bidisha was provided with counselling on adoption.

As per the best interest of the children as an alternative restoration plan, the mother was counselled, and she agreed to place her children in a child care home under a Specialised Adoption Agency for adoption. This was done through the Child Welfare Committee.

Bidisha was linked with health schemes and received a hearing aid. She received a Disability Card which will give her access to free health checkups, free travel, and a monthly stipend.

## Child Watch

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

Child Watch takes a right-based integrated approach to address education, protection and health issues and linking children and their families with government departments to obtain social entitlements. It works to provide care and ensure the protection of street-connected children through building a community safety net. The project mobilises community volunteer groups of adults and older children on child rights and protection issues to provide a safety net to street-connected children. It strengthens and supports the community in addressing child abuse, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and child addiction.

The project ensures street-connected children access formal education. As the schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Child Watch constantly motivated and helped the children to attend online classes, complete their worksheets and keep networking with schools. Networking with schools is important to retain children in school and to link them with social entitlements.



Child Watch took initiatives to educate the community on seasonal diseases such as dengue and malaria, and COVID-19. They motivated the community to take the COVID-19 vaccination and ensure children's immunisation.

The Child Watch team conducted various surveys in the intervention areas throughout the year, such as the rate of COVID-19 vaccination among adults, the COVID-19 Vulnerability Assessment, and the School Retention Rate among School Children.

Networking and advocacy with different government, non-government and similar organisations is one of the key aspects of Child Watch to protect child rights and to ensure that child voices are heard.

### Achievements

- **1,058** children and **456** adults from **7** street-connected communities in Kolkata were supported by Child Watch.
- **121** children and **659** adults were mobilised to get the COVID-19 vaccine from Government Health Clinics or other non-government organisations.
- **25** children were newly enrolled in school. Child Watch also followed up with **623** children already enrolled in school to ensure they continued education.
- **6** cases of child labour were identified and mainstreamed.
- **1** case of child marriage was prevented.

### Story of Change

Rani stays in Nimtala with her father, brother and sister-in-law. She went missing one evening, and her family and neighbours started to search everywhere for her. Her sister-in-law, a Community Watch Group member, contacted HOPE's Child Watch social





worker and informed them about the issue. The social worker told her to inform the local police immediately. As a Community Watch Group member, she knew the steps and filed a General Diary to the local police station. It was discovered that all of Rani's documents and money were missing.

The social worker of Child Watch informed the incident to Childline, who visited the area the next day. They verified the incident after discussing it with the guardians and neighbours. A photograph was distributed in the community. The family was provided with counselling regarding the incident.

Child Watch followed up with the police for more information about the case. They were informed that the police arrested a group of boys who gave further information about Rani to the police. She was trafficked and sent to Bihar (another state close to West Bengal). After collecting the information, the police went to Bihar and rescued Rani. They sent her for a medical test, and she was placed in an observation home.

The mental stress and trauma experienced by Rani impacted her mental health. She stayed in the



observation home for a short time and was restored to her home. The Child Watch social worker helped enrol her



in school again and supported her emotionally to continue her studies.

### Story of Change

Ram Kumar, 14 years old, lives on the pavement of the Moulali area with his parents and younger brother. His mother is a household worker, and his father is a daily worker. During the lockdown, his parents lost their jobs and had no source of income. They were facing trouble economically and had no access to school or education. Gradually, the two boys lost interest in their education and spent all their time on their mobile phones.

They opened a small shop on the footpath, and Ram Kumar started to work in the shop. The Child Watch team visited the parents to discuss the child's activity and educational status after the lockdown. The Child Watch social worker focused on removing Ram from child labour and continuing his education.

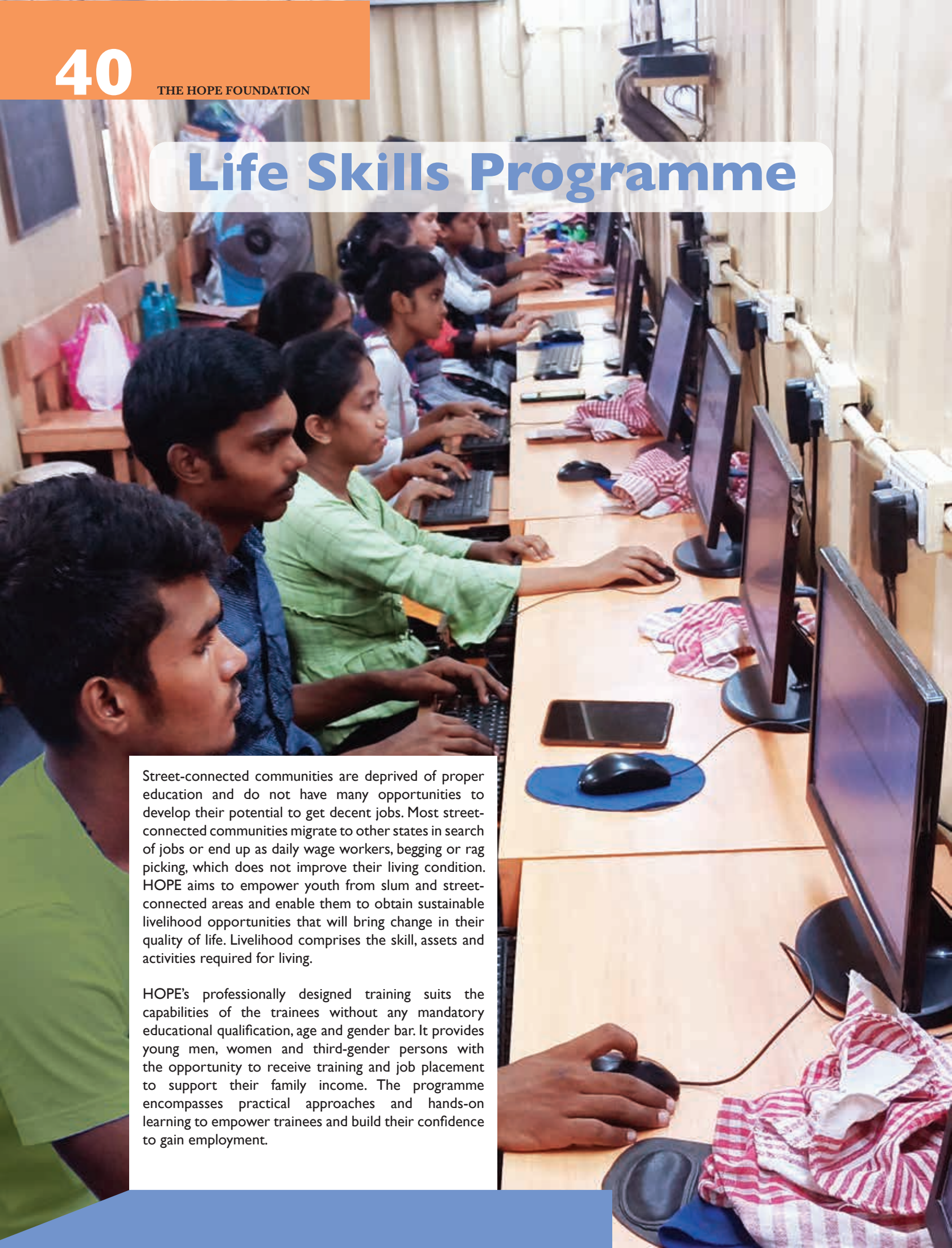
The Child Watch team conducted awareness meetings in the community with the children who dropped out of school during the pandemic to motivate them to continue their education.

After convincing the parents, Ram started to study again and joined his school in the new academic session. Ram is in Class VII and happy to return to school, which

has changed his life and guided him towards a bright future.



# Life Skills Programme



Street-connected communities are deprived of proper education and do not have many opportunities to develop their potential to get decent jobs. Most street-connected communities migrate to other states in search of jobs or end up as daily wage workers, begging or rag picking, which does not improve their living condition. HOPE aims to empower youth from slum and street-connected areas and enable them to obtain sustainable livelihood opportunities that will bring change in their quality of life. Livelihood comprises the skill, assets and activities required for living.

HOPE's professionally designed training suits the capabilities of the trainees without any mandatory educational qualification, age and gender bar. It provides young men, women and third-gender persons with the opportunity to receive training and job placement to support their family income. The programme encompasses practical approaches and hands-on learning to empower trainees and build their confidence to gain employment.



# HOPE Skill Units

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

### Computer Training

There are 4 computer units in various locations of Kolkata and Howrah, offering job-oriented IT training for youth. There are two courses: a Diploma in Computer Application and a Diploma in Financial Accounting. Both courses are complemented with a personality development course.

Young adults from 18 to 25 years upgrade their skills and personality development for better employment opportunities. Sometimes, children up to 17 years of age are enrolled to upgrade their skills and encouraged to opt for a job in the future. Students are guided to find employment through job fairs, exposure visits and networking with potential employers.



### Achievements

- **432** students completed the IT Skill Development Courses from **4** skill units.
- **212** trainees were placed in various companies.
- **21** trainees started their own home based business.
- **175** trainees are pursuing studies.

### Tailoring and Embroidery

This course consists of practical and theory classes on tailoring, such as stitching and cutting techniques for several types of bags, cushion covers, pillow covers, purses etc. The course is aimed at underserved girls and women. Compulsory spoken English and personality development classes are conducted to improve communication skills and professional efficiency. Basic arithmetic skills are imparted to learn calculating measurements and accounting purposes.



### Achievements

- **58** trainees completed the tailoring course.
- **10** trainees were placed in various organisations.
- **20** trainees procured sewing machines as a part of the training programme. **20** trainees took bank loans to buy sewing machines and started working from home.

### Beautician and Hairdressing

Underprivileged women with any educational background and economic conditions were enrolled in the course on hair cutting and styling, makeup and wedding makeup, Indian style of dressing and Mehendi designing (Hena-tattoo). The trainees also receive spoken English and personality development training for professional development. This project aims to include women from various social status, such as sex workers and third gender.



### Achievement

- **134** women completed the course and started working as beautician as self-employed professionals.

### Food & Beverage and Restaurant Service

Youth from different aftercare units and financially weaker sections of society enrol in this course to learn different culinary skills and restaurant service. The project aims to develop professional skills amongst those with limited school-level academic qualifications so that they can be employed by cafés, confectionaries, and other food businesses.



### Achievement

- **3** trainees from the HOPE Café completed the course and were placed in restaurants.

### Story of Change 1

Subho used to live with his grandmother and three siblings on a street in Kolkata as his father abandoned them after the sudden death of their mother. By order of the Child Welfare Committee, Subho was placed in one of the Residential Child Care Centres under HOPE at the age of 7 years. He was identified as a child with special needs. Through counselling and a special educator's support, he could complete his school education and develop skills based on his capacity.

After a few years, he was moved to another Residential Child Care Centre of HOPE and completed his school education.

At the age of 17, Subho joined HOPE Café as a trainee. With hard work and dedication, he learned to attend to customers and serve food. However, he faced difficulty learning spoken English. The trainer of the HOPE Café paid particular attention to this, and he improved his spoken English skills.

After completing the

6-month training course at the HOPE Café, Subho got a job at a popular café in Kolkata.

### Story of Change 2

Sudha stays in a slum in Kolkata with her parents and a younger brother studying in Class VII. Sudha's father is the only earning member in the family, earning Rs.5,500 (€72) per month, which is not enough for the day-to-day expenses. Sudha wanted to support her family after completing her studies but could not get any job as she did not have a specific skill. Her neighbour, a former HOPE trainee, encouraged her to join the HOPE Tailoring Unit to improve her prospects.

She joined the HOPE Tailoring Unit, and learning has been a life-changing experience for Sudha. It has given her





hope and confidence that she can work and earn for her family. Under the guidance of the trainer, she learnt many techniques in tailoring.

Sudha completed the tailoring training course and received a certificate and a sewing machine from an individual donor. This gave her the impetus she needed to strike out on her own. She wants to design clothes and open a shop of her own.

She started taking orders from home and contributes considerable amount to the family.



### Story of Change 3

Priya (aged 21 years) has 9 members in her family: her father, mother, 6 sisters and one brother. Her elder sister is married, and her younger sisters and brother are studying in school. Priya's father is the only earning member of the family; he is a fishmonger. The monthly income for the family is Rs. 5,000/ (€66), and they are fully dependent on their father. It is very difficult for the parents to support their children's education with this income, and they need

financial support for the family expenses.

Before joining the HOPE Tailoring Unit, Priya felt a lot of depression and anxiety in her mind. But after joining the course, she started to feel positive. Here she learnt how to make kurti, salwar, petticoat, designer blouses, 22 types of embroidery, palazzo, bags, wall hangings, cushions, men's wear, anarkali dress and baby dresses.

She is a bright and keen learner and completed the course with due diligence. Priya is now working as a tailor and earns Rs. 8,500/- (€112) per month, which helps her to support herself and her family.

### Story of Change 4

Sabbi was a student of the 2020 Beautician Unit of HOPE. She is transgender, and her family refused to support her because of her gender. She was working as a makeup assistant but was paid very little.

During the lockdown, she faced a financial crisis. She heard about HOPE's training courses and how HOPE reach out to marginalized communities.

She joined the Beautician Training Course, and when she finished the course, Sabbi started to work from home as a freelancer to provide beauty services to clients.

To stand against society to ensure own sexual orientation is a challenge itself. But the biggest challenge for Sabbi was to survive in her situation by earning a livelihood when her family and the society were against her. HOPE's Lifeskill programmes are designed to support and ensure social, economic and gender inclusion.

Sabbi works very hard and earns about Rs. 6,000 – Rs. 7,000 (€79 - €92) per month.





# Environment



The Hope Foundation recognises the importance of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action<sup>1</sup>. We have developed strategies and actions in the ongoing programmes and future projects which align with international environmental and climate change conventions, such as:

The Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and The Convention on Biological Diversity, HOPE also prioritises child rights documents such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

<sup>1</sup> Climate action or climate change action refers to a range of activities, mechanisms, policy instruments and so forth that aim to reduce the severity of human-induced climate change and its impacts.



Currently, HOPE is focused on generating awareness of environmental issues amongst the children and the communities to gain knowledge on how to protect the environment. HOPE aims to convert this knowledge into practice over time.

Through various acts and actions, HOPE is also creating a positive mindset among the children so that protecting the environment becomes a natural practice.

### Awareness & Training

A series of awareness programmes were conducted in various HOPE projects, which focussed on the environment.

- **367** children from **4** primary schools in Howrah and **120** children from Bhagar crèche participated in an awareness programme on air pollution, plastic pollution, global warming, saving trees and the gradual increase of sea level.
- **3** crèches organised virtual awareness programmes on conserving the environment and encouraged planting trees.
- **118** community members of Kasba, Chitpur and Panditya were informed about the harmful effects of firecrackers with a special focus on children and COVID-19 patients through the crèche projects.
- **7** Naboasha centres organised awareness programmes on various environmental issues.
- **23** boys from Bekind Boys Home received training on dry waste management.
- **1** awareness programme was conducted by the youth from the Panditya Computer Skill Unit on "Clean Air, Blue Sky". They distributed handmade cards among their community.

### Acts & Actions

- Children from Bhagar crèche planted trees on World Environment Day.



- A green corner has been set up in Bhagar crèche. The teachers discuss how to take care of plants as well as environmental issues and practical measures the children can take daily.
- **37** girls from Ashar Alo Home and **18** girls from Snehneer Home have started a kitchen garden since lockdown in **2020**. They have grown tomatoes, coriander, papaya, eggplants, bitter melon, etc. No chemical fertilisers have been used for these plants. Kitchen waste is used as a fertiliser which is managed and prepared by the girls.
- **23** boys from Bekind Boys Home planted saplings and recycled cartons to use as pots for the saplings. The boys water and take care of the plants every day.
- **12** workshops were conducted in various schools in Ireland on recycling and ethical consumerism with hands-on training. **300** students participated and developed knowledge and skills on good environmental practices when purchasing goods. The students all brainstormed ideas on how to be more sustainable as a school and individually.



# Sponsorship Programme

As per the Right to Education Act 2009, every child of the age of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a local school till the completion of his or her elementary education. However, the cost associated with a child's educational support and upbringing could be extremely difficult for children and youth belonging to vulnerable families. The Sponsorship Programme aims to make education more accessible for many families belonging to marginalised communities in and around Kolkata.

From the time of the outbreak of COVID-19 in India the sponsorship programme provided dry ration to all the children under this programme every month who are staying with their family.

Through the Sponsorship Programme, the parents are guided on budgeting, low-cost nutrition, how to access government schemes for free ration and health facilities and Income generating opportunities. Currently, **1,075** sponsors from Ireland, the UK, India, the USA, Germany, and Japan are supporting **1,777** children in need through HOPE's Sponsorship Programme.



**Outreach Education:** Outreach Education support is provided to **928** children staying with their families in different parts of Kolkata and other districts, including the Sunderban area. Their sponsors support school fees, books, education materials and non-formal tuition support. For young adults, besides their formal education, support is also extended for pursuing vocational training.

**Boarding and Education:** HOPE has collaborated with a few boarding schools and hostels in Kolkata to place **50** vulnerable children deprived of the necessary resources or accommodation facilities to continue their studies.

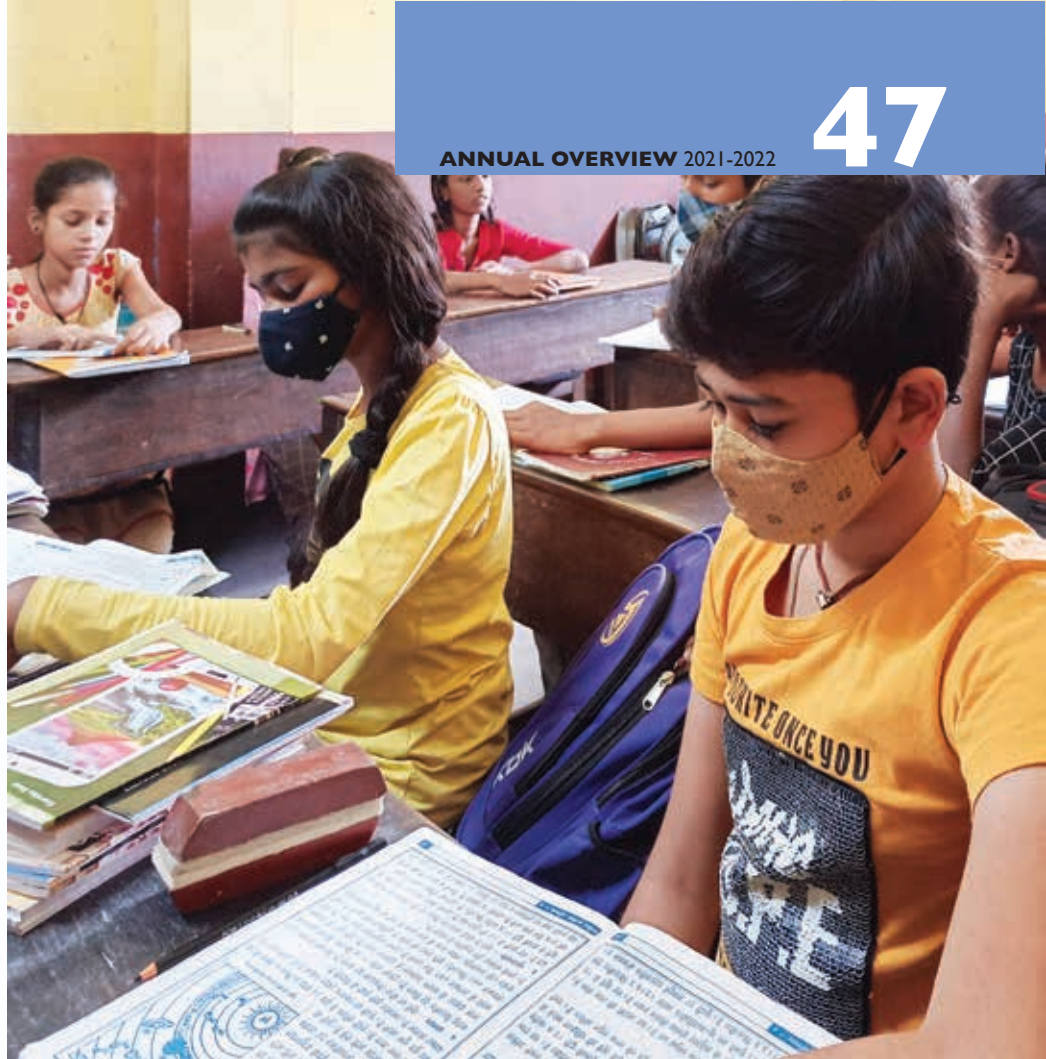
**Coaching Centre:** HOPE runs two coaching centres for **446** sponsored children at Chitpur and Bhagar, two of the most vulnerable communities in Kolkata and Howrah. The children attend these coaching centres after school, where the tutors support them to continue their education in a joyful learning environment. They are also provided with nutrition and medical support.

**Residential Child Care Centres:** **267** vulnerable children placed in HOPE Residential Child Care Centres for their holistic development are also provided with sponsorship support.

**Children Restored to Families:** **65** children who were once under Residential Child Care Centre but are now restored to their homes receive Sponsorship Educational Support and/or health support directly while staying with their families.

**Medical and Nutrition Support:** HOPE supports malnourished children or children suffering from various diseases but cannot bear the medical costs. **21** children receive medical and nutrition sponsorship support.

The Sponsorship Programme works towards making a lasting difference in the lives of children and towards the holistic development of the society by addressing some of the key features of the Sustainable Development Goals.



I love the work that The Hope Foundation does for the street and slum children in Kolkata (Calcutta). As a parent myself, my own children have plenty of food, a warm secure home, and access to education from primary to third level. I contribute to HOPE as they look to provide these basics necessities to children less fortunate, who would otherwise not get the opportunity for a better life and may be forgotten. My eldest child visited Kolkata as part of the schools programme and visited some of the projects there. It was an eyeopener for my daughter who now values her education and has started third level education. I can't praise HOPE enough for their work in educating children here and in Kolkata (Calcutta).

**Vivian Kelleher, Ireland**

Thank you so much for all the lovely updates about the children. It was so interesting to read especially about the young man, who is training to be a doctor. It's excellent that you have so many children sponsored and that HOPE has been supporting them in these difficult times. You are doing a great job.

**Karen Moujahid, UK**

It is my honour and privilege to be able to support a girl child's education and development under HOPE's Kasba Residential Child Care Centre in Kolkata. It gives me immense satisfaction to see her consistent growth over the last few years. Thank you, Hope!

**Sharmistha Chatterjee, India**

# International Volunteer and Internship Programme

## The Indian Internship & Volunteer Programme

The Indian Internship & Volunteer Programme successfully engaged **154** interns and **40** volunteers from **65** colleges/universities. Their work included developing educational content, study materials and reports, organising art & craft activities, storytelling sessions, teaching and awareness generation. Due to the 2nd and 3rd wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the programme was conducted in hybrid mode.

### *Students participating from the College & Universities*

Amity University, Kolkata  
 Amity University, Noida  
 Barrackpore Rashtraguru Surendranath College  
 Chandernagore Government College  
 Chanderprabhu Jain College of Higher Studies and School of Law  
 Charuchandra College  
 Christ (Deemed to be University), Bangalore  
 CMR University School of Legal Studies  
 Cornell University, USA  
 Delhi School of Economics  
 Department Of Law, Calcutta University  
 Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan  
 Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Law, Nerul, Navi Mumbai  
 Faculty of Law, The ICFAI University, Jharkhand  
 FLAME University  
 Goenka College of Commerce and Business Administration  
 Greater Kolkata College of Engineering and Management  
 Haldia Law College  
 Indira Gandhi National Open University  
 IIT Kharagpur  
 Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar  
 Indore Institute of Law  
 Institute of law, Nirma University  
 ISBR Law College, Bangalore  
 Jadavpur University  
 Jindal Global University ( Jindal Global law school)

Jogamaya Devi college.  
 Kailash Vidyamandir High School  
 Khanna High school  
 KIIT Deemed to be University School of Law  
 Mahishadal Raj College  
 Marian College, Kuttikanam  
 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology  
 Meghnad Saha Institute of Technology  
 Midnapore Law College, Vidyasagar University  
 National Institute of Open Schooling  
 National Institute of Technology Durgapur  
 National Law University Jodhpur  
 Netaji Subhas Open University  
 NSHM Knowledge Campus  
 PES (People's Education Society) University  
 Prafulla Chandra College  
 Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyavaan  
 School of Law, KIIT University  
 Sciences Po Paris, School of International Affairs (PSIA)  
 SDA Bocconi Asia Center  
 Shri Ram College of Commerce  
 Shri Shikshayatan College  
 Sister Nivedita University  
 Sivnath Sastri College  
 South Calcutta Girls' College  
 St Xavier's College, Kolkata  
 St Xaviers University, Kolkata  
 St. Stephen's College, Delhi



Surendranath College  
Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad  
Symbiosis School of Economics,  
Pune  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
Techno India University  
The Heritage School

University of Calcutta  
Vidyasagar School of Social Work  
Xavier Institute of Management &  
Entrepreneurship, Chennai  
Xavier Institute of Management  
and Entrepreneurship, Kochi  
Xavier Law School, Xavier  
University, Bhubaneswar

## International Volunteer Programme (Virtual)

During the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a short term Virtual International Volunteer Programme was held where former Irish volunteers conducted activity and skill development sessions with the children from HOPE projects. These sessions were focused on entertaining, knowledge enhancement and skill development. **19** former volunteers conducted **40** sessions in **10** different projects.



"Over lockdown The Hope Foundation created a new initiative for us to connect globally over zoom. My friend Diane and I had previously volunteered in Kolkata with HOPE in 2018 and 2019 doing textile-based workshops with the Life Skills tailoring unit and teenagers from the other projects. We were thrilled to be able to recreate the workshops over zoom with the help of the HOPE staff on the ground in Kolkata who sourced all the materials needed for the two Tie & Dye workshops.

The workshops were great fun and we spoke about lockdowns in Cork and Kolkata all while sitting on the floor tying knots in our fabrics. It was great to share our experiences with each other and chat over creating colourful textile art. We all would like to thank The Hope Foundation staff for making this initiative happen."

**Charlie McBurney, Ireland**

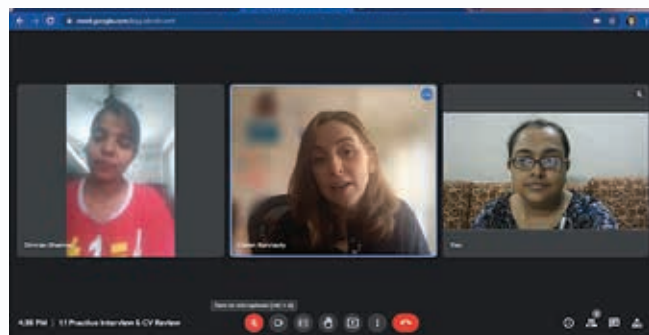


I joined The Hope Foundation's Volunteer Programme as a volunteer teacher for Spoken English in February

2022 in one of the HOPE's project. Initially the girls took some time to open up to me and so did I. But gradually, as time passed, they found not only a teacher in me but also a friend and a guide. They lovingly call me a nickname, 'Raju'. Every Saturday, I go for teaching, their smiling faces and glittering eyes makes me forget the stress of the entire week. I realise that they aspire to become successful in life and that they are willing to work hard for it. I hope that I can inspire and guide them to fulfil their dreams. I wish them all the very best. I also greatly appreciate all the staffs for being such wonderful guardians to the girls.

**Rajendrani Sarkar,  
Volunteer, India**

## International Corporate Volunteer Programme (Virtual)



A new Corporate Volunteering Programme was initiated in June 2021 as a part of the Google Employee Volunteer Programme. 13 Google staff from Ireland joined this programme and conducted mentoring sessions with 27 youth from various HOPE projects on Curriculum Vitae designing and interview skills. This programme was extremely successful and HOPE aims to expand these opportunities for the youth from different programmes.

# International Development Education & School Immersion Programme

## Development Education Workshops

The pandemic didn't stop the Schools' Team from raising awareness in schools throughout the country. Our team focused on Development Education workshops in the areas of Gender Equality and Ethical Consumption. Students had creative and practical ideas on how to take action within their communities and globally.



### List of Participating schools:

Alexandra College  
 Bandon Grammar School  
 Boherbue Comprehensive  
 Clongowes Wood College  
 Colaiste Treasa Kanturk  
 Gaelcolaiste Luimnigh  
 Glenstal Abbey  
 Kildare Community School  
 Laurel Hill Colaiste  
 Loreto Secondary School, Bray  
 Midleton College  
 Muckross Park

Patrician Academy  
 Presentation De La Salle College, Carlow  
 Rockwell College  
 St Angela's Cork City  
 St Anne's School Tipperary  
 St Brendan's Community School Birr  
 St Francis College  
 St Joseph of Cluny  
 St Mary's Arklow  
 St Mary's Macroom  
 St Marys Midleton





"The students of Kildare Town Community school really enjoyed their experience with the HOPE foundation this year. With their help we successfully raised over €1900. The whole process from start to finish was an absolute Joy. Alpana and her colleagues gave us a very informative talk about the excellent work HOPE does. This motivated the students to start a fundraiser. Alpana made it easy by providing Butlers chocolate bars, banners, buckets etc. She also personally thanked the students and presented them with a certificate, which was a nice touch. The whole experience has helped empower our students to become leaders in our school."

- Frank O'Sullivan,  
Kildare Town Community School TY Co-ordinator

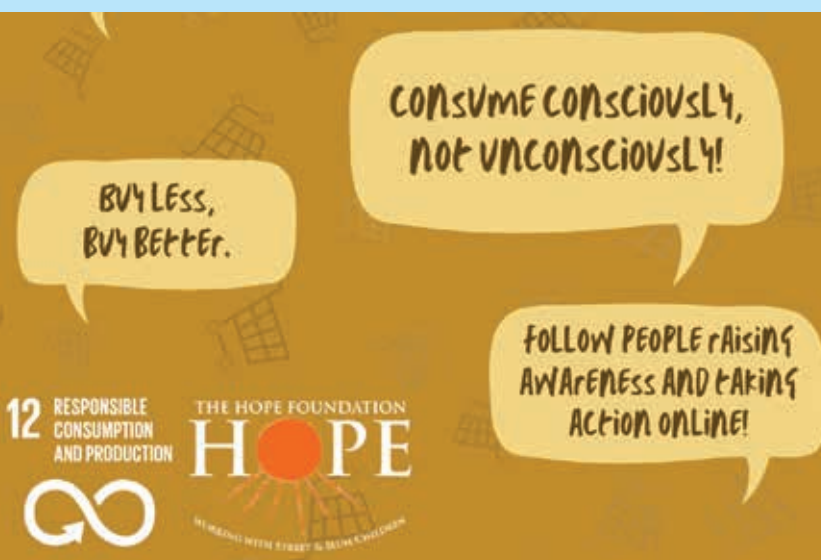
We would be delighted to hear from any school, teacher or student who is interested in finding out more about HOPE and our School Immersion Programme.

## School Immersion Programme

The school immersion programme brings unique opportunities to the Transition Year (TY) students to witness how HOPE's projects break the cycle of poverty with their fundraising efforts for the slum and street connected families in Kolkata.

The Hope Foundation will resume recruiting TY students to travel to Kolkata on the School Immersion Programme in spring 2023 once again which was on hold due to the COVID -19 Pandemic from 2020 March.

The students, staff, supporters and the people on the ground have missed these trips dearly and the students are eager to begin their fundraising.



**List of the schools participated in the immersion programme from inception**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Ashton Secondary School Cork             | 29. Glamire Community College Cork        |
| 2. Ballincollig Community School Cork       | 30. Hazelwood College Limerick            |
| 3. Bandon Grammar School Cork               | 31. John the Baptist Limerick             |
| 4. Beara Community School Cork              | 32. Kildare Town Community School Kildare |
| 5. Blackwater Community School Waterford    | 33. Kinsale Community School Cork         |
| 6. Boherbue Comprehensive Cork              | 34. Laurel Hill Colaiste Limerick         |
| 7. Borris Vocational School Tipperary       | 35. Laurel Hill Limerick                  |
| 8. Borrisokane Community College Tipperary  | 36. Loreto Secondary School Cork          |
| 9. Carrigaline Community School Cork        | 37. Mayfield Community School Cork        |
| 10. Castletroy Limerick                     | 38. Meanscoil san nioclas Ring Waterford  |
| 11. Christ the King Cork                    | 39. Midleton College Cork                 |
| 12. Clongowes Wood Dublin                   | 40. Mount Mercy Cork                      |
| 13. Clonmel CBS Tipperary                   | 41. Mount Sackville Dublin                |
| 14. Colaiste An Phiarsaigh Cork             |   |
| 15. Coláiste An Spioraid Naoimh Cork        |   |
| 16. Coláiste Choilm Cork                    |   |
| 17. Coláiste Cholmáin Cork                  |   |
| 18. Coláiste Chríost Rí Cork                |   |
| 19. Colaiste Ide agus Iosef Limerick        |   |
| 20. Colaiste Mhuire Buttevant Cork          |   |
| 21. Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton Limerick       |   |
| 22. Colaiste Muire Ennis Clare              |   |
| 23. Coláiste Na Toirbhirte Cork             |   |
| 24. Colaiste Treasa Kanturk Cork            |   |
| 25. Crescent College Comprehensive Limerick |   |
| 26. Davis College Mallow Cork               |   |
| 27. Desmond College Limerick                |   |
| 28. Gaelcolaiste Luimnagh Limerick          |   |

## THE HOPE FOUNDATION

Ways to get involved:



### DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS\*

Through school talks, longer workshops or online. We explore root causes of poverty, active global citizenship, gender equality, overpopulation & climate change. \*Subject to a facilitator fee



### SELLING HOPE CHOCOLATE BARS

Raise awareness & sell our €2 HOPE chocolate bars. The sale of one chocolate bar can provide all of a child's meals in a Hope Protection Home for 2 days.



### CHANGE IN ACTION

Take action to design & introduce reusable water bottles in your school in aid of HOPE. Start up guide & school talk on social entrepreneurship. We will assist with design & ordering.





42. Muckcross Park Dublin
43. Newbridge Kildare
44. Newtown Waterford
45. Patrician Academy Cork
46. Pobalscoil na Trionoide Youghal Cork
47. Presentation Brothers College Cork
48. Presentation Clonmel Tipperary
49. Presentation Mitchelstown Cork
50. Presentation Secondary School Carlow
51. Presentation Thurles Tipperary
52. Regina Mundi College Cork
53. Rochestown College Cork
54. Rockwell College Tipperary
55. Salerno Galway
56. Scoil Mhuire Carrick an Suir Tipperary
57. Scoil Mhuire Cork
58. Scoil Mhuire gan Smal Cork
59. Scoil Mhuire Kanturk Cork
60. SMI Newcastlewest Limerick
61. St Aloysius College Cork
62. St Angela's Cork
63. St Annes Tipperary
64. St Mary's Charleville Cork
65. St Mary's High School Cork
66. St Mary's Macroom Cork
67. St Mary's Secondary School Mallow Cork
68. St.Columbus College Dublin
69. Templeogue College Dublin
70. Terence Mac Swiney Community College Cork
71. Ursuline Secondary School Cork
72. Ursuline Secondary School Thurles Tipperary



# The Achiever!!



***“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” - Pele***

I have always kept myself satisfied with whatever I have in life and yet I kept my dreams to be greater, so that someday I would be able to achieve it. Being an average student and coming from a financially weaker background it has been great struggle at every step in my life from early childhood in order to study and to secure a decent life.

Being selected as a Community College Initiative Program (CCIP) participant for the academic year 2021-2022 and travelling to the United States was something beyond my wildest dreams.

CCIP is an education exchange program funded by the US Department of States. The objective of this program is to provide students with a scholarship to explore and to learn, to widen their skills and knowledge and to build up on a plan which they can execute in their home counties to bring in a positive change to the society. I studied Tourism and Hospitality Management, majoring in Event Management and Guest Services in Valencia Community College, Orlando, Florida. Having chosen this field of study, I was

able to do my internship from an art cafe, an event in the Hilton hotel and an Asian restaurant. I was able to complete my 75 hours of internship and also volunteered over 115 hours in different organisations, where I didn't just serve the society but was also able to learn something new from them. “Service to man is service to God”.

Cultural exchange was integral part of the programme. I often cooked Indian food and celebrated Diwali and Holi with my friends. We organised cultural exchange evening which allowed us to learn and teach from each other. I enjoyed my time in the.

The weather, the environment, and the people everything was just so warm in the United States. The amazing and talented friend that was able to make from all around the world is something that will stay with me forever.

This journey wouldn't have been possible without the support and guidance that I received from my mentor from The Hope Foundation. I would remain ever thankful to HOPE for encouraging me to take this challenge.

I am also thankful to the US Department of States, the US Embassy in Kolkata, and each and every one who supported me in this journey.

**Sheetal Rasoi**





# Collaboration Projects

## University College of Cork, Ireland

The University College Cork Hope Foundation Society is an ongoing collaboration with the University College Cork to raise funds and awareness for HOPE through events on campus. This academic year the society is led by Chairperson Saoirse O'Connell, Vice Chairperson Amy O'Donoghue and Secretary Sonali Anandan. Planned events include a film screening, a holi run and a table quiz. We thank UCC for supporting the society and all of the members who raise great awareness and raise vital funds for The Hope Foundation projects.

## Bees Trees Water & Rotary Club Calcutta Inner City



Hope Kolkata Foundation is collaborating with Bees Trees Water and Rotary Club Calcutta Inner City to improve sanitation facilities for a better environment and hygiene for children and under-served communities in Kolkata.

Under this programme, **2 toilets** have been renovated and **1 new toilet** was built in two slum areas in Nimtala and Topsia, where HOPE runs the Naboasha project.

**2 ceramic candle water filters** were also installed in the Naboasha centres to ensure clean drinking water for the children.

## Events & Activities in India



Erev Max, Sundew Solutions, Renaissance Group and residential complexes like South City, for participating in the Daan Utsav event from September to October 2021, and making it a grand success.

**Foundation Day 2021:** The Hope Foundation celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 10th November, 2021 through a virtual event. The cultural event was dedicated to the founder of Hope Kolkata Foundation the late Geeta Venkadakrishnan.

**Daan Utsav 2021:** We are thankful to schools like Shri Shikshayatan School, The Heritage School, Modern High School For Girls, Future Campus School; Corporate houses such as



**Lighting of Christmas Tree:** The Westin Hotel, Rajarhat Kolkata, invited the children of HOPE to be a part of their 'Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony'. The children participated in the Christmas cake mixing ceremony and collected Christmas goodies from Santa Claus.

**Pre Holi Celebrations:**  
HDFC Ergo

collaborated with HOPE for their annual CSR Initiative and conducted an amazing pre Holi (festival of colours) workshop of art, craft and games with the children of the Naboasha project.



**Children's Participation in Kolkata International Book Fair** In coordination with the West Bengal Commission of Child Protection and Rights, children of Ashar Alo and Kasba Residential Child Care Centres performed dance, drama and songs to generate awareness on women empowerment, education for girls, rights for women and children. The HOPE music band "Uddan" also performed in this event.

### Mosquito net distribution in March

We are thankful to Yoga Vidya Pranik Healing Foundation and Tavishi Kanoria for donating 600 much needed mosquito nets for the street-connected people of Kolkata to combat serious diseases such as dengue and malaria.





## Events and Activities in Ireland

### Official charity partner of Cannonball Ireland for 2021

The Hope Foundation is delighted to be nominated as the official charity partner of Cannonball Ireland for 2021. The first event of the year was the Retro Cannonball road trip, on August 13th and 14th, which saw over 100 vintage cars wind their way from Sligo to Belfast. The main Cannonball event took place on September 17th to 19th. 200 supercars and 450 Cannonballers started off from Malahide Castle and made their way down to Cork before journeying on to Galway and crossing the finish line in Belfast. Along the way 190,000 spectators lined the streets of Ireland to watch the spectacular event. A total of €132,000 was raised for HOPE, for which we are immensely grateful.



### Christmas fund raising campaigns

The Hope Foundation held a number of campaigns over the Christmas period to raise much needed funds. The online campaigns raffled 2 nights stay raffle for Ballyseede Castle Hotel. Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor HOPE were very lucky to be gifted a Play Station 5 to raffle. As the PS5 was a rare gift, the raffling of the same just before Christmas proved to be very popular and well in excess of €1,000 was raised.

We again launched our Santa Letters which was a great success followed by our annual Santa Splash at Christmas in Garretstown Beach, Cork. A big thank you to all who supported us for our Christmas Campaigns.



### HOPE CSR Programme

We were delighted to launch our new CSR programme in February 2022. Our CSR programme offers many ways for a company and their employees to partner with HOPE. The unique opportunity HOPE has to offer our corporate partners' staffs is to visit our programmes in Kolkata. Many of our long-term partners have visited Kolkata to see how their support changes lives. It is a life-changing trip. We would be delighted to hear from you, should you have a company in mind that would like to learn more.



### Calcutta Run 2021

2021 was HOPE's 4th year as charity partner of the Calcutta Run. Celebrating its 23rd year, the Legal Fundraiser has raised €4 million in that time. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Ireland at the time the 2021 Calcutta Run was a virtual event, just as it was in 2020. Despite these difficulties more than 1,100 participants raised an incredible €200,000 for The Hope Foundation and the Peter McVerry Trust. HOPE is incredibly grateful to The Calcutta Run organising committee and to the Law Society of Ireland for their incredible support.



### HOPE Dublin Annual Fundraising Lunch

HOPE Dublin's annual fundraising lunch took place on Friday 25th March in the luxurious setting of The Inter Continental Hotel in Ballsbridge. We welcomed 120 guests for our first post pandemic in-person event, and guests were treated to a 3-course meal, auction, raffle and entertainment provided by the ever-popular Brian Kennedy. HOPE raised in excess of €44,000 on the day - which was truly phenomenal, and we are so grateful to all who made this day possible. Huge thanks to all who attended, to our long-standing generous supporters, to our auction and raffle donors and thanks to the TY students from St. Columba's College and Muckross Park College, who volunteered their time on the day. This day would not have been possible without our long standing supporters and generous raffle and auction prize donations.



### Week of HOPE #WOH

During our Week of HOPE, which we implemented between 9th – 17th October, (as we were still constricted by covid restrictions to selling our Butlers chocolate bars on the streets), we were very grateful to those companies in Dublin and Galway who sold our bars in their offices. Thanks to all of you who supported this effort.



### Pranic Healing for HOPE

The Pranic Healing for HOPE incredible fundraising activities continued throughout this year, and, as always, culminated in them reaching their fundraising target of more than €30,000 to provide care and support for the girls' from PBK Residential Residential Child Care Centre. HOPE is very grateful and in awe of the support and funds raised by this extraordinary and dedicated group of HOPE supporters.



### INTO Solidarity Fund

HOPE are very grateful to the members of the INTO solidarity fund who generously donated €5,000 towards the implementation of activities in our Kasba Crèche programme.



### Bon Secours Health System Community Initiative Programme

HOPE is delighted to acknowledge the exceptional support given by the Bon Secours Health System via their Community Initiative Programme. HOPE received a grant of €10,000 from this programme for the purchase of specialist diathermy equipment for use in the operating theatre of HOPE Hospital.





## Events and Activities in the UK

### Sue Perkins, HOPE Patron appearance on Celebrity Catchphrase

HOPE's wonderful Patron, Sue Perkins (comedian, presenter and author), appeared on ITV's Celebrity Catchphrase on New Year's Day and won a phenomenal £16,900 for HOPE. We are extremely proud and grateful to have Sue's continued support.



### London Landmarks Half Marathon

Thank you to Team HOPE runners (Aarti Bhogaita, Will Buck, David Crook, Kevin Dryhurst and Luke Ford), who ran in the London Landmark Half Marathon throughout central London to raise funds for HOPE.



### Footsteps for HOPE Challenge

Footsteps For HOPE, is our annual fundraising challenge, encouraging HOPE supporters and friends to sign-up and walk (or run) 10,000 steps a day for 30 days to raise funds to help street children access HOPE's vital education programmes. Footsteps For HOPE starts on 12 April - The International Day for

Street Children - a very important day that raises awareness about the plight of street children globally.



### Pavenham Golf Event

Thank you to Jagtar Singh and Billy Gill in Bedford, who continue to raise awareness and funds for HOPE by organising events in the local area. HOPE UK Trustee, Phil Mumby, attended their annual golf event where HOPE received £1,500.

### Virtual London Marathon

Kevin Dryhurst, CEO DAM Health Group UK, and Liam Spence, Director of Partnerships at DAM Health Group UK, took on the Virtual London Marathon challenge for HOPE. They ran in Liverpool and raised a phenomenal £6,623 for HOPE. Huge thanks to them both.



### Gift of HOPE CAMPAIGN #GOHOPE



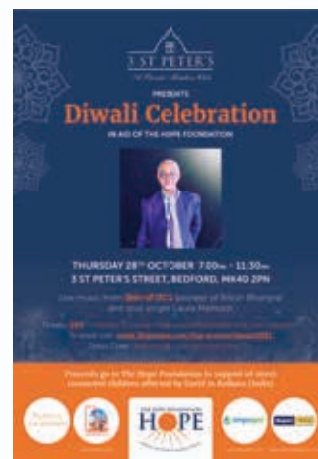
This annual campaign, (which coincides with the Week of HOPE in Ireland), encourages supporters and friends to get involved, by setting themselves a challenge to raise funds for HOPE, and / or by purchasing one of our Gifts of HOPE. The Gift of HOPE week coincides with the Day of Girl Child on 11th October, World Food Day 16th October and the Eradication of Poverty Day on 17th October. HOPE UK is so grateful to all our supporters who donated and participated in this campaign.

### Diwali Event 3 St Peters Club

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, the Bedford Group held an exclusive Diwali event at 3 St Peters (private members club) which raised over £7,000 for HOPE. A huge thank you to hosts Poonam and Bali Chand, and the Bedford Group, who organised the event, and the sponsors, guests, and Shin DCS, pioneer of British Bhangra, who provided the entertainment.

### Kings College London (KCL) Diwali Show

HOPE UK was one of five beneficiary charities chosen by KCL students to benefit from funds raised at The KCL Diwali Show. The event raised £600 for HOPE and helped raise awareness of HOPE's child protection homes.



### BIG GIVE Campaign

This year, the Big Give Campaign was a huge success for HOPE, with our supporters helping us to raise almost £25,000. These funds were raised specifically to protect and empower vulnerable girls in HOPE's care in Kolkata. Launched on Giving Tuesday, (the global day of giving), the campaign enabled donations to be doubled from matched funds secured from the Coles-Medlock Foundation and DAM Health Group UK. Within only a few hours HOPE's fundraising target was exceeded. HOPE UK thanks all our supporters who donated so generously and who raised awareness.



### Bedford Group and Community Fundraising



The Bedford Fundraising Group continues to be an incredibly special and passionate group of supporters to HOPE UK. The current core members of the group include Poonam Chand, Seema Bhogaita and Karen Crofts-Hotston – who all continue to raise a high level of awareness and funds for HOPE within the Bedford community.

### Corporate Support

DAM Health Group UK continues to generously support HOPE and sponsored the annual Dublin fundraising lunch this year. Over the past year, they have provided a variety of vital support to HOPE, including funding our COVID response, donating 1000 antigen tests to HOPE Hospital, and part-funding both our UMEED education project, and Ashar Alo Residential Child Care Centre. Along with supporting HOPE's development programmes, DAM Health also encourages their staff to fundraise and promote HOPE in their clinics globally. HOPE's work featured in a DAM Health TV advert on Channel 4, broadcast in the UK throughout March. The advert featured footage from Kolkata and antigen testing in HOPE Hospital.



## Events and Activities in Germany

### HOPE Germany

We are extremely grateful to our kind donors in Germany, who have been supporting HOPE since 2006, when the Hope Foundation-Deutschland e.V. was registered as a charity. Our German supporters provide HOPE with sustained annual income which ensures the continuity and viability of our programmes.



## Events and Activities in USA



### HOPE USA Support to Covid-19 Emergency Response

The friends and supporters of HOPE USA provided incredible generosity to our COVID-19 Emergency Response appeal. With the amazing support of HOPE USA's Board, "Clubhouse 4 India," and the general public, we raised more than \$250,000 for our COVID Emergency Response activities. The Clubhouse event alone raised more than \$175,000 in under two weeks. We are so humbled and grateful for this wonderful support which contributed hugely to the success of our COVID relief activities in Kolkata.

### HOPE USA Treasurer, Sheila Geraghty attended Dublin Fundraising Lunch

HOPE Ireland was delighted to welcome HOPE USA Treasurer, Sheila Geraghty, to the 2022 Dublin Fundraising Lunch held on March 25th. Sheila is a long-standing HOPE Board Member and supporter - who has provided funds for HOPE's Child Watch Program in Kolkata.

Left to right, Sheila Geraghty (HOPE USA Treasurer), Maureen Forrest (HOPE Founder and Hon. Director), and Yvonne Divilly (HOPE supporter) pictured at the HOPE Dublin Fundraising Lunch 2022.



### COVID - 19 Vaccination Appeal

In August 2021, HOPE Hospital began to vaccinate the street and slum-dwelling communities in Kolkata. HOPE USA launched an appeal to support this vaccination program and thanks to the kindness of our donors, we raised more than \$1,700 for this vital program.

### Gift of HOPE Week

Our annual Gift of HOPE Week takes place in October to raise funds for our life-saving projects in Kolkata. From funding a teacher's salary, to sponsoring a tailoring business startup, to purchasing a clutch of chicks for a rural family - we offer many life-changing gifts that will make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children and families. In 2021, HOPE USA raised a fantastic \$500 during Gift of HOPE week.



### End of Year Giving Campaign 2021

HOPE USA started our End of Year Giving (EOYG) Campaign on Thanksgiving, by encouraging people to "add a new member to your table," by sponsoring a child in HOPE's care. We are delighted to report that we had 8 children sponsored throughout the EOYG Campaign. Throughout the holiday season, HOPE USA shared 'Stories of HOPE' on social media to highlight and seek support for our work. By the end of the campaign, HOPE USA raised a fantastic \$2,500, thanks to the huge generosity of our supporters.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City

Ellie Dixon, HOPE USA's Social Media and Fundraising Officer, attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Irish Business Organisation in



NYC. She proudly represented HOPE USA while walking in the oldest and largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world - with an estimated two million attending each year.

In honour of International Women's Day ( IWD ) 2022 , we asked our staff, supporters, patrons and ambassadors, and members of the public, to take a photo with #SHEis written on their hand, followed by a word that has special relevance/ meaning for them. This campaign was to highlight HOPE's support of girls and young women in Kolkata, and also to support the message of IWD 2022 - i.e., gender equality, equity, and inclusion.





# SUPPORTERS OF HOPE









## JOURNEY OF HOPE







## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for Hope Kolkata Foundation



Date:.....

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Bank Name:.....

Bank Address: .....

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Any INDIAN who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs : .....

Standard Chartered Bank

A/c No: 321 - 1 - 1017525, MICR code: 700036020

IFSC code: SCBL 0036087

Any FOREIGN NATIONAL who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs .....

State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch,

Saving A/C No :40028159018

MICR No: 110002087

IFSC Code: SBIN0000691

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

Email: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Account No:.....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

Hope Kolkata Foundation  
39, Panditiya Place, Kolkata - 700029, West Bengal.

Registered Society No: SO096057 of 2003-2004



## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for Hope Head Office Ireland



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

.....

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.....

.....

Account No:.....

Please Pay HOPE € : .....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Allied Irish Bank Ltd. 66 South Mall, Cork.

A/c No: 50677089, Bank Sort Code: 93-63-83

Every Month/Year\*

Signature:.....

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation  
Silverdale Grove, Ballinlough, Cork, Eircode T12 E974,  
Ireland

Registered Charity No. 13237

## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for Hope Foundation UK.



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Account No:.....

Please Pay THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR  
STREET CHILDREN

Bank Sort Code:.....

: .....

Signature:.....

BARCLAYS BANK  
102 High Street  
Thame  
Oxon  
OX9 3DU  
UK  
Sort code: 20-85-73  
Bank account number:73967735

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation UK,  
Second Home, 68 Hanbury  
Street, London, E1 5JL  
United Kingdom

Registered Charity No. SC038809



## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation USA



Date: .....

Donor's Name: .....  
(Block Letter Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name: .....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Account No: .....

Please Pay The Hope Foundation USA

Bank Sort Code: .....

\$: .....

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Signature: .....

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Registered 501(c)3 Organization EIN: 27-3073426

We would like to send special thanks to the Board Members and Trustees of the Boards of HOPE International Offices in Ireland, UK, USA, India, and Germany.

#### **HOPE Ireland Board Members**

Dr. Dermot O' Mahoney  
Jenny Browne  
Maureen Forrest  
Madeleine Cummins  
Dr. Michael Molloy  
Michael Murphy  
Anthony Childs  
Tommy Gibbons  
Dr. Mary O'Shaughnessy  
Shane Mc Carthy  
Sachidananda Das

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Katy Harper  
Brendan MacKinney  
Shiul Davis  
Belinda Naiken - Payne  
Martin Venables  
Maureen Forrest

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Alexandra Mysoor  
Sheila Geraghty  
Shane Mc Carthy  
Gloria Starr Kins  
Maureen Forrest  
Drue Kataoka  
Kunal Sood  
Jacqueline Quinn

#### **HOPE Germany Board Members**

Anke Frank  
Ulla Muller  
Nina Muller

#### **The Hope Foundation Limited, Branch Office, Executive Committee Members**

Maureen Forrest  
Jenny Brown  
Sachidananda Das  
Samiran Mallick  
Joy Kar

#### **Governing Body Members of Hope Kolkata Foundation**

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Sachidananda Das  
Dipak Biswas  
Ujjwal Kanti Debnath  
Sheila Banerjee  
Samiran Mallik  
Surya Saha  
Debasree Chakraborty  
Pushpa Basu





## Staff List 2021-2022

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Maureen Forrest  
*Honorary Director*

Jenny Browne  
*Assistant Overseas Director*

### Ireland

Fiona Heraghty  
Serdar Suer  
Eunice Tait  
Margaret Doyle  
Fiona Hannigan  
Eithne Walsh  
Charlie McBurney  
Nessan Kavanagh  
Sinead Hurley  
Maureen Kenny  
Pauline Coffey  
Aoife Bulman  
Charlotte Kavanagh  
Jennifer Foran-Smyth  
Mary Morrish  
Laura Power  
Padraig Fitzgerald  
Alpana Delaney  
Maura Lennon

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Arunava Das  
Debu Das  
Jhulan Ghose  
Madushree Das  
Nabanita Banerjee  
Priyanka Dey  
Rajani Singh  
Rakhi Bhattacharya  
Ramanika Nandy  
Somnath Mali  
Subhatama Mukherjee  
Sulochana Chaudhuri  
Surojeet Gayen

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Yvette Lowery  
Lesley Stroud

### USA

Ellie Dixon

### Bank

Allied Irish Bank  
66 South Mall, Cork.

### Auditors Ireland

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Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Audit Firm  
No. 6 Lapp's Quay, Cork.

### Pro-bono Solicitors

Daly Derham Donnelly  
1A Washington Street, Cork.

### Bank

Deutsche Bank AG  
9 Shakespeare Sarani  
Kolkata 700071

### Auditors India

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Web: <http://www.hopefoundation.de>

**Accreditation**

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