

# CIAO KIDS FOUNDATION

DISADVANTAGED WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN IN INDIA



## ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

The pandemic and its impact on health and the economy have deepened inequalities in India. The indigenous tribes (Adivasis) and the Dalits (formerly known as Untouchables), the vast majority of whom were already living in conditions of extreme poverty, found themselves in a critical situation.

We set ourselves the mission of improving the living conditions of Adivasi families so that they can lead decent, independent lives while remaining in their traditional homes. Given the current situation, our mission is more vital than ever. Our actions are focussed on **access to education and training for young people, as well as women's empowerment**.

In order to meet specific needs, the **emergency food program** launched last year has been extended and completed with medical aid as well as support for the creation of small enterprises in order to provide fast, essential assistance for those most in need.

The CIAO KIDS team based in Switzerland has not been able to visit the area this year, but we hope to be able to do so in the first quarter of 2022. However, we do keep in very close contact with our **49 Indian employees** via video-conferencing technology.

We have recently hired a **Program Manager** based in India, Charulatha Banerjee. She is a neurosurgeon with 20 years' experience in the humanitarian field (including 8 years working for Terre des Hommes Asia). She also **liaises with our teams in the field**, helping to bolster our activities in areas such as medical assistance, nutritional advice, support for mothers and children, and awareness programs.

Lowering infection rates, leading to the long-awaited reopening of schools and the authorisation of gatherings, have enabled all our projects to restart.



### Access to education

Our fostership homes help around a hundred young people from very poor families to access mainstream school, supporting them in their studies to improve their future prospects.

These young people benefit from careful supervision, hot meals and medical care. Particular attention is paid to respecting and protecting their childhood.

Our program to provide education material and cover school registration fees allows **400 disadvantaged families** to send their children to school meeting all of their requirements.



### Support for visually impaired children

Our specialised centre aims to support and empower over 60 visually impaired children to become independent.

Often neglected or exploited for begging, visually impaired children benefit from appropriate educational support and specialised equipment at our centre. They learn to read and write in braille, study IT using special software, and take part in sporting and cultural activities to enable their development. The four teachers have been awarded a distinction by the Finance Minister of the State of Jharkhand for their remarkable work during lockdown.



### Socio-economic programs

Our self-help groups and revenue-generating activities are aimed at helping women to become financially independent.

At supervised meetings in small groups, women learn to save money and are encouraged to discuss any social, educational or health issues they may have. Having savings to fall back on is particularly useful in times of crisis, when the employment opportunities for these casual agricultural workers are almost non-existent. 5,000 women have already benefited from our programs.



### Professional training

Apprenticeships in tailoring or office skills allow 200 young people a year to develop competences that will help them find good jobs and improve their future prospects.



### Awareness programs

Courses within villages aim to increase awareness and prevent potential dangers.

Alcoholism, migration, human trafficking and dropouts are direct consequences of extreme poverty. Through street plays and tribal songs, we can tackle complex problems, offer assistance and implement suitable solutions. Our social workers have already been able to reach 9,000 villagers.



Our **charity event** took place on 30 September at the Casino of Morges, with a programme of speeches, dances, a concert and an auction.

Thanks to the talents and goodwill of our ambassadors, especially the Sophie de Quay duo, Yann Lambiel, Frédéric Gérard and the dance school Anamorphose, our 150 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening and all funds raised will be donated to our projects in India.

**SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS, THE CIAO KIDS FOUNDATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT NEARLY 14,000 WOMEN AND 6,000 CHILDREN THROUGH REGULAR PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS 4,000 PEOPLE THROUGH SPECIAL FOOD AND MEDICAL AID.**

When you support an Adivasi woman, the whole family benefits. The social impact of our activities therefore reaches nearly 80,000 Adivasis.

Like every year, the overheads in Switzerland have been covered by patrons, meaning that 100% of the funds received can be allocated to financing our activities in India. As the Foundation is officially recognised as being in the public interest, all our donations are entirely tax deductible.

**Your support and donations are essential to the continuation of our activities in helping the Adivasis. Thank you so much for your trust.**

Philippe de Preux  
President

Claude-Alain Dumont  
Vice-President

Nathalie Praz  
Member Secretary

Sébastien Simon  
Member