

Activity Report 2019



HAND IN HAND SWITZERLAND ASSOCIATION



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Introduction

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association is a registered, tax-exempt, non profit association governed by statutes and by Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

We initiate social change by engaging in dialogue, knowledge sharing and cross-learning to address the world's pressing problems ranging from poverty alleviation to climate change. We hope to create projects that have impact and ability for policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

The association was set up in 2013 with the objectives of

- Arranging for and/or providing managerial, financial, technical support and specialized services such as research, monitoring and evaluation for Hand in Hand India and its group institutions.
- Promoting the Hand in Hand brand in the development sector
- Networking and collaborating with organizations with similar goals etc.

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Our Approach:

- Pro poor and bottom up approach
- Participatory learning
- Mainstreaming gender in all actions
- Transparency and accountability in all actions
- Partnership and coordination with local institutions
- Fostering global cooperation

Our Goal: Providing access and entitlements to create sustainable communities



Key Highlights

Global Social Entrepreneurship Programme

First ever event organized by Hand in Hand Switzerland Association

On October 10th, 2019 in Geneva, Hand in Hand Switzerland hosted a panel discussion on social entrepreneurship, with the topic being “Social Innovation for Sustainability”. The event’s goal was to share the organisation’s successful experience and cross learning with Swiss changemakers.



The panelists

Mr. Christophe Dunand

Social Entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow,
Co-Founder of Après-GE & Founder of Realise

Dr. Kalpana Sankar

Founder and President, Hand in Hand India and Switzerland

Mr. Tony Burgener

Managing Director, Swiss Solidarity

Modertor

Ms. Vera P. Weill Halle

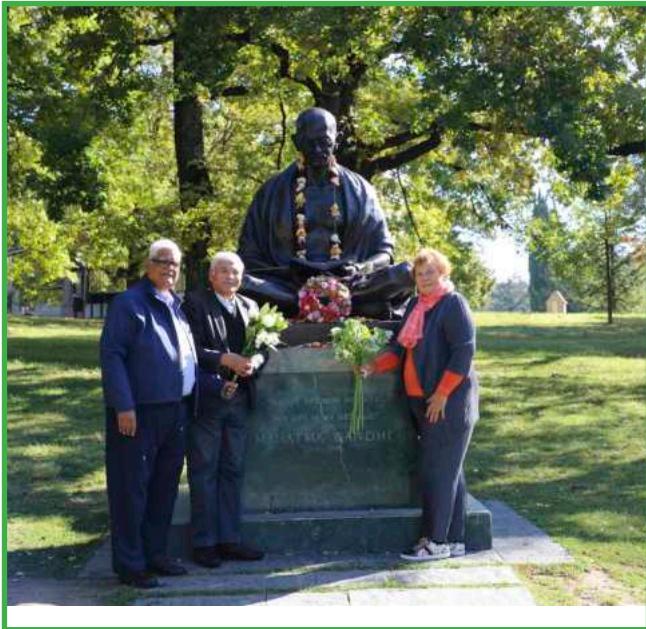
Co-Founder, Brighter Ventures

The event saw 40 participants and panelists discuss social entrepreneurship as one of the primary ways to achieve the UN SDGs. Interesting points came out during this discussion. It was observed that the best case studies across the world are in social entrepreneurship and that humanitarian aid was moving away from giving in kind to cash. HiH Switzerland Association and HiH India's unique job creation model and global replication of this model was elaborated to the participants.

The Global Social Entrepreneurship Program concluded with a cultural dance performance. The dance presentation was orchestrated by Ms. Sujatha Venkatesh, Founder and Director of Omkara School of Indian Dance, Geneva. Senior students Anusha Rajamani and Kajani Uthayakumar presented three Bharatanatyam (traditional South Indian dance form) pieces.



Tribute to the Mahatma Celebrating 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi



On the Mahatma's 150th Birth Anniversary, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association paid a short tribute to him. Mr Amitava Tripathi - former Indian Ambassador to Brazil, Switzerland, the Holy See and envoy to the UN Security Council delivered a special address.. Ambassador Tripathi was the person responsible for the installation of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in front of Palais de Nation, Geneva.

Changing the lives of 50 girl children in rural Madhya Pradesh

Residential Special Training Centre fully funded by partners of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association

Hand in Hand India, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association's partner successfully obtained permission from the 'Government Education Department' to start a residential special training center for girls in Madhya Pradesh in 2019, the only such in the state.

The centre in Nacha District supports 50 girls between the ages of 6-14 and is run entirely by women. The children here are from vulnerable backgrounds and are either drop-outs or never-enrolled. The centre provides education and focuses on improving psychological, intellectual and physiological development of the children. All required certifications have been taken - '**Building structural and soundness, Food Safety, Fire and Safety, and Sanitary Certificates, and Permission Letter from Gram Panchayat**'.

The project that changes lives of these 50 girls would not be possible without the support of our partner Humanium, Blue Lantern Foundation, City of Geneva and several others.

Awards Galore:

Hand in Hand India has received 2 very coveted awards in 2019 – one for their work on improving child welfare and the other for women's empowerment.

a. Dr. Kalpana Sankar receives the **Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Global Award** for Women Empowerment under the Individual Champions category at the UNHQ New York. The award was given in partnership with the Kingdom of Bahrain and UN Women.



b. Hand in Hand India wins the **Pradhan Mantri Bal Kalyan Puraskar 2019** from the President of India for its work towards child welfare

New Partnerships

1. Bright Future for Girls in Madhya Pradesh

In partnership with Humanium, Blue Lantern Foundation and City of Geneva

The **centre is functional since June 2019 at Nalcha District and supports 50 girls between the ages of 6-14**. The centre caters to child labourers, never enrolled and drop out girl children from vulnerable backgrounds and provides them with education – a gateway to a second chance at life itself! In 6 months, the girls have been oriented with a schedule, celebrate important days and pursue sport every day.





2. Healthy food for happy children : school canteen in Bangalore Supported by: Bel Foundation, France

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association was instrumental to provide assistance for construction of kitchen cum store room facility in Basavabahalli Upper Primary School at Nelamangala Taluk in rural Karnataka, from French Firm, Bel Foundation. This school canteen will help in preparation and serving of meals to children in a hygienic and safe way. Further, training will be provided to children on health, hygiene and rights.

On Going Projects

1. Second chance for childhood In partnership with Humanium

Panchagati NRSTC was started in January'18 to ensure that the out of school children, in and around the Panchagati Gram Panchayat in Madhya Pradesh go back to school. By spending time at our center, they are able to improve their learning levels and get up to speed to be mainstreamed to a Government school. 18 students, both boys and girls were enrolled in 2019. The school provides a fresh and nutritious noon meal, play facilities and classroom study sessions.

Child Friendly Village

Since October 2018, Humanium with support from several donors have been supporting a Child Friendly Village at Perumbakkam, a village in Tamil Nadu. Several components make up the child friendly village – including upgradation of the school, child rights training, setting up of smart classrooms, establishing an eco farm for the farmers, creating access to water facilities and much more.

In 2019, the transit schools have prepared several children to pass their 10th grade examinations. A rally to highlight importance of education, a volunteer

network of Child Rights Protection committee was put together and Child Learning Centres helped slow learners catch up after school. Toilet renovation work in schools also was started. All major events such as Indian Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day and much more were celebrated.



3. Fresh and Healthy : Model farm

Supported by : Humanium

In Perumbakkam village, the concept of eco-farms were introduced to provide access to fresh and healthy food. Farmers were trained in organic farming and a model eco-farm created that acted as farm school. Apart from vegetables, farmers were also taught to grow paddy with the scientific methods. In addition to training the farmers were formed into 4 organic farmers groups that act as pivot point for creating best value for produce and new ventures.



Completed Projects

1. Increasing farmer income through sustainable organic farming Supported by Erbacher Foundation

The Sustainable Organic Farming Promotion project was implemented in Villivalam village of Tamil Nadu State. The objective of this project is to enhance agriculture production for 60 farmers by following organic farming techniques. The project was designed to solve issues such as rising cultivation costs, climate change and reviving traditional practices. The farmers were provided training, technical assistance, supply of quality inputs and collective marketing assistance. Weekly farm school sessions were also organised with experts in the sector.

At the end of this project, the average income of the farmer increased by INR 5000 a month and profits almost doubled!

2. Green Livelihoods at Jawad Hills Supported by City of Onex

Hand In Hand India has been working in Jawad Hills, Tamil Nadu since 2012 through its Natural Resource Management Programme. Jawad Hills is predominantly a tribal occupied region and the programmes are designed to enhance the living condition of these communities. The interventions include soil and water, enhancing agriculture productivity, introduction of new crops and orchard promotion and sustainable livelihood promotion.

The tribal farmers are known for harvesting a large number of fruits, millets and grains but in the raw form. The support from Onex went a long way in establishing a Processing Unit significantly improving family income in the Hills. The farmers were organized in groups for taking up this activity. The four processing units were for millets, honey, tamarind and fruit and seed. The grant was specifically used in construction of the unit, compound wall and providing training to farmers on crop diversification through pepper cultivation.



In the pipeline

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association has been in dialogue with several institutions for knowledge sharing, fundraising and project support. The following projects are in the pipeline for 2020:

- **Construction of well recharge pits with Audemars Watkins Foundation**
- **Shortlist for the Rapunzel Foundation One World Award**
- **Supporting a Dream Village**

Meetings in 2019:

One of the primary aims of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association is knowledge sharing. To enhance this and to share best practices, the team has had some very productive discussions with persons of stature in 2019.

Christophe Dunand - Realise

Visited Mr Dunand's one of a kind skill training outlet in Geneva and learnt about his model of skill training unemployed youth in Switzerland. Discussed synergies on social entrepreneurship and the importance of bridging the skills gap

Toni Burgener - Swiss Solidarity

Discussed at length with Mr. Burgener on climate change and the water crisis in Chennai.

Conversations with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance

Spoke about the successful eradication of polio in India and Gavi's focus on working with women's groups to reach the zero dose child in India.

Meeting with CAGI

Met with Mr. Julien Beauvallet and understood the process of shifting the headquarters from Alterndorf to Geneva. Understood the various NGO services offered by CAGI.

Stefania Avanzini - Ashoka Foundation

Potential partnerships for future events on social entrepreneurship in Geneva

Prof Philip Jaffe - University of Geneva

Understood Prof Jaffe's work towards propagation of children's rights and his teaching methodologies. Explained at length about Hand in Hand India's work and operations in this space.

- **Advisory Committee Meeting - 09/10/2019**
- **General Assembly - 27/10/2019**

Way forward 2020

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association's team has grown in 2019 with consultants and volunteers bringing in expertise of fundraising, partnerships and knowledge sharing. The new decade brings hope and optimism to bring about social change across geographies. Creating synergies with partners in Switzerland to take the best practices for global replication along with creating a dialogue on climate change and entrepreneurship will be key focus areas. In terms of project implementation, the Association's thrust will be on:

- **Creating dream villages that have an integrated approach for poverty alleviation**
- **Early childhood care and development**
- **Sustainable organic farming**
- **Women's empowerment**
- **Child labour elimination**

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association is in the process of transferring its headquarters from Altendorf in Zug to Geneva. A new website for the Association is to be launched in early 2020.





Executive Committee:

Dr. Kalpana Sankar, President

Mr. Amitava Tripathi, Secretary

Mr. Padmanabhan, Treasurer

Advisory Committee

Mr. Amitava Tripathi, Chairman

Mrs. Vera P. Weill Halle

Mr. Todd Wade

Management Team

Mr Sandip Mookerjee, Geschäftsführer

Mr. Arndt Soret, Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Sahaana Sankar,

Development Officer

Ms. Emilie Compignie,

Fundraising & Development Consultant

Auditors:

M/s Michel de Preux & Associés SA

Accountants:

M/s Consima Treuhand

Volunteers:

Vanessa Scialfa

Guilia Welge



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