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0. Executive Summary

Situation in the region

The region has gone through another year of low growth and political uncertainties. India, the largest country in the region, and also the largest democracy in the world, struggled through a phase of non-functional governance structures. High inflation, price rise, high levels of corruption, increased violence against women and children, lack of distributive justice and absence of effective governance continued to impact the lives of the people. The wrath against corruption, against violence against women and children and against the price rise was reflected in widespread protests across India. The situation of children and youth was not different from that of the others. The benefits of some of the new legislative and administrative measures, like the Right to Education Act and the laws protecting children from sexual offences, are still to be seen.

Children’s survival and protection are also intimately linked with a healthy environment. Erosion of the environment and ecological balance have continued due to the greed of the rich and powerful. Though the majority population like small farmers and tribals still depend on the ecosystem, their concerns are not translated to policy. Thus ecological rights is a burning issue for children and their communities.

Program Development: Highlights

The year started with the National Project Partners’ Meeting enhancing further participation by the partners in the Delegates’ Conference and also in the environmental and ecological concerns. The Regional Paper which was already discussed at the partner meetings in zones was further discussed. Suggestions and changes were incorporated. The proposals from the Standing Committee were discussed and suggestions incorporated wherever it was necessary. This process was further continued with separate meetings with the Delegates, substitutes and the regional staff prior to the Delegates’ Conference. The youth delegate who was elected was also incorporated into the discussion process after
adequate orientation and explanations. The delegates also had the opportunity to meet at a broader level with delegates from the South East Asia regions. Ideas and perspectives on the inputs from the Standing Committee were shared and a common position was arrived at.

**Right to Participation:** The child participation efforts which most partners have initiated in the past continued in the project areas. The youth networks have been debating on their issues, particularly those around a healthy environment and ecological concerns.

**Right to Education:** A large number of the partners of terre des hommes Germany have been active in accompanying and monitoring the implementation of the Right to Education Act in different states. Many of the partners are very active in lead positions at state level, even in the national Right to Education Forum. The forum has been doing occasional stocktaking of the implementation of the Act in which many partners are also taking part.

**Child Protection:** Partner organisations have been active in campaigns against violence, physical and sexual exploitation of children. Protection of Children against Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, the new legislation has become an effective instrument for prosecution and punishment against such offences. Much work has been done towards informing communities and other concerned sections including police and social welfare departments on the legislation and possible relief for victims under the new law.

**Child Marriage:** The project EMC (Escape from Marriage to Childhood-KIDS-IND-AEI 10 CLS) which is specifically working against the child marriages in the northern districts of Karnataka state, has had many successes in protecting children from early marriages and also preventing such instances. Child marriage also is the main theme of the BMZ supported project (GirlsRights Ind BMZ 11-14) in Rajasthan. Other partners too have had success in this area and more and more girls are in school.

**Child Labour:** The theme of child labour still continues to be relevant in India even after 25 years of struggles against it by a large number of organisations and groups. On the one hand organisations who have been working on child labour have now moved on to work on the fundamental right to education but on the other hand the incidence of child labour has not entirely disappeared.
TDHIF cooperation

A South Asia level meeting of member organisations of TDH IF was held in Dhaka and attended by the Regional Coordinator and Dy. Regional Coordinator. A suggestion was made to start the campaign Destination Unknown – Children on the Move in India through self-contributions of TDH IF member organisations. Various meetings have been held on this and the campaign has been initiated. P. E. Reji, the Programme Coordinator from the Bangalore office participated in the first Destination Unknown Campaign Assembly in Geneva in September 2013. Requirements of other support agencies such as Misereor and Kinder Not Hilfe have been met satisfactorily. Partners also have been supported by connecting them to other support agencies like ECPAT Luxembourg. ECPAT Luxembourg and the South Asia office are discussing possibilities of future collaborations in India.

Participation in alliances like Campaign Against Child Labour, Right to Education Forum, ProChild group, Action for the Rights of the Child and Forum Against Child Sexual Exploitation continued actively. AEI Luxembourg and PSF groups visited projects in India and the Regional Coordinator also participated in their programmes in Luxembourg. A new agreement with AEI Luxembourg is under discussion.
1. Introduction

The region has gone through another year of low growth and political uncertainties. India, the largest country in the region, and also the largest democracy in the world, struggled through a phase of non-functional governance structures. The economic and social situation of the common people did not change qualitatively. High inflation, price rise, high levels of corruption, increased violence against women and children, lack of distributive justice and absence of effective governance continued to impact the lives of the people. The wrath against corruption, against violence against women and children and against the price rise was reflected in widespread protests across the country. The situation of children and youth was not different from those of the others. The benefits of some of the new legislative and administrative measures are still to be seen.

The important initiatives of the partners and terre des hommes Germany during the year were:

- A broad debate and exchange on organic farming and ecological issues through the National Partner Meeting in Pune. This meeting brought together initiatives of non-partner organisations such as Deccan Development Society, Toxic Links and HESCO so that tdh and the partners could learn from their valuable experiences. It was also an opportunity for tdh partner organisations to share their perspectives.

- Development of audio-visual awareness material on violence against women and children.

- Participation of representatives of children in the pre-hearing session meeting of the UNCRC committee. Two young girls were invited by Child Rights Connect in Geneva for presenting the summary of the alternative report prepared by children. Afsana Noyda from Gujarat and Manjula Munavalli from Karnataka participated.

- The Delegates’ Conference process, including the meeting of the Asia delegates and the participation of youth representatives, was very intense and an important aspect of the work in 2013.

- ‘Adaptation of programme and structure in India and South Asia’ for focused and effective work of terre des hommes Germany was initiated. Perspective papers for the discussion in India was compiled during the year.

- Visit of Presidium member Dr Claudia von Braunmuehl to the Coordination Office and the projects.

- The index of Indian and South Asian Governments on child friendliness compiled by HAQ and other organisations was also an important achievement of the reporting year.

All these combined with the regular work of implementing, accompanying and monitoring projects kept everyone, the partners and the colleagues, active and busy all through the year.
2. Important changes of situation in the region

In India rising levels of corruption and disillusionment, along with the impending national elections, gave rise to new political formations.

2.1 Important social, economic and political developments / conflicts

Moving on from times to which it was difficult to assign meaning, 2013 did bring some signs of hope for the people in India. The upheaval around the horrible incidents of assault against women resulted in the Justice J S Verma Committee report and consequent legislation ‘Criminal Procedure Amendment Act 2013.’ Though all the recommendations of the committee were not adopted, the Act certainly is a progressive step. Similarly other new enactments and operationalization of some of the recent schemes added to the above trend. The passing of the Food Security Act and other acts are indications of some positive changes.

Nevertheless the hardships of the common people continued as there were no significant changes in the social and economic sector. Cases of assault, rape and violence continued notwithstanding the legislative changes. Unemployment, food insecurity and inflation resulting in price rise particularly of food commodities, corruption and nepotism continued unabated. The economy went through a difficult phase with Current Account Deficit (CAD) reaching a high at 4.9% of GDP. This continued with slowing down of growth resulting in huge outflow of foreign capital. The Rupee lost out in the international market and fell to an unprecedented low of 68.36 to one US Dollar. Inflation rates were as high as 11% and the food prices increased more than 15%.

The situation has improved marginally as we approach 2014. Yet the challenges that the nation has to face in 2014 are daunting, particularly as this is the election year. The challenge is not only to bring back growth but to ensure that the fruits of growth are broadly shared by all sections of population. Amidst various insecurities like food, water, energy there have also been some positive indicators. For example there has been a decline in the number of maternal deaths, the MMR has fallen to 200/100,000. Similar is the case with the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) which is around 44/1000.

The Right to Education (RTE) Act is being progressively operationalized. While the targets of enrolment are being met, learning levels and school quality are critical concerns. Only 7% of the schools are RTE compliant. The annual learning level survey by ASER recorded a dip in the learning levels even in the developed Pune division, finding that 50% students in classes 3-5 cannot do basic math. The legislation ‘Protection of Children Against Sexual Offenses’ (POCSO) that came into force in 2012 together with Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is still to make a difference where child protection is concerned.

Children’s survival and protection are also intimately linked with a healthy environment. Erosion of the environment and ecological balance have continued due to the greed of the rich and powerful, constituting about 15% of the population. The ideas of ‘development with conservation’ are still foreign to the policy makers. Though the majority population like small farmers and tribals still depend on the ecosystem, their concerns are not translated to policy. Thus ecological rights is a burning issue for children and their communities.

Violence against children and young people is a result of the whole violent system of development targeting nature and
living beings. This takes manifold forms and even turns to violence among each other as is observed in various cases. The Juvenile Justice System needs to be both defended and improved upon to tackle these trials.

2.2 Special focus on developments/conflicts relevant for project work/child rights

Given the close relationship between child rights and socio-economic and political structures the developments in these sectors are relevant for the work of our partner organisations. For example, the high inflation, particularly spiraling prices of food, affect health and nutrition levels of children. The absence of governance systems, corruption and nepotism impact upon health, education and other structures. These retard delivery of services and goods to the poor communities, thus affecting children’s rights. The Indian reality of the year 2013 included all this. Additionally the debate that broke forth about the juvenile justice system and the age for being considered a juvenile was an important aspect affecting child rights. While the media tried to push for reduction of the juvenile age from 18 to 16 or 15, child rights activists and other progressive sections stood firm on defending the JJ System and the age of 18.

The political stalemate in the region of Andhra Pradesh due to the formation of the new state of Telangana, the occasional closing down of the Darjeeling region due to the demand for more autonomy and the difficult conflict situations in the north-east, also affected children and their communities in India.
3. Specific objectives for reporting period

3.1 Objective A: Realisation of the right to participation of children and youth advanced

Youth associations and organisations have been initiated in about 50% of the partner locations covering 12 states in the country. Training of these youth at various levels and motivating them to take up local issues of violation of ecological rights are continuing. Resource persons have been located in different states for providing inputs to these groups. Networking with other organisations engaged in environmental and ecological issues has been achieved in some states. Youth organisations are formed in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Odisha. Capacity building workshops with youth groups were organised in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
ECO SAVERS YOUTH NETWORK (PECUC-AEI-INDIA 12-15)

Observation of World Earth Day
Swam Patana, Keonjhar

There is no place for the crow, the parrot, the sparrow and the weaver bird due to deforestation and lack of thatched houses in the village. Birds are seen flying around helplessly for material to build their nests. Earlier the area in Kheonjhar was thickly forested and a lot of elephants surrounded the villages. Now elephants are moving from the forests towards the villages and destroying the normal life of the inhabitants. This happens due to deforestation and loss of natural habitat. The community is struggling for a drop of water in most of the places and this is due to misuse of water rather than a lack of water resources. People need to earn more to meet their daily food needs. Keeping all these situations in mind the Eco-Savers Youth Network members of PECUC Orissa have taken the initiative to make the people aware about environmental issues affecting the community such as pollution, deforestation etc. and mobilise the community to protect the environment, save water, electricity, ban polythene, promote the use of bio-fertilizers.

World Earth Day was observed in all the villages where the project is working with the participation of 459 youth members (boys-284 and girls-175) of the Eco-Savers Youth Network and more than 500 community members including women SHG members, child rights club members, Panchayati Raj Institution members etc. The following activities were undertaken:

In 8 operational villages the Eco-Savers Youth Network members gathered together and involved themselves in cleaning their village. They picked up used polythene bags, plastic, and other waste products. A meeting with community members focused on such issues as plantation, saving water and energy, reducing wastage and so on. The group publicly took an oath to make their village neat and clean, and to counsel parents and other community members to save water, save energy, plant trees, use bio-fertilizers and practice organic farming.
The children’s alternative report to UNCRC committee in response to official report of the Government of India was updated through a workshop of representatives of children. The updated version of the alternative report has been submitted to UNCRC committee in Geneva. Subsequently two representatives of the children’s groups – Afsana Noyda and Manjula Munavalli were invited to the 66th pre-sessional working group meeting held in Geneva in October 2013. The two young girls made an interesting presentation of their views. They returned with much enthusiasm and are reporting back to children’s groups at different places.

An exchange programme between young people from RLHP (RLHP-SAMAVADATDH-AEI-IND13) and the Echternach school has been going on. This feeds into the youth network in Karnataka. A similar exchange between the LAML school in Luxembourg and young people at Sakhi – Samvada project (RLHP-SAMAVADATDH-AEI-IND13) in Hospet too is in progress.

3.2 Objective B: Policy recommendations on specific aspects of children’s rights followed up.

Partner organisations have been engaged in advocacy against violence on children at various levels. Representations, media reports and online campaigns have been some of the activities. Specific demands not to lower the Juvenile age from 18 to 16 have been made and the Supreme Court of India has so far upheld this. Workshops and advocacy initiatives on health and nutrition have been held by partner organisations. Some of the partners are being linked up to the food security and health rights campaign.

Partners have worked together with the government departments on implementation of the provisions of Right to Education Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, Juvenile Justice System and Domestic Violence Act. Partners like Shikshasandhan (SHIKSHASANDHAN IND 10FF), Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD - INDIA-2011), Dr AV Baliga Memorial Trust (AV BALIGA-INDIA-13) and Centre for Integrated Development (CID-tdhGenf-INDIA-2012), Don Bosco Bangalore (BOSCO-INDIA 11) and KIDS and PADI (KRSCBP-IND-AEI-13-16), Path Welfare Society (PWS-INDIA-13) among others took active part in these issues.

A video of a street play on POCSO was developed and circulated for information and awareness among partner and community groups.
3.3 Objective C: Partners and tdh act together on policy matters and are noticed.
Partners like HAQ Centre for Child Rights (HAQ INDIA 10), Dr A V Baliga Memorial Trust (AV BALIGA-INDIA-13), CCRD (CCRD - INDIA-2011) and PECUC (PECUC-AEI-INDIA12-13) have been actively engaged in policy advocacy. Tdh has worked together with them and has made various recommendations for the formulation or amendment of legislations like Prohibition of Child Labour Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, implementation of Right to Education Act and legislation against child marriage. Tdh has also linked up with alliances and networks like the RTE Forum, Campaign Against Child Labour, Forum Against Child Sexual Exploitation, Action for the Rights of the Child and others. Partners in Tamil Nadu have engaged themselves against exploitation of young girls through schemes like Sumangali and joined hands with corporate social responsibility initiatives for policy measures on such issues. Information on relevant legislations has been discussed and disseminated.

In the aftermath of the rape and murder case of December 2012 in which one of the accused was a 17 year old boy, a strong demand was raised in the media for lowering the juvenile age limit from 18 to 16 or below. Instances of rapid increase in criminality among the young boys were cited again and again. In this context terre des hommes partners and other child rights organisations together supported the counterview not to tamper with the juvenile age, as India has ratified UNCRC and all persons below 18 must be considered children. A massive campaign of information dissemination and collecting signatures was launched in Delhi by Delhi Child Rights Groups - a spontaneous association of organisations. The northern office in Delhi took an active role in this and subsequently a memorandum was submitted to the government and some of the political parties. The demands of the campaign were incorporated by some of them into their position and perspectives before the elections. Inputs on JJ Act were provided to the NCPCR also by Kishore – the Programme Coordinator at Delhi. To understand the context, a short film "Still we will rise" was shown at various locations, partner meetings and also shared with others. The film was also screened during the TDH OPEN at the head office.
3.4 Objective D: Partners and youth participate in strategic goals discussions effectively.

On various occasions, the youth delegate and the partner delegates together with the staff delegate have been engaged in study and discussion on the regional papers and the proposals for strategic goals from the Standing Committee. Amendments and changes were proposed to the proposals and strategic goals according to the situation that prevails in the region. The youth delegates were invited to the National Partner Platform and supported for understanding the discussions. Eventually the delegates started making proposals for amendments and even proposing new motions.

The youth delegate who was already elected in the previous year joined the discussions on the Delegates’ Conference preparations. In spite of the difficulties with the languages and levels of understanding the participation was made effective through intense preparatory sessions.

The National PPM brought together non-partner organisations working on environmental and ecological concerns for sharing and exchanging ideas and experiences. This has contributed to strengthening the partner response to ecological rights.
Zonal partner meetings

The zonal partner meetings were held in the months of April, July, October and November in the different zones. Violence against women and the new legislation after the Justice Verma committee recommendations were a common topic of discussions in addition to the Delegates’ Conference preparatory discussions. Information and implementation of POCSO was another common topic of discussions. The eastern Project Partners’ Meeting, which is a joint meeting with partners and colleagues of tdh Suisse Geneva, had a session on the ‘Role of civil societies for protection of children against sexual offences’ in this context. These were also occasions for doing a stock-taking on the Committee Against Sexual Harassment and the effective functioning of the child protection policies within the partner organisations. All the partners reported on this. Majority of them have effectively incorporated both these instruments into their organizational structures. Some of the new partners are still in the process of doing this. Two representatives from each of the partner organisations attended the meeting which had to be often conducted bilingually and sometimes even with translators to three languages. The process however still attracts partner organisations who find it an opportunity to raise their concerns and understand and debate new informations, legislations and issues.

3.5 Objective E: Changing situations in the region are integrated into focal themes and regional themes.

Regional situation and priorities have been emphasised in the partner meetings and discussions. The project selections have followed similar priorities based on the regional situation and within the given focal and regional themes. Ecological rights and environmental concerns are getting integrated into the partner perspectives rapidly. Violence against children, child abuse of all nature – physical and sexual, new forms of child labour and child trafficking etc. have been emphasised in different projects.

The field of forced migration and trafficking has been subsumed under the new heading Children on the Move. The campaign ‘Destination Unknown – Children on the Move’ was initiated in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh (PEACE-PWS-IND-13) by TDH IF member organisations terre des hommes Germany, Netherlands, TDH Foundation Lausanne and TDH Suisse Geneva together. While the campaign in West Bengal has reached out to many districts and has had various meetings, the Andhra Pradesh campaign was interrupted due to the bifurcation of the state into Telangana and Andhra. Due to many political issues and the volatile nature of the situation, the campaign activities could not be carried on as visualised earlier. The same can now be activated only after the national
elections in April – May 2014. A study on the impact of violent conflicts and armed struggles on the lives of young people was supported in the north-eastern states – Assam and Manipur (NERSWN-INDIA-2013). Continuing from the support to children in the refugee camps after the riots in 2012 this was a holistic inquiry into the situation of children in the region. The study has come out with important findings which call for further initiatives and involvement.

3.6 Objective F: Survivors and potential victims of emergency situations supported quickly and effectively.

Support to projects for survivors of the flood and riot victims in Assam continued into this year. Measures ranging from relief to psychosocial support were provided in a small but significant way. Subsequently in the context of the cloud burst, flash floods and landslides in Uttarakhand, tdh and the partners got into support activities quite promptly and have supported projects in this area. Four partner organisations were supported at the relief and early recovery phase with a focus on recovery of children who were affected.

The drought in the state of Maharashtra was another disaster situation. Support to partners on mobilising government assistance was organised by partner organisations. These were complemented through project support from tdh Germany and AEI Luxembourg (DR-Dilasa-Ugam-NPM-AEI-Ind13). Meanwhile the idea of mainstreaming prevention and preparedness for recurring droughts came up for discussions. AEI Luxembourg with the support of the Luxembourg government has now sanctioned a three-year project with Euro 150,000 towards long term support to partners in this perspective.

Humanitarian assistance has become a significant part of tdh Germany’s work in South Asia. This has been emphasised within the regional paper and is now incorporated into the strategic goal ‘right to intact environment’.

Colleague from India– Jignesh Jadav, the ERC participated in the ERC training organised by the head office. They also represented their countries at the Regional Seminar as part of the General Assembly of terre des hommes Germany.

The flash floods and landslides of Uttarakhand, causing the death of thousands of people and destruction of a lot of property, and the cyclone Phailin of Orissa brought back old memories of massive natural disasters in India. Tdh Germany with support from C&A and others was able to offer assistance to some communities through partner organisations like HESCO, AMAN, Himad and Himalayan Trust (FR-HIMALAYAN TRUST-IND 13, FR-HIMAD-IND-2013, FR-HESCO-C&A-IND-2013, FR-AMAN-IND-2013).
Dove (Pond) Model (DR-DilasaUgmNPM-AEI-Ind13)

Benefits to community and wild animals due to Dove Model in Pokhari village, Jalna district.

A Drought Relief Project supported by TDH-AEI was implemented in 8 villages of Jafribad block in Jalna district. Along with other relief measures three Dove models have been developed in two villages. The impact of Dove models developed during summer in Pokhari & Nimkheda villages in Jafribad block of Jalana district is now becoming apparent. Due to good rainfall this year the Doves are full of water, as can be seen in the photograph. 2114 tractors of silt was removed from the tank at Pokhari. Crops were grown on the silt which was removed from the tanks and spread over 46 acres of farm land of Pokhari village. The soybean and cotton crops grown are really very good. The farmers have also used the Dove water for protective irrigation of crops during the dry spell in August, 2013. This will really help enhance productivity of crops.

It is predicted by farmers that the cotton yield will increase up to 14 quintals per acre, that means 6-7 quintals more than earlier years and soya bean yield will be around 10 quintals which is 3-4 quintals more than earlier years per acre. This indicates that total income of 27 farmers will grow up to Rs. 6.45 lacs this year. The water level of 14 wells around the de-silted tank at Pokhari has been increased to optimum level. The recharged wells will also be able to increase the irrigation in about 70 acres of farm land.

The farmers have made their contribution in this activity in the form of manual labour as they transport the silt to their farms at their own cost and we have only to bear the cost of hiring of JCB / Earthmovers for removing the silt from the area of the dry tank.
Though there was no possibility of following up this initial support with long term measures, preventive and preparedness measures are being included in project applications for support from BMZ and other agencies. In the case of cyclone Phailin, though not many lives were lost, the destruction was almost total in many villages. Everything from homes to crops were swept away by the speeding wind that tore through the district of Ganjam. The tdh Germany partners PECUC and Pallishree were supported in a small way for relief assistance (CR-PALLI-IND-2013, CR-PECUC-IND-2013).

3.7 Objective G: The resources available for project support increased during the year.

In the wake of the reduction of Euro 77760 from the regional project budget the region has reduced Euro 30000 from the administration budget and compensated for the reduction from project budget. Similarly additional resources have been procured from third party sources of AEI Luxembourg and PSF Luxembourg for India. To this end the Regional Coordinator has spent time in Luxembourg, addressed meetings and public gatherings and also participated in various discussions with AEI and PSF. The region was able to procure about Euro 900,000 towards project support and Euro 89000 or so as a contribution towards administration costs from third party funding sources like AEI Luxembourg, PSF Luxembourg, TDH France F 68. This was Euro 80000 more than what was anticipated at the beginning of the year.

Adequate information and inputs have been provided to the fund raising department as and when required. All the requirements of CSR organisations like the C&A foundation, the Otto group, DACHSER and MFS have been fulfilled. Visitors from AEI Luxembourg, PSF and working group members of terre des hommes Germany have been accompanied and their visits facilitated.
The second half of the year witnessed many high profile visits from third party supporters. The CEO of Dachser, Mr Bernhard Simon accompanied by Ms Birgit Kastner visited the project PACE and HWA in UP and Dr Michael Otto the owner of the OTTO group visited the Delhi project of Ankur Society accompanied by Maren Boehm and other officials. A delegation involving four persons from AEI visited projects in India. There was also a visit from TDH France F68. All the visits have been effectively accompanied and the cooperation and support from these agencies is expected to continue in the future.

3.8 Objective H: Projects are accompanied and reported on result based format.

Emphasis on the result based format continues. Colleagues in the Eastern Office and Southern Office have organised training programmes for the partners on result based monitoring and reporting. The Coordination Office examines the updates and reports from the point of view of results based reporting and necessary amendments are done.

Two colleagues have participated in the training on BMZ procedures for developing proposals, monitoring and reporting.

3.9 Objective I: The regional team remains at optimum level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Training opportunities have been provided to the regional team at various levels during the year. Inputs on performance appraisal were provided to colleagues during the general staff meeting and field staff meeting. The annual performance appraisal continues to be the yardstick for measuring the efficiency levels of colleagues and making the necessary opportunities available for training. The annual audit has also contributed to pointing out deficiencies in maintaining of records, documentation, filing and other related areas of work performance. This year an individual goal oriented system has been introduced.

Though the team remained essentially the same there have been some changes. Priyanka Hiremath finished her one year contract and was replaced by Snehal Sharma. Towards the end of the year Deepanita Biswas at the eastern office in Kolkata announced her resignation. There were also some instances of long leaves and absences like Surabhi in northern office was away for four months on maternity leave and Snehal Kulkarni also went on maternity leave and Shuchi had to be away due to an injury for over two months. While all of us shared the work and managed, these absences have affected the overall performance and meeting of deadlines. Nevertheless all the efforts were put into minimizing delays.

3.10 Objective K: Expansion and consolidation of working group members, the base of tdh Germany, supported.

Requests for information and visits from working group members were promptly responded to and complied with. Visits to projects by working group members and other interested travellers from Germany and Luxembourg to India have been facilitated and organised.

The India Seminar for representatives of working groups and other collaborating groups was organised in Hagen. Inputs were provided by the Regional Coordinator. 39 persons attended the meeting. Representatives from TDH France F68 and TDH Geneva too joined.

A well attended public lecture was held at Luxembourg by AEI in June 2013 at which the Regional Coordinator spoke on ‘Trekking uphill towards social development.’ This was followed up with a meeting with AEI members and some of the donors.

The visit from the Presidium by Dr Claudia von Braunmuehl was an important event of the second half of the year. The visit started on October 19 2013. In addition to being in the Coordination Office and the RTTI project Dr Claudia also visited projects in Maharashtra, UP and Delhi. Dr Claudia’s expertise,
3.11 Objective L: Collaboration with alliance partners, other support agencies and TDH IF consolidated.

Participation in alliances like Campaign Against Child Labour, Right to Education Forum, ProChild group, Action for the Rights of the Child and Forum Against Child Sexual Exploitation continued actively.

AEI Luxembourg and PSF groups visited projects in India and the Regional Coordinator also participated in their programmes in Luxembourg. A new agreement with AEI Luxembourg is under discussion. Ingrid, Sampat and Reji accompanied large groups of visitors of AEI to projects in Mumbai, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

A South Asia level meeting of member organisations of TDH IF was held in Dhaka and attended by the Regional Coordinator and Dy. Regional Coordinator. A suggestion was made to start the campaign Destination Unknown – Children on the Move in India through self-contributions of TDH IF member organisations. Various meetings have been held on this and the campaign has been initiated. P. E. Reji, the Programme Coordinator from the Bangalore office participated in the first Destination Unknown Campaign Assembly in Geneva in September 2013. Requirements of other support agencies such as Misereor and Kinder Not Hilfe have been met satisfactorily. Partners also have been supported by connecting them to other support agencies like ECPAT Luxembourg. ECPAT Luxembourg and the South Asia office are discussing possibilities of future collaborations in India.
4. Program Development

Terre des hommes Germany has gone through another year of focusing on participation at the levels of children, youth and project partners in environmental and ecological concerns and advocacy in the South Asia region. As in the previous year the program development was in the context of the continuation of strategic goals, though the discussion on the new strategic goals was ongoing during the year. Following up from the youth convention of 2012, the formation of youth networks in different states was a major concern. The year 2013 was the first opportunity for this, among other issues.

Delegates’ Conference & Participation:

The year started with the National Project Partners’ Meeting enhancing further participation by the partners in the Delegates’ Conference and also in the environmental and ecological concerns, by inviting pioneering organisations working in the areas of organic agriculture, protection and conservation of mountain ecosystems and other environmentalists like Toxic Links. This was an attempt to extend participation beyond the partner networks in some ways. The presence of eminent journalists and academicians providing inputs of urban and rural reality added to making participation richer with more content. The Regional Paper which was already discussed at the partner meetings in zones was further discussed. Suggestions and changes were incorporated. The proposals from the Standing Committee regarding Context Analysis, SWOT analysis and also the strategic goals were discussed and suggestions incorporated wherever it was necessary. This process was further continued with separate meetings with the Delegates, substitutes and the regional staff prior to the Delegates’ Conference. Thus, a good amount of discussions, debates and feedback was achieved.

Subsequently the youth delegate who was elected was also incorporated into the discussion process after adequate orientation and explanations. The delegates also had the opportunity to meet at a broader level with delegates from the South East Asia regions. Ideas and perspectives on the inputs from the Standing Committee were shared and a common position was arrived at.

The youth delegate, though a keen participant at national level, could not participate that effectively at the international level due to language issues. Nevertheless it was a healthy learning together for the delegates and the rest of us.

The child participation efforts which most partners have initiated in the past continued in the project areas. Looking at the overall situation it seems that there was more emphasis on the youth network during the year than on child participation. In continuation to the convention from 14 states in Bhopal in 2012, youth networks were initiated in 12 states in different zones and the networks have been encouraged to organize training for themselves and also take up small local issues. Though it is just the beginning the levels of enthusiasm is high
and its hoped that the same can be maintained. Social activists and concerned experts have been contributing to the process in various states.

The youth networks have been debating on their issues, particularly those around a healthy environment and ecological concerns. They have organised training programs for themselves on issues related to mining, health and hygiene, cleanliness, protection of trees, forests, beaches, sand dunes and the ocean. Projects like Nishtha (NISHTHA INDIA 10 FF) and YSC (YSC INDIA 10 FF) in the eastern zone, Rose (ROSE-AEI-IND-13-15) and Timbaktu Collective (Timbaktu BMZ Ind 11-13), HEAL (HEAL Ind BMZ13-16) in south, SYM (SYM-AEI-IND-12) in Chhattisgarh, NIWCYD in MP (NIWCYD AEI IND 10 FF FF) and ANANDI (Anandi-Gantar-C&A-IND-11) in Gujarat and PACE (HWA/PACE-IND-10-15) in UP are typical projects focusing on these concerns.

**Right to Education:**
A large number of the partners of terre des hommes Germany have been active in accompanying and monitoring the implementation of Right to Education Act in different states. Many of the partners are very active in lead positions at state level, even in the national Right to Education Forum. The forum has been doing occasional stocktaking of the implementation of the Act in which many partners are also taking part.

Though the government was under obligation to complete the implementation of RTE Act by 31st March 2013 only 7-8% of the government schools in India are RTE compliant. Thus there is a big gap between the target and the realization. Partners are engaged in supporting schools and government departments and also in spreading information about the status of implementation of RTE.
As a small boy Rajesh went along with his mother for vegetable vending sitting comfortably on the vegetable-stacked tricycle. The jolly ride on the tricycle and his peaceful childhood ended with the death of his mother in a fire accident. His father turned an alcoholic forcing Rajesh to come on the streets.

Manju’s recollection of childhood brings memories of him begging on the road and bus. The only thing that he remembers is that the place that he came from had lots of bridges which he assumes to be Bangalore. Knowing nothing about himself, Manju became a child on the street at the age of 2 years.

Rajesh and Manju were rescued by the outreach team of Rural Literacy and Health Project from the street and brought to the rehabilitation home of Asha Kirana. Both took up the bridge course offered at the rehabilitation centre before they got admitted into mainstream school. “Not just education but we had learnt varied life skills including tailoring, gardening and culinary skills, helping us to appreciate all the good things in life”, they say. The interest in education has enabled them to get a degree and employment with reputed companies. Rajesh with his qualification of Bachelor in Engineering is working with the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation earning about Rs. 12,000 per month. Manju is now working as the Assistant Commercial Officer in a private company and continuing his Bachelor’s degree in Commerce. As they are employed in Bangalore, every celebration and holiday brings them back to Asha Kirana.

“This is our family” they say in unison. Both consider the present inmates of Asha Kirana their brothers, and bring the most essentials things for the rehabilitation centre as gifts during their visits. By spending quality time in the centre Rajesh and Manju have been a role model for the children of Asha Kirana, positively reinforcing the fact that education and perseverance will make a person gain respect in society.

Child Protection:

The area of child protection continued to be an important sector for the work of terre des hommes partners. As indicated elsewhere violence against children and women was a major concern. A short video film titled “Still we will rise” was shot in discussion with 7-8 partner organisations in and around Delhi. This film is being used extensively by the partner organisations and tdh for creating awareness.

Similarly many partner organisations have been active in campaigns against violence, physical and sexual exploitation of children. POCSO, the new legislation has become an effective instrument for prosecution and punishment against such offences. Much work has been done towards informing communities and other concerned sections including police and social welfare departments on the legislation and possible relief under the new law for victims. Publication of booklets and information to various sections on this and other related acts like Criminal Procedure Amendment Act 2013 has been an important activity.

Child protection has also been an issue of children living on the streets and also children within institutional care. Support was provided to a Delhi based organisation for developing focus on
mental health of children particularly those living in institutions such as correctional homes, children's homes and hostels. Many partners/staff of the partner organization are part of the Child Welfare Committees (CWC) constituted as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act 2000 and actively involved in matters concerning children in need of care and protection.

**Matsya Mewat Shiksha Evam Vikas Sanshthan, Alwar Rajasthan (MMSVS-INDIA-11)**

Varisa and Vakila were the first girls in their village to pass class X and it was a matter of huge importance as it inspired the other girls to study further. Varisa and Vakila are two daughters of Dhundal Khan and live in Thekda village of Rajasthan where the status of girls’ education is extremely poor. A few years back they wanted to study further but did not have any clue about how they could realize their dreams. It was a difficult situation for them because if they did not study further, they would be married off at an early age since that was the norm. There were several such examples in their own village where girls got married at the age of 12-13 years and were already mothers of two children. Varisa and Vakila had to protect themselves from the trauma of getting married at a tender age and studying further was the best refuge. They managed to study in the support center run by Matsya Mewat Shiksha Evam Vikas Sanshthan in the village.

They received education till class VI at the center and had to appear for class VIII exam privately, as they were not enrolled in any formal school. This was a problem that almost all the students studying at the centers were experiencing. Therefore, the organization applied to the government to give due recognition to the education centre so that they could help children pursue their education further.

Both the girls qualified in their class VIII exam and wanted to study further. Interaction with MMSVS had increased their interest in studying further and even their parents wanted them to pursue their education. One private school enrolled them and they appeared for class IX exams and qualified. In the following year, Matsya Mewat approached a government school to enroll them in class X so that they could appear for board exams but the school refused to enroll them for fear of affecting the overall result and the reputation of the school. But Varisa and Vakila were determined and seeing their interest to study further, the school authorities thought of giving them a chance to appear for the exam. They appeared for the Rajasthan board exam, which is relatively tougher and came out with flying colours. Even the school authorities were amazed by their performance.

Now they have completed in class XII and one of the sisters is teaching in the educational support center. In times of crisis, their father feels that they should be married and have studied enough. But through regular discussions, MMSEVS have been able to convince Dhundal Khan to support the girls to study further.

Varisa and Vakila are treated as role models for many aspiring girls of their age who never dreamt of going to school. They also convince other girls to attend school and struggle to turn their dreams into reality. The two girls have come a long way breaking the shackles of tradition; they escaped child marriage and its related miseries and have chosen a better life. Yes, there were hurdles but they had the strength to overcome them. This lesson has given Varisa and Vakila and the people around them the insight to move ahead in life, in spite of all obstacles.
Child Marriage

The other specific areas in which partner organisations work for child protection are child marriage, child labour and child abuse. The project EMC (Escape from Marriage to Childhood-KIDS-IND-AEI 10 CLS) which is specifically working against the child marriages in the northern districts of Karnataka state, has had many successes in protecting children from early marriages and also preventing such instances. The intense campaign by this group of partner organisations has resulted in making the government structures more alert and active. The children’s organisations also have got active on this issue in their own specific areas.

Child marriage also is the main theme of the BMZ supported project (GirlsRights Ind BMZ 11-14) in Rajasthan. The partner organisations SWERA and GVSTK have raised the awareness on this effectively. More and more young girls are in schools. The girls from the project villages plying to school on bicycles is a heartening sight. There are other projects also such as PACE and HWA who engage in this issue.
Gautami (ASTITVAGMVS-AEI-Ind 13-16)

Gautami is a bright young girl from the dalit community. Very interested in studying hard, which was Dr. Ambedkar’s teaching to all - especially women. She comes from a poor landless family that lived near Pandharpur the temple town of Maharashtra. In the 9th class when she was 17 years old her family forced her to marry. As she was young and bright she discussed the matter with the family of the boy she married, who agreed to allow her to continue her education and go to school. After the marriage, she had to do all the housework including washing of clothes for 7 persons. They never let her cook, because she liked cooking but instead only asked her to make the bhakris (bread or roti made out of jowar which is commonly eaten in Maharashtra). The mother-in-law would do the actual cooking herself. Life continued like that - she would do all the work and go to school. She got pregnant immediately and in the 7th month she suffered an abortion. She continued going to school and in the 11th class she got pregnant again and again the same thing happened. This happened again the next year and the next. She had 6 pregnancies and spontaneous abortions. At the time of the 7th pregnancy she was bleeding a lot and had to be taken to a hospital. The doctor demanded Rs 3,000 saying it was a complicated case. Her in-laws refused to give this money. She was sent home and somehow her mother who worked as a domestic servant borrowed this money and gave it to the hospital for treating her. When she came back to her in-laws place they told her to stop her education as she had got only 45% in her 12th after getting 65% in the 10th.

Gautami went to the police station and told them she wanted to make a complaint against her husband’s family for not allowing her to study. The police did not take her seriously, and advised her to stop her education. While she was wondering what to do, the husband and her in-laws took her back to her mother’s house and filed a case for a divorce, and soon her husband was remarried.

She continued to stay home depressed and filled with remorse and wondered how to pay back this money. For a while she started talking gibberish and was having a breakdown, but after some rest and some days sleep she soon got better. She continued her resolve and decided that no matter how much she worked it would take a long time to collect this money. She was told that girls could make this amount in a single night in prostitution but decided that her sense of self and character was important to her, and she also wanted to continue her studies. By this time she had reached college.

Her family started pressurizing her to get married again. This time it was a man who was much older and who had 3 young children and had been recently widowed. She told him quite frankly that she was willing to do anything but wanted to continue her studies, but he was not interested. Later she met another man who came to the house, who agreed to give her Rs 3,000 and said he would find work for her. Later she found out that he had invited his friends over to abuse her. She ran away and came to a hospital again. One day at the hospital she met one of the staff of the NGO Astitva from Solapur Maharashtra who had brought in a young patient and sat with her telling her, how wrong it is to get married early. Gautami was so happy to hear that other people also thought this was wrong. She immediately asked more about the work of the NGO and started volunteering with them after she finished her day or night shift at the hospital.

Gautami has been named after Gautama Budha. She is still determined to study. She is now working with Astitva and is living in the town of Pandharpur living with and supporting her widowed mother but continuing to study. She works with the youth group of the organization and encourages them to study and become independent and not give in to family pressure and get married early. She also works with the boys and with the women’s groups.
**Child Labour**

The theme of child labour still continues to be relevant in India even after 25 years of struggles against it by a large number of organisations and groups. On the one hand organisations who have been working on child labour have now moved on to work on the fundamental right to education but on the other hand the incidence of child labour has not entirely disappeared.

The project AIDENT (AIDENT-INDIA 10FF) in Panipat works towards educating working children integrating them with the school system or providing them with basic education. There are also projects like Ankur Society in Delhi or READ in Bihar (ASREAD-Ind-OTTO-11FF), PECUC AEI INDIA 12-13 in Odisha who still continue to work against child labour and attempt to bring them back to school.

A number of the projects supported by Terre des homes Germany involve eradicating child labour, somehow convincing children to come out of exploitative working situations and get into school. Particularly after the Right to Education Act has been passed, this has become a little easier. However a number of children still continue to work in very difficult situations.

These are some of the examples of children who have had the opportunity to go back to school:

**Upasana, 8 years, Learning Collective, Khicharipur [ASREAD -IND-OTTO-11 FF (Ankur)]**

Upasana, 8 years of age, lives in Khicharipur. Earlier Upasana never had time for herself – she worked at her grandfather’s shop, engaged in garment piecework, in which she puts buttons on dresses, and also in helping her grandmother in household chores. She was enrolled in school but not attending school regularly and would have dropped out if she had not come in contact of Ankur.

Now Upasana says “Now I have lots of time for myself. And I am no longer sitting quietly in a corner, at the center. I do not hesitate in sharing my stories with my friends in the centre as well as outside. I can recite a poem fluently and with acting. And my parents are happy about it.”

Upasana is studying in class III now and goes to school regularly. Her working hours have reduced from 4-5 hours a day to 1-2 hours. Her reading and writing skills improved after coming to the center. A piece written by her has even been published in the school magazine!

**Rubin, 10 years, Learning Collective, [ASREAD -IND-OTTO-11 FF (Ankur)]**

Rubin is a 10 year old boy from Shashi Garden. He worked half day with his mother in ‘kothis’ (houses) as a domestic worker – cleaning, washing, dusting etc. In the evenings his play consisted of cricket and chasing pigs around with his friends. He dropped out of school after class II. He started coming to the learning centers run by Ankur 2 years back. Now things have changed. As he puts it –

“Now I enjoy sharing with friends, I can recognize alphabets and read even words, write the names of my family members. It is a thrill to realize that I can write something of my own and that the teacher listens to it. The scope of our reading and writing is expanding. We are no longer afraid to create new things. I rejoined school after two years and have stopped working as a domestic help.”

Now Rubin is studying in class IV.
Sangeeta, Young Women Centre, Shashi Garden, [ASREAD -IND-OTTO-11 FF (Ankur)]

Sangeeta used to make necklaces on piece rate basis in her home in Shashi Garden. She almost left her studies and said she was not keen to pursue her studies further. On further probing Ankur found that her sister and father were not keen on her studies and she was de-motivated. Discussions were held with her mother and her family regarding this. She started coming to the center in 2009 and lot of things have changed since then.

“Here at the collective, we discuss a range of things and express our views and ideas. Through these discussions and writing, I have found an opportunity to articulate and reflect on our perspectives about ourselves, our families, our neighbourhood and about our society. Writing about one's self and others was a totally new experience for me. What I have discovered is that there is a connectedness in our life stories. We also have out distinct ways of telling our stories. Coming to the young women’s collective has given us confidence and helped build a positive attitude. Now I think there are other and newer ways of living life. I used to be a rather quiet person who shied away from giving her opinions and feared speaking but now I have become very vocal.”

She has almost given up piece rate work and is pursuing her dreams. Her aspirations for the future are not confined to doing contract labor. She is about to complete her graduation by correspondence besides doing a course to become a beautician.

ASREAD -IND-OTTO-11 FF (READ)

West Champaran District in Bihar is a source area for large numbers of child labourers working in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand. Rural Education and Development is working for prevention and rehabilitation of child labourers in Beria and Jogapatti blocks of the district. The organization has been interacting with child labourers coming back to their villages during festival time and motivating them to join vocational training programmes facilitated by it. Thirty migrant child labourers were admitted in technical institutes in Patna, Lucknow and Hazaribagh and are being trained in mobile repairing, hotel management and as motor mechanics. Majority of these boys were lacking basic education and the organization made lots of efforts to secure seats for these children in technical institutes. The organization also provided necessary support required for training. More than fifty boys have completed training by now and ten of them have also been placed in reputed companies or in voluntary organization. The programme is contributing significantly in enhancing skills of child labourer who are older and could not be integrated in schools. The vocational training programme is also opening opportunities for boys and increasing possibilities of finding work locally instead of going to far off places for unskilled jobs.
5. Development of Regional Coordination Offices

This has been another year with only marginal changes within the Coordination Office structure. The only change in the Coordination Office was the resignation of Priyanka Hiremath who was replaced by Snehal Sharma. Going south to the Bengaluru office, there has been a reduction in one position here. P S Pushpa Therese who has been working with terre des hommes for over 23 years completed her services and moved on. There will be no replacement in this case and the office will function with four colleagues. Reji continues to lead the office and the zone. In the east, Deepanita moved on and a new person Koel Chowdhury has just taken over as the Programme Coordinator of the Eastern Zone. Ms Chowdhury is still getting oriented to work with terre des hommes Germany – India Programme. In western Region Sampat Mandave was promoted as Programme Coordinator. There have been no other changes in India.

The appraisal processes and the goal assessment which was introduced during the year concluded quite well. Due to lack of budget availability the staff training program did not take place. This situation will be corrected in the forthcoming year.

As far as the external trainings are concerned, the Emergency Response Coordinator took part in trainings in Nepal and in the head office and two other colleagues were trained in BMZ proposal writing and accompanying projects. The colleagues Gwenita and Smita underwent two days of training in accounting and financial management procedures with Account Aid in Delhi.

Thus, while India program has been able to offer some training opportunities, more needs to be done in this direction.
6. Conclusion and implications for future planning

India, the largest democracy in the world is already in election mode. The levels of frustration and disillusionment are peaking among all sections of the people. It appears that the big industries and their captains have opted for a far right wing, neo-liberal perspective. It is yet to be seen if this magic works. For the rest of the country while there are many choices of political parties including some new formations, no real alternatives to the dominant development model is available. What seems obvious is that the polity is getting further fractured even within the main parties. Polarization is the order of the day and is likely to continue. The victims of such a situation are generally the poor again. There are already strong arguments against subsidies and investment in the social sectors. These, it is argued, do not reach the poor or go waste. However, there has been a recent study by Dr Jean Dreze and his team which demonstrates how the situation of the poor has improved due to some of the important government schemes such as MNREGA. This then is the perspective for organisations like tdh partners that is to access more and more of such schemes, increase the entitlements of children and their communities, and secure them.
Tdh Germany has four new strategic goals for the region

- Enhance participation
- Ensure protection
- Increase access to ecological rights
- Influence policies.

These call for some adjustments and refocusing of the work in South Asia. The agency of children and young people needs to be expanded and intensified. More exchanges and more alliances can only help realizing this.

The state elections in India towards the end of the year have resulted in the emergence of a new sociopolitical climate. New formations with aggressive posturing against corruption and pro-industrial policies have made significant gains. Large numbers of youth, particularly in the urban centers, have rallied around such formations. The winds of change seem to be blowing and the young people in the urban centers are trying to swing it in favour of good governance and accountability. Certainly a positive note.

For Pakistan and Nepal the perspectives would be similar. In the case of Pakistan, protection measures will have to be strengthened and participation initiated. In Nepal, education and ecological sectors are most crucial. To get more active on these issues, it is also necessary for tdh to get registered in these countries. This will enable better strategisation and perspective building.

In conclusion, it is important also to appreciate the gains in the social sector by way of new legislations and schemes, and the efforts being made by groups and organisations. The poor and the marginalized communities, children and youth included, visualize a better future and remain resilient in the present.

“No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every education should be to unlock this treasure.”

- Emma Goldman

C J George
Regional Coordinator - South Asia
31st March 2014
Annexure I – Organogram

Organogram - India Programme

As on 31st March 2014
# Annexure II – Receipts & Payments Account

For the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013

<table>
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## Annexure III – Project list

### According to Budget Line

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### According to countries / zones

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According to themes

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Annexure IV – Project Support in India