



Annual Report - 2025

India

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Terre des Hommes Germany - India

Terre des Hommes Germany

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Abbreviations

ARC	Action for the Rights of the Child
BfdW	Bread for the World
BMZ	Ministry of Economic Cooperation-Federal Republic of Germany
CACL	Campaign Against Child labour
CY	Children and Youth
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INGO	International NGO
M&E	Monitoring &Evaluation
NBS	Nature Based Solutions
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PCM	Project Cycle Management
RBM	Results Based Management
RC	Regional Coordinator
RT	Regional Theme
TDH	Terre des Hommes
VW	Volkswagen
YES	Youth for Ecological Sustainability

Photo Captions

Cover Page

LEADS-INDIA BMZ-23-26

Program Achievements

EXIT-India-BMZ-22-26



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INDIA BMZ-23-26

Foreword

The year 2025 has been both challenging and transformative for Terre des Hommes (TDH) Germany in India. This report reflects the collective strength of communities, partners, young leaders, and children driving meaningful and lasting change.

Throughout the year, TDH in collaboration with its partner organisations reached tens of thousands of children, youth, and families through integrated interventions in education, migration, climate action, gender justice, and food sovereignty. Significant progress was made in expanding access to education and strengthening livelihoods, while ensuring that vulnerable children and young people—particularly those affected by migration—were able to access essential services and opportunities for a better future.

Climate change continued to be a defining priority, as communities across India faced increasing disruptions due to floods, droughts, heatwaves, and landslides. In response, TDH through its partners strengthened its focus on climate resilience and actively engaged young people in environmental action, reinforcing

their role as critical agents of change in building sustainable futures.

Gender justice remained central to our work with partners. Through community-based initiatives, thousands of children and young people were supported by our partners to challenge discrimination, prevent harmful practices such as child marriage, and strengthen responses to gender-based violence, while promoting equitable access to opportunities.

Beyond these achievements, the report captures stories of transformation—children returning to school, young women strengthening their agency, and communities building resilience in the face of adversity. These outcomes reaffirm the value of approaches grounded in participation, dignity, and local leadership.

The year 2025 also marked an important period of transition for the organisation, with the retirement of Regional Coordinator Ingrid Mendonca and the onboarding of new Regional Coordinator. Ingrid leaves behind an extraordinary legacy shaped

by over four decades of dedicated service to advancing children's rights. We are committed to building on this strong foundation and carrying the vision forward.

As we look ahead, addressing the interconnected challenges facing children and communities will require deeper collaboration, sustained investment in local capacities, and greater inclusion of children's and youth voices in decision-making processes.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all children, families, partners, and staff for their continued commitment and collaboration. Together, we remain dedicated to building a future where every child can live with dignity and realize their full potential



Dr. Namrata Jaitli
Regional Coordinator
March 31, 2026

Executive Summary

The 2025 Annual Report of Terre des Hommes (TDH) Germany presents a comprehensive overview of programmatic achievements of TDH Germany in India, in collaboration with partner organisations, challenges, and institutional developments across India. Operating in a complex and rapidly evolving context shaped by climate change, socio-economic challenges, migration, and gender inequality, TDH and its partner organisations continued to prioritise child rights, youth empowerment, and community resilience.

Programme Reach and Impact

Despite the socio-economic pressures and climate change related challenges faced by vulnerable children, youth and their families, TDH programmes achieved significant scale and impact during 2025 with support from its partner organisations. More than 12,000 children and youth participated in education and empowerment initiatives, strengthening access to learning, life skills, and future opportunities. In migration-affected contexts, over 14,000 children and young people were supported through partner organisations with access to education, protection, and essential services.

Efforts to address climate change and environmental sustainability engaged more than 17,000 young people in climate action, sustainable livelihoods, and

community resilience initiatives. Nutrition and food security programmes by various partners improved access to diverse diets for over 14,000 families, contributing to measurable improvements in health outcomes. Gender justice initiatives of partners reached more than 14,000 children and youth, supporting efforts to reduce harmful practices such as child marriage and strengthen gender equality at both community and policy levels.

These interventions by partner organisations demonstrate the effectiveness of TDH's integrated programming model, which combines education, protection, livelihood support, and community engagement to address interconnected challenges.

Strategic Programme Areas

TDH's work which was implemented through its partner

organisations was guided by four Strategic Goals:

- **Education and Empowerment for Life Perspectives** (Strategic Goal 1): Efforts by partners focused on improving access to inclusive education, strengthening wellbeing, and supporting youth through vocational training and leadership development. Thousands of children had access to quality education, while youth gained skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
- **Access to Rights for Children in Context of Migration** (Strategic Goal 2): Partners addressed vulnerabilities faced by children of migrant and displaced families by ensuring access to education, protection services, and livelihood support. System-level initiatives improved tracking, service delivery, and policy responses to migration.

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VWWC-24-26

- **Young Environmental Voices** (Strategic Goal 3): The largest programme area, focusing on empowering children and youth as agents of environmental change. Partner initiatives included climate-resilient agriculture, conservation activities, and green livelihoods, enhancing resilience to climate impacts.
- **Gender Justice to Live in a World Free from Gender-based Rights Violations and Discrimination** (Strategic Goal 4): Targeted systemic inequalities and harmful social norms through community engagement, capacity building. Programmes of partners strengthened protection mechanisms, supported survivors of gender-based violence, and promoted inclusion for gender-diverse communities.
- In addition, cross-cutting work of many partners on Access to Adequate

Nutrition and Food Sovereignty improved access to healthy diets, strengthened sustainable agriculture practices, and enhanced community-level decision-making around food systems.

Institutional Development and Programme Quality

In 2025, TDH maintained operational stability despite a challenging funding landscape. A significant leadership transition was successfully completed, ensuring continuity through structured handovers and strengthened governance processes. Investments in staff capacity building improved programme delivery and accountability.

A total of 18 new projects were approved during the year, supported by a diversified donor base including BMZ and other

institutional and private partners. Evidence-based programme management was strengthened through evaluations, feasibility studies, and systematic learning processes, contributing to improved quality and impact.

Way Forward

Looking ahead, the report emphasises the importance of addressing the interconnected challenges facing children and communities through sustained collaboration, innovation, and investment in local capacities. Strengthening the participation of children and youth, ensuring quality education and life skill enhancement, deepening climate resilience, and advancing gender equality will remain key priorities.

TDH reaffirms its commitment to working alongside communities, partners, and stakeholders to build inclusive, resilient societies where all children can realise their rights and reach their full potential.

Program Achievements through partners' interventions

at a Glance

SG 1



12333
Children & Youth
Empowered Through
Education Programs

1929

Children Successfully
Integrated Into
Formal Schooling



1403
Dropout Children
Reconnected With
Education

5577

Children & Youth
Thriving Through Sports
Participation



1044
Youth & Women Advancing
With Vocational Skills
Training

SG 2



14537
Empowered Migrant
Children & Youth

3689

Migrant Children
Accessing Education
Support



2746
Migrant Children
Receiving
Psychosocial Care



SG 3



17616

Youth engaging in actions for a Healthy Environment

388

Climate smart livelihood & NBS – India



SG 4



14769

Children & Youth Advancing Gender Justice

1181

Girls Empowered Through Vocational Training



16

Child Marriages Prevented, Futures Protected

RT



5218

Children Practicing Diverse Nutrition

14229

Families Adopting Diverse Nutrition



7857

Improved Community Health Outcomes





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Strategic Goal 1: Education and Empowerment for Life Perspectives

Strategic Goal 1 (SG1) accounted for 7.28% of the portfolio (15 out of 54 projects) in 2025. 16 partners implemented projects and programmes under this Strategic Goal.

The projects under this goal addressed the multiple and interconnected challenges faced by children and youth, including poverty, migration, discrimination, and conflict—factors that often disrupt education and limit life opportunities. Programmes under SG1 reached particularly marginalised groups, including children from tribal communities, visually impaired girls, and children in conflict with the law, across nine states in India.

The strategic focus centered on three core areas: expanding access to inclusive education, strengthening protection and wellbeing, and promoting skills development and youth empowerment.

Efforts to ensure education continuity and reintegration enabled more than 3,300 children from marginalised communities to enroll in or return to school. Bridge centers, safe learning spaces, and the integration of education initiatives into School Development Plans supported

sustained participation and strengthened linkages with formal education systems.

Youth empowerment initiatives of partner organisations further enhanced opportunities for young people. Over 1,000 youth benefited from vocational training, career counselling, and entrepreneurship support, improving their access to income-generating opportunities. Youth federations and campaigns also strengthened leadership, civic engagement, and agency, with a particular focus on empowering young women.

A strong emphasis on holistic wellbeing contributed to improved

outcomes for children and youth. Interventions such as digital mental health screening, gender-sensitive teaching approaches, and participatory learning methods enhanced engagement and inclusion. Complementary efforts in health, hygiene, and nutrition awareness further strengthened overall wellbeing.

Sports and recreational activities were also integrated into programming, promoting confidence, inclusion, and gender equality. More than 7,000 children participated in these activities, contributing to their physical, social, and emotional development.

Achievement



From Silence to Confidence: A Journey Through "Fun with Learn"

Rani (name changed), a 13-year-old girl from a small village in Siddharthnagar district in Uttar Pradesh, often sat quietly at the back of her classroom. She rarely participated in discussions and felt shy speaking in front of others. Like many children in the village, her learning experience was limited to textbooks and rote learning, which made school feel difficult and uninteresting.

When the organisation Safe Society, with support from TDH Germany, started the Fun with Learn Module in her school, Rani was curious but hesitant to join the activities. The weekly

sessions introduced games, group discussions, storytelling, and creative exercises. Slowly, she began to take part. Through activities on child rights, confidence building, and life skills, Rani started sharing her ideas openly with others. She also discovered her interest in drawing and storytelling during the sessions.

Within a few months, teachers noticed a remarkable change. Rani began answering questions in class, helping her peers during group work, and even leading small activities during the sessions. Her confidence grew,

and she started encouraging other girls in the village to attend the Fun with Learn Centre regularly.

Today, Rani is one of the most active participants in the program. Her journey shows how a supportive and engaging learning environment can help children build confidence, discover their talents, and become active learners. Initiatives like Fun with Learn are helping children move from silence to self-expression.

**Written by
Mohammed Salim**

SS-IND-25-26
Fun with Learn centre



Project Highlights

Projects supported through BMZ, Dachser, and the Volkswagen Workers' Council and implemented by the partner organisations expanded access to inclusive education, protection, and livelihood opportunities across the country, with measurable improvements in children's learning, wellbeing, and future prospects.

Efforts to strengthen education access and continuity enabled large numbers of children to enter or re-enter formal schooling. In Bihar and Jharkhand, 2,992 children were re-enrolled, while 3,486 families accessed social protection schemes, reducing the economic pressures that often drive child labour. In Uttar Pradesh, 362 children from the Musahar community overcame caste-based discrimination, contributing to a 39% reduction in school dropout rates across eight villages.

In Telangana, 277 tribal children were supported to continue their education through locally relevant learning materials, while in Karnataka, school attendance improved for 479 children from

manual scavenger communities, and 13 children were re-integrated into formal education. In Pune, 166 visually impaired girls accessed safer learning spaces and benefited from self-defense and language training, contributing to increased confidence and independence.

Skills development and livelihood initiatives further expanded opportunities for youth and women. In Assam's Karbi Anglong district, 103 youth developed enterprise ideas, with two enterprises already operational. In Telangana, 41 tribal youth accessed vocational opportunities, while in West Bengal, 125 youth gained digital literacy skills and 35 women and girls generated income through sewing and fabric upcycling initiatives. In Karnataka, 40 youth progressed to higher education, and 11 adolescent girls began contributing to family income through newly acquired skills.

Youth engagement and social cohesion were strengthened through targeted interventions.

In Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh, 827 youth leaders supported communities in accessing social protection, improving child-friendly spaces, and fostering inclusion. Sports and recreational activities further supported social development, with over 400 children participating in Ultimate Frisbee programmes in Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh, and 205 youth in Bihar engaging in regular fitness activities that promoted teamwork, confidence, and gender equality.

Protection and wellbeing outcomes were also strengthened. In Pune, 1,716 children in conflict with the law were supported to navigate justice systems with dignity, including 773 children who received life skills training to support emotional wellbeing and reintegration into families and communities. In Bihar, 746 youth and adults participated in dialogues on mental health, helping to reduce stigma and promote awareness. In Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, sustained community engagement contributed to the prevention of seven child marriages.

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Strategic Goal 2:

Access to Rights for Children in Context of Migration

Strategic Goal 2 (SG2) accounted for 8.34% of the overall portfolio, with five projects implemented by four partners in 2025. These initiatives reached 14537 children and young people in vulnerable migration contexts.

Projects under SG2 addressed the multidimensional challenges faced by children and families affected by migration. For many households, seasonal or distress migration remains a critical livelihood strategy; however, for children it often results in disrupted education, inadequate access to health and nutrition services, and increased exposure to labour and protection risks.

Supported by BMZ, Shanti e.V., and the Volkswagen Workers' Council, partner interventions across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka focused on strengthening resilience among migrant and displaced populations. The approach combined access to

education, protection services, and livelihood opportunities to enable families to transition from short-term survival to greater stability and security.

A strong emphasis was placed on enabling access to rights for children in migration contexts. In India, initiatives in Karnataka and Maharashtra established systems to track and support more than 13,500 children and 4,700 women in high-migration areas, ensuring continuity of access to education, health, and nutrition services.

Community-based actions also contributed to preventing migration among approximately 6,400 children, allowing them to remain in safer environments and continue their education.

Complementary livelihood interventions supported 775 families in reducing distress migration by linking them to sustainable income opportunities and government schemes, alongside increased policy recognition at the state level.

Achievement



From Sugarcane Fields to Corporate Wheels

Tejas Suresh Kirwale, a resident of Takalgavhan, Taluka Pathri, District Parbhani, Maharashtra, grew up in a family dependent on sugarcane cutting and farming. His early life was marked by hardship and tragedy-within a span of a few years, he lost both his father in an accident and his mother to blood cancer. The sudden loss of his parents not only brought emotional trauma but also disrupted his education, forcing him to leave school and become trapped in the cycle of farm labour and household responsibilities.

A ray of hope appeared in the form of Sankalp Organization. When Tejas became a member of the local youth group organized by the Sankalp with support from Shanti e.V and TDH Germany,

recognized his potential and guided him toward skill development as a path to self-reliance. He was informed about various vocational courses, and his determination to pursue a career in the automobile sector finally found direction.

Tejas enrolled in the Automobile Two-Wheeler Training Course run by Sankalp, held at the Pratham's PACE Center in Chandrapati Sambhajinagar. The training offered high-quality technical education in engine repair, two-wheeler mechanics, and modern electric vehicle (EV) technology, along with free accommodation and meals. Through this course, Tejas gained practical skills that allowed him to transition from the physically demanding work of sugarcane cutting to a promising

career in the corporate world.

Upon completing the course, Tejas's talent was recognized by industry leaders. Today, he works at NNEEV Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (Kinetic Green showroom) in Pune, earning a monthly salary of ₹19,000. This opportunity not only provides financial stability but also restores his sense of purpose and dignity, transforming the life of a young man once burdened by loss and poverty. Tejas expresses heartfelt gratitude to Sankalp Organization, and the project staff, and the guiding mentors who helped him overcome adversity and step confidently into a brighter future.

**Written by
Sampat Mandave**

*Tejas working
in his company*





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Highlights

Interventions of partners in migration-affected areas demonstrated significant progress in ensuring access to essential services and strengthening community resilience.

In the brick kilns of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, and in the sugarcane fields of Maharashtra, initiatives reached over 11,000 children and nearly 5,000 women. These efforts ensured access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and protection services. Seasonal hostels and digital learning centers enabled children to remain

connected to education, with more than 900 children re-enrolled in school.

In urban settlements in Pune, over 600 migrant children were supported to bridge learning gaps and return to formal schooling. Community-based Child Protection Committees actively intervened in cases of child labour and contributed to preventing early marriages. Sustained engagement also facilitated linkages to formal services, while sports and recreational activities helped restore confidence,

inclusion, and social cohesion in communities affected by marginalisation and mobility.

In Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, improved access to livelihoods and social protection enabled families to achieve greater food security and dietary diversity. Increased economic agency among women contributed to enhanced household stability and decision-making. In Maharashtra, 60 young people were supported with employable skills, addressing the root causes of distress migration and strengthening future livelihood prospects.



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(HIMAD)

Strategic Goal 3: Young Environmental Voices

Strategic Goal 3 (SG3) represented the largest share of the project portfolio in 2025, accounting for 48.74% (11 projects implemented by 28 partners).

Across India, projects under SG3 focused on supporting children and young people facing the growing impacts of climate change. These initiatives aimed to strengthen their capacity to protect natural resources—land, water, and forests—on which their communities depend, while also linking environmental action with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Supported by partners including BMZ, Dachser, and Misereor, SG3 placed children and youth at the center of climate action. The approach integrated environmental protection with improved quality of life, enabling young people to transform climate-related challenges into opportunities for leadership, resilience, and sustainable development.

Interventions demonstrated strong progress in linking youth engagement with climate

adaptation and livelihood security.

Youth engagement remained a central pillar of SG3. Awareness campaigns, environmental education sessions, clean-up drives, and community mobilisation efforts strengthened understanding of climate change and encouraged collective action. More than 4,700 children and young people actively participated in these initiatives, while national-level platforms further supported dialogue, leadership development, and knowledge exchange.

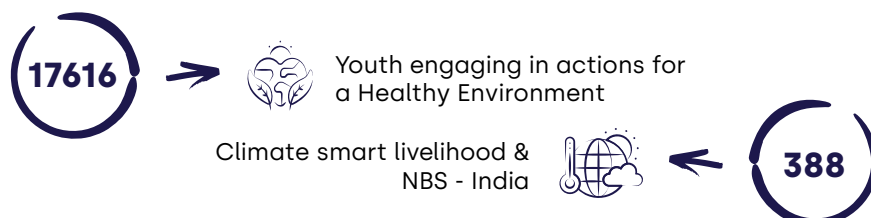
Community-led conservation efforts, including biodiversity documentation and eco-tourism initiatives, further strengthened local environmental stewardship and created new opportunities for

sustainable income generation.

A growing emphasis on green livelihoods and youth-led enterprises contributed to expanding economic opportunities aligned with environmental goals. Initiatives in climate-resilient agriculture, clean energy, and nature-based entrepreneurship supported both income generation and environmental protection.

In total, 17616 young people actively raised environmental concerns through campaigns and policy engagement efforts, many of which received attention and response from local authorities. This reflects a growing recognition of youth as key stakeholders in environmental governance and sustainable development.

Achievement



From Dry Days to Revived, Free Flowing Springs

For generations, families in Uttarakhand have depended on mountain springs for their daily water. These springs were once trusted lifelines, flowing quietly through villages and sustaining life. Over time, however, some dried up completely, others flowed for only a few months each year, forcing families, especially women, to walk longer distances in search of water.

Change began with the CRU project supported by BMZ through TDH Germany implemented by Himad Samiti in Uttarakhand. Using the Participatory Springshed (PSS) approach, villagers came together to truly understand their springs, how they work, why they fail, and

what it takes to revive them. With guidance from geologists and the active involvement of PRI representatives, Mahila Mangal Dals, and local water user committees, communities began seeing their springs as living systems worth protecting.

When hydrological mapping was conducted across 30 spring sites, the findings revealed nearly 70 percent of the springs had become seasonal, while the rest were on the verge of drying up. Equipped with clear insights, communities took action restoring vegetation, building simple recharge structures, and protecting catchment areas to allow water to return naturally.

The results have been remarkable. Thirty springs now flow reliably again, expanding water availability from just 80 days a year to almost 300. Around 2,700 farmers benefit from improved access to water, easing everyday struggles and strengthening livelihoods.

This journey shows what becomes possible when science walks hand in hand with local wisdom. By putting communities at the heart of the solution, a deepening water crisis has been transformed into a source of resilience—bringing water, dignity, and hope back to village life.

**written by
Mohammed Salim**

Participatory
springshed



Highlights

Across the country more than 11,000 children and young people were strengthened and supported to act as agents of change in protecting forests, water sources, and local ecosystems. These efforts contributed to restoring natural resources and safeguarding the environmental foundations of community livelihoods.

Youth leadership played a central role in driving environmental action. In Andhra Pradesh, youth organisations facilitated the restoration of 78 acres of degraded land for agriculture.

In the tribal districts of Kalahandi and Rayagada in Odisha, over 3,000 individuals were supported in securing individual and community forest rights across 60 villages. This recognition strengthened their role as custodians of forest resources, while complementary interventions enhanced food and nutrition security through more than 4,200 nutrition gardens, small farms, and orchards, alongside the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.

In the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand, more than 900 farming households adopted climate-resilient agricultural practices, resulting in yield increases of up to 60 percent and diversification into 12 to 15 crop varieties. These interventions strengthened both resilience to climate variability and household food security.

Gender-responsive and climate-smart technologies further contributed to building community resilience. In water-scarce areas, community-managed water systems restored reliable, year-round access for more than 2,700 households, significantly reducing the daily burden on women and girls.

At the household level in Uttarakhand, the introduction of biogas units and improved cookstoves across more than 4,800 families reduced firewood consumption by 60–90 percent. These interventions decreased drudgery, improved indoor air quality, and contributed to an estimated reduction of approximately 1,000 tons of CO₂

equivalent emissions. Additionally, over 2,700 families improved water access through community-managed systems. These initiatives contributed to both environmental sustainability and improved living conditions

Community-based climate adaptation research in Uttarakhand contributed to informing state-level planning processes. At the local level, six community-managed weather stations provided real-time advisories to approximately 900 farmers, strengthening climate resilience and agricultural productivity.

Overall, SG3 initiatives demonstrated how children and young people can transition from being disproportionately affected by climate change to becoming active contributors to solutions. By linking environmental stewardship with sustainable livelihoods, these projects strengthened community resilience, enhanced local ownership, and enabled young people to build more secure and hopeful futures for themselves and their communities.

#VoiceforGreenEarth





Strategic Goal 4: Gender Justice to Live in a World Free from Gender-based Rights Violations and Discrimination

Strategic Goal 4 (SG4) represented 28.76% of the overall budget and supported the implementation of 14 projects implemented by 22 partners in 2025. The project initiatives focused on addressing structural inequalities, discrimination, and barriers faced by girls, women, and people of diverse gender identities, including restricted access to resources and decision-making, unsafe environments, child marriage, violence, and exploitation.

Supported by partners including BMZ, the Volkswagen Workers' Council, Shanti e.V., Misereor, EDGH, Dachser, and Terre des Hommes France AL68, SG4 interventions combined three complementary approaches: strengthening systems and policies, transforming social norms, and promoting economic and social empowerment.

In Rajasthan, grassroots organisations implemented 30 community-led social action projects focused on preventing child marriage, improving girls' education, and challenging harmful gender norms.

At the community level, awareness campaigns, counselling, and capacity-building activities increased knowledge, safety, and agency among women and girls. These efforts helped participants better understand their rights, access available services, and build confidence in engaging with institutions.

An inclusive and intersectional approach ensured the active participation of people from diverse gender groups. Safe spaces and learning centres engaged more than 800 children and adolescents, over 290 youth, and more than 300 women. Large-scale sensitisation and outreach activities reached thousands

of stakeholders, including government officials, service providers, and community leaders, helping to strengthen gender-responsive systems and practices.

Sports and community engagement initiatives further promoted inclusion, trust, and social cohesion, particularly among women and transgender participants. More than 80% of participants reported developing new peer networks, while overall beneficiaries demonstrated greater confidence in accessing services, participating in community processes, and supporting one another, contributing to more inclusive and equitable communities.

Achievement



A Seat at the Table - Transgender youth influencing policy for protection from GBRV

Rupsha (name changed) was assigned male at birth, but from an early age she felt that her true identity did not align with the gender assigned to her. Like many transgender individuals, Rupsha experienced gender dysphoria and various forms of Gender-Based Rights Violence (GBRV), including psychological harassment, discrimination in public spaces, and the lack of recognition of her identity within institutions. Everyday situations—from accessing public facilities to seeking healthcare—often became distressing experiences, highlighting the structural gaps in systems that fail to acknowledge and protect the rights and dignity of transgender persons.

Determined to transform these

experiences into action, Rupsha pursued higher education and completed her Bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2025 while continuing her Master's studies. Through her engagement with community platforms supported by CINI under the GSAFE+ Project, supported by TDH Germany and BMZ, she was invited to participate in a policy consultation where she shared the everyday challenges faced by transgender individuals in public institutions, including the lack of gender-neutral washrooms, inappropriate hospital ward allocations, and the absence of sensitization among healthcare providers. By sharing her lived experiences, she emphasized that discrimination and neglect within public systems are forms of

institutional GBRV. Reflecting on her journey, Rupsha said, "When our voices are heard, policies can begin to change for those who are still afraid to speak." The consultation encouraged health system representatives to commit to improving sensitivity and service delivery for transgender persons across public institutions. Today, Rupsha continues to advocate for more inclusive systems and policies that recognize the rights and dignity of transgender people. Her journey demonstrates how LGBTQIA+ children and youth can play a vital role in influencing laws and policies aimed at preventing gender-based violence and discrimination.

**written by
Rohit Rakshit**

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Highlights

Partner interventions under SG4 contributed to tangible improvements in the lives of girls, women, and gender-diverse communities by strengthening access to education, livelihoods, protection, and dignity.

In Tamil Nadu's textile belt, more than 1,100 adolescent girls and young women transitioned from exploitative working conditions to safer and more dignified employment through targeted skills development and education initiatives. Approximately 800 of them are now earning between ₹8,000 and ₹20,000 (EUR 80–200) per month. Increased awareness and confidence also enabled young women to report labour rights violations that had previously remained unchallenged.

In Harda district, Madhya Pradesh, sustained community engagement led to a significant shift in social norms. This reflects the growing role of youth leadership, strengthened dialogue within families, and increased community

support for alternative futures for adolescent girls.

Across Rajasthan, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh, targeted interventions supported girls at risk of school dropout and early marriage. In Rajasthan, 1,430 adolescents engaged with Adolescent Resource Centers, while in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, 228 girls and young women were supported to remain in or return to education or skills pathways. These initiatives contributed to breaking intergenerational cycles of exclusion and limited opportunity.

Efforts to strengthen protection systems led to increased reporting and response to gender-based violence (GBV). Across the country, cases that were previously unreported were brought forward and addressed. In Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, 45 GBV cases were formally reported through community-led action.

Safe and inclusive spaces played a critical role in strengthening

confidence and social inclusion. Inclusive Learning Centers and community platforms in cities such as Pune, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, and Ranchi reached more than 800 children and adolescents, nearly 300 youth, and over 300 adults, including transgender individuals. Sports and group-based activities further enabled women and gender-diverse youth to build trust, networks, and a sense of belonging.

Targeted support for LGBTQIA+ communities also strengthened social inclusion and access to rights. In urban India, more than 90 individuals obtained identity documentation, enabling them to access government welfare schemes for the first time and strengthening recognition, dignity, and inclusion.

Overall, SG4 initiatives contributed to strengthening agency, reducing vulnerabilities, and enabling more inclusive and equitable community systems that respect dignity and choice.



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Regional Strategic Theme: Access to Adequate Nutrition and Food Sovereignty

Efforts to improve access to adequate nutrition and food security in 2025 focused on strengthening sustainable agriculture, enhancing community capacities, and promoting gender-responsive approaches through two partners. Currently only 1.66% of total budget is utilized towards the Regional Theme.

Across five projects in India, 14,229 families—including 5,218 children—improved access to diverse and nutritious diets. These interventions contributed to improved health outcomes for 7,857 children and women, reflecting a combined focus on

food availability, dietary diversity, and nutrition awareness.

Nutrition-focused micro-plans were integrated into Gram

Panchayat Development Plans, strengthening the institutionalisation of food security within local governance systems.

Achievement



Returning to Our Roots: Reviving Traditional foods for Health and Heritage

In the small village of Kalakani in Rayagada district of Odisha, traditional foods were once central to everyday life. As dietary diversity declined, health concerns such as anaemia, weakness, and digestive problems became increasingly common among children and women.

Since 2022, Living Farms, with the support of Terre des Hommes Germany and BMZ, has been implementing the project 'Strengthening Food Sovereignty for Indigenous People through a Community-Based, Gender-Sensitive and Participatory Food Security Model' in KSHIPUR block. Among the villagers, Burgi Majhi, a 47-year-old mother and grandmother, has emerged as a passionate advocate for reviving indigenous foods. After participating in the project's meetings and trainings, Burgi began encouraging her family

to return to traditional foods prepared from locally grown crops and forest produce. Gradually, she motivated other women in the village to do the same.

Together, they revived the consumption of a wide variety of indigenous foods, including millets such as Rango Kangu and Boda Kangu (nutrient-rich small millets), pulses like Jhudunga and Kanadula (protein-rich traditional pulses), forest tubers, and leafy greens such as Bhorada Sago and Amibili Sago (wild leafy greens rich in iron and micronutrients), along with seasonal fruits and mushrooms collected from nearby forests. These foods, once slowly disappearing from daily meals, began returning to village kitchens. At the same time, the revival of traditional foods rekindled pride in the community's cultural heritage. The initiative has

also strengthened sustainable farming practices. Across the project area, 58 community seed banks now help farmers conserve and exchange indigenous seeds, reducing dependence on external markets.

Today, Burgi Majhi's efforts stand as a powerful example of how community leadership can inspire change. By reviving indigenous foods such as millets, pulses, forest produce, and leafy greens, she and the women of Kalakani are improving household nutrition while strengthening cultural identity and community resilience.

"Our traditional foods are our strength. If we protect them, we protect the health of our children and the identity of our community," Burgi says with pride.

**Written by
Rohit Rakshit**

**Burgi Majhi preparing
traditional
local delicacy**



Project Highlights

The regional focus on food sovereignty contributed to addressing limited access to food, nutrition, and entitlements, while placing communities—particularly women—at the center of decision-making related to food systems and health. These efforts were implemented in tribal and resource-constrained regions of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) initiative in Jharkhand strengthened local capacity for sustainable agriculture by training 48 farm facilitators (29 women and 19 men). These facilitators supported communities in adopting climate-resilient and resource-efficient practices, contributing to improved

agricultural productivity and food security.

In Chhattisgarh, targeted efforts to promote diversified diets led to measurable improvements in child nutrition. A total of 150 children showed weight gain, including 52 children who moved out of the wasting category, demonstrating the impact of integrated nutrition interventions.

In Araria district of Bihar, interventions strengthened local capacities through the training of peer educators, who mobilised communities and raised awareness on health, nutrition, and entitlements. These efforts improved community engagement and access to available services.

In Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh,

more than 11,000 tribal and migrant households adopted practices such as kitchen gardening, diversified crop production, goat rearing, and poultry farming. These interventions improved household food security and ensured more equitable access to nutritious food, particularly for women and children.

In Madhya Pradesh, more than 1,200 individuals were directly linked to food and nutrition schemes, while over 4,800 households benefited from the regularisation of the Public Distribution System and improved access to government programmes. These interventions reduced gaps in service delivery and ensured that food entitlements reached families that had previously been excluded.

*Transformation-
India-BMZ-2022 (Ankur)*





LEADS-INDIA-
BMZ-23-26

Children's Participation

Efforts to strengthen children's participation were expanded during the year. Child Advisory Committees and children's clubs formed under various projects actively raised awareness on child rights and social development issues.

Through targeted training in child-led research and networking, children addressed issues such as water scarcity, education, child marriage, and climate action. They engaged with government bodies, leading to tangible outcomes such as improved waste management systems and forest fire prevention measures in parts of Uttarakhand.

Club members also promoted children's rights at the community level by identifying and reporting

cases of child labour and child marriage. They participated in Child Rights Gram Sabhas, submitting petitions on civic issues and raising issues improvements in school infrastructure, including sanitation, drinking water, classrooms, and teacher availability.

Children led awareness campaigns during key national and international observances, strengthening their role as agents of change. In some cases, partner organisations consulted children while revising safeguarding policies, ensuring that children's perspectives were meaningfully incorporated.

Strategic Engagement and Communication

- TDH actively participated in German Development Cooperation networks and BMZ-supported forums in India.
- Partnerships with government-linked organisations further enabled policy alignment with local and national priorities, particularly in India.
- As preparation for the 50th Anniversary event in Pune, produced promotional materials (print/digital) and beneficiary-focused content (case stories, films, photos, testimonials).
- Secured local/regional media coverage for several projects, amplifying outreach and donor communication.



LEADS-
INDIA BMZ-23-26

Programme Quality and Evidence

Programme Development

In 2025, a total of 18 new projects were approved supported through TDH core funds (9 projects) and special donors (9 projects). Overall, the funding landscape remained stable, with new donors initiating partnerships and existing donors reaffirming their commitment through continuation funding.

Successfully expanded funding base through a mix of institutional and private donors.

Evidence and Learning

In 2025, a total of four project evaluations were conducted to assess program performance and inform future interventions. Mid-term evaluations of the EXIT BMZ project in Odisha, the NFBM project in Maharashtra, and

the Gender Nutrition project in Chhattisgarh provided important insights into implementation progress. These reviews helped identify strengths, highlight areas requiring adjustment, and support adaptive management to improve outcomes. These findings contributed to strengthening future programme design and strategic planning.

Institutional Development

TDH Germany maintained operational stability during 2025 despite overall budget reductions. Programme delivery and coordination continued effectively, supported by stable systems and adaptive management.

Leadership Transition

A major development during the year was the successful completion of a leadership transition. The outgoing RC, Ingrid Mendonca, retired at the end of December 2025 after 45 years of significant contribution to TDH Germany in India. Namrata Jaitli was appointed as Regional Coordinator (RC), from 1 August 2025 and formally took over full regional responsibility from 1 October 2025.

The transition was managed over a five-month overlap period, ensuring continuity and knowledge transfer. This structured transition ensured stability in leadership and decision-making processes. Administrative staff within the Coordination Office played a key role in supporting the onboarding

of new leadership and maintaining operational continuity.

Organisational Restructuring and Systems Strengthening

Operational systems were further strengthened through updates to office policies and procedure manuals, based on assessment feedback. Staff engagement in reconstituted governance structures and functional committees contributed to enhanced accountability, transparency, and inclusivity.

Staffing and Human Resources

The overall team remained largely stable throughout the year. Key changes included the end of

the contract for the Programme Officer – Emergency Response in July 2025.

Capacity Development

Staff participated in a range of online and in-person trainings during the year, strengthening institutional capacity across key functional areas. These included project management, safeguarding, risk management, IT systems, Results-Based Management (RBM), Project Cycle Management (PCM), financial compliance, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and report writing. These investments in staff capacity contributed to improved programme quality, compliance, and overall organisational effectiveness across the country.

TDH Germany team



Financial Performance

Co-financing

In 2025, BMZ funding for three new projects, to be implemented by partners, was secured. These include an initiative on Gender Justice spanning India; a project focused on improving life prospects.

BMZ continued to be the largest funding partner, supporting a total of 14 projects and accounting

for 64.97% of the overall project portfolio. This reflects sustained alignment with BMZ priorities and strong programme performance across India.

Special Donation Partners

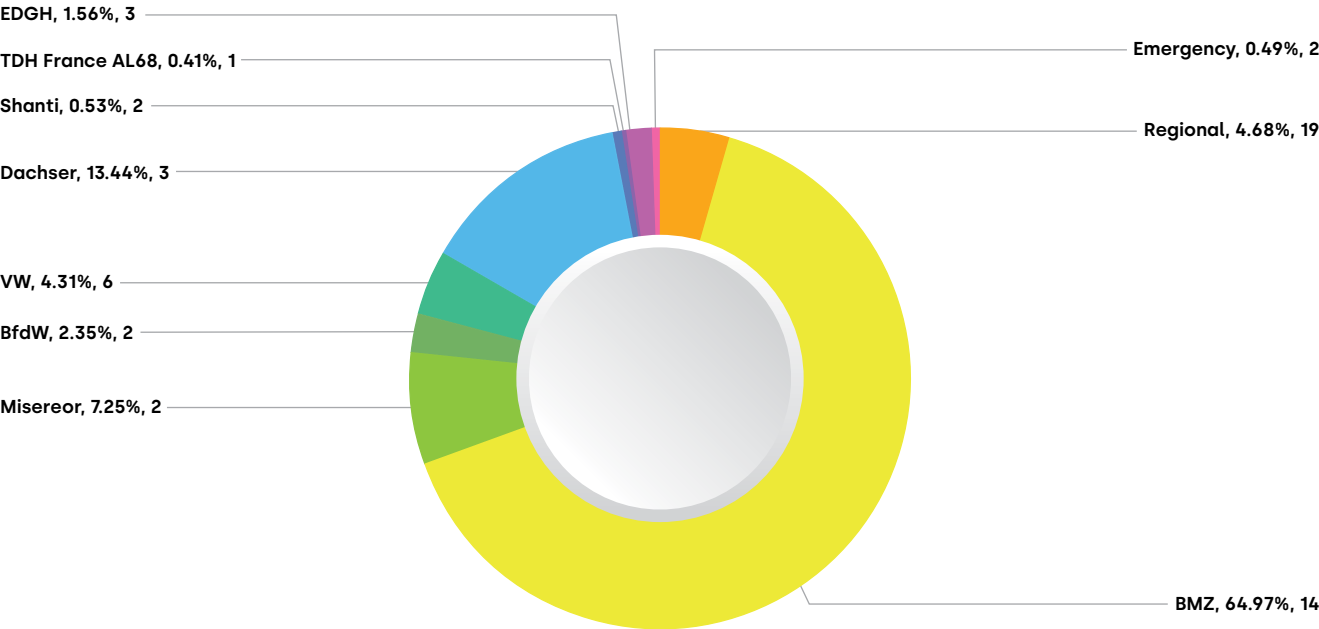
Support from a range of special donors was secured, for projects to be implemented in India by partners. The Volkswagen Workers' Council funded three projects, while Dachser, Shanti e.V., Bread

for the World, EPONA, and EDGH each supported one project.

A continuation proposal from India were submitted to Misereor, with funding successfully secured in early 2026. EPONA joined as a new donor in 2025, further diversifying the funding base.

In total, 21 projects were supported through special donors during the year, reflecting strong donor engagement and continued confidence in regional programming.

Funding Situation



Way Forward

The achievements of 2025 underscore the effectiveness of integrated; child centred programming rooted in strong community engagement and strategic partnerships. At the same time, we continue to grapple with intensifying challenges. These realities call for renewed commitment, innovation, and collaboration.

Looking ahead, TDH Germany in India will focus on empowering youth and children as active stakeholders in development processes and strengthening and expanding its networks of partners. Efforts will be directed towards ensuring access to quality education and skill development, while deepening interventions on climate resilience, gender equality, and food sovereignty.

A key priority will be to further institutionalize children's participation and scale up youth-led approaches.

In addition, the organization will invest in programme development, diversify its resource base, and strengthen the quality of its work through evidence-based approaches. Internal priorities will include institutional development, strategy review, and fostering a collaborative and inclusive organizational culture.

By placing children and young people at the center of its efforts, TDH Germany through its partners aims to contribute to building more just, resilient, and inclusive societies. We and our partners remain steadfast in our mission to empower children and to work collectively towards a more equitable, inclusive and just world.





Annexure I

NORTHERN ZONE - DELHI



Ritu Mishra
Programme Coordinator

Mohammed Salim
Programme Officer



Khima Nand Balodi
Programme Officer

Vipin Kumar
Accounts and Admin Officer



COORDINATION OFFICE -



Dr Namrata Jaitli
Regional Coordinator -
South Asia

Gwenita Pereira
Finance Coordinator



Snehal Kulkarni
Coordinator -
Communication,
Admin & HR

Amos Deep
Asst. Finance Coordinator



SOUTHERN ZONE - BENGALURU



Priscilla N.
Programme Officer

Shiji Alfred
Accounts and Admin Officer



Organogram of Terre des Hommes Germany - India As on 31st of March 2026

PUNE



Smita Pawar
Jt. Finance Coordinator

Shuchi Seth Mahobe
Consultant Project
Coordinator



Shilpa Sharma
Project Documentist

EASTERN ZONE - KOLKATA

Koel Chowdhury
Programme
Coordinator



Rohit Rakshit
Programme Officer

Bijoy Banerjee
Accounts and
Admin Officer



WESTERN ZONE - PUNE



Sampat Mandave
Programme Coordinator

Navnath Gore
Programme Officer



Sanchita Sharma
Consultant

Swapnil Manav
Consultant

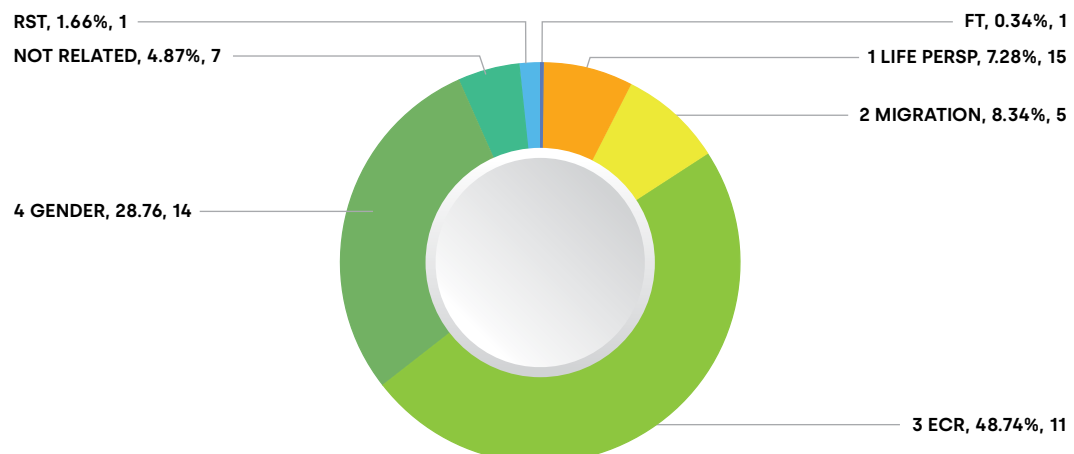
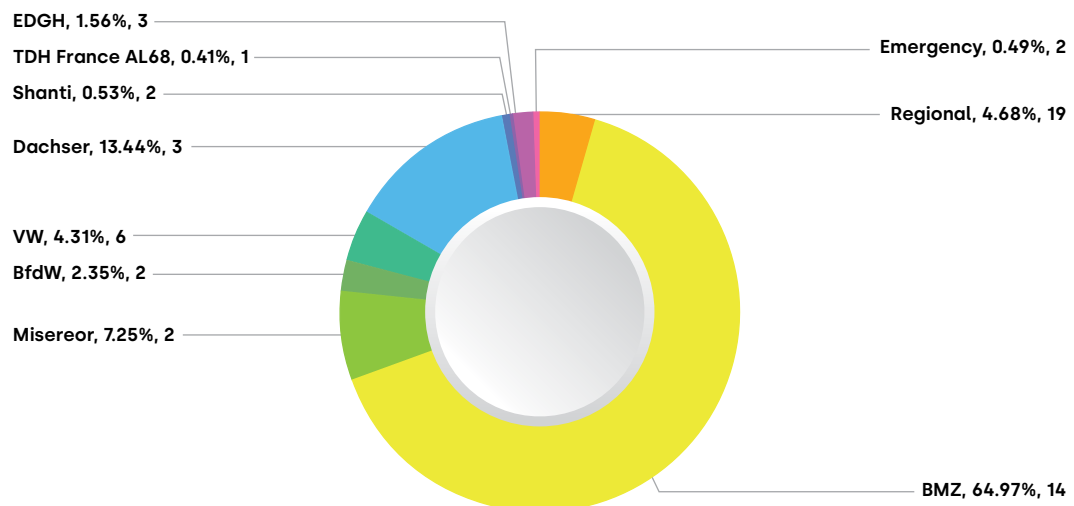
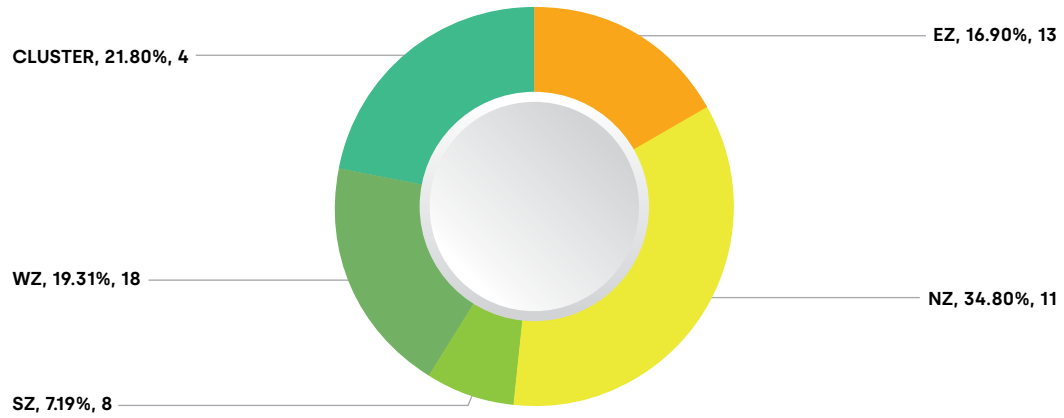


Rakesh Ghadi
Accounts and Admin Officer

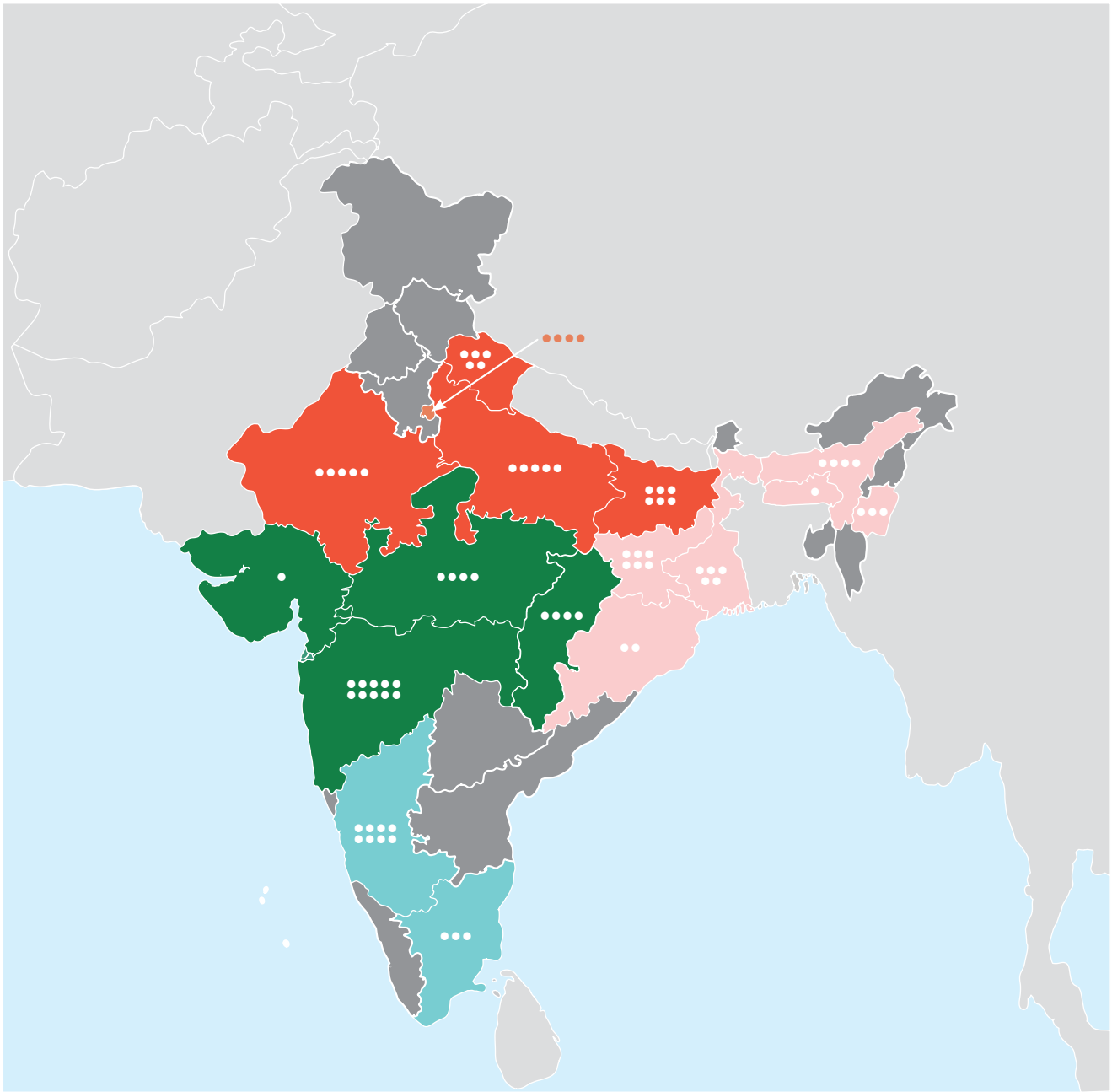
ZONE / COUNTRY WISE CLASSIFICATION			
ZONE	%	NO. OF PROJECTS	PAYMENT IN EURO
EZ	16.90	13	719611.6
NZ	34.80	11	1481682.02
SZ	7.19	8	306012.8
WZ	19.31	18	821934.26
CLUSTER	21.80	4	927874.32
TOTAL...	100.00	54	4257115

DONORWISE CLASSIFICATION			
DONOR	%	NO. OF PROJECTS	PAYMENT IN EURO
Regional	4.68	19	199041.66
BMZ	64.97	14	2765854.68
Misereor	7.25	2	308610
BfdW	2.35	2	99998.36
VW	4.31	6	183565.93
Dachser	13.44	3	572316.48
Shanti	0.53	2	22763.86
TDH France AL68	0.41	1	17623.5
EDGH	1.56	3	66341.53
Emergency	0.49	2	20999
TOTAL...	100	54	4257115

SG WISE CLASSIFICATION			
SG	%	NO. OF PROJECTS	PAYMENT IN EURO
1 LIFE PERSPECTIVES	7.28	15	310021.35
2 MIGRATION	8.34	5	355156.86
3 YOUNG ENVIRONMEN- TAL VOICES	48.74	11	2075015.35
4 GENDER	28.76	14	1224377.08
NOT RELATED	4.87	7	207221
RST	1.66	1	70786.36
FT	0.34	1	14537
TOTAL...	100.00	54	4257115



Project locations in India



Zones	No. of Projects	No. of Partners
Eastern Zone	13	21
Northern Zone	11	25
Southern Zone	8	11
Western Zone	18	19
Cluster	4	-
Total	54	76

**The bullets denote number of partners in each state*

