



Growth in Unusual Places



Helping India Together

2020 **ANNUAL REPORT & GOALS FOR 2021**

HELPING INDIA TOGETHER COVID-19 RELIEF



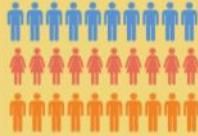
Devoted to aiding the
impoverished peoples of India.
Investing in People to
Transform Communities

2020 COVID-19 RELIEF

5,400
27,000

Our partners have provided food
to feed 5,400 families and 27,000
people for at least one month.

**FAMILIES AND
PEOPLE FED**



**PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**

16

5 Hospitals
7 Non-profit organizations
4 Orphanages



Food packages, teacher
salaries, remote education
needs, hospital supplies,
mental health web platforms,
community health workers,
counseling material

5

Uttar Pradesh
Bihar
Uttarakhand
West Bengal
Delhi

**STATES IN
NORTH INDIA**



DONATIONS



\$91,900

You have donated over \$90K
and counting. We are not done
yet. The crisis continues.

Donate at: www.helpingindiatgether.org

HELPING INDIA TOGETHER

Visit www.helpingindiatgether.org
email us at info@helpingindiatgether.org

DEVOTED TO AIDING THE IMPOVERISHED PEOPLES OF INDIA

Dear Friends,

Growth. How does that happen in a pandemic? The most obvious outcome in a pandemic is terrible loss, not growth. And terrible loss surrounded all of us in 2020. From lost lives, lost jobs, lost personal connections, lost events, lost opportunities.... The list is long.

But in 2020, all of our partners in India experienced unexpected growth. In looking at this year, we see a small glimpse into God's economy. We expect to see growth in the regularly watered soil of normalcy. We saw the greater wonder of growth and fruit from a year that was anything but normal.

Our partners who deliver counseling were forced to switch to an on-line model of teaching and counseling. The forced investment in new training methods enabled them to shift their ministry from a more regional focus to national. Their work grew dramatically.

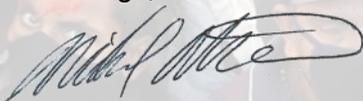
Our partners who deliver healthcare and education were out in the community feeding, healing, educating, and empowering more people than ever before. Their outreach has expanded significantly, and they have earned deeper respect and appreciation in the community.

Our relationships with our partners also grew. We had a close relationship with our partners, both the groups we work with annually and the groups we work with periodically on a project-specific basis, before the pandemic. But in the often daily phone calls, Zoom meetings and prayer gatherings, we were able to work alongside their mission and vision more than in years that we could be together in person.

And through your collaboration, in 2020 HIT had an unprecedented doubling of investment into the work in India. More than ever before, we are able to invest in more people, to transform more lives, more families, and more communities.

Here is our 2020 annual report. We are humbled by what God has done, and are so thankful for your partnership. Growth happens in unusual ways. Sadly, as we are preparing this report we see the situation worsening in India. We grieve but also look with anticipation to see what God will do next.

Blessings,



Michael L. Atchison, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Helping India Together

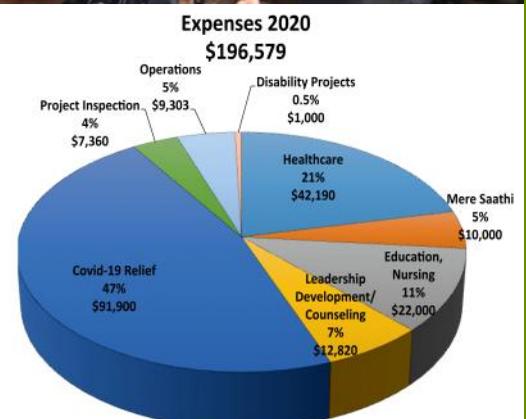
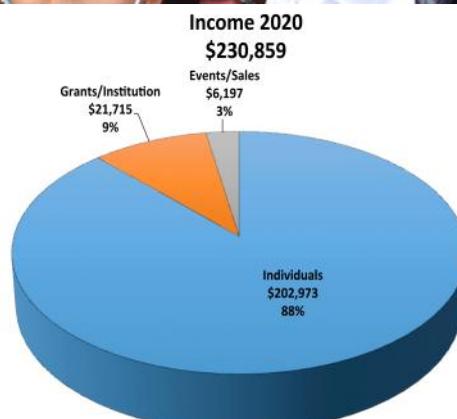
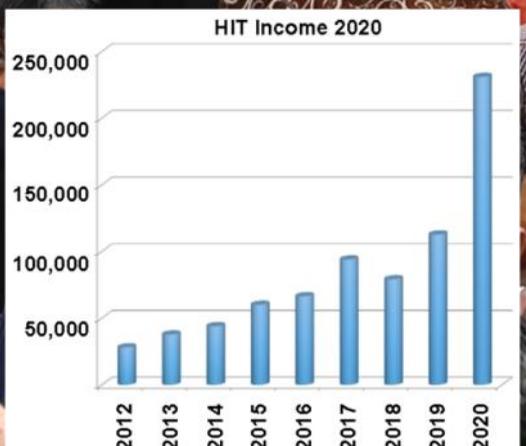


HIT Leadership

Officers:
Michael Atchison (Executive Director)
Nadine Constantine (Secretary)
Michael Andrews (Treasurer)

Board of Trustees

Joanna Andrews
Judi Lemay-Lusk
Malcolm Osborn
Aneesh Khushman
Audrey Barker
Piper Fordham
Adam Shambaugh





Healthcare:

2020 put our healthcare partners on the front line. After scrambling and innovating their own PPE, masks, and sanitizer, they were back in the saddle healing, going into the community, and delivering critical healthcare. Not a moment too soon! Back out in the community after the initial severe lock-down, our partners found people in poor health not only due to the virus, but also due to their inability to access healthcare services. Our partners delivered healthcare in the community, and brought those to the hospital who needed more intense services. Finding medical supplies and food for the vast surrounding population was challenging during the pandemic, but our partners redoubled their efforts and healed and fed tens of thousands of people. They also expanded their palliative care services and taught families how to care for their loved ones who were terminally ill. The love and heroic efforts exerted by our partners was tremendously appreciated not only by the recipients of these services, but also the surrounding government officials who occasionally worked side-by-side with our partners, learning about their vital work, and building important bonds of trust and respect.

Seeing the growing crisis, with your partnership, HIT provided key support during the Covid-19 pandemic. We doubled our investment in community health, provided funds for critical hospital equipment, and invested in palliative care for the first time. The dividend immediately paid off as our partner hospitals were able to serve many in their locations with emergency food rations and essential medicines, and their stature within their communities has grown. Finally, your partnership enabled us to make key investments in delivering mental healthcare to address the spike in suicides and mental health issues in the Indian population, exacerbated by the pandemic.

Opportunities for 2021: This moment is as much a call to continue in generosity as much as it is a call to celebrate. Currently, India is experiencing a surge of over 300,000 new Covid-19 cases per day (the worst in the world), and we have received desperate pleas from our partners for prayer and more resources. Physical and mental health problems in India are at crisis levels. Our health care partners are being pushed to the limit, but in many cases they can be helped with new hospital equipment and updated online services. For 2021 we hope to provide over \$50,000 for new medical equipment, counseling, community health services, and palliative care.



Covid-19 Relief:

The past year of world-wide hardship was accompanied by unexpected expansion for HIT. As our partnership in the work grew, we expanded Covid-19 relief efforts to include five hospitals, seven non-profit organizations, and three orphanages in India. Some of the needs were relatively straightforward, such as trying to get food to villagers at a high risk of starvation. Our partners quickly transitioned community outreach networks into trusted food distribution networks. This work helped to feed over 27,000 people in danger of starvation. The pandemic also pushed against other needs in rural areas, such as lack of

internet services. HIT was able to help provide laptops and smart phones for students we are supporting for nursing school, enabling them to continue their studies. Continuous communication with our partners enabled us to target support where it was most needed.

Opportunities for 2021: We are watching the graph lines as India's Covid-19 cases soar this spring, and daily deaths are predicted to triple (IHME). Even now, one of our partner hospitals was transitioned by the government to be a Covid hospital. It has been flooded with patients and is on a regional hunt for desperately needed oxygen. Our expanded network of partners in India, along with increased partnerships at home, will need continued support for food and medical care while we also springboard into vital new or augmented efforts.

Veterinary Care:

In partnership with Mere Saathi from Baltimore, veterinary care was provided for 1,600 animals supporting 500 families. 2020 marked the first demonstration of the positive financial impact of this

veterinary care, as the families with animals receiving this help fared much better during the pandemic since their animals reproduced better and produced more milk. The extra milk provided protein for the children in these families, and generated increased income.

Fortunately, Mere Saathi trained our partner community health teams to deliver this care in our absence, as we are not able to travel to India in 2021.





From a seven-year-old girl to a young professional sending a selfie. HIT has supported this woman's education from primary school through nursing school.



Education and Economic Development:

What an amazing year for education! The communities we serve in India are nearly 50% illiterate with a significant disparity between men and women. The literacy rate for women is generally 20% below men. In addition, despite national laws, many children in the districts we serve do not attend school. This low level of education, and high rate of illiteracy results in continuing generations of people left on the economic margin. One pathway to break this cycle is to invest in the education that empowers whole communities. Therefore, HIT invests at all educational levels to break the grip of poverty. This year HIT invested in primary education for over 125 students, high school education for 30 students, and delivered on-site lessons to 80 primary education teachers serving 3,200 students.

HIT also targets nursing education as a strategic way to accomplish many of our complimentary goals of educating poor students, empowering them economically, and providing health care workers for rural communities. With expansion made possible by your partnership, in 2020 HIT increased nursing education to completely support 18 nursing students, and we provided funds for computers and smart phones for remote learning. Nursing school graduates we've funded in the past are all now employed at hospitals delivering quality care in their communities, but now at salaries that support their families, enabling siblings to enter education programs providing pathways to economic growth.

Opportunities for 2021: We have seen so much fruit from these efforts that we feel compelled to work toward further expansion enabled by your critical partnership. Our partners are requesting support for expansion to 20 nursing education students (*15 new GNM and 5 new BSc nursing students*) and expansion of vocational training. These two efforts will require \$25,000. **In addition, in rural India there are essentially no facilities for children who are either physically or mentally differently-abled and our partners have initiated a new school and training center for these precious individuals.** This work will require investing \$13,500 in 2021. And it's not just about children. Impoverished rural adults are being empowered to address disparities in access to services, education, healthcare, and economic development. Our partners have established Empowerment Groups in impoverished villages providing them with the knowledge and skills that lead to self-sustaining growth. These programs will require \$9,000 in 2021. Finally, HIT plans support approximately 20 orphan children in North India. Orphanage and education support will cost \$20,000 in 2021.

Leadership Development:

Training in leadership and counseling, and empowering leaders in India is a major goal of HIT. These leaders serve in the midst of overwhelming counseling needs, particularly in the past year as the pandemic caused spikes in depression and suicide. According to the WHO, there is an extreme shortage of counselors and mental health workers in India, and the most recent data show only one worker in 100,000 people.

2020 was a watershed year for our counseling support. The necessary shift to remote learning and teaching mechanisms caused by the pandemic resulted in a tremendous expansion of our partners' work in training counselors. This sudden investment and shift moved our partners out of presenting primarily regional programs with local, in-person training events to a national one with a larger, more diverse audience. Where previously they might give a once-per-year event at a particular location reaching 20-25 people, they now have monthly events in some cities reaching 25 trainees each month. The online shift also prompted them to change the scheduling of training classes. As it was difficult for people to devote the time needed for five-day lessons and conferences, now our partners are doing 6:00 to 8:00pm sessions via Zoom enabling people to work and attend training sessions. With all this expanded training and counseling activity, former trainees are now qualified to be trainers. Thus, our partners have doubled their staff, moved into both Hindi-based and English-based training, and have training centers scattered across India.

HIT support also enabled 43 leaders in India to access course content in the United States, and over 60 leaders received on-site training by HIT members in February and March 2020 just before the travel lock-down.

Opportunities for 2021: The expanded on-line training has resulted in increased numbers of trainees, who are now qualified to be trainers. Additional new satellite training locations across the nation are now possible, and these new trainers can be called upon to deliver training remotely as well. An investment of \$20,000 will enable this expansion.



2020-21

Education & Economic Development Leadership Development



How can you Help?

Your partnership has been key in all we do.

\$10 per month (\$120/year) provides anti-parasitic medication for 30 animals empowering 10 families.

\$20 per month (\$240/year) can support vocational training for a person for an entire year .

\$40 per month (\$480/year) provides leadership training for an indigenous leader.

\$65 per month (\$780/year) completely covers the nursing education for a student for an entire year.

Donate online at www.helpingindiatogether.org or mail donations to:

Helping India Together
500 General Patterson Dr.
Glenside, PA 19038

Please consider becoming an **HIT Advocate** by giving monthly.
Giving through ACH or direct bank transfer saves the 3% charged for credit card processing.

Contact us at:
info@helpingindiatogether.org

www.helpingindiatogether.org

011-1-215-285-0876

HIT IS A 501c3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

