

## India and Bangladesh

Andheri-Hilfe supports projects that aim to strengthen the social and economic development of the poorest population groups in India and Bangladesh. Why there?



## Children & Youth: Securing the Future



**Devi, 11, can look forward with confidence again. Her father used to send her for begging in the streets. An employee of the organization „Karunalaya“ found her starving at the train station in Chennai. The street children's centre gave her safety and care. Today Devi is back in school.**

Countless children on the Indian sub-continent must work hard to make a living. In India alone, estimates range between 40 to 100 million. They work in agriculture, in quarries or as domestic servants. **Child labourers** cannot go to school and develop their physical and mental abilities, but are deprived of their childhood.

We support projects in favour of child labourers and **street children**. They should – wherever possible – grow up within their families, go to school and learn a profession, in order to have better chances for their future. Child support, to us, also means to **strengthen the whole family**. If the parents receive support, they can find alternative income sources so that they do no longer rely upon the work of their children.

## Women: Promoting Development



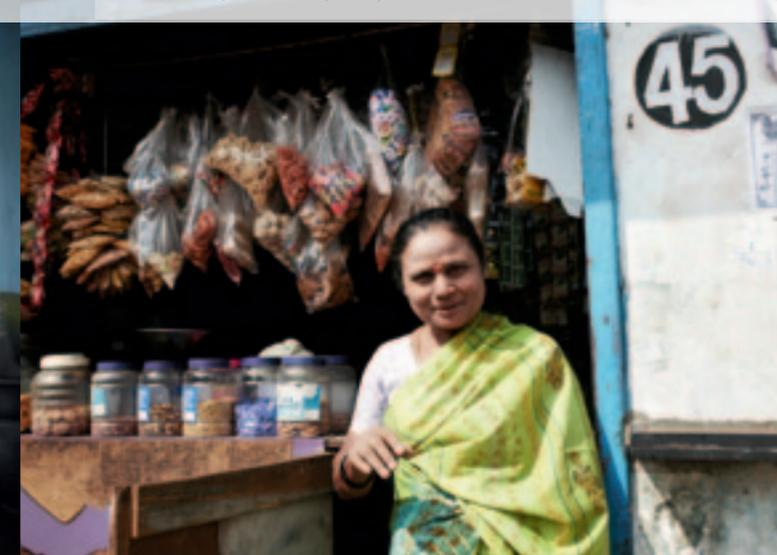
**Kidramala lives in a small mountain village in Orissa (India). Together with 15 other women she has built up a savings group. Thanks to a grant provided by Andheri-Hilfe the group could invest in a small rice mill, which helped to increase their economic independence and social acceptance.**

Women represent the **largest underprivileged population group** in India and Bangladesh. Although they carry extraordinary high work load and responsibility for the education of their children, housekeeping and paid labour, women hardly ever have a say in their families or in society. Families also tend to invest less in a girl's than in a boy's nutrition, health and education. Killing of girls and dowry murders still belong to the Indian daily life.

We support women in their efforts to gain better living conditions, social acceptance and more influence in family and society. The networking brought about by women groups boosts their **self-confidence** as well as their influence even up to political circles.

Our experience has shown that women often become **drivers of the development process**, if they receive specific support.

## Dalits: Strengthening Rights



As a Dalit, **Meenatchi, 44, received no compensation whatsoever after losing all her possessions during the 2004 tsunami. But thanks to the help of our partner organization, the 'Center for Women's Development and Research', she could open a small shop. Together with other untouchables, Meenatchi keeps fighting for the recognition of her rights.**

In the predominantly Hindu India, the value of a human is still determined by the caste system. Despite their legal equality of rights, the **160 million untouchables (Dalits)** are kept at the bottom of the social ladder and suffer from discrimination in all areas: they are allowed to perform only the lowest-ranked work, they gain lower salaries and live in isolation in the villages. In many places they are still not allowed to fetch water from the wells used by upper caste Hindus.

All our projects promote the rights of poor and underprivileged people. We encourage them to gain confidence about their own skills and to make use of their **potential**. Together with the Dalits, we fight for improving their living conditions, promoting education and training opportunities for the younger generation and we contribute to strengthening their **self-responsibility**.

## Adivasi: Building Perspectives



Only four years ago **Jinari Pradhan and her husband were desperate about the loans that they had taken from private money lenders at exorbitant interest rates. But thanks to the savings group in their village, they started a small chicken farm and most importantly they achieved the long-awaited entry of their plot in the land register. Today they are debt free.**

The **indigenous people** (Adivasi) of the Indian subcontinent make up **8 %** of the total population. They live predominantly in the last intact mountain forests of what the forests provide and what they cultivate on their small fields. This traditional way of living is increasingly threatened by massive deforestation, large infrastructure projects such as the construction of big dams, mining and industry and by non-advasi who try to take possession of their ancestral land. Ninety percent of the Adivasi in India today live below the poverty line.

We support the Adivasi to protect their livelihoods and to fight for their rights, in order to have their voice heard in society. Improvements in the areas of health and education are urgently needed, while the **culture and valuable traditions** of these endangered peoples also need to be preserved.

## Sick and Disabled People: Providing Chances



**Maheshwari** is HIV positive. After an early marriage, she was infected by her late husband. One of her three children also has AIDS. Without the support of Andheri's partner organization "Society for Serving Humanity", Maheshwari and her son would have died by now. She currently works in awareness raising.

The child and maternal mortality rate in India and Bangladesh is alarmingly high. Every day children and weak people die from relatively harmless infections, diarrhoea and malaria. The lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS has led to a rapid spread of the deadly disease. Infected people are often expelled from their families as were the lepers in the past. **People with disabilities** are commonly hidden at home, as their families feel ashamed because people with disabilities are still considered as a 'punishment of the Gods'.

**Awareness raising and prevention** (preventive medical checks, kitchen gardens, latrines, clean drinking water, etc.) play an important role, as do the formation and vocational training of local health workers and midwives. Children with disabilities receive the medical and therapeutic support they need to develop their particular skills. For people living with HIV, besides medical treatment, it is crucial to fight stigmatization in the society and to strengthen the patient's social acceptance.

## Blind and Visually Impaired: Saving Eyesight



**Rafid** suffered from cataract, but a simple surgery helped to save his eyesight. The 6-year old boy can now go to school.

Nobody knows the exact number of blind people in **Bangladesh**. According to estimates, around **700,000 people** are blind, including many children. Every year, ten thousands of people lose their eyesight due to a lack of medical care and education. Undernourished and malnourished people are particularly at risk. A major cause of blindness is the deficiency of Vitamin A.

In rural areas, where doctors and hospitals are missing, mobile teams of eye specialists visit the patients in their communities, where they are examined, treated and – if necessary – undergo a surgery on the spot or in the nearby hospital. Far more than a million eye surgeries have already been conducted! The number of cases where blindness has been prevented (through education, prevention and early detection measures) is even much higher. Incurably blind people are provided trainings, so that they can live as independently as possible and accepted by the society.

## Together for more Humanity



### Get involved and help us:

- 10 Euro** is the cost of seeds and fruit tree saplings for a kitchen garden that guarantees a healthy diet for one family.
- 20 Euro** enable an AIDS orphan to go to school for 6 months including school uniform and learning materials.
- 50 Euro** serve as an important contribution to supply a family with solar energy.
- 100 Euro** allow a woman to set up her own small business.

### Or you can support us:

- With regular donations as our partner for a specific project.
- With your own activities (organizing e.g. a flea market, bazaar, benefit concert, sponsored run or by the sale of greeting cards and calendars, etc.) at school, in your company or association.
- On happy or sad occasions, renounce flowers and gifts. Ask for a donation to the projects of Andheri-Hilfe instead.

**There are many possibilities!**  
**We are happy to help you realizing your fundraising project!**

**Your donation counts!**  
Donations 40 006 • Sparkasse KölnBonn • BLZ 370 501 98  
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A donation receipt will be provided.

## Who we are

Andheri-Hilfe Bonn e.V., which began as a private initiative for an orphanage in Andheri, a suburb of Mumbai, is a free and independent organization dedicated to development cooperation. Andheri-Hilfe has been working as a non-profit organization since 1967.

## Our goal

With our work we contribute to improving not only the economic, social and environmental situation, but also the respect for human rights of vulnerable population groups in India and Bangladesh, regardless of their religion and caste. In order to support sustainable development, high value is given to the beneficiaries' ownership and personal involvement: „We help people to help themselves“.

We support projects of social work, education and health as well as agricultural and local development. Our special target groups are children, women, underprivileged families and communities, indigenous groups and people affected by diseases as HIV/AIDS, by blindness or disabilities which push them towards the margins of society.

## The way we work

Andheri-Hilfe works in partnership with local organizations and self-help initiatives. Our work is supported by a group of approximately 20,000 private donors, groups, companies and foundations as well as public institutions such as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Commission.

## Low administration costs

At our headquarters in Bonn we work with a small team of employees. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the cost-efficient use of donations, our administrative costs are classified as low (below 10%) by the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI).

## High transparency

We ensure that the use of funds can be tracked at any time: from the moment we confirm receipt of the donation up to its spending in the field. Andheri-Hilfe voluntarily undergoes audits by the DZI. The DZI certifies that Andheri-Hilfe is a reliable organization, dealing with entrusted funds in a responsible way.

Andheri-Hilfe is member of the campaign 'Your Voice against Poverty'.



# Together for more Humanity

Development Cooperation in India and Bangladesh



Andheri-Hilfe Bonn e. V. • Mackestr. 53 • 53119 Bonn • Germany  
Telephone (+49) 0228-926 525-0 • Fax (+49) 0228-926 525-99  
info@andheri-hilfe.de • www.andheri-hilfe.de

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