

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT (UK) TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1013316

Details

Other names	INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (UK) TRUST, IVD TRUST (UK)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1992-07-31
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	47 Brome Place Headington Oxford OX3 9LR
Phone	01872270954
Email	helenanightingale@hotmail.com
Website	www.ivdtrust.org

Activities

Objects: TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY, AND TO HELP PEOPLE IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA OF DHARMAPURI DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA WHERE THE INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (INDIA) INDIAN CHARITY NO: 69/79 OPERATES, OR SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE.

Activities: Supporting small scale community based development, mainly in rural areas of India.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SOUTHERN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE
- India
- Cornwall
- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£22,111	£24,825	-	-
2024-03-31	£27,925	£23,858	-	-
2023-03-31	£21,331	£26,272	-	-
2022-03-31	£33,024	£28,866	-	-
2021-03-31	£21,064	£24,665	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Zara Bieler	Chair	2007-09-08
ERSKINE HOLMES		
Gabriel A F GROUAS		2016-05-06
HELENA DIANA NIGHTINGALE		
Kim Devenish		2007-09-08
Zinat-al-Khatun BENNETT		2016-05-06

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT (UK) TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1013316

Accounts



**NOV.
2024**

I V D TRUST

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter No.34

. . . working in India to relieve rural poverty.

We produce our newsletter to let all our supporters know what work we have been doing over the past year and how it is progressing. We also sometimes talk about the background, the context, to try and create a fuller picture of the communities with which we work. In many ways the lives of the people in rural Odisha are so very different from ours that it is hard to imagine what reality must be like for them. Over time, with greater access to mobile phones and television, those differences have begun to shrink, but they are still there, and I hope that we are able to open a window for you into another world, their world.

While I visit the projects I am, of course, checking up on our work, but I also spend a great deal of time listening to people, trying to understand what are their most serious concerns, what they want to change, and thinking about how some of this might be realised. Like human beings everywhere, the people I meet tell me their stories, and like people everywhere, I love a story. Sometimes it might break my heart; at other times fill me with joy. They are always illuminating. The stories I hear lead directly to the work that we do. This newsletter brings you some of the stories of our projects, of the change that we are able to make possible, the ways in which we are able to help people deal with the problems that life throws at them.

During the past year, the state of the world has tested us in many ways. Those of us who do not turn away are only too aware of the terrible suffering which is endured by many innocent people. In the face of this it is all too easy to feel utterly helpless. But in fact there are always things that we can do, in all sorts of ways – writing letters, speaking out for what we believe to be right, shaping our lives so that they reflect the values that we most care about, and reaching out to others. And doing these things can help us, help us realise that we have agency, that we can help bring positive change. Like the people on our projects, our actions on their own might not solve the world's problems, but it makes a significant difference, and it also acts as a model for how humans should behave in this troubled world.

We are only able to write briefly about our projects in this newsletter. If you would like to know more about any of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch at: helenanightingale@hotmail.com In the meantime, we are really grateful to you all, and . . .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DEALING with HEATWAVE and CYCLONE

Those of us who live in Britain, especially on the western edge, are familiar with weather as a constantly changing and unpredictable companion, but on continental masses a weather system sometimes becomes deeply entrenched with temperatures building higher and higher. These systems can last for days and even weeks. India was in the news earlier this year, beset by a heatwave which seemed to go on and on, taking lives. By May reports were coming through that the temperatures in Odisha were reaching the high 40s, nudging 50°C. It went on for days and endless days. Odisha was badly hit, but not as badly as Delhi and Rajasthan where it was even hotter; 733 deaths in India, 110 deaths in Odisha (HeatWatch report). These figures seem high, but they are in fact a great deal lower than in years gone by. For example, in 2015, there were over 2,000 lives lost in an Indian heatwave, and in 1998 over 950 died of heatstroke in one week in Odisha alone. One of those deaths was of Baikuntha Biswal, a journalist who had gone out to report on the heatwave situation. Ironically, but sadly, he himself became the story when he was overcome by the heat and failed to recover. His story resonated and helped change government policy.

These high death tolls and increasing public anger led to state government action to reduce the impact. In 2022 Odisha adopted a **Heat Action Plan** developed by the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority. This provides procedures for different departments and districts. Once the temperature reaches a certain point steps are taken such as rescheduling work hours for daily wage labourers, providing drinking water and first aid facilities at temporary work sheds, changing school times and so on. These measures are widely promoted, and have helped, but good plans can be thwarted. This year the heatwave coincided with elections, and among those who died were election officials who had no choice but to continue working in the sun. Shade had been provided for traffic police, but no one had thought about those queueing, determined to vote, or those supervising. We hope lessons will continue to be learnt.

Eventually the heat broke. Much to everyone's relief the monsoon arrived, late, but not as heavy as had been feared. Temperatures fell and life could resume. It is tempting to attribute such events to global warming, and their extent may well be connected, but there is a definite connection to the El Niño/La Niña cycles, so this heatwave will not be the last.

While I was writing the above, news came through that a major cyclone was building in the Bay of Bengal, heading directly towards the coast of Odisha, forecast to make landfall at our project area. Our hearts were in our mouths. This stretch of the coast has suffered major damage regularly over the years. Stories of past cyclones provided a starting point for our mangrove regeneration project, and many of those still alive have terrible memories of these events. As the cyclone approached the coast, everyone prepared as best they could, taking shelter and bracing themselves for the worst. This time, though, to everyone's relief, the cyclone lost much of its energy as it approached and the damage was mostly minimal. The one village which was particularly affected was Bagapatia. Not one of our project villages, but nearby, this is a relatively new settlement set up to house villagers from Satabhaya who had been displaced as, over the years, their village had been washed away by the sea. Bagapatia was badly flooded, but no lives were lost. And they had no land; the government had not been generous enough for that, so they did not have to worry about salination of the soil. Small blessing, as they face yet another struggle.

Recent funders include: *David Bennett, Mike Deeks,*

The Just Trust, Alex Hopper, Richard Hopper, The Howarth family, Douglas MacIldoon, The Merali family, Religious Society of Friends (Cornwall), Ann Scott, Mary Stephens, Anthony Stevens, and many others.

Thank you to all our donors

FARMING in Coastal Odisha

What is a typical coastal Odiya farm? The average farm is around two and a half acres, though many are smaller. The land is flat. There is no natural irrigation, and the quality of the soil is not brilliant. It is alluvial and tends to be rather stiff sandy clay. Traditionally cattle would be let out on the land after harvest and this would help provide a small amount of fertiliser. The soil tends to compact, and become so hard that it is difficult to plough. It is not naturally very fertile, and fertility is diminishing leading to lower yields.

These days, the only crop is padi, grown to produce rice, just one crop each year, all that is possible without irrigation. The seed is sown in small beds in the wet season, then transplanted into the fields while they are still wet, and harvested in November. Methods of planting have changed in recent years, but in this area there is little flexibility because of the lack of irrigation. Thirty-five years ago, pulses were grown as well, and the varieties of rice were local. Twenty-five years ago it was beginning to change. Farmers still grew some pulses, but the local varieties of rice had given way to new higher yielding varieties. Fifteen years ago pulses were no longer grown. Now it is nothing but padi.

Speaking to farmers, one hears repeated stories of reducing fertility. They talk about how, once upon a time, new varieties were introduced, and pesticides and fertilisers became available. Yields went up and there was a golden time. With increased harvests, they saw the end of hunger. But since then, the cost of seed, pesticide, fungicide, fertiliser and labour have all increased. The new varieties of rice which are higher yielding, but are less flood tolerant, and need a high input to protect them. It has reached the point where growing padi now usually makes a loss, and fewer people keep cattle. Farmers are looking to increase their incomes in other ways. Some have been tempted by prawn farming. Others have migrated. Many rely on children who have migrated and send back money to keep their families going. Others continue to farm, reluctant to abandon their land, but have set up businesses doing other things: running a grocery shop, or a catering business, for example.

When asked who will take over the farm in due course, most of them shake their heads sadly. The reality is that life on the farm is simply unacceptable to most of the younger generation. Who would want to spend their lives doing hard physical work, day in, day out, for no profit, taking risks that depend entirely on the weather and chance? And who would want that for their children? For people who have lived in extended families for generation upon generation, it is troubling to see the dispersal of those who mean most to them. Coming to terms with the separation is difficult, but it is especially hard to face the fact that there is no future for their farm. It was heart-breaking to listen to farmers speaking with great dignity about the difficulties that they face in making a living from their land, knowing that they might well be the last generation to continue producing food for the country.

As one drives around the area, each year there is more land left uncultivated. It is not an isolated problem, just one family here and another one there. It is commonplace, and each year more join the trend. In some areas there is a desolate and abandoned feel, and one cannot but wonder what the future holds for the area as a whole. This is a story that is not unique to rural India.

MIGRATION

During conversation in villages, whatever the subject, the talk sooner or later turns to migration. It is a part of the fabric of everyone's life. Migration is not a new phenomenon. *Homo sapiens* might better be described as *Homo ambulans* or even *Homo migrans*. Our histories are filled with accounts of peoples and groups of people moving from here to there, or there to here, and so it continues.

The reasons are primarily to do with economics and opportunity. As education in rural Odisha improves, new skills enable young people to move for work - a daughter who works in IT in Delhi, or a son who is an accountant in Chennai. But while it is possible for a few people from Rajnagar to enter these worlds, it is beyond the dreams of most village people. For the majority, migration is an economic necessity. Most of the work in Rajnagar is agricultural. It never made for affluence, and as the fertility of the land diminishes, it is increasingly precarious. The problems facing farmers are described on the previous page. There is little other work available: the Forest Dept., maybe, or, if one is lucky, becoming a teacher. And so, the children go elsewhere to work.

Those who go have usually had the least education, just up to the tenth grade (93%). The work available is unskilled heavy labouring. Those who have some kind of skill or qualification might find a job in Odisha, but for the less fortunate two-thirds the favoured destination these days is Kerala. The jobs there will be in construction, transport (as drivers) or in factories (often plywood factories). Or if they go to Gujarat, there is the possibility of work in a spinning mill. The jobs available will have no entry barrier, and expect no skill, simply a fit and willing body. The wages are low, but the income of migrant households is twice that of non-migrant households, and the money sent home makes an important contribution to food bills, healthcare and education for the family.

The migrants face many problems. Without ID cards they have little access to government benefits, and are unable to buy subsidised rations, for example. Much of the work is un-unionised, so there is little job security or protection. They will be employed in the lowest status jobs, with low wages, often highly exploited. There will be no training provided, any learning is done on the job, and there is little prospect of advancement. Many migrant workers live in dreadful conditions, sometimes in dorms provided by their employer, or camping out in slums sharing space with a large number of other workers, often with no sanitation, cooking facilities or access to any normal amenities. Sometimes pay does not materialise. Accidents are frequent because there are insufficient safeguards, and compensation is rare.

However, migration does increase income and means their homes and families in Odisha can be supported. Home is where most of them wish to be, if only it were possible. The increased income makes it possible to buy other things too, a television, maybe, and a mobile phone.

Migration also opens doors to a wider world. When people migrate they are potentially exposed to "otherness", to difference, to experiences and attitudes which they would never have encountered at home. They bring these worldly experiences back with them, and their world at home gradually changes. In the end, many of them might have to face the fact that there is no economic future for them back in coastal Odisha and they will make their homes elsewhere, where they are able to find profitable work, but the truth is that for those who live in coastal Odisha, and who farm the land, this is where their hearts lie and where they wish to make their lives.

TFR – TOPSOIL FERTILITY REGENERATION

Given the problems that we have outlined on the previous two pages, it was clear that we needed to think about how we might help local farmers. A UN report stated that without nurturing the soil it is only possible to gain 60-80 harvests; time had run out. Anyone who has a kitchen garden or allotment knows only too well the importance of rotating your crops and of maintaining the fertility of the soil. A couple of generations ago this was clearly understood, but in the push to secure food production for a hungry nation, India espoused an agricultural policy which promoted mono-cropping and the extensive use of chemical fertilisers. How to get back to the wisdom of the past? It is easy enough on a small scale, as we have demonstrated in our Kitchen Gardens Project, but it is hard to figure out how we might do this on a large scale when we have extensive open fields.

Over the past couple of years we have discussed these matters with local farmers and given it a great deal of thought. We drew up a plan and project proposal aimed at restoring the fertility of the soil, and tried to find funding. Unsuccessfully. And then, by chance, or perhaps as a result of our long discussions with the Agricultural Dept., they decided to run a pilot project to put in place many of the measures which we had been planning! It was an opportunity not to be missed. Our partners immediately applied to have the Dangamal/Subarnapur area accepted as the locus of the pilot, and probably because of the excellent relationship that we have with them, it was agreed. IVDT was very keen that this opportunity should be grasped with both hands and enthusiasm, and we agreed to fund a support programme which would run in parallel with the pilot project. The aim of this is to do everything we could to ensure that the pilot is a success and that the maximum number of farmers gain the maximum possible benefit. It seemed that this was an intelligent way to combine our skills of community mobilisation and advocacy with the resources and expertise of a government department. We were determined this project should not go the way of many other well-meant government programmes, and fizzle out leaving everyone feeling cynical.

The pilot has recruited 180 farmers (both men and women) to participate in a programme which will undertake crop rotation, with the cultivation of black, green and horse gram (all legumes), production of green manure (dhandicha and nalita), cultivation of green vegetables, multi-cropping, and large-scale compost-making. The Agricultural Dept. provides the expertise, seed and grants to participating farmers. A digital crop survey of 500 plots has been carried out enabling farmers to



An officer from the Agricultural Dept. gives advice on growing moong beans

get support and subsidies. The farmers have been trained to collect samples for soil testing so that levels of fertility can be carefully monitored. Fifty farmers have been trained in improved and more sustainable methods of growing padi, and have planted out the young seedlings. A further hundred will follow suit in coming years. Banks around fields have been raised to enable rainwater to seep into the soil naturally and to keep out salt water. The digging of six ponds has been funded, and they have been stocked with “fingerlings” for the production of fish. Some of the farmers are also receiving training in integrating cow and goat rearing and their organic manure into the new system and improving topsoil fertility.



Participating farmers are delighted with the first mung bean harvest

Originally, the proposal was for a small-scale pilot, with only five farmers, but because of the enthusiasm and commitment of our partner, the work is being carried out on a much larger scale. The pilot is now ten months into its first year. Yields have been good, and so far all those who have been involved are delighted with the progress. We hope that this will help secure a future for local farmers.

(Please note: the photographs show mainly male participants, but I would like to reassure readers that there are many women farmers who are involved in the pilot.)

KITCHEN GARDENS

We have been promoting kitchen gardens and home composting for several years now, and it has made a tremendous difference to the lives of many families. The Topsoil Fertility Regeneration Programme includes kitchen gardens as an integrated part of the project, and 370 women have been recruited. They have received training and support to set up their gardens and to make their own compost, and plant-based fertilisers and pest control. The progress of these gardens is carefully monitored. Four seed banks have been established so that local seeds especially suited to the area can be preserved and shared. Several women have been trained in duck-rearing (or “dockery” as it is charmingly called locally) and mushroom cultivation in order to increase family incomes.

We have developed considerable expertise in fruit-tree grafting through MANGRO, and have enabled new grafters to successfully raise 900 lemon and mango saplings. We have also identified fifty families who are eligible for subsidies to establish orchards as part of income-generation.

There is no magic bullet, but we hope that by investing in these farming families, we can help to secure their future in their home villages.



Kitchen gardens are a vital part of an integrated agricultural system

MANGRO NEWS

It has always been important for us to work closely with the Forest Dept. In the early days they helped us by providing machinery for digging channels for our mangrove nursery, and allowed us to collect seeds from the mangrove forest. As we rapidly gained experience and expertise, and had such a high success rate with our plantations, we were in a stronger position to campaign for them to carry out plantation themselves. We were able to offer advice, and supported their plantation work by involving local communities. Gradually they began to ask us to work on their plantations, filling in where trees had been damaged or lost, or to work on small areas which were awkward for their equipment. It has been one of the great achievements of the project to see the changes within the Forest Dept. itself, which is now deeply committed to restoring the mangrove along the coast and estuaries. The latest step is where we have worked alongside them, and they have agreed to plant on a matching basis – 10,000 MANGRO trees, and 10,000 Forest Dept. trees.

Is it time to step back and allow the Forest Dept. to carry out the work, for which it is apparently so well equipped? We do give this considerable thought, because, obviously, if the work can be done by someone else, then it saves us a great deal of time and energy, and our donor's money which could perhaps be better used elsewhere. The conclusion that we have come to is that we still have a very useful role. For example, we have an important lobbying role, arguing the case for the restoration of mangrove forest, and our case is stronger if we can speak with the authority of experience and are seen to be practising what we preach. We have an excellent record with survival of our plantations, which is largely due to the work being carried out by and "belonging" to the community, so we act as a model for good practice. We are able to work in areas which are difficult for the Forest Dept., small and hard-to-access sites, which are nevertheless important ecologically. And we are able to work on private land; for example, recently the Koelipur sarpanch (village chairperson) has donated two acres of land for mangrove plantation. It is outside the National Park, and so it has to be a village project; there is no one else to carry it out but MANGRO, and it was his wish that we would take it on anyway.

So we still have an important role to play, and it is a great relief that we are no longer doing this single-handed.



Rama celebrates the extent of one of our plantation areas; all this, and more!



and demonstrates the strength of the mangrove's stilt roots.

This year we have continued to plant extensively. The plantation of 175,000 trees has been carried out on demolished farm pond land, degraded forest land, river and creek sites, as well as gap filling. The Forest Dept. has agreed a policy of granting Rs. 10,000 (₹100) per acre to any farmer who hands over for mangrove plantation land which is flooded at high tide. And, as mentioned above, we work closely with the Forest Dept., to ensure that as much effective plantation is carried out as possible.

Meanwhile, environmental education work continues, with school Eco-clubs visiting the MANGRO Centre, nurseries and plantations. We are restoring the Hental Kutira, a small hut which was originally set up for pre-school children at our nature reserve, but which fell into disuse when the government took on that role. This is going to be repurposed as a small observation and learning centre, so that visitors to the nature reserve can get maximum benefit from the experience. “The Hental”,

our magazine for Eco-clubs, continues to be published and enjoyed, well beyond our project area, and the children continue to keep nature diaries. Having refreshed some of our learning materials on my last visit, I get reports that children are really enjoying playing games and carrying out other activities as they learn about the birds of Odisha, mangroves and other aspects of wildlife and the environment.

Our work extends not just to planting mangrove and raising awareness about the environment. Other concerns are brought to us. We always try and help by giving advice or redirecting people, but sometimes we are in a position to take up an issue. For example, some communities have suffered from the increasing numbers of wild boar which shelter in the expanding forest. We have been able to negotiate for the Forest Dept. to provide fencing where appropriate, and to compensate farmers for damage caused to their crops. We have lobbied for provision to be made for fishermen who are affected by the seasonal fishing ban imposed to protect Olive Ridley Sea Turtles which migrate to the area to lay their eggs. Now 120 fishermen and their families have been provided with training and support in a range of skills: mushroom and vegetable cultivation, tailoring, dockery(!)/poultry farming and beekeeping.

MANGRO continues to carry out an extensive and vigorous programme in increasing the environmental and economic resilience of an area which is prone to disasters, and we feel that this work, a step at a time, over the years we have worked there, is making a significant difference.



Hemanta Rout, one of our long-term activists, and Rama explore new sites ripe for mangrove plantation

Thank you to everyone who has helped.

PRAWN PONDS

I've already mentioned illegal prawn ponds in this letter, and many times over the years - I do hope that you're not bored with reading about them! It has been such a big issue for so long, maybe twenty-five years since we first realised quite what an impact they have on the environment. Not only the illegal prawn ponds; there was the huge defunct World Bank-funded prawn farm project too. At first we wrote about the problems they caused, then about the struggle that was being undertaken to have them put out of action. At last we had success, and steps were taken to destroy them. And then we had to work hard to ensure the land was restored to forest use. After a slow start, the work has suddenly come to fruition. In our last newsletter I showed pictures of some of the old pond areas planted with mangrove. That work has continued and the following is an update on the situation:

*In **Rajnagar Block**, prawn ponds have been destroyed in the following: Rangani (100 ponds destroyed), from Talchua to Durgaprashad and Dangamal (280 ponds (188.09 hectares) mangrove nursery work initiated and plantation to be done this year), Patasala River (50 prawn ponds destroyed and mangrove plantation partially done), Praharajpur, Sundaripal, Olasahi, and Govardhanpur area- (10 prawn ponds destroyed, Chale Chalo & Forest Dept did the plantation), Gupti, Okilpal to Bagapatia (150 prawn ponds destroyed). Plantation has been carried out by MANGRO and by the Forest Dept., sometimes working together.*

Around 130 prawn ponds have litigations and cases are pending in the Honourable Odisha High Court.

*So far as **Mahakalpada Block** is concerned, around 1400 prawn ponds have been destroyed. The details are as follows: Jagatjor - 40, Jambu - 150, Kharanashi - 200, Ramnagar - 100, Batighar - 100, Sanatubi 1 - 200 (60 ha), Sanatubi 2 - 100 (30 ha), Sanatubi 3 - 110 (35 ha), Badatubi - 200, Hettamundia - 100 (30 ha), Jogidhakud- 90 (25 ha). Mangrove plantation has been carried out, mainly by the Forest Dept., in all of these apart from Jagatjor and Jambu.*

After the destruction of all the prawn ponds adjacent to the Patasala Riverside, farmers started prawn culture by constructing ponds on their own land (the other side of the road from Ishwarpur to Bhitarkanika). As per the ESZ policy (Environmentally Sensitive Zone), no such activities are allowed within 500 meters of the coast. The Forest Dept. has not taken any action on the new ponds, the reasons best known to them. However, we will discuss the matter with forest officials to know the reasons for the increase in number of prawn ponds on private land between Bhitarkanika National Park and Patasala River.

About Falcon (the defunct World Bank-funded prawn farm project), some of this is subject to pending cases in the Honorable Odisha High Court, and the rest is in dispute. More will be done in coming years when this is resolved. These positive changes are happening due to a long campaign for the demolition of the prawn ponds and undertaking massive mangrove plantation in Bhitarkanika and vulnerable periphery areas.

We will continue with this work; it has been one of the most important contributions to expanding mangrove plantation, restoring the area to what it once was.

FOOTNOTE on CARBON FOOTPRINT

There are many reasons for planting mangrove, but one of the reasons so many of our supporters are interesting in this aspect of our work is the remarkable capacity of mangrove to sequester CO₂, thus helping in the fight against global warming. Mangrove has many benefits, this amongst them, and we enclose a sheet which outlines its capacity to store carbon, amongst the other benefits.

SUMMARY of IVDTrust accounts for 01.04.23 to 31.03.24

Balance on 01.04.2023

Nat. West Bank	12,368.21
COIF	<u>239.66</u>
TOTAL	<u>12,607.87</u>

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	20,525.02
The Just Trust	2,000.00
HMRC Gift Aid Refund (for 2 years)	5,388.76
COIF Interest	<u>11.65</u>
TOTAL	<u>27,925.43</u>

Expenditure for the year

CHALE CHALO, projects	14,234.00 *
CC Core Costs	9,624.00 *
UK admin., memberships, etc.	0
Fundraising costs	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>23,858.00</u>

Balance on 31.03.2024

Nat. West Bank	16,423.99
CAF	<u>251.31</u>
TOTAL	<u>16,675.30</u>

* *These payments to our Indian partners include UK bank charges*

The accounts have been independently examined and we are very grateful to Mike Deeks for carrying that out. They have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

GIVING to IVDT

Without your help it would be impossible for us to continue with our work, so all donations are always very welcome.

GIFT AID - If you are a taxpayer, then you can make it possible for us to reclaim the tax on your gift – it gives us an extra 25% on top of your donation, and that can make a tremendous difference.

REGULAR GIVING by Direct Debit – Regular giving makes it much easier for us to plan our work. If you feel that you could manage to give in this way, we would be especially grateful.

DONATIONS can be made online using Paypal through our website: **www.ivdtrust.org**

or by post to:

47 Brome Place, OXFORD OX3 9LR or
7a Rosewin Row, TRURO TR1 1HG
with cheques made out to 'IVDT'.

Gift Aid and Direct Debit forms are included with the newsletter. Thank you.

We will continue to send out newsletters by post to those on our mailing list, but we are trying to reduce our costs, so if any of you would be happy to receive the newsletter by email, please do let us know, and we can make sure that that happens in future.

Contact us at:

helenanightingale@hotmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you enjoy reading about our work and all that our projects are achieving with your generosity. We feel very proud of what we help happen, bringing positive change to the lives of so many people, and it would not be possible without your help. The need for support continues – there are always more ways to spend money than raise it! Please help if you can. Your donations make a tremendous difference to the lives of people and communities. Details for making a donation are given on the last page. Thank you to everyone.



*Pictured above, some of the farmers participating in our Topsoil Fertility Programme
And greetings from everyone in Odisha who benefits from your generosity*

IVD Trust, Charity No. 1013316. Registered Address: 47 Brome Place, Oxford OX3 9LR

Trustees: Zinat Bennett, Zara Bieler, Kim Devenish, Gabriel Grouas, Erskine Holmes, Helena Nightingale

01872 270954 helenanightingale@hotmail.com www.ivdtrust.org

THE IMPACT OF PLANTING MANGROVE, including its CARBON FOOTPRINT

The planting of mangrove brings many advantages, to local communities and to the world as a whole. This paper attempts to summarise the key points.

1. SEQUESTERING CARBON

There is no definitive figure for the capacity of mangrove to sequester carbon, because mangrove varies widely in its nature, quality and ability to store carbon. That must be borne in mind when considering the following figures which have been taken from a wide range of sources, including the UNEP, Smithsonian Institute and Open University.

Mangrove can sequester between four and ten times as much carbon as rainforest. It is one of the most effective environments for storing carbon, the reason being that the carbon is stored not just in the body of the trees themselves (trunks, branches, leaves, roots, etc.), but also in the sediments made of dead roots and decaying vegetable matter which is trapped in the anaerobic conditions of the mangrove's complex root systems, sediments which can be up to 10m deep in mature forests.

The figures for the annual sequestration of carbon (C, not CO₂) per hectare range from 492.8 mt (Greenbiz) to 3,700 mt (Earth.org), but most of the figures given are in the region of 1,000 mt of carbon p.a. There are two main factors affecting the capacity of mangrove forest to store carbon. One is the age of the trees; the storage capacity increases up to the age of about fifteen years, so the maximum capacity is not achieved on initial planting. The second is the density of plantation. We plant at 10,000 per hectare, but several sites talk about much lower figures – 1,000 (MoreTrees and Planet Indonesia), 3,000 (Conservation International), but the general consensus is in line with our own practice, 10,000 per hectare.

So the figures that we go with are: planting at **10,000 trees per hectare** and the sequestering of carbon at **1,000 mt per hectare** (mt=metric tonne). These figures are reasonable and also easy to remember and work with.

One important point to note is that, while mangrove is one of the most successful ways of sequestering carbon, when it is felled, that carbon is released into the atmosphere and has a disproportionate negative impact. So it is doubly important that mangrove should **not** be felled.

2. PROTECTION AGAINST WEATHER

With increasing global temperatures, extreme weather is becoming more common. Odisha (our Project area) is already a disaster-prone state, and the intensity of cyclones is likely to increase. Mangrove cannot prevent flooding, but it does protect against the most serious damage which is caused by water in movement. The complex root and trunk systems reduce both the height of a tidal surge by up to 50% and its force by up to 90%. We have found that the combination of mangrove plantation backed by an embankment is very effective in saving lives and damage to land and property.

3. REDUCTION OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE EROSION

Just as mangrove breaks the force of a tidal surge, so it protects the coast or estuary edge against erosion. The complex root systems trap sediment, and prevent it from being washed away. When mangrove is felled, for whatever reason, the shoreline immediately becomes vulnerable which has serious implications for communities and habitats.

4. IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

The mangrove acts as a nursery for young fish, providing protection and a rich source of food. Studies have shown how the fish numbers increase when mangrove is planted, and our own experience bears this out. In a world which struggles hard to feed itself sustainably, this is an invaluable resource.

5. DIVERSITY

Mangroves are an incredibly rich eco-system supporting a very diverse range of plant and animal life. Many of the creatures which find refuge in mangrove are threatened with extinction or on the endangered list.

THREATS

Globally, mangrove is under constant threat, with perhaps 5% being lost every year. And yet it is one of the most valuable means of storing carbon. The main causes of loss are development, prawn ponds, and pollution. In our project areas we have managed to reduce the damage caused by people collecting fuel wood, but prawn ponds have been an ongoing issue. Following a long and intensive campaign, with the illegal pond farmers being taken to court, the Forest Dept. in our project area has destroyed many of the ponds and is replanting them with mangrove.

COST OF REPLANTING MANGROVE

As with other figures, the cost of replanting mangrove varies widely. This is probably because it depends entirely on what is included in the cost. Does it cover merely the cost of raising the saplings in a nursery, planting them out and caring for them? Do the people who carry out the work get paid? What about the overall costs of running a project, the planning, discussion with community, etc., etc.? The figure that is sometimes given when arguing for the economic importance of mangrove is \$23,000-45,000 per hectare, which would work out at \$23-45 per tree. This figure surely includes all the overheads.

It is very difficult for us to work out the actual costs of our direct planting. It probably works out at about £0.14 per tree. But that does not include all the education work that is carried out, or the kitchen garden projects, or the work we do on sustainable farming, all of which contribute to the success of the project. Nor does it take into account the fact that the project has influenced policy on local planting, or that through campaign and community-partnership tree-planting has taken place on a much larger scale.

A simple example is the campaign which we initiated and supported to ban illegal prawn ponds which were widespread with our project area. The issue was taken to the High Court, and the Forest Dept has since destroyed about 640 hectares of ponds which are now being planted with mangrove. Though some of our volunteers might be involved as community members in this planting, the number of trees planting would not be attributed to us, and yet, if the campaign had not been run, none of those trees would have been planted. It is important to plant trees, but it is also very important to encourage and even demand that others plant trees too. It is all part of the same enterprise.

*The **MANGRO PROJECT** is a community-based mangrove regeneration project in Odisha, India. It is funded by Integrated Village Development Trust, and managed by CHALE CHALO. For further information see: ivdtrust.org or contact Helena Nightingale at helenanightingale@hotmail.com*

MAKING A DONATION

If you wish to be a regular donor, please use the **Monthly Standing Order Form** below. Regular donations help us to plan ahead for our work and fundraising, but all gifts are welcome. If you want us to know about your gift, please let us know, then we can thank you properly, and for those of you who are tax payers, there is a **Gift Aid Form** as well. We also need your consent to keep your **details**, and there is a form for that below as well. Very many thanks to you all.

.....
MONTHLY STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION – Please complete and send to YOUR bank, and NOT to IVDTrust.

TO: The Manager, (name of bank)

Address

Please pay from my account each month on (date) the sum of £ to the IVD Trust (Charity No. 1013316), Account No. 87213508, Nat. West Bank, 32 Cornmarket Street, OXFORD OX1 3ES (Sort Code 54-21-23)

This monthly payment to start on (date)

Signed Date

Bank Account No.

Address

P. S. If you want us to know about your gift, please do let us know, and then we can thank you

GIFT AID *If you make a donation to us we are able to claim back the tax that you have paid – 25p for each £1. All you need to do is fill out this form. Thank you very much for helping our work and for making your gift go further.*

Please return to: Integrated Village Development Trust, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Surname & initials)

Address:

..... (Postcode)

Email

Gift Aid Declaration: I would like Integrated Village Development Trust to claim back the tax on my donation of £ (amount)

SIGNATURE DATE

.....
KEEPING YOUR DETAILS

By law we need to have your consent to keep your contact details without which it is not possible for us to keep in touch and let you know how your donations are being spent. We'd be grateful if new contacts could sign the following and post it to us at **IVDT, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG**, or send an email to helenanightingale@hotmail.com, letting us know you are happy for us to keep your details.

I, (name), of (address)

..... Email

do give my consent that IVDT may keep my contact details as given above, and may contact me with news and information about their work.

Signed Date

Summary of IVD Trust accounts for 01.04.23 to 31.03.24

Balance on 01.04.2023

NatWest Bank	12,368.21
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	239.66
Total	<u>12,607.87</u>

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	20,525.02
The Just Trust	2,000.00
The Network for Social Change	
HMRC (Gift Aid Refund)	5,388.76
Interest (COIF)	11.65
Total	<u>27,925.43</u>

Expenditure for the year

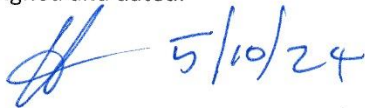
CHALE CHALO	14,234.00
The Baliga Trust	-
Ranjit Kumar	9,624.00
UK admin publicity, training etc	-
Bank charges (Transfer to India, etc)	-
Fundraising costs	-
Total	<u>23,858.00</u>

Balance on 31.03.24

NatWest Bank	16,423.99
COIF	251.31
Total	<u>16,675.30</u>

PLEASE NOTE: IVDT has no Current or Fixed Assets or Liabilities

Signed and dated:

 5/10/24

(Gabriel Grouas,
Hon. Treas.)

I can confirm that this represents a true account of funds into and out of IVDT's accounts for the year 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024

X Signed and dated:

 5th October 2024

Address:

Ventonlean
Woodhill
St Gluvias
Penryn
Cornwall TR10 9AE

Summary of IVD Trust accounts for 01.04.23 to 31.03.24

Balance on 01.04.2023

NatWest Bank	12,368.21
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	239.66
Total	<u>12,607.87</u>

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	20,525.02
The Just Trust	2,000.00
The Network for Social Change	
HMRC (Gift Aid Refund)	5,388.76
Interest (COIF)	11.65
Total	<u>27,925.43</u>

Expenditure for the year

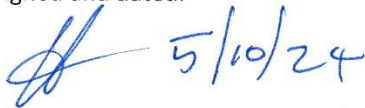
CHALE CHALO	14,234.00
The Baliga Trust	-
Ranjit Kumar	9,624.00
UK admin publicity, training etc	-
Bank charges (Transfer to India, etc)	-
Fundraising costs	-
Total	<u>23,858.00</u>

Balance on 31.03.24

NatWest Bank	16,423.99
COIF	251.31
Total	<u>16,675.30</u>

PLEASE NOTE: IVDT has no Current or Fixed Assets or Liabilities

Signed and dated:

 5/10/24

(Gabriel Grouas,
Hon. Treas.)

I can confirm that this represents a true account of funds into and out of IVDT's accounts for the year 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024

X Signed and dated:

 5th October 2024

Address:

Ventonlean
Woodhill
St Gluvias
Penryn
Cornwall TR10 9AE

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT (UK) TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1013316

Accounts



**NOV.
2022**

I V D TRUST

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter No.32

. . . working in India to relieve rural poverty.

Sometimes when it comes to writing our Annual Newsletter, it feels as though we are telling you about struggles, turmoil and victories that are happening far away from our quiet, calm, safe world in Britain. We tell stories of how people face enormous problems – entrenched poverty, precarious climate, capricious government, the pernicious caste system, and so on, and how, with a bit of help and support, they overcome their difficulties. We speak of how, in spite of all that is thrown at them - cyclone, flood, drought, and wilful government policy - they continue their heroic struggle and make the world a better place.

Well, it's a bit different this year! Sitting at my desk in a country that has been beset with so much turmoil and struggle – by which I mean Britain – the work on our projects seems to continue at an enviably serene pace, slowly enabling poor communities to take control of their lives and futures. Of course there are problems such as the global economic crisis and the long-term impact of Covid (and I speak of these on p.9) which affect those in an Indian village as much as us in the UK, but we know that the long-term consistency of the work on our projects slowly bears fruit, year after year, building confidence, optimism and the resilience to deal with inevitable crises.

In this Newsletter we tell you about some of the work our partners have been carrying out, bringing positive and sustainable change. CHALE CHALO continues with the MANGRO Project which each year extends and develops to make such a difference to poor and vulnerable coastal communities. And, while the BALIGA TRUST has grown and branched out, we have been able to continue our support for the remedial education centres in poor areas in Delhi which have been at the root of so much of their success.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the past year's achievements, work carried out by our partners with your help and support. And we hope that it might bring a moment of relief to know that, somewhere in the world, things continue to progress quietly and steadily in spite of all the local and global difficulties; perhaps one day soon we too in Britain will return to a similar state! If you want to know anything more about any of the projects, please do contact us at:

helenanightingale@hotmail.com, and we will do all we can to answer any questions.

In the meantime, we are really grateful to you all, and . . .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

MANGRO (Community-based Mangrove Regeneration in Odisha) – Looking back at what we have achieved in the past seven years

Over the years, IVDT has funded many and various projects, mostly in rural areas, all of them contributing to positive change in poor communities and helping people move forward to a better future. But the project that is perhaps dearest to our heart, and in which we have invested over such a long period, is MANGRO.

The idea for this project developed in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami which caused such devastation in the southern Indian Ocean. Its impact in Odisha was minimal, but it raised a number of serious questions: why were some communities so much more impacted than others? Was this because of excessive building in vulnerable areas? What were the natural protections against such events? Why were some communities better than others at coping with the disaster?

Even though the tsunami did not seriously affect Odisha, there is a long history of major cyclones hitting the coast in our area causing massive tidal surge with a similar impact, so we had experience of the terrible loss of life and damage that could be caused, and involvement in helping pick up the pieces. The tsunami caused us to stop and think about the ways in which we might be able to increase the long-term resilience of our partner communities. It was clear that there were several factors which exacerbated the impact of both these kinds of disasters:

- the health of mangrove forest along the coast;
- the existence of reefs along the coast;
- the extent of building along the coast;
- disaster-preparedness within coastal communities;
- and economic resilience of coastal communities.

As a small organisation we were not going to be able to deal with all these problems, but we felt that there were ways in which we could make a significant difference in the areas where we work. We could:

- raise awareness about the issues;
- help protect and restore mangrove forest which reduces the impact of tidal surge (and tsunamis);
- help coastal communities prepare for possible disaster;
- help coastal communities improve their economic resilience.

We felt that we did not have the resources to address the problems of reef damage, which is not a significant factor in our area anyway. Nor would we be able to do a great deal about unprotected and unplanned building along the coasts in vulnerable areas, though we might be able to encourage and contribute to debate about this. But we could do something about the other matters. And out of this grew our proposal for the MANGRO Project, Mangrove Regeneration in Odisha, which would help protect poor coastal communities by restoring the mangrove forest and increasing their economic, social and environmental resilience. It took a year or so before we were able to start the on-the-ground work. There were lots of lessons to be learnt, by both IVDT and our partners. Neither of us were environmental specialists, though, as amateur individuals, we had long-term involvement in environmental work. And in Odisha mangrove regeneration was minimal. The emphasis had been on building embankments with varied success. So we didn't even have the expertise of local institutions. We were breaking new ground, and much of our work was experimental.

This is perhaps one of the advantages of being a small organisation, that we are able to be flexible, to try out new ideas, being accountable only to ourselves, our partners and our donors who have been amazing in the sympathy, confidence and trust that they have shown. Of course, we would not do anything reckless. Our funds have never been great and have always been precious. We have never been able to take financial support for granted, but, by working closely with local communities, pooling our knowledge and resources, drawing in expertise, by our commitment and enthusiasm, we were able to learn very quickly and effectively, and rapidly became a focal point for change at all levels – within the community, in local and government institutions and occasionally even at state level.

Our work has always been small-scale, but the cumulative effect over the years has been extraordinary. The key is that we work with communities. Almost all the work is voluntary, and wherever possible we take advantage of government schemes, which enable villagers to be paid to plant mangrove and other trees, develop income-generation opportunities, improve sustainable farming, and generally improve the resilience of local communities. By working closely with government officials, local representatives, environmentalists, teachers and other key members of the community, building networks of concern and action, we have developed a rich and strong base for positive environmental and social change. Our gentle but focussed influence is evident everywhere one goes in the area: in the flourishing trees planted along rivers, roadsides and around homesteads, in the active involvement of communities in disaster-preparedness committees, in the transformation of schools (from drab learning-by-rote to centres of vitality and love of learning), in the active participation and leadership of women in community affairs, in the willingness and courage to take on organisations such as the local mafias.

Looking back at our work over the years, we have gathered together some of the MANGRO content in our Annual Newsletters from 2015 to 2021. This makes for a substantial document, but gives a wonderful picture of the past seven years' work, its variety and scale, and might help the reader understand quite what has been achieved. It doesn't include everything; for example, before 2015 we built a wonderful centre which serves as a base for our work and as an environmental hub in the area. But it covers the wide range of the work under the umbrella of MANGRO, and the heart of the work, which remains the restoration of mangrove. **“ABOUT MANGRO 2015-21”** is about 35 pages long, so we won't send it out to everyone, but if you would like a copy, please do let us know and we would be delighted send you one, either by post or email. (Contact helenanightingale@hotmail.com or 01872 270954)

None of what we achieved happened immediately, but our contribution over seventeen years has been transformational and lasting. This slow, small-scale approach, working WITH communities, not imposing on them, is really standing the test of time. There is still plenty of work to do, and we gradually extend our efforts into neighbouring communities, applying the lessons learnt so that more and more people are able to benefit from this amazing work. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the wonderful team which CHALE CHALO has on the ground, without the commitment and passion of the many volunteers, and without the patient and generous support of our many donors. Together you have helped create a small but growing miracle. Thank you, every one of you. We will continue with this work as long as we have the funds and as long as the need remains and we feel that we can make a meaningful contribution.

It is impossible to list everyone who has donated to this particular project over the years. Special thanks to ACE, The Just Trust, and Gillie Howarth for their long-term support and encouragement, but there are many, many more of you who have been partners in this work and make it possible.

MEANWHILE, the work continues . . .

Community Mapping on Mangrove Status

As part of looking back at our achievements, but mainly looking forward to continuing needs, we have started a process of Community Mapping in our existing MANGRO villages, and in areas into which we have been invited to extend our work. Basically this involves getting the community together and, using an established format, drawing up a map of the trees in their community, in a way which is easy for everyone to understand. It includes different kinds of planting – mangrove, roadside, homestead and fruit-bearing trees – and takes into account matters such as water resources, tidal areas, etc. This gives a clear picture of the existing situation, but also provides opportunities for discussion about the needs of the community, about where future planting would be valuable and successful, and where land is available. As well as serving a purely practical purpose, it is a useful tool in community involvement and builds enthusiasm and commitment to the process of increasing environmental sustainability. When they undertake exercises such as this they feel a much greater sense of ownership of the work.

For example, in Koelipur, villagers, local forest people, and other stakeholders used this approach to explore areas for continuing successful mangrove plantation. They identified suitable river banks where there is a possibility for plantation of around 200,000 mangrove seedlings over the next 4-5 years in a degraded wasteland riverside area adjacent to existing mangrove forest created by MANGRO project which had proved successful. There was discussion about how this amount of plantation could be achieved, and a plan was developed that some of it will be carried out by the villagers under MANGRO, but they would also request the Forest Dept. to take on mangrove plantation in suitable areas.



We are extending the process of community mangrove mapping in exploring new areas where we have been invited to get involved and help communities to protect and restore their mangrove forest, particularly in Suniti areas under Mahakalpada Block, but this extension to the work will depend on availability of funds.

Using this process, we have been mobilising communities to identify suitable planting areas, and enabling them to take action, either themselves, or by making applications to the Forest Dept.

Alongside this process we have been updating our data base and the current status of our direct mangrove and general tree plantation, as well as that carried out through the Forest Dept with the demand and support of the project team, villagers and others. It is clear that, due to our interventions, hundreds of acres of unused empty land on river- and creek-sides, both private and government, have been successfully covered with mangrove. We have a very high survival rate, and continue the expansion of this work wherever possible. **Over two-and-a-half million (getting on for three million) trees have been planted.** Apart from all the benefits that this has brought to local communities, it is a significant contribution to addressing some of the issues of CO₂ emissions.

Community Education



In farmyards, office halls . . .

A series of day-workshops were held across the project area, bringing together experienced volunteer activists and those who were new to mangroves. In total, almost a thousand people took part, three-quarters of them women. They learnt about mangroves generally, and had the chance to explore their enormous value and why they should be protected.

The Community Mapping process mainly involves key members in each village, but it is important to raise awareness in the wider community as well, and this has always been of fundamental importance on the MANGRO Project. It is an ongoing practice, not something which can be done once, and finished with. This year, as fears of Covid and the constraints it imposed were relaxed, it was important to rekindle enthusiasm for environmental concern.



. . . and school verandas, villagers come together to learn about mangroves



A range of methods is used to engage participants. You may remember reading about the local tradition of using scrolls to present stories, and we have revived that tradition, especially among the communities that have migrated from West Bengal. It is a very accessible and effective way of introducing a subject, and provoking consideration and discussion of the issues involved.

And learning songs about mangroves helps to remember and internalise the lessons they have learnt, while giving a sense of unity.

These gatherings are very important in maintaining support for our work, and a way of recruiting volunteers who help with all the various project activities: the constant work of looking after tree nurseries and plantation, working with young people in Eco-clubs, campaigning, administrative work – writing applications to the Forest Dept., applying for income generation programmes – and so on. Without all the valuable work of all these volunteers, the MANGRO Project would not be possible.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THROUGH SCHOOLS AND ECO-CLUBS

It is essential for any development work that the whole community is involved, and, in order for it to be sustainable, it is particularly important that young people come with us. They are our future, and the time that we invest in them is an investment in our future. Apart from that, our children are quick learners, and enthusiastic teachers, taking home the lessons that they learn in school and Eco-clubs, leading campaigns, and carrying out practical work.



From the beginning of MANGRO we have involved young people, worked in schools, and set up Eco-Clubs, so that children have the chance to learn about their environment, to act responsibly and make decisions that are good for both their communities and for the natural world. Several of our Eco-clubs have won state awards for the excellence of their pioneering work, and one of the greatest

pleasures of visiting MANGRO is the infectious enthusiasm of the young people.

Once the constraints of Covid were eased, we were able to resume our work with the Eco-clubs, and that includes the regular visits that they make to the MANGRO centre, and to the mangrove nurseries and plantations. Here they can learn about mangroves, and then see at first hand the various stages of the work that goes on. They are naturally impressed with how quickly a few small seeds turn into the beginnings of a forest!



AND THE PLANTING CONTINUES . . .

The children are able to help in a wide range of ways, primarily with the raising of general trees which they plant around the school campus and community. However, the work of mangrove plantation is the province of adults. It is hard and very wet work as you can see from the picture, and there is a risk involved because the area is beset by crocodiles and water snakes. There is generally someone keeping watch while the men are working in the water, and if anything dangerous is seen, the men get into the boat very quickly. Here we see them filling a gap alongside some of our previously planted trees. In another eight years or so, these young plants will have reached this height, and the existing trees will be even higher, a grand sight, and protection against tidal surge, a wildlife haven, and a valuable CO₂ bank.



FROM SMALL SEEDS – A KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN THE BHITARKANIKA AREA OF ODISHA



We are now in the second year of the Dangamal Kitchen Garden Project which was designed to provide relief during the Covid pandemic and into the future, by working with women to improve the diet of families and increase their income. At the start of this project, the prospect of hunger was one of the key issues currently facing people across India, especially for those who rely on paid work. This was partly as a result of Covid. While Covid has retreated, it has had a long-term impact on the economy, and this has been exacerbated by the global financial crisis which is bringing inflation and economic instability.

So far over 1,400 in 24 villages have received training, 80% of them women. The training has introduced them to a range of familiar and new crops, and has helped them identify suitable areas where plots could be established in the village. They were each given 15 kinds of seed, and learnt how to plan and set up their gardens, how to raise and care for their plants, to harvest the vegetables when the time comes. They are able to exchange ideas for protecting their crops from animals (and human) damage, and have training in compost-making, and the making of natural fertilisers and pesticides.

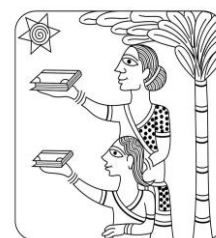
Several seed banks have been established, so the women save some of the seed from their harvest, learn how to store it properly, and will be using this in years to come, to share amongst the group, gradually extending the range of plants that they grow.

Most of the produce is used by them for their families, and has brought real improvements to the diet, as well as addressing some of the long-term problems of malnutrition (e.g. high levels of anaemia) It has been particularly valuable because it has been harder to find paid work, so families depend more and more on what they are able to produce themselves. Many of those involved wonder how they might have coped without their vegetable gardens.

As someone who is a committed vegetable grower, this project gives me special joy. I think of all those beautiful neat rows of plants, lovingly cared for, vegetables waiting to be turned into delicious dinner. And I know how proud these women are of what they grow for their families – or for sale when there is more than they need for home use.

The BALIGA TRUST

One of the themes of this newsletter has been the real value of investing in projects over a long period, and this has been the case in our relationship with the Baliga Trust. We have been involved with them for almost twenty years, providing just a small amount of money at a time, but maintaining our commitment to their work, and supporting them in a range of ways as they continued to grow. We have always valued the quality of their work, which speaks in the vitality of everyone involved – staff, teachers, volunteers, families and especially in the children. We still provide funding to help support Remedial Education Centres, and our funding means that the Baliga Trust is able to carry out additional activities with the children – drama and music, sports and visits to some of the national institutions in Delhi, activities in which these children would never normally be able to take part. All this with the help of our donors. Thank you, all of you.



**Dr. A.V. Baliga
Memorial Trust**



Play and learn in a Remedial Education Centre Children get regular health and eye checks at the Centres

STOP PRESS: *We are delighted to announce that Ashok, who leads all this valuable work at the Baliga Trust, has recently been elected as National Convener of the Campaign Against Child Labour. This is a tribute to his leadership, concern and commitment to the rights of children, and to the quality of the work he does.*

A Story from the Street:

Kajol – A journey from Darkness to Light, Beggings bowls to Books

Kajol lives in the slum area of Okhla flyover, Delhi. She belongs to a family that begs for a living, their ancestral occupation. She lost half of her left leg in a tragic accident when she was only two years old playing at the railway line. Her uncle who was also a beggar in the same area took care of her during that time. She joined in the begging, and this continued till she was twelve years old. She tried to start her education but due to lack of knowledge/guidance she could not get admission in any school; even the government school wouldn't accept her due to her condition, but her mother always encouraged her to keep trying. Then, by chance, she came in contact with the Dr A V Baliga Memorial Trust which took her under its wing, and gave her the support she needed for study, including her admission, tuition, teaching-learning material, counselling, and even staying in a Paying Guest House when necessary. Her determination, combined with the long-term support of the Baliga Trust means that she is now taking regular classes for her Bachelor of Arts at the prestigious Jamia University. She had been offered many jobs but opted for higher education, determined to take that as far as she could go. Kajol's achievements are due to her tremendous grit, but also to the support that she has received over many years.



COVID, The ECONOMIC CRISIS and their impact in India

It is difficult to disentangle the impacts of Covid and the global economic crisis, but there is no doubt that things are very difficult for almost everyone in India, in both rural and urban areas. Ranjit from CHALE CHALO, and Ashok for the Baliga Trust, have both kept us up-to-date with the situation in their different areas, Odisha and Delhi.

Both our partners were very actively involved during the Covid crisis of the past two years. They raised awareness of the disease, and how it is possible to protect oneself. They helped the most needy in their areas gain access to government support and services, food, medical help, etc., which was invaluable in such a difficult time. They both did all that they could to provide education support to school children while the schools were closed, and the Baliga Trust carried out remarkable mental health support to young people, including regular Sunday group sessions where children developed self-care kits. The number of Covid cases is now very low, and the vaccination programme has been fairly effective.

But the long-term impact has been serious – (in Ranjit’s words) “loss of learning, loss of businesses, loss of employment, loss of income, and less money even for basic food and day-to-day living needs for the increasing numbers. Covid has shaken the economic foundation of a good number of rural families and their conditions have been aggravated due to continuous inflation. More and more families are falling back into the web of poverty and income, food and nutrition insecurity.”



The sky is the roof for many migrant workers

During the pandemic children lost two years of schooling; there is now a huge gap between age targets and achievement, with little effort to address the problem. There was a massive loss of paid work, over 81%, not all of it temporary. And hundreds of thousands of people working in the NGO sector also lost their jobs and are struggling to survive with whatever work they can get. Migrant workers who left Delhi during COVID are now back in search of livelihood and work is hard to come by. Construction work is reduced because of the economy, and migrant labourers struggle to find two meals a day and shelter for the night.

India is not immune from the global economic crisis. Inflation is very high and it’s visible in our project areas, both in Delhi and Odisha. Even in the festival season, markets are less crowded than they would have been three years ago. The impact is less in rural areas, where many people have a degree of self-sufficiency in food. But for those in the towns and cities, or for those who have no land, it is hard to find money to buy the food needed by the family. Many families had to take out loans during Covid and are unable meet repayments because of continuing lack of work. A real concern is that the subsidised food scheme which provides a ration of free cereals for around 70% of people will stop at the end of March 2023. If/when it is stopped, then 30-40% of people will face acute hunger and maybe starvation.

One of the most serious impacts has been the drop in income for our partners, CHALE CHALO and the Baliga Trust. As Covid hit both individual and corporate donors, income dropped. Funding for many NGOs dropped to about a quarter of what it had been previously. It is slowly recovering but to only half of the previous level, just when the need is steadily increasing. There was a time, maybe five years ago, when it seemed as though poverty in India was reducing. A number of government decisions, exacerbated by Covid and the global economic crisis, is reversing so much of the positive change which had been achieved, and we are very worried about what the future holds for many of the people with whom we work. Now, as much as ever, we will do all that we can to help our partners continue their valuable work.

Recent funders include: *David Bennett, Mike Deeks, Gillie & Catherine Howarth, The Just Trust, Douglas McIlDoon, the Merali family, the Network for Social Change, Religious Society of Friends in Cornwall, Ann Scott, Anthony Stevens, Mary Stephens, and many others*

SUMMARY of IVDTrust accounts for 01.04.21 to 31.03.22

Balance on 01.04.2021

Nat. West Bank	13,159.30
COIF	<u>231.15</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,390.45</u>

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	24,901.02
The Just Trust	3,000.00
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	<u>5,123.36</u>
TOTAL	<u>33,024.38</u>

Expenditure for the year

CHALE CHALO, projects	21,668.00
The BALIGA TRUST	7,000.00
Transfer and bank charges	198.00
UK admin., memberships, etc.	0
Fundraising costs	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>28,866.00</u>

Balance on 31.03.2022

Nat. West Bank	17,317.68
CAF	<u>231.15</u>
TOTAL	<u>17,548.83</u>

The accounts have been independently examined and will shortly be submitted to the Charity Commission.

GIVING to IVDT

Without your help it would be impossible for us to continue with our work, so all donations are always very welcome.

GIFT AID - If you are a taxpayer, then you can make it possible for us to reclaim the tax on your gift – it gives us an extra 25% on top of your donation, and that can make a tremendous difference.

REGULAR GIVING by Direct Debit – Regular giving makes it much easier for us to plan our work. If you feel that you could manage to give in this way, we would be especially grateful.

DONATIONS can be made online using Paypal through our website: **www.ivdtrust.org**

or by post to:

47 Brome Place, OXFORD OX3 9LR or
7a Rosewin Row, TRURO TR1 1HG
with cheques made out to 'IVDT'.

Gift Aid and Direct Debit forms are included with the newsletter. Thank you.

We will continue to send out newsletters by post to those on our mailing list, but we are trying to reduce our costs, so if any of you would be happy to receive the newsletter by email, please do let us know, and we can make sure that that happens in future.

Contact us at:

helenanightingale@hotmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you enjoy reading about our work and all that our projects are achieving with your generosity. We feel very proud of what we help happen, bringing positive change to the lives of so many people, and it would not be possible without your help. The need for support continues – there are always more ways to spend money than raise it! Please help if you can. Your donations make a tremendous difference to the lives of people and communities. Details for making a donation are given on the last page. Thank you to everyone.



And if you would like to read a summary of our work on MANGRO over the past seven years, **ABOUT MANGRO 2015-21**, you can download that from our website (www.ivdtrust.org). Alternatively, if you let us know, we can email or post you a copy. Please contact Helena Nightingale, 7a Rosewin Row, TRURO, Cornwall TR1 1HG, 01872 270954, or helenanightingale@hotmail.com.

IVD Trust, Charity No. 1013316. Registered Address: 47 Brome Place, Oxford OX3 9LR

Trustees: Zinat Bennett, Zara Bieler, Kim Devenish, Gabriel Grouas, Erskine Holmes, Helena Nightingale

01872 270954 helenanightingale@hotmail.com www.ivdtrust.org

MAKING A DONATION

If you wish to be a regular donor, please use the **Monthly Standing Order Form** below. Regular donations help us to plan ahead for our work and fundraising, but all gifts are welcome. If you want us to know about your gift, please let us know, then we can thank you properly, and for those of you who are tax payers, there is a **Gift Aid Form** as well. We also need your consent to keep your **details**, and there is a form for that below as well. Very many thanks to you all.

.....
MONTHLY STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION – Please complete and send to YOUR bank, and NOT to IVDTrust.

TO: The Manager, (name of bank)

Address

Please pay from my account each month on (date) the sum of £ to the IVD Trust (Charity No. 1013316), Account No. 87213508, Nat. West Bank, 32 Cornmarket Street, OXFORD OX1 3ES (Sort Code 54-21-23)

This monthly payment to start on (date)

Signed Date

Bank Account No.

Address

P. S. If you want us to know about your gift, please do let us know, and then we can thank you

GIFT AID *If you make a donation to us we are able to claim back the tax that you have paid – 25p for each £1. All you need to do is fill out this form the first time you make a donation. Thank you very much for helping our work and for making your gift go further.*

Please return to: Integrated Village Development Trust, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Surname & initials)

Address:

..... (Postcode)

Email

Gift Aid Declaration: I would like Integrated Village Development Trust to claim back the tax on

my donation of £ (amount)

SIGNATURE DATE

.....

KEEPING YOUR DETAILS

By law we need to have your consent to keep your contact details without which it is not possible for us to keep in touch and let you know how your donations are being spent. We'd be grateful if **new** contacts could sign the following and post it to us at **IVDT, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG**, or send an email to helenanightingale@hotmail.com, letting us know you are happy for us to keep your details.

I, (name), of (address)

..... Email

do give my consent that IVDT may keep my contact details as given above, and may contact me with news and information about their work.

Signed Date

SUMMARY of IVDTTrust accounts for 01.04.21 to 31.03.22

Balance on 01.04.2021

Nat. West Bank	13,159.30
COIF	<u>231.15</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,390.45</u>

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	24,901.02
The Just Trust	3,000.00
HMRC Gift Aid Refund	<u>5,123.36</u>
TOTAL	<u>33,024.38</u>


Expenditure for the year

CHALE CHALO, projects	21,668.00
The BALIGA TRUST	7,000.00
Transfer and bank charges	198.00
UK admin., memberships, etc.	0
Fundraising costs	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>28,866.00</u>

Balance on 31.03.2022

Nat. West Bank	17,317.68
CAF	<u>231.15</u>
TOTAL	<u>17,548.83</u>

Signed and dated:

 18/11/22

(Gabriel GROUAS,
Hon. Treasurer)

I confirm that this represents a true account of funds into and out of IVDT's accounts for the year 1.4.2021 - 31.3.2022.

Signed and dated:

 15th November 2022

Address:

Ventnor vean
Woodhill
St Gluvias
Penryn
Cornwall
TR10 9AE

