

# PRAGYA

England & Wales · Charity number 1082476

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2000-09-20

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 37 Albert Embankment  
Vintage House  
London  
SE1 7TL

**Phone** 02032420550

**Email** [info@pragya.org](mailto:info@pragya.org)

**Website** [www.pragya.org](http://www.pragya.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ASSIST IN THE RELIEF OF NEED AND ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE PROMOTION OF ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH ALL FORMS OF LIFE SHALL BE ABLE TO FLOURISH AND NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL BE CAPABLE OF UTILISATION FOR MANKIND TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT PRAGYA (INDIA) AND PRAGYA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION AND RESEARCH (PRAGYA INTERNATIONAL)

**Activities:** Pragya enables sustainable development for the poorest, most neglected communities in remote and marginal societies, in a way that preserves and promotes local cultures and fragile ecosystems. Our grassroots programmes include: food, agriculture and rural livelihoods; conservation and renewable energy; education; empowering women and minorities; health, safe water and sanitation; and disasters.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED, IN PRACTICE WORLDWIDE
- Bangladesh
- India
- Kenya
- Nepal

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£495,946	£473,781	-	-
2024-03-31	£692,892	£688,338	£34,430	2
2023-03-31	£557,832	£841,675	£29,876	2
2022-03-31	£682,634	£501,056	£313,719	2
2021-03-31	£528,781	£396,997	£132,141	2

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>GARGI BANERJI</b>	Chair	
ARASAN ARULIAH		2000-05-17
Professor PRATAP RUGHANI		2000-05-17

**PRAGYA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1082476

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

Pragya UK, 2024-2025

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## INTRODUCTION

*Pragya UK is pleased to present our Annual Report for 2024-2025.*

We remain committed to addressing poverty and inequality across South Asia and East Africa. In alignment with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we develop and support projects throughout their lifecycle. We undertake rigorous, context-specific research, and design, implement, monitor and evaluate meaningful interventions. We deliver innovative and bespoke socio-economic programmes for sustainable development and social change.

Our raison d'être is our unwavering commitment to addressing the marginalisation of the Global South's most resource-poor communities, particularly those living in remote and under-served areas. We continue to support populations affected by climate degradation, extreme poverty, and limited access to education, health, and WASH services, working to ensure they are no longer left behind in the pursuit of national development and economic progress.

**Our vision** is one of marginalised communities living dignified lives free from poverty and injustice, fully enjoying the benefits of development in a manner harmonious with cultural heritage and the environment.

**Our mission** is to enable grassroots sustainable development for the poorest, most neglected communities in remote and marginal societies, in a way that preserves and promotes local cultures and fragile ecosystems.

### **Our thematic focus areas are:**

- **Socio-economic:** Multi-dimensional poverty, jobless growth, festering neglect of underserved and spatially marginalised groups
- **Gender:** Persisting inequality for women and other vulnerable groups, human trafficking
- **Climate:** Climate change, biodiversity loss, natural hazards, resource stress and the energy deficiency
- **Access to resources:** Governance and institutional challenges, poor social security and provision of basic amenities, protracted conflicts and displacements

### **Our geographical focus areas are:**

- South and South-East Asia:
  - o India
  - o Bangladesh
  - o Nepal
- East Africa
  - o Kenya
  - o Tanzania (project commencing January 2026)

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## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

### **In 2024-2025, Pragya focused on:**

**Climate change-induced vulnerabilities:** Climate change increasingly compounds existing social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting those with the least capacity to adapt. Pragya's work is strategically positioned at this critical intersection, addressing multiple, intersecting vulnerabilities while responding to the far-reaching impacts of a changing climate.

Under our current strategic plan, we place a strong emphasis on climate resilience among the most vulnerable communities across diverse and fragile geographies. This includes high-altitude regions of the Indian and Nepal Himalayas, where climate variability threatens livelihoods and ecosystems, coastal and riparian ecologies in India and Bangladesh where recurrent floods and extreme events lead to loss of livelihoods and land & assets, as well as the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya, where recurrent droughts, unpredictable rains, resource scarcity, and unequal opportunities intensify risks for already marginalised populations.

We prioritise groups that are particularly exposed to climate shocks—women, smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, semi-pastoralists, and informal workers—who often face intersecting socio-economic disadvantages.

Through locally grounded, context-specific approaches, Pragya supports these communities in strengthening adaptive capacities, securing sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing resilience to both current and future climate impacts.

***Gender-based vulnerability and exploitation of informal workers:*** Deep-rooted poverty, the lingering socio-economic effects of the pandemic, and the growing pressures of climate change in the Himalayan region have heightened the vulnerability of rural women and girls in Nepal to unsafe migration and trafficking. Pragya's work in 2024–2025 was strategically positioned at this intersection of economic marginalisation, gender-based risk, and climate-linked livelihood insecurity. We focused on strengthening the agency, skills, and safety of disadvantaged female youth in high-risk districts such as Sindhupalchok, an area long targeted by traffickers due to limited local employment opportunities and widespread misinformation about migration pathways. By grounding our approach in local realities and working closely with national institutions and grassroots NGOs, Pragya is supporting rural women and girls to pursue secure economic futures while reducing their vulnerability to trafficking and unsafe migration.

A bulk of the poor and often landless across South Asia are Bangladesh and Nepal are forced to earn their livelihoods as informal workers. Lacking the safeguards of employment contracts and thereby legal measures, they are frequently exploited by their employers and endure a sub-human existence. Pragya's has prioritised the rights of such informal workers, working with those across agriculture, construction, fisheries, garments & leather, and tourism, in Bangladesh and Nepal. Mobilising multiple small groups of informal workers, we have strived to empower them with information and organise them for accessing their rights.

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## **OUR PROGRAMMES IN 2024-2025**

### ***Intensifying the cultivation and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) in Kenya:***

To enhance household incomes, curb unsustainable foraging practices, and conserve biodiversity, Pragya supported over 600 small farmers, mostly women, in communities surrounding the Kakamega Forest, with the intercropping of MAPs in their fields. During the year, we strengthened partnerships with ethical traders and the Kenya Forest Service, while consolidating community-led biodiversity conservation initiatives across Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties in Kenya. We also carried out research and conversations with local communities to expand MAPs-based intervention in the adjacent Arusha region of Tanzania.

### ***Enhancing women-led grassroots capacity in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs):***

In Kenya's Samburu County, Pragya established two new educational resource centres, aimed at improving access to quality education in underserved communities. In parallel, we worked closely with pastoral groups to strengthen water resource management systems, addressing the region's heightened vulnerability to climate-induced droughts.

### ***Enabling resilience for remote and vulnerable mountain communities in Nepal:***

Alongside the continued scaling of our WASH programme in underserved mountain villages, we worked on building conservation awareness among mountain communities in two districts as a mode to improve resilience to climate change. Towards supporting sustainable livelihoods, we undertook skills development and IT training, contributing to the prevention of trafficking of vulnerable women and girls from rural and remote areas of Nepal.

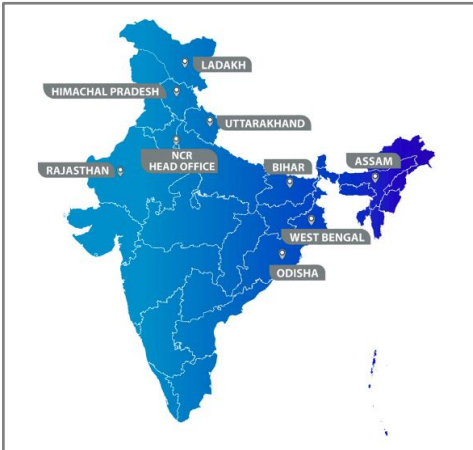
### ***Global Labour Program: An innovative platform for organising marginalised workers in Asia:***

Along with partners including Solidar Suisse and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), we worked to strengthen labour rights, inclusion, and economic opportunities for informal workers. Implemented from October 2021 to January 2025 under USAID's Global Labor Program, the GLP-POWER project operated across six countries Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand benefiting 47,634 informal workers. Pragya managed the intervention in Bangladesh and Nepal.

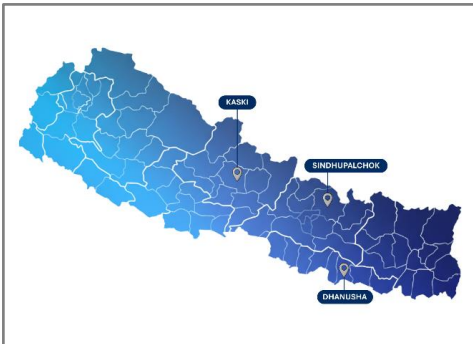
### ***Strengthening community-centred disaster management across the Indian Himalayas:***

Through the DMS-Himalaya initiative, Pragya had advanced an innovative, community-driven approach to disaster preparedness and response in one of the world's most hazard-prone mountain regions. By combining participatory risk governance with decentralised technology, including automated weather stations and a community-to-government communication platform, the project enabled remote Himalayan communities to play an active role in monitoring hazards, improving early warning, and coordinating timely response. During 2024–2025, the programme was consolidated across 12 districts in the Eastern, Central, and Western Himalayas, equipping local disaster response teams, strengthening multi-stakeholder networks, and embedding community-based disaster management practices within state systems.

## INTERVENTION AREAS



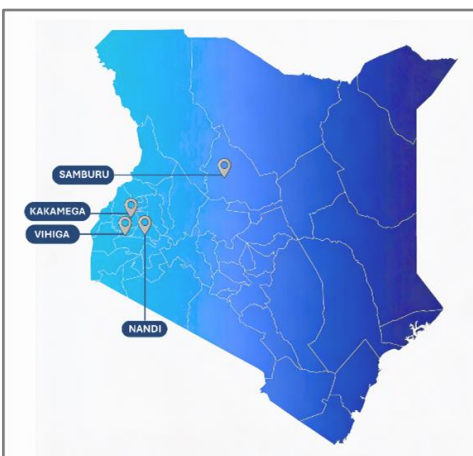
Pragya implements development programmes across eight states in northern, western, and eastern **India**. In the north, our work strengthens disaster resilience among remote Himalayan communities and promotes climate-adapted, agro-ecological farming to enhance food security and nutrition. In western India, we support marginalised ethnic minority communities through initiatives focused on women’s empowerment and access to education. In eastern India, our programmes address climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and the prevention of gender-based violence.



In **Nepal**, we work in Sindhupalchok, Kaski, and Dhanusha districts. Our work with women and girls focuses on providing education for the uptake of vocations for safe employment alternatives, in order to curb unsafe migration and human trafficking, while that with informal workers aims to help them access their rights from employers and the State. Our projects are also improving access to WASH, and supporting conservation and disaster risk reduction in climate change- affected communities



In **Bangladesh**, we work in Dhaka, Khulna and Sirajganj districts. Pragya focuses on supporting extremely poor and marginalised communities living in *Chars* (river islands) and remote coastal areas with unstable land subject to recurrent flooding and which lack essential services. We focus on waterborne diseases, groundwater contaminated with arsenic, and overall inadequate WASH facilities. Pragya is also engaged in local capacity building for disaster risk reduction linked with incessant flooding, and enabling adaptation of climate change- affected communities. With our program on rights of informal workers, we are striving to improve the safety and social security and foster ethical labour practices for informal workers.



In **Kenya**, our programmes address the complex socio-economic challenges facing nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist communities in the country’s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), with a focus on improving access to quality education, WASH services, and sustainable, agro-ecological livelihoods that support biodiversity conservation. In western Kenya—particularly in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties—we work with communities to alleviate persistent poverty while protecting the fragile Kakamega rainforest ecosystem. Through community-led conservation and the intercropping of high-value medicinal and aromatic plants, we link biodiversity protection with increased incomes for smallholder farmers and long-term environmental stewardship.

### CULTIVATION OF MAPS IN KAKAMEGA, NANDI AND VIHIGA COUNTIES OF KENYA

Pragya has been running a highly successful programme in Kakamega, Nandi and Vihiga counties since 2011. As Kenya's last remaining rainforest, this area is a biodiversity hotspot for unique, endemic plant species. These species, in turn, are increasingly in market demand, leading to unsustainable and harmful wild harvesting, for minimal returns. Pragya enables farmers on MAPs cultivation, and connects them to ethical trading networks. MAPs species require little space, can be cultivated in soil of low quality, are resilient and do not depend upon chemical control agents. As a direct result of MAPs cultivation, farmers enjoy increased incomes, communities have reduced incentives to wild harvest, which in turn protects local biodiversity.



*MAP seedlings and saplings distributed at a community nursery.*

In line with Kenya's Vision 2023, the project promotes smallholder specialisation and supports the establishment of farmer cooperatives. In 72 villages of Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi counties of Kenya, enabling small farm-holders (of whom over 60% are female), Pragya has successfully demonstrated that MAPs cultivation is an effective intervention to alleviate poverty, enhance family income and women's agency, and strengthen biodiversity conservation. Forming farmers' cooperatives and collaborating with ethical traders have empowered small scale farmers to avoid extractive middlemen and develop direct and stronger linkages with the market.

Findings from our research carried out in June 2024 on the impacts of the MAPs programme, were deeply inspiring:

- Significant income growth across the region, with average increases of 153% for women and 136% for men.
- County-level income gains demonstrate consistent impact:
  - Kakamega: Women's incomes increased by 103%; men's by 91.5%
  - Nandi: Women recorded a 161% increase; men 196%
  - Vihiga: Women's incomes rose by 197%; men by 212%
- Environmental outcomes also improved, with a 73% reduction in uncontrolled foraging of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), reflecting progress towards sustainable resource use.

Since most of the farmers have been female, and because the cooperatives have ensured women's control over their earnings, the project has had a telling impact on food security:

- 100% engaged farmers have greater ability to purchase food
- 40% have better diets, greater consumption of protein
- 80% in Kakamega, 90% in Nandi, and 95% in Vihiga have 3 meals daily

### 2024-2025

In 2024-25, the programme reached a total of 692 farmers, including 110 newly engaged during this period. Pragya has now established five nurseries and five farmers' collectives of MAP growers, helping communities

diversify their livelihoods and strengthen their capacity for long-term income generation. These collectives have taken on a central role in knowledge sharing, community-led capacity building, and negotiating fair prices with ethical traders.

Participating farmers received MAP seedlings and saplings and were supported to begin cultivation on their own farms. They benefited from regular monitoring and technical assistance, including plantation inspections and guidance on seed sowing, cutting, grafting, layering, soil preparation, fertilisation, irrigation, and the identification and organic management of pests and diseases.

During this period, 110 smallholder farmers aged 20–60 years, from Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi were selected for cultivation training based on economic need, interest in MAP production, and prior farming experience. Training sessions covered cultivation techniques, pest management, irrigation, nursery development, storage, processing, and marketing for *Aloe vera*, *Mondia whitei*, and *Ocimum kilimandscharicum*. Cultivation of these species was expanded, and additional species—*Vitex keniensis*, *Pinus spp.*, *Croton megalocarpus*, and *Tectona grandis*—were introduced for plantation in the CPAs. Pragma also distributed detailed cultivation protocols to guide farmers in successful MAP production.

4 buyer–seller meetings were organised in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi, along with one national virtual meeting, enabling regional and national ethical buyers to connect directly with farmer representatives. Discussions focused on quality standards, value addition, buy-back arrangements, market trends, and pricing, helping to strengthen sustainable market pathways for MAP cultivation.

We held 3 training sessions on cooperative enterprise and value chain addition. Farmers were capacitated on post-harvest handling, processing methods, packaging, labelling, quality control, and market access strategies. Expertise from the West Kenya Herbal Traders Association (WEKHTA) and other experts were leveraged to provide insights into harvesting, cleaning, and drying of MAP species, emphasising best practices for preserving product quality and enhancing shelf life for preserving active ingredients of medicinal values. The cooperative enterprise training focused on establishing collective marketing strategies for building collaborations amongst farmers, negotiating deals with buyers, and ensuring fair pricing for the MAP produce.



*MAPs cultivation training*



*Biodiversity monitoring training*

Two Community Conservation Groups (CCGs), one in Vihiga and the other in Nandi had been established earlier. Three CCGs are now fully formed and active. The Kakamega group was constituted during this period and trained on biodiversity tracking, seed banking, and CPA monitoring. CCGs are also guiding CPA-level replanting, coordinating seed collection, and leading community sensitization sessions on conservation issues.

Each CCG comprises 20 members from various villages within their respective counties. The criteria for joining the group include being close to areas with a high concentration of MAP species, experience in MAP cultivation, willing to participate in conservation training and actively engage in conservation activities.

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## OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2025:

- **Farmer Outreach and Engagement**
  - A total of 692 farmers reached during the year, including 110 newly engaged participants.
  - Five nurseries and five farmers' collectives of MAP growers established, strengthening livelihood diversification and long-term income generation.
  - Collectives played a key role in knowledge sharing, community-led capacity building, and negotiating fair prices with ethical traders.
- **Support for MAP Cultivation**
  - Participating farmers received MAP seedlings and saplings and began cultivation on their own farms.
  - Regular monitoring and technical assistance provided, including plantation inspections and guidance on seed sowing, cutting, grafting, layering, soil preparation, fertilisation, irrigation, and organic pest and disease management.
- **Selection and Training of Smallholder Farmers**
  - 110 smallholder farmers (aged 20–60) from Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi selected based on economic need, interest in MAP production, and prior farming experience.
  - Training covered cultivation techniques, pest management, irrigation, nursery development, storage, processing, and marketing for *Aloe vera*, *Mondia whitei*, and *Ocimum kilimandscharicum*.
  - Cultivation expanded for these species, and additional species—*Vitex keniensis*, *Pinus* spp., *Croton megalocarpus*, and *Tectona grandis*—introduced for CPA plantations.
  - Detailed cultivation protocols distributed to guide farmers in successful MAP production.
- **Market Linkages and Buyer–Seller Engagements**
  - 4 buyer–Seller meetings held in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi, plus one national virtual meeting.
  - Enabled direct connections between farmer representatives and ethical buyers.
  - Discussions focused on quality standards, value addition, buy-back arrangements, market trends, and pricing to strengthen sustainable market pathways.
- **Cooperative Enterprise and Value Chain Training**
  - Three training sessions conducted on cooperative enterprise development and value chain enhancement.
  - Farmers trained in post-harvest handling, processing methods, packaging, labelling, quality control, and market access strategies.
  - Expertise from WEKHTA and other specialists provided insights into harvesting, cleaning, and drying MAP species to preserve quality and medicinal value.
  - Training supported collective marketing strategies, collaboration among farmers, and negotiation of fair pricing.
- **Strengthening Community Conservation Groups (CCGs)**
  - Three CCGs fully active: previously established groups in Vihiga and Nandi, and a newly formed group in Kakamega.
  - Kakamega CCG trained in biodiversity tracking, seed banking, and CPA monitoring.
  - CCGs led CPA-level replanting, coordinated seed collection, and conducted community sensitization on conservation issues.

### - CCG Membership and Criteria

- Each CCG comprises 20 members from multiple villages within their counties.
- Membership criteria include proximity to MAP-rich areas, experience in MAP cultivation, willingness to participate in conservation training, and active engagement in conservation activities.

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### THE WAY FORWARD:

Encouraged by the success of the intervention in Kenya, we are taking this work into the Arusha region of Tanzania in January 2026. This expansion is critical for the development of our East Africa Model, which will enable Pragma to carry out its MAPs programme across the region.

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### EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MINORITIES; PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN RURAL NEPAL

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#### VOCATIONAL SKILLS BUILDING AND SAFE ECONOMIC MIGRATION FOR DISADVANTAGED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN RURAL NEPAL

Deep-rooted poverty, aggravated by the pandemic, as well as the increasing impact of climate change in the Himalayan region, have increased vulnerability to trafficking across at-risk groups and in particular women in Nepal. Traffickers exploit poverty, lack of local employment opportunities, and misinformation regarding migration and job prospects to lure women and girls with false promises. Once taken away from home, they are forced into several unfair labour practices, ranging from factories, domestic settings, begging, the adult entertainment industry, to prostitution. Sindhupalchok district, where the project is delivered, is notorious as a target region for human traffickers.

Pragma's project *Vocational Skills Building and prevention of trafficking for disadvantaged girls in rural Nepal*, aims to build capacity among rural female youth through certified vocational training, occupational guidance and facilitation and by providing safe migration training to them. Our interventions centre women and adolescent girls who face multiple vulnerabilities, including poverty, exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), and lack of access to formal training or safe livelihood options.

In 2024-2025, Pragma successfully set up a Vocational Facilitation Centre (VFC) in Chautara, Sindhupalchok. The VFC was equipped with necessary IT equipment, and Training-of-Trainers took place. Having carried out extensive consultation with local and national support institutions, such as the Ministry of Labour and various training institutes, Pragma was well-equipped to commence training of local women and girls.

Three villages were identified as the initial target area. Awareness events were carried out to generate interest in the upcoming courses and to identify potential trainees. From these three villages, potential trainees were then identified, based on a variety of socio-economic factors, amongst which household income and experience of GBV.

Through certified vocational training, occupational guidance, and safe-migration information sharing delivered via the newly established Vocational Facilitation Centre in Chautara, Pragma is equipping participants with market-relevant digital skills and informed decision-making capacities. The curriculum, developed with partner institutions, covered core digital tools (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint), data entry, and digital records management, along with advanced modules in digital marketing,



*Village survey in process*

content creation, social media management, and basic video editing. Participants also learned safe and effective Internet use, including email and online applications.

At the same time, a “Safety for Women” awareness kit was developed to promote safe migration practices, inform communities about available legal protections, and strengthen women’s sense of security and empowerment. The kit also aimed to build awareness and encourage community-level resistance to violence against women and the trafficking of rural girls and young women.

The kit includes user-friendly materials such as flash cards, posters, brochures, pamphlets, PowerPoint slides, and comic strips, along with selected reference literature. Its content is organised around two core themes:



*Awareness raising poster*

#### 1. Legal awareness for women and girls

- Information on fundamental rights, laws, schemes, and current initiatives relevant to women and girls in Nepal
- Details of key service providers, including legal aid, health and medical services, counselling and trauma care, helplines, and contacts for anti-trafficking officers

#### 2. Knowledge enhancement and safety training

- Understanding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), with emphasis on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Child/Early/Forced Marriage (CEFM)
- Orientation on safe migration
- Guidance on creating safe environments in schools, workplaces, and public spaces

To ensure comprehensiveness, the kit also incorporates existing materials from national institutions, including two GBV booklets from the Women’s Rehabilitation Center, and publications from the National Women’s Commission on GBV, women’s laws, and harmful traditional practices.

Lastly, a database of institutions providing protection, rescue, and rehabilitation services for adolescent girls and women at risk of, or affected by, GBV and trafficking was developed following a field survey in the target area. The database includes lawyers, police units, health centres, shelters, protection-cluster members, and local civil society organisations. The database was compiled through a review of existing information and additional secondary research to identify further relevant institutions.

Alongside this process, further consultations were held with two local NGOs, Shakti Samuha and SPAN, on issues of trafficking and safe migration. Both organisations collaborate with us on initiatives to support adolescent girls and women in the district and coordinates cross-border intervention in select districts of Nepal and India.

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### **OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2025:**

- **Mobilisation meetings with district and network agencies**
  - One district-level mobilisation meeting completed to assess vocational training needs in IT/ITES and retail/sales sectors in Sindhupalchowk based on market demand.
  - Identified gaps between existing training availability and market requirements.
  - Established linkages with agencies and institutions for future trainee placement support.
- **Establishment of the Vocational Facilitation Centre (VFC)**

- VFC fully set up and functional, equipped with a 55” Smart TV, desktops with accessories, and UPS backup to ensure uninterrupted vocational training delivery.
- **Training of Trainers – Barefoot Vocational Trainer-Counsellors**
  - Training completed.
- **Support for Barefoot Vocational Trainer-Counsellors**
  - Support mechanisms initiated and ongoing.
- **Identification of potential trainees and local awareness events**
  - One local-level awareness event conducted.
  - A structured survey administered to identify potential trainees, capturing information on education, employment status, Below Poverty Line (BPL) status, GBV experiences, interest in vocational training, preferred skills, and awareness of safe migration.
  - A total of 55 women and girls reached.
- **Enrolment drives and campaigns**
  - One enrolment drive conducted using local media, promotional materials, and information booths.
  - Finalized a list of 30 eligible trainees for vocational skill-building courses.
- **Development of ‘Safety for Women’ awareness kit**
  - A user-friendly awareness kit developed, including flashcards, posters, and curated literature.
  - Designed to promote safe migration practices and inform women and girls about legal protections, fostering community-level safety and empowerment.
  - Database of institutions for protection, rescue, and rehabilitation
  - A comprehensive database of relevant institutions developed to support referral and protection mechanisms.

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## THE WAY FORWARD:

Pragya will be continuing its program in Nepal and will be exploring ways in which to establish an integrated intervention ensuring safer migration corridor between our project countries of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Pragya has already educated 90 students in IT/ITES skills and is in the process of formulating the Retail/Sales course for roll out shortly.

## ORGANISING WORKERS RENDERED INFORMAL AND MARGINALISED IN ASIA

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### GLOBAL LABOUR PROGRAM: AN INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FOR ORGANISING MARGINALISED WORKERS IN ASIA

Asia region maintained a steady economic growth of 5% for 2025 but the development pace is uneven across countries, compounded by multiple socio-political and environmental challenges like international conflicts, pandemics, trade wars, climate-change crises, and incessant informalisation of labour. With advances in technology, new economic activities like those in the platform economy have emerged, which got a boost during the COVID-19 pandemic further expanding the vulnerability of workers employed in the informal economy.

The informal workforce in South and Southeast Asia has expanded significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for nearly 87% and 70% of total employment respectively [Source World Bank. (2022, June 14). COVID-19 has worsened the woes of South Asia’s informal sector.

Under the project, more collectives were formed by informal workers, and their memberships have grown since, with stronger leadership and improved group functioning. Informal workers have better knowledge related to their rights, their sectoral and vocational skills, increased confidence and assertiveness with access to dedicated

resources and services (legal and psychosocial), and the groups are displaying greater solidarity, cohesion, and inclusiveness. This succeeded in leveraging solidarity from networks and alliances built through the project, particularly with civil society and legal aid networks across the region.

**Key strengths of the programme are:**

- Agency of marginalised workers: The programme is grounded in the principle that marginalised workers are not passive recipients of change, but active agents with the capacity to organise, amplify their voices, and lead peaceful processes that advance dignity, equity, and justice for all working women and men.
- Innovation to build collective grassroots power: Through applied, grassroots research, the project develops innovative organising approaches that help workers overcome structural barriers—such as shrinking spaces for dialogue and negotiation—and respond effectively to the challenges of informal work and the evolving gig economy.
- A tech-enabled, grassroots platform for organisation and negotiation: The project has established a hybrid (digital and offline) platform that connects informal workers across sectors at national and regional levels. It fosters solidarity and shared learning on effective advocacy and bargaining, while applied research generates actionable data that is fed back to grassroots organisations as practical tools for learning and capacity building.

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**OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2025:**

- Research and training: An online sub-regional exchange meeting facilitated by Pragya brought together resource organizations from South Asia to share experiences and strategies on bargaining, collaboration, and joint action. The discussion strengthened approaches to monitoring systems, membership expansion, and collectivization, while also exploring innovative organizing and bargaining methods, use of CONNECT, and leveraging local media to enhance platform uptake. The researchers at Grassroots Resource Organisations (GROs) were taken through a refresher training on social research methodologies, capacitated on the PAR (Participative Action Research) processes which was instrumental in conducting the annual PAR.
- Workers' mobilisation: A total of 36,003 informal workers (IWs) – 20,023 in Bangladesh and 15,980 in Nepal - have now been mobilised through meetings and outreach sessions. 46.50% of them are women. They represent informal workers from a range of sectors including Agricultural, Gig & Delivery, Fisheries, and Tourism. Additional small IW groups have been identified and federated into larger collectives. Till January 2025, there are a total of 224 (BD:126; NP:98) non-formal smaller groups of informal workers federated into 21 (BD:13, NP:8) larger collectives with a total membership of 31265 (NP: 9824, BD: 21441) informal workers, with 3374 IWs added in the reporting period.
- Design and operation of platform: Using participatory approach, modules relating to legal education, support, helplines, and rights were developed for the platform. Contents on National Legal Aid Service Organization, legal Helplines, ILO conventions, international treaties ratified by Bangladesh, have been uploaded on the platform. Several Toolkits have been developed, designed and published on CONNECT on Collective Action, Collective bargaining and negotiation, Organise for your rights, How to start a campaign (using social media), Do's and Don'ts of safe migration (one each for Bangladesh and Nepal) and Social Security Allowance.
- Development of the platform web-portal: The CONNECT app was tested and updated to link with existing networks and forums. Some of the local players who are keen to contribute to the advocacy efforts have provided space on their website for putting GLP-POWER (CONNECT) link. This has boosted the confidence of the leaders of the worker collectives and coordinator teams, making them redouble their efforts for reaching out to likeminded organizations and networks for collaboration and towards amplifying the voices of the informal workers.

- Handholding of the platform: Coordinators for South Asia were provided a Booster training on Platform to ably promote the usage of the platform among the workers. IWs received training on leadership, listening to other IWs issues, and to determine bargaining strategies with their representative power centres and forging new alliances with other sector groups, training programs, collaborations with locals CSOs who were likely to help them exert pressure on government and in turn bring some significant changes in their lives. 651 IWs across SA were successful in voicing the concerns to their respective employers through 71 meetings during the period.
- Platform participation and services: Significant orientation sessions have seen IWs grasp app fundamentals. 29655 (BD:16110; NP: 13545) informal workers have been registered on the platform in SA, 11173 (BD:6241; NP:4932) till January 2025. Content (including audio/visual) has been designed which aligns strongly with sectoral requirements, on issues elicited from workers, which included leadership, resisting backlash, resource mobilisation, feminist realities, bargaining, safe migration, micro credit, helpline numbers, types of bank accounts, and social protection schemes. The aim is to provide up-to-date knowledge and skills that enable worker-led effective organising, bargaining and advocacy initiatives on the ground. Content has addressed issues including gender equality, equal pay for equal work, as well as stories on how to find safe employment during migration.
- 18 Psychosocial Counsellors (12 BD; 6 NP) and 5 Legal Advisors (2 BD; 6 NP) identified and enlisted in the Resource Directory continued to provide pro bono services. Psychosocial support services available on the platform have significantly impacted group members, particularly women, by addressing a range of emotional, psychological, and social challenges they face. On a monthly basis, the mentors and coordinator teams finalise slots for the workers wanting one-on-one counselling with the service providers available. In addition, Camps, led by registered psychosocial experts, created a non-judgmental, safe space for workers to consult specialists and openly share their concerns in Nepal and Bangladesh. A total of 13 kiosks has been established (BD: 6, NP: 7) till January 2025 which facilitated group meetings without the engagement of the coordinator teams, speaking of their growing agency through the platform.
- Facilitating, sharing and bargaining: Significant progress has been made towards the overall outcomes of the programme. 228 IWs across SA participated in 6 moderated deliberations on the theme of Skills and Resources Deficit, Lack of Alternative Livelihoods, and Living Conditions & Lack of Employment Benefits under the overarching theme of Working Conditions. The huge demand of service events on entrepreneurship, organising and bargaining skills, as an outcome of the deliberations showed that providing relevant, practical knowledge like access to government schemes and financial support can have long term benefits for informal workers. Since the inception of the project, 60 Industry Associations (BD 37; NP 23) and 71 enabling institutions (BD 45; NP 26) have been identified in the target sectors of respective countries. These institutions assist group leaders and mentors for establishing contacts with decision makers in power centres.
- Evidence sharing and knowledge development: PAR found there is a substantial increase in IWs' assertion and expression towards seeking their rights, more frequently with their employers and their elected representatives. Additionally, it recorded a noticeable improvement in IWs interacting with media and using social media as a tool for campaigning leading to a decrease in barriers/constraints in accessing services by informal workers. Substantial increase has been observed in terms of women and marginalized sections taking on leadership roles across SA. Noteworthy changes were observed in levels of visibility of IWs through various means like deliberations on informal workers issues among civil society institutions and among government authorities. As part of efforts to establish a Knowledge Hub, Pragma developed an audience profile outlining potential users and their needs for research repositories, data, and policy briefs on informal workers. The profile included stakeholders from academia, think tanks, CSOs, trade unions, government, media, legal, health, and development sectors. The Knowledge Hub website and Content Management System (CMS) were developed and tested to store project learnings and good practices.
- Seeds for scaling: A campaign through a series of mailers were sent to the relevant stakeholders in Nepal and Bangladesh, such as CSOs, NGOs and government representatives. The mailers were differentiated by sector, with specific mailers for agriculture workers, gig workers and tourism workers. In Nepal 101

stakeholders were reached out and 66 among them pledged for the cause while acknowledging the campaign. Similarly, 54 stakeholders out of 110 in Bangladesh pledged solidarity and commitment while acknowledging the campaign. Cross-sectoral advocacy alliances were supposed to be formed for pressure-group action and sustaining the interest of the informal workers' movement. Selected institutions and individuals were to be identified as potential change makers, working to influence policies and practices towards improved living and working conditions for informal workers and access to worker rights.

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### THE WAY FORWARD:

The sudden and unexpected termination of the project by the US government has been the biggest obstacle to its success. The abrupt closure disrupted project implementation, data collection, and monitoring of results; tasks were left incomplete, and significant opportunities of informal workers agency could not be supported. The strong momentum built over four years, the wins (great and small) achieved through the project, had to come to a grinding halt, causing dangerous repercussions for partner organizations who had to lay off staff, and the grassroots collectives of informal workers that had been budding with optimism to strive forward for their rights. Pragma is consolidating the progress made and moving forward with the basic elements of the project.

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## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE

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### DMS-HIMALAYA PHASE II: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYAS

Pragma has been implementing the DMS-Himalaya programme across vulnerable districts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam, responding to the growing frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters in the Indian Himalayan region. Steep terrain, fragile ecosystems, limited infrastructure and significant gaps in localised weather data have historically constrained disaster preparedness and response, placing remote mountain communities at disproportionate risk from floods, landslides, forest fires and extreme weather events.

To address these challenges, Pragma developed DMS-Himalaya, an integrated, technology-enabled disaster management system that combines community-based preparedness with real-time hazard monitoring and government coordination. The model centres on participative risk governance, enabling communities to function as first responders while strengthening linkages with district and state disaster management authorities.

Across the project geography, Pragma installed Automated Weather Stations (AWS) in remote and hazard-prone locations, significantly improving the availability of hyper-local weather and climate data in areas previously unserved by formal observation systems. These AWS units were integrated with the DMS-Himalaya mobile application, enabling real-time dissemination of weather alerts, hazard reports and early warnings between communities, Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) and district authorities.

At the community level, Pragma formed and trained local Disaster Response Teams (DRTs), equipping them with skills in early warning interpretation, emergency communication, evacuation coordination, and first response. These DRTs were supported with Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (HRVCA) and Disaster Management Resource Directories, strengthening local preparedness planning and response efficiency.

During the year, DMS-Himalaya Phase II consolidated and operationalised community-led disaster preparedness across vulnerable districts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam. DRTs were actively functioning as first responders, using the DMS-Himalaya mobile application and local hazard information to monitor environmental conditions, disseminate early warnings, and support communities during real-time

disaster events, including floods, landslides, forest fires and extreme rainfall. HRVCAs were utilised at the community level, enabling improved understanding of local risks, response resources and preparedness actions. The DMS-Himalaya system was actively used during disaster situations, including the evacuation of approximately 900 people during floods in Lakhimpur district, Assam and community-led responses to forest fires in Himachal Pradesh and landslide and flood risks in Uttarakhand.

Importantly, the DMS-Himalaya infrastructure, tools and response mechanisms were formally handed over to district governments, and state-level consultations were held, marking a significant step towards institutional ownership, long-term sustainability and potential scale-up of the model across the Indian Himalayan region.

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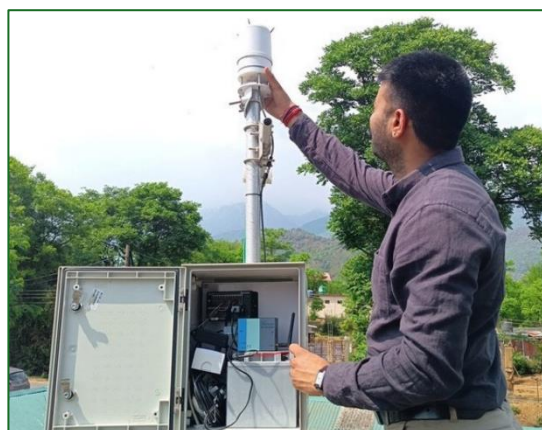
## **OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2025:**

### **Community preparedness and response**

- All 240 Disaster Response Team (DRT) leaders trained and actively displaying capacity to monitor environmental parameters and dominant natural hazards, issue timely alerts to their communities, and provide effective response during disaster events.
- Community-level disaster preparedness strengthened across 240 village clusters, with communities aware of disaster risks, preparedness measures, and village-specific Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (HVCAs).
- Community leaders trained in risk governance, resulting in enhanced confidence and a stronger sense of safety and security within communities.
- A broad base of disaster management leadership established across multiple community sub-groups, ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups and their specific needs in preparedness and response efforts.

### **Technology-enabled disaster management**

- Automated Weather Stations (AWS) installed across 12 Himalayan districts in remote and hazard-prone locations, improving access to hyper-local weather and climate data.
- AWS integrated with the DMS-Himalaya mobile application, enabling real-time hazard alerts and two-way communication between communities, DRTs and district authorities.
- The full DMS-Himalaya system, including AWS, digital tools and community response mechanisms, was successfully adapted and implemented in 8 new districts during the project period.
- All DMS-Himalaya systems, equipment and tools were handed over to local governments and communities, ensuring operational continuity and sustainability.



*Monitoring of AWS*

### **Planning and institutional strengthening**

- Village-specific Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (HVCAs) and Disaster Management Resource Directories developed and used to strengthen local disaster preparedness and response planning across intervention areas.
- Guided implementation completed in 12 Himalayan districts, involving communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, government agencies and civil society responders.
- All DMS-Himalaya equipment, systems and tools formally handed over to local governments and communities, ensuring institutional ownership and long-term sustainability.



*Community involved in disaster management*

- **District-level disaster management systems**

- 12 District Disaster Management Support Units (DDMSUs) operated throughout the project period, delivering disaster awareness creation, information provision, capacity building, and support for mitigation, preparedness and response.
- DDMSUs have significantly strengthened disaster management capacity across all target districts.

- **Evidence generation and institutional uptake**

- 58 responder agencies across 12 districts engaged in creating, sharing and using evidence on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM).
- District-, state- and national-level sharing events enhanced acceptance and embedding of DMS-Himalaya methodologies.
- All district governments have taken ownership of DMS-Himalaya Automated Weather Stations (AWS), with networks and tools fully in place.
- One state government has formally expressed interest in expanding DMS-Himalaya to additional districts, indicating strong institutional uptake.

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## **THE WAY FORWARD**

In light of increasing climate change impacts across the Himalayan belt, Pragya proposes expanding the geographic coverage and scope of DMS-Himalaya to support holistic climate risk management, integrating adaptation, mitigation, and protection measures. Future phases will aim to institutionalise proactive climate risk planning within local governance systems and strengthen resilience across the Indian Himalayan region.

## PRAGYA UK – A BRIEF

Pragya UK is part of a global network of locally registered Pragya organisations united by a shared purpose and vision. The UK office functions as a hub for fundraising, communications, project development, and programme management. Our model relies on close collaboration with our sister organisations and carefully selected in-country NGO partners, ensuring that programmes are delivered by teams with deep contextual knowledge while also strengthening local labour markets.



In India, Pragya UK implements its initiatives through Pragya India. Established in 1995 and headquartered in Gurgaon, Pragya India operates across western, northern, and eastern regions through an extensive network of field offices. With strong research and advocacy capabilities, Pragya India delivers a wide portfolio of projects spanning all Pragya programme areas.

Pragya UK has partnered with selected CSOs and Pragya Solutions in Nepal since 2006. Based in Kathmandu, Pragya Solutions, Nepal coordinates project delivery by local CSOs across rural districts, drawing on their highly localised expertise. Our work in Nepal during the reporting year continued to focus on vocational skills and safe migration, and the prevention of gender-based violence and human trafficking, and empowerment of informal workers. The vocational skills-building initiatives delivered in 2024–2025 were supported by the Souter Charitable Trust, Evan Cornish Foundation, and Coles-Medlock Foundation, whose contributions strengthened opportunities for vulnerable groups seeking safer livelihoods, and USAID-GLP's support for informal workers.

Our engagement in Bangladesh began in 2018, working with national NGOs to address the acute vulnerabilities faced by river island communities. Following research and pilot activities in 2018–19, Pragya secured grant funding in 2019–20 to launch full programming, initially focused on WASH and with planned expansion into disaster management, livelihoods, anti-trafficking and violence prevention, and education. During 2024-'25, USAID-GLP's support aided our work with empowerment of informal workers.

In East Africa, Pragya UK collaborates with Pragya Kenya, founded in 2011 and based in Nairobi. Pragya Kenya delivers projects alongside selected local NGOs in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties in western

Kenya, as well as in the northern Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. Their expertise spans water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, healthcare, education, and inter-community conflict resolution. During the 2024–2025 reporting year, our WASH work in Kenya was funded by the Charles Hayward Foundation and the Eleanor Rathbone Trust, while our MAPs programming was supported by the Egis Foundation, Gibbs Charitable Trust, and the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust.

Building on this strong regional presence, Pragma UK has also been preparing for expansion into Tanzania. Foundational work to establish partnerships and operational structures began during the reporting period, with formal expansion activities scheduled to commence in January 2026. This development marks an important step in strengthening our East Africa portfolio and extending support to communities facing similar development challenges.

*We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every funder, partner, and member of our team whose belief in Pragma's mission made this year's progress possible. Your continued support enables us to reach communities where the need is greatest and deliver lasting impact.*

**PRAGYA**

Development without Destruction  
Empowerment for Enabling Choices

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Company number</b>	N.A.
<b>Charity number</b>	1082476
<b>Registered office</b>	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
<b>Trustees</b>	Gargi Banerji - Chairperson Arasan Aruliah Pratap Rughani
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC 176 Camden High Street London NW1 8QL
<b>Solicitors</b>	N.A.

**C O N T E N T S**

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative information are set out on page 2 and forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### STATUS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT

PRAGYA was registered as a charity on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

#### Charitable Objects

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The objects of the charity are:

- i. to stimulate development in vulnerable and neglected communities, particularly in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile areas, enabling and empowering them through the use of appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and indigenous solutions.
- ii. to encourage improved natural resource management, and conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural and cultural heritage in sensitive ecosystems and communities;
- iii. to institute alternative, sustainable development forms in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile and pristine areas, through development action and policy change;
- iv. to conduct research in the development sciences with special reference to the target areas and groups (as above), develop appropriate models/products/tools/techniques, and document, publish and exchange the learnings acquired;
- v. to raise funds to support activities towards meeting the above objectives of the Charity.

### TRUSTEES

Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr. Arasan Aruliah  
4, Middleton Grove  
London N7 9LU

Ms. Gargi Banerji - Chair  
102, Tower 4, The Palms, Sector 30  
Gurgaon - 122001, India

Mr. Pratap Rughani  
22, Sugar Loaf Walk  
Bethnal Green  
London E2 OJQ

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## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustee Board meets two times a year.

### Internal Control, Management and Risk Review

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Governance activities include maintaining ongoing controls and procedures to ensure effective stewardship of financial and other resources, and monitoring of annual objectives against an agreed strategic and business plan for the organisation. The Trustee Board receives regular reports from management staff and conducts an in-depth review at least twice a year. This review includes an assessment of key internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the charity's general and specific objectives – and forms the basis of agreed updates and amendments to the strategic plan.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and identification and management of risks.

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity's internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees have reviewed risks and are satisfied that appropriate mitigating controls and actions are in place.

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

### Beneficiaries

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The primary beneficiaries of the charity include the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Nepal. In addition, the wider public, policymakers and others that can influence and bring about a positive change in the condition of the primary beneficiaries are also targeted by the charity through its interventions.

### Objectives

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The objectives of the charity include:

- i. Build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to access their rights and achieve their own development goals.
- ii. Enhance the economic and livelihood opportunities available to disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to conserve and utilise their surrounding ecosystem in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- iv. Conserve and promote traditional culture and knowledge.
- v. Utilise this traditional knowledge alongside new technology to improve the management of natural resources in the ecologically sensitive areas.
- vi. Advocate within the UK and internationally on the importance of supporting community-led development and environmental conservation.

Our objectives are achieved through:

- Mobilising resources and providing knowledge and monitoring inputs for projects being implemented by partners in disadvantaged regions.
- Documenting needs of communities and project learnings and sharing with stakeholders and the development community in the UK.
- Participating in various fora and networking for developing wider awareness and building a support base for target issues/region in the UK.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our key financial objectives were to secure funding for current services and to increase our unrestricted reserves to expand and develop new areas of work. We were successful in enhancing resources for existing programmes as well as in scaling up new areas of work.

Total incoming resources for the year were £495,946 (2024 - £692,892); total expenditure was £473,781 (2024 - £688,338). A breakdown of expenditure by activity areas is on Statement of financial Activities (page 9).

Total funds during the year increased by £22,165 (2024 - £4,554), bringing the funds carried forward to £56,595 (2024 - £34,430).

**Reserves Policy and Going Concern**

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Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2025 would be at a level sufficient to cover three months' expenditure, i.e. £15,000. The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that Charity are a going concern.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '*charities and public benefit*'.

Pragya's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects - to support and develop the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in the underserved regions. The Trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering programmes and services that are of value to the participants of the projects. The participants are members of the public known to and/or identified by Partner organisations (e.g. NGO's, Local Authorities, Aid Agencies) with whom and for whom Pragya develops the projects. These partnerships ensure that Pragya's activities reach the right recipients and thus fulfil the charities core objectives.

Approved by the Board on 16 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

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## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF PRAGYA**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andi Dollia, CPFA

Additude Ltd  
9 Rhapsody Court  
Wakeman Road  
London NW10 5DF

Date: *16 January 2026*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating income and expenditure account)**

	Note	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2025 Total (£)	2024 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	495,946	-	<b>495,946</b>	692,892
Charitable activities					-
Investment and other income					-
<b>Total (Total Income)</b>		<b>495,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>495,946</b>	692,892
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	3				
Raising funds		23,832	-	<b>23,832</b>	16,843
Charitable activities		449,949	-	<b>449,949</b>	671,495
Other					
<b>Total (Total Expenditure)</b>		<b>473,781</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>473,781</b>	688,338
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>					
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	4	<b>22,165</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,165</b>	4,554
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>22,165</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,165</b>	4,554
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		6,543	27,887	<b>34,430</b>	29,876
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>28,708</b>	<b>27,887</b>	<b>56,595</b>	34,430

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank		65,004	36,455
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		65,004	36,455
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	8,409	2,025
<b>Net current assets</b>		56,595	34,430
<b>Net assets</b>	8	56,595	34,430
<b>Funds</b>	9		
Restricted		28,708	6,543
General		27,887	27,887
<b>Total funds</b>		56,595	34,430

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question. The directors acknowledge responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far applicable to the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 16 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. Accounting policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).
- b. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c. Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- e. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- f. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- g. The costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work.

**2. Donations and legacies**

	2025			2024
	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	Total (£)	Total (£)
Brian Mercer Trust	15,000	-	15,000	10,000
Charles Hayward Foundation	15,000	-	15,000	-
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Gibbs Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	-	-	-	15,029
Marsh Charitable Trust	-	-	-	600
Oakdale Trust	-	-	-	3,000
Other Trusts and foundations	-	-	-	161,260
Save the children (ELRHA)	-	-	-	85,767
Solidar Suisse, Switzerland	396,573	-	396,573	397,736
Souter Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	8,000
Stiftung Drittes Millennium	17,370	-	17,370	-
The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust	12,000	-	12,000	-
The Coles-Medlock Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-
The Egis Corporate Foundation	16,203	-	16,203	-
The Miss K.M. Harbinson Charitable Trust	800	-	800	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>495,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>495,946</b>	<b>692,892</b>

**3. Total Expenditure**

Expenditure	Cost of raising funds (£)	Cost of charitable activities (£)	Support Costs (£)	2025 Total (£)	2024 Total (£)
Staff costs (note 5)	16,944	33,889	12,520	63,353	51,935
Rent, insurance, utilities, services	-	-	11,486	11,486	11,293
Bank Charges	-	-	933	933	1,251
Postage and telephone	-	-	593	593	769
Membership Subscriptions	-	-	19	19	1,061
Independent Examination	-	-	1,400	1,400	1,300
Consultancy fees	-	-	600	600	600
Direct project expenses	-	395,397	-	395,397	619,035
Insurance	-	-	-	-	1094
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,944</b>	<b>429,286</b>	<b>27,551</b>	<b>473,781</b>	<b>688,338</b>
Add: allocation of support costs	6,888	20,663	(27,551)		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>23,832</b>	<b>449,949</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>473,781</b>	<b>688,338</b>

**4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

This is stated after charging / crediting:	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<b>1,400</b>	1,300

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Salaries and wages	61,000	51,526
Social security costs	907	-
Pension contributions	1,446	409
Total emoluments paid to employees were:	<b>63,353</b>	<b>51,935</b>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2024 – none)		
The average weekly number of staff (expressed as full-time equivalents) during the year was 1.8 (2024: 1.8)		
	<b>2025 (FTE)</b>	2024 (FTE)
Raising funds	0.5	0.5
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Support costs	0.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**6. Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**7. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	<b>2025 (£)</b>	2024 (£)
Trade Creditors	<b>915</b>	148
Other Creditors	<b>5,794</b>	277
Independent Examination	<b>1,400</b>	1,300
Accruals and Provisions	<b>300</b>	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,409</b>	2,025

**8. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted Funds (£)	General funds (£)	<b>Total funds (£)</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	28,708	27,887	<b>56,595</b>
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>28,708</b>	<b>27,887</b>	<b>56,595</b>

**9. Movements in Fund**

	At the start of the year (£)	Incoming resources (£)	Outgoing resources (£)	Transfers (£)	At the end of the year (£)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	27,887	-	-	-	27,887
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	6,543	495,946	473,781	-	28,708
<b>Total funds</b>	34,430	495,946	473,781	-	56,595
<b><u>Purposes of funds</u></b>					
<b>General funds:</b> These are the free reserves of the Charity, which can be used for any purpose within its charitable objects.					
<b>Restricted funds:</b> The restricted funding was received over the course of the financial year for use in the ‘Gender’ projects, ‘Sustainable Livelihoods’, ‘WASH’, ‘Informal labour’ projects and for ‘Disaster Risk Reduction & Management’ Projects					

**PRAGYA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1082476

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# Accounts

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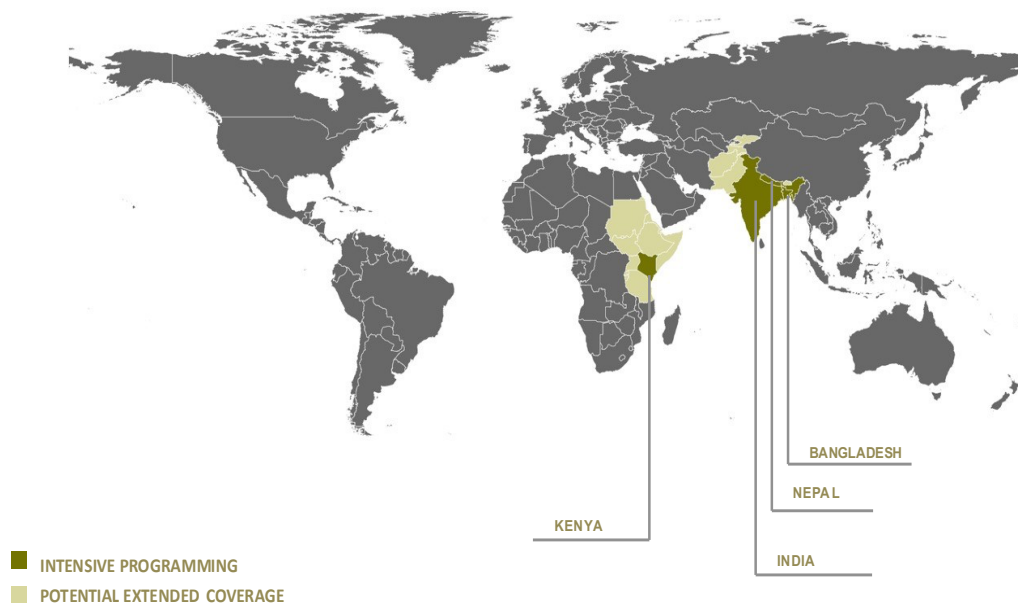
## INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to share with you our Annual Report 2023-24!

Pragya UK is dedicated to tackling poverty and inequality challenges in South Asia and East Africa. Supporting multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals, we undertake granular research and design, deliver, evaluate, and carry out groundbreaking bespoke socioeconomic development programmes. What ties our diverse portfolio together is our unflinching resolve to addressing the marginalisation of the Global South’s most resource-poor, remote, and deprived communities, those typically left behind as nations develop and prosper over time.

**Our Vision** is one of marginalised communities living dignified lives free from poverty and injustice, fully enjoying the benefits of development in a manner harmonious with cultural heritage and the environment.

**Our Mission** is to enable grassroots sustainable development for the poorest, most neglected communities in remote and marginal societies, in a way that preserves and promotes local cultures and fragile ecosystems.



**Our thematic focus** areas are:

- Inequality and multi-dimensional poverty, jobless growth, festering neglect of underserved and spatially marginalised groups
- Persisting inequality for women and other vulnerable groups
- Climate change, biodiversity loss, natural hazards, resource stress and the energy deficit
- Governance and institutional challenges, protracted conflicts and disenfranchised groups

*Pragya’s community-centred holistic approach and track record of delivering sustainable impact have received several recognitions and awards: the Whitley Gold Award for Nature Conservation (2000), an Energy Globe Award (2005), a STARS Impact Award (2010), USAID’s All Children Reading - Grand Challenge for Development Award (2012), a Top 20 Innovation in Risk Award (2015), and an ICT for Mountain Development Award (2016). Pragya holds Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC.*

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## **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:**

### **PRAGYA in 2023-24 focussed on:**

*Technology for Development and for connecting remote communities:* Pragma has developed a platform for connecting informal labour across seven countries that is available in both android and ios platform. In the sphere of Disaster Management Pragma has developed an App that connects citizens with the State agencies during pre, during and post phases of a disaster event. For income enhancement in the farm sector, Pragma has reinforced the existing App on crop advisory and market linkages with information on weather, crop diseases, impact of changing climate and the market data.

*Climate change and intersectionalities:* Pragma put in its efforts on the intersection of vulnerability of all kinds and the impacts of climate change. Our current strategic plan focusses in particular on vulnerable groups and responses to climate change across different geographies including the high altitudes of Indian Himalayas, and the ASALs of Kenya. Women, smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, pastoralists, informal workers, are among some of the most vulnerable groups in these geographies that are being assisted to adapt to climate change.

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## **OUR PROGRAMMES IN 2023-24 INCLUDED:**

### **Promoting medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation and conservation in Kenya**

To improve family income, curb uncontrolled foraging, and conserve biodiversity, we have continued to support the intercropping of MAPs among small farm holders around Kakamega Forest, strengthen the partnership with ethical traders and the Forest Department of Kenya.

### **Building grassroots capacity in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)**

In Kenya's ASALs, Pragma established two new educational resource centres in Samburu County, which aim to improve educational outcomes in underserved areas. Pragma is also working directly with pastoral groups to improve water resource management, as the region is uniquely threatened by increasing droughts due to climate change.

### **Enabling resilience for remote and vulnerable mountain communities in Nepal**

While continuing to scale our WASH programme for underserved mountain villages, we have further expanded our programme to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and the trafficking of women and girls in rural Nepal.

### **Global Labor Program: An Innovative Platform for Organising Marginalised Workers in Asia**

2023-24 saw the completion of the first two years of Pragma's initiative to mobilise regional networks of informal workers in Nepal and Bangladesh, which will run through to 2026. The work is part of a broader, multi-partner programme to enable more effective, coordinated organisation of marginalised and informal labour across south and southeast Asia.

### **Scaling DMS-Himalaya**

Building on research that began in 2012, as well as programme design and development supported by ELRHA's Human Innovation Fund, Pragma's pioneering citizen-led disaster management system has now been trialled across India's western, central, and eastern Himalayan regions.

## INTERVENTION AREAS



In India, Pragma’s work is spread across 8 states in its northern, western and eastern regions. In the north, we work in the Himalayan regions, focusing on disaster management, empowering isolated communities for improved disaster resilience and coordination with disaster management authorities. We also enable farming communities to embrace climate-adapted agriculture for enhanced food security and nutrition. To the west, our work with impoverished ethnic minority communities in Rajasthan, with initiatives designed around women’s empowerment and access to education. In the east, our focus is on climate-smart agriculture, prevention of GBV, and disaster management.



In Nepal, we work in Sindhupalchok, Dhading, and Dhanusha districts. We deliver WASH solutions and enabling communities to avail safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Our livelihoods work enables uptake of alternative vocations for rapid income generation and sustainable microenterprise development, and we support rural youth with vocational awareness and training. Since the target districts are hotspots for GBV and human trafficking, we provide vocational training and safe migration towards the prevention of GBV and trafficking. Pragma’s contributions to the Global Labor Program initiative has begun to work with informal workers in Nepal.



In Bangladesh, we work in Dhaka, Khulna and Sirajganj districts. Pragma focuses on supporting extremely poor and marginalised communities living in *Chars* – river islands with unstable land subject to recurrent flooding and which lack essential services. We focus on waterborne diseases, groundwater contaminated with arsenic, and overall inadequate WASH facilities. Pragma is also engaged in local capacity building for disaster risk reduction linked with incessant flooding. With our Global Labor Program, we are working with informal workers in Bangladesh on safety, social security and ethical labour practices.



In Kenya, we address the socioeconomic challenges specific to nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist groups impacted by climate change, geographic isolation, and marginalisation. This includes enhancing access to quality education, facilitating locally appropriate WASH as well as livelihoods and community health solutions. In western Kenya, we work with communities in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties, where widespread poverty places unsustainable pressure on the Kakamega rainforest. We empower communities to conserve biodiversity whilst simultaneously supporting smallholders to undertake intercropping of high-value medicinal plants.

### LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SECURITY, AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

#### GROWING MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS (MAPS) IN KAKAMEGA, NANDI AND VIHIGA COUNTIES OF KENYA

To alleviate poverty and promote environmental stewardship among local communities, Pragya has been running a highly successful programme in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties. A biodiversity hotspot and Kenya's last remaining rainforest, the area is home to a variety of unique, often endemic, plant species, many of which are increasingly in demand as markets for MAP-based products grow in Kenya and internationally. Through increased incomes, disaster resilience is increased during times of hardship such as drought and flooding. Requiring little space, MAPs is cultivated even in areas with low soil quality, otherwise unused by agricultural production. MAP species typically improve soil quality in multiple ways, are relatively resilient and stress-tolerant, and are less dependent on chemical control agents. In turn, the propagation of in-demand species via sustainable cultivation by smallholders and community nurseries increases often threatened plant populations and reduces incentives to harvest them in the wild, an unsustainable practice that has detrimental effects to forest ecosystems.



The project aligns with the Kenya's [National Climate Change Action Plan \(NCCAP\) 2023-2027](#) and [Vision 2030](#), promoting smallholder specialisation and supporting agri-business cooperatives in a unique and growing sector. [The global market for medicinal and aromatic plants](#) (MAPs) grew from US \$2.4bn in 1996 to US \$6.2bn in 2013, and it is estimated to reach US \$5trillion by 2050), reflecting a diverse demand for MAP-based products spanning food and cooking herbs, herbal remedies, insecticides, personal and household hygiene products, perfumes, dyes and cosmetics. Many developing countries and regions are uniquely poised to capitalise on this demand due to the industry's relatively low barriers to entry, and the potential for novel product development from rare or endemic flora as well as from existing ethnobotanic traditions. In Kenya, exports in MAPs grew by more than 6% from 2017 to 2018. Economic benefits from MAPs in Kakamega forest area in terms of direct use value has reached about US \$5.19 million/year.

In the year 2023-24, the project reached out to 262 farmers in 72 villages of these three counties. It ran 3 nurseries, one in each county, and four collectives of MAPs growers diversifying their livelihoods and improving capacity for long-term income. Collectives helped transfer Pragya's knowledge-sharing role to communities, anchored capacity building and worked closely with ethical traders to bargain better prices for their produce. Engaged farmers were supplied with MAP seedlings/saplings and assisted to initiate MAP cultivation on their farms. They received regular monitoring and support including visual inspections of plantations, along with guidance on seed sowing, cutting, grafting, and layering; soil management practices, including soil preparation, fertilisation, and irrigation; and knowledge of plant diseases and pests and organic measures for their management. During the current reporting period, the 120 smallholder farmers aged between 20 to 60 across Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi were selected for cultivation training based on their economic conditions, interest in MAP cultivation and farming experience. The trainings covered cultivation, pest management, irrigation, nursery raising, storage, processing, and marketing for Aloe vera, *Mondia whitei*, and *Occimum kilimandscharicum*. The cultivation of these plants was expanded, along with the addition of new species like *Vitex keniensis*, *Pinus* spp., *Croton megalocarpus*, and *Tectona grandis* for

plantation in the CPAs. Detailed cultivation protocols developed by Pragya were distributed to farmers, facilitating them for successful MAP cultivation.

Four Buyer-Seller meetings were held with three in person meetings in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi and one online, to ensure that the regional and national ethical buyers from outside the three counties could connect with farmer representatives. Discussions included quality standards, value addition, buy-back agreements, market trends, and pricing to reinforce sustainable market practices for MAP cultivation.

We held four training sessions on cooperative enterprise and value chain addition. Farmers were capacitated on post-harvest handling, processing methods, packaging, labelling, quality control, and market access strategies. Expertise from the West Kenya Herbal Traders Association (WEKHTA) and other experts were leveraged to provide insights into harvesting, cleaning, and drying of MAP species, emphasising best practices for preserving product quality and enhancing shelf life for preserving active ingredients of medicinal values. The cooperative enterprise training focused on establishing collective marketing strategies for building collaborations amongst farmers, negotiating deals with buyers, and ensuring fair pricing for the MAP produce.

During the previous reporting period, over 2000 people were reached through awareness campaigns in the three counties, focusing on MAP conservation, ecological roles, economic value, threats like deforestation, and conservation methods. These initial cohort facilitated cascading of information within communities by highlighting the importance of MAP species. This was instrumental in attracting new farmers and fostering collaboration between local communities, herbalists, and forest guards. The established Community Conservation Groups (CCGs) actively monitored biodiversity in Community Protected Areas (CPAs), leading to tangible conservation successes including reduced illegal logging for charcoal and wild harvesting, decreased resource theft and initiatives for reforestation and waste management education.

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### **THE OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2024:**

- Over 200 people have been reached through awareness campaigns this year.
- Following the increased capacity of MAP cultivation, 3 new MAP nurseries have been established.
- 4 additional MAP species were selected for cultivation based on market demand and ecological suitability. Extensive research was conducted to shortlist these species from a catalogue of 38 native Kenyan MAP species, considering yield, community feedback, seed availability, and marketability, in addition to the initial 3 species. These are: *Aspilia pluriseta*, *Rotheca myricoides*, *Sesbania sesban* and *Piper capense*.
- 3 CCGs had been constituted and assigned to monitor newly designated Community Conservation Areas (CCA). These were supported in delivering activities to maintain and improve the areas, including: slushing, pruning, thinning, and maintenance of fences within the protected areas; tree plantation drives that have planted over 1000 saplings to date; and discussions with local authorities for collaborations regarding enforcement of regulations and measures to address violations of forest guidelines.
- Although not yet officially registered as cooperatives due to the legislative delay from the government, the collectives have actively participated in training sessions on cooperative formation, leadership, governance, business planning, marketing, and legal procedures. The training methodology included theoretical knowledge, practical exercises, and reflective techniques to enhance skills and understanding. Despite the registration delay, there is a growing membership interest, and the cooperatives are poised to commence operations upon official approval, with ongoing support from Pragya to facilitate their progress and market linkages.
- In addition to the 1800 people reached out till the previous year, 200 individuals were reached out through campaigns for MAP species conservation and environmental enhancement, ensuring that this information permeates deeply within the communities and continues to circulate widely. The campaigns were run around

MAPs cultivation and sustainable development to offset climatic degradation, conserve biodiversity, and to improve income.

- Conservation awareness campaigns have successfully brought down uncontrolled foraging of MAPs and reduced illegal logging for charcoal burning. Certain species which were previously rare such as *Bouteloua gracilis* (Blu Grama) and *Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Drop Seed) have notably expanded following our intervention.
- The collaboration between the community and the Kenyan Forest Department has been further strengthened, resulting in improved monitoring and prevention of illegal activities such as unauthorised tree cutting and wildlife poaching.
- Community-led plantation drives were conducted regularly across Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga, resulting in the planting of more than 1000 saplings during this year.

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## THE WAY AHEAD:

Pragya looks to intensify its MAPs programme in Kenya and simultaneously expand it to the neighbouring Arusha and Mara regions of Tanzania.

## HEALTH, SAFE WATER, AND SANITATION

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### SAFE WATER AND SANITATION FOR MARGINALISED MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES IN NEPAL

- 10.8 million people in Nepal do not have access to improved sanitation, and 3.5 million do not have access to basic water services.
- 71% of all water sources and 91% of those used by the poorest quintile are contaminated with *Escherichia coli* bacteria.
- Open defecation is still practiced by 16% of the population. ([Water and Sanitation \(WASH\) | UNICEF Nepal](#))
- Some 40 children die each day from diarrhea and the disease also weakens thousands of others. Damaged or missing school toilets also causes stress among schoolchildren, especially girl children, resulting in poor performance and absenteeism.

Sindhupalchok, a district in central Nepal, faces significant challenges in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and services. The district, largely rural and mountainous, was heavily affected by the 2015 earthquake, which destroyed numerous water sources and sanitation facilities, leaving many communities with limited access to safe drinking water. In 2018, Pragya conducted an in-depth needs assessment in Sindhupalchok, revealing that 52% of Sindhupalchok residents lack access to clean water. Natural disasters, difficult terrain, and remote settlements continue to hinder progress in building resilient WASH infrastructure, often resulting in dependence on contaminated water sources and limited sanitation facilities. The lack of adequate WASH facilities in Sindhupalchok has led to widespread issues of waterborne diseases, with communities frequently facing outbreaks of diarrhoea and other preventable illnesses. Poor sanitation practices, often due to insufficient latrines and low hygiene awareness, exacerbate these health risks, especially among children and vulnerable populations. Additionally, with many residents relying on agriculture, inadequate water and sanitation also impact food security and livelihoods.

In April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake which killed thousands of people and caused widespread destruction of homes and damage to key buildings and infrastructure critical to the functioning of society, including health, education and WASH infrastructure. Severe poverty and marginalisation in Nepal's remote rural communities has lasting impacts; many household and community WASH resources remain unusable, increasing

open defecation, contamination of water sources, and subsequent waterborne disease transmission in communities with the least resilience and poor access to healthcare. This can prove fatal, especially for the most vulnerable community members. Prevailing health risks are magnified by the district's remoteness, inadequate infrastructure, low population density, and social discrimination, particularly against lower-caste groups. Women and children are disproportionately affected by these challenges. Children often suffer from weakened immune systems, stunted growth, and increased morbidity rates, while unsafe water, poor sanitation, and inadequate hand hygiene are recognised as one of the top ten risk factors contributing to mortality among women aged 15-49, particularly those who are pregnant.

Pragya has been running rehabilitation and resilience programmes across Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts for several years now. As part of our holistic development efforts across the region, we have constructed toilets and installed safe water facilities in schools and for community groups, with a focus on those that lacked safe and sanitary facilities or had them destroyed by the 2015 earthquake. Pragya actively educates residents on hygiene and preventive healthcare, as well as providing training in proper use and maintenance of WASH facilities. Additionally, we promote community advocacy with local governments for improved WASH facilities.

Community engagement, increased linkages with the local government, joint infrastructure planning, as well as community collaboration, research and consultation on the importance of culturally sensitive approaches in promoting hygiene practices are the hallmarks of our intervention.

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## **THE OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2024:**

In 2023-24, with the combined support of the Southall Trust, the James Tudor Foundation, the Hasluck Charitable Trust, and the Oakdale Trust, Pragya's interventions benefitted over 3000 individuals. The outcomes of this work include:

- Learning from previous projects has highlighted the significant health issues associated with poor menstrual hygiene. In these regions, women often face menstrual health challenges such as UTIs, RTIs, and skin irritations due to improper hygiene practices or vaginal infections during menstruation. The culturally sensitive modules would facilitate the acceptance and adoption of menstrual hygiene practices.
- Identification of 225 below-poverty-line and marginalised households lacking access to safe drinking water and toilets.
- Maximum uptake was ensured with stakeholder and community collaboration. Consensually arrived strategic positioning of community toilets serves multiple households, instead of individual houses.
- Installation of 3 water harvesting, storage and filtration systems, benefiting 120 households (approximately 600 individuals) in the selected locations (Sirangaon, Gelphe, and Gairigaon). Post-construction, 74% reported increased water quantity and 63% reported improved water quality. The constructed facilities are within 100 meters for 41% of households and 100-500 meters for 30%, with 53% using them several times a week and 45% daily. Among the 51 households sampled, 88% reported a significant reduction in waterborne diseases, especially diarrhoea and cholera in children.
- Construction of 3 community toilets with separate male and female blocks in (Kubinde Chhap, Thakurigaon, and Gairigaon) benefiting 105 households & about 525 individuals.
- Formation of 3 Water & Sanitation Committees (WSCs) in all five villages, each with 10 community members, managing facilities and advocating for improved water and sanitation governance. Three awareness sessions with marginalised households (approximately 635 individuals) covered hygiene, sanitation practices, and menstrual hygiene, all transmitted in culturally sensitive local manners.

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## THE WAY AHEAD:

At the time of preparing this report, it is predicted that the monsoon season of 2024 will bring unprecedented rainfall, triggering floods that can further obliterate infrastructure and severely disrupt essential services. This may exacerbate the district's vulnerabilities, especially considering the already fragile state of its WASH systems, coupled with insufficient hygiene education. The region's topography and high poverty levels, compounded by the accelerating impacts of climate change, make the need for resilient WASH infrastructure more critical than ever. In light of these increasing vulnerabilities, Pragma will continue to promote disaster resilient infrastructure while addressing the social conditions which lead to poor sanitation, and disease outbreak.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MINORITIES; PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN RURAL NEPAL

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### VOCATIONAL SKILLS BUILDING AND SAFE ECONOMIC MIGRATION FOR DISADVANTAGED GIRLS IN RURAL NEPAL

Deep-rooted poverty aggravated by the pandemic, along with increasing impact from climate change in the Himalayan region, have aggravated Nepalese women's vulnerability to trafficking. Traffickers exploit poverty, lack of local employment opportunities, and misinformation regarding migration and job prospects and lure women and girls with false promises. Once taken from their homes, they are forced into a range of unfair labour practices, including factories and domestic settings, begging, the adult entertainment industry, and prostitution. Sindhupalchok district, where Pragma has now developed significant local anchorage, is notorious as a target region for human traffickers. Whilst migrating, victims are involuntarily abducted into lives of exploitation, debt bondage, and forced labour, and often suffer years of physical and psychological violence and abuse, with little recourse to return.

Vocational skills training to improve opportunities locally along with safe and legal economic migration are recognised as proven approaches to improve outcomes for migrant workers ([Nepal Labour Migration Report 2022](#)). For particularly at-risk groups such as women and girls in remote and rural areas, our initiatives extend essential know-how, provide nationally recognised vocational certifications, and build grassroots capacity in under-served and isolated communities with scarce resources.

Pragma's project aims to enhance capacity among rural female youth through certified vocational training, occupational guidance and facilitation, and by providing safe migration training to them. This report details the project's first year progress, highlighting key achievements to date. In 2023-24, with support from the Souter Charitable Trust and the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, Pragma initiated this three-year programme to increase resistance to trafficking by addressing the underlying economic conditions which lead women to migrate, whilst reducing their vulnerabilities to kidnapping. Over 3 years, young females are to receive training on safe migration, vocational facilitation and mentoring.

The expected outcomes for the beneficiaries include:

- Skill building
- Enhancement of life skills for safe migration
- Access to vocational facilitation and mentoring/counselling

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## THE OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2024:

- A series of discussions were held with relevant institutions, including partner agency Janahit, the Chautara Municipality District Administration Office, and 2 local NGOs (Sakti Samuha and SPAN) to ascertain the specific requirement of vocational trainings in IT/ITES and retail/sales.
- Meetings were also held with CTEVT affiliated training institutes in the district for course design and delivery. These meetings generated awareness about the project.
- Chautara being the central location of Sindhupalchowk with schools and colleges, market, and business centres around, was decided as the location of the Vocational Facilitation Centre.



*Awareness Event at Ghalegaun Village*

- A Vocational Facilitation Helpline was setup to provide guidance to the rural female youth on skill building, employment opportunities and safe migration. The Guideline has been developed and personnel to anchor the Helpline have been trained. Promotional collaterals are also being designed for the Centre and the Helpline.
- 3 awareness events in 3 separate villages shared information on the upcoming courses and their benefits for adolescent girls and young women in terms of employment, economic independence and stability, support for families, and freedom from risks of GBV. Each awareness event had a minimum of 15 adolescent girls and young women from the village, apart from the parents/guardians of each. The awareness events were instrumental in the process of identifying prospective trainees for IT/ITES and sessions on life skills, safe migration and legal awareness.
- A survey was conducted on household income, income generation capacity and existing levels of life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy and legal awareness and qualitative data such as awareness of trafficking and sense of livelihood security. 30 women and girls from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families were chosen: 37% were in the range of 18-19 years, while the rest were of 20-25 years.

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## THE WAY AHEAD:

The 2nd and 3rd year of the programme will see delivery of courses and certification of trainees: Faculty and trainers from the network institutes will deliver the courses on (i) IT/ITES sector and (ii) Retail/Sales sectors. Pragya will coordinate and manage the course quality, overseeing regular delivery and adherence to the modules, across the classroom and on-the-job trainings for effective learning by the trainees. The network institutes will ensure rigorous assessments of the trainees – both interim and final – to determine their learning achievements and award certification upon successful completion of the course, involving scoring of classroom performance.

The Vocational Facilitation Centre (VFC) would also carry out periodic sessions on soft skills, digital literacy, and financial literacy where the trainees and other local youth can develop essential broad range skills to help them on their career path. Periodic sessions would also be conducted on organisational readiness of trainees, which will provide inputs on legal provisions for employees related to wage, fair treatment, safety, legal safeguards, and complaint mechanisms in various occupational sectors. The VFC will expand and consolidate its comprehensive database of available institutions for protection, rescue, and rehabilitation (including lawyers, police, health centres, shelters, protection cluster members, and other relevant government departments and local CSOs). The ‘Safety for Women’ awareness kit, alongside the database and referral networks of institutions for protection, rescue, and rehabilitation (spanning lawyers, police, health centres, shelters, Protection Cluster members, and other relevant

government departments, and local CSOs), would provide a vetted reference point for communities to secure safe and dignified employment.

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## GLOBAL LABOR PROGRAMME: ORGANISING WORKERS RENDERED INFORMAL AND MARGINALISED IN ASIA



With over 2 billion people working in the informal economy, which is about 60% of the world's employed population, informality has emerged as the defining characteristic of labour markets in the world today. Marginalised informal workers in Asia face several challenges including barriers to organising and building spaces for negotiations and bargaining, vulnerable working conditions, shrinking social security provisions, growing inequality and exclusion, and intensifying precarity of women workers.

In late 2021-22, Pragya began on a collective journey undertaken by several consortium partners seeking to build a platform to organise marginalised workers across 7 countries in South and Southeast Asia. Pragya is delivering the programme's Nepal and Bangladesh components.

The overall objective of the project is to promote new and innovative modes of organising for informal workers to enhance their agency and effective bargaining, regional solidarity and inclusion, and visibility of workers' causes in the public sphere, while overcoming the impediments to democratic spaces in their environments.

Specific objectives include the development of a regional platform for workers and/or their organisations in a participatory, 'bottom-up' process, comprising technological/virtual and on-the-ground networking, and participatory action research and evidence generation on alternative modes of organising, and their respective benefits in terms of agency, participation and access to rights.

We are in the third year of a 5-year intervention, focusing on the following thematic points:

- Marginalised workers' agency: The programme is informed by the principle that marginalised workers are not passive 'victims' but possess the 'agency' to organise, amplify their concerns, and peacefully lead a process of change that ensures dignity and justice to all the working men and women.
- Innovation to build collective grassroots power: Through grassroots applied research, the project seeks to create innovative means of organising that can help workers overcome structural hurdles resulting in reduced space for dialogue and negotiation and enable them to respond to challenges associated with informal work, as well as the 'gig economy.'
- A tech-enabled, grassroots platform to organise and negotiate: The project has created a sharing platform – comprising virtual as well as offline components – connecting workers from multiple sectors with a large informal worker base in each country, and at the regional level. The platform anchor and propel solidarity and a process of 'shared learning' around effective influencing and bargaining. The applied research helps in collection of valuable data and evidence to be fed back to grassroots bodies in the form of active tools for learning and capacity building.

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### THE OUTCOMES AS OF MARCH 2024:

- **Research and Training:** Pragma facilitated meetings in Dhaka with labour institutes, informal workers from various sectors, and grassroots organisations. Country level researchers were identified, organised, trained, and embedded with local resource organisations. The researchers at Grassroots Resource Organisations (GROs) were taken through a refresher training on social research methodologies, followed by a PAR (Participative Action Research) overview, and an opportunity to discuss ethical research considerations. Follow up virtual meetings were held to discuss issues relating to organisation of stakeholders, and to learn from each other how to build trust and relationships with informal worker groups.
- **Workers' Mobilisation:** A total of 32,302 informal workers (IWs) – 17,531 in Bangladesh and 14,771 in Nepal - have now been mobilised through meetings and outreach sessions. 45.64% of them are women. They represent informal workers from a range of sectors including Agricultural, Gig & Delivery, Fisheries, and Tourism. Additional small IW groups have been identified and federated into larger collectives. Currently, there are a total of 143 (BD:50; NP:93) smaller groups of informal workers federated into 19 (BD:11, NP:8) larger collectives with a total membership of 20,764 (NP: 6450, BD: 14314) informal workers, with 4284 IWs added in the reporting period.
- **Design and Operation of Platform:** Using participatory approach, modules relating to legal education, support, helplines, and rights were developed for the platform. Content has been compiled for topics of Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018 of Nepal and the Bangladesh National MR service guidelines, and on how to file complaints in labour courts, and other related topics.
- **Development of the platform web-portal:** The CONNECT app was tested and updated to link with existing networks and forums. This included a rolling out of the user web portal and creating a user interface that is easier to use. Additionally, a video conference capability was added to the CONNECT app by Pragma's Technology Special Focus Team, to allow online workers to meet more easily. The instant impact is seen in several NGOs and CSOs reaching out for collaboration.
- **Initiation and handholding of platform:** Coordinators for South Asia were also provided a Booster training on Platform to ably promote the usage of the platform among the workers. This has encouraged door-to-door mobilisation of IWs. IWs received training on leadership, listening to other IWs issues, and to determine strategies for approaching their representative power centres. Leaders were encouraged to promote discussion in their groups, and to elicit different viewpoints, as part of a participatory methodology. 150 IWs across SA were successful in voicing the concerns to their respective employers through 18 meetings during the period, because of the intensive interactions and the motivation provided by the dedicated coordinator teams.
- **Platform participation and services:** Significant orientation sessions have seen IWs grasp app fundamentals. At the time of reporting, 18,482 (BD:9,869; NP: 8,613) IWs have been registered on the platform. Content (including audio/visual) has been designed which aligns strongly with sectoral requirements, on issues elicited from workers, which included leadership, resisting backlash, resource mobilisation, feminist realities, bargaining, safe migration, micro credit, helpline numbers, types of bank accounts, and social protection schemes. The aim is to provide up-to-date knowledge and skills that enable worker-led effective organising, bargaining and advocacy initiatives on the ground. Content has addressed issues including gender equality, equal pay for equal work, as well as stories on how to find safe employment during migration. 18 Psychosocial Counsellors (12 BD; 6 NP) and 5 Legal Advisors (2 BD; 6 NP) have been identified and enlisted in the Resource Directory. On a monthly basis, the mentors and coordinator teams finalise slots for the workers wanting one-on-one counselling with the service providers available. Additionally, several



Psychosocial Service camps for sharing the psychological health related issues being suffered by them stemming from their poor working and living conditions have been conducted in Bangladesh.

- **Facilitating, Sharing, and Bargaining:** Significant progress has been made towards the overall outcomes of the programme. A total of 261 IWs (NP: 108; BD: 153) participated in workshop discussion on 'Low and Unstable Wages' in their sector and how various issues related to compliance, lack of legal protection and safe spaces affect them. Additionally, 14 (BD:9; NP:5) district level institutions have confirmed involvement for wage bargaining.

Groups are approaching relevant local government power centres with their issues, like, lack of sanitation & hygiene, gender pay gap, subsidised loans for agricultural work, and health hazards for workers in the fisheries sector. The representatives of relevant power centres have begun to respond with a promise to resolve their concerns.

Since the inception of the project, 60 Industry Associations (BD 37; NP 23) and 67 enabling institutions (BD 43; NP 24) have been identified in the target sectors of respective countries. These institutions assist group leaders and mentors for establishing contacts with decision makers in power centres.

- **Evidence Sharing and Knowledge Development:** PAR found workers gradually organizing more often for better wages, payment for treatment of injuries during working hours, availability of sanitation and safety gears at the workplace. Garment workers were found organising for better HR policies which are friendly for aged workers. Agriculture workers have begun organising for payment of wages for overtime and rights of contractual/irregular workers.

Agriculture workers are also recorded approaching their elected representatives at the local level for safe working conditions, resolutions for health problems for those in fishing, increase in wages and lack of subsidized loans and quality seeds during the sowing season.



- **Seeds for scaling:** Pragya has produced brief periodic studies on specific worker issues, like organising and negotiating, visibility and solidarity. These studies will be brought out in the form of articles that are written in an accessible style such that they are perused by a wide range of readers and thereby have a wide outreach.

## THE WAY AHEAD:

Continuing with the idea of setting up a Knowledge Hub on the issue, Pragya has prepared an audience profile, providing an overview of users and their potential requirements for research repositories, data and policy briefs on informal workers. This includes representatives from academia, think tanks CSO, labour experts, trade union leaders, officials from the Labor Ministry, Labor Rights activists, lawyers, journalists, health experts, donors, and development workers. The Knowledge Hub website and the Content Management System (CMS) have been developed and are being tested.

## PRAGYA UK: GLOBAL NETWORK AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Pragya UK is part of a network of locally registered Pragya organisations around the world with a common purpose and vision. The UK branch of Pragya is primarily a fundraising, communications, project development and management function. To implement our programmes, we work in partnership with our global sister organisations

and other carefully vetted third party NGOs. This set-up ensures our work is delivered by staff with a depth of knowledge and experience concerning the local context, whilst contributing to local labour markets.

In India, Pragya UK delivers its projects in partnership with Pragya India; founded in 1995, Pragya India is headquartered in Gurugram and operates across western, northern and eastern India via an extensive network of field offices. Pragya India has a substantial research and advocacy function and delivers a wide variety of projects across the full breadth of Pragya programme areas.

Pragya UK has worked with Pragya in Nepal since 2006; based in Kathmandu, they coordinate the delivery of projects across rural districts, harnessing the highly localised expertise of NGOs situated in the vicinity of project sites. In Nepal our focus has been on WASH, vocational skill building and safe migration, GBV and human trafficking.

Pragya UK began delivering projects in Bangladesh in 2018. We work in partnership with in-country NGOs to improve the desperate situation of river island communities facing multiple severe challenges. Following research and pilot work in 2018-19, Pragya secured grant funding in 2019-20 to launch its Bangladesh programmes, beginning with WASH interventions but with wider programming also planned across disaster management, livelihoods, prevention of trafficking and violence against women, and education.

In East Africa, Pragya UK works with Pragya Kenya, an NGO founded in 2011 and based in Nairobi. It delivers projects in tandem with selected local NGOs in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga counties in western Kenya, as well as in the northern Arid and Semi-Arid counties. Pragya Kenya are adept in conducting research and development interventions encompassing water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, healthcare, education, and inter-community conflict.

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## THE WAY AHEAD:

Pragya UK is well-positioned to intensify its ongoing programmes in South Asia and East Africa. Enhanced efforts will go in scaling its interventions, both wide and deep.



Thank you to all our supporters, stakeholders and staff invested in Pragya's mission without whose generosity and commitment our vital work would not be possible.

**PRAGYA**

*Development without Destruction  
Empowerment for Enabling Choices*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Company number</b>	N.A.
<b>Charity number</b>	1082476
<b>Registered office</b>	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
<b>Trustees</b>	Gargi Banerji - Chairperson Arasan Aruliah Pratap Rughani
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC 176 Camden High Street London NW1 8QL
<b>Solicitors</b>	N.A.

**C O N T E N T S**

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative information are set out on page 2 and forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### **STATUS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

PRAGYA was registered as a charity on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

#### **Charitable Objects**

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The objects of the charity are:

- i. to stimulate development in vulnerable and neglected communities, particularly in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile areas, enabling and empowering them through the use of appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and indigenous solutions.
- ii. to encourage improved natural resource management, and conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural and cultural heritage in sensitive ecosystems and communities;
- iii. to institute alternative, sustainable development forms in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile and pristine areas, through development action and policy change;
- iv. to conduct research in the development sciences with special reference to the target areas and groups (as above), develop appropriate models/products/tools/techniques, and document, publish and exchange the learnings acquired;
- v. to raise funds to support activities towards meeting the above objectives of the Charity.

### **TRUSTEES**

Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr. Arasan Aruliah  
4, Middleton Grove  
London N7 9LU

Ms. Gargi Banerji - Chair  
102, Tower 4, The Palms, Sector 30  
Gurgaon - 122001, India

Mr. Pratap Rughani  
22, Sugar Loaf Walk  
Bethnal Green  
London E2 OJQ

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Trustee Board meets two times a year.

### **Internal Control, Management and Risk Review**

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Governance activities include maintaining ongoing controls and procedures to ensure effective stewardship of financial and other resources, and monitoring of annual objectives against an agreed strategic and business plan for the organisation. The Trustee Board receives regular reports from management staff and conducts an in-depth review at least twice a year. This review includes an assessment of key internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the charity's general and specific objectives – and forms the basis of agreed updates and amendments to the strategic plan.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and identification and management of risks.

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity's internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees have reviewed risks and are satisfied that appropriate mitigating controls and actions are in place.

## **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Beneficiaries**

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The primary beneficiaries of the charity include the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Nepal. In addition, the wider public, policymakers and others that can influence and bring about a positive change in the condition of the primary beneficiaries are also targeted by the charity through its interventions.

### **Objectives**

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The objectives of the charity include:

- i. Build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to access their rights and achieve their own development goals.
- ii. Enhance the economic and livelihood opportunities available to disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to conserve and utilise their surrounding ecosystem in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- iv. Conserve and promote traditional culture and knowledge.
- v. Utilise this traditional knowledge alongside new technology to improve the management of natural resources in the ecologically sensitive areas.
- vi. Advocate within the UK and internationally on the importance of supporting community-led development and environmental conservation.

Our objectives are achieved through:

- Mobilising resources and providing knowledge and monitoring inputs for projects being implemented by partners in disadvantaged regions.
- Documenting needs of communities and project learnings and sharing with stakeholders and the development community in the UK.
- Participating in various fora and networking for developing wider awareness and building a support base for target issues/region in the UK.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our key financial objectives were to secure funding for current services and to increase our unrestricted reserves to expand and develop new areas of work. We were successful in enhancing resources for existing programmes as well as in scaling up new areas of work.

Total incoming resources for the year were £692,892 (2023 - £557,832); total expenditure was £688,338 (2023 - £841,675). A breakdown of expenditure by activity areas is on Statement of financial Activities (page 9).

Total funds during the year increased by £4,554 (2023 - decrease of £283,843), bringing the funds carried forward to £34,430 (2023 - £29,876).

### **Reserves Policy and Going Concern**

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Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2024 would be at a level sufficient to cover three months' expenditure, i.e. £15,000. The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that Charity are a going concern.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '*charities and public benefit*'.

Pragya's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects - to support and develop the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in the underserved regions. The Trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering programmes and services that are of value to the participants of the projects. The participants are members of the public known to and/or identified by Partner organisations (e.g. NGO's, Local Authorities, Aid Agencies) with whom and for whom Pragya develops the projects. These partnerships ensure that Pragya's activities reach the right recipients and thus fulfil the charities core objectives.

Approved by the Board on 27 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF PRAGYA**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andi Dollia, CPFA  
Additude Ltd  
9 Rhapsody Court  
Wakeman Road  
London NW10 5DF

Date: *22 January 2025*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating income and expenditure account)**

	Note	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2024 Total (£)	2023 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	690,792	2,100	<b>692,892</b>	557,832
Charitable activities					-
Investment and other income					-
<b>Total (Total Income)</b>		<b>690,792</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>692,892</b>	557,832
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	3				
Raising funds		16,843	-	<b>16,843</b>	15,939
Charitable activities		670,906	589	<b>671,495</b>	825,736
Other					-
<b>Total (Total Expenditure)</b>		<b>687,749</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>688,338</b>	841,675
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>					-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	4	<b>3,043</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>4,554</b>	(283,843)
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>3,043</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>4,554</b>	(283,843)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		3,500	26,376	<b>29,876</b>	313,719
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>6,543</b>	<b>27,887</b>	<b>34,430</b>	29,876

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		-	1,006
Cash at bank		36,455	34,017
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		36,455	35,023
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	2,025	5,147
<b>Net current assets</b>		34,430	29,876
<b>Net assets</b>	8	34,430	29,876
<b>Funds</b>	9		
Restricted		6,543	3,500
General		27,887	26,376
<b>Total funds</b>		34,430	29,876

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question. The directors acknowledge responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far applicable to the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 27 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. Accounting policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).
- b. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c. Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- e. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- f. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- g. The costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work.

**2. Donations and legacies**

	2024			2023
	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	Total (£)	Total (£)
Balbir Chowdhary	-	-	-	2,400
Brian Mercer Trust	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
CB and HH Taylor 1984 Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Charles Hayward Foundation	-	-	-	15,000
Coles-Medlock Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,000
ELRHA	-	-	-	85,587
Evan Cornish Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-
Foundation for the Third Millennium (SDM), Switzerland	-	-	-	18487
Harbinson Charitable Trust	-	1,500	1,500	2,400
Hasluck Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,000
James Tudor Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	15,029	-	15,029	15,263
Marsh Charitable Trust	-	600	600	500
Navnat Vanik Association of the United Kingdom	-	-	-	300
Other Trusts and foundations	161,260	-	161,260	-
Save the children (ELRHA)	85,767	-	85,767	-
Solidar Suisse, Switzerland	397,736	-	397,736	372,395

## PRAGYA

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Souter Charitable Trust	8,000	-	8,000	5,000
Southall Trust	-	-	-	2,000
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation	-	-	-	2,500
The Gibbs Trust	-	-	-	2,000
The Oakdale Trust	3,000	-	3,000	-
The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity	-	-	-	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>690,792</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>692,892</b>	<b>557,832</b>

### 3. Total Expenditure

Expenditure	Cost of raising funds (£)	Cost of charitable activities (£)	Support Costs (£)	2024 Total (£)	2023 Total (£)
Staff costs (note 5)	14,161	28,322	9,043	51,526	52,217
Rent, insurance, utilities, services	-	-	11,293	11,293	11,540
Bank Charges	-	-	1,251	1,251	1,690
Postage and telephone	-	-	769	769	387
Membership Subscriptions	-	-	1,061	1,061	378
Independent Examination	-	-	1,300	1,300	1,200
Consultancy fees	-	-	600	600	600
Direct project expenses	-	619,035	-	619,035	773,663
Insurance	-	-	1,094	1,094	-
People's Pension	-	-	409	409	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,161</b>	<b>647,357</b>	<b>26,820</b>	<b>688,338</b>	<b>841,675</b>
Add: allocation of support costs	2,682	24,138	(26,820)		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>16,843</b>	<b>671,495</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>688,338</b>	<b>841,675</b>

### 4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<b>1,300</b>	1,200

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Salaries and wages	51,526	52,217
Social security costs	-	-
Pension contributions	409	-
Total emoluments paid to employees were:	<b>51,935</b>	<b>52,217</b>
No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023 – none)		
The average weekly number of staff (expressed as full-time equivalents) during the year was 1.8 (2023: 1.8)		
	2024 (FTE)	2023 (FTE)
Raising funds	0.5	0.5
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Support costs	0.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**6. Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**7. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Trade Creditors	148	14
Other Creditors	277	3,633
Independent Examination	1,300	1,200
Accruals and Provisions	300	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>5,147</b>

**8. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted Funds (£)	General funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	6,543	27,887	<b>34,430</b>

## PRAGYA

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Net assets at the end of the year	6,543	27,887	34,430
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### 9. Movements in Fund

	At the start of the year (£)	Incoming resources (£)	Outgoing resources (£)	Transfers (£)	At the end of the year (£)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>26,376</b>	<b>2,100</b>	589	-	<b>27,887</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>690,792</b>	687,749	-	<b>6,543</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>29,876</b>	<b>692,892</b>	<b>688,338</b>	-	<b>34,430</b>
<b>Purposes of funds</b>					
<b>General funds:</b> These are the free reserves of the Charity, which can be used for any purpose within its charitable objects.					
<b>Restricted funds:</b> The restricted funding was received over the course of the financial year for use in the 'Gender' projects, 'Food Security', 'WASH', 'Labour Welfare' projects and for 'Disaster Risk Reduction & Management' Projects					

**PRAGYA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1082476

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# Accounts

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# Pragya UK

## Annual Review 2022-23



### 1. Introduction

**Welcome to Pragya UK's 2022-23 Annual Review.** We are a charity dedicated to poverty relief and social justice in south Asia and east Africa. We research, design, deliver, evaluate and disseminate pioneering socioeconomic development programmes supporting multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals. What ties our diverse portfolio of award-winning programmes together is an unwavering commitment to addressing the marginalisation of the global south's poorest and most remote communities, those typically left behind as nations develop and prosper over time.



**Our Vision** is one of marginalised communities living dignified lives free from poverty and injustice, fully enjoying the benefits of development in a manner harmonious with cultural heritage and the environment.

**Our Mission** is to enable grassroots sustainable development for the poorest, most neglected communities in remote and marginal societies, in a way that preserves and promotes local cultures and fragile ecosystems.

Pragya's community-centred approach and track record of delivering positive impact have been recognised by several awards: the *Whitley Gold Award for Nature Conservation* (2000), an *Energy Globe Award* (2005), a *STARS Impact Award* (2010), USAID's *All Children Reading - Grand Challenge for Development Award* (2012), a *Top 20 Innovation in Risk Award* (2015), and an *ICT for Mountain Development Award* (2016). Pragya holds Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC.

#### **Pragya's programmes in 2022-23 included:**

##### *Promoting medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) cultivation and conservation in Kenya*

Pragya continued its programme to support the sustainable cultivation and conservation of MAPs among impoverished forest-side communities around Kakamega Forest, an area of unique herbal wealth. [More information on this programme can be found on Page 3](#)

##### *Building grassroots capacity in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)*

In Kenya's ASALs, Pragya established two new educational resource centres in Samburu County, which aim to improve educational outcomes in underserved areas. Pragya is also working directly with pastoral groups to improve water resource management, as the region is uniquely threatened by increasing droughts due to climate change. [Pages 6 \(Education\) and 15 \(WASH\)](#)

##### *Enabling resilience for remote and vulnerable mountain communities in Nepal*

Pragya delivered its first project towards its programme to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and the trafficking of women and girls in rural Nepal, while continuing to scale its WASH programme for underserved mountain villages. [Pages 9 \(Prevention of trafficking and GBV\) and 14 \(WASH\)](#)

##### *Global Labor Program: An Innovative Platform for Organising Marginalised Workers in Asia*

2022-23 saw the completion of the first year of Pragya's initiative to mobilise regional networks of informal workers in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, which will run through to 2026. The work is part of a broader, multi-partner programme to enable more effective, coordinated organisation of marginalised and informal labour across south and southeast Asia. [Page 11](#)

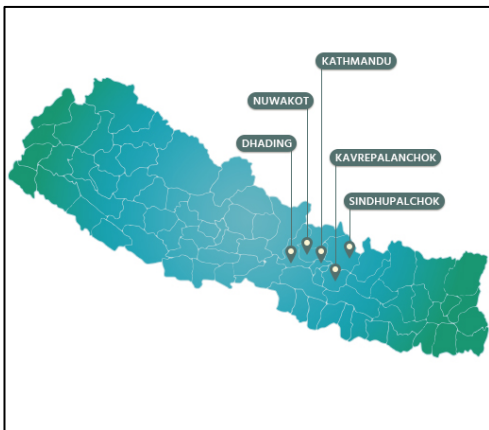
##### *Scaling DMS-Himalaya*

Building on research that began in 2012, as well as programme design and development supported by ELRHA's Human Innovation Fund, Pragya's pioneering citizen-led disaster management system has now been trialled across India's western, central, and eastern Himalayan regions. [Page 17](#)

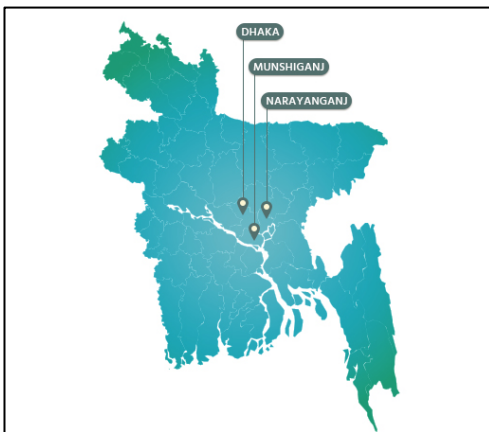
## 2. Target locations and populations



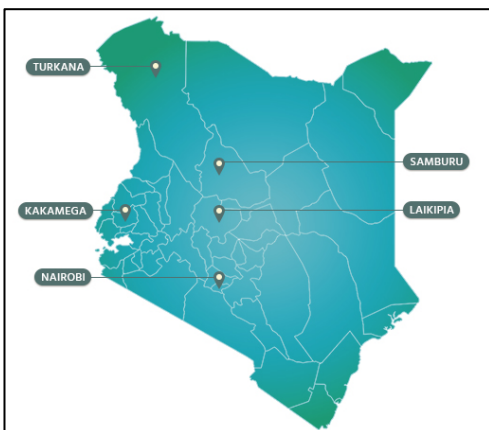
Pragya's work in India is delivered in 8 states across northern, western and eastern regions. In the north, we work with Himalayan populations addressing the development challenges particular to the region. Disaster management is a major aspect of our work here, empowering isolated communities for improved disaster resilience and coordination with disaster management authorities. We also work with Himalayan farming communities to enable climate-adapted agriculture for enhanced food security and nutrition. To the west, our work targets impoverished ethnic minority communities in Rajasthan, with initiatives designed around women's empowerment and access to education. In the east, our focus is on climate-smart agriculture, prevention of GBV, and disaster management.



In Nepal, Pragya's current work is focused on three districts: Sindhupalchok, Dhading, and Dhanesha. We deliver WASH solutions and capacity building for communities lacking safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Our livelihoods work enables uptake of alternative vocations for rapid income generation and sustainable microenterprise development, and we support rural youth with vocational awareness and training. Within a wider patriarchal context, the target districts are hotspots for GBV and human trafficking, and we also deliver programmes towards the prevention of GBV and trafficking, as well as vocational training and safe migration. Pragya's contributions to the Global Labor Program initiative will also engage with informal workers in Nepal.



Pragya's work in Bangladesh has focused on supporting extremely poor and marginalised communities living on Bangladesh's *Chars* – river islands with unstable land subject to recurrent flooding and which lack essential services. Lack of adequate WASH facilities in Char communities mean high incidence of waterborne disease to which children are especially at risk, whilst residents can have little option but to drink groundwater contaminated with arsenic, with its multiple adverse health impacts. Pragya's interventions provide site-appropriate WASH solutions, as well as local capacity building for disaster risk reduction and response, oriented around flooding. Pragya's contributions to the Global Labor Program initiative will also engage with informal workers in Bangladesh.



In Kenya, Pragya's target areas include the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands of northern Kenya, spanning the counties of Turkana, Laikipia and Samburu. In this region, we work to address the socioeconomic challenges particular to nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist groups impacted by climate change, geographic isolation, and marginalisation. This includes enhancing access to quality education, providing locally appropriate WASH solutions, as well as programmes supporting livelihoods and community health. In western Kenya, we work with communities in Kakamega county, where widespread poverty places unsustainable pressure on the majestic Kakamega rainforest. We empower communities to conserve biodiversity whilst simultaneously supporting poor smallholders to undertake high-value agriculture.

### 3. Projects in 2021-22

#### Food, agriculture and rural livelihoods

##### *Cultivating and conserving medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) in Kakamega Forest, Kenya*

In Kakamega Forest, western Kenya, several species of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) play an important part in the maintenance of the local ecosystem, whilst also contributing to the socioecological traditions of surrounding communities. Kenya's only remaining rainforest, Kakamega's rich biodiversity is under threat from the wild-harvesting of MAPs and other activities as impoverished communities and other actors encroach on and extract resources from the forest. The burgeoning demand for herbal remedies and other plant-based products means that these plants can fetch a much higher price at market than traditional crops cultivated in the region, and consequently represent an attractive source of income for poor smallholding farmers in the vicinity of the forest. Wild-harvesting practices, however, prevent the plants from regenerating, and current levels of the practice are unsustainable, putting ever greater pressure on the rainforest's biodiversity.

Pragya's approach to tackling this problem is twofold. We empower communities adjacent to the forest for locally driven conservation, combining awareness-raising, direct community conservation action, and grassroots advocacy. Yet we understand the need for impoverished smallholders to boost their incomes through whatever resources are locally available. As such, we build the capacity of smallholder farming communities to undertake cultivation of high-value, in-demand species of medicinal plants, with support for local value addition and formation of ethical trading linkages. This replaces the need to harvest these plants from the wild: a win-win for the environment and community prosperity.

Pragya has been working in Kakamega since 2011, developing its MAPs programme through research, community consultations, successive project cycles, and coordination and knowledge sharing with local farmers' groups, the Kenya Forest Service, and other stakeholders. Key aspects of the model include:

- *Conservation Awareness.* We deliver community and school campaigns to build understanding of the importance of local biodiversity to the forest's ecosystem, and the long-term benefits to the community of conserving the forest.
- *Environmental Stewardship.* We support the development of Community Conservation Councils responsible for managing Community Protected Areas, zones of forest identified as being at high risk of plant depletion, and supported with social fencing measures and monitored / regenerated by the Councils. Community groups are also empowered to conduct environmental advocacy.
- *Cultivation Training.* We provide smallholders with comprehensive cultivation training and start-up inputs to enable them for uptake of cultivation of high-value, in-demand species of medicinal plants.
- *Cooperation and Value Addition.* We support smallholders with processing and packaging solutions, ensuring the smallholders can secure the highest prices for their produce. We establish ethical trading linkages and support cooperative working practices that enable access to larger buyers and fair prices.

##### **The outcomes as of March 2023 were as follows:**

- Over 1800 people have been directly and indirectly reached through awareness campaigns.
- 3 nurseries had been supported to initiate MAP propagation up to 2022, with signed MoUs and support comprising appropriate tools and materials, including MAP seeds. These are monitored to ensure best practices are in place and carried forth in training via demonstrations to smallholders. Cultivation of the species initiated in Year 1 - *Aloe vera* (Vernacular name: Shikakha), *Mondia whitei* (Vernacular name: Mukombero), and *Occimum kilimandscharicum* (Vernacular name: Miunyi) – was expanded, and new



MAP nurseries with seedling and material distribution

species were added comprising tree saplings of: *Vitex keniensis* (Meru Oak), *Pinus spp.* (Pine), *Croton megalocarpus* (Croton), and *Tectona grandis* (Elgon Teak).

- Over 140 small scale farmers had been engaged to initiate training in MAP cultivation up to 2022, and these were supplied with MAP seedlings/ saplings and assisted to initiate MAP cultivation on their farms. These received regular monitoring and support including visual inspections of plantations, along with guidance on: seed sowing, cutting, grafting, and layering; soil management practices, including soil preparation, fertilization, and irrigation; and knowledge of plant diseases and pests and organic measures for their management.
- 3 Cooperative Groups of MAP growers were mobilised in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Nandi counties, comprising over 150 members. These have received training in harvesting, drying, and post-harvest handling; marketing and business management; and relevant regulations and laws related to the cultivation and sale of MAPs.
- 3 Community Conservation Groups (CCG) had been constituted up to 2022, and assigned to monitor newly designated Community Conservation Areas (CCA). These were supported in delivering activities to maintain and improve the areas, including: slushing, pruning, thinning, and maintenance of fences within the protected areas; tree plantation drives that have planted over 800 saplings to date; and discussions with local authorities for collaborations regarding enforcement of regulations and measures to address violations of forest guidelines.



Awareness drives with smallholders (above) and with students (below).

The programme builds on Pragma's nearly three decades of research and programmes to promote sustainable MAP cultivation and conservation in India, and aligns with key strategic priorities identified by Kenyan conservation authorities for Kakamega Forest: the need for nature-based enterprises and conservation devolution to disincentivise land use activities currently threatening the forest.



Going forward, the project will focus on the following aspects:

- Continuing to promote the cultivation of endangered, native medicinal plants by encouraging local nurseries to propagate MAP farming and provide farmers with saplings, as well as the use of these saplings for forest restoration efforts.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of MAP nurseries and farmers' plots to support the beneficiaries by problem solving and advice on good practices.
- Membership drives to increase the members of cooperatives to fulfill the market demand for raw materials and products derived from MAPs, thereby helping farmers to maximize their returns from cultivating MAP species.
- Conducting buyer-seller meets to build stronger farmer-to-market linkages to institutionalize supply of cultivated medicinal plant materials and replace current wild-harvesting with farming.

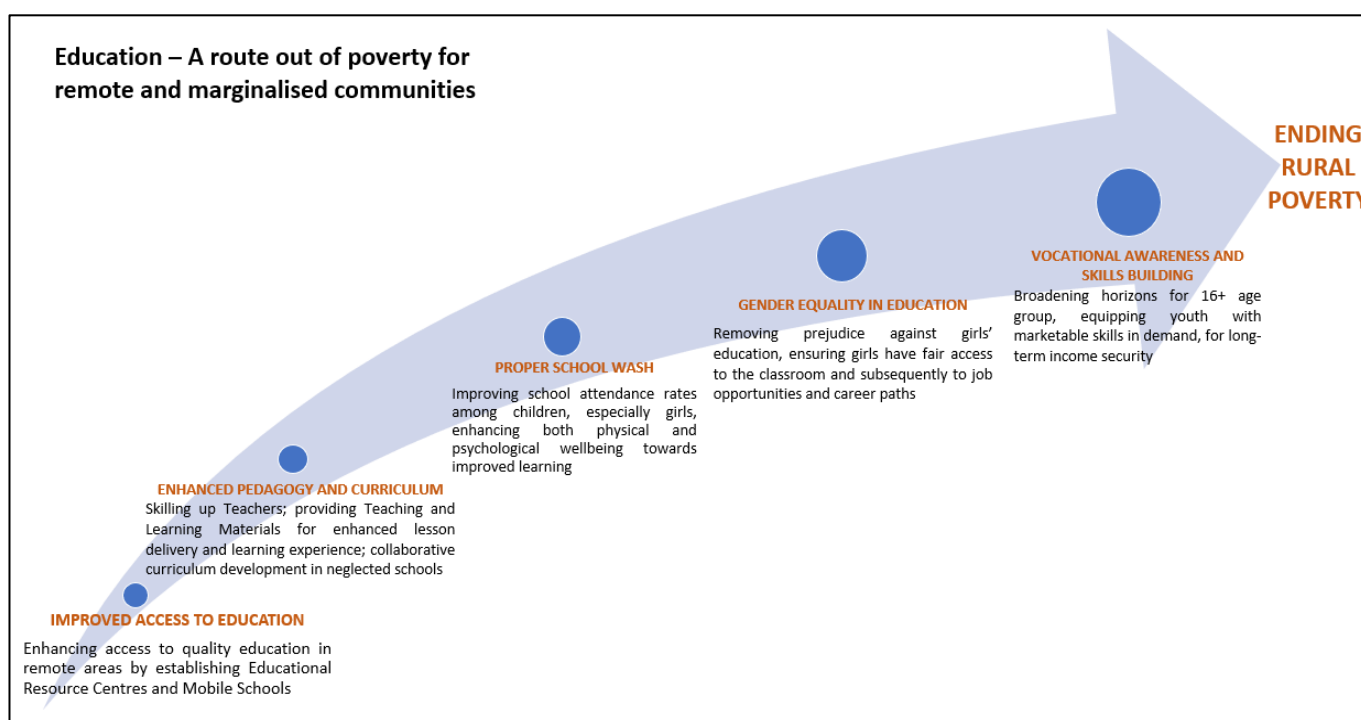


Cooperative training in Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga (top to bottom, respectively)

## Education

Pragya works with some of the most remote and marginalised communities in the world, those existing on the fringes of society where basic services often fail to reach. Many people from these impoverished rural communities scrape a living through smallholder agriculture or pastoralism, in regions where climate change is rapidly diminishing the prospects of such traditional occupations, or as daily wage labourers with little or no income security. Children lack access to quality education and youth in these communities can face a stark choice between following in the footsteps of their parents and the bleak future this holds, or else to migrating to urban centres as unskilled labour with little education, facing low pay or unemployment and likely living in urban slums. We take a multifaceted approach to ensuring the disadvantaged have access to quality education and suitable vocational skills.

- **Improved Access to Education.** Pragya collaborates with communities and local authorities to extend access to quality education in remote areas where schools are few and far between and heavily oversubscribed. We establish Education Resource Centres in community spaces, equipped with ICT facilities and age-specific books. For itinerant communities, we deliver mobile education solutions including schools on wheels and tent-based classrooms, towards ensuring that no child is left behind.
- **Improved Pedagogy and Curriculum.** Pragya works with teachers and para-teachers to improve their teaching skills, enabling them to deliver more impactful lessons. We supply a range of Teaching and Learning Materials that enable more diverse teaching methods, enriching the learning experience of children towards improved attendance, attention span and learning outcomes. We collaborate with communities to ensure curricula in deprived areas is suitable and up to standard.
- **Proper School WASH.** Poor quality or lack of sanitation in schools can be a substantial barrier to attendance, especially among girls. Pragya trains local masons for construction of high-quality, site-appropriate sanitation that ensures cleanliness and privacy, reducing the physical health implications and anxiety experienced by schoolchildren where sanitation facilities are inadequate. We also facilitate schools for the collection and storage of safe drinking water, and deliver school hygiene awareness and training, improving health and thereby learning among schoolchildren.
- **Gender Equality in Education.** Girls face multiple barriers to enrolment and continued participation in school, including gender-based violence, child marriage and teenage pregnancy, a heavy burden of household duties, and lack of confidence in academic ability. Pragya works with communities to address the attitudes that underpin these social challenges, towards improved school attendance and achievement level among girls.
- **Vocational Awareness and Skills Building.** A lack of awareness of vocational routes and poor access to vocational training mean children in remote areas are left with few livelihood options. Pragya builds awareness of alternative vocational routes available to adolescents as they transition into adulthood, and provides certified vocational training courses in locally-demanded occupations, diversifying the skills base in the community and enhancing income security.



## Improving access to education and vocational skills for pastoral communities in Kenya's ASALs

Pragya has been working with pastoralist communities in Kenya's ASALs since 2011. Our projects address urgent needs in the region for better education, diversified livelihood options, WASH management, and maternal and reproductive health services. Pragya's education programme in the region was designed based on extensive consultations across Laikipia, Samburu, and Turkana counties, and to date has established educational resource centres (ERC) in Turkana and Samburu counties. In 2021-22, Pragya commenced work to deliver two additional ERCs in Samburu, and the project was completed in early 2023.

A series of introductory meetings were conducted at the start of the project to liaise with key stakeholders, namely government departments and officials (at the county and sub-county level), school authorities, and village-level stakeholders (village chiefs, sub-chiefs, and village council members). These in-person meetings introduced the project to the stakeholders and galvanised the required support for carrying out the specified activities and to ensure proper outcomes. The meetings also turned out to be very fruitful for shortlisting the potential intervention areas and getting the requisite permissions from the concerned government departments before commencing the project activities. At the national level, Pragya liaised with the Ministry of Interior and National Coordination, Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Gender & Social Services. At the county level, the project engaged with the Director of Special Programs, Deputy and Assistant County Commissioners, the Director of the Ministry of Gender and Social Services, and the Commissioner of the Ministry of Interior and National Coordination at the Sub-County level. These officials provided important information related to the educational status and interventions in the area. Community leaders, chiefs, sub-chiefs, and village administrators in different villages in Samburu County also extended their support. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with the concerned departments of the ministries that provided an additional official clearance for the establishment of the ERCs and training of teachers in the project area.

A baseline survey and needs assessment were carried out, involving formats that served to assess the capacity of ongoing education systems and gauge the availability of reading materials and ICT tools and technology as teaching-learning aids, as well as to identify bottlenecks in the existing ecosystem preventing delivery of quality education in the target villages.

The findings revealed that access to quality education is made difficult due to long distances to schools and poverty of user families, along with lack of skilled staff and adequate infrastructure and resources in schools that limit the teaching-learning environment.

The two best suited potential venues were identified based on interactions and consultations with concerned stakeholders including community members, as well as secondary research. Based on the preliminary observations and secondary information, the following two schools were identified as the best possible venues for setting up ERCs, since they possessed a large student body, good infrastructure and security status, stable power supply, and were at centralised locations relative to other villages:

- Loikas Primary School, Angata Rongai village, Suguta Mar Mar Ward
- Lkurroto Primary School, Baawa village, Lodokejek Ward



*Community members participating in the baseline survey*



*Inauguration ceremony at Loikas Primary School*



*Inauguration ceremony at Lkurroto Primary School*

## Establishing the ERCs

The Pragma team worked on creating a set of location-specific, modern ICT-enabled teaching-learning materials and aids, which were also in sync with Kenya Education Board curriculum. Thorough research was carried out on the existing curriculum as well as the educative content of the potential learning material to ensure they would further the age-specific learning of the students against the academic requirements. Suggestions were also elicited from the Ministry of Education, Samburu regarding the relevant books and materials.

The set of education resources and ICT tools identified and deployed in each ERC included: LED TVs, laptops, internet dongles, pen drives, desks, file cabinets, registers, Oxford Learners Dictionaries, white boards, and a collection of books including encyclopaedias and story books in English and Kiswahili. In addition, instruments for geometry and measurement (prism, magnifying glass, compass, etc.), science and math equipment (magnet bar, microscope, microscope slides), and ICT-based interactive learning software (DVDs of documentaries, inspiring talks) and AV materials. To encourage the creation of a balanced and inclusive environment, gender sensitization materials were made available in the ERCs along with books on women leaders and inspirational personalities whereby the students would be enlightened on the achievements of women from the region and around the world.

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as flip charts, posters, and maps, along with digital knowledge materials like educational videos were also provided, alongside games such as Scrabble and Pictionary.



*Students reading story books at Loikas Primary School*



*ERCs visits: students at Loikas Primary School (left) and Lkurroto Primary School (right)*

## Improving teaching standards and educational material

A special Teaching Kit was developed to enhance the capacity of teachers and para-teachers in the target schools to deliver quality education in an engaging, diverse, and age-appropriate manner, thereby improving the learning outcomes for students. The kit consisted of a variety of teaching and learning aids such as age/grade specific learning-through-play materials (Alphabet tiles, Scrabble games, etc.), activity-based learning supplements (Fraction Kits, Volume demo items, etc.) and aids for developing motor skills (Modelling clay, Legos, puzzles, etc.).

A needs assessment was conducted of 36 teachers (20 teachers and 16 para-teachers from 18 schools) to gauge the current knowledge, capacities, and skill-deficits of the teaching staff in these schools, using in-depth interviews. The assessment resulted in mapping the needs, wants, and preferences of the teachers and para teachers to help shape the upcoming training program.

A skills-focused training was conducted for 30 teachers and para-teachers (17 male and 13 female) in the area in two different locations (15 in each location) - at the Loikas Primary School in Suguta Marmar ward and Lkurroto Primary School in Lodokejek ward, since both locations were at a central point, respective to their wards and associated teachers.

The education department officials provided the respective schools with permission for the teachers and para teachers to attend the training. The Ministry officials also provided recommendations for potential trainers suitable for conducting the capacity building program. Each was conducted by an expert resource person. The training content was co-created by Pragya and the expert trainer and included the following topics: teaching methodology, classroom management skills, ICT teaching tools and their usage, social skills, creative learning techniques, and gender sensitivity. The impetus behind the project along with findings of the baseline and needs assessment were also shared and deliberated with the expert trainer.

The 2-day training focused on adopting demonstrative methods of teaching accompanied by relevant conceptual inputs and discussions. The expert trainer provided a full-length demonstration of the ICT tools and other educational resources including the innovative kits deployed in the ERCs to the teachers and para teachers. The demo covered 'How' and 'When' to use the ICT tools and other educational resources including kit materials while teaching in school. The demonstrations were followed by discussions and hands-on-practice sessions and helped the teachers in acquiring an adequate understanding of the modern teaching methodology, which is a prerequisite for delivery of quality education. The teachers and para teachers who attended the trainings were additionally provided with ERC management skills training. The trainings included operational and management protocols of running the ERC; methods to ensure sustainability of the ERCs were also discussed. The training has enhanced the capacity of the teachers and para teachers, and they are also encouraged to train their peer teachers on the same skills.

### Conclusion and way forward

The two established ERCs are empowering the teachers in these schools as well as other neighbouring small schools to access and use modern educational resources. The teachers and students from neighbourhood schools have begun to visit the ERCs to make use of the available resources and facilities. The neighbouring schools are now planning regular ERC visits for their teachers and students to help them explore and learn using these latest resources and ICT tools. The Pragya team is working closely with the Head Teachers and those specially assigned for the management of the respective ERCs. As of now, the ERCs are kept open for an additional two-hour duration for children from the neighbourhood villages, and community-specific promotional campaigns are being continued by the Pragya team.

Pragya aims to continue its fundraising to deliver additional ERCs in the region, building on the networks and experience gained in this recent work in Samburu and its earlier work in Turkana.



*Teacher's training at Loikas Primary School*



*Teacher's training at Loikas Primary School*

## Empowering women and minorities

### Prevention of trafficking of women and girls in rural Nepal

In 2022-23, Pragma continued its 'Prevention of trafficking and violence against women and girls in rural Nepal' project, which was delivered among remote communities in Dhading and Sindhupalchowk districts. The project aimed to safeguard the rights of women and adolescent girls, enhancing responses of institutions and communities to not only prevent but also address these issues. The project was directed at women and girls from disadvantaged groups and informal/migrant workers in the target area who are vulnerable to GBV, including trafficking to other metros or for bonded labor within Nepal. It also involved providing supportive assertiveness and rights education to women and girls, promoting attitude change in men and boys, and mobilizing local change agents.

Through community mobilization efforts involving meetings with female community members in the selected villages, women and girls from remote villages were supported to form into women's peer support groups (WPSGs, 4 in Sindhupalchowk and 4 in Dhading; with ca. 240 members). The members belonged to the age group of 18-59 years – female teachers, local health workers/nutrition workers, women members of SHG(s) and CBOs and women representatives in village governing bodies, were also included. The 8 WPSGs are led by 16 anchors selected separately from among the members. The Anchors possess an understanding of the local women's problems and are willing to devote time to solving them; know the local language and have effective communication and social mobilization skills; possess the capacity to motivate women for taking up issues with officials and liaising with government departments; and are keen to learn about gender sensitivity and women empowerment and related issues.

Local Gaunpalika (village council) members were selected from across the rural municipalities in which the project is working for sensitivity training towards combating GBV. A mix of male & female Gaunpalika members was ensured in the selection with the aim of facilitating a spread of the sensitivity developed among them to other eminent members in the target area. A series of sensitization programs were conducted in each district, towards building awareness of the selected Gaunpalika members on victimization processes, harmful traditional practices, and violence supportive customs. Led by a female Expert Trainer, the sessions educated these elected members about the underlying causes and adverse impacts of such practices. In addition, the programs guided them in formulating holistic approaches to combat trafficking and other forms of GBV. A total of 43 Gaunpalika members attended the training. Out of these, 21 were women and 22 men.

The above programs also facilitated the identification of potential individuals who could serve as Gender Equity Champions (GECs) in their respective areas, leading initiatives focused on promoting attitude and behaviour change. The GECs were selected from among the participants of the trainings, based on the individuals who displayed a strong engagement with the cause and a capacity to contribute strongly towards establishing a safe and secure environment for women acting within their existing job roles in the rural municipalities. GECs are intended to play a pivotal role in bringing about societal transformation by enabling prompt assistance and support from government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the broader community for rescuing and rehabilitating survivors.

The 10 Gaunpalika members (women) selected as GECs were thereafter trained further to help build and strengthen their anti-trafficking sensitivity and understanding of anti-trafficking services. Spread over two days, this was a skills-based training aimed at developing the GECs as 'Agents of change' while also building their knowledge on methods to combat human-trafficking.

A Women's Information & Assistance Cell (WIAC) was established within partner organisations in each district. The WIAC in Gajuri, Dhading was inaugurated by an officer of the Government Women's Cell for that district and attended by people from various sectors including social workers, locally elected government representatives, and WPSG members and Anchors. The WIAC in Chautara, Sindhupalchowk



*Women's peer support groups*

was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Municipal Women's Network and attended by municipality ward members, journalists and civil society members.

Each WIAC was furnished with literature and databases on relevant laws and regulations. Each was also provided with the necessary resources for operating a Helpline offering referrals for necessary legal, medical, and psychosocial support to at-risk women and survivors of GBV. Each partner organisation allocated a WIAC Officer who was handpicked for her competence in the Gender domain and experience in working with women in the target area. An intensive training was conducted for the WIAC staff, who were also provided with a Manual of WIAC protocols as well as a district-specific Resource directory. The latter comprises of names and contact details of potential referral institutions, including Women's Cells, Protection Clusters, Police Dept's as well as NGOs involved in rescue, shelter homes and NGOs working on rehabilitation services, lawyers, and health centers.

A "Justice for Women" awareness kit was developed that comprises materials on women's rights and safety, and covers a wide range of topics related to GBV, including information on identifying human trafficking, various laws pertaining to women's rights and harmful traditional practices and guidance on recognizing and addressing these issues, guidance on safe migration. These kits are serving as valuable resources for the WPSGs as well as the WIAC staff in their efforts towards prevention of GBV and protection of women from trafficking. The informative graphics in the kits are also being shared widely with the women in the target area through WhatsApp campaigns.

A GBV Watch was designed under the project for periodic data collection on the incidence of GBV in the area and the resolution and management of GBV cases. The GBV Watch is designed to involve the trained women leaders and WPSG Anchors, in addition to the WIAC staff, and contains several forms for the purpose of data collection for each of these participants in the process. Prior to implementing the Watch, the WIAC staff underwent an orientation process to ensure their familiarity with the approach and tools developed, and the methods for case documentation, recording incidence of GBV, data analysis, and finally the sharing of the GBV Watch findings. They have also been trained on ethical standards and safety measures with regard to data collection on GBV.

Four key transit points were identified from Dhading and Sindhupalchowk districts to the Indo-Nepal border. These points were Malekhu in Dhading district, Birgunj in Parsa district, Sindhupalchowk in Sindhupalchowk district, and Bhairahawa in Rupandehi district. The evidence-based selection of these points was done using a mix of secondary research and local consultations. Recognising that informal Responders can play a strong role and assist formal Responders towards a more effective trafficking prevention and rescue mechanism, the project sought to identify potential informal Responders at each of the key transit points identified. Field surveys were carried out to identify potential informal Responders, such as drivers, assistant drivers, and individuals employed in or managing shops, hotels, and restaurants at these transit points, assessing their interest and willingness to support the cause.

A total of 44 Responders were mobilised and trained through this initiative. The training sessions were conducted by trainers with expertise in the field of anti-trafficking. A comprehensive Training Manual and related training aids were created and shared with the Trainers. Significant emphasis was placed on victim identification and establishing a referral mechanism. This involved equipping the Responders with the knowledge and tools to identify potential victims and effectively share relevant information with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and law enforcement agencies.

Pragya is continuing to fundraise for this programme through 2023 in order to scale its impact and generate further evidence of its effectiveness.



Awareness materials (above) and a training session with local authorities.



Pragya and local partner staff

## Global Labor Programme: An Innovative Platform for Organising Marginalised Workers in Asia

In late 2021-22, Pragya joined several consortium partners to deliver a ground-breaking platform to organise marginalised workers across 7 countries in south and southeast Asia. The consortium is led by Solidar Suisse, with Pragya delivering the programme's India, Nepal, and Bangladesh components. Strongly based on principles of equity, inclusion, participation, and rights, the platform looks to address the multiple challenges faced by marginalised workers in the region, including: informal and vulnerable working conditions; growing inequality and wealth disparity; magnified vulnerabilities of women, marginalised groups; reduced spaces for bargaining, alongside marginalisation and exclusion; barriers to organising; and exacerbated health and safety vulnerabilities.

The overall objective of the project is to assess and promote new and innovative modes of organising for marginalized informal/precarious workers as a means to enhance workers' agency and effective bargaining, regional solidarity and inclusion, and visibility of workers' causes, while overcoming the impediments and restricted democratic space in their environments. Specific objectives include: the development of a regional platform for workers and/or their organisations in a participatory, 'bottom-up' process, comprising technological / virtual and on-the-ground networking; and participatory action research and evidence generation on alternative modes of organising, and their respective benefits in terms of agency, participation and access to rights.

The programme will be delivered over the course of 5 years, and will broadly work across the following thematic components:

- **Promoting marginalised workers' agency:** The programme will follow the principle that marginalised workers are not passive 'victims' but possess the 'agency' to bring about positive change in their lives and work. By organizing into democratic organisations with 'self' leadership, these can become empowered and change-agents for their groups and can self-bargain to demand their rights. Organising will bring visibility to the workers and eventually lead to their inclusion and a process of change from below.
- **Enabling innovation in organising and bargaining to build collective grassroots power:** Through grassroots applied research, the project will create and study new and innovative means of organizing that can overcome structural problems and hurdles posed by reduced space, and respond to new forms of labor relations including various forms of informal work, as well as the 'gig economy.' The proposed innovation would help facilitate effective lobbying, and eventually, bargaining by marginalized workers regionally. Multiple forms of bargaining will be explored, varying by the power-centers they target, and will seek to understand how marginalised workers may develop sustainable democratic organisations with self-leadership.
- **Creating a tech-enabled, grassroots platform for sharing, organising, and negotiation:** The project will create an active sharing platform – comprising virtual/digital as well as offline (i.e. face-to-face) components – connecting workers from multiple sectors with a large informal worker base in each country, and at the regional level. The platform would anchor and propel a process of 'shared learning'. Through the platform, otherwise dispersed fragmented groups of workers would experience solidarity, share organising experiences, discuss issues and strategies and aggregate for effective influencing and bargaining. The applied research will help in collection of valuable data and evidence to be fed back to grassroots bodies in the form of active tools for learning and capacity building.

The broader project is projected to have an outreach of 420,000 informal workers, comprising an estimated 260,000 in South Asia and 160,000 in Southeast Asia, and will engage with over 30 informal workers' organisations across the two regions, as well as 70 enabling institutions / actors towards developing cross-sectoral advocacy alliances as well as communities of practice and knowledge-sharing.

The consortium partners were selected based on experience in developing agency among informal workers in the target countries, and will leverage Pragya's track record in mobilising and training marginalised groups – particularly its past work to support migrant and informal workers. The project will harness learnings from these experiences, while also leveraging existing grassroots organisations and networks of workers towards the creation of a 'regional platform' to engage with key actors such as industry associations and government bodies. Networks we have supported will also be connected via the platform.

### **Progress in 2022-23: worker mobilisation**

Year I of the project in South Asia ended with a key change, as India was dropped as a participating country, resulting in increased coverage in Bangladesh and Nepal, with the addition of a district each in each of these two countries, and concomitantly, an additional Resource Organisation in each of these

countries. The project coverage in Bangladesh was expanded to cover Sirajganj district, while the coverage in Nepal was expanded to Dhanusha district as well. Two new Resource Organisations, Rural Development Foundation (RDF) in Dhanusha district in Nepal and Bangladesh Pragati Sangstha (BPS) in Sirajganj district in Bangladesh, were provided with a thorough orientation which included the progress made during the first year of the project.

Research and mobilisation continued, with a total of 25,875 informal workers (13,092 in Bangladesh and 12,783 in Nepal) mobilised to date. Of these, 10,889 are women. These include workers from different sectors including agriculture, fishes, garment & leather, construction, tourism, and gig & delivery. Meetings and training sessions are carried out with the new members to understand problems with their living and working contexts. To date, 51 nonformal smaller groups have been organised, typically based on location and sector, and which have been federated into 13 larger collectives.

### Design of CONNECT platform app

Training modules for capacity building and legal support have been developed based on six thematic priorities – Legal support, Local support structures, Occupational Health & Safety, Social protection programs and benefits, Financial literacy and Skills Training – and a wide range of educational resources have been developed by the South Asia Content Development Team. A range of scripts and narratives are being developed with illustrations towards developing audio-visually for international laws, civil and criminal law processes, fundamental rights, the rights of arrested persons, local labour laws, immigration laws and laws pertaining to women and children, including trafficking and child labour for Bangladesh. For Nepal, the team is working on content related to trafficking, laws related to women and children, and the penal code, social security schemes for widows, disabled persons, and other vulnerable groups, basics of financial literacy among others. The platform will also offer online courses for informal workers to upgrade their skills. These courses are being developed keeping in mind suggestions put forth by informal workers during various interactions and surveys. The courses currently under development include Tailoring, Small Business Management, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Beekeeping. Apart from the course content itself, a series of short instructional videos and customized quizzes for checking the progress of learners are also being developed in local languages.

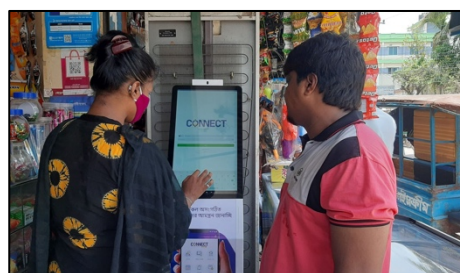
### Initiation and handholding of platform

A capacity building programme was delivered for developing leaders/representatives from grassroots worker organizations, with a cohort of 74 informal worker collectives' leaders (including 26 women) trained on use of the CONNECT App, and on using the online resources and modules available on the platform. The launch of the platform was well-received, and in Bangladesh was attended by representatives from BRAC, BCWS, Nablok, Awaj Foundation, BCWS, BLAST, American Center for Solidarity, and Solidarity Center Bangladesh. In Nepal, representatives attended from Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS), EEBAC Nepal, Nepal Intellectual Foundation, Woman Development service center, Amnesty International (Woman Group), Janjati Mahasng, BDS, Mahila Aatma Nirvarta Kendra (MANK), Centre for Labour and Social Studies Nepal (CLASS), FORWARD Nepal, Center for Migration, and International Relations (CMIR) and Woman Human Rights Defender Network. CONNECT Kiosks have also been placed in strategic locations in Bangladesh (Narayanganj and Khulna) and Nepal (Sindhupalchok, Kaski and Dhanusha).

Coordinator teams and the collective leaders/mentors have been propelling the platform's usage, supported by the development of a network of service-providers for providing pro-bono legal and psycho-social counselling. Periodic training is being provided to build leadership skills among these key members,

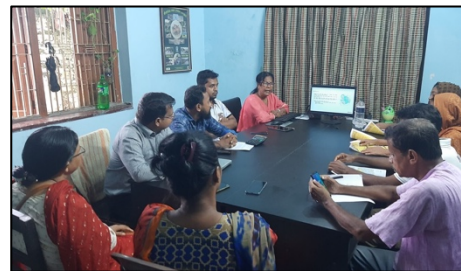


*Digital literacy information sessions for informal workers in Bangladesh (above) and Nepal (below)*



*A CONNECT kiosk in Khulna, Bangladesh*

contributing to the spread of awareness and a cascade of training among collective members about their entitlements and an enhanced inclination towards collective bargaining. Additionally dedicated training sessions were also conducted on organising, negotiation, and collective bargaining. Membership and registration drives are also being delivered alongside the partner organisations, accompanied by introduction to the CONNECT App's key features and usage and engagement building sessions which included familiarisation with the content and the utility of each feature on the platform.



*Psychosocial services training session*

## Networking

The programme is also continuing to identify institutions for worker organizations to network with for bargaining and facilitating linkages, identifying power-centres (government/industry) for worker organizations to target, and supporting collective bargaining. These include key government departments and industry associations identified in South Asia, which are being interacted with by the country teams and the grassroots Resource Organisations, with periodic inputs towards building a more responsive ecosystem. Consultations have identified key areas for discussions with power centres, and liaison is under way to discuss mitigation strategies to address marginalised workers' issues and pave the way towards more inclusive policies for informal workers, including recognition as workers and coverage under associated legislations. Engagement with other network institutions in South Asia, such as academia and civil society, continued through the reporting period. The programme is also engaging with media for enhancing visibility of worker issues, including periodic campaigns on various worker issues. Country-specific information briefs titled "Informal Workers: Contribution and Needs" were published and distributed as part of a series of communications for enhancing visibility of workers' issues. These were disseminated to various stakeholders, including industry associations and institutions, civil society organisations, and academic and research bodies.

## Next steps

Going forward, along with scaling of networks of informal workers and links with key actors in the space, the programme will focus on generating evidence and knowledge development, including a Social Watch program for mapping worker organising activities and for mapping visibility of informal worker issues. Periodic studies on specific worker issues, organising and negotiating, visibility and solidarity will also be conducted, contributing towards the publication of research papers for dissemination. More broadly, the project will aim to develop a knowledge hub (digital, multi-lingual) for sharing country and regional experiences and good practices. The Technology Special Focus Team at Pragya is currently working on the UI development of the Knowledge Hub for ease of sharing experiences and learnings. The digital knowledge hub would be responsive (adapted across various devices), would have multi-language capacity and a content management system (CMS) for uploading content by consortium partners. The team is exploring various website features and layouts for showcasing the knowledge resources, with emphasis on Participatory Action Research (PAR), and would collect feedback from consortium partners once the basic design is ready.



*Focus Group Discussion (FGD) groups in Narayanganj, Bangladesh (above) and Kaski, Nepal (below).*

## Health, safe water, and sanitation

### Safe water and sanitation for marginalised mountain communities in Nepal

In April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed thousands of people and caused widespread destruction of homes and damage to key buildings and infrastructure critical to the functioning of society, including health, education and WASH infrastructure. Severe poverty and marginalisation in Nepal's remote rural communities have meant lasting impacts; government resources have been unable to match the scale of the devastation, with many household and community WASH resources remaining unusable, propelling open defecation and contamination of water sources that result in high levels of waterborne disease transmission in communities with the least resilience and poor access to healthcare. For the most vulnerable community members, this can prove fatal - over 430 children die in Nepal every year from diarrhoea resulting from dirty water and poor-quality toilets. Damaged or lack of school toilets also causes stress among schoolchildren, resulting in poor performance and absenteeism.

Since the earthquake, Pragma has been delivering rehabilitation and resilience programmes across Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts. In 2018, Pragma completed a WASH needs assessment in Sindhupalchowk and Dhading districts, which revealed exceedingly poor water access and sanitation infrastructure. This persisting situation demands continued support from the international development community, and Pragma maintains its commitment to serving those remote communities in Nepal that have failed to recover from the earthquake.

Pragma's comprehensive WASH rehabilitation programme in Nepal addresses the immediate infrastructure needs whilst building local WASH management capacity:

- **Installation of robust and hygienic water storage tanks.** The tanks are fitted with high-capacity and low-maintenance water filtration technology, enabling nearby availability of safe water and reducing drudgery.
- **Construction of high-quality sanitation blocks.** The block comprises separate male / female units designed to ensure privacy, and are constructed to earthquake-resistant designs. They reduce open defecation and hence spread of waterborne diseases, preventing avoidable deaths among children and other more vulnerable community members, and promote improved environmental hygiene.
- **Community WASH awareness sessions.** The sessions cover common waterborne diseases and their transmission, household waste management, hygienic food preparation, household-level water purification methods, as well as menstrual hygiene sessions for women. The sessions have information for all the family, including content specifically oriented to children, learning in a fun and engaging way.
- **Capacity building for local WASH management.** This includes the formation and training of community Water and Sanitation Committees, with a mandate to manage all local WASH facilities and empowered to advocate for enhanced WASH management at the district level.

Its past work has included a £38,000 initiative, completed in 2019 and supported by the Overseas Aid and Development Commission, States of Guernsey, which supplied clean water, quality sanitation, and WASH awareness to over 3,200 people in schools and villages across four districts.

In 2021-22, with the combined support of the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, the Drinking Fountain Association, the Harbinson Charitable Trust, and the Southall Trust, Pragma completed an additional project cycle across 5 remote villages located in Tripurasundari Rural Municipality, Dhading District. The project outcomes included: water harvesting, storage, and filtration systems benefitting 50 households, comprising circa 229 residents, who have access to safe drinking water; community toilet blocks benefitting 50 households, comprising circa 259 residents, who have access to decent sanitation; WASH awareness campaigns benefitting circa 642 residents, who have a better understanding of community and family hygiene; training of grassroots WASH committees comprising 50 local community members, who have improved understanding of WASH needs and leadership skills.

Pragma is continuing to fundraise to scale its WASH programmes in rural Nepal, and in 2022-23 secured new funding for project work that will be completed in 2024.



*Awareness session (above) and community toilet block (below).*

## Community-based water resource management for pastoral communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)

Over 7 million pastoralists living in Kenya's arid-and-semi-arid lands (ASALs) face severe water insecurity due to the effects of climate change. Increasing rates of drought and irregular rainfall patterns have accelerated the depletion and degradation of limited water resources, threatening traditional livelihoods, resource governance arrangements and land tenures. Past research delivered by Pragma with support from the Overseas Aid and Development Commission, States of Guernsey – involving participatory hydrology studies of 96 water sources across the ASAL counties of Samburu, Turkana, and Laikipia – highlighted severe water stress due to increasing climate volatility, seasonal water shortages, over-dependency per water source, and poor quality of water laden with biological and chemical contaminants. Pragma's research also assessed how these circumstances impact pastoral migratory routes and resource-sharing arrangements, propelling conflict as communities compete for water.

Building on this research, Pragma has been implementing a WASH programme for pastoral ASAL communities that to date has benefitted over 7,200 people through the creation of Women's Water & Sanitation Councils, water management training, spring revitalisation, regeneration of degraded pasturelands, and a range of community installations for improved water harvesting, de-silting of water sources, and improved transport and storage of water. A school sanitation intervention also involved provision of school toilets and hygiene awareness, whilst work with nomadic groups included distribution of portable water tanks.

In 2021-22, with the support of the JAC Trust, Pragma launched a project to scale this work among pastoral communities in Samburu County. This project has been addressing issues related to water stress due to increasing climate volatility, seasonal water shortages, over-dependency per water source, as well as poor quality of water, through improved water conservation and management technologies. It is also designed to address the inter-ethnic conflicts due to the issues related to resource-sharing and water by fostering participation and collaboration around water resource management. The project has sought to enhance the capacity of water-stressed communities through targeted water management training, introduction of appropriate technologies, participative water conservation, and cooperative water budgeting.

In 2022-23, progress for the project included:

### **Community Engagement**

Consultative meetings were conducted with community members as well as a needs assessment using Key Informant Interviews a participatory baseline survey. These helped identify villages for the intervention and community representatives for forming Water Conservation Groups (WCG) in each of 10 selected beneficiary villages.

### **Water Management Training**

746 community members (428M; 318F) were trained via 40 sessions in four rounds of training, delivered by an expert trainer. These helped to strengthen the community representatives' and other trainees' knowledge of water governance, appropriate technologies for water harvesting, conservation, and reuse, and participative resource management strategies, including sharing and conflict resolution.

### **Participative Water Conservation Measures**

10 key water sources were identified using a 3-step scientific process and suitable revitalisation/management measures undertaken. Structural measures have included: trenches, semicircular-earthbunds, and lowland ponds near water sources to increase infiltration. Vegetative measures included: plantations of shade-providing species (*Grevillea robusta*, *Melia volkensii*) towards reducing evapotranspiration; and soil-binding species (*Cenchrus ciliaris*,



*Constructing staggered trenches*



*Digging shallow tanks*

*Cyprus papyrus*) towards reducing soil erosion. Community members participated in identifying sources, planning interventions, and carrying them out.

### **Community Water Budgeting**

A participatory water budgeting exercise was undertaken in each of the communities. Stakeholder groups (WCGs, other community representatives, CSO members, village chiefs/sub-chiefs) worked to estimate water requirements [drinking, household, livestock, agriculture] and availability [rainfall data, water resources]. Seasonal availability, deficit/surplus, and water management action plans were arrived at for dry and wet seasons. The WCGs agreed on a consensus proposal, which was signed/ratified and disseminated.

Community members, particularly the community representatives, have gained in capacity for water management, both in terms of techniques and methods via training, and through involvement in participative water conservation and budgeting exercises. The work of the community representatives and WCGs, the cascade trainings, and water conservation activities have also contributed to an attitudinal shift in the wider communities as they have become more aware of threats to the sources' sustainability and the measures they can take to improve the quality and quantity of the water.

The development of community representatives and the capacity building inputs on conflict resolution have helped initiate community structures for water management and harmonious water-sharing. Government officials and other stakeholders were also involved, and a collaborative people-state approach has been initiated towards water conservation.

The water conservation activities undertaken have significantly improved community capacity on conservation techniques (both structural and vegetative), their design and implementation, relative costs, and benefits. The communities have also been discussing application of similar techniques to other water sources to further reduce the scarcity of water resources and improve the environment around them. Initiatives to start nurseries are being discussed to increase the number of trees and green cover along the water sources.

The WCGs and their activities are leading to increased communal harmony, with the communities coming together with the common purpose of safeguarding their water sources. WCG meetings and the water budgeting exercises have helped to build consensus on participative management of water resources, bridging inter-community barriers. The community is optimistic and keen to access the expected benefits of clean potable water, increased quantity of water, reduced water stress and conflicts, and improved ecosystems. Some of the measures that community members have adopted following the programme training and demonstrations are:

- Growing of crops/ trees with low water requirements
- Increased efforts for rationed use of water for livestock
- Adopting reuse methods: wastewater is used for irrigation
- Harvesting of rainwater at the household level: as most of the houses have tin/ iron roofs, they are harvesting rainwater in buckets or tubs, and are using it for watering of small plants, drinking water for livestock, washing dishes, etc.

The work delivered in 2022-2023 was assisted by a grant from The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity, among other funders.



*Shaping earth bunds*

## Disaster management

### DMS-Himalaya - Strengthening disaster preparedness in the Himalaya

The Himalayan region is extremely disaster-prone and subject to multiple types of hazards including flash flooding, landslides and glacier collapse, earthquakes, and forest fires. Global warming is having a disproportionate impact on the region, with warming at up to three times the global average, driving ever more erratic weather events, disrupting monsoon patterns and exacerbating the frequency and intensity of disasters. The populations affected are remote and marginalised communities that have little disaster resilience, whilst government disaster management authorities are hampered by lack of incident information and geographic constraints.

Pragya has pioneered the Disaster Management System (DMS)-Himalaya, an information and capacity building programme that enables remote Himalayan communities to reduce their disaster risk and to respond effectively in disaster scenarios. It reimagines the accepted (but ineffective) roles for disaster management, building capacity at every point in the disaster management chain and networking communities, responders, and government, fostering a collaborative community-state approach to disaster management, supported by appropriate technology.

DMS-Himalaya aims to address the prevailing issues with respect to effective disaster management (DM) in the Indian Himalayan Region through the implementation of a *Citizen-led Disaster Management System*, uniquely adapted to the Himalayan region, its geography, and hazard profiles. The innovation establishes a network and infrastructure to link communities at the local level through to government authorities. It comprises:

**Disaster Response Teams (DRT):** These are in-community observation nodes and responders comprising local youth responsible for: weather and geological data monitoring and alerting communities; assisting in community evacuations; acting as first responders in emergency; and supporting post-disaster data collection and needs reporting.

**Points of Presence (PoP):** These are proximal communications points, typically police/army outposts equipped with satellite communications technology for disaster information relay from local levels.

**Local Disaster Management Units (LDMU):** Local government disaster management (DM) offices are equipped with a Resource Directory and connected with the DRTs and PoPs for information relay. These are also connected with scientific institutions for relay of regional weather warnings to the PoPs.

#### **Two Pillars of Support for Effective Community Based Disaster Management:**

- Tools for Hazard Monitoring, Early Warning and Relief Needs Communication: This comprises local hazard monitoring frameworks including weather monitoring tools for local observational data. Recording and communication of the observational data is via the DMS-Himalaya App which comprises:
  - Go-Risk: location-specific pre-disaster environmental alert tool using grassroots measurement grids
  - RnR-Comm: a Relief & Response communication tool for post-disaster community use
- Capacity building of community / responders: Training for stakeholders (DRTs, village councils, government DM officers) to perform their functions; conducting of village-level Hazard, Vulnerability and Capability Assessments and mapping of hazards, safe spaces and evacuation routes; and conducting village-level disaster awareness drives and evacuation drills. This is enabled via a DMS-Himalaya Training Toolkit comprising modules for various stakeholder groups.

In Phase I, which culminated in 2019-2020, DMS Himalaya was piloted in 4 districts in the state of Uttarakhand in the central Himalayan zone in India. This pilot phase built an effective base for adoption of DMS-Himalaya across 800 villages - comprising 80 clusters with trained Disaster Response Teams (DRT) in each cluster, equipped with the DMS-Himalaya App's digital tools (Go-Risk and RnR-Comm). Interventions during this phase built the capacity of the DRTs as well as key stakeholders across the 4 districts to enable them to carry out their envisaged role in community-based disaster management. The digital tools also proved their worth, improving early warning, response, and post-disaster relief.

Phase II of the project, which commenced in 2021, is expanding coverage to the eastern and western Himalayan zones in India. The expansion covers 8 new districts, comprising 4 districts in each of the 2 zones of eastern and western Himalaya. This phase of the project is supporting the modulation of the project's tools to the variations in hazard profiles between the central Himalaya and the eastern and western Himalaya, thereby ensuring robustness and area-appropriateness of the tools. Demonstration of the efficacy of the model across all 3 zones, with an equal footprint for demonstration in each, will further prime it for uptake across the entire length of the Indian Himalaya.

## Key developments in 2022-23:

In the Phase I areas, all key stakeholders – including the Disaster Response Teams (DRTs), Points of Presence (POPs), Responders, and Government Officials – received booster training. Capacity to effectively use the innovation’s technological features, equipment, and tools is also improving. Village-level preparedness councils are being supported to further grassroots capacity, particularly via leadership training for target sub-groups. In the Phase II areas, the system was initiated across all the target districts, including agreements with all relevant government bodies, initial training for all DRTs, hazard and vulnerability mapping for all villages, and deployment of all automated weather stations. Development of village-level awareness and preparedness also made notable progress via mobilisation of grassroots councils.



*Promoting community awareness of disaster management*

### Deepening support for established Disaster Response Teams:

DRTs from the Phase I districts received booster training sessions, while all the 160 DRTs added in Phase II had received at least a round of training by early 2023. These continue to be delivered in partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and respective State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA), deepening links with key government bodies. Early impacts are visible in both the Eastern and Western Himalayas – in 5 extreme events in the Western Himalayas, the associated DRTs provided significant services for rescue and evacuation; in the Eastern Himalayas, in 4 extreme events, the DRTs provided early warning as well as support for evacuation.

### Use of DMS-Himalaya Tools:

The DRTs continued to monitor climatic parameters throughout the year using weather stations and the DMS Himalaya App and observation tools. The DMS Himalaya App now includes new hazards relevant to the new zones, and the DMS-Himalaya Manual has been updated and translated into Hindi, Ladakhi, and Assamese. Resource directories were also completed for the new districts. The data collection process also encouraged relationship building with the respective district government offices, and has given an idea about the availability and non-availability of specific resources within given areas. The Directories have been made available to all local stakeholders for their use.

### Automated Weather Stations (AWS) installation:

All planned AWS were installed in the new districts – a total of 63 – and these work together to measure, store, and communicate data on numerous essential weather parameters. During 2022-2023, over 150 valid alerts were generated.

### Widening community awareness and enhancing preparedness:

Broad and targeted awareness campaigns were delivered throughout the third year, involving partnerships with large, district-wide radio stations as well as smaller scale social media, SMS, and WhatsApp channels. These are estimated to have reached nearly 1 million people. Village Preparedness Committees (VPCs) continued to be supported. Training programmes imparted skills related to risk assessment and mitigation, as well as hazard-specific behaviour codes and seasonal preparatory activities. Pragma completed HRVCAs (Hazard Risk Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments) in all the target villages in the 8 new districts. The HRVCA maps have been displayed at a commonly visited and maximally visible site in every village.



*Village Preparedness Committee (VPC) meetings*

### Orientation and training on DMS-Himalaya and network:

Workshops conducted with key stakeholders in the new districts shaped the DMS Network in each district and oriented the stakeholders to their roles, linkages, and processes. These workshops had the participation of 114 key stakeholders from across the 8 new districts in the eastern and western Himalayas. Intensive training has also been provided on the AWS and the DMS App.

As in the Central Himalayas, DM leadership capacity is being developed for different target groups in the eastern and western Himalayan regions. To date 47 programmes were conducted for village councils, involving over 2000 members from over 300 councils, and 52 programmes were conducted for women’s

groups, involving over 3000. Training is also being organized in schools, with over 250 children benefitting to date.

*Ecosystem-based DRR:* village councils were facilitated to identify sites for conservation with risk mitigation in their neighbourhoods. To date, 4 such sites have been identified in the Western Himalayas (3 in Leh district and 1 in Chamba district).

#### Propelling the integration of DMS-Himalaya with state DM systems:

Arrangements made with all target district authorities, along with ongoing partnerships with disaster authorities and India Meteorological Department (IMD) have been crucial to advancing people-state linkages. These included the MoU's, AWS inaugurations, and workshops, as well as the ongoing training arrangements, data exchange, and knowledge sharing. Active use of the networks in disaster scenarios is further promoting the entrenchment of the network.

#### **Next steps: strengthening the wider stakeholder network**

Mobilisation and engagement, as well as the continued development and roll-out of targeted leadership building activities, are helping to build broader grassroots capacity and promote engagement with and ownership of the model from communities. Streamlining and troubleshooting data exchange among DRTs, AWS, and nodal agencies is also supporting the development of relationships essential to the network. These efforts will continue through to 2024, with further evidence generated on the programme's scaling and impact.



HRVCA maps displayed in village centres

## 4. Pragma UK: Global Network and Partner Organisations

Pragma UK is part of a network of locally-registered Pragma organisations around the world with a common purpose and vision. The UK branch of Pragma is primarily a fundraising, communications, and project management function, and we do not have staff based overseas. Instead, to implement our programmes we work in partnership with our global sister organisations and where appropriate we leverage the expertise of experienced and carefully vetted third party NGOs with whom we have long-established MOUs. This set-up ensures our work is delivered by staff with a depth of knowledge and experience concerning the local context, whilst contributing to local labour markets.

In India, Pragma UK delivers its projects in partnership with Pragma India; founded in 1995, Pragma India is headquartered in Gurugram and operates across western, northern and eastern India via an extensive network of field offices. Pragma India has a substantial research and advocacy function, and delivers a wide variety of projects across the full breadth of Pragma programme areas.

Pragma UK has worked with Pragma in Nepal since 2006; based in Kathmandu, they coordinate the delivery of projects across rural districts, harnessing the highly localised expertise of NGOs situated in the vicinity of project sites.

Pragma UK began delivering projects in Bangladesh in 2018. We work in partnership with in-country NGOs to improve the desperate situation of river island communities facing multiple severe challenges. Following research and pilot work in 2018-19, Pragma secured grant funding in 2019-20 to launch its Bangladesh programmes, beginning with WASH interventions but with wider programming also planned across disaster management, livelihoods, prevention of trafficking and violence against women, and education.

In east Africa, Pragma UK works with Pragma Kenya, an NGO founded in 2011 and based in Nairobi and delivering projects in tandem with selected localised NGOs in Kakamega county in western Kenya, as well as in the northern Arid and Semi-Arid counties. Pragma Kenya are experienced in conducting research and development interventions encompassing water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, healthcare, education, and inter-community conflict.

**Thank you to all our supporters without whose generosity and vision our vital work would not be possible.**

**PRAGYA**

*Development without Destruction  
Empowerment for Enabling Choices*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Company number</b>	N.A.
<b>Charity number</b>	1082476
<b>Registered office</b>	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
<b>Trustees</b>	Gargi Banerji - Chairperson Arasan Aruliah Pratap Rughani
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC 176 Camden High Street London NW1 8QL
<b>Solicitors</b>	N.A.

**C O N T E N T S**

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative information are set out on page 2 and forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### **STATUS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

PRAGYA was registered as a charity on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

#### **Charitable Objects**

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The objects of the charity are:

- i. to stimulate development in vulnerable and neglected communities, particularly in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile areas, enabling and empowering them through the use of appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and indigenous solutions;
- ii. to encourage improved natural resource management, and conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural and cultural heritage in sensitive ecosystems and communities;
- iii. to institute alternative, sustainable development forms in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile and pristine areas, through development action and policy change;
- iv. to conduct research in the development sciences with special reference to the target areas and groups (as above), develop appropriate models/products/tools/techniques, and document, publish and exchange the learnings acquired;
- v. to raise funds to support activities towards meeting the above objectives of the Charity.

### **TRUSTEES**

Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr. Arasan Aruliah  
4, Middleton Grove  
London N7 9LU

Ms. Gargi Banerji - Chair  
102, Tower 4, The Palms, Sector 30  
Gurgaon - 122001, India

Mr. Pratap Rughani  
22, Sugar Loaf Walk  
Bethnal Green  
London E2 OJQ

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Trustee Board meets two times a year.

### **Internal Control, Management and Risk Review**

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Governance activities include maintaining ongoing controls and procedures to ensure effective stewardship of financial and other resources, and monitoring of annual objectives against an agreed strategic and business plan for the organisation. The Trustee Board receives regular reports from management staff and conducts an in-depth review at least twice a year. This review includes an assessment of key internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the charity's general and specific objectives – and forms the basis of agreed updates and amendments to the strategic plan.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and identification and management of risks.

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity's internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees have reviewed risks and are satisfied that appropriate mitigating controls and actions are in place.

## **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Beneficiaries**

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The primary beneficiaries of the charity include the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Nepal. In addition, the wider public, policymakers and others that can influence and bring about a positive change in the condition of the primary beneficiaries are also targeted by the charity through its interventions.

### **Objectives**

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The objectives of the charity include:

- i. Build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to access their rights and achieve their own development goals.
- ii. Enhance the economic and livelihood opportunities available to disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to conserve and utilise their surrounding ecosystem in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- iv. Conserve and promote traditional culture and knowledge.
- v. Utilise this traditional knowledge alongside new technology to improve the management of natural resources in the ecologically sensitive areas.
- vi. Advocate within the UK and internationally on the importance of supporting community-led development and environmental conservation.

Our objectives are achieved through:

- Mobilising resources and providing knowledge and monitoring inputs for projects being implemented by partners in disadvantaged regions.
- Documenting needs of communities and project learnings and sharing with stakeholders and the development community in the UK.
- Participating in various fora and networking for developing wider awareness and building a support base for target issues/region in the UK.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our key financial objectives were to secure funding for current services and to increase our unrestricted reserves to expand and develop new areas of work. We were successful in enhancing resources for existing programmes as well as in scaling up new areas of work.

Total incoming resources for the year were £557,832 (2022 - £682,634); total expenditure was £841,675 (2022 - £501,056). A breakdown of expenditure by activity areas is on Statement of financial Activities (page 9).

Total funds during the year decreased by £ 283,843 (2022 - Increase of £181,578), bringing the funds carried forward to £ 29,876 (2022 - £313,719).

**Reserves Policy and Going Concern**

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Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2023 would be at a level sufficient to cover three months' expenditure, i.e. £15,000. The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that Charity are a going concern.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '*charities and public benefit*'.

Pragya's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects - to support and develop the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in the underserved regions. The Trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering programmes and services that are of value to the participants of the projects. The participants are members of the public known to and/or identified by Partner organisations (e.g. NGO's, Local Authorities, Aid Agencies) with whom and for whom Pragya develops the projects. These partnerships ensure that Pragya's activities reach the right recipients and thus fulfil the charities core objectives.

Approved by the Board on 29 January, 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 29 January, 2024

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF PRAGYA**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andi Dollia, CPFA  
Additude Ltd  
9 Rhapsody Court  
Wakeman Road  
London NW10 5DF

Date: *25 January 2024*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating income and expenditure account)**

	Note	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2023 Total (£)	2022 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	552,232	5,600	<b>557,832</b>	682,634
Charitable activities					-
Investment and other income					-
<b>Total (Total Income)</b>		<b>552,232</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>557,832</b>	682,634
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	3				
Raising funds		15,939		<b>15,939</b>	16,596
Charitable activities		817,754	7,982	<b>825,736</b>	484,460
Other					-
<b>Total (Total Expenditure)</b>		<b>833,693</b>	<b>7,982</b>	<b>841,675</b>	501,056
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>					-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	4	<b>(281,461)</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>	<b>(283,843)</b>	181,578
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(281,461)</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>	<b>(283,843)</b>	181,578
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		284,961	28,758	<b>313,719</b>	132,141
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>3,500</b>	<b>26,376</b>	<b>29,876</b>	313,719

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		1,006	399
Cash at bank		34,017	319,543
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>35,023</b>	<b>319,942</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	5,147	6,223
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>29,876</b>	<b>313,719</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	8	<b>29,876</b>	<b>313,719</b>
<b>Funds</b>	9		
Restricted		3,500	284,961
General		26,376	28,758
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>29,876</b>	<b>313,719</b>

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question. The directors acknowledge responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far applicable to the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 29 January, 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 29 January, 2024

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. Accounting policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).
- b. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c. Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- e. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- f. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- g. The costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work.

**2. Donations and legacies**

	2023			2022
	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	Total (£)	Total (£)
Balbir Chowdhary	-	2,400	2,400	2,400
Brian Mercer Trust	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
CB and HH Taylor 1984 Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Charles Hayward Foundation	15,000	-	15,000	-
Coles-Medlock Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
ELRHA	85,587	-	85,587	257,483
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	-	-	-	4,000
Foundation for the Third Millennium (SDM), Switzerland	18,487	-	18,487	-
Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission	-	-	-	23,729
Harbinson Charitable Trust	-	2,400	2,400	1,450
Hasluck Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
JAC Trust	-	-	-	28,558
James Tudor Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	15,263	-	15,263	-

Marsh Charitable Trust	-	500	500	-
Navnat Vanik Association of the United Kingdom	-	300	300	-
Other Trusts and foundations	-	-	-	180,868
Solidar Suisse, Switzerland	372,395	-	372,395	154,146
Souter Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Southall Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation	2,500	-	2,500	-
The Gibbs Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
The Haremead Trust	-	-	-	5,000
The Kirby Laing Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity	10,000	-	10,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>552,232</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>557,832</b>	<b>682,634</b>

### **3. Total Expenditure**

<b>Expenditure</b>	Cost of raising funds (£)	Cost of charitable activities (£)	Support Costs (£)	<b>2023 Total (£)</b>	2022 Total (£)
Staff costs (note 5)	13,054	26,108	13,055	52,217	55,059
Rent, insurance, utilities, services			11,540	11,540	10,020
Bank Charges			1,690	1,690	945
Postage and telephone			387	387	95
Membership Subscriptions			378	378	1,792
Independent Examination			1,200	1,200	1,100
Consultancy fees			600	600	600
Direct project expenses		773,663		773,663	431,445
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,054</b>	<b>799,771</b>	<b>28,850</b>	<b>841,675</b>	501,056
Add: allocation of support costs	2,885	25,965	(28,850)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>15,939</b>	<b>825,736</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>841,675</b>	501,056

**4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

This is stated after charging / crediting:	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	1,200	1,100

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Salaries and wages	52,217	54,218
Social security costs	-	841
Pension contributions	-	-
Total emoluments paid to employees were:	52,217	55,059
No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2022 - 0)		
The average weekly number of staff (expressed as full-time equivalents) during the year was 1.8 (2022: 1.8)		
	2023 (FTE)	2022 (FTE)
Raising funds	0.5	0.5
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Support costs	0.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**6. Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**7. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Trade Creditors	14	-
Other Creditors	3,633	4,823
Independent Examination	1,200	1,100
Accruals and Provisions	300	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>6,223</b>

**8. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted Funds (£)	General funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	3,500	26,376	29,876
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>26,376</b>	<b>29,876</b>

**9. Movements in Fund**

	At the start of the year (£)	Incoming resources (£)	Outgoing resources (£)	Transfers (£)	At the end of the year (£)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>28,758</b>	<b>5,600</b>	7,982	-	<b>26,376</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>284,961</b>	<b>552,232</b>	833,693	-	<b>3,500</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>313,719</b>	<b>557,832</b>	<b>841,675</b>	-	<b>29,876</b>
<b><u>Purposes of funds</u></b>					
<b>General funds:</b> These are the free reserves of the Charity, which can be used for any purpose within its charitable objects.					
<b>Restricted funds:</b> The restricted funding was received over the course of the financial year for use in the 'Gender' projects, 'Food Security', 'WASH', 'Labour Welfare' projects and for 'Disaster Risk Reduction & Management' Projects					

**PRAGYA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1082476

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# Accounts

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# Pragya UK

## Annual Review 2021-22



### 1. Context

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Pragya is a registered charity committed to the relief of suffering and disadvantage among marginalised communities living in extreme poverty and protection of fragile ecosystems in south Asia and east Africa. Working with our partner organisations in India, Nepal, Kenya, and Bangladesh, Pragya aims to secure better living standards and opportunities for the people we serve while also conserving the natural environment. Our work combats poverty and marginalisation across critical development themes: food, agriculture, and rural livelihoods; health, safe water, and sanitation; empowering women and minorities; disaster management and risk reduction; conservation and renewable energy; and education.



**Our Vision** is one of marginalised communities living dignified lives free from poverty and injustice, fully enjoying the benefits of development in a manner harmonious with cultural heritage and the natural environment.

**Our Core Values** are *development without destruction* and *empowerment for enabling choices*. We facilitate development in a way that maintains cultural integrity, respects the natural environment, and builds capacity at the grassroots for community and personal self-determination.

#### **Our Approach**

##### Integrated development

Our approach is comprehensive – combining research, advocacy, awareness raising, resource inputs, and training. We work with communities across interlinked themes such as water supply and agriculture, healthcare and nutrition, education and social norms – all of which are impacted by cross-cutting issues like climate change, gender, protracted conflict, and governance. By designing development solutions with mutually supportive elements, our projects have a track record of unaided continuity in the long term.

##### Building relationships

Pragya believes in bringing people together for collaborative action. We work in coordination with educational and research institutions, civil society, industry, national governments, and the United Nations. But just as important are the long-term relationships we foster with beneficiary communities. We engage across key pillars of community life, including schools, health centres, local authorities, cultural institutions, and employers, harnessing breadth and depth of ideas, skills, and experience for collective, efficient responses to development challenges.

##### Research

Pragya strives to advance global understanding of marginalised populations: undertaking ethnographic research, surveying remote, often little-understood geographies and climates, and informing policy debate on conservation and social development issues in national governments and international institutions. Our research also investigates how appropriate technologies might best be applied to improve the wellbeing of communities living in isolation.

#### **Brief History and Recognition**

Pragya in the UK was founded in 2000. The organisation is part of a network of locally registered Pragya organizations comprising over 200 interdisciplinary staff across south Asia and east Africa, with operations beginning in India in 1995, Nepal in 2006, Kenya in 2011, and Bangladesh in 2018. Their combined work has benefitted more than 700,000 people to date.

Pragya's community-centred approach and track record of delivering positive impact have been recognised by several awards: the Whitley Gold Award for Nature Conservation (2000), an Energy Globe Award (2005), a STARS Impact Award (2010), USAID's All Children Reading - Grand Challenge for

Development Award (2012), a Top 20 Innovation in Risk Award (2015), and an ICT for Mountain Development Award (2016). Pragma holds Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC.

## **Our programmes span several themes supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

### *Food, agriculture, and rural livelihoods*

Pragma works to improve food production and nutrition in rural communities, emphasising crop research and climate smart agriculture. Livelihoods projects span agriculture and livestock as well as handicrafts, and support ethical trade networks.

### *Health, safe water, and sanitation*

Pragma builds capacity for local water resource management, provides safe water storage and filtration solutions, and implements targeted healthcare projects tailored to the last mile.

### *Disasters*

Many of the regions in which Pragma works are highly disaster-prone. Projects cover the full spectrum of disaster management- risk reduction, emergency relief, post-disaster rehabilitation.

### *Conservation and renewable energy*

Pragma views environmental stewardship, cultural identity, and socioeconomic development as closely integrated, designing projects that create synergies across these. Isolated communities are supported to access renewable, off-grid energy.

### *Education*

Pragma runs educational programmes and provides teaching and learning materials to improve the prospects for children and adults denied education through isolation, social exclusion, and poverty.

### *Empowering women and minorities*

Projects focus on economic & social empowerment of the disenfranchised – particularly women, migrant workers, displaced/ indigenous peoples – and includes prevention of gender-based violence.

With the generosity of our supporters, 2021-22 saw key developments in existing and new programmes:

### ***Promoting medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) cultivation and conservation in Kenya***

Pragma continued to expand its programme to promote sustainable livelihoods among impoverished smallholders living around Kakamega Rainforest via the sustainable cultivation of high-value MAPs, alongside awareness and training to drive grassroots environmental stewardship. [More information on this programme can be found on Page 4](#)

### ***Building grassroots capacity in the Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)***

In Kenya's ASALs, Pragma has initiated new projects to scale its education and WASH programmes targeting remote, pastoral communities in this severely underserved region uniquely threatened by climate change. [Pages 7 \(Education\) and 14 \(WASH\)](#)

### ***Enabling resilience for remote and vulnerable mountain communities in Nepal***

Building on past efforts to support rural communities still recovering from effects of the 2015 earthquake – and addressing challenges exacerbated by the recent Covid-19 pandemic – Pragma has launched a new project to prevent trafficking of women and girls and GBV in the region, while continuing to scale its WASH support for underserved mountain villages. [Pages 7 \(Prevention of trafficking and GBV\) and 10 \(WASH\)](#)

### ***Global Labor Programme: An Innovative Platform for Organising Marginalised Workers in Asia***

Working with regional partners, Pragma has joined an initiative to mobilise regional networks towards more effective and coordinated organisation of marginalised and informal labour across south and southeast Asia. [Page 9](#)

### ***Improving WASH outcomes for flood-prone river-island communities in Bangladesh***

Pragma completed its 2-year project to build grassroots WASH capacity and disaster resilience – including the provision of safe water and sanitation facilities – for flood-prone, impoverished river-island communities in Bangladesh. [Page 12](#)

### ***Covid-19 Response in India***

Pragma continued to support Covid-19 response efforts in India through 2021 via its network of staff and field offices – supporting front-line workers in relief and mitigation initiatives, and providing livelihood and psychosocial support to those most in need. [Page 16](#)

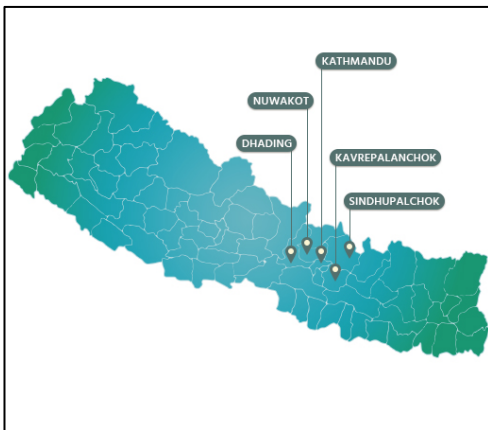
### ***Scaling DMS-Himalaya***

Pragma's pioneering citizen-led disaster management system is being rolled out across India's western, central, and eastern Himalayan regions, supporting remote, mountain communities to be active contributors across the disaster management cycle, from early warning to emergency response and relief. The programme's replication across distinct hazard profiles in the region is generating proof of its efficacy and adaptability, towards greater collaboration with and adoption by government disaster management authorities. [Page 19](#)

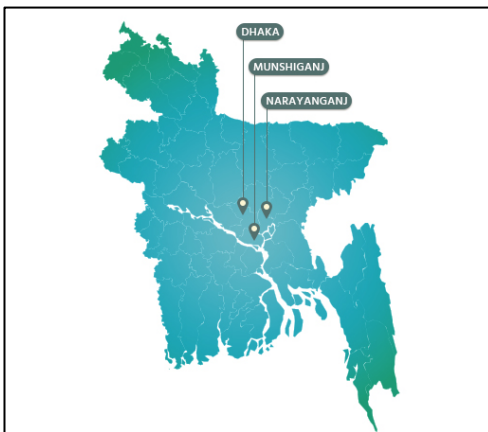
## 2. Target locations and populations



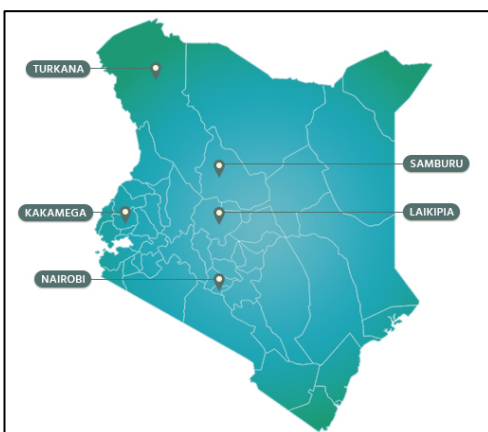
Pragya's work in India is delivered in 8 states across northern, western and eastern regions. In northern India, we work with Himalayan populations addressing the development challenges particular to the region. Disaster management and emergency response is a major aspect of our work here, empowering isolated communities for improved disaster resilience, and lately focussing on Covid-19 response. We also work with Himalayan farming communities to enable climate-adapted agriculture for enhanced food security and nutrition. To the west of India, our work targets impoverished and ethnic minority communities in Rajasthan, with initiatives designed around women's empowerment, as well as access to education. In eastern India, our focus is on climate-smart agriculture, prevention of GBV, and disaster management.



In Nepal, Pragya's work is focused on four districts severely impacted by the 2015 earthquake: Sindhupalchok, Dhading, Kavrepalanchok and Nuwakot. Our rehabilitation work here spans multiple aspects of poverty exacerbated by the 2015 disaster and the recently Covid-19. We deliver WASH solutions and capacity building for communities lacking safe drinking water, quality toilets or handwashing facilities. Our livelihoods work enables uptake of alternative vocations for rapid income generation and sustainable microenterprise development, and we support rural youth with vocational awareness and training. Within a wider patriarchal context, the target districts are hotspots for GBV and human trafficking, and our programme for prevention of GBV is rooted in our research on post-2015 trends in trafficking and GBV.



Pragya's work in Bangladesh focusses on supporting extremely poor and marginalised communities living on Bangladesh's *Chars* – river islands with unstable land subject to recurrent flooding and which lack essential services. Lack of adequate WASH facilities in Char communities mean high incidence of waterborne disease to which children are especially at risk, whilst residents can have little option but to drink groundwater contaminated with arsenic, with its multiple adverse health impacts. Pragya's Bangladesh programme is currently focussed on Dhaka division, which has the highest number of Chars, in the two districts of Munshiganj and Narayanganj, with interventions around site-appropriate WASH solutions, as well as local capacity building for disaster risk reduction and response, oriented around flooding.



In Kenya, Pragya's target areas include the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands of northern Kenya, spanning the counties of Turkana, Laikipia and Samburu. In this region, we work to address the socioeconomic challenges particular to nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist groups impacted by climate change, geographic isolation, and marginalisation; this includes enhancing access to quality education, providing locally-appropriate WASH solutions, as well as programmes supporting livelihoods and community health. In western Kenya, we work with communities in Kakamega county, where widespread poverty places unsustainable pressure on the majestic Kakamega rainforest. We empower communities to conserve biodiversity whilst simultaneously supporting poor smallholders to undertake high-value agriculture.

### 3. Projects in 2021-22

#### Food, agriculture and rural livelihoods

##### Cultivating and conserving medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) in Kakamega Forest, Kenya

In Kakamega Forest, western Kenya, several species of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) play an important part in the maintenance of the local ecosystem, whilst also contributing to the socioecological traditions of surrounding communities. Kenya's only remaining rainforest, Kakamega's rich biodiversity is under threat from the wild-harvesting of MAPs and other activities as impoverished communities and other actors encroach on and extract resources from the forest. The burgeoning global demand for herbal remedies and natural cosmetics means that these plants can fetch a much higher price at market than traditional crops cultivated in the region, and consequently represent an attractive source of income for poor smallholding farmers in the vicinity of the forest. Wild-harvesting practices, however, prevent the plants from regenerating, and current levels of the practice are unsustainable, putting ever greater pressure on the rainforest's biodiversity.

Pragya's approach to tackling this problem is twofold. We empower communities adjacent to the forest for locally driven conservation, combining awareness-raising, direct community conservation action, and grassroots advocacy. Yet we understand the need for impoverished smallholders to boost their incomes through whatever resources are locally available. As such, we build the capacity of smallholder farming communities to undertake cultivation of high-value, in-demand species of medicinal plants, with support for local value addition and formation of ethical trading linkages. This replaces the need to harvest these plants from the wild: a win-win for the environment and community prosperity.



*Pragya UK Founder and Chair, Gargi Banerji, with Pragya Kenya staff and a farmers' group representative*

Pragya has been working in Kakamega since 2011, developing its MAPs programme through research, community consultations, successive project cycles, and coordination and knowledge sharing with local farmers' groups, the Kenya Forest Service, and other stakeholders. Key aspects of the model include:

- **Conservation Awareness.** We deliver community and school campaigns to build understanding of the importance of local biodiversity to the forest's ecosystem, and the long-term benefits to the community of conserving the forest.
- **Environmental Stewardship.** We support the development of Community Conservation Councils responsible for managing Community Protected Areas, zones of forest identified as being at high risk of plant depletion, and supported with social fencing measures and monitored / regenerated by the Councils. Community groups are also empowered to conduct environmental advocacy.
- **Cultivation Training.** We provide smallholders with comprehensive cultivation training and start-up inputs to enable them for uptake of cultivation of high-value, in-demand species of medicinal plants.
- **Cooperation and Value Addition.** We support smallholders with processing and packaging solutions, ensuring the smallholders can secure the highest prices for their produce. We establish ethical trading linkages and support cooperative working practices that enable access to larger buyers and fair prices.



*Seedling and sapling distribution*



*A community nursery*



*Conservation awareness*

2021-22 saw the continuation of **Phase II** of Pragma's scale vision for its MAPs programme in Kenya:

Phase	Title	Years	Aims and methodology	Financing	Status
I.	Research and piloting	2011-2019	Inventorying local MAPs status and researching current trade / value chain. Identify optimum species for cultivation. Pilot testing livelihoods model in targeted communities in Kakamega, leveraging highly successful model as implemented by Pragma in India. Establishing early-stage trading links. Results-based model refinement.	Seed / pilot funding for Pragma.	Achieved
II.	Supported scaling	2020-2025	Scale model to 30% ("critical mass") of communities adjoining Kakamega rainforest. Implementation by Pragma and other CSOs using Pragma's IP-free published model & implementation guide. Advocacy /awareness raising across Kakamega forest communities. Inter-community cooperative formation, enlarging & strengthening trading networks.	Grant funding for Pragma and other CSOs.	In progress
III.	Comprehensive adoption	2026-2030+	Model adopted by 80%+ communities adjoining Kakamega rainforest. Replication by communities through peer-learning and Farmer Expert support. Smallholders re-allocating land to MAP cultivation. Alignment with Kenya's Vision 2030.	Community-driven replication.	Goal

With support from the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, the Open Gate Trust, the Gibbs Trust, the Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust, and the Brian Mercer Trust, Pragma has continued to roll out the *Supported Scaling* phase to 2025. The Phase II outcomes as of March 2022 were as follows:

- 3 nurseries were supported to initiate or increase MAP propagation and sales, with signed MoUs and support comprising appropriate tools and materials, including MAP seeds.
- 141 small scale farmers were trained in MAP cultivation protocols, and were supplied with MAP seedlings/ saplings and assisted to initiate MAP cultivation on their farms.
- 3 Community Conservation Groups (CCG) were constituted, with associated training and creation of monitoring processes for local biodiversity. 3 Community Protected Areas were also established, supported by biodiversity documentation and habitat monitoring, towards the prospective improvement in the conservation status of MAPs and other forest resources.
- 1700 people were directly and indirectly reached through awareness campaigns conducted. Out of this, 870 (600 community members, 180 young school children, and 90 older school children) were reached directly while the balance of 830 (420 young school children and 410 older children / students) were reached via awareness efforts by the students.

The programme builds on Pragma's nearly three decades of research and programmes to promote sustainable MAP cultivation and conservation in India, and aligns with key strategic priorities identified by Kenyan conservation authorities for Kakamega Forest: the need for nature-based enterprises and conservation devolution to disincentivise land use activities currently threatening the forest.

Going forward, Pragma will look to forge networks with experts and institutions to help in the formation and capacity building of cooperative enterprises to fulfil the market demand for MAP raw materials and products. Stronger farmer-to-market linkages will be sought to institutionalise supply of sustainably cultivated MAP materials and comprehensively replace current wild-harvesting with sustainable farming. This will include further value chain surveys and value addition training, and the arrangement of buyer-seller meetings. The project will also continue to work with local communities to develop community conservation action plans to reduce the impact of habitat destruction, pollution, and overexploitation.



*Community Conservation Group Gathering*



*Cultivation training session at a nursery demonstration plot*

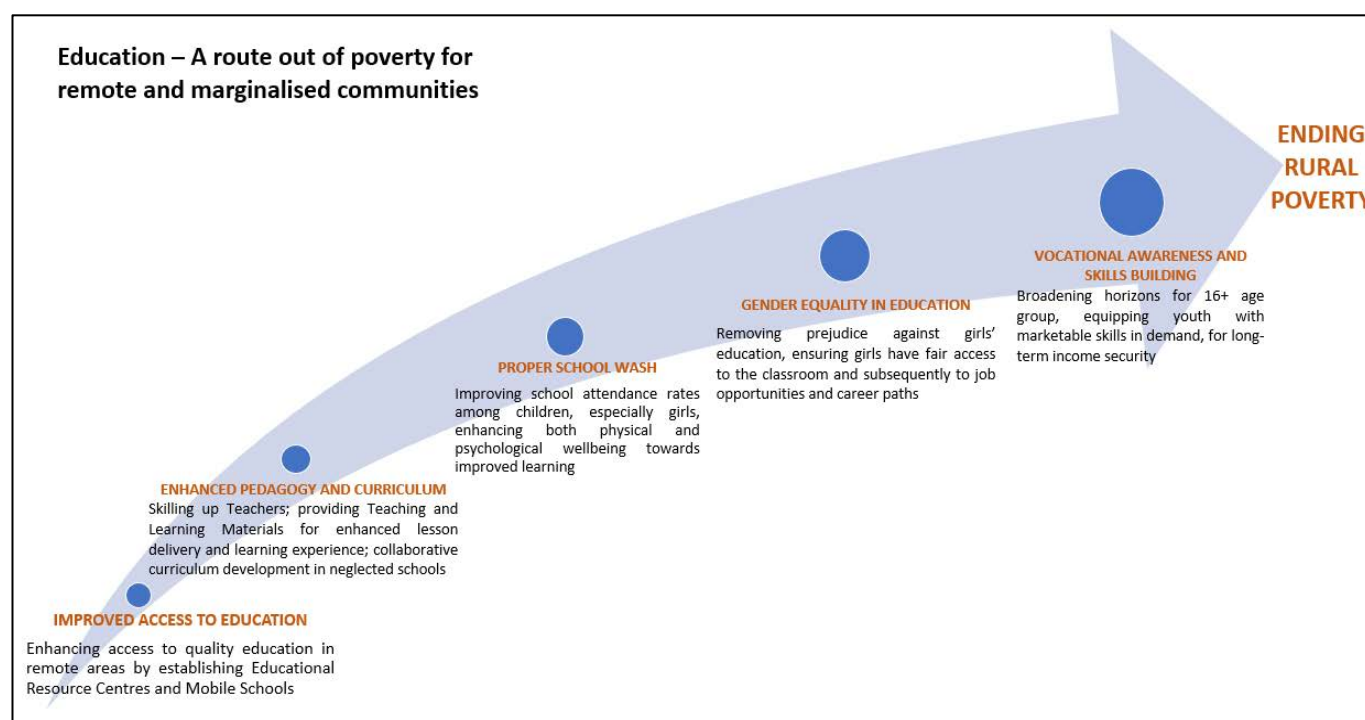


*CCG members, Pragma staff, and a Forest Officer surveying a Community Protected Area*

## Education

Pragya works with some of the most remote and marginalised communities in the world, those existing on the fringes of society where basic services often fail to reach. Many people from these impoverished rural communities scrape a living through smallholder agriculture or pastoralism, in regions where climate change is rapidly diminishing the prospects of such traditional occupations, or as daily wage labourers with little or no income security. Children lack access to quality education and youth in these communities can face a stark choice between following in the footsteps of their parents and the bleak future this holds, or else to migrating to urban centres as unskilled labour with little education, facing low pay or unemployment and likely living in urban slums. We take a multifaceted approach to ensuring the disadvantaged have access to quality education and suitable vocational skills.

- **Improved Access to Education.** Pragya collaborates with communities and local authorities to extend access to quality education in remote areas where schools are few and far between and heavily oversubscribed. We establish Education Resource Centres in community spaces, equipped with ICT facilities and age-specific books. For itinerant communities, we deliver mobile education solutions including schools on wheels and tent-based classrooms, towards ensuring that no child is left behind.
- **Improved Pedagogy and Curriculum.** Pragya works with teachers and para-teachers to improve their teaching skills, enabling them to deliver more impactful lessons. We supply a range of Teaching and Learning Materials that enable more diverse teaching methods, enriching the learning experience of children towards improved attendance, attention span and learning outcomes. We collaborate with communities to ensure curricula in deprived areas is suitable and up to standard.
- **Proper School WASH.** Poor quality or lack of sanitation in schools can be a substantial barrier to attendance, especially among girls. Pragya trains local masons for construction of high-quality, site-appropriate sanitation that ensure cleanliness and privacy, reducing the physical health implications and anxiety experienced by schoolchildren where sanitation facilities are inadequate. We also facilitate schools for the collection and storage of safe drinking water, and deliver school hygiene awareness and training, improving health and thereby learning among schoolchildren.
- **Gender Equality in Education.** Girls face multiple barriers to enrolment and continued participation in school, including gender-based violence, child marriage and teenage pregnancy, a heavy burden of household duties, and lack of confidence in academic ability. Pragya works with communities to address the attitudes that underpin these social challenges, towards improved school attendance and achievement level among girls.
- **Vocational Awareness and Skills Building.** A lack of awareness of vocational routes and poor access to vocational training mean children in remote areas are left with few livelihood options. Pragya builds awareness of alternative vocational routes available to adolescents as they transition into adulthood, and provides certified vocational training courses in locally-demanded occupations, diversifying the skills base in the community and enhancing income security.



## Improving access to education and vocational skills for pastoral communities in Kenya's ASALs

Pragya has been working with pastoralist communities in Kenya's ASALs since 2011. Our projects address urgent needs in the region for better education, diversified livelihood options, WASH management, and maternal and reproductive health services. Pragya's education programme in the region was designed based on extensive consultations across Laikipia, Samburu, and Turkana counties, and to date has established 10 educational resource centres (ERC), located in Turkana, Samburu and Kakamega Counties.

In 2021-22, Pragya commenced work to deliver two additional ERCs in Samburu, a County characterised by among the worst educational outcomes in Kenya. The work is being delivered with support from the Gilchrist Educational Trust, the Oakdale Trust, the Haremead Trust, and the RG Hills Charitable Trust.

The ERCs will be equipped with key teaching and learning materials, including gender sensitisation materials and ICT equipment. The project will also improve educational delivery and engagement via teacher training sessions, and will provide supplementary teaching kits to ensure lessons are engaging, diverse, and age-appropriate. The ERCs are projected to benefit over 1000 disadvantaged children and young people from remote, difficult-to-reach groups, who will have improved basic literacy and numeracy skills, increased access to quality education, and basic ICT skills. 30 teachers will also be engaged via skills-focused training programmes that will improve the teachers' confidence, engagement, and creativity, and enhance their capacity to deliver compelling, diverse, and age-appropriate educational lessons.

The work will be completed in 2022-23, with sustained fundraising to scale the delivery of additional ERCs in the region. Pragya is also fundraising to deliver counselling and community engagement campaign events, as well as skills-focused vocational courses targeting students. The campaigns will support communities to gain a greater understanding of the value of educational attainment and gender equality, while vocational skill-building and awareness will promote post-16 vocational opportunities and diversified income-generating activities.



*Primary school sessions supplemented by learning-through-play materials, Turkana County*



*Training session for audio-visual equipment supplied via an ERC, Turkana County*

## **Empowering women and minorities**

### Prevention of trafficking of women and girls in rural Nepal

Pragya's wide-ranging gender work includes a commitment to challenging and eliminating Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in our countries of operation. Nepal is a highly patriarchal society, ranking 106 on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2021, a worse ranking than the prior year; this patriarchy underpins multiple forms of gender based violence (GBV) in Nepal including physical, sexual, socioeconomic and psychological violence and abuse. Victims of GBV in Nepal typically lack the information and networks needed to support their physical and psychological wellbeing and recourse to justice. Nepal is a major source country for the trafficking of women and girls, usually into India and beyond. Victims are typically subjected to years of forced labour and sexual exploitation, suffering severe physical and mental trauma. Where victims are rescued from or escape their situation, reintegration with their home society can be challenging due to social stigma, and they may be left with few prospects for the future.

A major driver of trafficking in Nepal is women's poverty and lack of economic opportunity, which in desperation renders them highly susceptible to the lure of traffickers with promises of employment abroad. This situation is exacerbated in post-disaster contexts. As part of its rehabilitation programmes to date, Pragya has mobilised and trained 20 Women's Vigilance Committees, comprising 385 members across

Dhading and Sindhupalchowk and operating Helplines with an approximate outreach of 4000 women and girls. The work also assisted families in these districts that had lost their livelihood assets – rendering women and girls in these families at higher risk of GBV – through livelihoods assets and training. Pragma also undertook research in 2018 to assess patterns of GBV and trafficking in the region, which was compiled into a report and is available on Pragma’s website, entitled: *Trafficking of Women and Girls in Nepal: Study on Trends following the 2015 Earthquake*. The research mapped the causes of trafficking in Nepal, its patterns and trends, methods and routes used by traffickers, the experiences of victims, as well as the current approaches by authorities and civil society to fighting trafficking. Pragma leveraged this research and pilot work to develop a multifaceted, integrated model for prevention of violence against women in Nepal, which addresses the full range of change mechanisms from addressing immediate response needs through to root causes.



*Women’s peer support groups in Dhading district.*

- **Building capacity for women’s active resistance** to gender-based violence and trafficking, which includes awareness campaigns around GBV and trafficking, peer-group based intervention and support initiatives, and education and assertiveness training for these groups.
- **Improving income generation capacity** of vulnerable women and families – reducing their economic desperation and associated susceptibility to trafficking. Measures include capacity building for small rural enterprise development in animal husbandry and niche-sector agriculture, as well as vocational training and placements targeting young women in particular.
- **Behavioural change initiatives** targeting gender-based violence, leveraging opinion-shapers and influential figures in local society, to challenge Nepal’s patriarchal norms and win hearts and minds around to more equitable and respectful attitudes to women. This also aims at gendering the social structures that perpetuate the patriarchy.
- **Developing support facilities** for an informed population and responder network, including targeted information dissemination to key stakeholders, particularly rights information in GBV context for women along with information on women’s safe economic migration, and information / status updates for responders on local trafficking and GBV.
- **Enhancing response networks** to trafficking and GBV, by building capacity of existing and potential support providers to improve service levels of victim support across protection, rescue and rehabilitation.

Gender inequality in Nepal, as in other countries, has been worsened by the onset of COVID-19, indeed the World Economic Forum reports that as a result of COVID-19, closing the gender gap globally has increased by a generation. Nepal’s remittance and tourism economies have been decimated by the pandemic, and many women have lost husbands who are traditionally the main family earners. With few skills themselves due to the comparatively poor educational and training opportunities available to women and girls, this has deepened poverty levels and increased vulnerability to GBV and trafficking.

In 2021-22, Pragma secured funding to scale this programme with support from the Kirby Laing Foundation. The project will be delivered in Sindhupalchok and Dhading districts into 2023, and aims to mobilise and train 8 women’s peer support groups, including 240 women and adolescent girls, who will be educated on GBV and trafficking, trained in peer support and operating community-level vigilance, protection and psychosocial support. The groups will be anchored by specially trained leaders drawn from the groups, as well as broader community-based Gender Equity Champions drawn from other community stakeholder groups, and representatives from village councils. The leaders will be assisted to conduct risk surveillance and activism, alongside Women’s Information & Assistance Cells (WIAC) that will be set up within a local NGO in each target district. The cells will be equipped with a purpose-designed Justice for Women kits, promoting a range of information on relevant laws and regulations. The WIACs will also be facilitated to operate helplines providing legal, medical and psychosocial support, including a database of institutions for protection, rescue and rehabilitation, conduct a quarterly GBV Watch, and liaise with formal responders at transit points on known trafficking routes.

Pragma is continuing its fundraising for this programme through 2022 in order to scale its impact and generate further evidence of its effectiveness.

## Global Labor Programme: An Innovative Platform for Organising Marginalised Workers in Asia

In late 2021-22, Pragya joined several consortium partners to deliver a ground-breaking platform to organise marginalised workers across 7 countries in south and southeast Asia. The consortium will be led by Solidar Suisse, with Pragya delivering the programme's India, Nepal, and Bangladesh components. Strongly based on principles of equity, inclusion, participation, and rights, the platform will look to address the multiple challenges faced by marginalised workers in the region, including: informal and vulnerable working conditions; growing inequality and wealth disparity; magnified vulnerabilities of women, marginalised groups; reduced spaces for bargaining, alongside marginalisation and exclusion; barriers to organising; and exacerbated health and safety vulnerabilities.

The overall objective of the project will be to assess and promote new and innovative modes of organising for marginalized informal/precarious workers as a means to enhance workers' agency and effective bargaining, regional solidarity and inclusion, and visibility of workers' causes, while overcoming the impediments and restricted democratic space in their environments. Specific objectives include: the development of a regional platform for workers and/or their organisations in a participatory, 'bottom-up' process, comprising technological / virtual and on-the-ground networking; and participatory action research and evidence generation on alternative modes of organising, and their respective benefits in terms of agency, participation and access to rights.

The programme will be delivered over the course of 5 years, and will broadly work across the following thematic components:

- **Promoting marginalised workers' agency:** The programme will follow the principle that marginalised workers are not passive 'victims' but possess the 'agency' to bring about positive change in their lives and work. By organizing into democratic organisations with 'self' leadership, these can become empowered and change-agents for their groups and can self-bargain to demand their rights. Organising will bring visibility to the workers and eventually lead to their inclusion and a process of change from below.
- **Enabling innovation in organising and bargaining to build collective grassroots power:** Through grassroots applied research, the project will create and study new and innovative means of organizing that can overcome structural problems and hurdles posed by reduced space, and respond to new forms of labor relations including various forms of informal work, as well as the 'gig economy.' The proposed innovation would help facilitate effective lobbying, and eventually, bargaining by marginalized workers regionally. Multiple forms of bargaining will be explored, varying by the power-centers they target, and will seek to understand how marginalised workers may develop sustainable democratic organisations with self-leadership.
- **Creating a tech-enabled, grassroots platform for sharing, organising, and negotiation:** The project will create an active sharing platform – comprising virtual/digital as well as offline (i.e. face-to-face) components – connecting workers from multiple sectors with a large informal worker base in each country, and at the regional level. The platform would anchor and propel a process of 'shared learning'. Through the platform, otherwise dispersed fragmented groups of workers would experience solidarity, share organising experiences, discuss issues and strategies and aggregate for effective influencing and bargaining. The applied research will help in collection of valuable data and evidence to be fed back to grassroots bodies in the form of active tools for learning and capacity building.

The broader project is projected to have an outreach of 420,000 informal workers, comprising an estimated 260,000 in South Asia and 160,000 in Southeast Asia, and will engage with over 30 informal workers' organisations across the two regions, as well as 70 enabling institutions / actors towards developing cross-sectoral advocacy alliances as well as communities of practice and knowledge-sharing.

The consortium partners were selected based on experience in developing agency among informal workers in the target countries, and will leverage Pragya's track record in mobilising and training marginalised groups – particularly its past work to support migrant and informal workers – in India and Nepal. The project will harness learnings from these experiences, while also leveraging existing grassroots organisations and networks of workers towards the creation of a 'regional platform' to engage with key actors such as industry associations and government bodies. Networks we have supported will also be connected via the platform.

## Health, safe water, and sanitation

### Safe water and sanitation for marginalised mountain communities in Nepal

In April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed thousands of people and caused widespread destruction of homes and damage to key buildings and infrastructure critical to the functioning of society, including health, education and WASH infrastructure. Severe poverty and marginalisation in Nepal's remote rural communities have meant lasting impacts; government resources have been unable to match the scale of the devastation, with many household and community WASH resources remaining unusable, propelling open defecation and contamination of water sources that result in high levels of waterborne disease transmission in communities with the least resilience and poor access to healthcare. For the most vulnerable community members, this can prove fatal - over 430 children die in Nepal every year from diarrhoea resulting from dirty water and poor-quality toilets. Damaged or lack of school toilets also causes stress among schoolchildren, resulting in poor performance and absenteeism.

Since the earthquake, Pragma has been delivering rehabilitation and resilience programmes across Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts. In 2018, Pragma completed a WASH needs assessment in Sindhupalchowk and Dhading districts, which revealed exceedingly poor water access and sanitation infrastructure. This persisting situation demands continued support from the international development community, and Pragma maintains its commitment to serving those remote communities in Nepal that have failed to recover from the earthquake.

Pragma's comprehensive WASH rehabilitation programme in Nepal addresses the immediate infrastructure needs whilst building local WASH management capacity:

- **Installation of robust and hygienic water storage tanks.** The tanks are fitted with high-capacity and low-maintenance water filtration technology, enabling nearby availability of safe water and reducing drudgery.
- **Construction of high-quality sanitation blocks.** The block comprises separate male / female units designed to ensure privacy, and are constructed to earthquake-resistant designs. They reduce open defecation and hence spread of waterborne diseases, preventing avoidable deaths among children and other more vulnerable community members, and promote improved environmental hygiene.
- **Community WASH awareness sessions.** The sessions cover common waterborne diseases and their transmission, household waste management, hygienic food preparation, household-level water purification methods, as well as menstrual hygiene sessions for women. The sessions have information for all the family, including content specifically oriented to children, learning in a fun and engaging way.
- **Capacity building for local WASH management.** This includes the formation and training of community Water and Sanitation Committees, with a mandate to manage all local WASH facilities and empowered to advocate for enhanced WASH management at the district level.

Its past work has included a £38,000 initiative, completed in 2019 and supported by the Overseas Aid and Development Commission, States of Guernsey, which supplied clean water, quality sanitation, and WASH awareness to over 3,200 people in schools and villages across four districts.

In 2021-22, with the combined support of the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, the Drinking Fountain Association, the Harbinson Charitable Trust, and the Southall Trust, Pragma completed an additional project cycle across 5 remote villages located in Tripurasundari Rural Municipality, Dhading District.

The project outcomes included: water harvesting, storage, and filtration systems benefitting 50 households, comprising circa 229 residents, who have access to safe drinking water; community toilet blocks benefitting 50 households, comprising circa 259 residents, who have access to decent sanitation; WASH awareness campaigns benefitting circa 642 residents, who have a better understanding of community and family hygiene; training of grassroots WASH committees comprising 50 local community members, who have improved understanding of WASH needs and greater leadership skills, and who will promote sustained WASH improvement in their communities.



*Community toilet blocks*

The project conducted awareness campaigns to engage and mobilise the beneficiary communities. A Health & WASH Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Kit was developed, along with a detailed training manual for conducting WASH awareness programmes in the beneficiary communities. The WASH awareness sessions educated the participants on community hygiene and sanitation, drinking water treatment, and waste management techniques. Educational inputs to women about menstrual hygiene and related practices were also included. These awareness sessions and campaigns helped Pragya reach 642 beneficiaries, including: 213 (33%) men, 259 (40%) women, 130 (20%) children and 40 (7%) adolescent girls.

Five WASH committees were also formed in the villages, each consisting of 10 members from the local communities, with more than 65% women members (of 25-50 years age) and local community health workers. Members were trained on efficient management of water and sanitation resources and on advocacy for improved water and sanitation governance at the village and district level.

Pragya staff, its local partners, and the WASH Committee members of the particular village participated in the site selection and the installation work at the sites. A 1000 ltr water tank (triple-layered) was installed at each site and fitted with a water filter system that have the capacity to remove suspended particles from the water and ensure that beneficiaries have access to safe drinking water. These are low-maintenance systems in that they need to be washed only once every month, and involve no additional maintenance costs.

The sites for the construction of toilet blocks, each with separate toilets for males and females, were selected ensuring accessibility to residents, including consideration for the elderly and disabled, and distance from drinking water and groundwater sources. The construction followed standard guidelines with regard to design and material specifications, which have been developed by Pragya. The toilets are brick and mortar structures for longevity - with proper ventilation and roofing - and septic tanks that have been well cured to prevent waste leakage into the soil and covered with concrete slabs. The beneficiary households, as well as the local WASH committees, have been educated on proper use of the toilet and related hygiene practices.



*Water harvesting, storage, and filtration installations*



*WASH awareness sessions*

## Safe water and sanitation for river island communities, Bangladesh

Bangladesh's river islands, known as *Chars*, are home to the country's severely poor, the displaced and the marginalised. These islands are the last refuge for those who have nothing, where living conditions are extremely challenging and basic needs are not met. Housing commonly consists of ramshackle accommodation, land rights are extremely hard to secure, there are no local healthcare or educational facilities, and residents often scrape a living as daily wage labourers with no income security. The chars are subject to riverbank erosion and recurrent flooding, threatening lives, forcing repeated displacement and destroying meagre livelihoods assets. A substantial element of poverty and neglect on chars is the lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Char residents can have little option but to consume groundwater that is contaminated with arsenic, and which can lead to multiple short- and long-term health problems including abdominal pain, skin lesions, impaired cognitive development in children, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. Poor quality or absence of sanitation on chars results in open defecation, polluting the local environment and which, in combination with recurrent flooding, propels the spread of waterborne diseases such as dysentery that can prove fatal for children.

In 2021-22, with support from the Overseas Aid & Development Commission, States of Guernsey, and the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, Pragma completed its project among char communities in Munshiganj and Narayanganj districts. to enable access to safe water for drinking and household use, as well as providing high quality and locally-appropriate sanitation solutions.

The programme design is based on extensive needs assessments and project feasibility studies delivered in 2018 in the two districts, which included: grassroots surveys; focus group discussions (FGDs); Hazard, Vulnerability, and Capacity Mapping (HVCM); and participatory project design (PPD) sessions with river island residents.



*A community consultation session in Munshiganj district, Dhaka Division*

The work directly benefitted over 6,500 char residents and comprised several components including: flood-proof safe water and sanitation facilities; distribution of WASH awareness kits and campaigns; mobilisation and training of grassroots WASH committees alongside frontline workers, NGOs, and government staff in WASH technologies and management during emergencies; and district-level workshops on WASH in emergencies.

- **WASH awareness campaigns:** These were conducted at the community level - for adults and children - to generate awareness of the need for safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation, as well as the prevalence of water borne disease and have triggered a positive behavioural change in the community with respect to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.
- **Sanitation blocks:** The sites for the construction of toilet blocks were selected based on: i) accessibility to residents, ii) location's ease of maintenance iii) accessibility for the elderly and disabled, and iv) distance from drinking water/groundwater sources. Flood-proof latrine systems were designed with structures set at or elevated to a height above flood levels. A twin pit system was implemented that aligns with the expected frequency of desludging, along with a raised superstructure fitted with a ramp towards flood-proofing, while also making it accessible to persons with disability and the elderly. Each toilet block has two units – one for males and one for females.
- **Drinking water facilities:** These were established at common points accessible to target beneficiary households. The water tanks are of a capacity of 500 litres, and are connected to water purifiers, with outlets at a height suitable for adults and children to ensure that safe drinking water is made available to the households even during floods. The water filtration technology is capable of removing dirt, rust and sand particles, chlorine and organic chemicals, as well as arsenic and other dangerous substances.



*A toilet facility in Narayanganj*

Usage and maintenance trainings were conducted at all 30 WASH installation sites for the user groups. In order to ensure sufficient monitoring and maintenance of the WASH facilities and sustained spread of awareness regarding health and hygiene, Pragma established a WASH committee for each WASH installation area, which comprised community health providers, community leaders, and school teachers. 295 members of 30 WASH committees were trained in WASH surveillance and facility maintenance, disaster management skills, as well as leadership, advocacy and communication skills in the WASH domain.

In collaboration with in-country WASH experts, a comprehensive, 4-session training programme was conducted for frontline workers, NGOs, and government staff mandated with WASH and humanitarian action. The programme covered: Flood-adapted technologies and designs for safe drinking water, toilets, drainage systems, and solid and liquid waste management; provisioning water and sanitation in post-disaster settings; Concepts of public health engineering and environmental health in emergencies and Sphere standards.

The sessions were followed by a workshop during which the participants discussed the application of the various technologies and methods learnt.



*Drinking water stations in Munshiganj*



*Targeted WASH awareness sessions for children and adults*

## Community-based water resource management for pastoral communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)

Over 7 million pastoralists living in Kenya's arid-and-semi-arid lands (ASALs) face severe water insecurity due to the effects of climate change. Increasing rates of drought and irregular rainfall patterns have accelerated the depletion and degradation of limited water resources, threatening traditional livelihoods, resource governance arrangements and land tenures. Past research delivered by Pragma with support from the Overseas Aid and Development Commission, States of Guernsey – involving participatory hydrology studies of 96 water sources across the ASAL counties of Samburu, Turkana, and Laikipia – highlighted severe water stress due to increasing climate volatility, seasonal water shortages, over-dependency per water source, and poor quality of water laden with biological and chemical contaminants. Pragma's research also assessed how these circumstances impact pastoral migratory routes and resource-sharing arrangements, propelling conflict as communities compete for water.

Building on this research, Pragma has been implementing a WASH programme for pastoral ASAL communities that to date has benefitted over 7,200 people through the creation of Women's Water & Sanitation Councils, water management training, spring revitalisation, regeneration of degraded pasturelands, and a range of community installations for improved water harvesting, de-silting of water sources, and improved transport and storage of water. A school sanitation intervention also involved provision of school toilets and hygiene awareness, whilst work with nomadic groups included distribution of portable water tanks.

In 2021-22, with the support of the JAC Trust, Pragma launched a project to scale this work among pastoral communities in Samburu County. The project will build critical awareness and capacity among these communities, who have little access to essential infrastructure, knowledge, and resource networks – empowering them to enact long term change. It will comprise: water management training, including introduction to appropriate technologies; participative water conservation, including regeneration of water sources; and community- and house-hold level cooperative water budgeting. The project's progress as of spring 2022 included:

**Community Engagement:** 10 villages in Samburu West Sub-County were selected for the project through consultative meetings (20) with stakeholders. Thorough needs assessments followed involving Key Informant Interviews (40) and a participative baseline survey. 152 community representatives from the ten villages, including 64 women, were selected for leading in project participation and engaged with.

**Water Management Training:** A comprehensive training on water management, is being delivered in 4 rounds by an expert trainer. The trainings are aimed at improving capacity of pastoralist communities for local water governance and sustainable water usage, and equipping the selected community representatives with knowledge of appropriate technologies and resource management strategies. Two rounds of training (20 sessions) have been completed covering: protection of natural water sources; water conservation measures; water management methods/technologies; water harvesting, storage, and purification; and sharing and conflict resolution.

**Participative Water Conservation:** 10 key water sources were identified, one for each target community, and revitalisation measures determined for each, comprising vegetative or structural interventions. The participative process followed involved the evaluation of surface and sub-surface water sources, and physical surveys to map out the selected sources and their feeding grounds, and determining interventions suitable for enhancing the feeding/retention. Research and consultations also supported identification of suitable soil binding species for vegetative interventions.

**Next steps:** The project will continue through 2022-2023, with additional programming planned to mobilise water budgeting strategies at the community and household level, train village-level Women's Water and Sanitation Councils (WWSC), and support participatory interventions for improvement of selected water sources.



*Surveying of water sources with Pragma staff and a local water officer*

## Developing a peer support-based approach to maternal and reproductive healthcare in northern Kenya

In the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) of northern Kenya, communities suffer appalling maternal and infant mortality rates. Past research conducted by Pragma and funded by Comic Relief highlighted how this situation is driven by a combination of factors including poverty and marginalisation, extremely poor local availability of health clinics, mistrust among communities concerning state healthcare, and entrenched cultural norms that see pregnant women more likely to rely on their peers for pre- and post- natal support.

Based on its research findings, Pragma developed a model for peer-led Maternal and Reproductive Health (MRH) support for the ASALs that leverages local strengths and addresses root causes of the problem.

Pragma's model comprises three pillars of support:

### - **Pillar 1 - Support Networks & Capacity Building**

The model develops networks of women's peer support groups anchored by Community Health Workers, which provide health surveillance, diagnosis and referral services to their communities using simple toolkits, and promote awareness of issues related to maternal and reproductive health via health information Kiosks. This pillar also empowers women leaders to advocate for health sector reforms to improve maternal and child health in remote and marginalised areas.

### - **Pillar 2 - Social & Behavioural Change**

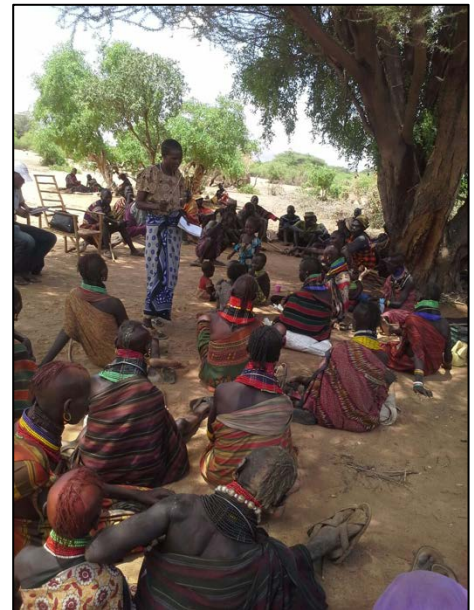
This pillar includes culturally sensitive campaigns promoting sexual and reproductive health rights towards ending violence against women and girls; campaign design leverages community elders, local arts and mass media, and also has a focus on men and boys towards reducing risky and harmful sexual behaviours. The model empowers women leaders to educate adolescent girls, pregnant women and new mothers on preventative and promotive healthcare. Health programmes for schools promote awareness and sensitivity around reproductive health for adolescent girls and boys, towards improved personal hygiene and school attendance.

### - **Pillar 3 - Addressing malnutrition**

CHWs and other women leaders are empowered to act as 'barefoot nutritionists' for their communities, conducting Hunger & Nutrition Watch schemes using basic nutrition surveillance toolkits. Education programmes for women promote proper family diet planning, in combination with training in Nutrient-Dense Farming methodology for the development of kitchen gardens enabling diversified and nutritionally enriched household diets, whilst communities at large are supported to develop communal nutri-farms to tackle seasonal food insecurity. Children and adolescents are also engaged through educational programmes and school nutri-gardens that help foster the next generation of nutri-champions and ensure healthy, nutritious food for an energised and engaged learning environment.

The programme aims to: improve access to MRH support in Kenya's ASALs; enhance capacity of local stakeholders to address MRH issues; enhance awareness in ASAL communities of issues and challenges related to MRH; and build capacity for community-anchored nutrition management. The programme's mid-term vision is that of improved maternal and reproductive health for approximately 0.6 million women and girls in the 3 ASAL counties of Turkana, Laikipia and Samburu, with a longer-term vision of expanding the programme and its benefits to Kenya's 29 ASAL counties.

In 2021-22, Pragma continued to explore avenues to launch the programme with potential donors, with a view to securing partnerships towards piloting and further evidence generation.



*Community consultations and research, funded by Comic Relief UK*

## Disaster management

### COVID-19 Response, India

Pragya's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic was mobilised immediately following the WHO's determination of the outbreak and lockdown in India, in March 2020. Initial activities included survival relief for urban and rural poor affected severely by the lockdown, and protective gear for frontline health workers. Subsequently, our strategy adapted to the crisis as it evolved, with targeted programmes continuing to be delivered up to the end of 2021. The work was delivered with the financial support of private donors, as well as in-kind support provided by Direct Relief, and comprised several thematic components:

**Awareness campaigns on COVID-19:** Community awareness sessions were conducted for key influencers in communities. Leaflets were developed with information on COVID-19 do's and don't's and videos on COVID-19-appropriate behaviours, and these were shared via Whatsapp and SMSs along with local Helpline numbers with people without access to internet. Posters were put up on subjects including COVID-19 symptoms and measures for protection from COVID-19. A total of 1,233 small groups awareness sessions, 61 video/audio/SMS disseminations, and 36 different posters/leaflets were developed and used for the awareness campaigns. Direct individual outreach was over 12,000 people, while audio-visual and messaging outreach extended to over 150,000 people. Outreach was further expanded to over 420,000 through appropriately placed posters and leaflets.

**Hand wash facilities and hand-hygiene awareness:** Pragya undertook the installation of contact-free handwash facilities in several slum colonies of Gurugram. Demonstrations were provided to the beneficiary communities on the proper usage of the hand wash facilities. In total, 16 handwashing stations have been installed in 7 urban slums and are providing access to safe handwashing facilities to an estimated 12,800 residents. Alongside the installation of hand-wash facilities, multiple rounds of a hand hygiene awareness campaign were conducted in the slum colonies.

**Mask production by self-help groups (SHG) for protection and rapid income-generation:** A total of 40 women's SHGs have been supported for undertaking mask-making in 6 districts. The SHG members were provided training on mask-making and sewing kits and raw material to assist them to undertake mask-production. 366 women are now competent in mask production, and have links to at least 15 pharmacies and retail stores for sales. The SHGs reached an average weekly production of about 6500 masks, of which about 1000 were being used by the communities themselves and the remaining were sold to support incomes.



*A women's self-help group training session for mask production, West Bengal*

**Support for State-run Quarantines:** The lockdowns and resulting shrinkage of the economy led to severe job losses among the migrant workers from rural areas. This in turn led to reverse migration by these migrants back to rural districts and considerable spread of the disease. Pragya supported state-run quarantine centres for returning migrant workers, aiding them with provision of face-masks, gloves, sanitisers, thermal scanners, and other materials and instruments for the quarantine staff, as well as food supplies for the quarantined migrant workers. Our field offices worked with district administrations in 9 districts, making immediate provisions available.

**Medical supplies for frontline workers:** Continual efforts were made by Pragya to procure large quantities of facemasks, gloves, sanitisers, and other materials for use by frontline workers. 150,000 face masks, 21,000 Sanitizers, 15,200 Hand Gloves, 40 full-body PPE Kits, 500 goggles (eye protectors) were distributed, serving 116,562 frontline workers across 20 rural districts.

**Medical equipment and instruments for rural health facilities:** Rural health facilities were severely under-resourced with respect to equipment and instruments, which left them unable to cope effectively with the large numbers of patients. Rigorous efforts at sourcing much-needed instruments and equipment were successful in delivering 35 oxygen concentrators, 370 pulse oximeters, and over 250 thermal scanners to under-resourced medical facilities across 13 rural districts.



*Distribution of Covid-19-related medical supplies to a rural hospital, West Bengal*

**Educative sessions on COVID-19 by health experts:** Frontline health workers in rural districts were severely hamstrung by the lack of medical information and knowledge about the disease and its care. Pragma worked with medical professionals to develop a course on COVID-19 prevention, detection, treatment, and care, which was delivered to large numbers of frontline health workers through multiple teleconferences. 7 batches of frontline health workers were trained with a total of 2263 frontline workers having undergone the sessions across 6 districts.

**Psychological health inputs to frontline health workers:** Coordinating with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, Pragma developed a series of psychological health sessions for frontline health workers entitled “Caring for oneself while caring for others – managing stress”, which were delivered by two psychological health experts from NIMHANS. A total of 2,748 frontline healthcare workers from across 14 rural districts participated.

**Training frontline workers in psychosocial counselling & support:** In view of the high order of mental health issues arising from the pandemic, Pragma determined that frontline health workers should also be equipped to address these issues and ameliorate them in their own communities/ beneficiary base. Through dialogues with NIMHANS, an 8-module training course on psycho-social counselling was designed along with curricular materials, and two specialists from NIMHANS delivered the course. The course was developed for online delivery and while the initial virtual round was attended by 100 frontline workers, the course was thereafter made available on Pragma’s online learning platform on Thinkific (Learn with Pragma) and was attended by 2,648 frontline workers.

**Campaigns to build awareness on and capacity to address compounded vulnerabilities:** Campaigns were conducted regarding the compounded vulnerabilities created by the pandemic, such as violence against women and children. These primarily targeted frontline workers, Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee members, Women's village councils, and women's SHGs. Campaign content generated awareness on these issues and shared ways to promote mental health. A total of 727 small group awareness sessions, 40 video/audio disseminations, and 36 different posters/leaflets were developed and delivered. Direct individual focused outreach was 7,000+ people. Audio-visual messaging outreach extended to 10,000+ people, and the outreach was further expanded through posters and leaflets.

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**  
**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)** Help us to help you

**Anxiety associated with COVID-19 pandemic may lead to psychological issues**

**If your child has:**

- Sudden changes in school performance/poor grades
- Delayed physical or mental development
- Poor attention/hyperactivity
- Frequent changes in emotions and mood
- Frequent temper-tantrums/aggression
- Recent sleep disturbance

**Visit your nearest health center with your child**  
**Badalkar Apna Vyavahar, Karein Corona Par Vaar**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 Call Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's 24x7 Helpline 1075 or DC Office Leh 01982-257416 Leh, Ladakh

**If you are experiencing violence during COVID-19:**

- Reach out** to supportive family, friends or neighbours
- Call** a hotline or access information online if possible
- Seek out** local services for survivors

**World Health Organization** **hrp** human reproduction programme research for impact

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 Call Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's 24x7 Helpline 1075 or DC Office Leh (CR) 01982-257416

This Government of India sourced information on COVID-19 is being brought to you by Pragma. For more information call Pragma's Helpline: 01982-256329; 1800-102-5214 (toll-free) or visit at [www.pragya.org](http://www.pragya.org)

**PRAGYA**

Information posters addressing psychological and social impacts of covid-19

**Survival assistance during lockdowns for rural and urban poor:**

Each wave of the pandemic and its associated lockdown resulted in loss of livelihoods for the daily wagers in urban slums and migrant labourers from rural areas. Through each of the pandemic's waves, Pragma mobilised and delivered relief to the poorest families in several urban slums and rural towns. In each of the target districts, food and hygiene items were procured and distributed. Each kit contained rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, biscuits, and soap. Over 2,100 migrant labourer and daily wager households (ca. 10,690 people) across 7 urban slums and 20 rural districts were supported during the two waves of the pandemic.



**Convalescence Support for COVID Patients:** For selected severely impoverished populations, Pragma also worked to aid convalescence of COVID-19-recovered patients. In two districts, the Pragma team coordinated with district medical officers to identify hospitalised COVID-19 patients discharged in the recent past and in need of convalescence support. 50 patients were identified from particularly disadvantaged groups with low resources/capacity to meet the nutritional needs prescribed by doctors for full recovery and prevention of relapse/ re-infection. A Nutrition Supplementation Package was developed and Pragma reached out to the patients' families through door-to-door visits.



*Survival assistance and convalescence support packages*

**Livelihoods assistance to out-of-work poor:** A livelihoods needs assessment survey was conducted across multiple slum colonies in Gurugram. Based on the findings, several out-of-work migrant workers were assisted to rehabilitate as hawkers or to set up home/cottage enterprises. Daily wage workers who had undertaken reverse migration to their rural districts and were now without any income source were provided with start-up inputs for livelihood generation in their home locations. A total of 350 out-of-work daily wage workers were aided to set up alternative livelihoods and thus support their families, comprising an estimated 1750 people.

**Agricultural support for rural poor:** Pandemic-induced job losses in urban areas and reverse migration led to shrinkage of family incomes in rural areas. Disruption of agricultural markets and transportation of agricultural produce also resulted in wastage of harvests and revenue losses. Pragma supported small and marginal rural farmers to cope with the pandemic's impacts on their livelihoods. Seeds/saplings of high-value crops with longer shelf-lives were procured and distributed in some of the poorest districts. A total of 740 small and marginal farmers across 4 districts were thus supported, with linkages to buyers of agricultural produce facilitated.

**Helplines for livelihood information dissemination:** The government launched several schemes to relieve pandemic-induced stresses on the economy. However, awareness and outreach of these schemes was particularly low in the rural hinterlands. Pragma offices installed and operated helplines to provide information on government schemes to rural communities. A total of 11,836 individuals were aided through these helplines.

**Sustainability and way forward:** Pragma's efforts have primarily focused on supporting communities, local governments, and frontline workers. Pragma's continued connection with the communities it supports enables it to continue to handhold them as needed.

The pandemic's fallouts, social and economic, are severe and will persist and have compounded effects for a long time, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable groups the most. The out-of-work population has multiplied and incomes have shrunk, pushing many households into severe poverty. Women and children and socially excluded groups are suffering much higher rates of violence and adverse social practices, and this is estimated to increase further.

Pragma's sustained commitment to its beneficiary communities – via its offices and field staff spanning 8 states – will continue to support the resilience of severely affected communities and undertake measures to prevent violence against vulnerable groups, while also continuing to work to prevent further outbreaks and aiding governments to improve health services and capacity.

## DMS-Himalaya - Strengthening disaster preparedness in the Himalaya

The Himalayan region is extremely disaster-prone and subject to multiple types of hazards including flash flooding, landslides and glacier collapse, earthquakes, and forest fires. Global warming is having a disproportionate impact on the region, with warming at up to three times the global average, driving ever more erratic weather events, disrupting monsoon patterns and exacerbating the frequency and intensity of disasters. The populations affected are remote and marginalised communities that have little disaster resilience, whilst government disaster management authorities are hampered by lack of incident information and geographic constraints.

Pragya has pioneered the Disaster Management System (DMS)-Himalaya, an information and capacity building programme that enables remote Himalayan communities to reduce their disaster risk and to respond effectively in disaster scenarios. It reimagines the accepted (but ineffective) roles for disaster management, building capacity at every point in the disaster management chain and networking communities, responders, and government, fostering a collaborative community-state approach to disaster management, supported by appropriate technology.

DMS-Himalaya aims to address the prevailing issues with respect to effective disaster management (DM) in the Indian Himalayan Region through the implementation of a *Citizen-led Disaster Management System*, uniquely adapted to the Himalayan region, its geography, and hazard profiles. The innovation establishes a network and infrastructure to link communities at the local level through to government authorities. It comprises:

**Disaster Response Teams (DRT):** These are in-community observation nodes and responders comprising local youth responsible for: weather and geological data monitoring and alerting communities; assisting in community evacuations; acting as first responders in emergency; and supporting post-disaster data collection and needs reporting.

**Points of Presence (PoP):** These are proximal communications points, typically police/army outposts equipped with satellite communications technology for disaster information relay from local levels.

**Local Disaster Management Units (LDMU):** Local government disaster management (DM) offices are equipped with a DMS-Himalaya Resource Directory and connected with the DRTs and PoPs for information relay. These are also connected with scientific institutions for relay of regional weather warnings to the PoPs.

### **Two Pillars of Support for Effective Community Based Disaster Management:**

- Tools for Hazard Monitoring, Early Warning and Relief Needs Communication: This comprises local hazard monitoring frameworks including weather monitoring tools for local observational data. Recording and communication of the observational data is via the DMS-Himalaya App which comprises:
  - Go-Risk: location-specific pre-disaster environmental alert tool using grassroots measurement grids
  - RnR-Comm: a Relief & Response communication tool for post-disaster community use
- Capacity building of community / responders: Training for stakeholders (DRTs, village councils, government DM officers) to perform their functions; conducting of village-level Hazard, Vulnerability and Capability Assessments and mapping of hazards, safe spaces and evacuation routes; and conducting village-level disaster awareness drives and evacuation drills. This is enabled via a DMS-Himalaya Training Toolkit comprising modules for various stakeholder groups.

In Phase I, which culminated in 2019-2020, DMS Himalaya was piloted in 4 districts in the state of Uttarakhand in the central Himalayan zone in India. This pilot phase built an effective base for adoption of DMS-Himalaya across 800 villages - comprising 80 clusters with trained Disaster Response Teams (DRT) in each cluster, equipped with the DMS-Himalaya App's digital tools (Go-Risk and RnR-Comm). Interventions during this phase built the capacity of the DRTs as well as key stakeholders across the 4 districts to enable them to carry out their envisaged role in community-based disaster management. The digital tools also proved their worth, improving early warning, response, and post-disaster relief.

Phase II of the project, which commenced in 2021, is expanding coverage to the eastern and western Himalayan zones in India. The expansion covers 8 new districts, comprising 4 districts in each of the 2 zones of eastern and western Himalaya. This phase of the project is supporting the modulation of the project's tools to the variations in hazard profiles between the central Himalaya and the eastern and western Himalaya, thereby ensuring robustness and area-appropriateness of the tools. Demonstration of the efficacy of the model across all 3 zones, with an equal footprint for demonstration in each, will further prime it for uptake across the entire length of the Indian Himalaya.

The project team has worked intensively to scale the project in 2021-22, overcoming hurdles and delays due to the pandemic. The programme has reached implementation in over 2000 villages comprising 240 clusters, and across 12 districts spread over 4 states and 1 union territory, spanning the central, eastern, and western Himalaya. MoUs were signed with multiple governmental agencies, and linkages with nodal institutions were strengthened, as these contributed significantly to developing hazard profiles for the new Himalayan zones and to conducting intensive training for new DRTs as well as various other stakeholders across both the Phase I and Phase II districts.



**Adaptation of DMS-Himalaya for new areas:** Rigorous research was undertaken through 2021-22 on the hazard profiles of the new zones for implementation (eastern, western) in the Himalaya, and these were finalised and shared (including with the wider DM community, and with the development community, and are available online at: <https://www.elrha.org/researchdatabase/dms-himalaya-hazard-profiles-in-the-western-and-eastern-Himalaya/>). The DMS-Himalaya app was adapted to incorporate the changes required for the new hazard profiles, with new indicators, parameters, and protocols. Research was also conducted on appropriate weather monitoring instruments for the Himalaya in view of the learnings from Phase I of the project. Extensive study and search for Automated Weather Stations (AWS) - with greater robustness and coverage - involved discussions with institutions and vendors globally, and informed the selection of an AWS developed by Campbell Scientific that was much esteemed by district governments and nodal agencies.



*A digital tablet at a DMS Himalaya Information Kiosk*

Field surveys and consultations - both with communities and with the local governments - helped in the identification of suitable monitoring sites for the installation of AWS to monitor weather at the micro-scale in the target clusters. AWS instruments have been procured to cover 96 target village-clusters and installations begun, with 46 village clusters receiving coverage. The AWS were launched through official events held by the respective district governments, which also received local media coverage.

*DM Kit provision and orientation for a Disaster Response Team*

**Implementation of DMS-Himalaya in new areas:** MoUs were elicited with district and state authorities in all the new implementation areas. 160 village-clusters for guided implementation were selected across the 8 target districts from the eastern and western zones, and each new cluster has been thoroughly mapped and key stakeholders and resources identified. Village Preparedness Committees (VPCs) were formed in all target districts and members were provided training on: role, structure, and processes for VPCs; existing hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities of respective districts; and the need for embedding disaster management mechanisms at the local level. Women leaders in the target clusters, representatives of other vulnerable groups, frontline workers and people with disabilities (PwD) are also being mobilised for audience-specific leadership training.



*A meeting held with a Village Preparedness Committee*

Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessments (HRVCA) were carried out for nearly all selected village-clusters. Kiosks were designed and equipped with all necessary information for effective DM education and information in each respective district. These were installed in the Pragya field offices and are being promoted locally towards enhancing their use.

**Mobilisation and Training of Disaster Response Teams:** DRTs and their leaders recruited in the new districts were trained in collaboration with nodal institutes for DM in the country. 1420 DRTs

participated in a comprehensive Training Agenda and Calendar, comprising nine modules, and delivered by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Self-learning modules and short booster programmes were also provided by Pragma.

Selected DRTs were also provided with DM Kits that include search & rescue components, survival components, personal protection components, and operational components, branded to communicate the role of the DRTs to observers and other stakeholders, while also motivating the DRTs and helping them identify with their role.

The trained DRTs have begun monitoring weather and hazard parameters at monitoring sites in their village-clusters using the DMS Himalaya App. In disaster cases, they have been instrumental in alerting their communities, evacuating the vulnerable, and communicating for response and relief.

**Widening community awareness and enhancing preparedness:** Multiple approaches were used to enhance community awareness of DM and various preparedness measures specific to Himalayan hazards, including radio programmes, Whatsapp campaigns, audio-visual materials, and posters/leaflets. An estimated outreach of over 600,000 was achieved. While these helped to overcome the constraints in outreach due to the pandemic, the use of digital modes also helped to generally enhance the model's capacity for broader outreach.

**Sustainability and progress towards strength of the initiative:** The scale goal through to 2022-23 is to extend the innovation's impact to 900,000 people across 12 local authorities in India – saving livelihoods, saving lives. This project is made possible through the generosity of Pragma's major supporters. In particular, DMS-Himalaya is funded and supported by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), a programme which improves outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing, and sharing more effective and scalable solutions. Elrha's HIF is funded by aid from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Elrha is a global charity that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. Visit [www.elrha.org](http://www.elrha.org) to find out more.



*A training session with State Disaster Response Force staff in Meghalaya*

## 4. Advocacy Work

Pragma promotes awareness among the international development community and the general public about the needs of remote and marginalised communities living on the fringes of society, and environmental crises in remote and ecologically fragile areas. Towards this, Pragma participates in various forums and exhibits its work at conferences and events, in addition to publishing our research on certain issues and the impacts of our approaches.

In 2021-22, Pragma continued its participation in Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace's (PSJP) forums to explore how philanthropy can strengthen communities in the face of COVID-19 and how we might build back better in a post-COVID-19 world. The forum brought together academics and representatives from philanthropic entities across the world, and addressed questions such as "What does it take to build resilience in our communities and our organisations? How do we build a resilient, vibrant and strong civil society?" Inputs to these forums led to the publication of two reports, *Building resilience in international development* and *Understanding resilience in international development*, which are available on PSJP's website.

Pragma maintained its membership of the BOND network in 2021-22 and continued to engage with the community at its London office within The Foundry Social Justice and Human Rights Centre. We also promoted our work via our website and social media platforms.

## 5. Partner Organisations

Pragya UK is part of a network of locally-registered Pragya organisations around the world with a common purpose and vision. The UK branch of Pragya is primarily a fundraising, communications and project management function, we do not have staff based overseas. Instead, to implement our programmes we work in partnership with our global sister organisations and where appropriate we leverage the expertise of experienced and carefully vetted third party NGOs with whom we have long-established MOUs. This set-up ensures our work is delivered by staff with a depth of knowledge and experience concerning the local context, whilst contributing to local labour markets.

In India, Pragya UK delivers its projects in partnership with Pragya India; founded in 1995, Pragya India is headquartered in Gurugram and operates across western, northern and eastern India via an extensive network of field offices. Pragya India has a substantial research and advocacy function, and delivers a wide variety of projects across the full breadth of Pragya programme areas.

Pragya UK has worked with Pragya in Nepal since 2006; based in Kathmandu, they coordinate the delivery of projects across rural districts, harnessing the highly localised expertise of NGOs situated in the vicinity of project sites. Since 2015, Pragya's work in Nepal has focussed on various aspects of rehabilitation in communities deeply impacted by the earthquake, and lately where this now intersects with the impacts of COVID-19.

Pragya UK began delivering projects in Bangladesh in 2018. We work in partnership with in-country NGOs to improve the desperate situation of river island communities facing multiple severe challenges. Following research and pilot work in 2018-19, Pragya secured grant funding in 2019-20 to launch its Bangladesh programmes, beginning with WASH interventions continuing in 2020-21 but with wider programming also planned across disaster management, livelihoods, prevention of trafficking and violence against women, and education.

In east Africa, Pragya UK works with Pragya Kenya, an NGO founded in 2011 and based in Nairobi and delivering projects in tandem with selected localised NGOs in Kakamega county in western Kenya, as well as in the northern Arid and Semi-Arid counties. Pragya Kenya are experienced in conducting research and development interventions encompassing water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, healthcare, education, and inter-community conflict.

**Thank you to all our supporters without whose generosity and vision our vital work would not be possible.**

**PRAGYA**

*Development without Destruction  
Empowerment for Enabling Choices*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Company number</b>	N.A.
<b>Charity number</b>	1082476
<b>Registered office</b>	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
<b>Trustees</b>	Gargi Banerji - Chairperson Arasan Aruliah Pratap Rughani
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC 176 Camden High Street London NW1 8QL
<b>Solicitors</b>	N.A.

**C O N T E N T S**

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Reference and administrative information is set out on page 1 and forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### **STATUS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

PRAGYA was registered as a charity on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

#### **Charitable Objects**

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The objects of the charity are:

- i. to stimulate development in vulnerable and neglected communities, particularly in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile areas, enabling and empowering them through the use of appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and indigenous solutions;
- ii. to encourage improved natural resource management, and conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural and cultural heritage in sensitive ecosystems and communities;
- iii. to institute alternative, sustainable development forms in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile and pristine areas, through development action and policy change;
- iv. to conduct research in the development sciences with special reference to the target areas and groups (as above), develop appropriate models/products/tools/techniques, and document, publish and exchange the learnings acquired;
- v. to raise funds to support activities towards meeting the above objectives of the Charity.

### **TRUSTEES**

Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr. Arasan Aruliah  
4, Middleton Grove  
London N7 9LU

Ms. Gargi Banerji - Chair  
102, Tower 4, The Palms, Sector 30  
Gurgaon - 122001, India

Mr. Pratap Rughani  
22, Sugar Loaf Walk  
Bethnal Green  
London E2 OJQ

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Trustee Board meets two times a year.

### **Internal Control, Management and Risk Review**

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Governance activities include maintaining ongoing controls and procedures to ensure effective stewardship of financial and other resources, and monitoring of annual objectives against an agreed strategic and business plan for the organisation. The Trustee Board receives regular reports from management staff and conducts an in-depth review at least twice a year. This review includes an assessment of key internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the charity's general and specific objectives – and forms the basis of agreed updates and amendments to the strategic plan.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and identification and management of risks.

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity's internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees have reviewed risks and are satisfied that appropriate mitigating controls and actions are in place.

## **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Beneficiaries**

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The primary beneficiaries of the charity include the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Nepal. In addition, the wider public, policymakers and others that can influence and bring about a positive change in the condition of the primary beneficiaries are also targeted by the charity through its interventions.

### **Objectives**

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The objectives of the charity include:

- i. Build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to access their rights and achieve their own development goals.
- ii. Enhance the economic and livelihood opportunities available to disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to conserve and utilize their surrounding ecosystem in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- iv. Conserve and promote traditional culture and knowledge.
- v. Utilize this traditional knowledge alongside new technology to improve the management of natural resources in the ecologically sensitive areas.
- vi. Advocate within the UK and internationally on the importance of supporting community-led development and environmental conservation.

Our objectives are achieved through:

- Mobilising resources and providing knowledge and monitoring inputs for projects being implemented by partners in disadvantaged regions.
- Documenting needs of communities and project learnings and sharing with stakeholders and the development community in the UK.
- Participating in various fora and networking for developing wider awareness and building a support base for target issues/region in the UK.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our key financial objectives were to secure funding for current services and to increase our unrestricted reserves to expand and develop new areas of work. We were successful in enhancing resources for existing programmes as well as in scaling up new areas of work.

Total incoming resources for the year were £682,634 (2021 - £528,781); total expenditure was £501,056 (2021 - £396,997). A breakdown of expenditure by activity areas is on Statement of financial Activities (page 9).

Total funds during the year increased by £181,578 (2021 - £131,784), bringing the funds carried forward to £313,719 (2021 - £132,141).

### **Reserves Policy and Going Concern**

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Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2022 would be at a level sufficient to cover three months' expenditure, i.e. £15,000. The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that Charity are a going concern.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '*charities and public benefit*'.

Pragya's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects - to support and develop the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in the underserved regions. The Trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering programmes and services that are of value to the participants of the projects. The participants are members of the public known to and/or identified by Partner organisations (e.g. NGO's, Local Authorities, Aid Agencies) with whom and for whom Pragya develops the projects. These partnerships ensure that Pragya's activities reach the right recipients and thus fulfil the charities core objectives.

Approved by the Board on 30 January, 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 30 January, 2023

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF PRAGYA**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andi Dollia, CPFA  
Additude Ltd  
9 Rhapsody Court  
Wakeman Road  
London NW10 5DF

Date: *27 January 2023*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating income and expenditure account)**

	Note	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2022 Total (£)	2021 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	678,434	4,200	<b>682,634</b>	528,781
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Investment and other income		-	-	-	-
<b>Total (Total Income)</b>		<b>678,434</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>682,634</b>	528,781
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	3				
Raising funds		16,596	-	<b>16,596</b>	24,645
Charitable activities		484,460	-	<b>484,460</b>	372,352
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total (Total Expenditure)</b>		<b>501,056</b>	-	<b>501,056</b>	396,997
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	4	<b>177,378</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>181,578</b>	131,784
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		(18,129)	18,129	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>159,249</b>	<b>22,329</b>	<b>181,578</b>	131,784
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		125,712	6,429	<b>132,141</b>	357
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>284,961</b>	<b>28,758</b>	<b>313,719</b>	132,141

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Note	2022(£)	2021(£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		399	-
Cash at bank		319,543	140,275
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		319,942	140,275
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	6,223	8,134
<b>Net current assets</b>		313,719	132,141
<b>Net assets</b>	8	313,719	132,141
<b>Funds</b>	9		
Restricted		284,961	125,712
General		28,758	6,429
<b>Total funds</b>		313,719	132,141

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question. The directors acknowledge responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far applicable to the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 30 January, 2023

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. Accounting policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).
- b. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c. Grants are recognized in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d. Resources expended are recognized in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- e. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- f. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- g. The costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work.

**2. Donations and legacies**

	2022			2021
	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	Total (£)	Total (£)
Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	-	-	-	20,000
Balbir Chowdhary	-	2,400	2,400	3,200
Elrha	257,483	-	257,483	142,946
JAC Trust	28,558	-	28,558	-
Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission	23,729	-	23,729	23,729
Harbinson Charitable Trust	-	1,450	1,450	1,400
Other Trusts and foundations	180,518	350	180,868	318,917
The Kirby Laing Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-
The Brian Mercer Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
The Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	-	-	-	15,589
Solidar Suisse	154,146	-	154,146	-
Souter Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
The Haremead Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	4,000	-	4,000	-
W F Southall Trust	-	-	-	3,000

<b>Total</b>	<b>678,434</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>682,634</b>	<b>528,781</b>
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### 3. Total Expenditure

<b>Expenditure</b>	Cost of raising funds (£)	Cost of charitable activities (£)	Support Costs (£)	<b>2022 Total (£)</b>	2021 Total (£)
Staff costs (note 5)	13,764	27,530	13,765	55,059	58,441
Rent, insurance, utilities, services	-	-	10,020	10,020	10,037
Bank Charges	-	-	945	945	1,036
Postage and telephone	-	-	95	95	140
Membership Subscriptions	-	-	1,792	1,792	1,144
Independent Examination	-	-	1,100	1,100	1,000
Consultancy fees	-	-	600	600	2,138
Direct project expenses	-	431,445	-	431,445	323,061
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>458,975</b>	<b>28,317</b>	<b>501,056</b>	396,997
Add: allocation of support costs	2,832	25,485	(28,317)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>16,596</b>	<b>484,460</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>501,056</b>	396,997

### 4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:	<b>2022 (£)</b>	2021 (£)
Depreciation	-	-
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<b>1,100</b>	1,000

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Salaries and wages	54,218	57,000
Social security costs	841	1,441
Pension contributions	-	-
<b>Total emoluments paid to employees were:</b>	<b>55,059</b>	<b>58,441</b>
No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2021 - 0)		
The average weekly number of staff (expressed as full-time equivalents) during the year was 1.8 (2021: 1.8)		
	2022 (FTE)	2021 (FTE)
Raising funds	0.5	0.5
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Support costs	0.3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**6. Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**7. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Trade Creditors	-	1,134
Other Creditors	4,823	5,700
Independent Examination	1,100	1,000
Accruals and Provisions	300	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,223</b>	<b>8,134</b>

**8. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted Funds (£)	General funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	284,961	28,758	313,719
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>284,961</b>	<b>28,758</b>	<b>313,719</b>

**9. Movements in Fund**

	At the start of the year (£)	Incoming resources (£)	Outgoing resources (£)	Transfers (£)	At the end of the year (£)
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>6,429</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,129</b>	<b>28,758</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>125,712</b>	<b>678,434</b>	<b>501,056</b>	<b>(18,129)</b>	<b>284,961</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>132,141</b>	<b>682,634</b>	<b>501,056</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>313,719</b>
<b><u>Purposes of funds</u></b>					
<b>General funds:</b> These are the free reserves of the Charity, which can be used for any purpose within its charitable objects.					
<b>Restricted funds:</b> The following restricted funding was received over the course of the financial year for use in projects related to Livelihoods, Food Security, Education, Gender, Informal workers and Disaster Risk Reduction & Management.					

**PRAGYA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1082476

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# Accounts

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# Pragya UK

## Annual review 2020-21



### 1. Context

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**Welcome to Pragya UK's Annual Review 2020-21.** Pragya is non-profit organisation committed to serving the needs of the most neglected communities across four countries in south Asia and east Africa.

**Our Vision** is one of marginalised communities living dignified lives free from poverty and injustice, fully enjoying the benefits of development in a manner harmonious with cultural heritage and the natural environment.

**Our Mission** is to enable grassroots sustainable development for the poorest, most neglected communities in remote and marginal societies, in a way that preserves and promotes local cultures and fragile ecosystems.

**Our programmes** support multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals, and include: Food, agriculture and rural livelihoods; Conservation and renewable energy; education; empowering women and minorities; Health, safe water and sanitation; and Disaster Management. The diversity of our work enables us to take a holistic approach to development, tackling the multiple dimensions of poverty through our commitment to addressing marginalisation – whatever its form.

**Our Research and Advocacy** shines a light on critical environmental and socioeconomic needs of which there is little awareness, and we promote understanding of such issues in international forums and among development actors and networks. We work cooperatively with government agencies to help bring about positive structural change that reduces the marginalisation of the communities we exist to serve.

With the generosity of our supporters, 2020-21 saw substantial achievements across our programmes.

Covid-19 has been an unprecedented and monumental challenge for the international development sector. Least developed countries and developing economies experienced multiple exacerbating factors that propelled infection rates in contexts of inadequate health and other infrastructure. At the same time, lockdowns and social distancing placed new operational barriers on established approaches to emergency response by development actors. India has been one of the worst hit countries in the world, especially in urban slums with high population density, as well as in marginalised rural areas with poor sanitation and lack of access to healthcare, combined with widespread misinformation about the virus. Pragya has substantial expertise in emergency response, and we rapidly developed a Covid-19 Response Strategy for India addressing critical interlinked challenges, helping the most vulnerable communities through the pandemic whilst innovating and adapting our methodology as the situation demanded. You can learn about our Covid-19 response and impact in section 3.5.

The rapid global decline in biodiversity and the breakdown of ecosystems is one of the most pressing challenges facing mankind today. Pragya believes that sustainable development means delivering socioeconomic growth in a way that respects the natural world and upholds the rich traditions and knowledge base of minority and threatened groups that live in and rely on fragile environments. In 2020-21, Pragya expanded its work in support of UN Sustainable Development Goal #15, towards sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss. Our pioneering medicinal plants programme, operating at the nexus of biodiversity conservation and economic prosperity, is exemplary of sustainability through the harmonious interaction of people and planet. Section 3.1 has news on this work in east Africa.

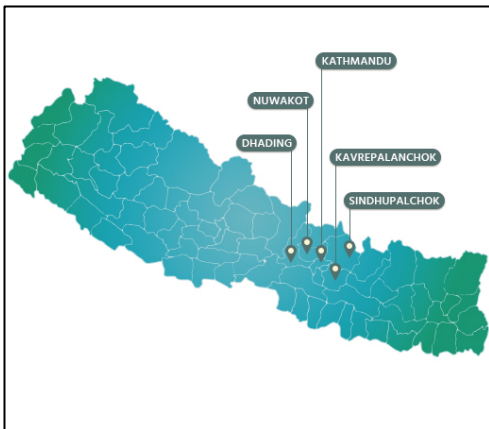
Pragya is a thought leader and a mobiliser in the field of disaster management. Climate change is seeing ever more erratic and unpredictable weather events around the world, and warming in the Himalayan region is up to three times the global average, resulting in many and varied disasters. Following a highly successful four-year pilot initiative, in 2020-21 Pragya secured major partnerships to scale up DMS-Himalaya – our innovation for community-led disaster risk reduction and response in remote geographies. You can read about the progress made and latest impacts in section 3.5.

Climate change also exacerbates the hardships suffered by residents of Bangladesh's 'chars', or river islands – unstable land subject to recurrent flooding, where basic needs are not met and lack of local WASH infrastructure and management pollutes the environment and propels the spread of disease. Following exploratory engagements and pilot work beginning in 2018, Pragya secured partnerships to significantly expand its programme in Bangladesh in 2020-21. Section 3.4 details the latest work to improve environmental and community health in char communities across two districts.

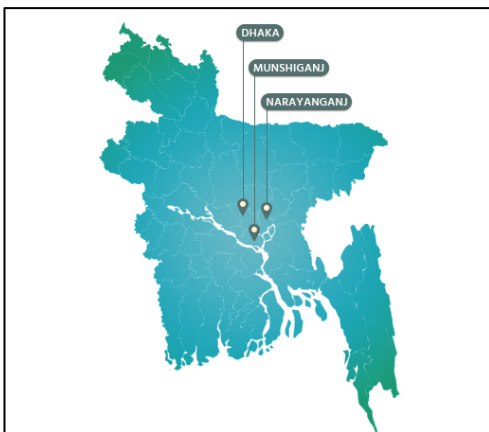
## 2. Target locations and populations



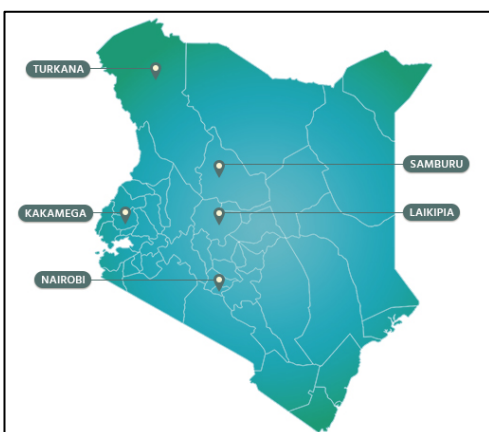
Pragya's work in India is delivered in 8 states across northern, western and eastern regions. In northern India, we work with Himalayan populations addressing the development challenges particular to the region. Disaster management and emergency response is a major aspect of our work here, empowering isolated communities for improved disaster resilience, and lately focussing on Covid-19 response. We also work with Himalayan farming communities to enable climate-adapted agriculture for enhanced food security and nutrition. To the west of India, our work targets impoverished and ethnic minority communities in Rajasthan, with initiatives designed around women's empowerment, as well as access to education. In eastern India, our focus is on climate-smart agriculture, prevention of GBV, and disaster management.



In Nepal, Pragya's work is focused on four districts severely impacted by the 2015 earthquake: Sindhupalchok, Dhading, Kavrepalanchok and Nuwakot. Our rehabilitation work here spans multiple aspects of poverty exacerbated by the 2015 disaster and the recently Covid-19. We deliver WASH solutions and capacity building for communities lacking safe drinking water, quality toilets or handwashing facilities. Our livelihoods work enables uptake of alternative vocations for rapid income generation and sustainable microenterprise development, and we support rural youth with vocational awareness and training. Within a wider patriarchal context, the target districts are hotspots for GBV and human trafficking, and our programme for prevention of GBV is rooted in our research on post-2015 trends in trafficking and GBV.



Pragya's work in Bangladesh focusses on supporting extremely poor and marginalised communities living on Bangladesh's *Chars* – river islands with unstable land subject to recurrent flooding and which lack essential services. Lack of adequate WASH facilities in Char communities mean high incidence of waterborne disease to which children are especially at risk, whilst residents can have little option but to drink groundwater contaminated with arsenic, with its multiple adverse health impacts. Pragya's Bangladesh programme is currently focussed on Dhaka division, which has the highest number of Chars, in the two districts of Munshiganj and Narayanganj, with interventions around site-appropriate WASH solutions, as well as local capacity building for disaster risk reduction and response, oriented around flooding.



In Kenya, Pragya's target areas include the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands of northern Kenya, spanning the counties of Turkana, Laikipia and Samburu. In this region, we work to address the socioeconomic challenges particular to nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist groups impacted by climate change, geographic isolation, and marginalisation; this includes enhancing access to quality education, providing locally-appropriate WASH solutions, as well as programmes supporting livelihoods and community health. In western Kenya, we work with communities in Kakamega county, where widespread poverty places unsustainable pressure on the majestic Kakamega rainforest. We empower communities to conserve biodiversity whilst simultaneously supporting poor smallholders to undertake high-value agriculture.

### 3. Projects in 2020-21

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#### **1. Food, agriculture and rural livelihoods**

##### *Cultivating and conserving medicinal plants in Kakamega Forest, Kenya*

Kakamega county, western Kenya, is home to Kakamega rainforest, a UNESCO world heritage site and home to a lush variety of flora and fauna, including many endemic species. Yet the forest is subject to substantial anthropogenic pressure, with deforestation for commercial purposes and human settlement threatening what remains of what was once a much larger rainforest; local communities extract products from the forest worth millions of US Dollars each year.

The forest hosts many species of threatened and endangered medicinal plants, which play an important function in maintenance of the forest's delicate ecosystem, and which are culturally significant through their role in traditional medicine. However, these plants fetch a high price at market, with demand driven by booming international trade in cosmetics and herbal remedies that derive ingredients from these plants. Poverty is rife among smallholder farming communities that live near the forest, which compels farmers to supplement their incomes by harvesting these plants from the wild, stripping the forest in a way that prevents plant regeneration, placing unsustainable pressure of plant populations.

Pragya has a fantastic solution to this desperate situation. We have researched, piloted and are now rolling out a sustainable livelihoods model that simultaneously protects the local environment. We are working with communities adjacent to the forest to empower them as custodians of local biodiversity, whilst also enabling them to cultivate medicinal plants. Key aspects of the model include:

- **Conservation Awareness.** We deliver community and school campaigns to build understanding of the importance of local biodiversity to the forest's ecosystem, and the long-term benefits to the community of conserving the forest.
- **Environmental Stewardship.** We support the development of Community Conservation Councils responsible for managing Community Protected Areas, zones of forest identified as being at high risk of plant depletion, and supported with social fencing measures and monitored / regenerated by the Councils. Community groups are also empowered to conduct environmental advocacy.
- **Cultivation Training.** We provide smallholders with comprehensive cultivation training and start-up inputs to enable them to uptake cultivation of high-value, in-demand species of medicinal plant.
- **Cooperation and Value Addition.** We support smallholders with processing and packaging solutions, ensuring the smallholders can secure the highest prices for their produce. We establish ethical trading linkages and support cooperative working practices that enable access to larger buyers and fair prices.



*Mondia Whitei seedlings ready for distribution to farmers*

2020-21 saw the start of phase II of Pragma's scale vision for medicinal plants programme in Kenya:

Phase	Title	Years	Aims and methodology	Financing	Status
I.	Research and Piloting	2011-2019	Inventorizing local MAPs status and researching current trade / value chain. Identify optimum species for cultivation. Pilot test livelihoods model in targeted communities in Kakamega, implemented by Pragma, leveraging highly successful model as applied in Himalayan region. Early-stage trading links established. Results-based model refinement.	Seed / pilot funding for Pragma.	Achieved
II.	Supported Scaling	2020-2025	Scale model to 30% ("critical mass") of communities adjoining Kakamega rainforest. Implementation by Pragma and other CSOs using Pragma's IP-free published model & implementation guide. Advocacy /awareness raising across Kakamega forest communities. Inter-community cooperative formation, trading networks enlarged & strengthened	Grant funding for Pragma and other CSOs.	In progress
III.	Comprehensive Adoption	2026-2030+	Model adopted by 80%+ communities adjoining Kakamega rainforest. Replication by communities through peer-learning and Farmer Expert support, with smallholders re-allocating land to MAP cultivation. Alignment with Kenyan Government's Vision 2030.	Community-driven replication.	Goal

With support from the Souter Charitable Trust, the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, the Evan Cornish Foundation, the Open Gate Trust, the Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust, and the Gibbs Charitable Trust, Pragma is rolling out apace the *Supported Scaling* phase to 2025. During the year, conservation awareness campaigns reached 350 people across 3 counties bordering Kakamega Forest (Kakamega, Nandi, and Vihiga). A Community Conservation Group, comprising youth and elders from the local communities, was established in Nandi county, and trained to monitor biodiversity. Biodiversity surveys identified a medicinal plant-rich site (presence of 13 species belonging to 9 families of medicinal plant) in the Kakamega Forest area, and the group was assisted to document the plant population and threat status and establish the site as a Community Protected Area.

30 early-adopter female farmers from low-income agricultural households – 10 from each county – were trained in medicinal plants cultivation, covering techniques on planting, weeding, irrigation management, pest/disease control, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. 5000 seedlings of *Mondia whitei* and 600 suckers of *Aloe vera* were distributed to these farmers as a micro-enterprise start-up input, and the farmers have initiated medicinal plants cultivation in their plots. A local nursery was assisted to set up a medicinal plants propagation programme for 3 species of medicinal plant (*Mondia whitei*, *Occimum kilimandscharicum* and *Aloe vera*) in a 1000sq.m. plot to ensure seedling supply both to the 30 farmers and to enable wider uptake of medicinal plants by other farmers in the communities.

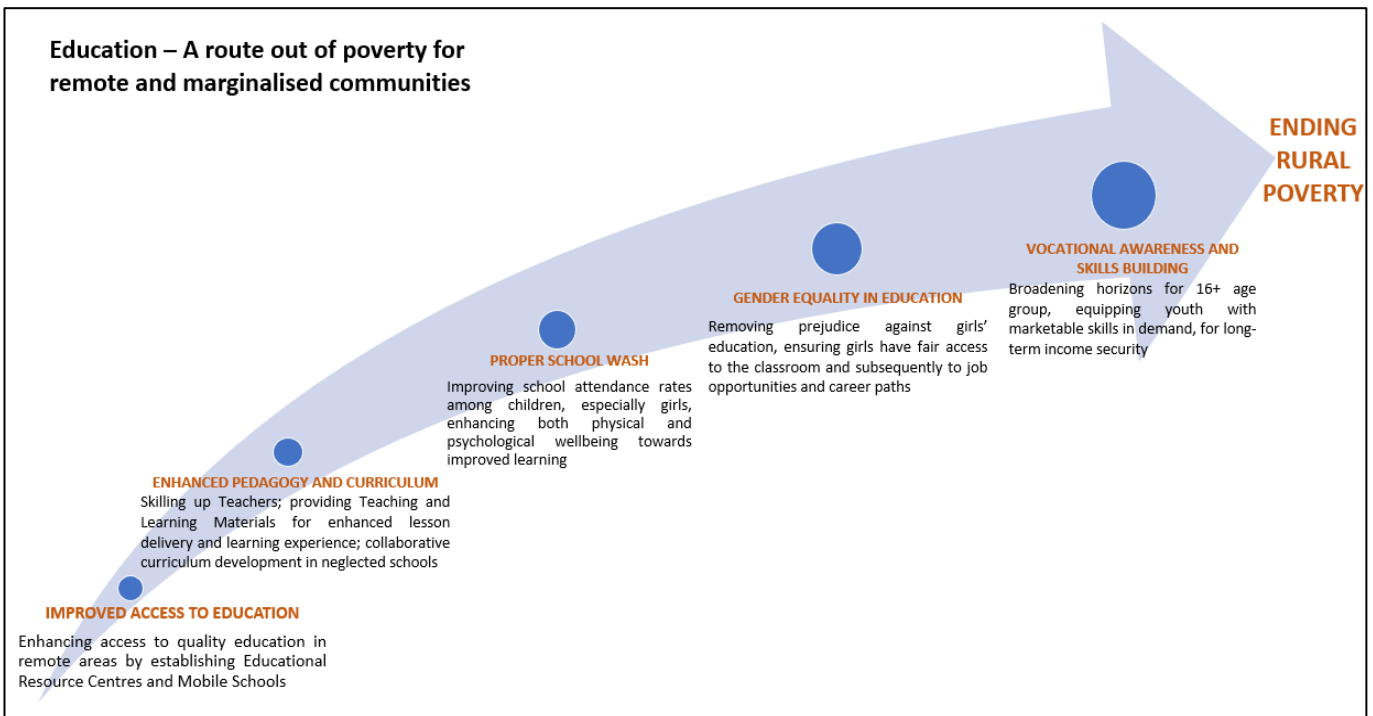
## **2. Education**

Pragma works with some of the most remote and marginalised communities in the world, those existing on the fringes of society where basic services often fail to reach. Many people from these impoverished rural communities scrape a living through smallholder agriculture or pastoralism, in regions where climate change is rapidly diminishing the prospects of such traditional occupations, or as daily wage labourers with little or no income security. Youth in these communities can face a stark choice between following in the footsteps of their parents and the bleak future this holds, or else to migrating to urban centres as unskilled labour with little education, facing low pay or unemployment and likely living in urban slums. Pragma believes in a brighter future for children in marginalised rural areas. We take a multifaceted approach to ensuring disadvantaged children have access to quality education, tackling key aspects of educational deprivation and barriers to school attendance towards ending rural poverty.

→ **Improved Access to Education.** Pragma collaborates with communities and local authorities to extend access to quality education in remote areas where schools are few and far between and heavily oversubscribed. We establish Education Resource Centres in community spaces, equipped with ICT

facilities and a wide variety of age-specific books. For itinerant communities, we deliver mobile education solutions including schools on wheels, tent-based classrooms, and camel libraries, towards ensuring that no child is left behind.

- **Improved Pedagogy and Curriculum.** Pragma works with teachers and para-teachers to improve their teaching skills, enabling them to deliver more impactful lessons. We supply a range of Teaching and Learning Materials that enable more diverse teaching methods, enriching the learning experience of children towards improved attendance, attention span and learning outcomes. We collaborate with communities to ensure curricula in deprived areas is suitable and up to standard.
- **Proper School WASH.** Poor quality or lack of sanitation in schools can be a substantial barrier to attendance, especially among girls. Pragma trains local masons for construction of high-quality, site-appropriate sanitation that ensure cleanliness and privacy, reducing the physical health implications and anxiety experienced by schoolchildren where sanitation facilities are inadequate. We also facilitate schools for the collection and storage of safe drinking water, and deliver school hygiene awareness and training, improving health and thereby learning among schoolchildren.
- **Gender Equality in Education.** Girls face multiple barriers to enrolment and continued participation in school, including gender-based violence, child marriage and teenage pregnancy, a heavy burden of household duties, and lack of confidence in academic ability. Pragma works with communities to address the attitudes that underpin these social challenges, towards improved school attendance and achievement level among girls.
- **Vocational Awareness and Skills Building.** A lack of awareness of vocational routes and poor access to vocational training mean children in remote areas are left with few livelihood options. Pragma builds awareness of alternative vocational routes available to adolescents as they transition into adulthood, and provides certified vocational training courses in locally-demanded occupations, diversifying the skills base in the community and enhancing income security.



Much of Pragma's educational work is interwoven with our other programmes; in 2020-21 our education and vocational trainings were delivered as aspects of broader projects, detailed in the relevant sections.

Voices from the field



*“I am using the 3D atlas DVD and the computer to explain concepts of geography to my class. It’s time we embrace technology.”*

*- Ronald Justice, Geography & Mathematics Teacher  
Shabwali Secondary School, Kakamega county, Kenya*



*“The students here were exposed to computers for the first time. Every day we have 20-25 visitors using the computers”*

*- Selina Emkudi, Community Management Committee  
Kitumnae, Turkana county, Kenya*

### **3. Empowering women and minorities**

#### **Vocational training for women migrant workers in the Indian Himalayas**

In especially poor areas of India and Nepal, gender discrimination in education and in access to vocational training means women are unable to secure gainful employment in their local areas. Compelled by resultant poverty and facing destitution, these women migrate to the Indian Himalayan region in search of work as labourers responsible for the construction and maintenance of mountain roads. These migrants endure appalling living and working conditions. They typically reside in temporary, itinerant camps, in rickety shelter constructed out of discarded materials that provide little protection from the elements. The camps and the worksites often do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities, resulting in a lack of privacy and the spread of waterborne diseases, issues that especially impact women. A lack of proper safety equipment exposes workers to dust and asphalt fumes that lead to eye, heart and lung diseases, and workers often carry out backbreaking work in severe climatic conditions, vulnerable to rockfall and passing traffic, with resultingly high incidence of injury. With little or no access to schools due to geographic constraints and social discrimination, migrant road workers can have little option but have their children accompany them on site, exposing them to these multiple hazards to which they are extremely vulnerable.

Pragya is committed to improving the prospects for women migrant workers, by providing training in safe, alternative livelihoods that can provide sustainable income. In 2020-21, through the generosity of an individual supporter, Pragya conducted training on tailoring for small groups of female migrant workers in the districts of Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand. Each programme was delivered over a duration of 8 days, and 4 batches of such programmes were conducted, covering a total of 40 women. The programmes covered the following: tailoring tools and equipment and their upkeep; measurements and material estimation; stitching and cutting (focus on masks; blouse and *salwar*); pricing and book-keeping.



*A tailoring training session in Uttarkashi*

At the close of the training, a thorough evaluation was conducted of the trainees to determine their learning levels and 20 good performers were selected, to whom a Start-up Tailoring Kit was provided for initiating a tailoring enterprise/service. The Start-up Tailoring Kit comprised a portable sewing machine and other small tools (measuring tape, ruler, tailor's chalk, scissors and shears, pin cushion, needles, bodkin, thread cutter, seam ripper, fabric and packaging material). All the women who were provided the Start-up Tailoring Kit have initiated their own tailoring enterprises/services from their own homes and have started taking orders for tailoring clothing from the neighbouring community and from tailor shops in the nearby marketplaces.

The training has empowered the beneficiary women to take control of their futures, building the foundation for microenterprise development and removing the need for these women to undertake seasonal migration to secure work as Himalayan road workers, with all the substantial risks this carries for themselves and their children.

#### **Prevention of trafficking of women and girls in Nepal**

Pragya's wide-ranging gender work includes a commitment to challenging and eliminating Violence against Women and Girls in our countries of operation. Nepal is a highly patriarchal social society, ranking 106 on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index 2021, a worse ranking than the prior year; this patriarchy underpins multiple forms of GBV in Nepal including physical, sexual, socioeconomic and

psychological violence and abuse. Victims of GBV in Nepal typically lack the information and networks needed to support their physical and psychological wellbeing and recourse to justice. Nepal is a major source country for the trafficking of women and girls, usually into India and beyond. Victims are typically subjected to years of forced labour and sexual exploitation, suffering severe physical and mental trauma. Where victims are rescued from or escape their situation, reintegration with their home society can be challenging due to social stigma, and they may be left with few prospects for the future.

A major driver of trafficking in Nepal is women's poverty and lack of economic opportunity, which in desperation renders them highly susceptible to the lure of traffickers with promises of employment abroad. This situation is exacerbated in post-disaster contexts. In 2019 Pragma published in-depth research it had conducted on trends in trafficking in Nepal following the massive earthquake of 2015. Spikes in trafficking followed the disaster, as traffickers were able to exploit women's loss of livelihoods and family, homelessness and displacement. The research mapped the causes of trafficking in Nepal, its patterns and trends, methods and routes used by traffickers, the experiences of victims, as well as the current approaches by authorities and civil society to fighting trafficking.

Pragma leveraged this research to develop a multifaceted, integrated model for prevention of violence against women in Nepal, which addresses the full range of change mechanisms from addressing immediate response needs through to root causes.

- Building capacity for women's active resistance to gender-based violence and trafficking, which includes awareness campaigns around GBV and trafficking, peer-group based intervention and support initiatives, and education and assertiveness training for these groups.
- Improving income generation capacity of vulnerable women and families – reducing their economic desperation and associated susceptibility to trafficking. Measures include capacity building for small rural enterprise development in animal husbandry and niche-sector agriculture, as well as vocational training and placements targeting young women in particular.
- Behaviour change initiatives targeting gender-based violence, leveraging opinion-shapers and influential figures in local society, to challenge Nepal's patriarchal norms and win hearts and minds around to more equitable and respectful attitudes to women. This also aims at gendering the social structures that perpetuate the patriarchy.
- Developing support facilities for an informed population and responder network, including targeted information dissemination to key stakeholders, particularly rights information in GBV context for women along with information on women's safe economic migration, and information / status updates for responders on local trafficking and GBV.
- Enhancing the response network to trafficking and GBV, by building capacity of existing and potential support providers to improve service levels of victim support across protection, rescue and rehabilitation.

Gender inequality in Nepal, as in other countries, has been worsened by the onset of COVID-19, indeed the World Economic Forum reports that as a result of COVID-19, closing the gender gap globally has increased by a generation. Nepal's remittance and tourism economies have been decimated by the pandemic, and many women have lost husbands who are traditionally the main family earners. With few skills themselves due to the comparatively poor educational and training opportunities available to women and girls, this has deepened poverty levels among already poor rural women, increasing their vulnerability to GBV and trafficking.

In the wake of COVID-19, Pragma has refined its model for prevention of GBV in 2020-21, particularly around rapid income generation and microenterprise support for women left destitute by the virus, as well as further developing a programme of vocational training opportunities for young women to reduce their risk of falling prey to traffickers. Pragma will be looking for substantial partnerships in 2021-22 to begin scaling its prevention of GBV initiative across districts still struggling to recover from the 2015 disaster as well as those areas where rural women have been substantially impacted by COVID-19.

#### **4. Health, safe water and sanitation**

##### *Safe water and sanitation facilities for marginalised mountain communities, Nepal*

In April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed thousands of people and caused widespread destruction of homes and damage to key buildings and infrastructure critical to the functioning of society, including health, education and WASH infrastructure. Approximately 180,000 household toilets were destroyed, and research conducted by Pragma in Sindhupalchok and Dhading districts following the

disaster indicated that over half the population in these areas lacked access to safe water and adequate sanitation. Whilst an initial media spotlight supported a quick humanitarian response, six years on from the disaster the more substantial rehabilitation needed has been slow and woefully inadequate. Severe poverty and marginalisation in Nepal's remote rural communities have meant lasting impacts; government resources have been unable to match the scale of the devastation, with many household and community WASH resources remaining unusable, propelling open defecation and contamination of water sources that result in high levels of waterborne disease transmission in communities with the least resilience and poor access to healthcare. For the most vulnerable community members, this can prove fatal - over 430 children die in Nepal every year from diarrhoea resulting from dirty water and poor-quality toilets. Damaged or lack of school toilets also causes stress among schoolchildren, resulting in poor performance and absenteeism.

This persisting situation demands continued support from the international development community, and Pragya maintains its commitment to serving those remote communities in Nepal that have failed to recover from the earthquake. Pragya is delivering a comprehensive WASH rehabilitation programme in Nepal that addresses the immediate infrastructure needs whilst building local WASH management capacity:

- **Installation of robust and hygienic water storage tanks.** The tanks are fitted with high-capacity and low-maintenance water filtration technology, enabling nearby availability of safe water, reducing drudgery and providing peace of mind.
- **Construction of high-quality sanitation blocks.** The block comprise separate male / female units designed to ensure privacy, and are constructed to earthquake-resistant designs. They reduce open defecation and hence spread of waterborne diseases, preventing avoidable deaths among children and other more vulnerable community members, and promote improved environmental hygiene.
- **Community WASH awareness sessions.** The sessions cover common waterborne diseases and their transmission, household waste management, hygienic food preparation, household-level water purification methods, as well as menstrual hygiene sessions for women. The sessions have information for all the family, including content specifically oriented to children, learning in a fun and engaging way.
- **Capacity building for local WASH management.** This includes the formation and training of community Water and Sanitation Committees, with a mandate to manage all local WASH facilities and empowered to advocate for enhanced WASH management at the district level.

The programme aims to achieve at least 50% reduction in open defecation and 30% reduction in incidence of waterborne in project communities. In 2020-21, our WASH initiatives in Nepal were made possible through the generous support of the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, The Drinking Fountain Association, the Harbinson Charitable Trust, and W F Southall Charitable Trust.



*A water storage and filtration unit earlier installed by Pragya in Dhading district, Nepal. Local availability of clean water in remote areas is a major improvement in circumstances for women in particular*

Continuing into 2021-22, the programme is yielding substantial positive results. Clean and safe drinking water is reducing incidence of waterborne disease in target communities. Women in project communities have reported that having local access to safe water means they no longer have to trek miles to collect this critical resource. This has reduced drudgery as well as their exposure to various serious risks associated with such journeys, including injury from rugged terrain and exposure to GBV and trafficking,

the latter being rife in the programme's target districts. The women also report that they now have more time for productive household and income-generating activities, which is reducing poverty levels in project communities. Parents report improved psychological wellbeing as they no longer have to fear the health impacts on their children from exposure to E.coli and other pollutants, and children's school attendance rates are improving as well as enhanced performance in class.

The project is also successfully reducing open defecation in beneficiary communities, improving environmental hygiene and further reducing the spread of waterborne disease and contributing towards district goals of being open defecation free. This has supported improved psychological wellbeing for schoolchildren and boosted attendance rates. Children are also benefitting from enhanced personal hygiene following Pragma's hygiene awareness sessions oriented to children, and evaluation has shown they are able to demonstrate proper handwashing technique, which was not the case prior to project delivery. Selection began during the year for members of Water and Sanitation Committees, which include representatives of poor households as well as local leaders, with training due to cover identification of local WASH challenges, appropriate measures to manage those challenges such as design and delivery of public awareness campaigns, and orientation in conducting advocacy for improved water and sanitation governance at village and district levels. These Councils are key to instilling a sense of ownership of and responsibility for local WASH, and contribute to project sustainability. This work builds on the thousands of people Pragma has already reached through our WASH programme in Nepal since the 2015 earthquake.

#### Voices from the field

*“In the WASH session I have learnt that we not only should think about personal hygiene but also should consider community hygiene to lead a healthy life. We have learnt what are the things that should be done and what should be avoided for maintaining the clean environment”*

*- Ram Hari Thapaliya, Apatar Village*

#### Safe water and sanitation for river island communities, Bangladesh



Bangladesh's river islands, known as *Chars*, are home to the country's severely poor, the displaced and the marginalised. These islands are the last refuge for those who have nothing, where living conditions are extremely challenging and basic needs are not met. Housing commonly consists of ramshackle accommodation, land rights are extremely hard to secure, there are no local healthcare or educational facilities, and residents often scrape a living as daily wage labourers with no income security. The chars are subject to riverbank erosion and recurrent flooding, threatening lives,

forcing repeated displacement and destroying meagre livelihoods assets.

A substantial element of poverty and neglect on chars is the lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Char residents can have little option but to consume groundwater that is contaminated with arsenic, and which can lead to multiple short- and long-term health problems including abdominal pain, skin lesions, impaired cognitive development in children, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. Poor quality or absence of sanitation on chars results in commonplace open defecation, polluting the local environment and which, in combination with recurrent flooding, propels the spread of waterborne diseases such as dysentery that can prove fatal for children. Making matters worse, char residents commonly survive as daily wage labourers; water-related sickness can mean an inability to work, resulting in poor diet and malnutrition that exacerbate health challenges and reinforce the cycle of poverty.

In 2020-21, with support from the Overseas Aid & Development Commission, States of Guernsey, Pragma has been working to enable access to safe water for drinking and household use, as well as providing high quality and locally-appropriate sanitation solutions, to 5000 people across 10 river island communities in

the two districts of Munshiganj and Narayanganj, Dhaka division, Bangladesh. Key activities and achievements during the year include:

- ✓ A WASH awareness campaign was designed and delivered. The campaigns aim to effect positive behavioural change with respect to household water use, sanitation, and family hygiene. Following community consultations, the campaign design was adapted to local norms and cultural practices, addressing current community WASH challenges. Campaign content, oriented as appropriate to children and adults, covered key themes including preventative health behaviours and handwashing (including with respect to Covid-19 mitigation strategies), hygienic household waste management, flood-specific WASH, proper toilet usage, and menstrual hygiene. Employing a mixed media approach, campaigning was successfully conducted in Munshiganj district, engaging 100 participants in Covid-19-adapted sessions, with further campaigning planned for Narayanganj district in 2021-22.
- ✓ Flood-appropriate toilet designs developed, and toilets constructed. The Pragma team researched toilet designs appropriate to the flood-prone context and accounting for local culture, developing toilet designs on raised platforms with accessibility measures for persons with disabilities. Pragma subsequently facilitated construction of five twin male / female toilet blocks across communities in both project districts, with more such facilities to be constructed going into April 2021.
- ✓ Context-appropriate water filtration technologies explored. The technology deployed through the project needed to be capable of removing arsenic and common waterborne diseases whilst maintaining safe water PH, with significant filtration capacity (water volume). The selected technology also needed to function without electricity, be robust and need little or no maintenance, and represent value for money. Based on these parameters, Pragma conducted extensive research on appropriate water-filtration technology, finally selecting the innovative and award-winning SONO filter, which uses a composite iron matrix design, and appropriate suppliers were identified.
- ✓ Developing guidelines for community WASH management in emergencies. The project supported Pragma to develop a framework for community WASH management customised to a context of recurrent flooding. A workshop was designed, which will empower the target communities for disaster risk reduction in relation to WASH infrastructure and educate them in managing WASH installations during emergencies.
- ✓ Designing a training for enhanced institutional management of WASH in emergencies. Complementing the capacity building among community members, Pragma also designed a training for frontline workers, government officials and local NGOs on WASH technologies suitable to flood-prone contexts as well as institutional roles and responsibilities towards disaster risk reduction, WASH infrastructure management, and approaches to disease control during floods. Following local consultation, Pragma conducted preliminary selection of institutional representatives for participation in the trainings.



Hygiene promotion poster produced by Pragma as part of the Char WASH awareness campaigns

In late 2020, Pragma secured further generous support from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust to expand this critical work to more char residents desperately in need of WASH support. The project, as supported by both donors, continues into 2021-22, and aims to achieve a 25% reduction in waterborne disease and a 30% reduction in open defecation in target communities, whilst building capacity for local wash management.

### *Developing a peer support-based approach to maternal and reproductive healthcare in northern Kenya*

In the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) of northern Kenya, communities suffer appalling maternal and infant mortality rates. Earlier in-depth research conducted by Pragma and funded by Comic Relief highlighted how this situation is driven by a combination of factors including poverty and marginalisation, extremely poor local availability of health clinics, mistrust among communities concerning state healthcare, and entrenched cultural norms that see pregnant women more likely to rely on their peers for pre- and post-natal support.

Based on its research findings, Pragma developed a model for peer-led Maternal and Reproductive Health (MRH) support for the ASALs that leverages local strengths and addresses root causes of the problem.

Pragma's model comprises three pillars of support:

- **Pillar 1 - Support Networks & Capacity Building.** The model develops networks of women's peer support groups anchored by Community Health Workers, which provide health surveillance, diagnosis and referral services to their communities using simple toolkits, and promote awareness of issues related to maternal and reproductive health via health information Kiosks. This pillar also empowers women leaders to advocate for health sector reforms to improve maternal and child health in remote and marginalised areas.
- **Pillar 2 - Social & Behavioural Change.** This pillar includes culturally sensitive campaigns promoting sexual and reproductive health rights towards ending violence against women and girls; campaign design leverages community elders, local arts and mass media, and also has a focus on men and boys towards reducing risky and harmful sexual behaviours. The model empowers women leaders to educate adolescent girls, pregnant women and new mothers on preventative and promotive healthcare. Health programmes for schools promote awareness and sensitivity around reproductive health for adolescent girls and boys, towards improved personal hygiene and reduced anxiety boosting school attendance.
- **Pillar 3 - Addressing malnutrition.** CHWs and other women leaders are empowered to act as 'barefoot nutritionists' for their communities, conducting Hunger & Nutrition Watch schemes using basic nutrition surveillance toolkits. Education programmes for women promote proper family diet planning, in combination with training in Nutrient-Dense Farming methodology for the development of kitchen gardens enabling diversified and nutritionally enriched household diets, whilst communities at large are supported to develop communal nutri-farms to tackle seasonal food insecurity. Children and adolescents are also engaged through educational programmes and school nutri-gardens that help foster the next generation of nutri-champions and ensure school meals serve up healthy, nutritious food for an energised and engaged leaning environment.

The programme aims to: improve access to MRH support in Kenya's ASALs; Enhance capacity of local stakeholders to address MRH issues; Enhance awareness in ASAL communities of issues and challenges related to MRH; and build capacity for community-anchored nutrition management. The programme's mid-term vision is improved maternal and reproductive health for approximately 0.6 million women and girls in the 3 ASAL counties of Turkana, Laikipia and Samburu, with a longer term vision of expanding the programme and its benefits to Kenya's 29 ASAL counties.

In 2020-21, Pragma explored avenues to launching the programme with potential donors, with a view to securing partnerships to launch the programme in 2021-22.

## **5. Disaster management**

### *COVID-19 Response, India*

India has been one of the worst-hit countries in the world by COVID-19. Entrenched socioeconomic disparities have meant vastly unequal access to healthcare and other support, with large populations rendered especially vulnerable through poverty and discrimination. For India's poor and marginalised, in both rural and urban areas, the recommended non-pharmaceutical COVID-19 basic prevention actions are simply not achievable. Social distancing has been impossible for millions of people, resulting in

rampant spread of the virus and one of the world's highest infection rates. Inadequate or complete absence of sanitation facilities in urban slums and neglected rural areas has meant little or no handwashing among these populations. Many have lacked access to basic PPE such as face masks, including frontline health workers. Information about basic personal protection measures failed to reach poorer populations in the first place, and disinformation about COVID-19 has resulted in of certain people. Among India's poor, malnourishment and chronic morbidity are commonplace and substantially heighten vulnerability to the virus, a situation exacerbated by lockdowns and associated inability to access food and healthcare.

Unemployment surged across India, proving catastrophic for poorer populations least resilient to economic shocks; many of India's urban poor are migrant workers surviving hand to mouth as daily wage labourers, where job losses left many facing starvation and compelled mass return to rural

Pragya began responding to the needs of the communities we work with, in rural and urban locations in India, in March 2020. We launched our work with a focus on relief for the migrant workers who had been left without any source of income and facing hunger and starvation during the lockdown, and with support for the health workers who were delivering a heroic service by testing, tracing, treating or managing quarantines. As the pandemic progressed through 2020-21, we conducted a thorough analysis of the developing trajectory and the hotspots in terms of groups and locations with disproportionately high vulnerability to the infection and to its fallouts as well as the nature of the impacts, both in rural and urban India. This helped us shape a comprehensive Response Strategy, which continued to be informed by the development of the pandemic and its impacts.



*Food and hygiene relief in Bihar – distributed by Pragya in the earlier stages of the pandemic to those in need*

The Response Strategy that Pragya developed combines three pillars of support:

- **Pillar 1 - Prevention of spread of COVID-19 among urban and rural poor:** Measures comprise: awareness raising among at-risk populations, along with support for protective gear and hygiene facilities, towards helping reduce the Reproduction Number and flattening the epidemiological curve; in turn, reducing morbidity, mortality and thereby the economic shock, particularly for the poor and vulnerable.
- **Pillar 2- Supporting health workers and medical facilities to respond effectively and safely:** Measures comprise providing personal protective equipment to health workers, educative capsules on COVID-associated protection and containment measures, and psychological support to health workers; and necessary supplies and equipment to health centres, towards helping reduce the risks and pain that health workers are exposed to, while also enhancing the capacity of the healthcare system to respond effectively and control and mitigate the crisis.
- **Pillar 3 - Humanitarian relief and supporting the economic resilience of rural and urban poor through the pandemic and after it:** Measures comprise support for immediate relief and rehabilitating livelihoods to those rendered out-of-work to help reduce the distress of the poor and vulnerable and their vulnerability to the disease and enhance their resilience.

With generous emergency funding provided by close supporters, Pragma was able to mount a substantial COVID-19 Response in 2020-21. We initially prioritised five districts in three States / Union Territories for the Response on the basis of the caseload: Araria and Madhepura in Bihar; Dungarpur and Udaipur in Rajasthan; Leh in Union Territory of Ladakh. Slums and periurban colonies in NCR-Delhi were also prioritised for intervention. For supporting agricultural livelihoods however, other states and districts, were also covered. Key activities and achievements during the year included:

*Pillar 1 - Prevention of spread of COVID-19 among urban & rural poor:*

- ✓ Communication campaigns directly targeting individuals and involving text messages, videos, audios, had an outreach to nearly 60,000 people across rural areas and urban slums. Content included COVID-appropriate behaviours, symptoms recognition, and promotion of local Helpline numbers (both government and Pragma numbers).
- ✓ Areas of common use were identified in target areas, and posters put up at these on subjects including: COVID-19 symptoms, measures for protection from COVID-19, and support to healthcare workers. Sites have included grocery stores, schools, Community Centres, medical stores, village creches, etc., in villages; and hand wash stations, toilets and bathrooms, and stalls (Goomties) in urban slums. These have had an estimated outreach to 120,000+ people in villages and 16,000+ people in the urban slums.



*Pragma's awareness campaigns include engaging children as young advocates to help spread awareness in the communities of the importance of handwashing and other behaviours to help curb the transmission of COVID-19*

- ✓ Awareness sessions were conducted to educate key influencers across target communities, including members of Village Health & Sanitation Committees and Village Councils in rural areas, and slum leaders/caretakers in the urban slums. These sessions educated the participants, countered disinformation, and motivated them to act as catalysts to contain the spread of COVID-19 through suitable measures, and enabled them to further disseminate the public awareness information among their communities. 206 such sessions have been conducted reaching nearly 2000 key influencers.
- ✓ Detailed educative leaflets were developed with information on COVID-19 do's and don't's, ways to control the spread in communities, and on promoting mental health, and these have been distributed to the key influencers for reference in their decision-making on containment measures, quarantining, liaising with government health authorities, etc.
- ✓ In coordination with the Municipal Commissioner Gurugram, 10 community hand-wash stations have been installed in five slum colonies; these facilities are foot-pedal operated water, with liquid soap dispensers and are thus touch-free. The 10 installed facilities are serving slum colonies with 9660 people, directly benefiting about 3000 users on a daily basis. A 5-member Observation & Maintenance Committee has



*A foot pedal operated handwash station installed by Pragma*

been formed at each of the locations comprising slum colony residents to ensure community ownership.

- ✓ Awareness campaigns are also organised on a regular basis at the slum colonies, with COVID-19 education being provided in small groups and posters were placed at the entrance of the slum colonies; community members are facilitated for Hand hygiene group pledges.

### *Pillar 2 - Supporting health workers and medical facilities to respond effectively and safely*

- ✓ An educative programme with essential inputs with respect to COVID-19 for health workers was developed in collaboration with Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Senior Health Advisor, Max Hospital, Gurugram. The programme comprises modules on Infection Prevention and Control, and Disease Surveillance and Response. The programme is being delivered by Dr. Singh to the community health workers in target areas via short teleconferences for batches of 100 health workers per sessions, and include delivery of the educative content followed by Q&As. A total of nearly 1000 community healthcare workers have thus far been educated via these sessions.
- ✓ The community health workers have also been provided with COVID-19 related educative content in the form of leaflets for referring to, and in order to ensure retention of the educational content.
- ✓ A series of psychological health sessions for frontline health workers has been developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS). Two experts from NIMHANS (Dr. Kavita V. Jangam and Dr. Shreedevi A U) have conducted multiple sessions and covered a total of nearly 1000 community health workers through these sessions. The NIMHANS Helpline has also been made accessible to these health workers to reach out to in case of queries or need for support.
- ✓ The particularly hard-hit and under-resourced District Administration are being provided support periodically for their requirement for masks, gloves, sanitizers, thermal scanners, PPE suits, etc. Masks, gloves, PPE suits, sanitiser bottles, sanitizer machine, thermal scanners as well as books and IEC material on COVID-19, have been provided to the District Administration in our target districts, as per requests received.

### *Pillar 3 - Humanitarian relief and supporting the economic resilience of rural & urban poor*

- ✓ Planting material was provided to in the form of saplings for high-value cash crops to 157 farmers in Rajasthan and 942 farmers in Uttarakhand, along with instructions on associated cultivation protocols, as well as information on buyers for the harvests; 250 farmers in Assam and 250 in Bihar were also supported with seeds/saplings of high-value cash crops. This will benefit a total of nearly 8000 people in these states.
- ✓ Ten women's SHGs have been supported for undertaking mask-making in the target districts. Multiple rounds of training on mask-making has been provided to each of these SHGs with a total 174 participants.
- ✓ The SHGs have been provided with sewing kits and the first tranche of raw material and 2000+ masks have been produced to date. Linkages with pharmacies and retail stores for mask sales have been set-up for the SHGs in each of the 5 districts in which the SHGs have been assisted in this manner. While the initial batches of production were used by the communities themselves, sale of the products to local outlets has started. Apart from protecting the local communities through the use of masks, this intervention will help institutionalise this practice, and also provide incomes to the women.
- ✓ A livelihood needs assessment survey was conducted in the 5 slum colonies in Gurugram in which we have been delivering our Response. The findings indicate that incomes of the urban poor households have been severely affected by the pandemic (reduced to under 10% of pre-lockdown levels during the lockdown and restored only to 35% after opening up). A package of assistance was designed comprising components in two



*Training for a women's SHG in mask making. The initiative serves the dual purpose of ensuring local supply of PPE, whilst providing income support*

categories- protective material (screen) for adaptation, and direct livelihoods support particularly for those who have to rehabilitate in some alternative livelihood.

Pragya’s Covid-19 Response continues into 2021-22 as the pandemic progresses, with activities amended in response to the changing situation.

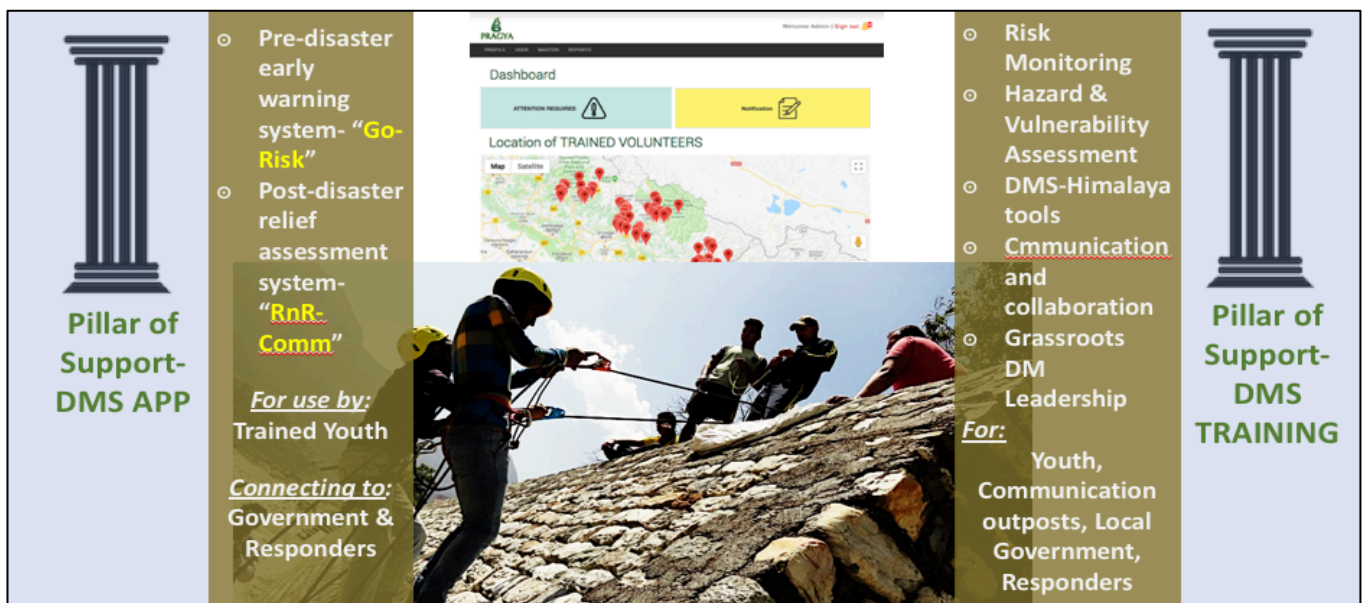
DMS-Himalaya - Strengthening disaster preparedness in the Indian Himalayas

The Himalayan region is extremely disaster-prone and subject to multiple types of hazards including flash flooding, landslides and glacier collapse, earthquakes, and forest fires. Global warming is having a disproportionate impact on the region, with warming at up to three times the global average, driving ever more erratic weather events, disrupting monsoon patterns and exacerbating the frequency and intensity of disasters. The populations affected are remote and marginalised communities that have little disaster resilience, whilst government disaster management authorities are hampered by lack of incident information and geographic constraints.

Pragya has pioneered the DMS-Himalaya – an information and capacity building toolkit that enables remote Himalayan communities to reduce their disaster risk and to respond effectively in disaster scenarios. It reimagines the accepted (but ineffective) roles for disaster management, building capacity at every point in the disaster management chain and networking communities, responders and government, fostering a collaborative community-state approach to disaster management, supported by appropriate technology.

The DMS-Himalaya model comprises:

- **A DMS Himalaya App.** This comprises *GoRisk*, a citizen-science framework for disaster early warning towards evasive action; and *RnR-Comm*, a post-disaster relief assessment and data relay apparatus for community use for efficient and effective post-disaster response.
- **DMS Himalaya training and capacity building.** Includes local risk monitoring, conducting village level hazard mapping and preparatory drills, training youth-led Disaster Response Teams (DRT), as well as developing a disaster-specific communications network connecting all disaster management stakeholders from last mile communities through to government disaster management agencies.



Following a highly successful four-year DMS-Himalaya pilot project that culminated in 2019-20 and spanned 800 villages in the north Indian state of Uttarakhand, in 2020-21 Pragya commenced an ambitious scale up that will see DMS-Himalaya implemented in multiple Himalayan states across three zones in the Indian Himalayan Region. This will generate evidence of the model’s adaptability to differing climatic contexts and help further propel its uptake across the region and its integration with local government disaster management processes. Highlights from the year include:

- ✓ Refresher trainings were conducted for 80 DRTs in Uttarakhand with inputs on disasters, Disaster Management, DMS-Himalaya project aspects, the DMS App, and on community mobilisation and education with regard to Disaster Management. The trainings aimed to enhance the DRTs’ performance in their respective cluster.

- ✓ A broadcast through All India Radio conveyed Information on various natural hazards. The relay covered the 4 pilot project districts in Uttarakhand, with an estimated outreach to half a million of the total 1.4 million population of the 4 districts.
- ✓ 80 community level Disaster Preparedness Committees were formed in the four pilot districts in Uttarakhand towards enhancing community focus on and responsibility for mitigation and preparedness actions to address specific hazards and vulnerability. The Committees are intended to work alongside the DRTs for facilitating grassroot-level preparedness interventions. Multiple orientation meetings were conducted with the members of all committees.
- ✓ Enhanced Disaster Management Kits for the DRTs were designed. These Kits include essential items for DRTs to use in emergency / disaster response. Pragma identified several products as kit components, spanning search & rescue, survival, personal protection and other operational components.
- ✓ Leadership development training modules were in development during the year, which include customised modules for children, women, DRTs, village councils and development actors.
- ✓ Expansion of DMS-Himalaya into highly vulnerable parts of two new Himalayan zones (Eastern and Western) began. This included beneficiary engagement in new districts, and selection and orientation of DRT leaders. Village-level Hazard, Vulnerability and Capability Assessments began in the new zones, which evaluated vulnerable locations and safety zones in target villages, mapped evacuation routes and available resources / infrastructure, and prepared the hazard calendars for target villages. "Go-Risk" monitoring sites were identified for environmental monitoring to facilitate early warning. Collation of district-level Resource Directories also began, which will serve as a storehouse of information on disaster responder agencies, resources and local networks to aid in disaster preparedness and response.

The scale goal through to 2022-23 is to extend the innovation's impact to 900,000 people across 12 local authorities in India – saving livelihoods, saving lives. This project is made possible through the generosity of Pragma's major supporters. In particular, DMS-Himalaya is funded and supported by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), a programme which improves outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises by identifying, nurturing, and sharing more effective and scalable solutions. This project is funded and support by the HIF as part of its work on scaling innovation. Elrha's HIF is funded by aid from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Elrha is a global charity that finds solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. Visit [www.elrha.org](http://www.elrha.org) to find out more.

### Case Study

#### **Tanga Village, Pithoragarh District, Uttarakhand - Early warning and emergency response**

**Event:** On 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 due to heavy rainfall, there were multiple occurrences of cloudburst induced flash flood and landslides in the Munsiyari block of Pithoragarh district. It was only the next morning that the true extent of devastation was realised. There were multiple points from Jauljivi to Munsiyari where bridges had collapsed due to cloudburst induced flash flood and roads were blocked due to debris flow.

**Response:** On 20<sup>th</sup> of July at around 9 am, Pithoragarh District Disaster Management Support Unit (DDMSU) was informed by the DRT Leader of Rapti cluster, Mr. Harish, about the disaster in Munsiyari block. Following sharing the information, Mr. Harish went to the disaster site to assess the situation. After reaching the site, he immediately reported the incident through two mediums - 1<sup>st</sup> was through phone call and 2<sup>nd</sup> through the DMS-Himalaya App. Once Pithoragarh DDMSU received the information from the DRT Leader, it was immediately forwarded to the District Disaster Management Officer of Pithoragarh. All DRTs throughout the district were accordingly put on high alert. Simultaneously, DRT Leader Harish was instructed to do a preliminary need assessment of the disaster who then focused on 2 villages which were severely affected - Tanga of Tanga cluster and Gaila Malla of Ranthi cluster.

Based on the information shared by Harish on relief requirements, Pithoragarh DDMSU were able to initiate the process of Disaster Response for Tanga village. DRT Leader Harish not just reported the incident but was also an active participant in the Disaster Response which was carried out by the community.

## 4. Advocacy work

Pragma promotes awareness among the international development community and the general public about the needs of remote and marginalised communities living on the fringes of society, and about Pragma's commitment to reducing and eliminating marginalisation of affected populations, whatever its

form. Towards this, Pragma participates in various forums and exhibits its work at conferences and events, in addition to publishing our research on certain issues and the impacts of our approaches.

In 2020-21, COVID-19 severely restricted our normal in-person advocacy work. We did, however, have occasion to participate in online events. For example, as the pandemic gathered pace in the UK, Pragma participated in an online forum hosted by Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace, that brought together NGOs from around the world to explore how philanthropy can strengthen communities in the face of COVID-19 and how we might build back better in a post-COVID-19 world. The forum addressed questions such as “What does it take to build resilience in our communities and our organisations? How do we build a resilient, vibrant and strong civil society?”. 2021-21 may see follow up forums on this theme of resilience. Pragma also attended the online event ‘Poverty monitoring in the context of COVID-19’ hosted by the Overseas Development Institute, that sought to explore the impacts of COVID-19 and associated policy changes on the world’s poorest people, and how to prevent impoverishment, hunger and destitution in the context of the virus. Pragma intends to recommence in-person advocacy and outreach engagements in 2021-22, situation permitting.

Pragma maintained its membership of the BOND network in 2020-21, and continued to engage online as a member of the community at the Foundry Social Justice and Human Rights Centre. We also promoted our work via our website and social media platforms.

## 5. Partner organisations

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Pragma UK is part of a network of locally-registered Pragma organisations around the world with a common purpose and vision. The UK branch of Pragma is primarily a fundraising, communications and project management function, we do not have staff based overseas. Instead, to implement our programmes we work in partnership with our global sister organisations and where appropriate we leverage the expertise of experienced and carefully vetted third party NGOs with whom we have long-established MOUs. This set-up ensures our work is delivered by staff with a depth of knowledge and experience concerning the local context, whilst contributing to local labour markets.

In India, Pragma UK delivers its projects in partnership with Pragma India; founded in 1995, Pragma India is headquartered in Gurugram and operates across western, northern and eastern India via an extensive network of field offices. Pragma India has a substantial research and advocacy function, and delivers a wide variety of projects across the full breadth of Pragma programme areas, with substantial resources dedicated to COVID-19 Response in 2020-21.

Pragma UK has worked with Pragma in Nepal since 2006; based in Kathmandu, they coordinate the delivery of projects across rural districts, harnessing the highly localised expertise of NGOs situated in the vicinity of project sites. Since 2015, Pragma’s work in Nepal has focussed on various aspects of rehabilitation in communities deeply impacted by the earthquake, and lately where this now intersects with the impacts of COVID-19.

Pragma UK began delivering projects in Bangladesh in 2018. Based in Dhaka, Pragma in Bangladesh works in partnership with Pragma UK and in-country NGOs to improve the desperate situation of river island communities facing multiple severe challenges. Following research and pilot work in 2018-19, Pragma secured grant funding in 2019-20 to launch its Bangladesh programmes, beginning with WASH interventions continuing in 2020-21 but with wider programming also planned across disaster management, livelihoods, prevention of trafficking and violence against women, and education.

In east Africa, Pragma UK works with Pragma Kenya, an NGO founded in 2011 and based in Nairobi and delivering projects in tandem with selected localised NGOs in Kakamega county in western Kenya, as well as in the northern Arid and Semi-Arid counties. Pragma Kenya are experienced in conducting research and development interventions encompassing water and sanitation, agriculture and livelihoods, healthcare, education, and inter-community conflict.

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Thank you to all our supporters without whose generosity and vision our vital work would not be possible.



# **PRAGYA**

*Development without Destruction  
Empowerment for Enabling Choices*

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Company number</b>	N.A.
<b>Charity number</b>	1082476
<b>Registered office</b>	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
<b>Trustees</b>	Gargi Banerji - Chairperson Arasan Aruliah Pratap Rughani
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC 176 Camden High Street London NW1 8QL
<b>Solicitors</b>	N.A.

**C O N T E N T S**

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Reference and administrative information is set out on page 1 and forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

### **STATUS AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

PRAGYA was registered as a charity on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

#### **Charitable Objects**

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The objects of the charity are:

- i. to stimulate development in vulnerable and neglected communities, particularly in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile areas, enabling and empowering them through the use of appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and indigenous solutions;
- ii. to encourage improved natural resource management, and conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural and cultural heritage in sensitive ecosystems and communities;
- iii. to institute alternative, sustainable development forms in mountain systems and other ecologically fragile and pristine areas, through development action and policy change;
- iv. to conduct research in the development sciences with special reference to the target areas and groups (as above), develop appropriate models/products/tools/techniques, and document, publish and exchange the learnings acquired;
- v. to raise funds to support activities towards meeting the above objectives of the Charity.

### **TRUSTEES**

Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr. Arasan Aruliah  
4, Middleton Grove  
London N7 9LU

Ms. Gargi Banerji - Chair  
102, Tower 4, The Palms, Sector 30  
Gurgaon - 122001, India

Mr. Pratap Rughani  
22, Sugar Loaf Walk  
Bethnal Green  
London E2 OJQ

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Trustee Board meets two times a year.

### **Internal Control, Management and Risk Review**

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Governance activities include maintaining ongoing controls and procedures to ensure effective stewardship of financial and other resources, and monitoring of annual objectives against an agreed strategic and business plan for the organisation. The Trustee Board receives regular reports from management staff and conducts an in-depth review at least twice a year. This review includes an assessment of key internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the charity's general and specific objectives – and forms the basis of agreed updates and amendments to the strategic plan.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties, and identification and management of risks.

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity's internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees have reviewed risks and are satisfied that appropriate mitigating controls and actions are in place.

## **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

### **Beneficiaries**

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The primary beneficiaries of the charity include the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Nepal. In addition, the wider public, policymakers and others that can influence and bring about a positive change in the condition of the primary beneficiaries are also targeted by the charity through its interventions.

### **Objectives**

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The objectives of the charity include:

- i. Build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to access their rights and achieve their own development goals.
- ii. Enhance the economic and livelihood opportunities available to disadvantaged communities.
- iii. Support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to conserve and utilize their surrounding ecosystem in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- iv. Conserve and promote traditional culture and knowledge.
- v. Utilize this traditional knowledge alongside new technology to improve the management of natural resources in the ecologically sensitive areas.
- vi. Advocate within the UK and internationally on the importance of supporting community-led development and environmental conservation.

Our objectives are achieved through:

- Mobilising resources and providing knowledge and monitoring inputs for projects being implemented by partners in disadvantaged regions.
- Documenting needs of communities and project learnings and sharing with stakeholders and the development community in the UK.
- Participating in various fora and networking for developing wider awareness and building a support base for target issues/region in the UK.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our key financial objectives were to secure funding for current services and to increase our unrestricted reserves to expand and develop new areas of work. We were successful in enhancing resources for existing programmes as well as in scaling up new areas of work.

Total incoming resources for the year were £528,781 (2020 - £50,804); total expenditure was £396,997 (2020 - £123,063). A breakdown of expenditure by activity areas is on Statement of financial Activities (page 9).

Total funds during the year increased by £131,784 (2020 – Deficit of £72,259), bringing the funds carried forward to £132,141 (2020 - £357).

### **Reserves Policy and Going Concern**

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Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2021 would be at a level sufficient to cover three months' expenditure, i.e. £15,000. The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The trustees are of the view that Charity are a going concern.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '*charities and public benefit*'.

Pragya's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects - to support and develop the disadvantaged communities living and/or working in the underserved regions. The Trustees ensure that this is carried out for the public benefit by delivering programmes and services that are of value to the participants of the projects. The participants are members of the public known to and/or identified by Partner organisations (e.g. NGO's, Local Authorities, Aid Agencies) with whom and for whom Pragya develops the projects. These partnerships ensure that Pragya's activities reach the right recipients and thus fulfil the charities core objectives.

Approved by the Board on 28/5/21 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 28 May, 2021

## **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF PRAGYA**

We report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andi Dollia, CPFA  
Additude Ltd  
9 Rhapsody Court  
Wakeman Road  
London NW10 5DF

Date: *28 May 2021*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(Incorporating income and expenditure account)**

	Note	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2021 Total (£)	2020 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	518,881	9,900	<b>528,781</b>	50,804
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Investment and other income		-	-	-	-
<b>Total (Total Income)</b>		<b>518,881</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>528,781</b>	50,804
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	3				
Raising funds		24,645	-	<b>24,645</b>	20,772
Charitable activities		368,524	3,828	<b>372,352</b>	102,291
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total (Total Expenditure)</b>		<b>393,169</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>396,997</b>	123,063
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	4	<b>125,712</b>	<b>6,072</b>	<b>131,784</b>	(72,259)
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>125,712</b>	<b>6,072</b>	<b>131,784</b>	(72,259)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		-	357	<b>357</b>	72,616
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>125,712</b>	<b>6,429</b>	<b>132,141</b>	357

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Note	2021(£)	2020(£)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank		140,275	8,218
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		140,275	8,218
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	8,134	7,861
<b>Net current assets</b>		132,141	357
<b>Net assets</b>	8	132,141	357
<b>Funds</b>	9		
Restricted		125,712	-
General		6,429	357
<b>Total funds</b>		132,141	357

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006; and no notice has been deposited under section 476. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question. The directors acknowledge responsibility for: i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and ii) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far applicable to the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 28 May, 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Gargi Banerji  
Chairperson

Date: 28 May, 2021

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****1. Accounting policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).
- b. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c. Grants are recognized in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d. Resources expended are recognized in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- e. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated on a straight-line basis to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life of 3 years.
- f. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- g. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- h. The costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work.

**2. Donations and legacies**

	2021			2020
	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	Total (£)	Total (£)
Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	20,000	-	20,000	-
Balbir Chowdhary	-	3,200	3,200	4,000
Elrha	142,946	-	142,946	-
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	-	-	-	4,000
Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission	23,729	-	23,729	19,355
Harbinson Charitable Trust	-	1,400	1,400	1,500
Other Trusts and foundations	313,617	5,300	318,917	949
Souter Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,000
The Evan Cornish Foundation	-	-	-	9,000
The Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	15,589	-	15,589	-
The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity	-	-	-	10,000
W F Southall Trust	3,000	-	3,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>518,881</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>528,781</b>	<b>50,804</b>

**3. Total Expenditure**

<b>Expenditure</b>	Cost of raising funds (£)	Cost of charitable activities (£)	Support Costs (£)	<b>2021 Total (£)</b>	2020 Total (£)
Staff costs (note 5)	14,610	29,221	14,610	58,441	45,849
Rent, insurance, utilities, services	-	-	10,037	10,037	11,109
Bank Charges	-	-	1,036	1,036	448
Postage and telephone	-	-	140	140	854
Travelling Expenses	-	-	-	-	348
Membership Subscriptions	-	-	1,144	1,144	2,108
Independent Examination	-	-	1,000	1,000	975
Consultancy fees	-	-	2,138	2,138	600
Direct project expenses	-	323,061	-	323,061	60,747
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,610</b>	<b>352,282</b>	<b>30,105</b>	<b>396,997</b>	123,063
Add: allocation of support costs	10,035	20,070	(30,105)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>24,645</b>	<b>372,352</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>396,997</b>	123,063

**4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

This is stated after charging / crediting:	<b>2021 (£)</b>	2020 (£)
Depreciation	-	-
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<b>1,000</b>	975

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Salaries and wages	57,000	44,751
Social security costs	1,441	1,098
Pension contributions	-	-
Total emoluments paid to employees were:	58,441	45,849
No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2020 - 0)		
The average weekly number of staff (expressed as full-time equivalents) during the year was 1.8 (2020: 2.0)		
	2021 (FTE)	2020 (FTE)
Raising funds	0.5	0.5
Charitable activities	1.0	1.0
Support costs	0.3	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>

**6. Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**7. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Trade Creditors	1,134	1,354
Other Creditors	5,700	5,232
Independent Examination	1,000	975
Accruals and Provisions	300	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,134</b>	<b>7,861</b>

**8. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted Funds (£)	General funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	125,712	6,429	132,141
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>125,712</b>	<b>6,429</b>	<b>132,141</b>

**9. Movements in Fund**

	At the start of the year (£)	Incoming resources (£)	Outgoing resources (£)	Transfers (£)	At the end of the year (£)
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	357	9,900	3,828	-	6,429
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>3,828</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,429</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust	-	20,000	10,000	-	10,000
Elrha	-	142,946	130,000	-	12,946
Guernsey Overseas Aid & Development Commission	-	23,729	17,973	-	5,756
Other Trusts and foundations	-	313,617	220,625	-	92,992
The Margaret Hayman Charitable Trust Fund	-	15,589	11,571	-	4,018
W F Southall Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>518,881</b>	<b>393,169</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125,712</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>528,781</b>	<b>396,997</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>132,141</b>
<b>Purposes of funds</b>					
<b>General funds:</b> These are the free reserves of the Charity, which can be used for any purpose within its charitable objects.					
<b>Restricted funds:</b> The following restricted funding was received over the course of the financial year for use in the 'Livelihoods' projects, 'Food Security' projects and for 'Disaster Risk Reduction & Management' Projects					