



HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

What we do

For over 20 years, Scottish Love in Action has partnered with grassroots Indian organisations that care for, educate and empower some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the world.

Our shared vision with our partners is to help children and young people in India to lead independent, fulfilling lives and break out of cycles of poverty. We believe all children should be supported and nurtured to reach their full potential. Covid-19 has and continues to change our world in unforeseen ways. The risk of millions of people in India dropping back into the severe poverty from which they have only recently escaped makes our mission more vital than ever.



Founder's Introduction

Dear Friends,

The UNICEF ROSA report says that the futures of 600m South Asian children are threatened (by Covid-19) – decades of progress on health and education risk being wiped out.

The spread of Covid-19 and the lockdown that was necessitated in India has created huge and increasing problems for those already living in poverty. The economic fallout has multiplied destitution, pushing even more children onto the streets (with an increase in child labour, begging and malnutrition).

How do you “isolate in your home” if the street is your home? Wash your hands if you have no running water or even a toilet? How do you eat if you have no money? India is suffering as are her children.

Our project partners are looking forward full of positivity. Their focus is on keeping their children safe and encouraging them to look outward to the community in which they live, providing food packages of rice and helping to safeguard other vulnerable girls by keeping in contact with them and with the social workers. These children, who have so little, still care for those who have nothing. It shows how incredibly resilient Indian children can be.

Alongside this, with the loss of our 2020 Fireworks Extravaganza and other events, the SLA Team has been working tirelessly to create alternative, innovative ways to fundraise including the Feed Me Today Appeal, the Scottish Literary Quiz and the Diwali Dinner.

You, our dear supporters, are an integral part of this amazing chain of a ‘lifeline of hope’ for many desperate children and for this I am deeply grateful.

Let us look forward with thankfulness to 2021, SLA's 21st Birthday!

Thank you, thank you all. With my love,
Gillie Davidson

India and Covid-19

The rapid rate of acceleration of Covid-19 in India has had an adverse impact on the most marginalised of the country's population.

The United Nations Development Programme backed estimates by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative that between 60 million and 260 million people in India could be plunged back into extreme poverty – from which they have only recently escaped. The International Monetary Fund has also predicted that India will be the economy worst hit by Covid-19.

The most severe impact is on children, with more girls forced into early marriages and children taking on low-paid and often dangerous work. There is a huge risk that many will never be able to return to their education, due to their families' desperate need for money for food and basics.

Ensuring SLA's projects are able to continue their vital work is more important than ever.

OUR PROJECTS 2019-20



Telangana

HYDERABAD



VOICE 4 Girls
Telangana

ASRITHA
Rainbow Home
Hyderabad

The Pipal Foundation
Location TBC

VOICE 4 Girls

SLA supports VOICE 4 Girls to provide education and empowerment programmes for adolescent girls in Telangana state.

VOICE programmes are aimed at girls who are at high risk of dropping out of education due to factors such as pressure to get married, or to become child labourers. VOICE also work with boys, providing them with similar interactive, informative and motivating input. They teach adolescents about their rights, reproductive health, sexual relations, domestic violence, conflict resolution, financial literacy, career options, future planning and leadership skills. They also help to improve spoken English skills, which increases future education and employment opportunities for young people.



This year, 435 girls from 19 schools attended a VOICE residential 'camp', delivered by 24 Camp Counsellors and 7 Field Coordinators. Girls' knowledge and self-esteem increased and there were positive changes in their attitudes and beliefs around menstruation, violence and gender equality.

Responding to Covid-19, in April and May 2020 VOICE implemented the innovative AWAAZ ('Voices from the community') initiative, connecting with 544 girls and 256 boys across Telangana in mainly rural areas, via phone and Whatsapp calls.

Participants reported that domestic abuse was prevalent; girls had limited access to mobile phones and were constantly monitored by relatives. Adolescents worried about continuing their education, as some parents expected them to take jobs to bring in money. VOICE are continuing to address the many issues young people are facing and to create 'safe spaces' for them.



Poojitha's Story

Poojitha's parents are farmers. Before coming to camp, she believed a lot of myths around periods. "During my periods, I was not allowed to touch anything and felt unwanted. I was very scared of using sanitary pads because they say that if we don't burn them, snakes will crawl over them and you will never become pregnant. I felt that being born a girl is a sin. After attending VOICE camps, I realised menstruation is natural and normal; I shouldn't feel ashamed or scared of it. The camp has impacted me a lot. After going back home, I will encourage my mother also to use sanitary napkins and maintain hygiene to avoid health ailments".

ASRITHA Rainbow Home

SLA supports the ASRITHA Rainbow Home in Hyderabad, caring for 102 girls rescued from the streets. In January 2020, Rainbow Homes estimated there were more than 36,000 'street children' in Hyderabad. As Covid-19 sweeps across the globe this number is rising.

Children at ASRITHA are given health checks every quarter and all are in good health; so far, no children at ASRITHA Rainbow Home have contracted Covid-19. ASRITHA staff are also working on ensuring all of the children have the necessary documentation (for example birth certificates and caste certificates) required to access education and to receive any benefits from the Indian Government to which they may be entitled.

The UDAAN ('Take Flight') project, helping older girls in the home as they move on to adulthood, goes from strength to strength. The Rainbow ethos of creating a caring family atmosphere for children is furthered by the work of UDAAN in supporting children to become confident, contributing adult citizens.

Throughout the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, ASRITHA worked hard to maintain routines. The dedicated staff team supported the children's mental as well as physical health and ensured they were able to communicate freely about their feelings and experiences.



**This year,
5 new girls have
joined the Home,
7 girls passed their
Class 10 exams and
9 are in Further
or Higher
Education**

Srilatha's Story



Before coming to the home in 2010, Srilatha, whose parents died when she was very young, had never attended school. She lived with her grandmother in a makeshift hut made from tar sheets which had holes in it; during the rainy season water would pour inside.

Her time living at the home has transformed her life. On arrival she completed 9 months of the 'bridge course' to introduce her to education before entering mainstream school in 6th class. After coming to the home as a very withdrawn, quiet little girl she has, over time, developed self-confidence and socialises and participates in everything on offer. Srilatha passed her final 10th class school and intermediate college exams with flying colours and is currently in 2nd year of her Bachelor of Commerce. She hopes to become an accountant.

Fundraising and Partnership News

SLA Fundraising

Every year the SLA community organises lots of fundraisers, from major events to coffee mornings and art shows.

SLA wouldn't exist without the hundreds of people, organisations and companies who have supported us for over 20 years.

Partnering with SLA

Please do get in touch if you think your organisation might be 'a good fit' with us, we're always happy to explore partnership possibilities.

We're hugely grateful to our current partners for their support.

Amazing Fireworks Extravaganza

In November 2019, we organised two circus-themed Fireworks Shows at George Watson's Rugby Grounds. Sponsored by Truscott Property, the two shows attracted 5,000 people and raised over £29,000. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort and in particular George Watson's College Pipes and Drums, ESMS Pipe Band and The MGA Academy of Performing Arts.



Truscott Property

We are delighted that Truscott Property have committed to be our sponsors for another 2 years. We have really enjoyed building a positive partnership with them and look forward to developing it further.

BBC Radio 4 Appeal Broadcast

Our BBC Radio 4 Appeal was on International Women's Day, 8th March 2020. We were delighted ex-Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq presented our broadcast, kicking off our ongoing Hear my Voice Appeal.



Feed Me Today Appeal

When India went into lockdown due to Covid-19, SLA responded by launching our Feed Me Today Appeal. With the closure of Indian schools, children were losing out on the free midday meal provided there. The Feed Me Today Appeal allowed donors to donate £5 to help 'fill this gap' and provide lunches for 1 child for 3 weeks.

**FEED
ME TODAY
APPEAL**
£3,500+



**LADIES'
CINEMA
NIGHT**
£3,600

**BOOK
AND
SOUP CAFÉ**
£2,300+

**BRIDGE
AND
CREAM TEA**
£1,245

**SCOTTISH
LITERARY
QUIZ**
£1,170

**CHRISTMAS
CARD POST**
£225

**116,653
MEALS**

TUK TUK

As businesses across the world face severe challenges this year, we couldn't be more thankful that our partnership with award-winning Indian street food restaurant Tuk Tuk is continuing for a third year. This is testament to the strong, mutually beneficial relationship we have built up; a great example of how 'standing together', we can do great things. In Years 1 and 2 of the partnership Tuk Tuk has raised an incredible £19,442 through their 'Dine and Donate' scheme: 50p per table of customers is added to their bill – the cost of three meals for a child living at the ASRITHA Rainbow Home. The amount raised being enough to provide an amazing 116,653 meals!

TUK TUK
£19,000+



Social Enterprise Project

Central to its role as a funder and capacity builder, SLA aspires to work with its past, current and future partners towards their independence and sustainability.

To achieve this goal, SLA has constituted a sister charity, The Pipl Foundation (TPF). TPF are partnering with the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School for Veterinary Studies in this innovative initiative.



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



The main aim of The Pipl Foundation, through a private limited company in India, is to develop a sustainable and socially responsible dairy farm to serve as a centre of excellence and to benefit the community in which it will operate in India. It is the intention that this will provide sustainable funding for Indian grassroots organisations and will also provide an additional source of funding for SLA's partner projects.

On behalf of The Pipl Foundation, the dairy farm will be operated by an Indian company, set up by the Indian partners in the project, who will oversee the implementation and management of the initiative.

The farm location was in the process of being confirmed in early 2020 but the advent of the coronavirus pandemic has led to that element of the work being put on temporary hiatus.



The Heart of SLA

Volunteers have always been our lifeblood. Our charity was started by volunteers and we could not have helped many thousands of children in India without their energy, enthusiasm and expertise.

Covid-19 brings big challenges to our partners and to SLA. One of the challenges is continuing to interact with people in a meaningful way. We've worked hard during the pandemic to find ways to keep connecting with our volunteers, taking volunteer events and meetings online.

We've done our best to adapt quickly to our changing world. We're extremely lucky to have also still been able to recruit new volunteers this year. Volunteers have been assisting with our new fundraising initiatives and working on a variety of tasks, including undertaking a range of very useful background research for us (for example on the impact of Covid-19 in India).

Fundraising Champions

Could you be one of our Fundraising Champions and organise a fundraising event or activity for us?

You might have bright ideas for online fundraising that could shine for us! Please do get in touch if you have any fundraising ideas you'd like to talk over with us.

Pro Bono Support

We've benefitted hugely this year from 'pro bono' input from top professionals in their field. Special thanks go to David Green from Projecting Limited, to Jenny Emslie, Kelly Bean and Chris Melvin from Sunshine Communications and to David McLay and Morag Murison from Edinburgh University.

To find out more about 'getting involved' with SLA in any capacity please 'get in touch' and email us at **enquiries@sla-india.org** or call **0131 629 9112**.

"I joined SLA during a challenging time for the world. I have been amazed by the team's unshakeable dedication to the cause. The passion among everyone at SLA is clear in their tireless efforts to spread the message of the important and life-changing work being carried out by their partner organisations. Even whilst working remotely, I have been warmly welcomed by everyone and look forward to continuing to support SLA's vision."

Christina Stevenson, SLA Volunteer



Financial Review

Summary from SLA's financial statements for the year 2019-2020.



SLA Income 2019-2020

This report refers to our financial year, which runs from July 2019 to June 2020. Our income for the year was £263,284 (2019: £375,456). Individual donations continue to be of key importance to our fundraising efforts. Sincere thanks are due to each and every one of our donors and supporters. The hard work of our staff, trustees and volunteers is also crucial in generating our income. Our focus this year and beyond remains diversifying our income sources and increasing our level of income.

SLA Expenditure 2019-2020

Our expenditure for the year was £278,988 (2019: £542,635). Scottish expenditure continued to be closely monitored through the year and cost savings continue to be made. SLA's aim is to minimise the cost of raising funds wherever possible, greatly helped by the resource provided by our committed and hardworking trustees and volunteers.

SLA Overall Position

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects net expenditure of £15,704 (2019: £167,179). There was a deficit of £2,114 (2019: £59,237) on the Trust's unrestricted general fund activities and a deficit of £13,590 (2019: £52,040) on restricted funds. Total funds carried forward amounted to £150,407 (2019: £166,111).

Governance

SLA operates as a company limited by guarantee and is recognised as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Board of Trustees is responsible for governance and strategy.

2019/20 Board of Trustees

James Inch (Chair), James Young (Vice Chair), Sheila Cannell, Richard Dunbar, Alison Erlanger, Christopher Horne, Clare Jack, Mabel Mowatt, Lesley Murphy, James Tulloch.

A copy of the full set of independently examined accounts is available on request from Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.

I WISH TO HELP THE WORK OF SLA

Please tick the stars below as appropriate.

☆ I wish to donate to SLA and make a donation of

- Cheques can be made payable to 'SLA'.
- To donate using online banking our details are:
Account number: 00164481 Sort Code 80-02-77.
- To donate by phone please call the SLA Office on **0131 629 9112**
or donate online at **www.sla-india.org**

☆ I wish to make a regular donation of:

£3 ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other
Starting on 1st ☐ 15th ☐ 25th ☐ of month/year

For all monthly donations please complete the Direct Debit form opposite.

For all single and monthly donations please complete your details below:

Title & Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

☆ I would like to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future to SLA. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

giftaid it

Signature

Date

SLA would like to send you further information about our activities.

I would like to receive this ☆ By email

By post ☆

SLA will not pass your details on to any 3rd parties.

Please return this form with your donation to:

**Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre,
140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.**



Originator's Identification Number

3 8 8 5 4 4



Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit

Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR

DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR BANK

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	

Name(s) of Account holder(s)

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Bank/Building Society Account Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Branch Sort Code

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Reference No (For Scottish Love in Action use only)

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Bank and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instruction for some types of account. We will send you a copy of the Direct Debit Guarantee for your reference and confirm details as soon as we receive your complete Direct Debit Form.

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Scottish Love in Action of the United Kingdom Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Scottish Love in Action and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature	X
	X
Date	

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION ☆ HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR
0131 629 9112 : enquiries@sla-india.org : www.sla-india.org

A registered Scottish Charity. Charity Number SC030516. Company Number SC280397



HELPING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA partners with and supports grassroots Indian organisations that care for, educate and empower vulnerable children and young people. Our joint vision with our Indian partners is that children reach their full potential and escape the poverty trap.

www.sla-india.org

CONTACT DETAILS

BY E-MAIL

enquiries@sla-india.org

BY TELEPHONE

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BY POST

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