MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

N. Rangachary

When we look back on the 2020-2021 year, only one word captures the scope of change, turmoil and opportunity: unprecedented. In the midst of unprecedented suffering, Healing Fields had an unprecedented opportunity to act.

This year represents 20 years since HFF’s inception. Over the course of 20 years, we have had the opportunity to enable over 5,000 incredible women as health agents of change. Their work has been a source of hope and inspiration during times of joy and times of crisis.

When we look back on the 2020-2021 year, only one word captures the scope of change, turmoil and opportunity: unprecedented. In the midst of unprecedented suffering, Healing Fields had an unprecedented opportunity to act.

The core of our work is women- the Community Health Entrepreneurs- who over the last 20 years have leveraged their capacities to create change. In this last year, these women have proven themselves as nodal points of crisis response, and took it upon themselves to lead in a time of fear, uncertainty and tragic loss. While no one was prepared for the pandemic and the fallout of the health system response, the rural villages where our CHEs work were left in a particularly vulnerable position. Without a safety net, families were left in freefall after months of lockdown without any means of income. Without education resources oriented towards rural reality, communities had very little accurate knowledge on COVID safety and management. The CHEs stepped in to fill those gaps, facilitating access to entitlements, setting up quarantine centers for migrants returning to their home villages, distributing rations, educating their communities on COVID, and leading by example. We close this year in the context of rising cases and pending lockdowns, and it is clear that the Covid-19 response work of these CHEs is only the beginning.

This work has only been possible due to the unprecedented generosity of the community that supports Healing Fields. Individuals took on crowdfunding projects, organizations came together to pool large sums, and donors acknowledged the need to facilitate the CHE’s work by providing support- from monetary donations to life saving equipment. We earnestly thank you for that commitment, and ask that you stay committed as we continue to weather the waves of this brutal pandemic as you have been for the past 20 years.
Healing Fields Foundation provides training and support for women as health change agents in their communities. HFF works in rural areas of poorer states to impact change in the areas with the greatest amount of need. The approach is holistic—working to prevent health problems and facilitate the access to health services and entitlements from government, as well as treat minor concerns with diagnostic care and product support.

VISION
Build an ecosystem that ensures access to affordable and quality healthcare for all, especially women from rural and resource-poor communities.

MISSION
We aim to achieve our vision by seeding and strengthening once voiceless women as Community Health Entrepreneurs (CHE) who build and scale:
- Locally-led preventive health education solutions
- Technology-driven health access
- Economic empowerment through health microenterprises
- Community level health infrastructure development

VALUES
Care, Compassion, Sensitivity
Healing Fields’ programs empower the individuals as agents of change to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities. This model has been implemented through women in rural villages - Community Health Entrepreneurs - and students in government schools - School Health Champions.
Healing Field’s flagship program harnesses the power and passion of women to create change. Women are chosen from marginalized and underprivileged areas and given knowledge and skills to build healthier communities, while providing opportunities for earning income. They are trained in basic first aid, illness prevention and entrepreneurship so that they are not only a source for important information and products, but can act as a first responder for minor health issues and earn independent income. They concentrate on key areas like health education and access, as well as nutrition and sanitation intervention. The confidence gained as leaders in their community and money earned builds newfound independence and agency. To date, we have trained 5,000 women and reached over 6.25 million individuals in India. Further, the program has been piloted and scaled in Indonesia, training 120 CHFS who in turn support 29,250 households. Within the CHEs, 110 have been upskilled as Basic Care Providers (BCP) in partnership with Stanford Emergency Medical Services Department and trained in diagnostics in order to bring basic health services to hard to reach communities.

This year, 1200 of these CHEs were activated as nodal points for COVID response in their communities. The additional skills the BCPs have, like taking patient vitals and using simple medical equipment, made them especially prepared to lead during the pandemic.
Healing Fields Foundation has implemented the School Health Education program in Government High Schools to train adolescent girls and boys on health. The training covers topics related to adolescent health, hygiene and emphasizes on facilitating healthy changes in adolescents. These trained students lead change in behavior and practice within their schools and community, and participate in health camps held in their schools. To date, a total of 7500 School Health Champions have been trained from 145 schools and reach 150,000 people across Telangana and Bihar.

Early in the pandemic, 540 of these girls and boys were trained in the 6 pillars of Covid-19 prevention: use of masks, physical distancing, frequent hand washing, clean surfaces, isolation of sick individuals, and protection of the vulnerable. In turn, they were able to educate their own families and 2,700 other adolescents during the spring of 2020 when accurate information was limited.
COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AND PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The nationwide lockdown and pandemic caused dark and desperate situations across our areas of work. In the wake of this devastation, Community Health Entrepreneurs stepped up as first responders and leaders, bringing resources and education to last-mile communities.

- 1,200 remote CHEs trained
- 1.5 million people reached
- 20,725 calls on covid 19 helpline
- 56,166 people received ration
- 4,078 migrants provided shelter

The nationwide lockdown and pandemic caused dark and desperate situations across our areas of work. In the wake of this devastation, Community Health Entrepreneurs stepped up as first responders and leaders, bringing resources and education to last-mile communities.
When the lockdown was announced with little warning, trains and buses were frozen across India. Millions of migrant workers were left stranded, and many resorted to dangerous means of transport, like walking, cycling or hitchhiking, to try and reach their homes. Healing Fields intervened by providing buses and attaining travel permissions from home states and police for migrants from Hyderabad to their hometowns. Healing Fields also had to coordinate with District Magistrates in home districts and the Disaster Relief Agencies in the destination states to ensure a smooth journey.

Board member Sujatha Rao was an active participant in organizing buses and sending migrants. In villages where there is a sizable number of returning migrant labor, our CHEs and staff engaged Gram Panchayat leaders to convert the village school into a quarantine center with access to a clean toilet, provision for water, mattresses, soap for washing and bathing for the returning labor force. Healing Fields worked with district governments to support these quarantine centers. Community Health Entrepreneurs set up community kitchens with the support of Healing Fields and Gram Pradhans to feed migrants in the centers nutritious, protein rich meals. After observing migrants were experiencing severe depression, we rolled out a mental health helpline Let’s Talk and trained CHEs to counsel individuals needing support and facilitate access to the helpline.
During the migrant crisis following the first lockdown, the Healing Fields team was active in searching for migrants making dangerous journeys to their home states. The police flagged down a truck which was covered and closed with about 7 feet wood rafters and one foot open on top. The driver told the police there was nothing inside but a load going to Patna in Bihar. They insisted for him to open the truck and the Healing Fields team was shocked when a sea of seventy five men - packed worse than cattle - tumbled out, hungry, scared and in pain. They had not had any food for 2 days and only limited water. Their families borrowed money at very high interest rates and paid the truck driver Rs.4000/ per head to make this arduous journey home.

With the help of volunteers they were given food and water. The police took two migrants who had been hurt to the Primary Health Center before they could make the journey home. They also made sure every penny that they had paid for transportation was returned to the migrants. Finally, they were sent to their home in Jamui on 2 buses as part of Healing Fields’ Dignity Journey project.

“HFF team was shocked when a sea of 75 men packed worse than cattle tumbled out, hungry, scared and in pain. They had not had any food for 2 days and only limited water.”
Since February 2020, across 4 states, 1200 Community Health Entrepreneurs have led the COVID-19 Response through the 4 E approach: This approach - Ensure, Enable, Expand, Establish- was key to addressing the needs of families in our working areas.

**Ensuring** safety, dignity and food security to ultra-poor families severely affected by the COVID Lockdown

**Enabling** continued access to the government’s maternal and general healthcare systems

**Expanding** the range of healthcare to mental health, personal resilience and well-being for the most marginal, Lockdown-affected communities

**Establishing** livelihood channels for ultra-poor families
Education

CHEs immediately jumped into action in February to begin educating their communities on best practices like handwashing and social distancing, and working to prevent Covid-19 stigma.

In March, we partnered with Graam Vani’s IVR-enabled Mobile Vaani to ensure that our CHEs could use this digital platform to amplify information on COVID-19 prevention, identification of symptoms and referral to local hospitals across UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. Through this platform we are educating the Gram Panchayat leaders on building quarantine centers in their villages. This platform has an IVR enabled quick test to determine if the villagers were high risk for COVID-19.

Total calls received: 20,725
+400 high risk cases identified

Committees

In partnership with GivelIndia and ISDM, Healing Fields launched a Resilience Committee model that brings crisis response and leadership to the village level. Community Health Entrepreneurs catalyzed formation of committees that included local leaders, frontline functionaries, and an equitable cross section of members of the village.

These committees led pandemic responses by leading education through sessions and media like posters, banners and dhindoras, tracking vulnerable members of the community, mapping health resources, and monitoring Covid-safe behaviors. Across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Telangana, 214 committees were formed. Healing Fields created an Action Research Report comparing villages with a CHE and a Resilience committee with a control group of villages with neither. Some outcomes of that study can be found below.

Entitlement Facilitation

Many poor families were left in desperate situations during the extended lockdown and in the following economic slowdown. Many of these families were either not aware of government entitlements available to them, or did not know how to access them. CHEs helped families procure ration cards in order to get access to rations, Jan Dhan accounts in order to receive pensions, and, MNREGA job cards for access to livelihood opportunities, as well as other schemes like Ujjwala Yojana and PM Kisan Saman Yojana.

10,395 families provided access to entitlements

Rations

Our Community Health Entrepreneurs (CHEs) worked with Self Help Group (SHG) members and other village health workers to identify the poorest of the poor and provide them with rations to meet their nutritional needs.

Our CHEs distributed ration kits to 10,212 families in Bihar, UP and Jharkhand.

We worked with other partner community organizations (Roza in Azamgarh, UP and Jeevika in Sheikhpura, in Bihar) to identify 266 ultra-poor and Mahadalit families to provide support for rations for these families.

We were able to support 1000 Rohingya refugees and 460 migrant labor families in our headquarter state of Hyderabad.
The benefits of a CHE as a health agent can be found in the work of Reeta Dev of Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. Reeta Devi promoted the Gramvaani IVR helpline as part of her work educating the community on Covid-19 best practices. Md Jabbir used the Gramvaani IVR to do a risk assessment of his father -Md Hakim aged 60- on the helpline. After completing the survey on the helpline, Md Hakim was determined to be high risk and was referred to the Healing Fields field response team for further follow up. When a team member called and discovered Md Jabbir was having chronic respiratory problems. Immediately, a call was placed to the State helpline and the patient was sent to the district hospital with the 108 ambulance.

However, after waiting for 4 hours, he could not get any treatment. During the conversation he also informed the Healing Fields team that the family did not have any food to eat. Community Health Entrepreneur (CHE) Reeta Devi asked to visit the family and assess the situation. Once she confirmed the needs of the family, dry rations were provided to them by the CHF. The Healing Fields field team mobilized the local contacts at the District Hospital and ensured Md Hakim got the necessary treatment and medication.

Community Health Entrepreneur (CHE)
Reeta Devi asked to visit the family and assess the situation. Once she confirmed the needs of the family, dry rations were provided to them by the CHF.
Meera Devi, a CHE from Uttar Pradesh, spread WHO-approved COVID-19 awareness on hygiene and safety measures across 1500 families of her village in February. The village was then prepared to witness the influx of returned migrants. The migrants were disheveled, ill and malnourished after travelling for 5-7 days without food and water. They came from urban hubs on foot, trucks or cycles with little or no provision. Some of the local residents panicked and refused to let them enter the villages. Meera Devi swung into action. She counseled the families and alleviated their fears and misconceptions on Covid-19. Then, she connected with the gram panchayat, village police, influential local families, ration distributors, and the village health system. With guidance from the Healing Fields leadership team, she organized them into a task force for setting up village-level quarantine centers for the returnee migrants.

The villagers cleaned schools before converting them into quarantine centers, and the community provided essential supplies like beds and mattresses. Meera Devi, with the support of Healing Fields, ensured the returnees’ access to basic proteins such as milk, eggs and nutritious snacks. When the panchayat did not have resources, families started cooking hot meals. In one village, a family decided to take care of all the meals of all 20 returnee migrants through the quarantine period. Managing multiple stakeholders demanded Meera Devi to utilize her skills of dialogue and negotiation. After, doctors from the block made regular visits to check the health of migrants. The returnees were in better physical health, but their mental health was fragile. Meera then made efforts to organize their counseling. “The villages of India will overcome the Corona pandemic and lockdown”, Meera Devi says. “Our villages have more endurance, collaboration and unity. Here, we don’t think of individual profits, but collective well-being. We will collectively take care of each other.”

Our villages have more endurance, collaboration and unity. Here, we don’t think of individual profits, but collective well-being. We will collectively take care of each other.
The COVID-19 lockdown severely weakened the government’s maternal and primary healthcare system. Transport was at a stand-still, restricting access to ASHA workers and health care centers. Our Community Health Entrepreneurs worked on casting the health safety net wide. Johra Khatoon, one of our CHEs, has championed preventive health practices and the importance of kitchen gardens with women across 13 villages of the East Champaran district in Bihar since 2015.

In late March, Anguri, a pregnant woman from the village adjacent to Johra’s, went into labor. Anguri’s husband, a tailor in Delhi, was one of the 250 poor migrants who had just returned to their village and could not afford to take Anguri to the hospital. Johra jumped in and called for an ambulance, but it did not come. Johra took Anguri to the government hospital in an autorickshaw.

The doctors refused to attend to Anguri, despite her heightened labour pains, as her husband was a returnee-migrant and Anguri could be a COVID-19 carrier. Going to a private hospital was not an option for Anguri. So, Johra dug in her heels and refused to budge. The doctors finally relented and admitted Anguri to the government hospital but refused to deliver her baby. So Johra rolled up her sleeves and facilitated the delivery of Anguri’s baby herself with the help of two Mamta workers. After a few hours she brought the mother and infant back to their home. Enraged at the treatment meted out to Anguri, Johra and the Healing Fields Foundation team took the matter to the highest level at the district administration and are working towards a resolution.

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The doctors refused to attend to Anguri (a pregnant woman), despite her heightened labour pains as her husband was a returnee migrant and Anguri could be a COVID-19 carrier.
Healing Fields works strives to serve the needs of our community by responding to crisis, collecting community perspectives, and centering their voices on important issues.

1,000 families received relief kits in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali in Bihar

1,589 CHE Activation Survey from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand,

8,280 women reached through Menstrual Health Management events
FLOOD RELIEF

Record breaking floods in Bihar in the month of August 2020 in total affected 83,62,451 people in 1,333 panchayats of 130 blocks (Natural Disaster Response Force). Several rivers in the region flowed above danger levels for weeks, forcing mass evacuations. Healing Fields, in partnership with Goonj, stepped in to help with relief kits for 1000 families. These kits were given to families in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali and included rations and essential items.

This partnership with Goonj allowed Healing Fields to ensure that all the determinants of health are met adequately, even in times of crisis.
In preparation for upcoming projects and to evaluate status of current CHEs, Healing Fields undertook a CHE Activation Survey to get the perspective of CHEs and the heads of their village on current needs and interest in further engaging with Healing Fields. Of trained Community Health Entrepreneurs (CHEs) from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand, a sample of 1589 CHEs participated in the survey.

**CHE ACTIVATION SURVEY**

**WHETHER COMMUNITY WOULD UTILIZE THE TELE HEALTH SERVICE**

- 94.7% Yes
- 5.3% No

**GP RESPONSE ON HEALTH INITIATIVES**

- 95.4% Need for health education person
- 81.2% BCP/Vital checking to be useful
- 76.7% Tele Health to be useful
UPCOMING PROJECTS

- TELEHEALTH
- AMBASSADOR PLATFORM
Building on the capabilities of the Community Health Entrepreneur as a health resource in her village, the learnings of the Basic Care Provider Program and the need of their communities for access to health professionals, Healing Fields is launching a program to develop a continuum of care model by increasing access to tele-health and increasing the presence of Community Health Entrepreneurs as first responders. These CHEs will be upskilled on vitals and patient assessment so they can connect members of their village to remote doctors and ensure follow up, especially in NCDs, leading to positive health outcomes. Healing Fields is working in close collaboration with partners to build an impactful program paired with usable technology.

The outcome of our CHE Activation survey indicates strong interest in telehealth among members of their communities.

This year, Healing Fields is embarking on a journey through Project Aspire (a mission of Ashoka and Societal Platform, supported by the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies) to build a platform that enables collaborative delivery of government entitlements by empowering stakeholders with feedback outcomes. The team has undergone an intensive learning program and will launch exploratory research in 2021.
WE GO

Healing Fields was awarded the 3rd annual WeGo award by Opportunity International in 2020. The Women and Girl’s opportunity award celebrates innovative programming that is making an impact on the lives of women and girls around the world.

RODDENBERRY

Healing Fields was named a+1 Global Fund Awardee by the Roddenberry Foundation in recognition of work in supporting marginalized communities most affected by COVID-19.

HCL FOUNDATION

Healing Fields was chosen as a Semi-Finalist (one of the top 5 selected projects) for the prestigious HCL Foundation grant. The grant is given to NGOs doing path breaking work in rural development.

ASHOKA LIVELIHOOD ACCELERATOR  NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2020

Members of Healing Field’s senior leadership team participated in a five month program led by Start Up! And supported by Ashoka that facilitated innovations in livelihood programming, strategic organizational growth, effective fundraising and communications, and collaborative partnerships.

DIVE IN 2020 – THE FESTIVAL FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN INSURANCE  23RD SEPTEMBER 2020

Mental Health: Breaking the Taboos

This panel centered on embracing aspects of mental health, ways to normalize it, and the central role it plays in a pandemic world. Mukti Bosco sat alongside other esteemed panelists Ariz Rizvi, Head of Health Promotion for Anviti Insurance Brokers, Subha Pandia, Founder and Director of AGUA Women’s Leadership and Daniel Eckhard, Swiss Re Institute Advocate.

SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTER SHAR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY  8TH MARCH 2021

This year’s International Women’s day event was themed ‘Choose to Challenge’ and featured Mukti Bosco, CEO and founder of Healing Fields, as the Chief Guest.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INDIA’S HOUSING FORUM  MARCH 25TH 2021

India Housing Forum gathers major stakeholders engaged in seeking solutions to affordable housing issues under one roof, to promote decent housing as a driver of economic growth. This year Gayathri Prashant, COO, was selected as a speaker.

ASHOKA’S GET WISER SUMMIT  THURSDAY, MAR 25, 2021

In celebration of International Women’s Month, Ashoka Arab World hosted the Get WISER Summit, powered by the Women’s Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship (WISE). In this 3-day event, a space for joy and celebration of the women responsible for impactful systems change was created. Mukti Bascio was featured as a panelist on the discussion ‘Overcoming Cultural Barriers.’

IDEAGEN’S VIRTUAL GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  THURSDAY, MAR 25, 2021

Refocusing on Menstrual Health Management - Community Perspectives

Healing Fields hosted a webinar in partnership with UNICEF on, “Refocusing on Menstrual Health Management - Community Perspectives.” Panelists included our own Community Health Entrepreneurs and School Health Champions, leaders from partner organizations, government stakeholders and members of our leadership team.

Alongside this webinar, CHEs hosted Menstrual Health Management events in 417 villages of Bihar, 301 villages of UP, 27 villages of Jharkhand and 3 villages of Madhya Pradesh reaching 8,280 women with multimedia educational sessions. In partnership with Jeevika, two community level events were organized in Barbigha block of the Sheikhpura district, and a zoom session was hosted for 40 Jeevika didis to attend on June 9th 2020.
SOCIAL IMPACT HEROES:
WHY & HOW MUKTI BOSCO OF HEALING FIELDS FOUNDATION IS HELPING TO CHANGE OUR WORLD?

Mukti Bosco speaks with Authority Magazine about leadership and her journey as a social entrepreneur (November 2020)

Medium

COVID 19:
FOOT SOLDIERS GET A STEP UP

Healing Fields’ efforts to send migrant workers home with dignity (June 2020)

The Hindu
We would like to thank our partners for making this work possible.

N. Rangachary
Former IRDA & CBDT Chairman

Mukti Bosco
Founder & Secretary, Healing Fields Foundation

Sujatha Rao I.A.S (Retd)
Former Union Secretary Health

Nimish Parekh,
Former CEO of United Healthcare

Uttam Patel
Chartered Accountant, PMR&Y Associates

Babu Joseph
Former Executive Director, Axis Bank Foundation

Siva Chittor
COO, Sai Life Sciences Pvt Ltd

Abhishek Poddar
MD, Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets

Sanjay Jesrani
Founder & CEO, Go North Ventures

Auditors
Internal - M. Bhaskar Rao & Sons
External - Deloitte Haskins & Sells
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT
TO THE SOCIETY’S MANAGEMENT OF HEALING FIELDS FOUNDATION

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of HEALING FIELDS FOUNDATION ("the Society"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2023, the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the approved framework and the rules of the Trust ("the rules").

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the rules in the manner required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the State of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2023, and its excess of expenditure over income for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing and other pronouncements issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the fund in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Rules, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements and the ICAI’s Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Society’s Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance in accordance with the rules of the fund. This includes:

1. Making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, including consideration of materiality, in the application of the rules for safeguarding the assets of the fund and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
2. Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
3. Making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.