



**SOIR-IM**

The Swedish Organisation  
for Individual Relief

# Annual Report 2017

Photo: Nandini Shanmugham/SOIR-IM

A photograph of a woman in a yellow and blue striped sari holding a baby. The woman has a bindi on her forehead and is looking directly at the camera. The baby is wearing a colorful, patterned shirt and grey shorts, and is also looking at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a white vehicle.

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# FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

Another gratifying year has gone by for us at SOIR-IM. As I pen this down, I realise that there are two pillars that mark SOIR-IM's work in 2016 - reflection & transformation. We spent time to reflect on our work, our strategy, what more could we do to magnify our impact? How could we further strengthen the capacities of the partner organisations we support? What could we do to enhance our own capacities? The answers to these questions have led to the transformation we witnessed in 2016.

I consider it a privilege that I was given the opportunity to take over as Country Director for SOIR-IM operations and assist not only in a smooth transition but also carry forward the organisation's noteworthy commitment in the areas of livelihoods and education. Our livelihoods intervention reached out to 3,000 families and the education initiatives covered 5,000 children.

We initiated some key changes in our operations in 2016. Geographically, we made a conscious decision to focus our work in North India, which meant we had to phase out our operations in South India. A difficult decision, no doubt, but a necessary one. My colleagues and I worked with our partner organisations to strengthen their understanding of rights-based approach and how this could be integrated in the programme planning and implementation. Some of our other capacity building efforts included developing three booklets on inclusive education. These booklets are meant to introduce the concept of inclusive education to Government and private school teachers as well as to officials from the Education department. I am confident that this effort will lead to more awareness among these stakeholders on how to make classrooms a more inclusive and welcoming environment for children with disabilities.



Our annual partners network meeting saw us conduct sessions on Monitoring, risk management, Anti-corruption, financial management, internal control, FCRA & Taxation. Such meetings are aimed to hone the capacities of our partner organisations.

We are also proud to have launched a pilot project for capacity development of Tibetan Civil Societies. The goal of the conference was to strengthen Tibetan CSOs and NGOs in order to realize a stronger and more vibrant Tibetan civil society sector working on development issues affecting Tibetans in India and Nepal.

It's also an opportune time for me to thank everyone in our ecosystem that have helped us in our accomplishments – our donors, partner organisations, our diverse stakeholders, our auditors, and my team!

I'm confident that the seeds of change we have sown this year will reap positive & impactful changes in the future. I hope you enjoy reading about our work as much as we enjoy doing it!

*Savitri Sharma*

Savitri Sharma  
Country Director

## ABOUT SOIR-IM

SOIR-IM has been working in India since 1970s, in the area of education, economic empowerment and strengthening civil society. We work in partnership with grass-root NGOs in eight states. We promote economic empowerment of marginalized groups, focus on women, to facilitate household income security. SOIR-IM supports small-scale income generating projects as well as savings and credit mechanisms for individuals, groups and community based organizations. We promote access to quality education for children from marginalized communities. Our focus is on children who do not have access to education because of poverty, disability, ethnicity and/or gender inequality.

SOIR-IM is registered as a society under Societies Registration Act 1860, Uttarakhand, for exemption from income tax under section 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961, for receiving foreign contribution under FCRA.

SOIR-IM has three characteristics that guide our work and pervade the organization.

**Compassion** - We show interest, knowledge, respect and openness when meeting people. All human beings should be treated equally, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and disability. We give marginalized and discriminated groups priority in our work. Our work is made possible thanks to the compassion and commitment of people around the world to uplift human rights.

**Empowerment** - Our aim is to support women, men, girls, and boys so that they can empower themselves. We strive to support sustainable solutions and it is our ambition that our partner organizations become independent.

**Presence** - Good results are dependent on proximity to partners and participants in our programmes and a good knowledge about the local context. SOIR-IM interacts closely with our partner organization.



Photo: Sharon Jacob/SOIR-IM

## OUR PARTNERS

### Appropriate Technology India (ATI)

In Uttarakhand's Chamoli district we work with our partner Appropriate Technology India to economically empower women, through livelihood augmentation, and promote gender issues. Our work focuses on forming and strengthening self-help groups, making dairy enterprises commercially viable for the mountain women, establishing marketing and financial linkages, and building capacities of women on gender and health issues.

[www.atindia.org](http://www.atindia.org)

### Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany - Northeast Province (Bethany sisters)

In India's north-eastern State of Assam, we work with our partner organisation to help the migrant population. Our aim is to make primary education possible for children of migrants and empower women with alternate livelihoods. Covering slum pockets in Silchar and Guwahati, our focus is to provide skill training for women, form self-help groups, enroll never-enrolled children and school dropouts in mainstream schools, and collaborate with duty bearers. The work in Bethany Sisters also focusses on raising awareness of the community people and facilitating them to avail the various government schemes and entitlements.

[www.bethanycongregation.org](http://www.bethanycongregation.org)

### Disha Social Organisation

By initiating income-generating activities we are helping marginalised women in

the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh become economically independent and lead a better quality of life for themselves and their families. With our partner Disha Social Organisation we are setting-up income-generating activities and creating awareness of social security schemes among rural women.

[www.dishain.org](http://www.dishain.org)

### Kiran Society

With our partner Kiran Society, we are promoting inclusive education by helping children with disabilities and marginalised girls join mainstream schools in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Our intervention is also aimed at helping parents of children with disabilities understand the education and rehabilitation needs of their children. To make inclusive education a reality, we are working with schools, educational authorities, health care and administrative representatives.

[www.kiranvillage.org](http://www.kiranvillage.org)

### Maximising Employment to Serve the Handicapped (MESH)

Our fair trade partner, MESH is an Indian organisation practicing Fair Trade with disabled and leprosy affected crafts artisans, for their rehabilitation. With MESH, SOIR-IM works towards providing opportunities for disabled people and people affected by leprosy to achieve social and economic integration by trading. They work with disabled artisans from all over India.

[www.mesh.org.in](http://www.mesh.org.in)

## Reaching the Unreached (RTU)

Helping women fight exclusion and marginalisation has been our main focus in Tamil Nadu's Theni and Dindigul districts. Together with Reaching the Unreached, we are empowering once marginalised women become financially independent. The women empowerment initiative here is also bringing together women to become active participants in the development of their community.

[www.rtuindia.org](http://www.rtuindia.org)

## Sarba Shanti Ayog (SSA)

SSA has been working with artisans and craft communities since 1978, to produce authentic hand crafted products and are a fair trade organization. For over three decades now, it has been involved

intensively in market development and enterprise building of MSEs in the informal craft sector in the country.

[www.sashaworld.com](http://www.sashaworld.com)

## Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD)

Our self-reliance program with the Social and Resource Development Fund, aims to reduce the marginalization and exclusion of the Tibetan refugee population in India. The economic empowerment component will seek to increase entrepreneurship and employment among women, men, and youth. Vocational training, entrepreneurship, and career counselling will be the focus of the education intervention under this program.

[www.sardfund.org](http://www.sardfund.org)



Photo: Nahdini Shanmugham/SOIR-IM



Photo: Nandini Shanmugham/SOIR-IM

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

SOIR-IM works towards uplifting and empowering marginalized groups in rural areas by organizing and mobilizing them through Self Help Groups, to increase their family income. Our economic program has special focus on women so that they have strengthened role in decision making process and control over productive

resources. Through capacity development, individuals can generate and take control over their own income so that their status is elevated and their families can benefit from it. We work in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with our partners ATI, Disha, SARD and RTU.

## Highlights

- Farmers have increased their productivity after receiving training on livestock management from our partner, ATI. Through ATI, they have improved access to agricultural extension services such as artificial insemination, feed distribution, milk collection and distribution services.
- Community members especially from marginalized groups have better understanding of Government's scheme and programs on Girl Child Education after sensitization program from our partner, Disha.
- Female farmers have added skill set on alternative income generation activities to build their resilience against negative impact of climate change in agriculture. They received trainings from our partner, RTU on poultry, mobile phone repairing, making and selling edible oil, preparing herbal medicine, making wire basket, etc.
- SOIR-IM's partner, ATI has established strong networks with different stakeholders resulting in increased understanding and accessing of various government and enterprise schemes and bank linkages for the self-help groups.
- Immigrant communities in coordination with Bethany sisters received letter from ward councilor certifying them as residents of the area. This has helped them to prepare PAN cards, open Bank accounts and avail government schemes.

## Achievement for 2016





## Priyanka's Journey Towards Building a Better Life



Photo:SOIR-IM

Priyanka Devi, 24 was born in a poor family belonging to a Scheduled Castes (SCs). Being the eldest in the family, she had to drop out of primary school to take care of her siblings as her parent's income from wage labor was meager.

In 2016, Priyanka joined a Self Help Group (SHG) formed and promoted by ATI under the SOIR-IM support, with a view to empower women socially and economically. Through the project she also received training on dairy management and started saving in her group fund. This experience gave her confidence to purchase improved breed dairy cattle. She shares, "I started saving in group's funds and approached Ushamath Mahila Mahasangh (UMM) for loan of INR 24,600. My SHG recommended my case strongly for availing of loan from UMM. I am grateful to both UMM and my SHG for providing loan on easy installments. Currently, my

cattle gives 6-7 liter milk out of which I sell 5 liters and earn now INR 4,132 per month".

With the income that she earns by selling of milk she saves INR 800 per month to secure the future of her daughter. She is determined to upscale her dairy business. She is grateful to the project for helping her at the crucial juncture of her life. "It is because of the project that I am able to do the milk business and can take care of my daughter and old mother in law", says Priyanka.

Priyanka is confident, independent, curious to learn and always excited to attend meeting/trainings on dairy livelihoods. She has been cherishing dreams' trying to make her 5-year-old daughter successful as she is about to start her schooling. She is also working to make other women aware of the fact that it is knowledge and little encouragement that can change their lives.



## EDUCATION

All children, irrespective of their social and economic background, their gender or special needs, have the right to education and a safe and sound learning environment. SOIR-IM aims at improving children's access to quality education based on their preconditions. Learning from

our past experiences are used by SOIR-IM and its partners to raise public awareness on the importance of education for all children, ensuring inclusive education environment and improving the quality of education. To do so, we work with our partners Bethany sisters and Kiran Society in Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

## Highlights

- Children groups formed and mobilized by Kiran have been working to enroll children from their community into school, with special focus on girls. To help children from marginalized families perform better in studies, some children groups have also been running tuition center in their village.
- The Children's Parliament formed by Bethany Sisters have been raising issues that affect their community. One successful example is the Children's group approached ward members and local leaders with lack of drinking water services in their community. This helped to bring pipelines and taps fitted for each cluster of houses thus reducing the drudgery of many women and children who had to fetch water from far off.
- More than 60 schools have started using Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) shared by Kiran. Teachers and principals have built their skill on use of TLMs to ensure children with special needs are also able to learn in class.

## Achievement for 2016



## Sabina gives back to other children in need



Photo:SOIR-IM

Sabina Yesmin, 10 lives in Dhirenpara Ratnagiri Path, a slum settlement in Guwahati, after her family migrated from West Bengal some 15 years ago. Her grandparents had enrolled Sabina and her brother in a private school. But the family couldn't continue to send their children to school with her father's meager income. So they eventually dropped out.

In 2013, Ms. Binita Begum, a teacher in Bethany promotional Schools (BPS) run by SOIR-IM's partners Bethany Sisters, met Sabina during a door to door survey for the new academic session of the BPS. She was able to convince her parents to send both their children to the promotional school. She was enrolled in Dhirenpara BPS in 3rd class.

During her BPS days Sabina actively participated in both academic and extra-curricular activities. She was successfully mainstreamed to class 3rd in Dhirenpara government school in 2014. Her mother joined the Self-help group initiated by Bethany Sisters under the SOIR-IM's project and is now engaged in a small income generation activity to support her children's education.

Bethany Sisters also helped to form a

Children's Parliament (CP). Every CP has 6-10 children, who are elected as Prime Minister, Sports Minister, Health minister etc. These ministers are expected to raise issues faced in the community with respect to the portfolio they hold. Present and former BPS students are motivated to become members of the CP.

Sabina was elected as the Health Minister of Dhirenpara area. She along with other students of the Children's parliament organized a Health Camp for BPS students and parents at Dhirenpara Bharalupar and Dhirenpara Jyotipath slum areas. Sabina played a very important role in organizing this camp, specially inviting the doctors by writing an application and also in inviting the parents and other local people to participate in it. Sabina also started giving tuition to another BPS student, Jasmine Begum, 9 years old, who stays near her house. With Sabina's help, Jasmine is doing very good in BPS classes.

Through the SOIR-IM intervention around 68% of children are mainstreamed in government schools from 14 BPS of Guwahati every year. The BPS teachers also follow up on these children to ensure that they are continuing their education well.



Photo: Nandini Shanmugham/SOIR-IM

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

SOIR-IM contributes to strengthening civil society through capacity building support in terms of networking and collaboration, building development models,

organizational capacity development etc. We have supported in building technical and management capacity of our partner organization, who have in turn strengthened the target groups they work with.

### Highlights

- Partners have increased their networking initiatives with both government and civil society organizations to influence dialogues with decision makers, leading to changes in society.
- An exposure trip was organized where Disha visited ATI to learn about different livelihood programmes implemented by ATI. Disha's SHG members were given exposure to dairy and honey livelihood programme in ATI project area. These exposures and exchange program led to learning new techniques and strategies which they have applied in their own project activities.
- SOIR-IM provided Organizational Capacity Development (OCD) support to its partners through capacity building, and Partners' Networking Forums, which has facilitated learning through exchange programs, exposure visits and sharing of best practices between and among partners. Two networking meetings were organized in 2016, which covered various topics such as Anti-Corruption, Strengthening Monitoring Systems, Basics of Income Generation Activity Promotion and Risk management, Financial management, Internal control and FCRA. This meeting also provided the opportunity to build common understanding on these technical areas, among all partners.

## SOIR-IM cohosts The Strengthening Tibetan Civil Society Organizations (CSO) conference



Photo: Nandini Shanmugham/SOIR-IM

The Strengthening Tibetan Civil Society Organizations (CSO) conference took place at Tarab Ling Institute in Dehradun, India from April 7th – April 9th 2016. It was co-hosted by the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM), Tibet Relief Fund (TRF) and The Tibet Fund (TTF). Representatives from twenty Tibetan CSOs and five individual observers attended the event. The conference's primary objective was to provide a platform for Tibetan CSOs to network and exchange ideas, to assess their needs and to explore ways to meet and build additional capacity.

The CSO representatives identified their main challenges as issues related to human resources, funding and lack of knowledge around legal procedures in India. Participants explored ways to overcome these challenges and offered suggestions, in particular agreeing that networking, sharing resources and collaborating on projects with other

CSOs and with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) could prove beneficial in strengthening Tibetan civil society. However, the collaborative efforts would require strong commitment with clear expectations of all parties involved.

Almost all participants felt that completing the organizational capacity self-assessment tool that was introduced to them at the conference was extremely beneficial, as it helped them recognize areas within their organizations that had been overlooked and also helped them understand how to function effectively as organizations. Participants felt that the conference experience exceeded their expectations. They felt that they learnt new ideas about strengthening their organizations through capacity building, about the three significance of networking and collaborating, and perhaps most importantly developed new relationships with other CSOs.

# SPONSORSHIP

Below is a summary of the sponsorship support during 2016

Types of receivers	Target groups	Types of support	Individuals reached
8 schools and children groups under NGOs and foundations and 15 Tibetan schools run by NGOs, foundations and under the management of CTA Tibetan Children's Educational and Welfare Fund	Orphan, abandoned, HIV / AIDS affected, tribal children, children with leprosy parentage, refugee children	Hostel maintenance, midday meal / extra diet, teachers' salary, general running costs, school fees and books.	3,667
7 school clinics	Newly arrived refugee children, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> generation refugee children, TB patients	School clinic running costs, TB treatment	2,976
7 Tibetan Old People's Homes, 3 NGOs' leprosy colonies and elderly support	Refugee elders, elders with leprosy and impoverished elders	Old Peoples' Homes running costs, medical care, nutrition, individual weekly financial stipends	286

# AUDIT REPORT 2016-17

**P.N.BAHRI & CO.,**  
Chartered Accountants

Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM)  
16-A, Mussoorie Road, Po-Rajpur, Uttarakhand, Dehradun-248009

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

LIABILITIES:	Annx No.	AS ON 31ST MARCH 2017		AS ON 31ST MARCH 2016	
		Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
<b>CAPITAL FUND:</b>					
Last Balance:		18,26,230.43		74,70,499.57	
Add/(Less) : Previous Year Adjustment:				-	
Add/(Less) Surplus/(Deficit) for the year:		<u>31,81,575.07</u>	50,07,805.50	<u>(56,44,269.14)</u>	18,26,230.43
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS:</b>	1				
Pending Utilisation:		13,33,656.44		40,55,865.54	
Less : Excess utilisation, pending receipt:		<u>-</u>	13,33,656.44	<u>-</u>	40,55,865.54
<b>PROVISIONS:</b>					
Provision for Gratuity			20,22,130.00		12,87,730.00
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Advance for Land:		2,29,000.00		2,29,000.00	
Expenses Payable:		<u>74,990.00</u>	3,03,990.00	<u>1,09,089.00</u>	3,38,089.00
<b>TOTAL RS....</b>			<b>86,67,581.94</b>		<b>75,07,914.97</b>






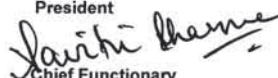

**P.N.BAHRI & CO.,**  
Chartered Accountants

Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM)  
16-A, Mussoorie Road, Po-Rajpur, Uttarakhand, Dehradun-248009

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

ASSETS	AS ON 31ST MARCH 2017		AS ON 31ST MARCH 2016	
	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
FIXED ASSETS:	2	24,33,862.64		25,38,020.81
CURRENT ASSETS LOANS & ADVANCES				
SECURITY DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES:	3	2,82,911.00		3,85,498.00
INVESTMENTS -				
FIXED DEPOSITS WITH SCHEDULED BANKS		7,34,400.00		12,87,730.00
ACCRUED INTEREST		49,425.00	7,83,825.00	12,87,730.00
CASH AND BANK BALANCES:	4	51,66,983.30		32,96,666.16
<b>TOTAL RS...</b>		<b>86,67,581.94</b>		<b>75,07,914.97</b>

NOTE: Annexure '1' to '6' forming integral part of the accounts.

  
President  
  
Chief Functionary  
  
Secretary/Treasurer



10-Convent Road, Dehra Dun  
Dated: May 20, 2017

As per our separate report of even date.

For M/s P.N. Bahri & Co.,  
Firm Regn.No. 001091C  
Chartered Accountants



[Varun Thakur Das Sawhney]  
Chartered Accountant




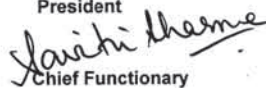

**P.N.BAHRI & CO.,**  
Chartered Accountants

Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM)  
16-A, Mussoorie Road, Po-Rajpur, Uttarakhand, Dehradun-248009

**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 2017**

EXPENDITURE	Annx No	FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017		FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2016	
		Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
<b>ASSISTANCE AID WORK:</b>					
SPONSOR SHIP PROJECTS					
EDUCATION		1,72,30,166.00		1,25,20,920.65	
HEALTH		2,91,510.00		10,53,052.10	
FAIR TRADE		38,45,541.00		32,51,049.62	
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT		83,47,401.25		61,72,501.35	
PROJECTS- SHANTI NIWAS		46,65,856.00	3,43,80,474.25	1,42,80,928.66	3,72,78,452.38
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; PROPERTY UPKEEP:</b>	<b>5</b>		1,52,00,819.48		1,24,56,157.15
<b>DEPRECIATION :</b>	<b>2</b>		4,36,292.17		5,51,096.77
<b>PROVISION FOR GRATUITY</b>			7,34,400.00		12,87,730.00
<b>SURPLUS/( DEFICIT ):</b>			31,81,575.07		(56,44,269.14)
(being excess of income/expenditure over expenditure/income)					
<b>TOTAL RS...</b>			<b>5,39,33,560.97</b>		<b>4,59,29,167.16</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>					
<b>DONATION FROM IM-SWEDEN:</b>					
Maintenance Grant Received: (including difference of exchange )			1,90,38,213.72		77,83,178.78
Designated Grant / Expense Written Back:			-		2,88,544.00
<b>Other Projects:</b>					
Designated Funds Paid/Utilised DTY	1		3,43,80,474.25		3,72,78,452.38
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>6</b>		5,14,873.00		5,78,992.00
<b>TOTAL RS...</b>			<b>5,39,33,560.97</b>		<b>4,59,29,167.16</b>

NOTE: Annexure '1' to '6' forming integral part of the accounts.

  
President  
  
Chief Functionary  
  
Secretary/Treasurer



10-Convent Road, Dehra Dun  
Dated: May 20, 2017

As per our separate report of even date.

For M/s P.N. Bahri & Co.,  
Firm Regn.No. 001091C  
Chartered Accountants

  
[Varun Thakur Das Sawhney]  
Chartered Accountant





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