# A Message from the President & Executive Director

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On behalf of our team, our board of directors, and those we serve, we want to sincerely thank you for your support over the past year to help bring The Desai Foundation programming to those that need it most. It is only through your support that our work is possible. Our fiscal year, which is reflected in this report, is from June 2022 to July 2023. Naturally, this time period was incredibly difficult for the regions we service and the communities we advocate for due to the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with rising inflation and economic uncertainty, some surprising backwards legislation around menstrual equity in the U.S., and the punishing impacts of climate change in rural areas. Despite all of this, we are proud of what we were able to accomplish in our FY 2023 to rebuild and redirect our programs.

This year we are thrilled to celebrate our 25th Year of Service! The Desai Foundation is honored to be serving communities with health, livelihood, menstrual equity and more for over 25 years! We can’t reach such milestones without your support and commitment to cultivating dignity. Thank you!

In order to best serve the women and children who are most impacted by climate change, primarily drought and displacement, we partnered with SEWA and the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), among other organizations, on a $50 million climate fund to support sustainable livelihood. We are proud to be one of the implementation partners for this incredible fund.

The Desai Foundation is proud to implement our 31 programs, across 8 states in rural India. After 25 years of service we are proud to have impacted over 6 million lives! Every day, we are inspired by the dedication, creativity, and determination that our team has to make our company’s dreams come to life. Just as the footprint of our work has expanded, so has our team at The Desai Foundation. We proudly work with over 50 team members around the globe, working hard to fight for the people we serve. We also work with nearly 1,000 Heroes, thanks to our Heroes for Humanity Program, that helps us reach the most remote villages across all our regions. Our team and our Heroes are the lifeblood of this organization. We are grateful for their support in these unprecedented times, as well as the support of our incredible board of directors and leadership council.

This year The Desai Foundation celebrates its 25th Year of Service. We are incredibly proud of this milestone. We spent 15 years incubating and perfecting programs as a family foundation, three years shifting to a public organization and building our team, and the last eight years scaling and implementing as a public programmatic NGO with all of you! We are so honored to have your support, your trust, and your shared passion for our work. We hope you are as excited as we are for the next 25!

Our work in health, livelihood and menstrual equity is more important than ever. We are so proud to serve eight states in India and to have impacted the lives of over 6 million since going public! None of our work is possibly without your support! Thank you!

Yours,
Megha Desai, President

Mittal Gohil, Executive Director
OUR MISSION

WE EMPOWER WOMEN AND CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO ELEVATE HEALTH, LIVELIHOOD, & MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN INDIA
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Twenty-six years ago, Samir and Nilima Desai, originally from Gujarat, started The Desai Foundation as a small Boston-based family foundation with modest goals to serve the communities of Gujarat, New York, and Greater Boston that had served them. Samir and Nilima were most passionate about health, livelihood, and celebrating Indian culture, and it was those areas in which they focused their energies.

Over the next decade, we would go on to make a deep impact in those communities, whether it was through cultural celebrations like Sensational India at the Peabody Essex Museum, hosting health and wellness seminars in Massachusetts, or working with students at community impact in Morningside Heights & Harlem, New York City. Our expansive work in India started with just two communities in Gujarat, Talangpur, and Untdi. We began there by building community programming to elevate those we serve. **We experimented with a variety of different approaches, programs, and inputs and confirmed that our decision to work with women and children was indeed the right one to uplift the entire community.**

After ten years of successful partnerships, The Desai Foundation found itself getting more and more involved in its partner organizations and in building programming. It was helping to develop programs, expand regions, and launch successful pilot programs. We began to narrow our focus, and iterate these programs until we felt we had sustainable, scalable and impactful programs. The Desai Foundation converted to a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit with an arm in India called The Desai Foundation Trust. And with that shift, we became an operational, programmatic nonprofit.

The Desai Foundation is now a robust organization working to empower women and children through health and livelihood efforts in India. The Desai Foundation believes that empowering local community members to run projects leads to the best results and that restoring dignity is at the center of helping people to dream beyond their circumstances.

The founding family still matches all individual donations, showing their deep commitment to and passion for the work and the process. We’ve also established our NGO status in India under The Desai Foundation Trust and work collaboratively with local partners in the regions we serve. Our transition to a public organization was made with one goal in mind: the ability to help more people and uplift more communities. This transition has not been easy, but your support and faith in us is why it works.
OUR FUTURE — AND YOU

The future of The Desai Foundation depends on you. We are committed to continue vetting partners and fostering our deep connections with the communities we serve. Our focus will always remain in health, livelihood, and menstrual equity for women and children. Additionally, we are always looking to grow geographically – into more villages, regions, and states! Our modular programs allow us to expand with one program or with many. We are committed to creating strong partnerships both in the U.S. and India. Please reach out if you are interested in contributing or participating.
Objectives

We are driven to promote health, livelihood, and menstrual equity, particularly for those who are both traditionally underserved and powerful agents of social change: women and children. Working with the existing strengths of a community, we focus on providing a healthy life, the dignity of a job, and the fulfillment of an education.

**HEALTH**

Good health and well-being are the most fundamental of human rights and basic necessities of social progress. In partnership with other nonprofits as well as local universities, hospitals, and community centers, we set up health camps that provide free screening and education to those who otherwise would not have access to the care they need.

**LIVELIHOOD**

We recognize livelihood not only as the capacity to generate income and pursue educational and vocational opportunities, but as the opportunity to live a fulfilling, purposeful life on one’s own terms. We partner with organizations to provide youth mentorship, workshops, and vocational training. Participants develop skills as well as a strong sense of dignity. And we design our programs with entrepreneurship in mind, knowing how our communities live and thrive.

**MENSTRUAL EQUITY**

We focus on achieving menstrual equity because we believe that everyone, regardless of their gender or biological cycles, deserves equal and equitable opportunities for education, economic empowerment, and health. Women and girls are routinely left out of opportunities in rural India due to a lack of menstrual products, water and sanitation, education, and menstrual stigmas. The Desai Foundation address all aspects of menstrual equity so that women and girls are empowered to live their lives unhindered by period poverty.

**WOMEN & CHILDREN**

Children are our future leaders! The Desai Foundation provides quality education and enrichment programs to equip children with the knowledge to meet the many challenges shaping our world today so they’ll be ready to lead our communities tomorrow. This is also an extension of our focus on empowering women. We know that empowering women, the backbone of community, is the fastest way to uplift an entire community!
Fundamentals

Our work in India stresses inclusivity, sustainability and accountability. We use a community-based approach to ensure a positive, sustainable impact.

STRONG FUNDAMENTALS
We work in communities we know well who tell us what they need. Our programs result from conversations with the communities we serve.

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS
We identify the right local leaders to spearhead each project. This ensures community buy-in and a deep understanding of issues. It also promotes self-sustaining empowerment among the whole community.

PROVEN PROGRAMS & MODELS
A pilot program is set up for each major initiative to ensure its effectiveness and to understand its impact. We do not seek public investment in these programs until they have been thoroughly piloted and vetted. After an evaluation, we adjust the programs as needed so we can have confidence in putting them to scale. Many of our programs are designed to scale.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
We aim to solve long-term socioeconomic problems and support sustainable, community-driven development. Our goal is to provide a strong foundation upon which communities can launch themselves, dream beyond their circumstances, and better health and higher financial autonomy.

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
In today’s times, it’s important to understand that Climate Change, Gender Equity, Socioeconomic Empowerment, Education, Health, and Mental Health are all connected. Women are the most impacted by Climate Change, Mental Health and by Geo Political Conflict. We have seen the impact of Climate Change for years on the women we serve. And we will continue to strive to serve them to overcome these hardships.
We tap resources in the communities we serve to ensure long-term progress and promote a spirit of local engagement. Inspiring the community to realize they have the power to shift their own circumstance is an important part of successful community development.

Our work also acknowledges the broader spectrum: how local community development generates global advancement. By operating under the objective of creating more inclusive societies, our goals not only support participatory action on the local level, but also intersect with the goals established by major national and international bodies for a prosperous future.

Our mission runs parallel with both that of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Indian government’s social initiatives. We share the goals of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao; Swachh Bharat; and Digital India to educate and empower girls, improve health, hygiene, and sanitation, and promote digital literacy.

By elevating health and livelihood standards for more than 6 million rural folk in India, we address several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: No Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, and Climate Action.

Our work was validated in the concluding outcome from the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women: “rural women and girls are essential to sustainable development, and their rights and empowerment needs to be prioritized.”

We are thrilled to continue moving forward alongside the objectives of global and national powers for a healthier, more equitable world. Together, we can empower those with the greatest need and potential and help strengthen at-risk communities.

Local Action, Global Connection

Women: “rural women and girls are essential to sustainable development, and their rights and empowerment needs to be prioritized.”

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OUR METHOD

We believe innovation is at the root of all progress. Innovation is what drives The Desai Foundation’s programming and pushes us to incubate, iterate, pilot, evaluate, and further scale programs across our regions for the most effective and powerful impact. As we flesh out a program concept, we take it for a test run. Then, after creating structure, evaluation, and a clear process around each program, we begin to scale. Because of the rigor with which we develop these models, they can scale quickly. Our method also relies on a fine balance between programmatic funding and supporting organizations. Finding the right partners on the ground ensures our programs are welcomed by the community and are sustainable after we are gone. For us, scale isn’t always about the sheer number of people we serve, but about the quality of that service, the efficiency, depth of impact, and sustainability.

Over the last 25 years in rural India, we have had a significant impact on the lives of the people we serve around health, livelihood and menstrual equity. Our growth over the last seven years is due to a 3-step process:
1) we build trust in the community
2) we listen to the community and co-create programs they want
3) we develop strong local leadership for all our programs

The people we serve and work with inspire, motivate, and lead us. By listening, evaluating, and iterating, we ensure that The Desai Foundation programs continually and effectively serve the needs of our communities.
In response to the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India during the spring of 2021, The Desai Foundation and S.P. Hinduja Banque Privée launched an initiative called Heroes for Humanity in June 2021. This initiative aimed to combat the spread of the coronavirus in the most affected communities. We achieved this by recruiting and training around 500 community facilitators who were then deployed to rural areas in several Indian states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

Our Heroes provided a range of crucial services to underserved rural communities. These services included spreading COVID-19 care and vaccine information, distributing food, and essential supplies. In response to the changing needs of the community, we are now offering health and hygiene education, menstrual hygiene education and sanitary pads, help desk services, and more.

On July 1st, 2023, the Heroes for Humanity program celebrated its second anniversary! This significant milestone marks two years of dedicated efforts in combating the spread of COVID-19 and providing essential support to underserved rural communities in India.

As the program celebrates its second anniversary, it acknowledges the collective efforts of all those involved in making a positive difference in the lives of millions. The Heroes have become invaluable members of their communities, being sought out for their knowledge, resources, and support. The occasion of the second anniversary serves as a reminder of the ongoing commitment to serving and empowering underserved communities in India, with the hope of creating a brighter future for all.

www.thedesaifoundation.org/heroes
Heroes for Humanity

2022-2023 IMPACT

444K REACHED IN BANKING & SAVINGS PROGRAM
This banking and saving education and awareness program is designed to help the rural community learn essential financial literacy skills.

15 MILLION RUPEES IN SALARY PAID TO HEROES
Heroes earned incomes which contributed to their financial independence and their family’s quality of life along with training.

1M+ REACHED WITH HELP DESK SERVICES
Heroes promoted awareness and facilitated access to essential government social protection programs and inclusive financial services.

1K+ HEROES TRAINED, HIRED, & PAID
1,000 Heroes, most of them women, earned incomes and became beacons of hope in their communities.

79K REACHED VIA PRIMARY HEALTH & HYGIENE
This initiative is a comprehensive approach to awareness & education, focusing on the physical, mental, and emotional development of children.

106K REACHED VIA MENSTRUAL HYGIENE
Menstrual Health & Hygiene awareness and access to menstrual products are key to raising health and livelihood outcomes for girls and women.
Heroes for Humanity Program Paved the Way for Usha’s Career in Community Engagement

Usha, residing in Tamil Nadu, is a passionate social worker who thrives on community engagement. She has had the wonderful opportunity to work with Desai Foundation Trust under the Heroes for Humanity program. Usha’s journey with The Desai Foundation Trust began during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the virus. She conducted numerous awareness campaigns and provided valuable information on topics like labor card registration, PAN card applications, CM insurance cards, as well as menstrual health and hygiene awareness programs. Currently, Usha is actively involved in conducting awareness programs on Banking, Saving Education & Awareness Program, and providing assistance through help desk camps.

Usha finds immense joy in her work and is delighted to share that she recently secured a government job as an Office Assistant in the Revenue Department in Yercaud, Salem. However, she remains determined to continue her service with The Desai Foundation Trust, as she has learned invaluable lessons through her fieldwork and training experiences with the organization!
In February 2023, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Desai Foundation’s flagship locations in India to advance the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) commitments to action. These commitments include providing employment opportunities and health care to women and children and supporting climate resilience - all items that Desai Foundation is impassioned about and focused on impacting across our 31 programs. She visited us in the Palaj Village, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

While on this trip, Secretary Clinton visited The Asani Sanitary Napkin Program, spoke with students at one of The Desai Foundations partner schools, the Indian Institute of Technology - Gandhinagar, and met with 40 Heroes for Humanity. When addressing the Heroes for Humanity, Secretary Clinton said, “it is so impressive that The Desai Foundation understood the importance of finding local people like all of you to do this important work.” She followed up with, “I am so impressed by the model of this program, and so delighted to hear about all the things you are doing as Heroes for Humanity,” expressing excitement that they “were not only learning so much, and growing personally, but understanding what an impact you are all having on your families and your communities.” At the Asani factory, Secretary Clinton shared that, “I love the way this program connects to both mothers and the next generation to create change and break the cycle of stigmas.”

Hillary Rodham Clinton’s visit and words were a testament to the holistic and innovative approaches that Desai Foundation uses to positively impact rural communities in India, particularly the women and children within them.
SINCE GOING PUBLIC IN 2014...

6 MILLION+
IMPACTED TOTAL

5.6M ASANI SANITARY NAPKINS PRODUCED

3,000 COMMUNITIES SERVED

4,7778 PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED OUR FUNDRAISERS
In 2022-2023, The Desai Foundation provided programming in eight states across India. We are deeply honored to have been invited into these communities and look forward to strengthening our relationship with the communities and our local partners.
1. Health Awareness & Services

2022-2023 IMPACT

- 220K+ Girls and women impacted by Menstrual Health & Hygiene Awareness camps
- 6K Reached in General Health camps
- 7.3K Menstrual Health & Hygiene camps held
- 2.8K Children benefited from Health camps
- 4K+ Provided with Vision Care

**HYGIENE CLASSES**
We conduct health and hygiene sessions in our centers, schools, and communities on topics ranging from menstrual hygiene, maternal health, nutrition, and the importance of WASH.

**BAL HEALTH MELA**
Bal Health Mela is a fun-filled health fair for children. Our objective of these health camps is to provide easy access to high-quality health care services to children and their families residing in rural India.

**GENERAL HEALTH CAMP**
We operate general health camps for local community members where we provide overall medical care, check-ups, and vaccinations.

**VISION CAMP**
We provide vision camps and vision care through camps, including high quality vision services such as cataract surgeries, and items such as eyeglasses, eye drops, and more.

**ASANI SANITARY NAPKINS**
The Asani Sanitary Napkin Program educates communities on menstrual health, hygiene, and management and increases access to low-cost, retail-quality sanitary pads. As a program for women by women, it also employs women to manufacture the sanitary pads and provides income-generating opportunities for those who wish to distribute the pads in their communities.

**GYNEC CAMP**
We conduct gynecology camps for women that include high-quality menstrual health services, pap smear tests, breast cancer awareness, and prenatal and post-natal check-ups.
2. Education & Community Outreach

2022-2023 IMPACT

• 402 Total number students in Science & Math Secondary School
• 66% Female graduates at Shantaben Vidhyabhavan (SV) school pursuing higher education
• 680+ Beneficiaries opened their own bank accounts through help desks

SHANTABEN VIDHYABHAVAN
In the village of Untdi in Gujarat, India, Shantaben Vidhyabhavan is a vital community center, providing quality education, vocational opportunities, and health and developmental services. Since its reconstruction the school, Lok Vidyalaya, has tripled in size and we have added four more classrooms to meet rising demand. We now provide quality education to over 1,000 students from 40 villages and have doubled our teaching capacity to children from kindergarten to 12th standard.

IIT GANDHINAGAR
We are proud to partner with IIT Gandhinagar’s NYASA and NEEV programs in Gujarat to help transform the rural communities near the school. These programs use the resources present at the institute to help uplift their surrounding communities. Each year, 25-30 students from NYASA organize the Sanjeevani health camp for children and women living in neighboring villages. Activities include screening children for health-related issues, administering required vaccinations, and hygiene training. These programs are designed to build global citizen leaders who take on the social responsibility of changing conventional norms and practices that limit the development of many.

HELP DESK & BANKING SERVICES
Heroes from the Heroes for Humanity program are making a powerful impact promoting awareness and facilitating access to essential government social protection initiatives. The Help Desk service was divided into two phases where in the first phase, Heroes created awareness about government programs and identity documents like the PAN Card, Labor Card, and Health Card. In the second phase, Heroes created awareness about basic banking and financial tools such as types of bank accounts, digital banking, and banking fraud prevention.

CREATIVE LEARNING SPACES
The Creative Learning Spaces program was established in our schools to promote learning in the field of science and technology for children, especially girls in the age group of 11-16 years. The program offers a rich curriculum comprising theoretical and practical classes. It provides a platform to rural children with easy access to the technological world. We have observed a rise in establishment of science and math labs in the private and government schools surrounding ours. They have adapted our programming into their respective schools all of which has opened channels to the tech world for many children in rural Gujarat.
3. Vocational Training & Livelihood

2022-2023 IMPACT
- 220K+ Women benefited from access to Menstrual Health Management awareness
- 10K Women taught vocational skills
- 1,000 Women currently earning income from Asani sanitary pads distribution
- 2.4K Women taught to sew
- 4.4K Beneficiaries registered for PAN cards through help desks

BEAUTY PARLOR SKILLS
Our Beauty Parlor vocational training program prepares women for a relatively high-paying job in an environment where they feel safe. Our course teaches hair, makeup, wedding, and special occasion services.

SEWING CLASSES
We host a variety of vocational sewing programs across many of the regions we serve. Women learn the basics of sewing and how to make various styles of handbags, and much more.

COMPUTER CLASSES
These classes teach valuable digital literacy skills to help advance personal, educational, and professional development.

HELP DESK PROGRAM
We operate a Help Desk Program that spreads awareness about government programs and services and enrolls eligible community members to ensure access to these benefits by the most vulnerable in society, including women, children and the elderly.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS
Jewelry Making • Candle and Diya Making • Fine Chocolates Making • Sanitary Napkin Production • Personal Finance • English Language • Library and Research • Entrepreneurship and Business Management • Electrician Training • Plumbing Training • Welding Training
Meghna, a mother of two residing in Gujarat, faced challenges while taking on her family’s responsibilities. Her husband works abroad and only returns to India every two years. With limited qualifications and no professional training, finding a job for herself seemed impossible.

Through her children’s school, Meghna discovered The Desai Foundation’s Beauty Parlour training course. She seized the opportunity to join the class and hone her skills. After a period of study and determination, she transformed a corner of her home into her own beauty salon!
The Asani Sanitary Napkin Program was developed by women for women. In addition to offering Menstrual Hygiene Management awareness activities, the program hires and trains women to manufacture and distribute retail-quality, low-cost sanitary napkins throughout their communities. Asani pads are gentle on the skin with high absorbency and 85% biodegradable by weight.

We believe that every woman deserves to manage her menstrual cycle with comfort and dignity. We strive to provide comprehensive information on various menstrual management materials. We educate women on the proper usage and disposal of these materials, emphasizing the importance of maintaining hygiene during menstruation. Our approach extends beyond individual women; we aim to engage women of all generations through awareness campaigns and fostering open discussions about menstruation within their households and across all genders.

Today, The Desai Foundation operates five Asani production machines in three states in India. It is one of our most all-encompassing initiatives and we are very excited to expand it, making waves in social and health reform in the greater region.

The Asani Sanitary Napkin Program has received funding support from PNB Housing Finance, Nandanson’s, This is L, The Pad Project, Svatantra Micro Housing Finance Corporation Limited and Akamai Technologies.
Asani Sanitary Napkin Program

**ASANI UNIT EXPANSION**

We are proud to announce that our fourth Asani production unit opened in Lucknow this year! Thank you so much to our incredible partners at the Pehel Foundation, a social initiative by PNB Housing Finance for their incredible support to make this happen. Nearly 125 women from the rural communities surrounding the area attended the inaugural event, and were excited to become a part of this initiative. Desai Foundation president Megha Desai was also present at the event. “We have already established such units in Gujarat and Maharashtra, and this is our first in Northern India. We hope to expand further as the awareness permeates through to more women, and a demand for their menstrual rights grows in magnitude,” she said.

We are honored to be able to reach 100 villages in the region, further advancing our goal to provide women with the means to pursue their education and other livelihood opportunities.

**2022-2023 IMPACT**

Our Asani Sanitary Products have spread across the country through distribution, emergency relief efforts, and bulk sales. Below are highlights from Fiscal Year 2023!

- **1.6M** Asani Sanitary Napkins Produced
- **172K** Sanitary Napkins Distributed Free of Cost
  (5.6 Million distributed to date)
- **220K** Benefited from Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Sessions
- **7,300+** Menstrual Health & Hygiene Awareness Events Held
- **1,000+** Women Earning Income from Asani Distribution & Production
Asani Sanitary Napkin Program Boosts Jyotsanaben’s Confidence and Self-Reliance

Jyotsanaben’s husband lost his job during COVID, leaving her and her family with no source of income. Her family members also became infected with COVID and they lacked the funds for treatment at the time. Though they thankfully recovered, her family was still facing a financial crisis. Jyotsanaben then became aware of the Asani program. She joined as a Sangini selling and distributing Asani pads. Through this initiative, she gained confidence and started selling other things such as soap, clothes, and other seasonal things along with the pads. Because of this program, she feels so proud for becoming self-reliant. The people in her village also started to respect and appreciate her efforts. Before joining Asani, she had never used a smartphone and now she has been able to buy herself a smartphone, learn to use it, as well as pass the skills along to her children!
2022-2023 IMPACT

NEARLY
3M LIVES IMPACTED DIRECTLY

MORE THAN
1.6M SANITARY NAPKINS PRODUCED

220K REACHED WITH MHM AWARENESS (MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT)

12K IMPACTED FROM HELP DESKS

5K+ CHILDREN ATTENDED SUMMER CAMPS

1K+ WOMEN EARNING INCOME THROUGH ASANI
Fun-Filled Summer Camps Equip Students with Lifelong Skills

In Nanded, a total of 1740 students from the ages 5 to 16 attended a free summer camp arranged by The Desai Foundation Trust. The programming is intended to enhance the students’ leadership skills, decision making skills, interpersonal skills, and exposure. In addition, the camps were designed to cultivate awareness of hygiene and health.

To provide the best activities possible for the students, parents and school staff volunteered alongside camp staff to conduct daily review meetings. Throughout the camps’ seven days, students took part in drawing, speech competitions, essay writing, cycling and more. The hope was that through dipping their toes in a variety of subjects, the children would be guided to discover their own talents.

By the end of the camp, school teachers, parents, and non-teaching staff praised the program. Many parents asked for more events like this and assured their support for future ones!
In order to provide free, high quality health services to the rural communities we serve, The Desai Foundation Trust regularly organizes health camps for residents of various districts. In the Parbhani district of Maharashtra, a one-day General Health Checkup and Awareness Camp was able to reach 185 people from nearby villages. A range of services were offered by the doctor, including routine medical check ups, hemoglobin tests, blood pressure check ups, and medicine distribution. These services help folks get attention at the right time, and understand small health problems before they become serious.
Livelihood

4K+
Students taught to use a computer

5K+
Children attended summer camps

10K
Women received vocational training
MEASURING IMPACT

At The Desai Foundation, our evaluation of impact is defined by two verticals: One that is quantitative and one that is qualitative, ensuring that our programs are having the intended outcomes for the communities we serve.

1. The Desai Foundation collects robust qualitative data to evaluate and monitor our programing. Our large team on the ground is constantly taking assessments and collecting data, which then trickles to the top of the organization to be evaluated and considered for our programs and broader development.

2. We also believe in looking beyond the numbers: Cultivating Dignity. What does Cultivating Dignity mean to us? The Desai Foundation leverages both our qualitative and quantitative data to guide and evaluate our programming. If you spend time in these communities, we will hear stories that capture far more than simply a sewing program, or a health camp. You hear stories of women and children transforming their self worth, their mental health, their community connections and their ability to dream beyond their circumstances.

In some of our exit interviews we will hear “I made a friend” was more important than “I learned a skill.” We listen very closely to the people we serve.

We also know that when you make an investment with us, you want to know that your money is being put to work. So we work hard to share both qualitative and quantitative data to measure impact.

At The Desai Foundation, we are not only motivated by numbers, but by cultivating dignity and community.
In accordance with Indian law, The Desai Foundation Trust was established in 2014. All money raised in India is directed to The Desai Foundation Trust. To be as transparent as possible, we will disclose financials of both The Desai Foundation (US 501(c)3) and The Desai Foundation Trust together to present a full picture.

EVERY DOLLAR raised for The Desai Foundation from individuals will go directly to the work on the ground. Our overhead is covered by the initial endowment, Board of Directors, and corporate donors. We work hard to ensure maximum value for every dollar you generously trust with us.

**Total Operational Expenses: India & U.S.**

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<th>Year</th>
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**Budget Allocation**

- Health: 15%
- Livelihood: 39%
- Education: 3%
- Outreach: 4%
- Fundraising/Marketing: 13%
- Management/Operations: 22%

**A Full Picture**

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Matching Foundations Desai Foundation Trust (India) Individuals In Kind Corporate Matching

TOTAL FUNDRAISING REVENUE: $1,081,392.87
Our Supporters

This fiscal year, we are supported by:

- 471 individuals
- 31 corporations
- 21 foundations

Total: 523

Since going public in 2014, 7,700+ donors have supported Desai Foundation programs.
Our Model Amplifies Your Contribution

At The Desai Foundation, we are very proud of having created an infrastructure that allows each dollar donated to not only go directly to the work on the ground, but also to multiply its impact. Many other organizations have to pay for infrastructure, supplies, and volunteers — we’ve created local buy-in to reduce those costs so your dollar goes further.

Over the last year, The Desai Foundation has been able to inspire a value of nearly $6MM of in-kind donations, free shipping, hours of volunteer service, free space to conduct our programs and more. This value generation, on top of your donation, is what helps us accomplish all we do!

TURNING A $1 DONATION INTO $7 OF WORKING CAPITAL

- The founding family matches your donation.
- We leverage existing hospitals, buildings, schools, that don’t charge us to host our programming.
- Our model promotes co-financing from local partners to ensure local buy-in & fundraising ensuring the sustainability of the program.
- In-kind donations of books, supplies, etc. allows us to focus on our funding services and empowerment.
- We inspire students, local leaders and volunteers to donate their time and expertise to our programming allowing us to do more with every dollar raised. Our human capital is one of the most valuable resources we have.

$1
$1
$1
$2
$1
$1
$7

DISCLAIMER: This is an estimate based on a sample of 2017 donations. These amplifications don’t apply to every program donation.
2023 Grants

We are honored to have our work validated by so many prominent organizations around the world and to have been awarded substantial grants in 2023 from these fine entities.

S.P. Hinduja Banque Privée
Guru Krupa Foundation
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chennai
Nandonsons

The Pad Project
PNB Housing Finance LTD
Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals LTD
2023 Platinum Donors

In FY 2023, we were grateful to have generous support from more than 523 individual, corporate, and foundational donors, who, together with matching grants from the founding family, brought our donations to more than $1 million. Below we list Platinum Donors who gave $5,000 or more in this fiscal year. Thank you so much to these incredible people, companies, and organizations!

Mir Arif, Blue Cloud Ventures
Neil Aronson
Akamai Technologies
The Bachelder Group, Morgan Stanley
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.
Richard and Rose Byrne
Mitesh & Minesh Patel
Mukesh & Priti Chatter, Chatter Foundation
Erin Cox
Ankit Gupta, Nandansons Charitable Foundation
Guru Krupa Foundation
Nish & Jacinta Nistala
Gaugarin & Madavi Oliver
Jignesh Pachani
Kay Cannon
Jay Patel
Ranavat, Michelle Ranavat
Amar & Deepika Sawhney, Sawhney Family Foundation
Romit & Tanya Shah
Yash & Jigna Shah Family Foundation
Raj Sharma, Merrill Lynch
Reza Zanjani

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2023 Donors

We are grateful to all of our donors - whether you donated $5 for a Pledge Your Period Campaign, donated to the Asani Program, or attended an event to support our programming. We would like to highlight donors who gave between $300 and $4,999 this year. Thank you!

Monisha Agrawal
Sethi Akash
Parag Amin
Michael & Mary Barbara
Alexander
Sheila Ash
Barry & Sarita Ashar
Jessica Ataharul
Kay Cannon
Ramakrishnan & Anuradhu
Chitravu
Rita Bagai
Sumeet Bahl & Gayatri Patel
Amit and Sadhana Banerji
Richard Berenson
Shaan Bhargava
Satish & Sunama Bhat
Erwin Breu
Michelle Chakirekis, Manduka
Neeraj & Melanie Chandra, Neeraj
Chanandra Family Charitable Fund
Robert & Tsun Ming Chmielinski
Manjiri Chovatia
Payal Cudia
Tom Davidow
Carine Davila
Kathleen Dellarocco
Haren & Usha Desai
Himanshu Desai
Hiren & Kaushika Desai
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Vikas & Nitigna Desai
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Manish Israni
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Rahul Jain
Indu Javeri, Indu Foundation
Ori Zohar, Burlap and Barrel Inc.
Satish Jha & Mona Chopra
Monica Jindal & Shail Mehta
Sushma & Vivek Jindal
Tanya Joshi
Sindhya Valloppillil & Nikhil
Kalhatgi
Rakesh & Deval Kamdar
Geetha Kanakeswaran
Megan Kiefer
Apoo Koticha
Ajit Kothari
Jon Kozesky
Ruchira Kumar
Malay & Sanma Kundu
Sharyn Lewin, The Lewin Fund to Fight Women’s Cancers
Yun Ru Lu
Sonya Maknhi
Kuldeep Malkani
Romitha Mally
Rashmin Master
Susan McPherson
Hemant Mehta
Kaushal Mehta
Nitasha Mehta
Parag Mehta & Vaibhav Jain
Jim and Kristine Melvin
Surbhi Mittal
Ahmad Nadir
Ajit Naqral
Gopal Narsimhamurthy
Shirish Nimgaonkar & Allison
Paul Nederhood
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Karina O’Connell
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Maitri Patel
Manish Patel
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Rakesh Patel
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Anil & Hina Shah
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Meera Shah
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Mahesh Shroff
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Matthew Siegel
Wendy Siegel
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Philip Sisson
Kimberly Sisson
Ajay Suman
Rajeev Surati
Dominic Vingiano
Lauren Vingiano
Amandeep Virk
Sheila Wattamwar
Billie Whitehousee
Dinesh and Ketki Tanna
Surjit Tinaikar
Sengupta Trina
Vendy & Meenakshi
Venkataramani
Susan Whitehead
“As an entrepreneur, I am really inspired by the way they integrate entrepreneurship into their vocational programs. They really connect and understand how and why people take the classes they take. And frankly, as someone who makes investments you think about your return, and The Desai Foundation is an organization that I know our investment will produce results!”

— Mir Arif, Blue Cloud Ventures

“I love the way The Desai Foundation cares more about the outcomes of the people they serve than just the numbers and dots. As a donor to The Desai Foundation - I am really impressed with the way they show us a different way to look at impact results. Beyond the numbers.”

— Deepika Sawhney, Sawhney Family Foundation

“They say it takes a village to raise a child. But The Desai Foundation has raised villages.”

— Eshani Shah, Co-owner of S4 Inc.
Donor Highlights

“I am of the belief that women can do anything they put their minds to. The Desai Foundation empowers women in rural India to do just that and I am proud to be a part of their work.”
— Kay Cannon, Director, Screenwriter, Producer

“In hearing Megha talk about her work and the great work that DF does, it became very clear to me in moments that she is not only deeply passionate about the work being done but she and her organization do their work with a great integrity and with respect for the communities they work with. And the organization thinks logically and practically to create sustainable and long-term solutions for these communities.”
— Karam Hinduja, CEO of Hinduja Bank

“The Asani Sanitary Napkin Program is an amazing, amazing, example of how you can combine innovation along with working with local communities to create sustainable initiatives that provide employment to local people, create a product that is very much required, and also to leverage local resources to commercialize the product.”
— Vivek Sharma, Founder & CEO of InStride
The Desai Foundation Trust worked over the years in Tamil Nadu, a southern part of India. In 2022, The Desai Foundation Trust received an invitation from SCODWES, a community-based organization who has done exceptional work in the areas of Health and Livelihood. We took significant strides by partnering with SCODWES to extend our efforts to the rural villages of Karnataka. Our journey commenced in Uttar Kannada, followed by Haveri district. Through this collaborative endeavor, we are set to impact over 400 rural communities, positively influencing the lives of those communities through our programming on Health, Livelihood, and Menstrual Equity.

But the impact doesn’t stop there. Our program, Heroes for Humanity, has proven to be a cornerstone of our initiatives in this state. Currently, 40 dedicated Heroes are actively working here, creating awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management, Help Desks, and vital Banking and Savings Education programs.
Climate Change

Climate Change and its Impact on Rural Women & Children

We understand that climate change disproportionately affects women and children living in rural communities, the very communities we have served for decades. For years, the Desai Foundation has been working to uplift women disproportionately affected by climate change in a variety of ways. Our skilling programs have invited the farmers to reskill and provide opportunity. Our hygiene programs have allowed for better health outcomes in more severe climates. Our Menstrual health program is a climate program because people that don’t have access to running water can’t maintain healthy periods.

Through our diverse Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship, and Banking & Accounting programs, The Desai Foundation aims to uplift and empower women affected by climate change, enabling them to rebuild their lives, regain self-sufficiency, and pursue their dreams.

The Desai Foundation has been an organization involved in climate change from its origins by the very nature of focusing on rural women. Climate change is about rural women, and that is what we are focused on transformation.
Our annual fundraiser gala was held at the Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA on September 24th, 2022. We enjoyed inspirational words from our MC Nina Davuluri, former Miss America, had a live auction hosted by the incredible CK Swett, and enjoyed DJ Yogz’ music all night! This year was extra special to celebrate our 25 Years of Service with the community that helped us build from day one!

We were overjoyed to celebrate Diwali on the Hudson at HK Hall, New York City, on October 12th, 2022 with dancing, dining and fun! Diwali on the Hudson attracted celebrities and change-makers all at the top of their industry and field. We danced the night away to DJ Suhel’s beats and enjoyed a special performance from pop singer, Rhea Raj! We were even joined by SP Hinduja’s CEO Karam Hinduja! Thank you for making Diwali on the Hudson NYC premier Diwali event!
We are incredibly excited that we have hosted our Cocktails and Chaat in Mumbai and Miami this year! On January 16th, we held our first event of the year in Mumbai at Soho House, where we proudly showcased the Indian Premiere of our Heroes for Humanity film by Shruti Ganguly. May 16th marked our second Cocktails and Chaat of the year where we were able to eat, drink, and raise money with our community in Miami, thanks to Board Member Sindhya Valloppillil & Nikhil Kalghatgi, Swan Sit, Petra Dizdar, & Arturo Nunez! We hope to host many more — let us know if you want to come to your city!
Brand & Event Partners

Rampur Whiskey
Gordon’s Liquors
Aayka Fashion
Lingua Franca
Holi Chic
Ranavat
Live Tinted
Gilette Stadium
Desi Galli Indian Street
Food
Palak Patel
Hummingway
Modi Toys
Kendra Scott
Brown Girl Mag
Chai Mommas
DJ Suhel
1947 Premium Liquor
Marie Claire
Sunny Period
American Airlines
Period.
J’adore Andy Photography
Max Arellano Videography
Yip Fitness
Spicewell
Elements Truffles
Sheth Horsley Eye Center
South Asian Art Gallery
Nandansons
Sheroes
Brown Women’s Health
Preserve
Pledge Your Period 2023

This year the #PledgeYourPeriod Challenge asked everyone what they wish for the future of menstrual equity. We had a reach of over 37 Million people, over 350 people pledged, and we raised nearly $10,000! We also had an incredible panel featuring Kay Cannon, Dr. Charis Chambers, Kylar Broadus, and more to discuss global policy, US legislation, media representation, and the shame and stigmas associated with menstruation. All donations to the Pledge Your Period campaign directly go towards supporting our flagship Asani Sanitary Napkin Program.

A Panel on Menstrual Empowerment
May 8, 2023

#PledgeYourPeriod Challenge
Social Media Mentions

FEATURING:
Dr. Charis Chambers, Board Certified OBGYN, @theperioddoctor
Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, Author, Period Equity CoFounder
Megha Desai, Desai Foundation President
Kylar Broadus, Attorney and Activist
Kay Cannon, Writer and Director
Danielle Mcnally, Executive Editor at Marie Claire

POORNA JAGANNATHAN
PRODUCER & ACTRESS

HARNAAZ SANDHU
MODEL, ACTRESS, MISS UNIVERSE 2021

RICHA REHAN
PHYSIOTHERAPIST & COACH
Our partner SPS INDIA FOUNDATION sprang into action in reaching out to the welfare of the tribal and local communities of Tamil Nadu.

NYDHEE (NETWORK FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT) address the sufferings of the weaker sections through sustainable development. The organization was established with the conviction that everyone including the marginalized has the right to social justice and a dignified life.

PAHAL is majorly formed to bring positive change to the present scenarios. It consists of young social workforces who are determined towards Humanitarian, Gender, & Child focused development in under privileged sections of the society.

The vision of CENTRE FOR UNFOLDING LEARNING POTENTIALS (CULP) is ‘Towards a learning and democratic society’ and its mission is ‘to make learning unfold and develop in an environment of mutuality and discovery’.

YOUTH COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES (YCDA) established in the 1993 the inception organization devotes its time, skill, knowledge and commitment towards development of oppressed masses in the society with a group of experienced and trained social workers. Their vision is to create sustainable improvement in the socio-economic status and self-reliance of disadvantaged communities.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CCD) established in 1991-92 in Gajapati District of Odisha. CCD has a mission to enables to empower target community through capacity building encouraging their fullest participation, building up community-based organizations leading towards sustainable development, promoting effective natural resources, inclusion education, gender equity and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

SAHYADRI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SOCIETY (SCODWES) is a secular, non-profit and non-political organization registered in 2005 under the Societies Registration Act 1960, headquartered at Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district. Working for the betterment of the needy society by adopting the scientific package of practice in agriculture and allied activities.

SAFE SOCIETY was established in 2005 with a mandate to enhance and improve health, education and social development strata of marginalized and rural populations of Uttar Pradesh in India. Safe Society visualizes a society where substantial avenues are accessible to the poorest of the poor communities regardless of their social and economic origins, identifying them as visible inhabitants.

PRIYANSHI EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL & SOCIAL SOCIETY (PECSS) is a non-profit, non-government, and non-religious voluntary organization, came into existence in the year 2002 with its underlying objectives to reach up to the poorest of the poor person of the society standing last in the queue to facilitate accessibility of standard basic need of human being.
## Implementing Partners

**GRAM VIKAS Trust** is a robust organization that has been a reliable partner and ally in bringing effective programming to the Bharuch Region of Gujarat.

**UKA TARSADIA UNIVERSITY** is a Private University located in Bardoli, Surat, Gujarat, founded by Tushar and B.U. Patel to give back to the community.

**IIT GANDHINAGAR** is unique in its commitment to social service. We are proud to partner with programs that engage both students and staff in uplifting the surrounding rural communities.

**UKA TARSADIA UNIVERSITY**

**DIWALIBEN TRUST** is a new partner that allows us to experiment and collaborate. We rarely meet an organization with such aligned values and impressive execution.

**UNTDI VIBHAG KELAVNI MANDAL** has been our most trusted collaborator and partner. They have allowed us to experiment, develop and incubate our change making programming with the collaboration of not only the staff but the community, as well.

**SHREE YOGANAND SARASWATI EDUCATION & MEDICAL RELIEF TRUST** helped to build our first community center and bring our programming to the Talangpur district. We worked very closely with the entire leadership and community to ensure a fully sustainable and thriving community center.

**GRAM SEVA TRUST** has been a long standing partner that has created such trust in its community to deliver healthcare and hospital services to some of the most underserved of communities.

**ROTARY EYE INSTITUTE** has been regularly providing eye care services through free screening and surgical eye camps.

**SHUBHAMKAROTI FOUNDATION** is a non-profit organization in Maharashtra that implements health and livelihood projects to empower women and children.

In 2019, we partnered with **BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH** in the Tonk district, Rajasthan with an objective to expand its health and livelihood programs to empower women and children living in the rural areas of Rajasthan.

**RAJASTHAN GRAMEEN AAJEELIKA PARISHAD** is an autonomous society established in October 2010 by the Government of Rajasthan under the administrative control of Department of Rural Development.

**PURVANCHAL SEVA SANSTHAN** support and facilitate accessibility of basic health facilities and rural sanitation for poor and deprived communities of U.P.
Media

Desai Foundation raises more than $150,000 at Diwali On The Hudson event

India’s rural women are ‘bearing the brunt’ of climate shocks

Secretary Clinton concludes India trip to support Clinton Global Initiative commitments

The Times of India

CNBC

Hindustan Times

Forbes

Media

Desai Foundation Trust's Asani Sanitary Napkin Program & Heroes for Humanity Initiative!
Our Team

Samir Desai
Founder/CFO

Megha Desai
President

Mittal Gohil
Executive Director

Yati Desai
Regional Director

Manoj Panda
Director of Development

Divyesh Markana
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Colby Siegel
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Atul Singh
Program Manager

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Program Manager

Satyam Tiwari
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Rameshvari Mahla
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Field Officer

Shital Patel
Field Officer

Supriya Sharma
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Payal Prajapati
Program Coordinator

Megha Chouhan
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Area Coordinator

Shanti Pal
Area Coordinator

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Sneha Gawai
Program Executive

Monika Singh
Program Executive

Ganesh Raja
Program Executive

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Project Coordinator
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Kim Shah
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Leader in Education

Kara Gustafson
Economic Impact Specialist

Eshani Shah
Co-Owner S4, Inc.

Rakesh Kamdar
Founder of DB Healthcare, Inc.

Vikas Desai
Medical Intervention Specialist
Ways to Give

Send a check to:
The Desai Foundation
300 Tradecenter Dr., Suite 3450
Woburn, MA 01801

Scan to donate:

Or visit:
thedesaifoundation.org/donate-now
Your Support Empowers Women & Girls to #DreamBeyond

Do you want to support women and girls in rural India to dream beyond their circumstances? Check out the many ways you can join us in this mission!

MAKE A DONATION

DONATE ON OUR WEBSITE
To get started, visit www.thedesaifoundation.org/donate-now

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS
If your company has a matching gift program, apply for a matching gift and increase your impact!

CORPORATE PROGRAMS
If your company has a CSI program, introduce them to our work and encourage them to make a gift.

DONATE PRODUCTS
A lot of our work requires equipment and goods that you may be able to provide (books, computers, etc).

DONATE CRYPTO
Donating cryptocurrency is a non-taxable event, meaning you can deduct it on your taxes.
TAKE ACTION

ATTEND AN EVENT
Enjoy yourself while also supporting a good cause by attending an event hosted by The Desai Foundation.

PLEDGE YOUR PERIOD
Join the campaign on social media during Menstrual Hygiene Month next May!

HOST A COCKTAILS & CHAAT PARTY
We provide the toolkit!

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY
Creating a birthday campaign is a piece of cake. We’ll walk you through the steps!

VOLUNTEER
Contribute time, ideas and energy to our causes. You might even get school credit!

INTERN
Enhance your skills and knowledge with an internship while also contributing to a greater cause.
SHOP WITH OUR PARTNERS

BRAND PARTNERS
A portion of your purchases from Ranavat, Heritage Supply Co., Spicewell, and Floyd Cardoz Legacy Masalas, produced in partnership with Burlap & Barrel Single Origin Spices, will be donated to The Desai Foundation.

‘BLOODY FABULOUS’ SWEATER
Buy a ‘Bloody Fabulous’ sweater from Lingua Franca and $100 from each sweater will be donated to The Desai Foundation!
JOIN US!
EMAIL: INFO@THEDESAIFOUNDATION.ORG
WWW.THEDESAIFOUNDATION.ORG