

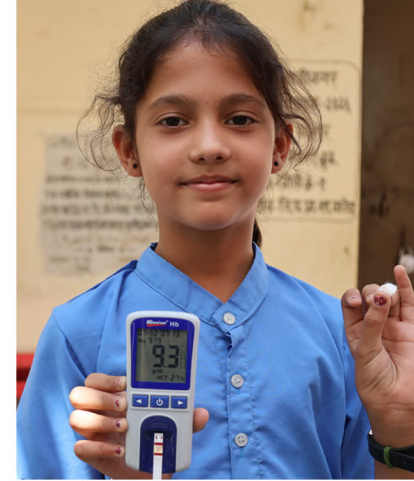


ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

WE CULTIVATE DIGNITY
TO DREAM BEYOND!

28 YEARS

OF SERVICE TO
COMMUNITIES



13 MILLION LIVES IMPACTED



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Bal Health Mela organized at Shantaben Vidhyabhavan, Untdi, Gujarat

This report reflects the Desai Foundation's U.S. fiscal year (FY) 2026, covering July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with all impact numbers, financials, and activities reported in accordance with this fiscal year.



Anemia Screening & Awareness Session Held at a Rural School in Odisha



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we mark **28 years** of steadfast service, **I reflect not just on how far we've come, but how much farther we can go** because of our incredible investors, supporters, partners, and donors, because of YOU.

Something remarkable happened this year. **India's Supreme Court affirmed that access to menstrual health and hygiene falls within the right to dignity and life guaranteed under Article 21.** An issue that has driven the Desai Foundation since our earliest days, ensuring no girl is held back by something as basic and solvable as menstrual health, is now the law of the land. **There is no greater affirmation of a mission than watching it become policy.** This fight was never small or fringe. It was always foundational.

Now our work shifts from proving what's possible to ensuring what's required is realized in every school, every state, for every girl. **It is a bigger, bolder mandate for all of us.**

Our transformational vocational programs continue to change lives. Women who walked into our centers unsure of their own voice walked out running small businesses, training others, and standing taller in their communities. **We don't just teach skills. We watch women discover they were always capable of more and stand beside them as they claim it.** It is bold and patient work, ambitious in vision and disciplined in execution.

Every one of you who has given, advocated, opened a door, or believed in what we were building is woven into this story. The road ahead, from pan-India implementation to deeper investment in women's economic power, requires all of us.

We do not take your investment lightly. **Every dollar entrusted to the Desai Foundation is stretched further thanks to partners who contribute significant in-kind support.** We remain careful, transparent stewards of that trust because your confidence is the foundation everything else is built on.

This is the moment. Legal and cultural momentum rarely arrive together. What we invest in now will shape what gets built for the next generation. I have never felt more certain we are standing at an inflection point, or more grateful that you are standing here with us.

Thank you for believing in what's possible before it was proven, for staying with us as the proof arrived, and for what comes next.

With gratitude and ambition,

MEGHA DESAI

PRESIDENT, DESAI FOUNDATION

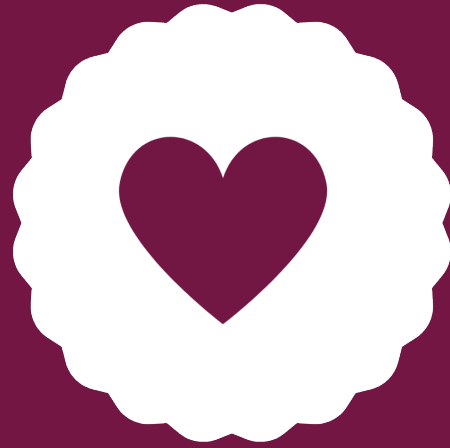

VISION
ON WHEELS



Bringing Sight to Every Mile



Vision on Wheels Eye Check-Up Camp Organized at a Rural School in Odisha



**CELEBRATING
13 MILLION
LIVES IMPACTED!**

OUR MISSION

WE EMPOWER WOMEN
AND CHILDREN
THROUGH COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS TO ELEVATE
HEALTH, LIVELIHOOD, &
MENSTRUAL EQUITY IN
RURAL INDIA.

OUR MODEL

Our goal is to empower
the lives of women &
cultivate dignity.





Anemia Screening Conducted for Students at a School in Aurangabad

OUR STORY

For **28 years**, the Desai Foundation has worked **to empower women and children** through programs focused on **health, livelihood, and menstrual equity**. We believe **lasting change happens when communities lead the solutions, with dignity at the center of everything we do**.

Founded by Samir and Nilima Desai, the Desai Foundation began with a commitment to serving communities in Gujarat, New York, and Greater Boston. Our work in India started with just a few programs in the state of Gujarat.

As our work grew, so did our vision. In 2014, we transitioned from a small family foundation into a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with the Desai Foundation Trust (DFT) established soon after as our dedicated nonprofit entity in India. This evolution allowed us to build and scale sustainable, community-led programs that reach more people and communities.

Today, the Desai Foundation reaches more than 4,000 villages across eight states, impacting millions of lives.



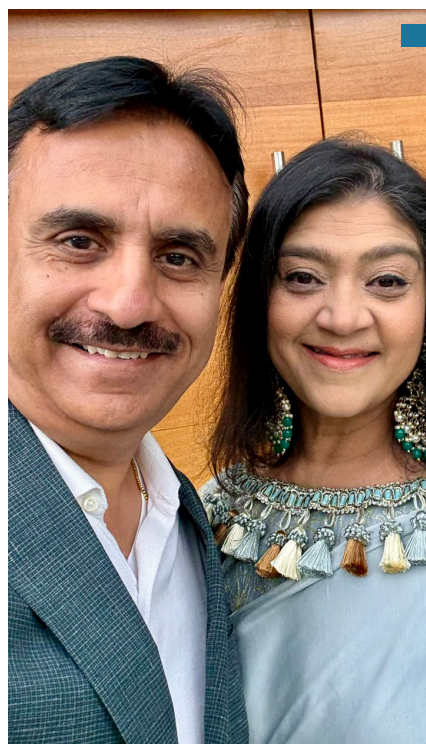
THE COMMUNITY OF CHANGEMAKERS



“

Since my early days on the board, I have watched this organization grow and scale year after year, and the impact is real. The commitment to women and girls in India is inspiring, and the model and leadership behind it are strong. What makes it special is that we are not only doing the work in India, we are building community and culture right here in Boston too.

- Santhana & Namita Krishnan



“

We joined the Desai Foundation in its early days, drawn in by the innovative model and the entrepreneurial spirit of the team. We have watched the community grow year after year, and through Jeavio we are proud to support STEM labs and health camps for children as a CSR partner. We have seen exactly how every dollar turns into impact, and we could not be more proud to be part of it.

- Yash & Jigna Shah



“

We believe in what the Desai Foundation is building, not just the mission, but the community behind it. Over the years, we've seen firsthand how this organization shows up for women and children in India, and how every effort turns into real impact. We're proud to call ourselves champions of this work, and even prouder to be part of the Lotus Festival Host Committee this year.

- Gira & Aaron Wieczorek



“

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.

- Amar & Deepika Sawhney



“

We support the Desai Foundation because it combines innovation with community-led solutions to create lasting change. The impact is real, measurable, and most importantly, driven by the people it serves.

- Nish & Sheetal Acharya



“

It's humbling to see how support translates into real change in the lives of women across India. From the Asani program to the focus on upskilling and health, the Desai Foundation ensures every contribution goes directly toward improving lives, and it's been an inspiration to watch that impact grow.

- Zenobia Mochhala



“

The Desai Foundation's commitment to empowering women, educating children, and improving healthcare is creating meaningful change in communities that need it most. It is an honor and privilege for us to support this important work.

- Suki Kim and Mir Arif

OUR FOCUS

We are committed to advancing health, livelihoods, and menstrual equity. We focus particularly on underserved communities, empowering women and children as powerful agents of social change. 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

The lack of access to hospitals and qualified medical professionals creates mounting challenges for rural communities. Our comprehensive approach bridges this access gap & elevates community health & reduces preventable issues, fostering healthier, more resilient communities. Recognizing health as a fundamental right, we partner with nonprofits, universities, hospitals, & community centers to provide free screenings and education to those lacking access to care.



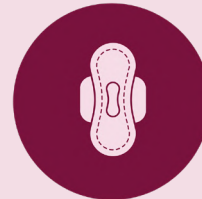
LIVELIHOOD

We view livelihood as the chance to live a fulfilling life by generating a meaningful income that can support the pursuit of diverse opportunities. By partnering with grassroots organizations, we offer youth mentorship, personality development camps, entrepreneurship workshops, & vocational training, including sewing, beauty courses, computer literacy, & financial education. Our programs empower individuals with useful skills & entrepreneurial resources and mindset, thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods & economic growth.



MENSTRUAL EQUITY

We focus on menstrual equity because everyone deserves equal opportunities to access meaningful education, economic empowerment, and health, regardless of gender. In rural India, rampant menstrual stigma & lack of hygiene facilities disrupts educational & livelihood pursuits. The Desai Foundation works to break this cycle, empowering women and girls with the resources and accurate information needed for having a safe and dignified period and to lead a life free from period poverty.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

We empower rural women and the children and families they support to lead India's green transition through bold, community-centered investments in climate resilience. In the face of droughts, shifting weather, & threats to traditional livelihoods, our programs equip women with the skills, tools, & confidence to adapt and thrive. Through WASH, healthcare, renewable energy, & sustainable agriculture initiatives, rural women become champions of change, protecting the wellbeing of their families and serving as clean energy advocates and leaders in their communities.





Students from Shantaben Vidyabhavan School, Untdi

EMPOWERING WOMEN AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE



CHILDHOOD

We lay the foundation for a lifetime of wellness with health & hygiene education, as well as pediatric check-ups. Our Bal Health Mela turns learning about health into a fun and joyful experience, ensuring she grows up strong and well-informed.



YOUNG ADULthood

We're there to boost her dignity and confidence as she steps into young adulthood. Through creative learning and vocational & computer training, we're nurturing entrepreneurs ready to conquer the world.



TEEN YEARS

We stand by her as she learns about menstruation, breaking taboos and ensuring her education continues uninterrupted. Access to pads and Menstrual Hygiene Awareness don't just keep her in school, they keep her dreams alive and thriving. Your support writes her story of uninterrupted success.



MOTHERHOOD

As she embarks on the journey of motherhood, we ensure a safe path with our Maternal Health and Gynec Camps. Her strength gives life, and our programs give her strength.



NEXT GENERATION

As she raises the next generation, the ripple effect of her empowerment is timeless. Through education, stigma-breaking initiatives, and community development, our commitment to change continues across generations. Our work today plants the seeds for a healthier, more empowered world tomorrow.



ADULTHOOD

Adulthood brings new challenges, but also opportunities. Career development, financial skills, and entrepreneurship are tools we give her to forge a future where she's the architect of her own prosperity.

LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL CONNECTION



ALIGNMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

At The Desai Foundation, we believe that local community development drives global advancement. Our mission strategically aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 2026 SDG Index Report.

India's performance on key SDGs directly informs our programming priorities, particularly in areas where the country faces significant challenges and opportunities for improvement. India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals has accelerated over the past five years, with the national index score rising. Our work is closely aligned with areas of national priority, directly addressing SDG 5 (Gender Equality), with women's leadership and economic empowerment programs being critical interventions. We directly contribute to decarbonization and net zero goals under SDG 13 (Climate Action), demonstrating the kind of progress our renewable energy training helps accelerate. Our employment rate supports SDG 1 (No Poverty), contributing to India's moonshot goal to end hunger in all its forms. Additionally, our WASH programs target SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) infrastructure gaps that continue to challenge rural communities, while our maternal and menstrual health interventions address SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) disparities in rural areas. By grounding our work in evidence-based SDG assessments, we ensure maximum impact on nationally prioritized development challenges.

COMMITMENT TO INDIAN NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Our programs strategically support India's flagship government schemes and development priorities, ensuring that grassroots interventions contribute directly to national development objectives. We align our work with groundbreaking socioeconomic initiatives, including **Make in India**, by training women in solar panel installation and maintenance, thereby building domestic capacity in emerging green industries. Through the **Udyogini Scheme**, we support women entrepreneurs in establishing renewable energy businesses and sustainable agriculture enterprises, creating pathways for economic independence and leadership.

Our integration with **Digital Bharat** ensures that rural women can participate in India's digital economy by combining digital literacy with technical skills training. We contribute to the **National Solar Mission** by building grassroots capacity for renewable energy adoption through community-based training programs, while supporting the **Skill India Initiative's** goal of training 400 million people through our specialized green skills programs. This strategic alignment ensures our community-level interventions create sustainable pathways for rural women's economic advancement while directly contributing to national development goals.



COMMUNITIES AS AGENT OF CHANGE

We believe that true sustainable development occurs when communities drive their own transformation. By recognizing women's demonstrated capabilities and leveraging local expertise in climate adaptation, geography, and community dynamics, we ensure interventions are culturally appropriate and community-owned. Our model builds local leadership capacity, enabling program participants to become change agents who multiply impact across entire villages and establish sustainable pathways out of poverty.

ADDRESSING INTERCONNECTED CLIMATE AND GENDER CHALLENGES

Climate change and gender inequality are deeply interconnected in rural India where we work, as emphasized in current SDG assessments. The 2026 SDG Index Report highlights that India requires accelerated efforts in Gender Equality while maintaining momentum in Climate Action. Extreme weather events disproportionately impact women's health, safety, and economic opportunities, while fossil fuel dependence creates additional burdens through indoor air pollution and limited livelihood alternatives.



Community members from Kheri Milak village, Rajasthan



METHODOLOGY

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 regions for the most effective and powerful impact.

As we conduct mixed methods needs assessments in communities using surveys, focus groups, and interviews, we keep an eye out for unmet needs that need to be prioritized. These needs assessments are supplemented with our own research into regional obstacles to development, existing government and NGO interventions, and gaps in their programming. This approach enables us to incubate programming that is representative of a community's current unmet needs, and aspirations. We then test out the programming in the form of pilot runs, often with the support of grant partners, grassroots partners, and external experts in impact evaluation.

After completing the incubation stage, we rapidly scale the programming based on the results from our impact evaluation procedures. This allows us to pivot and alter the programming based on the feedback we receive before larger scale rollouts. For us, scale isn't always about increasing the sheer number of people we serve, but about enhancing the quality and end-to-end delivery of that service and having a comprehensive exit strategy in place that will nurture community ownership and sustained impact regardless of our presence.

Over the last 28 years in rural India, we have developed over 30+ programs with comprehensive MVPs in place. These programs span areas such as health, livelihood, menstrual equity, and most recently, climate resilience.

Now is the time for us to exponentially scale our incubated, piloted, and tailored programs so as to magnify our transformative impact along verticals such as health, livelihood, and menstrual equity. Our growth over the last several years is due to a 3-step process:



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.



OUR NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

RAJASTHAN



Jaipur
Dausa
Tonk

UTTAR PRADESH



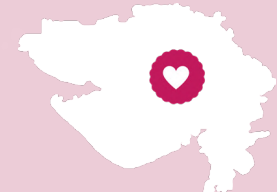
Lucknow
Gorakhpur
Deoria

MADHYA PRADESH



Dhar
Barwani
Bhopal
Narmadapuram

GUJARAT



Navsari
Dang
Tapi
Valsad
Bharuch
Surat
Vadodara
Gandhinagar
Mahesana

MAHARASHTRA



Hingoli
Nanded
Sambhajinagar

ODISHA



Rayagada
Boudh
Balangir
Gajapati

KARNATAKA



Uttar Kannada
Haveri

TAMIL NADU



Salem
Virudhunagar

- ♥ HEAD OFFICE
- HEALTH
- LIVELIHOOD
- MENSTRUAL EQUITY
- EDUCATION
- CLIMATE RESILIENCE

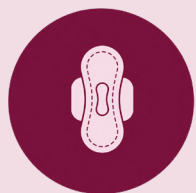
A participant of the Beautician Skill Training Program with her daughter

THE NUMBERS BEHIND OUR IMPACT

(SINCE INCEPTION)



13 MILLION+
LIVES IMPACTED



15 MILLION+
ASANI SANITARY
NAPKINS PRODUCED



4,000+
COMMUNITIES
SERVED



6,121
PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR
FUNDRAISERS



8
STATES REACHED



1.6 MILLION+
IMPACTED WITH MHM
AWARENESS TILL DATE

ASANI SANITARY NAPKIN PROGRAM

HER HANDS CREATE MORE THAN SANITARY PADS, THEY CREATE CHANGE



I CHOSE THIS PROFESSION BECAUSE, GROWING UP, I HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO ABOUT PERIODS. I DON'T WANT MY DAUGHTERS AND THE GIRLS IN MY COMMUNITY TO FACE THE SAME SILENCE.

Kajalben Patel from Untdi village lives with her husband and two daughters. After leaving a job at a papad factory due to long working hours that kept her away from her family, she found a new opportunity through the Desai Foundation's Asani Sanitary Napkin Program. Joining the production unit allowed Kajalben to earn a livelihood while staying close to home. She learned production, packaging, and quality control, gaining valuable skills and confidence. More importantly, the program transformed her own understanding of menstrual hygiene. Having previously relied on cloth during menstruation, she now uses sanitary pads and understands the importance of safe menstrual practices. Today, Kajalben serves as a Sangini, educating women and adolescent girls about menstrual hygiene and encouraging them to switch from cloth to sanitary pads. Women in her village now approach her comfortably for guidance and access to Asani sanitary pads. Through the Asani Program, Kajalben has gained more than a livelihood, she has found confidence, purpose, and a respected role as a champion for menstrual health in her community.

15M+

ASANI SANITARY
NAPKINS
PRODUCED

1M+

ASANI SANITARY
NAPKINS DISTRIBUTED
FOR FREE



ASANI SANITARY NAPKIN PROGRAM

1.6M+
IMPACTED BY
MHM
AWARENESS

930
WOMEN
GAINED
LIVELIHOOD
OPPORTUNITY

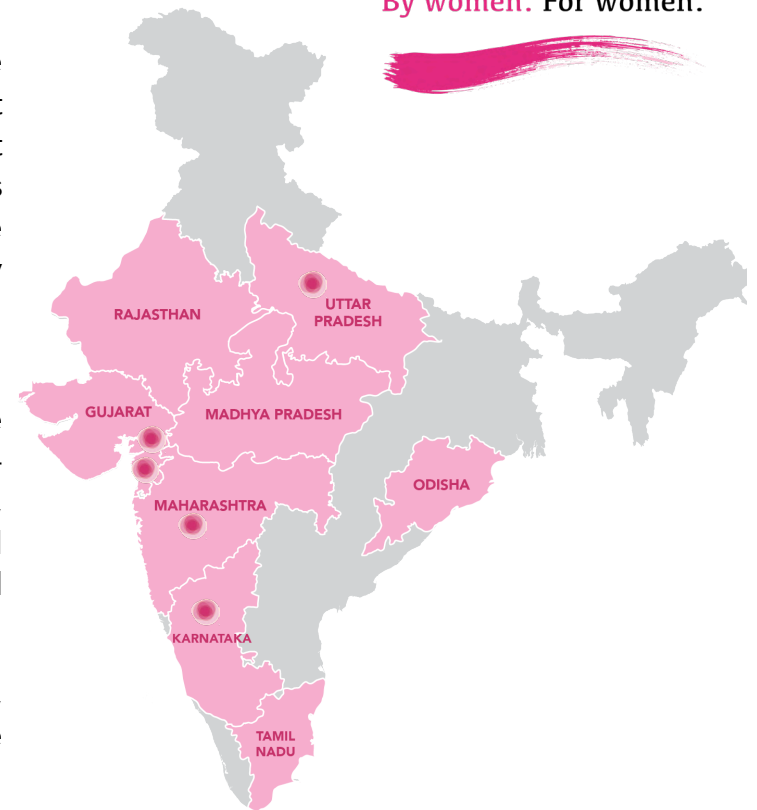


Menstrual health is a significant yet often overlooked aspect of public health which directly impacts women's participation in the workforce and overall economic productivity. In many regions, inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products and education leads to absenteeism in schools and workplaces, hindering women's ability to engage fully in economic activities. When women cannot manage their menstrual health responsibly due to lack of resources or stigmatization, it creates a ripple effect that contributes to lost economic output. Estimates suggest that menstrual-related absenteeism costs the global economy billions of dollars each year, a staggering figure that underscores the importance of addressing this issue not only as a health priority but as an economic imperative.

Our model, the Asani Sanitary Napkin Program, focuses on market-based solutions that promote menstrual health while stimulating economic growth. By investing in affordable, high-quality menstrual hygiene products and educational programs, we empower women and girls, enabling them to remain in school and fully participate in the workforce by ensuring accessibility and availability of menstrual products to them.

These solutions foster a thriving market that drives innovation, creates jobs, and generates revenues, all of which contribute significantly to GDP growth. By addressing menstrual health through a market lens, we not only improve individual lives but also unlock the full economic potential of female populations.

Asani[®]
By women. For women.



ASANI SANITARY PRODUCTION UNIT



Women from Rural Odisha Participating in Menstrual Hygiene Management Awareness Session

**THE SUPREME
COURT
JUDGEMENT:**

**MENSTRUAL
HYGIENE IS A
FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHT UNDER
ARTICLE 21**



For 15 years, the Desai Foundation has treated menstrual hygiene as a matter of dignity, not convenience. On January 30, 2026, the Supreme Court of India agreed, ruling that menstrual hygiene management is part of the Right to Life and Dignity under Article 21.

WHAT EVERY SCHOOL MUST NOW ENSURE



Free Sanitary Pads

Every girl student receives free oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins at school.



Functional & Separate Toilets

Gender-segregated toilets with running water, privacy, soap, & accessibility.



MHM Corners

A dedicated space stocked with pads, spare uniforms, disposable bags, and health info.



Menstrual Health Education

Age-appropriate health content in the curriculum, with trained and sensitized teachers.



Safe Disposal Systems

Covered waste bins in every toilet and environmentally compliant disposal.



Inclusive Access

Ensuring every girl has equal access to menstrual hygiene resources and education.

Through our Asani Sanitary Napkin Program, active for the past fifteen years, the Desai Foundation has built the exact infrastructure this ruling now demands: locally produced pads made by women for women, school-based Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) programs, teacher training, community awareness, and systems for monitoring and accountability.

Today, we are actively partnering with schools across the country to help them meet the Supreme Court's new mandate. From setting up MHM corners and distributing free pads, to training teachers and running awareness sessions, we are on the ground, making compliance a reality.

Bring Article 21 to a School you are connected with

Help us bring menstrual health and hygiene education to a school in your community.

If you're connected to a school that could benefit, we'd love to hear from you.

Connect with us: colby@thedesafoundation.org

STORIES OF IMPACT



USING CLOTH DURING MY PERIODS LED TO REPEATED INFECTIONS. I DON'T WANT ANY WOMAN OR GIRL TO GO THROUGH WHAT I DID. THAT'S WHY I BECAME A SANGINI, TO ENSURE WOMEN IN MY VILLAGE HAVE ACCESS TO SANITARY PADS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TO MANAGE MENSTRUATION WITH DIGNITY.

Madhuri, a farmer from a conservative village in Lucknow, attended a menstrual hygiene program and learned about the myths and stigmas around menstruation. Inspired to make a difference, she opened a shop in her home to provide sanitary pads, helping to break taboos and improve women's health in her community.



MADHURI
SANGINI, FROM LUCKNOW



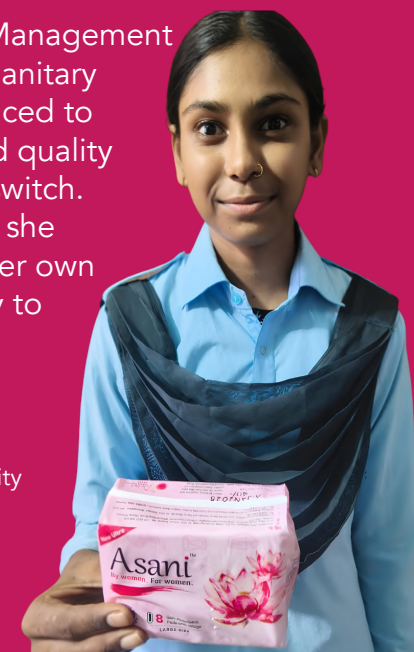
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT DURING MY PERIODS. TODAY, I CHOOSE ASANI NOT JUST FOR MYSELF, BUT I ALSO ENCOURAGE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO USE IT SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THE SAME COMFORT AND CARE.

At just 15 years old, Kumkum from Jhilai, has become an advocate for better menstrual hygiene in her community. A Class 10 student, Kumkum initially relied on cloth during periods but often experienced irritation and discomfort, making it difficult to manage her periods confidently.

After attending a Menstrual Hygiene Management awareness session through the Asani Sanitary Napkin Program, Kumkum was introduced to Asani pads. The improved comfort and quality gave her the confidence to make the switch. Even after the free distribution ended, she continued purchasing Asani pads on her own and encouraged her friends and family to do the same.

KUMKUM*

* The name has been changed to protect the identity and privacy of the beneficiary.





Menstrual Hygiene Management Awareness Session at the Bal Health Mela, Saidapur, Lucknow

HEALTH & PREVENTATIVE CARE

A YOUNG GIRL'S JOURNEY TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH



I NEVER KNEW I WAS ANEMIC UNTIL THE CAMP. TODAY, I FEEL HEALTHIER AND MORE CONFIDENT, AND I MAKE SURE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS ALSO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING CARE OF THEIR HEALTH.

Aaro^{*}hi, a student from a village in Aurangabad, often felt weak, tired, and struggled to concentrate in school. She assumed it was normal until the Desai Foundation conducted an Anemia Testing and Awareness Camp at her school.

For the first time, Aaro^{*}hi learned about anemia and decided to get tested. Her hemoglobin level was 9.3 g/dL (normal range: 12.0–15.5 g/dL), confirming that she was anemic. She received counseling, medication, and guidance on improving her diet with iron-rich foods.

Today, after following the prescribed treatment, Aaro^{*}hi feels healthier, more energetic, and is able to focus better in class. She now shares what she has learned with her family, encouraging them to eat nutritious food and prioritize their health.

Aaro^{*}hi's story is a reminder that when a girl is empowered with knowledge, the impact extends far beyond her own life.

*The name has been changed to protect the identity and privacy of the beneficiary.

134K

CHILDREN
REACHED BY
BAL HEALTH MELA

87K

PEOPLE
REACHED BY
GENERAL HEALTH
CAMPS

1.6M+

REACHED BY
MHH AWARENESS



691K

REACHED BY
ANEMIA
SCREENING

399K

CHILDREN
REACHED BY
PRIMARY HEALTH &
HYGIENE CLASSES

81K

PROVIDED WITH
VISION CARE



Women Participating in Mega Health Checkup & Awareness Camp in Pataudi Village, Aurangabad

HEALTH & PREVENTATIVE CARE

Access to quality healthcare remains one of the greatest challenges for millions living in rural India. Long distances to medical facilities, limited awareness, and delayed diagnosis often prevent communities from receiving timely care. At the Desai Foundation, we believe that healthcare should be preventative, accessible, and community-driven. Our Health & Preventive Care programs bridge this gap by bringing essential health services directly to underserved villages. Through awareness sessions, screenings, and medical camps, we empower women, children, and families with the knowledge and resources they need to lead healthier lives while enabling early detection and timely treatment of preventable diseases.

By combining preventive healthcare with community education, the Desai Foundation is helping build healthier, more resilient communities where families are empowered to take charge of their well-being before illness becomes a crisis. Every health camp, screening, and awareness session brings us one step closer to ensuring that quality healthcare is not determined by geography, but is accessible to everyone.

BRINGING ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIA'S MOST REMOTE COMMUNITIES

PRIMARY HEALTH & 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.

GYNACOLOGICAL SCREENINGS & CAMPS

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.

VISION CAMP & VISION ON WHEELS

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.

ANEMIA AWARENESS & SCREENING CAMP

India has one of the highest rates of anemia globally, with over 50% of women affected especially in rural areas. The Desai Foundation's camps provide education, nutrition counseling, and on-site hemoglobin testing to address this silent condition.

DIABETES AWARENESS & SCREENING CAMP

As diabetes cases rise in rural India, many remain undiagnosed until serious complications occur. Our Diabetes Awareness & Screening Camps offer education, lifestyle guidance, and on-the-spot blood sugar testing.

CANCER AWARENESS AND DETECTION

In rural India, low awareness and limited access to care contribute to rising cancer rates and delayed diagnoses. The Desai Foundation's Cancer Awareness & Detection Camps offer education, lifestyle guidance, and on-site screenings.



STORIES OF IMPACT



I THOUGHT LOSING MY EYESIGHT WAS A PART OF GROWING OLD. AFTER MY CATARACT SURGERY, I CAN SEE CLEARLY AGAIN AND LIVE INDEPENDENTLY. I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO GET THEIR EYES CHECKED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

For six years, Rajani, a 60-year-old from Padasahi village in Odisha, lived with cataracts that made everyday life difficult. Through the Vision on Wheels program, she received a free eye screening, medicines, and cataract surgery, restoring her vision and independence. Today, Rajani encourages others to seek timely eye check-ups, knowing that early treatment can transform lives.

Rajani,

Vision on Wheels Beneficiary



I STAYED SILENT BECAUSE I THOUGHT MY PAIN WAS NORMAL. SPEAKING UP CHANGED MY LIFE. EARLY CHECKUPS GAVE ME A SECOND CHANCE, AND I WANT EVERY WOMAN TO KNOW THAT HER HEALTH MATTERS.

As a Community Facilitator in Lucknow, Arti encouraged women to prioritize their health while silently living with persistent pain herself. During a Desai Foundation cancer awareness program, she found the courage to seek help and was diagnosed with precancerous lumps. After nine months of treatment, Arti made a full recovery. Today, she inspires other women to seek timely check-ups, proving that early detection can save lives.

Arti,

Community Facilitator, Lucknow





Women Participating in Vision on Wheels Awareness Camp in Odisha



BRINGING ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIA'S MOST REMOTE COMMUNITIES

HEROES FOR HUMANITY

FROM COMMUNITY MEMBER TO COMMUNITY LEADER



JOINING THE DESAI FOUNDATION TRUST CHANGED MY LIFE. EVERY AWARENESS SESSION I CONDUCT & EVERY FAMILY I REACH REMINDS ME THAT REAL CHANGE BEGINS WITH ONE CONVERSATION.

Kaberi from Rayagada always aspired to create meaningful change in her community. After completing her education, she joined the Desai Foundation Trust as a Development Sakhi (DS) and, through the Heroes for Humanity program, grew into the role of a Community Field Hero (CFH).

Her journey was not without challenges. Reaching remote villages often meant walking long distances, and many community members were initially hesitant to participate in awareness sessions. Instead of giving up, Kaberi patiently built relationships, conducted health and hygiene awareness programs, and earned the trust of the communities she served.

Today, Kaberi is financially independent, confident, and a respected leader in her region. Through her work, she is helping women and families make informed decisions about their health while inspiring other young women to become changemakers in their own communities.



723K+

REACHED
BY CANCER
AWARENESS

48K+

DIABETES AWARENESS
CONDUCTED

15.8M+

RUPEES IN
SALARY PAID
TO HEROES

1246

NEW HEROES
TRAINED,
HIRED, & PAID

HEROES FOR HUMANITY

Launched in the wake of the COVID crisis, Heroes for Humanity began as a bold experiment to reach India's most underserved communities at a time of urgent need. With the extraordinary trust and investment of S.P. Hinduja Bank, this initiative quickly grew beyond emergency response. Their partnership became a catalyst, redefining how we connect with rural communities and transforming Heroes for Humanity into a resilient, highly adaptable framework for how we scale our proven models of service delivery across India.

Thanks to this collaboration, Heroes for Humanity has been at the forefront of rural impact, deployed in eight states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. By recruiting and training nearly 500 community facilitators, all drawn from the very communities they serve, we ensured that our work was rooted in genuine understanding and trust. These local leaders brought vital health and hygiene support, essential supplies, menstrual dignity programs, and hope directly to over six million individuals, making profound change personal and enduring.

What began as a means of immediate relief has, through unwavering support from S.P. Hinduja Bank, evolved into a cornerstone of our programming. Today, Heroes for Humanity stands as clear evidence of what catalytic giving and a shared vision can accomplish. It is a testament to the power of investing deeply, trusting boldly, and reimagining what's possible for rural India. On behalf of everyone at the Desai Foundation and the millions who have felt the touch of this movement, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to Karam Hinduja & S.P. Hinduja Bank. Their commitment has not only changed our work; it has set new standards for partnership and transformation at scale.





Hero Facilitating a Menstrual Health & Hygiene Awareness Session in a Village in Gujarat

HEROES FOR HUMANITY GETS RECOGNITION FROM SECRETARY HILLARY CLINTON'S VISIT IN INDIA



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.

- SECRETARY HILLARY CLINTON

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. Secretary Clinton's support and insights inspired our Heroes for Humanity team and reinforced the importance of their efforts. Her presence underscored the global significance of our mission to create a brighter future for women and girls in India.

Clinton Global Initiative: September 2025 Meeting

At the Clinton Global Initiative Roundtable, the Desai Foundation led a powerful discussion on the urgent need to address menstrual inequality, framing it as a critical issue that impacts global health, education, economic growth, and gender equity. By spotlighting the economic and societal opportunities tied to menstrual health access, we helped shift the narrative from a women's issue to a global development imperative.

**CLINTON
GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**



LIVELIHOOD & VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING

FINDING HER IDENTITY THROUGH SKILLS



THE BEAUTICIAN SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM DIDN'T JUST TEACH ME A SKILL, IT GAVE ME CONFIDENCE, FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, AND AN IDENTITY OF MY OWN. TODAY, MY CHILDREN PROUDLY SAY, 'OUR MOTHER IS A BEAUTICIAN.'

Rupaben, a mother of five from the Vaghri community, always dreamed of becoming a beautician. However, the INR 30,000–INR 40,000 fee for a private beauty course made it impossible for her to pursue her ambition.

When she learned about the Desai Foundation's Beautician Skill Training Program, supported by Nykaa, she enrolled in the free three-month course.

Through the training, Rupaben mastered beauty services including eyebrow shaping, waxing, manicures, pedicures, makeup, and advanced techniques. Today, she runs her own beauty parlour, earning an independent income and building a brighter future for her family.

For Rupaben, the greatest transformation has been gaining an identity of her own. Where her children once struggled to describe what their mother did, today they proudly say, "Our mother is a beautician."



12K+

WOMEN TAUGHT
BEAUTICIAN
SKILLS

7K+

WOMEN TAUGHT
VOCATIONAL SKILLS

24K+

STUDENTS
TAUGHT TO
USE COMPUTER

930

WOMEN EARNING
INCOME FROM
ASANI SANITARY
PAD DISTRIBUTION

18K+

WOMEN TAUGHT
TO SEW

LIVELIHOOD & VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING

Livelihood and vocational skill training play a vital role in breaking the cycle of poverty by equipping individuals with practical, income-generating skills that lead to sustainable livelihoods. For many women and youth in rural communities, these programs create pathways to financial independence, build self-confidence, and open doors to employment and entrepreneurship.

Through training in beautician services, sewing, computer literacy, solar installation, EV rickshaw mechanics, banking and financial literacy, and other market-relevant skills, participants gain the knowledge and opportunities to improve their quality of life. Beyond increasing household income, these programs empower individuals to make informed decisions, support their families, and become changemakers who contribute to stronger, more resilient communities.



Women Building Careers Through Beautician Skill Training in Navsari, Gujarat

BUILDING LIVELIHOODS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

BEAUTICIAN SKILL TRAINING

This initiative provides women with professional beautician training in skills such as bridal makeup, manicures, pedicures, and threading, along with entrepreneurial training to help them start their own micro-enterprises. The program aims to build marketable skills, increase earning potential, and foster economic independence.

SEWING SKILL TRAINING

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 SKILL TRAINING

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

HELP DESK

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.

SOLAR SKILL TRAINING

Our Solar Skill Training initiative aims to train rural women in how to set up, maintain, and repair solar panels, thereby enabling them to become financially independent and enhancing usage and adoption of renewable sources of energy in their communities.

EV RICKSHAW MECHANIC TRAINING

The EV Rickshaw Mechanic Training Program is exclusively focused on equipping rural women with skills in the maintenance, driving, and repair of electric rickshaws (Tuk-Tuks). This initiative fosters technical expertise, economic independence, and sustainable transportation practices that allow communities, especially women and children, to access life-saving services in urban centres such as hospitals, schools, and employment opportunities in their communities.

BANKING AND SAVING EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAM

Our Banking and Saving Education & Awareness Program empowers rural communities with essential financial knowledge from saving and investing to responsible borrowing and accessing government aid. By improving financial literacy the program helps individuals make informed decisions, achieve independence, and build a more secure future.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

• Personality Development Program • Jewelry Making Training
• Candle & Diya Making Training • Chocolate Making Training
• Asani Production • Spoken English • Entrepreneurship Awareness

STORIES OF IMPACT



I NEVER IMAGINED I COULD BUILD A CAREER IN SOLAR TECHNOLOGY. TODAY, I EARN WITH CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT MY FAMILY, AND KNOW THAT NO DREAM IS TOO BIG WHEN SOMEONE BELIEVES IN YOUR POTENTIAL.

At just 18, Anjali* from Bhopal left school after Class 8 to support her family. Through the Solar Skills Training Program, she gained hands-on training in solar panel installation and maintenance. Today, she works as a Solar Technician at RNA Solarwave, earning INR 8,000 per month and building a brighter future for herself and her family. Her journey shows how skill development can empower young women to achieve financial independence.

**Name has been changed to protect the beneficiary's privacy.*



LEARNING TO DRIVE AND REPAIR AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. TODAY, I EARN WITH CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT MY FAMILY, AND HOPE MY JOURNEY INSPIRES MORE WOMEN TO BELIEVE THAT NO PROFESSION IS BEYOND THEIR REACH.

*Laxmi, a 33-year-old mother of two from Shiv Nagar, Bhopal, joined the EV Rickshaw Mechanic Training Program to build a better future for her family. Through the training, she learned electric vehicle maintenance, battery management, safety protocols, and driving skills. Today, Laxmi drives her family's electric auto, transporting children to school and earning INR 5,000 per month, contributing to her household income and becoming financially independent.

**Name has been changed to protect the beneficiary's privacy.*



Participants at the Beautician Skill Training Centre in Navsari, Gujarat



Woman Participating in the Banking & Savings Program in Navsari, Gujarat

CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

FINDING HER IDENTITY THROUGH SKILLS



THE SOLAR PANEL TRAINING GAVE ME A NEW IDENTITY AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT. TODAY, I AM SELF-RELIANT AND ABLE TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY FINANCIALLY.

At 19, Sila* had already paused her education after Class 10 due to financial constraints. Living with her family in Satnami Nagar, Bhopal, she was determined to find a way to build a stable future and support her family. Through the Solar Panel Installation & Maintenance Training Program, conducted by PECSS with support from the Desai Foundation, Sila* gained practical technical skills and the confidence to enter the renewable energy sector. After completing the training, she secured a job with RR Solar, earning INR 8,000 a month. Today, Sila* is contributing to her family's household expenses while taking her first steps toward financial independence.

**Name has been changed to protect the beneficiary's privacy.*





200

WOMEN TAUGHT
EV SKILLS
TRAINING

200

WOMEN TAUGHT
SOLAR SKILL
TRAINING

CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

OUR BREAKTHROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

At The Desai Foundation, climate resilience is more than a mission; it's a promise made daily to thousands of families. Whether it's safe water, trustworthy healthcare, or vibrant community support, our programs offer stability in uncertain times, helping people weather whatever tomorrow brings. We see Heroes every day in rural India, women who refuse to be defined by circumstance, who rise with determination and hope. When floods upend routines or power outages shut down dreams, these women are the ones finding solutions. That's why we invested boldly this year in Solar Skill Training and EV Rickshaw Mechanic Training in Bhopal, thanks to the partnership of TE Connectivity Foundation. 80 remarkable women stepped up, mastering solar and electric vehicle technologies, ready to light up homes and keep their communities moving forward.

But it takes more than skills. It takes a pursuit to democratize opportunities for those communities that are mostly underserved. So, we connected our graduates directly with 12 leading renewable energy companies, opening real doors to lasting work and dignity. This isn't just training; it's transformation. An 85% graduation and employment rate proves the power behind this women-led progress.

The impact is undeniable:

- Women are out-earning old expectations, seeing a 40% average boost in clean energy careers
- Their stories ripple outward, encouraging families everywhere to choose renewable energy
- They're breaking through barriers, bringing new talent and fresh ideas to industries that need them
- And every solar panel installed, every new skill shared, is a step toward a stronger, steadier, and resilient community

These journeys aren't only about powering homes, they're about powering hope. When rural women lead the way in clean energy, it's not just the climate that gets better. Livelihoods flourish. Communities unite. The future feels brighter and more secure for everyone.

Sponsored by:





Women Participating in Solar Skills Training Program in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



Women Participating in Solar Skills Training Program in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

PLEDGE YOUR PERIOD

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

TO END THE STIGMA OF MENSTRUATION

Pledge Your Period is the Desai Foundation's global digital advocacy campaign that invites people everywhere to take a simple pledge: to speak openly about menstruation, challenge harmful taboos, and help ensure that women and girls have access to menstrual health education and products.

What began as a social media movement has evolved into a global community of advocates, brands, influencers, healthcare professionals, and changemakers united by one belief, that periods should never limit opportunity.

Every pledge represents another voice helping normalize conversations around menstruation and another step toward a world where menstrual health is treated as a basic human right.

A MOVEMENT POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP



THANK YOU TO OUR PLEDGE MATCHING PARTNER

\$100 FOR EVERY 10 PLEDGES

RANAVAT

FEATURED VOICES

Hemal Bhanushali

Paramita Rana

Jiya Shailesh

Anjali Dhir

Anu Kapila

Kiran Gandhi

#PLEDGEYOUR
PERIOD

SO GIRLS WON'T BE EMBARRASSED
WHEN THEY GET THEIR PERIOD



#PLEDGEYOUR
PERIOD

TO END THE STIGMA OF
MENSTRUATION



MENSTRUAL EQUITY PANEL

The campaign kicked off in May with a panel discussion on menstrual equity, marking the beginning of our annual Pledge Your Period campaign during Menstrual Hygiene Month. Each year, throughout May, we come together to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and advocate for menstrual health and dignity.

PANELISTS

Colby Siegel

*Director of Partnerships and Menstrual Health
Advocacy at Desai Foundation*

Dr. Karenne Fru

*Reproductive Endocrinologist
Founder of Muna Fertility*

Kiran Gandhi

*Artist, Activist, and the woman who ran the
London Marathon free-bleeding in 2015*

Florence Schechter

Founder of the Vagina Museum

MODERATOR

Shalene Gupta

*Author of The Cycle: Confronting
the Pain of Periods and PMDD*

CAMPAIGN IMPACT

1.8M
people reached

202,402
social media impressions

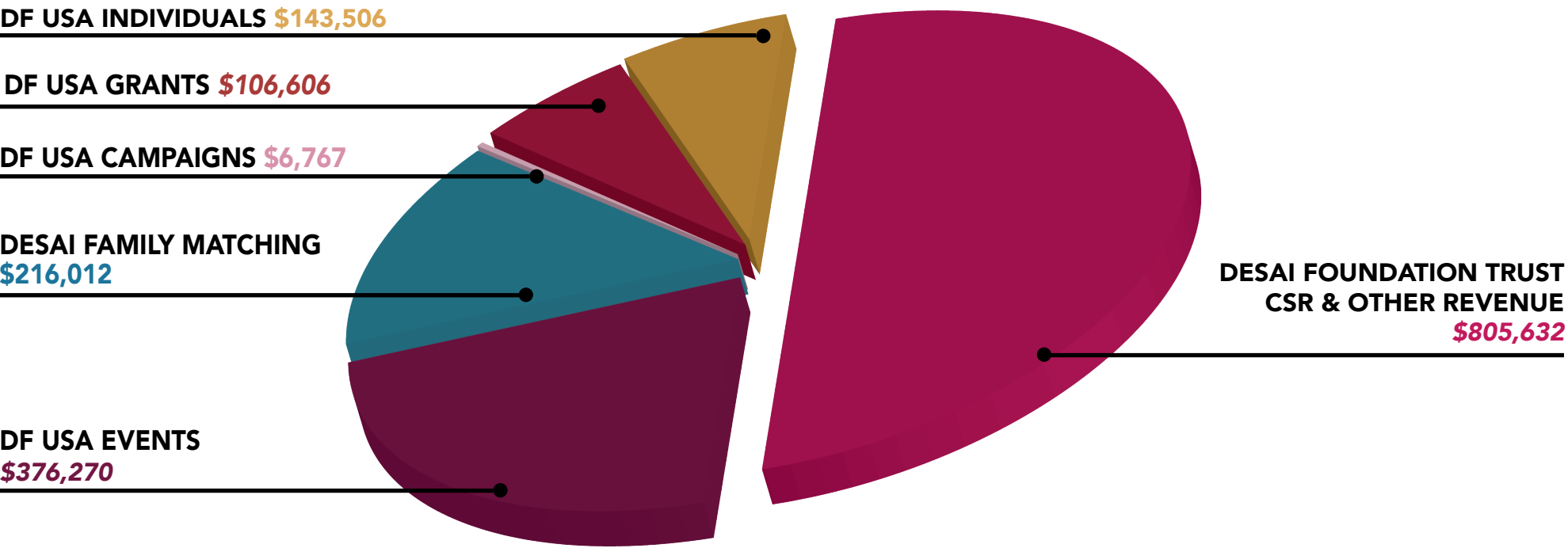
\$6,126
raised for Menstrual Equity program

HUNDREDS OF ADVOCATES SPEAKING UP FOR MENSTRUAL DIGNITY.



Learn more about Pledge Your Period Campaign at www.pledgeyourperiod.com

2026 FISCAL YEAR FUNDRAISING REVENUE



TOTAL FUNDRAISING REVENUE

\$1,654,793

TOTAL IN-KIND DONATION

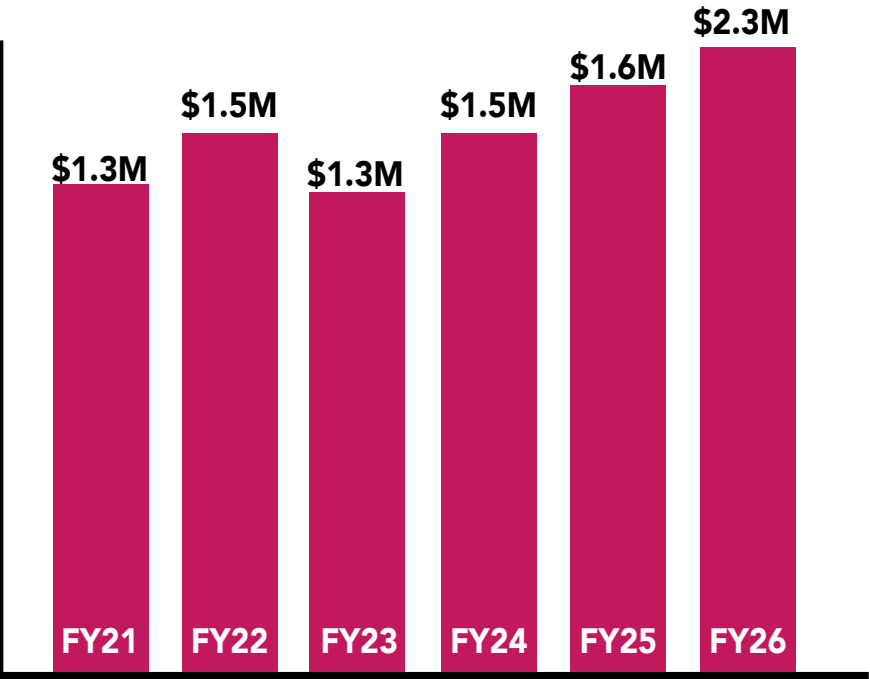
\$347,585

This report reflects the Desai Foundation’s U.S. fiscal year (FY) 2026, covering July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with all impact numbers, financials, and activities reported in accordance with this fiscal year.

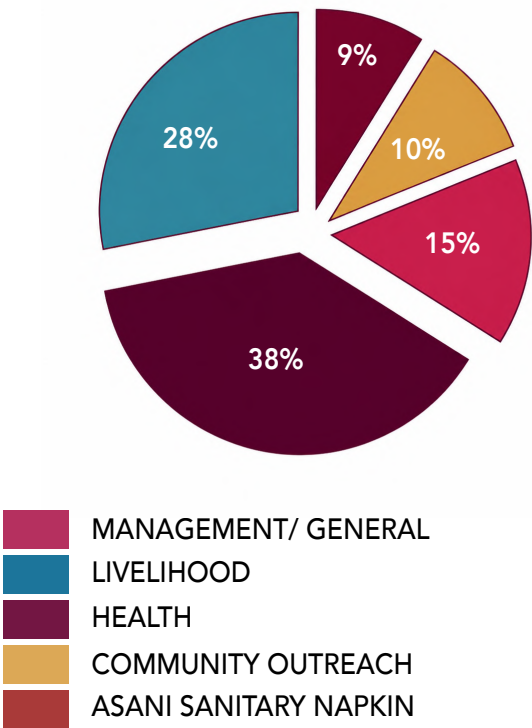
2026 FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES

EVERY DOLLAR raised for The Desai Foundation from individuals goes 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 PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS AND OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES



FUNDS ALLOCATION



A FULL PICTURE

In accordance with Indian law, The Desai Foundation Trust was established in 2016. 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.

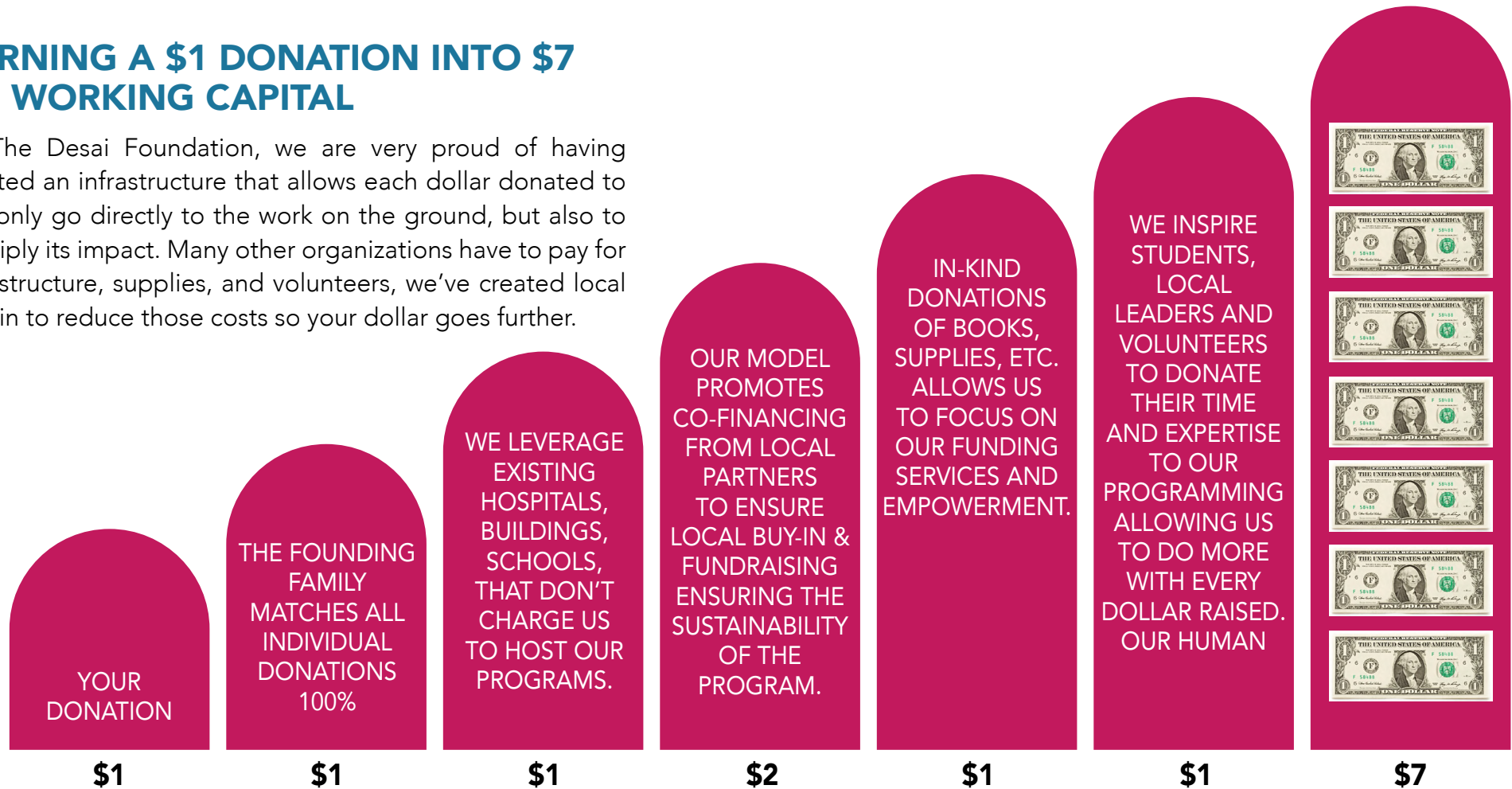


Women Receiving Sewing Skills Training in Salem, Tamil Nadu

OUR MODEL AMPLIFIES YOUR CONTRIBUTION

TURNING A \$1 DONATION INTO \$7 OF WORKING CAPITAL

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.



The Desai Foundation has been able to inspire significant in-kind donations, which have grown every year, to support our mission and expand our impact.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 GRANTS

In FY 2026, we are deeply grateful to our grant partners whose **generosity and partnership enabled The Desai Foundation to advance health, livelihood, menstrual equity, education, and climate resilience initiatives across rural India. Their support helped create pathways to skills, economic opportunity, health access and awareness, and dignity for women, children, and communities to dream beyond.**

Our grant partners supported a range of programs across our focus areas. Vocational and Entrepreneurship Skill Training received support from **Svatantra Micro Housing Finance Corporation, Sagility, Jeavio, and Guru Krupa Foundation**, helping women and communities build skills and pathways toward employment and entrepreneurship. **NYKAA Foundation** supported the Beautician Skill Training Program.

In Climate Resilience, **Sagility** supported the EV and Solar Skill Training Program, providing rural participants with skills linked to emerging green livelihood opportunities. **Svatantra Micro Housing Finance Corporation** also supported the Creative STEM Lab, expanding opportunities for children to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills.

In Health, **Adhyan and Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital and Research Centre** supported the Anemia Awareness and Screening Program, helping expand awareness and screening services in communities. **SCOR SE – India Branch and Jaguar Resources and Capital** supported Vision on Wheels, bringing mobile eye screening and care services closer to underserved communities.

In Menstrual Equity, **Sudarshan Toyo Colour Private Limited, Vista Hermosa Foundation (Jubilee Foundation), Ghanta Family Foundation, The Pad Project, Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited, and Jeavio** supported the Asani Sanitary Napkin Program, helping advance access to menstrual health and hygiene awareness and products.

Together, these partnerships strengthen our ability to respond to community needs and expand access to health, livelihoods, education, and menstrual equity programs. **We are grateful to every grant partner for investing in the dignity, opportunity, and future of the communities we serve.**

This report reflects the Desai Foundation's U.S. fiscal year (FY) 2026, covering July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with all impact numbers, financials, and activities reported in accordance with this fiscal year.





Jeavio



Maharashtra Natural Gas Ltd.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF GAIL (India) Ltd & BPCL)

NYKAA



SCOR
The Art & Science of Risk



2026 PLATINUM DONORS

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Ankit Gupta
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Ushma Sheth & Anand Parekh
Zenobia Moochhala & Chris Paulson



2026 DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the incredible donors, supporters, champions, and partners who make our work possible through their generosity and trust. We are honored to recognize many of those who supported us with gifts of \$300 or more this past fiscal year. If we missed you, please know how appreciative we are for your support. We truly could not do this work without you.

Aarti Agarwal
Aditi Verma
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Aman Singh Mukar
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Ragini & Heeren Pathak
Raina & James Gardiner
Ram Prasanna
Rashi Gupta
Rashmi Gill
Rashmita Redkar
Raxa Desai
Renuka & Ashish Singh
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Rupa Bahri
Rupal Shah
Ryan Ahuja
Sahil Mehta
Sangeetha Ramsagar
Sangeetha Subramanian
Sean Gupta
Sejal Shah
Shailen Patel
Shailendra Pamnani
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Shamit Patel
Sheena Patel
Shefali Kumar
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Shivani Dave
Shushma Dwivedi Jindal
Siddhi Vaishnav
Sindhya Valloppillil & Nikhil Kalghatgi
Smith Garg
Sonal Chatter
Sonia Rajput
Sriya Bhumi
Stuti Gandhi
Sucheta Sachdev
Sudhir Shah
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Vincent Papetti
Viraj Borkar
Vrunda Shah
Wei Wen Sng
Wendy & Matthew Siegel
Yashvanth Thippeswamy

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

We work with regional implementation partners, including grassroots NGOs, universities, and institutions, who help ensure our programs are culturally relevant, locally responsive, and attuned to geographic complexity. We are grateful for these collaborative partnerships,



Shree Yoganand Saraswati
Education and Medical Relief Trust,
Talangpur, Gujarat

Shree Yoganand Saraswati Education and Medical Relief Trust (YST)

Year of collaboration – 2017

Shree Yoganand Saraswati Education and Medical Relief Trust is our first and oldest partner, playing a pivotal role in our journey. Their strong presence in the Talangpur region of Gujarat has significantly contributed to strengthening community development through consistent health and education interventions.



Gram Seva Trust (GST)

Year of collaboration – 2018

Gram Seva Trust, based in Kharel, Navsari district of Gujarat, is a dedicated organization working in the field of health and development. Operating a 100-bed secondary-level rural hospital and implementing various community outreach initiatives across Navsari and Dang districts, the Trust brings valuable expertise in tribal community engagement. Their strong grassroots presence and years of experience have greatly strengthened our partnership by ensuring deeper community support and active participation.



Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN)

Year of collaboration – 2018

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, through its community outreach programs NEEV empowers women and youth from under-served communities with skill development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities. The institute also extends vital educational support to children of migrant construction workers in and around its campus through NYASA. As a partner, IIT Gandhinagar consistently goes beyond conventional approaches to drive visible and lasting change in the community.



Late Diwaliben Ukabhai Patel Sarvajani Trust

Year of collaboration – 2019

Late Diwaliben Ukabhai Patel Sarvajani Trust has been a committed partner in driving impactful community development in remote tribal regions along the eastern-southern border of Gujarat. Their deep local connect and sustained grassroots efforts have significantly strengthened our outreach and outcomes in these underserved areas.



SPS India Foundation

Year of collaboration – 2021

The significant reach and strong community ties of SPS India make them an invaluable partner. For any community-based pilot project envisioned for Southern Tamil Nadu, we can anticipate strong support and efficient logistical arrangements through their collaboration.



Sahyadri Community Development & Women Empowerment Society

Year of collaboration – 2022

With a wealth of experience in improving conditions for women and tribal communities, SCODWES demonstrates a strong understanding and presence, particularly in Northern Karnataka. Their proven track record includes the design and implementation of successful health projects in remote areas, alongside active involvement in diverse agricultural and non-agricultural livelihood initiatives. Their valuable experience and resources can be effectively utilized to bolster our projects.



Safe Society (SS)

Year of collaboration – 2023

Safe Society's deep local outreach has been a strong support in expanding Desai Foundation Trust's flagship initiatives—the Asani sanitary napkin program that has enhanced community wellbeing, created income opportunities, and boosted health awareness at the grassroots level.



Youth Council for Development Alternatives

Year of collaboration – 2023

YCDA's operational footprint across multiple districts in Odisha, along with their focus on projects such as women and child development, aligns perfectly with our core mission. Their significant experience in non-agricultural livelihoods makes them an invaluable asset should we



Centre for Community Development

Year of collaboration – 2023

CCD operates in an area facing considerable challenges, particularly regarding access to basic amenities and health services. This presents a crucial opportunity for us to collaborate on developing and piloting impactful health and livelihood projects. While CCD's current focus does not include geographical expansion, a partnership would allow us to combine our efforts and collectively empower a wider network of deserving communities.



Ugam Gram Vikas Sanstha

Year of collaboration – 2024

The UGVSS strong command of government liaisoning is a key strategic advantage, particularly in the Marathwada region. This capability will be instrumental in fostering effective collaboration with district administration, thereby ensuring the smooth implementation of our projects through the support of government resources.



Priyanshi Educational Cultural & Social Society (PECSS)

Year of collaboration – 2023

With over 22 years of experience in the areas of health, education and livelihood, Pecss's mission and vision strongly align with DF's mission and vision. Their strong work ethic and commitment to serve the community have helped us expand our reach to the tribal belt of the Dhar and Barwani regions in the state of Madhya Pradesh.



Gram Chetna Kendra

Year of collaboration – 2025

GCK is our new partner in the state of Rajasthan, with whom we are looking forward to enhancing our program implementation through their deep community insights and grassroots connections. Their on-ground presence shall ensure greater reach, trust, and impact within the target communities. We are positive about this partnership.

DESAI FOUNDATION EVENTS

LOTUS FESTIVAL

On September 13, 2025, the Desai Foundation welcomed its community to the *11th annual Lotus Festival* at Boston's Omni Seaport Hotel for an evening celebrating a landmark achievement: **11 million lives impacted** through our health, livelihood, and menstrual equity programs across rural India.

The evening brought together longtime supporters, new friends, changemakers, and partners who share our commitment to creating dignity and opportunity for women and children. Guests enjoyed a vibrant celebration featuring the Berklee India Ensemble, comedian Rajiv Satyal, and an inspiring keynote from Neela Montgomery, former President of CVS Pharmacy and global business leader.





DESAI FOUNDATION EVENTS

Diwali®
ON THE HUDSON

We were thrilled to celebrate the 12th annual Diwali on the Hudson at HK Hall in New York City on October 16, 2025, bringing together more than 400 supporters, philanthropists, creatives, entrepreneurs, and changemakers for an unforgettable evening of culture, community, and giving.

Guests enjoyed an evening hosted by CBS News Correspondent Shanelle Kaul, with a live performance by South Asian artist Shevya, delicious food, an open bar, and a lively hand-raise auction that exceeded our fundraising goals. More than a celebration, Diwali on the Hudson is a reminder that joy and generosity can travel far beyond the room, bringing light, dignity, and opportunity to women and children across rural India.





DESAI FOUNDATION EVENTS

LLADRÓ

The Desai Foundation brought its community together in New York City for a special evening celebrating progress, community, and the power of collective action. Hosted at the Lladro flagship, the gathering brought supporters, partners, and new friends together to celebrate India's landmark recognition of menstrual hygiene as a fundamental right under Article 21.

More than an evening of celebration, the event reflected a shared commitment to advancing menstrual equity, dignity, and opportunity. It was a powerful reminder that when communities come together, collective action can help turn progress into lasting change.



BOSTON COMMUNITY APPRECIATION NIGHT



BRAND & EVENT PARTNERS

We are fortunate to have an incredible network of brand and event partners who support us in countless ways, from cash sponsorships and product donations to venue space and expert services.

We're proud to partner with these amazing supporters who help empower women and girls. Thank you for making our work possible!

Ranavat
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Morgan Stanley
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Rampur Whiskey
A Book About Diwali
Burlap and Barrel
DJ Suhel
GoldHouse
1947
Kolkata Chai
Desi Galli
Soul Tara
Gauld Health
Il Dottore

RANAVAT

NAIDU



Morgan Stanley
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

LLADRÓ



KOLKATA
CHAI CO.



SHOP WITH OUR PARTNERS WHO GIVE BACK TO US

Our Partners aren't just brands, they're changemakers. With every sale, they invest in a future where women and girls can thrive with dignity. From luxury beauty to artisan spices to statement fashion, these partners prove that doing good and doing business go hand in hand.



RANAVAT

Ayurvedic luxury skincare crafted with care. A portion of every purchase supports The Desai Foundation's work empowering women and children in underserved communities.

Visit www.ranavat.com



LLADRÓ

A world leader in the design, manufacturing, and distribution of porcelain art creations, Lladro blends talent, audacity, and meticulous craftsmanship in its pursuit of excellence. We're proud to partner with them. Your purchase supports The Desai Foundation's mission to uplift women and children.

Visit www.lladro.com



Curated home décor with a soulful, global touch. They provide beautiful décor and event sponsorships, and we're proud to partner with them. Your purchase supports The Desai Foundation's mission to uplift women and children.

Visit www.tribebohemianhome.com



A brown butter cookie layered with rose and pistachio for a rich, aromatic bite. Stitched Sweets is donating 100% of proceeds from this cookie directly to Desai Foundation programs, and we're proud to partner with them. Your purchase supports The Desai Foundation's mission to uplift women and children.

Visit www.stichedsweets.com



Crafted in the foothills of the Himalayas, Rampur is an award-winning Indian single malt known for its rich, complex character and meticulous craftsmanship. We're proud to partner with them. Your purchase supports The Desai Foundation's mission to uplift women and children.

Visit www.rampursinglemalt.com



Bold, single-origin spices sourced directly from farmers. In partnership with Floyd Cardoz Legacy Masalas, sales help fuel The Desai Foundation's transformative community programs.

Visit www.burlapandbarrel.com

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

We are profoundly honored to have received these awards, celebrating our collective efforts in advancing livelihood, health, and menstrual equity in India.

2026



3rd year
in a row!



Awarded IRR NGO 3 grading
by Fitch Solutions India
Advisory Private Limited,
recognizing good operational
and financial performance.



Recognized with a
Four-Star Rating by
Charity Navigator
in 2026.

PAST AWARDS & RECOGNITION



34th SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust Award: 2023-24



CSR Times Award 2025 for Women Empowerment



Bridgestone Award 2021



Indian CSR Awards 2023



Indian Achievers Award 2022



Economic Empowerment
Award 2024



The CSR Universe Award 2023



Indian Social Impact Awards 2024



The Public Advocate of the City of New York for Diwali on the Hudson



Gujarat Women's Empowerment Award 2024



Best NGO in Healthcare by 4th Bharat CSR & Sustainability
Summit & Awards 2025

IN THE MEDIA

INDIA New England NEWS

Desai Foundation Celebrates 10 Million Lives in Times Square, Ahead of Upcoming Diwali on the Hudson

© July 14, 2025 542 1 minute read



Berklee India Exchange to Headline Desai Foundation's 2025 Lotus Festival with Global Fusion Performance

© August 19, 2025 383 1 minute read



BOSTON – The Desai Foundation's 2025 Lotus Festival will come alive with a dynamic performance by the Berklee India Exchange (BIX), a pioneering initiative of Berklee College of Music known for its globally influential Indian and South Asian music collaborations.

Set to take place on Sept. 13 at the Omni Seaport Hotel in Boston, the Lotus Festival promises an inspiring evening of celebration, community, and cultural vibrance.

IndianLink

Desai Foundation: Reframing community impact

The organisation's collaboration with Myriad Australia will allow Aussies to contribute to building resilient communities in rural India



How do you foster dignity within a rural community? It's an objective that can't be measured in numbers or be represented through KPIs. Yet, the Desai Foundation, which aims to empower rural communities in India through its vocational, educational and health programs, has managed to quantify the unquantifiable.

First established as a family foundation in 1997 by Samir and Nilma Desai, the programs have now diversified. Under the helm of their daughter Megha Desai, the US and India based organisation runs over 30 different programs in 8 states across India.

Now, they're looking to get Aussies involved. The Foundation's recent partnership with Myriad Australia enables donors to make tax-deductible donations, thus lowering the cost of giving.

"We're hoping that this collaboration with Myriad Australia will help get the Desai Foundation's message out there, especially about the work we do and the impact that we are having," Board member Namita Gupta says.

Forbes

How The Desai Foundation Cultivates Dignity Across Rural India

By **Aldhel Aziz**, Contributor. © Chief Storytelling Officer, Goo... [Follow Author](#)

Published Sep 15, 2025, 10:05am EDT, Updated Sep 16, 2025, 12:53pm EDT

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Hillary Clinton with President Megha Desai, visiting work in the field in 2023. DESAI FOUNDATION

The Desai Foundation is a public, programmatic nonprofit working across rural India to expand health, livelihoods, and menstrual equity. Over twenty-five years it has evolved from a family philanthropy into a community-led operating model that now runs roughly thirty programs across eight Indian states, reaching millions of people in thousands of villages.

The work is intimate and practical: health camps in places where communities already gather. Food banks that feed the hungry and provide a sense of community.

TimeOut

The 10 best places to celebrate Diwali in the U.S.

These cultural organizations, temples and neighborhoods are all hosting public celebrations this year.

[Share](#)



NEWS INDIA TIMES

The Desai Foundation holds successful Diwali On The Hudson fundraising gala

a Staff Writer - October 20, 2025



Some of the guests at the Diwali on the Hudson event October 16, 2025, hosted by The Desai Foundation, in New York City ALL PHOTOS: Jadhore Andy

Central Chronicle

MP Police install RO units, sanitary napkin vending machines in women police stations

7 Months Ago 1 Min



By Special Correspondent

Bhopal: In a significant step towards strengthening women's health, dignity and safety, the Women Safety Wing of the Madhya Pradesh Police Headquarters has installed RO drinking water units and sanitary napkin vending machines in all women police stations across the state. Sharing details of the initiative, Special Director General of Police (Women Safety) Anil Kumar said the move aims to ensure a clean, hygienic and health-secure environment for women.

The project has been implemented with the support of the Desai Foundation Trust and Grih Housing Finance. Each women police station has been equipped with a sanitary napkin vending machine along

INDIASPORA

Landmark Supreme Court Ruling Will Have Global Implications for Menstrual Health and Girls' Education

March 13, 2026

By Megha S. Desai & Colby Siegel

India is leading the way on menstrual health rights after the Supreme Court of India's recent ruling, in the *Dr. Jaya Thakur v Union of India* case, guarantees girls free access to menstrual products and safe, functional bathrooms in schools, and more! It marks a decisive shift in how menstrual health is understood, not as a peripheral concern, but as a constitutional imperative tied to dignity, educational access, and gender equity. For millions of girls across the country, this decision has the potential to reshape their everyday experience of school.

For the global Indian diaspora, this moment is particularly significant. It reflects an India that is not only responding to longstanding inequities, but doing so through rights-based jurisprudence that places girls at the center of national development.

For those working in menstrual health and hygiene (MHM), this ruling reflects what has long been evident on the ground. When girls have access to menstrual products, clean water, and private sanitation, they attend school more regularly, participate with



Elderly Women Receiving Eye Check-Ups Through the Vision on Wheels Programme in Karnataka

A LETTER FROM THE TEAM BEHIND THE WORK

What keeps our incredible team at the Desai Foundation going is simple. It is the moment a girl attends school with full confidence because she now has access to sanitary products. It is a mother gaining access to a health screening in her own village. It is watching a village health worker we trained years ago now training others. **These moments happen because of an incredible team, program officers, field staff, community health workers, coordinators, and volunteers across both India and the United States, who show up every day to turn our mission into action on the ground.**

Our team in India carries this work into villages across multiple states, building trust with communities one relationship at a time, running health camps, training local leaders, and staying close to the people we serve in a way that no spreadsheet or strategy document ever could. **Our team in the United States** hosts our flagship events and both teams build the partnerships and fundraising infrastructure that make this work possible and sustainable at scale. **The growth we have seen in just the past few years, from 6 million to 13 million lives impacted, is a direct reflection of their dedication.**

Behind the scenes, this has meant a great deal of work you may not always see. **We have strengthened our monitoring, learning, and evaluation systems** so we can measure our impact with more precision and use what we learn to serve communities even better. **We have deepened existing partnerships and secured new ones, including our work under Article 21,** and we are expanding our reach into thousands of schools across the regions we serve. In the year ahead, we are working toward reaching 1,000 new villages, **and continue to launch new programs, including Vision on Wheels and our Beauty Salon initiative,** to meet needs we have identified directly from the communities we work alongside.

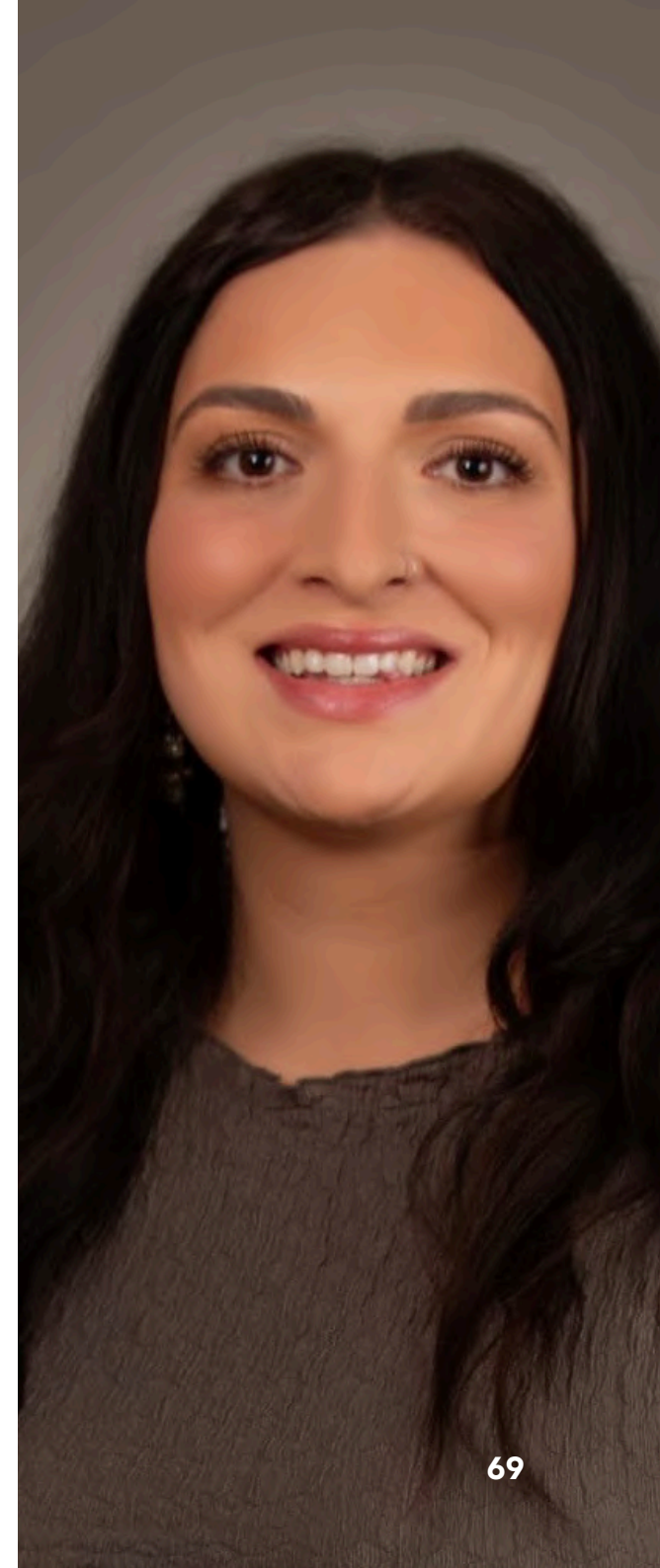
What we want you to know is this: **behind every dollar you invest,** there is a dedicated team, spread across two countries, that treats your trust as something earned every single day. Thank you for making our work possible.

On behalf of the entire Desai Foundation team,

Parissa Nowshadi

Parissa Nowshadi

Chief Operating Officer



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WELCOMING ZENOBIA MOOCHHALA TO THE DESAI FOUNDATION USA



Zenobia Moochhala
Co-Founder, Care.com
Undersecretary of Business Strategies

We're excited to welcome Zenobia Moochhala to the Desai Foundation USA Board of Directors! Zenobia is a visionary leader and accomplished entrepreneur, best known as the Co-Founder of Care.com, where she helped scale the platform into a global, mission-driven marketplace. She brings decades of experience building and leading high-impact organizations, with deep expertise in strategy, innovation, and growth. She currently serves as Undersecretary of Business Strategies at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). Zenobia's commitment to purpose-led work and community impact strongly aligns with our mission. We are honored to have her join us as we continue empowering women and children in rural India through our health, livelihood, and menstrual equity programs.



Health Check-Up Camp organized at a school in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

WAYS TO GIVE

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Double *the* Donation



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300 Tradecenter Dr., Suite 3450
Woburn, MA 01801

TAX ID#: 04-3433749



OR VISIT

www.thedesaifoundation.org

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:
<https://thedesaifoundation.org/donate/>



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 CSR program, introduce them to our work and encourage them to make a gift.



LEGACY GIVING

Legacy Giving helps ensure lasting support for rural communities in India, empowering future generations through programs that promote health, livelihood, & sustainable development.



CRYPTOCURRENCY & DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donate crypto as a non-taxable event, or recommend a grant to The Desai Foundation.

TRAVELING TO INDIA? COME VISIT OUR PROGRAMS IN A NEARBY VILLAGE!



You're invited to witness the change you made possible!

From the heartlands of Gujarat to the hills of Tamil Nadu, our programs are changing lives every day.

We invite you to see our impactful programming firsthand.

Whether you're here for business or family time, take a day (or a few) to visit a project site. Meet the women and children whose lives have changed, because of your support.

Program Highlights

Meet our
beneficiaries



Visit a Pad
Production Unit

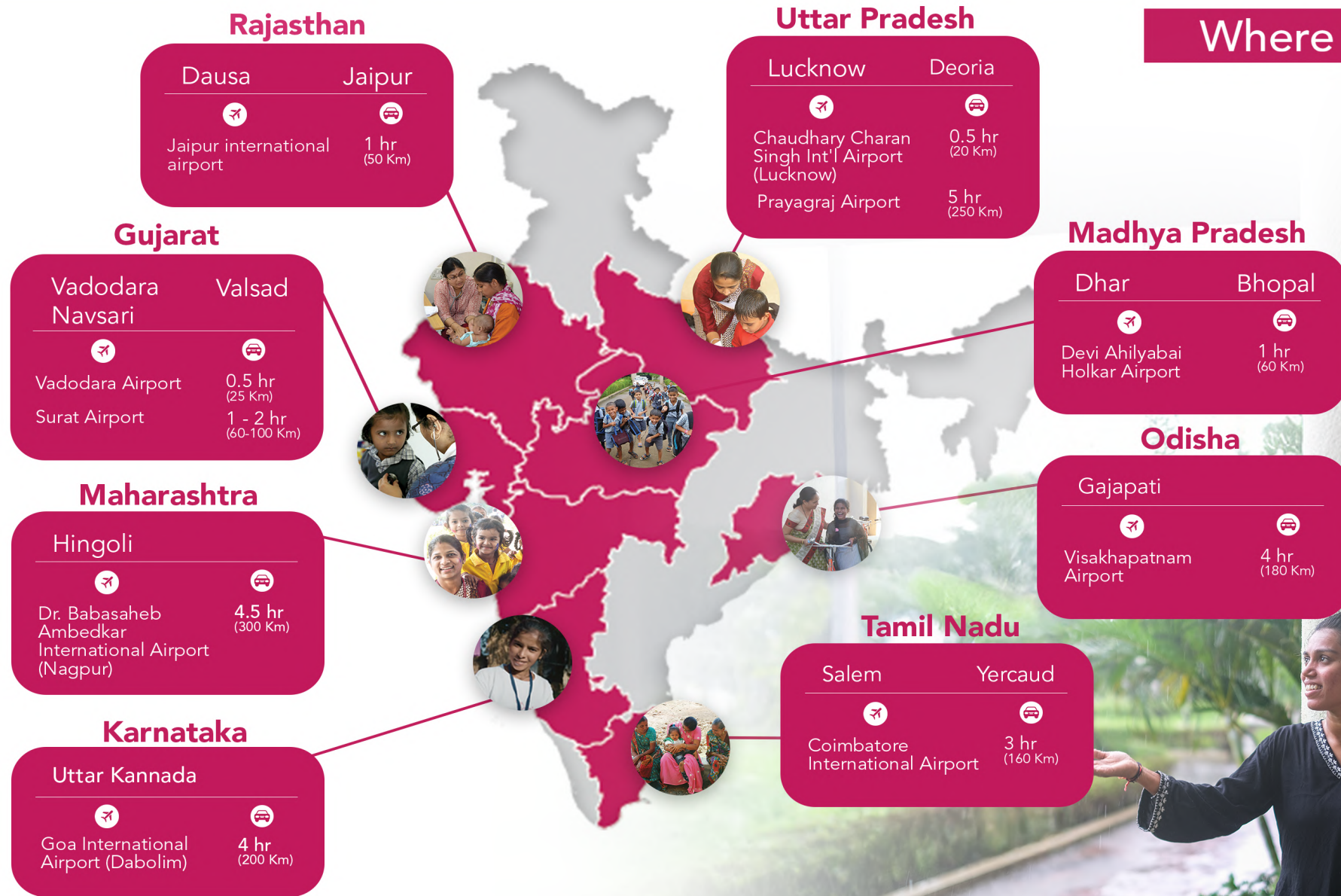


Witness a
program in
action



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN INDIA!

Where we work



Contact us at info@desaifoundationtrust.org and we'll help curate a meaningful field experience during your stay.



Community Members Awaiting Essential Eye Care at a Vision Screening Camp in Karnataka

Join our Youth Internship Program in India



Real-time volunteering in health, livelihood, and menstrual equity programs



Open to high school juniors/seniors & college students

Apply for a once-in-a-lifetime transformative experience that combines service, purpose, and self-discovery.



Apply Now

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Subject Line: Youth Internship





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