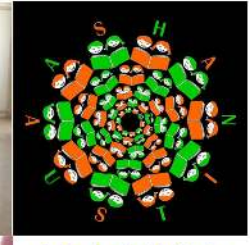


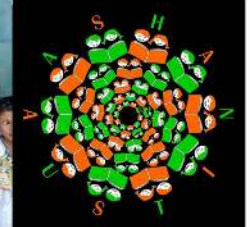
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education
Austin Chapter



Asha Austin Projects
 A – GSK-Girajpura (Rajasthan)
 B – Mathru (Karnataka)
 C – Khushboo (Haryana)
 D – Nethra (Andhra Pradesh)
 E – Navjyoti (Uttar Pradesh)
 F – Sangamam (Uttar Pradesh)
 G – Samarth (Odisha)
 H – Antyoday (West Bengal)
 I – Fellowship Siddamma (Tamil Nadu)



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To learn more about the chapter, please visit our website here.

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LETTER FROM The Core Team

Dear Asha Community,

2020 was truly an unprecedented year for all of us. While we all had to navigate through the alternate reality presented to us, the pandemic affected everyone in different ways and unfortunately, the underprivileged in a highly disproportionate way. In India, when the lockdown went into effect, many schools were closed. Online education being the only alternative to continuing education, children whose families could not afford a smart device were left behind. On top of that, many of these children's families struggled with hunger after losing their work due to the lockdown. Children with special needs who heavily rely on therapies offered at their schools for improving their physical and mental health were affected quite significantly. On top of that, in May 2020, a major cyclone, Amphan hit West Bengal and Odisha disrupting living conditions for many families.

Amongst the grim reality, it was heartening to see a generous donor community coming forth, immense passion and resolve in our volunteers and great perseverance in our project partners. With everyone's support and efforts, we were able to provide immediate food relief, make sure teachers continue to get paid, and most importantly, ensure that children were able to continue their education in some form. We thank our donors, volunteers and project partners for supporting the underprivileged when they needed us the most!

Regards,
Austin Chapter Coordination team



OUR IMPACT
in 2020

States reached

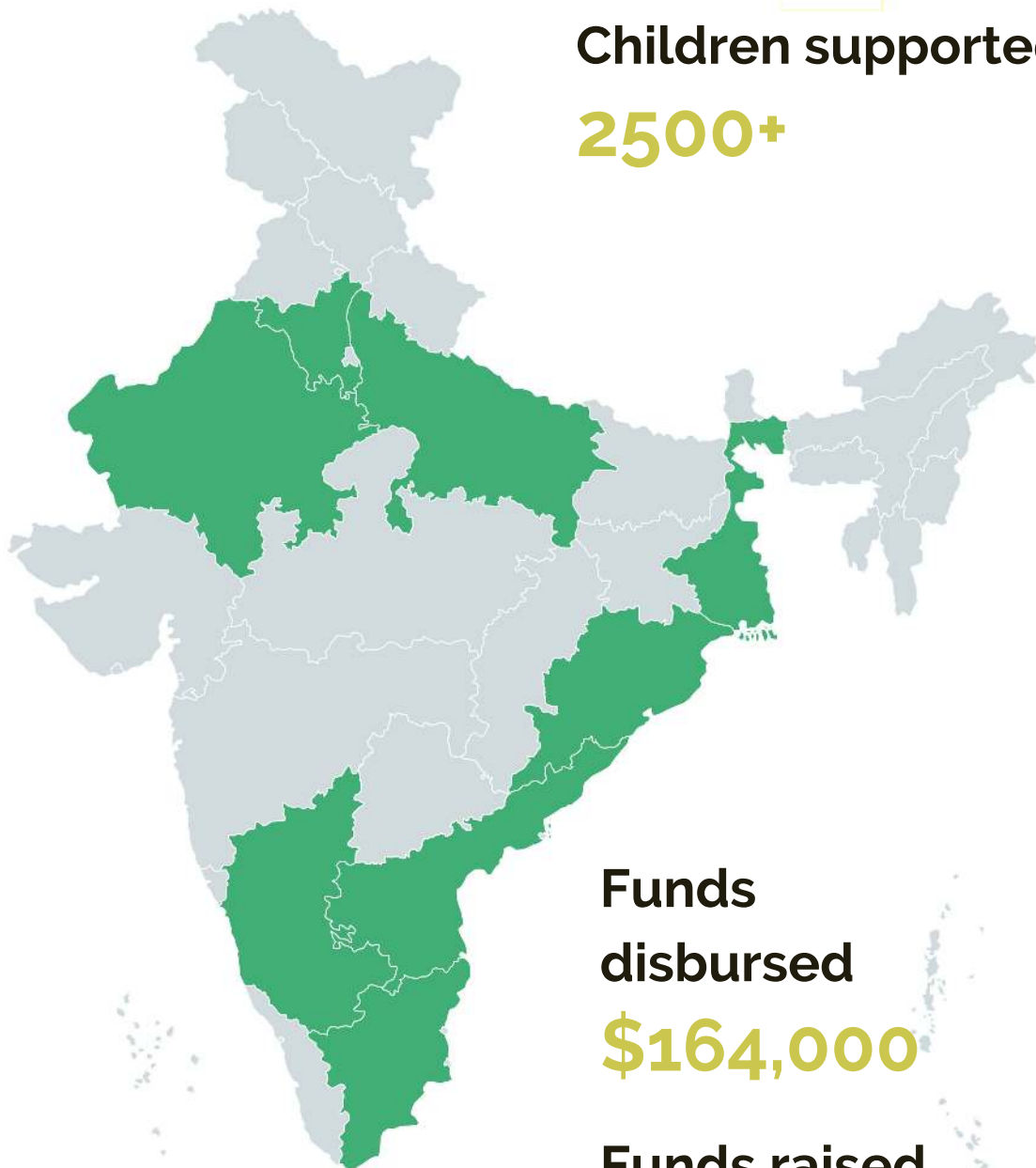
8

Project partners

9

Children supported

2500+



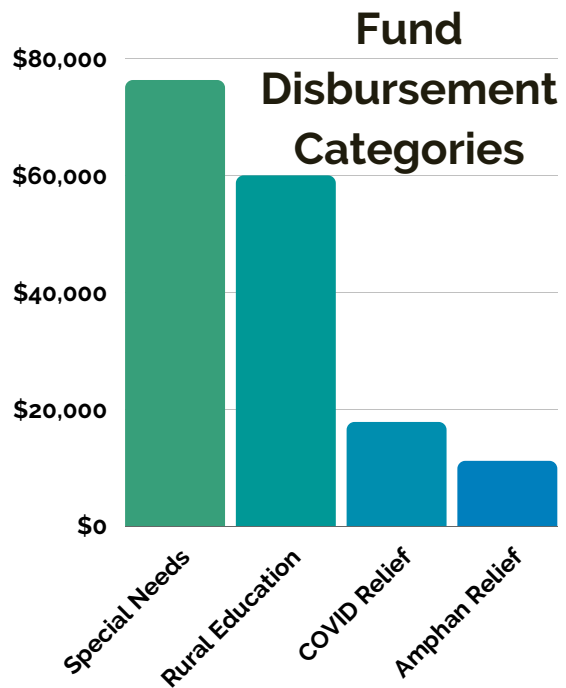
Funds
disbursed

\$164,000

Funds raised

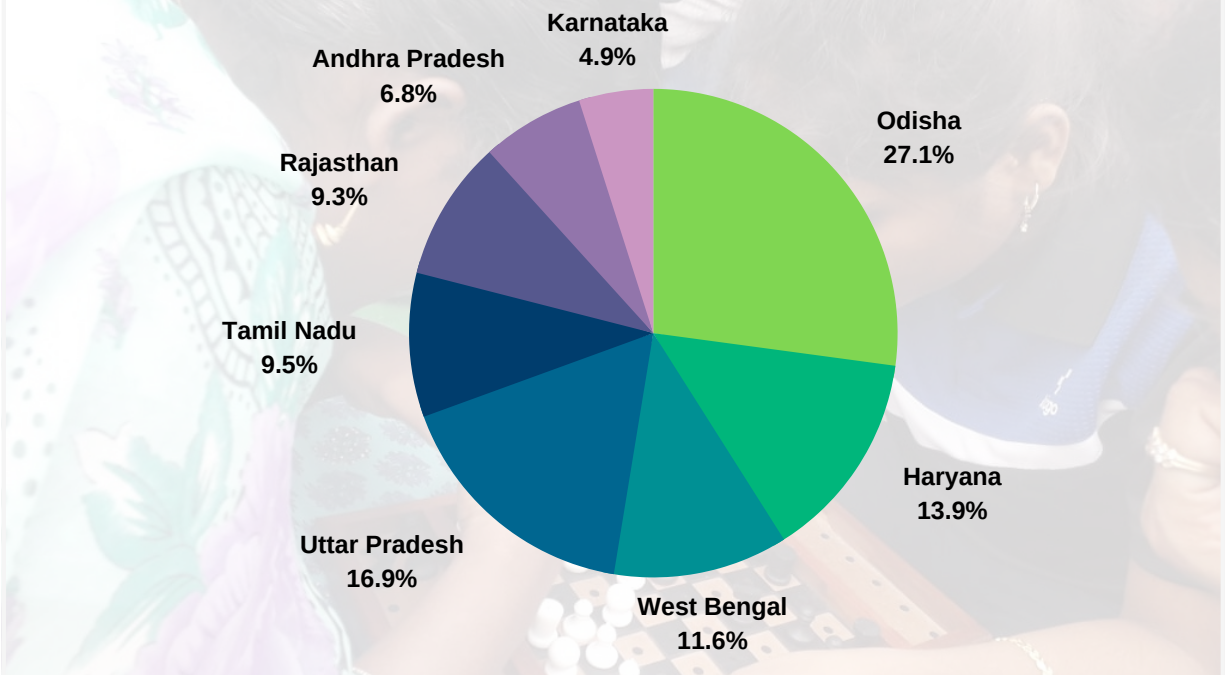
\$222,000

OUR IMPACT in 2020



The main focus areas of our chapter are Special Needs and Alternative Education. Last year, we also disbursed funds for Amphan and COVID disaster relief.

State-wise Fund Utilization



We are constantly working to reach new states and communities, and in 2020 our greatest impact occurred in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

During COVID

In 2020, COVID-19 swept the entire world, tumbling everybody's lives upside down. However, it had a particularly strong impact on our partners in India, who are often working with limited resources. Yet, many of our project partners have shown remarkable enthusiasm in continuing to provide care and support to their children in many innovative ways.



The staff at Khushboo Welfare Society (KWS) had to ensure that physiotherapy exercises continue uninterrupted for their special needs children. They devised a set of novel, non-equipment exercises that can be taught remotely and can help maintain the current skill-level of the child. In addition, they are continuing age-group based life-skills sessions such as arts and crafts, story-telling class, and social skills over video calls.

The teachers at Gramin Shiksha Kendra (GSK), conduct monthly live assembly sessions over Facebook with an objective to create a blissful environment, providing children with a platform for expression and interaction, and to share knowledge. Teachers conduct academic sessions with small groups of students in open spaces with proper physical distancing and masks. Since the children within a group can have varied learning levels, teachers are practicing the multi-grade, multi-level pedagogy.

The teachers at Khagendra Shishu Shiksha Kendra (KSSK), a primary school run by Antyodoy Anath Ashram, are working with their students on an individual basis over audio or video calls, including teaching, giving and checking homework, as well as boosting their morale. To encourage creativity and raise awareness, poster-making and creative writing competitions were organized on the theme of COVID-19. Students showed keen participation and resourcefulness in adapting to the new mode of education, using their parents', relatives' or even neighbors' phones for online classes.

At Nethra Vidyalaya, the teachers prepare lessons by writing everything down on a piece of paper, take pictures of the lessons and send to the phones of the student's parents or the closest contact person with a cell phone. Teachers also use Google Meet to teach students in small groups of 4-5 kids.



A STORY OF RESILIENCE

Rebuilding after Amphan

The cyclone Amphan hit India at a time when our projects were already facing significant hardships due to the pandemic - the cyclone could not have affected them at a worse time. The resilience shown by our partners in quickly rebuilding in the following days demonstrates the strength and passion of our project partners to keep going against all odds!



Damages at Samarth



Antyodoy Anath Ashram in Paunshi, West Bengal runs an orphanage for abandoned and destitute children since 1995. The Ashram focuses on sustainable farming and is self-dependent on their organic vegetable garden, fishing pond and solar panels for their day-to-day activities. Antyodoy saw the severest possible blow from Amphan, which resulted in severe damages to almost all segments of their livelihood. The vegetable garden was completely destroyed, the solar panels, street lights and trees were uprooted, and most of the infrastructure including doors, windows, plumbing, fencing was damaged severely.

Asha Austin supported Antyodoy with a grant of Rs. 6,36,000, with Rs. 3,12,000 in short-term disaster relief fund and Rs. 3,24,000 for long-term rehabilitation. The short term relief fund was used towards buying food kits for 360 beneficiaries and hygiene kits for 250 beneficiaries. The long-term rehabilitation fund was used towards repairing solar roofs, doors, windows, plumbing, roofing and electrical equipment.

Although our partner Samarth, situated in Chatrapur, Odisha, didn't face any direct damages during the actual time of the cyclone, the strong winds that continued afterwards completely damaged the roof of their physiotherapy room and damaged the items inside. Asha Austin provided 2,00,000 INR to repair the asbestos roof of their physiotherapy room, and for repair of their TV that was damaged during the storm.



Relief Efforts at Antyodoy

COVID RELIEF BY ASHA AUSTIN

When the threat of the coronavirus pandemic became apparent, the government of India imposed a sudden lockdown in March 2020, taking many by surprise. This had the most significant effect on daily wage earners whose livelihoods were suddenly robbed off them. Asha Austin supported several of its partners in their relief efforts to minimize the adverse impact of this lockdown on the vulnerable members of the society.

Distribution in Naveen School

Planning & Meeting

Nandlal Master



Distribution in Raniganj and Media coverage



Siddamma



Samarth

Kari Siddamma, a long-standing Asha Fellow and founder of Bharathi Trust, coordinated the efforts to support 1034 Irula families in 39 villages in Tamil Nadu who were suffering without food. Several marginalized Irula families in small villages of Tamil Nadu were facing pervasive challenges due to the sudden lockdown. Their primary occupation, fishing and agriculture, could no longer be continued. Many didn't have ration cards and could not get govt. aid. Asha Austin provided aid of INR 3,62,000 to purchase rice for the families and support the relief work by Siddamma.



Samarth Bag Full



Samarth

Dr. Kakala Ananda organized a distribution drive for families of 45 students and 11 staff members (with 5 to 8 members in each family) at Samarth, a school we support in Ganjam district, Odisha. They have distributed safety kits and food kits containing basic ration for 3 months to each family with a support of INR 1,10,000 from Asha Austin. All the members of Samarth school and the individual families in distress have appreciated our small contribution in this crisis situation.



Siddamma

Our long time Asha Fellow Nandlal Master and fellow volunteers have been collecting food grains locally and distributing it to 4000 families, especially the poor, the handicapped and the widows in need of help.

TEAM ASHA

2020 Races

Before the pandemic changed the world we live in, Asha Austin's Strides of Hope marathon training program for session 2019-20 was already underway. A team of 25 volunteer runners joined the program with the commitment to raise awareness and funds for the projects supported by the Austin chapter while striving to get fit and achieve a personal goal of completing at least one half marathon. After four months long training, 21 of these valiant volunteer runners successfully finished not just one but two back to back half marathons in early 2020. While a few decided to discontinue being unable to keep up with the training regimen due to work/family commitments and a couple due to injuries, 9 of these were first time marathon runners completing two half marathons. Beside the personal accomplishments, the team raised over \$37K exceeding the target of \$36K. We are ever grateful to all these dedicated volunteer runners to generate awareness for Asha's effort and raise funds to support the educational projects led by the Austin chapter.



RUNNER

Testimonials

Seema Sangani

Running with Team Asha made my long run challenges achievable and boosted my confidence. I was able to run from pretty much 0 to 13.1 miles. Without the support of Team Asha coaches and mentors, and my team members cheering me on, I don't think I could have finished my half marathons. This is one of the best experiences I have had and I love the way it gives me an opportunity to contribute toward underprivileged children's education in my home country. It feels amazing to be part of Team Asha and I'm looking forward to continuing the journey as part of this upcoming season! Kudos to Team Asha!



Neelu Patil

I signed up for the marathon training program with Asha after being inspired by my friend and my spouse who had trained with Team Asha and successfully completed the half marathon last year. What followed next was 4 months of training re: what to eat before a run, the importance of stretching, a newfound appreciation for early risers, and many other changes in my life. The Asha team's "never give up" attitude is contagious and helped me reach my goals. I realized that being consistent is very important. Soon, I was running longer distances more easily. The day before the race, at the carb-load dinner organized by Asha, everyone kept talking about race day adrenaline and reminding each other about the amount of hard work we had put in. Was I anxious? Yes, but I was also determined to complete the run. I was clear about what I was running for. I RUN so they can READ!



Prasenjit Biswas

Joining Asha marathon training sessions gave me a chance to socialize with many runners with different levels of experience and to recognize my true potential. Being part of Team Asha has motivated me to participate in different races throughout the year and always be training. Asha coaches have great running experience and the knowledge of how to prepare a runner both physically and mentally. Their structured workout sessions helped incrementally increase my stamina and running range. The icing on the cake is knowing that my fundraising is helping underprivileged children gain an education - this makes the entire journey that much more fulfilling and blissful!

PROJECT PARTNERS

Testimonials

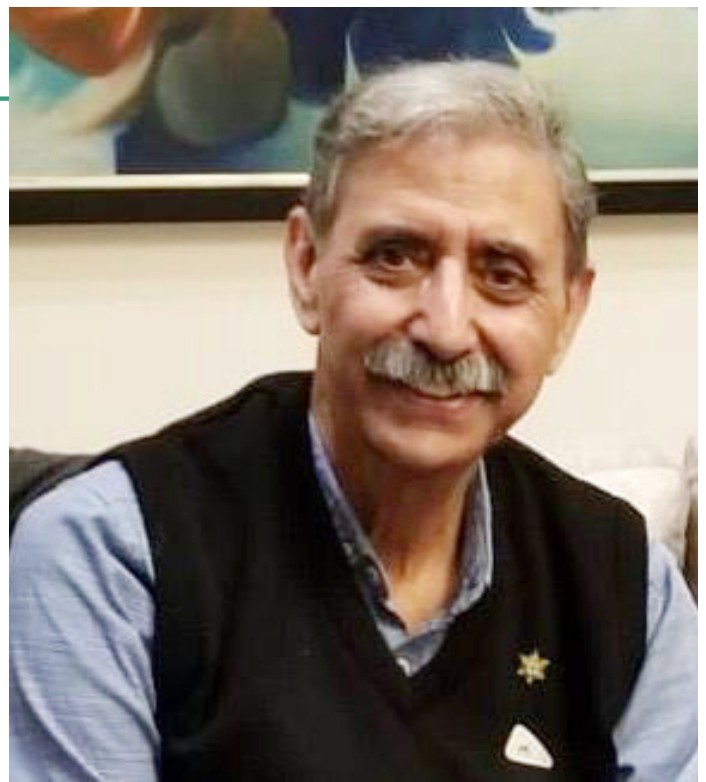
Rakesh Jinsi (KWS)

"Asha for Education, Austin Chapter (Asha-Austin) has been associated with Khushboo for so many years that we have lost count now!

It is delightful to see the involvement of Asha team with Khushboo's cause. It is even more heartening to see their support during COVID. They have been extremely sensitive to how covid has brought challenges and the consequent need to address the challenges. Asha goes beyond the role of a normal donor, appreciating our efforts, encouraging our new initiatives and suggesting possible additions.

Even though it is not amongst our high value donors, Asha is one of our most valued donors, for the simple reason that they have built a very special relationship which is much beyond a normal donor -donee one.

We wish Asha team the very best for all times to come. May it be able to motivate many more such organizations.



"Asha (Austin) goes beyond the role of a normal donor, appreciating our efforts, encouraging our new initiatives and suggesting possible additions.."

Shubham Garg (GSK)

Asha for Education (Austin Chapter) has played a very important role in helping us set-up and successfully operate the Uday Community School since 2014 at Girirajpura, one of the displaced communities of Ranthambhor.

One very important characteristic that I admire about Asha and which I believe is truly essential for any partnership to flourish is to have 'Trust' between the two partners, which Asha has immensely shown and practiced in their partnership with Gramin Shiksha Kendra over these years. The Asha volunteers have always been patient and supportive enough to listen to our needs, challenges, and also the success stories from the project, and to act upon it.

I look forward to a continued association between Gramin Shiksha Kendra and Asha for Education for years to come.



DONOR

Testimonials

Pradeep and Lori Bhatia

We got interested in Asha because of our love for education and our understanding of the need for assistance in many places in India. Our most recent involvement is dedicated to our late mother, Mrs. Ram Pyari Bhatia. She migrated to India as a young 5-year old, and never received a formal education as her family was struggling to feed the kids after their migration to India. Despite all of her hardships, she self-taught herself, and throughout her life encouraged her four kids to excel in education. We hope that other girls in a similar situation will find a way to embrace education through our small effort. We believe Asha will help us in our effort to educate more girls, something our mother would have derived immense pleasure from.

In the future, we would love to see more emphasis on education for young girls. We know that with girls and women being educated, not only does a family benefit, but a community and eventually the whole fabric of society as well. Practical skills are excellent, but computing and STEM are critical for all children, including girls. Girls bring a unique perspective to technology, and that's where the real intersection of technology and humanity can thrive.



"With girls and women being educated, not only does a family benefit, but a community and eventually the whole fabric of society as well"

Vishal Aslot

I learned about Asha Austin through their marathon training program in Austin, Texas. I am more interested in Asha for Education because of the trust I have in the way that they manage programs. I believe that it is the poor who feel the biggest brunt of the ongoing economic devastation due to little or no life savings and a shrinking job pool. Long term, the easiest and quickest way for these kids to come out of poverty is through education.

I urge anyone looking to donate money to give Asha for Education a serious look, because the work they do is impactful and is done with the lowest expense of any other charity I know of. That means, more of your money goes to helping those who need it rather than to the administration of the program itself.

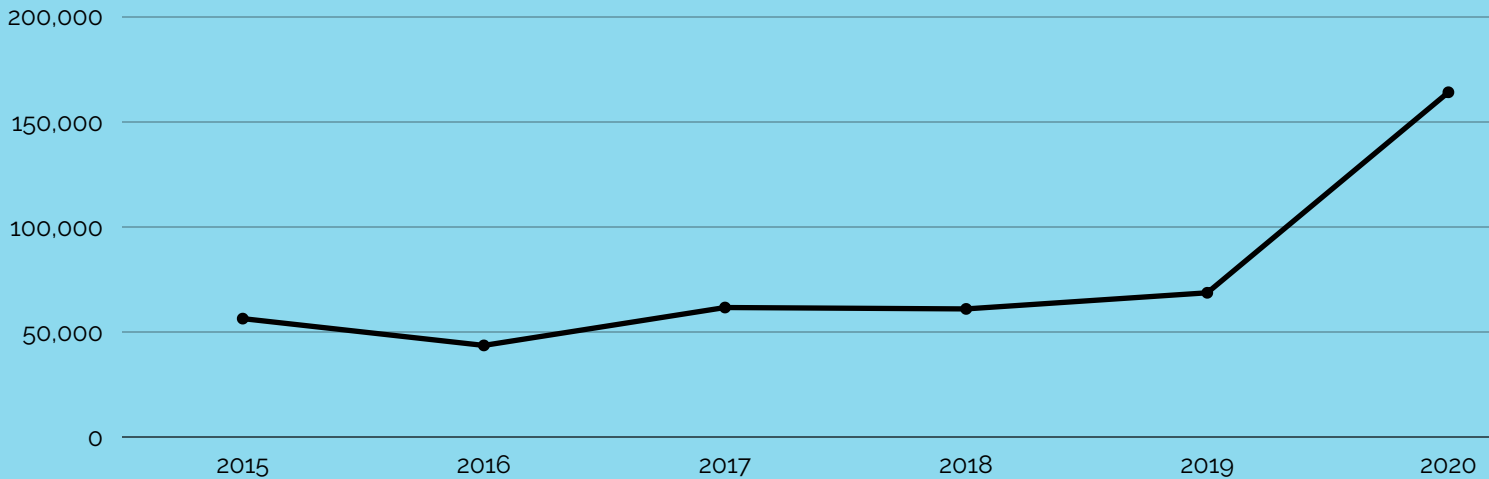


FINANCIALS

2020

Our 2020 Disbursements Soar!

Disbursements in USD



Asha Austin Chapter Impact to Date



\$1 Million +
Disbursed

32+
Projects
Supported






24 Years of
Service



ABOUT US

Asha for Education

- A low-overhead, 100% volunteer-driven 501c(3) organization (EIN: 77-0459884)
- Catalyze socio-economic change in India through education of underprivileged children
- A 4-star charity on Charity Navigator for past 7 consecutive years
- Austin chapter established in 1997 and has worked with 32+ project partners till date
- Chapter projects focus on special needs and/or alternate education in rural parts of India

- Visit us at [http://](http://www.ashaforeducation.org) and connect with us at   

How You Can Support

- \$25 Monthly educational/ therapy support for a child
- \$50 Monthly food, educational and medical support for a special child
Monthly support for a vocational training center for adolescent girls (OR)
- \$75 Monthly teaching and learning material cost (OR)
Monthly computer-based training support
- \$100 Monthly salary of an Asha teacher for primary education
- \$150 Monthly salary of a teacher/therapist at special needs schools
- \$300 Annual support for a child's education
- \$500 General donation for all projects

Asha Austin Project Partners

