Hand in Hand works with entrepreneurship as an effective, long term, and sustainable method to eradicate poverty.
WHAT DOES HAND IN HAND WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Hand in Hand’s vision is a world free from poverty. The lack of sufficient income opportunities is one main source of poverty – our focus is to provide training for women and youth to become economically active and thus to increase their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

Hand in Hand’s model is built on education and training in entrepreneurship and enterprise development, which in turn creates the ability to develop a sustainable livelihood and thus decrease poverty. We believe that everyone has individual skills and the desire to improve, and with the right tools and support, each individual will take responsibility for his or her own life. Pride, self-esteem and belief in the future are difficult to measure, but these attributes lead to positive effects that we witness every day in our work.

Women have a vital role in building sustainable communities and in fighting poverty. The higher the economic and social status of the women in the community, the more positive it is for the family and the larger community. Children go to school, health improves, and women have control over their own lives.

In Southern Africa, there is a large and growing youth population that lacks work: Hand in Hand increasingly dedicates its efforts to this group. In Africa, primarily women, but also men, take part in our projects. Whereas in India, we focus only on the participation of women. Our primary beneficiary group is people who live on less than 3.20 USD a day.

Our ambition is to make it possible for marginalized and vulnerable people to rise out of poverty and to lead fulfilling lives. Our long-term goal is to increase the ability of 10 million people in the world to support themselves financially. With families of 4-5 members, this means that the future life prospects for 40-50 million people can be improved.

Hand in Hand also aims to contribute to increased knowledge of the importance of creating jobs to address inclusive growth and sustainable global development. We also aim to share our knowledge and experience about how our self-help model functions. Therefore, institutions, media, authorities, and other policy makers are also included in our target groups.
STRATEGY TO REACH OUR GOALS

Hand in Hand’s focus is that women and youth shall become economically active; our model includes social mobilization in self-help groups, education and training in entrepreneurship, training in how to save and lend, as well as providing access to micro loans and market linkages. With self-help groups as a democratic starting point, it becomes possible to address other issues in the society such as child labor, lack of health care, environmental concerns, discrimination, and a weak democracy.

In addition to entrepreneurship training, our work also includes:

• Combatting child labor and support to vulnerable children so that they can go to school
• Training in democracy and human rights
• Health care through preventative screenings and preventative information
• Environmental and climate actions such as waste handling and water management.

WE INVEST IN PEOPLE’S OWN DRIVE AND ABILITY
HOW HAND IN HAND MEASURES PROGRESS

To be able to measure what Hand in Hand Sweden, in collaboration with our Partner Organizations, has achieved in each country, we measure a number of indicators on a continual basis:

• Number of self-help groups initiated or strengthened
• Number of members mobilized in self-help groups
• Number of jobs created or strengthened
• Number of children taken out of work (India)
• Number of people who have completed health screening and preventative care (India)
• Number of people engaged in waste separation and water management (India)

The above information is gathered by PO personnel and registered in local databases. Each PO reports monthly to Hand in Hand Sweden and then the results are published on Hand in Hand Sweden’s website.

MORE ON FOLLOW UP, EVALUATION AND CONTROL

In addition to quantitative key numbers, we also measure economic and social indicators. An example of this is the change in member’s income, improvement in living standards such as access to sanitation, improved health, housing standards, access to health care, but also women’s status in the family and the community.

Hand in Hand also evaluates changes at the societal level, for example citizen’s inclusion in democratic processes such as local decision-making foras, and in the development of the local community in general.

Internal evaluations of projects and programs are carried out on a regular basis by Hand in Hand Sweden or partner organization staff. Hand in Hand also engages external, objective organizations and authorized auditors to evaluate our operations, our projects, and the quality of the reported and financial data.

Our financial donors have the opportunity to visit the projects to witness how they are progressing. All projects are evaluated and reported on, both financially and qualitatively, according to agreement.
OUR PROJECTS

Our 59 ongoing projects are made possible by financial support from private donors, corporations and organizations such as the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Läkarmissionen, Forum Syd, and Radiohjälpen.

Our projects include one or more of our focus areas; entrepreneurship, environment, democracy, health, and child education. The purpose of the projects is to collectively contribute towards Hand in Hand’s vision of a world free from poverty.

During 2019, Hand in Hand Sweden funded 14 new village projects in Kenya, 22 in India, and 2 in Zimbabwe, where a comprehensive investment in entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and sustainable development is undertaken at a village level.

The village projects make it possible to mobilize for development during 2.5 years in one village. When self-help groups are initiated or strengthened, additional enterprises are established and employment opportunities created, leading to a potential positive development for the entire village.
HAND IN HAND AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The global sustainability agenda and efforts within the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals continues. The 2019 UN Sustainability Report concluded that, among other things, the goal to eradicate poverty will not be achieved by 2030. In addition, the number of people who live in extreme poverty has been increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa; environmental degradation is accelerating, the world has experienced four years of high temperature records, hunger is increasing and discrimination against women continues.

A global trend of relevance for the work of Hand in Hand is demographic development. In 2050, the population in Africa is expected to double and reach 2.5 billion people. An important note is the large growing youth population. It is expected that 1.5 billion Africans will be younger than 24 years old by 2050. The growth of the number of young people has slowed in India, yet half of India’s 1.4 billion inhabitants today are younger than 25 years old, and approximately 25% are younger than 14 years of age.

Between 2000-2017, the African economy grew 4.7 percent annually, but the overall standard of living did not develop accordingly. The situation in India is more positive – during a 10 year period, approximately 270 million people rose out of poverty. However, approximately 350 million still live in so called multi-dimensional poverty. The lack of jobs in the countries where Hand in Hand operates is significant, particularly among youth. According to the World Bank, Africa needs jobs to grow at a rate of a million jobs a month, to sustain the unemployment at the existing level. The same figure resonates in India. Despite the governments’ vision for education, there is a significant lack of trained labourers. Only 3% of India’s workforce has some kind of vocational training.

Increasingly, Hand in Hand’s target groups are affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and water scarcity. In addition to interventions that work towards economic growth free from carbon dioxide emissions, exploitation of natural resources, and environmental degradation, we recognize the need for adaptation to water scarcity, drought, floods and other natural disasters.

Hand in Hand’s model addresses the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on goal 1 (no poverty); goal 2 (no hunger); goal 3 (health and well being); goal 4 (good education for all); goal 5 (gender equality); goal 8 (decent work and economic growth); goal 10 (reduced inequality); and goal 17 (global partnerships). Other goals are also positively affected by Hand in Hand’s interventions.
WHAT CAPACITY DOES HAND IN HAND HAVE?

Hand in Hand Sweden has 18 employees, which corresponds to 16 full time employees (as of December 2019) and four volunteers, one of whom is based in Göteborg, working on a regular basis for the organization.

The team in Stockholm works with fundraising, program development, follow up and evaluation of our contributions, communication, and administration. Through continuous dialogue with our partner organizations and field visits, our employees secure the quality of our project implementation. Hand in Hand works systematically to develop our operations and to adjust to local and global contexts.

Hand in Hand works with a number of companies that provide us with pro bono services, for example within advertising, IT support, and event organizations.

Our operations as we know them today, started in India in 2004. Experience from India led to a growth of our work in a number of countries, always taking into account local culture, laws and conditions. Hand in Hand Afghanistan opened in 2006, Hand in Hand Eastern African began in 2011, and Hand in Hand Zimbabwe in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hand in Hand Afghanistan</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand in Hand India</td>
<td>2958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand in Hand Eastern Africa</td>
<td>259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand in Hand Zimbabwe</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand in Hand International</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HOW DOES HAND IN HAND GET THE MESSAGE OUT?

An important part of our mission is to spread information about developments within the countries where we work and how our efforts contribute to the eradication of poverty. The linkages between being able to support yourself and your family, enterprise development, job creation, gender equality, and improvement of living conditions needs to be visible for a larger audience. Hand in Hand Sweden therefore engages actively to share knowledge about our operations through a number of channels. Through media exposure, our donors can see how their support concretely contributes towards the eradication of poverty. We encourage our donors to share information about our collaboration in their networks to inspire others to become involved.
EXEMPLARY OF HAND IN HAND’S EFFECT

LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN KENYA

The three year project “Integrated Adult Literacy and Entrepreneurship Training”, with the goal to improve the lives of 5,300 participants in the regions of Kajiado and Makueni, Kenya, through integrated literacy and entrepreneurship training, was a partnership between Läkarmissionen, Hand in Hand Sweden, and Hand in Hand Eastern Africa.

The project was successful in terms of including more participants and strengthening self help groups than planned; 2,500 additional jobs were strengthened and created – beyond the expected goal. All project participants interviewed stated that their groups were strengthened as they gained skills in how to save, take out a loan, and understand value chains.

EFFECT - IMPROVED LIVING STANDARD

In Makueni, 46% of the participants took out a loan and in Kajiado 33% did so. An evaluation conducted at the end of the project indicated that the loans led to an increase in income, improved food security and strengthened linkages with commercial markets. The improvements in income and food security are expected to be sustained after the completion of the project. The participants who were connected to the commercial markets, for example to the fruit processing industry, indicate that they will maintain these market linkages.

DECREASE MATERNAL MORTALITY IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

The project to improve maternal health care in Thellar Block, Thiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu, India was carried out with the support of Radiohjälpen and Hand in Hand Sweden.

Hand in Hand worked with qualified pediatricians to check all the children in the community – 4,887 children younger than 5 years old, and 11,432 between 6 and 18 years old. All sick children were treated with a full preventive vaccination program. To decrease maternal mortality, 937 women were screened, more than half of these women were classified as high risk cases. One hundred percent of the women continued to be monitored and gave birth to their children in a local health center or clinic.

EFFECT - IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

Through Hand in Hand’s project, families have received education about family planning and the importance of not delivering children too close to each other. Ninety-six percent of new mother’s said that they would like to follow the recommendation not to have children closer than three years between the first and the second child. The increased knowledge has led to health benefits for both women and children. Maternal mortality went down to zero in the target group during the project period.
When Ramani became engaged with Hand in Hand, she took care of the household while her husband worked in a hotel in another village, which meant that he was only able to be home on Sundays. By taking part in Hand in Hand’s training, Ramani was able to start her own small business, where she produces jam, pickled onions and tomato sauce.

“Now my husband can work in my business, so he no longer works at the hotel and does not have to take the long journeys. This makes a big difference for both me and my daughters,” says Ramani.

Charity and Pardon had always had a garden and animals, but they had not managed to develop it into a profitable business. With the help of Hand in Hand, they received training to develop their business. They also joined a self-help group, where they could contribute to and benefit from collective savings of all the group members. Now they run a profitable business with chicken rearing.

“We learned how to manage the economics of running a business thanks to our training with Hand in Hand. Our life has changed and now we see ourselves as independent entrepreneurs,” says the couple.
With the support of Hand in Hand, Pellagia started, together with five of her female neighbors, a self help group. With a loan from the group’s savings, she could purchase chickens to rear.

“Before I worked for only myself and my children, I had no plan, and I was not so motivated either. Now I have developed both motivation and confidence through the group and the training,” says Pellagia.

Rhoda contacted Hand in Hand and discovered the opportunity to a better life. Together with other marginalized women, she started the self help group Positive Ability. The group started to save money, then received training, and soon they were able to view waste as a resource – raw material for making other products.

“Strengthening confidence among children and women is very important. These urban slums have big problems with poverty, criminality and prostitution. Through entrepreneurship, we are able to create real jobs, while at the same time improve the environment,” says Rhoda.
THIS IS WHAT HAND IN HAND HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR

Hand in Hand Sweden follows the participants who have gone through our programs and projects and evaluates changes that have occurred; internal and external evaluations indicate a higher income and living standard among the participants, who also continue to save and be involved in the self-help groups. Our target groups also indicate improved confidence and self-esteem after completing the training.

The Hand in Hand network has, in total since its inception, contributed to (key numbers through 31 December 2019):

- **236,951** STRENGTHENED OR STARTED SELF-HELP GROUPS (37,886 DURING 2019)
- **2,905,342** PEOPLE TRAINED IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (371,402 DURING 2019)
- **2,827,018** STRENGTHENED OR STARTED ENTERPRISES (313,502 DURING 2019)
- **4,354,784** STRENGTHENED OR CREATED JOBS (533,822 DURING 2019)

The numbers are totals from each partner organization since inception. The project in Rwanda was completed in 2015 and is counted in Eastern Africa’s numbers. Eastern Africa also includes Kenya and Tanzania. Completed projects include those in South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland. In South Africa, a strategy for local financing resulted in a project now funded by local authorities and organizations. The projects in Swaziland and Lesotho have been phased out.