



# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT





lotus outreach  
INTERNATIONAL

Our mission is to empower vulnerable women and children living in poverty. With affiliates in seven countries and local NGO partners in India and Cambodia, we are a global community that believes empowerment is the heart of sustainable change.

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#### A LETTER

Read a letter from our Executive Director summarizing the exciting progress we made in 2020.

#### JUMP TO IT:



MEET  
GRADS



MEET AN LO  
AMBASSADOR



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#### THANK YOU

A note of gratitude and looking forward.



# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF OUR LOTUS OUTREACH COMMUNITY,



our Lotus Relief emergency response efforts. We are deeply thankful for your generous contributions.

In early 2020 we had just emerged from a year of rapid growth and sparks were flying. Whether access to education on buses and bikes, skills training or village health projects, everything was in a rapid growth phase and continued that way until March 23 and the arrival of the Covid-19 epidemic and subsequent lockdowns. The epidemic brought unprecedented challenges and hardships across the globe for everyone; women, rural communities, children and youth from poor families, those at the heart of all our projects, were disproportionately impacted.

Our immediate response was to analyze the impact of lockdown on all our projects and figure out how to respond and adapt projects to continue providing services at the highest possible level and also invited our community to contribute to

In the first months of the epidemic were able to provide more than 8,000 meals as emergency rations to families of daily-wage workers without income and in desperate need to feed their families. We provided masks, soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to ensure the safety of almost 1,000 front line health workers and rural populations while community based education campaigns provided village families vital information about the dangers of Covid-19 and how to avoid infection.

Ensuring equal access to quality education has always been central to our programing and school closures and interruption to community education projects brought the digital divide into a much sharper focus than ever before. Having local staff and project partners on the ground enabled us to

move quickly to provide smart-phones and online support groups for our university and high school scholars while our community based teachers kept the light of education burning in the hearts and minds of hundreds of slum and village children by providing them daily classes one on one and in small groups.

While the epidemic presented unprecedented challenges, there were also many bright spots in the year. Fifteen year old LO Ambassador April Cheng helped us reach our 1000 Bikes Campaign goal of \$75,000, hosting the second annual fundraiser hosted by LO Taiwan. April led a team of nine of her friends from BeiZheng High School with their class teacher for a Riding for Girls Taiwan 1,000 Bikes event. It stretched over three days and four nights, raising funds and also nurturing seeds of awareness and a sense of global responsibility in upcoming generations, which is an extremely important and satisfying impact of our bike ride events across the globe.

2020 was again a significant year for LO in terms of support for education over the lifetime of children in our care, marked by our first ever gathering of some 61 alumna and CATALYST project scholars in Siem Reap. The joyous event was a culmination of more than 14 years of educational support provided to some fifteen hundred scholars, many of which have now completed tertiary studies and gone on to well paid jobs.

In the midst of all the struggle and strife of 2020 we could not have imagined a better end to the year when twenty-eight of our scholars donned their academic gowns and flung their caps in their air after graduating university with a four year degree! We are delighted to share their stories of hope and empowerment along with details of our many other achievements during the course of the year in this report.

With gratitude,

Glenn Fawcett  
Executive Director





# CELEBRATING

January 18th, 2020 Lotus Outreach Cambodia (LOCAM) celebrated our first ever Alumnae Gathering in Siem Reap, Cambodia. After 14 years of providing scholarships through GATE, in addition to university scholars since 2010, this was a monumental occasion for the scholarship recipients of LO programs.

Lotus Outreach Alumnae initiated formalizing an LOCAM Alumnae Association and a Pay-It-Forward group meeting to initiate projects that will benefit LO Alumna and Cambodian society at large. It was incredibly moving to be together with so many of the young women LO supported year after year. Their passion and commitment to pay forward the compassion, opportunity, and transformation that was made available to them is inspirational beyond measure.

One of the first alumna of the program, Sima, gave an impressive and touching testimonial in English (translated into Khmer by LOCAM's Project Officer Sima graduated high school under GATE in 2010 and received her BA in Law through CATALYST in 2014.) She shared with those in attendance about her life, study, and work experiences.

## THE FIRST GATE & CATALYST ALUMNAE GATHERING IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA



**"In November of 2010 I left Banteay Meanchey Province to study in Phnom Penh City. I knew nothing in Phnom Penh but I had someone behind me who was not only kind to me, but kind to everyone. I was very lucky to meet her. She is the Country Representative of Lotus Outreach Cambodia. That said, I would like to thank Lotus Outreach for financial, spiritual, and material support for myself and other students. Without you, our lives would not be bright."**

Sima went on to encourage juniors to study and work hard to position themselves for success in the future. She left them with a poignant message: **"Failure is a starting point to becoming successful."**

**"When I was in ninth grade, I wanted to drop out because my parents could not afford school. Luckily, I received scholarship support from Lotus Outreach which provided me with enough uniforms to wear, books to study, and a bike to ride to school. I could study tuition classes like other students. As a result, my study got better and better every year until I passed high school in 2010."**







Over 100 people were in attendance including 74 alumna, 26 current CATALYST university scholars, eight members of the

LOI Board of Directors and Team, and four LOCAM team members



# 2020 CATALYST GRADUATES

WE'RE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO 5 OF OUR 28 2020 CATALYST UNIVERSITY GRADUATES!



SOY RIM

Years with LO: 9

**“Everyone faces obstacles, big or small, but I turned every obstacle I encountered into a good opportunity and even overcame all those obstacles successfully.”**

And now? She's working at Belti International School as an English teacher.



VO SAMNANG

Years with LO: 9

**“I used to be a person who always needed encouragement from people around me when I wanted to accomplish something. It's important if we have many people to encourage us, but we cannot just let our emotions control us. We have to encourage and motivate ourselves — it is more powerful than anything that makes me more successful.”**

And now? She's a primary school teacher in her community.



VAN SOPHIN

Years with LO: 4

**“I used to be a person who did not dare to show my ability to people around me because I was afraid that my ability was poor. But now I always tell myself that each person's strengths are different, and I reassured myself that my ability is not inferior to anyone else. Other people can do it, so I have to be brave to do it too.”**

And now? She's working at Reach Thic Sak Microfinance as a Chief Teller.



PEN SOKCHANG

Years with LO: 4

**“In the past, I always thought that I was inferior, I did not dare to talk to others, I did not believe in myself, I did not even dare to smile at people around me because I was afraid they would not smile back at me and I was fear of being looked down upon. But I keep encouraging myself to be proud of what I have. That way I can see the positives in me. Smiling is a positive energy that gives me the courage to face any problems.”**

And now? She's working in science at the Royal University of Agriculture.



SAM SAMNANG

Years with LO: 4

**“Living in poverty is very scary. Because of this fear, this orphaned girl turned into a woman who's struggled to get out of poverty, and I always told myself, 'I'm slow, but I won't stop walking.' That is why I've come to this point.”**

And now? She's working at Trax Apparel Factory as Quality Assurance Leader.





“Education is  
the premise of  
progress, in  
every society,  
in every family”

– **Kofi Annan**,  
Nobel Peace Prize  
recipient and former  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations





# OUR IMPACT

In 27 years Lotus Outreach International has touched the lives of more than **250,000** people.

Of those impacted, more than **64,000** people were directly served through education and training and more than **50,000** through programs in care.

While the impact of transforming a young life is of course impossible to quantify, we ask you to imagine with us that for every girl we support her family is affected, her children, her friends, her community— for generations to come.



Job placements and skills-training to **1000** girls



**86** pump wells and water in schools serving **12,100** villagers



**1,198,397** lbs of rice to families to help support education

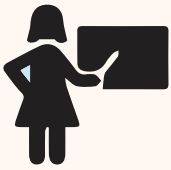
## WE HAVE PROVIDED:

Access to education to **7,464** girls

Scholarships and mentorship to more than **745** university girls



After-school classes to **6,213** children



Improved access to health care and advocacy education to **50,000** people



**EDUCATION & TRAINING**  
**CARE**





# LOTUS RELIEF



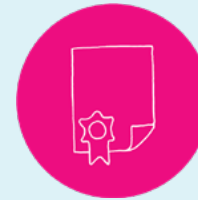
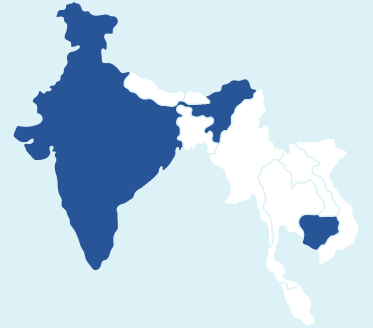
*LotusRelief* was established in 2020 to meet the urgent needs of the communities we serve during crisis. Our Covid-19 response was built on the networks of our existing programs and team.

READ MORE  
ABOUT OUR RELIEF  
ACTIVITIES



[lotusotreach.org](https://lotusotreach.org)

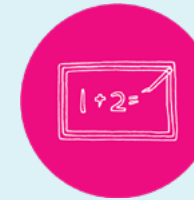
Our community came together and contributed **\$28,850** for relief activities, which was distributed across multiple programs including:



EQU+



KAPADIA  
SCHOLARS



BUDDHA  
SMILES



CATALYST



GATE



ASHA



GARDEN  
OF PEACE

+ INTEGRATED RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT (IRD)





## RIDING FOR GIRLS #TAIWAN

In July of 2020, 15 year old April Cheng spearheaded a 4-day bike ride along the Northeast coast of Taiwan in tandem with Lotus Outreach Taiwan. April and eight of her classmates rode with their high school science teacher to spread awareness about the importance of girls' education and raise funds for LO. It was our 5th ride for the *1,000 Bikes Campaign*!

#千架單車 #1000bikes



### APRIL CHENG

"During the ride, there was one moment that I felt exhausted and wanted to give up, but when I think it could help the girls, I just felt I have more energy to go on. Although it was hot and I was tired, I didn't feel regret to do this. Thank you all for donating to Riding for Girls. It means a lot for me and the girls in Cambodia and India."

— April Cheng, Taiwan, Santa Ynez

Through the **1,000 Bikes Campaign** LO Ambassadors host bike rides and community events around the world inspired by the bravery of young women who challenge harmful gender narratives to pursue their dreams of education, empowerment and sustainable change at home.



**RIDING FOR GIRLS #TAIWAN**  
raised **\$20,781** for girls  
empowerment  
through education

WITH THE SUCCESS OF RIDING FOR GIRLS #TAIWAN,  
THE 1,000 BIKES CAMPAIGN SURPASSED ITS **\$75K** GOAL DURING 2020!



# INTRO TO PROGRAMS

## Breaking down barriers to empowerment:

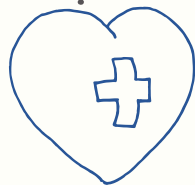
Giving a scholarship is of no benefit if girls cannot reach school and while families are hungry, they may send girls to work instead of school. We provide transport where it can help and rice support

It's time for her to go to school!

■ EDUCATION & TRAINING  
■ CARE

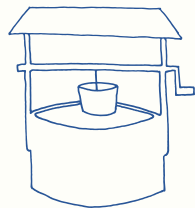


Does her village have access to health services?



**ASHA**

Does her community have clean water?

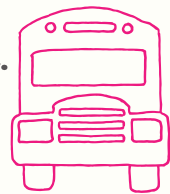


**GETTING WELL**



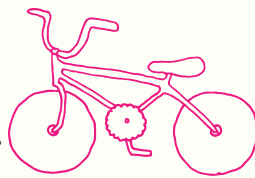
**RICE 4 EDUCATION**

Is her family hungry?



**BLOSSOM BUS**

Can she get to school?



**LOTUS PEDALS**



**GARDEN OF PEACE**

Does she have breakfast and lunch?

Is her school set up for success?



**WATER IN SCHOOLS**

Does she have the support she needs to stay in school?

Is she in danger of falling victim to human trafficking?



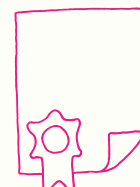
**CTC**

Does she have after-school care?



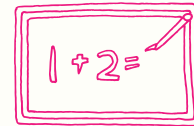
**GATE**

Does she need a scholarship?

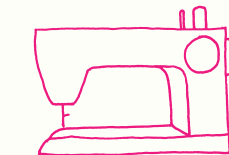


**EQU+**

Does she need tutoring support?



**BUDDHA SMILES**



**SKILLS TRAINING 4 EMPLOYMENT (STEP)**



**BUDDHA SMILES TO COLLEGE**

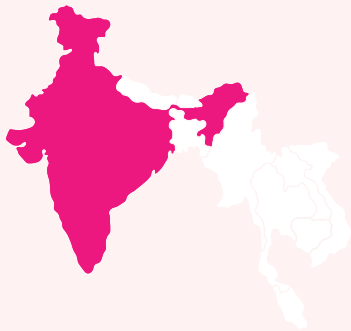
With your support, how far can she go?



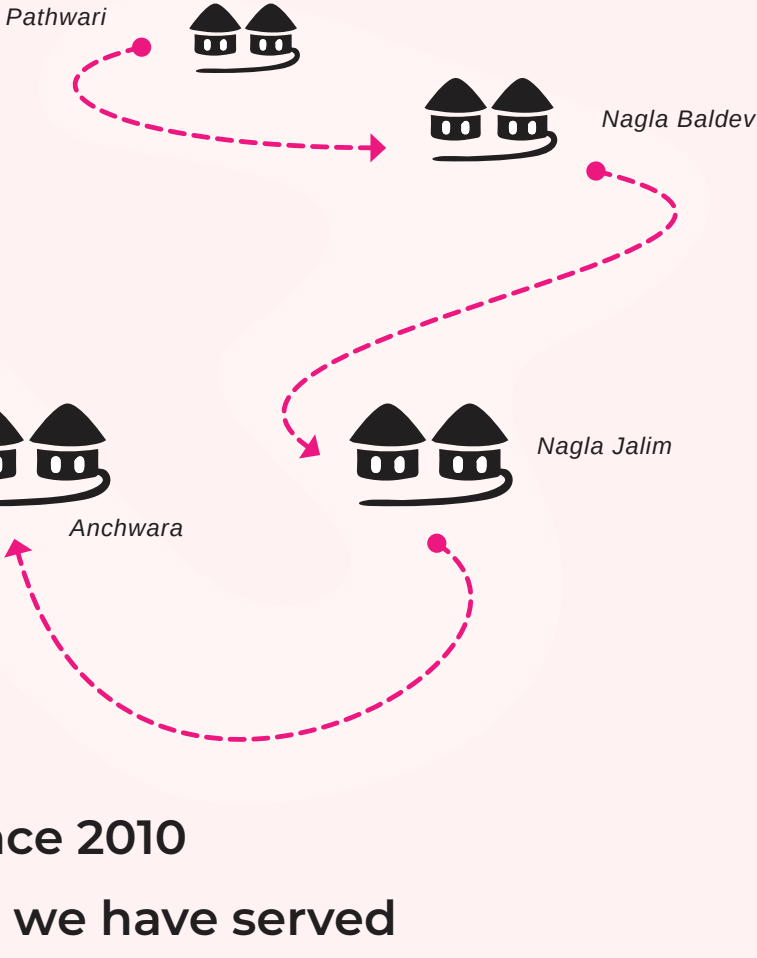
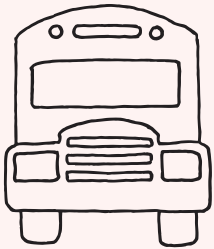
**CATALYST**



where it will maintain families' commitments to their girls' education. Solutions align with local governance objectives and adapt in conversation with communities.



# BLOSSOM BUS



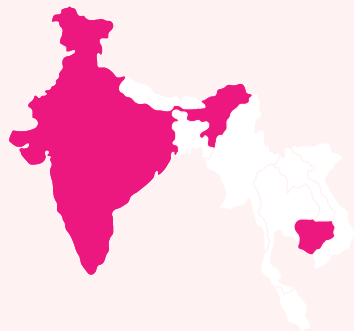
*Blossom Bus* provides daily transportation to and from school for girls and young women who live way too far from the nearest secondary school or college to walk each day.

**81** *BLOSSOM BUS* students successfully graduated high school at the end of the year!

Since 2010  
we have served  
**1,308** students







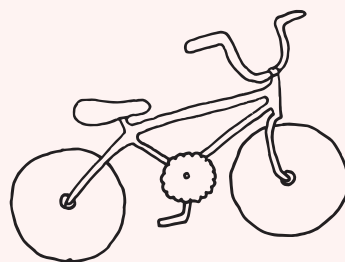
## LOTUS PEDALS

*Lotus Pedals* provides heavy terrain bicycles to girls in rural India and Cambodia so that they can traverse the long distances to the nearest school.

Despite school closures and lockdowns during 2020, we managed to provide **251** students bicycles and therefore access to education.



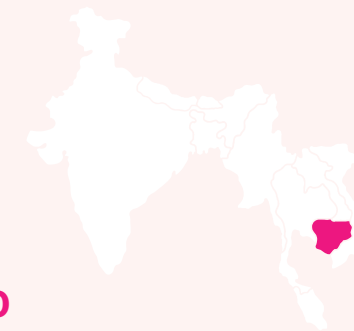
Since 2009 **3,376** bikes have been distributed for girls' access to education so far!



**GATE** *Girls Access to Education* provides access to quality education, scholarships, and mentoring for at-risk girls in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Despite school closures during **2020**, *GATE* ensured **300** at-risk girls stayed connected to their educational goals.

**34** senior high school students in Phnom Penh were provided internet cards for access to online studies and *every one of them graduated Year 12!* What'sApp Groups were created to support high school students' online studies and smart-phones were distributed where needed.



GATE HAS SERVED  
**1,911**  
**SCHOLARS**  
TOTAL SINCE  
**2007**



## CATALYST

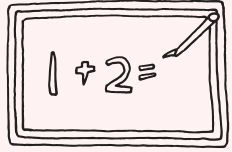
GIRLS' SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED:

**50**  
2019-20  
SCHOOL YEAR

**154**  
SINCE  
2010

*CATALYST* provides *GATE* graduates and girls from families living in poverty with scholarship support and mentoring so they can continue their studies at the university level.

We hosted the first *CATALYST* alumna gathering for more than **65 alumnae** during the LO Board's trip to Cambodia in January of **2020**. Throughout 2020, *CATALYST* scholars worked together to stay connected with their education and look out for one another in spite of school closures. Our dedicated *LOCAM* team moved mountains!



*Buddha Smiles* provides after school education and tutoring to children of the poorest migrant families and socially marginalized groups in Tamil Nadu, India.

## BUDDHA SMILES

has served **5,282** children since 2002



In 2020 **549** CHILDREN

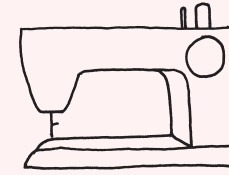
RECEIVED AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN 15 VILLAGES OF THE VELLORE AND THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

## BUDDHA SMILES TO COLLEGE



*Buddha Smiles to College* provides scholarship support to young women and men from poor and marginalized communities in Tamil Nadu, India, including from incredibly remote villages.

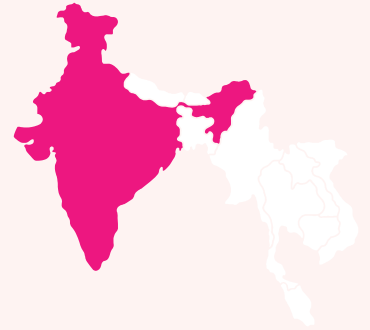
SINCE 2016, WE'VE SUPPORTED **6 SCHOLARS** IN THIS PROGRAM



## STEP



*Skills Training 4 Employment* provides women six-month training courses with master tailors to support their livelihood.



In 2020, we served **90** women through this program

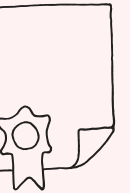
SINCE 2013, WE HAVE SERVED 430 WOMEN THROUGH *STEP*

SINCE 2017, *EQU+* HAS REACHED 1,334 CHILDREN

In 2020, after school care was provided to **464** children in **19** tutoring centers

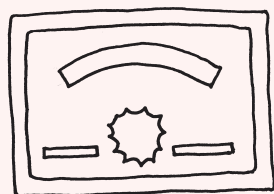
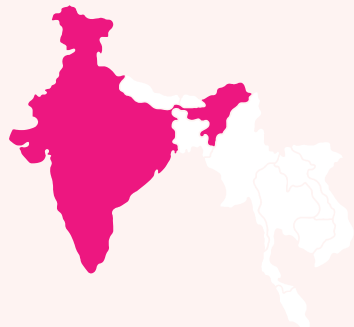
In spite of school closures and lockdowns, brave community teachers ensured that students stayed connected to their education by providing in person classes in their homes, at local parks, and online through What'sApp.

**EQU+**



*Education Quality Addition* provides after school tutoring and childcare to children of migrant laborers and families living in poverty in New Delhi.





## KAPADIA SCHOLARS

*Kapadia Scholars* provides youth from urban slums in Delhi with mentoring, university scholarships for annual fees, including for online degree courses, and the support they need to stick with it.

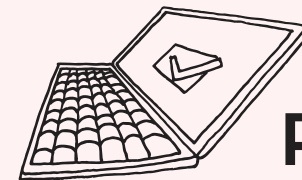


In 2020 we served **47** students  
with scholarships and support

Many of the exceptional youth accepted into this program are graduates of *Blossom Bus* and give back to their communities. Some are even a part of our *EQU+* volunteer team at the Rohini slum colony in Delhi.

SINCE 2016, KAPADIA SCHOLARS HAS SERVED

**53 STUDENTS**



## PNC

*Passerelles Numériques Cambodia*

Every year we support top *GATE* scholars to apply to the prestigious *PNC* IT training program offering streams in System and Network Administration (SNA) and Web Programming (WEP). We cover 50% of the cost for admitted students to attend this two-year residential program.

SINCE 2010, WE'VE SUPPORTED

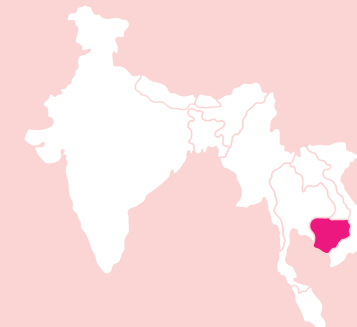
**84 SCHOLARS** IN THIS PROGRAM!

*PNC* is based on a holistic educational approach including technical and soft skills and a personal development program.



IN 2020

WE SUPPORTED 4 GATE  
GRADUATES AT PNC



100% OF  
SCHOLARS ARE  
GUARANTEED  
HIGH-CALIBER  
INTERNSHIPS  
DURING SCHOOL  
AND WELL-PAID  
EMPLOYMENT  
WITHIN A YEAR OF  
GRADUATION



CASE STUDY I:

SANGEETA, BLOSSOM BUS

Sangeeta is 19-years-old and studies in 11th grade. She's been riding the Blossom Bus for two years and is at the top of her class! She lives in Bholara, a remote village in Palwal District, Haryana. Before the bus came to her village, Sangeeta had no choice but to walk to school. "Walking to school in the heat of summer, during heavy rains and especially in winter, when the fog is so thick you can't see where you are going, made it very difficult to attend school regularly and I missed many days of school each month. Now I am able to attend school every day and I'm standing 1st in my class! My favorite subject is history. After high school, I want to complete college and work as a history teacher."



Sageeta's parents both work labor on a farm and don't have any land of their own. Despite both being illiterate they have managed to ensure a high school education for all five of their children. Sageeta is the youngest. Her father Krishan tells us, "We have to work very hard to educate our children and we don't ask Sangeeta to do any housework so she can focus on studying." Her mother Sukhavati added "I feel very ashamed that I am totally illiterate and never went to school a single day. I don't want my children to have the life I have and am very happy they are all getting educated."

We are so happy to see families like Sangeeta's who are uncompromising in supporting their children's education and we are honored to be able to support their success.



CASE STUDY II:

VOTEY, LOTUS PEDALS

Votey is one of our 100 GATE recipients studying in 7th grade at a Lower Secondary School in Siem Reap. Lotus Pedals provided 251 bike scholarships to students during 2020 and Votey was one of the girls to receive a bike. Votey is 13 years old and is the third child of six siblings. Her parents have a cart from which they sell fruits in the Angkor Wat area, earning together around \$150 a month to support their eight person family. In primary school, Votey would share a ride to school on her sister's bicycle, but when Votey went on to Secondary School this was no longer an option as the school is much further from her home and in



a different direction than her sister's school. As her family could not afford another bicycle during the pandemic and with no other means of transportation, Votey was at risk of having to drop out. Luckily, Votey heard about Lotus Pedals. She applied and now has a new bicycle of her own. She said, "I will take good care of the bicycle and will study hard to finish school and become a teacher. Thank you for your kindness."

A bicycle can mean a world of difference. We are so happy to be able to support girls like Votey in breaking barriers in their families and communities through simple and innovative solutions.

CASE STUDY III:

SHABNAM, SKILLS TRAINING 4 EMPLOYMENT



Shabnam is nineteen-years old and lives in Bawana JJ (a slum resettlement colony) in New Delhi. She lives with her parents, sister, brother, sister-in-law, and nephew. She is the youngest in her family and attended our EQU+ program classes through her 8th grade.

Shabnam was interested in sewing from a young age and had even requested a local tailor to teach her cutting and sewing techniques. Unfortunately, after seeking out this opportunity, she didn't feel that she benefited from this apprenticeship, and felt limited by her options. When our STEP (Skills Training 4 Employment) program launched in November of 2020, Shabnam was overjoyed and quickly enrolled.

STEP workshops are a 6-month immersion into the art and craft of tailoring and sewing clothes. The young women enrolled in the program are taught all the skills they need to be successful tailors at home and in their communities.

Our STEP trainer, Fatima, said that Shabnam was a keen student and worked hard to master the skills she was taught in class. By the end of her training she was already stitching clothes for herself and her family. Shabnam recently updated us on her progress- she's making clothes for others in her neighborhood and getting paid well for her work. She further told us, "I can now make different styles of Salwar Kurta (traditional everyday and fancy ladies wear). I already have a few orders to complete with more coming in since the festival season is around the corner."

During the pandemic, Shabnam also volunteered to distribute cooked meals to those in need. Beneficiaries of our programs, young women like Shabnam, lead the way in giving back to their communities. We are so happy to support the success and wellbeing of the young women and girls our programs support.





“This Earth,  
our home,  
is calling for  
us to be bold,  
reminding  
us that we  
are all in this  
together.”

— **Dr. Katharine Wilkinson**  
*American writer and  
climate change activist*

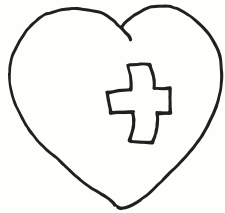






## ASHA

ASHA improves women and children's village health care by training local government health care workers, ensuring better quality and increasing access by educating their communities about vital health care rights and practices in rural Rajasthan.



In 2020 we helped train **165** local health worker activists in **65** villages, directly serving **5,729** including those individuals impacted by LotusRelief



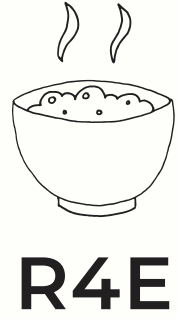
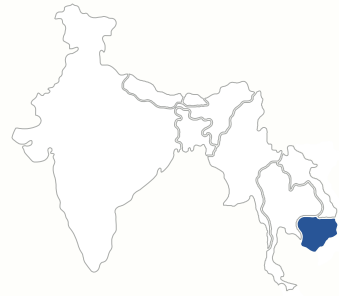
In **2020**, we helped train **165 local health worker activists** in **65 villages** directly serving **5,279 community members**, including those individuals impacted by *LotusRelief*.

*LotusRelief* worked with the ASHA program training frontline health workers and delivering

**22,500** bars of soap,  
**5,000** masks,  
and COVID-19  
education in  
**150** villages.







*Rice 4 Education* provides monthly rice support to Cambodian families of GATE and CATALYST scholars with the purpose of helping keep girls and young women in school.



In 2020, R4E provided **44,689 kg** (almost 100K pounds) of rice to around **400** individuals, including **75** GATE high school students and their families and and **55** CATALYST scholars.

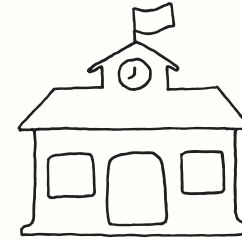
Since 2007, we've served

**544,726** kg of rice!

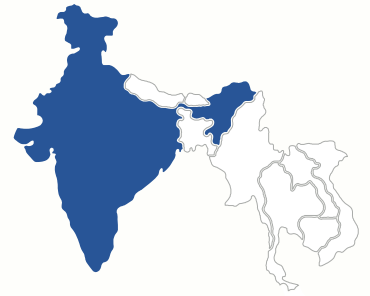
(THAT'S MORE THAN 1.2 MIL POUNDS!)



LOTUSRELIEF HELPED PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RICE SUPPORT TO 35 OF THE POOREST GATE FAMILIES



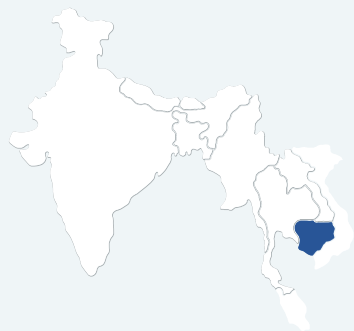
## GARDEN OF PEACE



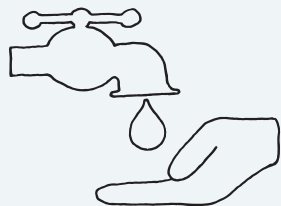
*Garden of Peace* provides nutritious daily meals to students at a school dedicated to holistic education for the rural poor in Tamil Nadu, India

In **2020**, **174** children were served through GARDEN OF PEACE

Since 2015, **837** children have been served



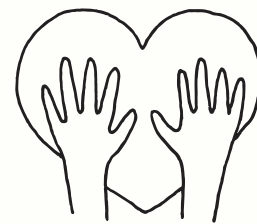
## WINS



*Water In Schools* installs water filtration systems in rural Cambodian schools in collaboration with committed faculty to provide school children access to clean drinking water.

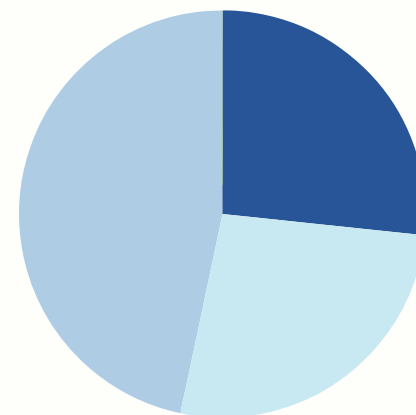


Since **2019**, we have provided access to drinking water to **1,100** children!



## CTC

*Consoling through Counseling and Reintegration* provides care and protection to survivors of trafficking, sexual abuse, and domestic violence including trauma therapy, skills-training, and social assistance for young women and children residing in a women's shelter in rural Cambodia.



**26.67%** SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

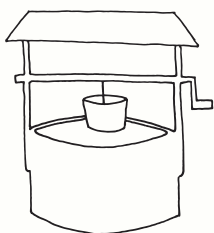
**26.67%** SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**46.67%** SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In **2020**, we provided care for **30** survivors

Since 2005, we have provided care to

**1,352** women and girls



## GETTING WELL

*Getting Well* constructs water wells that serve entire villages in drought prone regions of rural Cambodia.



Since 2007, Getting Well has provided access to fresh water to **11,000** people



CASE STUDY IV:

THANGFA, GATE,  
LOTUS PEDALS, R4E,  
BAYON PASTRY, & CATALYST

Thangfa is a first-year student studying Business Management at Build Bright University in Phnom Penh through our CATALYST university scholarship program. Thangfa is the sixth child of seven siblings and is the only one who has come this far in her education. Most of her siblings did not attend school past the second grade.

Thangfa's family has always struggled financially. For many years her mother grew vegetables on a small plot of land, and Thangfa would sell the veggies on the street. Still, her mother insisted Thangfa continue to attend school. Thangfa walked 3 km to get to school every day until she reached 9th grade. She told us, "It was very difficult having no means of transportation to get to school; sometimes I wanted to drop out, but because I love studying, I was willing to walk to school."

In addition to the long walk each day, Thangfa was burdened by her concern for her family's financial situation. She felt bad that she wasn't helping out by getting a job. While in 10th grade, her mother became sick, and the family fell deeper into debt. Thangfa's grades suffered, and she often wanted to drop. Her mother, however, continuously encouraged her to stay in school.

During her last year of high school, Thangfa applied for scholarship support through GATE. Thangfa was approved, and with this support she became more motivated. She said, "After receiving the scholarship, my family and I were very happy. The program provided me with materials for study, money for tuition classes,



mental support, and some community. It made a difference in my studies." The GATE scholarship includes school supplies and tuition fees, rice support for families, academic monitoring, and a bicycle for access to education. Supported by all of this, Thangfa completed and passed her studies, deciding at the end to pursue a college degree.

Regrettably, Thangfa's mother died in 2020 while Thangfa was in her first year of her studies through CATALYST, our university scholarship program. Although this Thangfa has remained committed to her educational goals as she sees it as the best way to help her family. She has received a bicycle through Lotus Pedals to get to school, which is 6 km from the CATALYST

residential home, where she now lives. Thangfa also completed a baking course with our partner, Bayon Pastry, so that she can work as a baker and receive a decent monthly income.

"The bicycle has given me the freedom of mobility and serves as a bridge to a better future. If I didn't get the support from Lotus Outreach, I would have been doing labor work in Thailand now. Thank you so much."

Our innovative and multi-dimensional programs work together to support young women like Thangfa to realize their dreams. Thank you for your partnership in creating change and transformation in the lives of many students like her.



CASE STUDY V:

RIYA, CONSOLING THROUGH  
COUNSELING AND  
REINTEGRATION (CTC)

*This story contains sexual assault\**

Riya is 10 years old and studies in third grade. Her devastating story is typical of the kind of experiences that girls and women have before they join the residential Consoling through Counseling and Reintegration program, managed by our long-term partners in rural Cambodia.

Riya's father left her mother soon after she was born. Soon after that, her mother remarried a man who, early on in their marriage, showed abusive tendencies, often using violence to control Riya and her mother.

While Riya's mother supported her family with a day job, making close to nothing, her step-father stayed home unemployed. Riya would help manage the household chores and care for her younger step-brother while her mother was at work. It was at these times that Riya would be left alone with her step-father, who repeatedly sexually assaulted her. He threatened to kill her if she told anyone. Riya felt trapped in an impossible situation, remaining silent.

One day when her step-father attempted to rape her, Riya ran to where her mother was working in the fields. He chased her, but Riya found the courage to tell her mother about the abuses she had endured. When Riya explained what had happened, her mother immediately went to the village chief and to the police to make a complaint. Her husband was arrested and taken to jail that day.

After that, Riya was brought to the CTC safe shelter by her mother, who felt she needed further care and support. Since then, Riya has received counseling, medical treatment, and legal assistance to support her case. Providing legal support ensures that survivors can hold perpetrators accountable and supports their confidence that it's possible to stop the cycle of abuse and the stigma surrounding abuse.

CTC creates a safe and supportive environment for young women and girls like Riya to process trauma with the support and encouragement they need so that they can move forward, heal, and be voices of strength at home and in their communities.

*\*Riya is a fictional name created to protect this young women's identity*



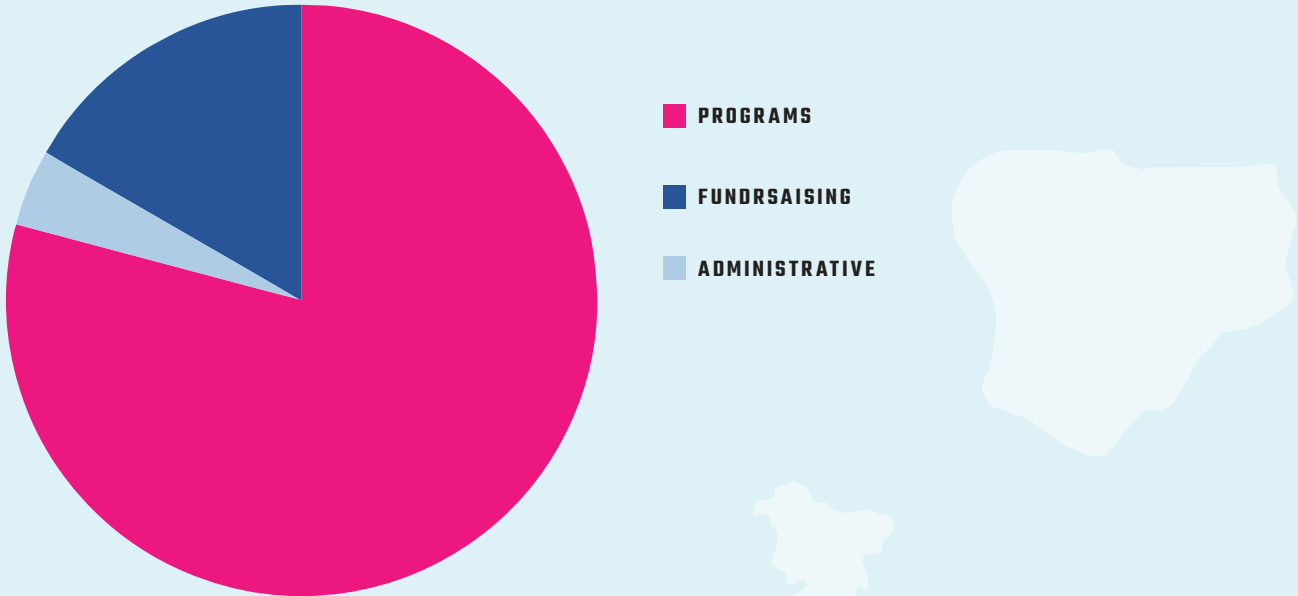
# 2020 IN NUMBERS

For the year ended December, 31, 2020

REVENUE & SUPPORT	2019	2020	% +/-	
CONTRIBUTIONS <small>(individuals)</small>	260,182	302,131	+ 16.1%	
CONTRIBUTIONS <small>(grants)</small>	268,022	206,323	- 23.0%	
OTHER REVENUE	11,823	15,990	+ 35.2%	
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	540,027	524,444	- 2.9%	

EXPENSES	2019	2020	% +/-	
PROGRAM SERVICES	384,384	375,609	- 2.3%	
FUNDRAISING	80,973	119,869	+ 48%	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE	20,272	23,234	+ 14.6%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	485,629	518,712	+ 6.8%	

We're proud of our practical and cost-effective programs that deliver essential support to our beneficiaries.



**72.4%**  
of our expenditures go  
directly to our programs  
**80% IS THE GOLD  
STANDARD**

**4.4%**  
of our expenditures go  
directly to admin costs  
**UNDER 10% IS  
EXCELLENT**





**Thank you  
to all who  
make our  
work possible**





# OUR FOUNDATION & CORPORATE SPONSORS





# LOCAL PARTNERS

Implementation partners are chosen based on the quality of our relationship, their professional credentials and reputation, and proven effectiveness.



## CAMBODIAN WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

Provides assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking.



## CAMBODIAN ORGANIZATION FOR CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT

Contributes to the empowerment of vulnerable women and girls through protection, prevention and advocacy in order to promote a peaceful, gender-equitable and compassionate society. The organization's vision is to assist women and girls in living in peace, security and dignity and enjoy their universal human rights.



## KAMPUCHEAN ACTION FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION

Aims to work with government, communities and other stakeholders to empower vulnerable children and youth to achieve their own right to a quality education through innovative approaches.



## PASSERELLES NUMÉRIQUES

Is dedicated to enabling highly disadvantaged youths access to educational, technical and vocational training, in the sector of Information Technology. PNC works to build strong employability which will allow them and their families to sustainably escape poverty, and contribute to the social and economic development of their country.



## GARDEN OF PEACE

A humble, grassroots initiative that aims to build a peaceful, nonviolent and just world through the Lotus Tutors program, a secular initiative that draws its inspiration from Gandhian philosophy of Sarvodaya which recognizes that moral, cultural, social, economic and political dimensions are all necessary components of holistic development.



## WHITE LOTUS CHARITABLE TRUST

A sister organization, White Lotus Trust works with socio-economically weaker sections of society with a special emphasis on women and children.



## SANTI SENA

Santi Sena alleviates poverty with a complex and all encompassing approach which involves cooperation with local initiatives and vulnerable communities. Their programs focus on reducing social violence, promoting human rights, empowering women, and natural resource conservation.



## KHEMARA

Promotes the capacity, confidence and wellbeing of communities through the sharing of information, education and counseling, including the encouragement of women and children to recognize their potential and rights to participate in decision making.



## LOTUS OUTREACH CAMBODIA

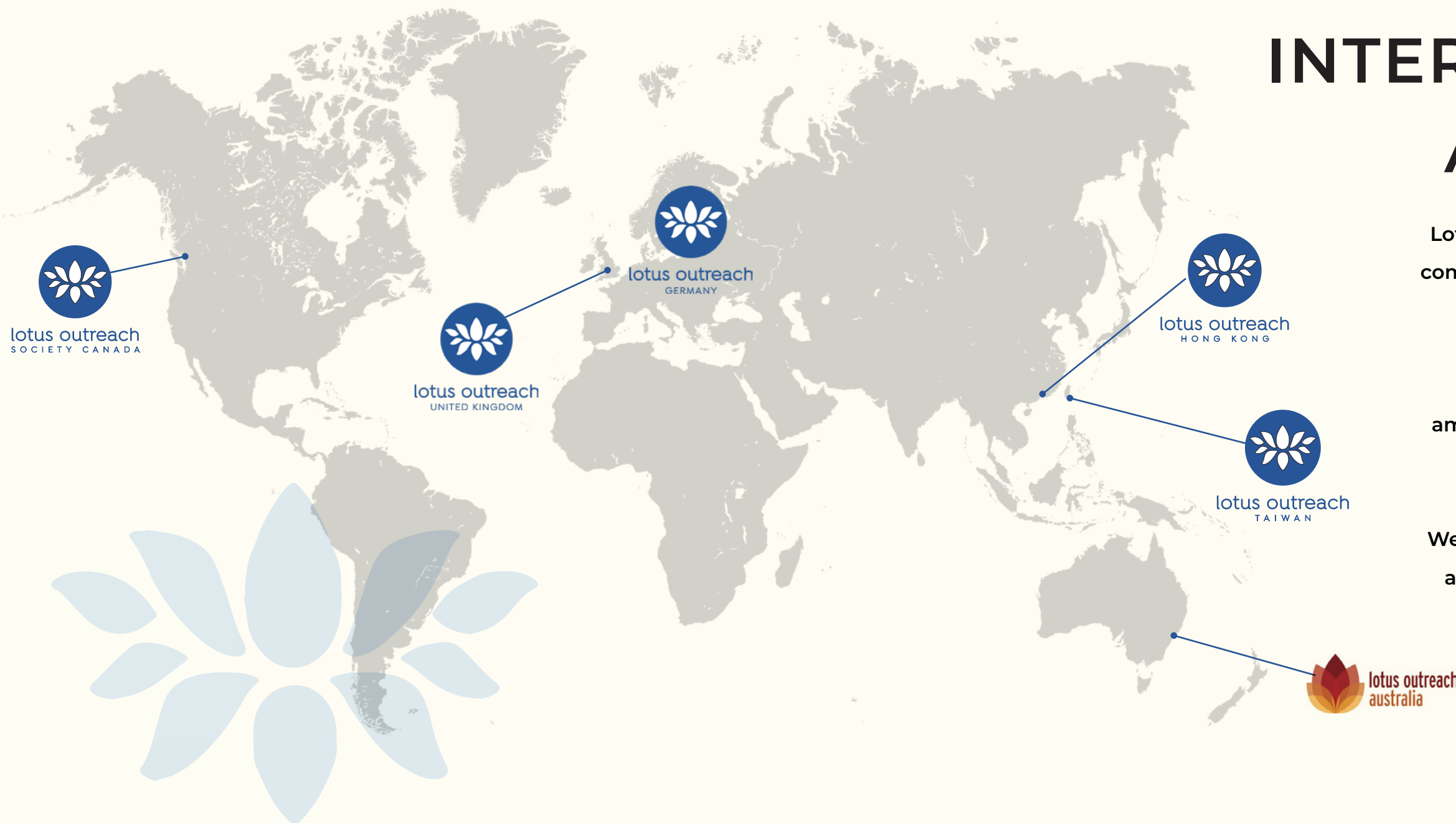
Serves as a liaison between Lotus Outreach's local partners and affiliates. LOCAM is responsible for a number of powerful flagship programs including CATALYST, Lotus Pedals and Rice 4 Education.

# INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Lotus Outreach International is a global community that believes empowerment is the heart of sustainable change.

Our international affiliates are ambassadors and volunteers dedicated to our mission and programs.

We are proud to be working together in a virtual office bridging 14 time zones, reversing the cycle of poverty, to uplift and transform the lives of our beneficiaries.







KHYENTSE NORBU

**FOUNDER** \ Khyentse Norbu, also known in the Buddhist world as Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, is trained as a philosophy teacher. He graduated from various schools in India and Europe. In addition to his formal education, Rinpoche has studied with some of the leading Tibetan Buddhist masters of the 20th century.

He is the head of the Dzongsar Monastery and Dzongsar College and is currently responsible for the care and education of approximately 1,600 monks in six monasteries and institutes in Asia.

Khyentse Norbu also oversees Siddhartha’s Intent and contemporary teaching and practice centers on several continents, as well as the non-profit organizations Khyentse Foundation, 84000, and Lotus Outreach International. Rinpoche has authored several books on following the Buddhist path in the contemporary world.

Khyentse Norbu has directed several award-winning feature films including The Cup, Travellers and Magicians, Vara: A Blessing, and Hema Hema.



PATTY WALTCHER

**PRESIDENT** \ Patty lives in Ojai, California with her husband, William Okin and has served on the Board of Directors of Lotus Outreach since 2004. She’s chaired fundraising since 2006, served as Vice President from 2009, and was elected President in 2011. She has served on nonprofit boards for more than 20 years, including Siddhartha’s Intent, the Ojai Music Festival, and Satdharma.

Patty has 25 years of experience teaching Buddhist meditation, a masters in Buddhist Studies, and currently works in real estate.



PENELOPE TREE

**VICE PRESIDENT** \ Penelope was born in New York City, educated in the US and now lives in the UK. She has two children, Paloma and Michael, and joined Lotus Outreach as a board member in 2003. She is also the UK representative for Lotus Outreach and the Khyentse Foundation.



ED MALLEY

**TREASURER** \ Ed’s professional career was in investment consulting and real estate. He earned his undergraduate degree in Finance from Santa Clara University and his MBA from American University. He has two grown children. Ed now teaches running. With previous board experience in both the public and private sectors, Ed has been on the board of Lotus Outreach and has served as its Treasurer since 2004.



JULIE CHENDER

**PRESIDENT, LOTUS OUTREACH CANADA** \ Julie grew up in Denver, Colorado and attended the University of Colorado and New York University. For the past eleven years Julie has been involved in ALIA (formerly the Shambhala Institute for Authentic Leadership), both in coordinating and hosting events. In addition, Julie has served for the last five years as Executive Chair of Planned Parenthood in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



ANNA S. HARPER

**VICE PRESIDENT, LOTUS OUTREACH AUSTRALIA** \ Anna, a New Zealander, began involvement with Lotus Outreach in 2004 with a realization that girl’s education was pivotal to changing a countries socio-economic status. She has an M.A. specializing in Chaos, Complexity and Creativity. Anna has worked with private and public organizations including the United Nations, where she develops future leaders for many of the agencies in the Asia Pacific region.



GERMAINE HOSTON

**BOARD** \ A graduate of Princeton and a Harvard Ph.D., Germaine is professor of East Asian philosophy and development. An esteemed scholar and teacher, Germaine has served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations, including the Asia Society. A member of the Board since 2008, she is Chair of the Audit Committee.



AGAM PATEL

**BOARD** \ Agam Patel is the Associate Director at the University of California, Riverside- Palm Desert Center. He is fluent in English, Swahili and Hindi and has strong connections to India, Africa and the developing world. He was recruited as a volunteer in 2008, and has contributed to various committees within Lotus Outreach, including serving in the Executive Committee for over five years.

OUR BOARD

In 2002, Lotus Outreach was incorporated in California to create a U.S. center of infrastructure. Our affiliates are present in eight nations worldwide and our international trustees have diverse backgrounds that span media, academia, human services and finance.



SEI CHUAN YAP

**BOARD** \ Yap provides business advisory services to a wide range of companies, and has many years of internal audit and risk management experience. He is a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA, UK) and Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA). He is an active member of Losang Dragpa Center and Tzu Chi Foundation in Malaysia. He joined LO in 2016 as a member of the audit committee.



SARAH K.C. WILKINSON

**BOARD** \ Sarah joined LO in 2020 after many years of admiring its mission to empower at-risk women and children through education and training. She has an M.Div. in Buddhist Chaplaincy from University of the West, an M.A. in Secondary Mathematics Education from Columbia University, and a BA in Philosophy from Middlebury College. Sarah has worked and volunteered for several Buddhist organizations and served on several nonprofit boards, and now lives in Hong Kong with her husband and children.



CAREY BALOGH

**BOARD** \ Carey joined LO in 2020 and lives in NJ with her husband and two sons. She has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Maryland and a Master’s in Fashion Promotion from the Marangoni Institute. Carey worked as a fashion PR executive in NYC and Milan, and co-founded a children’s play space in Brooklyn. While she currently runs [Brand Groupies](#), her boutique branding agency, she also enjoys hosting the Brand Groupies Podcast and playing guitar in her mom-only band, Mamadrama.

# OUR STAFF

Our staff draws on equally rich backgrounds. We have a healthy and productive working rapport across the United States, India, Australia and Cambodia.



PALOMA FATAAR

**ART FOR LO COORDINATOR \** Paloma is a graduate of Bard College with a B.A. in Asian Studies and holds a Masters Degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine from Yo San University. She currently works as an Acupuncturist and Herbalist in Los Angeles. She joined LO in 2020.



MAYA NORBU

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATE \** Maya joined the LO team in 2020. She has been familiar with LO's work for a long time and is happy to be a part of the vision and ever expanding community. She is a graduate of Middlebury College and holds a degree in art and architectural history with a focus on architectural studies.



ANASTASIA MENTAR

**RESEARCH INTERN \** Anastasia is a senior student at UC San Diego with a major in International Studies – International Business and a minor in Education Studies. She volunteers as an after school tutor for high school students with the International Rescue Committee and plans to work in education throughout her career.



WENDY WEI CHANG  
SPADAVECCHIA

**TRANSLATOR \** Wendy was born and raised in Taiwan, and now lives in the United States. She enjoys translating because each translation allows her to see the world from a new angle. She's been translating for LO since 2019.



GLENN FAWCETT

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \** Glenn studied Poverty Reduction in Policy and Practice at the London University School of Oriental and Asian Studies. An Australian native, he first joined Lotus Outreach out of New Delhi as a volunteer in 1995. He became it's Director of Operations in 1997 and has managed LO operations between India and Cambodia ever since. He loves spending time in the villages and communities we work in, has a strong sense of social justice and is drawn to create social development approaches that impact at scale and are replicable. He has now spent more than 20 years in the field designing and monitoring Lotus Outreach's village based programs.



RAKSMEI VAR

**COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE \** Raksmei completed her Master's Degree in Gender and Development Studies from Asia Institute of Technology in Thailand. She has been with Lotus Outreach since October 2007. Raksmei oversees day-to-day operations in Cambodia. She enjoys working with children and young Cambodian women to inspire and empower them to realize their full potential and dreams through education.



SURAJ KAMAR

**PROJECT MANAGER \** An essential team member since 2006, Suraj began his work with LO with the Right to Education Task Force and LEARN Program. He became State Representative for the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights in Haryana, and achieved the transformation of 60+ schools in the state. Now he works towards transforming the health of thousands of mothers and children in Mewat, Rajasthan through our ASHA program. He appreciates his long and satisfying journey working with the highly sensitive, devoted and committed team at LOI.



ALEXANDRA LAND

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS \** Alexandra has been with Lotus Outreach for 4 years. With a BA in sociology and experience in the health field, she is motivated to create opportunities for those who need it most. Alex spends her time collaborating with the dynamic team at LO and staying connected with the diverse International network.



PISEY CHEA

**PROJECT OFFICER \** Pisey successfully attained her BA in Biochemistry in 2016. After two years of working with youth, she joined Lotus Outreach Cambodia as a CATALYST Project Officer in March of 2017. Pisey canvasses all sectors to find free and subsidized training, internship and employment opportunities for our beneficiaries. She loves mentoring young women to help them overcome challenges in both education and life.



SABRINA RASHI NAGPAL

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR \** Sabrina joined LO in 2019 as Coordinator of the Education Quality Addition (EQU+) program and she also manages Kapadia Scholarships. Sabrina attained her B.A. from Rohil Khand University, Bareilly and is also a Registered Nurse. During her nursing training she developed a love for community health and especially enjoys working with youth in urban and village settings.



GENEVIEVE WALTCHER

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF GIVING \** Genevieve is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence College, MFA in Theatre. A team member since 2017, she is passionate about sharing LO's meaningful approaches to empowerment. She also founded [The Pigeon's Heart](#) to host creative work.



JOCELYN AUCOIN

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY \** After years working in digital marketing for organizations in the Silicon Valley she came on board to help expand our reach and spread our story. She loves music, art, and working with brands that are changing the world.



VIDYA KADIYAM

**WEB ARCHITECT \** Software Architect and Web Enthusiast, is a MFA graduate in Design & Technology from Parsons School of Design in NY. He works in the digital media space and online advertising. Besides being passionate about UX design and building web experiences, he loves tasting different cuisines and enjoys cricket. He has been with the LO team since 2018.



# CONNECT WITH US

2020 was an unprecedented year in many ways. We are in awe of the big and small ways our LO community has come together in the spirit of giving and benefit to all throughout 2020. We work in close collaboration and partnership with the communities we serve, local partners, and beneficiaries across all of our programs to create change from the ground up. Thank you for partnering with us.

Would you like to?

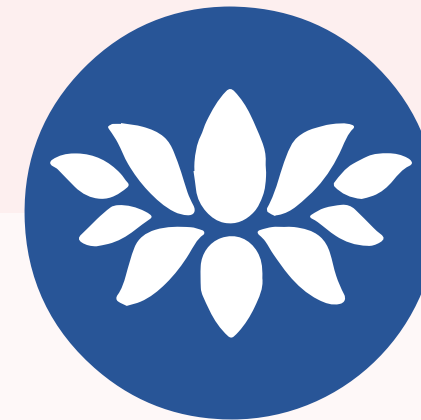
- Become an LO Ambassador for our 1,000 Coffee giving initiative. Check out [www.1000coffee.org](http://www.1000coffee.org) and write us at [info@lotusoutreach.org](mailto:info@lotusoutreach.org) to host a ride or coffee meet-up!
- [Give Monthly](#)
- Connect your company or organization with LO write [maya@lotusoutreach.org](mailto:maya@lotusoutreach.org)
- Sponsor an education scholarship write [genevieve@lotusoutreach.org](mailto:genevieve@lotusoutreach.org) to connect

## FOLLOW US



JOIN OUR  
EMAIL LIST

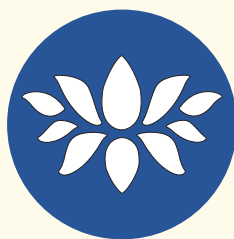
READ  
STORIES



## Thank you.

In the face of tremendous and unforeseen challenges, LO continued to ensure education, training and care for our beneficiaries. In a year when everything was turned upside down, this support, your support, was felt more deeply than ever.

It is our hope that this Annual Report illuminates the incredible breadth and benefit of Lotus Outreach programs for our beneficiaries in India and Cambodia. On behalf of our team and the people whose lives were transformed in 2020, thank you.



lotus outreach  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

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