

2019-2020

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group

(CHIRAG)



[ANNUAL REPORT]

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) is a rural development organization based in the Uttarakhand Himalayas. Since 1986 working closely with communities to improve their quality of life

www.chirag.org

CENTRAL HIMALAYAN RURAL ACTION GROUP (CHIRAG)



MOTTO:

**“Go to the people,
Live among them,
Learn from them,
Love them.**

Start with what they know.

Build on what they have.

But of the best leaders,

When their task is accomplished,

Their work is done,

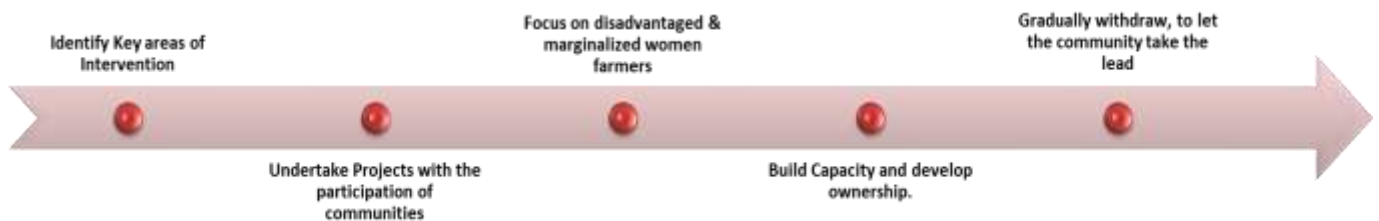
The people all remark,

VISION:

To be a catalyst for creation of a society rooted in the principles of dignity, justice, and solidarity

MISSION:

“To improve the quality of rural people – especially the poor and the women – in the Central Himalaya. We attempt this through interventions in health, education, livelihood, and natural resource management; and by providing access to diversified livelihood options. We promote the sustainable ownership and management of common resources by the community”.



Our Strategy

The Year in Retrospect

At Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) we have many programs, functions and roles which assist community to become empowered, and eventually attain sustainable development. To achieve this goal CHIRAG, under the provision of education, health, natural resource management, livelihood invested in transfer of skills and knowledge, progressively developing the capacities of community. CHIRAG had the dual role of implementer and capacity builder fundamentally to help the communities to develop the resources, build awareness, and motivate their participation in project and finally improving the quality of lives.

The focus during the year 2019-2020 was to scale up our activities in the key sectors we work in, addressing the gaps and priority needs of the communities. With increasing demand for water and decreasing precipitation over the past century the apparent winter drought like situation in the Himalayas is leading to the natural sources drying up at an alarming rate. Building on the experience of past three decades in the sector and taking confidence from the springshed management approach which it pioneered in 2006, CHIRAG took on the onus of recharging and rejuvenating the Himalayan springs to try and address the issue of reduced water availability and deteriorating of water quality in the springs.

The strategy in its all interventions was to involve local community right from the beginning and build their capacities in basic geology, hydrology and decentralized water management. This was complimented by community forestry program involving village level institutions-Van Panchyats and Van Suraksha Samittees to create awareness of forest management and protection.

CHIRAG continued its efforts in providing quality and inclusive education to children irrespective of socio-economic background. The achievements of students and the enduring support of parents, reinforces our belief in the alternative education system as one of the effective ways to prepare the children for a better tomorrow. During the year, we made additional efforts to enhance the quality of primary education for government school student through improved classroom practices, effective teaching-learning strategies, teacher-training and strengthened School Management Committees (SMCs). These interventions have led to improved learning levels of students in language, math and computer skills. Focus was also on providing a platform for students and young adolescents to ideate and engage in collective action through Bal Panchayats. Life skills were built through the Sports for Development project and students were also sensitised to issues like health and gender.

Digital classes were started in remote locations with an aim to develop an interactive and creative learning method that focuses on conceptual understanding than rote memorization and to bridge the gap between the quality of education in government and private schools. The girl child scholarship programme continued to provide requisite academic and social support to academically able girls from Classes 9 and 12 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds to complete their intermediate education. The programme also aimed to increase the confidence of the girl scholars by equipping them with necessary life skills.

In a changing socio-cultural scenario, creating livelihood opportunities at a sustainable scale for communities have assumed critical importance. Identifying suitable opportunities based on available skill and competencies, providing skill enhancement training in identified livelihood options, creating market access for local produce and access to credit were key components of CHIRAG's livelihood strategy. Working on all these aspects, CHIRAG has attempted to create an even playing field for the community and especially for women and small marginal farmers. Microfinance programs run by the self help groups

improve the economic well-being of communities and as a byproduct create more jobs and income generation source. We believe, this economic empowerment in the long run, will contribute to development of the communities. To improve the agriculture and horticulture production of small farmers, CHIRAG demonstrated the merits of crop selection on parameters such as cost effectiveness, quality inputs viz. seeds, planting material and nutrients etc. inducing a conscious cropping pattern among the farmers and adoption of optimized farming techniques.

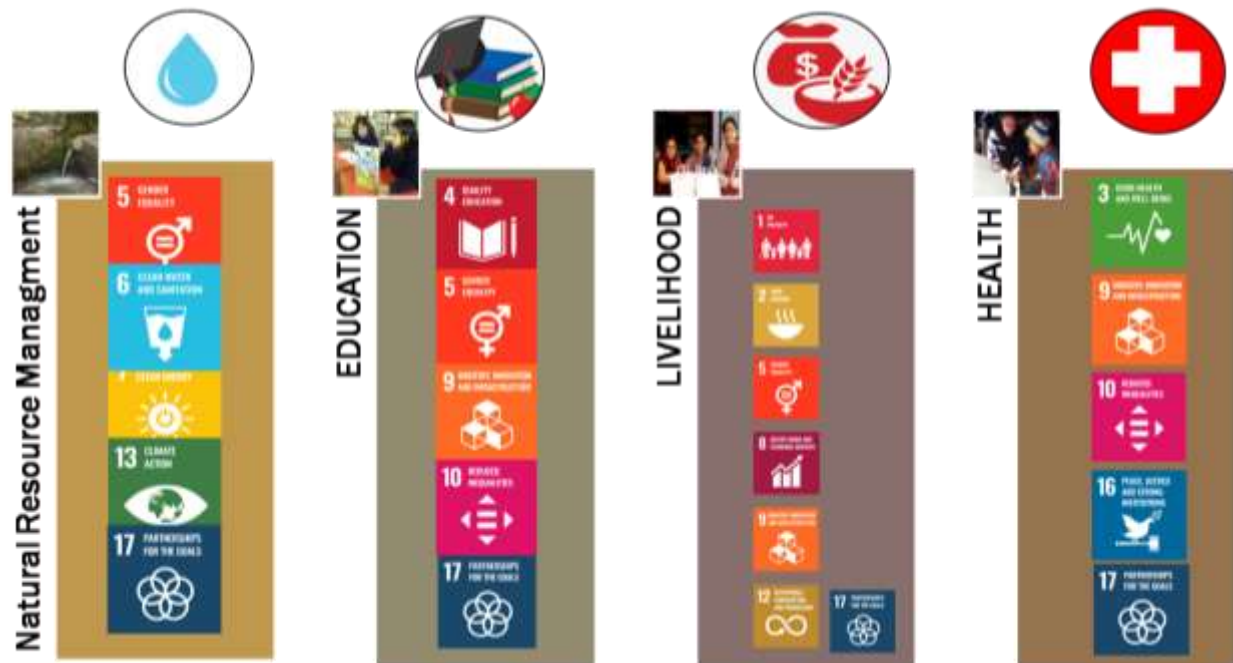
The CHIRAG Rural Health Center continued to provide the community access to quality healthcare. The health center caters to the dental, ante-natal, occupational therapy, and emergency needs of the community. Though conditions have improved significantly over the past decade or so, getting access to quality health services at a reasonable cost is still a challenge for the average person. Through our Health Center and preventive health programme we strive to create awareness about key ailments in the region and provide quality and affordable curative health services to villagers especially women and children.

CHIRAG's participatory approach in its operations is largely rooted in an environmental approach emphasizing ecological development. However, we strived to find a balance between the three pillars – social, economic and environmental – of communities through all our interventions promoting local ownership through decentralization of resource management which helps the local communities to acquire more skills and knowledge in order to make their own decisions. For sustainable community development we stress on creating balance between environmental concerns and development objectives, while simultaneously enhancing local social relationships. We believe that these communities would be able to perform core functions, understand their development needs in a broad contest, solve problems, define and achieve objectives meet the economic needs of their residents, enhance and protect the environment, and promote more humane local societies.

Badrish Singh Mehra
Executive Director

AREA OF WORK

CHIRAG focuses in four areas in Uttarakhand state. The aim and strategy to work in these areas is to provide and help manage the basic necessities of the communities. The four areas are:

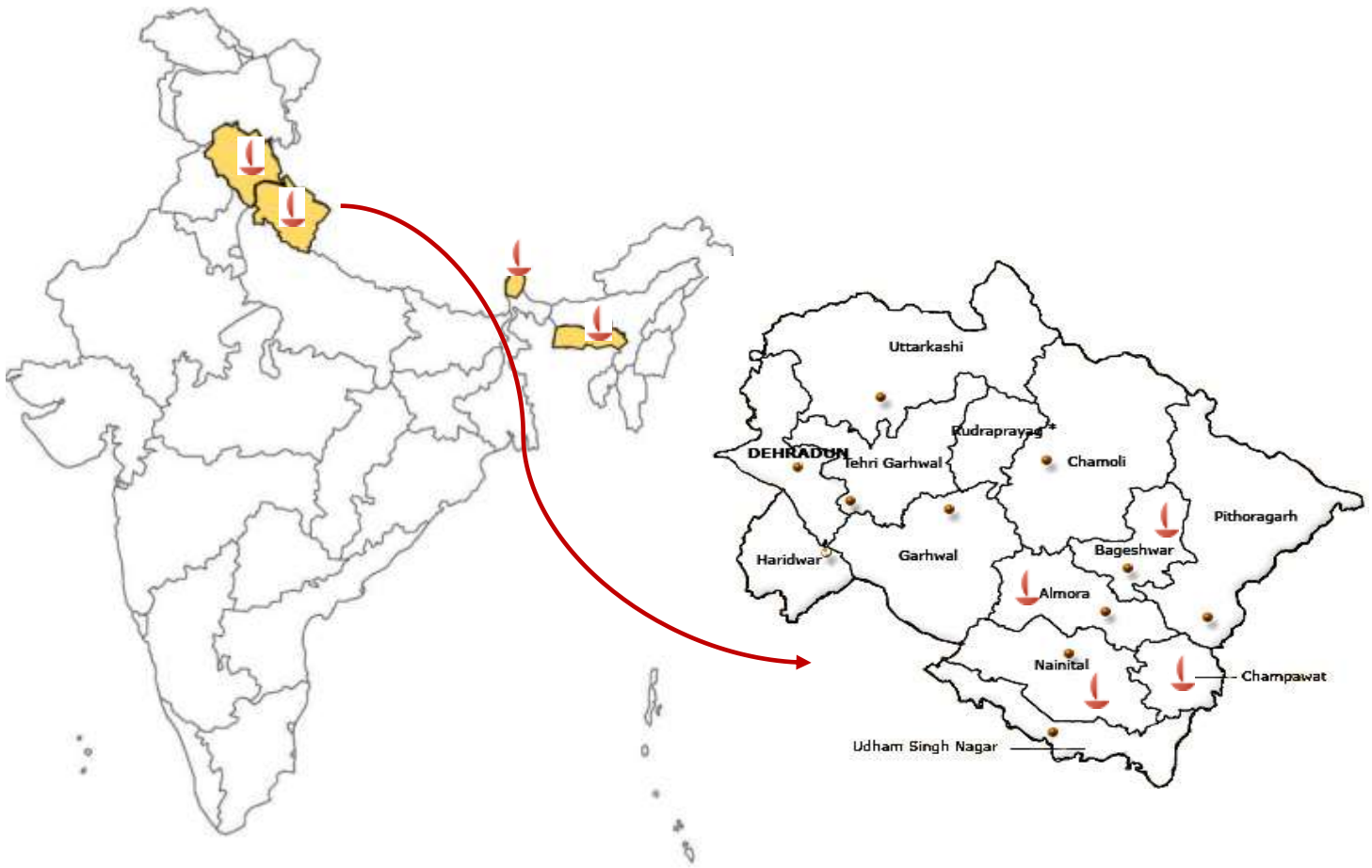


CHIRAG essentially works in categorically 4 domains, viz. Natural Resources Management, Education, Livelihood and Healthcare. The organization firmly believes that these four sectors are fundamental pillars to development in the hills.

Committed to the SDGs, CHIRAG strongly advocates 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals recognized by the UN in 2015 and is works towards contribution to achieving these goals by 2030. The common point among all the areas of interventions designed by CHIRAG is the formulation of partnerships for a collective achievement of the envisioned goals. Therefore, outlining our motto, ‘Communities’ are essentially the core of our programs.

These community led institutions guarantee that the interventions go far beyond mere momentary solutions to long term-sustainable scales.

WHERE WE WORK



CHIRAG has had a direct presence in 4 Himalayan states of India, namely: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Meghalaya. Besides, it has strengthened its hold in Uttarakhand through its field presence in the districts of Nainital, Almora, Bageshwar and Champawat. Our engagement in 236 villages has concatenated over 20,000 households and benefited a population of over 95,000.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Our work in Natural Resource Management (NRM) is divided into two categories –

1. Spring Recharge Program
2. Community Forestry and Fodder Program.



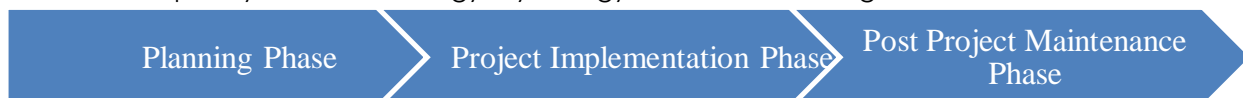
SPRING RECHARGE PROGRAM

Our work in water entail involving and working with the communities to rejuvenate the Himalayan springs through hydro-geological approach. We aim to address the water availability and water quality in the springs.



CHIRAG has been working on the water sector for the past three decades. Since 2006, it has been working on recharge and rejuvenation of Himalayan springs in a focused way adopting a Springshed hydro-geological approach to try and address the issue of reduced water availability and deterioration of water quality in the springs.

CHIRAG's key strategy in its all interventions is to involve community right from the beginning And build capacity in basic Geology, Hydrology and Water Management.



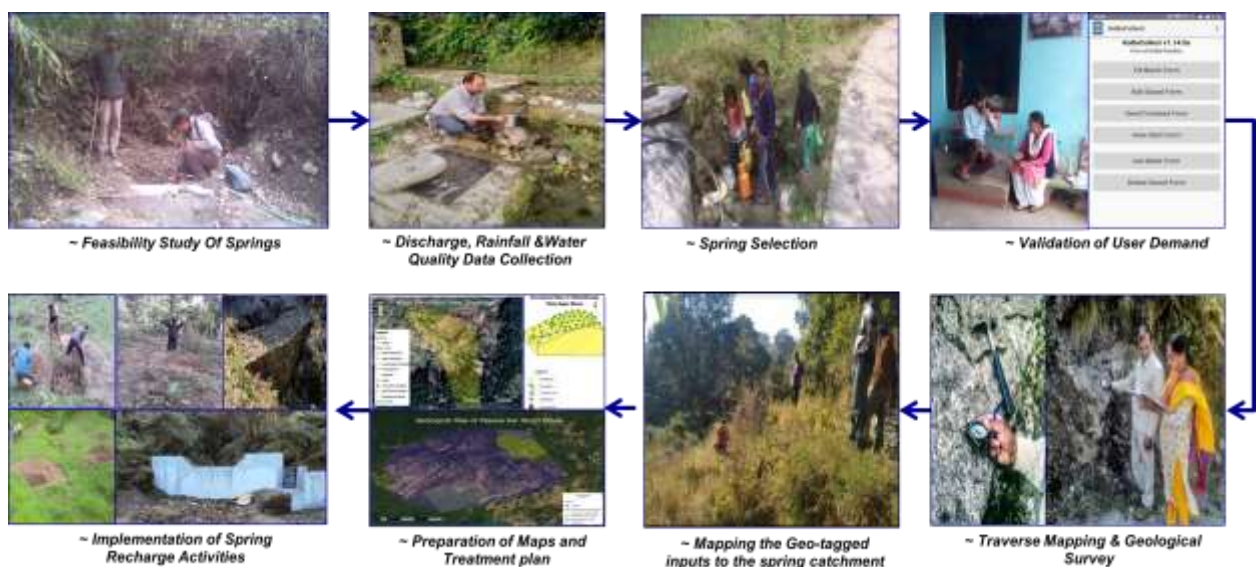
As women are the most important stakeholders, a conscious effort was made to form women-led water user groups locally called the Jal Upbhokta Samiti and involve them in recharge activities and overall decision-making process.



In the year 2019-20 we have been very successful in gaining acceptance from communities for a participatory engagement towards realizing the project objectives. During the year

- CHIRAG has completed prefeasibility study for **275 springs** out of which 60 springs were chosen towards recharge and rejuvenation.
- Team has been successful in implementing the **treatment plans for 50** of them using our Springshed Approach.
- It is estimated that through these implementation of treatment plans, around **2,62,80,000 liters** of additional water is made available for the communities.

Our Springshed approach:



Learning from the past engagements in the field of spring recharge, our initiatives have been very impactful in formation of village level institutions, their capacity building and collective fundraising. Our field based exposure visits have resulted in an increase in women participation in village level engagements.



Construction of Civil Structures under implementation of treatment plans:



In addition to the intended project objectives, our engagement has benefited the communities by generating employment of Rs 17,00,000 through labor work, masonry, petty shops etc. Besides, our investment of around 75,000 man hours into training & development has improved access to technology, skill in computers, Geo Hydrology and vocational to the locals.



Empowering Village level Institutions

Liaising with Govt. officials

With the spirit of promoting community ownership and delivering high quality output, 20% contribution from communities is sought in all the implementation activities. The communities have voluntarily raised a sum of Rs 3,00,000 towards operations and maintenance of these spring recharge structures. This fund will ensure that our model is delivered with a commitment to sustain.



Periodic Training, Awareness Campaigns and Mentoring at Educational Institutions helped us create a fearless and healthy atmosphere for learning among the children

Additionally, we have been working towards solving the water accessibility issues with the households that are remotely located; far away from the springs by providing them rooftop Rainwater Harvesting tanks. A similar prefeasibility assessment was done for 40 Rain Water Harvesting Tanks. Overcoming the challenge of scaling up, 20 tanks have been integrated with the rooftop and another 10 are in the final stages of completion.



Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Tank

COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Forests are the main source of fuelwood, fodder and leaf litter used for making compost in this region. Since inception, Chirag has been involved in afforestation program. Over the past 34 years, CHIRAG has facilitated the plantation of over 10 million saplings in over 150 villages of Nainital, Almora, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts.

Community forestry program focused on involving village institutions, capacity building and awareness building. CHIRAG works directly with the van-panchayats and van suraksha samitees to create awareness of forest management and protection. In last one year



- A total of 1,09,315 saplings were planted in van-panchayat land in 136 hectares spread over 59 villages.
- A total of 56,920 direct seeds were sown covering in 32 Van Panchyats.
- 20 different species of seedlings were planted. These were primarily fodder and fuel wood species e.g. Oak, Aesculus, Celtis, and Bauhinia.
- A total of 16 environmental awareness campaigns were organized at school and community level, 2173 students and community members participated.
- A total of 26 van-mahotsavs were organized in which 918 community members participated across all our project areas.



EDUCATION



Chirag Schools

Chirag School is a commitment from CHIRAG to continue its efforts in providing quality and inclusive education to children irrespective of socio-economic background. The achievements of students and the enduring support of parents, reinforces our belief in the alternative education system as one of the effective ways to prepare the children for a better tomorrow.

In the year 2019-20, the school had 120 students from pre-school through class 5. There is an element of focus on activities like library, science lab, sports, computer skills, use of effective teaching and learning material, capacity building for teachers and strengthening of the school management committee.

The school infrastructure and resources play an important role in organizing meaningful learning experience for students. Hence, we upgraded and re-organized our school library to facilitate reading, research and various learning activities for our students. A resource center was set-up by staff to organize and utilize TLM effectively. CCTV cameras were set-up in the school campus to ensure the safety of students. Major reform in child protection and prevention of sexual harassment policy was made by management to realize our vision of creating a fear-free atmosphere at school. Chirag School also offer internship, fellowship and facilitate exposure visits of teachers, students and teacher trainees to share our practices and learning.

Change is a natural phenomenon in any organization/institution. We also witness a few changes in our staff and volunteers. Sumit Arora, our beloved school leader for the past 3 years, left Chirag School. In his words, "It has been the most satisfying, fun and exhilarating time of my life at Chirag School. I have learnt more than I could ever teach, received more love than I could ever give and made some bonds that will be mine forever. Most of all, the children at Chirag School taught me lessons about life and living which I will carry in my head and heart always." Suraj – a dedicated volunteer for the past 2 years, left in July. Our new school leader Mr. Radhakanta Meher joined to take over the work further.



Outdoor Activities – At Chirag School

Key highlights of last year's in Chirag School:

- To encourage and inculcate the habit of reading among children, 'READ -100' a new initiative was launched. The program ensured that children of primary classes read at least 100 books a year.
- "Story Weaver Reading Program" initiative undertaken in partnership with Pratham books for class classes I to V grade.
- Seven teachers from Barefoot Residential Bridge School, Rajasthan were hosted for a four-day exposure visit to gain new and unique perspective on education.
- A group of eleven teacher trainees from TREC program facilitated by Madhuvan, Ramgarh visited Chirag school to understand the scope and context of alternative education in a rural set up.
- Three students from Azim Premji University, as a part of a month long internship, conducted a research study on leadership, management and teaching-learning pedagogy at CHIRAG school.
- The students of grade IV and V went on an overnight camping trip where they participated in various activities like rock climbing, rappelling, flying fox and hiking. Students of grade I, II and III visited G.B Pant High altitude zoo to learn about animals and their habitat. To promote inclusivity, a framework to work with children with special needs was developed by Dr. Nilam Shinde. She trained the teachers to carry it forward independently. The improvement of teaching -learning methods in the area of Mathematics and Hindi was a major initiative by teachers.
- During the month of June, the entire staff participated in a two-days session around the art of "Story telling" conducted by Seema Wahi Mukherjee from New Delhi.
- Fellows and volunteers offered their service in various areas of school. Richard Kaske – a volunteer from Germany, facilitated a science club where children did experiments to understand application of science in our daily lives, how machines work and made many science toys in the process to enhance their scientific acumen.
- All our grade five students transacted out to their new school. 12% of children cleared Navodaya and chose to pursue their further study at Navodaya Vidyalaya, 48% of them chose to study at Central school and 40% of children went to government school run by the state government.



Online Digital Class at Chirag School

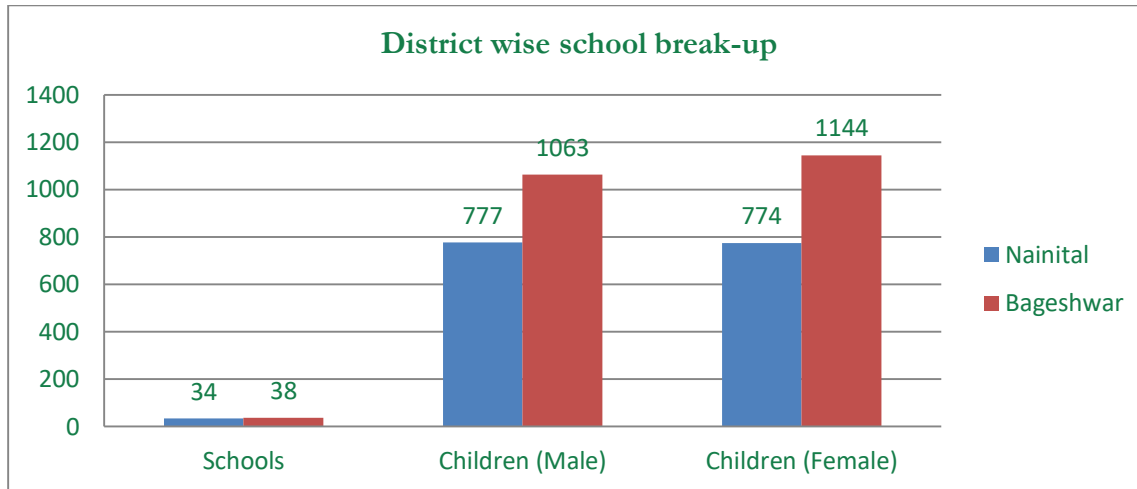
BAL SHIKSHAK/PARA TEACHER PROGRAM

With support of the Bal Shikshak programme CHIRAG has enhanced the quality of primary education for government school student through improved classroom practices, effective teaching-learning strategies, teacher-training and strengthened School Management Committees (SMCs). CHIRAG's intervention led to improved learning levels of students in language, math and computer skills. It also focused on providing a platform for students and young adolescents to ideate and engage in collective action through Bal Panchayats. Life skills were built through the Sports for Development project and students were sensitised to issues like health and gender.

Key Highlights of the last year's:

- Covered 72 Government Primary Schools in Bageshwar and Nainital districts in 7 project locations.
- CHIRAG promoted Ancillary teacher (Bal Shikhsak) model to improve the child's learning experience.
- Covered 15 Schools from grade 8th to 12th.
- CHIRAG complemented its Balshikshak model with addition of guest teachers (Sandarv Shishak) catering for the education need of senior classes from 8th to 12th.
- As on 2019-20 there were 3,758 children's who are benefiting from this programme.
- CHIRAG has appointed/engaged 90 Para Teachers in 87 Government Schools.
- CHIRAG has set-up computer labs in 8 remote schools of Kapkot block of Bageshwar district, 914 students are learning basic computer programs.
- CHIRAG mobilized the community participation through Balshikshaks and School Management Committee (SMCs) to strengthen primary education





Case study - 1



Kavita Pawar has been a Bal Shikshak at Chasoli Primary School since 2015. Her difficult life at house and her interest in teaching young children lead her to join our program. Kavita is only daughter. She belongs from a BPL family. Kavita's parents are farmer. She did her senior secondary from inter-college Lodhiya. After joining as a Bal Shikshak she continue her study and finish graduation. Presently she is doing MA from Almora. She has inspired other girls for further study from the beginning of working she has shown interest on meeting with parents for sharing progress of children. It has created a great impact on the learning of children.

Kavita believes that she has achieved a good improvement in her personality after join Bal Shikshak Program. Her work with the school and learners has been of great impact. Community gives more regard to her. She gives the credit of her success to the parents, SMC and the Organization. She wants to become a successful teacher in future.

DIGITAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

The aim of these digital classes is to develop an interactive and creative learning method that focuses on conceptual understanding than rote memorization and to bridge the gap between the quality of education in government and private schools. Currently, the project covers 6 higher secondary schools in the Ramgarh block of Nainital district. A total of 371 children's were benefited with this project. These virtual classes were taken for three subjects Mathematics, Science and English for 6th and 8th grade.

CHIRAG collaborated with e-Vidyaloka, a Bangalore based organization. Through this collaboration, CHIRAG now successfully runs the Digital Classrooms Program, an initiative that began in November 2018.



Online digital classes

Major activities of the program:

- 43 volunteer teachers from all over India have given 2156 online classes in 6 schools.
- Selection of efficient Class assistants: Class assistants were chosen considering the discussions between SMC members and CHIRAG.
- Interactive sessions between online and offline teachers.
- 25 students from 5 centers were selected as “Star of the month”
- Leadership programme: It was undertaken in 4 schools namely Hartola, Satbunga, Devdwar and Reetha.

Impact of the program:

- Increased use of technology and innovative platforms in classrooms and among students
- Time management skill was improved among students and educators
- Increased peer learning
- Increased confidence and communication skills
- Improvement in learning level of students
- Star of the month initiative motivated students to perform better in the class
- Remedial classes helped students to be clear of basic concepts
- As a part of leadership programme, student who performed best was taken on Bangalore visit.



Interaction of students during Bangalore visit



Larsen & Turbo (L&T) team visit at School



Case Study – Tarun Nayal

Tarun Nayal is a student studying in class 8th at Satbunga Higher Secondary School in Dhari block of Nainital district of Uttarakhand. He comes from a very humble family background. The difficulties and struggles being faced at home has never stopped him from enthusiastically participating in the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in the school. Leadership programme is an initiative started by E-vidyaloka and CHIRAG with an aim to improve the confidence level and inhibit leadership qualities in children.

As a part of this programme, students were asked to set goals for themselves that they wish to achieve. In addition to this, a competition was held on preparing a model based on smart village. Tarun prepared a model which included all the facilities he dreamt of having in his village. Out of 120 students participated from 12 different states, his model won first place and he also got an opportunity to exhibit his model in Bangalore. Tarun was very excited for his first flight to Bangalore and he was grateful for the opportunity he received. The leadership programme on him and his improvement has been of great visible impact and he has remained a motivation for other students to actively participate in school activities.

GIRLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The scholarship programme seeks to provide requisite academic and social support to academically able girls from Classes 9 and 12 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds to complete their intermediate education. This programme covers the cost of their stationery, textbooks, uniforms, school fees and tuition support, and also monitors their health through biannual medical check-ups. The programme also aims to increase the confidence of the girl scholars by equipping them with necessary life skills. Last year, 80 Girls have received Girls Scholarship in which 22 new girls were added in class 9th and 10th.



Girls Scholars

Key highlights of the Girls Education Programme:

- In January month, all the girls were provided the opportunity to attend a residential tutorial support camp and vocational training at CHIRAG headquarters for one week.
- Organize regular health camps for the girl scholars. Provided tuitions to all girls at cluster level.
- Quarterly follow-up meetings were held by teachers with guardians and project coordinators on the progress of the scholars.
- 22 girl students appeared for the HSC examination (12th Grade). Among them, 16 passed with first division and 6 passed with second division.
- 21 girls appeared for SSC examination (10th Grade). Out of which, 13 passed with first division and 8 passed with second division.
- This year 9 girls have joined Himjyoti vocational course like, office management, fashion designing computer science and beauty & wellness.
- So far, 29 girls have joined Himjyoti Vocational Institute, Dehradun.



Selected girls for Himjyoti Vocational Course



Selected girls for Himjyoti Vocational Course

Case Study



Jaya Bisht (Girls Scholar), a shy girl of seventeen, remembers being scared at fourteen that she would have to drop out of school on account of her family's miserable financial condition. Jaya lives with her grandfather, a farmer in Bichkhali, while her mother and three sisters live in Quarab. She was in 9th when she was selected for the scholarship programme initiated by CHIRAG, and feels that her academic life has evolved completely. Free from the constant burden in her head that worried about school fees and associated expenses, and with the additional help from tuitions, Jaya scored 64% and secured third position in her batch. She has now taken up Humanities in 12th grade and has a great desire to be a policewoman, a job that has gained enormous popularity among girls in recent years.

Her grandfather adds that her school is located 8 km from her house while her tuition is a kilometer away. After the long hours spent in walking, learning and studying, Jaya also finds time to help her family with household chores and spend some quality time with them. He has noticed a significant change in Jaya's confidence after receiving the scholarship, as she hardly opened her mouth earlier and now chats comfortably with people, often initiating conversations herself. He hopes that her strong association with CHIRAG continues in the future as their family cannot afford better education for her.

LIVELIHOODS



In a changing socio-cultural scenario, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities have assumed critical importance. Identifying suitable opportunities based on available skill and competencies, providing skill enhancement training in identified livelihood options, creating market access for local produce and access to credit are key components of CHIRAG's livelihood strategy. We have worked on all these aspects and have attempted to create an even playing field for the community and especially for women and small marginal farmers. Various interventions under livelihood promotion are given below.

Self Help Group

- Last year we worked with 146 **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** with a total membership of 1,450 and an average membership of 10-12 per group. The cumulative savings of these groups was Rs. 84.41 lacs and the total inter-loans availed during the year was Rs. 29.56 lacs.

Micro Federation

- **Set up livestock based micro federations:**
 - Cattle Feed federation
 - A federation working on Aurvedic Cattle Medicine unit
 - Micro dairies federatoin set up at cluster level

Community Facility Centers (CFCs)

- 4 Community Facility Centers (CFCs) are formed to support the communities of rural hilly regions of Uttarakhand. CFCs provide services to the local consumers by supplying demand based products at its centers.

Producer Company

- **Set up Mukteshwar Kisan Producer Company (MKPC)**
- Marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables, procurement and sale of pulses and spices and the provision of improved seeds.



Book keeping training for SHG members



SHG Monthly meeting

Agriculture Extension

To improve and increase the agriculture and horticulture productions of small farmers, CHIRAG has selected potential crops with cost effectiveness and quality inputs like seeds, planting material and nutrients etc. have been demonstrated to farmers. With the support of Himmatan Society, CHIRAG is running agriculture support programmes in 15 villages in the Kathpuriyachina cluster of Bageshwar district since 2015.



Improved Farm Land in Kathpuriyachina cluster

Through this project new varieties of Wheat, Pigeon Pea, Paddy, Onion, and Pulses were introduced to the over 1500 farmers in Kathpuriyachina cluster for last 6 years.

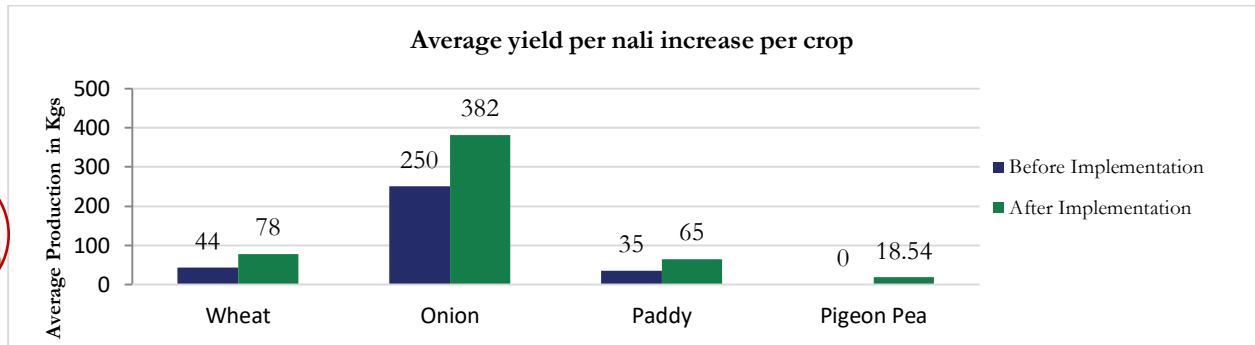


Paddy Crop



Onion crop

The average yield per nali increase per crop is shown in figure/table:



Paddy crop cultivation



Pigeon Pea Crop

HEALTH

The CHIRAG Rural Health Center aims to provide the community access to quality healthcare. The health center caters to the dental, ante-natal, occupational therapy, and emergency needs of the community.

Though conditions have improved significantly over the past decade or so, getting access to quality health services at a reasonable cost is still a challenge for the average person. Through our Health Center and preventive health programme we strive to create awareness about key ailments in the region and provide quality and affordable curative health services to villagers especially women and children. Preventive health care measure is centered in the Kasyialekh area where training and capacity building support to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) continues in 25 nearby villages.

Following health services are available:

- General OPD
- Ayurvedic treatment
- Dental treatment
- Special OPD on Gynecology and Antenatal care
- Joint health camps with other institutions



Break-up of different services provided by Chirag Rural Health Center during 2019-20:

Name of Cases	Total
Out patients	6212
Patient under observation	22
Antenatal care	1177
Fracture/dislocation treated	240
Ayurvedic treatment	1788
Dental treatment	925
No. of health camps	12
No. of patient treated in camps	1090

Rural Health Camps

CHIRAG Rural Health team has been organizing monthly camps in collaboration with other organizations for quite some time. The pregnant women get basic diagnostic facility and advice on ante-natal care during this camp. This year 12 camps were organized in which 1090 patients were examined by the specialized doctors. In addition, Health check up was also done for students and

parents at Chirag School and that under the girl fellowship program. The high incidence of dental problems was observed with the school children. They were screened and referred to the Dentist for further management.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Governing Board of CHIRAG consists of 5 members which are elected by the 26 members of the General Body.



Mr. Radesh Lall

Chairperson

Engineer and Entrepreneur



Prof. Malavika Karlekar

Vice Chairperson

Author and Editor, Centre for Women's Development Studies



Mr. Keshav Desiraju (IAS)

Member

Former Health Secretary, Government of India



Prof. Brij Mohan Tankha

Member

Retired Professor, University of Delhi



Ms. Kamani Prakesh

Member

Consultant -Social Development

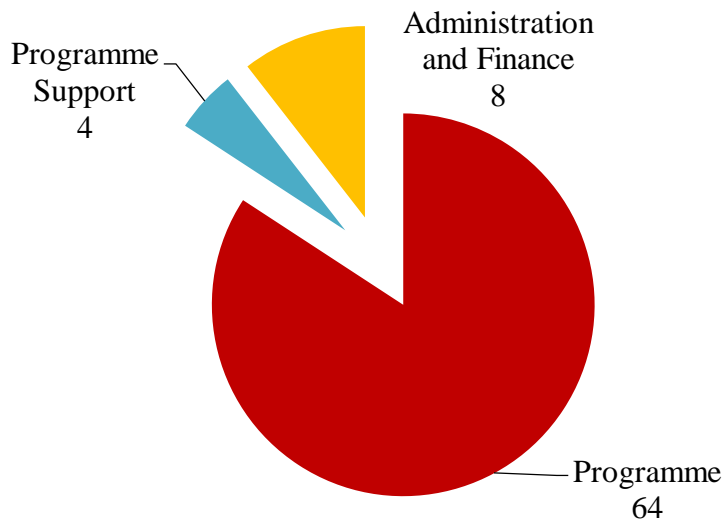
THE TEAM

In March 2020, there were 84 full time employees in CHIRAG.

Out of them, 72 works in different programs, 4 are support staff and 8 work in administration and finance.

A large proportion of these development professionals have been with CHIRAG for over a decade and have made invaluable contributions in achieving the organization's goals, making a difference in the lives of thousands of families.

The field teams are distributed over 12 operational areas.



The teams work in coordination for development and implementation of the projects under various programs of the organization to meet its goal and mission.

OUR PARTNERS

CHIRAG remains indebted to the following organizations with whom we have been working over a number of years.

Domain Area	Partner Organization	Program
Natural Resource Management	ACWADAM	Spring Recharge Program
	ARGHYAM	
	Ashok Leyland (AL)	
	CEDAR	
	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)	
	Berkeley Reforestation Trust	Forestry and Common Fodder Program
	Pangea EcoNet Assets Private Limited	
Education	Rajeshwar & Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	Girls Scholarship Primary Education
	The Hans Foundation	Support Chirag School
	UK online Giving Foundation	
	United Way Mumbai	
	Give2Asia	
	Nasscom Foundation	
	HBA International Pvt. Ltd.	
	Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd.	
Bain Consulting Company		
Livelihood	Himmotthan Society, Dehradun	Agriculture, Livestock, SHGs, Cooperative and FPOs
	NABARD	
Health	Kumaun Grameen Udyog (KGU)	Support Chirag Rural Health Center

Individual contributors to the organization for their contribution:

Ms. Idira Sahasranaman	Mr. Tarun Khanna	Mr. Angira Dhar
Mr. Yogendra Garg	Mr. Prashan Bhattachar	Mr. Subrat
Mr. Rajiv & Ramola Batalia	Dr. Nilam Shinde	Ms. Neetu Kapoor
Ms. Lakshmi Lall & Prio Lall	Mr. Nikhilesh Senapati	Mr. Sushant Jain
Mr. Mohan Talapatra	Dr. Ruma Mukherjee	Mr. Kavita Alva
Ms. Elizabeth Menchester	Mr. Manasa Sundepudi	Mr. Amit Ranjit Sinha
Mr. Punyata Tuli	Mr. Anal Gosh	Mr. M. Krackor
Mr. Saikat Mitra	Mr. Sulabh Agrawal	Ms. Charulata Jain
Mr. Nimrit Gill	Mr. Anand Tiwari	

Fellows, Interns and Volunteers

CHIRAG strives to provide opportunities for academic and professional interns and volunteers to contribute in the social sector. We have several national and international fellows, volunteers and interns working on projects and fellowships.

Institute/Organizaton	Name of fellows/Student	Program
State Bank of India	Dr. Aparajita Pathak	Health
	Mr. Harswardhan Rathod	Water conservation
	Ms. Lakshmi Nair	Education
India Fellow	Mr. Abhishek Likam	Spring Recharge
	Mr. Rajat Charantharyil	Spring Recharge
Kurview Wustrow, Germany	Mr. Richard Kaske	Education
Azim Premji University	Mr. Rudrath Avnashi	Spring Recharge
	Ms. Taniya Samtani	Spring Recharge
	Ms. Dimple Chauchan	Education
	Mr. Anees	Chirag School
	Mr. Utsarg	Chirag School
	Ms. Swarna. V	Chirag School
Delhi University	Ms. Meghal Karki	Education
Shiv Nadar University	Mr. Mukil Pillai	Livelihoods
	Ms. Asbishmita Deka	Livelihoods
	Mr. Ambju Yadav	Livelihoods
	Ms. Snehil Chaturvedi	Livelihoods

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The results that we have achieved would not have been possible neither would our lives be the same without the contribution and support of these remarkable institutions and individuals who continue to inspire and enlighten us

Our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ruma Mukherjee for her continued support to the Chirag Rural Health Center.

We would like to thank Suraj Juneja, Elizabeth Manchester and Gita Krenek and for providing valuable volunteering support and capacity building to CHIRAG school.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Nilam Shinde for providing training and pedagogical support in our Education outreach programme team and CHIRAG School teachers along with her services to the Chirag Rural Health Center.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the local community of the area where we work who have actively participate in the field activities and made significant contributions in making things happen on the ground.

We specially acknowledge the support of all our donors who have made it possible for us to realize our vision and mission and reach out to the disadvantaged and the marginalized sections of the society. Our sincere thanks to all those individuals and institutions that have collaborated with us and replicated the field activities for scaling up our efforts.

Finally, we thank our Governing Board and General Body for their vision, guidance and direction.

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

In the spirit of transparency, CHIRAG voluntarily discloses the following information:

Governance

- None of the members of the Governing Board are related to each other by blood or marriage.
- The Executive Director is not related to any member of the Governing Board by blood or marriage.
- Elections to the Governing Board are held as per the rules of the Society. However, no policy of rotation of members of the Governing board is followed.
- No members of the Governing Board received any remuneration from CHIRAG during the year.
- The Governing Board met more than twice during the year with the requisite quorum.
- Minutes of the meeting were documented read out and approved in the subsequent meeting.
- The General Body of the Society approved the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts.

BENEFITS TO STAFF

Gross Salary and Benefits (Rupees per month)	Men	Women	Total
Less than 5,000	00	00	00
5,000-10,000	08	06	14
10,000-15,000	22	14	36
15,000-25,000	15	04	19
More than 25,000	13	02	15

(STAFF REMUNERATION (GROSS SALARY AND BENEFITS IN RUPEES PER ANNUM))

Note: This includes basic salary, cost of living allowance, provident fund, esi (including CHIRAG's contribution), medical benefits, medical and accidental insurance and scholarship. All figures are as on 31st March 2020.

COST OF TRAVEL

Total cost of international travel incurred by CHIRAG during the year: NIL

Total cost of national travel incurred by CHIRAG during the year: Rs 57,185/-

ANNEXURE – 1 : ACCOUNTS

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2020

	Current Year (Rs)	Previous Year (Rs)
Liabilities		
Corpus Fund	4,30,27,294	4,25,07,766
Reserve Fund	1,14,18,256	81,51,112
Fixed Assets Utilisation Fund	1,51,45,430	1,66,14,531
Reafforestation Fund	6,44,512	6,44,512
Chirag Education Fund	-	1,23,155
Current Liabilities	1,20,06,108	30,14,909
	8,31,41,600	7,10,55,985
Assets		
Fixed Assets	1,51,45,430	1,66,14,531
Investments	4,30,57,825	4,22,48,672
<u>Current Assets, Loans and Advances</u>		
Closing Stock of Medicines and Consumable		
Cash, Bank Balance and Term Deposit	2,44,21,433	1,15,38,811
Loans and Advances	5,12,912	6,49,971
Security Deposit (endorsed in favour of Government Authorities)	4,000	4,000
	8,31,41,600	7,10,55,985

Signed on behalf of Chirag

Chairperson: RadheshLall

Vice Chairman: Malvika Karlekar

Executive Director: Badrish Singh Mehra

General Manager : B K Kabdwal

In terms of our report of even date annexed

For S RamanandAiyar and Co.

Chartered Accountant

Registration No. 000990N

R Balasubramanian

Partner

New Delhi

M No. 080432

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended as on 31st March 2020

	Current Year (Rs)	Previous Year (Rs)
Receipts		
Balance as on 1 st April 2019	25,525,647	25,755,049
Project Funding		
Foreign Contribution	13,370,083	22,349,894
Local Contribution	28,698,805	12,519,835
Rural Health Services	2,740,803	2,466,342
Donations	5,559,606	2,976,985
Interest	1,260,962	9,76,895
Others	3,122,120	6,885,748
	80,278,026	73,930,748
Payments		
Berkeley Reforestation Trust	800,375	466,942
The Hans Foundation For- Education Programme	8,319,639	4,800,519
The Hans Foundation For- Spring Programme	-	7,574,217
Himmotthan Society For E-wash Project	900,259	5,730,106
For "Maximizing Mountain Project Programme	1,321,685	1,580,473
Newcastle University (Pappadam) For-research P	1,243,074	706,870
Others	747,796	339,375
Himmotthan Society/Sir Ratan Tata Trust (CHLI)	1,547,976	2,181,228
CHEI	-	4,984,884
IMF	674,197	832,246
ESI in Uttarakhand Himalaya	34,817	-
For FPO Nainital	115,934	11,004
For FPO Bageshwar	120,915	37,201
Rajeshwar Sushila Dayal Charitable Trust	2,300,387	3,197,806
Ernts And Young Foundation (E&Y)	524,091	869,738
Arghyam	-	631,141
PANGEA-Econet Assests Pvt. Ltd.	709,102	393,635
Zila Abhinav Fund, Almora For-Spring Recharge	-	578,528
Askok Leyland Ltd.	4,929,774	130,161
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	4,708,970	-
CEDAR- For Spring Recharge Programme	362,458	-
Rural Health Services	3,351,274	1,674,513
CHIRAG School	1,932,612	2,697,885
Other Payments	6,461,355	8,986,629
Balance as on 31 st March 2020	39,171,336	25,525,647
	80,278,026	73,930,748

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended as on 31st March 2020

Income	Current Year (Rs.)	Previous Year (Rs.)
Project Funding		
Foreign Contribution	11,159,713	2,08,13,796
Other Foreign Contribution	1,770,842	1,039,660
Local Contribution	28,698,805	1,25,19,835
Donations	5,409,606	29,76,985
Rural Health Services	2,740,803	24,66,342
Interest	1,260,962	20,38,996
Others	2,500,622	47,23,868
Projects in Progress	2,853,029	50,37,541
	56,394,382	51,617,023
Expenditure		
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	800,375	4,66,942
The Hans Foundation		
For – Education Programme	8,162,409	44,74,803
For- Recharge of springs and Water Distribution	-	75,74,217
Himmotthan Society –E-wash Project	900,259	57,30,106
Maximizing Mountain Agriculture Program	1,321,685	15,80,473
Other Payments (FCRA)	747,796	3,39,375
Newcastle University (Pappadam) For Research Programme	1,243,074	7,06,870
For Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative (CHLI)	1,547,976	21,81,228
For Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI)	-	49,84,884
For Integration of Microfinance (IMF)	674,197	8,32,246
ESI in Uttarakhand Himalaya	34,817	-
For FPO's –Nainital	115,934	11,004
For FPO's -Bageshwar	120,915	37,201
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	2,300,387	25,15,506
Ernst & Young Foundation (E&Y)	524,091	869,738
For-Social Renewal Programme		
ARGHYAM	-	6,31,141
India Education Collective (ICE)		-
Pangea-Eco-net Assests Pvt. Ltd. For Tree Plant	709,102	3,93,635
Zila Abhinav Fund, Almora For Spring Recharge Kosi	-	5,78,528
Ashok Leyland Ltd. For Spring Recharge Programe	4,929,774	1,30,161
Azim Premji Phllanthropic Initiatives	4,627,370	-
CEDAR- For Spring Recharge Programme	255,700	-
Rural Health Services	3,292,757	17,12,299
Chirag School	1,914,402	26,97,885
Other Payments	7,681,717	1,03,99,209
	41,904,737	4,88,47,451
Total Expenditure		
Available Funds	14,489,645	27,69,572
Appropriations		
Transferred to project in progress	12,691,602	28,53,029
Surplus for the year transferred to Reserve Fund	1,798,043	(83,457)

**Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended as on 31st March 2020**

CHIRAG TEAM 2019-2020

Ajay Singh Bisht	Ganaga Joshi	Naveen Chandra Bhatt
Amit Singh Bisht	Geeta Arya	Pan Singh Bisht
Anand Singh Bisht	Girish Chandra Budhani	Pooran Singh Raikwal
Anand Singh Bisht	Govind Singh Bisht	Pradeep Rastogi
Anil Chandra Binwal	Harendra Singh Nayal	Prayag Dutt Bhatt
Anil Kumar Keshari	Harish Chandra Palaria	Prema Tiwari
Asha Sah	Hema	Pritam Singh Rautela
Basanti Bisht	Hema Bisht	Priyanka Sammal
Bhagirathi Danu	Jaswant Singh Bisht	Pushpa Devi
Bhashkaranand Joshi	Jitendra Singh Bisht	Pushpa Negi
Bhawana Danu	Kailash Chandra Joshi	Radhakant Mehar
Bhim Singh Negi	Keshav Dutt Joshi	Raghvendra Singh Bisht
Bhupal Singh Bisht	Khushal Singh	Rajani Mehta
Bhupal Singh Jeena	Kiran Bisht	Rajendra Singh Bisht
Bipin Kumar Kabdwal	Kishore Singh Rautela	Ram Singh Bisht
Bishan Singh Raikwal	Krishana Chandra Bhandari	Ranjit Sahani
Champa Pandey	Krishana Kumar Nayal	Rekha Danu
Chandan Singh Bisht	Kunti Bisht	Sandeep Dutt Bhatt
Chandan Singh Chamiyal	Kusum Tiwari	Sanjay Joshi
Chicu Lokgariwar	L. Abhishek	Suman Das
Deep Chandra Kandpal	Lakshami Biroria	Sunder Lal
Deepa	Lalit Mohan Tiwari	Sunder Singh Nayal
Devendra Singh Nayal	Lalita Devi	Surendra Singh Negi
Digamber Danu	Lata Harbola	Suresh Kumar
Diwan Ram	Mahendra Singh Bisht	Tara Singh Bisht
Diwan Singh Mehta	Manju Kholia	Thakur Singh
Dr. Badrish Singh Mehra	Mohan Singh	Tulsi Negi
Dr. Mahendra Singh Bisht	Mohan Singh Bisht	Vikram Singh Raikwal
Dr. Mukul Singh Bisht	Mukesh Danu	
Ganesh Singh	Nandan Singh Bisht	