

# **THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017-2018**



**CHIRAG**

**CENTRAL HIMALAYAN RURAL ACTION GROUP**

[www.chirag.org](http://www.chirag.org)

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## **The Year in Retrospect**

With Non-Government Organisations, the way forward starts with a look back. An organization needs to reflect on the relative strengths and weaknesses of both its current approaches and those used in the past. This knowledge helps in implementing a working model that builds on existing strengths and deals with identifiable weaknesses. Organisations that have completed their silver jubilees are likely to think that they know a great deal about the sector; yet there's a danger that some ways of working are no longer appropriate in the rapidly changing NGO landscape. Donor profiles are changing and with increasing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding the short and long term output and impact-driven activities are taking precedence. The NGO sector is still grappling with the increasingly complex reporting and monitoring processes. An organisation's change management strategies are affected by community needs and aspirations in an environment of development and climate change. One important aspect in change management is the skills and knowledge of available human resources who are involved directly with reforms.

The focus during the year 2017-18 was to bring stability, accountability and steps towards adapting to change. Over the last three decades, based on the hard work and dedication of its staff, CHIRAG has developed a proven track record of successful implementation of various projects. As it now enjoys the trust and confidence of local communities and institutions, time and energy is being invested to enhance the skills of our staff, develop partnerships and work collaboratively. Enhanced partnerships and collaboration with technical institutions and organizations has helped CHIRAG to emerge as a premier organization in the sector dealing with ground water recharge in the Himalaya. The education programme continues to experiment with new teaching methods and with the E-WaSH programme the primary school infrastructure has been improved considerably with the active participation of the School Management Committees. A clean and safe environment is now available to the students and teachers and the girls' scholarship program is being linked to skill development courses.

CHIRAG will continue to pursue timely quality implementation of its projects in close collaboration with its partners as well as with active participation of all other relevant stakeholders. Additionally, consultations and capacity building activities at the headquarters and field levels will be continued.

Bi-annual reviews will be conducted for identifying good practices as well as the training needs of the staff. Documentation and dissemination of experiences coupled with the extension of technical support for spring recharge will be the key functions of a meaningful knowledge transfer. Given the interconnectedness of various activities, relevant strategies for enabling collaboration among different actors will be developed as part of the overall implementation process.

September 2018

Badrish Singh Mehra  
Executive Director

## **OVERVIEW**

Apart from knowing the landscape, to be able to succeed in developmental work, one has to get to know the people – their culture, concerns, and relationships – and to develop relationships with them as well. Over three decades, CHIRAG has effectively dealt with the challenges of working in fragile, remote locations where communication networks frequently break down. In the past year it has aggressively worked in education, health, livelihood and natural resource management through its forestry and spring recharge programs. Innovative livelihood activities are generating employment and building resilience for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture and animal husbandry sector.

## **EDUCATION**

In recent decades India has made significant progress in access to schooling and increase in enrolment rates in primary education. Under the Bal Shikshaks programme CHIRAG's flagship initiative to enhance quality of primary education in the hilly region of Kumaon in Uttarakhand, primary education in schools under project areas have shown considerable improvement in school attendance. Periodic teachers training and academic resource support in form of handbooks/manual have also been initiated. As a result, children have learnt to think and study independently, to socialise, make new friends and bridge gender and social category gaps. Alongside, CHIRAG has refurbished the school classrooms, provided safe and adequate drinking water facilities and toilets. The schools now have a secure boundary wall, a kitchen for cooking a mid-day meal, a playground, and through E-WaSH, an awareness programme on hygiene and positive health behaviour. Besides these, it has catered the schools with the para-teachers /Bal-Shikshaks.

With its small-size classes and low student-to-teacher ratio, CHIRAG School is a good example of its type. Our committed teachers provide a personalised educational experience where the focus is on the individual needs of the student. Students have outlets to scribble, dance, sing and nurture creativity that helps them to learn at every age. They stay beyond the school day and participate in clubs, competitions, sports, cultural events, summer programmes. With its innovative child centric approach to education, CHIRAG School serves as a great mentor to the government primary schools in the vicinity.

## **HEALTH**

CHIRAG Hospital, Sargakhet is very important for the community as access to the nearest dispensary or primary health centre is difficult. Through timely management, health camps and low cost follow-up programmes, we strive to reach out to the local population. In the near future, the focus is to develop patient-centered care through the outreach programme and look at collaboration with different health care facilities so as to provide consultation and testing services.

## **LIVELIHOOD**

Today, smallholder farmer's livelihoods are threatened due to liberalization and privatization, the Uttarakhand farmers being no exception. Supported by CHIRAG, Mukteshwar Kisan Producer Company Limited (MKPCL) has helped the smallholder farmers to participate in the emerging high value markets. Potato, apple, peach were the three major crops received in high volume this year. The dairy federations in Nainital, Bageshwar and Almora districts provided the producer members with raw and final products and in turn the producer company helped in milk trading and input services which included supply of cattle feed, fodder, clean milk production, milk products such as *khoya*, *paneer* and veterinary first aids. Besides these functions, they organised awareness camps, visits, meetings to build the capacity of the managing committee and members for clean milk production and better animal keeping and

management. Considering growing unemployment, ageing farmers and declining crop yield, measures are to be taken to build greater awareness among the youth to take up agriculture as a career, farming as a business and engage with the market, and innovations.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **a. COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

Forests are a vital component of watershed resources and need to be conserved and managed properly. Hence, to augment the new and old afforested sites, 25 different species such as Oak, *Bahuinia*, *Grevia oppositifolia* and *Melina azedarach* etc. were planted. Direct sowing especially of Oak, *Bahunia* and *Aesculus* has shown very promising results, reducing the cost of afforestation over a longer period. Subsequently, celebration of *Van Mohatsav*, training and awareness raising to sensitize the local people of their biodiversity values and plantation techniques were organized.

### **b. SPRING RECHARGE**

The spring recharge programme has further refined its approach and hydrogeological understanding has been enhanced through collaboration with scientific and technical institutions. Systematic training of the local community, youth and students has aided in demystifying the science behind spring recharge and management. This participatory approach has ensured the community's long term involvement and strengthened women-led governance mechanisms. These activities are being complimented by water distribution schemes from springs which have high discharge.

## WHERE WE WORK

We have a direct presence in 217 villages in four blocks of Nainital District, two blocks in Almora District and one block in Bageshwar district. The villages we are engaged in consist of over 16,000 households and a population of just over 85,000 people.

The table and the map below give an overview of our area of operation:

Area office	District	Block	Villages
Reetha	Nainital	Ramgarh	17
Kasiyalekh	Nainital	Ramgarh, Dhari	23
Mauna	Nainital	Ramgarh	12
Pinro	Nainital	Bhimtal	12
Takula	Almora	Takula	14
Jaiti	Almora	Lamgarha	14
Doba	Almora	Hawalbagh	16
Dhokane	Nainital,Almora	Ramgarh, Betalghat, Hawalbagh	38
Simalkha	Nainital,Almora	Betalghat, Tarikhet	31
Kathpuryachina	Bageshwar	Bageshwar	40
<b>Total -10</b>	<b>District- 3</b>	<b>Block -9</b>	<b>217</b>



## WHAT WE DO

### EDUCATION

There is increasing concern across the nation about dismally low learning levels in our primary schools. Studies have repeatedly shown that over 60% of children aged between 8 and 14 are unable to read Class 2 level texts. This is a matter of serious concern because this scenario persists. Despite of considerably increased investment in the education sector and substantial progress in access, infrastructure, pupil-teacher ratio and increased salaries for teachers. While these investments have resulted in dramatic increase in enrolment in the last decade, this has not translated into improvements in learning levels. It probably requires a fresh approach that builds on the experiences of previous efforts and makes learning outcomes rather than enrollment the key focus. Various studies have highlighted the fact that Indian students underperform on tests meant to gauge Minimum Learning Levels (MLLs). It is worth mentioning that more often than not, the children (often girls) who study in government run primary schools belong to the poorest households of the community. Thus there is a need to ensure that the education being provided at the government schools are of a minimum acceptable quality and addresses the issue of equity.

With a weak foundation at the primary level, children rapidly lose interest in studies and eventually drop out or else continue to get degrees without learning much. It is sad to note that education which is the nucleus, around which the social and economic development of a country hinges, is being largely neglected.

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. Through the 'We Learn English' project under the Bal Shikshak program, English-speaking skills in students of class 4 and 5 were enhanced. 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. This programme was expanded to cover 65 Government Primary Schools in 8 project areas. As on 2017-18 there were 2,207 children of whom 52% were girls being taught by 65 Bal Shikshaks.

Table 1 A.1: District and Block-wise details of Government Primary Schools are as under:

<b>District</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>No. of schools</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nainital	Ramgarh	30	492	553	1045
	Dhari	5	140	131	271
	Bhimtal	2	38	41	79
	Betalghat	10	90	114	204
Bageshwar	Bageshwar	14	230	251	481
Almora	Hawalbagh	4	61	66	127
<b>District-3</b>	<b>Block – 6</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>2207</b>

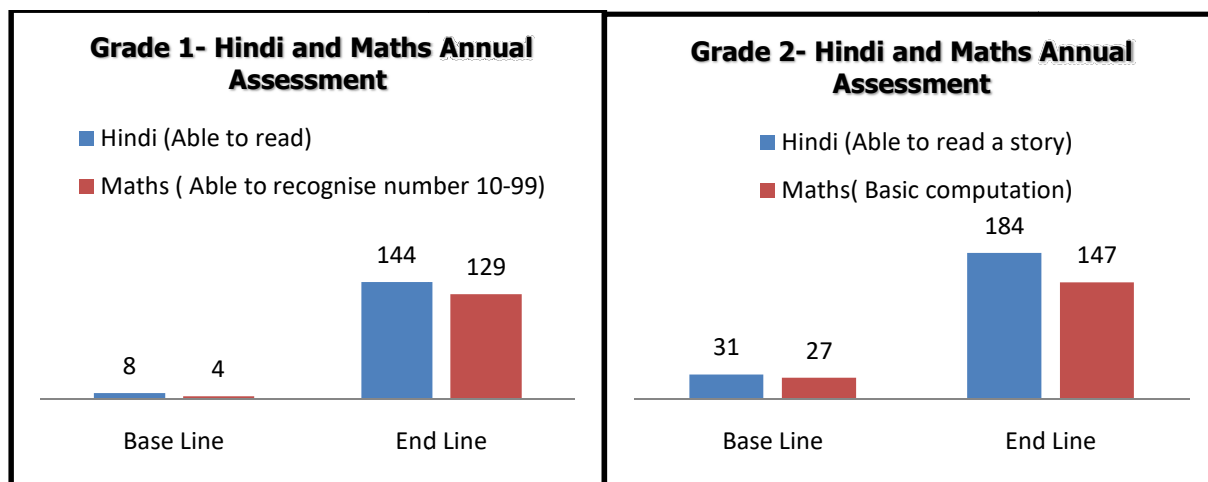
During the year, the following activities were undertaken with the balshikshaks:

### Assessment test

The key focus of our Bal Shikshak programme is on monitoring our basic literacy goals, building content knowledge and improving pedagogy by using classroom data to improve learning outcomes. We conduct periodic assessments on learning levels at the entry, formative and summative levels in the academic cycle.

The Baseline Assessment in 2017- 2018 indicated 8 Class 1 students at the beginner stage who knew how to read. At the end of the last quarter, 144 knew how to read. From Class 2, 31 students were able to read a story at the start. The number of students who could read a story at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter had increased to 184. In Mathematics abilities, 4 Class 1 students were able to recognise numbers from 10-99 during the baseline study and this figure had gone up to 129 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Twenty seven students from Class 2 were able to do subtractions in the beginning of the academic year and by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the figure had gone up to 147 students.

Figure 1A.2: Annual Assessment (ASER Tool) For Classes– 1 & 2 – Hindi & Maths in Oral test



### ‘We Learn English’ Programme:

As this is the last year of the project, the End Line study was conducted by the Centre for Learning Institute (CLR) in partnership with CHIRAG. After almost 1 year of intervention, the aim was to assess the improvement in Level 1 of English Language Comprehension and Speaking in Classes 4 and 5. A total of 17 schools were included in the study with 5 students each from Classes 4 and 5. Some highlights are given below:

Figure 1A.3: (Class 4- Level 1): Speaking Skills: Answering in broken sentences

Indicators	More than 5- 10 sentence		1-4 sentences		None	
	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line
Answering 10 simple questions	0%	4%	25%	69%	75%	26%

Talking about standard pictures	2%	16%	13%	44%	85%	40%
Talking about a friend without prompt	0%	13%	25%	78%	75%	9%
Talking about a friend with prompt	1%	4%	29%	85%	70%	10%

The post test revealed that students were able to understand basic questions in English. A huge improvement was seen among the students who made attempts to speak in 1 to 4 broken sentences. While students struggled to describe the picture cues, it was clear that they made efforts to narrate in broken sentences. A good number of students were able to either talk about a friend with /without any prompts in broken sentences.

**Figure 1A.4:** (Class 4- Level 1): Speaking Skills: Answering in correct sentences

Indicators	More than 5- 10 sentence		1-4 sentences		None	
	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line
Answering 10 simple questions	0%	34%	65%	66%	35%	0%
Talking about a standard pictures	0%	3%	0%	19%	100%	78%
Talking about a friend without prompt	0%	0%	4%	31%	96%	69%
Talking about a friend with prompt	0%	0%	3%	35%	97%	65%

Significant improvement was seen (from 0% to 34%) among the students who were able to understand more than 5-10 simple basic questions and answer them correctly in full sentences. The increase from 4% and 3% to 31 % and 35% was observed when students made an attempt to talk about their friends with and without cues in 1 to 4 full sentences respectively. With only a year’s intervention, the results were quite encouraging - factoring in all the challenges related to effective delivery such as erratic power supply to run the CD player etc.

**Figure 1A.5** (Class 5- Level 1): Speaking Skills: Answering in broken sentences

Indicators	More than 5- 10 sentence		1-4 sentences		None	
	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line
Answering 10 simple questions	1%	16%	45%	67%	54%	17%
Talking about a standard pictures	2%	17%	13%	49%	85%	33%
Talking about a friend without prompt	1%	23%	38%	62%	61%	15%

Talking about a friend with prompt	1%	2%	44%	81%	55%	16%
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The study showed that students from Class 5 for Level 1 did significantly well to speak in 1 to 4 broken sentences. While the number of students who spoke more than 5 -10 sentences were less, gradual progress was observed.

**Figure 1A.6**(Class 5 - Level 1): Speaking Skills: Answering in correct sentences

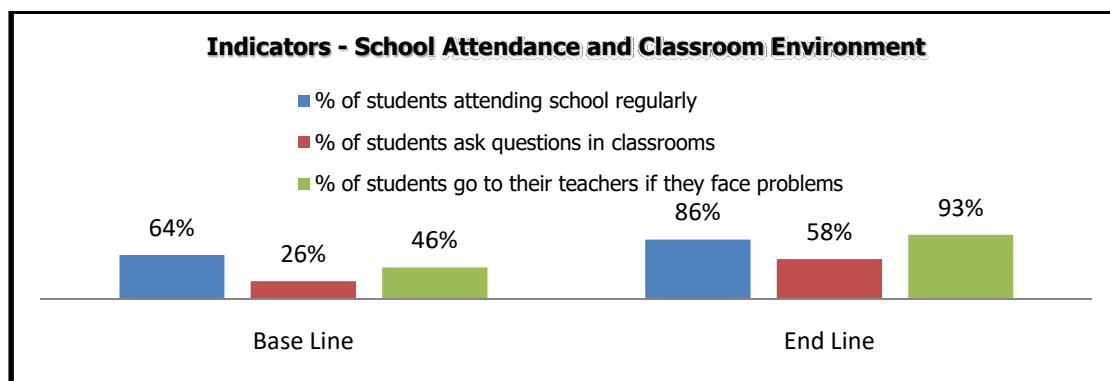
Indicators	More than 5- 10 sentence		1-4 sentences		None	
	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line	Base Line	End Line
Answering 10 simple questions	1%	27%	76%	67%	23%	6%
Talking about a standard pictures	0%	1%	4%	25%	96%	74%
Talking about a friend without prompt	0%	0%	13%	30%	87%	70%
Talking about a friend with prompt	0%	0%	18%	23%	82%	77%

A good number of students showed improvement in answering 10 simple questions in 1 to 4 correct sentences. They also made great efforts to describe a picture or a friend in few sentences.

### **Magic Bus India Foundation-Sports for Development:**

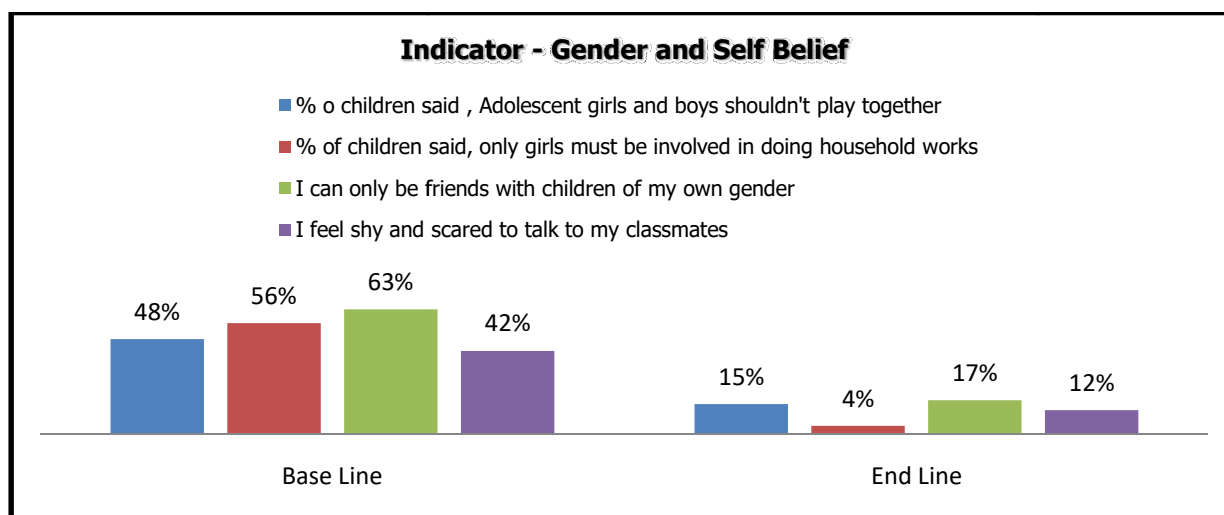
Magic Bus India Foundation, an NGO based in Delhi, believes in using sports as a medium to make learning more interesting and attractive to children. In June 2016, in collaboration with the organisation, we introduced this novel learning approach in 20 out of 65 schools. Used as an effective tool for all round development of the children, sports helped children to learn focus, teamwork, commitment and more. In the last year of the project, using the tool developed by Magic Bus End Line Survey was conducted by CHIRAG staff with 57% girls and 43% boys as participants. The report below demonstrated improvement in the attendance of the students to the school. They participated willingly and enjoyed the program to their fullest. It helped to enhance their skills in team work, communication, problem solving, leadership and understanding of social issues related to gender inequality.

**Figure 1A.7:** Magic Bus Program -Indicators – School Attendance and Classroom Environment – Classes 3, 4 and 5



Through regular monitoring of school attendance, engagement of children in creative activities and follow-up on absence has greatly contributed to student’s school attendance. Students have developed more understanding about the value of education. It is observed that children are finding it easy to relate to class teachers, ask questions in class and participate more fully as well as see them as persons to whom they could turn to if they have problems.

**Figure 1A.8:** Magic Bus Program -Indicators: Gender and Self Belief



As children internalize what they hear from their parents and the surrounding environment, media etc, initially it wasn’t a surprise to hear some stereotypes about men and women being formed at elementary level. Awareness generation through sports activities helped in advocating for gender equality education. After a year’s intervention, we find considerable improvement in self-perceptions and attitudes towards gender roles and Students were also found acknowledging the importance of healthy a diet and hygiene.

**Content and Pedagogy Trainings:**

This year, Bal Shikshaks and project staff undertook language and math training while the coordinator of CHIRAG School and two teachers took the session on language pedagogy and content. They talked about best practices to improve reading, comprehension and fluency among the students and the benefits of instructional teaching and learning materials was shared with the Bal Shikshaks who were encouraged to share their experiences.

### **Language Module training:**

Language Consultant Geeta Krenek conducted a 3 day training with Bal Shikshaks and Area Coordinators where she demonstrated the practical use of a manual in the classroom settings, how to plan for language classes, assessments on language skills and better pedagogical practices. The consultation gave the Bal Shikshaks the chance to practice the handbook in the classroom.

### **Strengthening of School Management committees (SMCs):**

Through various training meetings, CHIRAG strengthened the School Management Committees so that they could develop to create a sense of ownership and play a vital role in the monitoring of the schools for their effective functioning. The programme played a crucial role in bringing together various stakeholders to enable schools to function better through collective and collaborative action.

### **Training of government teachers:**

Forty government school teachers participated in four teacher training programmes organized during 2017-18. In this cluster training, we also discussed and solved challenges the teachers were facing in implementing the CLR (Centre for Learning Resource) programme.

### **Special education session:**

During formal assessments, it was found that many students had special needs related to vision, hearing, emotional, as well as loco motor functions. Thus, in the month of June 2017, we had a session with Ms. Sanchita Sahay on working with children who have special needs. An occupational therapist with nine years' experience, Ms. Sahay who is currently at the British School in Delhi was invited as a trainer to work with BalShikshaks and coordinators.

### **E-WaSH Project:**

With the support of the Hans Foundation and Himmotthan Society, CHIRAG runs the "**Education-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (E-WaSH)**" programme in government primary schools. This project complements our existing Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI) program. The main objective of this programme is to improve health and hygiene practices and reduce water-borne diseases among school-going children. Through this programme spread over 45 government primary schools covering around 1451 children in Nainital and Bageshwar districts, proper sanitation facilities, potable water, white washing, wall writing is being introduced. Using various tools and methods to trigger the development of hygienic habits and supported by School Management Committees (SMCs), the project focus is also to see the Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) of children.

### **Awareness related activities in Schools are as under:**

Sr.n	Name of activities	Total Trainings	Total Participation		
			Children	Parents/SMC members	Total
1	Awareness Rallies	180	855	255	1110
2	Retreat Camp	160	580	82	662
3	Puppet Shows	12	443	130	573
4	Training of SMC members	4	0	135	135

5	Exposure visits SMC members	4	0	125	125
6	Health Camps	4	235	0	235
<b>Total</b>		<b>364</b>	<b>2113</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>2840</b>

Highlights of construction activities being done by CHIRAG in 36 Government Primary Schools:

<i>Project Area</i>	<b>Kasiyalekh</b>	<b>Mouna</b>	<b>Dhokane</b>	<b>Simalkha</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of Primary Schools</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>
Water Scheme Augmentation	1	1	1	0	<b>3</b>
Minor Repair Gravity	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Construction of RWHT*	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
Sanitary Unit (New)	2	5	1	1	<b>9</b>
Repair Sanitary Unit (Old)	22	15	13	13	<b>63</b>
Soak Pit	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Garbage Pit	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Hand wash Station	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Boundary Wall	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Gate Valve Chamber	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Water Filter Distribution	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
White Washing	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Wall Designs	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>
Utensils wash station	12	10	7	7	<b>36</b>

\* RWHT = Rain Water Harvesting Tank

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### Three Case Studies following introduction of BalShikshaks

#### *Talent hunt*

Trikanshu, a Class 5 student of the primary school, Pangradi, was not fond of studying and avoided coming to school. A BalShikshak noticed this and decided to visit his home. After continuous follow-up and counselling of Trikanshu and his parents, there was some positive change in attitude. Trikanshu started coming to school and gradually participating in school activities as well and completing home assignments and so on. Over time, the boy's progress amazed everyone in the school and his family. Today, Trikanshu is able to solve difficult maths problems and help his fellow mates with their queries. Trikanshu has been leading. There is a long list of awards that Trikanshu has won in last one year and has been successful in various Maths and English competitions as well as in sports of time. There are a large number of candidates appearing for Rajiv Gandhi Navodaya Vidyalaya examination, an entrance test for Class 6 and Trikanshu bagged place, winning a tape-recorder, bag and the certificate

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### ***Experience is the best teacher***

In September 2015, thirty-seven-year old Madhavi Dangwal from Sunkiya, Bateliya joined the education programme as a field implementer. Coming from a small village, she had no exposure and opportunity to interact with people, let alone, dealing with government authorities and education professionals or committee. She was low on self-confidence and lacked communication skills. Madhavi shared how her association with the BalShikshak programme was influential in her professional development. Her journey commenced with attending SMC meetings and coordinating with local government officials. The success conveying to the latter the essence of the programme boosted her confidence. She greatly improved in her writing skills, learnt social etiquette and public dealing. At the personal level, the BalShikshak programme helped her to considerably improve the upbringing of her own children. Soon, she was travelling on exchange programmes to various places - Rajasthan, Bhuwaneshwar, Garhwal region, Delhi.

Madhavi commented that she had been through a wonderful growth experience for which she was thankful. She appreciated the freedom and insights into the profession that she received from this programme.

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### ***Good Work by an SMC***

As some programmes such as CLR were primarily run through audio / CD medium due to lack of electricity children from Pata/ Khaprad were deprived of it. This concern was brought to the knowledge of Mr. Kundan Singh Nayal, SMC Chairman who called a meeting with parents. Following several discussions, a proposal with signatures of parents was sent to Electricity Board. The Chairman took up the matter to Mr. Chandra, J.E and SDO office, Bhimtal for their approval. With persistent follow-ups, the SMC was successful in getting the proposal accepted.

As today, the school has power supply, it is able to run the CLR program effectively. Children enjoy audio-clips of "AaoAngraziSikhe" that has helped them to improve their English communication skills. The continued support of the SMC has helped not only in getting the power supply, but also in organising events like Independence Day, contributing towards honorarium for Bal-Shikshaks and so on.

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### **Scholarship for Girls**

The scholarship programme seeks to provide academically able girls from Classes 9 and 12 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds with the requisite support to complete their schooling. This programme covers the cost of their stationery, textbooks, uniforms and school fees and also monitors their health through periodic medical check-ups. In addition, the girls are provided tuition support in different subjects. In 2017-18 there were 82 girls receiving scholarships and, till date, in 2018, 29 new girls were added in Classes 9 and 10.



During the year, girls were provided with either access to tuition at a cluster level, or individual inputs that were covered by the scholarship for a six-month period. In December-January, all the girls received access to a residential tutorial support camp and vocational training. Regular debriefing meetings were held by teachers with parents on the progress of their children. Two health check-up camps were organized with CHIRAG doctors.

This year out of the 82 girls supported under the programme, 22 appeared for the Class 12 examination and 10 passed in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, five in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division while four passed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. As they were unwell, three girls could not pass the examination.

Last year, 29 girls who passed out of our scholarship, 6 of them have joined Himjyoti vocational Institute, Dehradun. Rest of them pursued higher education like BBA and polytechnic etc.

## The CHIRAG School

Following the initiative of Kanai Lall, the founder of CHIRAG, The Chirag School opened in 2006.

**Our vision** is to ensure that all children passing out of The CHIRAG School will be independent lifelong learners who strive towards being self-aware, caring and responsible individuals.

**Our mission** is to provide a caring and stimulating environment to children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds where they can develop their body, mind and soul and practice living in harmony with nature, society and the self.

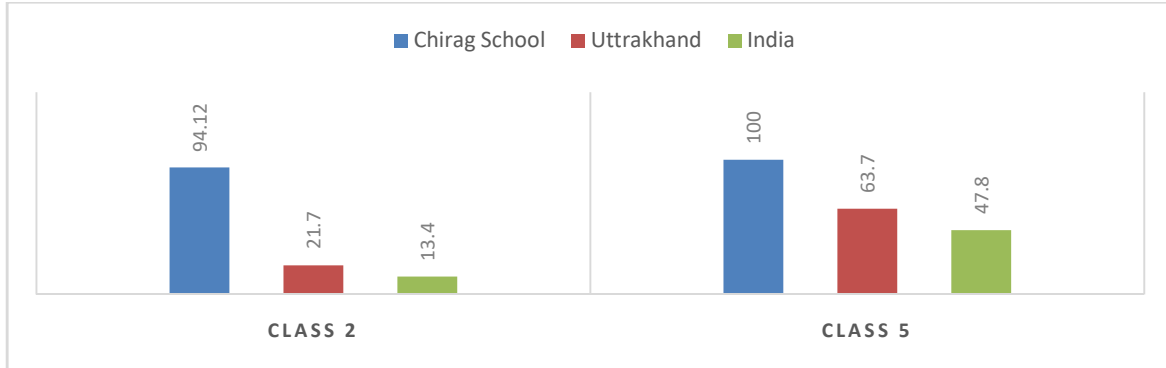
The large majority of children who come to school as well as the teachers are locals and one of the aims of the institution is to preserve the local culture, which is in grave danger of being lost. Children are taught local traditional instrumental music, dance, singing and art by teachers who are specialists in these areas. Parents are also invited on a regular basis to share local history and folktales and to celebrate local festivals. The school believes in providing experiential learning to its students and in order to ensure personal attention to all, the number of students per class is capped at a maximum of 18. In 2017-18, The Chirag School had 36 pre-school students and 86 students in Classes 1 – 5 and there was a gender bias towards females as 68 students were girls and 54 boys.

## School Culture

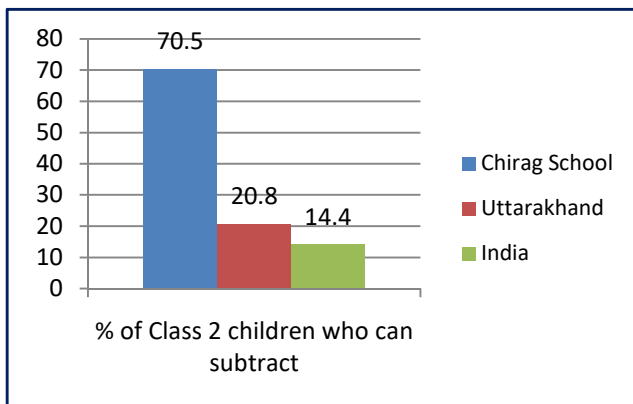
At the CHIRAG School, learning is child-centric and pedagogy is best suited to children's needs, encouraging them to be fearless and curious while being empathetic and respectful towards others. The school promotes a non-competitive environment guided by a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Students and teachers regularly engage in cleanliness and tree plantation drives, and increase community awareness about sustainability and waste management through plays, songs and other events.

## Academic Impact

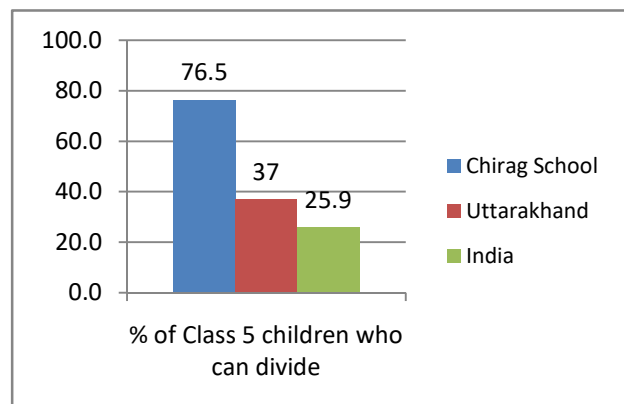
The CHIRAG School focuses on the overall development of the child. This section highlights some quantifiable academic outputs vis-à-vis data from ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) 2016 that assesses children from rural India. This makes outputs slightly more comparable.



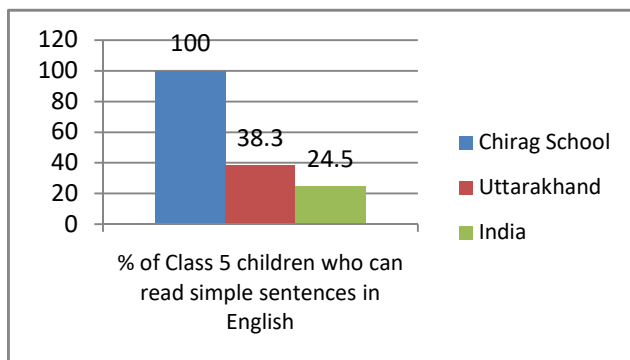
The chart above shows that children from The CHIRAG School are reasonably above the national and state average with over 94% of children from Class 2 and 100% children from Class 5 being able to read at given text.



The bar chart above shows the percentage of children in Class 2 who can successfully subtract a two-digit number from a two-digit number. Over 70% of Class 2 children at Chirag School can successfully perform the operation as compared to the nation average of 14.4%.



The second bar chart graph shows the percentage of children in Class 5 who can divide a three-digit number with a one-digit number. Over 75% of children from Chirag School were able to perform the division as compared to the 37% and 26% from Uttarakhand and India respectively.



English is taught as a second language at The Chirag School and the adjacent bar chart shows that all children of Class 5 in Chirag School can read simple English. Children develop basic reading, writing and speaking competencies in the subject.

### School extra-curricular and other activities:

- During 2017-18, students in Classes 4 and 5 went to the Deeya Adventure Camp at Kasiyalekh for an overnight stay. Students were introduced to the basics of mountain adventure and tried the double rope bridge, rope ladder, Burma bridge, and flying fox. Students also tried group games and in the evening sat by a bonfire and sang songs.
- A co-curricular club programme that was introduced to Classes 4 and 5 provided opportunities for students during the curricular day to learn about and develop skills in dance, drama, *kantha* stitching, knitting, and use of technology. While students met four times per week for 35 minute sessions, dance and drama clubs always included one culminating performance in front of the whole school every four weeks.
- The After School Activities programme (ASA) with sports and activities was developed in 2017 and given its popularity with the students, it continued in 2018 as well. Activities offered were badminton, chess, football, *kabbadi*, and frisbee.
- Mandar Karanjkar and Dakshayani Athalye from The Baithak Foundation, came to the CHIRAG School and introduced Indian classical music to our students.
- Nicky Chandam conducted a 3-day storytelling workshop with the students and teachers. In the workshop, India's rich oral history tradition was discussed and demonstrated.
- Dr. Vandita Dubey, a Chirag School parent and trained clinical psychologist, offered six counselling sessions for our departing Class 5 students, broadly aimed at helping them in -building self-esteem; managing anxiety (around tests/exams, meeting new children/new teachers, joining a new school) and other negative feelings; dealing with lying and/or abuse of any kind, and learning not to bully; being assertive and building supportive relationships; staying away from smoking, alcohol and drugs; improving study habits and staying focused despite distractions, such as from television; and managing new emotions as they reach adolescence.
- Three faculty and eight students from The American Embassy School, Delhi, conducted a one-day 'First Aid training' for the children. The main topics were treatment of cuts and abrasions, fractures, fever, snake bites, and scorpion stings. The group also discussed the importance of hand-washing and hygiene.
- The Chirag School has launched its own website –[thechiragschool.wordpress.com](http://thechiragschool.wordpress.com) with the main goal of creating a fundraising platform by communicating our vision, our beliefs and our current need for financial support.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Initiatives in natural resource management include.

- conservation, development and management of common lands.
- recharge of Springs using the principles of hydro-geology.
- water distribution schemes for the need based community.
- support and strengthening of village-level institutions for sustainable management of efforts.

All the above activities are done in an integrated manner, mirroring the complex interplay between humans, forest and water and village-level institutions.

### **Community Forestry & Fodder**

Community forestry, fodder plantation on common land and efforts to recharge springs all require soil and water conservation efforts. At the outset, emphasis is laid on protection of the plots and on physical measures to conserve soil and water. Fodder, shrubs and grasses are planted along the contour trenches and terraces to assist in conservation. Protection also gives existing root-stock an opportunity to develop. In the subsequent year, following the enhancement of moisture in sites, saplings of broad-leaved species, particularly fodder varieties are planted. This process assists in the growth and increases the chances of success. This approach has also supported the natural regeneration of the native species.

During 2017-18, twenty-five different varieties of species were planted during the monsoon and winter season with Oak, Bauhinia, Melia and Leucaenia being the most important varieties. Apart from plantation on new sites, gap-filling was done in previously afforested sites of the same villages. Trainings were held in nursery raising, contour and plantation techniques.

Over two successive years, the onset of forest fires was much earlier due to the near absence of precipitation in winter. Fire control measures have been attempted in pine-dominated forest plots over the past few years. In the first instance, pine needles were collected and removed from the plots by the local community to reduce the incidence of fire. In 11 villages in Kathpuriyachina, Simalkha, Dhokane and Reetha area, around 15,500 running meters (rmt) of fire lines were created in plots.

### **Key activities undertaken during 2017-18**

- A total of 58,646 saplings were planted in 71 hectares of van-panchayat land spread over 45 villages. 41,885 saplings were planted by CHIRAG with support of the community and with convergence from MGNREGA, 16,761 saplings were planted in forest plots.
- A total of 58,240 direct seeds were sown covering 35 hectares.
- Fifteen different fodder species of seedlings were planted and these were primarily fodder and fuel wood species e.g. Oak, Celtis, and Bauhinia as well as species such as *Grevia oppositifolia* and *Melia azedarach*.
- Two hundred and seven community meetings were conducted during the year involving all the 52 project villages. The meetings were attended by members of van-panchayats and Van Suraksha Samitis. A total of 1309 people participated in these meetings, of which 62% were women participants.
- Nine van-mahotsavs were organized in which 845 community members participated across all project areas.

- A total of 178 quintals of fodder grasses were planted in 30 hectares of van-panchayat land.
- Twenty five fodder grass nurseries were established in project areas. These nurseries produced 13,180 kg of seed/rootstock and led to an income of over Rs. 39,000. Napier, Auns, Brome, Tall Fescue are the major species that are being raised.

For the growth of the plants, a substantial effort has been made during the year on inter-cultural operations like hoeing and mulching, and protection. Four hundred and eighty quintals of compost were produced in compost pits that were dug in the forestry plots. Existing walls and fences were repaired and new ones constructed.

## **Spring Recharge Programme**

Most Himalayan villages in the state of Uttarakhand and particularly those in the Kumaun region are in the grip of a water crisis of significant proportions. Districts like Almora, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar and Chamoli have had 90-95% significant decrease in rainfall in the last 100 years. The scanty details available on the water situation in the state show that drinking water scarcity has increased in approximately 19% of the villages in 1981 to almost 85% of villages by 2015. Decreasing availability, deteriorating quality and poor governance results in conflicts related to water availability. The water crisis is destined to get more critical unless immediate action is taken to mitigate the impact

CHIRAG has been working on issues of water and sanitation for the past three decades. Since 2008, 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. To address the issue of water recharge in the springs, it took technical support from ACWADAM, a groundwater knowledge institution in Pune. In the initial years, CHIRAG invested a lot of time and effort in developing its own understanding of Himalayan geology and devising scientific techniques of recharging different types of springs. CHIRAG's spring recharge work is done through active participation of village-level institutions. Community-level institutions were formed and local governance strengthened and now community members are provided training on the concept of geology, hydrogeology and water management. After the implementation of recharge activities, the springs are handed over to the community institutions that take care of maintenance. Joint monitoring with CHIRAG ensures discharge and water quality.

So far, CHIRAG has treated and monitored 211 springs in 16 blocks spread over 8 districts of the Kumaun and Garhwal. The focus is on involving the community and building capacities in basic geology, hydrology and water management. As women are the most important stakeholders, a conscious effort was made to form women-led water users groups locally called the *Jal Upbhokta Samiti* and involve them in recharge activities and overall decision-making process. A Key Resource Person (KRP) who is to act as the local knowledge source on springs and ensures sustainability of the process is also selected from among the community and intensive training imparted to him/her.

CHIRAG has developed a team of para-hydrogeologists who map springsheds, monitor spring discharge and quality and identify a spring typology for the region of work. This has resulted in piloting recharge and demand management measures that helped impact more than 200 springs in Uttarakhand. The work also involved institutionalization of springshed management in over 100 of these villages and was able to restore, in varying degrees, the lean season spring discharge so as to positively impact the summer water

security of many such habitations. This has only been possible through continuous learning and sharing the lessons learnt with partners and stakeholders. Such initiatives have been supported by a range of funders and support agencies and the most recent phase of our work - strengthening Participatory Ground Water Management – by Arghyam

In partnership with The Hans Foundation, CHIRAG initiated spring recharge and water distribution work on 25 springs in Takula and Lamgarha block of Almora district. This is expected to benefit over 1,300 households and so far 13 springs have been treated benefiting around 400 households directly and another 415 beneficiaries. Under this project an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) fund based on community contributions was created to ensure availability of funds for post project maintenance of the community assets. Water User Committees are being formed and will be involved in the design and implementation of the project, and, post implementation, they will take responsibility of operation and maintenance.

During 2017-18, key activities undertaken in spring recharge and water distribution is given below:

- With the support of Arghyam and The Hans Foundation, a total of 37 springs in an area of 181 hectares of Van Panchyat and private land, have been treated through hydro-geological techniques. Post implementation, these springs are being monitored by Key Resource Persons (KRPs) who are regularly trained in data collection and groundwater management by CHIRAG and its partner organization.
- Thirteen water distribution schemes were built in Takula and Jaiti clusters.
- Over a hundred village-level trainings were conducted in addition to regular monthly meetings to enhance community participation and sharing of knowledge. A total of 1045 members participated in the meetings.
- Twenty six discharge monitoring training was organized for KRPs and community members where 297 persons participated.
- Community awareness of water quality was demonstrated through social protocols developed by Jal Samitis. A total of 20 water quality trainings were organized for the Jal Samiti members and Key Resource Persons in which 145 people participated.
- Advocacy workshops were carried out to highlight the issue of conservation of springs and its incorporation at policy level. 3 block and district level knowledge sharing advocacy workshops was organized. These will help to replicate the spring recharge projects at a larger level. The work done for convergence with government projects such Watershed projects, MGNREGA etc. also helped in supporting the program.
- To recharge the catchment of springs, various soil & water conservation activities were carried out by CHIRAG staff with the support of water committee members in their villages. The following recharge activities were undertaken during the year:

<b>Sr.n</b>	<b>Key Activity</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Spring Rejuvenation	Nos.	549.93
2	Khal	Cum.	1054.12
3	Drainage for khal	Rmt.	4980.47
4	Contour trench	Rmt.	2423.83
5	Percolation pit	Cum.	55.68
6	Gully plug	Rmt.	111.35
7	Dry stone check-dam	Rmt.	988
8	Deep recharge Pit	Cum.	42
9	Sub-surface check-dam		38.7

10	Gabion check-dam	Rmt.	45
11	Loose boulder checkdam	Rmt.	22.6
12	Protection wall	Mt.	3700
13	Contour Terracing	Rmt.	28429

A village water committee was formed in each of the villages to act as the inter-phase between CHIRAG staff and the villagers for spring-related activities related. User groups are contributing 20% for any work undertaken on community land and 50% in case of work done on private land. So far, in the community of 13 villages where the physical work has been completed, Rs. 4,23,947 has been contributed for spring recharge related activities and Rs.17,17,703 for water distribution activities.

### New Initiatives in Spring Recharge

In addition to the above several new initiatives were taken to improve the quality of work and better understand the system being studied. An ecohydrological study of the Ramgarsh watershed was initiated in partnership with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (Atree), Bangalore to better understand the Ramgarh catchment area. Three sites were chosen for instrumentation, Navada *dhara* in Nathuwakhan, Panera *dhara* in Supi and the mouth of the watershed at Ramgarh. Two sites were instrumented with a water-level recorder and an automatic raingauge while the mouth of the watershed was instrumented just with a water-level recorder using a stilling well. The raingauge was placed at Sunikia at the top of the watershed. The sites were chosen on the basis of landuse; Navada *dhara* had a recharge area dominated by pine forests and orchard while Supi had a recharge area with oak forest and orchard.

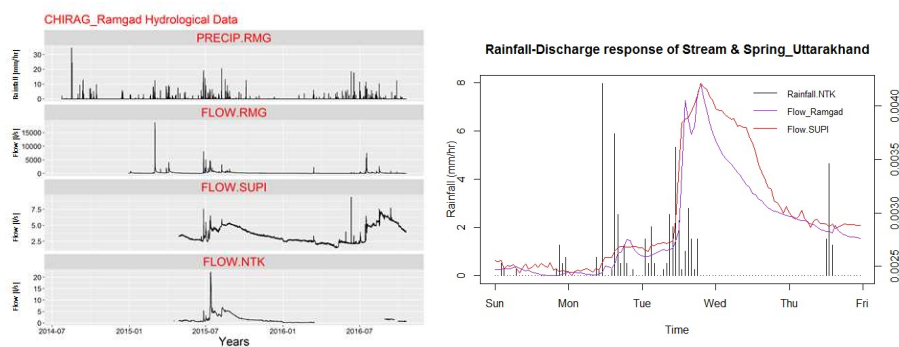
The objectives of the study were to understand:

- the behaviour of the stream with respect to that of the springs
- the behaviour of the springs with time and precipitation
- the influence of different landuse on spring behaviour.

The details of the instrumented sites are given below:

	Navada <i>dhara</i> , Nathuwakhan	Panera <i>dhara</i> , Supi	Ramgarh <i>gadhera</i>
Typology	Fracture	Fracture + depression	
Land-use	Chir-pine forests & Orchards	Mixed-oak forests & Orchards	Mixed Oak forests, Orchards, & Agriculture
Catchment area (ha)	3.5	12.7	1284.37
Flow range (l/s)	0.07 - 22.4	1.4 - 9.4	6.7 - 18725
Mean flow (l/s)	1.6	3.5	215

A couple of graphs produced from the data collected so far are below:



Following 2.5 years of data collection, the two instrumented springs have undergone soil and water conservation activities. After the completion of the work, its impact can be analysed with the collection of relevant data. In partnership with its technical support agencies, CHIRAG hopes to come out with a publication after sufficient data has been collected

## LIVELIHOOD

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.

### Producer Company

To reduce the influence of middlemen and to ensure a better return for agri-produce especially for small farmers, on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 under section IX of the Company’s Act 2013, CHIRAG established **Mukteshwar Kisan Producer Company Limited (MKPCL)** which comprises farmers from the region as well as office bearers of the co-operatives. The producer company was registered and currently has 173 shareholders and 5 board members. Its key objectives are to improve the livelihood of local farmers especially small farmers, by providing access to different markets, helping them realize a better rate by shortening the marketing chain and by improving grading and packaging. This year three major activities were attempted: the marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables, the procurement and sale of pulses and spices and the provision of improved seeds.

#### Key activities in 2017-18 undertaken through the MKPCL are as under:

- Procurement of 190 quintals of fresh fruits and grains from 185 farmers at a price of Rs. 6.68 lacs. As the gross sale was Rs. 8.65 lacs. MKPCL made a net profit of Rs. 2.05 lacs.
- 500 quintals of Kufri –Jyoti variety of potato seeds were procured through MKPCL and sold to more than 200 farmers. The total turnover was Rs. 13.70 lacs.
- To increase the production of apple in our cluster, high yield variety of 1,000 apple plants were distributed to 53 farmers in Reetha and Kasiyaleh clusters. The total cost of plants was Rs. 3 lacs.
- More than 100 quintals of vegetable, millets and Honey etc. were procured from 70 farmers at price of Rs.6.74 lacs.

Potatoes, apples and peaches have been the three major crops in terms of volumes. These products accounted for 80% of total procurement. For the best part of the season, potato, an important crop because of the large volumes available and its long shelf-life, was more expensive in Haldwani as compared to the Delhi market. This year a bulk of the produce was sold to retailers in Delhi and Haldwani *mandis*.

### **Livestock Based Micro Enterprises:**

With production of fodder from common and private lands increasing and with efforts to improve the breed as well as management practices, it was clear at the outset that micro enterprises should simultaneously be created to support these efforts.

Three livestock based **Micro-Dairy Federations** established in Nainital, Bageshwar and Almora districts have provided alternative livelihood options to local farmers. A total of 78 members from 30 SHGs in 20 villages are associated with these federations. In 2017-18, 74 members sold milk through these federations that procured 32,304 litres of milk and paid Rs 23.84lacs to the farmer members. The turnover during the year was Rs. 13.81 lacs with a net profit of Rs1.03 lacs. While the Nainital and Bageshwar dairy federation sell milk directly, the Almora federation procures milk and produces around 10-12 kilogram of *khoya* every day. Its produce goes to the nearest market in Almora.

The key goals of dairy federation are to:

- ✓ Receive a minimum contribution of Rs. 5,000- Rs. 8,000 from each member of the Federation in a year.
- ✓ In case each member is not able to contribute at least 80% of the member to transact with the federation in a year.
- ✓ Expand livestock based micro-enterprises and increase their turnover to ensure their viability in the long run.
- ✓ Provide a better price to the farmers than that through traditional marketing channels.
- ✓ find a new market for milk after the cream has been extracted
- ✓ Significantly increase the production of milk to benefit from economies of scale that are currently unavailable.

Table 3B.1: A snapshot of the business done by all the dairy federations during the year

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Total</b>
Beneficiary Numbers	105
Total milk collection (Its.)	32,304
Net payment of milk to villagers (Rs.)	946,667
Total Income (Rs.)	1,381,547
Operational Expenses	331,542
Net profit	103,337

The **Parvatiya Pashupalak Sangh (PPS)**, at Reetha is a federation of 15 Self Help Groups from five nearby villages. The PPS board consists of 24 members, two from each SHG. PPS produces cattle feed using locally available crops—m aize, soyabean, millets and wheat bran. Mineral mixture, oil cake and salt are procured from the *mandi*. The objective is to make available quality cattle feed based on inputs that are locally available and appropriate for this agro-climate and to simultaneously provide an impetus for continued production of these crops. During 2017-18, 66 quintals of cattle feed was produced and the total sale of it was Rs. 97,385. Main constraints of the PPS are limited space for their operations and access to working capital while at the same time, trying to find new market for their product.

The **Gau Palak Sangh (GPS)**, at Dhokane was formed in 2009 with members drawn from 4 Self Help Groups. Currently members from 17 Self Help Groups are involved with this federation. The GPS federation produces home remedies for livestock care using herbs that are available in the region. They currently produce seven home remedies. During 2017-18, 67 kgs of ayurvedic medicine were produced in of which 47 kgs worth Rs.1,48,062 were sold. The GPS federation has also started production of poultry and cattle feed and during 2017-18, 87 quintals of feed worth Rs. 2.30 lacs was sold.

In addition, Chirag has set up five women-led Common Facility Centers (CFCs) in Reetha, Kasiyalekh, Simalkha, Dhokane and Kathpuriyachina clusters. These CFCs provide easy availability of agricultural tools, improved seeds, pesticides and agro products to the community at an affordable price.

## Micro-Finance

We currently work with 162 **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** with a total membership of 1,555 and an average membership of 10-12 per group. The cumulative savings of these groups was Rs. 53.19 lacs and the total inter-loans availed during the year was Rs. 62.17 lacs. A number of training on different income generation activities and capacity-building workshops were organized for SHG members.

## Agriculture Extension:

One of many reasons why young people are dissatisfied with agriculture is the association of poverty and hardship with agriculture. So as to provide sustainable livelihood options to rural families that can lead to an improvement in their quality of life, it is imperative that agriculture and horticulture become viable and remunerative. 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 Himmotthan Society, CHIRAG is running agriculture support programmes in 15 villages in the Kathpuriyachina cluster of Bageshwar district. Through this programme, the following activities are being carried out:

- Appointment of local youth as agriculture scouts for technology deployment, inputs supply and day to day advice to farmers.
- Promotion of Community Facility Centres (CFCs) in the cluster for supplying high quality inputs
- Demonstrations, expansion of improved varieties, package of practices and technologies
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Improving soil health, bio-composting, IPNM for safe agriculture
- Establishing vegetable, spices, fruit nurseries, and various crop seeds for commercial purpose.

Various varieties of wheat crop were introduced as alternates to the local wheat and a total of 196 farmers cultivated wheat crops in 20.98 hectares of land. The average production was 38.62per hectare.

The table below gives the wheat crop varieties, households covered and area under cultivation in 2017-18.

Variety	Household covered		Line Maker		Plough line		Broadcasting	
	No. of Farmers	Hect.	No. of Farmers	Hect.	No. of Farmers	Hect.	No. of Farmers	Hect.
Wheat - HD 3086	39	2.15	9	0.43	21	1.24	9	0.48
Wheat- WH 1105	16	2.01	10	1.1	5	0.71	1	0.2
Wheat VL-907 Ext.	120	16.13	30	3.93	64	8.79	26	3.41
Wheat- DP VL-907	21	0.69	3	0.13	12	0.35	6	0.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>20.98</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>11.09</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4.3</b>

- Under the close supervision of senior technical experts/scientists, five new varieties of paddy seeds were introduced and the results from Pusa basmati VL-1509 were impressive. During 2018, 78 farmers have grown this variety in around 112 *nalis* of land with a total production of 88.48 quintals.
- One hundred and thirty one farmers planted VL pyaz-3 variety of onions on 885 *nalis* of land. A total of 13.25 kgs seeds were distributed and the average production was 298 kgs per *nali*.
- This year seed production of onion, garlic and radish is being done in the fields and 17 farmer planted VL pyaz -3 variety in 22 *nalis* of land in the cluster. The average seed production was 7.5kgs per *nali*.
- This year 224 farmers cultivated VL-1 variety of pigeon pea crop in 15.62 acres of their land. The average productivity was around 2.90 quintal per acre.

## **Animal Husbandry**

CHIRAG's animal health programme focuses on cattle breed improvement and curative services provided by trained community para-vets. Currently there are five community based para-vets associated with CHIRAG who are providing cattle health services to over 200 nearby villages.

### **Activities done under animal husbandry programme during 2017-18:**

- Artificial Inseminations (AI) numbering 1,839 were done both on cows and buffaloes from which the para-vets got an income of Rs. 2,86,600.
- A total of 72 veterinary camps were held in which 2,564 animals were vaccinated and treated.
- Thirty two small ruminants (goats) and 4 large ruminants (cow/buffalo) were purchased and given to the farmers.
- Thirty six cattle were insured. In addition, 6 cattle sheds were constructed.
- The cumulative income of all five para-vets was approximately Rs.3,42,000. The average monthly income of each para-vet was around Rs. 5,700.

## **HEALTH**

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 hospital 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. ASHA workers and ANMs help by improving information dissemination, generating awareness and providing better mother and child care services to the community. In addition, they also identify patients requiring medical services and refer them to CHIRAG hospital and discourage them from going to the quack which is a common practice in this region.

### **Curative Health**

Established in 2009 at Sargakhet, the CHIRAG hospital aims to provide affordable health services to all in the region with a special focus on women and children. It has an equipped laboratory, an X-ray facility, an ECG machine, treatment rooms, delivery rooms, dental services and a general ward of eight beds. There are trained doctors in ayurveda, modern medicine and dental services and there is continued support from Dr. Ruma Mukherjee who provides voluntary service. In addition, an experienced retired doctor, Dr. Pooran Lall Arya (former CMO) is also providing his services.

During 2017-18, the hospital provided services to 6,972 out patients. Out of these, 64 patients were admitted for observation and further treatment in the hospital. Over 3000 pathological tests and 606 X-rays were conducted and 916 ante-natal patients were treated and another 2,207 were treated with ayurvedic medicines.

CHIRAG and Aarohi, an NGO with expertise in medical services, jointly conducted 12 camps at the hospital for the local population. Apart from general health check-ups, ante-natal and post-natal services and ultra sound facilities were provided to the patients. A total of 1,116 patients benefitted from the camps.

#### **Break-up of different services provided by Chirag Hospital during 2017-18:**

Outpatients	6972
Patients under observation	64
Ante-natal care	926
Fracture /Dislocation treated	826
Ayurvedic treatment	2207
X Ray	606
Dental X-Ray	52
Pathology tests	3495
Dental Patient	717
No. of camps	12
No. of patients treated in camps	1116

#### **KUMAUN GRAMEEN UDYOG**

In the early 1990s, CHIRAG began to realise the need for income generation projects. Consequently, Kumaun Grameen Udyog (KGU) was set up as a Section 25 Company in June 1996 (the status has now changed to Section 8, as per Companies Act 2013).

The main objective of setting up KGU was to create a professional organization which focuses on product development, skill-building, and marketing of rural produce – all with a view to enhancing the livelihoods of the local community. Mandated to use profits generated from its business for community development in the region since it was established 22 years ago, KGU has grown substantially by investing in product value chains and developing a niche market for its products.

KGU has a full time staff of 20, almost all of whom are from the local community. Its product range includes crafts-based and agri-products. In the crafts segment, KGU makes hand-woven and hand-knitted items, and works with over 300 artisans (weavers and knitters) who receive a steady income from these activities all year. In addition, KGU sources agri-produce like fruits, apricot seeds, culinary herbs, spices, pulses, and grains locally and provides supplementary income to over 700 farming households.

All the products made by local artisans and agri-products procured from local farmers are sold under the brand name of 'Kilmora' at KGU-run retail outlets and through shops within and outside Uttarakhand. Kilmora products are also sold through major buyers like Fabindia, Anokhi, and Jaypore, among others. Providing fair and sustainable livelihood options to people of the area is at the core of KGU's business strategy. It has been successful in achieving this by:

- involving marginalized sections of the community, especially women, youth, and small farmers,
- building skills among the local community,
- developing contemporary products of high quality, and
- building strong market linkages.

With over 75% of KGU's turnover, crafts products continue to be the backbone of its work in the region. More local artisans are being trained for producing high quality contemporary craft products so as to enable them to earn a steady income. However, as the organization also realizes the importance of supporting agri-products, efforts are being made to this segment so that an increasing number of farmers are provided with a livelihood.

The growth potential of KGU is evident from the increase in sales over the years. The sale for 2010-11 was Rs. 92 lacs as against Rs. 1.75 crores in 2017-18, an overall growth of about 90% over the past 7 years.

The table below gives the category-wise sales break-up of KGU during the year 2017-18

<b>Category</b>	<b>Sales (INR)</b>	<b>% Contribution to Sales</b>
Hand Woven	9,616,211	55%
Garments	1,136,032	6%
Hand Knitted	3,827,223	22%
Apricot Oil and Scrub	922,798	5%
Herbs	466,803	3%
Processed Fruit	893,285	5%
Grains / Spices	105,226	1%
Others	559,062	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,526,640</b>	

For KGU, 2017-18 has been a year of consolidation and planning for the future. During the year, it made significant investments in its physical infrastructure. The weaving centre at Buribana underwent major refurbishment – space was rationalised with new rooms built for storage and post-weaving processes. Besides, better facilities for the weavers were also added to the centre. These will help in streamlining the weaving process to make it more efficient. KGU's main office at Kasiyalekh was also restructured and refurbished, again with a view to help the smooth functioning of the organization. All these changes have been made with a view to support growth opportunities.

In 2017-18, the organisation increased its focus on marketing and branding - a number of new buyers were added to KGU's client portfolio – this is in line with its growth strategy of diversifying its buyer base. It is a unique model of creating value for the people and by the people. As a social enterprise, KGU not only provides sustainable livelihood opportunities to local artisans and farmers, but also contributes to overall development of the area by supporting education and health care facilities for the rural poor of the region. This year KGU contributed Rs. 14.8 lacs to the CHIRAG hospital and school.

## THE TEAM

In March 2018, there were 100 full time employees in CHIRAG. Out of them, 88 works in different programs, 4 are support staff and 8 work in administration and finance. The proportion of women staff is 30%. 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 9 operational areas.

### Staff Break up

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	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Admin &amp; finance</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Women</b>	31	0	1	32
<b>Men</b>	57	4	7	68
<b>Total:</b>	88	4	8	100

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## GOVERNANCE

There are 26 members on the CHIRAG General Body of which 5 form the Governing Board duly elected by the General Body. The Governing Board members are:

Mr. Radhesh Lall	Chairperson Engineer and Entrepreneur
Prof.Malavika Karlekar	Vice-Chairperson Author and Editor, Centre for Women's Development Studies
Mr. Keshav Desiraju	Member Former Secretary, Government of India
Mr. Brij Mohan Tankha	Retired Professor, University of Delhi
Ms. Kamani Prakesh	Consultant -Social Development
Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya	Member Pediatric Surgeon, Graphic Designer and Former Executive Director of CHIRAG

## OUR PARTNERS

CHIRAG remains indebted to the following organizations:

### Institutions

1. ACWADAM
2. A & A Book Trust
3. B2R Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
4. Berkeley Reafforestation Trust
5. Pangea EcoNetAssets Private Limited
6. Ernst & Young Foundation
7. NABARD
8. Rajeshwar & Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust
9. Himmotthan Society
10. Tata Trusts
11. CEDAR
12. ARGHYAM
13. Give 2 Asia
14. Kumaun Grameen Udyog
15. The Hans Foundation
16. India Education Collective (IEC)
17. IIT, Roorkee
18. Magic Bus
19. Centre for Learning Resources (CLR)

## **Individuals**

1. Ashish & Deepa Arora
2. Arundhati Deosthale
3. Deepika Mahajan
4. Chetan Mahajan
5. Arvind Kumar
6. Gita Krenek
7. Nikhilesh Senapati
8. Ashish Mukherjee
9. Dr. Ruma Mukherjee
10. Murli Krishanan
11. Suraj Juneja
12. Vandita Dubey
13. Prof. Malavika Karlekar

## Interns & Volunteers

<b>Sr.n</b>	<b>Name of Interns/Volunteer</b>	<b>Universities/Place</b>
1	Atul Ramesh	Azim Premji University, Bangalore
2	Ayushi Minj	Azim Premji University, Bangalore
3	Arindom Bori	Department of Social Science, Delhi University
4	Himani Chaurasiya	Department of Social Science, Delhi University
5	Saumya Jauhari	Department of Social Science, Delhi University
6	Vipin Pokhariyal	Ambedkar University, Delhi
7	Tathagat Chaurasiya	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT),Roorkee
8	Prateek Prabhakar	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT),Roorkee
9	Jyothi Kallem	Shiv Nadar University, Noida
10	Pragya Gupta	Shiv Nadar University, Noida
11	Lokamba Raja	Shiv Nadar University, Noida
12	Shefali Chauhan	Shiv Nadar University, Noida
13	Swati Bansal	Shiv Nadar University, Noida
14	Kanchan Joshi	MSW Student, Bareilly University,UP
15	Mr Sunil Kumar Chaudhary	Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ludhiana
16	Ms Rajneesh Dhillon	Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ludhiana
17	Ms Geetika Batra	Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ludhiana
18	Ms Harkiran Juneja	Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ludhiana
19	Jonas Keterbeu	KurveWustro, Germany
20	Afsal Sainj	Volunteer, Bangalore
21	Vibha Deshpande	Volunteer, Pune
22	Mohit Ahuja	Volunteer, Delhi
23	Sanchita Sahya	Volunteer, Delhi

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

No Annual Report can be complete without acknowledging the support and trust of various people and institutions. 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

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Renu Khanna for providing training and pedagogical support to our teachers and Bal Shikshaks.

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

A special thanks to Vandita Dubey, Mandar Karanjkar for taking informative sessions with CHIRAG school children. These will surely help them immensely in coping with the world outside.

Our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ruma Mukherjee and Dr. Puran Lall for their continued support to CHIRAG hospital.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the people of the area where we work who continue to tolerate us, challenge us and inspire us. Our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals and institutions who continue to repose faith in us.

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.

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	19	13	32
10,000-15,000	24	16	40
15,000-25,000	19	03	22
More than 25,000	6	00	06

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

Highest paid full time regular staff	Rs. 570,955/- per year
Lowest paid full time regular staff	Rs. 87,375/- per year

*Note: This includes basic salary, cost of living allowance, provident fund (including CHIRAG's contribution), medical benefits, medical and accidental insurance and scholarship. All figures are as on 31st March 2018.*

### 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 69,067/-

## **OUR STATUTORY AUDITOR**

R Balasubramanian  
Partner  
S RamanandAiyar and Co.  
708 Surya Kiran Building,  
19 Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
New Delhi-110001

## **OUR BANKERS**

- State Bank of India
- Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of India Ltd.
- UttarakhandGramin Bank
- Almora District Cooperative Bank Ltd.

## **Registration Details**

- Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) is a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860. Registration No. 16928, dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 1986.
- Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) is authorized to receive foreign contributions as per the Foreign Contribution Regulation
- Act 2010. Registration No. 231650446, dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016.
- CHIRAG is registered under Sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Section 12A – No. CIT-VI/TE (276)/86/1292 dated 9/1/1987
- Section 80G-No. DIT (E) 2007-2008/C245/1918 dated 21/09/2007

## ANNEXURE - II: ACCOUNTS

### Central Himalayan Rural Action Group Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2018

	Current Year (Rs)	Previous Year (Rs)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Corpus Fund	42,011,328	41,526,979
Reserve Fund	7,650,442	9,636,888
Fixed Assets Utilisation Fund	17,198,658	17,249,597
Transport Fund	-	663,944
Reafforestation Fund	644,512	644,512
Chirag Education Fund	185,391	229,642
Current Liabilities	5,221,983	5,406,457
	<b>72,912,314</b>	<b>75,358,019</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets	17,198,658	17,249,597
Investments	42,086,646	42,042,178
<u>Current Assets, Loans and Advances</u>		
Cash, Bank Balance and Term Deposit	12,893,433	15,641,798
Loans and Advances	729,577	420,446
Security Deposit (endorsed in favor of Government Authorities)	4,000	4,000
	<b>72,912,314</b>	<b>75,358,019</b>

#### Signed on behalf of CHIRAG

Chairperson: RadheshLall  
Member: MalavikaKarlekar  
Executive Director: Badrish Singh Mehra

General Manager Finance and Administration: 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 2018**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Current Year (Rs)</b>	<b>Previous Year (Rs)</b>
Balance as on 1st April 2017	28,485,796	23,506,609
<b>Project Funding</b>		
Foreign Contribution	20,998,444	7,518,879
Local Contribution	19,629,058	17,927,718
Rural Health Services	1,808,771	1,373,100
Donations	2,824,312	151,500
Interest	1,121,326	1,438,351
Others	4,358,467	18,602,256
	<b>79,226,174</b>	<b>70,518,413</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	268,892	786,665
The Hans Foundation		
For Recharge of Spring and Water Distribution	11,423,047	4,519,597
Himmotthan Society		
For E-Wash project	6,109,635	395,000
Himmotthan Society		
For Maximizing Mountain Project Programme (MMAP)	1,584,962	-
Other Payments (FCRA)	932,959	841,715
Himmotthan Society /Sir Ratan Tata Trust		
(for- Natural based Livelihood Project)	1,057,552	48,004
For Maximizing Mountain Agriculture Programame	61,665	810,469
For Uttarakhand Livelihood Restoration		
Programme (ULRP)	290,589	1,649,723
For Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative(CHLI)	5,190,372	4,439,677
For Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI)	5,435,778	5,273,800
For Integration of Microfinance (IME)	1,145,830	941,190
NABARD		
For FPO's - Nainital	73,880	231,834
For FPO's - Bageshwar	40,534	236,559
Rajeshwar&SusheelaDayal Charitable Trust	2,308,709	2,253,286
Ernst & Young Foundation (E&Y) for Afforestation Project	658,423	817,727
For Strengthening of Producer Institutions for Agri-		
Produce Marketing	575,113	394,052
ARGHYAM	3,297,756	3,435,710
India Education Collective (ICE) for Transforming		
School Programme	178,397	290,200
Community Development and Knowledge		
Management for the Satoyama Initiative	-	250,472
Rural Health Services	2,319,817	1,534,448
Chirag School	752,295	631,593
Other Payments	9,764,920	12,250,896
Balance on 31st March 2018	25,755,049	28,485,796
	<b>79,226,174</b>	<b>70,518,413</b>

**Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended as on 31st March 2018**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Current Year (Rs.)</b>	<b>Previous Year (Rs.)</b>
<b>Project Funding</b>		
Foreign Contribution	20,514,095	7,021,037
Local Contribution	19,629,058	17,927,718
Donations	2,824,312	151,500
Rural Health Services	1,808,771	1,373,100
Interest	1,111,843	4,669,247
Others	4,044,009	2,812,255
Projects in Progress	5,219,013	7,152,119
	<b>55,151,101</b>	<b>41,106,976</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	268,892	786,665
The Hans Foundation		
For Recharge of spring and Water Distribution	11,423,047	4,471,597
Himmotthan Society		
For E.Wash Project	6,109,635	395,000
Himmotthan Society	1,524,472	-
For Maximizing Mountain Project Programme (MMAP)		
Other Payments (FCRA)	777,759	841,715
Himmotthan Society/ Sir Ratan Tata Trust (Small Grant Programme)		
For- Natural Resource based Livelihood Project	1,057,552	48,004
For- Maximizing Mountain Agriculture Program (MMAP)	61,665	810,469
For Uttarakhand Livelihood Restoration Programme (ULRP)	290,589	1,649,723
For Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative (CHLI)	5,190,372	4,439,677
For Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI)	5,358,783	5,242,825
For Integration of Microfinance (IMF)	1,145,830	941,190
RajeshwarSusheelaDayal Charitable Trust	2,016,209	2,125,691
NABARD		
For FPO's -Nainital	73,880	231,834
For FPO's -Bageshwar	40,534	236,559
Ernst & Young Foundation (E&Y) For Afforestation Project	658,423	817,727
Strengthening of Producer Institutions for Agri-produce		
Marketing	575,113	394,052
ARGHYAM	3,297,756	3,435,710
India Education Collective (ICE) for Transforming		
School Programme	178,397	290,200
Community Development and Knowledge		
Management for the Satoyama Initiative	-	270,472
Rural Health Services	2,292,967	1,553,120
CHIRAG School	752,295	631,593
Other Payments	9,720,719	8,710,441
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>52,814,889</b>	<b>38,324,264</b>
Available Funds	2,336,212	2,782,712
<b>Appropriations</b>		
Transferred to project in progress	5,037,541	5,219,013
Surplus for the year transferred to Reserve Fund	(2,701,329)	(2,436,301)
	<b>2,336,212</b>	<b>2,782,712</b>

## CHIRAG TEAM 2017-2018

Ajay Singh Bisht	Girish Chandra Budhani	Naveen Chandra Bhatt
Amit Singh Bisht	Girish Rama Verma	NupurHukmani
Anand Singh Bisht	Govind Singh Bisht	Om Prakash Pandey
Anil Chandra Binwal	Harendra Singh Nayal	Pan Singh Bisht
Anil Kumar Keshari	Harish Chandra Palaria	Pan Singh Mehta
Asha Sah	Hema Bisht	Pooran Singh Raikwal
Badrish Singh Mehra	Hema Bisht	Pradeep Rastogi
Basanti Bisht	Hemlata Tiwari	Prakash Chandra
Bhagat Singh Thapliyal	Himansha	Prayag Dutt Bhatt
Bhashkaranand Joshi	Jagdish Chandra Mishra	Prema Tiwari
Bhim Singh Negi	Jaswant Singh Bisht	Pritam Singh Rautela
Bhupal Singh Bisht	Jitendra Singh Bisht	Pushpa Devi
Bhupal Singh Jeena	Kailash Chandra Joshi	Pushpa Negi
Bhuwan Chandra Pant	Kanchan Arya	Raghvendra Singh Bisht
Bimla Bisht	Keshav Dutt Joshi	Rajani Mehta
Bipin Kumar Kabdwal	Khushal Singh Bisht	Rajendra Singh Bisht
Bishan Singh Raikwal	Kiran Bisht	Ram Singh Bisht
Champa Pandey	Kiran Bohra	Ramesh Chandra Palaria
Chandan Singh Bisht	Kishore Singh Rautela	Sandeep Dutt Bhatt
Chandan Singh Chamiyal	Krishan Chandra Bhandari	Sanjay Joshi
Chandan Singh Mehta	Krishan Kumar Nayal	Saraswati
Chandra Bhakuni	Kunti Bisht	Shailendra Singh Negi
Deep Chandra Kandpal	Kusum Tiwari	Shashank Palur
Deepa Jeena	Lakshami Biroria	Suman Das
Deepa Joshi	Lalit Mohan Goswami	Sumit Arora
Devendra Singh Nayal	Lalit Mohan Tiwari	Sunder Lal
Dinesh Pandey	Lalit Mohan Tiwari	Sunder Singh Nayal
Diwan Chandra	LataHarbola	Surendra Singh Negi
Diwan Ram	Leela Pant	Suresh Kumar
Diwan Singh Mehta	MadhaviDangwal	Tara Singh Bisht
Dr. Champa Kumari Rai	Mahendra Singh Bisht	Thakur Singh
Dr. Mukul Singh Bisht	Mahendra Singh Raikwal	Tulsi Negi
Dr. Badrish Singh Mehra	Mamta Mer	Ujjal Ganguly
Dr. Mahendra Singh Bisht	Manju Kholia	Vijay Vidyarthi
Dr. Pooran Lal	Manoj Singh Bhandari	Vikas Kuamr
Ganesh Singh	Meera Bisht	Vikram Singh Farswan
Ganga Joshi	Mohan Singh	Vikram Singh Raikwal
Geeta Arya	Mohan Singh Bisht	Yashi Gupta
Geeta Bisht	Munni Bisht	Yashodhara