

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2020-21**



**Actionaid  
Karnataka  
Projects**



## Message

The year 2020–21, commenced against the backdrop of an unprecedented global health crisis—the COVID–19 pandemic. This invisible adversary reshaped lives and tested the very core of our healthcare system and societal resilience. India, like the rest of the world, faced the daunting task of navigating through uncharted waters, adapting to new norms, and uniting to protect lives and livelihoods.

The pandemic brought to the forefront the unwavering dedication of our healthcare professionals and frontline workers. Their selfless efforts and tireless commitment emerged as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

As communities grappled with the pandemic’s impact, a strong sense of solidarity emerged. Neighbours supported one another, volunteers extended a helping hand to those in need, and organizations collaborated to provide essential resources. This collective spirit was a testament to our nation’s unity in times of crisis.

The pandemic’s economic implications prompted a recalibration of priorities. Industries pivoted to meet new demands, and government measures aimed to provide support and stimulate economic recovery. The year underscored the need for sustainable growth strategies and a resilient economy.

As part of our ongoing projects Actionaid Karnataka Projects continued supporting child friendly spaces in Kashmir, provided relief and support to vulnerable communities in Delhi and supported capacity building programmes for awareness about entitlements and duties as citizens across four cities in different states.

As we look back on the year 2020–21, we are reminded of our collective strength and the power of human adaptability. It was a year of learning, growth, and transformation—a chapter that taught us the value of unity, preparedness, and the importance of cherishing every moment.

The challenges and triumphs of 2020–21 have left an indelible mark on our nation’s story. As we step into the future, we carry forward the lessons learned, the resilience displayed, and the hope that brighter days lie ahead.

Please do connect with me at the address given below to learn more about ActionAid Karnataka Projects. We welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

**Sandeep Chachra**  
*President and Secretary*  
Actionaid Karnataka Projects



## About Us

Actionaid Karnataka Projects (AKP) is a society registered on 19 November 1988 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, with its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AKP has been established with the charitable objective of promoting integrated development. AKP seeks to help children, families and communities to eradicate poverty and secure lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

AKP seeks to promote, undertake and participate in programmes pertaining to health, education, employment and other activities related to development. This includes spreading awareness on issues related to socio-economic development, and in particular to promote schemes on child welfare, adult education and schemes to improve living conditions of the poor. AKP will stimulate people's involvement and community action in social, economic and cultural development. To this end AKP will undertake study and research on all matters pertaining to development, and promote and provide information on development issues and for that purpose support the printing and publication of papers, pamphlets, books and journals on education, development and related subjects.



## Child Friendly Spaces in Kashmir

Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) are specialized areas designed to provide children with a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment during times of crisis or emergency. These spaces play a vital role in protecting children's well-being and development, particularly in situations such as natural disasters, conflicts, or displacement.

The primary goal of Child-Friendly Spaces is to provide children with a sense of normalcy and security amidst chaos. These spaces are tailored to meet the unique needs of children, offering opportunities for play, learning, social interaction, and emotional support.

CFS prioritize children's safety by offering physical protection and emotional comfort. These spaces are often set up in secure locations away from potential hazards. Play is essential for children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Child-Friendly Spaces offer a variety of age-appropriate toys, games, and creative activities to engage children and help them cope with stress. Education doesn't stop during emergencies. Child-Friendly Spaces provide informal learning experiences through interactive activities, storytelling, and guided sessions that promote cognitive growth and curiosity. Children may experience trauma and emotional distress during crises. CFS offer a supportive environment where trained staff or volunteers can provide emotional support, counselling, and a listening ear. CFS encourage peer interactions, fostering friendships and a sense of belonging. Group activities promote social skills and help children rebuild a sense of community. Child-Friendly Spaces are designed to be accessible and inclusive for children with diverse abilities, backgrounds, and needs. This ensures that every child can participate and benefit. CFS often involve parents and caregivers in activities, encouraging family bonding and providing a sense of normalcy even in difficult circumstances.

Child-Friendly Spaces are typically established and run with the collaboration of local communities. They reflect a commitment to the rights of the child as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognizing every child's entitlement to protection, development, and participation.

In the year 2020–21 AKP has run five CFSs serving around 1,000 children in villages across Srinagar valley. These CFSs have served as essential components of efforts that prioritize the holistic well-being of children in the valley. By creating safe havens where children can play, learn, and heal, these spaces have contributed to the resilience and recovery of young lives affected by crises of civil conflict in the region.



## Relief and Assistance to Vulnerable Communities in Delhi

The year 2020–21 in Delhi will be forever remembered as a period marked by the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city, like the rest of the world, found itself grappling with unprecedented challenges that reshaped daily life and tested the resilience of its residents.

The pandemic arrived in Delhi in early 2020, triggering a series of measures to mitigate its spread. Lockdowns, social distancing, and stringent hygiene protocols became part of the new normal. The city's vibrant streets fell quiet, and its bustling markets were replaced by an eerie silence.

As the virus surged, Delhi's healthcare system was stretched to its limits. Hospitals faced capacity constraints, and the demand for medical supplies soared. Healthcare workers emerged as frontline heroes, battling tirelessly against the virus and providing care to those in need.

The densely populated urban landscape posed unique challenges to containing the virus's spread. Congested neighbourhoods made physical distancing a daunting task, and vulnerable communities faced higher risks. Effective communication and community engagement became vital tools in the fight against the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, Delhiites displayed remarkable resilience and solidarity. Individuals, NGOs, and businesses rallied to provide food, medical supplies, and support to those in need. Digital platforms facilitated connections, from remote work to virtual gatherings, fostering a sense of unity during physical separation.

The pandemic's economic impact was deeply felt, especially by the informal sector and daily wage earners. Businesses had to pivot to remote operations, and sectors reliant on face-to-face interactions faced uncertainty. Government relief measures aimed to cushion the economic blow and encourage recovery.

Actionaid Karnataka Projects, crucial assistance to highly vulnerable individuals and communities in Delhi through cash-based interventions continued in 2020–21. This support became very critical in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown that was announced on 24th March 2020. The lockdown was extended, and was finally lifted in a series of measures beginning from 30th May 2020. Along with the regular livelihood



support, the vulnerable communities were provided with sanitation and health kits to protect against the spread of the COVID-19 infection.

This support is particularly vital as the selected elderly and People with Disabilities (PwDs) lack familial support.

The amount of cash-based support was varied based on the vulnerability levels of the beneficiaries. Continuous support was provided to the elderly and disabled individuals, while girl children enrolled in school and pregnant women opting for institutional deliveries received one-time assistance.

In the year 2020-21, 450 vulnerable households were given cash based assistance in Delhi. This amount was used by beneficiaries for paying rent, buying ration, accessing medicines and purchasing books and writing materials for children.

## Capacity Building Programmes in Four Cities to Spread Legal Literacy and Awareness

Actionaid Karnataka Projects conducted capacity-building programmes to spread literacy and awareness. The aim of the engagement was to support women in these cities to increase their understanding on issues related to society. The objective of the workshops was to provide participants with an opportunity to increase their understanding, awareness and sensitivity of a range of issues related to society. This was also intended to help participants understand their entitlements and responsibilities as citizens, and especially as women. The methodology of the course was participatory and experiential. The workshop dealt with schemes and programmes for persons with disability and livelihood promotion.

Twenty-five to fifty participants, most of whom were women, participated in each of the workshops, conducted in Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Guwahati. We also organized one Training of the Trainers in Delhi.

The workshop aimed to address misconceptions that participants had with existing welfare policies and schemes.

