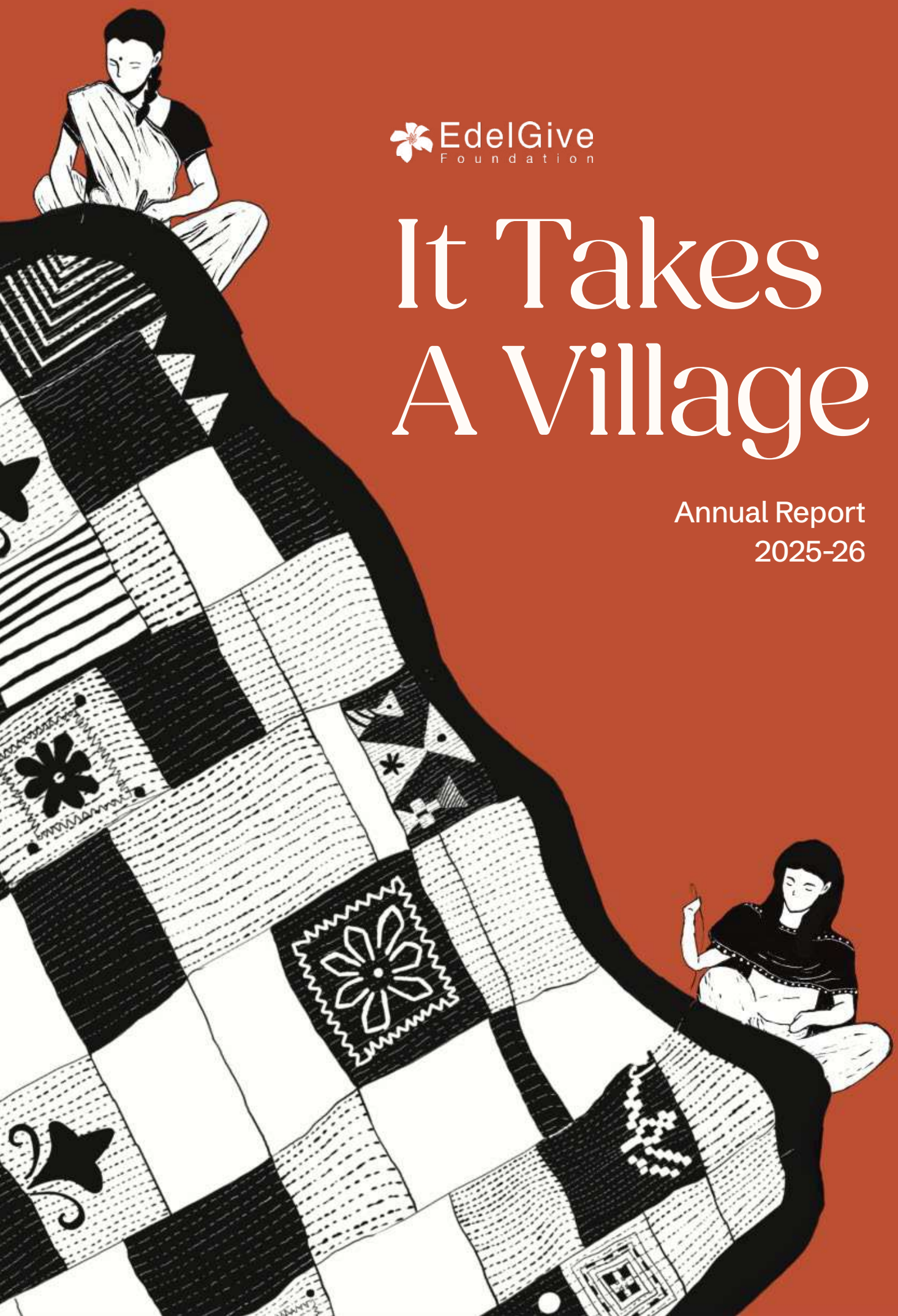
EdelGive Foundation

It Takes A Village

Annual Report
2025-26



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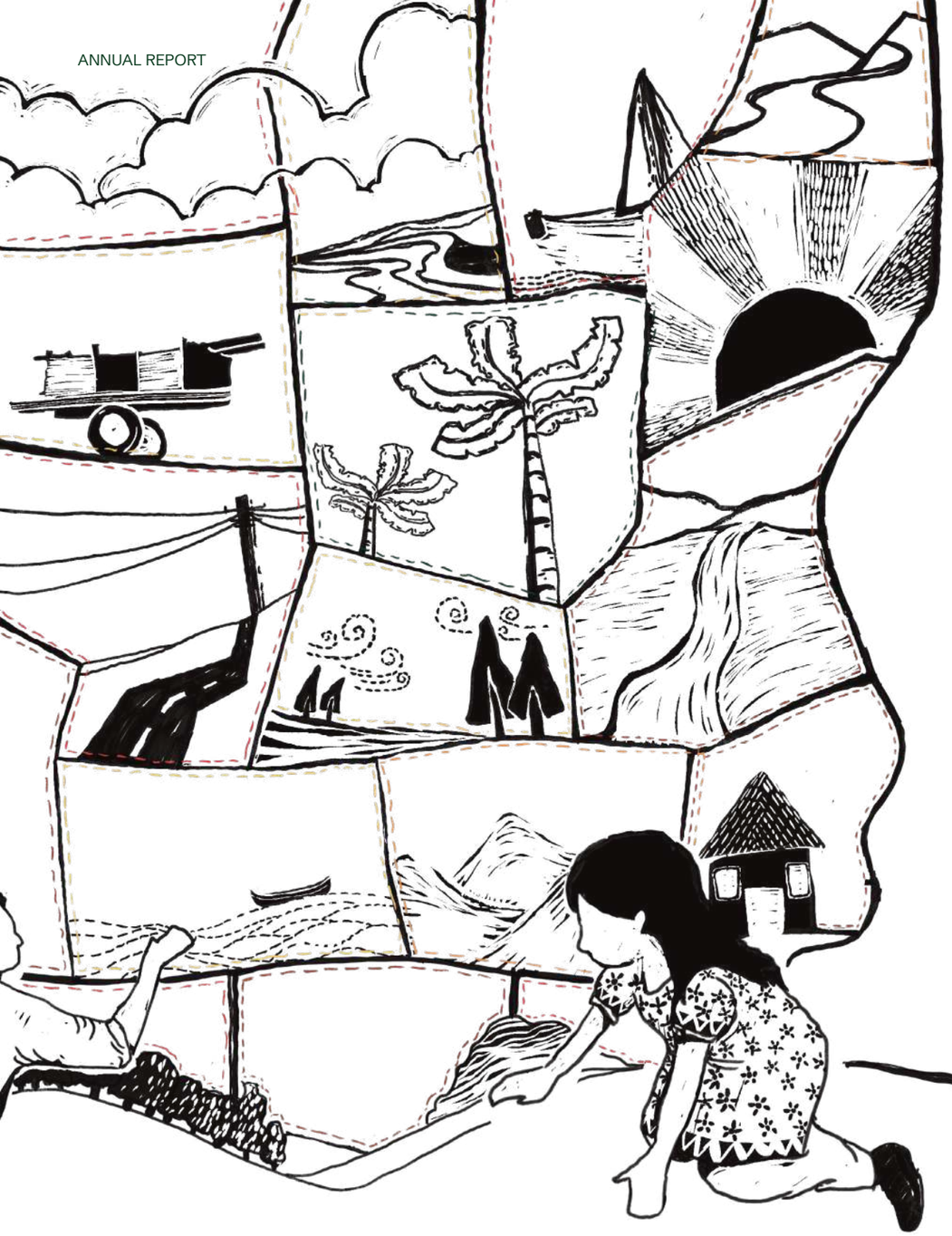

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Concept Note

It takes a village.

There is a phrase that has travelled across centuries and continents, passed from one generation to the next in many forms and many tongues.

In the Igbo tradition of southeastern Nigeria, it is ***"Ora na azu nwa",*** the community that raises a child. Across India, in the rhythms of community, shared decision-making, and intergenerational care, this philosophy has always been present. Long before it found a name, it was simply the way things worked. It takes a village. At EdelGive, we have spent eighteen years learning what this truly means, not as a metaphor, but as a method.

The village, in its deepest sense, is not a place. It is a way of being in a relationship: with one another, with the land, and with the future we are trying to build together. It is the understanding that **no individual, no organisation, no community rises alone.**

This Annual Report is a record of that understanding in practice. It is the story of a farmer in the Thar desert whose community chose to invest in her land. Of a village in Alwar that refused to let its school close. Of coalitions, collaboratives, and partnerships across India that are proving, year after year, that the most durable change is change that is owned collectively.

EdelGive's role in this village is catalytic, bringing together funding, expertise, and local insight, and trusting that when these flow in the right direction, toward the people closest to the ground, what emerges is something no single actor could have built alone.

The challenges ahead are real and pressing. Climate vulnerability, gender inequity, and an underfunded civil society will not yield to isolated effort or short-term thinking. They ask something harder of all of us: the willingness to work together, with patience, shared purpose, and genuine trust.

But the village has always known how to do this. Our task is simply to be worthy members of it.

Content Table

About EdelGive

14-21

- Our Mission
- Theory of Change
- Impact Numbers

Investments

22-43

- Women Empowerment
- Education
- Community Resilience and Climate Action

GROW+

44-61

- From GROW to GROW+
- Landscape Model
- Smart Pyramids
- Convening & Field Visits
- Testimonials

Partnerships

62-75

- Migrants Resilience Collaborative
- Coalition for Women Empowerment
- Pay-What-It-Takes (PWIT) India Initiative
- Collaborators for Transforming Education
- Our Funders

Inside EdelGive

76-97

- Media
- Stree-Leads
- Give It a Go
- Knowledge Leadership
- Thought Leadership
- Employee Wellness
- Team

Chairperson's Letter

The story almost always begins with a woman. And a crisis.

Then comes a fortuitous meeting. One that sparks a chain reaction touching the lives of several women like her. They find community, and with that, we hope, a space for their voices to rise over the din of indifference.

It's a good story, told many times over in the development space. But what's often lost while adhering to a reporting template or the demands of an Instagram reel's brevity is the recognition of the slow, daunting, relentless work of building trust. Knocking on doors not knowing when they'd have the courage to open, stepping out in literal and metaphorical storms, showing up, staying put, losing your feet and finding them back again.

And it takes a village — to knock on the door, to step out in the storm, to stay.

EdelGive Foundation's work has always centred this proverbial village — the intricate network of people and institutions that make change possible — not as statistics, but as a living entity that hopes, hurts and often succeeds against many odds. But what does it take to make a village? I've learnt over the years, and from the best of our partners, it begins with knowing what to do with disappointments.

The most visceral are the ones that often come with new beginnings. The polite nods, the confused silences, the struggle to make everyone see what you see.

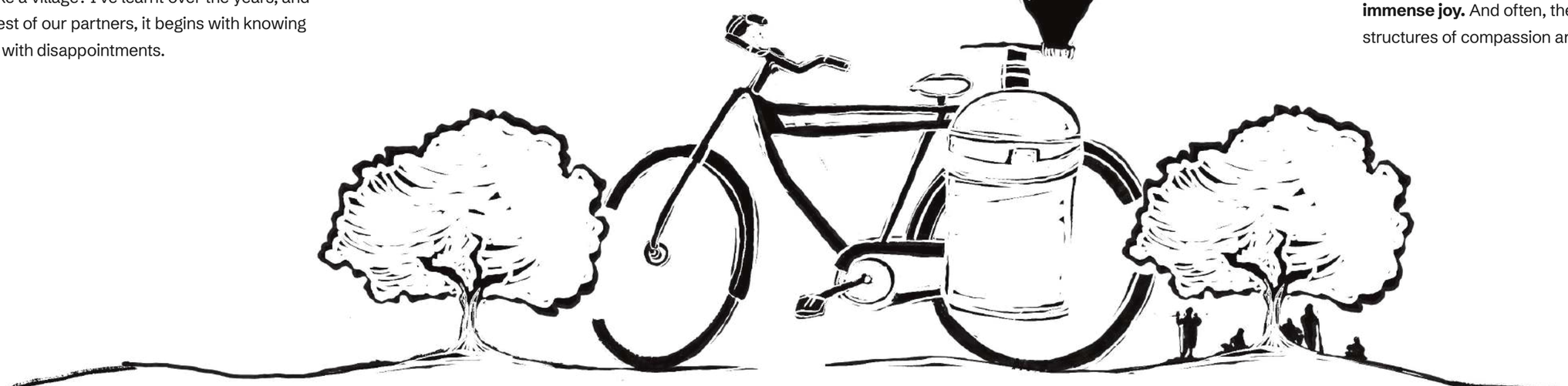
A partner non-profit that has done remarkable work with marginalised farmers across southern Indian states once, very lightly, told us how it takes days and sometimes months to start at even one village. When they arrived at a village now very central to their activities, for weeks no one spoke to them. The NGO could see the extreme climate stress farming was under; they offered solutions, and yet they kept hitting a wall.

The organisation's representatives spoke the same language, carried the same cultural vocabulary. None of it mattered. What they didn't know then — what they would only learn by staying — was that the community had been badly defrauded in the past. So they kept showing up. Just for chai, conversations, to listen.

Then, they made an offer: **to help restore a stream that had once watered dozens of acres and had long since fallen into ruin.** Why would you do that? The villagers asked. Because this is our work, they said. Belief is a metric no one reports, yet it's perhaps the most important measure of the work we do. And it has taken many villages of grassroots activists and workers to grow and hold this patient knowledge of human fears, angst and scepticism. Investing in these systems of trust has been at the heart of EdelGive Foundation's interests.

I had read an interview of American novelist Toni Morrison, where she talks about her advice to her students, "When you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else. This is not just a grab-bag candy game." I immediately thought about how our country's grassroots exist in this exact unspoken matrix of empathy — where strength moves freely, person to person, with no one keeping count.

In a world where knowledge and access are invaluable currency, often protected zealously by those who hold them, in some of the most marginalised communities it is like a communal gift — shared profusely, and with immense joy. And often, the architects of these structures of compassion are local non-profits.



Not only do they understand the contours of real and metaphorical villages — they can often tell who needs a new village.

Ten years ago, a non-profit we supported through Sandbox started building a coalition of single, rural women in Maharashtra. Widowed, unmarried, deserted or divorced women facing not just personal trauma but stigma and relentless attacks on their agency and rights, issues that rarely figure high on funding interest.

This did not deter the organisation, so they started — with just 32 women. A decade later, the coalition comprises 22,000 women and transwomen across eight districts, working towards entitlements, property rights, livelihood support and, at times, just a patient ear.

In a time when 'gender' has become a fierce, often violent battleground in digital spaces, the organisation started a kabaddi league for women and transwomen — underlining that building solidarities starts with something simple: respect for autonomy.

Along the way, we realised that these villages of solidarity need more than just recognition. Showing up costs, in cold, hard ways — and the GROW Fund was born from that understanding.

It showed us how walking the talk on trust slowly earns its keep. GROW+ was built from that learning, to address climate change not as a project, but as a practice — building the foundations of organisations doing essential climate work. From the organisation that helps forest dwellers claim their legal rights to others who have completely re-invented caregiving by re-integrating elderly women into community decision-making, these are the villages it takes. GROW+ exists to make sure they don't carry that weight alone.

Behind the story you often read — a woman, a crisis and a meeting — is one that's rarely told as it should be.

Of a village, slowly, patiently, gathering around her, holding her and then becoming her. Because, as Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, human progress is never automatic—it comes only through the relentless effort of individuals committed to the cause. Without that commitment, the passage of time alone leads to stagnation rather than growth. As he put it, "We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."

For EdelGive, that time is now.
It always has been.

Vidya Shah
Chairperson,
EdelGive Foundation

CEO's Letter

It Takes a Village.

Us millennials all have a native place. *Mera gaon*. Memories of lazy afternoons, sweet nothings with other kids, half of whom were related to us through relations we never quite understood. Not that it mattered. All you had to know was how to play, and you were in.

Elders concerned with everyone's children. The young running wild, watched over by no one in particular and everyone at once. My village was my safe place.

Now it stays romanticised, held together by selective memories of good times. We want to believe we made those memories ourselves. But we didn't, and definitely not alone. It was every member of a vast community of aunties and uncles and *chachas* and *buas* whose names we didn't even remember. We had no names either. We were somebody's child and so we were to be worried about. That's all it took.

My home, my land, my people, my country. Why do we call her our motherland?

I think of my own mother. My only source of truly unconditional love. And I wonder, have I ever managed to return it to her the same way she gave it to me?

Our mother is the most pedestalised presence in our lives, our one place of rest. And yet she is also the person we take most for granted, because we know she will be there. A little more worn out each time we see her. Perhaps hurt by something we did and never noticed. But there.

It makes sense, then. Our land, our motherland, we know she is there too. More depleted each year, more damaged each time we look closely, torn at by what we have done to her. But there. Waiting, the way mothers wait.

Then I think of my own children. And I feel different. Not the quiet debt of a child to a mother, but the rush of a parent toward a child. We don't take our children for granted. We worry. We fuss. We protect.

It dawned upon me then... the village, my place, my land, should not be my mother. When I think of this village as my child, I see it will bear the fruit of the labour I put into it. It will grow whatever love I plant in it or will spread what venom I choose to harvest in it.

No child should be raised by one parent alone. Long before I understood what raising a child even meant, I felt it mould me by the many people without asking for anything in return.

So maybe that is the debt that comes due now. Not to be paid once, but tended to the way a village tends to its own: through the hundreds of small NGOs holding up communities in places most of us have forgotten how to pronounce; through choosing our role as financiers of difficult solutions, with the same large-heartedness and vigilance as a village elder; through caring by sponsoring what is needed, not what will give us the most satisfaction.

This annual report attempts to spotlight the village, and the village is not merely our work, our NGOs, our funders and our organisational report card.
The village is all of us and it will grow from whatever each of us puts into it. It will carry, quietly and for a long time, whatever each of us fails to give it.

A child never asks if you meant to raise it well. It simply becomes what you gave it. This year, I want us to think about what we are giving ours.

Naghma Mulla
CEO,
EdelGive Foundation

About EdelGive

Investments
GROW+
Partnerships
Inside EdelGive

Established in 2008, EdelGive Foundation is a **Philanthropic Asset Manager** and **Advisory Partner** to a wide village of funders including individuals, HNIs, corporates, institutions, and foundations, both domestic and international.

EdelGive provides both financial and non-financial support to small and mid-sized NGOs working with vulnerable communities across India, nurturing the grassroots where every village's story of change begins.

We believe that lasting change is never the work of one; it is the collective achievement of a village.

Our mission is only as strong as the ecosystem behind it - and that ecosystem thrives when each member contributes their unique strengths toward building a more equitable and progressive society and nation. EdelGive's meticulously crafted funding models, transparency, and robust processes are essential and propel us toward our vision, one rooted in shared ownership and collective momentum.

This approach, 'The EdelGive Way', is embraced and valued by every colleague, partner, and grassroots organisation we collaborate with, because each one is an indispensable member of this village.

Our Mission

To enable the growth of grassroots organisations working with vulnerable communities across India.

Keeping our grantees at the centre of all our endeavours, EdelGive aims to connect the world of philanthropy to the world of nonprofits.

Guiding Principles

A village is only as strong as the values that bind it. Ours are:

We will maintain the highest level of integrity, transparency and ethical conduct.

We will bring a deep commitment to inclusiveness as a fundamental operating principle.

We will remain secular in our work, beliefs and outlook.

We will be a learning organisation – we will embrace new ideas, opinions and perspectives, and a deep generosity of spirit.

We will treat our stakeholders, our NGO partners, our funding partners, our employees and volunteers with respect and empathy.

We will promote responsible and effective philanthropy through our actions: as custodians of the resources and the reputation of our parent Edelweiss, and all our funding and NGO partners.

Theory of Change

EdelGive's theory of change is rooted in the **belief that empowering individuals** and **communities drives societal progress.** By focusing on **quality education, women's empowerment, and community resilience,** we aim to address systemic inequalities and build a more inclusive society. We partner with NGOs that understand local needs and deliver high-impact, sustainable interventions.

This approach creates a ripple effect: **educated children lead to stronger futures, empowered women foster economic growth, and resilient communities build robust, equitable societies.**

Our focus in the past decade has been on four connected challenges:

- Access to Quality Education
- Women's Empowerment
- Climate Action
- Community Resilience

Creating enabling systems for each creates ripple effects that move outward, as it does in any thriving village.

Grant-making and Building Funds

The village grows when every kind of support flows freely - financial and beyond.

Children
Through Education

Women
Through Empowerment

Vulnerable Communities
Through Resilience Building

Sandbox:
EdelGive directly **funds long-term projects** in organisations for generational impact and systemic change that needs patience and complex systems thinking.

Funds Under Management:
EdelGive makes **collective and individual grantmaking models available to funders**, helping channel resources towards the right goals in the right funding terms.

Financial Support:
Building new programmes |
Scaling existing programmes.

Non-Financial Support:
Capacity Building |
Awareness and Sensitisation.

Our Work Spans

Three Interconnected Pillars

For Funders

We simplify the complexity of giving in India.

From deal-by-deal grants to long-term commitments, we help funders deploy capital strategically, navigate regulatory frameworks, and partner with credible, community-rooted NGOs.

For NGOs

We back institutions, not just initiatives.

Our support includes core funding, capacity-building, and access to ecosystems - enabling grassroots organisations to grow, lead, and stay resilient for the long haul.

Flagship Programmes

We transform thematic insights into scalable systems.

Our programs reflect our model-building ethos and are designed to test, learn, and scale.

Impact Numbers

₹1,643 Crore
influenced through philanthropic commitments to NGOs across India

₹214 Crore
committed this year alone

₹185 Crore
mobilised this year through sustainable livelihood programmes supporting resilient communities

2.8 Lakh
women and girls empowered through programmes advancing rights, legal access, financial inclusion, and leadership

Over
2.2 Crore
children supported with access to quality education

7.6+ Lakh
teachers trained to improve learning outcomes nationwide

38,320
farmers supported in adopting climate-smart and organic agricultural practices

68%
average increase in annual income reported by farmers under sustainable livelihood initiatives

About EdelGive
GROW+
Partnerships
Inside EdelGive

Investments

Our investment approach extends well beyond funding programmes.

Through **long-term partnerships, collaborative platforms, organisational strengthening,** and **sustained engagement** with governments and ecosystem actors, we work to create enabling environments where communities and institutions can grow, adapt, and sustain impact over time.

Across our three interconnected portfolios:

Children
Through Education

Women
Through Empowerment

Vulnerable Communities
Through Resilience Building

We support initiatives that strengthen agency, resilience, and the capacity of communities to lead their own development. These are not isolated streams of work.

They are part of a shared ecosystem where rights, resources, and relationships converge: **where an empowered woman becomes a stronger community leader, where an educated child grows into an informed citizen, and where a farmer practising climate-smart agriculture helps sustain the land that the whole village depends on.**

We also recognise that social and economic inequities are experienced differently across communities and contexts.

This understanding shapes our efforts to support organisations that are deeply rooted in local realities, genuinely responsive to community needs, and committed to approaches that are inclusive, participatory, and led from within. Because a village is only as strong as the roots it tends - and roots take time, trust, and sustained investment to grow.

The Organisations We Partner With

The organisations at the heart of our village are among the most essential. They are the ones closest to the ground, most trusted by their communities, and most committed to the long, unglamorous work of lasting change.

The organisations we seek out and stand beside are those that:

- **Bring deep contextual understanding and strong community credibility because solutions imposed from outside rarely take root**
- **Address big problems, one community at a time with thrift, tenacity, and a clear-eyed sense of the inherent longevity of social change**
- **Work closely with communities and build long-term trust at the grassroots level because the village must trust those who serve it**
- **Strengthen local leadership, participation, and community ownership because the village must lead itself**
- **Remain adaptive, collaborative, and genuinely open to learning, including from the communities they work with**
- **Work with governments and ecosystem partners to build responsive, locally rooted solutions because no corner of the village can be left to work alone**
- **Are passionate, inclusive, and ambitious but grounded in the feedback, knowledge, and aspirations of the people they serve**

They may not always be the most visible on social media or the most prominent voices in national discourse. But their work is woven into the **cultural fabric, history, and lived realities of the communities** they serve.

They speak the same language, have weathered the **same storms, and carry an understanding of local sensitivities and community ethos** that no external actor can replicate. This is precisely what makes them the most qualified people for the work. And in EdelGive's experience, it is what makes the difference between change that is delivered and change that endures.

During the year, **we continued to deepen investments in community leadership and organisational resilience. Women's collectives, grassroots leaders,** and **partner organisations** took on stronger roles in local governance, community decision-making, and sustaining initiatives independently, with the village increasingly holding itself. We also focused on strengthening institutional capacities and collaborative engagement with government stakeholders, building the foundations for long-term sustainability and scale.

Women Empowerment

Creating a more equitable world for women and girls requires collective action - communities, institutions, and changemakers coming together to dismantle the structural barriers that limit agency, dignity, and opportunity.

Through the **Coalition for Women Empowerment (CWE),** we bring together high-impact NGOs, grassroots leaders, and communities to collectively challenge the deeply rooted societal norms that continue to hold women back.

Our approach is deeply intersectional, rooted in the understanding that gender inequity is shaped by overlapping realities of caste, class, religion, and geography. **No single thread can be pulled in isolation**, which is why we work across organisations and communities to transform the ecosystems in which women live: **expanding access to resources, widening the space for choice, and strengthening pathways to leadership and economic independence.**

At the heart of this collective effort is a commitment to **amplifying grassroots voices and nurturing feminist leadership**, supporting survivor- and community-led approaches that place women themselves at the centre of change. Because lasting change is never created in isolation; it is built through **shared action, solidarity, and the quiet, determined power of communities** coming together to make equity the norm, not the exception. When women are empowered to shape the decisions that affect their lives, the entire village is strengthened, and when the village is strengthened, its women rise further still.

Coalition for Women Empowerment

Social Empowerment × ×××××××××××××××× × Economic Empowerment

Freedom from Violence and Discrimination

Supporting programmes that challenge harmful norms and foster safer, more equitable spaces and shared goals.

Grassroots Leadership

Nurturing women to lead from within their communities, becoming catalysts for enduring change.

Freedom from Economic Dependence

Enabling financial autonomy through livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and skill-building.

Access to Legal Justice

Partnering with organisations that ensure survivors have not just legal aid, but dignity and agency.

Access to Rights and Entitlements

Equipping women with the knowledge and tools to claim what is rightfully theirs.

Through **continued training and capacity building,** women's collectives and grassroots leaders enabled themselves to independently lead initiatives, engaging with local stakeholders and government systems, and participating in Gram Panchayat and village-level decision-making processes.

Community leadership is the backbone that holds these efforts together: sustaining prevention of violence, driving behaviour change, and creating the conditions for collective progress.

True empowerment, as any village knows, comes not from acting for people, but alongside them. At EdelGive, **we work beside our partners to listen, learn, and co-create solutions that respond to the realities women face every day.** Through shared purpose and collective effort, we are building momentum rooted in women's own aspirations, contributing to a future that is more inclusive, more equitable, and shaped by the communities it serves.

Read more about CWE's impact in the Partnerships section.

In FY26,
EdelGive supported **18 projects with 14 NGO partners across 14 states in India.** Over the years, through our NGO partners, our village of collaborators has created significant and lasting impact:

2.87 Lakh

women and girls supported in addressing gender equality-related issues (17,502 in FY26) - because when women rise, the whole village rises with them.

36,261

women and girls supported under financial inclusion programmes (4,231 in FY26) - building economic foundations that benefit families and communities alike.

6,312

SHGs/JLGs formed (139 in FY26) - collective structures through which women act not alone, but together.

79,371

women supported in accessing rights and entitlements (8,221 in FY26) - because knowing one's rights is the first step to claiming one's place in the village.

43,351

grassroots leaders developed and supported (8,245 in FY26) - the village's own voices, strengthened to lead.

51,622

survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence supported in their legal journey (5,543 in FY26) - because a village that protects its most vulnerable is a village that protects itself.

CASE STUDY

From Awareness to Action:

A Village's Journey to Save Its School

INTRODUCTION

Lothwas village in Thanagazi block, Rajasthan, is home to nearly 200 families from Meena, Bhalai, and Rajput communities, who depend largely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. At the centre of this settlement stands a small government primary school, the only accessible pathway to education for 30 to 40 children, with the nearest alternative over 15 kilometres away.

In the same village, Ibtada, a Rajasthan-based organisation founded in 1997 working to build grassroots leadership and community rights, has been running its Access to Entitlements (Adhikar) Programme for eight years. And at the heart of these efforts is Bimla, a 56-year-old Adhikar Sakhi who, despite not having had access to formal education, had earned deep community trust through years of advocating for pensions, housing schemes, and MGNREGA rights.

INTERVENTION

In January 2026, an official order was issued to close the village school. The building had fallen into disrepair, and the education department had also flagged concerns around enrolment. For Lothwas, this was not an administrative matter; it was a direct threat to its children's futures. Closing the school would have meant children travelling 15 kilometres each way to Chaaha ka Bas, a distance that for many families would have effectively ended their children's education. Bimla acted immediately. She mobilised the Village Rights Committee and women's Self-Help Group members, and assured the teacher that the community would not allow the closure to stand. Her message to the village was clear:

> ***"This is not just about a school; it is about our children's future."***

Within days, over 40 women, 30–40 students, and around 55 villagers boarded three buses to meet the Chief Block Education Officer (CBEO) in Thanagazi. They submitted a formal request and presented their case with unity and resolve - that closing the school would deny their children their fundamental right to education, and that the building's disrepair was a reason to repair, not to abandon.

IMPACT

The community's determination was met with a meaningful response. The CBEO agreed to reopen the school immediately and committed to renovating the building - addressing the root cause of the closure order, not just its immediate consequence. He also advised community members to closely track attendance. But the impact reached beyond the school itself. The mobilisation strengthened unity across the village, deepened community commitment to children's education, and earned women's leadership new recognition and respect within Lothwas and in the villages that have since heard Bimla's story. **Lothwas did not wait for someone else to save its school. It saved it itself.**

Collaborators for Transforming Education

FY26 marked a significant milestone in the CTE journey, as the programme moved into its final phase - embedding reforms within government systems ahead of its conclusion in June 2026.

The year's focus was on embedding systems and strengthening government ownership - building foundations durable enough to stand long after any single partner steps back. The truest measure of a village's investment is whether it can sustain itself.

Education is shaped collectively through classrooms and homes, communities and public systems, teachers and parents and local leaders all playing their part.

EdelGive's vision for education has therefore always **looked beyond learning outcomes alone**, toward the building of collaborative, equitable, and sustainable ecosystems that enable children and communities to truly thrive. Because a **child's education is not the responsibility of one teacher, one school, or one programme, it is the shared commitment of a village.**

Since 2016, that belief has found its fullest expression in our partnership with the Government of Maharashtra through the **Collaborators for Transforming Education (CTE)**, a pioneering public-private alliance built on the conviction that systemic change requires systemic collaboration. What began as a pilot across four districts has grown to reach every corner of Maharashtra.

Over a decade, the initiative has impacted over two crore children, driven deep systemic reform, and emerged as a nationally recognised model for large-scale collaboration.

- Through the CTE coalition, the initiative deepened its impact across **assessment strengthening, foundational literacy and numeracy, teacher capacity building, curriculum development, community engagement, and data-driven governance.**

- A major highlight was the continued strengthening of **Maharashtra's Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK)** in partnership with the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Maharashtra. Together, they supported real-time governance through Periodic Assessment Test (PAT) Live dashboards, statewide helpdesk systems, and learning outcome mapping for Grades 1-10 across 8 mediums. The initiative also drove large-scale capacity building of district and block officials across the state. Today, over **84,000 schools actively participate in PAT and National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) data systems,** enabling evidence-based decision-making across the state.

- CTE also continued strengthening the **Early Childhood Education ecosystem** through demonstration sites, blended diploma courses for Anganwadi Workers, and beat-level capacity-building models. During FY26, **24 preparatory trainings and 24 beat-level trainings were conducted across 8 beats, reaching 209 Anganwadi Sevikas** through peer-led learning approaches. These women, frontline leaders shaping early childhood learning and care within their communities, were recognised not merely as programme recipients, but as indispensable members of the village that education requires.

Collaborators for Transforming Education

Institutional Processes × ×××××××××× × ×××××××× × Community Engagement Systems

- **Shikshan Parishads**
- **School Management**
- **Parent-Teacher**
- **Education Gram Sabhas**

Ensuring that the village's voice remained present in every conversation about its children's futures. Data-driven review mechanisms, portfolio-based student tracking, and cross-departmental convergence further deepened ownership and accountability across the ecosystem.

As CTE approaches its conclusion in June 2026, an independent impact evaluation is underway assessing **long-term changes across learning outcomes, governance systems, community participation, and institutional capacity.**

But as with all village endeavours, the numbers only tell part of the story. The real transformation lives in classrooms where learning has become more engaging, in teachers who now use data and peer-learning systems with confidence, and in communities that actively participate in their children's education. Most importantly, the programme has strengthened the government's own ability to carry this work forward independently, sustainably, and at scale.

Dalyan Foundation:

dalyan

"Dalyan's long-standing partnership with EdelGive is built on trust and a shared commitment to systemic change and to strengthening the resilience of the social sector. **By jointly supporting initiatives like CTE and organisations such as SOVA and Torpa, we work together to strengthen grassroots ecosystems and community resilience.**

We value EdelGive's thoughtful approach to partnership, their ability to take the lead, convene stakeholders, and their continued focus on enabling long-term, sustainable impact. We look forward to continuing our joint journey."

Alongside CTE, EdelGive's broader education portfolio continued to support grassroots organisations working directly with children and communities. **In FY26,** we worked with **9 NGO partners across 11 projects in 5 states** and were able to create a significant impact:

2.2 Crore

children reached through learning enhancement initiatives across Maharashtra - a generation nurtured by a village that chose to invest in them.

1.3 Lakh

schools strengthened through systemic interventions - building the infrastructure every child deserves.

7.7+ Lakh

teachers and government officials supported - because when those who teach the village are strengthened, the entire village learns.

As CTE concludes, **it leaves behind not just outcomes, but a replicable blueprint for systemic transformation,** one where collaboration, government ownership, data-driven governance, and community participation come together to reimagine education at scale.

Its journey reinforces a truth this village has always known: **lasting educational transformation is only possible when everyone shows up for it, together.**

Read more about CTE's impact in the Partnerships section.

CASE STUDY

Every Child's Progress is the Village's Progress

Activity-Based Learning in Tribal Preschools

INTRODUCTION

In the remote, geographically scattered panchayats of a tribal-dominated block, 991 young children (505 boys and 486 girls) begin their educational journey far from the advantages that many others take for granted. Spread across 7 panchayats, these children come largely from marginalised communities: 71% from Scheduled Tribes, and the remaining 29% from Scheduled and Other Castes. For most, the local Anganwadi centre is the village's first and most important investment in their future. Yet for years, the tools available to Anganwadi Workers to support that investment were limited, leaving children's developmental progress across physical, cognitive, language, social-emotional, and creative domains below where it should be. The village was showing up for its children; what it needed was the right support to do so more effectively.

INTERVENTION

Set up in 1993, South Odisha Voluntary Action (SOVA)'s Activity-Based Learning (ABL) module offered a practical, adoptable framework for daily preschool activities built in alignment with Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) guidelines. It is designed to equip Anganwadi Workers to engage with young children in structured, stimulating ways. Alongside this, SOVA introduced Mo Vikash Patra, an individual progress tracking tool enabling child-specific learning support based on a simple three-tier grading system: Grade B and above (60%+ score) indicates a child is performing at age-appropriate levels; Grade C (41-59%) signals a developing learner; and Grade D and below (40% or less) flags a child needing targeted individual support.

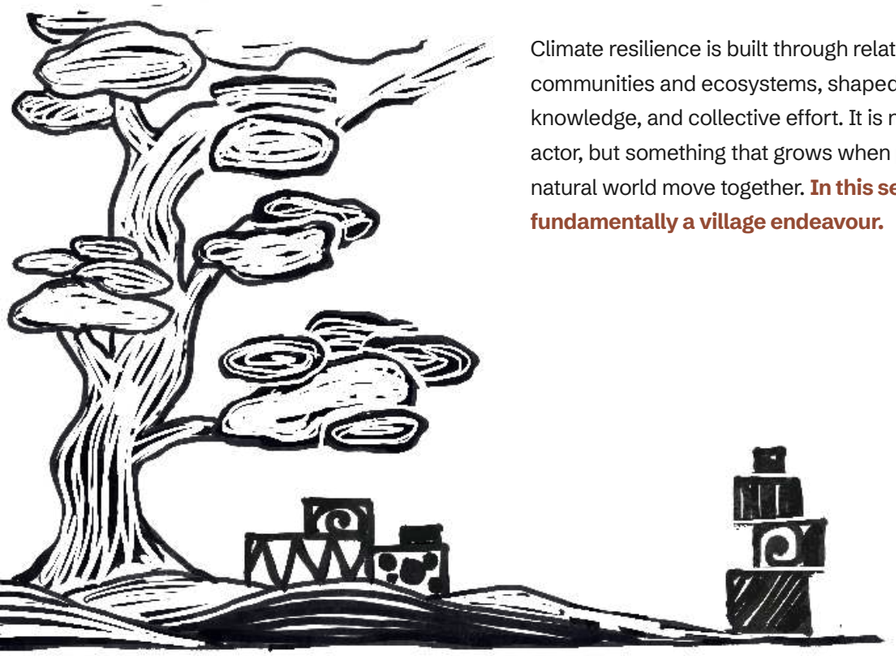
IMPACT

Assessed across 59 Anganwadi Centres, the results were significant. At baseline in 2024, an average of 386 children were placed in Grade D and below. By April 2026, that number had fallen to just 92 - a reduction of approximately 400%. Grade C enrolment improved by 11%, while Grade B and above grew by 200%.
The shift was consistent across all five domains:

Score	Grade D & Below		Grade B & Above	
Domain	Baseline	Current Status	Baseline	Current Status
Physical	194	60	283	779
Cognitive	477	66	211	571
Language	501	206	13	157
Creativity	387	65	421	612
Social & Emotional	371	62	367	568

Behind these numbers are 991 children beginning their educational journeys with stronger foundations, Anganwadi Workers stepping into their roles as frontline leaders, and a village that, given the right tools, proved more than capable of nurturing its youngest members.

Community Resilience & Climate Action



Climate resilience is built through relationships between communities and ecosystems, shaped by everyday practice, knowledge, and collective effort. It is not the work of a single actor, but something that grows when people, institutions, and the natural world move together. **In this sense, climate resilience is fundamentally a village endeavour.**

Our Community Resilience and Climate Action initiatives focus on those most impacted by climate change but least responsible for it. We support grassroots partners who are restoring balance by **harvesting rainwater, reviving lakes, promoting climate-smart agriculture, preserving indigenous knowledge** and **spreading this collective wisdom** that communities have carried across generations.

Many communities have long held deep knowledge of living with the land - knowledge that modern development has often overlooked or displaced. **Our role is to stand alongside communities as they reclaim and rebuild that relationship.** Cross-cutting themes of gender equity, rights-based frameworks, technology, and community wisdom anchor everything we do.

Women often experience climate change not only through reduced agricultural yields, but also through increased unpaid care work, longer distances travelled for water and fuel collection, and limited access to land, credit, and decision-making spaces. Because resilience isn't about resistance, it's about adaptation. And adaptation, like all lasting change, happens together.

In FY26,
EdelGive supported 14 projects across 10 NGO partners, working with the most vulnerable communities across 9 states in India, each partnership a thread in a wider web of collective action.

Over the years, through our NGO partners, our village of collaborators has created significant, measurable impact:

68%
average enhancement in annual income of farmers in FY26 - proof that when a farming community is supported, the whole village prospers.

14,887
watershed structures for water conservation supported through construction or repairs (6,331 in FY26) - because water is the lifeblood every village holds in common.

2,65,199
families trained for sustainable agriculture (5,818 in FY26) - knowledge shared across the village, from field to field and season to season.

8
Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) strengthened - building the collective institutions through which farmers act not as individuals, but as a unified community.

4,192
hectares of land brought under irrigation for enhanced agricultural yield (330 in FY26) - expanding the village's ability to feed and sustain itself.

38,320
farmers supported with climate-smart agriculture and organic farming (6,436 in FY26) - tending the land together, for those who come after.

The CRCA portfolio is anchored in the belief that climate resilience must be built from the ground up, by strengthening the capacities of communities, institutions, and local ecosystems to respond to climate risks in a sustained and equitable manner. Just as a village draws its strength from the interdependence of its members, climate resilience is built through people, institutions, and ecosystems working in concert. As climate variability continues to impact women, small farmers, tribal communities, and other vulnerable populations, the portfolio focuses on enabling long-term, community-led solutions rather than short-term fixes imposed from outside.

During FY2025 - 26, the portfolio expanded its efforts across, climate-vulnerable geographies.

Community Resilience & Climate Action

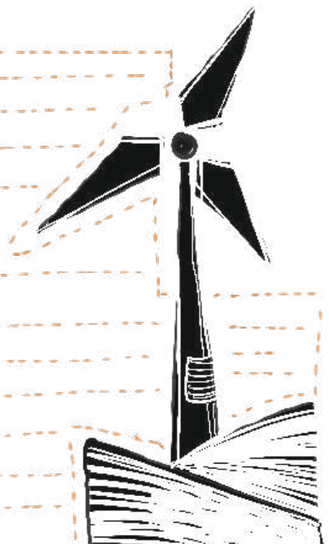
Climate-vulnerable geographies

Climate-Resilient Livelihoods

Institutional Strengthening

Community Leadership Development

Interventions in agriculture and allied sectors promoted sustainable practices, improved water management, and supported livelihood diversification — helping communities not just weather uncertainty, but build the shared foundations to thrive through it.



Recognising that resilient communities require resilient institutions, the portfolio prioritised strengthening both partner organisations and community-led institutions during FY26. Support included organisational development, governance systems, management information systems (MIS), thematic capacity building, and leadership development, alongside strengthening Village Development Committees, Self-Help Groups, Water User Groups, and Farmer Producer Organisations. These investments have enabled communities and institutions to plan, implement, and sustain climate-resilient interventions more effectively, fostering greater accountability, local ownership, and long-term resilience.

The portfolio places particular emphasis on women and youth leadership, recognising them not merely as participants, but as knowledge holders, decision-makers, and leaders of local climate action. When women and youth lead, the village leads. By building the capacities of these local leaders, programmes have fostered community ownership, strengthened last-mile delivery, and enabled sustained, self-determined engagement with climate action.

To promote learning and replication, the portfolio facilitated cross-regional exposure visits and knowledge-sharing platforms, enabling partners and communities to adopt and adapt successful models across contexts. Because in a village, what works in one corner has the power to inspire the whole.

In FY26, this translated into direct outcomes: **289 young women established micro-enterprises and 415 youth became shareholders in Farmer Producer Companies under the Pragati-led SAMBHAV programme, while MANUVIKASA strengthened income security for 20,520 rural women across Uttara Kannada, Haveri, and Dharwad.**

The CRCA portfolio reflects a deliberate shift away from short-term, externally driven adaptation measures toward integrated, scalable, and community-led approaches to resilience building. By embedding climate action within broader development programming, it strengthens communities' capacity to anticipate, adapt to, and recover from climate-related challenges.

The goal is not merely survival in the face of uncertainty but the building of communities that can navigate it with equity, sustainability, and local ownership at the centre.

Apcotex:

"Our six-year partnership with EdelGive Foundation has been a truly transformative journey.

Together, we have co-created grassroots programs that are deeply rooted in local realities, designed collaboratively with communities, and tailored to address the genuine needs of the people. The impact extends beyond measurable outcomes – it is visible in the positive changes within the communities themselves. We take immense pride in what this partnership has achieved and remain committed to strengthening and deepening this relationship in the years ahead.

CASE STUDY

Enhancing Livelihood Through Sustainable Agriculture

Akkamma's Journey

INTRODUCTION

In Kubihal village, Dharwad district, Karnataka, **Akkamma Fakirappa Mattigatti's family** depends on three acres of land for everything. Like many small farmers in her community, she faced the quiet anxiety of low productivity and unpredictable income farming that sustained survival but left little room to grow. What she needed was not a new livelihood handed to her, **but the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make better use of the land and resources she already had.**

INTERVENTION

That turning point came through **MANUVIKASA, an NGO partner working alongside EdelGive.** Over a partnership of 3 years, MANUVIKASA has been implementing 'Climate-Resilient Livelihoods of Rural Women' programme, supporting 20,520 rural women across Uttara Kannada, Haveri, and Dharwad districts, Karnataka, through financial inclusion and credit linkage, skill training (poultry, apiculture, tailoring, dairy), FPO strengthening, and natural resource interventions like lake rejuvenation and water harvesting.

Through s**ustainable agriculture training, Akkamma learned improved farming techniques, crop diversification, and value addition**. Previously reliant on limited, low-value cropping with no processing, Akkamma diversified into chilli, brinjal, cucumber, and cowpea and began processing chillies into a higher-value dried product to secure better market prices, keeping more of the value chain's benefit in her own hands. She also tends a buffalo, producing around 6 litres of milk daily, supplied to the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) dairy for steady supplementary income.

IMPACT

Where Akkamma once harvested 1.5 to 2 quintals of dry chillies per acre, she now expects up to 3 quintals. **The Dabbi variety fetches ₹35,000-₹40,000 per quintal, rising to ₹50,000-₹55,000 during peak demand**. Additional income from vegetables and dairy has meaningfully strengthened the family's financial foundation.

Akkamma's journey is a reminder that **sustainable development does not arrive from outside**; it emerges when **communities are trusted, equipped, and supported to lead their own change.**

> *With better farming methods and additional income from milk, I am now able to support my family and plan for my son's education with confidence,*
> she says with pride.

> *Earlier, farming was uncertain, and our income was not stable. Now, I feel more confident about our future.*

About EdelGive
Investments
Partnerships
Inside EdelGive

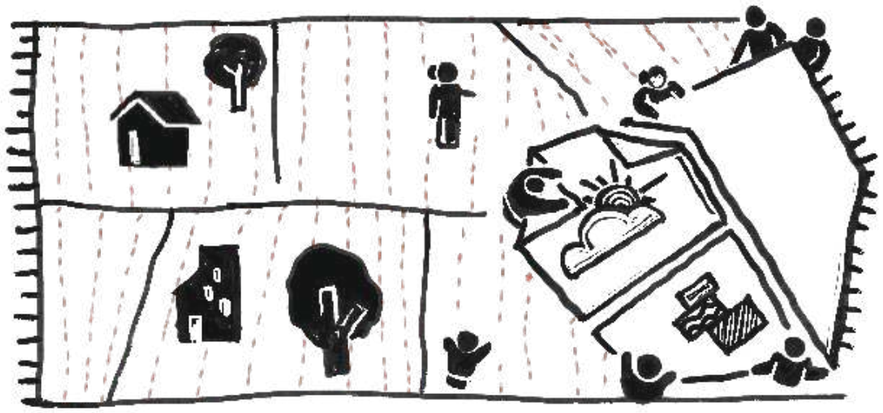
GROW+

Grassroots | Resilience | Ownership | Wellness

From GROW to GROW+

Over the years, **our journey has evolved alongside the changing realities of the communities we serve,** deepening our understanding of what sustainable, community-led change truly requires, and humbling us with the reminder that the most important knowledge in any village already lives within it.

What emerged from this experience was a deeper understanding of what it truly means to support a grassroots organisation. **When organisations can invest in their ownsystems — human resources, financial management, and technology** — they become more stable, more adaptive, and better positioned to weather uncertainty. This insight forms the bedrock on which **GROW+ has been built, with an added and urgent focus: integrating a climate lens into every layer of institutional strengthening.**



GROW+ is designed as a climate-intelligent model that supports grassroots organisations in strengthening institutional resilience, interpreting evolving climate realities, and enabling community-led responses to the challenges that climate change is already placing at the village's door. At its core, it seeks to bridge the gap between grassroots realities and resource ecosystems, ensuring that insights from the ground inform how institutions are strengthened, and that the systemic needs of communities are communicated clearly and credibly to funders and global actors.

Capacity Grid:

GROW Classic and GROW+ Strength from within

A village is only as resilient as the institutions that serve it. The GROW Fund (2021) identified **financial resilience, human resource strengthening, and technology adoption** as the critical pillars of organisational capacity. GROW+ builds on this **foundation, extending the framework to recognise** and **support the specific demands of grassroots climate action.**

Through community-based research with grassroots organisations from climate-impacted areas across India, three core needs have been identified for strengthening community-led climate action:

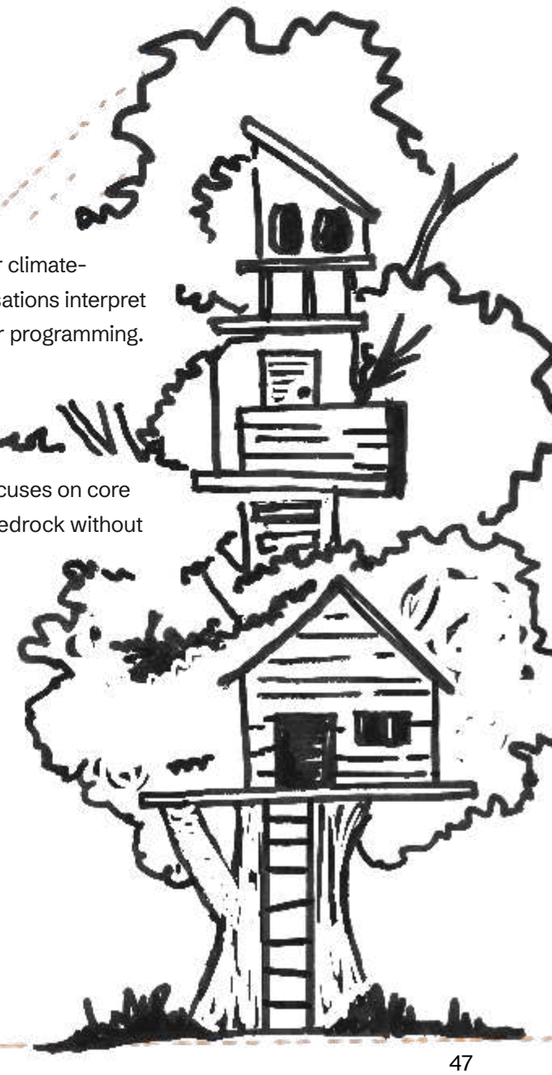
- **Data and knowledge management**
- **Network and evidence-based engagement**
- **Learning and evaluation**

GROW+ addresses these through a smart, two-tier capacity grid, each layer building on the one below it:

The **top layer (GROW+)** builds capacities for climate-resilient institutional growth, helping organisations interpret climate realities and integrate them into their programming.

The **foundational layer (GROW Classic)** focuses on core organisational capacities: the institutional bedrock without which nothing else is possible.

Together, these two tiers form a blueprint for long-term, community-led climate resilience, one that is modular, replicable, and designed to grow stronger as more organisations and landscapes join the network.



Landscape Model

Climate change does not arrive uniformly. Across India's vast ecological diversity, it manifests differently - in shifting rainfall patterns, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and the slow unravelling of livelihoods that communities have built over generations. Addressing these realities requires an approach that is rooted in place, responsive to local ecology, and shaped by the communities that know their landscapes best.

That is why GROW+ operates across six defined landscapes, each informed by environmental signals and organised around the physio-geographic contours of India:

Each landscape is its own village of knowledge with its own climate risks, its own communities, and its own ecosystems of organisations working to address them. GROW+ recognises this diversity not as a complication, but as a strength to be understood and mobilised.

Smart Pyramids

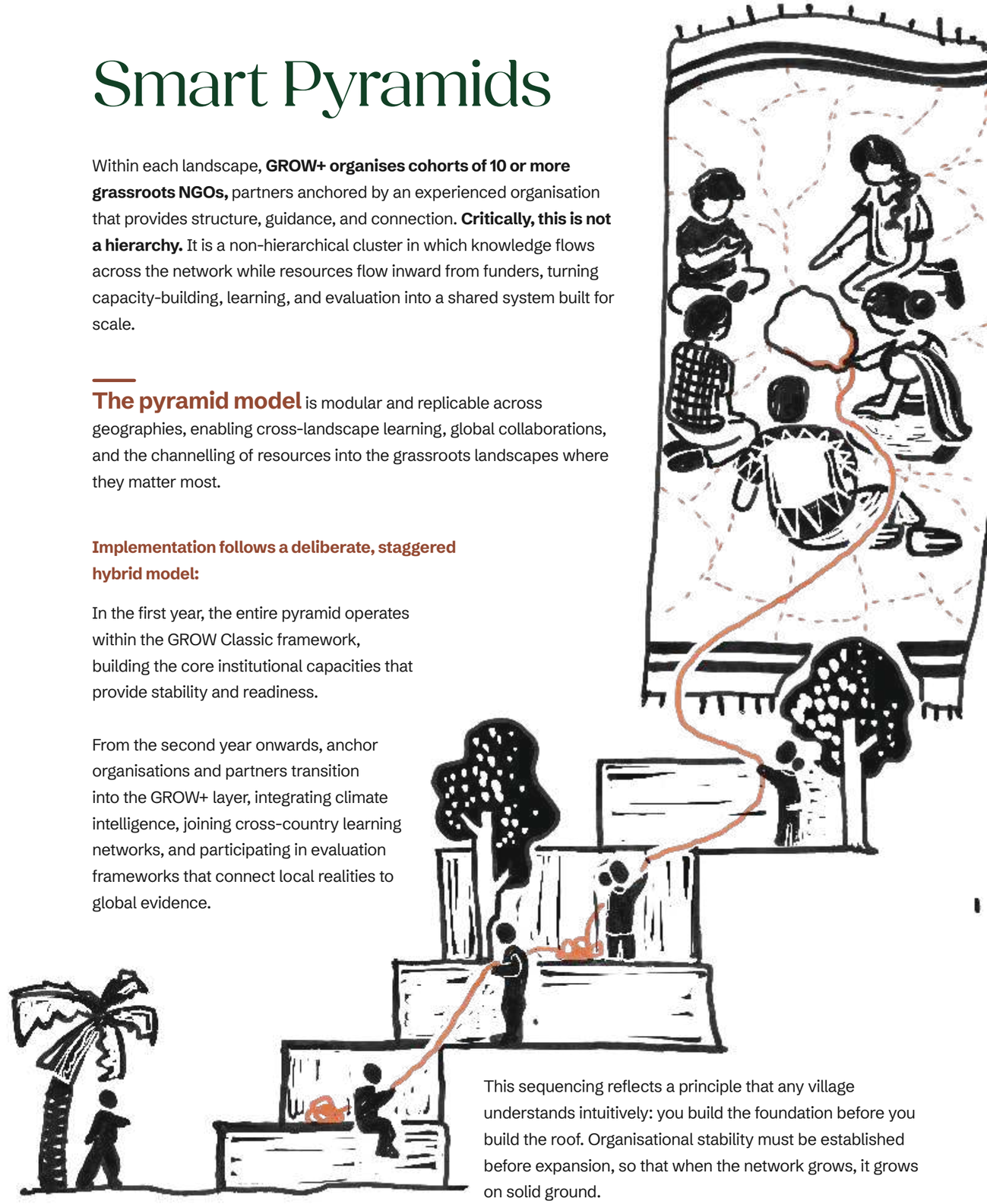
Within each landscape, **GROW+ organises cohorts of 10 or more grassroots NGOs,** partners anchored by an experienced organisation that provides structure, guidance, and connection. **Critically, this is not a hierarchy.** It is a non-hierarchical cluster in which knowledge flows across the network while resources flow inward from funders, turning capacity-building, learning, and evaluation into a shared system built for scale.

The pyramid model is modular and replicable across geographies, enabling cross-landscape learning, global collaborations, and the channelling of resources into the grassroots landscapes where they matter most.

Implementation follows a deliberate, staggered hybrid model:

In the first year, the entire pyramid operates within the GROW Classic framework, building the core institutional capacities that provide stability and readiness.

From the second year onwards, anchor organisations and partners transition into the GROW+ layer, integrating climate intelligence, joining cross-country learning networks, and participating in evaluation frameworks that connect local realities to global evidence.



This sequencing reflects a principle that any village understands intuitively: you build the foundation before you build the roof. Organisational stability must be established before expansion, so that when the network grows, it grows on solid ground.

From the Field, For the Field

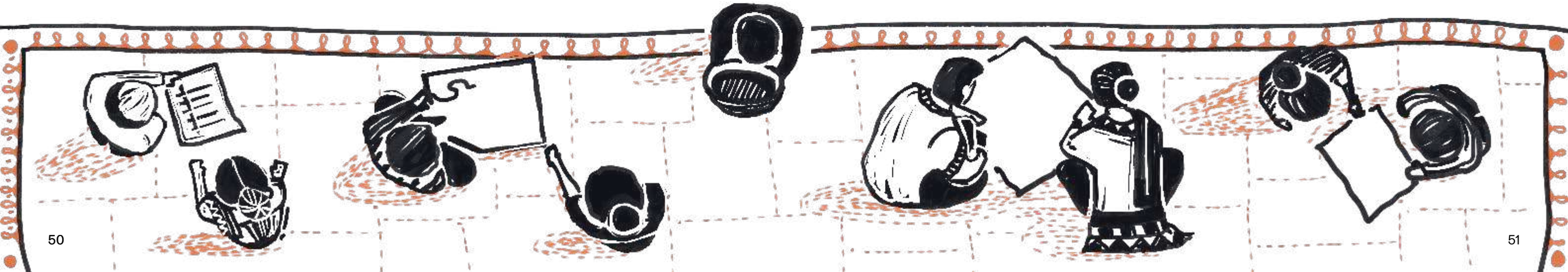
A network is only as strong as the relationships within it. They are built in person, through shared dialogue, honest reflection, and the experience of standing on the same ground together.

The GROW+ programme was formally launched in Jodhpur on 7th August 2025, bringing together over 100 participants - Anchors, Partners, ecosystem actors, philanthropic institutions, and government representatives, to collectively shape the next phase of the GROW journey. The convening underscored a shared recognition that lasting change requires a shift from transactional engagements to partnerships grounded in mutual respect, trust in local leadership, and a genuinely shared vision. Participants affirmed that unrestricted funding and dedicated space for learning and co-creation are not peripheral luxuries; they are the conditions that make community-led change possible.

GROW+ was validated as a replicable and adaptable model for linking funding, capacity-building, and strategic support to local actors and ecosystem enablers. With Partnering Hope into Action (PHIA) Foundation, based in Jharkhand, and Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), based in Rajasthan, onboarded as Anchor organisations, the subsequent phase focused on the identification, review, and selection of partner organisations across two distinct landscapes: the Indian Desert and the Peninsular Plateau.

Drawing on decades of grassroots presence and deep contextual understanding of their respective landscapes, PHIA and GRAVIS were uniquely placed to identify and bring together the right partner organisations that were not just programmatically strong, but genuinely trusted by the communities they served.

The result was a cohort of 34 partner organisations - 18 within PHIA's Peninsular Plateau pyramid and 16 within GRAVIS's Indian Desert pyramid—selected with rigour and balance across geographies, thematic areas, and communities. Formal agreements were signed with all selected partners, and the first tranche of funds was disbursed in February 2026, marking the formal beginning of the shared journey across both pyramids.



The First All Partners Convening, Ranchi, February 2026

On **12th February 2026, the first All Partners Convening of GROW+** was held in Ranchi, bringing together all 34 partner organisations for the first time. The convening marked a key structural milestone not just in programme terms, but in the forging of **a shared identity across a network that will, over time, become a village of its own.** Discussions aligned partners on a critical shared understanding: that climate change is no longer an environmental overlay, but a cross-cutting force reshaping livelihoods, migration, governance, soil health, biodiversity, and institutional stability.

The transition from GROW Classic to GROW+ was clarified from a focus on organisational systems strengthening to one that integrates climate intelligence and cross-landscape learning through the pyramid architecture.

Partners shared their organisational realities openly, surfacing challenges in financial sustainability, monitoring and evaluation infrastructure, human resources, compliance, and strategic planning. These conversations were not admissions of weakness, but acts of collective honesty that strengthened the network's ability to support each other.

A session led by Social Lens, our Principal Capacity Building Partner, positioned capacity building at the intersection of skills, systems, and structures, clarifying the distinction between **Capacity Building** (strengthening individual capabilities) and **Organisational Development** (building institutional systems that endure beyond individual roles). Discussions on human resources, technology, and financial management reinforced that institutional strengthening is not a technical exercise. It is, at its core, about creating environments where people feel valued, supported, and able to do their best work.

The convening's **Baithak, a closed-door dialogue** among partners facilitated by the Anchors, created space for partners to collectively map the social, economic, and political contexts of their landscapes, assess how communities have changed over the past five years, and chart climate risks across their areas of operation. **It was, in many ways, the village gathering around a shared fire, making sense of a changing world, together.**

Cross-landscape learning emerged as one of the convening's most tangible outcomes, as partners from PHIA's landscape engaged with GRAVIS teams to seek practical guidance on anticipating and managing drought-like conditions. **This exchange, practical, peer-led, and rooted in real experience, reflected a broader shift from geographically isolated problem-solving to collective climate intelligence.**

Field Visit, Ranchi, February 2026

Two days after the convening, **a field visit was conducted across Bar Toli, Saramoda hamlets and Tunel village with participation from funders, intermediaries, and grassroots organisations.**

Facilitated in Tunel by PHIA and anchored at the community level in Saramoda by the Torpa Rural Development Society for Women (TRDSW), **the visit brought programme design and institutional intent face to face with lived reality.**

What emerged was a renewed appreciation for the interconnectedness that GROW+ is built to honour. **The principle of *jan, jal, jangal, jameen* (people, water, forest, and land)** emerged as a central organising truth: that governance, culture, ecology, and livelihoods cannot be addressed in isolation, segmented into discrete funding categories, or understood from a distance.

The visit reaffirmed what this programme has always held to be true: climate action designed from above risks overlooking the realities of the village. Networks shaped from below, grounded in community trust, cross-landscape learning, and sustained anchor presence are better positioned to generate the contextually rooted insights that can inform systems far beyond the landscapes they serve.

The next phase of GROW+ will deliberately transition from shared diagnosis to coordinated action deliberately, without the pressures of performative planning or extractive reporting.

The sequencing will prioritise what the village needs most:

Stronger Institutional Foundations

Deeper Climate Intelligence

Lateral flow of learning across pyramids and landscapes

Because in the end, climate resilience, like all resilience, is built one relationship, one organisation, one village at a time.

CASE STUDY

Rooted in the Desert, Reaching Further

GRAVIS and Institutional Strengthening

INTRODUCTION

Since 1983, GRAVIS has been one of the most enduring grassroots presences in western Rajasthan's arid zones, a deeply rooted Gandhian organisation working across health, education, water security, agriculture, and climate adaptation, reaching an estimated 2.7 million people across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Its philosophy is built on self-reliance, community participation, and the blending of modern science with traditional wisdom.

Yet even an organisation with forty years of grassroots credibility faces the persistent challenge that confronts so many of its peers: gaps in data management, documentation, resource mobilisation, financial systems, and digital visibility - the institutional infrastructure that determines whether impact endures or dissolves when a project cycle ends.

INTERVENTION

Through GROW+, GRAVIS engaged with a structured capacity building programme addressing these gaps directly. Sessions covered documentation and reporting, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, risk management, and communication. The results were practical and immediate. Following communication training the team, improved the quality of field photography, capturing more impactful visuals that strengthened the organisation's ability to tell community stories credibly and compellingly. A fundraising workshop helped shift GRAVIS's resource mobilisation from reactive and proposal-driven toward more strategic, relationship-centred engagement building not just skills, but confidence and long-term thinking across the team.

IMPACT

Rajendra Kumar, Program Coordinator, who has worked with GRAVIS for over thirty years on drought mitigation and climate adaptation, put it plainly:

> ***"Investing in organisational capacity is not just helpful, it is essential. When funders support capacity building, they reduce risk and enhance long-term impact."***

For an organisation operating in one of India's most climate-vulnerable landscapes, the difference between a strong institution and a fragile one is not administrative; it is the difference between impact that endures and impact that disappears. GROW+'s investment in GRAVIS is consistent with the philosophy the organisation has always held: that the village grows strongest when the institutions at its heart are trusted, equipped, and supported to grow too.

CASE STUDY

Building the Institution Behind the Impact

PHIA Foundation's Journey with GROW+

INTRODUCTION

Across nine states, PHIA works with some of India's most marginalised communities - Adivasis, Dalits, religious minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, across themes of local governance, climate action, basic services, rights, and gender. Since becoming active in 2016-17, PHIA has built deep community trust and credibility. But sustaining that presence requires more than programme delivery.

It requires an institution strong enough to carry the work forward through funding gaps, compliance pressures, and the inevitable stretching of small teams across large mandates. For PHIA, the hardest challenge has never been knowing what communities need; it has been building the institutional foundation to meet those needs consistently, over time.

INTERVENTION

Through GROW+, PHIA engaged with a **three-fold capacity building approach.** The first layer provided foundational training across IT, HR, and finance through an online learning hub - grounding the team in core concepts and sharpening day-to-day practice.

The second brought live sessions led by external experts, including one on true cost budgeting for nonprofits that directly changed how PHIA approached project budgeting, prompting the team to account for indirect and hidden costs that had long gone unrecognised, reducing the financial strain that came with undercounting what the organisation actually needed.

The third layer was the most significant: curated capacity building sessions designed around PHIA's own baseline diagnostic assessment. A fundraising workshop shifted the organisation's resource mobilisation from reactive and proposal-driven toward more strategic engagement, covering donor behaviour, funding diversification, theory of change, and long-term fundraising strategy, while investing in participants as confident, strategic thinkers.

IMPACT

Johnson Topno, PHIA's Executive Director, reflected on what this investment has made possible:

For **PHIA, GROW+ has enabled a tangible shift: from short-term intervention to long-term, system-level engagement.** From an organisation that delivers impact within project cycles, to one building the capacity to sustain and own impact beyond them. In a philanthropic ecosystem that too often funds the harvest but not the farmer, **GROW+ is making a different bet and PHIA is proof of what that bet can yield.**

> ***"What truly sustains impact is the strength of the institution delivering the work. When funders invest in the capacities of implementing organisations, they enable them to become more resilient, strategic, efficient, and accountable, both to their teams and to the communities they serve."***

Testimonials

Rainmatter Foundation:

"EdelGive Foundation through GROW+ is a very valuable partner of Rainmatter Foundation and we see them as trusted partners who can strengthen grassroots organisations, manage complexity and build their capacities that can help communities and places flourish, which is Rainmatter's primary objective."

Rainmatter Foundation

Jagdish Chander Mehta and Family:

"Our collaboration with EdelGive is built on shared purpose and goes beyond programs, we truly believe in EdelGive's approach to transforming the Indian philanthropic system by strengthening the voices of grassroots organisations and the communities they represent."

Ashraya Hastha Trust:

"Civil Society Organisations have been advocating for the need for growth funds to support internal capacity and compliance. For this reason, it is heartening that we have institutions like EdelGive Foundation focusing on bridging this gap at scale.

Our partnership with EdelGive demonstrates how dedicated "GROW" funds can transform institutions into healthier, more motivated organisations. This, we believe, will allow organisations to deliver high-impact climate change programs while experimenting with innovative intervention models. With EdelGive – GROW+ initiative, we function in a co-learning space that allows us to design frameworks that focus on building resilient ecosystems and operating models through focused institutional investments."

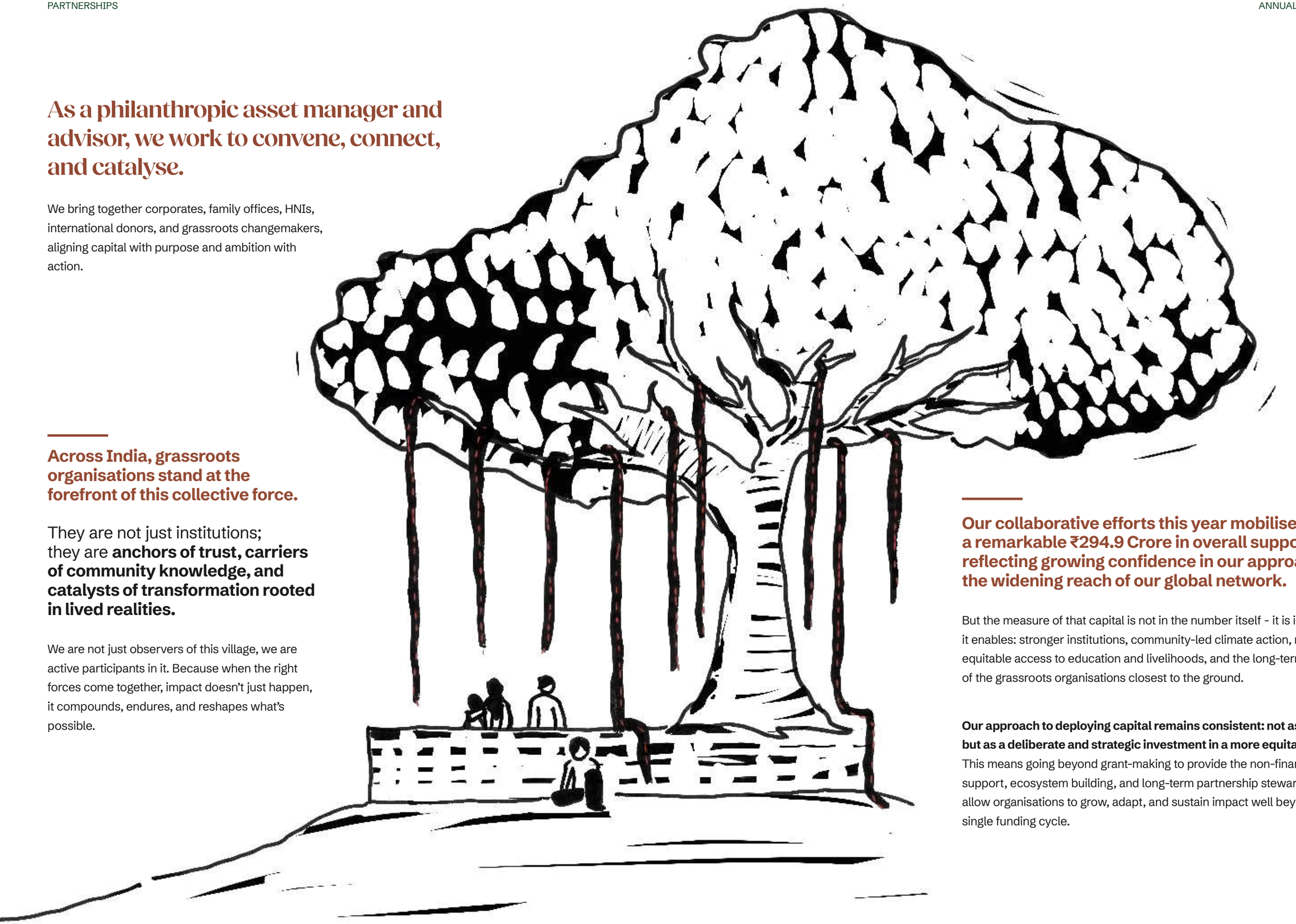
ashraya hastha trust

About EdelGive
Investments
GROW+
Inside EdelGive

Partnerships

As a philanthropic asset manager and advisor, we work to convene, connect, and catalyse.

We bring together corporates, family offices, HNIs, international donors, and grassroots changemakers, aligning capital with purpose and ambition with action.



Across India, grassroots organisations stand at the forefront of this collective force.

They are not just institutions; they are **anchors of trust, carriers of community knowledge, and catalysts of transformation rooted in lived realities.**

We are not just observers of this village, we are active participants in it. Because when the right forces come together, impact doesn't just happen, it compounds, endures, and reshapes what's possible.

Our collaborative efforts this year mobilised a remarkable ₹294.9 Crore in overall support, reflecting growing confidence in our approach and the widening reach of our global network.

But the measure of that capital is not in the number itself - it is in what it enables: stronger institutions, community-led climate action, more equitable access to education and livelihoods, and the long-term resilience of the grassroots organisations closest to the ground.

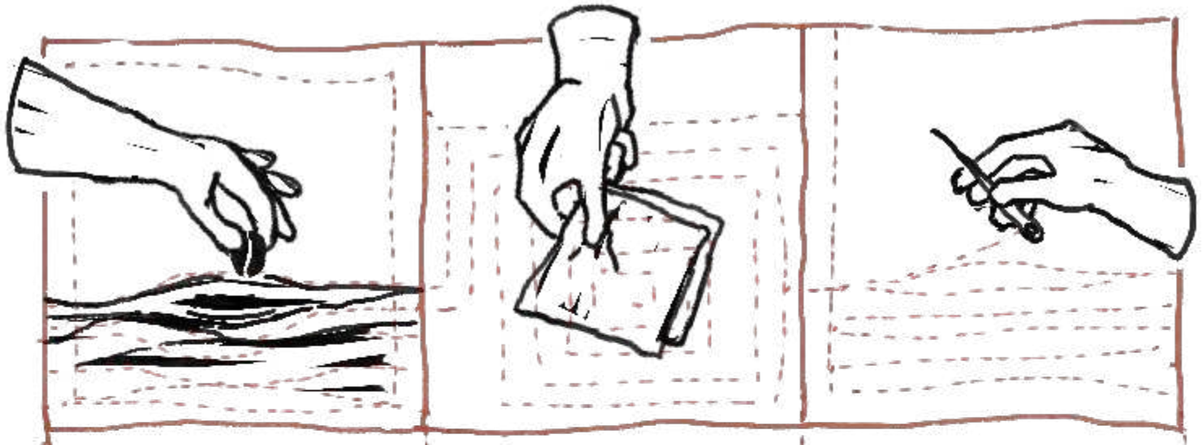
Our approach to deploying capital remains consistent: not as charity, but as a deliberate and strategic investment in a more equitable future. This means going beyond grant-making to provide the non-financial support, ecosystem building, and long-term partnership stewardship that allow organisations to grow, adapt, and sustain impact well beyond any single funding cycle.

Customised Philanthropy

Every donor brings a unique vision for change. We work closely with our partners to shape customised approaches that reflect their priorities, regions of focus, and core values, whether through **CSR advisory, philanthropic strategy design, or building cross-sector collaborations.**

As an intermediary, **we serve as a bridge between ideas, institutions, and communities, enabling the flow of trust, knowledge, and resources across diverse ecosystems.** Through careful due diligence and long-term engagement with stakeholders, we strive to ensure that every investment contributes to meaningful and sustained impact.

Our Approach



Management Desk

Guidance and Advice

Funding existing projects

Advisory Desk

Customised Strategies

Collaboratives

CTE

CWE

GROW+

A Collaborative Approach

Over the years, we have supported and strengthened multiple collaboratives through robust governance, responsive management systems, and sustained partnership stewardship, reflecting our belief in the power of collective action, equity, and long-term systemic transformation.

These initiatives continue to demonstrate **how trust-based partnerships and shared purpose can evolve dynamically, respond to emerging needs, and create meaningful, scalable impact.**

Migrants Resilience Collaborative

Coalition for Women Empowerment

Collaborators for Transforming Education

Pay-What-It-Takes

Migrants Resilience Collaborative

Protecting the village's most mobile members

India's migrant workers are, in many ways, the village's most overlooked members - the men and women who leave their communities in search of work, often without the protections, entitlements, or safety nets they deserve. EdelGive continues to play an active strategic role in the **Migrants Resilience Collaborative, an initiative by Jan Sahas and a multi-stakeholder alliance of non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector actors** because no worker should have to navigate an indifferent system alone.

Cumulative impact to date reflects what collective advocacy and support can achieve:

₹40 Crore
in recovered wages

1.41 Crore
applications facilitated up to March 2026

4,00,000+
helpline calls handled

In FY26,
the collaborative's village of support expanded further:

Significant welfare linkages achieved:

7,27,141
Ayushman Bharat,

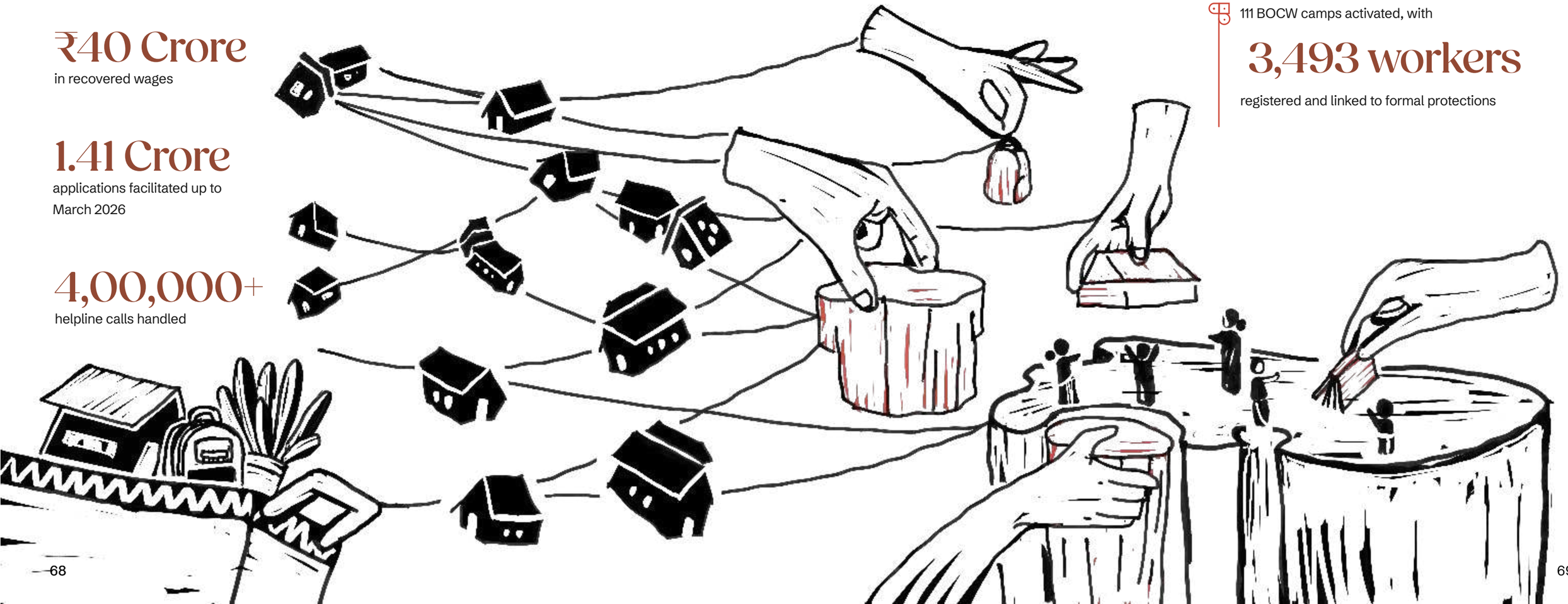
10,24,265
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and

50,441
Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) connections

Worker Protection pilots expanded in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, benefiting
30,000+ workers

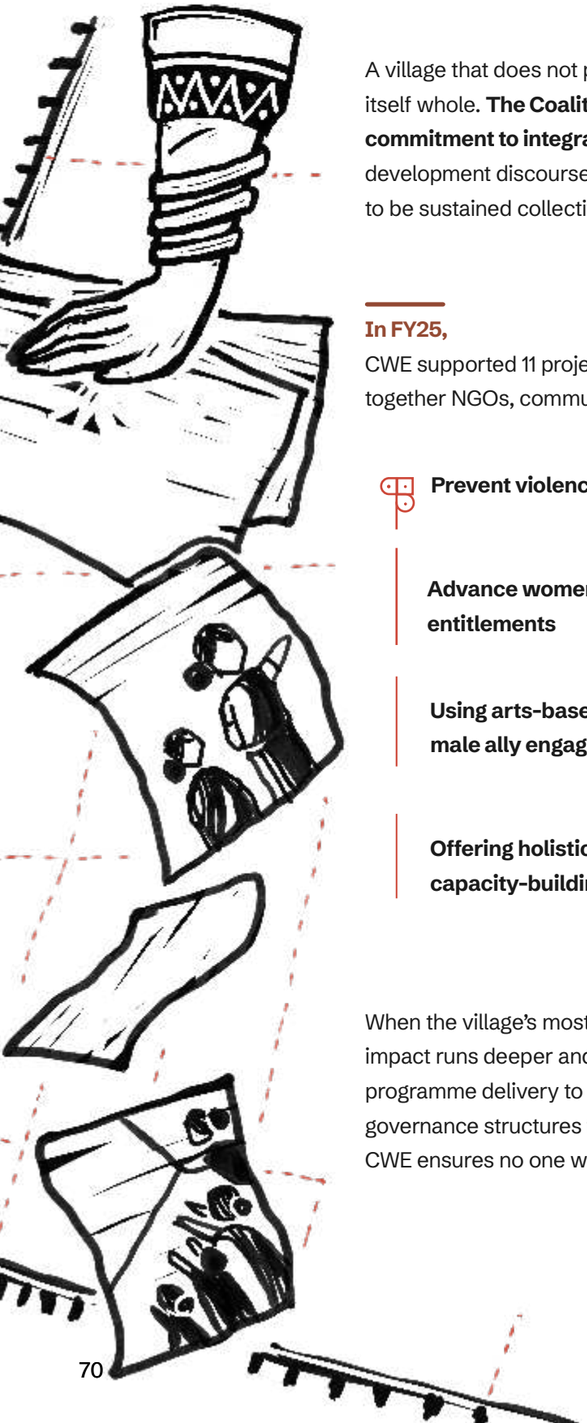
Partnerships established with Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Boards in UP and Telangana:
OpenG2P
platform initiated in Telangana

111 BOCW camps activated, with
3,493 workers
registered and linked to formal protections



Coalition for Women Empowerment

A systems-led, survivor-centred movement for gender equity



A village that does not protect and empower its women cannot truly call itself whole. **The Coalition for Women Empowerment embodies EdelGive's commitment to integrating gender equity across every dialogue** in India's development discourse, not as a programme to be delivered, but as a movement to be sustained collectively.

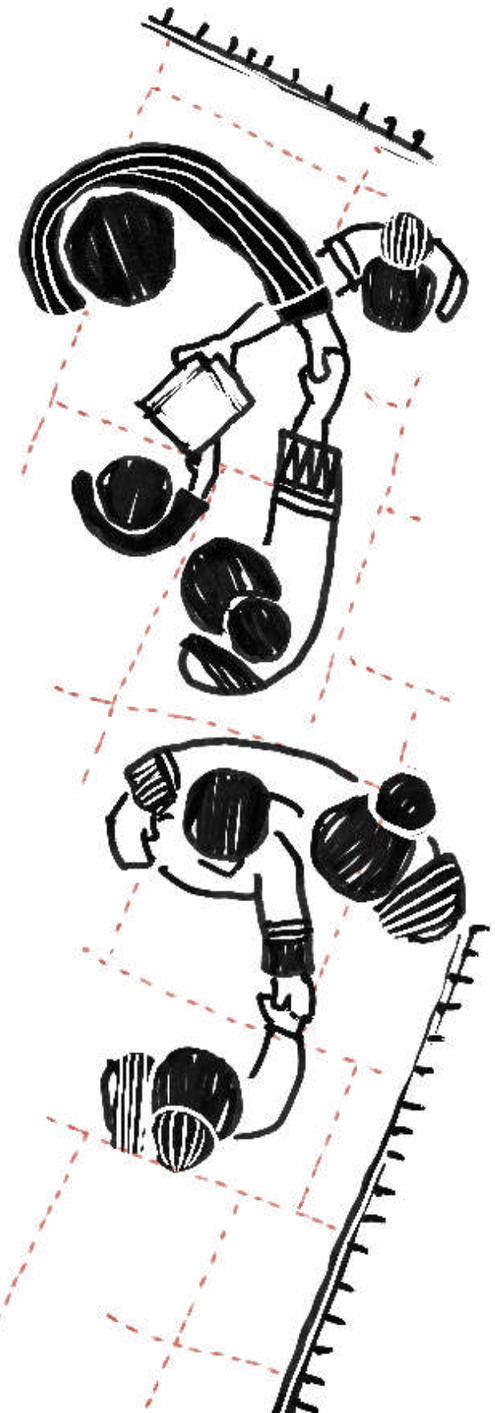
In FY25,
CWE supported 11 projects across 8 states, bringing together NGOs, communities, and local leaders to:

- **Prevent violence**
- **Advance women's rights and entitlements**
- **Using arts-based advocacy and male ally engagement**
- **Offering holistic, context-specific capacity-building**
- **Promote legal access, income generation and leadership**
- **Driving systematic advocacy despite funding and digital inclusion gaps**
- **Key insights from CWE's work include: empowering survivors and young women to co-lead programmes**

When the village's most affected members become its most active leaders, the impact runs deeper and lasts longer. CWE partners are now moving beyond programme delivery to influence public systems, embedding their work within governance structures for lasting change. The path to gender equity may be long but CWE ensures no one walks it alone.

Pay-What-It-Takes (PWIT) India Initiative

Reimagining philanthropy through trust-based, true-cost funding



The Pay-What-It-Takes India Initiative addressed one of the most persistent and damaging dynamics in Indian philanthropy—the chronic underfunding of operational costs that leaves NGOs fighting to survive rather than equipped to grow. Anchored by EdelGive and five other leading funders, in collaboration with The Bridgespan Group, PWIT advocated for long-term, flexible funding that treats NGOs as partners, not just project executors.

Because a village that invests only in the harvest, and never in the farmer, will eventually find itself with neither.

Highlights:

- **Workshops on financial resilience and true-cost computation**
- **Global learning circle**
- **A compendium of funder practices and a directory of 100+ intermediaries**
- **Outreach via 10+ media articles reaching 10 Lakh readers**

Collaborators for Transforming Education

Transforming Maharashtra's education system through systemic reform

Launched in **2016 with a bold mission to support the Government of Maharashtra's Quality Education Programme, the Collaborators for Transforming Education** began by addressing the structural barriers that stand between children and the learning they deserve. What started as a pilot across **4 districts** has grown, through trust, collaboration, and sustained collective commitment, **to reach all 36 districts of Maharashtra.**

The scale of the village CTE has built is reflected in its reach:

Over
2 Crore
children impacted

Around
10 Lakh
teachers supported

Nearly
1 Lakh
schools strengthened

Over
10,000
government functionaries capacitated

Initially supported by funders including Dalyan Foundation, Tata Trusts, Soujanya Colors Pvt. Ltd., Edelweiss Group, SDMC Trust, Credit Suisse, H T Parekh Foundation, Nuvama, Douglas B. Marshall Jr. Foundation, Great Eastern CSR Foundation, the programme has evolved through **three phases of deepening collaboration:**

Phase 1
Pilot (4 districts)

Phase 2
District Transformation Programme
(MoU signed 2022)

Phase 3
State Transformation Programme
(launched July 2023)

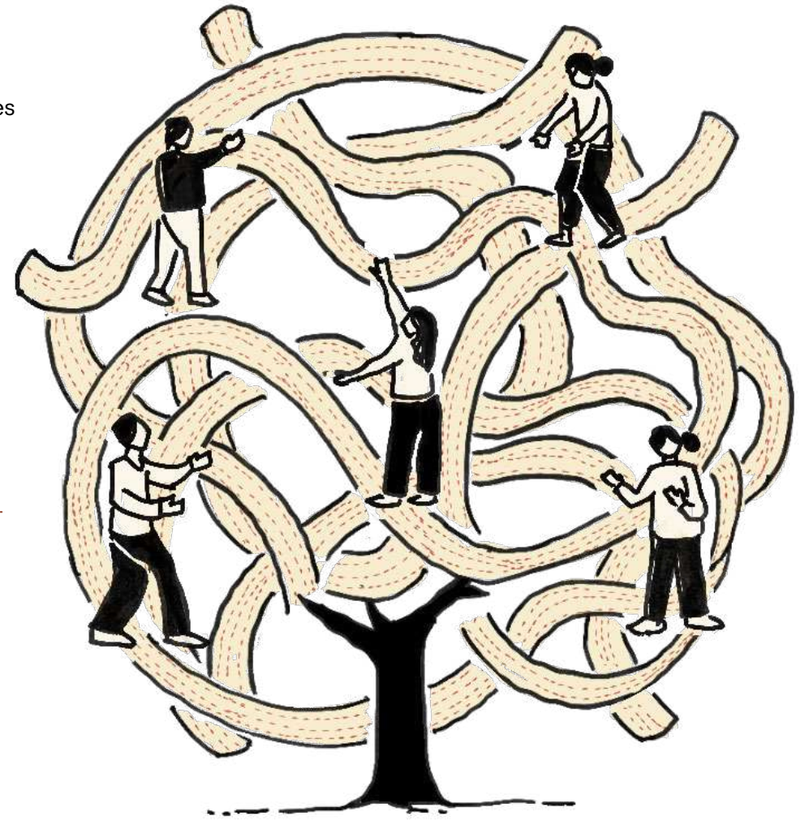
Now fully aligned with **NEP 2020 and NIPUN Bharat, CTE is focused on institutionalising reforms and nurturing strong academic-administrative partnerships,** ensuring that what the coalition built together is owned, sustained, and carried forward by the government itself. As the CTE programme approaches its conclusion in June 2026, an independent impact evaluation is underway to assess long-term changes across learning outcomes, governance systems, community participation, and institutional capacity building.

Our Funders

Our deepest gratitude to the funders and partners whose generosity and trust make this village possible.

A.T.E. Chandra Foundation
Aakash Emprise
Allcargo Logistics
Amee Parikh - Amansa Capital
Apcotex
AQM Technologies Pvt. Ltd
Ashish & Sushmita Kacholia
Ashraya Hastha Trust
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
Bala Deshpande
Barclays
Bikhchandani Family
Borosil Glass Works Ltd
British Asian Trust
British Telecom Group
Burgundy Asset Management
Caring Friends
CDPQ

Chitra Ramaswami
Credit Suisse
Dalyan Foundation
Dasra USA
Donald Lobo
Douglas B. Marshall Jr. Family Foundation



Edelweiss Group
Famy Care Pvt. Ltd (formerly known as Family Care Limited)
Forbes Marshall
Gates Foundation
General Atlantic
Genpact
Govind Iyer
Great Eastern CSR Foundation
Harish and Bina Shah Foundation
Harish Mehta / Onward Group
HDFC Capital
Helenka & Sunil Anand
HSBC
H.T. Parekh Foundation
ICICI Lombard
IDFC FIRST Bank
IIFL
Jagdish Chander Mehta & Family
JP Morgan
Lal Family Foundation
M3M Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Manan Trust
Mekin Maheswari

Nippon India
Nuvama
Oak Foundation
Prashanth Prakash
Rainmatter Foundation
Rakesh Jhunjhunwala
Rashesh and Vidya Shah Family Foundation
Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies
Rothschild (India)
Sanjay Purohit
Sita Devi Malhotra Charitable Trust
Soujanya Color Pvt. Ltd
Sunil Anand through Sanjay Purohit
Tata Trusts
Team Sankalp
Trafigura Global Services Pvt. Ltd
TresVista
UNDP
UnLtd India
Venkat and Aparna Ramaswamy
Venkatesh Kini
Zia Mody

Inside EdelGive

About EdelGive
Investments
GROW+
Partnerships

Media

Media is a lever, not a source. But when pulled in the right direction, it draws more people, more resources, and more collective will toward the change that communities are already leading.

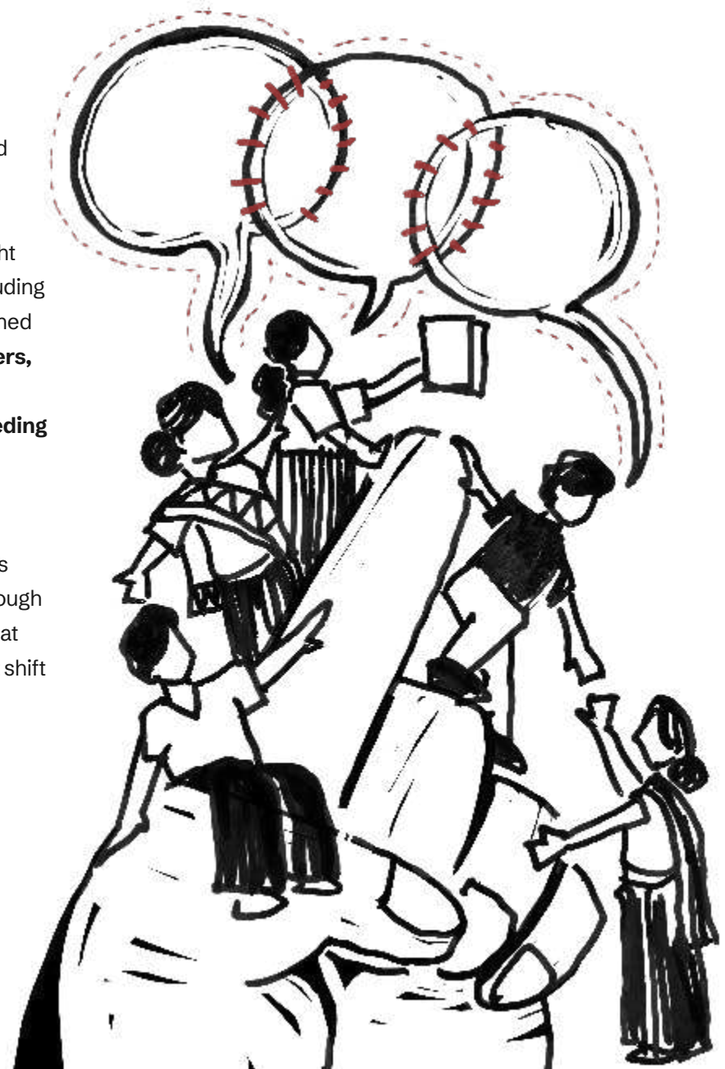
In FY26,
EdelGive deepened its commitment to shaping a robust philanthropic ecosystem by:

- **Sparking Dialogue**
- **Sharing Knowledge**
- **Building public will across platforms, media, and partnerships.**

Through digital platforms, leadership forums, and global media engagement, EdelGive's advocacy connected data to dialogue, research to policy, and people to possibility.

Opinion articles, live panel discussions, and thought pieces were featured across key publications including **Devex** and **Fortune India**, platforms with a combined reach of over **120,000 and 100,000 online followers, 1.3 million unique website visitors, 500,000 newsletter subscribers, and a readership exceeding 300,000.**

Every piece of coverage, every panel, and every published perspective is an extension of EdelGive's belief that the village of change is built not just through programmes and funding, but through the ideas that take hold in people's minds and the narratives that shift what a society believes is possible.



Stree-Leads:

Women in Leadership

Launched in 2023 and repositioned in 2024, **Stree-Leads is EdelGive's flagship initiative** advancing women's leadership in the private sector, particularly in finance, technology, economics, and philanthropy.

Anchored in the findings of a commissioned study (Pathways to Leadership for Women in the Finance and Economic Sectors), Stree-Leads combines **research, mentorship, storytelling, and high-level engagement** to address structural barriers and shape targeted, evidence-led solutions for mid-career women professionals and the senior champions who support them.

This year's key achievements included:

Stree at the Table (SATT) Podcast

Through personal narratives and practical insights, the SATT podcast challenged workplace gender norms one conversation at a time, accumulating **90 Lakh+ YouTube impressions, 3,00,000+ engagements, 1,00,000 hours of watch time,** and strong international listenership across **40+ platforms.**

It was also featured in ***Apple Podcasts' New and Noteworthy,*** a recognition that the conversation it is starting resonates far beyond India's borders.

womenAccelerate:
Actionable Solutions for Women's Advancement

womenAccelerate surfaced the real experiences and practical solutions of working women professionals from India's private sector, drawing over **120 entries from 30+ companies across 6 sectors,** reviewed by a distinguished jury including **Nirupama Rao and Vidya Shah.**

The initiative brought together leading corporates including **Axis Bank, Godrej Capital, and Yes Bank alongside DEI experts to identify actionable insights.** These culminated in a compendium of recommendations, launched at a high-profile event endorsed by Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Former Minister of State for External Affairs, with participation from UN Women, NASSCOM, and key parliamentarians.

The launch generated 75 media features via Businesswire, reaching 47 Lakh+ readers, with coverage across ET HR World, BusinessWorld, and Amar Ujala.

Stree-Leads:
This Year's Highlights

Mentor Onboarding & Engagement:
11 senior industry leaders were onboarded as mentors, providing guidance and credibility across corporate, philanthropic, and entrepreneurial sectors.

Policymaker Engagement:
Active participation from MPs and senior policymakers through op-eds and interviews helped strengthen the platform's visibility and legitimacy.

Thought Leadership & Media Reach:
EdelGive's CEO and campaign ambassadors contributed widely to public discourse through industry stories, authored articles, and event dialogues resulting in a readership reach of over 6 Crore.

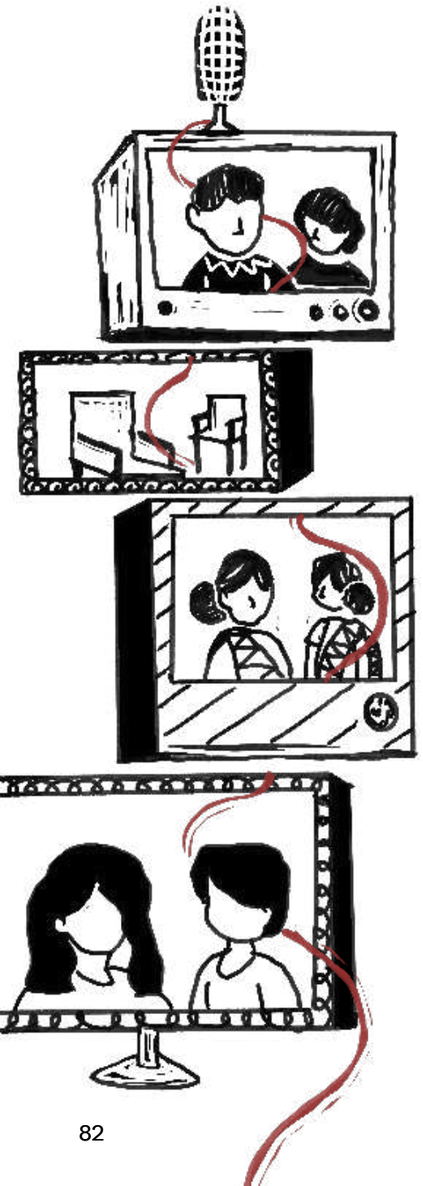
Credible Voices & Collaboration:
High-profile supporters including Vidya Shah, Executive Chairperson, EdelGive Foundation, Sasmit Patra, National Spokesperson of Biju Jananta Dal, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Former Member of the Lok Sabha, and others reinforced the campaign's influence and expanded its reach across sectors.

Through Stree-Leads, EdelGive is advancing a simple but powerful argument: women's leadership is not a diversity metric, it is an economic and societal imperative, and the whole village is stronger for it.

Give It a Go

India's philanthropic ecosystem grows stronger when its most thoughtful givers share not just their resources, but their reasoning.

In September 2025, EdelGive launched Give It a Go with Hurun India, a podcast that does exactly that, opening up dialogue around giving, wealth, and purpose with some of India's most thoughtful and pioneering philanthropists.



The podcast explores the questions that sit at the heart of giving:

- What is one's relationship with wealth, whether inherited, built, or earned?
- How do philanthropic philosophies take shape, and how do they evolve over time?
- What is the moment of realisation that prompts someone to give back?

Guests speak candidly, often alongside spouses, family members, business partners, or key team members, offering a rare and personal window into the motivations and practices that drive some of India's most meaningful giving.

Through these conversations, Give It a Go advances a bigger narrative:

that philanthropy is not the preserve of the few, but a practice that can be taken up earlier, more intentionally, and more collectively — for the benefit of a more equitable India.

So far, the first season of the podcast has featured:

Guest	Episode Theme
Harsh Mariwala	*The Untold Story of Turning Profits into Purpose*
Amit and Archana Chandra	*More You Give, More You Grow*
Ronnie and Zarina Screwvala	*From Building Media to Building Rural India*
Vidya and Rashesh Shah	*Why Meaningful Giving Matters*
Govind Iyer and Amita Chauhan	*Don't Wait Till You're 50 to Be a Philanthropist*
Ajay and Swati Piramal	*How Do We Get 70 Million People Out of Multi-Dimensional Poverty?*
Shaifalika and Subhrakant Panda	*There Is No Single Formula That Works in Philanthropy*
SD Shibulal and Kumari Shibulal	*You Must Give More of Your Mind than Money*
Lord Raj Loomba and Lady Veena Loomba	*The Story Behind International Widows' Day*

With over **1.15 million views on YouTube alone, and nearly 7 million views across YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram,** Give It a Go is finding an audience ready for these conversations.

Because the village of giving grows larger every time someone new hears a story that moves them to act.

Knowledge Leadership:

EdelGive–Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025

In November 2025, **EdelGive and Hurun India unveiled the 12th edition of the Philanthropy List,** an annual portrait of India's most generous individuals, and a strategic lens through which to understand the evolving landscape of giving.

This edition examined thematic preferences in giving, city-wise contributions, and the **emergence of female philanthropists, reflecting not just who is giving, but where, why, and how** the village of Indian philanthropy is diversifying and deepening.

Beyond celebrating generosity, the **report offered a strategic roadmap for directing resources where they are needed most** because, in a country as vast and complex as India, knowing where the gaps are is as important as the will to fill them.

Thought Leadership:

Global Conversations, Local Resonance

This year, EdelGive deepened its international presence and philanthropic leadership through a series of strategic engagements, partnerships, and platform appearances that connected grassroots realities with global discourse.

A landmark moment came when EdelGive became the **first Indian signatory to the International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change**, anchored by the WINGS Global Network and Philanthropy for Europe Association, a commitment that reflects our belief in community-centred, collaborative philanthropy and reimagined grant-making practices.

Our collaborations expanded meaningfully across the global ecosystem:

Social Innovation Exchange (SIX):

enabling cross-geography knowledge exchange among social innovators and practitioners

The Wellbeing Project:

affirming well-being as a strategic pillar for sustainable development across the social sector

International Education Funders Group (IEFG):

advancing inclusive, high-quality education globally

Ashoka Fellows and IIT Delhi:

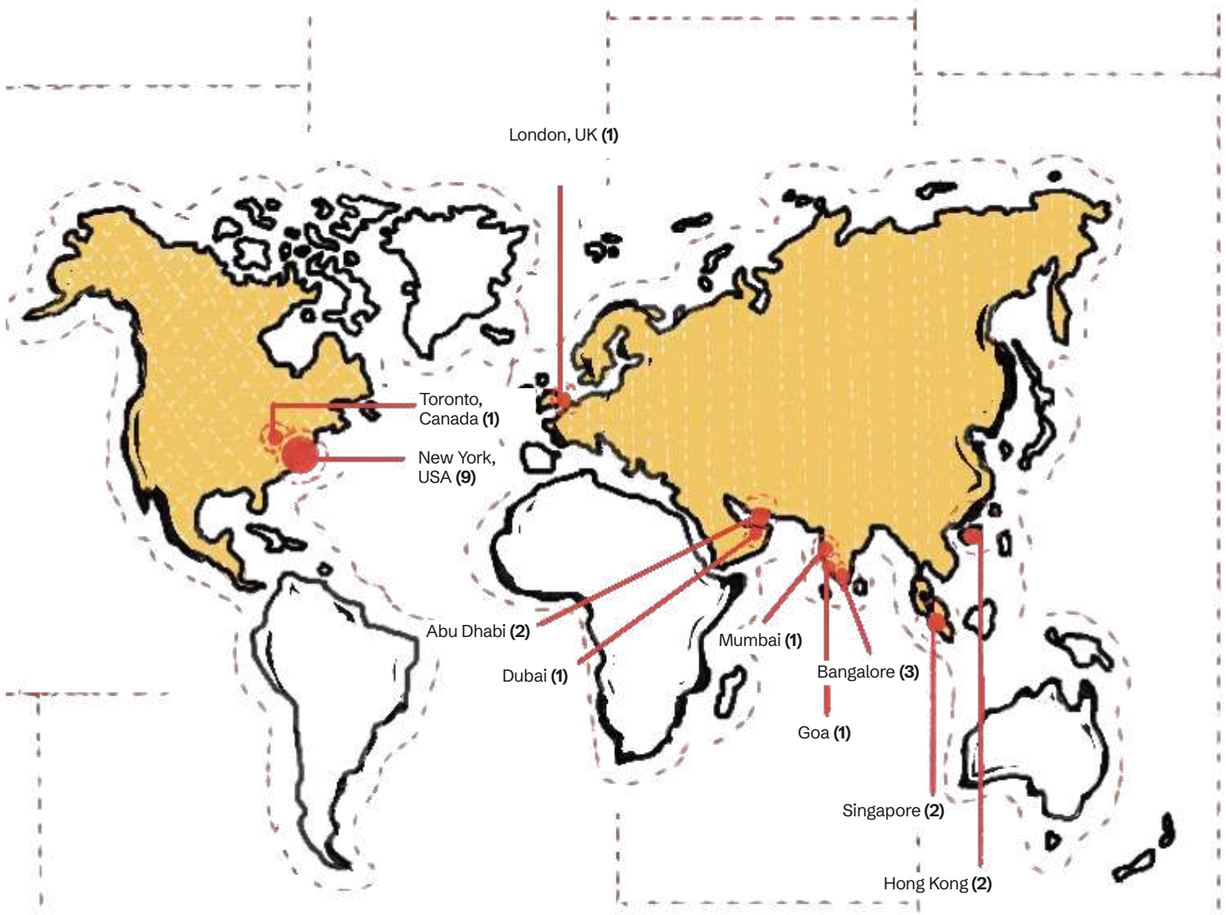
contributing to systemic thinking and ecosystem-wide social innovation

CEO **Naghma Mulla** represented EdelGive across leading global forums including **UNGA, NYC Climate Week, the P150, Global Philanthropic Forum, World Schools Summit, HEARTH Summit, Dubai Future Forum 2025**, and the **Geneva Centre for Philanthropy,** advancing discussions on community- and place-centred philanthropy, sector strengthening, and ecosystem building.

Closer to home, EdelGive continued its active presence at the India Fundraising Conference, Funders' Roundtable Conference, and SVP chapters globally, ensuring that the voices and realities of India's grassroots were part of every room where the future of philanthropy was being shaped.

Because lasting change requires both the village on the ground and a global community willing to listen, learn, and act alongside it.

Where Grassroots Met Global
A Year of Global Presence



Canada
P150 Gathering

USA
P150 Lunch at DAF Giving Summit

IEFG UNGA Breakfast, co-hosted by Segal Family Foundation [In-person]

Dasra - Rockefeller Foundation | Climate Roundtable

CSEP-CEEW-CGEP Roundtable

Launch of the Global Clean Energy Talent Initiative

EdelGive Foundation and The Earthshot Prize

Climate Displacement and Migration Philanthropic Convening during NYCW

Indiaspora-IPA Philanthropy Summit

Invitation from WINGS | Speaker at Online Dialogue Series

Singapore
SIX event and Board meeting in London

UK
Philanthropy Event in London

Abu Dhabi
World Schools Summit

So Good Summit

Dubai
Dubai Future Forum 2025

Mumbai
Climate Workforce Summit

India Climate Gathering

Bangalore
Manotsava: National Mental Health Festival

Hearth Summit Bangalore 2025

The Geneva Centre for Philanthropy

Goa
SVP All India Partner Meet

Employee Wellness:

Building a Culture of Growth and Well-Being

An organisation that believes in the power of community must first build one within its own walls. As EdelGive continues to grow, **we remain as intentional about the culture we are building internally as we are about the impact we pursue externally.** Our decisions are rooted not only in strategy and growth, but in the effect they have on our people because the quality of our work in the world begins with the quality of the environment we create together.

We continue to **build teams** with varied **experiences, perspectives, and expertise,** recognising that diversity strengthens both our workplace and the depth of our work. What brings our people together is not a job description, but a shared sense of purpose and a collective commitment to creating meaningful change alongside the communities we serve.

Much of this was made possible by our **Culture Crew — a group of team members drawn from across functions who take it upon themselves to create spaces for belonging alongside the demands of day-to-day work.** From launching last year's annual report through a team painting session to small, meaningful celebrations throughout the year, these moments reminded us that culture is not built in grand gestures, but in the quiet, consistent effort to show up for one another. Our **Learning Lab** continued to anchor organisational learning, with cross-functional teams identifying shared learning needs and curating opportunities for both professional and personal growth.

Together, these efforts have helped deepen a culture of shared ownership, curiosity, and participation — one that grows stronger with every person who contributes to it.

We worked toward creating an environment where people feel valued, seen, and able to do their best work together.

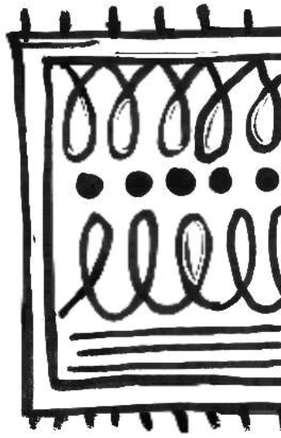
Well-Being

Recognition

Genuine Connection

Over the year, we invested in building a culture that is supportive, collaborative, and grounded in continuous learning.

Key Initiatives

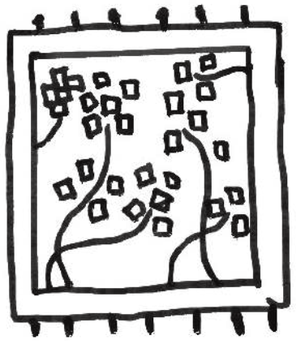


EdelGive Family Day

This year, our Culture Crew organised a Family Day, an open invitation for employees to bring the people they go home to into the world they come to every day. The initiative created space for families to connect with the organisation, its culture, and the work our teams pour themselves into. Through shared activities and informal conversations, the day strengthened a sense of belonging and collective pride — a reminder that the people behind the work matter just as much as the work itself.

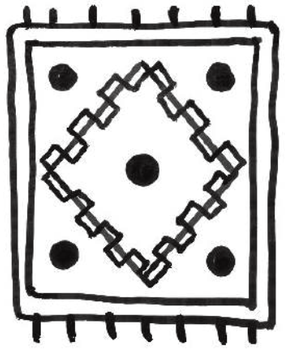
Rewards & Recognition Programme FY 2025-26

Now in its second year, our annual Rewards & Recognition programme celebrated the individuals and teams who exemplified collaboration, innovation, excellence, and alignment with EdelGive's values. More than a formal exercise, the programme is a moment for the organisation to pause and acknowledge that meaningful work is built on the contributions of real people and that those contributions deserve to be seen and celebrated. The initiative continued to strengthen a culture of appreciation and shared success across teams and functions.



EdelGive Offsite, Munnar

This year's annual offsite took us to Munnar and marked something of a first for EdelGive: a retreat with no agenda. Deliberately designed as an informal space away from the rhythm of daily work, the offsite created room for candid conversations, cross-functional bonding, and the kind of shared experiences that no meeting agenda can manufacture. Relationships were deepened, perspectives were exchanged, and teams returned with something that is hard to put in a report but easy to feel: a stronger sense of who we are to each other, and why that matters.

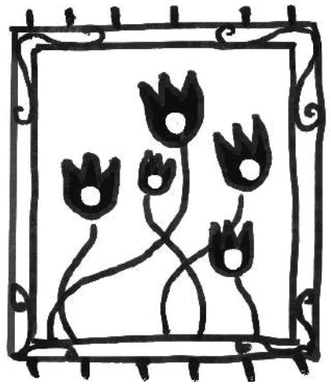


Learning Initiatives

Building a culture of continuous learning remained a central focus this year. Through the Learning Lab, teams participated in experiences designed to encourage reflection, collaboration, and honest knowledge-sharing.

A highlight of the year was a **Musical Morning** with Manzil Mystics, where music and storytelling became an unexpected but powerful lens for exploring themes of community, lived experience, and social change. The session created rare space for empathy and connection, a reminder that the best learning often happens when we lower our guard.

Other initiatives, including **Fail Trail**, peer shout-outs, and learning-sharing sessions during Quarterly Team Huddles encouraged open conversations, collective reflection, and the celebration of milestones big and small. Each one contributed to a culture where trust is the foundation, and growth is something we pursue together.



Leadership and Team

Board of Directors

Ranu Vohra
Co-founder & Exec. Vice Chairman, Avendus Group

Paula Mariwala
Founding Partner, Aureolis Ventures

Vidya Shah
Executive Chairperson, EdelGive Foundation

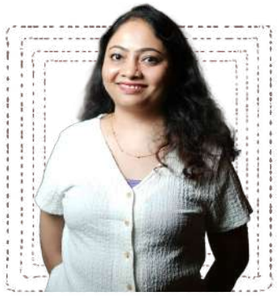
Kunal Shroff
Managing Partner, Chrys Capital

Rati Forbes
Director, Forbes Marshall Group

Naghma Mulla
CEO, EdelGive Foundation

HR and Admin

Heena Chougle
CHRO



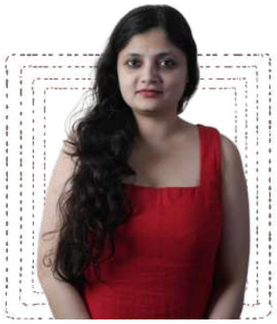
Aasiya Khan
Assistant Lead – Human Resources

CEO's Office

Rohit Kumar
Coordinator- Strategy and Operations

Parul Shama
Secretary and Admin Support

Communications



Piyasree Dasgupta
CCO

Nayantara Dutta
Lead, Communication

Zynah Intikhab Chougle
Intern

Finance & Compliance

Deepa Shivanand Walawalkar
CFO

Sagar Bhoir
Jr. Lead - Finance & Compliance

Prashant Malkar
Lead - Finance & Compliance

Pooja Bhatt
Co-Lead - Finance & Compliance

Sayali Nimkar
Jr. Lead - Finance & Compliance

Donor Reporting

Shruti Ahuja
Senior Lead, Donor Reporting

Mansi Gaur
Assistant Lead - Donor Reporting

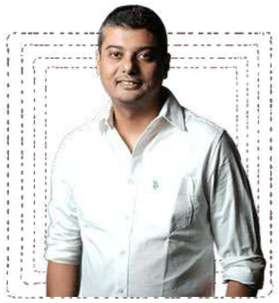
GROW+

Sukhreet Bajwa
Head - GROW+

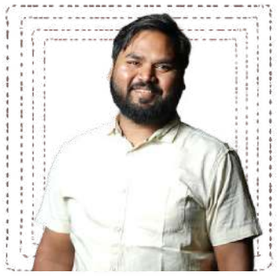
Shruthilayaa Sasidharan
Lead - Process & Operations

Shalmali Takane
Assistant Lead - GROW+

Partnerships



Rajat Khurana
CBO



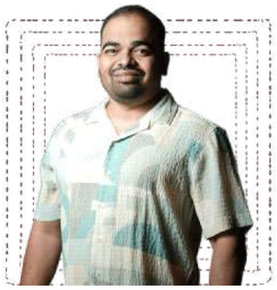
Kunwar Bipin Chandra
Lead - Servicing

Mohd Arif Maimurtuza Pathan
Lead - Servicing

Nafisa Lokhandwala
Lead - Servicing

Sandbox

Sanjana Suresh
Lead - Gender



Chetan Bhimesh Somkuwar
Lead - Education

Saba Wajid Ali Siddique
Assistant Lead - Gender

Process Excellence

Sagar Chavan
Assistant Lead - Process Excellence Unit

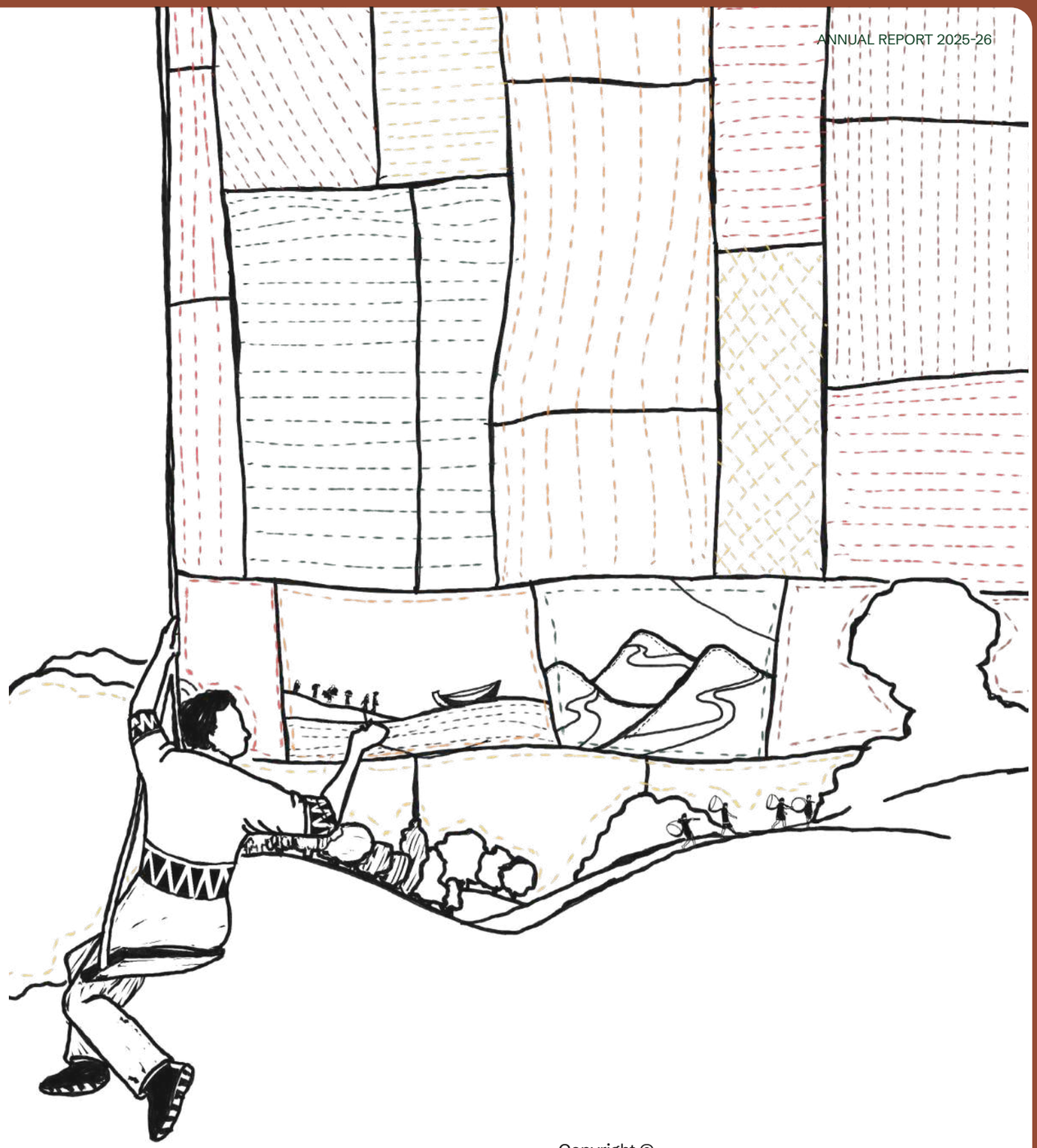
MEL

Renuka J Wagh
Head - Impact & Learning

Sagar Ashok Kadam
Lead - Impact & Learning

Ruchika Chaudhary
Assistant Lead - Impact & Learning

Amit Shashikant Nalawade
Assistant Lead - Impact & Learning



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