

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



PLAN Foundation

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From the Executive Director

It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report of PLAN Foundation for the year 2024–25. This has been a year of meaningful progress and renewed commitment to our mission of empowering communities and fostering a more inclusive, equitable society.

Among our key initiatives, the Targeted Intervention Project (TIP) for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) in Jalandhar, supported by the Punjab State AIDS Control Society, continued to make a critical impact. Building on our prior work with migrant populations, this intervention now reaches over 600 individuals with vital harm reduction and rehabilitation services.

Through Project Pahal, our flagship community-based program, we expanded our efforts in livelihood development, health awareness, and social inclusion across underserved regions. Our International Language Program also grew in reach, equipping rural youth with global communication skills and enhancing their employability.

In alignment with our commitment to social responsibility, we undertook a CSR initiative in Pekhubela Panchayat, Una (HP), under the support of Prozeal Green Energy Ltd.

Additionally, we completed the construction of a Community building in Kullu, directly contributing to improved rural infrastructure in a remote area.

As we reflect on the year's milestones, I extend my deepest appreciation to our dedicated team, partners, volunteers, and supporters. Your unwavering belief in our vision has been the driving force behind every step forward.

Together, let us continue to build brighter futures and lasting change for communities across the country.

Warm regards,

Tarun Raj Gupta

Chairman, PLAN Foundation

Backdrop and Genesis of PLAN Foundation

PLAN Foundation was established by a group of individuals deeply committed to uplifting underprivileged communities and addressing the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals and society. Their shared vision of empowering marginalized populations led to the creation of this non-profit, non-religious, and non-sectarian voluntary organization, registered at the state level and actively linked with grassroots organizations and community health programs across Himachal Pradesh.

The foundation plays a crucial role in community health and development, supporting grassroots organizations in planning, implementing, and evaluating their programs. By serving as a liaison between local non-profits, the state and national governments, and international agencies, PLAN Foundation ensures that community-based initiatives receive the necessary support and resources. The organization is firmly committed to promoting social justice in the equitable distribution of healthcare services throughout Himachal Pradesh.

Vision and Key Objectives

PLAN Foundation's core mission is to improve the lives of underprivileged individuals, particularly women and children residing in rural and tribal Himalayan regions. Over the years, the organization has focused on holistic healthcare services, human resource development, youth engagement, and community mobilization. It also envisions creating safe spaces for destitute and orphaned children, providing them with protection and care.

To achieve its objectives, PLAN Foundation engages in:

- **Advocacy and Policy Research** - Driving social change through campaigns, policy research, and media engagement.
- **Capacity Building & Training** - Conducting need-based training programs for community development.
- **Health Education & Awareness** - Producing and distributing innovative health education materials.
- **Resource Mobilization & Networking** - Collaborating with national and international partners to secure funding and technical support.
- **Environmental and Occupational Health** - Promoting sustainable agriculture, traditional medicine (AYUSH), and assessing the risks of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides in farming practices.

Through its multifaceted approach, PLAN Foundation continues to empower communities, advocate for sustainable development, and improve healthcare access for those in need.

Major Interventions

1. The "Pahal" Program

Pahal Project - A Comprehensive School Support Initiative (2024-25)

The "Pahal" project, implemented by PLAN Foundation, is a significant educational support initiative aimed at enhancing the learning environment in government schools. In the 2024-25 cycle, the project successfully covered six schools in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, across two phases.

Phase 1 (7th to 16th May 2024)

During the first phase, the project reached two schools within the Kullu-2 education block:

GPS Chanmundanagar and GPS Devdhar. Total 65 young learners from nursery to class 5 were provided with personalized school kits, including essential learning tools like crayons, pencils, sharpeners, and coloured pencils. Additionally, sanitation kits comprising hand



sanitizers, toothbrushes, soaps, and hand towels along with Shoes & Socks, under garments, Blankets were distributed to promote hygiene to all students. Infrastructure improvements were also undertaken, including the installation of floor tiles in the school kitchen, and many articles were provided to the both schools to create a welcoming learning atmosphere.

Phase 2 (10th to 18th June 2024)

The second phase extended the reach of the initiative to four additional schools: Govt Center Primary School (GCPS) Dugilag, GCPS Bhutti, GCPS Bashing, and GCPS Bandrole, all part of Block Kullu. These efforts focused on creating a supportive and engaging educational environment, ensuring students receive the necessary resources for holistic development. School kits, hygiene kits, shoes, and tracksuits were distributed to a total of 199 students across all four schools.



The **Pahal Project** is a community initiative that emphasizes cultural sensitivity and local integration for international volunteers. To ensure a respectful and immersive experience, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are specifically designed to prevent unintentional cultural influence. As part of this approach, all female volunteers are encouraged to wear traditional Indian **salwar kameez** while working in schools, promoting cultural harmony and fostering mutual respect.

Overall, the Pahal project stands as a testament to PLAN Foundation's commitment to fostering quality education and creating nurturing school environments for young learners in remote regions.

2. International Language Program (ILP)

The International Language Program (ILP), a collaborative initiative by ILP USA and PLAN Foundation, continues to be implemented at Government Primary School Sultanpur and GPS Akhara Bazar in District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, in consultation with the Elementary Education Department of Himachal Pradesh.

The program aims to enhance English language proficiency among students through trained volunteers and teachers deputed by ILP USA. These professionals conduct regular English language classes, emphasizing both spoken and written skills through interactive and participatory teaching methodologies.

Entering its third year in 2024-25, the program has expanded to include two additional schools—GCPS Shamshi and GPS Tegubehar, both situated in Block Kullu, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. This continued growth reflects the increasing impact and reach of the initiative, benefiting a larger number of students across the district.

With plans to continue through 2026, the program holds significant potential for further extension based on periodic progress assessments. Early evaluations have demonstrated substantial improvements in students' spoken English skills, along with increased confidence in communication.

The initiative is expected to have a long-term positive impact on students' language abilities, better preparing them for future educational and professional opportunities.

There is no financial involvement in this initiative. The role of PLAN Foundation remains limited to coordinating efforts between ILP and government schools.



3. Targeted Intervention Project (IDU) - Jalandhar, Punjab

The Targeted Intervention Project (TIP) for HIV/AIDS, implemented by PLAN Foundation in Jalandhar, Punjab, with financial support from the Punjab State AIDS Control Society (PSACS), continues into the 2024-25 program year with a sharpened focus on Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) - a population at heightened risk for HIV transmission.

Building on the progress made in the previous year, new 82 registration were done. The primary aim is to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS within this high-risk group through a combination of prevention, education, and care-based interventions.

Counselling services continue to be a cornerstone of this intervention. PLAN Foundation's team of trained counsellors provides confidential, non-judgmental support, assisting IDUs in navigating the complex psychosocial challenges associated with drug use and HIV risk. Total 1000+ session were organised includes emotional assistance, behaviour change communication. 25 patients were identified HIV+ and all were linked to ART for further treatment and care.



As the project adapts to the evolving priorities of PSACS and strengthens its focus on the IDU community, it aims to further enhance resilience and responsiveness in tackling HIV/AIDS. The ongoing efforts of PLAN Foundation are helping to reduce the prevalence of the disease while promoting safer practices, health-seeking behaviors, and community empowerment among injecting drug users in Jalandhar.



4. Urban Sector Reform: Property Tax Modernization in Sundernagar and Rohru

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainable urban development and good governance, PLAN Foundation continues to support property tax reforms in the Municipal Councils of Sundernagar (District Mandi) and Rohru (District Shimla) in the 2024-25 project year.

Entering a critical phase, the initiative remains focused on enhancing **transparency, efficiency, and equity** in property tax assessment and collection—key components for strengthening the financial foundation of urban local bodies.

In Sundernagar, PLAN Foundation is providing advanced property tax software services to improve accuracy and efficiency in tax assessment and billing processes. In Rohru, the Foundation continues to support both software solutions and tax collection services, aiming to streamline municipal revenue systems and improve overall fiscal health.

The project this year emphasizes **technical assistance, regular performance monitoring, and capacity-building** for municipal staff, ensuring long-term sustainability and effectiveness in local revenue generation.

5. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Studies by PLAN Foundation - 2024-25

In 2024-25, PLAN Foundation undertook critical Social Impact Assessment (SIA) studies to support sustainable infrastructure development in Himachal Pradesh. This included the SIA for the proposed land acquisition for the widening of MDR 66 and MDR 67 in Shimla city, aimed at improving road connectivity and easing traffic congestion in the region. Additionally, the Foundation conducted an SIA study for the land proposed for the development of a Tourist Complex at Seri, Nadaun, in District Hamirpur, HP. These assessments evaluated the potential social and economic impacts on the affected communities, ensuring that the projects are planned with a strong focus on minimizing adverse effects while maximizing long-term community benefits. Both studies involved comprehensive stakeholder consultations, data-driven analysis, and the formulation of mitigation strategies, reflecting PLAN Foundation's commitment to socially responsible development.

6. Skill Development

The **Skill Lab Rohru**, located in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, was established to empower rural youth by enhancing their employability and technical capabilities. It offers essential skill development courses, including **Basic Computer Training** and **Shorthand/Stenography**, aimed at providing students with practical, job-oriented skills. This initiative seeks to bridge the digital divide, promote self-reliance, and create sustainable livelihoods by equipping the youth of Rohru with competencies that match the evolving demands of the job market.

7. Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies

PLAN Foundation has been awarded the **Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** studies for 11 solar power projects by **HIMURJA, Himachal Pradesh**. These assessments are critical for ensuring that each project aligns with environmental sustainability and social well-being while supporting the state's renewable energy goals. The studies will comprehensively evaluate the potential environmental impacts, including biodiversity conservation, water resource management, air and soil quality, and waste management. Additionally, they will assess the social implications, such as the effect on local communities, livelihood opportunities, and health and safety standards, ensuring that the projects contribute positively to the region's socioeconomic landscape.

Scheduled for completion by **June 2025**, the ESIA studies will guide project developers in minimizing adverse impacts and enhancing the benefits of solar energy deployment. The findings will form the basis for implementing mitigation measures, stakeholder consultations, and compliance with environmental regulations, ensuring a balanced approach to sustainable development. PLAN Foundation's experience in impact assessments and community engagement positions it well to deliver comprehensive, data-driven reports that support the long-term viability and acceptance of these clean energy projects.

8. Community Development under CSR

The CSR project implemented by PLAN Foundation in collaboration with Prozeal Green Energy aims to enhance the quality of life in Pekhubela Panchayat, Una, as part of the community development initiatives linked to the 32MWp HPPCL Solar Project in the region. Under this project, 35 solar street lights



especially during nighttime, promoting a cleaner and more secure environment. Additionally, 56 community dustbins have been strategically placed to encourage proper waste management and reduce environmental pollution, supporting the broader goal of a cleaner and more sustainable village.

To complement these physical interventions, PLAN Foundation also organized awareness camps and capacity-building workshops to engage and educate the local community about waste management, energy conservation, and sustainable living practices.



IMPACT STORIES

In the year 2024-25, PLAN Foundation continued its commitment to grassroots development by actively promoting the traditional Indian practice of *Shramdaan* voluntary physical labour contributed by individuals for community welfare. Recognizing the transformative potential of this deeply rooted cultural value, we focused our efforts on reviving and institutionalizing Shramdaan as a cornerstone for rural development.

Following the successful completion of a Government Primary School building in Pulag Kullu in 2023-24 through community-led efforts, we took up another significant initiative in Village Bagan, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. The project involved the construction of a much-needed Community Hall to serve as a central space for gatherings,



events, and social development activities. The construction was made possible through the generous support of a local donor and the voluntary labor contributed by villagers and international volunteers, including tourists who were inspired by the spirit of giving back.

The completion and handover of the Community Hall to the local community marks a proud milestone for the Foundation. The collective contribution—both in the form of donations and labor—showcases the power of unity and the enduring relevance of Shramdaan in contemporary development models.

In Indian traditions, offering one's effort for the betterment of society is seen not only as a civic duty but also as a sacred act that strengthens the moral fabric of the nation.

PLAN Foundation firmly believes that such people-led initiatives not only bridge infrastructure gaps but also strengthen community bonds and ownership. We are promoting *Shramdaan* culture among students which holds deep significance in Indian culture, symbolizing dignity of work and collective responsibility. Rooted in the Indian philosophy of selfless service, it fosters community participation, social harmony, and a spirit of unity. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to reviving Shramdaan as a sustainable and inclusive approach for building resilient rural infrastructure.

As we close the year 2024-25, we take pride in the significant progress achieved in our mission to empower women, advance reproductive and child health (RCH), and tackle pressing gender equality challenges. Through a diverse range of capacity-building initiatives—including workshops, training programs, and awareness camps conducted both online and in person—we have connected with communities across various regions. These efforts have not only strengthened individual skills but also fostered greater awareness of rights and opportunities, paving the way for long-term, sustainable development. Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to broadening our impact, nurturing collaborative partnerships, and evolving our strategies to ensure that every woman is equipped with the tools and support needed to thrive.

“We are collaborative and seek to work with partners and stakeholders to identify problems and develop solutions. We have an extensive network of research sites, institutional partners and work with other NGOs and environmental organizations. We are an organization that is proposing change. We are innovative. We believe in the objectivity of the scientific method and are rigorous in its application, but we also have a view of the state as we would like to see it”