

<u>FUNDACIÓN ASHA-KIRAN</u>	
SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT - “Yashodhara Shelter Home 2015-2016”	
NAME OF THE PROJECT	YASHODHARA “Shelter Home for vulnerable children in Pune”
LOCATION	COUNTRY: India STATE: Maharashtra CITY: Bhambarde, Pune District.
CONTEXT	<p>India will be the most populated country in the world, finally surpassing China with around 1,400 million people. Although in recent years it has experienced impressive economic growth, such growth has not reached all social strata of the country yet, where there are still huge pockets of poverty and the vast majority of the population still faces many barriers to access basic rights such as health care and education.</p> <p>In this context, the child population is one of the most vulnerable groups, a fact that is compounded in a country with nearly 400 million children under 15 years -31% of its population- where millions of rural children belonging to the lower castes or orphaned and abandoned, and whose basic needs for health care, food and education are not met.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>In 2006, Asha-Kiran started working for vulnerable children by launching two Day Care Centers in two separate locations in the city of Pune.</p> <p>Over time, by working with these children and their families through both Centers -which provided non-formal education, medical care, day care and nutritional recovery- we detected the existence of a particularly vulnerable group within the community, which required additional care and protection to those offered at the Day Care Centers. It was for these children, who lived in neglectful family settings (due to illness, disability, extreme poverty, etc.) and showed symptoms (obvious or latent) of physical or emotional abuse, that we created the Yashodhara project. At present, both projects are integrated into a comprehensive program of Holistic Development for Vulnerable Children in Pune, which acts as a beacon for the work of the Foundation.</p> <p>Yashodhara Shelter was created with the specific aim of minimizing the vulnerability of children in Pune, and thereby improving their development opportunities.</p> <p>After 4 years working in a rented building, in early 2012, there was a change in the laws regulating the existence and operation of Shelter Homes. Unable to meet the new</p>

	<p>requirements and feeling the urgency not to leave the 30 children who we cared for at our Home unattended, Fundación Asha-Kiran and its team of local professionals in India, Asha-Kiran Shelters Foundation, initiated a process to seek alliances with other organizations that could offset the legal shortcomings of the project. Finally, the situation was resolved by signing of a Cooperation Agreement with SAMPARC, an organization with over 20 years' experience working with vulnerable children in India.</p> <p>Signing this agreement involved bringing the children to a Shelter Home in a rural area a few hours from the city of Pune.</p>
<p>PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Aside from guaranteeing respect to the basic rights of the vulnerable children who were part of the initial project, the project aims to ensure education is given to poor children who live in rural villages within the Bhambarde area. That is the reason our activities are subject to the school calendar which begins on July 1.</p>
<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE</p>	<p><i>To improve the quality of life of the approximately 150 children who live at Yashodhara Home.</i></p>
<p>EXPECTED RESULTS</p>	<p>R.1. The academic skills of children living in the Home are acquired and reinforced.</p> <p>R.2. The health conditions and nutrition of children living in the Home are improved.</p> <p>R.3. The social skills of children living in the home are increased.</p> <p>R.4 The participation of families involved in the project are enhanced with respect to the protection and development of their children.</p>
<p>METHODOLOGY AND FORESEEN ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>This project's main purpose is to reduce the degree of vulnerability and thereby improve development opportunities of children who live in extremely vulnerable conditions in the state of Maharashtra (India).</p> <p>To this end, we work to empower (individually and collectively) and re-educate (physically and emotionally) orphans, marginalized or abused children or children in situations of extreme poverty, who have spent much of their life on the streets of the slums in the city of Pune, neglected and ignored, in order to reinsert them into family and social environments with reinforced care and protection mechanisms, which may be conducive to the respect of their basic rights.</p>

In the process of integration with the local organization of SAMPARC, this purpose also applies to children who live with their families in rural isolated villages of the area and whose earnings, mainly from farming activities, do not cover their most basic needs, depriving them of proper care and making them start working at an early age.

Unlike traditional shelters which limit their work to the provision of education, health and nutrition to the children under their care, **this project aims to target both girls and boys** through empowerment and the aforementioned re-education, **as well as their family contexts**, by strengthening child protection mechanisms. That is, the project integrates the "family factor" as a mechanism to reinforce the protection and care of children, and works at the same time as a Temporary Shelter, and a Counseling and Family Support Center or Parents' School.

1. Individual y collective empowerment

The aim of achieving individual and collective empowerment of children sets off from providing **schooling and academic support** to ensure the children's attendance to class.

In addition, in order to achieve the integral development of children, we hold **special sessions on the Rights of the Child and social skills development for a more thorough understanding of the same**. Similarly, and taking into account the increase in the number of beneficiaries in the 16 to 18-year range, we conduct **job training workshops**, placing special focus on the training of girls.

The implementation of **free time and leisure activities** also favors the social development of children, promoting their relationship with other children, their families and their community.

2. Physical and emotional re-education

The physical and emotional re-education of children in our care is achieved **by providing specially designed diets** to correct the nutritional deficiencies of each of the children individually (risk or occurrence of anemia, dehydration, lack of specific vitamins, etc.) and through **periodic checkups and medical treatments** that may counteract the typical problems of life on the streets in the short term (skin problems, tetanus, intestinal infections, etc.) and reduce the incidence of preventable diseases (diarrhea, headache, rashes, etc.) in the medium term.

3. Family integration and protection

As part of the Counseling and Family Support component - or Parents' School- we work closely with the families of the children to enable an organic transformation of the family nucleus, with a view to integrate children back into their

	<p>families. Apart from the mentioned monitoring, parents' meetings are held to give talks and training in matters related to the care and protection of children, family economy, the development of children, etc., thereby facilitating the engagement and development of the family setting.</p>
<p>BENEFICIARIES</p>	<p>The project will benefit 150 children directly, aged 6 to 18 years, and 100 parents (through Parents' School).</p> <p>Since currently, the project has no specific staff or adequate facilities for early childhood care, the direct beneficiaries are children from 6 to 18 who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have never attended school, have dropped out permanently after a few years' attendance and/or, even if enrolled, attend classes irregularly. • Have critical health records in terms of weight and height for age, anemia, dehydration, skin diseases (fungal infections, scabies, etc.) and intestinal infections (from drinking contaminated water, improper food handling, etc.). • show signs of physical abuse (bruising, bone fractures, internal injuries and/or signs of sexual abuse). • show signs of physical neglect (do not receive adequate food and are hungry, are not dressed properly, have very poor personal hygiene, spend long periods of time without adult supervision and/or show medical conditions that have not been addressed). • have been victims of emotional abuse (verbal or nonverbal acts of rejection or ridicule and degradation, threats and/or social isolation). • lack adults committed to their care and protection (due to neglect), or the responsible adults cannot ensure their welfare due to extreme poverty and/or disease (mainly AIDS and mental disorders). <p>The fathers, mothers and relatives who benefit from Parents' School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents who are unemployed or engaged in high-risk, low-pay temporary jobs (extreme poverty). • Single mothers under the same conditions. • In all cases, their ages range between 18 and 45 (although the project does not limit access of the beneficiaries based on their age).
<p>BUDGET</p>	<p>€13.603 (Please request breakdown to the Foundation)</p>