

Social

Resolving challenges, embracing diversity

CMS is geographically connected with nearly every corner of India. Our company firmly believes that any organization’s long-term growth is intertwined with the progress of the communities it operates in.

Our people are drawn from local communities where we are present, and we are keen to get involved with the diverse populations that we connect and serve.



From India’s smallest towns to its biggest cities, CMS Info Systems embraces the vastness and diversity that is India and is witness to the many developmental hurdles that our people face. We have thus been working in a concerted manner, with annual focus areas earmarked, and relevant NGOs aligned for carrying out the social interventions that we wish to enable.



Here we present a brief overview of the work that is underway. In FY22 our NGO partners and corresponding focus areas were:

<p>Goonj-NEEV Takes a holistic approach and seeks to create all-round change involving education, agriculture, environment, water and health</p>	<p>Manuvikasa Rejuvenation of water bodies and water harvesting</p>	<p>Basic Healthcare Services Provision of primary healthcare for poor and tribal communities</p>
<p>Project Chirag Solar power and water independence</p>	<p>The Hans Foundation Provision of healthcare to remote parts of the country</p>	<p>LeapForWord Education and English literacy</p>
		<p>Bharatiya Gramin Vidyalaya Virtual school for rural children</p>

We have identified identified our areas of involvement as:

Livelihood & environment

Elderly and aged

Education

Healthcare initiatives

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CMS, with the help of Goonj, has systematically intervened to deepen ponds and repair wells so that water storage could be done.

Choked water bodies and drains have been cleaned to facilitate easy collection and flow of water. Roads, bridges, schools and community spaces are also being repaired to improve accessibility and encourage use.

GOONJ

CMS has partnered with Goonj to work in the Bangriposi and Sarasakana villages of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. This area is tribal-dominated, with majority of the population belonging to the Santhal tribe. Their primary source of livelihood is paddy farming, which is rainwater dependent. Better water management would provide greater security to livelihoods but is a challenging task due to the difficult hilly terrain. Uncertainty of income forces many to migrate.

In these two villages, Goonj has engaged with the village community to create impact in a number of ways. It has helped enlist community participation in the development work, and by doing so has been able

to motivate the villagers to participate in the changes that they want to see in their villages. This has been in the form of reviving irrigation and village infrastructure and creating awareness around menstrual health and hygiene. To enable better water availability, the villagers have deepened ponds and repaired wells so that water can be stored more efficiently; drains and water bodies have been de-clogged to enable easy water flow. Village roads have also been widened and tarred, and schools and community spaces that were in broken down condition, have been repaired.

Involving backward tribal women in conversations around menstrual health is a herculean task, given the many social and

behavioural barriers. However, these have been successfully breached, leading to greater awareness about menstrual hygiene and their adoption of reusable cloth sanitary napkins. This cycle of environmentally-friendly, people-led change has all been achieved by reusing urban surplus as a resource. Urban surplus has been used to incentivize the rural people through 'work in exchange for material' programs, while simultaneously saving the urban waste from ending up in landfills.



MANUVIKASA

Manuvikasa works primarily in the Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Dharwad and Shivamogga districts of Karnataka. CMS has partnered with them to rejuvenate eight lakes in that region. These lakes have been deepened and cleaned, consequently increasing their water holding capacity and enabling better groundwater recharge in the future. The excavated silt is transported to the fields in the village and used as manure which increases soil fertility. Overall, a virtuous cycle is set into motion as prospects of animal husbandry and horticulture also improve as an ancillary impact.

As a result of the deepening and desiltation of the lakes:

- 316 families and 1575 acres of agricultural land have been directly benefited
- An additional 52 million litres of water has been harvested, bringing the total amount of water storage to 80 million litres
- Improved groundwater recharge and groundwater availability
- Second and third crop harvesting now possible due to year-long water supply, enhancing food security and livelihoods
- Additional 270 families in 8 villages have been able to improve their livelihood prospects from animal

husbandry and fishing due to improved water availability

- Additional 50-70% of land is now being irrigated due to availability of silt for manure and year-round water availability.
- Improvement in quantity and quality of drinking water, leading to better health
- Increased tree cover

Manuvikasa involves the community in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the program. Cost is shared with the beneficiaries to ensure a sense of commitment and responsibility.

Approximately 40% of all project costs are borne by the community, while CSR grants fund the rest.

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THE HANS FOUNDATION

Access to healthcare and equitable distribution of health services is a basic human need. CMS, along with The Hans Foundation, has deployed a medical mobile unit (MMU) in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand, which is identified as having poor socio-economic indicators. The purpose is to improve access of good-quality healthcare to the poor people living in this area. The mobile medical unit is equipped to provide OPD services, including pathology and medication.

The MMU holds fortnightly OPDs at identified villages and registers and tracks the progress of patients who visit. The more

serious cases are referred by the MMU to the first referral service center which maybe a Primary Healthcare Centre.

Regular health education sessions are also held and they help to raise awareness about issues pertaining to health and sanitation, thereby reducing the incidence of preventable diseases. Further, village health workers are also trained in MMU services and they then make home visits for those patients who are unable to reach the MMU. They also help sensitize the villagers on good health practices, and gradually create long-term behavioral change.

CMS, along with The Hans Foundation, has deployed a medical mobile unit in Ranchi, Jharkhand. It is equipped to provide OPD services, pathology and medication and visits to at least two villages everyday.



BASIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES TRUST

CMS has partnered with Basic Healthcare Services Trust to provide uninterrupted, affordable healthcare in the form of regular clinics to tribal and migration-prone communities in southern Rajasthan.

Primary healthcare workers and community volunteers are trained in the field. The rural and tribal communities who are the beneficiaries cannot afford primary healthcare and are provided with good quality healthcare through these clinics. Serious and life-threatening conditions are referred to the nearest tertiary care hospitals in a timely fashion, and reduces loss of lives. Patients requiring specialized care are supported for planned referral care

Monthly trainings of primary healthcare nurses, health workers and community volunteers are also conducted. On-the-job mentoring and support is provided by trained nurses to primary healthcare nurses.

BHARATIYA GRAMIN VIDYALAYA

Bharatiya Gramin Vidyalaya is a small school in the Mahona district of Lucknow, located in an area where education is not considered a primary need by its resident population. CMS provided the school with a grant to improve its infrastructure and create capabilities for conducting classes online. Two classrooms have thus been equipped with projectors, audio equipment and high-speed internet connections so that online classes can be easily held.

The need for online classes was felt because the teachers in the

school are usually locals and often not qualified enough to expand the horizons of their students. Through the medium of online classes, CMS wants to facilitate the opening up of minds by providing links with teachers and mentors from across the country. These real-time virtual classes lead to interactive involvement that is lacking in recorded classes. This can help expose these underprivileged students to the completely different environments available elsewhere and bring them at par with their urban counterparts.

