



Annual Report 2023-2024

Human and Natural Resources Development Society (HANDS)

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Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, India



Annual Report for the year 2023-24

Human And Natural-resources Development Society (HANDS)

7/1/7, Tadapathri road, Near Krishna Mandiram, Kathapeta, Gooty – 515401,

Introduction

Founded in 1994, the Human and Natural Resources Development Society (HANDS) has remained committed to transforming rural lives in Andhra Pradesh through its dual focus areas: Human Resource Development (HRD) and Natural Resource Development (NRD). The year 2023–2024 marked another significant milestone, showcasing HANDS’ dedication to sustainable, people-centric development powered by grassroots engagement, innovation, and strong institutional partnerships.

I. Human Resource Development Division

Under this division, the organization has been implementing a total of four key projects: (1) the **HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention Program-4**, focusing on prevention, awareness, and support services for high-risk groups; (2) the **Women Livelihood Supportive Program** – aimed at empowering rural women through skill development and income-generating activities; (3) the **Cleft Lip & Palate Surgical Awareness Program**, which promotes early identification and access to free surgical care for children with facial deformities; The implementation and progress of each project have been carried out effectively as per the annual action plan for 2023–24.

1. HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention Programs

HANDS implemented four **Targeted Intervention (TI)** projects in the districts of Ananthapuramu, Kurnool, and Nandyala with technical and financial support from APSACS under the NACO framework. The program served High-Risk Groups (HRGs) including **Female Sex Workers (FSWs)**, **Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)**, and **Transgender individuals (TGs)**.

Coverage Overview						
District	TI Site	Hotspots	FSW	MSM	TG	Total HRGs
Ananthapuramu	Gooty	18	1347	368	15	1715
Kurnool	Pathikonda	38	885	105	18	1008
Nandyala	Dhone	110	1277	344	91	1712
Nandyala	Nandikotkur	40	1035	131	5	1171
Total	4 Sites	206	4544	948	129	5606



Key Services Provided				
Service	Targeted Individuals	Frequency	Target Count	Actual Delivered
Condoms Distributed	5,606	Cumulative	25,64,228	24,55,796
RMC Services	5,606	4 times	21,338	19,889
ICTC Testing	5,606	2 times	10,647	10,010
ART/PLHA Support	Ongoing	Monthly	1,152	1,152

Peer educators, each responsible for 90 HRGs, led outreach and trust-building efforts, resulting in high service uptake.

- **Community Empowerment & Outreach**
- **47 Awareness Events:** World AIDS Day rallies, TG certification drives, health workshops.
- **255 Welfare Interventions:** Linkages to housing, pensions, and food security.
- **Leadership from HRGs:** Community members like *Mounika*, a TG from Dhone, promoted to Outreach Worker.

APSACS Evaluation: Pathikonda TI rated **Grade B** – indicates strong adherence with improvement potential.

2. Women Livelihood Supportive Program

With support from **STDH – Bangalore**, HANDS implemented the **Women Livelihood Supportive Program** across key locations in **Ananthapuramu** and **Kurnool** districts during 2023–24. The program builds on the organization's commitment to empower resource-limited women through entrepreneurship using a **Revolving Fund (RF) model**.

Program Objective:

To support women in developing small-scale businesses by providing access to micro-loans, skills training, and peer-group support—enhancing both household income and women’s leadership in financial decisions.



Key Features:

Service Charge: 20% annually, deducted monthly from repayments

Loan Recovery System: 10-month repayment cycle with monitoring by Community and Field Organizers

Field Support: Dedicated Field Organizers in each area to manage operations, ensure accountability, and support beneficiaries

Monitoring & Evaluation: Regular tracking of business performance and repayment discipline to assess sustainability and impact

Supported by **STDH–Bangalore**, this initiative empowered **650 women** through micro-enterprises with ₹1,09,31,000 disbursed as **Revolving Funds**.

Microenterprises Supported

- Tailoring & garment units
- Street food vending
- Livestock rearing
- Petty and mobile shops
- Vegetable vending
- Agri crop input to women farmers

Impact:

The program has strengthened women's economic roles within their households and communities, fostering greater **self-reliance**, **decision-making capacity**, and **social confidence**. It has laid a strong foundation for scaling up in 2025–26.

3. Cleft Lip & Palate Surgical Program

In partnership with **Operation Smile**, 26 children were identified and treated for cleft lip and palate deformities after thorough screenings in **Gooty** and **Kalyanadurgam**. Transport, accommodation, and surgical care were coordinated in **Bangalore**, offering children life-changing medical relief.



Key Activities:

- **Awareness Campaign (Dec 26, 2024 – Jan 2, 2025):**
 - Auto rally with public announcements across **12 mandals** and **4 MLA constituencies**
 - **5,000 pamphlets** distributed at hospitals, schools, and public places
 - Mobilization support from **Mahila Mandals**, **Women Samakyas**, and local CSOs
 - Outreach to schools, PHCs, and Anganwadi centres
- **Screening Camp (Jan 4, 2025):**
 - Held at HANDS PU Office, Pathikonda – Kurnool and Dhone Nandyala districts., AP
 - **35 children screened** by Operation Smile staff
 - **13 children selected** for surgical treatment based on medical eligibility
- **Surgical Support (Jan 10–15, 2025):**
 - Surgeries conducted at **Dr. Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Medical Sciences & Research Hospital, Vijayawada**
 - Travel and logistics arranged by HANDS with full cost support from Operation Smile

Outcomes;

- **High community participation** and awareness created on cleft conditions
- **11 children received life-changing surgeries**, improving health, speech, and confidence
- Strengthened collaboration with local institutions and CSOs for future medical outreach



To the program, the parents were very happy, by providing good facilities at screening and the Clinical surgery at Bangalore. Really its good program for the children which the children effected by the Cleft lip and pallet.

II. Natural Resource Development Division

1. Agroforestry Corban Credit Program

Supported by: Say Trees Environmental Trust – Bangalore

Implemented by: HANDS, Gooty, Anantapur District

During the reporting year, HANDS, in partnership with Say Trees Environmental Trust and supported by multiple corporate collaborators—Infosys, ReNew, LTIMindtree, KDDL, Star Health, and Deccan Chemicals—scaled up its Community-Based Agroforestry Program across Anantapur, Kurnool, and Nandyala districts. This initiative forms part of a broader mission to advance climate-resilient agriculture and promote sustainable rural livelihoods in drought-prone regions.

Key Achievements (2024–25):

- Total Saplings Planted: 1,19,141
- Total Area Covered: 289.2 hectares (723 acres)
- Number of Farmers Benefited: 284
- Villages & Mandals Covered: 30 villages across 6 mandals
- Community Contributions Mobilized: ₹6,22,855 through Village-Level Agroforestry Committees (VL-AFCs)

The program implemented integrated plantations combining fruit and timber species with seasonal intercrops. This approach fostered income diversification, improved soil fertility, and strengthened ecological sustainability.

Future Roadmap (2025–2028)

- Expand agroforestry coverage to 1,000+ acres
- Establish village-level aggrotech enterprises for input access and value addition
- Promote collective marketing systems through strengthened producer groups
- Formalize carbon credit frameworks to unlock sustainable revenue



To complement field activities, HANDS organized capacity-building workshops focusing on:

- Natural farming methods
- Bio-input production and application
- Water harvesting and conservation techniques
- Introduction to carbon finance and climate adaptation practices
- These interventions enhanced farmer capacities and institutional readiness, paving the way for long-term sustainability and replication.



Conclusion

The year 2023–24 reaffirmed HANDS’ core mission to empower communities through participatory and integrated development. Programs addressing **HIV prevention, child protection, women’s livelihoods, and climate-resilient agriculture** continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of grassroots leadership, institutional collaboration, and community ownership.

Recommendations

Strategic Focus Areas (Condensed)

1. **Enhance TG & MSM Leadership in HIV/AIDS Programs**
Promote inclusion of transgender and MSM communities in leadership roles within HIV/AIDS prevention units.
2. **Support Single Women through Small-Scale Enterprises**
Enable single women to achieve livelihood security via skill-based, small-scale economic activities.
3. **Prevent Cybercrimes & Child Sexual Exploitation**
Raise awareness and strengthen protection measures to combat cybercrimes and safeguard children online.
4. **Promote Forestry Species in Agroforestry**
Integrate climate-resilient forestry species into agroforestry to enhance ecological and economic benefits.
5. **Operationalize CHCs for Marginal Farmers**
Provide mechanization support to small farmers through well-equipped Custom Hiring Centres.
6. **Carbon Finance for Natural Farming**
Develop a roadmap linking natural farming practices to carbon credit opportunities for added income.

The **Multilayer Agroforestry initiative** emerged as a model of transformative change, marrying **ecological stewardship** with **livelihood resilience**. Together, all interventions reflect HANDS' enduring commitment to building **dignified, inclusive, and sustainable rural futures**.

M.Narayana Swamy,

Executive Secretary,
HANDS