



Annual Report 2024-2025

Human and Natural Resources Development Society (HANDS)

Address: #1/717, Tadipathri Road – Kothapeta, Gooty – 515401,
Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, India



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Introduction

Established in 1994, the Human and Natural Resources Development Society (HANDS) continues to be a catalyst for equitable and sustainable rural development across Andhra Pradesh. With its twin focus on Human Resource Development (HRD) and Natural Resource Development (NRD), HANDS has consistently empowered communities through grassroots participation, capacity-building, and innovative partnerships.

The year 2024–2025 marked another transformative period, as the organization deepened its impact through inclusive social programs, community-led agricultural models, and climate-smart interventions designed to enhance both human well-being and ecological balance.

Organization Development Process with DHWANI Foundation – Bangalore

As part of its commitment to institutional strengthening and operational excellence, HANDS undertook a comprehensive **Organization Development (OD)** process in collaboration with **DHWANI Foundation – Bangalore**. Through this initiative:

- The **organizational structure was thoroughly reviewed and streamlined**, enhancing internal clarity, accountability, and efficiency.
- All core documents, including governance manuals, operational guidelines, HR policies, and program frameworks, were **updated and standardized** in line with best practices.
- The **organization's logo was redesigned**, and the **official website was revamped**, giving a fresh, professional, and impactful visual identity to HANDS.

This OD process has not only improved internal systems and brand identity but also strengthened HANDS' readiness to scale its mission and collaborate with diverse stakeholders more effectively.

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 – Progress Report 2024–25**, 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; and (4) **SUFASEC**. The implementation and progress of each project have been carried out effectively as per the annual action plan for 2024–25.

1. HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention Programs;

In continuation of previous years, HANDS implemented **Targeted Intervention (TI) projects** in **Ananthapuramu, Kurnool, and Nandyala** districts, with technical and financial support from **APSACS** under the **NACO** framework. The interventions aimed to reduce HIV transmission among **High-Risk Groups (HRGs)**, including **Female Sex Workers (FSWs)**, **Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)**, and **Transgender individuals (TGs)**.

Coverage Overview – 2024–25

N.no	District	TI Site	Hotspots	FSW	MSM	TG	Total
1	Anantapur	Gooty	18	1454	389	16	1859
2	Kurnool	Pathikonda	65	1362	210	21	1593
3	Nandyala	Dhone	53	1490	305	96	1891
4	Nandyala	Nandikotkur	40	1530	172	10	1712
	Total	4 Units	206	4544	948	129	7055



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Service	Targeted Individuals	Frequency	Target Count	Actual Delivered
Condoms Distributed	7055	Cumulative	23,44,336	24,16,935
RMC Services	7055	4 times	28,220	27,658
ICTC Testing	7055	2 times	14,110	13,827
ART/PLHA Support	Ongoing	Monthly	1,344	1128

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Key Impacts.

- 75% of participants reported an increase in household income
- 60% directly contributed to children's education and healthcare
- Enhanced self-confidence, mobility, and decision-making among women
- Over 20 women assumed leadership in SHGs and local forums

2. Women Supportive Livelihood Program

Reporting Period: April 2024 – March 2025

Supported by: STDH – Bangalore

Implemented by: HANDS – Human And Natural Resources Development Society

The Women Supportive Livelihood Program, a flagship initiative of HANDS with financial support from STDH – Bangalore, aimed to strengthen the economic resilience of underprivileged women through a structured Revolving Fund model. The program empowered **188 women** with access to micro-loans (₹10,000 to ₹30,000), business development training, and dedicated mentoring to establish or expand income-generating activities.



Beneficiaries engaged in a diverse range of livelihoods including tailoring, food vending, dairy farming, household services, and Agri-based enterprises. Capacity-building workshops—conducted across all operational mandals—focused on entrepreneurship, bookkeeping, marketing, and group management. Regular field-level monitoring and peer accountability mechanisms ensured effective fund utilization and high repayment compliance.



Key Impacts

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- 60% directly contributed to children's education and healthcare
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Despite challenges such as seasonal income delays and family-level financial pressures, the program fostered a strong culture of financial discipline, mutual support, and women-led development. Moving forward, HANDS aims to expand this model to reach over **300 women** in new geographies, strengthen repayment systems, and build market linkages for sustainable livelihoods.



This initiative reaffirms HANDS' commitment to inclusive growth and gender empowerment at the grassroots level. Now the women are getting good income to the family and got good confidence on their work and the profession. Based on the model of the women traders many of the young women coming forward for their financial inclusiveness.



3. SUFASEC – Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children

Reporting Period: April 2024 – March 2025

Supported by: Children of India Foundation (CIF), Bangalore

Implemented by: HANDS

Target Region: Ananthapur, AP

The SUFASEC program, implemented by HANDS with support from CIF – Bangalore, aimed to combat sexual exploitation of children by promoting child safety, SRHR awareness, and protective environments in vulnerable communities of Ananthapur District. The program focused on four strategic areas: child and parent education, positive parenting, community sensitization, and strengthening child protection systems.



Key O SRHR Education:

- Over 300 children and adolescents in Gooty and Pamidi mandals accessed age-appropriate SRHR sessions, leading to a 30% increase in health service referrals and improved understanding of consent, bodily autonomy, and online safety.
- **Positive Parenting:** 174 caregivers were trained on non-violent parenting methods. Over 80% committed to reducing harsh discipline, and male engagement in caregiving roles increased.
- **Social Norms Change:** Through 26 community events and youth-led campaigns, over 1,100 individuals were sensitized. Community-driven child protection charters were adopted in five villages, and early marriages were prevented in three.
- **System Strengthening:** Eight Child Protection Committees were activated, and 63 local stakeholders were trained. Child-friendly mechanisms like reporting boxes and focal safety points were established in schools.
- Despite challenges such as cultural resistance and digital access gaps, the program strengthened community responsibility, built youth leadership, and improved institutional responsiveness to child safety concerns.



Plans include scaling SRHR content to more schools, launching a community-based child protection helpline, engaging boys and men in gender dialogues, and using data systems to drive targeted child safety interventions.

SUFASEC stands as a powerful step toward securing dignity, protection, and voice for every child in the region—reinforcing HANDS’ mission of creating safer, inclusive communities.

4. Cleft Lip & Palate Surgical Awareness Program;

In collaboration with Operation Smile (Bangalore)

Reporting Period: December 2024 – January 2025

In collaboration with Operation Smile (Bangalore)

Reporting Period: December 2024 – January 2025

Location: Dhone and Pathikonda areas in Kurnool and Nandyala District, Andhra Pradesh **Location:** Dhone and Pathikonda areas in Kurnool and Nandyala District, Andhra Pradesh

Overview:

HANDS, in partnership with Operation Smile Bangalore, implemented a successful cleft lip and palate awareness and surgical intervention campaign targeting underserved rural areas. The initiative aimed to identify children with facial deformities and provide them with free corrective surgeries.



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
- **9 children received life-changing surgeries**, improving health, speech, and confidence
- Strengthened collaboration with local institutions and CSOs for future medical outreach



II. Natural Resources Development Division

Under the Natural Resource Development Division, the organization has been implementing two major projects; 1. Agroforestry Corban Credit, 2. De-siltation of water bodies,

Key Achievements (2024–25):

- **Total Saplings Planted:** 5,67,988
- **Area Covered:** 3,119.17 acres
- **Farmers Benefited:** 1,151 across 120 villages and 23 mandals
- **Community Fund Mobilized:** ₹12,72,078 through Village-Level Agroforestry Committees (VL-AFCs)

1. Agroforestry Corban Credit Program;

Supported by: “Say Trees Environmental Trust” – Bangalore
Implementing by: HANDS, Gooty, Anantapur District

In 2024–25, HANDS, in collaboration with Say Trees Environmental Trust and multiple corporate sponsors (Infosys, ReNew, LTIMindtree, KDDL, Star Health, and Deccan Chemicals), expanded its community-based agroforestry initiative across **Anantapur, Kurnool, and Nandyala districts**. The program focused on climate-resilient agriculture and rural livelihood enhancement.



ABOUT PLANTATION

The plantations integrated fruit and timber **species** with **intercrops**, supporting income diversification, soil health, and long-term ecological sustainability. A parallel **social forestry initiative** near the Sri Vajragiri Narasimha Swamy temple also promoted environmental stewardship on community lands.

Capacity-building workshops on **natural farming, bio-inputs, water conservation, and carbon finance** were conducted to empower farmers and strengthen institutional governance.

This program continues to serve as a replicable model for **climate-resilient agriculture** and **sustainable rural development** in semi-arid regions.



E. Future Roadmap (2025–28)

- Expand agroforestry to **1,000+ additional acres**
- Establish **Village level Agrotech Enterprises** for smallholder support
- Formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (**FPOs**) for input access and collective marketing
- Formalize **carbon credit mechanisms** for long-term revenue

Tank Silt Lifting & Farmland Rejuvenation Initiative

Supported by: LTI Mindtree through Say Trees Environmental Trust – Bangalore
Implemented by: HANDS – Human And Natural Resources Development Society
Project Area: Brahmanapalli and P. Yerragudi Villages, Gooty Mandal, Atp, AP
Under the Program: Long-Term Multilayer Agroforestry Initiative (LTMI)

Overview

During the reporting period 2024–2025, HANDS successfully implemented a Tank Silt Lifting and Farmland Rejuvenation initiative in collaboration with Say Trees Environmental Trust and with CSR support from LTI Mindtree. This nature-based solution was designed to address soil degradation, water scarcity, and low farm productivity in the drought-prone region of Gooty Mandal.

Objectives

- Restore tank water-holding capacity
- Improve soil health and crop productivity
- Recharge groundwater
- Promote sustainable farming and climate resilience

Key Achievements

- Tank Silt Excavated: 20,043 cubic meters
- Farmland Rejuvenated: 134 hectares
- Tractor Loads Moved: 6,700
- Farmers Benefited: 200+ small and marginal farmers
- Groundwater Recharge Potential: Approx. 45,000 kilolitres

Implementation Model

The project was implemented under a Public–People Partnership (PPP) model, with 60% of total project costs contributed by farmers. This ensured strong community ownership and cost-efficiency.

Total Project Value: ₹25.87 lakh

Farmer Contribution: ₹15.37 lakh

Social & Environmental Impact

- Enhanced soil fertility and moisture retention
- Projected 15–20% increase in rainfed crop yields
- Strengthened water security for agriculture and households
- Improved drought resilience and carbon sequestration potential
- Livelihood support for over 200 rural households





Community Engagement & Knowledge Sharing

The project was inaugurated with active participation from local Panchayat leaders, Say Trees representatives, and the HANDS field team. Technical guidance from visiting experts further strengthened quality and scalability of the intervention.

Path Forward

Encouraged by the success of Phase-I, Say Trees approved Phase-II expansion to cover 200 additional hectares. HANDS is also exploring partnerships to scale this replicable model across 1,000 hectares in Anantapur, Rayalaseema, and beyond.

Conclusion;

The year 2024–25 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. 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.

Recommendations;

- Initiative more services to the women youth for their family livelihoods
- Deepen inclusion of TGs and MSMs in TI program leadership
- Expand use of forestry species in agroforestry as climate buffers
- Operationalize Aggrotech Enterprises to support mechanization for marginal farmers
- Develop a carbon finance roadmap to support Natural Farming.

Prepared By

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Human and Natural Resources Development Society (HANDS)