

YEAR 2025



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 - 25

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# MESSAGE FROM CEO

## MAXIMIZING IMPACT: ZAKAT UTILIZATION AMID SCALE-UP

This year, we significantly scaled up our programs, with a strong emphasis on Child Development. The team demonstrated exceptional diligence in planning and execution while ensuring zakat funds were deployed fully and responsibly for their intended purpose. Through innovative needs assessment, careful planning, and efficient distribution of supplies, the programs were implemented with meaningful impact. This effort was made possible by the dedication of our ground teams, with strong support from procurement and operations, ensuring timely and principled utilization of available resources.

“

CHINAR International continued to grow with purpose. Our annual expenditure increased by 79%, reaching USD 1.26 million (INR 10.46 crore), while our ground team expanded by 21%, welcoming 13 new members who strengthened our systems and reach. Our Child Development program scaled by 42%, bringing nearly 1,000 additional children into a continuum of learning, stability, and opportunity.

Programs focused on self-reliance gained strong momentum. Small Business Support grew by 44%, with 29 new enterprises launched, while our Higher Education Support initiative exceeded expectations with a 150% increase, opening doors for 66 youth whose ambitions had long been limited by circumstance. Community Learning Centers, Digital Literacy Hubs, Reading Corners, and the Teach with CHINAR Fellowship continued to prepare over 6000 students and schools for a rapidly evolving world. Noteworthy is our intervention in 67 government schools, 8 of which are focused on school transformation.

Through Parvaaz, adolescent groups (Poshwaer) are emerging as catalysts for community change, while our Functional Literacy Program is empowering mothers with essential skills and confidence—strengthening families from within.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains steadfast: to build systems that last, programs that adapt, and communities that lead. In this spirit, we welcome Abid Qadiri as CHINAR International's new Chief Executive Officer, whose strong leadership and worldwide experience will guide our next phase of growth and impact across Jammu and Kashmir.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our team, partners, funders, Board, and advisors. Together, we move into 2025 with clarity, conviction, and renewed purpose.



**Irfan Shahmiri**  
Founder & CEO



# 2024 -25 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACT OVERVIEW

## Child Development

- **Largest scale up since the inception with 972 new children enrolled across 9 districts of Kashmir (44% increase in the existing base)**
- 46 additional livelihood units launched
- 50 vulnerable families provided with safe and renovated living spaces
- Life Crafters initiative launched for adolescents in 5 districts

## Quality Education

- Established 15 new community learning centers, reaching out to 89 in total (11% increase).
- 21 reading corners and 27 Digital Literacy hubs in over 20 locations
- Partnered with 8 government schools for remedial teaching

## Youth Development

- 28 new Skill Development Centers launched across multiple districts (41% increase).
- 29 new Small Business Support units added, reaching out to 94 units, empowering local youth (44% increase).
- 67 students enrolled under Higher Education Sponsorship Program (150% increase)
- Volley ball tournament - 1

## Parvaaz

- 3 new communities added reaching out to 16 communities across 5 districts (18% increase)
- 12+ public awareness camps conducted on hygiene, mental health and nutrition.
- POSHEWAER Adolescent Advocacy Group launched in Srinagar
- Board and donor visits conducted in community locations
- Started functional literacy program for 28 illiterate mothers in two communities (Palpora & Arampora)



# PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

***"Provides critical support to children from most vulnerable communities to enable them to attain quality education."***

This program is for vulnerable children from families that have no to little means of livelihood and are struggling to provide for their children. Each selected child receives essential support including school fees, stationery, uniforms, shoes, school bags, nutritious food, hygiene kits, and primary healthcare. The program also promotes market-linked Community Finance options for the guardians of these children, aiming to empower them to raise their families in a caring and sustainable environment. The ultimate goal is to help these families become self-sufficient within a period of five years.

***To date, 3187 children have been enrolled in the program from 8 districts***

### Program Expansion: Nurturing More Children

This year, CHINAR International achieved a major milestone in the expansion of its Child Development Program, enrolling 972 new children across nine districts, including the program's first intervention in Anantnag district. This marks the largest scale-up since the program's inception, bringing the total number of active beneficiaries to 1,582 children.

Alongside education support, CHINAR continued to address seasonal and cultural needs by distributing 837 winter kits to help families cope with harsh weather, and over 1500 Eid kits for Eid ul Fitr and Eid Ul Zuhra to ensure children and their families could celebrate with dignity.



Scale Up Event in Srinagar

### Zahid's Journey of Change and Growth

Zahid, a 9-year-old from the village of Arizal in Budgam, was among the few children enrolled in the Child Development Program in 2020. However, after a few months, it became evident that Zahid lacked interest in his studies and struggled to maintain regular attendance at school and tuition centres. Consequently, Zahid lacked confidence and exhibited huge learning gaps, even struggling to write his own name. Despite these challenges, the team didn't lose hope and continued to collaborate with his immediate caregivers. Over time, Zahid's communication skills improved significantly, and he now engages with others confidently. This transformation reflects progress in every aspect of his development, shaping up his bright future.





## Health camps held across five districts

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer, organized six medical camps for children and parents enrolled in the Child Development Program across Srinagar, Shopian, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Budgam, and Kupwara districts. A team of medical professionals—including general physicians, an ophthalmologist, a dental surgeon, a pharmacist, and a counsellor—provided thorough health checkups to over 1100 beneficiaries. The camps also offered supplementary medicines and referrals for further treatment. These annual health camps play a crucial role in monitoring the health of enrolled children and ensuring early intervention for any major health concerns, reflecting CHINAR's continued commitment to the overall well-being of children alongside their education.

## Felicitations of academic toppers

A felicitation event was organized to honor the outstanding achievements of 11 Class 10th and 12th toppers from the Child Development Program. These first-generation learners, many from remote areas, were honoured with mementos for their excellent performance. This year, 8 students successfully passed their Class 12th exams and 67 cleared Class 10th.

The event, attended by school principals, featured Global Executive Director Irfan Shahmiri, who encouraged students to share their stories and emphasized the importance of education and parental support in shaping a child's future.



## 46 New Livelihoods for Self-Reliance

After a thorough assessment and due diligence process, 46 new livelihood initiatives were launched in Srinagar, Kupwara, Pulwama and Shopian, Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgama. These initiatives included a diverse range of ventures such as genset rental services, dairy and sheep rearing, grocery stores, auto rickshaw operations, copper and wood carving, tea stalls and carpentry units, among others. Together, these livelihoods are providing these families with sustainable income opportunities and a pathway toward long-term self-reliance.





## QUALITY EDUCATION

**“Works in low-resource government schools in collaboration with DOSE (Department of School Education) with the aim of school transformation for holistic development of children”.**

This program focuses on improving education in poor communities and creating safe, friendly spaces where children feel supported and encouraged. Through Community Learning Centers (CLCs), children receive help with basic reading and writing, extra learning support, and emotional development. To improve education even more, CHINAR runs the Teach with CHINAR Fellowship, where trained and motivated teachers are placed in schools that lack resources. These fellows help young students build strong learning skills while also gaining experience and skills themselves for their future careers.

**To date, 12,043 children have been reached through school transformation & community learning centers**

### Empowering Fellows, Transforming Classrooms

Launched in 2023, CHINAR International's Teach with CHINAR Fellowship was designed to strengthen foundational literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional learning (SEL) in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir. During the year, a cohort of 8 Fellows was trained and continued working in 8 government schools to support classroom teaching and student engagement. Additionally, 27 Digital Literacy Hubs and 21 Reading Corners were established across existing intervention schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs). In total, 58 Digital Literacy Hubs and 42 Reading Corners remained active during the financial year, contributing to increased student enrolment and improved emotional and social well-being among children.

#### Sania's journey of confidence

Sania Muzaffar, a 15-year-old from Batamaran Wanpora, comes from a humble background but remains committed to building a brighter future. She initially faced challenges with basic literacy, numeracy, and self-confidence. With personalized support from the Community Learning Centre (CLC), including interactive learning sessions and creative activities, Sania made remarkable progress. She now reads fluently, solves math problems confidently, and shows a growing interest in science and technology. Beyond academics, she has developed strong leadership and communication skills. She dreams of becoming an IPS officer.





## Capacity building training

CHINAR International strengthened educational quality by training 50+ CLC facilitators/ fellows across government schools in six districts. These fellows played a dual role by teaching core subjects and mentoring students, thereby addressing teacher shortages and improving classroom engagement. Throughout the year, fellows participated in Learning Circle Meets (LCMs), which served as reflective platforms for sharing teaching experiences, lesson planning techniques, and collaborative problem-solving. These peer-learning sessions enhanced teaching effectiveness and encouraged continuous improvement.

**This year, 12 trainings and 4 LCM were held.**



## Introducing reading corners and digital literacy

With our strong commitment to delivering quality education, we are thrilled to announce the launch of two new programs - Digital literacy and reading corners at our existing schools and community learning centers. We strongly believe that the establishment of reading corners will enhance language proficiency and communication abilities among students. Similarly, the installation of computers will equip children with the necessary skills to explore the digital world as technology keeps evolving.



## Ongoing Mentorship Support to Youth

CHINAR International ensured ongoing support and field-level engagement across its youth programs through Learning Circle Meets (LCMs), regular staff interactions, and internship-supported documentation. LCMs provided platforms for HESP students to reflect on their academic journeys and receive mentorship. Field facilitators visited Skill Development Centers and SBS beneficiaries to resolve operational challenges, offer guidance, and collect feedback. These continuous touchpoints helped reinforce accountability, track progress, and tailor support to youth needs.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**CHINAR works with unemployed youth by helping them learn skills, start small businesses, and get career guidance so they can become self-reliant.**

In Kashmir, many young people are either jobless or not working in proper jobs, and most see government jobs as the only path to success. But government jobs are limited, and the private sector is still growing. Also, many skilled workers come from other states because local youth often don't take up such work, as the dignity of labour is still not widely accepted. CHINAR's program aims to change this by building skills and confidence among local youth.

**To date, 3866 youth have been supported through skill development, business support and entrepreneurship guidance under the program.**



## From Local Entrepreneur to SBI Partner

From Zachaldara Poshwan, Kupwara, Mohammad Ramzan Banday supports his elderly parents and sister despite tough financial conditions. A self-made achiever, he earned an MSc and a computer diploma from ITI, combining his IT and teaching experience with strong design skills. Through CHINAR International's Small Business Support program, Ramzan received high-definition desktops, printers, and essential tools to start his own graphic and web design unit. He partnered with the State Bank of India to provide ATM services and now plans to open a full-fledged SBI Khidmat Centre. Ramzan's journey reflects resilience, skill, and the power of opportunity to transform lives and communities.





## Launch of SBS - Cohort 5

CHINAR International, in collaboration with its knowledge partner TISS Incube Foundation Mumbai, launched Cohort 5 of the Small Business Support (SBS) Program through a 3-day event. From 560 applicants across nine districts, 26 promising entrepreneurs were selected after rigorous evaluations and inspiring sessions with local business leaders. The felicitation ceremony was graced by CHINAR Patrons Ismet Shahmiri and Altaf Hussain, alongside an expert panel featuring industry and academic leaders from TISS, NIT Srinagar, Kashmir University, JKEDI, and SIDBI. With 72 entrepreneurs supported so far, CHINAR International continues to empower Kashmir's youth, driving socio-economic transformation across the region.



## Training youth in multiple skills

This year, Skill Development Centers trained over 800 youth across seven districts in multiple livelihood-oriented skills. Training domains included tailoring, tilla embroidery, mehndi design, and digital literacy. In select centres, youth were also introduced to soft skills and basic entrepreneurship concepts, enabling them to explore diverse earning avenues. These multi-skill development efforts not only increased employability but also empowered young participants—particularly girls—with greater confidence and decision-making abilities in their households and communities.

**To date, 2174 youth have been trained in multiple skills through 96 centers located across various districts.**



## LCM for HESP

In HESP, 108 students are currently pursuing higher education across various fields. To support their growth, a Learning Circle Meeting (LCM) was held for 50 students featuring eight sessions, including a motivational talk by journalist Hussain Zafar, sessions on modern learning methods, CHINAR's journey, psychometric assessments, and activity-based learning. The event enhanced students' confidence, self-awareness, and career clarity, aligning with HESP's vision of holistic student development.



## PARVAAZ- COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

**Parvaaz aims on holistic community development by helping vulnerable groups like children, youth, and under-resourced educational institutions.**

The program focuses on active engagement of community members, parents, and local leaders to educate, mobilize, and work alongside them in implementing programs that nurture children and youth. CHINAR's core programs - child development, quality education and youth development act as key feeders and enablers, ensuring that interventions in education, skills, and capacity-building translate into holistic community development. By strengthening families and empowering young people, Parvaaz fosters self-reliance and sustainable progress within communities.

**Currently, 16 communities from five districts are enrolled in the program.**

### Parvaaz expands to new communities

This year, Parvaaz program expanded from 13 to 16 active communities across five districts of Kashmir. The three new communities added in 2024 include Harinara village in Baramulla, Sheikhpura in Anantnag, and Sedow in Shopian. These communities were selected based on vulnerability assessments and local needs. The formal launch took place in the presence of several stakeholders, including Auqaf members, the Mohalla president, members of the masjid committee, principals and teachers of nearby schools, and local residents. This expansion reflects CHINAR's continued commitment to long-term community empowerment in remote and underserved areas.

### Learning Circle Meet

A two-day Learning Circle Meet (LCM) was organized for field staff working under Parvaaz. The purpose of the LCM was to discuss the lessons and challenges from the past year and to develop a plan of action for the year ahead. On the first day, the field team delivered presentations on key achievements, challenges, impact and lessons learned over the past year. On the second day, we conducted a capacity-building workshop with over 20 participants, including field staff from the Parvaaz and Child Development programs. The workshop included sessions on the project management cycle, advanced Excel, and an overview of CHINAR's Child Protection Policy, along with various government schemes.





## Launch of Advocacy Group - Poshewaer

As part of its community engagement efforts, Parvaaz launched its first adolescent advocacy group, named 'POSHEWAER,' for the Palpora community in the Srinagar district. The purpose of this group is to build leadership skills among young adults and encourage them to address social issues at home, school and within the community. Attended by 18 members from Palpora, the event was graced by Dr. Mushtaq Margoob, Director of the Kashmir Board and Ms. Ismet Shahmiri, CHINAR patron, who inaugurated the group and emphasized the importance of their role in community transformation. During the event, attendees were briefed about CHINAR International, the structure and functioning of the group and the SOPs to be followed.



## Public Awareness

CHINAR International conducted multiple public awareness sessions across its 16 Parvaaz communities, focusing on critical social and health issues. A total of 15 awareness events were organized, 14 of which saw majority participation from women. The sessions covered diverse topics, including menstrual hygiene management for adolescent girls, mental health awareness, nutritional guidance, cyber safety, and campaigns promoting school re-enrolment.

These events were often held in collaboration with local health authorities and schools, with active participation from youth, caregivers, and frontline workers. The engagements not only raised awareness but also empowered community members to make healthier, more informed decisions for their families.



## Empowering Mothers through Functional Literacy

As part of community capacity building, CHINAR launched a Functional Literacy Program aimed at engaging illiterate mothers from our enrolled communities in activities that help them function effectively in their daily lives. These activities focus on basic calculations, managing daily accounts, understanding citizens' rights and duties, and similar practical skills.

Under the pilot phase, two centers have been established—one in Srinagar and one in Baramulla.



## Life Crafters for Adolescents

The Life Crafters initiative was launched to equip adolescents with essential soft skills through engaging group activities. The first session in Srinagar brought together 18 participants, joined by Mr. Irfan Shahmiri, Global Executive Director, who shared his journey as a social entrepreneur, and Ms. Zeba Durrani, CHINAR Board Member, who highlighted the importance of teamwork. The program was later held in Pulwama and Shopian, engaging 54 adolescents.



## CHINAR'S BOD visit Parvaaz Community in Palpora

CHINAR's Board of Directors and Patrons visited the Parvaaz community in Palpora, Srinagar, to assess program progress and impact. The team included Global Executive Director Irfan Shahmiri, board members Dr. Mushtaq Margoob and Dr. Zahida Shah, and Patrons Dr. Farooq Kaloo, Ms. Ismet Shahmiri, and Mr. Altaf Hussain, along with Program Leads. They were delighted to see CHINAR's interventions thriving and advancing toward community self-reliance.

# QUICK BITES

## Internships

CHINAR International welcomed 20 interns from prestigious institutions, including Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Guwahati, Jammu, and Mumbai. They contributed across documentation, case follow-up, community engagement, and field learning, bringing fresh academic perspectives and supporting CHINAR's on-ground initiatives.

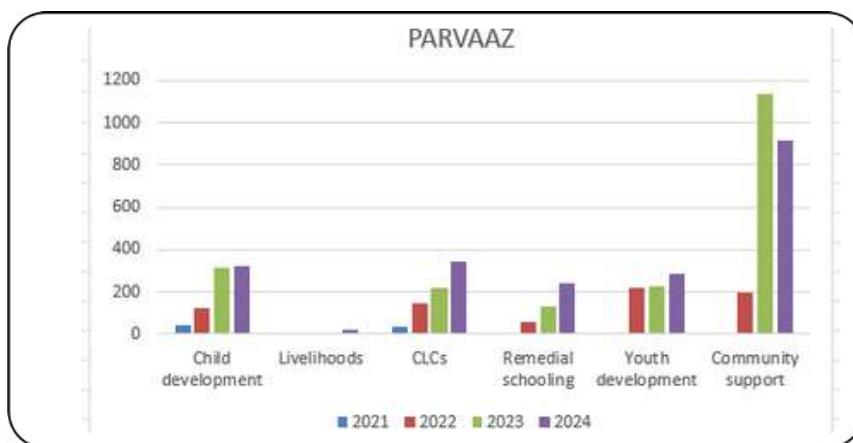
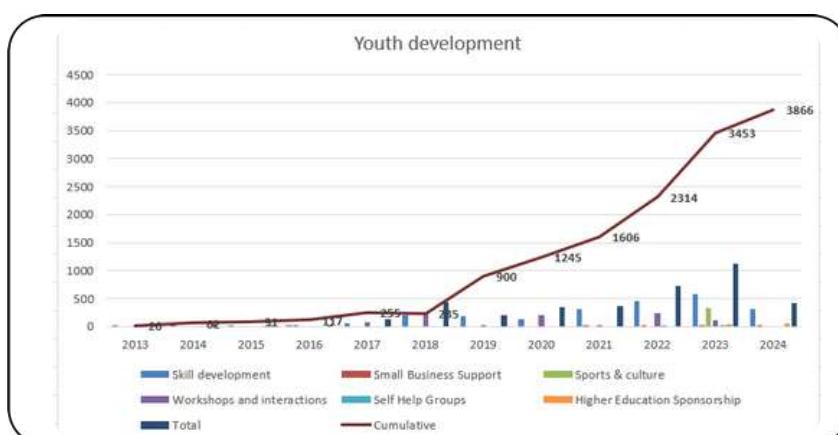
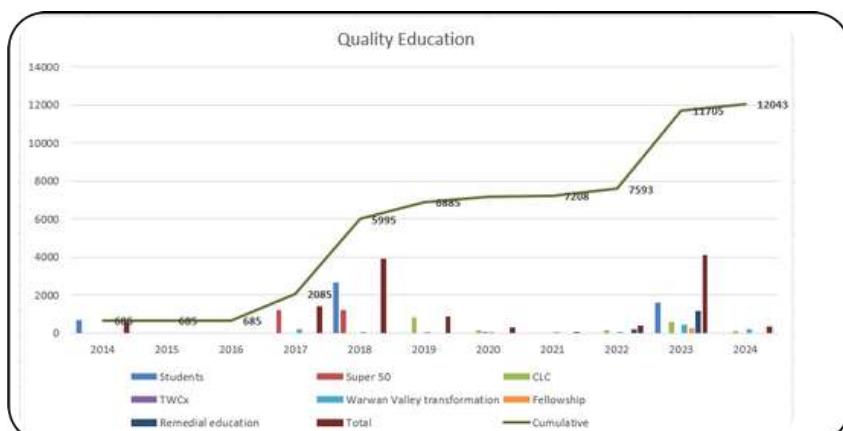
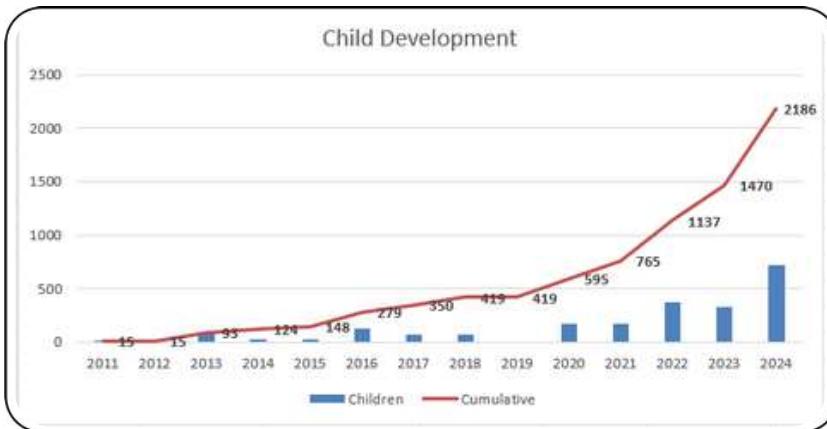


## Exposure trips for children

For the first time, children enrolled in the Child Development Program participated in educational exposure visits to the SPS Museum and the Meteorological Department. These trips aimed to enhance experiential learning, spark curiosity, and connect classroom concepts to real-world experiences. The children explored museum exhibits and learned about weather forecasting, gaining insights that enriched their academic engagement and broadened their horizons.



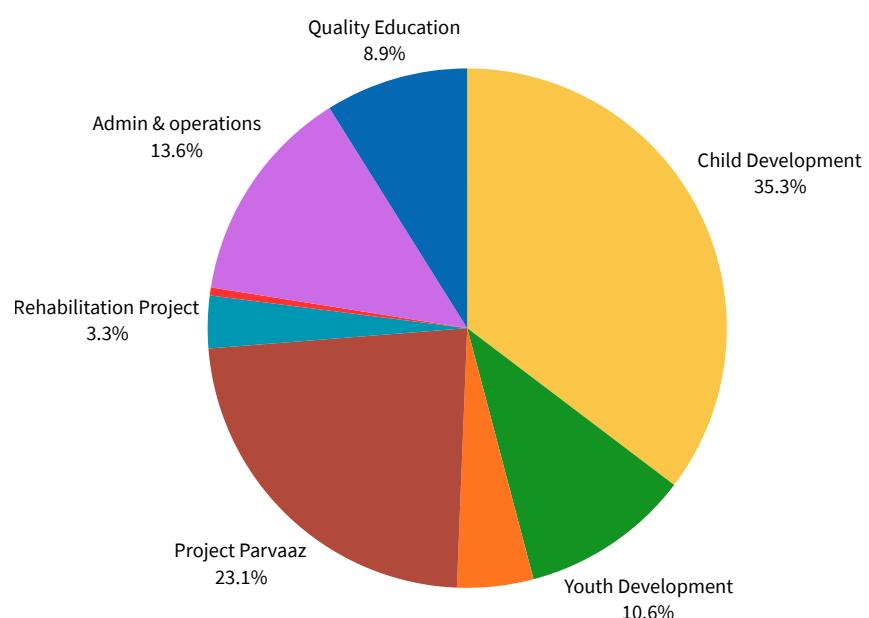
# INFOGRAPHICS



# 24-25

# FINANCIALS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT(INR)	AMOUNT(USD)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	3,69,65,624	445,369
QUALITY EDUCATION	93,19,103	112,278
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	1,10,63,653	133,297
WARWAN VALLEY TRANSFORMATION	49,70,252	59,883
PARVAAZ	2,41,92,883	291,481
REHABILITATION PROJECT	34,14,507	41,139
CRISES RELIEF	5,23,338	6,305
ADMIN AND OPERATIONS	1,42,19,062	171,314
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,46,68,456</b>	<b>1,261,066</b>



# YEAR AHEAD: FY 2025 -26

In FY 2025–26, CHINAR will pursue responsible growth across all program areas, building on existing initiatives while strengthening quality, systems, and community ownership. Guided by implementation learnings, the organization is shifting from scale alone to measurable, outcome-driven impact focus, aligned with community priorities.

Alongside program expansion, CHINAR will continue to strengthen internal processes, resources optimization, and learning and development. Clear role ownership, tighter planning and monitoring frameworks, and improved coordination across programs, finance, and operations will support accountability, efficiency, and transparent reporting.

## **Child Development**

CHINAR will extend support to an additional 250 children and 20 new family livelihoods, introduce safe living interventions for 20 vulnerable families, add five new remedial tuition centers, deliver life skills education to over 200 children, and conduct career preparation boot camps for adolescents. Focus areas include structured learning support, early career exposure, and sustained family engagement to improve retention and outcomes.

## **Quality Education**

The organization will strengthen its existing base by adding 9 new Community Learning Centers, 6 digital learning hubs, and 17 reading corners, enabling an additional 300 learners to graduate from CLCs. Partnerships with over 100 schools under the Teach with CHINAR Fellowship will emphasize teacher mentoring, digital integration, and measurable learning improvements.

## **Youth Development**

Incremental expansion will include support to 26 new small businesses, 25 new skill development centers, at least 50 higher-education students, and more than 30 youth through sports and cultural initiatives, alongside the formation and strengthening of 20 Self Help Groups. Programs will prioritize employment friendly demand driven skills, post-training handholding, and mentorship to enable sustainable livelihoods and youth leadership.

## **Community Transformation**

Across 16 communities, CHINAR will continue to elevate the engagement through awareness programs, enabling at least 4 functional literacy initiatives, launching at least 2 community support centers, creation of adolescent advocacy groups, and host multiple capacity-building programs and community-led development initiatives, with a strong focus on local leadership and community-driven solutions.

## **Looking Ahead**

FY 2025–26 represents a year of consolidation and quality-led growth, where incremental expansion is matched by stronger systems, clearer accountability, and demonstrable outcomes. Through disciplined execution and community ownership, CHINAR aims to deliver sustainable, transparent, and scalable impact.





## MORE ABOUT US

CHINAR International (CI) is a social impact organization based in Kashmir working on a holistic community-based model to provide solutions to the pressing problems of youth and children of J&K.



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