

YEAR 2023



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

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ABOUT US

MESSAGE FROM CEO

In 2022-23 CHINAR launched two major projects – Parvaaz and Teach with CHINAR fellowship (TWCF). Both had been in planning for the couple of years but were delayed due to COVID. The launch of Parvaaz in Waltengo, Kulgam marked a significant milestone for us. Funded by Irfan Khathwari Foundation, this ambitious project aims to uplift the most vulnerable groups in the community - children, youth, low-resource educational institutions and community-based organizations through holistic community development. Through Parvaaz, we are hopeful that Waltengo can become an example of recovery and rehabilitation in disasters worldwide.



TWC Fellowship was launched in collaboration with Department of School Education Kashmir to address educational challenges in low-resource and low performing government schools. Based on the Teach for India fellowship model, TWCF assigns fellows to teach in schools for two years, creating safe spaces, improving student learning outcomes, and building life skills through activity-based methods. In parallel, they are required to strengthen School Management Committees (SMCs) and increase community investment in student's learning by following the school transformation plan co-created in partnership with the school. In this phase, 8 fellows were placed in 8 government schools across 7 districts of the valley. Additionally, CHINAR partnered with Wipro Foundation to support 15 Community Learning Centers (CLCs).

Building on the tremendous success of our Small Business Support, we launched Cohort 2 of the program, selecting 18 youth for the support. We are hopeful that these youth will achieve self-reliance within next two years.

This report covers our our programs and activities in 2022-23. I want to thank our incredible team, funders, dedicated partners, Board of Directors, and advisors. Together, we look forward to productive and impactful year in 2023-24.



Irfan Shahmiri
Founder & CEO

2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Child Development

- 372 children from 174 underprivileged families were enrolled in the Child Development program.
- 5 new livelihoods provided under Child Development Program, 4 in Srinagar and 1 in Kupwara
- Four health camps, in collaboration with Chief Medical Officer, catering to over 400 beneficiaries.

Quality education

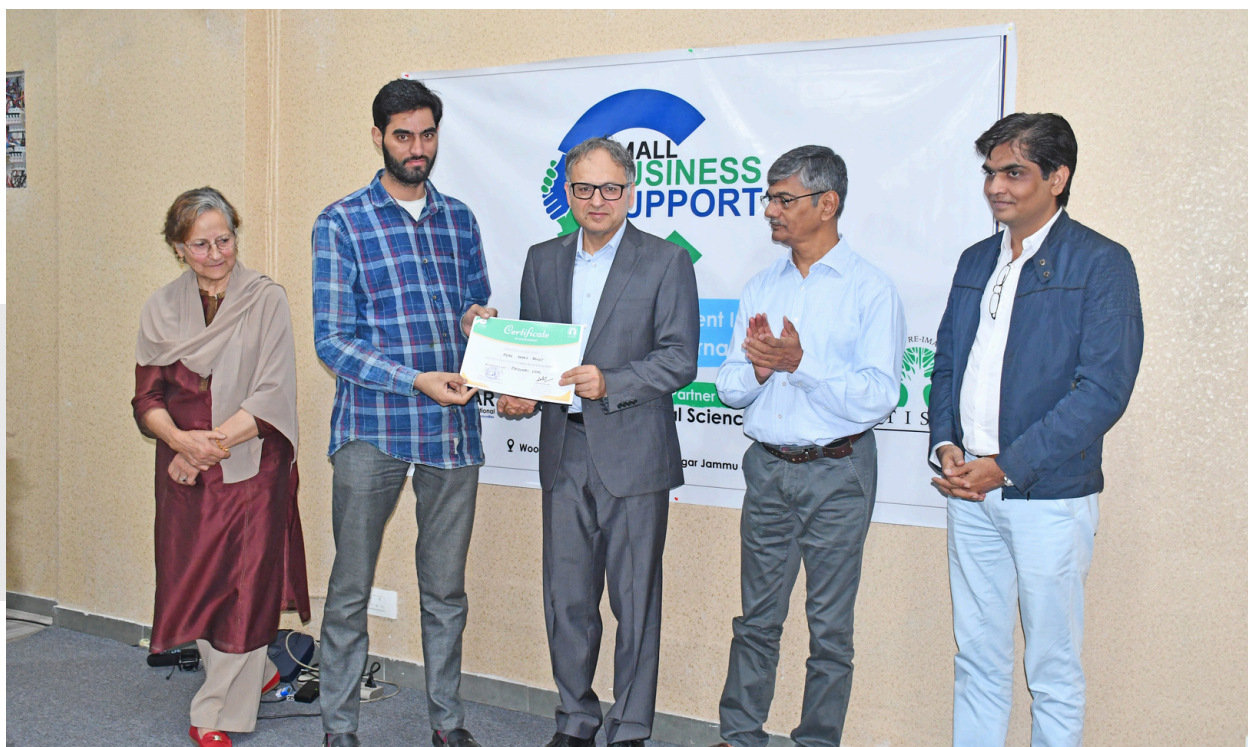
- CHINAR International launched the Teach with CHINAR (TWC) Fellowship and partnered with Wipro to strengthen organizational processes and support our 15 community learning centers.

Youth Development

- Launched 18 units under Phase 3 of the Small Business Support program across 8 districts of J&K-Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar, Badgam, Kulgam, Bandipora, Pulwama, and Shopian.

Community transformation

- Launched first Community Transformation Project - Parvaaz in Waltengo, Kulgam.

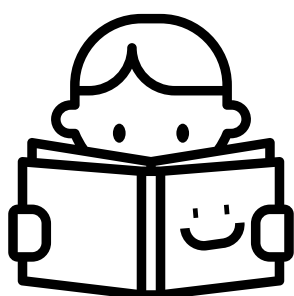


GOALS & TARGETS



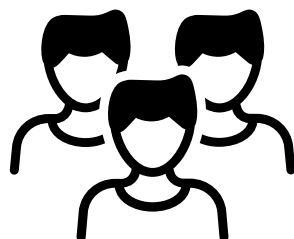
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Enroll 300 children in the program.
- Develop counseling module for field staff
- Re-assessment of existing beneficiaries,
- Livelihood to 50 families'
- Review SOPs and guidelines
- Medical camp in each district
- Capacity building workshop



QUALITY EDUCATION

- Warwan Valley – Expansion to 30 Community Learning Centers (CLCs)
- Launch of Comprehensive School Transformation Program
- Induction and Deployment of Fellows in Schools
- Expansion of Community Learning Centers (CLCs) from 76 to 90
- Launch Digital Literacy and Reading Corner Initiative



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Small Business Support - 40
- Skill development centers - 8
- Capacity building workshop - 2
- Sports events - 2
- Education for Youth - 20
- Self-Help Groups - 4



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

- 8 communities
- 4 districts - Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla and Kulgam



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. The selected child is provided with all necessities like school fees, stationary, clothes, shoes, school bags, nutrition, hygiene kit and basic healthcare. It provides market focused Community Finance for livelihoods to the guardians of vulnerable children so that the guardians can raise their families in a nurturing way. The target is to make the families self-reliant within 5 years.

Till date, 1146 children have been enrolled in the program from 6 districts

Ramadan Special kits Distribution

During Ramadan 2022 and 2023, CHINAR International distributed Ramadan Special Kits to 424 families enrolled in the Child Development program across six intervention districts - Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara, Doda, Srinagar, and Budgam. The kits consisted of monthly essentials including dates, flour, milk, tea, suji, vermicelli packs and other items to ensure that our beneficiaries had access to sufficient food items during the blessed month of Ramadan.



Ramadan kits distribution in Srinagar

Learning Circle Meet - Field staff

A learning circle meet was held with 10 field monitors working under the Child Development program across 6 districts of Kashmir. The primary focus was to discuss challenges faced by the ground team, share learnings from the field and strengthen the monitoring process. The meeting consisted of multiple sessions including the importance of monitoring, family assessments, procurement guidelines, basic computer skills, and selection criteria for business incubation. Irfan Shahmiri, our Global Executive Director, had a thorough discussion with the field staff during which they shared their ideas, feedback and future plans.





Health camp at Srinagar

Health camps held across four districts

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer, conducted four medical camps for children and parents enrolled in the Child Development Program across Srinagar, Budgam, and Kupwara districts. The team collaboratively worked with doctors and specialists from respective districts which included general physicians, dentists, ophthalmologists, pediatricians, gynecologists', counselors, pharmacist, clinical psychologists, and various health workers. Over 400 people including the general public got examined through these camps. A special counter for free medicines was also installed for the families.

Scaling up under Child Development

CHINAR successfully concluded final phase of assessment survey across Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara, Budgam and Srinagar districts. After a thorough assessment and due-diligence process, **372 children from 174 underprivileged families** were enrolled in the program. Following final selection, CHINAR conducted a series of scale up events across all the districts. Each event witnessed the participation of parents, guardians, community members and school teachers. Special hygiene kits were also distributed among the new enrollees.



Scale up event in Budgam



Winter kits distribution at Shopian

Winter kits Distribution

CHINAR conducted winter kits distribution events across five districts in Kashmir - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Budgam for 357 children enrolled in the Child Development Program. These kits comprise of pherans, kangiris, blankets, sweaters and other essential items.



QUALITY EDUCATION

In 2022-23, CHINAR International's Quality Education vertical strengthened its programs by drafting key performance indicators (KPIs) and implementing a robust monitoring process. This initiative was aimed at ensuring accountability and measurable impact across its education interventions. During this period, the Teach with CHINAR Fellowship program was also conceived, focusing on deploying skilled fellows in low-resource schools to improve teaching and learning outcomes. In addition, CHINAR introduced new tools and processes designed to enhance classroom practices, such as participatory teaching methods, socio-emotional learning integration, and innovative approaches to student engagement.

Over 11,000 students have been benefitted through school transformation, community learning centers and fellowship programs.

Launch of WIPRO funded CLCs

CHINAR International launched 15 Community Learning Centers (CLC) in Baramulla District, funded by the Wipro Foundation. The CLC's in the district will serve 525 children (grades 1 to 8) with an enrollment of 35 children per center. They will provide targeted academic support to address learning gaps, assess socio-emotional learning, and facilitate creative activities.

Currently, a total of 55 CLCs are operating across 8 districts of J&K.



In 2019, CHINAR International established a community learning center in my village, and I became a facilitator. This opportunity was life-changing for me, allowing me to develop both personally and professionally. Through their training and support, I was able to boost my confidence and exposure levels, and improve academic performance of children who come from low economic backgrounds. As a facilitator, I also conduct parentteacher meetings, where we focus on positive parenting and changing societal perceptions. I am grateful to CHINAR for giving me the chance to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

Joziya Gulshan(Sumbal, Bandipora)





Teach with CHINAR Fellowship (TWCf)

This year, Teach with CHINAR (TWC) Fellowship program was launched after selecting ten fellows who went through a three-tier screening process. The fellows were placed in schools across six districts. Following the launch, CHINAR organized a training for TWC fellows which focused on capacity building, self-awareness, foundational literacy, and creating a holistic school development plan. All the participants enjoyed the training sessions and appreciated the team for making it a fantastic start to the fellowship.

The aim is to uplift low-resourced schools through meaningful stakeholder engagements for providing quality education to children and improving the overall school ecosystem.

Capacity building of CLC facilitators

A 3-day capacity building workshop was organised for 50 community teachers from 8 districts of Kashmir division at Srinagar base office. The training focused on effective lesson planning, classroom management, socio-emotional learning, leadership development and 21st century skills. The idea was to enable a teacher to acquire an understanding of child psychology and develop a proper attitude towards the teaching process. In addition, the socio-emotional learning session was covered by Adil Wadoo, Program Manager, IMHANS who stressed on mental health issues among children in Kashmir.



LCM - Community Learning Centers

A learning circle meet was organised for volunteers and field staff working on the ground. The meeting was attended by 38 people including Community Learning Center teachers, remedial education staff and field monitors. Facilitated by Global Executive Director, Irfan Shahmiri, the meeting stressed the role of effective monitoring and creating child friendly spaces.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

“Works with unemployed youth through skill development and entrepreneurship support to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant”

A majority of Kashmiri youth is unemployed or underemployed and attaining a government job is the benchmark of being successful. Government jobs are scarce and the private sector is still in its nascent stage. Additionally, a significant number of skilled laborers are imported from other states, as dignity of labor has not evolved in Kashmir as in other parts of India. In this vertical, CHINAR works with unemployed youth through skill development, entrepreneurship support and counseling to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant.

Over 2000 youth have been supported through skill development, business support and entrepreneurship guidance under the program.

Small Business Support Units

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), recently conducted a 4-day Small Business Support (SBS) program, selecting 10 candidates for the 2nd cohort in addition to the 8 participants from the pilot phase. With this, CHINAR has successfully launched 18 business units across 8 districts of Jammu and Kashmir—Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar, Badgam, Kulgam, Bandipora, Pulwama, and Shopian. These unit holders show great promise and are optimistic about generating sustainable incomes through their entrepreneurial ventures, contributing to their personal growth and the local economy.



Sheep unit - Masrat from Kupwara

Learning Circle Meet - Small Business Support

A learning circle meet was organised for unit holders under CHINAR’s Small Business Support. The meeting was held in presence of Global Executive Director, Irfan Shahmiri and drew a total of 26 participants. The objective was to provide an open forum to young businessmen where they could share experiences and learnings with each other. A total of 37 units are running successfully across 8 districts of Kashmir division, with a plan to scale up to 50 units this year.





Youth graduate in multiple skills

This year, CHINAR successfully closed seven Skill Development Centers (SDC) across seven districts in Kashmir- Bandipora (2), Baramulla (7), Srinagar (5), Shopian (2), Budgam (1) Kulgam (1), and Kishtwar (2). Over 300 youth graduated from these centers in multiple skills- cutting and tailoring, Tilla embroidery, digital learning, and electrical courses. Upon graduation, the youth are given different options to monetize the newly learnt skills.

Till date, 1077 youth have graduated from our skill centers across 8 districts of J&K.

SHG Launched in Bandipora

Self Help Group (SHG) project was started in Sarai Dangarpura, Bandipora which enrolled ten local women. The SHG acts as a support strategy to monetize the skills of trainees who graduate from CHINAR's skill centers and gain wholesome learning experiences. CHINAR provided an orientation to the group regarding the maintenance and management of financial accounts and hence the group created a joint account to manage their savings.



Sports culture in Bandipora

CHINAR International, in collaboration with the local Government Higher Secondary School, organized a volleyball tournament at Gadakhud, Bandipora where eight teams from eight different villages of Baramulla and Bandipora districts participated. Locals, community heads, school principals and teachers attended the tournament and participated with enthusiasm. Trophies were presented to the winning team and the best performers.



PARVAAZ

Parvaaz focuses on holistic community development by supporting vulnerable groups – children, youth, low-resource educational institutions and community-based organizations.

During Ramadan, CHINAR International launched its first Community Transformation Project Parvaaz – in Waltengo, Kulgam. Over 650 people were present at the launch including CHINAR board members (Dr. Mushtaq Margoob, Dr. Zahida Shah), CHINAR CEO (Irfan Shahmiri), CHINAR patrons (Ismet Shahmiri), CHINAR staff and scores of Waltengo community members.

As part of the launch, two community learning centers (with 25 children each) and one skill development center (Crewel work) were started. Twenty children from 10 families were also enrolled in the Child Development program. Three community teachers and a field monitor were also recruited.

Waltengo is a remote village located in the Kund belt of Kulgam which lost two-thirds of its population in twin snowstorms in late February 2005.

Parvaaz Launch In Baramulla

CHINAR International launched Parvaaz - Phase 1 in two communities of Baramulla district. The launch event was conducted in two villages - Shalboni and Bonichakul. The first event was attended by over 70 people including community members, youth, CLC teachers, selected children and their families. The event concluded with the distribution of welcome kits to 23 children enrolled in Child development. Similar event was conducted at Arampora (Bonichakul) where 30 children were enrolled in the program.



Welcome kits distribution in Baramulla



Parvaaz launch in Shopian

Parvaaz Launch In Shopian

In Shopian, the program kicked off in two selected villages - Gatipora and Herpora. Around 170 people attended the event including community members, school staff, CLC teachers, SDC trainees, field monitors, selected children and their families. Chief Education Officer (CEO), Mohd. Mushtaq, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the launching ceremony along with HOI and school staff. The event concluded with distribution of welcome kits to 62 children enrolled in Child development.



LINKAGE BUILDING

PATRON'S MEET

CHINAR International hosted a Patron's meeting which was attended by 25 people including board members from USA and Kashmir, program leads, partner organizations and new patrons with the notable presence of Global Executive Director, Irfan Shahmiri. The meeting focused on the current interventions on the ground, ongoing programs, and an update on the community transformation project- PARVAAZ.

All attendees acknowledged CHINAR's effort towards the upliftment of individuals and communities in need, over the past decade.

NGO networking meet

CHINAR International hosted a networking meet with the selected NGOs working in Kashmir. The participants included UNICEF, Save The Children, MSF, Koshish and the Social work department. The NGOs working in respective fields, constructively participated to share the challenges and experiences in the development sector.



Kashmir Patron's Meet

CHINAR International's Global Executive Director, Irfan Shahmiri facilitated an introductory meeting with CHINAR board of Kashmir, potential patronage and supporters at base office in Srinagar. The meeting covered the brief description of CHINAR programs, impact on ground, future plans.



INTERNSHIPS

Interns Graduate Successfully

Twelve interns from different colleges within and outside Kashmir successfully concluded a one-month internship program with CHINAR International. The internship was meticulously planned to ensure that the interns get a holistic picture of all the existing programs. The interns were engaged in multiple activities like field visits, interactional sessions, research and documentation and content writing for social media. At the end of internship, the interns presented their learnings and feedback to the team. The team celebrated the accomplishments of the interns and awarded certificates of completion to them.



Interaction Session with MSW students

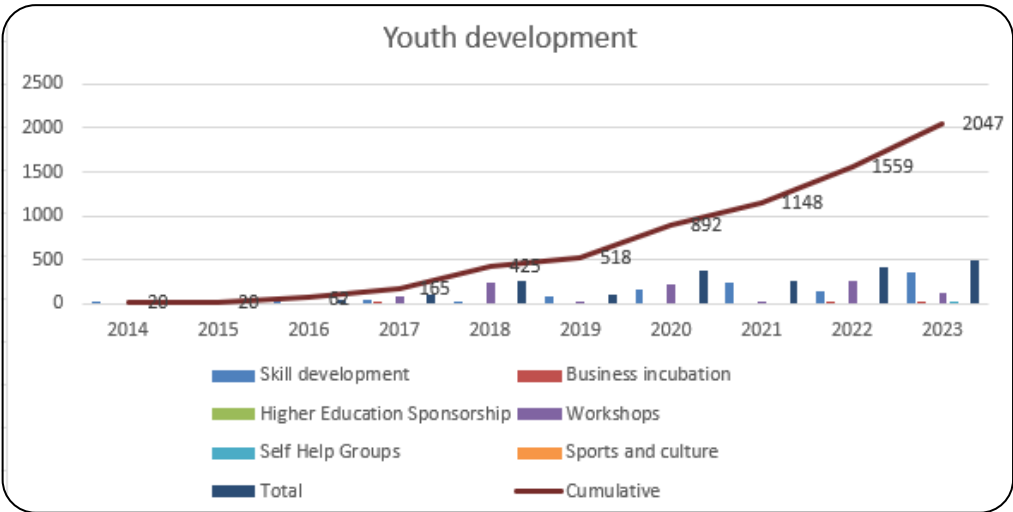
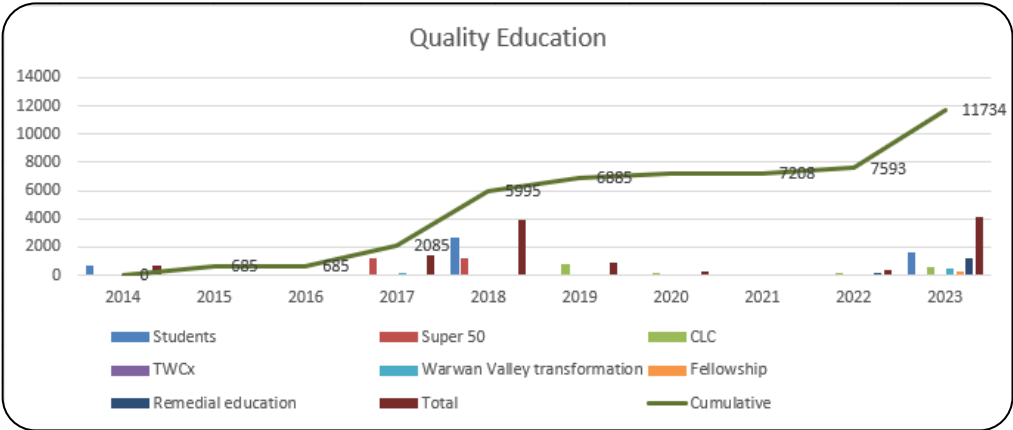
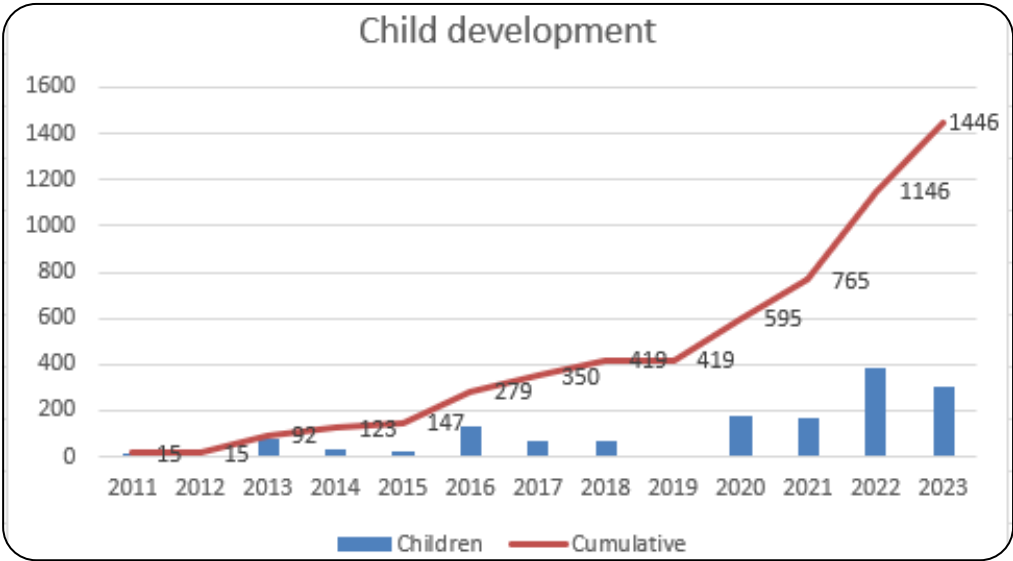
CHINAR International, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, Kashmir University, organized an interactive session with young and passionate MSW students. Global Executive Director - Irfan Shahmiri, who led the session, shared his personal journey as a social development leader, challenges and opportunities, and achievements of CHINAR in the last decade. The goal was to inspire young changemakers and encourage them to participate in community upliftment projects.



"CHINAR International is a wonderful organization with a supportive work environment and ample opportunities for learning. They deliver on their promises with utmost dedication, making a real impact through their work. The internship experience is particularly valuable for anyone looking to work directly with communities and make a difference on the ground. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here and highly recommend it to others!"

Saira Fazili
Intern(March 2023)

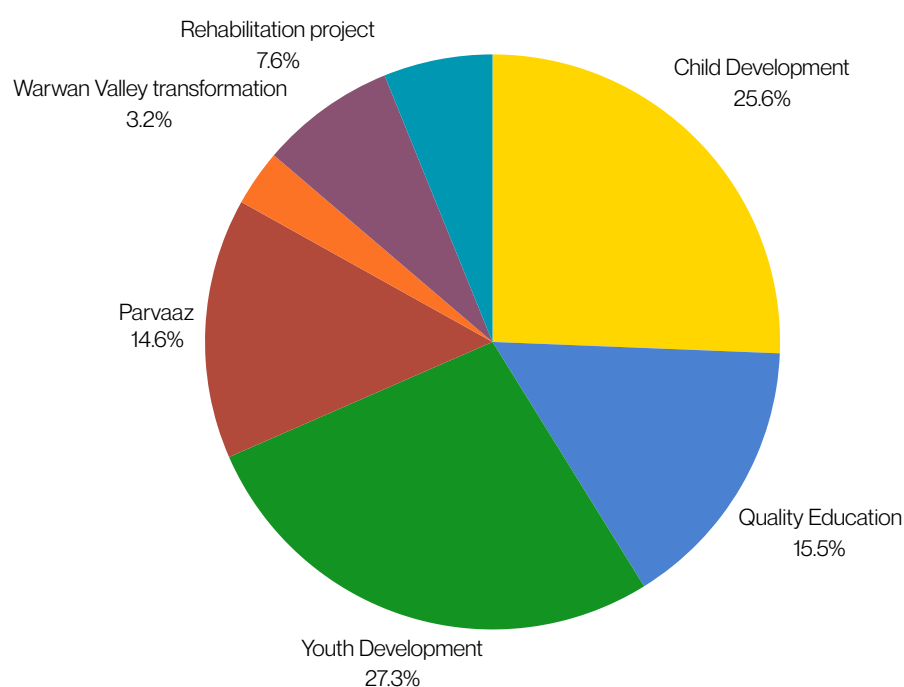
INFOGRAPHICS



22-23

FINANCIALS

PROGRAMS	AMOUNT(INR)	AMOUNT(USD)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	9,077,288	112,065
QUALITY EDUCATION	5,500,132	67,903
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	9,661,072	119,272
WARWAN VALLEY TRANSFORMATION	1,117,778	13,800
PARVAAZ	5,185,828	64,023
REHABILITATION PROJECT	2,701,305	33,349
ADMIN AND OPERATIONS	2,169,557	26,785
TOTAL	35,412,960	437,197





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.



Phone

+91-6005185878



Email

info@chinarinternational.org



Website

www.chinarinternational.org



Office Address

Baghat, Srinagar , J&K - 190005