

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023





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# FOREWORD



## ABOUT US?

Objectif France-Inde (OFI) is a French association under the 1901 law, non-political and non-denominational, non-profit organization, founded in 1998. OFI assists its partners, Indian NGOs, in the design, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of their projects, while facilitating their access to international funding.

OFI's partners operate in South India in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and in North India in West Bengal. OFI's objective is to share its skills and experiences with its partners, who are grassroots actors.

OFI directly involves the supported populations in an approach to inclusive development, thus ensuring the quality of the projects implemented.



## OUR VISION

OFI focuses on vulnerable populations such as children, women and farmers in rural and isolated areas.

OFI relies on its 26 years of expertise in the fields of childhood and education, integrated rural development and women's emancipation.

OFI is convinced that supporting and training local NGOs to improve people's living conditions is the key to a country's development.

This is particularly important when these NGOs can work in collaboration with certain government programs.

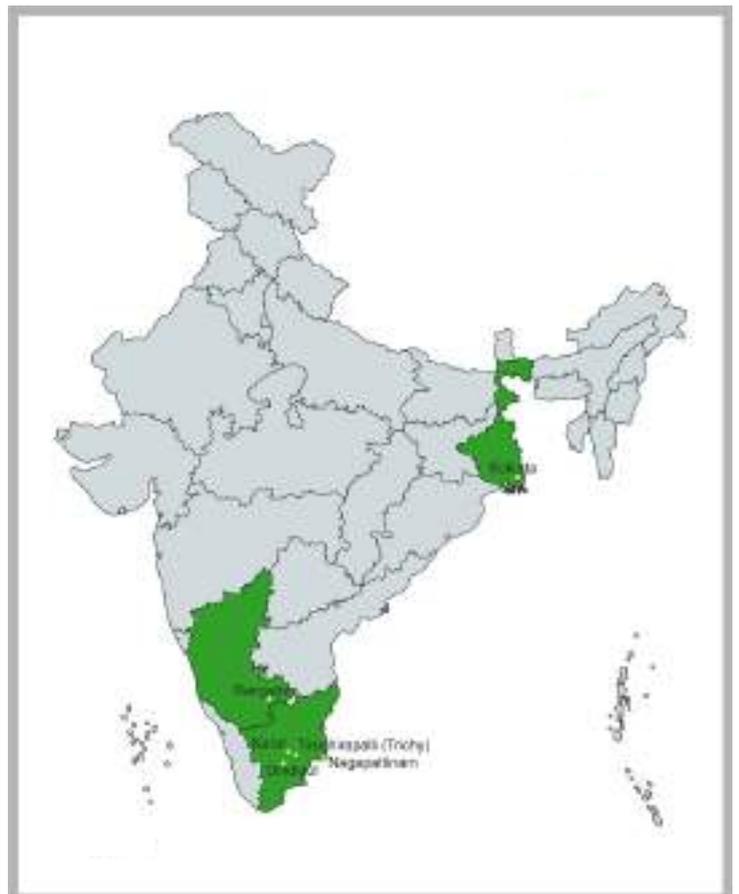
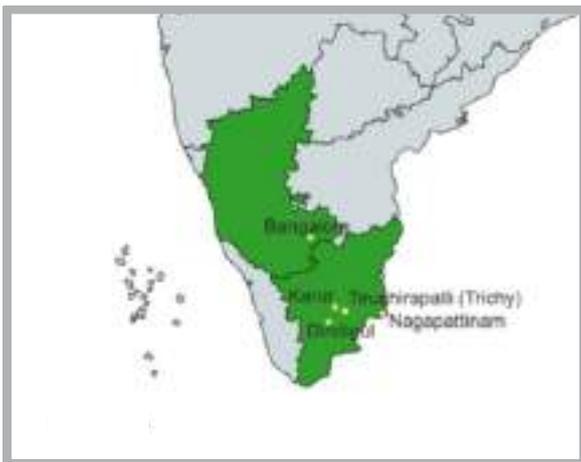


## OUR AREAS OF INTERVENTION

In South India, OFI and its partners are active in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, covering the Karur, Trichy, Dindigul and Karaikal coastal areas.

Projects in Karnataka focus mainly on children and education. In Tamil Nadu, OFI primarily supports the districts of Trichy and Karur. Here, OFI implements multidimensional integrated rural development programs focusing on agriculture and rainwater conservation, children and education, and women's empowerment. In the Karaikal coastal area, OFI promotes the creation of self-help groups for empowerment.

In West Bengal, in some fifteen remote villages such as Uluberia, Marokhana and Parbakshi, projects support the education of disadvantaged children, as well as centers for young people with disabilities.



Map 1 and 2: areas covered by our partner NGOs

# OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISES

## Childhood and Education

Education is a key challenge in India. Access to school infrastructure and formal education is still too difficult. The lack of security for children is often caused by the lack of security for their families.

However, the reality is that these families fall into poverty, ending up living in slums or on the streets.

These living conditions are dangerous for the children, both physically and psychologically. Abuse and abandonment are also common in these situations.

OFI's objective: provide education for children in marginalized communities. Several projects have been set up in this field: schools in English or in the local language in rural areas, foster homes for street children in Bangalore, schools for migrant children, care and foster homes for those affected by AIDS, and centers for children with disabilities.



## KEY FIGURES OF THE YEAR 2023

**11 123** supported children



**9** foster homes  
**72** children



**18** primary and secondary schools



Establishment of **6** computer centers, **2** libraries, and **1** science laboratory



Construction of **7** classrooms and **1** tutoring centre



Purchase of **2** school buses



# OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISES

## Integrated Rural Development

The Tamil Nadu region is suffering from drought due to global warming. These droughts have devastating consequences for the regional economy, severely affecting the agricultural sector, and have a direct impact on the livelihoods of local populations, compromising their food security and survival. Many are migrating to the cities for economic reasons.

OFI's objective: to ensure food security and strengthen the resilience of populations in the fight against global warming, to reduce rural migration.

OFI has supported three NGOs in the development of a hundred watershed areas, enabling hundreds of hectares to be cultivated and trees to be planted.

By creating large water tanks to collect rainwater, the water tables are refilled so that previously uncultivable land can be cultivated and villages can be supplied with drinking water.

OFI encourages optimal use of natural resources and sustainable agricultural practices through appropriate training.

### KEY FIGURES OF THE YEAR 2023

14 206 supported persons



6 watershed rehabilitated



410 farmers trained



11 000 trees planted



5 integrated rural development projects

# OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISES

## Women Empowerment

Tamil society is still very conservative, particularly concerning the place and role of women in society, who have few opportunities to develop outside the family environment.

As a result, they are financially dependent on their husbands and must take full responsibility for domestic chores and child-rearing.

OFI's objective: to support women's social, economic, and personal development by creating self-help groups (SHG - Self Helps Groups or JLG - Joint Liability Groups).

The main aim of these groups is to empower women by helping them obtain micro-credits and develop income-generating activities. This enables women not only to improve their economic situation but also to have a wider positive impact on their families and society.



### KEY FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 2023

**5 311** supported women



**10** women empowerment projects



**4 514** trained women in income-generating activities



**649** SHGs created



**6 208** women from previous projects supported

# OFI AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# OUR PARTNERS



DIN (Dream India Network) based in Bangalore, is an organization founded in 2011 committed to sustainable change in the lives of citizens in India. Its aim is to promote and encourage collective action in response to the growing needs of children, youth, women and other marginalized and abandoned people.

Vonisha Service Foundation is an organization set up in 2017, operating in the slums of Begur, in the Bangalore district. Vonisha's role is to support the underprivileged and tackle inequalities based on caste, religion, skin color or origin. The organization focuses particularly on migrant communities who have arrived in Bangalore for economic reasons.



SEVAI (Society for Education, Village Action and Improvement) was founded in 1975. It aims to improve the living conditions of people in rural areas and respect the dignity of marginalized populations in Tamil Nadu. SEVAI has been OFI's partner for over 30 years.

Its expertise in self-help programs (SHG and JLG) is recognized by the local government, which trusts it to manage micro-credits granted to women. SEVAI is also developing agriculture in the villages.

Gramium is an organization founded in 1991 that works in the Karur and Trichy districts of Tamil Nadu to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged populations. Its programs include education, water resource management, self-help groups, the fight against HIV and environmental protection. Gramium has also been recognized by the government on several occasions.



ISSAI, founded in 2002, was set up with the aim of sustainably improving the livelihoods of disadvantaged people in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. The organization initially focused on women's empowerment. It is also involved in rural development programs, including the construction and renovation of watersheds, the promotion of community organizations and producers, and the creation of complementary education programs.

# OUR PARTNERS



HUT (Human Uplift Trust) has been engaged in the education and health sectors since 1987. Its action is concentrated in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu, serving vulnerable and precarious populations. To achieve its objectives, HUT runs an English-language school for children from Dalit communities in Mannachanallur. HUT has also established an orphanage and school for children infected and affected by HIV. This orphanage, known as "House of Hope", is located in Perambalur, a district close to Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), where HIV prevalence is among the highest in the state of Tamil Nadu.

ABC (Asha Bhavan Centre) is an organization that has been helping marginalized communities in West Bengal since 1999. ABC's mission is to create significant opportunities for people's social and economic development, so that they can acquire dignity, equity and self-confidence. ABC provides quality education and support in very poor rural areas through its Bodhodoy Vidya Mandir (BVM) school program. The organization also provides medical rehabilitation services at its two homes for disabled and abandoned children.



PARAS PADMA, founded in 1998, is a social welfare organization that supports disabled children and destitute patients in West Bengal. Paras Padma's objectives are multiple: to educate and empower the physically handicapped, to raise awareness and promote the rights of the handicapped within the community, and to assess the need for orthopedic appliances.

ICOD is an organization that has been working for marginalized communities in West Bengal since 2004. ICOD's mission is to create meaningful opportunities for the social and economic development of destitute and abandoned people of all ages, so that they can acquire dignity, equity and self-confidence.

ICOD offers an inter religious center in harmony with nature.



# OUR PROJECTS

Projects	ONG Partner	Donor	Person supported
<b>CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION</b>			
Christic Home - Foster Home	DIN	OFI	8
Adrian Home - Foster Home	DIN	D'jehouty	16
Katherine Home - Foster Home	DIN	D'jehouty	16
Good Shepard - Foster Home	DIN	OFI	16
Preethi Sadan - Foster Home	DIN	OFI	16
Adopt a Teacher - Bichendarkoil School Year 2	SEVAI	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	126
Wheels of Wisdom	SEVAI	AliBaba and You	80
Bits and Bytes	SEVAI	ADES	900
Roads to Knowledge	SEVAI	Fondation Luciole	87
Smile Mission	SEVAI	OFI	131
Education, a path to inclusion	SEVAI	Fondation Air France	120
Projet Edutech	SEVAI	OFI	900
Nutrition and Education for HIV Kids - Year 2	GRAMIUM	OFI	250
Roof for Future	GRAMIUM	Fondation Luciole	108
TechLab	GRAMIUM	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	180
Splash Project	DIN	OFI	23
Shiksha Project - OPEX	ABC	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	1 701
Shiksha Project - Year 2	ABC	Alibaba & You	/
Build for Future	ABC	Fondation Luciole	90
Helping Hands	ABC	AVTM	2 170
Jouer pour s'épanouir	ABC	OFI	135
Plouf Plouf	ABC	AVTM	125
Learning Matters	ABC	AVTM+OFI/Dominique Lapierre	1 249
Back to School - Year 4	Vonisha	Fondation Lumilo	190
Back to School - Renovation	Vonisha	Fondation Lumilo	190
Read & Discover	Vonisha	OFI	190
Beyond the Bells	ISSAI	OFI/Bulles d'Espoir	300
Devdutt Scholarship	ICOD	OFI/Cotillon	1
Studies for Future	HUT	OFI	10
House of Hope Emergency Fund	HUT	Lord Michelham - OFI/Dominique Lapierre	102
Digital Lab	HUT	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	453
AquaCare Project	HUT	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	102
Good night, kids!	HUT	Alibaba&You	102
Orthopedic Workshop	PARAS PADMA	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	350
Bee Happy	GRAMIUM	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	250
SolarWise	GRAMIUM	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	1 200
SanitEASE Project - Construction of toilets	GRAMIUM	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	108
<b>Children supported :</b>			<b>11 323</b>

# OUR PROJECTS

Projects	ONG partner	Donor	Person supported
<b>DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL INTÉGRÉ</b>			
Let's Cultivate Development 2 - Year 1	SEVAI	Luciole+OFI/Dominique Lapierre	5 808
Plant a Forest ( Miyawaki Forest)	GRAMIUM	Alibaba&You	/
Eau - source de vie	GRAMIUM/ISSAI	Lord Michelham	327
Sengulam Project	GRAMIUM	Hum'am	2 636
L'eau de Baba - Année 2	ISSAI	Alibaba&You	3 528
<b>Population supported :</b>			<b>12 299</b>
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b>			
S.T.E.P For Women	SEVAI	Lord Michelham	1 260
Lifeline SOS Project	SEVAI	OFI	150
Women Power - SHG Follow-Up	GRAMIUM	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	2 322
Eau - source de vie	GRAMIUM/ISSAI	Lord Michelham	327
Goat rearing project	ABC	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	20
Sakhi Project	Vonisha	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	100
De Fil en Aiguille	ISSAI	Hirzel	1 350
Busy Bee - Année 2	ISSAI	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	640
Construction of Concrete Roof	ICOD	OFI/Dominique Lapierre	38
ICOD Op-Ex	ICOD	AVTM	72
<b>Women supported:</b>			<b>6 374</b>
<b>Total project beneficiaries 2023:</b>			<b>77 426</b>



# CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION





## 1. SCHOOL SUPPORT

Objectif France-Inde and its partners are working in the field of education in several ways.

In 2023 :

- OFI is supporting 3 schools in Tamil Nadu and 10 elementary schools in West Bengal, as well as one in Bangalore (St. Ignatius School).
  - OFI supports the sustainability of education in these establishments by financing operational expenses, such as teachers' salaries, as well as Bridge Programs or evening classes, enabling children to return to school.
  - OFI also continues to encourage interculturality in these establishments by integrating French Volunteers in Civic Service, who team up with the educational staff. These volunteers bring a new dynamic to school and after-school activities, developing sports, educational, and cultural activities, helping to renovate libraries and computer rooms, and organizing French language clubs.
  - OFI runs schooling projects for disadvantaged children who have dropped out of the school system. Some partners provide quality education for children and teenagers infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, who are marginalized because of their situation. In addition, some young adults are supported in their studies through scholarship programs.
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## 2. INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2023:

- OFI has helped to fund 2 school buses for the SEVAI Shanthi School so that children living in remote villages can attend school.
- Classrooms were built in various schools for the NGOs SEVAI, HUT and ABC. These classrooms have been converted into science laboratories, computer rooms and libraries.
- To overcome the digital gap between rural and urban areas, OFI and its partners have set up computer-related projects, renovating computer rooms, purchasing better-quality equipment and building new computer rooms in schools that do not yet have them. Projects have already been set up at SEVAI, GRAMIUM and HUT.
- In the village of Thottiapatti, a building has been constructed for the NGO SEVAI to accommodate children from tribal communities. The building has 3 classrooms that can accommodate 120 young people from the surrounding villages and enable evening classes to be organized.
- 4 toilets were built, 2 for the NGO Vonisha's St. Ignatius school in Begur, and 2 for the NGO Gramium's tutoring center in Kulithalai.



### 3. FOSTER HOMES

The program provides a home for extremely vulnerable orphans and semi-orphans aged 6 to 17. These children live on the streets or in the slums of Bangalore, come from very poor families, and have no access to education. Each home provides 8 children with a secure, family-like environment in which to develop their full potential. They are integrated into English-language schools and supervised by a qualified team committed to their well-being.

In 2023, OFI supported :

- Christic home for 8 boys aged between 6 and 12.
- Adrian's home for 16 girls.
- Good Shepard home for 16 girls.
- Katherine home for 16 girls.
- Claverian home for 16 girls.
- Preethi Sadan home for 16 girls.

### 4. SPECIALIZED EDUCATION

OFI supports its partners ABC, PARAS PADMA and ICOD in West Bengal in their projects for children and teenagers with disabilities.

In 2023 :

- 4 OFI Volunteers in Civic Service participated in the various projects and activities offered to the children of the NGO ABC.
- Volunteers at ABC have worked with the healthcare teams at the various centers to enhance the care provided to the children, particularly through physiotherapy and occupational therapy. The presence of the volunteers is precious in the psychological care of the children, notably thanks to their work in specialized education, but also thanks to their initiatives to animate the centers' living spaces.



# INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT



In India, around 65% of the population work in agriculture and depend on this activity for their livelihood. Due to decreasing water tables and a lack of water infrastructure, the population of Tamil Nadu is unable to cultivate and produce. This year, in August 2023, protests were held between the governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu demanding the release of water from the Cauvery river into Tamil Nadu, due to the water shortage. However, the water released was not in sufficient quantity due to the shortage also experienced in the state of Karnataka. As a result, the income of farmers is falling, forcing them to move from rural to urban areas. This massive displacement of people to urban areas, particularly slums, underlines the importance of OFI and its partners' action in Tamil Nadu to support farmers and rural populations.

## 1. REASONED AGRICULTURE

For several years now, OFI's partners have been engaged in sustainable agriculture. Indeed, local NGOs have initiated several activities to promote sustainable organic farming in response to climate change. Integrated agriculture is developed in projects supported by OFI, through a selection of environmentally-friendly agricultural activities. These include the use of organic waste, the raising of livestock, and bee-keeping. Local NGOs promote sustainable agriculture through various trainings offered to local farmers benefiting from the projects.

In 2023:

- 20 training courses for 410 farmers, focusing on the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides, made from natural products such as fish, lemon, or cow urine.
  - 20 vermicompost pits have been built. Vermicompost is an effective and inexpensive natural fertilizer for farmers. Farmers use less of the more expensive chemical fertilizers and recycle their biowaste, producing a high-quality fertilizer that increases their income through higher crop yields.
  - In OFI's projects, water is also used wisely, notably with drip irrigation systems. Farmers are trained to reduce their water consumption as part of their farming activities and are encouraged to think about how they can be more efficient and resilient against climate change and drought.
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## 2. REHABILITATION OF WATERTANK

These programs aim to reduce the rural migration by increasing the income of local populations and ensuring their primary needs. Thanks to the watersheds, farmers can harvest up to 3 crops a year. Once again this year, the projects have benefited many farmers and their families.

In 2023:

- Rehabilitation of 6 watersheds in Tamil Nadu with the NGOs ISSAI, GRAMIUM and SEVAI. By 2024, OFI will have rehabilitated 100 watersheds. The target localities for these projects are the districts of Dindigul and Karur, not far from the city of Trichy. The main objective of OFI and its partners working directly on the field with local populations is to improve the living conditions of rural populations in a sustainable way through the promotion of agriculture.



# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



# 1. SELF HELP GROUP (SHG)

OFI has maintained its support for women's empowerment through its Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). OFI has continued to support the SHGs of previous years while creating new groups.

In 2023: OFI and its partners supported the creation of new JLGs,

- 6,374 women benefited from women's empowerment programs: 649 self-help groups were created, most of them JLGs due to changes in government policies. It is now encouraged to form JLGs rather than SHGs, the latter being distinguished by the number of members - 5 for a JLG versus 12 to 15 for SHGs - and by the rapid access to training and microcredit.
- The groups receive training in health, hygiene, and microfinance. Training is also offered in tailoring, I.T, beauty care, and agriculture so that women can start up income-generating economic activities. As part of the program, women are taught to save by opening a joint bank account, to which they must all contribute monthly. The women can then lend each other money from this account, and repayments are recorded in a follow-up booklet. After the various training courses, some of which lead to a government-recognized diploma, the participants have access to a bank microcredit.

These programs strengthen women's autonomy and financial independence, essential to their social and economic emancipation.

## LIFE STORY

Susila joined a JLG of the NGO SEVAI in 2023. She is 48 years old and has spent many years as a housewife. Her husband is a daily laborer in the fishing industry, earning between 500 and 600 rupees a day. She has two sons and a daughter: her daughter is married and her sons have degrees in business administration and IT, but they also work as fishermen for daily wages as they have not found suitable employment. During the rainy season, they have no regular work because the government has forbidden fishermen to go to the seaside.

Every month now, Susila saves 200 rupees. With this money, she started buying fish and drying it to sell. Now, every day, she sells her dried fish near the beach. Thanks to this activity, she earns between 400 and 500 rupees a day. If she invests more in her business, she can earn up to 700 rupees a day. Today, her economic situation has improved considerably thanks to the support of SEVAI and OFI, which enabled her to join this JLG.





## 2. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The self-help programs run by OFI and its partner NGOs enable women in disadvantaged rural areas to acquire skills and engage in income-generating activities. They are able to set up individual or collective activities according to their wishes, in the field of their choice, for example: selling vegetables, beauty care, flower growing, jewelry production and sales, tailoring, etc.

Public banks and the government play an essential role in these programs. They offer low-interest microcredit, sometimes with government subsidies. Strict monitoring of loans and repayments is carried out by the various social workers financed by OFI. They send financial reports to the banks, based on specific evaluation criteria.

Local authorities are also involved in monitoring and training the women. The Panchayats (local authorities) assist the groups and organize specific training to ensure the sustainability of the activities. These aspects guarantee the stability of the structures and contribute to the emancipation of the women.

In 2023: For all women, the following training courses have been set up: entrepreneurship training, personal development training, health and hygiene training, financial management training.

For some: vocational training (beauty care, embroidery, tailoring, weaving, organic farming, etc.), IT training.

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# VOLUNTEERS OF 2023



In 2023, OFI and its partners welcomed 12 Civic Service Volunteers. Their active presence is always beneficial for NGOs in the field, bringing a new dynamic to local teams.

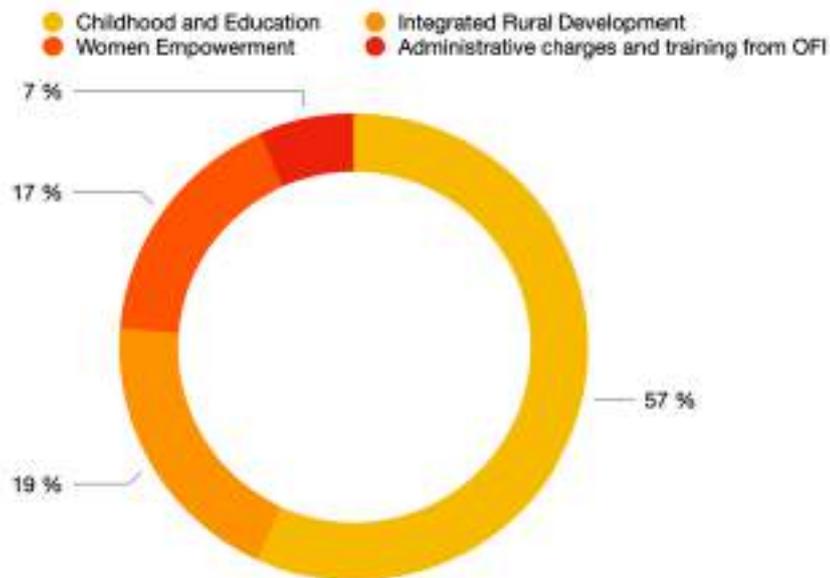
These volunteer had the opportunity to enjoy a highly enriching experience, both personally and professionally, and they are all delighted with their Indian adventure.



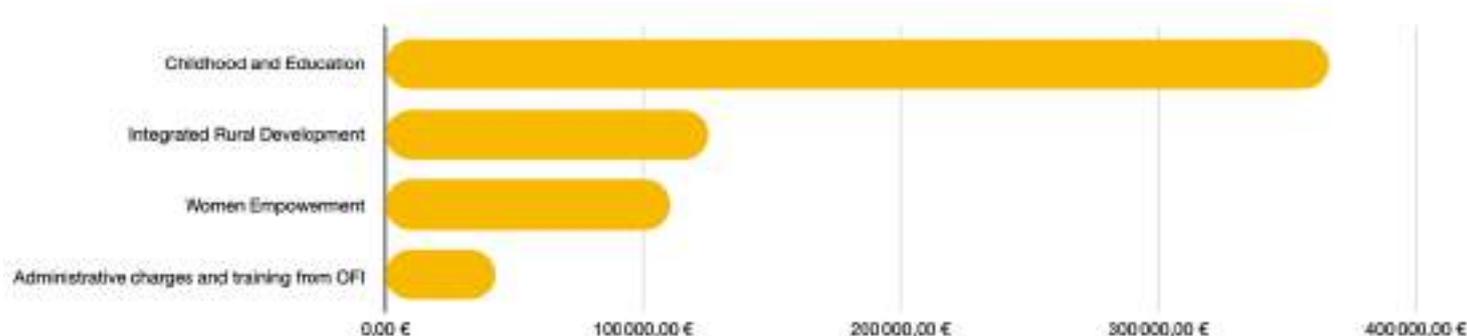
## Utilization of funds in 2023

In 2023, OFI benefited from the support of numerous foundations and associations. The funds raised from these foundations represent 93% of the total resources distributed this year. OFI distributed these funds to its local partners for the realization of their projects.

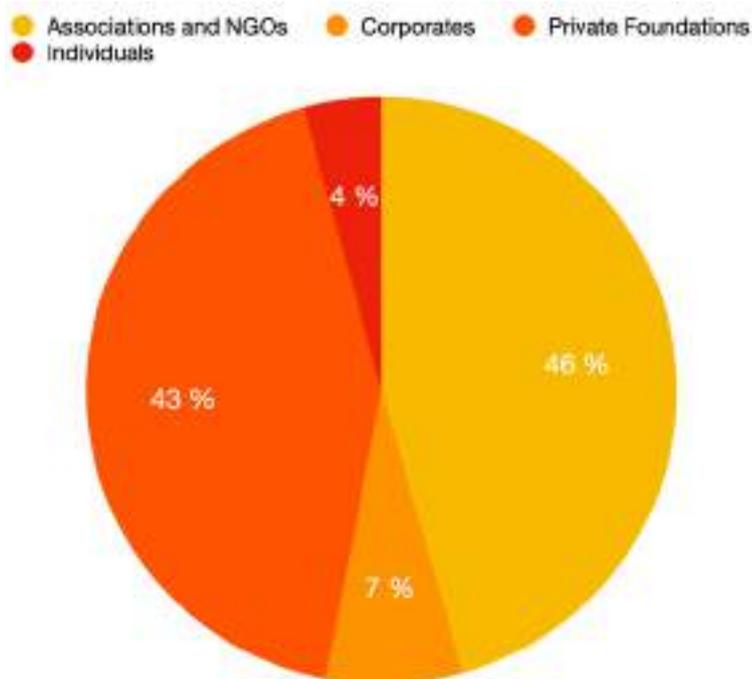
The total amount distributed was €602,200.



### Allocation of funds raised



### Donors



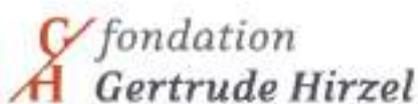
# THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Once again this year, OFI and its Indian partners would like to express their deep gratitude to all their donors. Our projects, as well as our successes, would not be possible without you: foundations, companies, members, partners, private donors, public bodies, volunteers and volunteers.

Thank you for your trust and commitment to OFI and its partners!



HUM'AM





**Association governed by the law of July 1,  
1901**

**OBJECTIF FRANCE-INDE**

**Head office : 23 PLACES DU MARÉCHAL DE  
TURENNE  
33350 CASTILLON-LA-BATAILLE**

**SIRENE : 438 439 283 00013  
[www.ofi-asso.org](http://www.ofi-asso.org)**