**Annual Report** 

# 2023 - 24





"Dasra celebrated 25 years in 2024. As we look ahead to the next 25 years, we are filled with profound gratitude and a fierce optimism for the future. We are humbled by the momentum we have built, by the change we have witnessed, and by the shared mission that binds us to our partners, our communities, and everyone who believes in the power of collective action. The road ahead is long, and the work is far from over. We invite you to be part of this journey and stand with us in solidarity."

- Neera Nundy and Deval Sanghvi Co-Founder and Partner Darsa





# A Resolve to Solve: The Dasra Way





India stands at a crossroads. One path leads to a formidable future with economic might and advancements in human development for its one billion citizens. The other is a future where millions remain on the margins, unable to share in India's rise.

India's economic potential is undeniable, with projections of staggering growth rates by 2047. Yet, daunting challenges also persist and threaten to derail this progress. These challenges include skill gaps in the workforce, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, or unequal access to education. Unlocking the true potential of India depends on addressing these challenges and aiming for inclusive progress.

The hope? India has the power of many. It is built upon the bedrock of pluralism, across topography, and cultures. Real, enduring change springs from leveraging our strength in numbers and diversity to collaborate for equity. This change must be driven by people – grassroots leaders, civil society organizations, and committed stakeholders. The ever-expanding landscape of philanthropic engagement is a testament to this transformation. In the last two decades, philanthropy has expanded tenfold, unlocking INR 112 Lakh Crores last year, towards social impact.

Dasra's success has been rooted in fostering such collaborations on the ground to unite the diverse stakeholders that make ecosystems. Only through the mobilization of such partnerships can we foster inclusive and sustainable environments. We consider collaborative action by communities, civil society leaders, philanthropists, and government as the cornerstones for our work.

As we celebrate 25 years of Dasra, our resolve to solve remains stronger than ever. We understand that India is at a generational pivot. The unprecedented challenges we face – climate change and intersectional inequalities demand stable institutions, innovative solutions, and resilient communities. And we have the way forward paved out for us: with the strength of our partners, we believe we can unlock the full potential of communities across India and forge a future where a billion thrive with equity and diversity.

- By Deval & Neera Co-Founder and Partner Darsa

# Onwards and Upwards: The Dasra Journey



When Dasra was founded, India was emerging from its 50th year of independence, brimming with innovation and promise, yet grappling with substantial development challenges. Today, India stands in the world as an example of transformative economic growth and ingenuity, continuously generating solutions for its most persistent issues. Thus, at a time of rapid change and evolving challenges, the need for visionary leadership and a strong commitment to fostering collaborative action has never been more urgent.

Dasra's journey over the past 25 years, from its inception as a venture philanthropy fund to its current role as a leading systems orchestrator in India's development sector, embodies such a commitment. Dasra has positioned itself as the partner of choice for those seeking to create lasting impact through collaboration and innovation. Let's look at some numbers:

- Dasra has impacted the lives of over 280
  million people through its diverse programs
  by advising on over 70 policies at both
  state and central levels, helping to shape
  the frameworks that guide India's progress
  toward equity and inclusion.
- Dasra has cultivated over 900+ global partnerships within India and globally, forming a robust network of allies committed to building a more equitable and prosperous society. These partnerships range from grassroots organizations to international development agencies, each playing a critical role in amplifying collective impact.

- Dasra's collaborative spirit is also reflected in driving engagement with more than 1000+ funders. Through these relationships, Dasra has influenced over 425 million in funding for the development sector in India. This financial support has been pivotal in empowering more than 1,400 non-profit organizations, enabling them to scale their impact and address fundamental developmental challenges.
- One of the cornerstones of Dasra's approach is our commitment to listening deeply to the communities we serve. A resourceful team of over 160 dedicated professionals works tirelessly to address and solve critical challenges aggravating the vulnerabilities of such communities.

Looking to the future, I feel confident in Dasra's ability to guide India towards becoming the powerhouse it is destined to be. With the unwavering support of our partners and collaborators, Dasra stands ready to navigate these turbulent times and lead India into a future where every individual can thrive with dignity and equity.

- Suparna Gupta Chairman of the Board, Dasra

### About Dasra

Twenty-five years ago, Dasra was born from a drive to catalyze such solutions. We began with the vision – a transformed India where one billion Indians could thrive with equity and dignity.

Dasra has evolved in its role as an intermediary to build the capacity of the social impact sector to serve communities, to educate organizations on effective principles of giving and to enable the government to better serve communities. To this day, it remains our raison d'être.

We firmly believe:

Equality is not good enough.

We need equity because it goes further.

Equality is a good starting point because it levels the playing field, but only equity compels us to reimagine our society. We exist as a diverse ecosystem, where our freedoms, potential, capabilities, and opportunities are varied. In such a society, equity is a reliable

approach to measure, identify, and rectify the biases holding us back from inclusive growth. India has already made progress on equity, and we have come far. However, we need to go much further.

We are certain about our calling and optimistic about the course of action. At Dasra, we see ourselves as systems change orchestrators, working with diverse stakeholders across the social impact ecosystem. Empowering the most vulnerable communities is paramount. Collaboration is key – through robust platforms, we multiply our impact and sustain the momentum. We tackle root causes, not just symptoms, to transform systems for the long term.

Every rupee, every effort, and every moment invested in this mission – forging relationships, building platforms, strengthening systems, and changing narratives is an attempt towards a more just and prosperous India. We acknowledge the long road ahead demands patience, compassion, foresight, and a relentless pursuit.



### Our Values

We work to leave behind a world better than the one we came into. Our values serve as both a compass, directing our actions towards impactful change, and a mirror, reflecting our deepest convictions and motivations, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

1 -

#### **Impact First:**

We place the lives of vulnerable communities at the center of all our work. Despite the complexity, scale and depth of India's development problems, conscious prioritization of lives in philanthropy will accelerate social change towards a transformed India where a billion thrive with dignity and equity.

2 <sup>最</sup>

#### Integrity:

We are committed to a high moral standard that leads to both individual and organizational conduct. We are consistently honest towards everyone we work with and take pride in building a dependable and inclusive organization.

3

#### Trust:

We perform best when we rise above our self-interest and with unwavering confidence, rely on each other to achieve Dasra's vision. It is this collective trust that strengthens the foundation for embracing all relationships and enables us to work more effectively as a team.

4

#### **Dynamic:**

We respond to the constantly changing development landscape with foresight, agility and new ideas. It is only with this dynamism, high energy and positive attitude that we will continue to thrive as a thought leader, drive impact and accelerate social change.

5

#### **Beyond the Rationale:**

We are deeply compassionate and invested in the well-being of every single individual and organization necessary to achieve India's development goals. This freedom to go above and beyond empowers us to be owners of Dasra's audacious vision and collectively transform India.

### Our Pillars

As systems change orchestrators, we want to work with diverse stakeholders across the social impact ecosystem. Our unwavering beliefs? Empowering the most vulnerable communities is paramount. Collaboration is key – through robust platforms, we multiply our impact and sustain the momentum. Tackling root causes, really getting to the bottom and fixing systems is instrumental for long-term change. Our four strategic pillars help us navigate the enormity of the context while focusing on our part, and the tiny role we play.

1



#### Thriving Communities To Build Solidarity

Diversity is as much a strength as it is a precondition for progress in India. Too often the historically marginalized and vulnerable communities that make up this diversity remain underserved on development gains. This exclusion overlooks their potential and perpetuates a system where the challenges repeat cyclically over several generations. For transformative change – historically marginalized and vulnerable communities must become the priority.

2.



#### Collaborative Platforms To Multiply Impact

Alliances. collaboratives, and networks can achieve what a single entity cannot – they bring alignment and momentum to issues, making the toughest challenges surmountable. They also have a powerful multiplier effect on achieving outcomes, uniting the strength of many to act across sectors, themes, geographies, and populations. By 2030, Dasra aims to incubate more platforms to encourage crosslearning and unite multiple stakeholders to solve critical issues.

3.



# Accelerating Systems Change To Strengthen Roots

To tackle complex social issues effectively, we must go beyond surfacelevel problems and address their root causes. We strive to transform systems by engaging in platforms and partnerships, influencing stakeholders with knowledge of best practices, and ensuring policies reflect ground-up insights. We believe systemic change is only possible when narratives shift. We create the infrastructure and spaces to enable this.

4.



#### India For The World, The World For India To Inspire Movements

We hope to amplify, scale, and celebrate India's advancements and learnings in solving complex social impact issues "the Indian way." Collaborations with international philanthropy, civil society organizations, and multilateral organizations are helping us facilitate synergistic dialogue and resource mobilization. We are committed to forging a symbiotic relationship between India and the international community.

# Impact Highlights 23-24

Dasra's journey towards social equity and sustainable development through collaborative action has yielded remarkable results in the fiscal year 2023-24. Committed to catalyzing resources that can drive equity for India's most marginalized, we have expanded our resource networks, collaborated with CSOs to strengthen communities, and influenced policy changes.

#### Empowering Communities Through Strategic Collective Giving:

Dasra's giving circle expanded significantly this year, with the addition of **150 new members** from the private sector, philanthropy, and family foundations. This coalition pooled **375 crores**, a testament to our strategic focus on mobilizing resources. These funds were purposefully directed towards initiatives that will benefit over **30 million** people.

# • Influencing Policy Through Informed Advocacy:

Last year, Dasra brought together diverse stakeholders—including community leaders, philanthropists, government officials, and foundations—to deliberate on pressing issues and devise collaborative, collective action on climate change, water conservation, gender equity, and inclusive sanitation. Through these strategic engagements and collaborations, we influenced 10 key policies and schemes, successfully translating grassroots insights into actionable policy recommendations.

#### Strengthening Grassroots Organizations for Sustainable Impact:

All sustainable change is rooted in community-based action. Dasra has focused on bolstering the capacity of grassroots NGOs. We were able to support over 550 NGOs—a more than twofold increase from last year—providing them with essential tools for capacity building, network support, and leadership development. Such strategic support ensures that these organizations are not only equipped to address current challenges but are also empowered for the long haul.

#### Advancing Inclusivity Through GEDI-Aligned Giving:

In line with our commitment to inclusivity, Dasra has strategically aligned its giving with GEDI (Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) principles. We **directed \$20 million towards NGOs**, with a focus on those serving rural areas and led by women. This intentional focus on diversity and gender equity ensures that our resources empower those who are often underrepresented, reinforcing our strategic goal of fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

#### Domestic Giving on the Rise:

This year, we witnessed a **60% surge in domestic giving through our networks**, signaling a powerful shift towards community-driven philanthropy. This trend underscores a growing local commitment to driving social change from within, aligning perfectly with Dasra's strategy of empowering communities to take the lead in their development journeys. Local stakeholders are increasingly recognizing their role in shaping sustainable futures, fostering a culture of ownership and localized impact.



# Program-wise Progress in 2023-24

- Catalytic Philanthropy
- <sup>2</sup> GivingPi
- 3 Young Persons and Adolescents + Gender Equity
- 4 ClimateRISE
- 5 Urban Sanitation







**Catalytic Philanthropy** focuses on strengthening philanthropic endeavors in India by mobilizing capital and guiding funders, building the capacity of CSOs, and generating research insights to drive informed decision-making. This year, the vertical expanded its network and scope by bolstering the giving approaches of funders, supported NGOs in enhancing their operational capacities, and conducted research to identify sectoral needs and opportunities for impact.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



#### Enabled transformational journeys for donors

while unlocking new capital from domestic and global givers and influenced **INR 120Cr** capital impacting **12 million** lives for the year 23-24



# Established NGOs as strong institutions

poised for scale by providing platforms and systems for organizational support, network building and knowledge exchange.

40 NGOs were under the canopy of Catalytic Philanthropic support and funding in this year



# Generated & codified insights to build sectoral intelligence

with 10 knowledge products and over 50 NGOs profiled, influencing decision-making through knowledge products, convenings, and galvanizing research and insights from the sector

## GivingPi



**GivingPi** is India's first and exclusive family philanthropy network dedicated to unlocking the potential of family giving in driving positive social change and shaping a brighter future. By 2030, GivingPi aims to be India's largest family philanthropy network of members annually giving \$1 billion to social causes in India. The invite-only network is for India's most philanthropic families to engage, learn and accelerate philanthropy, while aspiring to collectively solve India's development challenges.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



# Catalyzed collaborative platforms by

fostering collaborative partnerships among philanthropists to promote collective action. Established new partnerships for events and gatherings, such as with Jolies, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, and strategic alliances with organizations like Indiaspora



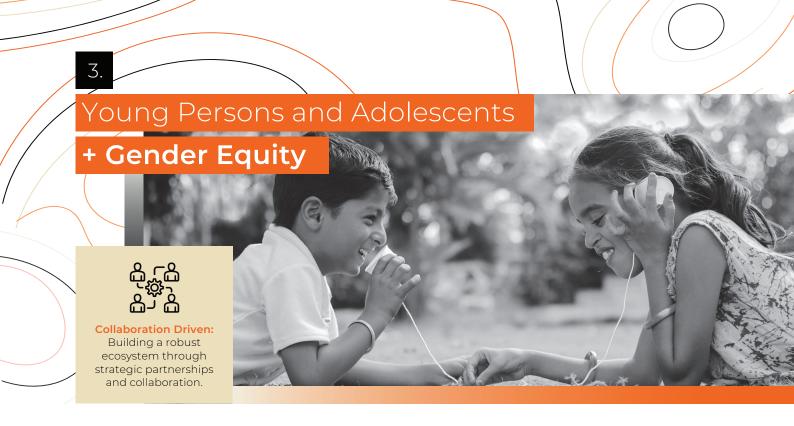
# Amplified narratives that m family philanthropy by

playing a critical role
in spotlighting the
discourse on family
philanthropy with
more than **75+ media**stories across leading
platforms and channels
through feature articles,
broadcast shows,
podcasts and reports



### Engaged with nonprofits by building

robust NGO assets such an NGO repository and providing NGO recommendations to its members the network deepens engagement of philanthropists with NGOs and other ecosystem players, while providing support for the families on their philanthropic visions



To drive multi-stakeholder collaborative action on themes of adolescent & youth wellbeing, the **10to19 Collaborative** and **Youth Ke Bol** initiatives focuses on empowering 15 million Indian adolescents, especially girls and amplifying youth voices. The Women in Leadership initiative seeks to leverage the transformational approach to gender equity of advancing women and girl's leadership across sectors, leading to broader participation in the workforce, inclusive decision-making, and improved societal outcomes.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



#### Strengthened knowledge from research and field learning.

Established a dynamic and comprehensive knowledge base that serves as a reliable foundation to inform strategic initiatives within the field.



Sensitized funders, government and CSOs by mobilizing resources. This was achieved by socializing sustainable, equitable, and ample resources. both financial and non-financial, essential for supportina stakeholders within the field to establish robust nonprofit institutions



Increased capacity and leadership for a cohort of youth leaders on community engagement, peer organizing, policy engagement to amplify their voice



# Increased independent engagement

between the youth and decision-makers in the public and private sector, to enhance government and market-based solutions



The ClimateRISE Alliance supports communities in building resilience, and spearheads collective climate action by empowering India's most vulnerable populations. This year, the alliance remained committed to its mission, by bolstering urban resilience, supporting farmers and vulnerable livelihoods, strengthening health systems, and advancing conservation and restoration of natural resources in partnership with indigenous communities.

Impact Highlights 2023-24:



Provided policy and governance recommendations to the Karnataka Government and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs by outlining strategies for various initiatives and working in tandem with government bodies to align on a climate-positive agenda



#### Built awareness and knowledge

among circles of influence by championing the work of 15 civil society organizations (CSOs) working on intersectional climate action at the grassroot level. Also curated thought leadership articles across various national publications on topical climate issues while spotlighting the innovative measures of Alliance members



### Urban

**Sanitation** 



**The Urban Sanitation** team engages with persistent challenges in India and South Asia, by anchoring the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance as its Secretariat, to foster collaborative action and advancing inclusive sanitation outcomes. They have developed several tactical frameworks and processes to provide advisory support and strengthen the impact of the Alliances in Nepal and Bangladesh. The team worked relentlessly in 2023 to drive innovation in sanitation planning, infrastructure and services to ensure safe and inclusive sanitation outcomes for all.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:

and collaboration.



Developed several, regional, innovative platforms and 6 learning forums for state partners in Jharkhand and Nepal to share best practices, challenges and opportunities in their journey towards building inclusive sanitation policies convening over 400 stakeholders across 8 countries in South and Southeast Asia.



Nurtured institution building by anchoring tactical exercises to develop strategy and align on programmatic goals of inclusive sanitation, structures to build ownership, accountability and participation with members of the alliance, and improve outcome delivery.



The DSI program harnesses collective learning, connections, and collaborations via various programs. These initiatives prioritize building institutional capacities to cultivate a shared-value ecosystem within India's nonprofit sector, leveraging collaborative efforts for transformative change. Through tailored programs and strategic initiatives, this year DSI engaged and empowered 200+ CSOs and leaders to optimize their impact and create sustainable change.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:

- Led the Dasra Social Impact Program in partnership with Harvard Faculty to enhance organizational resilience and sustainability for about 80 nonprofit leaders.
- Hosted the D4GX Conference and brought together 50 stakeholders to discuss leveraging data for social impact, highlighting nine data-driven initiatives benefiting vulnerable communities
- Launched the Data Catalyst Program by collaborating with Tech4Dev and Goalkeep to support 12 nonprofits in utilizing data to amplify their impact
- Organized Quarterly Skilling Workshops and focused on talent management of the board, building governance capacity, and leveraging innovation and technology to strengthen nonprofit institutions
- Trained corporate women leaders within the development ecosystem, in collaboration with ISDM and Governance Count, prepared 100 corporate women to serve on nonprofit boards, connecting them with around 50 nonprofits on their journeys

## Informal



To deepen impact towards informal workers, the Social Compact (SoCo), has been incubated at Dasra since the pandemic. It is a multistakeholder platform that seeks to instill greater dignity and equity for industry engaged informal workers in India by strengthening the corporate ecosystem that governs India's 200 million industry engaged informal workers.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



## **Enhancing Support** for Informal Workers

through Social Compact's Worker Facilitation Centers (WFCs) have connected over 12,900 workers to \$14.1 million in government benefits.



#### Driving Systemic Change in Industries in

around 65 companies, impacting over 300,000 workers, have joined the Social Compact initiative to improve business practices for informal workers.



#### Improving Worker Conditions Across Industries with 58%

of recommended companies adopting adequate job contracts, benefiting over 32,000 workers by reducing informality and increasing worker empowerment.



**The Transform NEEV Collective,** a coalition of partners under UBS Optimus Foundation's Transform initiative, envisions safeguarding and nurturing every child and youth across India by fostering secure familial and communal environments to support the most vulnerable children and ensure they grow up within family-based care structures.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



1218 Families
were linked to
social protection
schemes and
actively engaged
in discussions on
child protection
issues, enhancing
their ability to
provide safe
and nurturing
environments for
their children.



participated in outreach, discussions, and awareness programs focused on the well-being, safety, and development of children, fostering a community-wide commitment to child protection.

12331 community

members

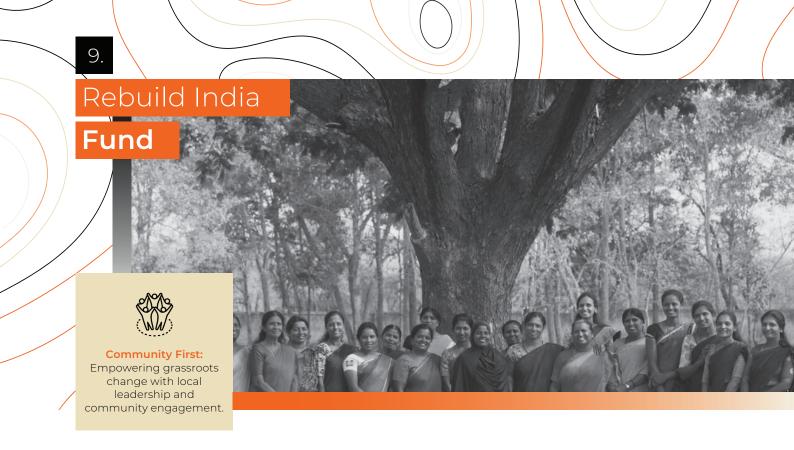


protection committees were established and became operational at the village and community levels, ensuring localized and effective oversight of child safety and welfare.

139 new child



493 child protection stakeholders, including professionals and volunteers, were engaged, trained, and mobilized to address and resolve issues affecting children, strengthening the overall child protection ecosystem.



The Rebuild India Fund is the largest portfolio that strategically empowers locally led over 142 CSOs impacted by systemic challenges through trust-based philanthropy and tailored local solutions across 21 states and 6 Union Territories in India. It serves as a critical platform for grassroots NGOs, providing them with access to institutional and technical support often reserved for larger organizations. This year, Rebuild focused on connecting CSOs withproximate ecosystem partners, to co-develop innovative, collaborative cross-sector solutions.

#### Impact Highlights 2023-24:



Rebuild India Fund has expanded into a diverse portfolio of 142 community-based grassroots NGOs across 21 states and 6 Union Territories, collectively impacting over 3.4 million lives.



NGOs supported by Rebuild India Fund have demonstrated increased resilience, with 89% strengthening their existing programs, 54% leveraging additional funding, and 40% benefiting from capacity-building sessions facilitated by Rebuild.



92% of organizations reported enhanced visibility through their association with the Rebuild India Fund. This increased visibility has been reflected in various ways, including being featured on social media, co-authoring articles with the Rebuild team, receiving speaking opportunities at forums and events, and networking with funders, peers, and other stakeholders.

# Convenings @Dasra (2023-24)

Placed at the intersections of global leadership, a robust development story, and deep-rooted structural barriers, India has the potential to become a champion for the Global Majority—countries and communities that represent most of the world's population but often remain underrepresented in global dialogues. We are committed to leveraging this potential to elevate India's role within the global civil society and philanthropy ecosystem.

In 2023-24, Dasra hosted over 100 convenings, uniting diverse stakeholders across India, the US, and the UK. These gatherings engaged approximately 6,000+ participants dedicated to fostering critical discussions and driving action towards a more inclusive and equitable future.

#### 10th Edition of DPF

#### 7 Sessions | 30+ Speakers | 450 participants

Dasra Philanthropy Week (DPF) is the premier U.S.-based platform focusing on driving meaningful dialogues and collective actions that catalyze positive change for the Global South and beyond. India and the Global South, including Africa. This year we galvanized interest across pivotal international hubs like San Francisco, London, Kigali, New York, and Washington D.C., convening over 500 stakeholders to foster collaboration and generate ideas for impact.



#### 15th Edition of DPW

#### 35 sessions | 100+ speakers | 1500+ participants

Dasra Philanthropy Week (DPW), in its 15th year brought together community and NGO leaders, government, sector experts, intermediaries and philanthropists from around the global development ecosystem to discuss India's growing role in philanthropy. Hosted in Mumbai, the week featured varied interactive platforms like roundtables, TED-style talks, and virtual forums. Guided by the theme "thriving through equity", the discussions uplifted crucial turning points on philanthropic action for greater equity.

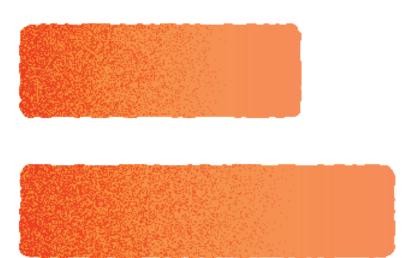




# Highlights

- Making a Difference: Catalyzing Conversations to Drive Narrative Change and Impact
  - We organized the International Conclave on Urban Transformation, organized in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Department (HuDD) of Odisha, which saw over 300 participants from 11 countries and 20 states across India, focused on Inclusive Urban Development with sanitation as a cornerstone for resilient cities.
  - In 2023-24, the Transform NEEV Collective achieved a significant milestone with its partner, UNICEF, hosting a statewide one-day consultation on foster care in Maharashtra.
- Dasra Goes Places: Representing Our Work at Various, National and International Events
  - At the 2023 World Investment Forum event organized by The Family Business Network and UNCTAD in Abu Dhabi, we contributed to the conversations on transparency in sustainability reporting.
  - At the Global Philanthropy Forum, we participated to the conversation around creating a GEDI-intentional platform, cultivating proximate leaders with longterm, unrestricted funding and capacity support.
  - We were invited to showcase their youthled innovations in RKSK and Youth Policy Champions model in partnership with MoHFW and Family Welfare (under Youth Ke Bol) at the G20 Adolescent Health Marketplace as part of 25 leading adolescent and youth health innovations in the country.
  - We also participated at events such as F20 Climate Solutions @ COP 28, Women Deliver, Catalyst 2030, AVPN Global Conference, the Skoll Forum and other such international events, highlighting India's role as a collaborative force in global development.

- First Time for Everything! Scaling New and Untested Waters with Convenings
  - We inaugurated the India Philanthropy Forum (IPF) 2023 in London to deepen Dasra's engagement further in the UK and engage in building a learning & participatory community of diverse stakeholders that have a philanthropic lens towards India.
  - With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we hosted the first ever South to South Cross Learning Hub Retreat in Chandragiri, Nepal, bringing together 150+ key stakeholders across South and Southeast Asia to share their experiences and learning priorities around accelerating safe and s ustainable inclusive sanitation outcomes in the region.



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