Dear Friends,

This particularly hot August is a reminder of the ways in which climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations. Underserved communities who are least able to prepare for and recover from heat waves, poor air quality, flooding, extreme weather, etc. often bear the brunt of the climate crisis. Asia Initiatives is helping to build resilience in communities against these adverse effects through various projects, some of which are described below.

Asia Initiatives Team Visits Our Project Site in India
Surabhi Prabhu, our Program Director, and Gowrish, our Senior Tech Manager in India visited our project Mera Gaon Meri Duniya. There, they were able to meet many young women, including our SoCC-stars, who are achieving economic and social independence against all odds, even in the wake of COVID-19 and severe climate events. Our team observed the training that helps women improve their job-readiness skills, career decision making, and self-confidence. Manisha from Azmabad village (top left picture) is exemplary of such transformation. She earns SoCCs by mentoring children from grades 1-4 and has become a role model in her community. In her words "People from my village now tell me that they also want to educate their daughters to grow up to be like me. I remember a year ago people doubting what a young girl like me can do, but that only pushed me to work harder." The visit also reaffirmed our belief that we need to continue to focus on women and girls' education and their participation in the workforce.

**Micro-credit to Boost Women's Incomes in Kenya**
Asia Initiatives is continuing its partnership with the Zuri Foundation (ZIWEP) in informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya to empower women economically. SoCCs earned for helping their community are redeemed by women in this table banking group for financial, management, and digital literacy classes, as well as micro-loans to launch their small businesses.

Meeting the Water Challenge with SoCCs
Water security has become an urgent issue worldwide due to climate change. In partnership with Dilasa Janvikas Pratishthan, AI is building resilience in three water scarce locations in Maharashtra, India, through a variety of water conservation projects. We have partnered with Parmath Samaj Sevi Sansthan in Bundelkhand to repair 11 traditional water structures to ensure water availability for hundreds of farmers and villagers. With Savera Foundation, AI has reinvigorated 18 natural ponds to promote water security for both household and agricultural purposes. In all of these projects, participants earn SoCCs for helping to construct water harvesting projects, planting native trees, shrubs and grasses around the structures, participating in the organic kitchen garden programs made possible by these water security initiatives, and other activities decided by the people themselves in SoCCratic dialogues. SoCCs are redeemed for training and materials needed for water conservation, water-smart agriculture and valuable connections to markets.

More about our work is at our Website and at our YouTube
Channel. Through all of our initiatives we are, in our humble way, trying to make our world a better place with your help. Thank you!

Geeta Mehta and the Asia Initiatives Team

Asia Initiatives has special consultative status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

Asia Initiatives has the Platinum Seal of Transparency

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