Dear Supporters,
On this last Second Sunday of the Year of the Ox, we are delighted to tell you that, with your support, this has been our biggest year yet—in terms of the number of lives impacted, and funds raised and released in the field. We were especially humbled to receive the coveted Jacobs Foundation Conference Grand Innovation Award administered by MIT SOLVE. Your support has also enabled us to set our vision even higher for the upcoming Year of the Tiger, to help communities as they recover from Covid-19 and build resilience against future climate, health or financial shocks. Some highlights of our work this year are below.
Covid-19 Response: We supported projects such as the Covid-19 Care Centers as alternatives to inaccessible hospitals in Yavatmal area of Maharashtra, and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh. The emergency Covid-19 Center in Darjeeling supplied medicines and emergency PPE kits to remote rural areas in the lower Himalayas. Covid-19 awareness campaigns were held across 154 villages that also provided testing, vaccinations, food kits, masks, hygiene supplies and hand sanitizers throughout our programs.
Organic Kitchen Gardens in Bundelkhand and Maharashtra proved to be a great help during Covid-19, improving nutrition and enhancing family incomes. Women who excelled at this program are now teaching others. With our partner FrauenPower, we helped women in informal settlements of Nairobi also create vertical kitchen gardens in their backyards.
We supplemented our **Cascade of Learning** programs for young people in Lucknow, Odisha and Yavatmal with online spoken English, digital literacy and life skills classes given by our **SoCC Buddy** mentors in the USA, UK, and India over Zoom. Our girls in Lucknow held their first ever **Technology Fair** inspired by our partner **KidsWhoKode**. Girls also learned life skills and health modules in the Girls Clubs organized by our partner **Global G.L.O.W.** Volunteers also taught computer skills and financial literacy to formerly incarcerated women in **New York**. Kudos to all our volunteers and participants!
Our **Cascades of Up-skilling** projects this year included the SRI (System of Rice Intensification) project in Maharashtra which is helping over 500 women farmers get a higher yield with less water, less labor, and no harmful chemicals. They will teach these skills to 1100 other farmers, who will then teach others, to earn **SoCCs** that they will redeem for things on their SoCCs Redeeming Menus. We are also supporting **Maker Labs** to enable young people in under-served areas create innovative tech solutions to local problems, and start micro enterprises to market these.
If you missed our UnGala in August when the former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon conferred the **5th Annual Ban Ki-moon Award for Women's Empowerment** on Dr. Polman and Dr. Lee, you can still watch it by clicking on the image above. Ricky Kej and Stewart Copeland have just been nominated for a Grammy Award for their music in this video!

All our work is made possible through our partnerships with local NGOs, the hard work and optimism of the people we serve, and your generosity. For more information about Asia Initiatives projects, please see our website [HERE](#).

**With deep gratitude, and best wishes for a healthy and joyful 2022!**

Geeta Mehta and the Asia Initiatives Team