Oasis India has been
Rescuing trafficked women and children
Restoring their dignity and hope
Recreating their dreams and lives

Our vision is for community, a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential.

Having impacted countless people in over two decades, Oasis India continues to work in four locations with women, youth and children from poor communities, including those that are trafficked and sexually abused. Education, income generation, sports, job training and placement programmes enable them to make better choices for improved quality of life.

Oasis India, is a part of a global network bringing change by actively engaging with individuals, civil society and government through cost effective and innovative approaches.

Annual Report 2014-2015
Here are a few markers of progress over the years:

- **1993**: Oasis India starts by working with street children in Kandivali, Mumbai
- **1994**: The first Vocational Training Centre in Bandra opens for vulnerable women in Mumbai (Jacob's Well)
- **1997**: Purnali Bhavan - Jagtapuli (near Mumbai) was launched as a medium-term residential fac tor specifically for women and children who were HIV+.
- **1998**: Aruna Drop In Centre at Grant Road begins
- **2000**: Boys Home in Mira Road, Mumbai transforms from Ashadeep
- **2002**: NetWork begins - computer skills for youth
- **2004**: Mother Teresa Award in recognition of the rehabilitation of commercial sex workers and urban poor. Home based care started in Mumbai and work in Chennai begins by responding to the tsunami
- **2005**: Aruna Drop In Centre collaborates with other agencies in the RLA
- **2007**: Intervention with street children continues in Thane and is named Ashadeep
- **2008**: Oasis restarts in Bangalore - Diddigunta Hub
- **2010**: Ashadeep transitions to a different model - Survey among other agencies in Chennai working with Children at Risk
- **2011**: Asurtha Hub takes shape in Thane as does Halleloguddahalli Hub, Bangalore
- **2012**: Bantwal Hub (CBA Centres) opens in Thane and Oasis phases out long term Institutionalised care / 2nd Blue Edge in Chennai
- **2013**: Day Care Centre and Night Shelter in Kamataka opens / Children and Vulnerable People's Policy amended and re-introduced
- **2014**: Early Encounter Programme begins on the Central Line in Mumbai / Shatrapur and Diddigunta Hubs handed over
- **2015**: The Preschool at Bandra restarted / Footballers in Div 1 in Chennai / Significant funding awarded by the government 3rd Blue Edge centre in NOC, 2013 - Group Homes for Boys set up in Kandivali

Below are a few key objectives for the coming year:

- To grow our Early Encounter programme that this past year rescued 21 children.
- To begin a Social Enterprise that provides employment to women from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- To research new areas of need among women and children in the communities in which we work and respond appropriately.
- To mobilise several new vigilance groups that make communities more resilient to trafficking.

Thank you!

It would not have been possible to have impacted all these lives without the contributions of our supporters. We are extremely grateful to all those who stand with us to make this happen.
1 Antihuman Trafficking Work

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, human trafficking consists of crimes such as the importation of girls from foreign countries and the buying and selling of minors for prostitution. The anti-human trafficking (AHT) work of Oasis is part of an initiative to walk the journey of those whose lives have been broken by slavery – bonded labour, child labour, abuse, sex trafficking – and bring them to a place of freedom – a place of wholeness. Particularly in the cities of Mumbai and Bangalore, Oasis does this through 3 major components: Raid and Rescue (outreach), Rehabilitation (aftercare, training and reintegration) and Prevention.

Raid and Rescue (Outreach)

Working alongside the law enforcement and other agencies, Oasis seeks to free those in abusive and vulnerable situations. The following interventions help in the rescue of minors and women:

- **The Early Encounter Programme**: This programme is unique as it targets pre-sale rescue of children, specifically those brought into Mumbai byturn along the Central Line. Surveillance teams look out for children who are being trafficked and initiate a rescue along with the Railway Protection Force immediately.
- **Rescue Operations**: Oasis works in partnership with the Antihuman Trafficking Units in different cities to support their operation. They investigate situations where children or women might be forced into the sex trade, begging or other abusive and vulnerable situations. The AHT teams comprise of those that are experts in several areas of outreach including surveillance and investigation, which form the basis for a successful rescue.

- **Drop In Centre**: As part of our outreach into the Red Light Areas (RLAs) in Mumbai, Oasis runs a Drop In Centre for women in prostitution who are considering leaving the trade. In addition to this, pimps who operate in the area are also contacted and encouraged to look for alternative employment.

Jasmine now lives in Andheri after many years of working in the RLA and works with an NGO. She's deeply grateful to Oasis for the support.

“I wish to work for free for Oasis. I would like to work the way Oasis works.” - Jasmine

Harsha was a pimp in the RLA. He made a decision to leave the RLA after being in touch with the Drop In Centre. He is currently staying at the group home in Nalgon, Mumbai and works with an event management company.

“Oasis is my family now...” - Harsha

- **The Early encounter programme rescued 46 children from situations of trafficking or just prior to the point of sale.**
- **Two big beggar rescue operations happened in Bangalore in partnership with other agencies.**
- **371 women and 141 men were met for the first time as a result of the outreach into the RLAs in Mumbai. Of these, supportive relationships have been established with 246 women and 29 men.**
- **We worked with a larger number of girls trafficked into the sex trade than ever before, and saw 41 of them choose to leave to begin a life outside of the Red Light Area.**
- **30 women were part of Nirmal Bhavan and the group homes.**
- **In our prevention work we alerted 1722 people to the dangers of trafficking.**
- **100 children and 60 mothers were cared for at the Day Care and Night Shelter.**
- **20 boys were part of the football programme.**

Rehabilitation (Aftercare, Training and Reintegration)

Once rescued, the girls and women are in need of care and support following their traumatic experiences. This transitional process is facilitated alongside the government shelter homes. Department of Women and Child, Social Defence and other like-minded agencies that provide shelter and care.

- **Nirmal Bhavan**: Oasis runs this transitional housing facility which is a safe and secure environment that enables rescued women to walk this journey from brokenness to wholeness. Most women that are admitted into this facility are HIV+, therefore the level of counselling support, medical care, and medication are high.

- **Learning and Livelihoods Centre (LLC)**: At the LLC, the women are introduced to a graded programme which combines counselling, livelihood training, literacy, numeracy and life skills; they are then transitioned to group homes, if they choose not to go back to their family.

- **Group Homes / Reintegration**: The group homes enable former victims of human trafficking to lead independent lives that contribute to society. However, some decide to go back to their families. Home visits are made before they are reunited with families because of the taboos that are associated with the fact that they have been away for so long.

“Learning to walk again...” - Reena

Mubeen, a resident of Nirmal Bhavan says that she has learnt to control her anger and to talk to others gently.

“I now desire to start an independent life soon and have an open home for others.” - Shilpa

Shilpa was 7 years old when she was sold into Kamptipura (RLA in Mumbai) and grew up with the brothel keeper. She was soon in business once she turned 12. In police raid she was brought to the government home where she met Oasis and then moved to Nirmal Bhavan. Having gone through the rehab process, she now works for a tap room in the city.

Prevention

While responding to the need of the women in prostitution in the RLAs in Mumbai, Oasis found that their children were living in neglect. In order to prevent abuse and provide a safe future, a Day Care and Night Shelter was started. To stop this abuse, Oasis also runs awareness campaigns to educate children in schools and young people in colleges, as well as large communities about human trafficking.

- **The Day Care Centre and Night Shelter**: This facility supports the women that are considering leaving the sex industry by providing a safe environment for their children. This day care run night shelter, primarily for girls of the exploited women, helps the children become well-rounded in all areas of life, including education, health, and safety. It also empowers them to refrain from following their mothers while educating the mothers simultaneously to leave the trade.

This programme also helps teenage boys by encouraging them to make choices for sustainable, empowered lifestyles outside of sexual exploitation. This provides avenues for reintegration so that they would not slip back or take up other occupations within the RLA.

- **Awareness Campaigns**: Oasis spreads awareness on the issues of human trafficking to educate children in schools, college-goers and among vulnerable communities on how to protect themselves. The participants are taught on contacting the Helpline or NGOs on the issues of trafficking or any other incident pertaining to rape and abuse, child marriage, or begging. Source areas in villages are identified and sessions conducted on how to report an incident to Child Line, equipping them to recognize abuse and protocols to report them.

“I can now play with my friends and study well!” - Sanjula

Sanjula is a 7 year old little girl who was born in the RLA to her mother, Mahima, originally from Kollur where she was trafficked from there into Mumbai. During an outreach, Mahima mentioned to Oasis that she was struggling to look after her daughter and was directed to the Day Care and Night Shelter. Sanjula has been with us for 3 years now and has finished her Class 1 from an English medium school.
Oasis builds community in slums through education and training initiatives including employability training, counselling, football coaching and health and welfare initiatives. Oasis also creates awareness on human rights and enables access to government welfare schemes. Currently, Oasis operates in Halleegudadahalli in Bangalore, Basin Bridge and Kannigapuram in Chennai, Bandra and Borivali in Mumbai and Punagnar in Andhra Pradesh.

**Education**

Initiatives in education vary from running English-medium preschools to After School Programmes. These activities enable children from the slum communities to have a better shot at education which forms the basis for a future. A typical session would include peer group learning of life skills and help with academics. Children appear for board exams and those who fail are supported to retake the exams. Regular home and school visits and meeting with parents form a base for this component.

**Highlights**

- In Mumbai, children who complete the pre-school year are ahead of their peers in terms of personal discipline, hygiene and educational competencies.
- In Punagnar, 76% of 90 students enrolled in the after school programme showed improvement in their studies.
- In the Kannigapuram Hub, 2 awareness programmes were conducted on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE) and an RTE Committee was formed. Parent meetings have increased the participation of children in the Basin Bridge Hub.
- At the HGH Hub, 9 appeared for board exams.

**Sports**

Football continues to be a huge draw in Chennai particularly as the senior football team playing under the MSS Club was promoted to the First Division in the Chennai Football league. The under 12s and under 16s were regular at practices and represented their school at zonal level. The senior players who had opportunities to represent their schools and colleges were also taken through career guidance programmes. All teams had a regular snack every morning and kits were distributed. This mix of sport and education has been appreciated by the community from the feedback had from parents who attended the meetings.

**Highlights**

- A total of 33 practice matches were organized with the local football clubs in Kannigapuram and Basin Bridge in Chennai.
- The senior team of 22 players were promoted from the second division to the first in the Chennai Football league. This has been a remarkable achievement and the boys have grown in confidence.
- 20 under 16 players played in the fourth division league and also played zonal matches representing their school.

**Community Organisation**

Oasis seeks to empower communities to address their own development. Therefore, where possible, volunteers are organised into federations, youth clubs or community vigilance groups. All of them are trained to lead their communities forward. Awareness sessions are run to prevent human trafficking, to educate on entitlements and protocols along with any other felt needs.

**Highlights**

- In Mumbai, the Children’s Federation is active and have open discussions on child rights, career, health and hygiene, parental support and running of events. Members of the community hubs in Bandra and Borivali are aware of human trafficking issues, and are able to protect themselves and their community against traffickers.
- In the Halleegudadahalli Hub, Bangalore, alumni and Community Vigilance Groups (CVGs) receive regular training on human trafficking and are regularly on the lookout.
- 76 applications were made for eligible persons to get their pensions in Punagnar while 22 applications were made for the Amrutha card which allows people to get 730 gm of rice each month.
- In the BB Hub, women from the Bhoja Rajapur area discussed about infrastructure issues in their locality. They decided to address issues such as irregular water supply, poor maintenance of streets lights and the mosquito menace. They prioritised these needs by participating in a social mapping exercise (a participatory tool that helps the community think together on issues affecting them).
- A legal awareness session was conducted in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Free Legal Aid Council (a legal education wing for marginalized people). Women’s rights and child rights were discussed.

**Health**

An improvement in health status has been effected in all hubs based on the need. Most common health needs addressed were anaemia, tuberculosis, HIV, diabetes and hypertension. The medical camps, health clinics, awareness programmes and fellow ups have brought about this impact. Most of the work is done in partnership with other health providers, including local public health centres and leading private hospitals. For immediate response, health workers have been trained from amongst volunteers in the community.

**Highlights**

- In Mumbai, there has been steady improvement in the health status of the families, especially those affected and infected by HIV.
- Health check-ups were conducted twice a month in partnership with the Smile Foundation.
- A breast cancer awareness event and a screening camp was set up in partnership with Eternity Foundation and the Madaas Medical Mission, in Basvanagudi, Chennai.
- 12 volunteers from the community have completed a Community Health Workers’ training organized by the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Bangalore.

**Vocational Training**

Vocational training is an integral component of the hub strategy, particularly reaching out to young people who do not have substantial academic qualifications. Training in tailoring, carrom and skating.

**Highlights**

- A job fair was conducted in the Mumbai hubs and 3 multinational companies interviewd about 40 participants.
- In Chennai, tailoring trainees were taken through entrepreneurship skills in collaboration with Pearl Fashion Academy Institute.
- In Bangalore, Thomson Reuters run soft skills training for the young people.
- 24 graduates from the Blue Edge, Mumbai found employment and a new centre was inaugurated in Bangalore. Nikhil Balakar, a former Blue Edge graduate has been appointed at Blue Dart.
- Many other Blue Edge graduates work for companies such as Marks and Spencer.
SIGN UP FOR THE 500 CLUB

Swapna was found broken, exploited and helpless. She was sold for a paltry sum of 500 rupees by a greedy uncle who valued money more than her.

Today, 500 rupees a month will help others like Swapna to live with dignity and hope, at the Oasis India shelter home in Mumbai.

The 500 Club is an Oasis India initiative to revive, restore and recreate lives through a commitment of 500 rupees a month. The 500 Club represents a new lease of life for Swapna and others who fight all odds to prove they are priceless – as you and Oasis India stand by her.

Swapna...
Will you stand by Swapna and others like her?
Show her she’s priceless!

Blue Edge
Empowering Lives

This is one of Blue Dart’s key sustainability programs

“We are proud of our NGO partner – Oasis India. The program has now moved beyond Mumbai to Chennai and Bengaluru and has made a difference to over 885 lives so far.”

- Ketan Kulkarni,
Vice President – Marketing, Corporate Communications and Sustainability

Antihuman Trafficking Unit
Bangalore

... is managed by the State Home Dept. and works with the Crime Branch and other police units

“Oasis follows the procedure/protocol at all times and are very structured with respect to their work or role/responsibility and do their work diligently”

- Vijay Kumar Beesanahalli
(Deputy Superintendent - AHTU Admin)

Oasis
Committed to making India better for women and children

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