



Did you select a new initiative for 2023 yet?

1 message

Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 10:59 AM

Dear Friends,

“Be a beginner every single morning” suggested **Meister Eckhart**. Below are examples of the hard working people in our projects across India, in New York, and in Nairobi who do just that as they overcome many hurdles to achieve their dreams of a better education, livelihood, and environment, **empowered by you!**

New Year, New Skills on Wheels



Asia Initiatives is one of two organizations helping a young NGO **Mera Gaon Meri Duniya** (My Village My World) launch the **Skills on Wheels** program for 120 students in underserved villages in Madhya Pradesh. A bus outfitted with a lab and workshop equipment will travel to five schools thrice-a-week to provide vocational skill training in engineering, energy and environment, food

processing and agriculture. Students are earning **SoCCs** (Social Capital Credits) through our **Cascade of Learning** model by tutoring two primary school students in Science and Math. This will help children stay and succeed in schools in villages with an otherwise high dropout rate. The number of students served is set to double next year.

SoCCs Incentivize Ecosystem Services in Taiwan



Asia Initiatives' SoCCs program in Taiwan was started with the visit of three members of Asia Initiatives there in October 2022. The team at the **Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute** is now working with small land holding farmers to create SoCCs menu items that will protect and enhance biodiversity in the forests and farms in the **Hualien Province**. SoCCs will be redeemed for government support in digging rainwater harvesting ponds and ditches to counter water scarcity after the rainy season.

New Recipes for Moringa, a Super Food



Moringa Oleifera, also known as the ‘drumstick tree’, has been praised for its health benefits for thousands of years. It is rich in protein, vitamins A, B and C and other micro nutrients especially needed in the diet of lactating mothers and children. The leaves, fruit, sap, oil, roots, bark, seeds, pod and flowers of this miracle tree all have medicinal properties and can provide additional income through sales of fresh, dried or powdered products. Our local partner, **Dilasa**, recently organized a Moringa recipe competition in **Aurangabad, India** to encourage the use of Moringa. Women earned **SoCCs** for growing Moringa trees and creating recipes that included Moringa products. Winners received labor saving gadgets and other prizes.

New Skills, New Careers



23 years old Dipanjali Pradhan is one of the many young people who have learned computer skills at our Digital Literacy Centers run by our partner **IEWS** since 2019. She is now working as a computer operator at KIIMS Hospital, earning an income that is helping her support her family and attend further upskilling courses. This is a remarkable achievement as she comes from one of the most impoverished areas in **Bhubaneswar**. Most residents there work as construction laborers or as housemaids in adjacent residential areas. Adolescents in this area rarely go to school, with the majority dropping out to take care of their younger siblings as their parents go out to earn a living. For them, the Digital Literacy Centers provide an important opportunity to break out of poverty.

Our Bicycle Banks Open New Horizons



240 women in our **Bicycle Bank** program with our partner **Deendayal** in Maharashtra, use bikes as their primary means of transportation. They earn SoCCs by tutoring and mentoring younger people, helping maintain their public spaces and other such investments in the social capital of their villages. SoCCs can then be spent on getting bikes and learning to repair them. With the nearest cycle repair shop over 7 kilometers away, this is a vital skill.

More about our work can be seen at our [Website](#) and our [YouTube Channel](#).

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!
Geeta Mehta and the Asia Initiatives Team



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Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
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Asia Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

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