



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2022



barefoot college
INTERNATIONAL

Foreword by Rodrigo Paris, CEO

Since 2020 the world has transformed into a far more complex and challenging place. I think I speak for all of us at Barefoot College International and for all our women trainees when I say that none of us could have imagined the profound challenges that were to come in 2020 and 2021. Despite the upheaval that we have faced over the past two years, we have nonetheless managed to create opportunities for growth and improvement on multiple levels. We were able to react quickly to lockdowns by helping our communities pivot resources into new directions, and where that was not possible we were able to support our communities with information, communications resources, and the maintenance of programs.

We have been able to make new connections with partners, donors and communities as a result of our successful attempts to keep momentum during the pandemic, and we have been able to build on connections we already have with valuable beneficiaries for the future. We have new pilot programs in multiple countries, and have better tailored and customized strategies to deal with future upheaval as a result of what we have learnt over the past two years.

The tireless efforts of each and every one of our departments has been a masterclass in resilience and perseverance, and we have also been able to develop new, younger talents who are helping us innovate now and for the future. The continued inauguration of new Vocational Training Center (BVTC) locations worldwide means that we are ideally positioned to continue to grow our programs, and to drive genuine impact for rural prosperity, gender equality, clean energy and food sovereignty. Our capability to scale programs continues to improve with these new resources, and allows us to continue to meet the expectations of our current partners and rise to those of our new partners. We are actively searching for entities who align with the vision we have for the future of rural sovereignty and autonomy. We are deeply fortunate to be in a position as an organization to continue to grow and to improve, and to usher in a brighter future for the poorest and most lacking in our societies around the world. It is my belief that we have never been better positioned to weave a path of prosperity and freedom for those around us, despite the immense challenges of the past two years, and I am filled with anticipation and enthusiasm for our future.



2020-2022 GLOBAL IMPACT

2,425,969
Total Beneficiaries

3,130
tons of carbon emission
avoided

Barefoot College International (BCI) is a Non-Profit organization whose programmes are working to achieve 14 of the 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals. BCI works with women from 93 countries worldwide, who train at one of our five 'Barefoot Vocational Training Centres' (BVTCs) to become Solar Engineers, colloquially known as 'Solar Mamas'.

Our work has positively affected more than three million beneficiaries through this, and through our support for Livelihood, Education and social initiatives. The training teaches them to build, install and maintain Solar Home Lighting systems, and to date, **we have trained more than 3,500 Solar Mamas who have gone on to electrify their surrounding villages.**

We are working to increase economic equity by making vocational and educational opportunities accessible to women and girls from the most marginalized communities around the world.

Providing these opportunities to women is the solution to ensuring long term climate, economic and social resilience for rural communities globally.

Through this mission, Barefoot College International seeks to ensure that every woman and girl has the skills and knowledge she needs to be a catalyst for change to the benefit of herself, her family and her entire community.

OVERVIEW

MISSION



OUTLOOK

Founded on the flexibility of rising to global challenges, Barefoot College International continues to tailor programs to the current needs of the communities where we work. Many humanitarian organizations have struggled to lessen the blow of this worldwide crisis which has given us the opportunity to collaborate with and support groups who echo our mission and vision, strengthening networks and propagating our collective endurance.

More than ever, we firmly believe that access to knowledge and information keeps communities prepared, safe and healthy. In times where such accessibility has suffered, we have been working tirelessly to keep information in the hands of as many people as possible. Education-based initiatives, which are at the core of our efforts, are the key to boosting resilience. In the years to come, by scaling our practical knowledge-focused programs, we believe recent setbacks can be resolved and growth of prosperity (re)ignited.

Following two years of careful management we have succeeded in operating and sustaining our current programs, despite Covid19-related setbacks. These programs are now poised to expand. Our three-year plan aims to further amplify our current projects and help our latest initiatives flourish. These latest initiatives have proven most effective for supporting the health and prosperity of rural communities through today's current circumstances.



By the end of 2025, we aim to:

- Continue to develop and disseminate our programs, ensuring they meet the demands of the 2020's. We will be focusing specifically on Latin America, Africa, India and the Pacific, working from our growing list of global BVTCs and "pop up" training centres.
- Expand and develop our local livelihoods programs, especially our agriculturally-focused initiatives.
- Continue working towards sustainable models which includes the continued decentralizing of training and workshops to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Build expert global content development teams and enhance the technology used in R&D.
- Train an additional 5,000 women across all our programs



SOLAR

New Training Centre Officially Opens, Senegal

We are happy to report that the BVTC in Senegal is now open to trainees from Senegal and neighbouring countries. The solar equipment needed for the training has been received from India. An additional 19 women for the second successful cohort are set to graduate in May of 2022. Training is delivered by five women who were trained in India as Master Trainers. The Senegal BVTC is to become the West African training hub for solar engineering.

The new centre hosts up to 20 women trainees per term for our Solar Engineering course

2020-2022 SOLAR GLOBAL IMPACT

392

Solar mamas trained

3,130

Houses electrified

The Vice President of Guatemala received a special presentation & local coffee tasting from the Solar Mamas

Solar Mama Alumni Retreat, Guatemala

Nine Solar Mamas from Guatemala who graduated from Barefoot College International participated in an alumni retreat in Huerto Chikach. BCI organized workshops and activities related to shared local experiences, reliving memories from India and generating a sense of team and community of Solar Engineers. BCI was invited to participate at the Embassy of India with Guatemala to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the independence of India.

First Solar Mama-Run Solar Company, Belize

Three Solar Mamas from Belize, who solar electrified their villages in 2014 and 2018, have established their own solar company, with the support of a local partners.

Belize Power Connected Ltd. ensures more villages get electrified & more solar lamps are distributed

The High Commissioner samples natural honey harvested by the women entrepreneur trainees

High Commissioner of India Visits the Zanzibar Campus

The High Commissioner of India in Tanzania, Mr. Binaya Pradhan, and his wife, visited the Zanzibar BVTC. The High Commissioner was delighted to meet the Solar Mamas, see the campus and the range of opportunities available. He also visited one of the households previously electrified and was impressed by the impact of BCI in the country.

BCI's line of solar products launch online

Barefoot College International has officially begun to sell its renowned Diva Solar Lanterns after much popular demand. The lanterns are identical to those used by our Solar Mamas around the world. They are known for their long-lasting batteries and high level of brightness. The lanterns are proudly India-made and are a women-led initiative. Local rural women build, service and source Diva Lanterns. They manage lantern sales on the ground for Indian communities.

Diva lanterns help villagers replace kerosene and wood burning with clean, renewable light

Solar trainees gain entrepreneurial experience by selling solar products with this innovative mobility strategy

Portable Kiosks Developed and Distributed, India

As our Solar Enterprise continues to grow, we are focusing on branding and visibility to strengthen our team and outreach. We have created a uniform marketing and branding strategy across the region, to help us address marketing challenges and ensure that we are nationally recognized. We have begun to implement a novel idea – to convert shipping containers into our portable sales kiosk. Our Solar Entrepreneurs understand the mechanisms and business efficacies of after-sales service which they learnt as part of their training.





ENRICHE & EDUCATION

In-House App Teaches Finance Skills to Rural Audience

The ENRICHE team at Barefoot College International helped design 'Aage Badhein', an app intended to increase knowledge critical to enhancing household financial resilience. Developed with a prominent international partner, Aage Badhein does exactly what the name states – it provides support to 'Move Forward'. It aims to reduce perceived barriers, mistrust and indifference towards the adoption of sound financial practices. This, in turn, enables users to make astute money-related decisions. They can then become active participants in their journey towards financial independence. We piloted Aage Badhein in early 2021 with over 400 women from rural areas. Most were first-time users of a tablet and a digital app. The digital solution generated a large amount of interest in the communities. We found that using an interactive story-based approach, along with technology, enticed users to go through the entire curriculum.

+400 rural Indian women gain financial knowledge and digital efficacy using the Aage Badhein App

Narrowing the digital divide by building digitally-literate rural communities through modern technology

Smartphone and Computer Training for Women

In partnership with Read to India and the French Institute in India, a pilot of a Digital Literacy Smartphone and Computer Training program was launched in Jaipur, Rajasthan. In July and August 2021, four BCI trainers trained thirteen women. They used modern digital equipment to foster tech-savvy women and girls from rural Indian communities. The training program aims to narrow the digital divide and the gender gap that often restricts women from involvement in technology. Family incomes are boosted when women are involved in making financial decisions. Thus, GDP grows while increasing possible nationwide collaborations and innovation.

Gender Equity Training Program

The ENRICHE team initiated Mera Haq Meri Zimmedari in July 2021. Under this project, eighteen Community Leaders and nine partner organizations were trained online to increase awareness and action on issues related to domestic violence and equality. Sessions are held in rural areas across nine states using learner-centric, story-based comic-book-like videos. The stories are based on relatable situations in the target audience's real life. Community leaders have reached out to over 600 women and girls. Many learners have reported increased understanding of social issues and confidence in their ability to exercise specific rights.

Comic book-style learning material shared with +600 participants about women's rights and gender issues

Menstrual and reproductive health advocacy is set for inclusion in rural school curriculums in several villages

Women's Sexual Health Demystified

Under the Women Deliver Young leaders Program, the ENRICHE and Edu-Wellness team have initiated a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights project, 'Pehel- ek shuruat'. It is a community-ed menstrual health awareness and advocacy project aimed at giving frontline health workers, teachers and peer networks vital information and support for discussion groups and workshops in communities. We have trained ten community leaders in Odisha and Rajasthan to conduct the awareness program in several villages with two hundred adolescent girls. We will be launching an advocacy campaign formally to include menstrual health education as part of school curriculums and community level discussions.

2020-2022 ENRICHE GLOBAL IMPACT

4,068
Direct Beneficiaries

20,340
Indirect Beneficiaries

1000s of reusable sanitary napkins were produced to make hygiene products accessible to rural women and girls

Reusable Sanitary Napkins

Throughout the pandemic, accessibility to menstrual products and sexual health education decreased due to school and business closures. BVTC Zanzibar produces reusable sanitary products that can be distributed to rural women and girls. Workshops were provided to teach women and girls how to sew the pads themselves using local materials. ENRICHE training continues to disseminate sexual health and rights knowledge to ensure that trainees remain informed about their bodies.

Tippy Taps for Local Hygiene Standardization

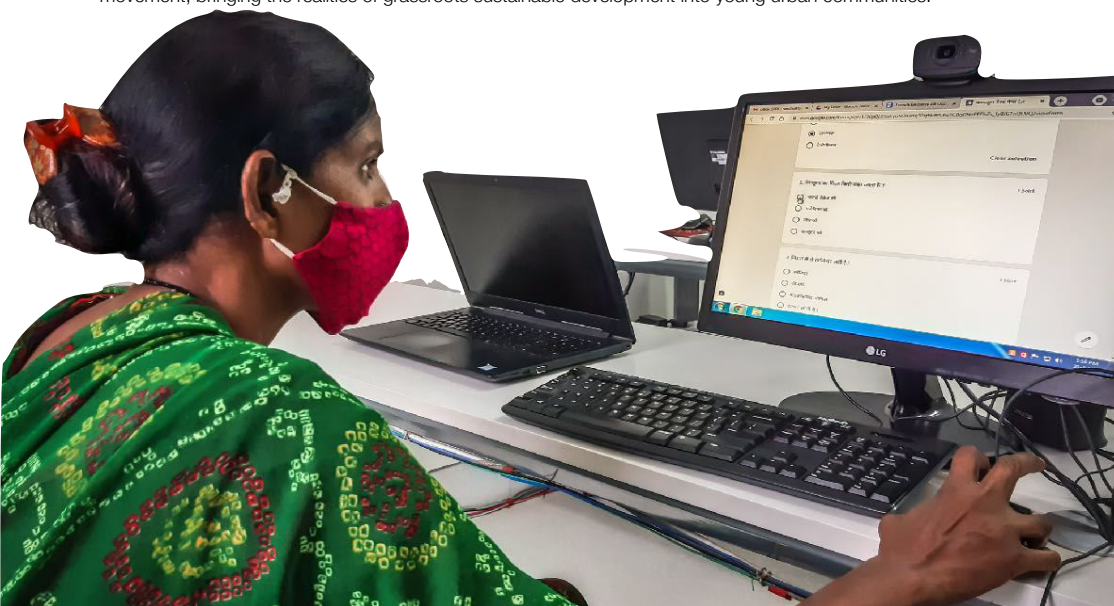
Using the lessons from BCI ENRICHE workshops, Solar Mama alumni from Cameroon hosted Tippy Tap workshops in various local villages. The simple, cost-effective structure enables many people to maintain good hygiene standards even when water and soap are scarce. Hundreds of villagers gained accessibility to hand washing stations while learning about the benefits of clean hands to avoid the spread of bacteria and viruses.

Affordable, simply constructed hand-washing stations helped villagers gain access to better hygiene methods

Barefoot Youth Ambassador Programme

Beginning in July 2020, ten ambitious and development-oriented youths were selected from Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore schools to serve as the founding ambassadors of the BYAP program. Monthly virtual workshops brought them together to cover the Barefoot College International initiatives and SDGs categorized into four themes: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Partnerships.

The Barefoot Youth Ambassador Programme is a pilot program connecting urban youth to rural realities through the work of Barefoot College International and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Guiding these young people through an in-depth program over ten months, we have added young wings to the barefoot movement, bringing the realities of grassroots sustainable development into young urban communities.



Remote Learning Maximizes Accessibility

The Education team implemented new programs, encouraging continued learning despite school closures due to pandemic-based restrictions. The 'Alternative Strategy' adopted three new approaches to learning that enabled children and teachers to remain engaged remotely. These new strategies have helped reduce the number of students who drop out of school, another consequence of the pandemic.

APPROACH 1: OFFLINE CONTENT

200+ children were presented with the digital 14-day reading challenge, learning through E-stories and other offline multimedia content, that were sent over mobile devices each morning. Teachers and educators were first sent the material to share with their students, then the children read the stories aloud to their parents.

APPROACH 2: TELEPHONIC DISSEMINATION

600+ children were given pre-recorded audio material over basic feature phone every three days for a four week period. These voice calls, which use Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) technology, were given by the teachers of students to help guide children through learning activities. All activities were created by a content committee of 18 teachers from 11 Indian states.

APPROACH 3: WORKSHEET DISSEMINATION

175+ children received hard copies of handwritten learning material, created by the teachers of the students. The material was physically delivered to children's homes every 15 days. An average of 30 hours of content for each delivery was included, while those with access to phones received check-in calls where any questions could be asked.

Our 3-tiered approach ensures more remote & rural students continue learning despite local challenges

2020-22 EDUCATION GLOBAL IMPACT

96%
children continued even in the
middle of the pandemic

Over 60%
Girl child participation

2,270
Children had access to Digital
Community Schools



LIVELIHOODS AND AGRICULTURE

We continue to expand our curriculums beyond Solar. Local food accessibility is becoming more sustainable and financially rewarding for our beneficiaries. Conscious land management leads to more productivity and stability.

Regional markets give back to their communities by producing handmade goods that utilize local materials. Even in rural marketplaces, goods often come from far away. This trend reverses when women from local villages use their improved skills and knowledge to create local artisanal goods.

Barefoot College International is actively increasing our support for primary and secondary entrepreneurial opportunities for our trainees. With multiple years of success, our honey, sewing and coffee initiatives have flourished and extended into several countries. We support initiatives including mushroom, turmeric, micro-dairy, and cocoa farming.

Revenue generated by small land-holding farmers who we trained, provides growers of all kinds with the knowledge, tools and inspiration to amplify their work

We facilitate the growth of coffee, honey, cacao, turmeric, mushroom and dairy entrepreneurial producers through vocational training, equipment provisions and supply chain linkages to ensure that beneficiaries receive fair wages for their labour

Responsible local ecosystem and farmland stewardship leads to healthier regions overall. Sustainable productivity is achieved or maintained when water systems, soils, wildlife and forests are kept in balance with their natural state.

Though these natural systems are complex, the concepts of sustainable stewardship are easy to understand. Many countries in the Global South have only recently adopted behaviours that damage natural habitats. In addition, marginalized remote communities are disproportionately negatively affected by climate change.

The ability of local communities to remain resilient and adaptive is very important, as is a focus on regenerative practices, and reclaiming ancestral habits which harmonize with the natural ecosystem. Workshops including composting, local rainwater harvesting, solar cookers (reducing the requirement of burning wood and deforestation), mindful gardening, natural beekeeping and the practice of organic agriculture are examples of curriculum subjects that build on such knowledge.

Gaula Milk Program

In 2021 we piloted a micro-dairy farming initiative. We trained rural women entrepreneurs in an asset-backed empowerment initiative tailored specifically to them.

A three-part training program was launched in Rampura and Harmara with 42 women. A comprehensive cow-care curriculum immersed the trainees in the world of cow rearing and dairy management. Concurrently, topics such as best cattle care practices, ENRICH training and financial digital literacy workshops ensured a well-rounded knowledge base.

Dairy management is one of our latest initiatives to support rural Indian farmers with best practises

Zanzibar & Tanzania Beekeeping

To build the capacity of our beekeeper Mamas of Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro, additional training classes were conducted. These included management skills, community engagement and digital skills, as well as follow up support. The objective was to ensure that women who produce the honey will also become better skilled at financial aspects of the enterprise, such as saving income and budgeting for expenses.

Several partnerships with organizations and the Government of Zanzibar enabled our local team to apply apiculture training on a larger scale.

Our programs
strive to support
women and
beekeepers
through
meaningful
livelihoods

In regions where natural
disasters threaten
consistent incomes,
beekeeping offers
women increased
financial stability and
peace of mind

Pacific Island Beekeeping

As part of a two years mentoring program in Fiji and Papua New Guinea our partners, trained and mentored six barefoot Women Beekeepers in each location.

Fijian women beekeepers have already harvested their first honey, and set up a collective "Honey Hut" for extraction. They are looking forward to future harvests, with plans to sell commercially.

Covid-19 postponed our delivery of beehives to the second quarter of 2022 in Papua New Guinea, however; the project in Fiji continued as planned and will be completed in May 2022.



Afghanistan Beekeeping

The piloting of a program for female beekeepers in Afghanistan began in June 2020. Our purpose was to identify non-formally educated rural women to train. With a local partner our Bamiyan Province beekeeping program began with five trainees. Practical hands-on training involves the cooperation of the community, families and partners.

Barefoot College International supports the beekeepers in multiple ways. With the aid of local partners, mentoring and support are provided by a local bee expert for two years. Each woman is provided with beehives and any required equipment. They have harvested from the first year significant amounts of honey, sold it locally and reinvested part of their income into more beehives for their activities - a sign of great entrepreneurship.

Beneficiaries
receive
consistent
income higher
than the average
rate, boosting
their family's
income

2020-2022 LIVELIHOODS AND AGRICULTURE GLOBAL IMPACT

216

Women farmers supported
from 7 countries

210%

Increase in Coffee Farmers
Revenue

1,600 kg

Honey produced by women
beekeepers'

5,662 kg

Coffee purchased directly from
farmers

Fairly traded and organic produce, produced by our Farmers Mamas, is sold in several countries around the world.

For the latest news visit our [Livelihoods webpage](#).



Amina - Beekeeper prepares for a hive inspection using protective beekeeping equipment provided to her by Barefoot College Zanzibar



Juana - Solar Mama & Coffee Farmer harvests ripened coffee beans in Ixil, Guatemala



WATER

Barefoot College International in 2021 facilitated substantial access to vital water resources in rural and remote Indian communities. These communities were identified as belonging to water-scarce regions, where the need for potable water had become dire. This accessibility includes rainwater harvesting (RWH) tanks and the construction of flushing toilets in schools, where each community receives one toilet that is to be designated exclusively female.

Clean water available right on campus makes going to school a cleaner and safer place to learn

New rainwater capacity has exponential benefits for villagers, especially in arid, depleted and desert regions. For example, health impacts such as boosted hygiene and contamination-free drinking water contribute to a lower risk of disease and illness and therefore greater longevity. Hundreds of schoolchildren, their teachers and parents prosper through these substantial RWH tanks.

We have identified the use of RWH tanks in schools as a catalyst for providing communities with better health through water hygiene. This is especially true for women and young girls once they enrol in classes, as flushing toilets provide security which encourages them to stay in full-time education after puberty and during motherhood as improved menstrual sanitation and privacy become available on-site.

These projects significantly improve access to water for entire communities. Many Indian communities face drought and extreme water shortages, where only deep wells can meet with demands. The wells gradually deplete deep underground water sources until they dry up. By collecting rainwater, watersheds can replenish themselves and rainy seasons can be taken advantage of through storage where rainwater otherwise runs off and can no longer be used.

Our initiatives focuses on offering communities the tools they need to sustainably and safely collect and use rainwater. We have also ensured that they are able to use this water for flushing toilets. Our team begins the process by engaging villagers in WASH learning to ensure that they have the knowledge to use clean water to their benefit in all areas of life. Water hygiene knowledge is disseminated into communities by key leaders for all residents to take advantage of in any given region.

2020-2022 WATER GLOBAL IMPACT

9

Rainwater Harvesting Tanks in Rural India

1,500

School children accessing clean drinking water

18

New flush toilets in rural Indian schools

2

Hand pumps repaired in Pygmy communities of Cameroon

COVID-19

1,235,000

Total beneficiaries

30,385 Rations

delivered to people living in marginalized communities

294 Videos

and resource materials created for open source

21 Languages

used to communicate relevant information to tribal and rural communities

49 Partners

Community-Based Organizations across 18 states

7 Aspirational Districts

continuously supported

220 Farmers

provided fair trade channels for sale and supported with organic farming resources including desi (indigenous) seeds and fertilizers

200,000

Reusable masks commissioned by the Government of Zanzibar, produced by solar mamas at the BVTIC



Rural Partnerships For Greater Reach

With our robust network of ground partners, we operated in 30 vulnerable districts. Utilizing these pre-existing rural connections, we extended our expertise and support in these areas during the pandemic through critical interventions that would strengthen the existing systems and structures - Government Bodies, NGOs, and private initiatives catering to the pandemic.

To this effect, BCI focussed efforts on initiatives in areas with a high presence through our regional staff members and ground partners. We also stepped up efforts to include areas with a previously low presence to boost efforts, protect villagers and propagate beneficial initiatives.

Covid Champion Team

Together, 40 Covid Champions from their respective Indian villages rose to the enormous task of supporting on-the-ground activities for awareness, safety and resilience. The Champions were selected from our Indian BCI team as health and good hygiene ambassadors. Three Indian newspapers recognized our efforts: Rajasthan Patrika, Dainik Navjyoti, and Dainik Bhaskar, where 17 articles were published on the relief work extended by BCI.

Interactive Voice Response Calls and Animated Videos

We could open two-way communication channels through IVR calls and dissemination of animated videos via Instant Messaging where we talked about preventing the spread of myths, social & communal stigmas, accessing support and services for pregnant women and young children in case of domestic violence and Action-oriented WASH practices. After a few initial IVR calls and videos, all the remaining videos were created based on community feedback. This way, we could truly engage in dialogue and discussions, which helped many communities take proactive steps for coronavirus prevention for themselves and their community members. A total of 5852 calls and 294 videos reached out to 200,000 people directly (including YouTube views) in ten states in India, Eswatini, Zanzibar, Nigeria and solar mamas in Latin America.

"At BCI, we have always believed in a bottoms-up approach, allowing the organization to have the agility to respond rapidly to community needs. This aspect, combined with the network of organizations we work with, helped us to become first responders in the remote and rural parts of the country"

Harsh Tiwari

Director - India Operations



Our senior team came together immediately to respond to the direct needs of rural communities and grassroots organizations, protecting people, saving lives and supporting children and teachers.

14 SDG GOALS

- Support rural women by providing them with tools and vocational training
- Leverage improved income generation & opportunity creation
- Reach +3 million beneficiaries

1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- Livelihoods & ENRICHE programmes to help women succeed in the modern marketplace
- Balance a holistic approach that caters to rural female entrepreneurs
- Ethically sourced produce grown and marketed by our beneficiaries

- Support the harvest of local, nutritious, sustainably grown foods
- Propel responsible stewardship of soils, local food security & regional ecosystems
- Steward the cultivation of seven local, organic & sustainably grown crops with up to a 40% increase in income

2 ZERO HUNGER



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- Advocate for & facilitate a just & safe society for all
- Immerse beneficiaries in cultures, lifestyles & concepts from around the world that help foster collectivism
- Invite women from underserved rural locations across diverse countries to participate

- Promote mental well-being, safety, sufficient medical care & fundamental human rights
- Offer ENRICHE and Women Wellness workshops in rural villages
- Teach positive nutritional and sanitation practices

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- All BCI programs devised for environmental sustainability
- Provide women with decision-making & leadership roles in their local communities
- Agri-livelihood curricula focus on ethical and regenerative practices.

- Provide relevant, localized education for marginalized communities
- Foster a better living by connecting women to lucrative livelihoods & skill training
- Adapt best education practice to digital format to ensure continued expansion of education in rural areas

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



- Offer training in land management, composting & renewable energy
- Boost everyday conscientiousness about sustainability
- Actively reduced kerosene & candle burning by 99% in rural households provided with solar electricity

- Focus on rural women - challenge of gender disparity & digital divide
- Actively narrow the wealth gap of urban versus rural societies
- Women-centric training across all BCI programmes
- Enrol at least 50% girls in our rural school programmes

5 GENDER EQUALITY



15 LIFE ON LAND



- Offer training in regenerative farming practises
- Encourage better preparedness & resilience against climate change
- Advocate for forest conservation & mitigation of the effects of poor agricultural practices

- Installation of rainwater harvesting tanks in water-scarce regions
- Installation of toilet facilities in schools and local water pump systems
- Facilitate training for local hygiene, water quality & efficacy to boost health & safety

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- Activation of rural climate justice from the ground up
- Support each Solar Engineer in self-reliance and leadership skills
- Foster independence and self-sufficiency in rural communities

- Installation of Solar Home Lighting Systems in rural communities for access to clean, renewable electricity
- Help communities bypass fossil fuels & reduce carbon emissions
- Beneficiaries can study, cook & feel safe during the evenings

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- Pool resources with like-minded organizations & grow a network of global partnerships
- Adapt programs during the pandemic to reach the most vulnerable
- +50 partner organizations

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Covid Top
Responders

Barefoot College International is thrilled to announce that we have been recognized as one of India's top 50 Covid-19 last-mile responders for the support we contributed especially during the devastating second wave of the pandemic. Our India-based BCI team has contributed immense efforts to ensure boosted health and safety for rural Indian communities.



WISE Award
Winners

Barefoot College International was one of 6 WISE Award winners for 2020, from amongst over 600 applicants. We have been recognized as an innovative project that addresses global education challenges through our unique Solar Electrification with ENRICH Education program. The WISE summit brings thousands of education stakeholders and innovators together from around the world to shape the future of education through innovation.



Energy Globe
Award

We are honoured to have been awarded the Energy Globe Award under the FIRE category for our 'Global Solar Initiative'. Our current efforts involve accessibility to clean, renewable light for marginalized families through the solar electrification of rural communities. The Energy Globe Award is considered the most important award for sustainability worldwide.



Dubai Expo
2020

We were selected to be highlighted at the 2020 Dubai Expo among 20 global initiatives identified as Global Best Practises. Our work was featured at the Program for Planet and People at Dubai Expo 2020 for our partnership with Hogan Lovells. This showcased the inspiring benefits of working with rural women and girls to offer them dignified employment and self-reliance.



COP26
Feature

During the prominent COP26 climate summit, we demonstrated our outstanding global efforts to address the UN Sustainability Development Goals (UNSDGs). We were delighted to be featured for our solutions-based initiatives to address the threats of climate change. Our programs address 14 of 17 UNSDGs. The work of our brilliant women beneficiaries helps to make this mission a reality.



NGO Advisors
Top 20

In 2020 Barefoot College International was, for the 7th consecutive year, recognized within the Top 20 of the NGO Advisor's 500 NGO ranking list for our success in global amplification and international grassroots efforts.



USAID
Re Foundation

Barefoot College International was selected as one of 10 winners of Women Connect Challenge India supported by USAID and Reliance Foundation. This initiative aims to narrow the gender digital divide in India by amplifying opportunities such as digital based entrepreneurship for women and teach them skills that make them self sufficient. Our Indian team facilitated digital literacy classes that offered women training on computers and smartphones, boosting their efficacy.



National
Geographic Soc.

The National Geographic Society granted us the COVID-19 Remote Learning Emergency for Educators award. We developed adaptable learning curricula that could be disseminated to last-mile Indian communities that catered to all levels of resource accessibility. Through our multi-tiered initiative, students could continue learning through digital school lessons, personalized remote phone calls with teachers and hand-delivered homework packages.

MODEL FOR DECENTRALIZATION

Since 2015, Barefoot College International has pivoted towards a decentralization goal in which we operate multiple international Barefoot Vocational Training Centres (BVTCs). Inspired by the original Indian training campus, these have been successfully established in Zanzibar, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, and Senegal with plans to open BVTCs in Guatemala and Fiji. This strategy hinges on combining relevant global experiences, values and principles. We have tailored our programmes to the local and regional realities of the most marginalized communities of the world.

We believe decentralization is critical to designing relevant strategies that focus on local needs and opportunities, and deeply respect regional culture, religion, natural resources, heritage and social challenges. We also focus on locally specific climate challenges, gender inequalities and agri-livelihood opportunities. To implement our strategy and amplify our impact potential we partner with local stakeholders such as governments, local partners and the private sector, who bring valuable insights into the regions where they work

In addition to our BVTCs, we have begun to employ the use of regional "pop-up" training centres. These more conveniently located centres have enabled us to further decentralize our efforts whilst targeting feasible locations for our beneficiaries. This results in a speedier launch of training initiatives and reduces transportation costs and carbon emissions. Pop-up centres bring opportunities closer to home, and are more culturally familiar to the women trainees in terms of terrain, languages spoken and cuisines that the women are accustomed to. BCI plans to expand our use of pop-up centres in order to extend our programs to more women and encourage steady growth and global reach.



Fiji

Designed to accommodate women from regions around the Pacific Islands and in conjunction with the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation from Fiji, our Centre located at Nadogo, Vanua Levu, is planning to open its doors to rural women trainees by early 2023. The objective is to train twenty four women per year.

Guatemala

Our first Latin American training centre is set to fully open in April 2022, with a scheduled inauguration ceremony in the highlands of Guatemala where is located. It will focused on training forty two women annually. The centre will offer programs in solar engineering, ENRICHE and agri-livelihoods.

India

Between 2020 and 2022, six centres have been training women in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh. A total of 59 women have been trained through our Solar curriculum and a total of 323 under the Women Prosper model. Training in Nagaland will begin in Autumn 2022.

Madagascar

Inaugurated in 2019, we have celebrated the graduation of three cohorts of 47 women trainees from Madagascar who have gone on to solar electrify 3700 remote rural households. Two more cohort are expected to be trained in 2022.

Senegal

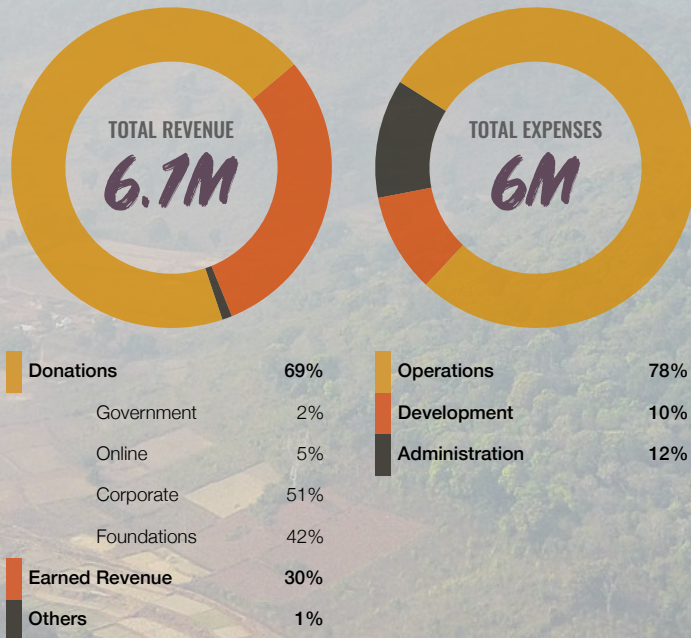
Our Senegal centre saw the first Solar Mama cohort successfully graduate in October of 2021. The second cohort began training in December 2021 and will graduate in May 2022. Solar installations in Senegal to date have provided clean, renewable light to more than 3500 inhabitants of rural villages.

Zanzibar

Our oldest centre overseas completed seven years of activity. Following Covid19 protocols, classes in Solar, ENRICHE, Beekeeping and livelihoods have begun operating again at the centre with more and more visitors coming to visit the place bringing new energies and ideas to be considered.

FINANCIALS

2020-2022 Financials



2020-2022 has been an unprecedented time for Barefoot College International, as along with the rest of the world we had to deal with COVID-19 and the massive upheavals this caused globally. The onset of the pandemic in 2020 pivoted our focus into supporting our beneficiaries, ground partners and staff, and keeping as many operations on track as possible, whilst investing in and developing our programs to further support health and financial resilience in our communities around the world.

The economic costs of COVID-19 meant that many governments and corporations had to focus their resources inwards, and organizations in similar sectors to ours found their donor pipelines severely disrupted.

In light of this, we are grateful for the continued and unwavering support of both our Foundation and our Corporate partners, whose enthusiasm and generosity for the life-changing work we do has allowed us to continue to train and empower women with the knowledge and tools they need to make a better future. The steadfast support of our donors and partners has meant that we have been able, despite COVID, to continue executing highly effective and impactful projects around the world. We have also welcomed new partners into our family during the past two years which has enabled us to continue with our work; we acknowledge the outstanding generosity of all our partners who contribute to program successes.

In 2021 we opened our latest African Regional Training Centre in Senegal, and created a new Indian training hub in Hamara, Rajasthan. This brings the number of training locations in India up to six, and has also allowed us to take important steps in the continued decentralization of our Women Prosper program in India, which focuses on the provision of portable solar goods for sale as a livelihood for women. The Senegal Centre has already produced two outstanding classes of Solar Mamas, and is drawing highly positive governmental support. The Senegal Centre further represents a significant expansion of our ability to provide impactful programs in West Africa. We are also currently on track to open more Regional Training Centres in 2022 and 2023.

Sue Stevenson

Director Strategic Partnerships and International Development



Barefoot College International demystifies and decentralizes technology, putting new tools in the hands of under-utilized rural communities, fostering resiliency and sustainability. With a geographic focus on the Least Developed Countries, we train women worldwide as solar engineers, entrepreneurs and educators. We have helped develop over 3,500 women from 93 countries, solar electrifying over 175,000 households worldwide. These women, the “Solar Mamas”, return to their villages to bring sustainable energy and scalable, regionally-specific livelihood opportunities to their communities.

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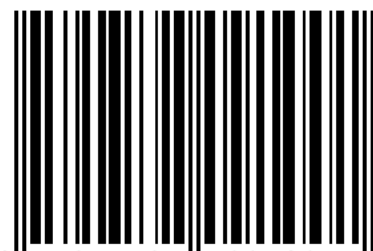
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