

**GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT**

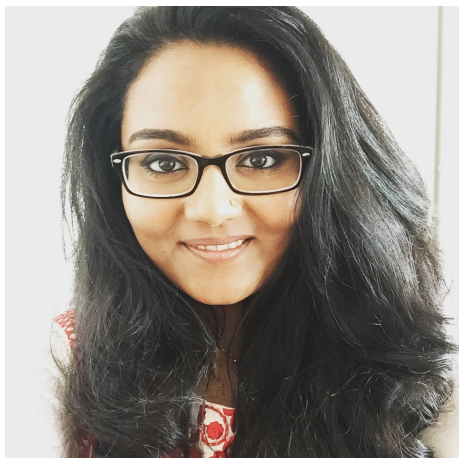
**INITIATIVE GLOBALE POUR LA SANTÉ ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT- 2017**



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<http://gihd.ch>



## *Message from the President*

In January 2017, a few like-minded people came together to form an Organization with a vision to enable positive health and development outcomes by helping people in need to help themselves. After deliberations, the Organization was formulated in April, and was registered under the article 60 of the Swiss civil code.

GIHD works in Partnership with local Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society groups and Governmental Institutions/Organizations, Education institutions and Philanthropies, and by mobilization and engagement of women, children and youth using participatory approaches. In particular, it will work towards

- Education and skill development of orphan and vulnerable children;
- Health and nutrition support to needy orphan and vulnerable children; and,
- Care, support and legal guidance to girls and women who are victims of violence.

The first year for any Organization is exciting, but challenging. It was true for GIHD also. What is critical is that we have a conviction to work towards our goal. We established partnerships with couple of not-for-profit Organizations in India. We have started slowly, but will work together steadily to implement our vision. We are learning from our humble beginning.

*Athira Anand*

# Activities

## The Board

Global Initiative for Health and Development ([GIHD](#)) was formed in April 2017. It has established a Board with Ms Athira Anand as the President, Mr Fabio Berto as the Vice President, Dr Kenneth Wong as the Secretary, Ms Chaza Al Kanawati as the Treasurer. Dr Constanza Vallenias is another Board Member.

**Ms Athira ANAND** is a medicine student. She has been passionate about social service since her school days, and has been mobilising financial resources through fundraising activities to support poor children and cancer patients in India and other developing countries.

**Mr Fabio BERTO** has extensive experience and expertise in accounting, management, statistical analysis, business intelligence and IT solutions. He has worked in leadership positions with several private sector companies in Geneva.

**Dr Kenneth WONG** is an experienced Scientist with expertise in Physical Chemistry, and has managed high quality Corporate science laboratories in Brazil, France and Switzerland. He is also an expert in running projects and in management. He is passionate in mentoring, and charity work, and has been volunteering to contribute to enterprises, organizations, foundations, NGOs and associations.

**Ms Chaza AL KANAWATI** has worked extensively on management, administration, marketing and customer service in several private sector companies in Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Her commitment to charity work has led her work as an executive secretary in United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Syria, and many others.

**Dr Constanza VALLENAS** has recently retired from the World Health Organization (WHO), where she worked for almost 20 years as a Public Health Medical Officer. At WHO, she has worked on technical areas, including breastfeeding protection, promotion and support, and on infection prevention and control.

## Partnerships

In 2017, GIHD has partnered with two Organizations. One-time donations to [Vasavya Mahila Mandali](#) (VMM), Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh State, India, and to [Palliam India](#), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State, India were made with a view to enable positive health and development outcomes by helping people in need. In addition, GIHD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM), to work collaboratively to generate resources to work with women and children in difficult circumstances.

## Fruits of our work

### Counselling services to girls and women in difficult circumstances



Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) was established forty years ago with Gandhian ideology as a not-for-profit-secular-voluntary organization. It works in the rural as well as urban areas of Andhra Pradesh. VMM works with a vision to promote comprehensive social, economic and political development for women, children and youth in vulnerable situations, there by empowering communities in Andhra Pradesh to improve their quality of life and build a better civil society in India.

Through one-time donation to VMM, GIHD contributed to support over 400 women and girls in difficult situations, through counseling services by trained counsellors. The issues dealt with at the counselling centre of VMM included cases of harassment, domestic violence. Support services were rendered to women and girls in need through police, judiciary, women's and children's welfare Committees and groups, and through community and civil society groups.



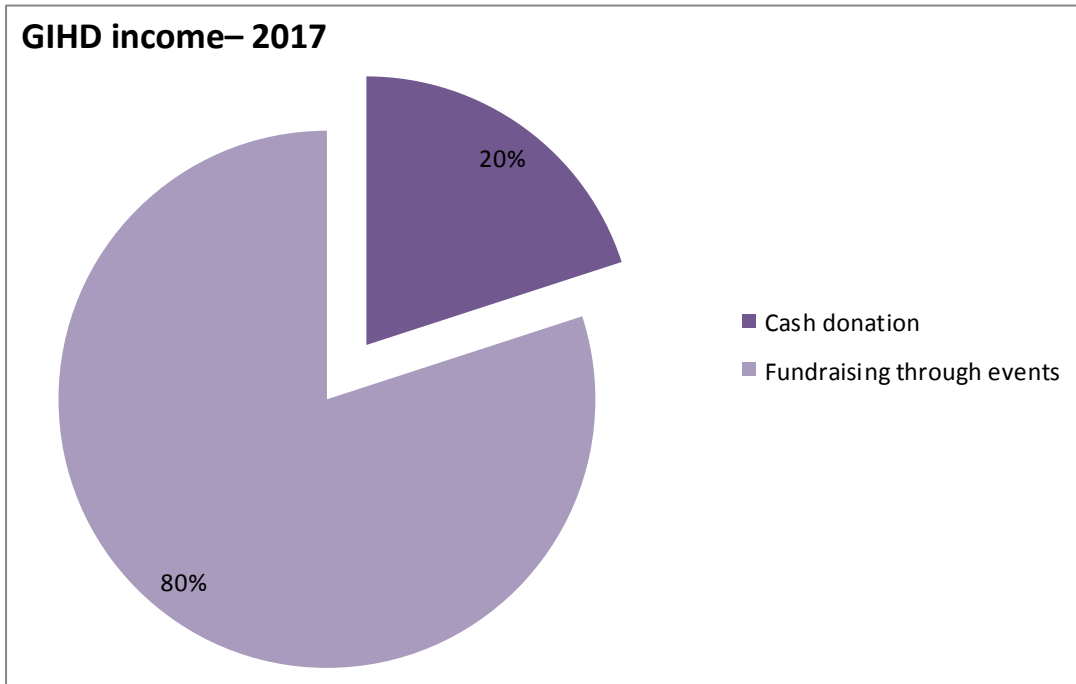
*Life skills training programme*

### Collaborative work with Pallium India

Pallium India is a registered charitable trust formed in 2003 with a vision to catalyze the development of effective pain and relief and quality palliative care services and to integrate them in health care across India through delivery of services, education, capacity building, policy, research, advocacy and dissemination of information. It is a WHO Collaborative Center for Training and Policy on Access to Pain Relief. Through one-time donation to Pallium India, GIHD was able to provide pain relief for 10 needy patients for one month.

## Financial review– 2017

Majority of the income of GIHD in 2017 came from fundraising events such as exhibition and sale of paintings, participating in charity events etc.



In 2017, GIHD gave importance to establishing partnerships to implement projects in India. 86% of the expenditure was distributed to partners, which were used for programme delivery.

### GIHD expenditure– 2017

