

roundglass | foundation

# Annual Report 2019–2020

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# 1 What is Wholistic Wellbeing?

Wellbeing is about the health of your body.

**Wholistic wellbeing is about the health of your life.** It's a positive, proactive approach to the mind, body, spirit and the world we live in, that brings hope, learning and growth.

RoundGlass Foundation was created to bring the power of wholistic wellbeing to all of Punjab, helping people and communities from every social and economic background achieve their full potential.

By helping individuals and communities build self-reliance, co-existence and eco-sustainability, we're not just redefining how people in Punjab define wellbeing, we're creating a wholistic wellbeing blueprint for a healthier, happier and more joyful world.

BELOW: Ludhiana district's Daumajra village's organic farmer Surinder Singh at his organic farm



## 2 Our Impact in Rural Punjab 2019–2020

2019 has been a pivotal year for RoundGlass Foundation (RGF). Each of our efforts has planted a seed for lasting impact. **The progress we have made in rural Punjab has led to a series of outstanding firsts.**

BELOW: Aloona Tola SHG women Bholi and Rajpal Kaur while making sanitary pads at Aloona Tola Pad making unit.



# We Have Made Promising Beginnings

IN JUST OUR 2ND YEAR SINCE INCEPTION, OUR MODEL VILLAGE INITIATIVES HAVE REACHED 350+ VILLAGES IMPACTING MORE THAN 300,000 LIVES.

Learn  
Punjab



**8500** children across 85 villages accessed digital learning.



**2800** children across 104 villages began playing sport actively.

Her  
Punjab

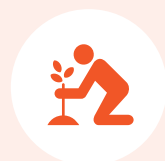


**2700** girls across 53 villages made aware of menstrual safety and health.



**32,000** sanitary pads manufactured for sale, in a span of 7 months by women in 2 villages. Using their skills outside of the home to make a living.

Sustain  
Punjab



**176,800** trees including 79 mini forests planted in one year across 188 villages.



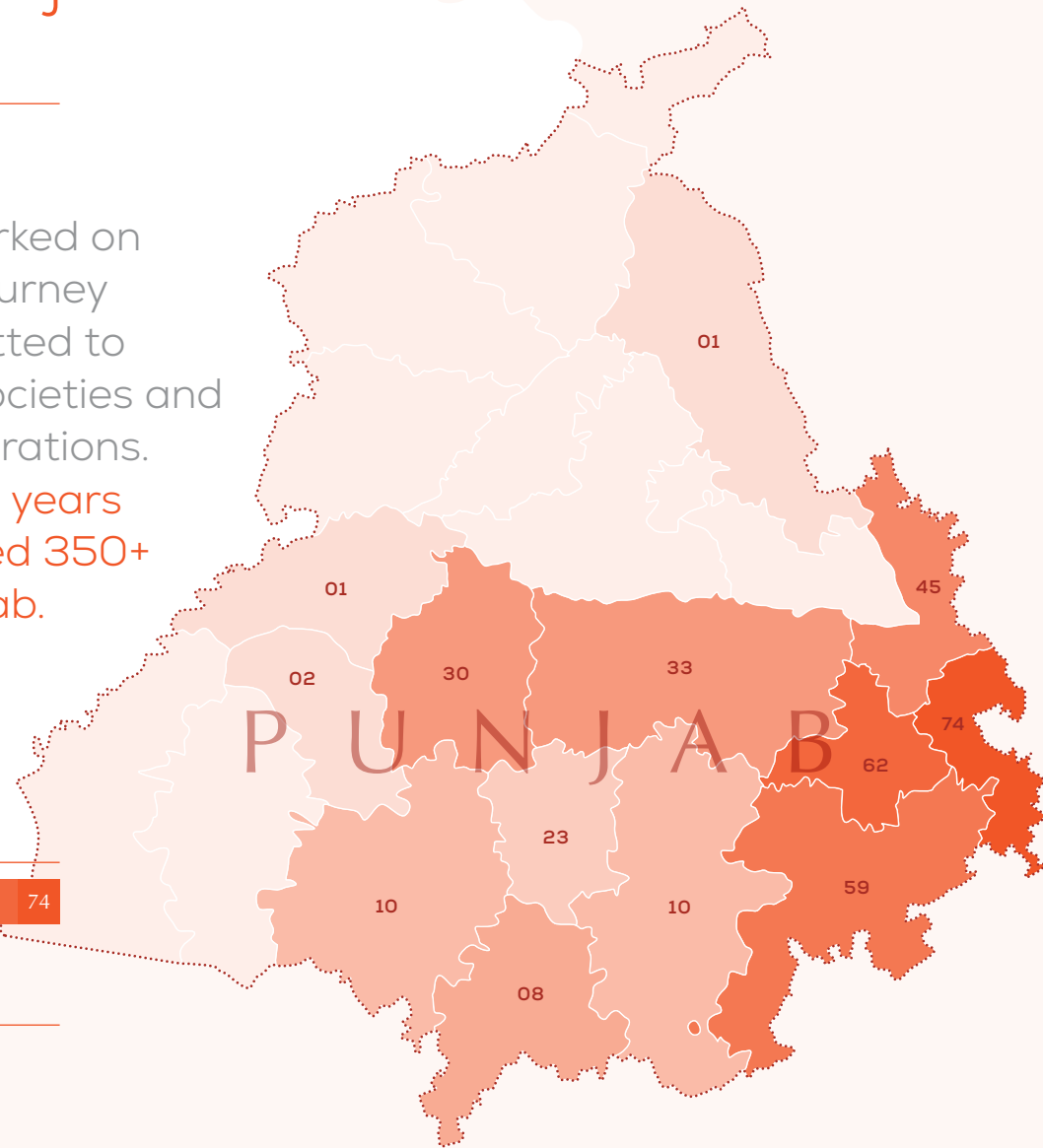
**18** SWM villages, 3847 households impacted, 18 new jobs generated (garbage collectors).



**12** farmers across 6 villages have switched to organic farming through support and expert guidance.

# Making Changes across Punjab

We have embarked on an ambitious journey and are committed to transforming societies and benefiting generations. In less than two years we have reached 350+ villages of Punjab.



NUMBER OF VILLAGES



**DISTRICT**

**INITIATIVES**

DISTRICT	INITIATIVES
Barnala	
Bathinda	
Faridkot	
Fatehgarh Sahib	
Ferozepur	
Hoshiarpur	
Ludhiana	
Mansa	
Moga	
Patiala	
Roopnagar	
Sangrur	
SAS Nagar	



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## 3 A Message from RoundGlass Foundation

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In 2018, RoundGlass Foundation made a promise to Punjab to bring back its lost glory and to create a vibrant wellbeing ecosystem for individuals, community and the planet to thrive.

We believe the pursuit of wholistic wellbeing is the right of every person on the planet. It is up to all of us to make sure that everyone irrespective of age, gender and status has access to opportunities that make wellbeing possible. We are resolved to make this happen in Punjab. Our milestones and progress over the last year has only strengthened our resolve.

With dedication and passion to serve, we have engaged with more than 300,000 lives across 350+ villages in 13 districts across the state of Punjab. Our teams of associates and volunteers have reached far-flung areas to provide invaluable support through our initiatives.

Our Learn Labs have created globally aware, curious and confident learners across government schools in Punjab. Our Makerspace initiative has not only created new products, but also change makers in the village. Our Plant for Punjab and Waste Management initiatives have brought communities together to save their forests and living spaces. Working towards our commitment to plant a billion trees, we planted unique mini-forests to include indigenous trees as per the holy books; Guru Granth Sahib and Ramayan, ensuring ecological conservation and biodiversity. We are happy to report that our plant survival rate is 95%. Education and support for the waste management initiative has resulted in seamless segregation of waste at source, better health for the villagers and organic compost for the fields in the villages. Our self-help group initiative for women has created opportunities for rural women with an independent, forward-looking mindset. The sports initiative has been conducive for children and youth to make positive life choices in villages.

But this progress doesn't just represent the work of the foundation, it represents the pride and commitment of the very special communities we serve. The residents of our villages have embraced the initiatives, supported and sustained the programs, and carried our work to unexpected successes. Their willingness to learn and innovate, has taught us about strength and adaptability. By stepping up to overcome barriers to their progress and adding new purpose to their lives, their inspiring efforts have led to a massive positive impact.

The past year has seen the foundation reach many milestones. It has motivated us to dream bigger, and to include more communities in our programs as we blaze ahead building a better Punjab. Wholistic wellbeing is a journey where success lies within the path itself. We reiterate our resolve to embrace every opportunity to help people embark on and enjoy their own wellbeing journey. It is a journey we are proud to be on with our amazing family of associates, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries. We look forward to your continued partnership and support to rebuild Punjab and rejuvenate Punjabiyat.

The best, as they say, is yet to come.

Onwards to 12,800 model villages.

## 4 RoundGlass Foundation Initiatives 2019–2020

### Learn Punjab

#### Learn Labs –

Self-Organized Learning Environment (SOLE)

#### Learn Labs –

Makerspaces

#### Sports Centers



### Her Punjab

#### Women's Health

#### Women's Self-Help Groups



### Sustain Punjab

#### Plant For Punjab

#### Waste Management

#### Organic Farming







ABOVE: Khushpreet Kaur attending a Learn Labs session at Aloona Tola Learn Labs.

What if all children had equal access & opportunity to learning & growth?

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## 5 Learn Punjab

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No child should have a barrier to progress.

We bring the learning tools and resources rural children need to make knowledge accessible, giving them equal opportunity to develop the skills they need to achieve anything.

BELOW: Jovandeep Singh watching a football match at Aloona Tola football field.



## 5.1. Learn Labs – Self-Organized Learning Environment (SOLE)

In Learn Labs, children take control of their own learning using the internet. Subjects are made more interesting by enabling and encouraging children to explore, learn and present to the class.

We invite volunteer Learn Pals from across the world to interact with the children via video calls, helping them build confidence, English-speaking skills and social skills. Students get an opportunity to expand their horizons and raise their aspirations. They might discover a new word, an unfamiliar food item, an extraordinary vocation, or a different weather pattern. SOLE labs inspire children to absorb new knowledge and further develop their potential.

Learn Labs have become popular in many Government schools of Punjab. Teachers specially trained on using Learn Labs now explain key educational concepts using the internet.

“I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL



RIGHT: Young girls Mehek, Khushpreet and Nikki working in a group at Aloona Tola Learn Labs.

## IMPACT STORY

# I Can Know Anything



Over 8500 children engaged in interactive learning through technology.



Learns Labs endorsed by Punjab Education department.



85 labs opened across 6 districts of Punjab.

Gurjeet, a 15 year old girl from village Aloona Tola, Ludhiana lives with her parents, three siblings and her grandmother.

Her mother is the only earning member in the family, working as a National Rural Employment Guarantee Act worker to feed her four children and take care of her alcoholic and drug addicted husband.

Gurjeet starts her day at 4am with household chores to help her mother, and after that she heads up to school – she loves studying and dreams of becoming a doctor one day.

As she was growing, Gurjeet realized that study was not easy in school. Limited access to books and the limited knowledge of teachers was her reality. She could sense her dream of higher education and a better life slipping away. Still she studied hard and her resilient heart would not give up.

When a RoundGlass Foundation Learn Labs came to her school, a new chapter of expression, understanding, possibilities and potential began. Gurjeet's curious mind was drawn to the Learn Labs. She'd heard that computers were in there and she wanted to learn about them. From learning how to operate a computer to discovering

a wonderful world of knowledge, learning has been a beautiful journey for her.

One day, Gurjeet asked the Learn Labs Lead, "I want to know why stars twinkle?" Aided by the Lead, children used the Labs resources to answer the question that very day. As Gurjeet's questions continued, they inspired others to ask questions and become curious and eager to know. One child asked, "What are the gases burning in the sun?" Another asked, "What is the Hubble Telescope?" At Learn Labs, asking questions is an ingrained and celebrated way of learning to encourage curiosity and amazing journeys of discovery.

Gurjeet asked and answered questions related to her school studies and searched for how to become a doctor. Now a senior secondary student in a school 10 km away, she still comes to the Learn Labs center every day. She even asks to open the Learn Labs on non-working days as she explores and finds direction and purpose in her life, Learn Labs is her anchor.

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“Learn Labs is the best thing that has happened to all of us here in the village. Earlier I had many unanswered questions but now through the internet in the Learn Labs, I can find out about and learn to know anything and everything.”

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In conversation about the huge change Learn Labs has brought in her life, Gurjeet says, “Learn Labs is the best thing that has happened to all of us here in the village. Earlier I had many unanswered questions but now through the internet in the Learn Labs, I can find out about and learn to know anything and everything.” Her smile and sparkle in her eyes as she talks about it shows the impact it has had on her.

Gurjeet is now among the highest performing students in her class today, and the most curious in

the Learn Labs asking most of the questions. Not only has Gurjeet become a happy and even more enthusiastic learner, excited about where knowledge and inspiration she has found in Learn Labs might take her, she has also become a co-creator of a better future for her, her friends and her village. She is helping the team install computers, bring children, make decorations for the room and acts as a support in running the labs.

Gurjeet is a picture of what Learn Labs can do for villages

and under-served communities where prospects are limited. Learn Labs has impacted Gurjeet’s life profoundly, not only is she enjoying and growing herself, benefiting from the access and freedom it gives, but she is helping others find and succeed on their journeys of wonder and exploration too. Like Gurjeet there are many children who are looking for answers, answers that can change our world and importantly, in a place of openness and possibility, theirs and the people they love around them.



## 5.2. Learn Labs – Makerspaces

Makerspaces give rural residents the space and tools to explore interests, develop their innate skills and build innovative products.

The program provides internet, materials and tools, allowing community members to research practical know-how and solve everyday problems.

Makerspaces foster creative and critical thinking, giving rural youth a chance to learn outside the overly structured, testing-focused schooling system. Being free to tinker with their ideas and tools, unhindered by doubts or pressure, many have discovered latent talents and capabilities. Residents of the

village regularly reach out to these budding entrepreneurs for help with repairs of appliances and electronics.

In 2019, young makers brought hundreds of ideas to life. Motion-activated trash bins, miniature security alarms, and hand-cranked torches are just some of the innovative products they designed and built in our Makerspace in Kherra Jattan.

“Tell me and I forget,  
teach me and I may  
remember, involve  
me and I learn.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



RIGHT: Manpreet innovating at Learn Labs - Makerspaces.

## IMPACT STORY

# Making New Futures



28-40 children come to the labs everyday.



Children making unique products like sensor dustbins, automatic alarms and more.

Pawan Singh is a 15 year old art student from Khera Jattan village in district Patiala. His parents work as laborers in the village.

For the past year and a half, Pawan Singh has been a regular at Learn Labs - Makerspaces set up by RoundGlass Foundation in Patiala's Khera Jattan village.

Learn Labs - Makerspaces is a hub of exploration, innovation, resourcefulness and creativity. Every day Pawan and other children of Khera Jattan village gather together to design and build new things.

Being an Arts student, Pawan was previously never inclined towards anything technical. He discovered a new passion and talent for invention at the Learn Labs - Makerspaces where, using the tools provided in the labs and guided by videos on YouTube, he has built many products – from dumbbells to bird houses, sensor dustbins, remote toy cars, and more.

Pawan feels that Learn Labs - Makerspaces has given him an environment to create, innovate and realize things he never imagined he could do.

His new found skills have also made him popular in his village, and he is now often requested for all kinds

of technical help around his village. He knows that his parents, who work as laborers, couldn't possibly have managed to help him get the technical knowledge that he is able to access at the Makerspace.

Pawan is a living, breathing example of how the ripple effect of good change that is happening in his life echoes on into the community thanks to Makerspace. Knowledge has empowered kids like Pawan in an unbelievable way and widened the range of things that are possible for them and their families, boosting their creativity and changing prospects and attitudes for the better.

Thanks to Learn Labs - Makerspaces, Pawan and others like him have become makers. They are arts kids designing new tech, science kids turning creativity into useful things for everyday people. What we see is possibility in action, children confidently taking on challenges and showing how amazing things and amazing futures are possible, and with the right help, can be imagined, created and made real.

Pawan is a living, breathing example of how life has changed for him and the ripple effect of good that is going into his life and the community thanks to Makerspace.





## 5.3. Sports Centers

Our Sports Centers are reviving sports culture in rural Punjab. These centers help identify and nurture local talent and provide a space for young athletes to hone their skills.

In an environment where there are few playing fields and parks, dependence on electronics is high, and safe places to play are scarce. Our Sports Centers are engaging children in active, outdoor playtime, indulging their natural enthusiasm and inclination to play, learn sporting skills, and build on their potential.

We provide free kits and equipment, and training for coaches and players for villages applying to our program. We bring in an informal coach with a background and passion for sports to motivate children to get out on the field and learn the rules of the game.

Inter-village tournaments give young athletes the opportunity to showcase their talent, learn from each other, and build confidence and ambition in a healthy and competitive environment.

LEFT: Young footballers Sara, Harpreet, Khuspreet and Mehek enjoying themselves after their football match at Aloona Tola.



“Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play.”

MIKE SINGLETARY

## IMPACT STORY

## Neymar, Ronaldo, Laddoo!!!



2800 children actively playing across 104 villages.



100+ volunteers being trained.

As he wakes up and brushes his teeth, Laddoo keeps an eye on the No. 10 jersey lying on a pile of dirty clothes waiting to be washed.

It's a copy of perhaps the most iconic shirt in football history. Seeing his mother leave momentarily, he makes a dash for it and runs out of the house to the RGF football academy set up in Aloona Tola village of Punjab. "Without this shirt, I never go to play football", he tells his coach excitedly.

"All the noise of the world fades away when I play football – homework, food, family troubles – I can't even hear my coach's voice". Laddoo was 3 years old when he first came to the ground. Seeing his amazing control over the ball, Laddoo's coach has been guiding him, honing his talent and customizing his training and diet to help him develop his skills and abilities. "Every major club in Punjab wants Laddoo in their U-10 team today", the coach says.

On the day of RGF tournament, coach asks Laddoo about who owns more football trophies – Laddoo or his father? Laddoo's father had also trained with the same coach; however, in those days the support he needed to develop

his talent was not available, and he could not pursue his passion. He is grateful for the hope of a better future for his son. The young boy turns around and quips "By next year, I will have won more than him".

Like many child talents from worlds with limited resources, Laddoo has innate football ability that shines. With the right support he could be the Indian Messi, or Mo Salah, or Ronaldo. Thanks to the RoundGlass academy in his village he gets to be perfectly happy in his dream as he winds his way through opponents, scores glories on the football pitch and grows in confidence with every moment. He and many like him are being supported to develop their talents and pursue their dreams of being elite athletes, the football stars of the future. What's possible never looked so attainable and Laddoo, with the help of RoundGlass, is showing us how.

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“All the noise of the world fades away when I play football – homework, food, family troubles – I can’t even hear my coach’s voice”

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# What if everyone had equal opportunities to skills and jobs?

BELOW: Women of Aloona Tola Pad Making Unit on their way to distribution of sanitary pads in the nearby villages.



## 6 Her Punjab

The wholistic wellbeing of a community depends on enabling everyone so that they feel empowered, inspired and capable of making great change. Our programs in women's health, education and entrepreneurship are helping women and girls play active and impactful roles in creating a more inclusive and equitable Punjab.

BELOW: Young girls attending Health and Hygiene Workshop at Lodhi Majra village, Ropar district.



## 6.1. Women's Health

This initiative brings healthcare education and solutions to girls in under-resourced communities. The program educates young women about their bodies natural processes.

We address the role of hygiene in health, discuss relevant psychological issues, and build awareness to break down taboos and dispel fears. The goal of our workshops is to help girls feel clean and capable every day, even during their periods. We create an environment where they can openly air their questions and curiosities without judgment or censure.

Facilitating good hygiene, better health, and freedom from unreasonable social restrictions allows women the opportunity to work towards and fulfill their dreams.

The wellbeing of women in rural communities relies not just on physical or technological solutions, but also on open, honest, supportive conversations.

BELOW: Girls taking a look at Menstrupedia comic book that breaks various myths about Menstruation.

“Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women.”

MICHELLE OBAMA



## IMPACT STORY

# Ignorance out. Togetherness in.



82 awareness workshops  
in schools of Punjab.



2700 girls trained in  
menstrual hygiene.



3200 pads distributed to  
underprivileged school girls.

In the village in Lodhi Majra district Rupnagar, the principal of a school listened to us and accepted our invitation to do a brave and good thing. On hearing our plans he immediately gave permission and happily set aside a space for us and called out all the girls.

The girls sat on the floor in this one room and waited for the workshop to begin without any idea of the topic we were going to talk about.

The moment we told them that we will be talking about PERIODS, all the girls started hiding their faces and looked at each other in awe. We started with a fun activity to break the ice and the girls started feeling more comfortable talking about the subject. We talked about the changes they go through while they grow and that how normal it is to feel all of the emotions and physical changes that take place.

As the environment started to get more comfortable and safe, girls started asking questions they had always been very curious about, but nobody would come and talk about with them. This was a socially taboo area that was rarely if ever discussed and as our workshop progressed, fear and ignorance was being removed and confidence, understanding and empathy was allowed to grow.

During this session a lot of questions were asked and many myths were dispelled. Rani asked, “Madam will I die of cancer if I use sanitary pads”. She and many others were relieved to be assured she wouldn’t. All their questions were answered. We talked about the physiology of menstruation, how it is normal for all girls to experience it and suddenly a girl named Manu stood up and said she needed to go to the washroom urgently. When she returned she announced in front of everyone that she just had her very first period and everybody in the class started clapping.

For the first time the girls were celebrating their periods and not feeling ashamed of them and that exact moment filled the room with joy and happiness. Our Health and Hygiene Workshops are continuing to answer the important questions that get left unanswered and bust the lingering and harmful myths that still exist.

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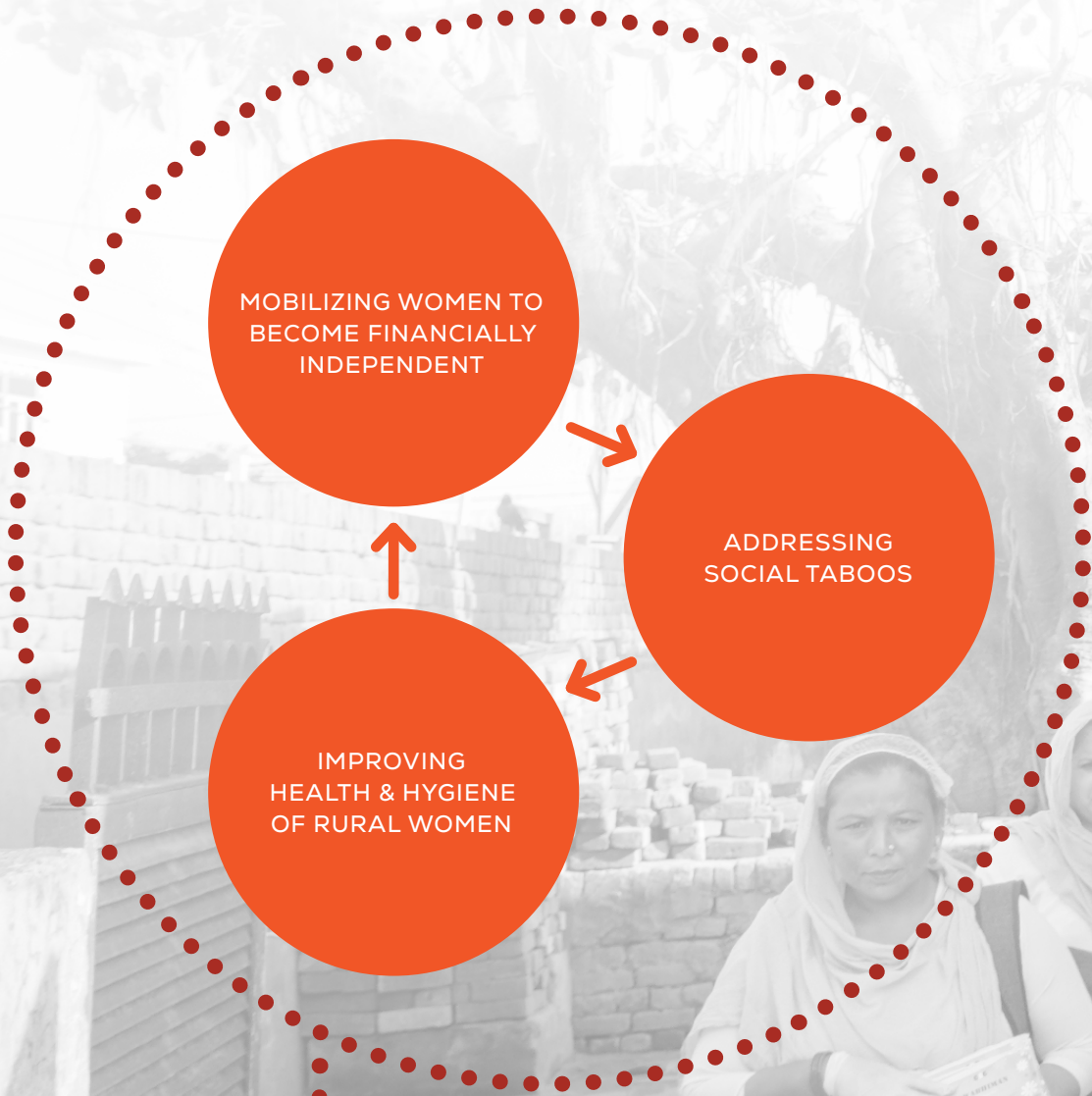
The impact the initiative is having for girls, their families and the village communities is likely to be immense – ignorance is being ousted and attitudes and

understanding changed, so that our girls, and future generations of girls, live a life of pride and not shame.





# Decision that Breaks the Long Chain of Social Stigmas



Empowering women to become community change-makers

## 6.2. Women's Self-Help Groups (SHG)

This initiative was launched to motivate, educate and train rural women to support each other. The program trains, organizes meetings and workshops, provides access to financial resources, and supports female entrepreneurship.

It's helping women become more confident, productive, and build a life of wellbeing for themselves.

Positive change is a powerful motivator. These women meet regularly to discuss common issues, and to support and motivate each other. With initial support, training and an interest-free loan from the foundation, the groups have set up a pad manufacturing unit in their village. Given the chance to break out of their shells, these home-

bound, timid women have turned into role models in their villages, confidently building awareness of women's health and hygiene while they established a successful micro-business.



“Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LEFT: SHG women Bholi, Rajpal and Manjeet at Aloona Tola Pad Making Unit.

## IMPACT STORY

# Independence for Women, Inspiration for All



2 pad making groups set up.



8 women employed.



More than 32,000 pads made for sale over a 7 month span.

Rajpal Kaur has been keen to work since she was a child but in her village it's not customary for women to work and the job opportunities are few.

Her husband is a daily wage worker and together the couple want to do the best for their three children – two sons who attend school and a daughter who left school before her 12th grade graduation.

Coming into contact with RGF, she started as a cook at the football academy kitchen for the village children. Soon the entrepreneur in her who wanted to see a social change in the status of women was restless.

Sharing her aspirations with the RGF representative, Raj and RGF gathered other like-minded women together and with Raj's leadership, formed a Self Help Group (SHG) to set-up and run a sanitary pad making unit. Initially some of the women involved were too embarrassed to admit they had been manufacturing sanitary pads, pretending to make diapers instead, but all that has changed. "We understand the importance of our product for women and girls, and we are happy to talk about it," says a member. "We realize how social taboos have only held us back from living well."

From having never been outside the village, these women now travel to neighboring villages to market the pads and talk about menstrual health and sanitation. They are not only making money, they are also making a positive difference in the lives of women in the villages.

As for Raj, her husband is now taking her advice for a sustainable livelihood where men could operate Self-help groups too. In less than a year, Raj is confidently supporting her household and her children's education, including her daughter who is currently pursuing a degree course in nursing.

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ABOVE: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act workers helping at Lang village nursery.

What if communities worked together to create a sustainable environment?

## 7 Sustain Punjab

We are only as healthy as the environment we grow in. Giving the spaces that shape our lives the care, attention and time they need to recover not only makes us healthier, it ensures those spaces will be here and healthy for future generations.

BELOW: Visuals of one of Punjab's native species Kachnar tree also known as Bauhinia Variegata being raised at RoundGlass Foundation Lang nursery.



## 7.1. Plant for Punjab

Through the Plant for Punjab initiative, we are helping repair Punjab’s natural ecosystem by restoring its green cover through afforestation.

We are identifying planting spots in villages, sourcing indigenous plant species, and inspiring community involvement. Saplings are cared for by the foundation for a full 3 years, ensuring survival and sustained growth.

Our powerful Mini Forests are created by planting sapling clusters of indigenous shrubs and trees that grow faster and are more bio-diverse than conventional plantations. These dense green areas act as the lungs for the village, a restored habitat for birds and animals, and aid climate correction.

By rebuilding green cover, we’re creating a cascading effect of restored ecological balance. It’s cleaning the air, rooting the soil, providing food, timber and shade to revitalize forests that are essential for our wellbeing.

“Forests are the world’s air-conditioning system – the lungs of the planet – and we are on the verge of switching it off.”

PRINCE CHARLES



RIGHT: RoundGlass Foundation Lang village nursery staff Lakhvir Singh working in the nursery.

## IMPACT STORY

## Green Punjab: One Village at a Time



176,800 trees planted.



79 Mini Forests.



95% survival rate of saplings.



188 villages across 13 districts of Punjab.

Desertification is not an abstract concept but a life threatening reality for the 991 homes and 5600 people in Jhanduke village. Like in most areas in Punjab, Jhanduke's tree cover has been swallowed by farms and unbridled crop intensification.

Changes in weather and reduced rainfall have resulted in a rapidly sinking water table. The land is in crisis.

"When I was a boy, there was a lot of rain and even hail, and it would get cold. I remember seeing my breath condensing when I spoke. Now there's less rain and it hardly gets cold." says Bhagwant Singh, President of the village Youth Club. "In this region, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy and land is a person's most valuable asset, desertification means devastation." adds Gagandeep Singh, Joint Secretary of the club.

Supported by RoundGlass Foundation, the Youth Club set out on a mission to reverse this downward spiral. With saplings, seeds, technical training, on-site planning assistance and maintenance support provided by the Foundation and the energy and commitment of the village youth,

four hundred trees got planted in a dense patch within a few weeks and plans established for hundreds more all over the village. "We are committed to this work because we want the next generation to have trees, though some species have already disappeared." Bhagwant says. Starting with a small group of 11, the club is now 60-member strong.

"We are bringing back native trees that have disappeared – species like desi kikar, jhand, van and white kikar, farmaha and phulai. These trees were common in our grandparents' days, but are not seen anymore," says Rajneesh Kumar, who leads the Plant for Punjab initiative for RoundGlass Foundation. "Many of Punjab's native trees are mentioned in the Guru Granth Sahib (Holy Book of Sikhs) and are known to have medicinal properties. We're bringing them back."



“We are bringing back native trees that have disappeared – species like desi kikar, jhand, van and white kikar, farmaha and phulai. These trees were common in our grandparents’ days, but are not seen anymore,” says Rajneesh Kumar.



Community engagement is critical to the success of any long-term project. Each home in the village has been given two saplings to plant in their front yard, and the family takes ownership and responsibility for their growth. In local schools, children are taught about climate change and the importance of maintaining the forest cover, “We tell them they need to take care of trees and the trees will take care of them.” Rajnish says.

The spread of the ecosystem message is growing like a forest itself. The community has started sharing this knowledge with neighboring villages. Twenty-two-year-old Satpal Singh, from adjoining Fatta Maluke, came to see what the excitement in Jhanduke was all about. “They are changing the face of Jhanduke and it is the youth who are driving this change. If they can do it, we can do it too.” he says.

The Plant for Punjab initiative is helping Punjab be green again and is changing the fortunes of the land and the people who live on it sustainably and irrevocably, one life giving seedling at a time.

## 7.2. Waste Management

We're working to create a zero-waste rural society with clean and disease-free villages.

The program is helping remove existing heaps of waste, ensuring segregation of waste by providing two dustbins for each household, hiring a door-to-door garbage collector for daily collection of waste, processing recyclables, and converting wet waste to compost.

By helping residents understand the importance of a sustainable garbage cleaning system, we're helping villagers break the age-old habit of dumping waste outside their homes. We gave villagers a clean start, and they set in motion a sustainable process to keep their surroundings free of garbage. By cleaning villages, the foundation has enabled better living conditions for all residents and created new livelihood opportunities in waste processing.

LEFT: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act workers working at the Waste Management compost pit construction site at Hardaspur village.



“Cleanliness is not next to godliness, it is godliness.”

ABHIJIT NASKAR

## IMPACT STORY

# Empowerment through cleanliness



18 villages have been cleaned.



3847 households served.

Out of the eighteen villages where RoundGlass Foundation has launched its Waste Management initiative, Laut village has something uniquely uplifting. It is the only village where a woman has been hired to collect garbage from the village households. Laut's first woman waste collector, Amandeep Kaur, has an inspiring and empowering story.

Amandeep, who has never worked outside her home before, gets up early every morning to ride her green rickshaw cart across the village collecting waste from village homes. She picks dry and wet waste separately. She takes the wet waste to honeycomb-like compost pits in the village. There the waste is converted to compost to be given back to the villagers – the crucial last step of the RoundGlass Waste Management program.

Amandeep eagerly accepted the work of a waste collector. She says, "No work is too big or small. I find this work to be powerful. It has given me an opportunity to help clean our village. When people appreciate the change that has taken place, I know I have played an important role in making that happen."

Segregation of waste is a must for the smooth functioning of this initiative. Amandeep makes sure that it is done properly by regularly talking to rural residents. She understands how solid waste accumulation becomes an environmental, health and aesthetic hazard, and through her

discussions, builds awareness about it among the villagers.

"The project has come as a relief for the village women because household waste is a woman's headache. Most of them are happy with this new solution, which they support by segregating waste at source. But if there are some who still don't understand it, I talk with them and focus on the health benefits for the entire community."

Seeing her efforts bring great results, Amandeep is delighted with the change that has taken place in her village. "My heart knows that I have played a significant role in bringing such an important change in the village. Visit other villages and you will find gutters choked with all sorts of garbage. But you will not find that in our village!"

Mother of four, Amandeep is quite proud of the fact that, with her new job, she is supporting her family financially too. From not earning anything at all to contributing 7000 rupees every month, she has come a long way towards living a sustainable and positive life of meaning and wellbeing.

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“No work is too big or small. I find this work to be powerful. It has given me an opportunity to help clean our village. When people appreciate the change that has taken place, I know I have played an important role in making that happen.”

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## 7.3. Organic Farming

This initiative is a catalyst and facilitator to make organic farming the standard for Punjab's farmers. The program drives awareness, provides training, monitors production, and helps with the government organic farming certifications.

The biggest hurdle for a farmer is the potential loss of revenue due to yield-reduction in the first three years of changing to organic farming. We're covering those losses to ensure their long-term success.

Synthetic products contaminate soil poisoning our daily food. By avoiding the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, farmers can restore soil fertility and help bring better health to people affected by food toxicity.

By helping aspiring and established farmers switch to natural food growing techniques, we're helping them create wellbeing for themselves, their families and their consumers.

BELOW: Organic Farmer Baljit Singh at this farm in Behrampur, Ropar district.

“The food you eat can either be the safest and most powerful form of medicine ... or the slowest form of poison.”

ANN WIGMORE

## IMPACT STORY

# A Land of Abundance Once More



12 farmers switched to organic farming.



29 acres of land used for organic farming.

Harpreet Singh, a 33 year old software engineer hails from a family of farmers. He lives in the village of Rangeelpur in Rupnagar and enjoys a happy family life with his wife, 2 children, his brother and his father.

He remembers his childhood fondly, recalling how everything in the kitchen would come directly from the family farm. From vegetables such as potato and cauliflower to pulses, jaggery, seeds and sugar, his father would work hard to make sure that his children ate well with good and nourishing food.

Harpreet's worry was that he was not able to give his son and daughter the kind of food he grew up eating, he says, "Every time I would get grocery and vegetables from the market, I knew I was buying poison for my children".

Like his father he also wanted to give healthy food to his children, but Harpreet could see that the ravages of mechanized farming pumping chemical fertilizers into the soil over decades had made every food item toxic and a shadow of what food used to be.

Harpreet felt a strong pull to going back to natural, organic farming methods on his own, and when RoundGlass Foundation presented its Organic Farming initiative he jumped at the chance to do better for his family and signed up.

RoundGlass Foundation's program commitment, to compensate him for the deficit during the three-year transition from non-organic farming to organic and to help him with the certification, were significant boosters to his adoption of organic farming .

Harpreet is very vocal about the need to stop the use of chemicals in growing crops. With his experience in organic farming, he feels he has tangible and measurable results to share with people.

"RoundGlass Foundation has helped me learn many new things about organic farming. It has provided me the chance to adopt new techniques and helped me hone my farming skills. Now I have the practical knowledge to share with anyone who wants to pursue organic farming."

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Through RoundGlass Foundation’s Organic Farming initiative, Harpreet has found the best way to grow the food he has always wanted for his family.

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And that is what Harpreet has been doing. He has reached out to other young farmers, encouraging them to take advantage of the Foundation’s support, and join him in becoming a shining example of turning a poisoned land into a flourishing garden of goodness for their families and communities.

Through RoundGlass Foundation’s Organic Farming initiative, Harpreet has found the best way to grow the food he has always wanted for his family and a way to help Punjab to become again the place of abundance and good food it once was, both for the people who live there and for all of India.

## 8 The World of Wholistic Wellbeing

“We believe wellbeing is a wholistic state of thriving. It is living in health and happiness, with positive, caring, meaningful connections between individuals and communities. Individual wellbeing comprises physical, social, emotional, financial, mental and spiritual aspects. All of these facets must be in balance for true wellbeing.”

SUNNY SINGH,  
FOUNDER ROUNDGLASS FOUNDATION

“Ever since I took over the responsibility of managing the village affairs, I always wanted to do something to move the status quo in my village. With the continuous support from RoundGlass Foundation I know now it’s possible. ”

Nahar Singh,  
*Sarpanch - Village Hardaspur*

“We just need a break, a chance to build our lives. It is very comforting to know that there are people who understand our problems, and care enough to give us that opening. Today, my child is learning about engineering. Tomorrow he might be an engineer.”

Amandeep Kaur,  
*Mother of child who attends Learn Labs*

“We all wish we could do something to help our communities, but you really can. I give of my time and effort for my people. I am proud to be part of this movement to create a better Punjab.”

Jagtar Singh,  
*Volunteer – Plant for Punjab Initiative*

“It brings meaning to my own life to be a part of an organization that is building people’s lives.”

Rajneesh Kumar,  
*Plantation and Waste Management Program Lead*



# 9 The Faces of RoundGlass Foundation



RGF Team member Ravinder Singh addressing Waste Management exhibition at Badauchhi Kalan village.



RoundGlass Foundation Women's Initiative team member Sakshi Bhatia with Self Help Group women during the setup of the Aloona Tola pad making unit.



RGF Volunteer Jaspreet Singh helping with ration distribution at Bharthala Randhawa village.



Learn Labs Lead Natalia Vega taking first SOLE session at Devinagar village.



Ever charming on-ground team member Tavpreet Singh after a successful launch of Waste Management initiative.



RGF on-ground team member Hardeep Singh Deol posing as a proud RGF team member.



Young and enthusiastic Plant For Punjab team member Hardeep Singh.



RGF Sports team member AP Singh during Sports Center launch at Devinagar Abravan village – interacting with village kids and youth before distributing footballs.



RGF Head Prerana Langa supporting Aloona Tola Pad Making Unit members at their stall set up at RGF Mohali office.



Plant For Punjab team members Rajneesh Kumar and Romanpreet Singh during plantation drive at Rongla village.



RGF Initiative lead Arshinder Singh Randhawa interacting with tiny tots at Anganwari Center at village Landha.



WM team member Tavpreet Singh answering queries of village women of Nangla village.



Bharpur Singh and Hardeep Singh answering questions of Congress MLA Kuljeet Nagra at Badauchi Kalan village.



RGF Marketing team member Navleen Lakhi addressing Aloona Tola village women and girls at Menstrual Hygiene Day 2019 event.



Waste Management SME Rajneesh Kumar and team member Bharpur Singh addressing authorities at Waste Management Exhibition – showcasing wet and dry waste separately at Khiwa Khurd village.



RoundGlass Foundation Women's Initiative team member Sakshi Bhatia breaking menstruation myths at Lodhi Majra government school.



RGF Team along with Aloona Tola SHG members holding placards carrying important menstruation related messages. These placards were created by boys of Learn Labs - Makerspaces.

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