

A CELEBRATION  
OF OUR EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND FUTURE INITIATIVES



A SMALL STEP WITH A BIG DIFFERENCE

# SIKSHA FOUNDATION **TIMELINE** OF ACHIEVEMENTS

2013

## JANUARY

Ash Patel travels to India on a journey to find his purpose. He learns of several boarding schools unable to support children with proper health, food and education standards, and goes to investigate. Immediately, he commits to helping nourish, nurture and educate these children so they can grow to achieve their dreams.

## FEBRUARY

Ash returns home, and together with Henry Desai **establishes Siksha Foundation** to support poverty-stricken children in India and Africa with the basic building blocks for learning, and ultimately for a successful future. Together, they select the **Lions Upper Basic School for the Blind** in their hometown of **Ndola, Zambia** as the first project. The focus of this grant was to improve the school's clean water supply.

## MARCH

Siksha Foundation launches **10-10 Initiative** and pledges to change 10,000 lives in 10 years. Ash and Henry build a partnership with the **HSS Foundation**, an organization that oversees and helps support the children at 45 boarding schools in Western India.

## AUGUST

Siksha Foundation completes the rebuild of the water supply at **Lions Upper Basic School** in record time

## OCTOBER

Siksha Foundation visits and selects **Chovisi Boarding School in Navsari, India** as the organization's next project. The team finds the school in disrepair and the children lacking the proper daily nourishment and educational materials.

2014

## JANUARY

Siksha Foundations selects **Navsari Girls Boarding School in Navsari, India** as the team's next project. The team is moved by sights of the girls sleeping and eating on clay or mud floors, with little protection from storms, the lack of food and basic hygiene needs.

## MARCH

Siksha commits another round of donations to the **Lions Upper Basic School for the Blind** in an effort to help it be self-sustaining, environmentally friendly and most importantly a suitable atmosphere for children to succeed.

## DECEMBER

Siksha Foundation celebrates the completion of improvements at **Chovisi Boarding School**.

## 2015

### JANUARY

Siksha Foundation celebrates the completion of the Phase 2 improvements at **Lions Upper Basic School for the Blind**. Siksha provided additional meals, soap and other cleaning supplies, and kitchen supplies.

### FEBRUARY

Siksha Foundation selects **Jackson Phiri Community School in Chingola, Zambia** as the foundation's next project.

### SEPTEMBER

Siksha Foundations completes the renovation at **Navsari Girls Boarding School**, including constructing new school and living quarters buildings with concrete floors, adding storage, providing new beds and bedding, wash facilities, solar water heaters, desks and computers for accelerated learning, and new kitchen tools.

### DECEMBER

Siksha Foundation celebrates that Phase 1 completion of a new school building at **Jackson Phiri Community School**.

## 2016

### JANUARY

Siksha Foundation visits and selects **Wagecha Primary School in Gujarat, India** as its next renovation project. The team finds the school in complete disrepair with holes in the walls and ceilings, children living and learning in the same room – with no space for beds or desks – an unsafe and poorly ventilated kitchen, and flooded living spaces.

### JUNE

Siksha Foundation learns from HSS that there are now **12,500 children** enrolled in the tribal boarding schools.

### DECEMBER

Siksha Foundation completes **Wagecha Primary School** renovations with the grand opening of new buildings, wash areas, improved water supply system and beds for the children. Siksha also implemented the first tablet program at the school to bridge to the increasing technology and education divide between urban and rural areas of India. More than 250 students and 5 teachers will benefit from the **Siksha India Tablet Education** program.

## 2017

### JANUARY

Siksha Foundation selects **Tejlav Boarding School in Gujarat, India** as its next project. The team immediately recognizes that the poor ventilation in the kitchen is releasing harmful carcinogens into the air and the staff does not have the proper cooking tools.

### MARCH

Siksha Foundation begins work at **Tejlav Boarding School** kitchen to bring the cooking conditions up to basic standards.

### AUGUST

Siksha Foundation visits the **Washa Community School in Zambia**, and finds children learning in a building with a roof held up by 2x4s. The team immediately puts a plan in place to rebuild a safe structure for the children and staff.

### NOVEMBER

Henry visits Siksha Foundations completed campuses in India and Zambia to celebrate the milestone of **rebuilding 5 schools and empowering 3,000 students**.

### DECEMBER

Siksha Foundation celebrates the grand opening of the new kitchen and improved conditions at **Tejlav Boarding School** for the 150 students.

## 2018

### JANUARY

Siksha Foundation selects **Timba Boarding School in Gujarat, India** as the next school in dire need of support. The team finds the children living in similar inadequate conditions as past schools and immediately gets to work on building new living quarters, school rooms, kitchens and mess halls.

### MAY

Siksha Foundation visits **Jackson Phiri Community School in Chingola, Zambia** to see how the children are doing in their new school environment, and discover additional needs for funding and support.

### NOVEMBER

Siksha Foundation completes the new school building at **Washa Community School**.

## 2019

### JANUARY

Siksha Foundation celebrates the grand opening of **Timba Boarding School** with festivities attended by the Board of Directors to celebrate the entirely redeveloped school. The team meets with **Tiny Smiling Faces** at Timba and develops a partnership to rebuild schools together.

### FEBRUARY

Siksha Foundation visits **Sonvada Boarding School**, one of the most heavily-populated schools in **Gujarat, India** and finds the children living in environments in urgent need of repair.

### MARCH

Siksha Foundation welcomes **Julie Stewart** as the newest member of the Board of Directors and selects **Sonvada Boarding School** and **Tejlav Boarding School** to receive new buildings.



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## A SMALL STEP WITH A BIG DIFFERENCE

We believe that everyone has the right to live, to learn, to succeed and to make a difference. But as humans have evolved, and societies have risen and fallen, a basic inequality has become unquestionably apparent – and those rights have been relinquished for some.

We first traveled to India – a nation many of us know is rich with culture, talent and ideas – and recognized a great disparity between the few and most. More than 56 percent of people in India cannot afford the basic standard of living. In fact, many can't afford to support their own children. These children leave their homes at a young age with the determination to be great, and live in dilapidated boarding schools barely supported by outside aid and struggling to live an adequate life. We witnessed these unacceptable living conditions first-hand, and committed to providing support they need.



We established the Siksha Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, to raise these poverty-stricken, ill-fed children to a higher level that enables them to grow, learn and ultimately realize success. At the commencement of our journey, we dedicated ourselves to improving the lives of 10,000 students over the course of 10 years. Each year, we dedicate time, funds and resources to rebuild schools, living quarters and kitchens with acceptable sanitation standards, and provide school supplies, bedding, toys and clothing.

Since we began improving schools in 2013, we've provided more than \$600,000 and positively impacted more than 4,800 young lives. But we continue to find conditions that need our urgent attention.

Our goal is to work tirelessly for the next five years to provide at least 6,000 more students clean and hygienic living environments, and to set them up with the learning tools and infrastructure they need to succeed. These children are the next generation who will influence our global future. We believe wholeheartedly that they simply need the opportunity to rise to the occasion.



These children have all of the potential in the world. We just need to give them the support so they can achieve their dreams.

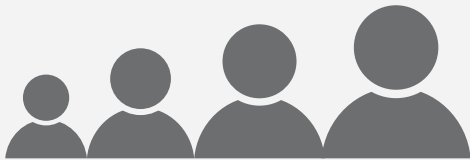
Sincerely,

**Henry Desai**

*Co-Founder and Chairman, Siksha Foundation*



# OUR INITIATIVES AND IMPACT



Empowering self-sustainability  
for future generations

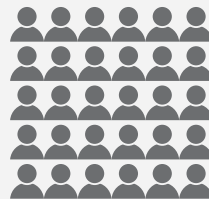
\$ \$600,000+  
deployed



4,800+  
little lives transformed



7  
Schools rebuilt



To transform  
10K  
lives in 10 years

# OUR APPROACH

## TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Each of the community or boarding schools we visit in Zambia and India are in very poor condition and lack necessary space for basic living and learning abilities. Both the children and the faculty are operating with inadequate tools and sub-par living standards. These children are the future doctors and mayors of their villages, or the future scientists and engineers working to improve life around the world.

They don't need a hand out, they need a hand up. And that is what we are dedicated to providing.

# THE SMALL STEPS WE'RE TAKING TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Each school we select to rebuild has to meet certain criteria, because our goal is to make the greatest impact with the money we have to work with. To date, this has resulted in the rebuilding of one school per year, and making small improvements at one or two other schools.

## **Most of the schools we select to rebuild display the following inadequacies:**

- Dilapidated buildings with holes in the walls and roof
- Ground water seeping up through the floors
- Clay floors that turn to mud during the rainy season
- No beds or space for personal belongings
- No desks, or not enough desks
- Wood-burning kitchens lacking proper ventilation, tools and supplies
- Enough food for only one meal per day
- No toys or playground equipment to allow the kid to be kids
- Lack of clean and warm water
- Lack of sanitary or personal hygiene supplies
- Unsanitary and broken down outdoor wash areas

**Below is a snapshot of the typical accommodations Siksha Foundation provides for the children:**

- New buildings for sleeping quarters
- Indoor clean and hygienic toilets and showers
- Solar-water heater for showers
- LED lighting for students to work at night
- Fans and ventilation in kitchen and all other rooms
- Water purifier with cooler
- Bunk beds with 4” thick PU mattresses and pillows
- Bedding for each student including sheets, pillow covers and quilts
- Storage for all students’ belongings
- Laundry area for students to wash clothing
- Multipurpose room for library, computer lab and assorted activities
- Kitchen supplies and food
- Uniforms for the children
- Tablets and other school supplies
- Additional teachers and live-in support staff

## A SAMPLING OF IMAGES FROM THE SCHOOLS BEFORE SIKSHA FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT



**ABOVE:** The children sleep side-by-side on blankets on the hard floor.  
**BELOW:** The condition of the solar-power water heaters, in complete disrepair.





**UPPER LEFT:** Many of the buildings have deep cracks through the walls.

**UPPER RIGHT:** Toilets and washrooms are often found mostly unsafe, unusable and flooded.

**LOWER LEFT:** The staff must improvise to keep the ceilings from collapsing, like this example using a piece of wood to support the falling beam.

**LOWER RIGHT:** All cooking is done over burning wood in a small ditch of dirt and soot, as smoke fills the poorly ventilated room.

## A COMPLETED RENOVATION AND THE FACES OF EMPOWERED CHILDREN



**ABOVE:** A new community building is spacious and functional, allowing it to be useful for many things.  
**BELOW:** The new school building is clean, safe and spacious allowing students to have adequate space.





**ABOVE:** With new uniforms, tools, and way of life, there is a whole new feeling of happiness at school.

**BELOW:** The new bunks have given the children beds for the first time in many of their lives.  
The bed areas are sturdy and comfortable in a clean and private setting.







[www.sikshafoundation.com](http://www.sikshafoundation.com)

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE JOURNEY

