



Pebbles to Pearls Foundation

2022 Impact Report



PEBBLES to PEARLS

Pebbles to Pearls Foundation (formerly Mona Foundation Canada) is an independent organization, registered under the British Columbia's Societies Act and enjoying registered charities status with the Canadian Charities Directorate. After several years of collaboration and learning with the highly respected Mona Foundation, it became apparent that a distinct Canadian identity was needed for continued growth and clarity. In 2022 we emerged with the new name Pebbles to Pearls Foundation, retaining the same partner projects, guiding principles and collaborative relationship with Mona Foundation.

The educational initiatives that we support and are featured in this report serve marginalized communities globally. They focus on providing access to education to the most vulnerable, literacy, skills building, empowerment of girls, and character education to develop capable, ethical, and altruistic leaders who contribute to the betterment of their families, communities, nations and ultimately, the world.



PEBBLES to PEARLS
LEARN • UPLIFT • SERVE

Greetings from the Board of Pebbles to Pearls Foundation

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to you for the continued support in 2022. As Covid impact and restrictions lightened, our partners were able to resume many of their in person activities and programs. For some programs, digital technologies used during Covid continued to be used to enhance skills and learning. We include a summary of the activities that your generosity has made possible.

After a two year break, Prerna school held its convocation ceremony in person again this year. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic the students achieved excellent academic results. We supported 75 students attending Prerna.

Set up in 2012 with two centers, the GyanSetu program has evolved into hubs of community transformation supporting 139 centers across six districts of Uttar Pradesh. Aimed at educating children from the poorest communities as well as their families, GyanSetu consists of primary centers, early childhood development centers, digital literacy centers, adult literacy centers, and a skills development center. Pebbles to Pearls Foundation supported the work of eight of these centers in 2022.

Barli Institute, as a residential program, faced particular challenges during the sequential waves of the pandemic. Strict protocols that included reduced enrollment and quarantine periods ensured the safety of students. As vaccination levels increased and restrictions were lifted, Barli was able to return to its full enrollment capacity for its second intake in June of 2022. A total of 130 students completed training during the two group intakes.

We were delighted to form a new partnership with Olinga Foundation in Ghana. Olinga's key innovation is its approach to literacy attainment. Its methodology is based on a phonic and syllabic approach, in local languages, which has been widely recognized for its efficacy. Our partnership and your support allowed for teacher training and the adoption of this methodology in 20 schools in the Suhum-Avensuano Districts.

Enjoy the stories from our partners which highlight the impact we are making together!

Warmly,

Board of Directors, Pebbles to Pearls Foundation

Barli Institute India

The goal of Barli Development Institute for Rural Women is to build sustainable community development through the empowerment of young rural and tribal women. Founded in 1985, the Institute has trained over 15,000 women from 840 villages, impacting and improving the lives of thousands more. Their program is based on a six-month residential program that focuses on empowering women by training them in literacy, vocational skills, health and hygiene, environmental conservation and organic farming. The training programs promote gender equality and focus on education and health. This has created significant positive change among the trainees and their communities. Many of the participants arrive at Barli too shy to introduce themselves but, within six months, become skilled advocates for themselves. Upon return to their hometowns the graduates embark on community service, conducting literacy classes for other women, and children's classes. In 2022, 60% of graduates started their own businesses after returning to their village. With your help in 2022, Barli Institute received a grant of \$21,695 CAD. This covered the program and training costs for 130 trainees. In addition, due to the smaller number of trainees in 2021, resulting in unspent funds, it was decided to allocate the surplus to a pilot project training rural communities in solar cooking. Funds received also purchased a small tractor to be used in the campus of Barli and an automatic sewing machine.



Graduates receiving their diplomas



60% of graduates started their own businesses after returning home



Students learn how to assembly and maintain a Solar Cooker

Solar Cooker Project

A Prince Solar Cooker was installed in the village of Kalibel, in April 2022.

Ten girls from this village have completed six months of training at Barli Institute. The cooker was installed on the roof of one of the trainees Ms. Sumitra Dawar. It is used collectively by the village community for cooking. This has proven helpful in reducing the amount of wood taken from the surrounding forests. It also helps protect the girls from the inherent safety risks posed by wild animals and snakes while collecting wood in the forest. Most of the rapes and unwanted sexual advances occur in the forests when the women go there for fuel wood collection.

A second solar cooker was installed in the village of Kalmer, in a primary school cum Aanganwadi (Center for care of pregnant women). The mid-day meal for the children is cooked every afternoon here.

35 villagers received training in use of the solar cooker in addition to the principal of the school, teachers and cooks in these centers.



GyanSetu (One Roomed Schools) serve children from the poorest communities

Set up in the year 2012 with 2 centers, the GyanSetu program has evolved into hubs of community transformation. Currently running 139 centers across six districts of Uttar Pradesh and educating 3858 children from the poorest of the poor communities. GyanSetus consists of primary centers, early childhood development centers, digital literacy centers, adult literacy centers and a skill development center. To date, 907 children (70% of whom are girls) have transitioned to formal schools and continue to receive supplementary education at the centers. Adult literacy classes and skills development for women helps women to exercise their voice, choice and power to follow their aspirations. Pebbles to Pearls Foundation funded eight of these centers in 2022.



The adult literacy program has seen steady growth this year. Women are eager to learn, however they do face many barriers to their education. In Spite of all the challenges, 47 women from the adult literacy centers were ready to give their final exams in January, 2023. These exams are equivalent to grade 3 and are conducted by the NIOS¹ (National Institute for Open Schooling).





Prerna Girls with artwork following a workshop on gender roles

Prerna school held its convocation ceremony after a two-year break due to the global pandemic. 43 graduating students were awarded scholarships to continue their higher education. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the students have shown excellent academic results.



(Center) Mr Sandeep Singh, Minister of State, Basic Education, (on left) Mr G Ramesh, Managing Director of HDB Financial Services, and Dr Urvashi Sahni posing with the graduating students



Girls reflecting on gender roles within their homes

Perna Girls School, founded in 2003, is a highly subsidized K-12 school for girls in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. A pioneering effort of Study Hall Educational Foundation (SHEF), the school aims to provide an affordable and accessible quality education to girls from low-income and historically marginalized communities, many of whom would otherwise not have the opportunity to study. Generally, the girls who attend Perna come from neighbouring slums and communities where they find themselves compelled by their circumstances to work as domestic help in neighboring houses in the mornings.

The school uses a critical feminist pedagogy to enable girls to take a feminist stance in their lives. It helps them to discover who they are, to understand the oppression they face every day and develop a deeper understanding of this subordination. It attempts to enable the girls to resist discrimination and rise above it. Perna Girls School has built a curriculum that uses multimodal tools such as critical dialogues, drama, digital stories and, music.

Pebbles to Pearls Foundation provided scholarships for 75 girls attending Perna in 2022 and 10 scholarships for Perna Alumni to take course at Study Hall College.

Olinga - All Children Reading Program

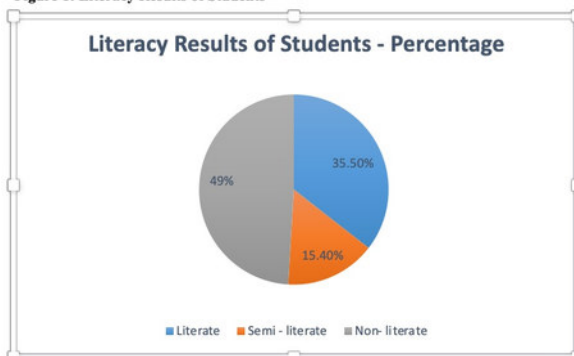
Due to your continued support and generosity, we had the confidence to add another partner for support this year. Olinga Foundation for Human Development has been operating in Ghana for 20 years and has developed an educational empowerment program that transforms teacher practices in relation to literacy, helping children at upper primary to finally learn to read in the shortest time possible. A Pebbles to Pearls Foundation grant of \$40,000 CAD covered more than 50% of the costs for Olinga to deliver the training to teachers, and to work in partnership with education districts and parents in 40 schools. This project started in April of 2022 with consultations, in the school districts and teacher training in the participating schools. A baseline survey conducted at the start of the program showed literacy to be at 35% literate, 15.4% semi-literate and 49% to be non literate. An end of program survey will take place in April of 2023.

The All Children Reading (ACR) program aims at improving literacy levels and reading with upper primary school pupils in 40 schools in the Suhum-Ayensuano Districts. It also aims at reducing absenteeism and increasing time on task for the literacy hour among teachers in the target schools. It discourages verbal abuse and physical punishment of children, thereby creating a child friendly teaching environment. Participatory methods of language instruction and alternative disciplinary practices are also encouraged so that children engage positively in the learning experience.



Teachers at Anum Apapam, one of the participating school districts

Figure 1: Literacy Results of Students



Baseline study conducted in 20 schools; 10 participating schools and 10 non-participating schools

Use of syllabics along with instruction in the mother tongue is at the core of Olinga's approach to training.



Olinga aims to improve the culture of learning in schools, enhance teachers' instructional practice and empower children to embark on a path of lifelong learning.

Reading clubs with supplementary reading materials and peer assisted learning helps solidify gains



Children expressing the joy of Reading

Pebbles to Pearls 2022 Annual Financial Report			
Donations/Other Revenue		Expenditures	
Individual Donations (*not including in kind donations)	112734.68	Barli Institute	20471.57
Fundraisers	nil	SHEF: Total	50147.34
Interest	nil	SHEF Prerna School	32595.77 (75 scholarships)
		SHEF Study Hall College	Combined in above total (10 scholarships)
		SHEF Gyan Setu	17551.57
		Olinga Foundation	39461.30
		Canadian Project (Held in Reserve)	*7000 (not disbursed)
Grand Total Revenue	112734.68	Total Grants Disbursed	110,080.21
In Kind Donations/Volunteer Hours		In Kind Donations/Expenses	
Mona US Support for Pebbles to Pearls	8825.00	Print Services to Mona US (donation equivalent to costs received from Goldline)	8609.59
		Office Expenses	200
Volunteer hours 400 (Board and Advisors)	4000	Web Hosting	168
		Fees: BC Societies, CRA Filing etc.	250
Total In Kind Volunteer Hours (equivalent)	12825.00	Total In Kind Donations/Expenses	9227.59
<p>Pebbles to Pearls Foundation is a 100% volunteer operated organization. 100% of donations received are directed to our partner projects. Pebbles to Pearls Foundation relies on the support of Mona USA for certain administrative and operational processes that are contributed in return for printing services they receive from Pebbles to Pearls Foundation.</p> <p>We would like to thank GoldLine Telemanagement for their amazing print services that are reimbursed to Pebbles to Pearls Foundation with a equal donation!</p>			
Closing Balance 2022:	116,370.88		
Includes: Canadian Reserve Fund			7000
2022 Fundraising			112734.68
Accumulated Residual funds			3636.20
Total Funds for 2023 Distribution			109370.88 (*7000 in reserve for Can P)

Vision

We see a world where universal access to education allows the individual to contribute fully to wellbeing and prosperity.

Mission

Our mission is to support initiatives that help to provide education to all, particularly women and girls.

Values

We draw inspiration from the Bahá'í principles of justice and equality, universal education and indiscriminate service to all. We seek to work with like-minded people or organizations, locally, nationally and internationally, to demonstrate in action that people of all backgrounds can come together in the service of our common good.

We believe that education is key in untapping the potential in each individual to transform, develop agency and, ultimately, to be of service to others. This journey, not only helps the individual, but contributes to the wellbeing and prosperity of all. We believe that development is a shared process where we can learn from all participants in a spirit of humility and respect.

Pebbles to Pearls Foundation

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