



# Strategy 2015-2018

## **Vision**

The Kusuma Trust UK (the Trust) believes that every child and young person has the potential to transform and improve their life, and should have opportunities to grow and develop as active and productive citizens in their communities.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to facilitate and increase access to quality education and other life opportunities for young people, with a focus on the most disadvantaged. The Trust enables young people to realise their potential and break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

## **Strategic Priorities**

Education is central to our strategy. We also support innovation, new developments in education, research and advocacy.

### **Education**

Our focus is to improve education outcomes for young people in secondary and higher education. We address major obstacles in education for motivated young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. Our grants contribute to a range of outcomes, including improvements in student attainment, teaching quality, school governance, community engagement, and an increased number of young people completing secondary and higher education and gaining employment.

Our priority interventions focus on school governance and leadership, teacher professional development, community involvement, scholarships, career development for young people and widening access to educational opportunities.

### **Research and Advocacy**

Research with a focus on baseline and outcome measures is integrated into grants funded by the Trust. This is reinforced with qualitative research to understand the impact on beneficiaries, including multiplier effects and unintended outcomes that are as important as the intended outcomes. We also support research to better understand the obstacles in education and the causes of educational failure. Evidence generated from research is used to shape our grant making, and influence the practices and policies of implementers, other donors, government and policy bodies.

### **Geographic Focus**

In **India**, we concentrate our efforts in two States - Odisha and Uttar Pradesh - with a focus on two districts (Sambalpur and Hardoi) - that are among the lowest performing in these States. We also support selected initiatives at national level and with national policy relevance.

In the **UK**, geographic locations are selected based on indicators of significant economic and other deprivation. This includes coalfield, mining and industrial communities in decline.

In **Gibraltar**, we support education projects, community initiatives and charities to enhance life in the country.