

Annual Report

2016-2017



introduction

The Mariwala Health Initiative (MHI) is a personal philanthropic initiative of Harsh Mariwala, Chairperson, Marico Limited. MHI supports innovative mental health initiatives, with a particular focus on making mental health

accessible to marginalized persons and communities. MHI views mental health as a spectrum and that people with lived experiences must be situated at the core of any capacity building work, or intervention. MHI advocates for

an intersectional perspective on mental health, undertakes capacity building initiatives along with funding projects that are user-centred and where the interventions are linked to the grassroots and are community-based.

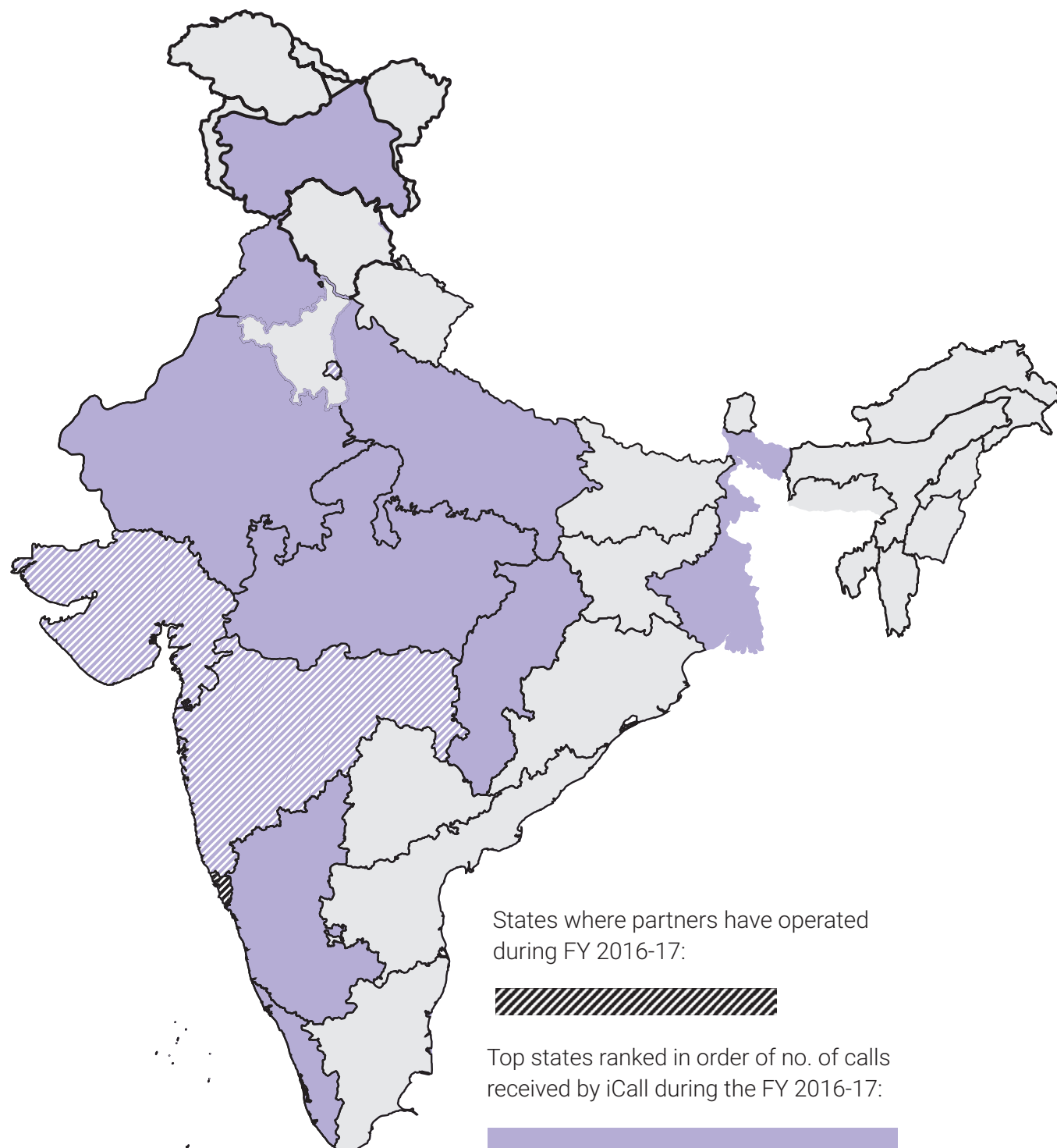
overview

A snapshot of milestones from 2016 - 2017



outreach

State-wise reach of MHI's partners mental health interventions (April 2016 - March 2017).



partners

During the FY 2016-2017, MHI funded two additional partners, **Bapu Trust & Centre for Mental Health, Law & Policy**

The Bapu Trust for Research on Mind & Discourse

developed a "model" service program, *Seher*, that links development, disability, communities, and mental health. Through its 'Community Wellness Centers', *Seher* has been working in the area of urban community mental health, in collaboration with the Pune Municipal Corporation. *Seher* is a comprehensive urban mental health program that envisions sustainable psychological health through community development and aims to facilitate the creation of caring communities through multi-level actions, and a broad range of partnerships.

Bapu Trust's partnership with MHI entails upscaling and replicating the *Seher* model in five slum pockets of Pune city, with the active collaboration of the Municipality (Departments of Health, Urban Community Development, Disability).

MHI also extended strategic advice on multiple occasions to Bapu Trust, along with financially supporting the INTAR (International Network Towards Alternatives and Recovery) India Conference in 2016, and the 2017 edition of the ABT (Arts-Based Therapy) Course.

The Atmiyata Project was initiated by the Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy (CMHLP) of the Indian Law Society, to protect and promote rights of persons with mental health challenges through capacity building, engaging civil society, strategic litigation, and working to implement rights in community and public health systems.

Atmiyata is a low-cost, high-impact, two-tier, community-

led mental health model, that develops the capacity of community volunteers to identify and provide primary support and counseling to persons with emotional stress and common mental health disorders, and make referrals to the public health system in instances of severe mental illness. The project aims to cover 500 + villages within Mehsana District in Gujarat over a three year period. Research findings from the project will be used to develop a scalable model of volunteer-driven, community-based mental health service delivery.