

# Academic Year 2023-24

## Performance Update

### Our Vision

To successfully elevate the economic status of the visually impaired and improve their image in the eyes of the society.

### Our Mission

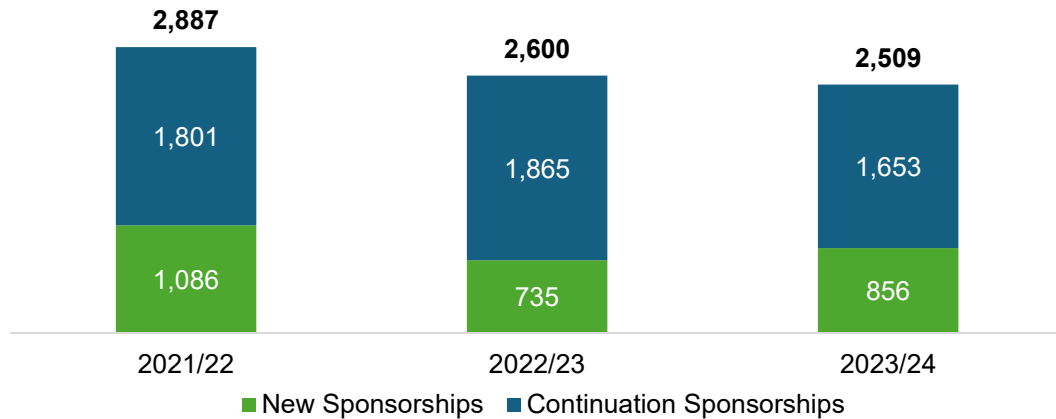
To provide access to university education, thereby enabling visually impaired students to get jobs in today's modern economy.

# Key Highlights of AY 2023-24

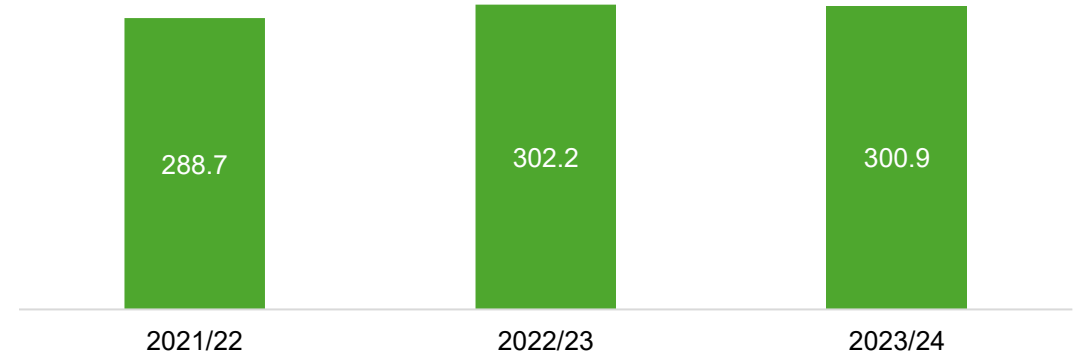
- ● **Sponsorships** : We vetted and approved sponsorships for 2,509 students in the academic year gone by. We are proud to state that this academic year marks the 4<sup>th</sup> iteration of our push towards 100% digital operation of our sponsorships process – this includes accepting and evaluating sponsorship applications from candidates and online payments made to beneficiaries.
- ● **Skill Development** : With a successful rollout in Lucknow, we are now offering our flagship Education, Mobility and Employability Training (EMET) program in 10 cities across India to over 46% of our UG2 and UG3 beneficiaries (23% of overall beneficiary base).
- ● **Placement Support** : Our dedicated placement cell over the past 2 years has worked tirelessly towards leveling the employment playing field for our beneficiaries through continued corporate outreach.
- ● **Assistive Devices** : We distributed 592 Smart Vision Glasses (SVGs) to our beneficiaries, which has proven effective in aiding our 100% visually impaired beneficiaries. With the aim of matching each beneficiary to a device that's best suited for their needs, we hope to bring more such assistive solutions to our low-vision beneficiaries as well.
- ● **Early Intervention** : Our Early Intervention Program (EIP) has now been successfully rolled out in 2 schools in Tamil Nadu, where we are equipping VI students from Grades 9 through 12 with basic computer knowledge, mobility and communication skills. We aim to roll this program out systematically to more schools over the coming years.
- ● **Advisory Board** : We constituted an Advisory Board with the aim of magnifying the success of our flagship programs and ensure that we are sustainably on the right track as we move forward. The Board, which consists of experienced individuals who have held leading positions across a variety of industries and non-profits, will meet on a quarterly basis and provide valuable guidance to the organization.

# Sponsorships – Stats and Next Steps

Approved Sponsorships - New vs. Continuation



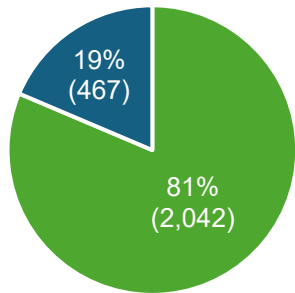
Sponsorship Amount Disbursed (in INR Lakhs)



Note : Sponsorship amount in each year is a sum-total of funds disbursed to beneficiaries and fees directly disbursed to their academic institutions by HTBF India, HTBF Hong Kong and Cognizant Foundation.

By Degree Type – 2023/24

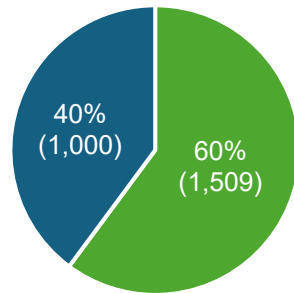
Total Approved Applications = 2,509



■ UG ■ PG

By Gender – 2023/24

Total Approved Applications = 2,509



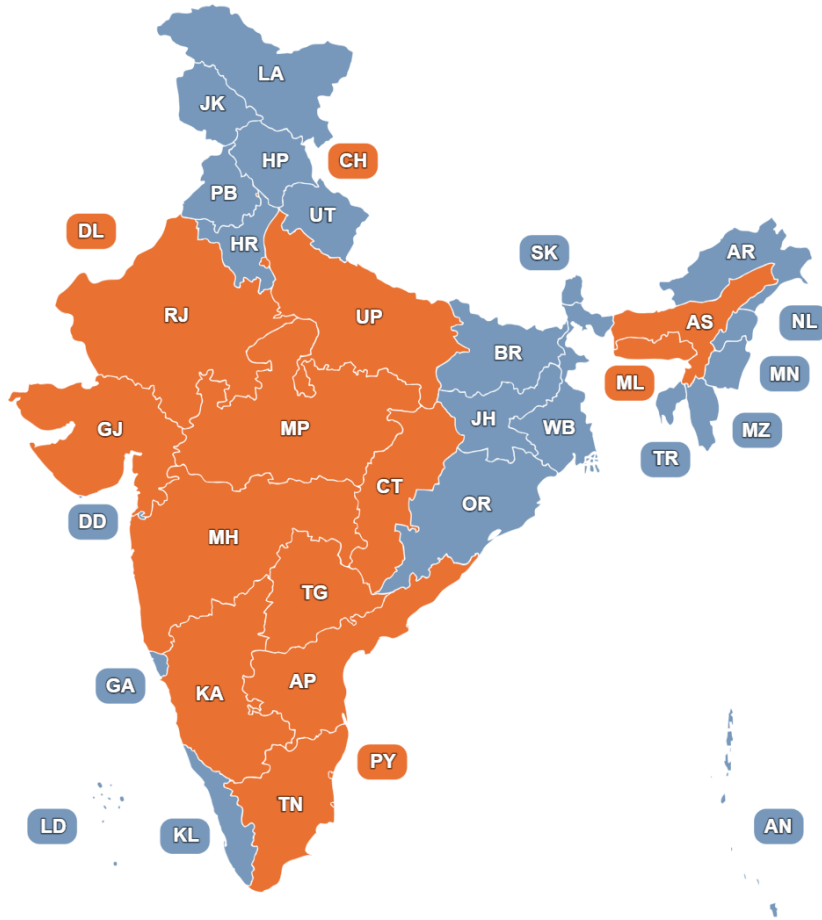
■ Male ■ Female

## Plan of Action for AY 2024-25

- Introducing a layer of additional support and mentorship for students interested in pursuing professional courses.
- Special incentives for high academic performers.
- Simplifying the application and approval process for continuation sponsorship students so that the overall sponsorship processing proceeds more efficiently.
- We are in the process of developing a mobile application to enable all key stakeholders in the sponsorship process to seamlessly play their part.

# Sponsorships – Stats and Next Steps

HTBF's Reach Across India (15 states at the end of AY 2023/24)



State-wise Reach	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Cities	Colleges
Delhi	743	639	543	1	39
Tamil Nadu	454	444	446	14	59
Maharashtra	468	444	405	9	36
Karnataka	309	341	317	9	41
Gujarat	309	234	203	5	23
Telangana	152	147	181	1	7
Uttar Pradesh	124	100	134	3	3
Madhya Pradesh	145	112	94	1	4
Rajasthan	35	19	57	1	2
Chandigarh	38	42	52	1	4
Andhra Pradesh	75	45	41	5	7
Assam	7	12	13	1	1
Meghalaya	10	13	12	1	1
Pondicherry	17	8	11	1	1
Chhattisgarh	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>228</b>

# EMET Program – Stats and Next Steps

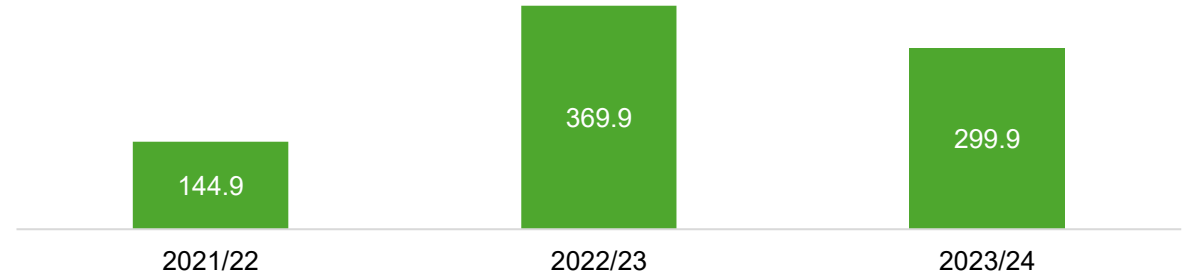
## Strides taken in AY 2023-24

- A successful rollout of the EMET program to beneficiaries in Lucknow brought the tally to 10 cities across the country.
- Owing to the impact of CoVID-19, the program continues to operate in a hybrid mode. However, in AY 2023/24, the delivery was shifted more towards offline (60%) vs online (40%) sessions, which led to greater attendance and noticeable improvements in candidate involvement and performance.
- In November 2023, Deloitte India partnered with us in Chennai and New Delhi, allowing for a one-of-a-kind networking opportunity between our beneficiaries and several successful industry professionals.
- Similarly, we opened several avenues for our beneficiaries to gain a variety of industry exposure, such as career awareness workshops and a variety of job-specific training bootcamps.

## Plan of Action for AY 2024-25

- Focus for the coming 2 academic years is to stabilize, strengthen and improve the performance of existing projects.
- We are aiming to launch the EMET program in Nashik in the coming academic year, taking the total to 11 cities.
- Work in conjunction with the placements team towards getting more of our beneficiaries placed in Government, Public Sector and Private Sector jobs.
- Continue working towards a higher % of employment in the academic year 2025-26, through intensive corporate outreach, awareness programs and beneficiary training.

EMET Program Expenses (in INR Lakhs)



Note : Amount in each year is a sum-total of funds utilized towards executing the EMET program pan-India each year by HTBF India, from a pool of funds contributed by donors such as Cognizant Foundation, Saint Gobain India Pvt. Ltd. and other institutional/individual donors.

EMET Students - by State	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Colleges
Tamil Nadu	108	150	148	15
Delhi	118	148	169	11
Gujarat	67	95	100	3
Karnataka	71	81	49	3
Maharashtra	-	24	55	1
Madhya Pradesh	56	53	64	2
Uttar Pradesh	41	20	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>36</b>
EMET as a % of UG2/3 Students	32%	41%	46%	-
EMET as a % of Total Students	16%	22%	23%	-

# Placements – Stats and Next Steps

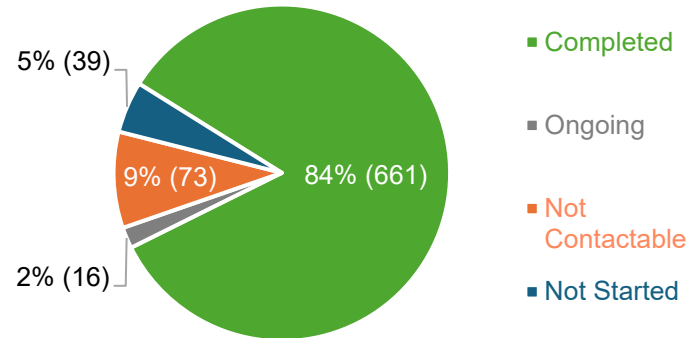
## Strides taken in AY 2023-24

- Collaborated with Cheshire Disability Trust, VIBEWA and Christ University for a 1-month training program in the areas of Office Management, Insurance, Banking, Finance & Accounting – ~20% of candidates who enrolled have secured employment.
- Partnership with Sutherland continues to yield success. ~50 beneficiaries have secured employment with them, company plans to take this number up soon.
- Students who graduated in CY 2023 (95% graduation rate - completed/ongoing surveys) were surveyed extensively with the aim of better understanding and servicing their employment needs. Key results from the exercise are captured in the charts on the right.

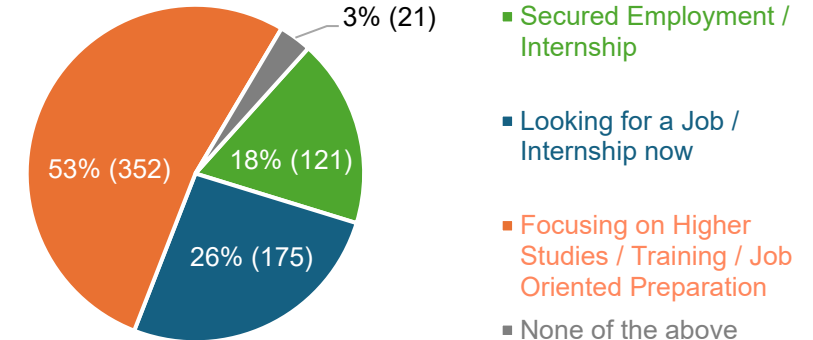
## Plan of Action for AY 2024-25

- Conducted corporate awareness sessions in Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad and Bangalore, on the potential of students taking up jobs in various sectors. We aim to leverage the power and receptiveness of HR leads (from the session in Hyderabad) forward and conduct more such awareness sessions pan-India.
- Currently collecting employment data for batches that graduated prior to 2023. We aim to make the alumni survey exercise a recurring activity for all future batches, starting with the batch graduating in 2024 who will be interviewed in Jan-Mar 2025.

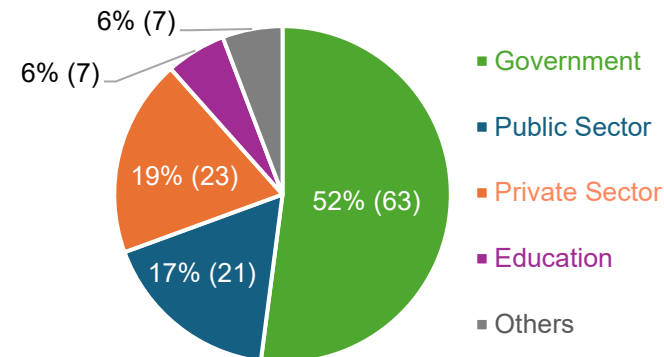
**2022/23 Alumni - Survey Progress**  
Total Graduating Students = 789



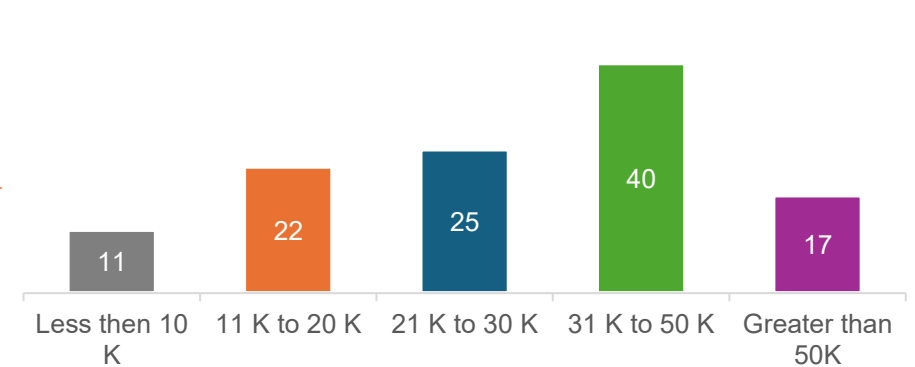
**2022/23 Alumni - Employment Statistics**  
From Completed and Ongoing Surveys



**2022/23 Alumni - Employment Statistics**  
From Completed and Ongoing Surveys



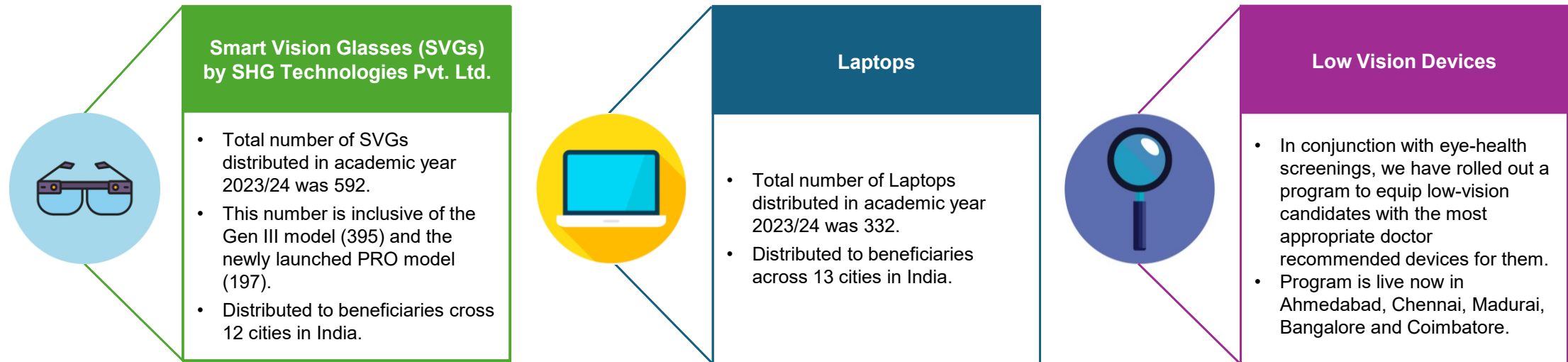
**2022/23 Employed Alumni - Salary Ranges**  
Pursuing Employment/Internships



Note : Based on survey statuses and data collected as on 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024. Minor differences in aggregate numbers are attributable to data capture errors in a small portion of the surveys. Data was collected from students on a voluntary self-declaration basis via an online survey form through telephonic conversations. Big thanks to our volunteer network and EMET students for supporting us in this endeavour.

# Devices – Stats and Next Steps

## Strides Taken in AY 2023-24



## Plan of Action for AY 2024-25

- We are in the process of introducing robust controls around asset tracking and usage monitoring for all devices granted to beneficiaries.
- In conjunction with several reputable eye health clinics and hospitals, we have successfully launched a pilot eye checkup program for low-vision beneficiaries in 4 cities. Going forward, we aim to roll similar regular checkups out to our beneficiaries pan-India, thus enabling us to improve our understanding of their issues and better serve them. Based on the recommendations by doctors from the checkup, we are matching them with the right assistive devices, such as appropriate glasses and reading magnifiers.
- We are in talks with several technology players specializing in assistive devices to collaborate with us as partners (alongside SHG Technologies). We aim to leverage their groundbreaking technological innovations and diversify the options available to our beneficiaries, thus making sure that the full spectrum of needs from low-vision to 100% visually can avail the best tech-enabled solutions to supplement their abilities and improve their quality of life.
- Encourage more students to use their laptops to submit academic assignments and write exams.


# How you can continue to support us

- **Sponsorships** : Support as many visually impaired students as possible by sponsoring their tuition fee and hostel expenses.
- **Skill Development** : Sponsor workshops and skill development programs to transform students into market-ready professionals.
- **Assistive Devices** : Financial support towards procurement of devices such as laptops, desktops, recording devices, smart vision glasses etc.
- **Volunteering** : Support us in our various programs by volunteering your time and mentoring our students.
- **Employment** : We humbly request you to be the spear-tip of change by advocating for employment of as many visually impaired students as possible.

S.No.	Avenues for your continued support	Indicative Amounts (in INR)
1	Sponsor the College Expenses of a Visually Impaired Student	INR 10,000 (Day Scholar), INR 25,000 (Hosteller) – per student per annum
2	Equip a college/school with a digital resource center	Approx. INR 25,00,000 per college/school
3	Sponsor a workshop / short-term training course	INR 30,000 (4 mth program) / INR 45,000 (6 mth program) per student
4	Laptop	Upto INR 50,000 per laptop
5	Desktop	Upto INR 45,000 per desktop
6	Smart Vision Glasses	INR 45,000 per piece
7	Assistive Devices for Low-Vision Students	Up to INR 20,000 per piece (based on device)





# Help the Blind Foundation

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